

4-11-2011

## College Voice Vol. 95 No. 17

Connecticut College

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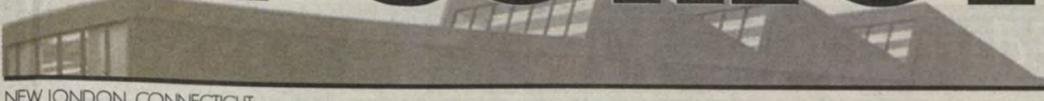
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The views expressed in this paper are solely those of the author.



## Self-made filmmaker Casey Neistat goes from Internet shorts to HBO

**RACINE OXTOBY**  
A&E EDITOR

When entering Olin 014 to see Casey Neistat, a filmmaker who was visiting as part of C@T's New Media Colloquia Series, those in the audience noticed

something different about him. Instead of sitting in the front row, politely and quietly biding his time until he was properly introduced, Neistat was already at the podium. However, he wasn't talking or answering questions. He was DJing. He had his iTunes open to Gorillaz's Plastic Beach

and he would quickly skip to the next song when he felt that the sound wasn't fitting his mood. "Nice fade out, right?" he asked the crowd, turning the music off as the event was starting. He continued to stand on stage even while he was being introduced, peering over the speaker's shoul-

der and correcting her when necessary. Without saying a single word about why he was here at Conn, Neistat was already proving himself different from the average guest lecturer.

Neistat and his brother Van are members of the unofficial do-it-yourself filmmakers club which

include similar non-film-school-educated directors like Quentin Tarantino and Kevin Smith. Unlike Tarantino and Smith, however, the Neistat brothers have never sought to make feature length films for theaters. Instead, they make shorts.

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## Distinction to be Made Between Honor Code and College Policy

**JAZMINE HUGHES**  
NEWS EDITOR

After nearly a year of talks, the Judicial Board is undergoing change: namely, it is no longer J-Board.

The changes stem from the school's relationship with the Honor Code. "Our school is portrayed as this institution that stands solidly behind this Honor Code, and claims it to be integral," said J-Board Chair Conor Walsh '11.

"When students begin to pick and choose which aspects of the code they abide by, the institution as a whole is diluted. If we care about our honor code and wish to ensure its future existence, the lines in which students have constructed in creating their own individual honor codes must be dissolved."

Walsh has been working on these changes since last semester. He, along with a group of like-minded students, visited Wellesley College, Haverford College and Davidson College, all schools with similar honor codes. "We were most interested in learning how these academic institutions dealt with the question of 'honor,' and furthermore, what types of violations were considered matters of honor," said Walsh. The three schools had a commonality: alcohol and drug violations were not defined as honor code violations.

Following this trip, two committees were created to evaluate the Honor Code and the current judicial structure: the Honor Code Infusion Committee, which examined how the Honor Code can be more relevant to students' daily lives, and the Judicial Task Force, which reviewed what was termed as a violation of honor.

The groups came together with a major recommendation: create a distinction between Honor Code violations and violations of College Policy. Accordingly, the groups also suggested separating these issues into two different boards: the Honor Council and the Student Conduct Board.

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## PROFESSOR HYBEL VISITS EGYPT



ALEX HYBEL/PROFESSOR

SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 4

## OPINION



## Putting a Lid on Bottled Water Sales

**ALEX SCHWARTZBURG**  
STAFF WRITER

Clean drinking water is the foundation of any civilization. Without a reliable source of clean, healthy, drinking water, the terrain would be a desert or tundra. As we know, these are not the most desirable places in the world to live.

It is with water in mind that I would like to introduce you to Conn's next great man: SGA Chair of Environmental Affairs Elias Kauders. Much can be said about this brave young soul with the guts and the know-how to actually get this "environmentally friendly" campus to go green. But his message is more important: **BOTTLED WATER IS BAD!**

One ought to ask where bottled water comes from. There are three big bottled water companies: Coca-Cola, Pepsi and Nestlé. Each aggressively pursues supplies for their bottling plants, often taking water from sources where surrounding communities are rationing the resource due to droughts.

There's no such thing as disposable plastic. According to studies conducted by UC San Diego only twenty percent of the one-and-a-half million bottles that Americans buy every week are recycled, which in itself is only a stopgap measure. The vast majority of wasted containers end up in incinerators. When plastic—any kind of plastic—is burned, it releases a host of highly toxic chemicals.

These chemicals end up contaminating the very water that these companies bottle and sell, but the problem isn't just burned bottles. As the plastic bottles decompose over a span of hundreds or even thousands of years, they also release highly toxic chemicals—albeit at a slower rate than when they're incinerated—into rivers and oceans, where they break down into small pieces, poisoning fish, shrimp, the tuna in your sushi and the salmon on your bagels.

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## Connecticut College, 1960s and 1970s



In September of 1969, Connecticut College began accepting men. For more 1960s and 70s-era photos, see Page 2.

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# EDITORIALS /// LETTERS

## THE COLLEGE VOICE

"The views and opinions expressed in *The College Voice* are strictly those of student authors, and not of Connecticut College. All content and editorial decisions remain in the hands of the students; neither the College's administration nor its faculty exercise control over the content."

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## Editorials

The 1960s and 1970s are close to impossible to summarize in a short editorial. The early 1960s maintained the traditions of the decades before, but with a newfound appetite for dissent: singing on the green at each full moon and eating strawberries for breakfast on May Day was paired with demands for later curfews, looser visitation rules, and anti-war protests. By 1969, in an act of financial necessity, the College dropped the tail "for Women" and began accepting male undergraduate students, who lived initially on the first floor of Larrabee. As time went on, most of the female traditions were lost to changing social mores: tea and sherry breaks, competitive sings, and Soph Hop dances were replaced with protests for diversity and against war. We asked past editors for memories of the time. Here are two:

"In looking back, it was so white-bread: for all intents and purposes, no Asians, no Hispanics (one foreign student from Spain was from the American Embassy staff), no African-Americans. Diversity meant opening up

more to Jewish applicants (1/8 of my class). Basically, the most radical change at CC was abolishing compulsory chapel in my senior year, something I advocated in editorials...in my Junior year, I ran a coffee house downtown, called The Pirandello, for poetry readings and guitar playing, and was granted permission to have a car on campus!" Lys Marigold '62.

"We didn't have computers or the Internet, so putting together a newspaper involved typing stories, sending copy to a commercial printer and cutting and pasting 'galley sheets' onto a lay-out board and sending final copy to the printer again." Patricia Strong '74, who will be at the event.

The *Voice* is hosting a panel for ten past editors this Saturday at 4:30 in the Ernst Common Room. They'll tell more stories from the past 50 years. We hope you'll join us.

Lilah Raptopoulos



Charles E. Shain of Shain Library fame was President of the College from 1962-1974. "People were like flipped out over Charles Shain," said Professor Emeritus Peggy Sheridan '67. "He was just as handsome when he was 80 years old, just an absolutely gorgeous man. You know. Definitely movie star category."

May 5, 1971

PRESIDENT SHAIN:

We, the undersigned members of the Student Assembly—the elected representatives of the students of Connecticut College—urge that the College Administration make a definite commitment to be sensitive to the lives, problems, and suggestions of Black Students attending this College. In pursuance thereof, we also urge a public commitment to increasing the Black Student enrollment at Connecticut College and to the hiring of a full-time Black Admissions Officer to develop and coordinate expanded recruitment of Black Students.

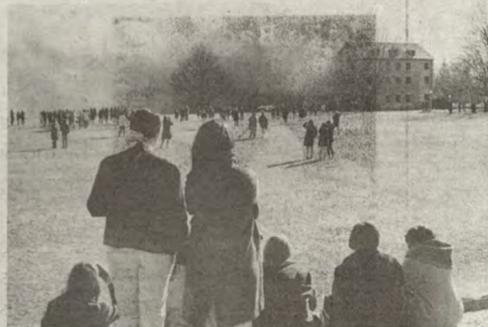
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In the fall of 1967, thirty-one students, or 2% of the class, was black or Puerto Rican. By 1968, African American students were working with the administration toward a goal with a tagline: 71 by '71.

On May 5, 1971, about twenty five members of the Afro-American Society entered Fanning Hall shortly after midnight for the college's first takeover. They chained its doors and demanded, in the signed petition above, three things: one, that seventy-one black students enroll by the fall semester. Two, that a full-time black admissions officer by September 1. Three, that black students on campus had a housing option where they could live together.

Shain agreed. He made Blackstone the campus' predominantly black dormitory. He also hired a black admissions officer to begin in the Admissions Office in the fall of 1971, with a full class of seventy-five minority students as promised. By 1972, the number of minority students jumped up to a hundred and three.



In 1968, a fire started on the fourth floor of Jane Addams. The back of this photograph reads "It's no fire drill."



An Afro-American Society party in 1971.



The above two photos were part of a recruiting initiative in 1971. It was an attempt to change the image of Connecticut College from an all women's school, and the script included phrases like "Campus life is informal" and "Life styles are a matter of personal decision." The above photo came with the caption "Individuality is respected and encouraged."

Students lounge, drink in the Aboretum. The drinking age in Connecticut was lowered to 18 in 1972, shortly after the shift to coeducation. It was raised again in 1983.



**2-S Deferments Ended Under New Draft Bill**

THE NEWS—It is the message by the House of Representatives that the Selective Service Act is being amended to end the two-year deferment for men who are in college. The new draft law will take effect July 1, 1971. President Nixon hopes to have the new draft law signed by him, and the Selective Service Act will be put on the list of national emergencies. After that date, therefore, all men 18 and over will have to register with the Selective Service.

Second, male college students no longer receive automatic deferments while in school. Congress, looking to prevent from college students and others for a more equitable draft, agreed to authorize the President to end the undergraduate deferment. A law he has already promised to take.

Facing this new restriction, the students and faculty in the 1970-71 academic year will be determined, although if they have already obtained their two-year deferment, they will not be affected.

In October of 1971, Richard Nixon wrote a new draft bill for Vietnam that revoked the automatic deferment policy for men while they were in college. Wrote Allen Carroll '73, Editor-in-Chief of the newspaper and a member of the first class of men on campus, "The specter of the draft was very much a presence on the first floor of Larrabee House. A particularly poignant memory is that of the first draft lottery. Most of the dorm was gathered silently around the television that night, and by the time the telecast was over, emotions ranged from elation to despair. As far as I know, none of us ever went to Vietnam...but we were far from sure that we would never have to go."

Cybersecurity tips from Information Services

**Don't get hooked in a phishing scam!**



Phishing is when email purporting to be from a legitimate source attempts to trick you into volunteering your personal or credential-related information. These messages vary in content, but all claim to be from legitimate sources such as eBay, your bank, PayPal, or a university group.

If you receive such a message, you should treat it as spam and simply delete it. **Don't email personal or financial information!**

For more information, visit the College's cybersecurity home page at <http://cybersecurity.conncoll.edu>. If you suspect that your computer or your data have been compromised, call the Help Desk immediately at x4357 (HELP).

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

**Free Speech**

Gentle readers,

For those of you bummed out about being given an opportunity to purchase an online subscription to the *New York Times* as you click on your twenty first article in a month, take note that the Library subscribes to a number of databases that provide full-text access to NYT articles.

The most consistent and up-to-date (like today's paper) of these is Lexis-Nexis Academic. It's also the least intuitive, so follow along. You can use the NYT's own page to identify whatever articles or columnists you're looking for.

Then go to the CC Library page, click on the Journals tab, type New York Times in the search box, and click on the Lexis-Nexis Academic option. Put your headline or columnist in the search box, select Today or Previous Week from the 'Specify Date' drop-down, and click on the item you want.

(Alternatively, go to the CC library page, then to Research Resources (blue panel on the left), then to Databases, then to Lexis-Nexis. Click on Power Search, then News, then the News and Wires option. Then type in the article title or author, and select the date.)

This may be a little awkward, but you can reduce the bother by adding a couple shortcuts to your masthead and doing a number of searches at a time. Then you'll have to figure out how to use the money you've saved.

Jim MacDonald  
 Shain Library

**Corrections**

Last week, the article "Conn Swimming Successful at NCAA Championships" was credited to Molly Bangs. It was actually written by William Shadbolt.

Interested in getting involved for the 2011-2012 year?

Let us know at [contact@thecollegevoice.org](mailto:contact@thecollegevoice.org)

# THIS WEEK

APRIL 11, 2011

## monday

### Smuggler Nation: How Illicit Trade Made America

4:15 PM - 5:30 PM  
Blaustein 210

Part of the lecture series on "Illicit Flows" sponsored by the International Cultural Commons, CISLA, and the Departments of Economics and Sociology.

