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Student Newspapers

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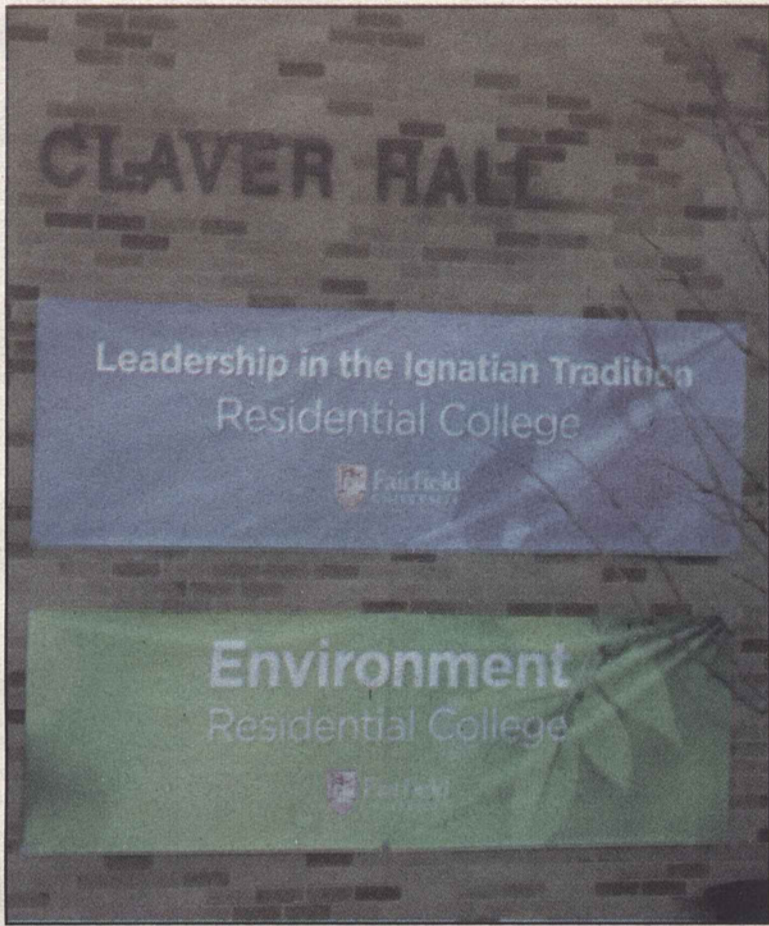
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Residential Colleges Downsized

Only Two Years After Their Initial Creation, Two Residential College Programs of Claver Hall Suffer the Cut



Luigi DiMeglio/The Mirror

Claver Hall's Leadership in the Ignatian Tradition and Environment Residential Programs are no longer being offered for rising sophomores.

BY LUIGI DI MEGLIO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The familiar sophomore housing options of five living and learning communities is a thing of the past, as the two residential colleges in Claver Hall are being incorporated into other communities only two years after their start.

Rising sophomores can now apply for both Village housing options without submitting a residential college application. This is in addition to those vying to live in Jogues Hall, which has never been an official living and learning community.

The decision to eliminate the only residential colleges in The Village housing area was reached after a process of collecting feedback from a variety of people involved such as residents, FUSA, IRHA and RCC representatives, professors, faculty chairpersons, mentors and staff, according to an email from Associate Dean of Students and Director of Student Development, Dr. Joseph DeFeo.

Several serious issues have stood in the way of another year for the Leadership in the Ignatian Tradition and the Environment residential colleges, which were described by DeFeo in an email sent to members of the residential college committee during winter break.

These challenges involved the quantity of faculty, courses and mentors needed to maintain a complete program. According to DeFeo, they were problems that could not be fixed in the short term.

With 90 mentors staffing the residential college program as a whole this year, the available positions in residence halls outside Claver will be in high demand next semester. For Christopher Johnson, a mentor who is completing his first year with the Environmental Residential College, continuing with the program is simply a matter of hope.

Leading up to the decision to cut Claver Hall residential colleges, mentors and other staff may have overlooked some

obstacles including financial concerns and student apathy.

True to the administration's promise of limited impact on student life from the budget deficit, "financial concerns were not even brought up when we made the decision," said DeFeo. He added, "Human resources and spatial resources were the major concerns. Financial ones were a piece that were not in focus."

Lack of student involvement was not an issue found on the committee's list, though it is what Claver Hall resident Chris DelVeccio '14 considers the biggest obstacle.

"The whole idea [of residential colleges] has great intentions but no one is interested. People just want to live in Claver," said DelVeccio. "The environment in Claver is more interested in partying and having fun so the program doesn't work here."

Still, DeFeo did note that residents in Claver were sub-

CLAVER | PAGE 3

Is This the End of University College?

BY RICHARD O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

"I honestly have no idea what University College is," said Michael Durand '12. Most students reading this article are more than likely sharing the same thought.

Right now, a plan is under review by the Academic Counsel to close the school, a move which can be seen as prudent given the current budget crisis. But what is University College exactly?

Although UC is one of Fairfield University's six schools, its purpose differs greatly from its siblings. Located in Dolan House, the university website characterizes UC as "a gateway for the part-time student and lifelong learner to all of Fairfield's undergraduate course offerings." Aside from housing students, UC also offers a Bachelor's Degree of Professional Studies (BPS). Those who have had classes with non-traditional students, or lifetime learners, have rubbed elbows with some of UC's constituents.

Another function of UC is the ability of someone to start out part-time. If the student proved his or herself academically over the course of a few semesters, they would be allowed to transfer into one of the undergraduate schools and matriculate as a full-time student. In other words, a student could begin to take classes at UC, and graduate with a degree, with-

out ever going through Fairfield's admissions process.

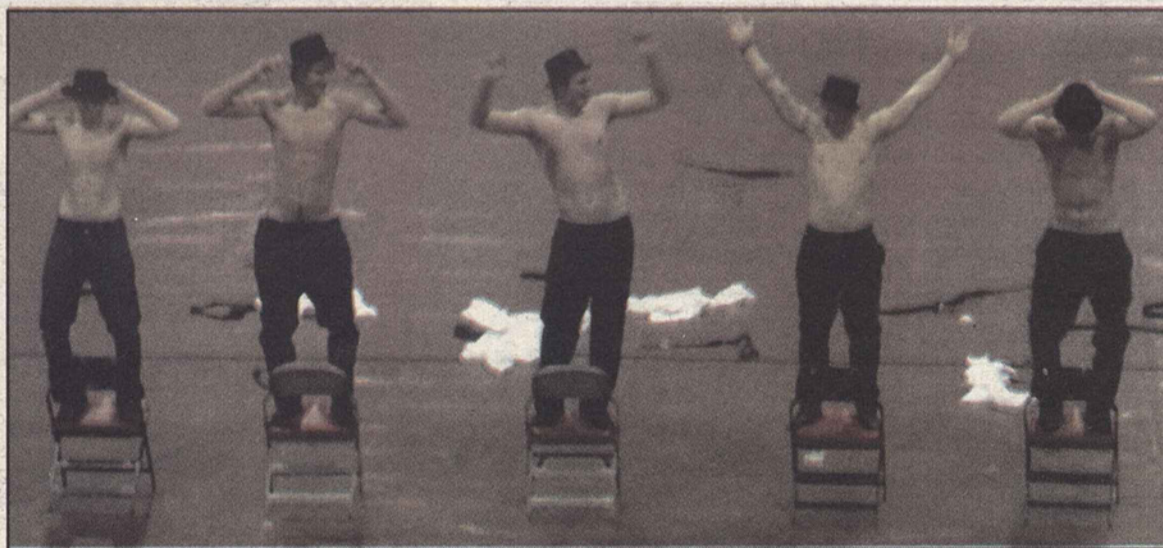
Most of the school's responsibilities have been deemed redundant since students could receive the same services and academic counseling from Fairfield's other undergraduate schools.

If UC is shutdown, current students will experience no great change, aside from being absorbed into their respective school, completing their courses of study, and receiving advising, as they would have otherwise. If this scenario unfolds, the College of Arts and Sciences is debating whether or not they will continue to offer the BPS.

In the future, part-time students would apply directly to their school of choice and receive advising directly from the faculty of that school, thus integrating part-time and non-traditional students more fully into the rest of the undergraduate population.

Dr. Aaron Perkus, the Associate Dean of UC, offered insight into why the administration is considering the closure. Although redundancy topped the list, Perkus also cited "having a separate University College obstructed the mission to integrate 'non-traditional' students within the larger Fairfield community" and "a decline in enrollment of students who met the initial

CLOSING | PAGE 5



Maggie Andrew/The Mirror

The Men's Soccer Team performed the final routine, surprising audiences with a choreographed striptease.

Student Athletes Show Their Skills

BY MAGGIE ANDREW
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

We knew they could run and throw a ball, but who knew student athletes also have moves?

The crowd at Alumni Hall found out just how talented Fairfield's own student athletes are last Saturday night, when the sports teams gathered for the Second Annual Student Athlete Talent Show. The creative, entertaining and even provocative acts benefitted a good cause, with the proceeds going to offset the cost of treatment for Emily Tredwell, a young girl born with a disease that causes one leg to be shorter than the other.

A donation of \$2 at the door helped the teams reach their goal of raising \$2,000 for Tredwell's treatment, a considerable sum since she began to see a specialist in Florida. Raffle tickets were also given out, with

prizes such as tickets to a taping of Good Morning America, seats at Harbor Yard Arena, merchandise from the bookstore and other apparel.

The athletes were most eager for a different kind of prize: a coveted get-out-of-jail-free pass with the athlete's strength and conditioning trainer, Mark Spellman, who also served as a judge for the Talent Show. After an intense bidding war, the volleyball team won the time off at the price of \$200.

The athletes could argue they are all deserving of some time off, though, after the hours of brainstorming and practice that went into their performances. Fr. Doody, the director of Campus Ministry, and Chris Huntley, an NCAA representative, joined Spellman in judging the talented teams.

Lucas the Stag started off the night by dancing to a medley of songs, the first of many choreographed numbers combining current music

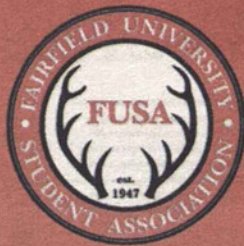
with past classics.

Men's Baseball was the first team to perform, dancing to their own rendition of a ladies' workout, complete with colorful spandex and the enthusiasm of Richard Simmons.

The Field Hockey team was arguably the most creative performance of the night, acting out the classic video game Super Mario. One player sat with an oversized controller while another acted as Mario, jumping to collect the coins and kicking the turtles that were carried by girls dressed in black in front of a dark sheet.

The sounds and props convincingly depicted the gaming experience, which ended with the defeat of a green-vested "Bowser," Mario jumping to the top of the pole and finally carrying away Princess Peach.

TALENT SHOW | PAGE 3



2012 FUSA ELECTION COVERAGE



What Does It Take To Be A FUSA President?

With Last Year's Resignation of FUSA President Charlie Knights, The Mirror Explores the Time Commitment Required for this Position

By MARY KATE McCORMICK
STAFF WRITER

Running five minutes late, toting a frozen dinner, checking his Droid for e-mails and carrying a pile of homework as he entered the BCC, Rob Vogel epitomizes the multi-tasking that is necessary for a FUSA president.

The job of FUSA president is a 24/7 responsibility, and those in the top position often struggle with time management. Vogel became president last month after senior Charlie Knights resigned, citing problems with balancing his FUSA work and classroom obligations.

Vogel plans to run for a full year term in the February FUSA elections. But before he or any potential rivals submit their applications, they should have a comprehensive understanding of the FUSA president's responsibilities and how much time it takes away from academics.

Understanding what the FUSA president does is also important for those voting in the upcoming election, as the unpaid job is bigger and more demanding than most students realize.

Constitution Requirements

The president "exists in that sometimes lonely and unclear space that exists between students and the administration,"

according to Dr. Thomas Pellegrino, current Vice President for Student Affairs and a former FUSA president.

Most students who are not part of FUSA do not know exactly how the student government functions or what the president actually does.

According to the FUSA constitution, the president is required to "convene an Executive Council, issue a State of the University address, serve in a fiduciary capacity for the official FUSA budget and to serve as the official spokesperson for FUSA and the student body."

The FUSA president serves as a student liaison to the administration. And as Dean of Students Karen Donoghue (another former FUSA president) puts it, the job is to "represent to the best of their ability the ideas, view points and perspective of the student body to all community constituents."

Pellegrino stresses that if the President "sticks with their strengths and understand that the clichéd work/life balance issues are very real, but are also readily manageable." Thus a specific set of skills are necessary in order to be a successful FUSA president.

No Time to Spare

Administrative meetings take up about five to six hours of Vogel's daily life, he said.

The FUSA president is responsible for overseeing and attending meetings for all other branches of the student organization such as planning boards, FUSA Senate and smaller components of the organization such as the Planning Board.

Then there is email.

Vogel estimates about two hours per day is dedicated to email correspondence with students, FUSA members, administration and local news outlets.

Just to give you an idea of the time commitment, within the 90 minute interview with The Mirror, Vogel received about seven emails on his Droid and picked up one FUSA phone call.

Personal Skills Needed

Because the President is the communication link between the administration and student body strong public speaking skills, as well as confidence in the presence of school leaders are imperative.

Vogel said "his ear is always to the ground," meaning that he is always listening for student complaints, praise and complaints about the University.

It's not a job for a party animal. Proper behavior outside of the FUSA office is important to the president's image and effectiveness as a liaison. Vogel remarks that no matter where he

is, he is always FUSA president and this makes the job a 24/7 obligation.

Finally, effective email, phone and face-to-face communication are required for the presidency, but also become extremely time consuming.

Balancing Responsibility

With about six hours of Vogel's day contributed to email and meetings, Rob also takes five classes as a finance major and works at a bank in Bridgeport for 20 hours per week.

After seeing Knights struggle with time management, he said he has become "hyper-aware of his own responsibilities in and out of FUSA."

He is looking ahead, taking steps such as meeting with a career planning advisor so that he does not fall behind on class work or miss out on planning for after graduation.

Passion Required

Vogel plans to run in the 2012-13 election. Although FUSA drastically impacts his week to week workload, it is passion that drives him to keep at it.

FUSA president is not a for credit or paid position and it takes a special person to devote the time and effort to be the voice for Fairfield U.

FUSA ELECTION SCHEDULE

- 2/6 - BCC 200 7-8 p.m.
Election Information Session
- 2/7 - BCC 200 7-8 p.m.
Election Information Session
- 2/10 - BCC 200 4 p.m.
Application Packets Due
- 2/13 - BCC 200 7-8 p.m.
Posting Policy Meeting
- 2/16 - LLBCC 7-10:30 p.m.
FUSA Primary Debates
- 2/21 - LLBCC 10 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
FUSA Primary Elections
- 2/28 - LLBCC 10 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
FUSA Elections
- 2/28 - The Levee 9-11 p.m.
Announcement and Post-party

What's the Fuss?

By VINCENT FERRER
CARTOONIST

A public forum for student issues on campus hosted by FUSA President Rob Vogel '12 was held last night in the Lower Level BCC. Questions on everything from potential RecPlex renovations to events geared towards commuter students were brought to the table.

