



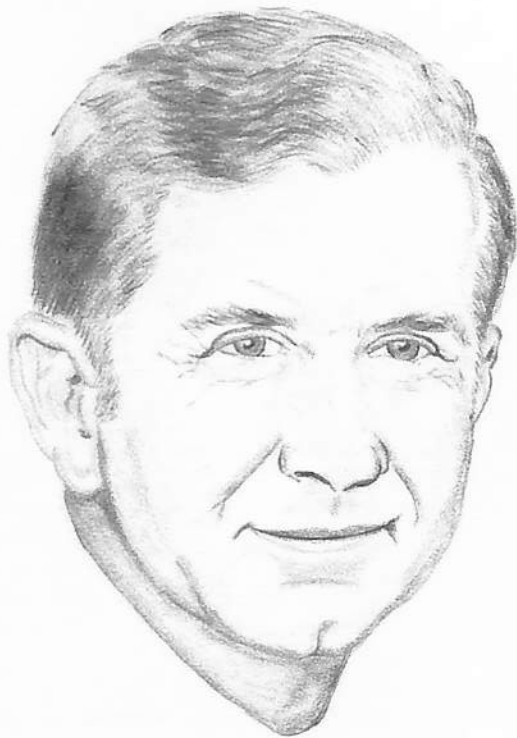
Jeffrey J. Carr



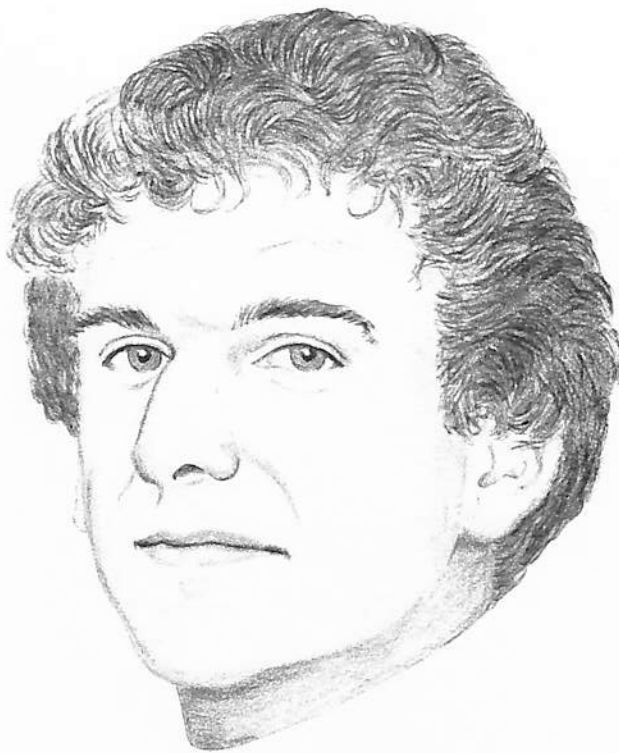
Dennis P. O'Connell



Susan G. Langenhan



Denis F. Mullane



Randall J. LaVigne



Milton Drogo

The UConn Club

presents its

26th Annual Awards Dinner

May 4, 1979

Hamden, Connecticut

The Lineup

Invocation	Rev. Joseph Smith, St. Thomas Aquinas, Storrs
Welcome	A. L. Kelland, '64, President, UConn Club
Introduction	Don V. Ruck, '52
Presentation	Albert N. Jorgensen Athletic Award Nathan Lipman E. George Van Bibber
Presentation	Outstanding Senior Athlete Award Jeffrey J. Carr (basketball) Susan G. Langenhan (swimming) Randall J. LaVigne (baseball, basketball) Dennis P. O'Connell (football)
Presentation	Outstanding Contribution Award Denis F. Mullane
Presentation	Dr. Martin L. O'Neill Award Milton Dropo, '48
Speaker	Alfred M. (Billy) Martin

The UConn Club

The UConn Club, originally founded in 1953 for the purpose of supporting the University of Connecticut athletic program within the framework of the school's policy, recently offered to join the new UConn Athletic Development Fund.