### Student Club Trunk Sale

1 PM - 5 PM, Larrabee Green

## wednesday



### Dana Freyer, founder of the Global Partnership for Afghanistan: War, Environment and Agriculture

Blaustein 210  
4:15 PM - 5:30 PM

Dana Freyer '65 discusses environmental degradation, deforestation, food insecurity and human rights in war torn areas in Afghanistan.

### Centennial GWS Speaker Panel: "Hidden Voices: The Lives of LGBT Muslims"

Charles Chu Room  
4 PM - 6 PM

This lecture aims to highlight the many struggles and challenges facing sexual and gender minorities within the Muslim world and to examine the complex intersection of Islam, sexuality and gender.

### CCASA's Make Your Own Sushi Night

8 PM - 10:30 PM  
Hood Dining Room

## tuesday



### Take Back the Night

7 PM - 10 PM

In front of Cro and Coffee Grounds

The March begins at 7pm in front of Cro followed by the Speak Out in Coffee Grounds. Featuring live music and various speakers. There will be an opportunity to share personal stories, feelings, poetry, etc. at the speak-out in Coffee Grounds. Take Back the Night is an internationally held annual rally, march, and survivor speak out against gender-based violence.

## saturday

### CC IN PRINT

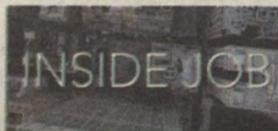
4:30 PM

Ernst Common Room, Blaustein

The editors of the College Voice will be hosting 12 past editors of the College newspaper, ranging from the class of 1962 to 2010, for a CC in Print panel. Alumni who crafted and produced the College's news will tell stories about the business of running the newspaper, the social mores of the time, and major issues they covered over five decades. Major issues include war protests, coeducation changes, and diversity takeovers.

## friday

### FILM SCREENING



Evans Hall, Cummings Arts Center  
1 PM



Tempel Green  
2 PM - 11 PM

Free Arabic Lunch  
Prepared by Yalla Bina  
11:30 am  
Knowlton Common Room

## thursday

### Centennial GWS Speaker Panel: 1911, A Transnational Perspective

4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

This panel is moderated by Mab Segrest, chair of the Gender and Women's Studies Department. Panelists include Connecticut College professors: Amy Dooling, Julia A. Kushigian, Jennifer Manion, Spencer Pack, and Suffia Uddin.

### TNE

Jen Kwok  
9 PM  
Cro's nest



## all weekend

### IMPRINT: Dance Department Senior Concert

Palmer

Thursday, Friday, Saturday April 14-16, 2011

7:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Saturday matinee 2-4



Featuring choreography by Connecticut College's Senior Dance Majors. This concert also includes the reconstruction of Twyla Tharp's 'The Fugue' & Daniel Nagrin's 'Strange Hero' & 'Spanish Dance'.

## ongoing

### FACE / OFF

### Portraits by Contemporary Artists

April 10 - September 18, 2011

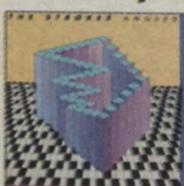
Lyman Allyn Art Museum



The show includes portraits from the museum's collection as well as loaned works by Benny Andrews, Alice Neel, William Wegman, David LaChapelle and Barkley L. Hendricks, among others.



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# Housing Lottery: Convenient or Convolutated?

SARAH KOSOFSKY  
STAFF WRITER

Spring is finally in the air, this means two things: class registration and housing assignments. This semester, however, brought a big change to the housing process: online housing selection.

Starting this semester, all housing arrangements will be done online, on the My-Housing section of CamelWeb. The new process means less work for the Office of Residential Education and Living (REAL) staff, less paperwork and waste, and fewer chances for human error.

Many students were surprised to hear that the process would now be under a new, fancier, and more expensive system typically used for larger schools.

This caused some concern: there was widespread doubt about the internet connectivity, as the semester has seen several network issues, causing people to worry about the network's ability to handle several hundred students logging on to register for housing around the same time.

Many students were not aware of the change until spring semester, and were concerned that the change was made without consulting the student body.

Marie Lalor, Assistant Director of REAL, says that publicizing the change was the responsibility of the SGA Residential Life Advisory Committee, headed by SGA Chair of Residential Affairs Katherine Nadelberg '11. The committee, which is comprised of students, helped REAL make the decision to switch to the online system. According to Lalor, there have been talks about the transition to online for two years now.

Despite frustration over the sudden change, it is permanent, and the REAL staff is still working to counter any complications. Lalor said that in the event of a system crash or an event in which students can't reach the Internet, such as a fire alarm in a dorm building, the entire online process would be rescheduled for another time. "We're going to do whatever it takes to make sure the integrity of the process stays intact," said Lalor.

Despite Lalor's words of assurance, many students take issue with the REAL office. Sixty-seven students were polled, at random, on their opinion of the office: of these, twenty-four students had a negative opinion, thirty had a

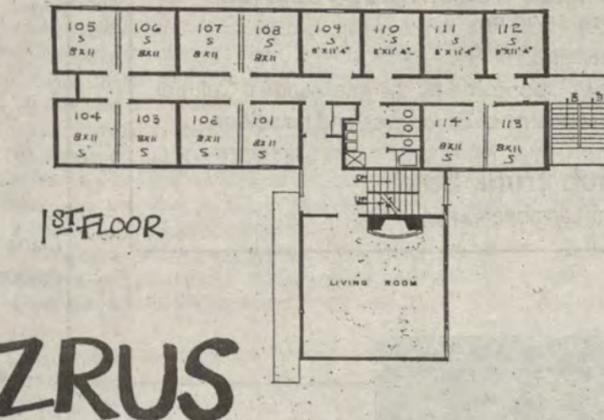


PHOTO FROM WEB

neutral opinion, twelve had a positive opinion, and one abstained.

The complaints are wide and varied. Some students are upset after being denied specialty housing for next semester. One rising senior was denied living in substance-free Blackstone and is frustrated that she is unable to live in the community in which she feels most comfortable.

The same student also expressed frustration over the way REAL has managed Blackstone in general. Last year, in an effort to try to integrate Blackstone with the rest of campus, many students felt that REAL assigned the dorm a Housefellow who hadn't wanted to be placed there. At the beginning of the year, many students were put off by his lack of concern and shrugging off responsibilities. "Blackstone stopped being Blackstone," said one student. "He was an awful Housefellow for us to begin with, and he shirked his responsibilities and placed them all on the floor governor. He didn't come to several house council meetings, he didn't mix with us. It was pathetic."

REAL placed freshmen in Blackstone who had not applied to live in sub-free housing, which, according to this student, did not go over well. "There was animosity between the poor freshmen who didn't want to be placed in Blackstone and the rest of the dorm. It was awkward, and a bit upsetting."

Another junior had a difficult time communicating with

REAL when figuring out their group housing situation for next year. "I received an email about my interview, saying that I did not properly sign up, when in fact I had. My four roommates confirmed with me that we had signed up together for the interview. We also had to email Res. Life because we never received an email stating where we were going to live next year."

The frustration in this case toward REAL was clear. "I found them incredibly inefficient and aloof, with poor communication skills. They often leave students in the dark," said the student. "All in all, I've found that if something makes sense, don't count on Res. Life to do it."

Dan Post '12, who participated in the apartment application process, found the interview process unfair, because students were interviewing other students. "No matter if the interviewers

were trying to be fair, there might still be some accidental bias in how they feel about applicants," he said.

One junior currently studying abroad, Nora Swenson '12, had problems even getting a lottery number. "I know for a fact that I applied online by the due date, selected the housing I desired and all in a timely manner, only to find out a week later, as my friends were receiving their numbers, that I didn't," she said in an email. "So I emailed Res Life only to be callously assumed to have failed to turn in my online form in time. The woman said she would try to help me, but I never heard from her again..."

Swenson was incredibly frustrated, citing an "out of sight, out of mind" attitude from REAL in reference to her situation. "The fact that they were honest to goodness going to just put me on the waiting list because their system fails really annoys me. At a school this small, they should at least be willing to work with me on a more personal basis."

Some students do hold high opinions of the office. One junior explained that the REAL staff has one of the toughest jobs on campus, as they must work to provide housing for nearly 2,000 students. Although many find the staff unaccommodating, many of these students often only go to REAL when they have problems with their living situations, and the office can't make everyone happy with where they

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

## Wabash Surveys Conn's Academics

DAVID SHANFIELD  
STAFF WRITER

The Wabash National Study of Liberal Arts Education (WNSLAE) aims to collaborate with liberal arts institutions nationwide to develop evidence to improve liberal arts education through a three-year project.

The Wabash Study 2010 includes thirty colleges and universities across the country, including Connecticut College. The study seeks to discover the inputs, experiences and outcomes of college academics. For the sake of the study, inputs are defined as "the perspectives and values that students contribute upon arrival to college," experiences are "what impacts the students while in college" and outcomes are "the impact that college has on student ability and knowledge." The findings of these surveys will then be used to create and implement changes to ameliorate targeted problems at individual institutions.

Prior to this study, all of Conn's work with the Wabash Study had been in the form of survey data. Now for the first time, Conn is involved. Two Conn students, Daniel Brown '13 and Sarah Lamer '13, are the designated "research scholars" for the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL), which is responsible for helping professors improve their teaching practices.

"The goal of the Wabash study," Brown explained, "is to add voices to the numerical data about the academic student experience. As part of the study, Conn has been gathering numerical data describing Conn students. My and Sarah's job is to conduct survey focus groups to gather qualitative data to supplement the numerical findings."

Both students applied for this opportunity through CTL. Last year, they traveled to Wabash College, an all-male college in Indiana, with Michael Reder, Director of CTL, and psychology professor Stuart Vyse.

"While at Wabash," said Vyse, "we met with students and faculty from other schools who were engaged in similar projects. After listening to these other researchers and hearing about their experiences, we all returned from Indiana with a much clearer idea of what we wanted to do and how to do it."

At Wabash, the students were also trained in focus group methods.

"The focus groups are meant to investigate academic experience," said Brown. "We aren't talking about Harris or other aspects of campus life. We are concerned with how Conn is as a school, in



Research scholars Dan Brown and Sarah Lamer above. Photo contributed by professor Stuart Vyse

comparison to similar schools around the country."

At Conn, the focus groups are comprised of 5-8 randomly selected individuals and last about an hour long. The questions are pre-prepared for the participants, and all data is kept confidential. After all data has been collected, Brown and Lamer will present the findings to student and faculty groups. The students conduct the focus groups completely independently. "I supervise their work and, as part of this CTL project, they are enrolled in individual study courses with me," said Vyse. Other than Vyse's involvement, no faculty or professors are included in the research project.

The study not only advocates data-gathering and assessment, but promotes and facilitates change on each campus. At the end of the project, this will be done through on-site visits, meetings and workshops designed to ameliorate each specific weakness.

Brown also felt that the research process provides a unique opportunity to the students who are selected. "The cool thing about the study," he described, "is that many of the students' voices will actually be heard by those who have the power to change our school." •

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### THE POWER OF LANGUAGE: CAREERS FOR THE MULTILINGUAL

Sunday, April 17  
Cro's Nest, 4 p.m.

Refreshments will be served. Hear from alumni about how to put your language skills to work after graduation.

**Lauren Burke '06**, staff attorney and Skadden Fellow, The Door Legal Services Center, New York, N.Y.

**Katherine Avgerinos '05**, account associate for Gazprom, Russian Federation and KSA at Ketchum Inc., New York, N.Y.

**Carl Prather '04**, senior financial analyst at Emerging Markets Partnership, Washington, D.C.

Sponsored by the Office of College Advancement

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

# Prof. Hybel Visits Egypt to Witness Democratization

LUKE CARNEAL  
CONTRIBUTOR

It is easy to feel separated from the "real world" outside of our insulated campus. As revolutionary movements began to spread throughout the Middle East, students, staff and faculty alike tried to keep pace with the flood of information channeling through news sources. Recently, government professor Alex Hybel decided to circumvent the limitations of the media and visit Egypt himself to witness the process of democratization that is unfolding in the country.

As a professor who is passionate about the study of international politics both within the classroom and beyond, Hybel visited the volatile region with the intent of gaining a better understanding of this foreign part of the world. "I thought it would be a perfect opportunity for me to expand my knowledge and to test some of my own ideas," Hybel explained.