One of the main developments in the works is an integration of student initiative groups' concerns. Vogel discussed the creation of a president's council in an effort to collectively voice key issues to the administration.

"I think this was a very good inaugural forum for us," said Vogel in an interview after the event. Vogel noted the fruitful discussion as having the potential to be much more beneficial to the campus community if more students attend future forums. "We want students to feel that this isn't a FUSA event; it's a student event."

Meet Your New FUSA Vice President

By MARY KATE McCORMICK
STAFF WRITER

This past weekend, Film and TV double major Dan Bruno '13 was elected as Vice President of FUSA.

President Rob Vogel selected Bruno from a dozen other applicants, including Julio Gomez '12, who fell to Knights in last year's presidential race.

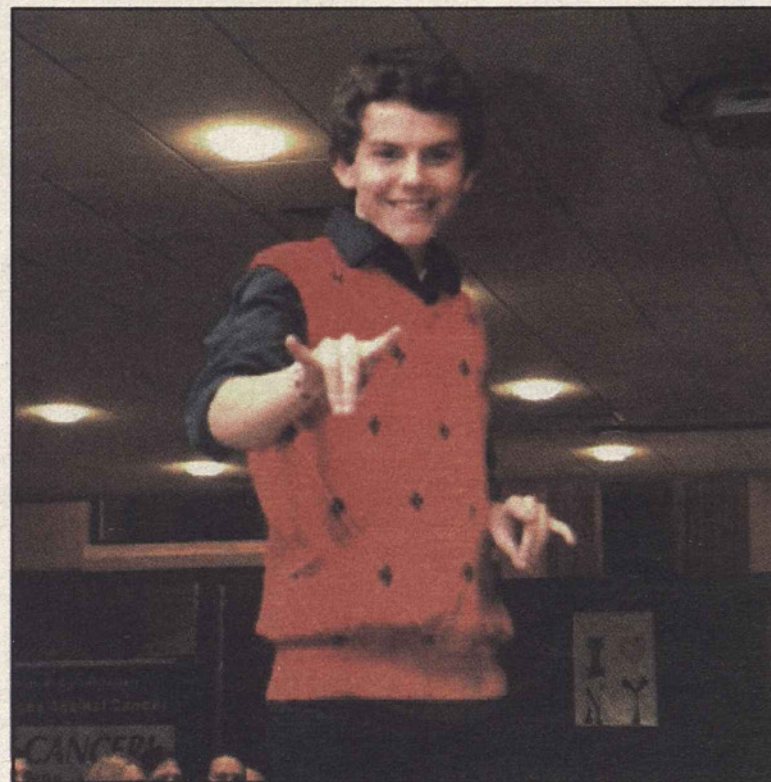
Although Bruno was abroad last semester, his experience as 2013 Class President and 2013 Class Programmer have prepared him for added responsibility within the organization this semester.

After working alongside Knights and Vogel this summer, Bruno believes that he is well equipped to step into the VP spot.

He continued to state that working alongside the current and past president this summer has formed "a great relationship and we know what we want to accomplish as a team."

In his new position, Bruno hopes to "make FUSA really popular again and to let the student body know that we're here for them."

He went further to say, "Anything they want done we will do our absolute best to get it done!"



Contributed Photo

Dan Bruno was elected Vice President last Wednesday by FUSA representatives.

Be sure to stay up to date on FUSA elections by following @MirrorFairfield and @FUSA47
And check out the B-Section in our February 22nd edition for extensive FUSA coverage!

Talent Show Recap

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

Women's Soccer, the team that adopted Emily's cause, brought the young girl onto the court to introduce her before their dance performance to hits including 'N Sync's "Bye Bye Bye."

The Volleyball and Softball teams put a new twist on the competition by teaming up to dance to a number of Beyoncé and Jay-Z's most popular songs.

Hayley Moyer '14, a volleyball player, shared the details behind their joint act. "We spent two hours the week before choreographing the entire thing, then recorded a video so we could practice in our rooms and we had two dress rehearsals ... We're all really close, so it was funny to do the dance as guys while they were the girls."

And the girls weren't the only ones showing off their moves. The guys made the audience go crazy with acts ranging from Bieber fever and a surprising striptease.

The Men's Cross Country team performed Justin Bieber's hit "Baby," pulling a "mystery girl" from the audience and performing an impressive routine to seduce her.

The Men's Soccer finished up the night with one of the most unexpected routines. They slowly shed their ties, shirts, belts and pants, revealing a lot more than the Tredwell family, laughing in the stands, expected.

The Cross Country team must have made "Beliebers" out of the judges, though, and they were awarded the trophy for Talent Show champions for the second year in a row. The Field Hockey team and the Men's Soccer team were awarded second and third, respectively, but Emily and her family were the night's biggest winners, with around \$2,100 raised for their cause.

Ivey Speight '12 hosted the event, and was thrilled with what the event was able to accomplish. "I've never seen such student support at Alumni Hall before. It was a very powerful moment when Emily was there on the court. You can raise money for charity, but when you see her there, everything really connects."

Relay For Life Is Already In The Works

BY KELSEY GUERIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Colleges Against Cancer (CAC) club has an important question for Fairfield students: What can you do with \$5?

In this economy, it may seem like not much. You can buy a foot-long sandwich at Subway, a milkshake from the Stag or a magazine from the grocery store. But CAC offers a way for students to do something more meaningful with that small amount of money.

The kickoff event for Fairfield University's sixth annual Relay for Life was held at the Levee this past Thursday, Jan. 26. Each year, CAC hosts the kickoff to inform students about the upcoming Relay and to begin to raise money (and anticipation) for the actual event, which takes place at the end of April in the traffic circle outside of the Barone Campus Center.

After a short technical delay, the event started at 6:30 p.m. with Tri-Chairs Meredith Davide '12, Jessica Gilpin '12 and Nicole Heller '13 announcing this year's Relay for Life theme: Disney. This theme offers a wide range of costume and activity possibilities that are sure to be entertaining, especially among nostalgic college students facing the looming realities of the "real world."

For those unfamiliar with the setup of Relay for Life, the Team Development Committee Chair Brian Alexander '15 explained the process. First, a captain creates the team online, and then Relayers sign up to join the team. "Basically anyone can form a team," said Alexander, including dorms, halls, clubs or even simply groups of friends.

Prior to the event, teams fundraise money for the American Cancer Society, which sponsors the Relay events across the country. The fundraising continues at the actual Relay, where teams decorate their own stations and host an on-site fundraising activity that goes along with the theme of the event—Disney, in this case.

There are also added incentives built into registration. "The team that has the most points before Relay will get a prize at the event," said Alexander.



Martin O'Sullivan/The Mirror

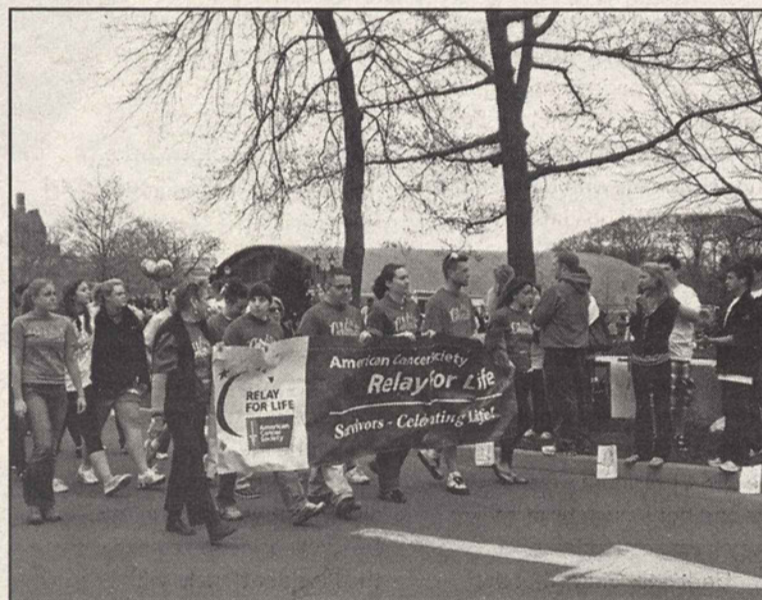
Student gathered in the Levee to learn the guidelines of how to sign up and raise money for the Relay for Life.

How does a team acquire these points? For every \$100 raised by the team as a whole, the team will get 20 points. 100 points will also go to the team with the most participants registered by Feb. 21.

The prize for the team with the most points at Relay is still uncertain. However, an example of a past prize is an hour in the BCC during the event with hot drinks, snacks and other refreshments later into the night, which is a great morale booster to help a team push through the rest of the event.

One of the fundraisers prior to the Relay event is the sale of Luminaria bags. These bags cost \$5, and the purchasers decorate the bags with the name of someone who has lost, is currently fighting or has survived the battle against cancer. At Relay for Life, lights will be placed in these bags, and they will line the traffic circle and spell out the word "hope" on the hill in front of the BCC.

At the kickoff event, several members of CAC shared their reasons for participating in Relay for Life, whether it was in honor of family members and friends who died while battling cancer, or in support of those who survived or are fighting. After giving their reasons for relaying, each speaker lit a glow stick and stated, "I am hope, and my hope will light up this room."



Contributed Photo

The 2011 Relay For Life was attended by students, faculty, and family!

Luminaria Committee Co-Chair Victoria D'Altrui '14 then involved every student at the Levee, saying, "Now it is your turn to light up the room with hope." Each person received their own glow stick, which they broke and lit up in turn if they were a survivor of cancer, if they had a family member or friend with cancer or if they were simply joining the millions of people across the country fighting cancer and searching for a cure.

"Individually, we are each one light of hope," said D'Altrui. "As Relay-ers, we let our light shine together."

So what does Colleges Against Cancer suggest you do with that extra \$5 sitting in your pocket? Buy a Luminaria bag in memorial or celebration of a person whose life has been affected by cancer, put it toward the Relay registration fee of \$10, or simply donate it to the cause.

This year's fundraising goal is \$50,000, a target goal nearly \$10,000 greater than the funds raised last year. In order to reach this goal, CAC is counting on the support and generosity of all Fairfield students.

Perlitz Victims Seek Compensation From Fairfield U.

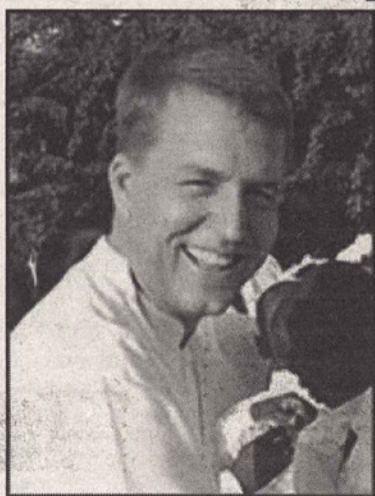
BY MARTIN O'SULLIVAN
NEWS EDITOR

It's been over 13 months since his almost 20 year sentence was issued, yet the effects of Fairfield University alumnus Doug Perlitz's actions are still being felt by many.

Seventeen Haitian men have recently brought lawsuits against Fairfield University, the Society of Jesuits and various other figures tied to Perlitz, according to the Associated Press. The lawsuits allege that these organizations and figures failed in their duty to protect these men from Perlitz years ago despite numerous warning signs.

The lawsuit seeks \$20 million for each of the seventeen victims. These proceedings increase the alleged number of boys abused by Perlitz to 21.

So how exactly is Fairfield University tied in this time around? The cases assert that in



Contributed Photo

Doug Perlitz, Convicted Fairfield Alumnus

addition to raising over \$600,000 for Perlitz's non-for-profit organization Project Pierre Toussant, the university is responsible for hiring Perlitz and neglecting to adequately monitor his actions in relation to the school in Haiti.

One defendant, Hope Carter, served as a school board member

at Fairfield University. The lawsuit claims that she flew to Haiti in 2008 in order to confiscate Perlitz's computer.

Past Campus Ministry Director Fr. Paul Carrier S.J. as well as the Society of Jesuits as a whole are also defendants for similar reasons. According to the Associated Press, Carrier saw Perlitz showing pornographic videos to boys within the program.

"As soon as the first whiff of scandal, meaning that the kids were being abused by Perlitz, Fairfield University officials ... did everything they could to get as far away from the situation instead of turning the other way," said Paul Kendrick '72 in an interview with the Mirror.

He continued: "Now all the people who ran for the hills, who tried to get away from this - everybody is going to be rounded up in a federal court room. In the end, fair and just compensation will be

paid to these kids for their harms and injuries."

Lawyers for Fairfield as well as those of the other defendants filed for dismissals of similar charges from last April. In regard to the recent proceedings, all defendants maintain both lack of connection with Perlitz once he was in Haiti and an ignorance towards his actions.

In a response to the Mirror, a University spokesperson said, "As our lawyers wrote in their Motion to Dismiss the Complaint, the plaintiffs are trying to impose liability improperly on the University for failing to supervise the actions of people acting in their individual capacities on behalf of their own interests."

The plaintiffs will be led by Michael Garabedian, a Boston attorney. Garabedian is known for his role in successfully suing a number of Catholic priests for sexual abuse towards children.

Claver Programs Cut

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

stantially more engaged in the program this year compared to the year prior.

Meanwhile, the party life does not seem to have made a difference for living and learning communities beyond The Village.

The three residential colleges that have escaped elimination are those housed in Loyola Hall, 70 McCormick Road, and 42 Bellerme Road - a result that DeFeo says is not an attempt to increase the appeal of the colleges with newer buildings. "That's just the University's way of putting resources towards what it values," he said, adding, "I haven't heard a graduate remember the amenities of their building compared to the community they were involved in."

Campus Crime Beat

Sunday, 1/29

Tuesday, 1/24

9:29 p.m.
A faculty member called DPS to the dumpsters behind Canisius Hall where a suspicious person was sighted. The person was identified and found to not be a threat.

Thursday, 1/26

12:53 a.m.
A window in room 304 of the library was found shattered. Maintenance was notified for repairs.

3:07 p.m.
Equipment and instruments were reported stolen from the music room closet in Alumni Hall.

Saturday, 1/28

2:40 a.m.
A student reported a group of individuals kicking his car as they walked down a hill towards 8 Block of the Townhouses. DPS noted damages to the grill of the vehicle upon arrival.

7:28 p.m.
DPS saw a suspicious person occupying a parked car in the upper Jogues Hall lot. The person was identified as a non-student and sent on his way.

9:14 p.m.
After DPS investigated the suspicious actions of three students in the area of the Jogues parking lot, one student admitted smoking marijuana to officers.

An RA reported a broken window and a broken faucet on the 2nd floor of Regis Hall.