The UConn Athletic Development Fund was designed to provide student aid, improve facilities and advance the overall development of the entire athletic program — all long-standing goals of the UConn Club. UConn Club membership is open to alumni and non-alumni.

In Memoriam

Nine years ago, Martin J. Gilman received the cherished Red O'Neill Award. A pioneer in the development of training equipment and dedicated to athletics, he succumbed last February in Norwich. He was an outstanding football player and 1929 graduate of Connecticut.

Two months later, we were again saddened by the untimely death of Barbara (Bennett) Herosian in Minot, N.D. as a result of an auto accident. She was a UConn alumna and wife of Brian Herosian, a line-backer for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers of the Canadian Football League and recipient of the 1973 Outstanding Senior Athlete Award. He suffered severe injuries in the accident. Memorial contributions may be made to the Barbara Jayne Herosian Memorial Fund, 234 Kingston Row, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

ALFRED M. (BILLY) MARTIN

He rode out of the golden West a year past '49 and linked up with his old trail boss Casey in a big pasture just north of an island some Injuns peddled for 24 dollars.

His six guns have been blazing ever since, whether it be on other turf in other towns or in the corral of the Bronx Busters. And someone with a metal quill labeled Alfred Manuel Martin, "Billy The Kid."

Billy traded California chaps for pin-stripe duds and showed he belonged with the Bronx Busters. Over five of his next six years, and one away with the Union Army, Billy and the Yankee gunslingers shot up rival gangs.

They captured five little pennants and five times raised the most prized flag in all the land over their pasture, bringing smiles to the riders in the sky — Babe and Iron Horse.

His sack was the second one in the corral and it was damnation for an intruder. He hit 12 bullseyes back in '53, some kind of record in six shootouts against a gang from across the East River in a battle for that big flag.

But a scrap in a saloon forced him to a Kansas City ranch and other points west. Even the old trail boss' Stengelese couldn't bring The Kid back.

Like old Casey, The Kid became a trail boss too. He made a couple of good heists in Minnesota and Detroit and did well in Texas territory.

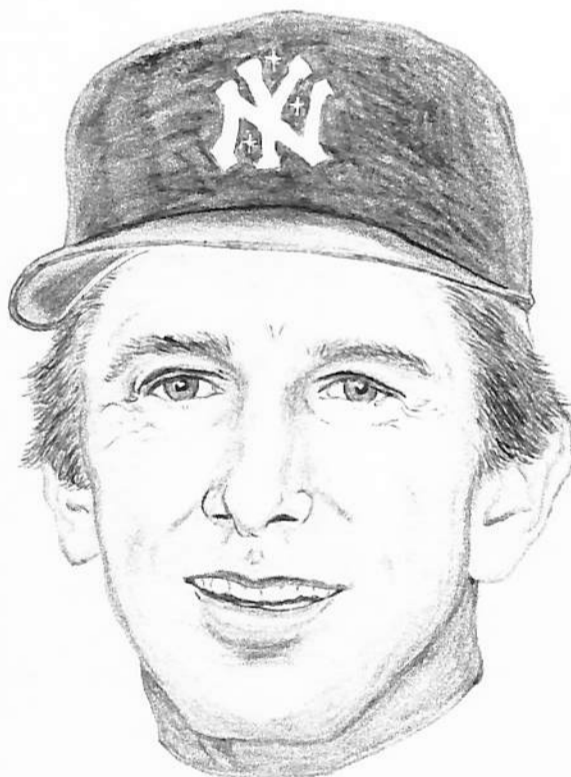
Three years ago, when the old Bronx Busters gathered together, The Kid was named to lead a new, rough breed at the familiar corral where pennants and flags hadn't flown a long spell.