While the world looks on with hope for democracy in the country, Hybel is less optimistic. "What you have in Egypt is what one could expect: that essentially after forty years of being totally controlled by one leader and his elite group, the country is now trying to experiment, trying to figure out what to do," he explained. Without a history of democracy, the nation has no national rubric from which to draw influence and ideas. The people are now faced with challenges of democracy that they have never had to deal with before.

Perhaps the most fateful of these challenges will be the necessity to organize into political parties for the upcoming elections in September. "The only groups that know how to organize themselves are the Muslim Brotherhood and the National Democratic Party, the party to which Mubarak owed allegiance," said Hybel. While the youth were absolutely pivotal in the orchestration of the revolutionary movement, their success in creating competitive political parties has been lacking. As is the case with the rest of the populace, they simply have never been allowed this privilege of democracy.

Although the state of political activism in the country may seem underwhelming in the wake of the momentous revolution, many of the citizens have remained persistent in their demands for political freedoms and justice, with the youth continuing to drive the helm of the protests. During his stay in Cairo, Hybel was able to attend a youth-organized demonstration demanding that Mubarak and his associates be brought to justice. While the protesters remained motivated by the ideals of the revolution, they could no longer claim strength in numbers.

During the revolt, many people were more than willing lay down their lives for the movement. Living under a despotic and oppressive leader, the people did not stand to lose as much as they do now. Today, Egypt's citizens are faced with a chance for political and social progress but they are also confronted with the realities of living in an economically crippled state.

What is hurting most of all is the tourism industry, a sector of the economy that has been central to Egypt's relative wealth in the region. "I would be wandering for a full day and not see a single Westerner," Hybel recounted. "That is very strange."

The military government has used the damaged economy to its advantage. Beyond the fact that people are now returning to work and cannot afford to attend protests, the government has now implemented measures that discourage large demonstrations, claiming that all they do is harm the economy. While this claim has been used to justify the undemocratic suppression of the opposition, there is an element of truth to their argument.

"In fact, they get a lot of support from the people because, when the revolt ensued, the population was worried that if it went on for too long, it would cost them from an economic standpoint," he said. Clearly, mass protests can interrupt economic activity, especially tourism; still, Hybel interpreted the government's containment of the opposition as more than just the result of economic interests.

"The military is not going to allow radical change that would ultimately undermine its power," he said.

The Egyptians' fight for freedom is not over. While a paradigm shift has been set into motion, the legacy of Mubarak's dictatorship and Egypt's long history of authoritarian rule continues to permeate the social, political, and military culture of the country. The changes that will be necessary in order for Egypt to live up to the revolution's ideals of freedom will not be achieved overnight. Hybel thinks it'll take at least three or four generations.

Despite the overwhelming challenges that Egypt is dealing with, the people remain optimistic and friendly. In fact, one of Professor Hybel's strongest impressions of the country's people was their hospitality.

"I've traveled to probably more than fifty countries. I've never been welcomed anywhere as I was welcomed in Egypt. One time I got completely lost and this person literally walked me back to the hotel and they didn't have any reason to do so," Hybel recalled.

This positivity was evident even along the border of Libya, a region overflowing with immigrants escaping Colonel Gaddafi's brutal military forces. The people here are without homes and many have been separated from their families; Hybel saw many people wrapped in thin blankets, sleeping outdoors and huddling for warmth.

"I was there with my own private car. I had a driver and I slept in the van and remained very warm. I could not escape that disparity, that disconnect between them and I. And yet they saw me and they smiled at me," Hybel recollected.

Professor Hybel's willingness to venture into the unstable revolutionary state of Egypt is central to his philosophy as an academic and citizen of the world. We can learn only so much from newspapers and television and textbooks; our interests must extend beyond the classroom and into the real world. •

# Distinction to be Made Between Honor Code and College Policy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Honor Council will deal with several of the violations that were previously presented to J-Board, including academic issues, instances of driving under the influence, gambling, hazing, threats, and certain types of assault. The Student Conduct Board will manage violations regarding drugs, alcohol and social hosts.

"There are several things that are listed in the Student Rights and Responsibilities handbook that, the way things are now, are violations of the Honor Code," said Walsh. "But if a student is drinking underage—that's breaking a rule, but not necessarily the Honor Code. These issues have been made matters of college policy."

The two committees also recommended increasing the size of the board, going from eight representatives to sixteen, with four students being elected from every class. The current J-Board structure holds that all nine members of the Board—the eight representatives and the Chair—participate in every hearing; the new changes propose that hearings are staffed by six members

that participate on a rotating basis. The change makes it easier for student to recuse themselves, eases the time commitment and also advocates for transparency between the Board and the greater college community, allowing more students to get involved. Walsh stresses that students did not want to give up their ability to adjudicate, and wanted to maintain shared governance.

Student reaction has been cautious. "I understand why this had to happen, but if we had to completely change the way we interpret the Honor Code, what does that say about us?" said an anonymous sophomore. "I think the change will be for the best; I think students highly respect the Honor Code already, but hopefully this move will help us to respect it even more."

Walsh remains optimistic. "Our top priority is that student respect the HC to the full extent, and though it may take time, this is a necessary first step in the right direction. With this, we expect a lot from the student body as a whole. It's imperative that the community begins to respond to true violations of the Honor Code." •



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# Housing Lottery Causes Stress

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

live. "My sophomore year I had an unpleasant housing situation," said the student. "Though I had to wait until after fall semester to move, Res. Life was incredibly helpful throughout the whole process. Would I have wanted to move out immediately from that place? Absolutely. And I would be lying if I said I was completely patient and willing to wait till spring. But instant gratification is not possible when there are just under 2,000 other people with living needs."

Freshman Class President Conor McCormick-Cavanagh '14 and a group of friends also had a pleasant experience in dealing with REAL. The group applied to live in the Park apartment, but was waitlisted. When a spot opened up in River Ridge, they were next in line on the waitlist and quickly accepted the housing assignment.

A group of rising sophomores being granted a Ridge apartment is a rare occurrence. McCormick-Cavanagh thought the apartment application process was fair.

"The application process is pretty straightforward. You gather a group of friends, pick a location, think of ideas for your service projects, if applicable, and interview."

"I think it is unfortunate that some rising seniors were unable to get specialty group housing. I bet it is tough for them to see rising sophomores get it over them, and I'm sure I'll feel the same way my senior year. This doesn't mean the process is unfair, however. We pitched a very strong application and interviewed really well."

With the lottery halfway over, the online system seems to have run as planned. In practice, many students did not find issue with

the online system, but in the new policy towards group housing. In the past, those who wished to lived in the same building would have to average out their numbers and would pick their rooms based on their new number. This year it was decided that the group would simply use the lowest, or best, number in the group, causing students who didn't go the group housing route to be shut out of dorms quickly.

"Group housing is basically how to cut the line," said one junior. "Now lottery numbers mean nothing and are useless. You might have number 100, but it's actually number 200 because the first 100 people brought in a friend."

The rising junior and sophomore lotteries still remain. If the new system goes well, the REAL office may have more time on their hands to better help students. •

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# OPINIONS

## Confessions of a Problem Drinker

JOHN SHERMAN  
MANAGING EDITOR

Thursday, April 7 was Think Outside the Bottle Day, presented by SGA, Student Counseling Services and the Office of Student Wellness & Alcohol/Drug Education (OSWADE). The three in conjunction offered "A campus wide [sic] celebration of healthy choices!" from 11:30 AM to 5 PM in the 1962 Room, during which time students were encouraged to fill out a survey about their drinking habits and then speak to a professional about their answers.

The alcohol survey is a single two-sided sheet of paper. The first side contains questions about social drinking habits—"To what extent do YOU want YOUR FRIENDS" to take certain responsible social actions: stepping in and doing something if: another person is drinking too much, someone is drinking to the point of hurting themselves [sic], someone's intoxicated behaviors are embarrassing the group, or in order to seek medical assistance when I (presumably "they") suspect someone has alcohol poisoning. The survey responder then ranks his or her interest in his or her friends performing each of these actions, on a scale from one to four (1-to a great extent, 2-somewhat, 3-very little, 4-not at all).

Full disclosure: when answering, I read the prompt as "To what extent do YOU and YOUR FRIENDS do the following," which I find a more important question than what I want MY FRIENDS to do, since as the question stands it would seem to absolve me of the respon-

sibility to do the things I think MY FRIENDS should be doing. Right?

The following section demands a bit more agency, asking the survey taker to rank on a scale of acceptability behaviors like missing class because of a hangover, blacking out, consuming 5 or more drinks in two hours and "talking to a friend about how their drinking habits are causing problems for that person." Well I got ninety-nine problems, but a Scotch ain't one.

I'm kidding. I don't drink Scotch. What I do drink is beer, wine, tequila and appetinis (again, kidding). The second side of the survey got down to details with regard to what I've come to call "my problem."

*Four drinks is too drunk for Jeopardy! and not drunk enough for Cro. What the hell does this average say about my drinking habits?*

*How often do you have a drink containing alcohol? This question is really hard. I don't know the answer. Kind of often? I answered "4 days a week" just to cover my bases, figuring Tuesday bar night and one or two nights out of the weekend, and then at least once somewhere in a glass of wine or two with Jeopardy!. What is "big deal"?*

*How many drinks containing alcohol do you have on a typical day when you are drinking? Like "often," "typical" is difficult to define. Selecting a number between zero and twelve to represent two nights*

of two drinks and three nights of six drinks is fraught with bargaining and bound for inaccuracy. The law of averages says  $(2 + 2 + 6 + 6) / 4 = 4$ . Rarely do I have four drinks; that's too drunk for Jeopardy! and not drunk enough for Cro. So what the hell does "4" say about my drinking habits?

The answers on the second side correspond to a tally sheet, which assigns a weighted number score to each one. These tallies are then totaled and checked against a key, which determines the existence and/or seriousness of the survey taker's drinking problem.

I scored a twelve, whatever that means, and it was explained to me by the professional I spoke to that "Eight is the cutoff for what we consider to be...problem drinking." In trying to locate a key with descriptions of each level, both above and below "eight," I took an online version of the same screening (available at [www.mentalhealthscreening.org/screening/CONNCOLL](http://www.mentalhealthscreening.org/screening/CONNCOLL)), which elaborated on my drinking habits more pointedly, reporting, "Your screening results are consistent with symptoms of hazardous or harmful alcohol use." Frankly, so is college.

My professional advised me to consider cutting back on my drinking, but did not recommend follow-up counseling.

In all fairness, SGA, Student Counseling Services and the OSWADE (or perhaps SGASCSOSWADE) should be commended for their efforts to make students more aware of their drinking habits. Awareness is the first step on the way to health, and while the latter may be a pipe dream as a col-



JOHN SHERMAN, MANAGING EDITOR

lege student, the former is nothing to sneeze at.

At the same time, college-sponsored Think Outside the Bottle Day took place just a week after Fifty Days and two weeks before Changing of the Guard, both college-sponsored events featuring copious free alcohol. The irony is palpable. Are we inside the bottle

or outside it? Need we merely think outside the bottle, even as we grind and slosh deep, deep inside it? What a relief that would be.

At the very least, Think Outside the Bottle Day has me counting drinks—how many Seabreezes can I make with 750mL of vodka?

Forgive my cheekiness. I haven't had a drink all day. •

## Orgo, Metaphysics and Joyce—Oh My!

A closer look at some of the toughest classes Conn offers its students

MELANIE THIBEAULT  
STAFF WRITER

We're all in college to achieve a higher education and challenge ourselves. With that comes a hard truth: sometimes we have to take difficult classes. We've all had those rip-our-hair-out-of-our-scalp, no-sleep-for-three-days-straight, crying-at-random-times-throughout-the-day-because-we're-sleep-deprived-and-overwhelmed-with-life classes. Based on students' opinions, three of the most difficult classes offered at Connecticut College are Organic Chemistry with Professor Timo Ovaska, Metaphysics with Chair of the Department of Philosophy Andrew Pessin and Introduction to *Finnegans Wake* with Professor John Gordon.

Arguably one of the most difficult classes at Conn is Organic Chemistry, which deals with carbon-based molecules. Rarely do I hear the word "orgo" without a shudder following it.

"It's a class that takes over your life, almost literally," according to chemistry student Sarah Spiegel '11. "Every single night when I closed my eyes, I saw molecules. I dreamt about it. If you can't get a problem, it drives you crazy."