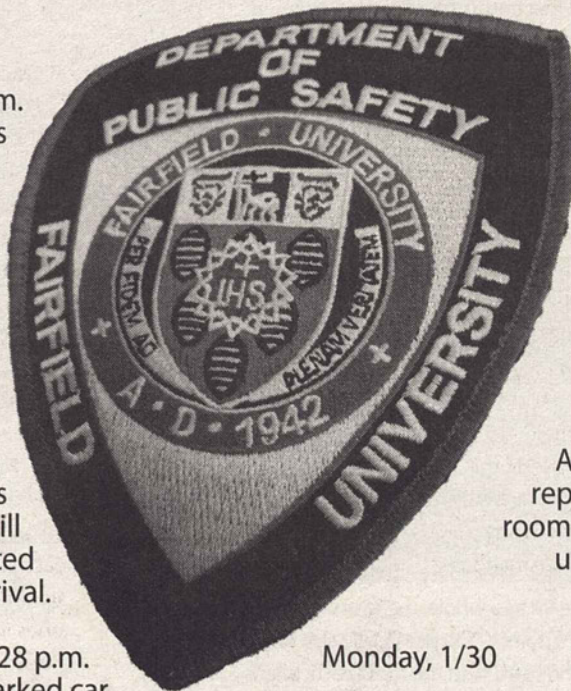
2:46 a.m.
An RA reported a bathroom sink pulled off the wall in the 1st floor men's bathroom of Jogues Hall.

2:48 a.m.
Two students were involved in a physical altercation in the Townhouse area. Both students were identified and referred to the Dean of Students' office.

6:20 p.m.
A student resident of Jogues Hall reported a laptop stolen from their room. They reported the room to be unlocked at the time of the theft.

Monday, 1/30
1:45 p.m.
In an act of vandalism, a bike locked into the rack outside Campion Hall had a wheel bent.*

*If you have any information about this incident or others, please report it to the Department of Public Safety



Mirror Picks of the Week!

Thursday February 2- Frank Warren of Post Secret hosts "Post Secret Live." 7:30 p.m. in the Quick Center.

Friday February 3- One-man Star Wars Trilogy performed by Charles Ross. 8 p.m. in the Quick Kelley Theater.

Saturday February 4- St. Baldrick's Fundraiser. Shave your head for a good cause. 7 p.m. - 1 a.m. at the Levee.

Sunday February 5- Superbowl Party. Come football your heart out! 5:30 p.m. at the Levee.

Monday February 6- "Occupy Your Intellect"- Student discussion about budget transparency. 6 p.m. in the McCormick Lounge.



CLASSIFIEDS

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(and get paid?!)

APPLICATIONS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE MIRROR MEETING THIS WEEK

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DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS FEBRUARY 8th

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Mirror Meeting- 7:00 p.m.
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Lower BCC
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See an error? email info@fairfieldmirror.com



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Closing

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

mission for UC demographic." He made a point to add that as of now the change would be only an administrative, as all UC responsibilities would be carried on by the other schools.

Members of the student and faculty communities felt that the cessation of UC would significantly increase the workload for current faculty.

"They're making them double up," said Kira Driver '14. She did recognize however, that some cuts may be necessary with Fairfield's deficit, and that "in any situation its hard to make cuts."

Professor Quaglia shared his thoughts about how the increased workload given to academic advisors would affect the University if the cut happens. "Before they were helping the community as they're supposed to, and so they have more time, they have more accessibility ... Now they're going to overload some other people," he said.

Quaglia also expressed concerned that further cuts would only serve in damaging the school. "There's nothing to cut," he said. "It doesn't help the meaning of the University, which is [to] pursue a better way of teaching, and congregating people, make a community, make this thing work as one."

As the administration continues to investigate cost-cutting strategies, its uncertain what the Fairfield of the future will look like.

Fire Safety (Sadly) Proves Its Importance

By MARY KATE McCORMICK
STAFF WRITER

Imagine waking up to your bedroom filling with smoke and leaping through an upstairs window to escape. Within minutes, you are standing outside your college residence, watching as the home you shared with your closest friends is engulfed in flames.

This was the grim reality for four Marist College senior girls, who on Jan. 21 lost two female roommates and another male friend in the blaze according to a report by ABC News.

The tragic loss of young, soon-to-be graduates is something that students at Fairfield U can sympathize with. The frightening part of the situation is that an accidental fire could happen to anyone.

Senior Marist student Courtney Lynch remarked, "The fire really shook my grade. Losing friends in a fire is not something that anyone planned for in the first few days of our last semester and the loss is felt throughout the college community. ... It's such a reality check; this could have happened to any of us."

By taking the proper precautions and by following state and University regulations, you and your roommates can vastly decrease the chances that something like this could happen to you. Whether you live in the dorms, suites, townhouses, apartments or at the beach there are several easy steps to prevent fires like the one that occurred at Marist.

Fairfield Fire Prevention Remember fire drills in the dorms? Standing on the lawn after just waking up from a nap, or huddled with your friends while still in a bathrobe may have seemed wildly inconvenient at the time, but it was for your own good. The University is obligated to practice these drills and if a real fire ever occurred, students and employees would know how to react.

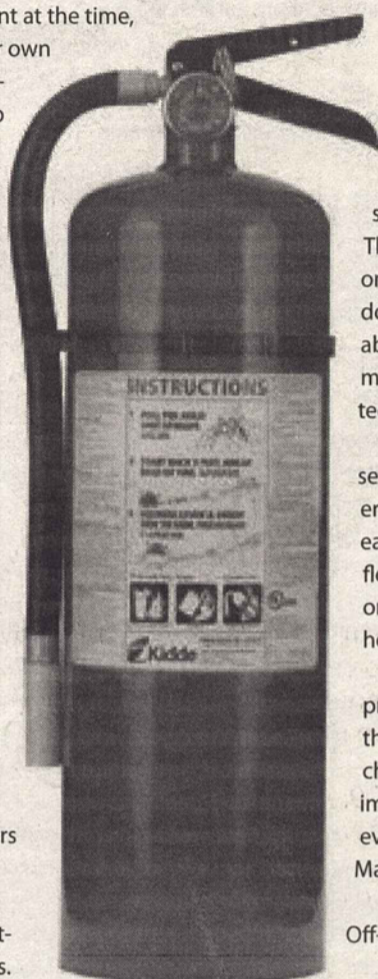
Additionally, Fairfield forbids the use of the certain fire hazard items in any University housing which are in place to protect and should not be ignored.

Although having a soothing candle in your room or one to ward off food odors may be desirable, the hazards of an open flame far outweigh the benefits.

Shelton volunteer firefighter Tom McNeil cited that the misuse of everyday items especially matches, candles and cigarettes start the most

accidental blazes.

McNeil's advice is to use flameless candles, which give off the same scent as a burning one and to smoke cigarettes a significant distance away from your residence. (Fairfield requires 30 feet.)



Contributed Photo

Additionally, McNeil stresses that working smoke detectors can "make or break who survives in a fire." This is something that on-campus students do not have to worry about, as Fairfield monitors smoke detectors.

Fairfield provides several fire extinguishers behind glass on each dorm or suite floor and individual ones in all campus housing with kitchens.

Not taking these precautions is a risk that some students choose to take, but it is important to consider events such as the Marist fire.

Off-Campus Fire Safety Because Marist students impacted by the Jan. 21 blaze were off-campus residents, they might not have had the resources that student in campus funded housing have.

However, the same fire safety rules should be applied to off-campus boarders.

Like the accommodations available to Marist students, many Fairfield beach houses are older homes, with the majority of the structure made out of wood. Thus, even a small blaze could become quickly destructive or even fatal.

By avoiding flames from candles, lighting a fire in an old, rarely used fireplace, gas stoves and ovens left on and the overcrowding of electrical sockets, chances of an accidental fire are greatly decreased.

Similar to policies on campus, those living at the beach should still have fire extinguishers and working smoke detectors, which are provided by landlords.

Another notable hazard is the overcrowding of beach homes, exceeding the number of occupants permitted by a lease and ultimately violating fire safety rules for the purpose of saving money and living with friends.

According to a report by the Gothamist, the Marist girls' landlord allowed six females to sign the lease, where by city law, only five unrelated people are permitted to rent that residential area, a fact that might warrant legal action later in the fire investigation.

For juniors signing beach leases after the lottery deciding which seniors will be permitted to live at the beach on Wednesday and for seniors already violating leases, this is something to really consider.

CREATIVE LIFE

Who am I?
Whose am I?
How do I live a creative and examined life?

IGNATIAN

Who am I?
Whose am I?
Who am I called to be?

SERVICE FOR JUSTICE

Who am I?
Whose am I?
How am I called to serve justice?

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Fairfield
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Career Corner

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Questions??? Give us a call 203.254.4081 or Email: cpc@fairfield.edu

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| | | |
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| Sun Life Financial | Employee Benefits Sales Rep. | 02/01/2012 |
| CDW Corporation | Account Manager - Inside Sales | 02/02/2012 |
| Rexel Holdings U.S.A | Finance Leadership Program | 02/04/2012 |
| Bloomberg | Global Data Training Program | 02/04/2012 |
| Prudential Financial | Summer Intern - Sales Desk | 02/09/2012 |
| Prudential Financial | Summer Intern - Strategic Relationship Management | 02/09/2012 |
| Prudential Financial | Summer Intern - Product, Investments and Marketing | 02/09/2012 |
| Prudential Financial | Summer Intern - Retirement Data & Reporting | 02/09/2012 |
| Ernst & Young LLP | Tax - Transfer Pricing Intern | 02/09/2012 |
| Ernst & Young LLP | Tax - Transfer Pricing Staff | 02/09/2012 |
| Westport Resources | Client Service Assistant | 02/10/2012 |

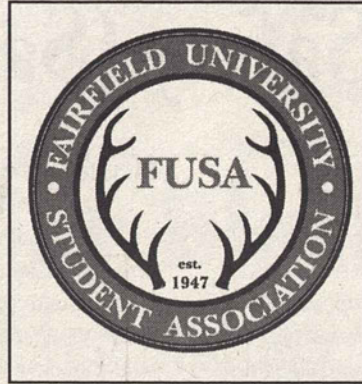
Be sure to visit Experience frequently for the latest position announcements. Visit <http://fairfield.experience.com>

Career Fair

Thursday, February 9 11:00a.m.-3:00p.m. RecPlex
Be sure to visit the Career Fair participant list on Experience

Drop In Hours....

Friday's 9:00-12:00p.m. and 1:30-4:00p.m. Career Planning, Kelley Center



By FUSA
COLUMNIST

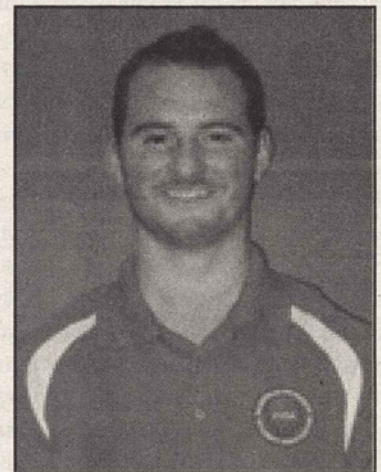
What was the fuss all about?! The inaugural FUSA open forum saw a plethora of different topics arising from students. All of them touched on integral parts of the student experience at Fairfield University. For those of you who were not in attendance, some of the things that were brought up were the poor internet connection throughout residence halls on campus, suggestions for the RecPlex renovations, as well as how to better engage upperclassmen and commuters alike. Additionally, the Stagbus loop was discussed along with the potential for printers and working computers in the BCC Mezzanine.

As the previous are all very concrete items, the forum also engaged in discussions about deeper issues on campus such as diversity. Students felt that we have been creating a diverse student body, but that it has not translated into an integrated one. FUSA will continue to work on initiatives that help bring together students of different backgrounds: socio-economic,

racial, religious, geographic, gender, sexual orientation, and all other relevant characteristics of diversity.

FUSA will be taking to heart the suggestions and inquiries of students and begin to put these different initiatives into action. I am very pleased with the discussions that took place tonight and I hope to build on this event in the future. I think we can certainly come together as a student body and create an enhanced student experience. We at FUSA look forward to engaging with students moving forward. Students, we want to hear your voice continuously throughout the year. For those of you who have been troubled by things at Fairfield and want to talk to somebody about it, come to us and we will help in whatever way we can. We are here for you and are excited about future communications and resolving the issues we face as students.

Your President,
Rob Vogel '13



Contributed Photo



THE MIRROR

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EDITORIAL

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Gabriella Tutino | Executive Editor
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Taking Initiative

So, tell us – "What's the Fuss"?

It's about time that FUSA finally stepped up and started addressing the multitude of issues affecting Fairfield students, and we're excited that our student government planned Tuesday night's open student forum to address such concerns.

Although turnout was rather small, it was only the first forum - and hopefully not the last. We're optimistic that with additional marketing and increased awareness of the events across campus, future forums will yield greater turnouts; bigger turnouts can mean more improvements, more improvements mean happier students (and finally, less complaining)!

Students voiced concerns ranging from parking, safety on campus, and improving diversity and interactions among different student groups on campus. Some students mentioned RecPlex renovations and additional funding for FUSA events.

One of our concerns lies in the progress of the suggestions and questions raised by students at tonight's forum – now that FUSA knows about our concerns, how will they respond and answer them? Hopefully action will be taken in a timely manner to improve the problems in different areas of campus.

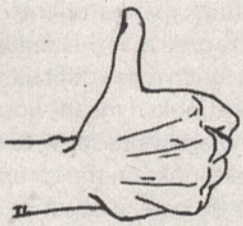
This is one of the few times we have witnessed a FUSA president actually take initiative during our four years at Fairfield. It's refreshing. This gives us hope for the future of FUSA and its commitment to the student body.

We're impressed by the intentions of last night's WTF forum and hope it can become an outlet for students and a source of positive change for Fairfield. More can still be done to improve the forums, but it's a good step in the right direction. If anything, the WTF forum has put some of the students' trust back in the organization. We know there will be bumps along the way-- Fall Concert anyone?--but at least FUSA is doing something. Actions speak louder than words, right?

Now that we know "What the Fuss" is, let's do something about it!

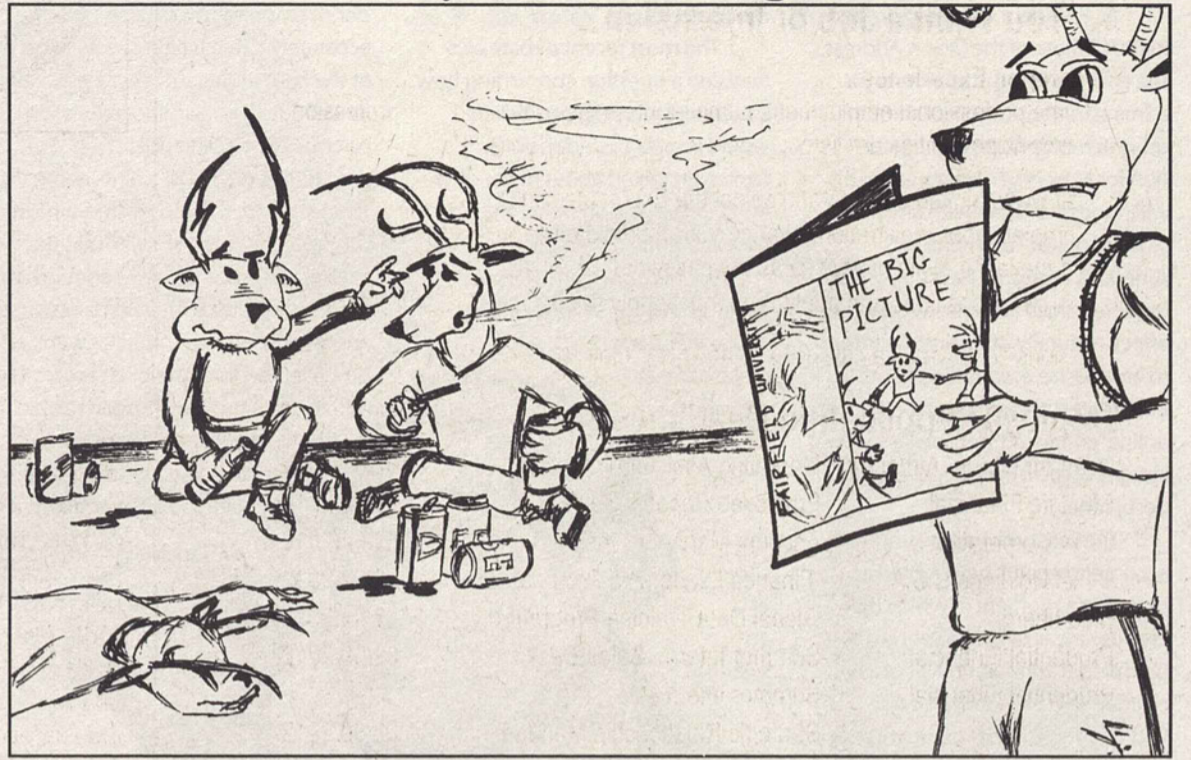
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Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down



- February is supposed to start out on a 55 degree day!
- They put the speed bumps back in around campus.
- Men's Basketball won on Sunday against Marist 81 - 53.
- Seniors are closing in on their last 100 days at Fairfield.
- Women's basketball won against Iona 78 - 64.
- Juniors have caught senioritis.
- There is a basketball filled weekend with Women at home on Thursday and Men home on Friday and Sunday.
- There was a cannibal killing in Bridgeport (but he was caught, so there is no need to worry).
- Frank Warren from PostSecret is coming to campus this week!
- Swipers not swiping in McInnes.