They promptly took two pennants and a big flag but the behavior of one of the rowdy hands brought about The Kid's second banishment from the Bronx Busters pasture.

Less than a week later, aging Bronx Busters gathered once more. Joe D, the Mick, all the old faces along with The Kid, and thousands of home folk turned out.

A great general once created high drama by living up to his promise that he would return to his point of withdrawal. Well, when it was told amidst thunderous tumult that Billy The Kid would again lead the Bronx Busters, it rivaled the general's emotional deed.

There was joy at the old corral and beyond the clouds, the Babe and Iron Horse chuckled.



Past Recipients — O'Neill Award

Elmer S. Watson '29	John S. Seremet '36
Gen. John H. Hildring '18	R. Daniel Chubbuck '31
J. Ray Ryan '30	Harold G. Helmboldt '37
Willard C. Eddy '36	Howard E. Mohr '42
Joseph B. Burns '36	Laverne E. Williams '40
Wallace S. Moreland '26	Augustus J. Brundage '10
Dr. James W. Moore '31	William L. McCombe '31
Joseph R. McCormick '34	Herbert R. French '33
Reuben B. Johnson '36	Martin J. Gilman '29
Brig. Gen. Philip H. Greasley '36	Charles F. Horvath '41
Dr. Amedeo Bondi, Jr. '35	Michael J. Cimino '40
Cornelius E. Donahue '34	Maj. Gen. Samuel Jaskilka, '42
Edward J. Shages '36	William K. Schofield, '27
L. Richard Belden '27	Vincent S. Yokabaskas, '52
Walter O. Dropo, '48	William E. Makofski, '26
Dr. A. Gale Borden '35	Nathan Lipman, '35
Carl Wissinger '33	Thaddeus R. Sobleski, '51
Edward R. Kuehn '40	Rocco A. Murano, '53

Past Recipients

Outstanding Senior Athlete

Philip Tinsley—football	J. Steven Flanagan—track
Arthur Quimby—basketball	Richard A. Robustelli—football
Buddy Amendola—football	Vincent A. Clements—football
Ronnie Bushwell—basketball	Robert J. Stack—basketball
Lewis Stieglitz—track	Robert B. Boyd—basketball
Robert Osborne—basketball	Brian B. Herosian—football, baseball
Louis Mooradian—football	Ronald A. Evans—track
Steve Pinney—swimming	James V. Foster—basketball
Lenny King—football	Eric G. Torkelson—football
Myron Kraslj—soccer	Andy F. Bessette—track
Dominic Perno—basketball	Frantz Innocent—soccer
Louis Aceto—football	Timothy R. Hunter—soccer
Thomas Kimball—basketball	Donald A. Thompson—football
Alfred H. Paliwoda—track	John L. Thomas—basketball
Daniel Hesford—basketball	Albert E. Weston—basketball
Robert Schaefer—baseball	Anthony C. Hanson—basketball
Wesley J. Bialosuknia—basketball	Thomas D. Germano—baseball
Thomas W. Lawton—baseball	R. Paul Hunter—soccer
Andrew G. Yuen—track	Joseph A. Whelton—basketball
George E. Greer—baseball	Patrick M. Augeri—track
Daniel J. Sullivan—swimming	Thomas M. Nevers—soccer
Stanley C. Rajczewski—football	

Past Recipients

Outstanding Contribution Award

Andrew McMillan	Reuben B. Johnson
Roy J. Guyer	Harold G. Hewitt
Dr. A. N. Jorgensen	E. George Van Bibber
Hugh S. Greer	D. Robert Ingalls
J. Orleans Christian	George Ehrlich
E. O. Smith	Gov. John N. Dempsey
Victor Borge	Don V. Ruck
Sumner A. Dole	Edward V. Gant
Laurence J. Ackerman	Dr. Robert O. Harvey
Lester E. Shippee	Andrew J. Baylock
Lawrence R. Panciera	Donald E. Rowe
Nathan L. Whetten	Joseph J. Morrone
Albert E. Waugh	Dr. A. John Pappanikou
Morgan P. Ames	



O'Neill Award

Milton Dropo
Class of '48

Dropo! A name that graced athletic lineups at Storrs when they were Aggies and, later, Huskies. And a name often associated with the promotion of scholastic athletics and UConn sports.