One of the main challenges of organic chemistry is the ability to view material in a three-dimensional manner. According to Spiegel, "Unless you've taken a sculpture class, you haven't had to think like that before in 3D. You need to go inside the molecules to visualize them and be able to tell them apart." While taking tests, Spiegel said she often closes her eyes and tries to figure out "what the hell is going on inside the molecules."

Aside from the challenging material, organic chemistry becomes difficult when students attempt to memorize the information, rather than learn how to do it.

"Students who find it difficult are the ones who try to memorize it. There are a lot of reactions—hundreds—that one can't memorize. They need to understand things at a molecular level," said Ovaska.

With some subjects, each chapter focuses on a different aspect of the topic, but in organic chemistry, material is cumulative, which adds another level of difficulty.

"With orgo, everything builds upon previous material. You couldn't do the stuff we're doing today if you don't have a handle on the previous material," said Ovaska.

Spiegel echoed this idea, saying, "You cannot cram for orgo the night before a test. Even the smartest people have to work their asses off."

The class certainly requires learning a lot of material, but the difficulty of the class also "has to do with whether or not people are interested in the topic," said Ovaska, adding, "if you don't like it, it becomes harder for that reason. If you're into it, and some people are, believe it or not, it becomes easier and it does make sense to a lot of people."

"It's a different way of thinking and takes a really long time to get used to. It never gets easier, never lets up. There's really intense problem solving, but it's really cool and I really like it," said Spiegel.

Another class that makes students think outside the box is Metaphysics. As Pessin tried to explain to me, metaphysics is "an incredibly broad" topic, which deals with the ideas of realism versus antirealism. Realism is the view that "features and properties in the world are independent of human feeling/cognition" and antirealism is dependent on human feeling/cognition. (At least, I'm pretty sure that's what he said).

It's a reality that the material of

the course is pretty difficult. Said David Liakos '12, "The course covers a lot of really tough contemporary philosophical problems—about aesthetics, ethics, science, time and other issues. What the course is dealing with is nothing less than the question of the objectivity of reality. The philosophical questions we were dealing with made your head spin, but they were provocative and deeply interesting."

*"Every single night when I closed my eyes, I saw molecules. I dreamt about it."  
—Sarah Spiegel '11 on Organic Chemistry*

According to Pessin, the primary goal of the class is "to develop your own thoughts in regards to material studied, to master the thoughts of the people you're reading about and to be able to exposit material, engage in it and say something original about it." He added, "In the latter part of the course, [students are] challenging really basic intuitions and assumptions. It's hard to dislodge basic intuitions, but the arguments really push you in that direction."

Pessin believes that his workload is not heavier than any other class—just challenging. In addition to a formal class presentation, seven mini-papers and a final paper, Pessin has his students complete regular quizzes on Moodle, which are apparently a pain in the ass.

"I'm a big fan of the quizzes, but students grumble about them. They think they're unfair. I don't want them to be unfair, so they're

not...They're multiple choice, so it's really tough because the given questions and answers are ambiguous, especially if [the students] understand things differently from the professor," said Pessin.

Liakos vouched for the workload, adding, "In addition to the difficulty of the questions we were dealing with, the work was also demanding...Pessin made us write a weekly mini-paper on these problems, and he's quite demanding in terms of the quality he expects. It's not easy to deal meaningfully with these issues in less than a page."

As for the third course, how would you react if I wrote the rest of the article like this: "It darkles, (tinct, tint) all this our funnaminial world. Yon marshpond by ruodmark verge is visited by the tide. Alvenmarea! We are circumveiled by obscuritads. Man and belves frieren. There is a wish on them to be not doing or anything. Or just for rugs. Zoo koud. Drr, deff, coal lay on and, pzz, call us pyrrress!"?

You'd probably grow frustrated and stop reading it, right? You'd Google Klingon only to realize this isn't Klingon. Well, imagine taking an entire course in which the only object of study is a six hundred twenty-eight-page book, all of it written like the excerpt above (which describes night falling at a zoo, by the way). The book is too dense to be read in its entirety in one semester, hence the course's official title, Introduction to *Finnegans Wake*.

The class is dedicated solely to reading and analyzing (and maybe crying over) James Joyce's last work, *Finnegans Wake*, an incredibly difficult read because of its language. Joyce uses complex portmanteau words that include multilingual puns, historical and autobiographical references and onomatopoeia to pack maximum meaning into every single syllable of every word. Take the first word in the novel for example, "riverrun." It simultaneously suggests "riverain" (pertaining to a river), "rive" (to tear apart), "river" (French for "to fasten") all while describing Dublin's river Liffey.

As if that weren't enough, the last sentence of the book circuitously runs into the first sentence, creating an endless loop, a sort of literary Möbius strip, as Gordon has called it. Joyce himself referred to it (in the book itself) as his "book of Doublends Jined," which not only means "double ends joined," but "Dublin's giant," as, among other things, it's about a mythical Irish giant buried under Dublin.

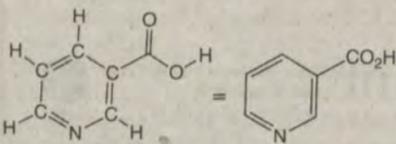
The book is so difficult that lecturing on it is nearly impossible; class time is exclusively dedicated to students asking questions about specific words, sentences or pages that they couldn't crack themselves.

"As a teacher, I'm not a task master. I can't get around the fact that the subject matter is very difficult, but the great thing [about *Finnegans Wake*] is it's not nonsense. The more you read it, it becomes clear. It's a riddle in a sense and uncovering it is fun," said Gordon, who has taught the class a handful of times at Conn. "I've done a lot of work on the book, invested a lot of time in it. I think it would be wasteful not teaching the course every now and then."

The structure of the course itself is "really standard" and has a "regular workload," according to Gordon. Students must write two papers, give two presentations and complete one final exam. "It's not the structure of class that makes it hard to deal with; it's just the content of the book," he added.

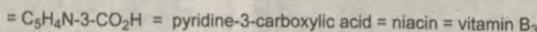
Students who take the class are "self-selective and can take on a challenge," said Gordon, adding, "Students grin and bear it. There are certain parts of the book where the author addresses the audience, as if to ask 'are you confused?', but I haven't had anyone panic yet."

The one unifying factor between the three classes is that students (for the most part) willingly sign up for them, not as some form of sadistic punishment, but because they are genuinely interested in the subject matter and love a good challenge. So kudos to anyone who has taken or plans to take any of these classes. •



Different names for the same thing. Vitamin B3 goes by no fewer than six names, some more familiar to laypersons than others.

IMAGE FROM WIKIPEDIA



# Putting a Lid on Bottled Water Sales

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The United States consumes a huge amount of oil to manufacture the plastic for bottled water: thirty-two million barrels annually. And the industry uses about fifty-four million barrels of oil to ship their products to points of sale. While I'm no economist, I don't think it's a stretch to suggest that your gas prices are increased by the success and profit of the bottled water industry.

Furthermore, the manufacture of that thin little sheet of plastic uses twice as much water as is contained in the bottle. This means that a one-liter bottle actually requires three liters of water to produce. Making matters worse, much of the water used in the manufacturing process is highly contaminated along the way. If not properly treated, this water can contaminate groundwater and municipal water sources. Since

there's only one person at the FDA covering the entire bottled water industry, I'd be skeptical of the realistic effects of regulations to protect the environment.

There are also economic reasons for us to switch to an alternative water source. The average cost of one gallon of tap water in the United States is estimated to be \$0.002. That's two tenths of a penny! Bottled water at Conn costs an average of \$10.88 per gallon. That's 5,440 times more expensive. It's a bit cheaper when bought by the case, but it is still hundreds to thousands of times more expensive than tap water.

So, what's the alternative? Bottleless water coolers, which connect directly to a water line, are cheaper, cleaner and healthier. We do not want our tuition money wasted on bottled water, whether it comes in one-liter bottles or five gallon jugs. While it may seem trivial at this point, it might

be worth noting that twenty-five percent of bottled water is tap water, taken straight from municipal sources. There doesn't seem to be a good reason to pay 5,440 times the price for the same product we get for free (or close to it); and of course there are a lot of bad consequences from doing what we do now.

That said, a lot of people think bottled water is healthier for them. They're wrong. *Bottled water is not cleaner than tap water.* Tap water (also known as municipal water) is regulated by hundreds of Environmental Protection Agency employees, as well as employees from many state and township treatment plants. Municipal water is subject to strict standards, frequent testing, many layers of oversight and requirements to regularly publish water quality information.

Bottled water, on the other hand, is regulated as a packaged

food by the Food and Drug Administration. The FDA has only one employee designated to the regulation of the entire bottled water sector. And she has other duties as well. Bottled water companies are NOT required to publish their quality information or water source, and there is no Federal oversight for water bottled and sold in the same state. So the reality is, neither you nor I know what's in our bottled water.

*The two best examples of bottled water recalls were due to "undeclared aspartame" and "excessive arsenic."*

According to Kauders' research there have been one hundred twenty-three major recalls of bottled water. The reasons for some of these recalls have been (but are not limited to) "contamination with algae," "excess levels of bromate," "bacterial contamination," contamination from paraffin, "beverages off-taste due to mold growth," inclusion of diluted cleaning solution, traces of glass particles, and coliform bacteria. If that last one sounds unfamiliar, you might know it by another name, E. coli, which comes from pollution by fecal matter. The two best examples were recalls due to "undeclared aspartame" and "excessive arsenic."

Some of this is from poor water quality standards. More, though,

comes from the soft PET-1 plastic bottles in which most bottled water is sold. This plastic breaks down and leeches carcinogenic petrochemicals, especially when exposed to heat or light. These chemicals are absorbed by the water and by the body when one drinks it. So even if the water was as clean as most municipal water to begin with, the bottle itself will poison it over time. Bottled water is not required to have "bottled on" or "sell by" dates, so it is very difficult to know how long your bottle of water has been building up cancer-causing chemicals. One thing is likely, bottled water is *not* cleaner than tap water.

Hundreds of schools and even a few communities are mobilizing to get rid of bottled water, and the *New York Times* reported recently that Congress spent \$190,000 in taxpayer money on bottled water during the first three months of 2010 alone. Maybe somebody should call up Mr. McBride and tell him to get the President to do something. It might lower our healthcare costs a bit.

In any event, most of our NESAC friends are literally years ahead of us in this venture. Amherst and Williams removed bottled water from all facilities operated by their Dining Services departments. Colby phased out bottled water and now uses bottleless water coolers. Bates, Colby, Middlebury, Trinity, Wesleyan and Williams offer discounts from their dining halls if students use reusable to-go containers. We claim to be green, but we're really just blue. \*

*Additional reporting by Elias Kauders.*



## A Message from the Senior Giving Committee

EMILY WEBB  
CONTRIBUTOR

On March 28, students awoke in the morning to find campus covered with signs about "17% Day" and "Completing the Pie." For those who had been reading their email, it was clear what the day was about, but for the rest of campus, the signs were a bit of a mystery.

"17% Day," sponsored by the SGA Advancement committee and the Senior Giving committee, highlighted the generosity of people and foundations whose support fills the gap between the revenue from the comprehensive fee (eighty-three percent) and the full cost to run the college for an entire year. By providing the final seventeen percent of the cost in the form of gifts, these contributors "complete the pie."

While it may surprise students that the comprehensive fee does not cover the full cost of their education, this is not a phenomenon that is unique to Connecticut College. In fact, the majority of universities and colleges across the country rely on gifts and other forms of revenue to supplement tuition fees. It may also surprise students that the most generous donors are not the only ones who make an impact.

As May 22 approaches, seniors are simultaneously scrambling to make post-graduation plans and trying to soak up the final weeks of college. We are looking towards our future, but also taking time to remember the past four years. There is no doubt that the past four years have held challenges, triumphs and defeats, but more than that, these past four years have left an impact on each and every one of us. In this period of reflection, it seems only fair to ask seniors to make an Annual Fund gift—of any size—to help the college to move forward, to grow, but most importantly to allow other young women and men to have the same opportunities that we have had here. Without the donations of alumni, young and old, the college would not be able to operate the way it does today. By participating in Senior Giving, seniors become a part of a new Connecticut College community that extends beyond graduation.

Giving as a senior is not about the amount of the donation. It is about saying thank you and paying it forward to those who will follow in our footsteps. As a class, over fifty-five percent of us have already donated, which far exceeds the class of 2010 at this point last year.