What Really Is "The Big Picture"?



Vincent Ferrer/The Mirror

Do you agree with the story below that Fairfield is not keeping up with their outward appearances?
Have an opinion about something? Send us your thoughts at opinion@fairfieldmirror.com

Not Keeping Up With Appearances

By LUIGI DIMIGLIO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The first book many students hold on their path to receiving a Fairfield University diploma is a thoughtfully-crafted brochure describing the life in store for them if they apply and are accepted.

It is no surprise that the best foot is put forward –with some details omitted.

For the first example of this, look no further than The Big Picture, a booklet sitting in a shelf of the Kelley Center lobby where every prospective student wanting a tour or interview is directed. It provides an overview of everything great Fairfield has to offer with candid pictures and informative displays.

In this booklet, "New York City" is mentioned or referred to at least five times before there is an entire page dedicated to the school's proximity to New York and the opportunities involved. About half of the total references have to do with internship experience in the city.

Not in the brochure is a big part of senior Kristen Rydberg's internship experience: A long winter morning's walk in her best internship attire to the train station whenever she has to go to her site.

Even if Rydberg had a car,

she wouldn't be able to drive it to the station because of the town of Fairfield's parking policy. The University does have a bus that stops at the train station, but it doesn't start running until hours after most students have to be at their internships.

"Even just one run at 7:30 in the morning would be helpful," says Rydberg. She isn't alone in her situation, and other upperclassmen with internships are finding ways around their commute challenges.

"Apparently people are hitchhiking rides on the [Fairfield] prep school shuttle in the morning –but I've only heard rumors," she said.

Rydberg believes that if using the Fairfield Prep shuttle was publicized by the University, students would take much more advantage of it.

Upperclassmen aren't the only ones that can see challenges to iconic Fairfield perks that the University highlights.

Another pamphlet in the Kelley Center contains a map highlighting the route from campus to the beach area that ends at Lantern Point. Students may be able to see the deception of this point at the beach, but incoming students don't, and should know that beach housing is a drastically shrinking opportunity since numbers of students allowed to live at

the beach has dropped from 400 to 200 in the past two years.

While the map leads a visitor to the end of Reef Road, a student who has been here since last spring can remember a lengthy email emphasizing the possibility of arrest if caught on Lantern Point without a guest pass.

If the beach is promoted sometimes and suggested against at other times, and internships miles away are a major selling point of the school yet assistance to begin the commute for actual interns is not provided or advertised, then are some of Fairfield's iconic selling points as substantial as incoming students may think?

There are a number of organizations in place to mend the discrepancies between Fairfield virtues and limitations, the most popular being the Fairfield University Student Association. With elections coming up for the president of FUSA, it honestly doesn't matter who the winner is (Julio Gomez is graduating).

There needs to be a clear and legitimate connection between what the prospective students are expecting and what the administration is providing.

It matters that we have someone to tell us not just the truth, but the whole truth, and nothing else.

NOTABLE AND QUOTABLE:

"You can raise money for charity, but when you see her there, everything really connects."

- Ivey Speight, "Student Athletes Show Their Skills" pg. 4

Any (Crazy) Man's Games

By JOHN DRISCOLL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As President Obama delivered his 2012 State of the Union Address, the effort to bring attention to his administration's accomplishments grew in momentum in preparation for November. He repeated his willingness to "work with anyone" to build on the "momentum" America's economy has supposedly gathered since his policies came into effect. Naturally, statistics were used to emphasize accomplishments to the greatest degree possible, with the online "enhanced" version showing images of growth or decline (when necessary).

The most obvious example of accomplishments highlighted is probably a moment in which the President was talking about stopping illegal immigration where he claimed that his administration had "put more boots on the border than ever before". The truth is that the vast majority of border patrol increases occurred during the Bush administration (the online version compared the number of border patrol agents in 2004 (10,000) to that of 2011 (21,444)). The irony is that while Obama has emphasized his toughness against illegal immigration, the most recent Republican Presidential debate witnessed a vicious argument between Mitt Romney and Newt Gingrich over who was more "pro-immigrant."

Romney has been posed questions during debates by the media that begin with a mention of the fact that his father immigrated to the US from Mexico. The fact that

the Romney family originally fled to Mexico because of anti-polygamy laws, generally does not receive much attention.

The most recent debate also featured a question concerning how the candidates' religious beliefs would impact their decisions. Santorum talked about how rights are granted by God rather than by governments.

Both Gingrich and Romney spoke about appealing to Providence in order to help make difficult decisions. Paul's answer was the shortest, answering

simply that his faith only affected his character, not his decisions as President. Seeing as the current President's emphasis on religion (or more accurately, Christianity) seems to be at the bare minimum, this question as well as other social questions will not make the difference.

Ron Paul's major points about the economy; that government must become drastically smaller, that the United States should have a sound monetary policy with free markets and zero income tax, conflict with his beliefs on foreign policy. Even if he follows the Constitution most firmly, Republicans will not

nominate someone with a foreign policy that many consider to be

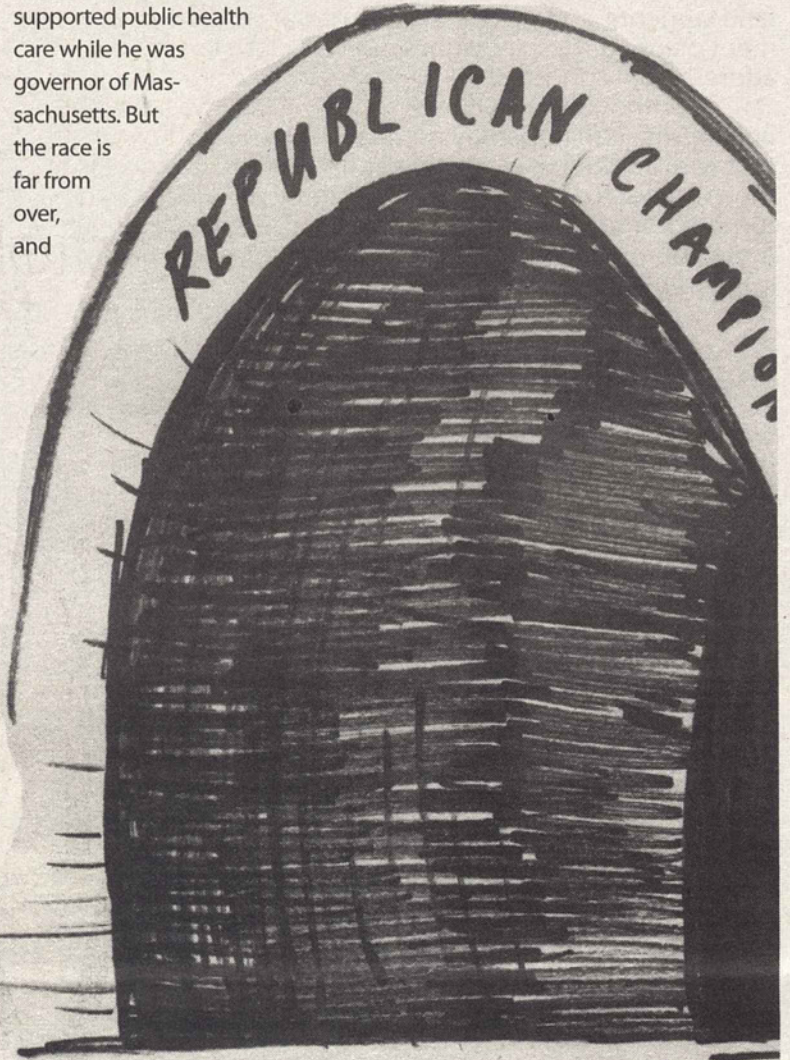
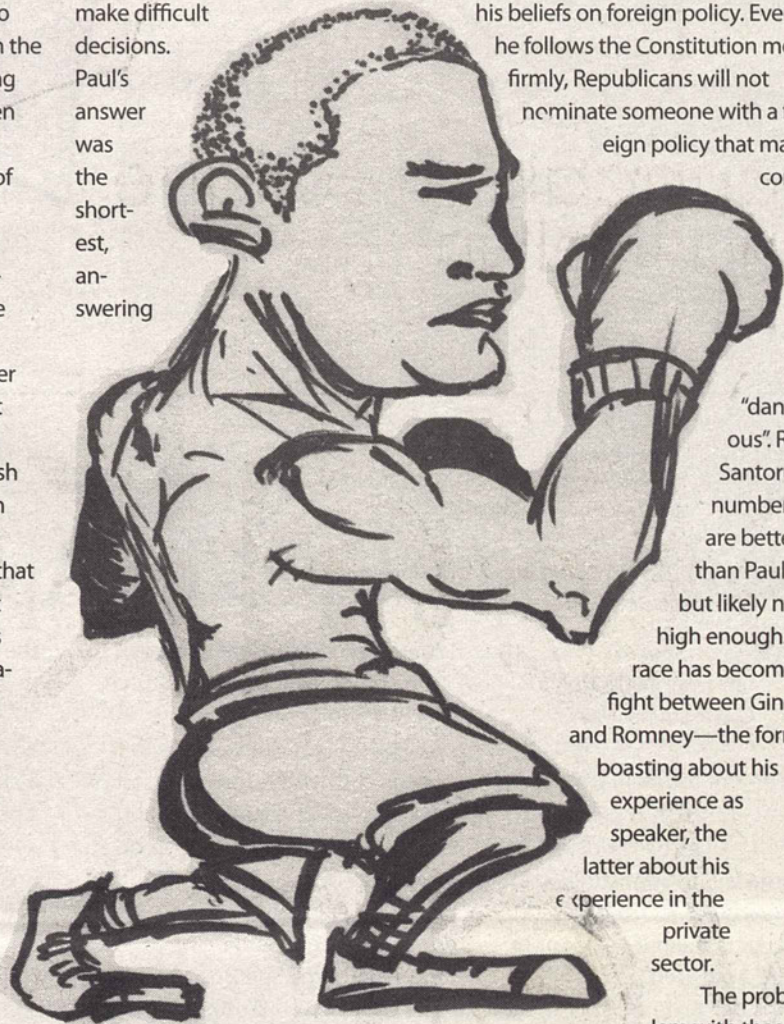
"dangerous." Rick Santorum's numbers are better than Paul's, but likely not high enough. The race has become a fight between Gingrich and Romney—the former boasting about his experience as speaker, the latter about his experience in the private sector.

The problem with these

candidates is that they will each have critical weaknesses against President Obama come election time. Gingrich has furiously attacked Democrats for his entire career, claiming that it is inevitable that either liberalism or conservatism emerge as America's culture.

It seems unlikely that Democrats will support him. Romney, on the other hand (as pointed out repeatedly by Santorum), supported public health care while he was governor of Massachusetts. But the race is far from over, and

despite Obama's efforts in weakening al-Qaida, supporting American businesses, combating illegal immigration, and leveling the economic playing field, Democrats are so disenchanted with him that a strong decision-maker from the right just might be able to seize victory in November. We then find ourselves with another question... what kind of lunatic would want to be president?



Vincent Ferrer/The Mirror

New Bookstore, New Problems

By MEGAN FORBES
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This semester was the first time that students purchased their textbooks from the new bookstore in town on Post Road. Although the new bookstore has a lot to offer to the town, and is very spacious, the move made it difficult for students to get textbooks. This is just going to be something that we'll have to get used to.

Now called the "Stag Spirit Shop", the old bookstore in Barone Campus Center holds Fairfield University apparel, along with some school supplies and toiletry items. In past semesters, it was also the place to buy books.

It was very convenient to go to the BCC to pick up textbooks, and return them if necessary. Now, the buying of textbooks involves a trip into town, which is basically a one hour ordeal if you don't have a car on campus.

I have not heard one student say that the new way of getting textbooks from the town bookstore is better than the old method. Most complained about not getting books on time, or if there was a mistake in the order, they needed to

find a way to get into town so that they could get their homework done on time.

I had a mistake with my order too. I ordered my books, and chose the option to have them delivered to Stag Spirit Shop so that I could pick them up. My order got messed up, and the bookstore accidentally gave me the wrong Calculus textbook, when I had ordered the correct one. I called the bookstore

in town, and they told me I needed to come into town to come and get the new one.

Now, if we still had our old bookstore, this mix up would not have been such a pain. I would have walked to the BCC to change the book, and that would have been the end of it. Instead, I needed to hop on the Stag Bus, and basically waste an hour of my day for something that would

have taken not even five minutes.

Joe McConville, a sophomore, says that even though he tries to order most of his books on Amazon.com to save money, the trip to the town bookstore was inevitable when he could not get all of his textbooks online. He says that it is too far away, and that all in all, having our books not on our campus is just "stupid."

I think many students would agree that this semester, it was much more difficult to get textbooks. I mean, wouldn't it just make more sense to have our textbooks on the campus we go to, instead of a mile away in town? I think it would be different if we all had our cars on campus, but having to rely on a friend to take you to the bookstore, or having to wait every 45 minutes for the shuttle to come by just seems ridiculous.

Possible solution? Maybe we could have textbooks in the Stag Spirit Shop for the first two weeks of the semester, and then after most of our textbook buying is over, we could move the textbooks back to the store in town. And what is going to happen when we have to return rented textbooks and sell back our used ones?

I guess I'm going to be getting on the shuttle with the 15 books that I had to buy this semester for my courses. Now that's going to be something to complain about. When getting textbooks should be such an easy task, the new bookstore just adds more stress on students on us at the beginning of a new semester.