The oldest of three brothers is the one we honor tonight with the O'Neill Award, the second son of Yugoslavian immigrants to be accorded the honor. Brother Walt also received the O'Neill plaque in 1972. Brother George is in the wings.

Milt Dropo was one of those four-letter athletes, captain of baseball and football teams, and president of the senior class at Plainfield High near his neighboring native Moosup.

He entered Connecticut in 1940, but departed the playing fields at Storrs to serve on the battlefields of Europe as an infantry platoon leader with General George Patton's Third Army.

Milt returned to Storrs in 1946, earning his degree two years later. He was a fine performer in baseball, basketball and football and captained the diamond squad.

Milt left UConn with a big bang, joining a fireworks venture. Now president of three importers of pyrotechnics, he's a frequent visitor to Red China in the course of his business.

The Red O'Neill Story

The development of an award in Red O'Neill's memory did not occur accidentally. For two years a UConn Club award committee researched various possibilities. Despite the many alumni considered all signs pointed to the Redhead as the man who combined the highest attributes of character, leadership, athletic ability and, later, a successful career.

The O'Neill Award is given annually to UConn men who have gone from the athletic fields to distinguish themselves in their chosen careers.

As an outstanding athlete, Red had to overcome the severe handicap of a silver plate in his right arm, the result of a World War I wound. In 1924 he was the captain and fullback of the only unbeaten football team in UConn history.

As a student he was brilliant, getting top honors. After graduation in 1925, he went to the Yale Medical School. As a surgeon he was well known. In his later years, he was known for his work in obstetrics. He gave 23 years of his life to medicine before passing away in 1955.

Outstanding Contribution Award

Denis F. Mullane



Denis Mullane's playing time ran short of a letter because of the abundance of talent on the 1949 Army football team that won the national championship.

From the Chaminade High gridiron on Long Island to Lehigh's Lamber Cup club as a freshman and to the plains above the Hudson, Denis Mullane wanted to be and was a participant in athletics.

Following graduation from the U.S. Military Academy in 1952, he served four years of Army duty in Germany. A Gothamite by birth, he joined Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company's Garden City, Long Island office in 1956 and steadily advanced to the company presidency in Hartford 20 years later.

His affiliations, directorships, experiences and interests in youth activities are as varied as they are many, but one of his accomplishments has contributed greatly to UConn athletics. Connecticut Mutual sponsors the annual Husky hoop classic.

Denis Mullane missed a letter at Army but he's won one at UConn!



Outstanding Senior Athlete Award

Jeffrey J. Carr

"Mad Dog" was turned loose and his aggressive, explosive play down the stretch was a major contribution to UConn's 21-8 ECAC championship season—the first 20-win Husky season in 14 years.

The nickname doesn't fit Jeff Carr off court where his mild manner contradicts his bold basketball game.

Jeff scored 296 points and hauled in 221 rebounds, and wound up his career at Connecticut with 987 points. A sociology major, the 6-foot-8 tri-captain was named to the ECAC All-Tournament squad.

Trying a hand at football, soccer and basketball at Hartford Bulkeley High, Jeff transferred to Robinson School in West Hartford where he paced the basketball team to a pair of New England championships.

His knowledgeable efforts and dedication inspired a young but successful Husky hoop quintet. And the big fellow's play under the boards will be missed.

Outstanding Senior Athlete Award

Susan G. Langenhan



Move over guys! We've got our first woman aboard. A comely lass with as sleek a stroke you'll ever see wafting the waves and with eyes to match the water of Brundage Pool.