This high percentage was in part inspired by the challenge we received at the "100 Days, 100 Years" event. Trustee Tom Sargent '82 told us that if we achieve a ninety-five percent participation rate, he will donate \$10,000 in our name. Additionally, he went on to declare that if we break the ninety-seven percent participation rate record, that he will raise that donation to a remarkable \$25,000. This action is a generous encouragement for our class to push ourselves to get classmates, teammates, neighbors and friends to engage and participate.

To make a donation, seniors can go to <http://seniorgiving.conncoll.edu> and click "Make a Donation," or they can talk to one of the members of the Senior Giving committee, whose names can be found on the same website. Students have an opportunity to designate how they would like their gift to be used.

Although the days until graduation are getting closer at an increasing pace, I encourage seniors to take a moment, reflect on their time at Connecticut College and show their pride. Participate in Senior Giving. \*

## My Kingdom for a Coen

Why don't famous people come to speak at Conn anymore?

SAM NORCROSS  
STAFF WRITER

Did you know that Joel Coen, of the Coen brothers, is giving a talk at Conn?! No, you didn't know that, because he's not coming. Sorry. I hope that wasn't too painful, but I know how it feels. Unfortunately, my version of the experience was much more drawn out.

Listening to idle pre-class chit-chat a few days ago, I heard a girl behind me talking about a lecture on campus by "some film maker with the last name Coen." I spun around.

"You mean Joel Coen? Or Ethan Coen?!"

"Yeah, Joel, I think that's his name." My professor started lecturing before I had time to ask any follow up questions. I was awestruck. It couldn't be true. No, literally, it could not be true. There would have been five thousand College Relations emails about it if that were the case. But I remained hopeful; maybe it was true. I remained in a state of hopeful denial until I saw a poster for the event just outside the classroom. It was for a lecture by filmmaker named John Cohen. I'm pretty sure my groan was audible. No offense to John Cohen—a celebrated, accomplished filmmaker in his own right (he has his own Wikipedia page, if that means anything)—but I wish for my sake that his name sounded less like that of my movie-making idols.

Why couldn't it have been Joel Coen? Really, why couldn't it? Probably because he's busy on a movie set or something, but let's use our lack of Joel Coen as a symbol for the lack of any really notable visitors to Conn over the past year or so. For the last few months I've heard about numerous talks, presentations and lectures, but I haven't once recognized the names of any of the speakers, and many of them are Conn professors. In no way do I mean to belittle these events; I've gone to a number of them and they were all fascinating. However, I can't help but wonder why we don't ever get anyone with a bigger name.

It's not like famous people never visit colleges in the Northeast. Tom Hanks is going to Yale to give a speech in a couple months, and just

last year they had Bill Clinton. But Yale is Yale, you might say, we're just a little NESAC school. Well, with a brief glance at the websites of some of our fellow "Little Ivies," I saw that former New York Mets manager Bobby Valentine is going to speak at Amherst next week. Tufts recently hosted both Nancy Pelosi and Katie Couric over the course of three days. Looking for an example closer to home? Just last October Wesleyan was visited by the most famous Holocaust survivor alive, Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel. We have a department chair named after him. Would it have been that hard to get him to drive just a half-hour down the road to our campus? And what about Barack Obama? He'll be a literal stone's throw away at the Coast Guard Academy next month. Couldn't Conn get him to just

*I'm not asking for an A-list stunner week after week, but wouldn't our centennial be just that much more special if we had a famous face or two on campus?*

take a drive around campus and wave out the window?

New England has been speckled with famous folk visiting college campuses all year round, but none of them has come to Conn. It hasn't always been like this. We've had famous speakers too—really famous ones. In the year of 1996 alone, we were graced by the likes of Kurt Vonnegut, Toni Morrison and Hillary Clinton (who, by the way, was the first lady at the time). And we didn't have just one good year.

Over the course of our existence we've had talks from Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists, historians and poets, speeches from Nobel Laureates of chemistry, literature and peace. Actress/activist Mia Farrow spoke in Palmer Auditorium in 2000, and Robert Frost read his poems on the green in 1959. We even had a visit from Amelia Earhart way back when.

But that aforementioned year of 1996 seemed not only to be the peak of notable visitors, but the end of them. It's like all of our connec-

tions dried up, or the school ran out of funds for booking speakers. Sure, we've had a few impressive names in the last decade (Cokie Roberts, Joyce Carol Oates, Mandy Patinkin) but they're few and far between. And this year has seemed especially devoid. *This year*, our centennial year, a year I think the college would want to be memorable.

You might have realized from the dozens of emails about it, or maybe you figured it out after the chapel bell rang one hundred times in a row, but you wouldn't know it from the speakers we've had. Lee Eisenberg and Jonathan McBride were both great, and I understand that we're targeting alumni, but I would be shocked to hear if anyone was excited to see those speakers after just hearing their names alone. I'm not asking for an A-list stunner week after week, but wouldn't our centennial be just that much more special if we had a famous face or two on campus?

I guess it's a hard question to ask. I really have no idea what the process of attracting famous speakers is like, or even who at the school is responsible. Maybe it's hard to attract renowned lecturers to such a small school, or maybe it's a money issue. If that's the case, I really think funds should be allocated toward such a purpose.

I think that having notable speakers is more valuable than most of the events the school spends money on. In some ways, I even think that they can be more important than new facilities. I always feel that sharp pang in my stomach when I hear about friends at other colleges getting to hear speeches from Amy Poehler or the Dalai Lama or Noam Chomsky. And it's not just because they get the bragging rights (although I'm sure that's part of it). It's because being visited by important people makes you feel special, and hearing talks from the successful can often give legitimacy to this arduous four-year process called college. I know Joel Coen won't be coming to Conn any time soon, but if our list of notable speakers seems so short during our centennial year, then what do we have to look forward to in the years to come? \*

# Congressional Showdown: Federal Budget Whoas

DEVIN COHEN  
STAFF WRITER

It was a typical Friday at Conn College this last week, with teachers completing their work for the weekend and students recuperating from Thursday night shenanigans, each contributing to that calm, lackadaisical environment we are all accustomed to. Our weekly episode of malaise made it difficult to tell if anyone knew, or for that matter cared about the fact that our government was on the brink of shutdown. Six hours south of us, in our nation's capital, the atmosphere was one of panic. Both parties were desperately trying to agree on a budget to be passed by midnight this past Friday, and members on both sides of the aisle were prepared to defer blame for the negative fallout of a shutdown.

The implications of a shutdown would have been as serious as they were vast. To begin, all non-essential government employees would be indefinitely suspended without pay. What does this mean? Eight hundred thousand members of administrations and staffs across the country would be out of work, work that is pertinent to our well-being as a nation. The EPA would not be able to conduct its pollution checks, no safety inspections or monitoring of transactions on Wall Street could occur and nearly one million of our troops abroad would receive no pay. Four hundred na-

tional parks and monuments would shut down, costing the government nearly eight billion dollars per week. Additionally, the United States would have lost .2% of its GDP every day the government was shut down. This could have been the end of our economic recovery. This was huge. Pandemonium should have been erupting at Conn College as well as every other locale in this country, if not about the implications, at least regarding the facts.

House Republicans, including our asinine Speaker of the House John Boehner, attempted to blame Democrats for not compromising on spending issues. They repeated that Democrats had not been forthcoming and kept inserting the buzzword "spending" to mask the intricacies of the issue without providing an adequate explanation. However, Democrats were doing nothing of the like. They had agreed to \$38 of the \$41 billion in proposed cuts to domestic spending, one hell of a compromise for a party that supports a bigger government. They met their end of the bargain, but Republicans got greedy.

The right wing saw this spending bill as an opportunity to attach policy riders, or smaller measures that would be fastened to the larger bill that would have serious political consequences. The most notable of all these riders was the seventy-five million dollars cut from

Planned Parenthood, an organization that provides crucial health services to women throughout the states. Republicans, hell-bent on destroying social progressiveness, opposed the handout to the agency, claiming that it would directly support abortions. By now, the right should know the parameters of abortion law in this country, and if they are familiar with the Hyde

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Amendment I am appalled they would try and sneak it over our heads.

In 1976, this legislative amendment outlawed the appropriation of government funds to pay for abortions. The government is not paying for abortions, and to say that it is would be adding to these unscrupulous misconceptions. Planned Parenthood is merely a facility where a woman can obtain an abortion under her right to privacy set forth in *Roe v. Wade*. Planned Parenthood does not subsidize these procedures.

This information conjured up

by Republican leadership is one of two blatant fabrications, the other being that this was simply a battle over spending. This battle was ideological. Moreover, it was a debate being waged under false pretenses, like the notion that all Planned Parenthood does is dole out abortions. What about the general healthcare, STD checkups and medicine, pregnancy checks, birth control and cancer screenings? Planned Parenthood not only ensures the health of over five million women every year; through the administration of contraceptive devices (birth control), women have an unprecedented amount of mobility from biological factors that had acted as limitations for all of history. Anyone believing in equality of opportunity as a foundation of American principles should be in support of Planned Parenthood.

Much to my surprise, Democrats wiped the dust off their boxing gloves, laced them up and got ready to rumble. After buckling on nearly every request the Republican Party has made and conceding valuable parts of our domestic infrastructure, Democrats in the Senate took an unprecedented and unified stance against the budget that would have severely limited women's reproductive rights. Senator Patty Murray strongly asserted in a press conference last Friday that "women will not be used as political pawns," and later that day the generally stoic and listless Harry

Reid condemned the House Republicans as "absolutely irresponsible and insulting." From the day I can remember being politically conscious, I have always perceived the Democrats as pushovers, doing nothing to shake the labels placed on them by Republicans, unable to mount an offensive against the fiery rhetoric of the right.

The righteous indignation displayed by Democrats this last Friday was steadfast and resolute, resulting in a small but otherwise symbolically important win. At 11 PM Friday night, Speaker John Boehner proposed a revised budget free of Planned Parenthood policy riders to avoid the government shutdown. He forwarded this revised edition because members of the Republican Party, such as Mike Huckabee, were convinced that the Right would be saddled with the blame of a government shutdown for their inability to relinquish a small portion of the bill at large. Maybe if Democrats had invoked these strong sentiments prior to a Republican rape of the domestic budget, their victory could have been substantially larger than it was. The budget shutdown of April 2011 brought more of the same from Republicans, but elicited some form of unified strength from the Democrats that we seldom see. It's nice to know that the left might have a spine after all. Hopefully we'll see it more often in the future. •

## Tell Me What You Think!

CANDY TAYLOR  
CONTRIBUTOR

I often find myself reflecting back on an experience I had as a prospective Conn student during an overnight visit. I remember sitting in a small Branford double with three underclassmen engaging in a heated debate about whether or not humans should drink *milk!* Yeah, you read correctly; we were arguing about good old-fashioned pasteurized, homogenized, fat-, carbohydrate- and antibiotic-filled milk. I remember going home after that visit in awe of the ability of those students to discuss such a seemingly simple topic with such passion and articulateness. I knew then that Connecticut College was the place I belonged. If I could learn and be intellectually stimulated by my peers outside of the classroom, I just knew that the classroom setting had to be twice as dynamic and enriching.

As I now sit back and reflect on the experiences of my two years here at Conn, I've realized that I've very rarely found the same passion and zeal for simple learning and intellectual engagement that I found on my first visit here. I'm sure that this is why I often find myself wondering, "What the hell am I doing here?" I was so in love with the idea that students helped each other learn and grow both inside and outside of the classroom, and I'm dumbfounded as to why that doesn't happen here as often as I expected it would as an antsy, explorative and curious first-year student.

I've learned that what we have here at Connecticut College is a highly apathetic student body. We are a group of students who often think that we don't have to work to learn, that we should be fed knowledge. While I understand this logic, it is indeed an education with a \$50,000+ price tag. I'm writing this article to let you know that's not how the real world works. As often as people tell you college is not the real world, unfortunately it is, regardless of what you've heard. Life still happens, people still judge you as you walk to and fro on campus and your actions do indeed have consequences. That's about as real as the world gets.

What bothers me most is not the fact that we are sometimes apathetic. Yeah it sucks, but hey, what can I do about that? Really, I'm most frustrated by the effect that this apathy cre-

ates. The indifference moves through our student body like a virus passing from one student to the next, dragging those passionate and engaged students down as well. It also affects our professors. During a discussion with Professor Aida Heredia of the Hispanic Studies Department, she described to me the qualms she faces because of the apathy of her students.

"It pains me to present some of my favorite literary works with my students only to have them come to class and share insincere and not thoughtful opinions about them," she said.