Vincent Ferrer/The Mirror

at the vine

A Fairfield cupcake boutique found itself in a

Cupcake War

and it surrendered - with no regrets

MORE INSIDE...

MUSIC:

David Guetta, Katy Perry and Bruno Mars are only a few artists on the list. Who do you think made it out on top?



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TELEVISION:

How does Ashton Kutcher fare as a replacement for Charlie Sheen in "Two and a Half Men?" Check out a Stag writer's analysis of the show.



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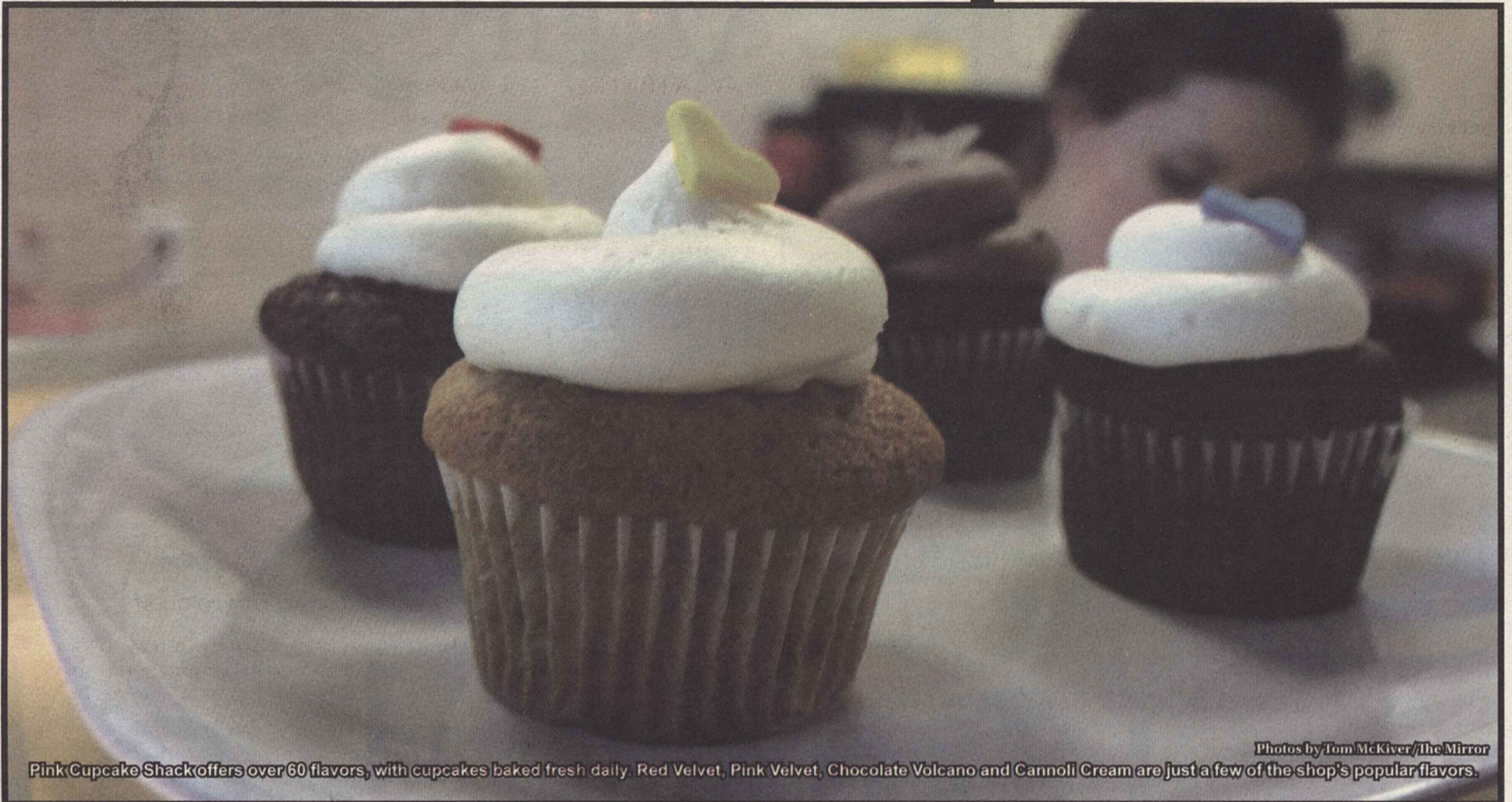
FOOD:

A Norwalk burger joint has a Stag raving, but its decor leaves little to praise. Read a food fanatic's review of the "American" burger.



Page 14

Passion Drives Pink Cupcake Shack



Photos by Tom McKiver/The Mirror
Pink Cupcake Shack offers over 60 flavors, with cupcakes baked fresh daily. Red Velvet, Pink Velvet, Chocolate Volcano and Cannoli Cream are just a few of the shop's popular flavors.

BY LOAN LE
VINE DIRECTOR

A lawsuit by a big name cupcake company in California couldn't stop Diane Mercado and her cupcake shop from thriving in Fairfield.

In July 2011, Pink Cupcake Shack, formerly Pink Sprinkles, found itself in a lawsuit started by Sprinkles Cupcakes, a company in Beverly Hills that dubs itself "the world's first cupcake bakery and the progenitor of the gourmet cupcake craze."

The lawsuit came as a surprise to Mercado.

Mercado said she registered her shop's name with Connecticut and received approval, which then led to the opening of her store in 2009.

She then received notice from Sprinkles, saying that they had trademarked the word "sprinkles" for their company.

Mercado argued that "sprinkles" is a staple in the cupcake business, and she expressed her surprise at how a big company like Sprinkles could target her store, which is tucked away in a corner on Brick Walk Promenade.

Sprinkles, however, pursued a federal law-infringement lawsuit. As quoted in Huffington Post, the lawsuit stated that their similar names would cause "confusion" that "will damage Sprinkles and injure its reputation in the trade and with the public."

Mercado said, "It's a hard thing to go through; you get a lot of publicity... it's just ridiculous because we're just a little cupcake shop."

Despite having to change the store's name, effective on Jan. 15, Mercado believes the lawsuit brought positive effects.

When the lawsuit surfaced, news all over the country covered the drama.

Huffington Post and Associated Press picked up the topic and ran it in their online and print editions. A small boutique running

against a huge company like Sprinkles caught the attention of many food fanatics and brought business to the shop.

Sprinkles had also exercised their rights to their name in previous cases.

In 2008, Sprinkles sued Sprinkled Pink Cupcake Couture, a store in Montecito, Calif. Its owner had registered the name when she got her business license in 2003.

Mercado looks back at the lawsuit as a time when she had to choose between fighting the case with the possibility of losing, or settling and changing the name to build a new future for the store.

She chose the latter, and she has yet to regret her choice.

The establishment resulted from Mercado's longtime dream to open a store, the support and prodding from her family (but she jokes that she "dragged" her children into the business), and also a layoff from her corporate job.

She eventually found a location for Pink Cupcake Shack on Fairfield's Brick Walk Promenade.

Mercado said, "Sometimes people don't venture back here, and then they'll all of a sudden come for some reason by mistake and they'll find us."

Though satisfied with her location, she wishes that she could have been on Post Road, the main road for traffic.

The cupcakes, cakes and cookies sold in the shop are baked fresh everyday. Mercado arrives at the shop around 7:30 a.m. with her father Roland, who washes the dishes for her.

Each Tuesday morning, Mercado decides the flavors that will be offered to her customers for the week.

Forced by her children, all college graduates, Mercado also makes sure to post the daily flavors on her Facebook and Twitter feed.

Salted caramel, cannoli cream and Gramma's ganache are just a few flavors that have customers craving for more.

Most of the time Mercado receives cupcake flavor requests, and she said: "We try to accommodate everybody. If they care enough to call, then we'll try to help them."

Their busiest time is usually lunch time. Customers from Molt or Liquid Lunch, which is next door, head over to the cupcake boutique, craving a dessert for their unquenchable palette.

They enter and immediately, the aroma of freshly baked and moist mixes entice their senses, until they can't leave without getting at least one treat.

Mothers and their children like to visit the cupcake shop on late afternoons and weekends. Mercado notes that there are a few regulars who come in to enjoy a cup of coffee and cupcake every morning.

The daily flavors include Red Velvet, Pink Velvet and Cannoli Cream. But on any day, customers might find Chocolate Volcano cupcakes, chocolate cakes with Ghirardelli chocolate ganache filling and chocolate butter cream topping.

Another great flavor is the Tag-along, a cupcake version of the Girl Scout's cookie, with a peanut butter-based mix and peanut butter

meringue drizzled on top chocolate dipped cream.

The decor of Pink Cupcake Shack reflects the slogan of the store: "Whimsical cakes and cupcakes to brighten your day."

Playful pink and sky blue colors adorn the inside walls. On cupcake display cases, there are miniature clay models of people that vaguely resemble smiling Sesame Street-like characters.

Mercado and her staff keep busy on the weekends by preparing cakes and treats for catered events like business meetings and parties. She delights in the fact that some people like to order cupcakes for weddings.

Students from Fairfield University and Sacred Heart University also visit the store. Pink Cupcake Shack is part of Fairfield's StagCard program, which allows students to use their StagCard to purchase items from the store.

Mercado admits that she likes people comparing her store to Crumbs Bake Shop, a famous Manhattan-based shop founded in 2003. Crumbs has since gone on to open 39 stores throughout six states.

Even though she has already

found success with Pink Cupcake Shack, Mercado said that she's always willing to change and add to the store's treats. As a member of the International Cake Exploration Society (ICES), she participates in baking conventions where she learns new baking techniques and shares ideas with other enthusiastic bakers.

Baking, she said, was always her "passion." As a teenager, she worked part-time in Pacelli's Bakery in Bridgeport, and also worked around baked goods when she was 21 years old.

Just don't expect to see Mercado on the Food Network's "Cupcake Wars" any time soon. Candace Nelson, one of the judges on the show, is also the owner of the company Sprinkles, which sued Mercado.

Mercado declined an invitation to appear on the show.

Mercado remains content with the state of her store and says that no plans for expansion have been made.

This Saturday Feb. 5, the cupcake boutique will host its first year anniversary at 1215 Post Road.



Billboard's Top 5 Songs

By **EMILY KERT**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

1. "Set Fire to the Rain" by Adele

The 23-year-old English singer-songwriter is the first artist whose album sold more than three million copies in one year in the UK. She has cited the Spice Girls as a major influence in her passion for music. Adele's voice is categorized as contralto, the deepest singing female voice, and she has been dubbed by some critics as "the new Amy Winehouse."

2. "We Found Love" by Rihanna featuring Calvin Harris

Rihanna, 23, is another contralto singer who released her debut studio album *Music of the Sun* in 2005, which reached the top ten of the Billboard 200 chart. Her ability to sell more than 20 million albums and 60 million singles has made Rihanna one of the best selling artists of all time. The Barbadian recording artist is known for blending R&B with Caribbean music styles, such as reggae and dancehall.

3. "Good Feeling" by Flo Rida

The 32-year-old rapper and singer-songwriter debuted his first album *Mail* on Sunday in March 2008. Shortly after the album release, his debut single "Low" featuring T-Pain was a #1 hit for ten weeks in the United States. After the release of his second album *R.O.O.T.S.* in 2009, his single "Right Round" was at the top of the Billboard Top 100 for six weeks. Critics have dubbed Flo Rida "the new 'It' man of hip-hop," and he has gained fame and respect for having no prior studio experience.

For anyone who needs an iPod update, some new music to break the silence of a long car ride, or a dance break after a long study session, to check out this week's top five on the Billboard Hot 100, found on Billboard.com.

4. "Turn Me On" by David Guetta featuring Nicki Minaj

Guetta, 44, is a French house music producer and DJ whose artistic career originated in nightclubs during the 80s and 90s. In 2002, he co-founded Gum Productions and released his first album, *Just a Little More Love*. Guetta has sold over three million albums and 15 million singles worldwide, and he is currently one of the most sought-after music producers. He has noted rock bands such as Kings of Leon and Coldplay as musical inspirations.

5. "The One That Got Away" by Katy Perry

Perry, 27, is an American singer, songwriter and actress who grew up listening to primarily gospel music. She first rose to fame in 2008 with her single "I Kissed a Girl," which topped international charts. Later that year, Perry's first mainstream studio album, *One of the Boys*, became the 33rd-best selling album of 2008 worldwide. Her singles "I Kissed a Girl" and "Hot N Cold" received multi-platinum certification, and *Billboard* magazine named her the 51st best-selling music artist of the 2000-2009 decade. After reaching number one on the charts on May 12, 2011, Perry became the first artist in history to spend 52 consecutive weeks in the top 10 of the Billboard Hot 100.



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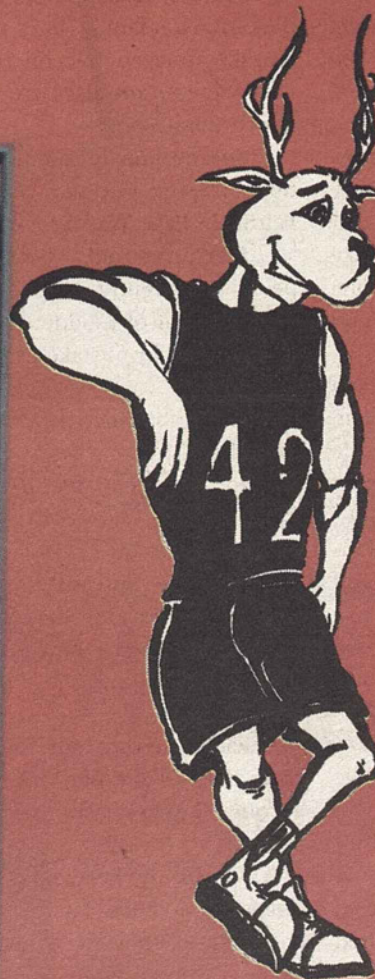
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The stakes were high for writers and producers of "Two and a Half Men" after they killed off Charlie Sheen's character and replaced him with Ashton Kutcher.

May the Best Man Win

BY ROBERT HAGSTROM
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



Last year, Charlie Sheen was fired from CBS's popular comedy series "Two and a Half Men."

Sheen was the lead character in the series for eight seasons before his "bad boy" antics and constant bickering with the producer cost him his job.

But did the show's audience leave with Sheen?

Sheen's character, Charlie Harper, was a successful "jingle writer" who lived on the beach in Malibu. When he wasn't writing songs for commercials, his idea of happiness included frequent and meaningless encounters with women - very much a mirror image of his real life.

To put an end to the character,

the producer of the show had Charlie brutally killed by being hit by a subway train.

Sheen was adored by the fans of the show, and it was unclear at first how "Two and a Half Men" would fare without him. Fortunately, his two co-stars Jon Cryer and Angus T. Jones, who played his brother Alan and bungling nephew Jake respectively, have remained with the show.

Their presence has helped ensure the show will have a fighting chance to continue its popular run.

The producers of "Two and a Half Men" claimed it was the dawn of a new age for the show as they set about in search of Sheen's replacement.

Ashton Kutcher, the highly

popular actor and comedian who is best known for his portrayal of Michael Kelso in the sitcom "That 70's Show," was a favorite for the new leading role and was ultimately chosen.