"And I thought it was just me, but my colleagues in other departments feel the same way." This cohort effect reaches each and every individual on this campus, and it breeds an environment that does not adequately illuminate who we are as a college community. It does not show how intelligent and wise we are, it does not show how progressive we are and it surely does not show how much we truly have to offer the world outside our small campus.

With all of this said, I want to make it clear that I am not one to complain about the apathy of the student body just because I can. I am one who complains because I know that we can be better, and I am searching for the solution to do just that. My hope is that we begin to challenge the apathy of our peers with energy, excitement and passion. I know I'm ready to do so. It makes no sense that a student body with so much intelligence, wisdom and wit does not strive to uplift and educate one another.

With this challenge in place, I'd like to introduce a new series to the Connecticut College community called "Tell Us What You Think." Once a week, I will be hosting an hour-long open discussion and dialogue about a random topic. I want you all to be there to tell the rest of your peers what you think about the subject at hand. I think that this is a simple, non-stressful activity that we can all engage in and use to begin to change our campus climate to one that truly is intellectually stimulating both inside and outside the classroom.

Our first topic in the "Tell Us What You Think" series will be this article. I've written it; you've read it. Come to the Cro second floor couches this Wednesday, April 13, at 10 PM. And for the love of God, women, sex, Buddha, coloring books, tropical rainforests or whatever you truly care about, tell us what you think! •

SAM NORCROSS  
STAFF WRITER

This past Monday I sat in on a meeting of the Connecticut College Democrats, the only active political organization on campus. I had been curious about the club for a while: are the members involved in local politics? What do they talk about at meetings? I ended up learning more than I expected. The meeting shed some light on the political activity at Conn, and made me wonder about our club culture in general.

The club meets in the Alice Johnson room in Cro every Monday at ten and welcomes visitors. Even after I was outed as a conservative by a club member who knows me personally, they continued to be perfectly friendly and mentioned how they actually enjoy having students with opposing opinions come to the meetings to discuss issues. Just recently, they rallied students to send over two hundred letters to Connecticut senators about the Planned Parenthood bill. They plan to attend the upcoming College Democrats of Connecticut conference and to involve themselves with Spectrum's effort to raise awareness about equal pay for women. They even have seats on the Democratic town committee.

Their agenda and talk of upcoming events were mixed with lively chat about current issues at Conn and in the world. I'll admit, when going into the meeting I was prepared to hear nothing but extreme leftists complaining about Glenn Beck or the Tea Party with some blathering about Jon Stewart thrown in. However, all the members were level-headed and very well informed. They talked intelligently about a range of issues that mattered rather than just ranting about the social problems so many young "politically-minded" people focus on.

When the meeting was over they looked to me. They asked what I was writing about and wondered if I needed any more information. I told them it was just a general article about the club, and that I was thinking about questioning a lack of a conservative version. They told me a Republican club existed just one year ago, and technically still does, but it's entirely

inactive. The Dems aren't just interested in the disappearance of their right wing counterpart—they are upset about it.

And why wouldn't they be? "The best thing we can do is get the campus talking about politics," said vice president Alicia Rea '12. This is a goal all college political clubs should share. But without a foil, an organization with opposing values, a political club's effect on campus is minimized.

Where are the CC Reps? The

*We have people on campus who like politics and current events, and I can never find an issue of the New York Times in the afternoon. So why does our school feel politically stagnant?*

Conn-servatives? The RepubliCons? Not only are these names too good to waste, but a Republican organization would provide a home for campus conservatives (I know you're out there), and maybe even politically electrify Conn.

Debates between the two groups could be held, opposing columns could be written for the *Voice* and the extremely polarized portrayals of the two parties, created by popular media, could be dispelled. This campus could use a political spark. The Planned Parenthood initiative was the first and only time I heard anyone talking about real issues in the dining hall: We all know Conn can feel like a bubble. It's a bubble that I love, but it is an insular, self-contained world nonetheless. More political activity could better connect us to the outside world, and maybe even get some big-name politicians to speak on campus.

When I imagined what a CC Dems meeting would look like, I saw a fairly large crowd crammed along a table excitedly shouting about the issues of today. Rather, it was just seven people sitting in the center of the Alice Johnson room. A few times throughout the meeting, it seemed like a few more people were filtering in, but no. It was just two guys looking for the outdoors club and a girl trying to find her lost cell phone.

## CC Dems Left Without a Right

I don't mean to belittle the club because of its size, but I do mean to belittle the willingness of students to commit. I received a forwarded email from the club letting me know the meeting time and place. This allowed me to take a look at their mailing list, which included over fifty students. Seven were at the meeting, and that's apparently been the norm.

There is only one active political club on campus. It is CC Democrats and it only has seven to ten members. You might say that the issue-oriented clubs like COAST or Forest Justice involve politics, but these organizations are too narrow in scope to be called political. Though it makes me wonder why there aren't more members of clubs like Spectrum, which is all about raising awareness for liberal social issues.

I know we have people on campus who like politics and keep up with current events. I know I can never find an issue of the *New York Times* in the late afternoon. I know that there are plenty of students who identify with the Democratic Party, and I know there must be some who identify with the GOP. So why does our school feel politically stagnant?

Are Conn students too intimidated by the chaotic political atmosphere to join a political club? Maybe they assume as I did, that a club based around a political party would attract extremists. Or maybe they just don't have the time and think clubs which focus on more specific matters will be easier to handle. But even with the existence of these issue-oriented clubs, the lack of attendance at CC Dems along with the lack of existence of the College Republicans makes me worry. Just based on observation, the clubs that have the largest collective members must be the club sports and the culture/identity organizations. I think these groups are valid and important on campus, but I also think that some branching out should occur. When people join clubs, are they too focused on the social aspect rather than their intellectual interests? It's hard to tell, but unfortunately I think the answer is yes. •

# How to Do It Yourself

Self-made filmmaker goes from Internet shorts to HBO



PHOTO FROM WEB

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The brothers' films usually consist of science experiment films (such as electrocuting a pickle), PSAs about things they find important and movies about their family. They got their start before YouTube was created. Since there wasn't yet a home for self-made videos, their shorts often found circulation in the art scene. Neistat is iMovie-educated and he often shoots his films on cheap, low-quality cameras commonly found at Walmart.

One PSA, titled "iPod's Dirty Secret," was about how Apple won't replace iPod batteries. Since YouTube wasn't an option yet, they created their own website for the video and sent the link to a dozen friends. A few days later, Neistat received a call from his internet service asking him why an enormous amount of bandwidth was coming from his server. "I told him, 'I'll call you back in twenty minutes. I have no idea what you're talking about,'" Neistat said. Apparently, their little video had been shared so many times that it was draining bandwidth from their server. In order to find a proper home for the video, they ultimately settled for an Apple website which allowed users to post their own videos without any bandwidth confinements; their little PSA was now being hosted by the same people it was bashing.

Another of their PSAs, titled "Bike Thief," featured Van showing how easy it is to steal a bicycle in New York, which is a common occurrence in the city. No matter how intense his method of breaking the bike chain got, from simple bolt cutters to a steel saw spewing sparks, no one passing him on the street ever questioned what he was doing. The one person who even bothered to notice that Van was trying to break a bike chain in half actually gave him helpful advice. Meanwhile, a police cruiser completely passed by Van, instead instructing Casey, who was filming, to move out of the designated parking area.

The science experiment movies are especially fun to watch. Besides the pickle short, there is also one showing a candle burning at both ends teetering like a seesaw when balanced in the middle and one with mothballs dancing in a jar of settled baking soda and vinegar. The films are fun, informative, short enough for the average YouTube viewer's attention span and they cost practically nothing to make, which Neistat made very clear.

Raised in Gales Ferry, Neistat has close ties to the New London area. When the brothers were offered the chance to have their own HBO show (consisting of shorts about their lives), Neistat proceeded to film a section of the pilot at Ocean Beach. Before showing the audience the rough cut of the pilot, he apologized, "I'm going to hit play and then go to the bathroom. I'm not leaving you."

In the pilot's intro, Neistat's voiceover told the viewers that everything they were about to see — from the brothers building a new studio to Van meeting his birth father for the first time — was filmed within the past six weeks. That is what sets their films apart from those of other filmmakers: they are not worried about making their films look attractive with extensive post-production sessions. They just want their films to be available.

Neistat is an adamant supporter of sharing work. One of his biggest pet peeves was the fact that HBO didn't allow episodes to be seen on the Internet. "I started making movies for companies to get money," he said. "Now that I have money, I post my movies so everyone can see them."

Neistat's visit was a unique experience. Despite his excited storytelling style, he didn't seem to want to say very much. His appearance consisted mostly of introducing the next video and including some interesting backstory about its creation, but he didn't lecture the crowd or try to seem like he was smarter than anyone else there. If anything, he's just a guy who found something he loves doing and a cheap way to do it — a way of life which needs no accompanying lecture. •

*The films are fun,  
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# Shake the Founder's Day

Three musical alumni return to play for Conn's centennial celebration

ETHAN HARFENIST  
STAFF WRITER

It was like they never left. Andrew Oedel '10, Matthew Addison '10, Max Currier '10, and Jon Markson '12 set up on stage just as they had dozens of times last year, with Markson providing the audience with his usual pre-show banter as guitars were tuned and bass drums were kicked. Shake the Baron had returned for a special Founder's Day concert to conclude the day's (lackluster) festivities.

The band was extremely excited to return to Conn and play on their home turf. "I always enjoy going back to Conn," remarked Addison. "It's where we started as a band, so it's nice to go back to the birthplace. Plus, we get to see students who we've missed since graduating—so that's always great."

Their set was familiar, but the Barons sounded tighter than ever, playing old favorites like "Sinking Sailor" and "Tree House" while showing off some new tricks and licks. There was a small but enthusiastic crowd bopping along to the melodies, enjoying the songs for the first time in a sober state of mind. I caught up with these sons of Connecticut College and found out how the alums among them are faring after leaving our bubble.

Oedel, Currier and Addison moved into a three-bedroom apartment in Bushwick, Brooklyn in October of 2010. Conveniently, the apartment is fortified with a soundproofed basement to practice in. "It's awesome to not have to pay for a practice space, which in New York costs a disgusting amount of bucks," said Oedel. "And nobody has bucks these days."

The guys have been able to focus more on their music as a result, which has undoubtedly made their sound more polished. Markson remarked, "moving to a new scene and playing to different types of people has forced us to differentiate ourselves from the Brooklyn scene and really craft our own sound. We like to think that things about our stage presence and writing style distinguishes us from the hordes."

Aside from playing bubble-alt tunes on the reg, the members of Shake the Baron all have real jobs now. Oedel works at a performing arts venue in Brooklyn called Galapagos Art Space where he books artists and deals with production logistics. Addison works at a café and "nighttime lounge" in SoHo in Manhattan. Currier does writing and sales for a Chinese importing company.

The Barons love New York, too. "I'm really loving my new life out in New York. Coming from the super suburban Warwick, Rhode Island, I'm able to find constant stimulation and excitement just walking around the city, our neighborhood, wherever," said Addison. This walking around has apparently been extremely inspirational. "We've been writing so much new music it's hard to keep track of it all," said Oedel. "The next steps are putting that together, producing a new album, and playing as many shows as possible." Markson described the new material as "neat."

It was great to see the band back at Conn. Word on the street is that they're headlining Floralia, so we will be seeing more of Shake the Baron in the very near future. •



PHOTO FROM WEB

Shake the Baron, from left: Max Currier '10, Jon Markson '12, Matthew Addison '10 and Andrew Oedel '10.

## DID YOU GET OUR EMAIL?

The College recently let you know that our billing system is going paperless. The new system is called CCPay and you're automatically enrolled.

However, if someone else pays your bills, you must enroll that person as an authorized payer because paper bills will no longer be sent out.

It's easy: just go to CamelWeb's Self-Service area and look for the CCPay link on the Student tab and follow the instructions.

You can register your authorized payers immediately, but if you have questions or would like assistance, representatives from the Bursar's Office will be available during pre-registration in Fanning Hall, April 11-15, 8:30 AM to 5 PM

For more information, contact the bursar at [bursar@conncoll.edu](mailto:bursar@conncoll.edu).

# Thing Called Talent

Ark Music Factory tells tweens what it takes to be famous

MELANIE THIBEAULT  
STAFF WRITER

With the recent explosion of Rebecca Black's single "Friday" (it's nearly impossible not to hear at least one reference a day), a can of worms was opened up on YouTube, a can whose lid needs to be quickly closed and welded shut, never to be opened again. As Jerell Mays wrote last week, there is a new subculture on the rise—that of naïve, hopeful preteens and teens who are sought out (less for their talent and more for their parents' money) and promised the creation of their very own music video uploaded right onto the world's main source of entertainment on the web—YouTube.

It sounds like every kid's dream, but as Jerell has expressed, it kind of annoys him that this average thirteen-year-old girl with mediocre vocal abilities is now making bank and will soon be able to afford not one, nor two, but probably ten of her own convertibles with which she can use to skip school... that is, in about three years when she and her friends are actually old enough to drive. But that's another rant for another day.

Today, I'm here to talk about a lesser-known but equally fantastic (and by fantastic, I mean terrible) music video entitled "Thing Called Magic" written and performed by sixteen-year-old Serena Foster (who is she? NO ONE KNOWS). I can tell you this much—she is not part of the sinister Ark Music Factory production company (yes, I'm convinced there's something sinister lurking in the corners of Ark Studios; for God's sake, it refers to itself as a factory), but she's just at their stars' level, if not one step ahead of the game.

Think of this as a Tosh.0 video breakdown of sorts, as I try to uncover the deeper meaning behind the words of "Thing Called Magic." It won't be easy to figure out the subliminal message—the song might just be too deep for any of us to understand, but I'll give it my best shot. For anyone who hasn't seen the video or who wants to watch along as you read this, search for Foster's song on YouTube. The song only has a meager 27,814 hits; let's see if we can get it up to 28,000.

The song begins with a haunting keyboard solo, played by Foster herself, and a close-up of her hands caressing the keys. The shot pans out to Foster throwing off a long, white coat, revealing a strapless, very tight white dress, long thigh-high white boots, and white top hat. This girl knows how to keep it classy. As two black silhouettes of females dance spastically in the background, the video screams sex as much as any video with sixteen-year-olds legally can. The outfit changes are as frequent as the extra syllables Foster adds to words (more on that soon), and the more I see of her attire, the more I realize how much Lady Gaga has had an impact on her life. (Oh BTDUB, the entire song is set in front of a plain red background... shot in front of a blue screen! Why? Or why not? It's too deep for me to analyze.)

Foster begins her song by telling us about her latest discovery: magic. In a nasally, but no less sultry, voice she sings, "There's this thing called magic / It took over me yesterday / Suddenly all I want is tragic / Misery, lifetime, company."

Foster made a fantastic discovery yesterday that she needs to tell the world. Unfortunately, the rest of the world is already aware of the presence of magic, and we have been since *Bewitched* in 1964. While magic is still a recent concept in the modern world, Foster has been sheltered from it all this time. Or maybe by "it took over me yesterday," she is declaring to the world that she has acquired magical powers; maybe she's the first American muggle to receive a Hogwarts letter.

"Suddenly all I want is tragic." What are you upset about, Foster? Magic is fun! That's why muggles have



Serena Foster in her Ark Music Factory-produced video "Thing Called Magic." Screenshots from YouTube.

been trying to copy the idea of Quidditch for years. The last line really gets me: "misery, lifetime, company." Now, she's just throwing words together in a list that makes no sense is not poetic in any way. Maybe she's going to be surrounded by the company of wizards for the rest of her life and she is miserable about it. Personally, I would be ecstatic.



In the next stanza, Foster begins addressing a vague audience, saying, "Don't be scared / I'll protect you! The ghosts are very real here / I've got my compass and my magic stick / One puff of smoke and we disappear." First, no offense, Foster, but I don't think you have what it takes to duel with the supernatural world, unless the pitch of your voice possesses some magical quality that wards them off. But it mustn't be because you brought your compass and magic stick. What you are going to do with a compass, I have no idea, unless we're trapped in the woods. Or maybe you possess the Golden Compass, in which case you just gained cool points. But let's focus on this magic stick. Magic stick? What is that? It's called a wand. Merlin uses one, Harry Potter uses one, it's never been referred to as a magic stick. Only Lady Gaga or 50 Cent are allowed to use that phrase.



Then we get to the brilliantly written chorus: "There's this thing called magic / It will make you insane / Rip your clothes off and steal your soul / It will control your brain." Here we get to the meat of the song; she's not talking about any old magic, she's talking about dark magic. This kind of magic that she's discovered takes over one's life and renders them incapable of living normally. The oddly erotic line, "rip your clothes off and steal your soul" hints at a magic darker than even He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named is capable of producing. Last time I checked, there was no known spell for the removal of one's clothes.

Just when the lyrics couldn't get any deeper, they do: "There's this thing called sundown / It happens like every single night / Beware of black cats when they frown / That'd be one very spooky sight."

Foster has made a secondary discovery about life; it's something that people refer to as sundown, and it happens "like every single night." Phew, I thought it only happened SOME nights, but now I know better, Not to be left out, a superstition (the black cat) is thrown into the song, but it's not a regular ol' black kitty—it's a frowning black kitty. I don't know about you, but I've never seen a cat either smile or frown, so I wouldn't be able to tell the difference. Foster, however, has and can assure us that it is indeed a scary sight.

The next stanza was damn near impossible to decipher (I had to transcribe the lyrics solely by watching the video), so I'm just going to point out one line that says, "They say magic's the root of all evil." I believe she means money, but we'll let this one slide since she has been singing about black magic for two stanzas. Then, the chorus repeats, there's an awkward dance number that lasts twenty seconds too long, and we get to the grand finale, the best part in my opinion.

Foster is tangled up in what looks like a bunch of silly string, being held captive by the four back-up dancers who I'm pretty sure are jealous because Foster has been getting all of the screen time. Foster, wrapped up and rendered powerless, sings, "It's like I lost myself / Do you believe in magic? / I'll make you believe in magic / We believe in, I believe in, they believe in magic." The truth comes out even more—not only is this song about black magic, it's a propaganda video, recruiting members to join the dark side. If we resist, Foster will use her magic stick to control our minds and force us to join. Dammit, teen pop-star wannabes, not again!

The song ends with Foster singing "magic" over and over again, adding ten extra syllables to the word, which she did throughout the song. I think it's a signature trait. She then kisses her wand—er—magic stick and the camera fades out. Genius.

Okay, now that I've completely critiqued her music video (where's mine? You're right, I don't have one), I feel as though I should give her some credit. She's sixteen, has only a handful of her own music videos on YouTube (mostly covers of other artists) and fifty-six subscribers. She wrote the song herself and was able to find someone to produce a semi-legit music video that has 27,814 hits thus far. My only YouTube video has less than 400 hits and is a poorly-produced skit I had to star in for a high school French class.

So, yes, she's more famous than I am. She is making a name for herself, and she even has legitimate fans. I'm happy for her that she found the means to produce a music video and is pursuing her dream. What am I doing? I'm bitterly typing away at a keyboard, complaining about the decline of the music industry, crying on the inside because these teens with mediocre talent are being thrown money for making cheesy music videos. So, maybe Serena Foster has the right idea. Maybe I just need to find that "Thing Called Magic" in my life, too. •

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Ernst Common Room

# Ready to Start

The 2011 MLB season is finally here, but who will come out on top in each division?

**BEN STEPANSKY**  
STAFF WRITER

## 1. Will the AL East division be a close race this year?

Disclaimer: I am disregarding the Red Sox's pitiful 1-7 start. Now, I haven't been so ecstatic about a Sox team since the Idiots of '04. This team reminds me of those produced by fantasy drafts, where every team is loaded up with three or four incredible hitters and extreme depth at pitching. The Red Sox boast a lineup that features second through sixth hitters who all possess multiple All-Star appearances (Pedroia, Crawford, Gonzalez, Youkilis, and Papi). Jon Lester and Clay Buchholz will both be vying for a Cy Young award, and when John Lackey and Dice-K are your four and five starters, I'd say the team is in pretty good shape.

However, one cannot dismiss the fact that the Sox play in the AL East—clearly the elite division of Major League Baseball. The Yankees will compete as usual, but the glaring problem is their age (Jeter is 36 years old, A-rod is 35 and Posada is 39), not to mention their signing of the declining Andruw Jones. Closer Mariano Rivera, on the other hand, is showing no signs of stopping after his first close of the season, where he threw twelve pitches en route to a 1-2-3 ninth. The Tampa Bay Rays enter the season again as the third favorite to win the division, but this is where they are the most dangerous. Furthermore, if B.J. Upton can return to form and David Price can lead the pitching staff to success, the Rays will likely make a run to the top of the division.

## 2. Can Joe Mauer and the Twins hold back the Tigers and White Sox?

The Kansas City Royals will win the AL Central (just kidding). But like the AL East, the Central division includes three teams with the talent to win the division. The popular favorite is the Minnesota Twins, led by former MVP Joe Mauer. The key for the Twins will be consistent starting pitching from Carl Pavano and Francisco Liriano, and monitoring the

health of All-Star closer Joe Nathan, who missed the entire 2010 season after undergoing Tommy John surgery. Having Matt Capps in the bullpen will take the pressure off Nathan to rush back to form, and first baseman Justin Morneau is also returning from an injury.

At the heels of the Twins will be the Detroit Tigers, relying on the big bat of Miguel Cabrera, who has a real shot at becoming the first Triple Crown winner since Carl Yastrzemski in 1967 (.328, 38 HR, 126 RBIs in

hitters in the AL, and if Adrian Beltre can repeat his hot hitting from 2010, the Rangers will take the AL West due to the weakness of the rest of the teams in the division.

If there is one rival pitching staff that can shut down the Rangers' potent offense, it's the starting rotation of the A's. This rotation had four pitchers with at least nineteen starts and an ERA of 3.50 or lower in 2010. The A's are a mirror image of the Rangers—a lot of pitching with less hitting, so they may struggle to drive in

high.

The Atlanta Braves will give the Phillies a run for their money all season. The Braves, in my opinion, boast one of the most underrated pitching staffs in the game. Derek Lowe, Tim Hudson, Tommy Hanson and rising star Jair Jurrjens are all capable of double-digit wins. Furthermore, the addition of slugger Dan Uggla from the Marlins to join Brian McCann and Martin Prado in the lineup will cause problems for opposing pitchers. And, sorry Mets fans, but your team is go-

posure, the Reds will continue their success.

The Brewers, with Ryan Braun and Prince Fielder in the three and four slots, should continue to propel one of the most productive offenses in the National League. And the additions of Cy Young contender Zack Greinke and Shaun Marcum to the pitching rotation will do wonders for the Brewers' staff.

The Cubs can compete if they keep their emotions under wraps (I'm looking at you, Zambrano) and find a way to produce runs for their pitchers, including new acquisition Matt Garza.

## 6. The Giants are finally defending World Champions, but can Lincecum and Cain shut down the Rockies?

Who would have guessed the San Francisco Giants would win the World Series last year? Not me. And I don't think they'll be able to do it again. Pitching will lead the Giants back to the playoffs, but no further. The combination of Tim Lincecum and Matt Cain is one of the best 1-2 punches in the MLB, and there is no doubt they will continue their dominance. The question is whether Buster Posey can avoid the sophomore slump. If he and Aubrey Huff can produce and if Pablo Sandoval can return back to his offensive ways of the 2009 season, I see the Giants winning the division easily.

However, the Colorado Rockies present a very real threat to the Giants. They possess the big bats of Troy Tulowitzki and Carlos Gonzalez; Gonzalez is looking to prove that he's worthy of his new seven-year, \$80 million contract. Flamethrower Ubaldo Jimenez is scary on the mound and will establish himself as an elite pitcher in the National League. The LA Dodgers will remain in the mix for most of the season, but pitching will cause their downfall late in the season, and the new-look San Diego Padres will feel the pain from losing Adrian Gonzalez to the Red Sox during the off-season.

The 2011 MLB season promises to be an interesting one for the teams in each division. Enjoy rooting for your favorite this summer! •

# Opening Day

APRIL 2011



PHOTO FROM WEB

2010), but only if he stays clean and keeps himself out of trouble. The Chicago White Sox could also get hot at any point during the season. This will only happen, however, if Jake Peavy can contribute to a solid pitching rotation, and Adam Dunn (seven straight seasons with 38+ home runs) can catalyze the White Sox offense through 162 games.

## 3. Will the Rangers' starting rotation cripple their chances of repeating as AL Champions?

Pitching will be the kryptonite of the Texas Rangers. Sound familiar? Nonetheless, pitchers C.J. Wilson and Colby Lewis will have to duplicate their impressive performances in 2011, and new acquisition Brandon Webb will have to get healthy if the Rangers want to repeat as American League Champions. Josh Hamilton will remain among the elite

runs. The LA Angels can make a splash in the division but only if Dan Haren pitches like he did during his time with the Arizona Diamondbacks.