Kutcher plays Walden Schmidt, an internet billionaire who attempts suicide over his impending divorce. He is rescued by Alan and promptly buys Charlie's beach house, moving in and formally becoming Charlie Sheen's replacement.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, almost 28 million viewers turned in to watch Ashton Kutcher's first episode on the show. This compares to the average 14.6 million viewers who watched Charlie Sheen in last year's season.

The Hollywood Reporter said that more viewers were to be expected simply because they wanted to see the show with Kutcher's new character.

This comparison of numbers helps raise the question as to whether the show was getting old, and if Sheen's character was becoming stale in the later seasons.

Episodes seemed to be the same story over again, even in spite of more creative efforts by the writing staff to produce new scenarios for Sheen's character.

The producers felt that bringing in a new face would help the show regain the spark that was overwhelming in the midst of its first season, back in 2003.

There are significant differences

between Sheen's and Kutcher's characters on the show.

As opposed to Sheen playing a character that hates the idea of commitment to any one woman, Kutcher's character can't stop thinking about his failed marriage, and he is enthralled with the idea of having one woman in his life.

Despite this, the producers have gambled on the idea of having him play a very immature man, one that is a silly adolescent.

Making the transition of having the star character whose outlook on life is very lonely and commitment phobic, to a warmhearted individual is very significant in terms of how the show would be perceived in the future.

"24" Star Returns in New Drama

BY ANNEMARIE VEIRA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“There is an ancient Chinese myth about the red thread of fate. It says that the Gods have tied a red thread around every one of our ankles and attached it to all of those people whose lives you are destined to touch. This thread may stretch or tangle but it will never break. It has all been predetermined by mathematical probability and it's my job to keep track of those numbers. To make the connections for those who need to find each other. The one's whose lives need to touch.”

This is just a section from the opening voiceover to the new show "Touch" starring Kiefer Sutherland and David Mazouz. Sutherland plays Martin Bohm, a bag handler at JFK who answers a ringing phone found in the lost and found. He is simply a man trying to provide for a son who has special needs.

Jacob (Mazouz) is a boy who

doesn't like to be touched and hasn't spoken one word in his life. He's special in the respects of having an ability to understand how the entire world, with everyone in it, is connected.

It is Jacob's job to use numbers. It's through numbers that help connect Martin to the phone which travels from Ireland to Japan to Iraq.

It is through Jacob's calculations of 3:18 - the time, that date and his actions that cause the lives of him, his father as well as his case worker from social services Clea to connect to a stranger at a gas station, and a bus full of children. The phone that his father forgot ended up changing the life of the owner of the phone, an Irish singer, and a young boy in Iraq who is trying to help his family. Martin begins to research and dive into the numbers and follow the clues his son gives him.

The show was created by Tim Kring, who was also the creator of

"Heroes," and has an amazing combination of the feeling of both a Heroes and 24. The episode had a level of anticipation, leaving the you to question what will happen next, but also keeping you captivated by all of the pieces of the particular puzzle.

I'm happy as a fan of 24 to have Sutherland back on primetime, and in this type of show his character Martin is very different from Jack. Martin is simply trying to provide for his son, after the death of his wife in the 9/11 Terrorist attacks. We see he's struggling to do just that, as well as build a bond that was never created between father and son.

The overall structure to the drama seems to be something of three threads melding into one with each episode always coming back to Martin and Jacob.

We haven't seen a series like this in a long time. The show, with its intricate eye to detail and part emotional part thriller punches in the story, makes it something

worth watching.

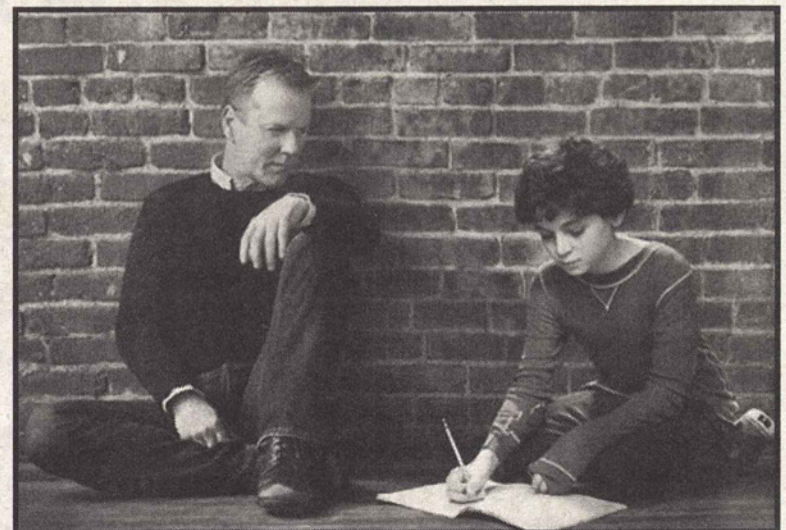
The show has something that not many other dramas have right now, which is a level of philosophical hope not only for the characters, but also for us the audience.

This idea to have hope is personified by Jacob and Martin hugging at the end of the episode for

the first time.

If you haven't seen it yet, you can catch the pilot of Touch on Fox.com/touch, or on Hulu and IMDB. The next episode and premiere of the season starts on March 19 at 9 p.m. on FOX.

It's going to be one of those must-sees this spring, I guarantee.



Contributed Photo

Right Bite: Beach Burger

By **RICHARD O'CONNOR**
STAFF WRITER

The hamburger: whether or not it was truly invented in America, a claim made by Louie's Lunch in New Haven, few could argue that there is a food more distinctly American in existence.

Now that McDonald's has successfully served over five gazillion of these tasty little guys worldwide, only a handful of poor souls on this planet are not aware of the burger (cultural imperialism at its finest). What this creates is an environment where everyone is a critic: it's easy to compare burgers because there's just so many different ones out there.

And for your benefit alone, I've taken up this task. For this week's review, I ventured down to Norwalk to try out The Beach Burger.

Overlooking the harbor at 10 First St. in Norwalk, The Beach Burger has yet to reach its first anniversary. It is the product of local business owner Anthony Luciani and celebrity chef Marc Anthony Bynum.

The Beach Burger serves "Gourmet Burgers, Handcut Fries, Fish & Chips, Fried Oysters and Specialty Shakes." Yes, surprisingly hamburgers can now be "gourmet."

Recently, the burger has become the focus of many chefs. The old image of the teen flipping burgers is no longer the norm because

burgers are considered a new canvas for chefs to work on, creating a happy marriage between the American classic and a new wave food.

This particular establishment

ited seafood items such as fish and chips. For dessert, they'll be happy to fry some of your favorite snacks like Twinkies, Oreos and Snickers.

I opted for the "Surf and Turf,"

fries were the way to go for beverages and sides.

The "Surf and Turf" proved to be a good choice. The lemon chive aioli lightened up the burger, giv-

bar looking out into Norwalk Harbor...save one thing.

At first glance, the inside of The Beach Burger is clean and inviting. The restaurant looks brand new, with a spotless tile floor, granite counter top and white wood paneling on the wall to remind you of a beach house. Closer inspection revealed just how far they were pushing the "beach" vibe. The poles supporting the bar were wrapped in nautical rope, and by the soda vending machine were vibrantly colored beach chairs, sand pails and toy shovels. Ok, pushing it a little bit.

But then I noticed the true horror. At first, I thought it was a coincidence that "Margaritaville" was playing from the speakers. I soon realized it was very intentional. All of the songs played were "beach" music. I began to gag a little as the restaurant environment combined with the music and hit me right in the gut. I would expect this type of behavior from a tourist restaurant on South Beach, not an establishment presenting quality food.

My advice: go to The Beach Burger. Just call ahead to order, limit the amount of time you spend in there for your own sake or even get it to go (there's not much seating anyway). This restaurant deserves a four out of five, but unfortunately I cannot condone the décor in good conscious, so it gets a three instead.



Contributed Photo

Beach Burger establishment gets two thumbs up for food quality but does not impress with its atmosphere.

emphasizes the fresh and local. All beef is 100% grass-fed organic, and as many local ingredients as possible are used.

The burgers are the focus of the menu, but it also consists of chicken tenders, salads and lim-

a burger topped with fried oysters, arugula and a lemon chive aioli, while my dining companion got the more traditional "Norwalk" burger with caramelized onions, blue cheese and mushrooms. Both of us agreed that milkshakes and

ing it a clean taste, while the fried oysters added a nice crunchiness. I couldn't have asked more from my milkshake: cold, creamy and plentiful. The fries were satisfactory as well. My partner and I had nothing to complain about as we sat at the



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"Underworld: Awakening" is Unremarkable

By JOHN BYKOWSKY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As Subject 2, played by teen India Eisley, says right before she rips open a man's throat with her bare hands: "Don't fight it; it will only make it worse."

This is the prevailing sentiment throughout the fourth installment of the Underworld franchise. If you are looking for grand storytelling, plot development or an emotional connection with the characters, then this is not the movie you're looking for.

However, if you want a beautiful bloodbath of the highest order, you've come to the right place.

In "Underworld: Awakening," the vampires and the werewolves are once again at war, the guns reload themselves, and Kate Beckinsale looks like a sex goddess in her black latex bodysuit.

The only real change from the other three movies is that the human world now knows of the existence of both these immortal factions and

is trying to annihilate them by any means possible.

The film begins with Kate Beckinsale's character Selene, who is set free from a cryofreeze tank after 12 years of imprisonment.

After a few deep breathes to get the frost out of her lungs, Selene starts doing what she does best: killing people. From there, what constitutes for a plot advances in a tsunami of gunfire as Selene takes revenge against her would-be captors.

The visual barrage that accompanies Beckinsale's rampage leaves little room for storytelling in this chapter of the saga. The character development and search for self identity that initially drew viewers to the series has been cut in favor of grandiose 3-D action sequences that range from sublime to ridiculous. These slow-mo standoffs glue

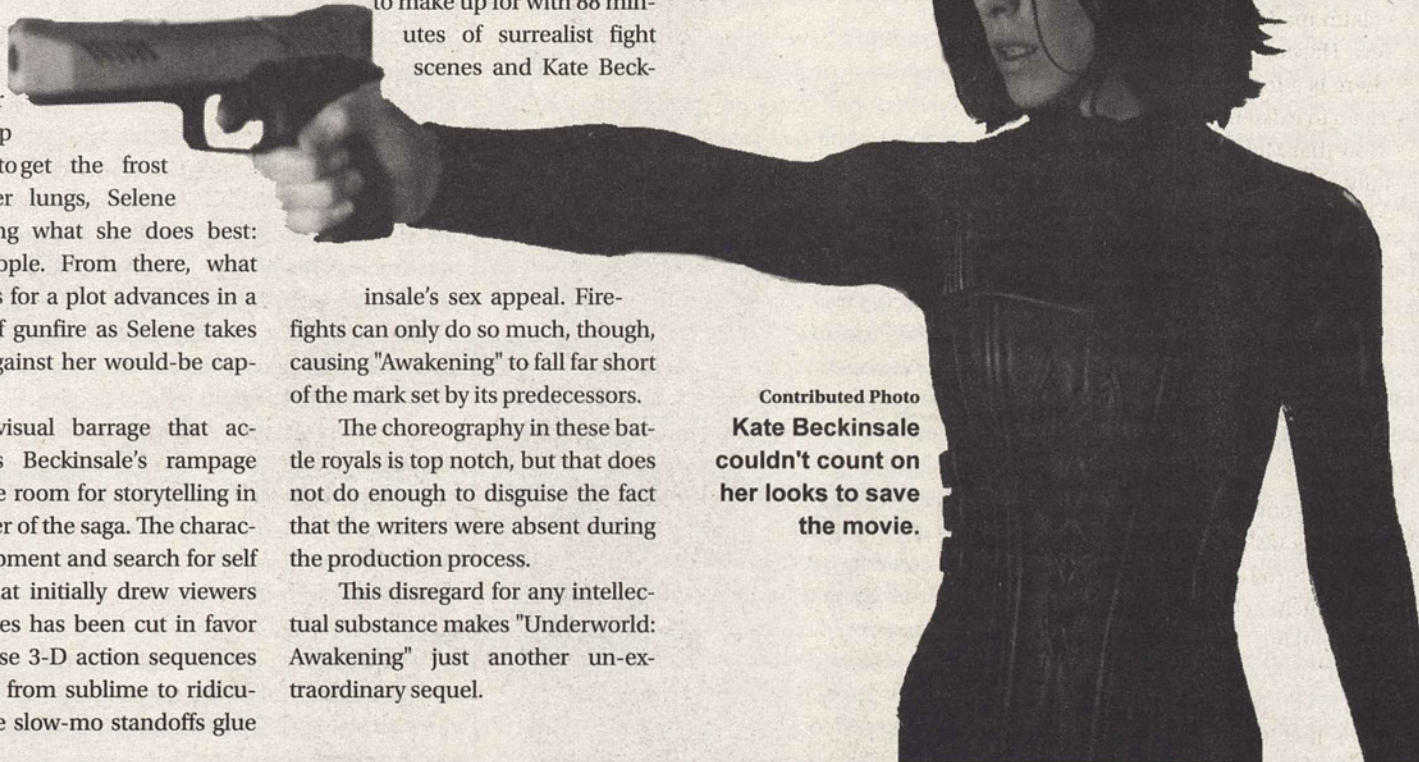
you to the screen at first but quickly become redundant as the film presses on.

What "Awakening" lacks in dialogue and narrative, it attempts to make up for with 88 minutes of surrealist fight scenes and Kate Beck-

insale's sex appeal. Fire-fights can only do so much, though, causing "Awakening" to fall far short of the mark set by its predecessors.

The choreography in these battle royals is top notch, but that does not do enough to disguise the fact that the writers were absent during the production process.

This disregard for any intellectual substance makes "Underworld: Awakening" just another un-extraordinary sequel.



Contributed Photo
Kate Beckinsale
couldn't count on
her looks to save
the movie.

"Man on the Ledge" a Letdown

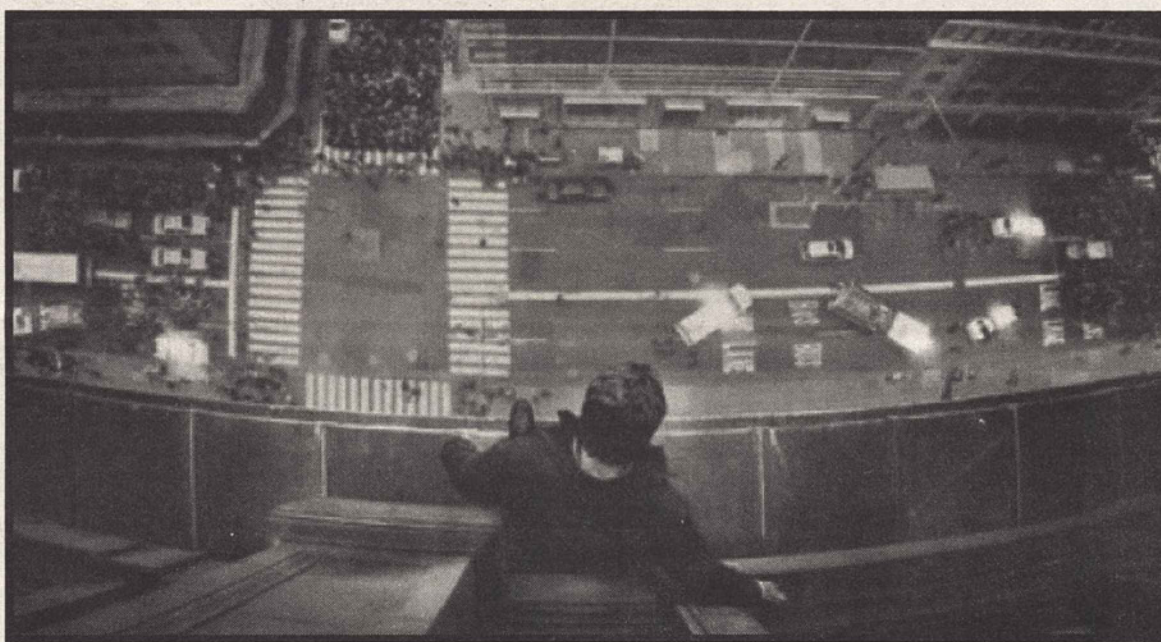
By ANNEMARIE VEIRA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

An understated title, an action/drama/thriller classification, and a pretty decent cast and concept. I had high expectations for "Man on a Ledge" and hoped the film would echo the 2003 film "Phone Booth," but unfortunately the overall movie really let me down.

Nick Cassidy (Sam Worthington) is a former cop framed and convicted for stealing the Monarch diamond from David Englander

(Ed Harris), who hid the diamond in a secret vault so that he could collect the insurance money. Nick escapes from prison to prove his innocence. He hopes to achieve this by pretending to be a suicidal man on the ledge of the Roosevelt Hotel long enough for his brother Joey (Jamie Bell) to break into Englander's office across the street and find the diamond. Simple plan, right?

In the midst of the crowds and the television crews, Nick ends up directing the operation from the ledge. Joey and his girlfriend Angie (Genesis Rodriguez) take orders, attempting to break into the



Contributed Photo

"Man on the Ledge," a suspense film rated PG-13, was released Friday Jan. 27 nationwide.

high tech safe where they think the diamond is being held.

Meanwhile, Nick has to deal with Lydia Mercer (Elizabeth Banks), a negotiator whom he personally requests and who is trying to get him down from the ledge. After his identity is revealed, Nick tries to convince Mercer that he is truly innocent and was set up by someone in the department. Nick believes that because Englander uses the NYPD as his personal body guards, it has to be one of their own. Over time, Mercer becomes convinced and ends up helping Nick by stalling her superiors who want to take Nick down with tactical methods.

The film seemed to have a three-act structure with unfortunately bad pacing. Act one involved Nick's plan to escape from prison, act two was his time spent on the ledge, and act three was his vindication.

As an avid movie watcher and writer I have to say that the second act of the film up until the middle of the third act was fairly good. The performances from the actors and the directing were decent, but the script hindered everyone. The pacing for the film was also all over the place, causing many characters

including the villain Englander to seem fake and forced and the film to be lackluster overall.

The way the movie started with the hotel, and then backing up to the month before Cassidy goes out on the ledge isn't clear in establishing the plan. The scene between Joey and Nick at the cemetery after their father's funeral which is supposed to be Nick's "motivation" for going out on the ledge, tried to be obvious to the audience but hidden to the other characters in the scene. It didn't work well. This happened in other scenes where it was supposed to be clear to the audience and not to other character made it difficult to follow and keep momentum.

Then there were inconsistencies with Mercer's character. Mercer is a rookie negotiator on the police force who is having a tough time because she lost a jumper a few months back. However, her superiors (who are total clichés in characterization) give her a hard time throughout the whole film, possibly just because she is a woman. One would expect for her character to be a bit tougher and much more defined as a result, but she wasn't.

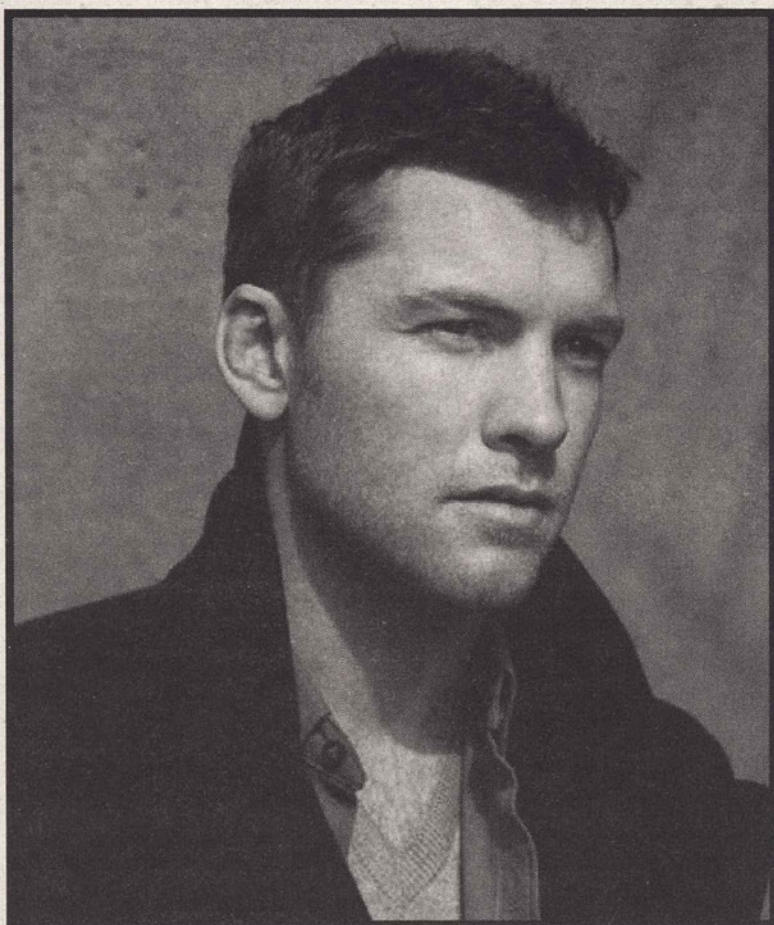
Nick's theory that he was set

up by someone he knows indeed turns out to be true. This theory is the draw of the film, but any viewer can figure out within the first act at the establishment or lack of establishment of the plan who double crosses Nick, his partner. When you pair this with the so-so middle with the very tactless ending that was supposed to be closure with a bit of a twist at the end, the ending was too happy in context to fit the direction of the film.

The writing of the film was really its downfall, with only a strong middle in regards to plot. The beginning and ending of the film as well as the character development of the characters needs work.

The one bright spot that really blew me away was the cinematography. The shots of Cassidy on the ledge, especially the ones from his perspective looking down, made me anxious in my seat. That is what a thriller is supposed to do.

It was a good try, but honestly, I wouldn't pay to see this movie again. I'd wait to stream it online if anything, and the only reason I would stream it would be to figure out how to fix the script. This was a B- film, and a letdown in the thriller department.



Contributed Photo

Sam Worthington, familiar to fans as the star of "Avatar" and "Terminator Salvation," stars as main character Nick Cassidy in "Man on the Ledge."



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The Dangers of Technology

Joe McConville

Living in today's society one is burdened by the ball-and-chain-like feeling that comes with the constant connection with technology. Everywhere we go we are immediately linked with thousands of our closest friends, who may or may not care about how close you are to seeing your girlfriend or boyfriend. 6 Daayyyzzzz <<3333. Gag me.

Facebook, Twitter, texting and many other social media sites have become platforms to spoon-feed the world a heaping helping of our own individual thoughts. And by spoon I mean cannon-like. We seem to have forgotten, or just not cared, that not everyone in the world wants to hear about what's going on in your private life.

Well, what would be considered your private life up until that last tweet... sorry that your inability to control yourself while drinking and texting/tweeting/Facebooking has made us all realize that you're just a terrible person.

We all have that one person on our newsfeeds whose statuses just make you sit there and stare at how a person could be able to manage to link their direct brain-thoughts straight to their Facebook. Do you ever even read what you post? God help us when it's time for our generation to run for any sort of political office, we're screwed.

Crafting a beautiful Facebook status has become an art. Much like the times of our youths when everyone got a trophy for doing anything regardless of how well you did it, 'likes' offer the same sort of feeling. Likes are little ego boosters, a hearty serving of Ego Waffles.

There are some great technological advances that I do enjoy however, such as the iPhone app 'Find My Friends' which allows you to locate any of your connected friends on a map. It sounds really creepy at first but it's actually surprisingly helpful.

Skype and Facebook also allow us to talk to people who live far away, and don't necessarily get to see all the time. Whether or not you want to ever reconnect with these people is a completely different story and up to your discretion.

Our society is becoming a world of impersonal communication. Pretty soon our lives will be just like in Wall*e. Everyone will become fat and flying around on chairs not even turning to look at each other, just using technology to communicate and express ourselves. Let's all learn from Wall*e and not let technology run our lives.

- Sent from my iPhone

Wake up. Check cell phone for texts or missed calls. Look through emails. Log onto Facebook and look at new notifications. Update status on Twitter. As we sit through class, we text our friends to distract ourselves from lessons. We sit at dinner and text and go on Facebook while our friends surround us. Relying on technology has become an accepted part of society today in the 21st century.

I'm not trying to be a hypocrite. Yes, obviously I own a cell phone, and an iPod, a laptop and all those other gadgets most of us own. I do check to see if I have a text at least every five minutes. But I guess I'm just a product of our society. Sometimes I feel so attached to technology that I wish I could live in a cave for a day where no one would know what's happening every moment of my life, but that's highly unrealistic.

I hate that technology has given people a wall to hide behind when they want to tell someone how they really feel. Someone pissed you off today at work? Send them a mean Facebook message. You'd never think of talking to them in person, or even talking to them over the phone. Nope. Words written down give a sense of invincibility, and we can say how we really feel without saying it to someone's face. It's made the act of confronting someone an ancient practice. Sucks for someone like me that likes to tell people how I feel to their faces. Now I look like the weirdo.

Let's think for a minute. What did our

Megan Forbes

parents do while they were college kids? How did friends make plans? It may sound crazy, but people actually used to meet where they said they would, and would be there at the time they said they would be there. Technology gives us excuses to go back on our words. It's perfectly acceptable to text your friend and tell them that you can't go to dinner with them, fifteen minutes before you were supposed to be at the restaurant.

How important is it to update your Twitter status before every activity of your day? How did this take priority to some people over doing more productive activities, such as homework, or even hanging out with friends? This constant desire to let the world know what you're doing at any given second is so over my head. I mean, isn't mystery a little bit interesting, rather than telling everyone the millions of plans that we have?

Now I'm gonna get a little bit deep here, but I think it's necessary for the little rant that this has become. Shouldn't we be spending our time in a more memorable way? Think about it. When we look back at memories we have, are we going to remember the text conversations that we had that day, or the more important things, like spending time with people we love? Come on now. Let's put our phones down for a minute and stop wasting our time with useless status updates.

- Sent from my BlackBerry

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THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

THE WEEK THAT WAS IN FAIRFIELD ATHLETICS

Sports Shorts



Men's Swimming- The 400m medley relay set a program record with a time of 4:05:31, as the Stags beat Iona College last Saturday. Andrew Robinson set an individual record in the 200m Butterfly, with a time of 2:17:01. They end the dual meet season against NJIT on February 4th.



Women's Swimming- Michelle Yoshida broke her own school record in two events. She bettered her previous mark in the 50m freestyle by a tenth of a second, as well as smashing her previous record in the 200m backstroke.



Men's Tennis- The Men's Tennis team defeated Army 4-3 last Friday. All three of Fairfield's doubles teams won, adding to three individual victories by the Stags. Their next match is against Boston University on February 4th.



Women's Tennis- Monica Yajima and Sharissa Ryan notched the only victories for the Stags, who fell to Fordham 2-5 last Saturday. Their next match is against Hartford on February 4th.

What To Watch For

Wednesday- No games.

Thursday- Women's Basketball vs. Rider, 7 p.m.

Friday- Men's Basketball vs. Niagara, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday- Men's and Women's Swimming vs. NJIT, 1 p.m.

Sunday- Men's Basketball vs. Siena, 3:30 p.m.

Monday- No games.

Tuesday- No games.

BY THE NUMBERS

5 19 4

The Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving teams set five program records as they swept Iona on Saturday

Maurice Barrow tied his career high of 19 points in Fairfield's 81-53 victory over Marist this past Sunday.

Four Women's Basketball players had double digits points in the Stags 78-64 win at Iona this past weekend.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"As a coach or any kind of leader, it's important to play a role in building character. That's what we did and that's why being a former football coach is the greatest thing to ever happen to me."

-said Coach Herman Boone, depicted by Denzel Washington in Remember the Titans, at the Fairfield's MLK Convocation event last week.

New Sports Blog

Make sure to check out our new Sports Blog with online-only coverage at sports.fairfieldmirror.com, as well as featured sports videos.

SPORTS 3x5

Your 2011-2012 3x5 Columnists:
Eric Bernsen, Ivey Speight
and John Tessitore.

| Because they like to talk... Sports. | Who showed off their talents the best over this past weekend? | Ocho Cinco bought every Patriot player headphones this week. Key to a New England victory? | Five straight wins for the Women's Basketball team. Secret to their success? | Underated aspect of the SOPA controversy? | Most elite trio that have made their mark on Fairfield beach? |
|--|---|--|---|---|--|
| <p>ERIC BERNSEN SPORTS EDITOR</p> | Talent show had it's moments for sure, but the MC's surped out afterparty did not disapoint. Elite swag and great company ssssss. | As long as the Pats have Avicii blasting through those Dre headphones, there will be no stopping them - gonna PWN the Giant squids 31-27 nanana. | Small man would know better than me, but this team is on fire right now. Veteran team full of legends, Marist should be very worried. | My boy Neil Rodrigues' up and coming blog was shut down by the forces that be. Musingsofamechanicalmind.blogspot.com check it out niiliicks | The Bona, Williams, Randall team been running it and going strong since sophomore year. Lifetime legend award goes to these three, done and done. |
| <p>IVEY SPEIGHT CONTRIBUTING WRITER</p> | HUHUUH. I showed off my overall talent at the creepy afterparty. Me and the Beeeee almost had a Regis reunion. LITE | Well, listening to music didn't help the Red Sox too much. One Beeee team fails after another. | They have a great contributing writer. But they go under the radar and their defense makes others look BARKED. | I did the "what will happen to you in 2012" survey on Facebook and it said that "I would drink too much alcohol." Who says Facebook doesn't know you. | HUHUUH well when Ivey gets drunk he always likes to creep on the Three Stooges the surpssss understand! |
| <p>JOHN TESSITORE ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR</p> | Definitely Bernsen show-in his creepin talents in the crowd, and I can't forget the Men's Soccer team. | Honestly, I'll probably be watching MSG's Sunday night hoops. | HUHUUH the SMALLL MANNN! On the real though, hardwork, and great leadership, its a treat watching them play. | Follow me on twitter @creepyrecedinghairline.com | Gotta be my man Hoolihan always gives me and the sports editor shout outs at the grape, then the next two gotta be the Williams and Bona connection. |

Coach Boone Inspires All at MLK Convocation

By ERIC BERNSEN
SPORTS EDITOR

Leadership and trust are two important qualities that usually define whether a team has enough determination to be successful.