## 4. Does any team pose an honest threat to the Phillies in the NL East?

Yes. Don't get me wrong, I still view the Phillies as the favorite to take the NL East. They own the best starting rotation I have ever seen in professional baseball with aces Roy Halladay, Cliff Lee and Roy Oswalt. The Phillies also have strong hitting, but like any team, health remains a concern. Chase Utley and Brad Lidge are both beginning the season on the disabled list. Raul Ibanez proved that his thirty-four home run performance in 2009 was a fluke, and if Ryan Howard can't figure out how to hit a breaking ball, his strikeout total will remain sky-

ing to be a basement dweller this year. That's right, they'll be behind the Nationals.

## 5. Can the Cubs pass the rolling Reds and the Braun-led Brewers to claim the NL wild card?

Probably not, but the NL Central is always tough. The Reds won the division last year and the Cardinals dominated it during the previous decade. The Brewers made solid additions to their starting rotation that will propel them into the running for the division title, but I still like the Reds to win the division. Joey Votto has emerged as one of the best hitters in the game with a sweet stroke, and Brandon Phillips and Jay Bruce compliment him well in the lineup. Volquez and Arroyo are solid in the pitching rotation, and if the sometimes-erratic Johnny Cueto can keep his com-

## Women's Lacrosse Falls to Bates

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

had entered the game after halftime, made clean passes in a mid-field transition that seemed to be slipping. With play getting messier, Barone got blatantly slashed but received no free position. The Bobcats scored a minute later, making the score 8-5. Amidst more slashing, Deanna Ezzio '12 ran the ball up the field off the draw, answering back by feeding the ball to Dumke, who fed to Driscoll. Driscoll made an over-the-shoulder scoop pass to Barone, who got checked above the shoulder and received a call, enabling Miller to take the free position and put the ball in the net with nineteen minutes left in the game.

Despite the Camel defense's efforts, the Bates offense was consistently faster to Conn's goal line, and the Bobcats scored once more less than two minutes later. With the quality of play deteriorating, McAuley was tripped so badly that her cleft came off. With good settling by the Camel offense, Driscoll answered back once more. The pace of the game picked up, with exciting plays occurring even behind the Bates net as Maura Brazel '13 and Marx worked together to double team the Bobcat goalie. With thirteen minutes left in the game, the Camels trailed Bates 12-8 after Bobcat stars Brallier and Dannis scored three goals within two minutes.

However, Camel fans were kept on the edge of their seats as Barone's lefty shot got tipped by a Bates stick. Brazel gained possession and rolled the crease—only to get checked in the head without a call—then fed the ball to Driscoll, who assisted Miller in the Camels' ninth goal. Bobcat Brallier answered back a minute later at 11:35, making the score 13-9.

Farrell, who was having a great game, used her height to snatch the ball off the draw. She got blocked and managed to throw to Barone, who ran it up the field. Nichols got a pass in to Flaherty, and just as yet another ref discretion was about to occur, the ref closest to the goal validated Flaherty's shot, cutting Bates' lead to 13-10.

With less than five minutes left in the game, play got nasty on both sides as slashes went unnoticed. After a timeout at 2:11, Bates played a fairly successful game of "keep-away." Conn missed two goal-scoring opportunities and Bates polished off a fifteenth goal with six seconds left. At the game's end, disappointed Camels looked at a scoreboard that read 15-11 in the Bobcats' favor.

Despite the loss, the lady Camels are keeping their heads up and looking forward to the remainder of their season. Marx commented, "Our team is really talented, and even though we lost today, there was definitely a change in the overall attitude of the team. We stayed positive the entire time so I think we will be successful if we channel that same positive energy into the next few games." •



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# Women's Lacrosse Falls to Bates

## Loss at home drops team record to 3-7

**MOLLY BANGS**  
STAFF WRITER

At about 10:30 AM on Saturday, April 9, everyone in the Athletic Center heard Wiz Khalifa's "Black and Yellow" break the silence as the women's lacrosse team began their warm up—by playing dodge ball. The unusual pre-game pump up seemed to have the girls in good spirits as they prepared for their first potential NESCAC victory of the season. The team (3-6, 0-5 in the NESCAC previous to Saturday's game) faced Bates College at noon in New London, with their Senior Captain Abby Hill '11 temporarily benched.

Within the first five minutes of the game, the Bobcats were dominating possession off of the draws, and scored three consecutive points. Six minutes into the half, the Camels got on the scoreboard as Katelyn Driscoll '12 put one in the net. Cameron Flaherty '13 did the same less than a minute later, making the score 3-2 Bates at 23:37. Following these two goals, the Camel offense was settling down low well until play was punctuated when Izzy Marx '14 took a check to the head—the first of many calls (or lack thereof) by a sub-par referee staff.

Bates powerhouse Jenna Dannis '12 answered back at 19:51, putting the Bobcats ahead by two. After some nicely executed long passes in the midfield transition, Dannis gained a three second call but missed her free position shot. Seconds later, the Camels defense got charged then checked to the head. Grace Megaffin '12 took the ball, sending it to rookie



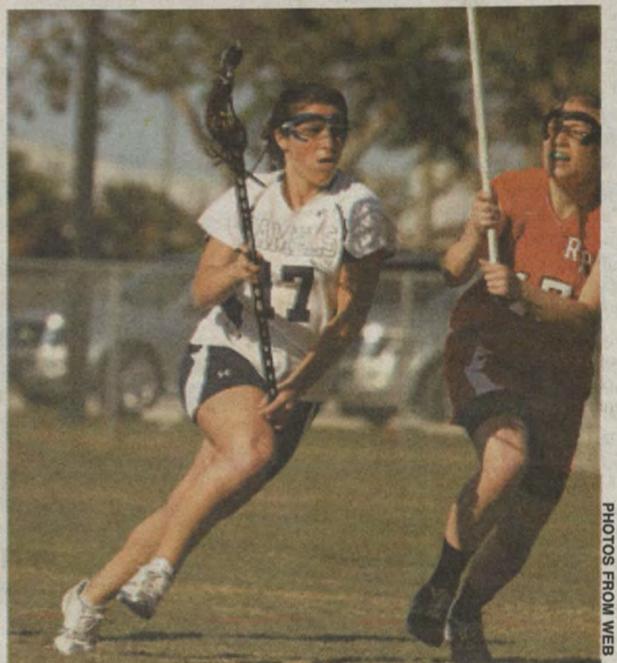
Deanna Ezzio '12 cradles the ball during a match against Wheaton College.

Olivia Farrell '14, who booked it all the way up the field. Ashley Crutchfield '12 received a pass from Farrell and immediately sent a beautiful throw from behind the goal to Marx, who—using her height—finished the play off nicely with a top left corner goal. With about sixteen minutes left in the half, the Camels were now trailing the Bobcats 3-4.

Jenn Brallier '13 of Bates, another driving force of the Bobcat offense, scored again minutes later, making the score 5-3 in Bates' favor. Megaffin and defensive middle Charlotte McAuley '14 kept the Conn defense strong, and goalie Caitlin Cataldo '14 made two successive saves. Bri

Miller '13 then used her speed in the midfield, but was matched by the wheels of the Bobcats after a turnover, and Bates put another one in the net with ten minutes remaining in the half. Because it was evident that these two well-matched teams were going to have to seriously duke it out, head coach Heather McClelland called a timeout for the Camels.

Fresh off the timeout, Driscoll gained possession of the ball right off the draw (being taken by Hope Barone '12) and went on to make a beautiful top right corner goal. As whistles became later and later and conflicting calls were made, it became apparent to those on the sidelines that the



Bri Miller '13 carries the ball upfield against Brockport State.

refs were not on the same page whatsoever.

With 20 seconds left in the half, Libby Nichols '12 had a free position on account of shooting space. After some scrambling—with the Bobcat goalie still out of the goal—Miller was awarded the ball with one second left in the half. She made the goal, only to be met with what turned into a ten-minute conference between the three referees and two head coaches about whether or not the goal counted on account of the free position potentially being indirect. Tensions rose as Camel parents made their own calls from the sidelines and a snippy "You don't even play!" could be heard

from the Bates bench. Finally, Head Coach McClelland walked away from the huddle back to her team, pumping her fist victoriously. The halftime score was 6-5 Bates, the last time there would be a one point differential.

After much back and forth play for the first six minutes of the second half, the Camel offense took too much time settling and possession switched, leading to another goal by Bates' Brallier at 23:58. Haley Dumke '14, who

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

# "Amped Up" Women's Tennis Aims for the Playoffs

**JESSE MOSKOWITZ**  
STAFF WRITER

The women's tennis team has started off their season well. The group has gone 2-1, including a 9-0 sweep of Springfield College in the Camel's home opener and a 7-2 win over Babson College in two non-conference matches. In the coming two weeks they will also play five more vital NESCAC conference matches.

The NESCAC is widely regarded as the highest level of Division III tennis for women. According to CollegeTennisOnline.com, three of the top five women's teams in the country belong to the NESCAC. "Usually when people hear that we play Division III tennis, they don't take us very seriously," explained Jen Herbert '13, "but in reality, we have a group of girls that could have easily played for Division I or Division II programs."

One of the team's goals this season is to get into the conference playoffs. Women's tennis requires four NESCAC wins in order to be eligible, and though they're starting off 0-1, they still have their eyes set on a tourna-



Brittney Cangemi '13 drives a backhanded shot over the net this past Sunday.

ment berth.

"We really look good this year," said co-captain Becca Heupel '11. "Everything we've done has been amped up. We've been practicing and playing with a lot of intensity and I think it's going to pay off."

One of the main factors in-

fluencing how hard the team has been working is second year coach Chris O'Brien. "At the start of the season we had a two hour-long meeting where we set our season-long goals," Herbert explained. "Coach has been emailing each of us about our goals to make sure we're on pace

to achieve them." To this end, O'Brien had the team spend their offseason focusing on fitness and weightlifting to prepare for their tough schedule.

Another important aspect of this group is their chemistry. Co-captain Caroline Barone '11 said, "We all get along really well, and

we're definitely better as a team than last year." This chemistry comes from a sense of camaraderie and friendship that has grown over time. "A lot of us have been together for a long time," Heupel added. "We also have five sophomores and no freshmen so we all know each other really well."

This intensity and closeness can be seen in the way the team spent their past spring break. From March 17 to March 22, the team played matches in both Phoenix and Glendale, Arizona. During this time, the team put their stamina and will to the test.

"We played nine matches in eleven days and some girls had to play two matches on the same day," said Barone. Heupel boasted, "We played in 95 degree heat against a lot of Division I and II schools and we did pretty well. There were some tough matches and I think we came out of it ready for conference play."

The Camels will continue their run for a playoff bid at home on April 13 against Tufts University and on April 20 in Hartford against Trinity College.

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT SCORES

**Men's Lacrosse (4-6):**  
4/9 Conn 9 - 5 Bates  
4/6 Conn 11 - 2 Williams

**Women's Lacrosse (3-7):**  
4/9 Conn 11 - 15 Bates  
4/6 Conn 11 - 14 Williams

**Women's Water Polo (5-9):**  
4/9 Conn 8 - 7 Utica

**Men's Tennis (8-7):**  
4/10 Conn 1 - 8 Colby  
4/6 Conn 1 - 8 Trinity

**Women's Tennis (6-8):**  
4/5 Conn 7 - 2 Babson  
4/10 Conn 3 - 6 Colby

**Women's Sailing:**  
1st place in President's Trophy Regatta at BU

## SO YOU DON'T MISS IT GAMES

**Men's Lacrosse:**  
vs. Merchant Marine: Tuesday, April 12 at 4 PM  
at Tufts: Saturday, April 16 at 1 PM

**Women's Lacrosse:**  
vs. East Conn St: Wednesday, April 13 at 4:30 PM  
vs. Tufts: Saturday, April 16 at 12 PM

**Men's and Women's Track and Field:**  
Eastern Conn State Invitational: Friday, April 15

**Men's Tennis:**  
at Springfield: Thursday, April 14 at 4 PM  
vs. Williams: Sunday, April 17 at 1 PM

**Women's Tennis:**  
vs. Tufts: Wednesday, April 13 at 4 PM  
vs. Holy Cross: Saturday, April 16 at 12 PM

**Co-Ed Sailing:**  
Up & Back @ Rhode Island Coll:  
Saturday-Sunday, April 16-17 in Providence, RI