Coach Herman Boone, who spoke at Fairfield University's MLK Convocation event last week, has embodied these values through his life as the former football coach of T.C. Williams High School, a role famously depicted by Denzel Washington in the Disney film *Remember the Titans*.

In 1971, when racial tensions were high as ever, Coach Boone was appointed to lead a newly integrated football team with three local high schools forming into one.

The former rivalries between the schools combined with the strain between the black and white players resulted in a team that was far from united.

"They were forced to integrate and they hated each other. Differences had to be put aside to become a Titan and amidst all the controversy, we had mission to mold a group of angry unfocused boys into a winning football team," said Boone.

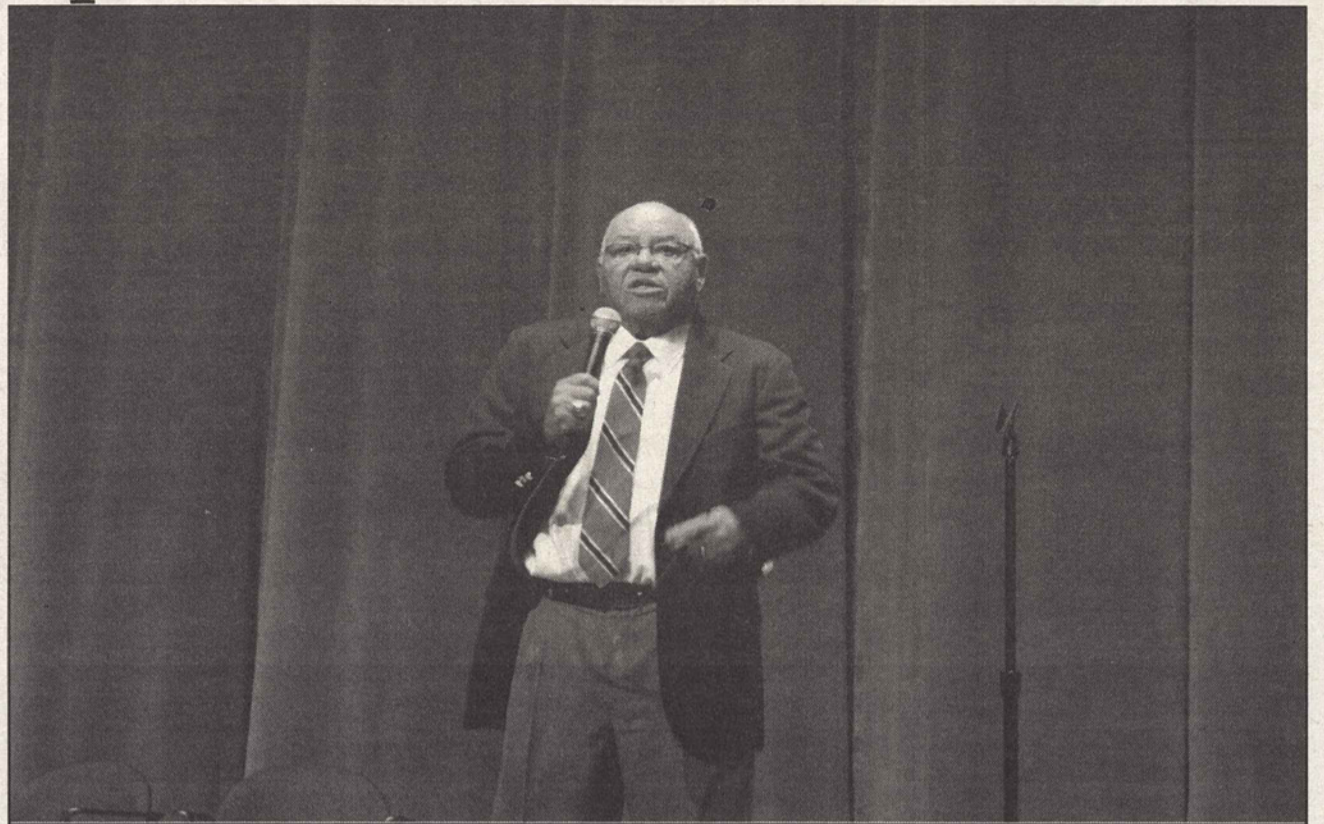
Because both the coaches and players were able to ignore race and put aside prejudices, the Titans not only had a perfect 13-0 record and won a state championship title, but they changed the outlook of their community.

"We achieved integration during an era when people were refusing it," said Boone. "Everyone on the team had to respect each other, trust was the emotional glue that binded them together and it was able to have a great impact on all of us."

One scene in particular that Boone discussed was when he took his players to the site of the Battle of Gettysburg, a moment in history that President Lincoln's regarded as being "the moment when America united."

"I took my players there so they could unite just as America did. After some struggling, our team learned to have one heartbeat and accept each other," Boone said. "Racism is the fear of the unknown and the players showed the world that it was ok to accept diversity."

Coach Boone and his team were able to translate suc-



Meghan Cox/The Mirror

The inspirational former high school football coach Herman Boone addressing Fairfield's MLK Convocation audience at the Quick Center.

cess on the field to positivity around their community as well as the entire country, former President Nixon went as far as saying that the Titans were, "The team that saved Alexandria (VA)."

But at the time, Coach Boone couldn't have realized the impact his team would have so many years later.

"As we marched through the state of Virginia to win a championship, I never looked at myself as being special. I was just a person that wanted to do right," said Boone.

In an era where professional athletes make millions of dollars and college athletes are exposed to all sorts of temptations, the story of Coach Boone and the Titans reminds us what matters most in athletics: heart, respect and honor in

representing your team.

"People said black and white could never work. The players did not look like each other and they didn't talk like each other. But in the end, they learned to accept the soul of the individual," said Coach Boone.

The inspiration that comes from the story of the Titans resonated throughout the audience that was present at the Quick Center as Coach Boone revealed the most important lesson to take from his past.

"You should not believe anything that you are not willing to say," Boone said. "As a coach or any kind of leader, it's important to play a role in building character. That's what we did and that's why being a former football coach is the greatest thing to ever happen to me."

Stags Running Toward Success Women's Basketball Rides Five Game Winning Streak

By IVEY SPEIGHT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The finish of the 2011 season was anything but amazing. The Fairfield University women's basketball team ended their year with a loss in the MAAC Quarterfinals, a game that set the record for the lowest combined score in a tournament game.

This year, they wanted to change that.

"Over the summer we focused on one common goal, to be better than last year and win games," said senior Taryn Johnson.

So far, so good.

Even though the team was pre-ranked fourth in the MAAC, the Stags are one of the biggest surprises in the conference as they have compiled a 16-5 record and are 9-1 in MAAC contests, good enough for second in the conference.

"It's been beautiful," said Johnson. The reigning MAAC Player of the Week is averaging a team high 13.3 points per game midway through the season.

The squad has won 13 of their last 15 games, with the only losses coming to the 6 time defending MAAC Champions Marist Red Foxes and the nationally renowned UCONN Huskies.

They are coming off a weekend in which they defeated Iona and Manhattan (teams that are 3rd and 4th in the conference respectively) by a combined 23 points.

"The togetherness and focus [over the weekend] was amazing," said Johnson.

Besides their three known commodities in Taryn Johnson, Desiree Pina and Katelyn Linney who average 59 percent of the teams scoring, the Stags have also been guided by their role players in 2012.

Sophomore Alexis Vasquez, who only averaged a little over 8 minutes a game last year, is shooting an amazing 48 percent from behind

the arc, which should be good for second in the nation!

"She's stepped up big time any team we play has to respect her," said Johnson.

The Berlin, Connecticut native has now found herself a regular in the starting lineup and now averages over 28 minutes per contest.

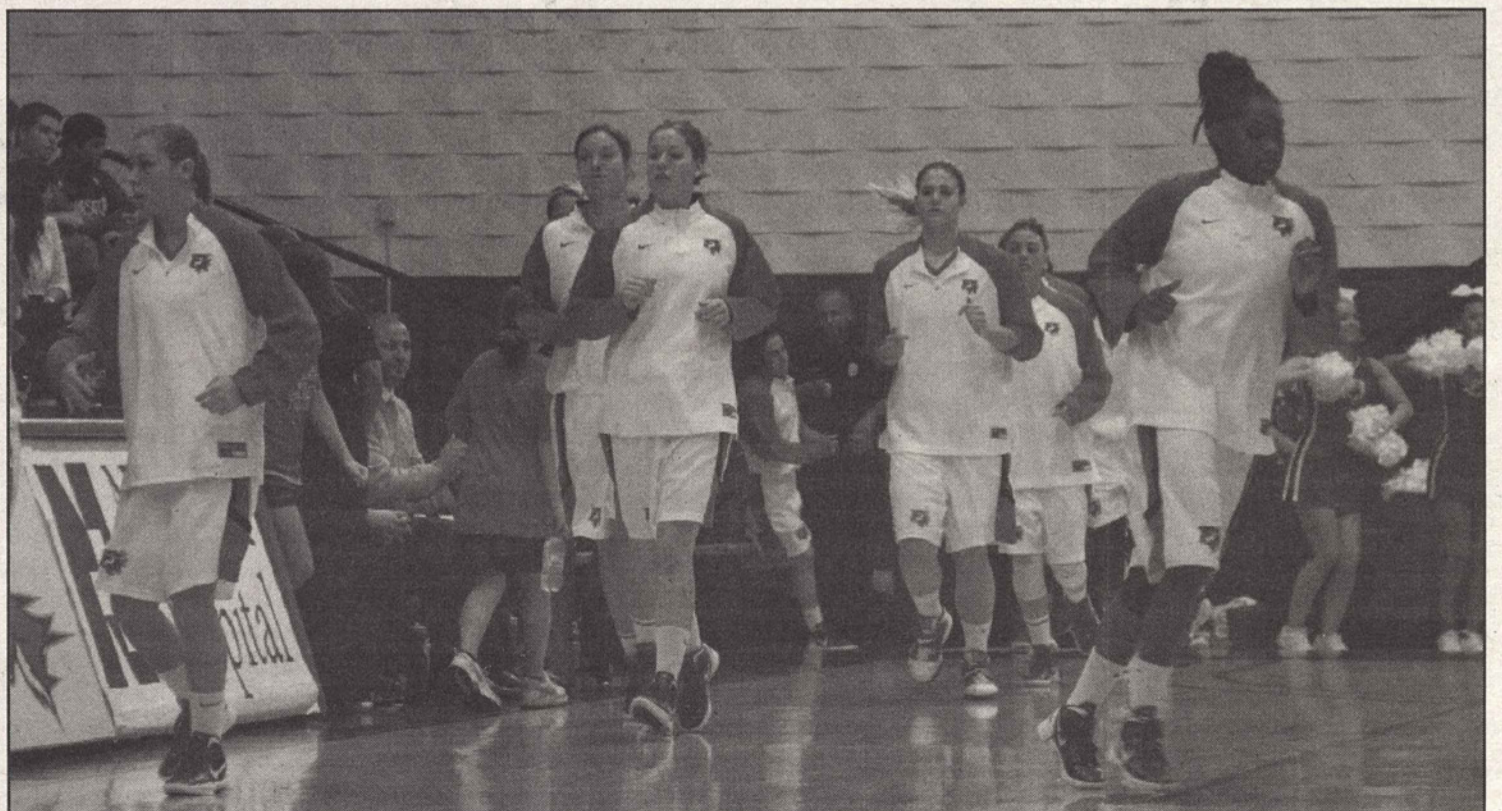
Another player who has contributed to the team is Katie Cizynski. The sophomore is shooting over 45 percent from the field midway through the year.

Unlike other programs in the competitive MAAC Conference, the Fairfield Stags are not built around one or two superstars. Instead they are comprised of different pieces,

each with their own individual job, and when they work together that's what makes a team.

"Last year we were young," said Johnson. But this year they are more experienced being led by three seniors and have only one freshman on the roster. And so far that experience is paying off. Although they might not grab the attention from fans or media outlets, Taryn Johnson and the Stags are okay with their 9-1 conference record.

"If they are sleeping on us....that's fine," said Johnson. The team will play Rider on Thursday in their final game at the Webster Bank Arena. With the way things went the first half of the year, the end of 2012 might just be amazing.



Tom McKiver/The Mirror

The women's basketball team has enjoyed great success as they have won five straight games in a row after their victory against the Iona Gaels this past weekend.

Fairfield University's Spring 2012
Career Fair

***Connect with employers about job
and internship opportunities!***

Thursday, February 9

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**The Leslie C. Quick Jr. Recreation Complex
(adjacent to Alumni Hall)**

- Suits recommended**
- Bring lots of résumés and your StagCard**

For a list of companies, please refer to the
Career Planning Center Web site: www.fairfield.edu/cpc.

For more information, call the
Career Planning Center at (203) 254-4081.



Men's Basketball Charges on Against MAAC Foes



Aisha Faulkner/The Mirror

Above: The Fairfield Men's Basketball team is on a roll coming off a 81-53 beatdown of the Marist Red Foxes at this past Sunday's game. Bottom Right: Senior guard Sean Crawford.

BY ERIC BERNSEN
SPORTS EDITOR

When the Fairfield Men's Basketball team suffered a tough loss to the first place Iona Gaels, the disappointment could not have been more visible. But after the dominating 81-53 victory the Stags had against the Marist Red Foxes this past Sunday, it's clear that this team has no limitations when everyone is clicking simultaneously.

Four players scored in double figures for the Stags as they were firing on all cylinders in the second half against Marist, shooting a remarkable 81 percent from the three-point line and scoring 48 points.

Sophomore forward Maurice Barrow stood out for the Stags as he tied a career high 19 points and hauled in eight rebounds.

Coach Sydney Johnson liked what he saw out of his squad as he continues to adjust and work with his players, each with multiple different skill-sets.

"We struggled a bit in the first half but after the big shot Sean made, we came out after the break and were rolling," said Johnson. "Our depth sticks out on defense, but offensively it's all about mixing and matching. We can do a lot of different things and we have certain guys who can score in more than one way."

In a season filled with many up and down moments, senior guard Sean Crawford has played tremendously off the bench. Although his numbers on the stat sheet may not stick out, his presence as a dedicated leader on the floor is undeniable.

"Sean's impact on the team predates my arrival. The players on this team respect Sean and his constant energy," Johnson said. "Whether it's diving on the floor for loose balls or making clutch three's, it's obvious to the fans and supporters."

With the MAAC schedule well underway, Coach Johnson and the Stags have played enough conference games to realize how deep the league is. No team is safe, and there is a constant pressure to perform game by game.

"There are a number of very good and capable teams in our league. The coaching is outstanding and the solid guard play many teams possess have allowed them to execute," said Johnson. "That special thing (winning the MAAC tournament) can happen to anybody and that's something we're aware of."

Fairfield will be able to enjoy three home games in a row as they continue to make their mark on the MAAC conference. Nevertheless, Coach Johnson maintains his game-by-game attitude, as there is no rest for the weary.

"We still want to take things day by day. It's going to come down to how we prepare ourselves daily. Our chances have been significantly improved when we have a great week of practices. We do anything less and we are going to be disappointed," said Johnson.

Fairfield will take on Niagara University this Friday night at 7 p.m. at the Arena at Harbor Yard.