Firsts are nothing new to Sue Langenhan. The Stamford native, an insurance major, captained the Husky women's swim team two or her four varsity years. She was leading scorer three years, tallying more than 200 points in each of her last two seasons.

Sue holds six and shares three other university records, and is record-holder of four New England events. She also registered in the Eastern (EAIWA) ledger with a time of 27.67 in the 50-yard backstroke events.

She was the winner of the first Kay Fromer Award for most varsity points scored, holds the annual Alumni Student Athlete and Max Kotkin awards, and was named All-American (AIAW) in the backstroke event.

Whew! Welcome aboard, Sue. You've just set another record.

Outstanding Senior Athlete Award

Randall J. LaVigne



It was a happening at the Providence Civic Center that would be a most memorable one to UConn basketball followers. Randy LaVigne atop shoulders of teammates, snipping the net after UConn whipped Rhode Island in the ECAC finale.

And from an 11-15 season in which he was hobbled by injury, Randy scored 311 points over his final campaign and finished his roundball career at Storrs with 751 points. He also topped the squad in assists, steals and foul shooting.

The tri-captain made the ECAC Tournament team and was named to the All-New England second squad. An accounting major and Dean's List student, Randy was an All-State basketball selection at Hartford South Catholic where he also won honors in baseball.

Currently wielding a torrid bat and sparking the Huskies to another successful baseball season, Randy was named Most Valuable Player in the Greater Hartford Twilight League two years ago and last year won the Cape Cod loop batting title.

Outstanding Senior Athlete Award

Dennis P. O'Connell



Hard-nosed would be apropos in describing a linebacker named Dennis Patrick O'Connell. And that he is!

The young man from Derby town was an encumbrance to those who trod the Husky secondary as evidenced by his 80 solo tackles, 34 assists on others, and three fumble recoveries of a 4-7 UConn football season. Additionally, he picked off five enemy passes.

Dennis was named to the weekly ECAC Honorable Mention list following eye-catching performances against Yale and Holy Cross. He also earned All-New England Honorable Mention for his feats during the past season.

A three-year varsity starter at UConn, Dennis lettered in three sports at Derby High where he captained football and baseball teams, was an All-State and All-League grid selection, and All-Valley baseball performer.

He majors in recreation.

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Alumni Association

May 4, 1979



Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to extend the Alumni Association's heartiest congratulations on the UConn Club's "new look." Your close co-operation with former head basketball coach Dee Rowe and the Athletic Development Fund is indicative of the important strides being made in support of UConn intercollegiate athletics. In the 26th year of the UConn Club's existence, the support rendered to the Connecticut Athletic program by alumni and friends is a milestone of some significance, and continues the many years of dedication and service to Husky athletics.

Excellent athletes are not unusual in the history of UConn. Neither are great fans and active supporters in the Husky athletic program. We are proud to honor some of them tonight. Congratulations to the Red O'Neill Award recipient, Milton Dropo; Outstanding Contribution Award winner, Denis Mullane; and, Outstanding Senior Athletes, Jeffrey Carr, Randall Lavigne, Sue Langenhan and Dennis O'Connell. Their achievements will always be part of UConn's finest tradition, and they'll not be forgotten. We thank them for their outstanding contributions to The University of Connecticut and its athletic program.

The Association is pleased to join you tonight in the recognition of two long-time supporters of the UConn athletic program. They are the recipients of the Association's Albert N. Jorgensen Alumni Athletic Award. The award is made from time to time to an alumnus of the University, or a non-alumnus, who has made an outstanding contribution to the improvement of the inter-collegiate sports program at The University of Connecticut.

Nathan Lipman, an attorney, Class of 1935, was the UConn Club's 1976 recipient of the Red O'Neill Award. He is a member of the UConn Club's Board of Directors and his vital support of the University's athletic program for the last 40 years is well-known.

The efforts of George Van Bibber are equally known to UConn Club members. Retired from the University, the former coach, professor, and Athletic Director, continues to display his strong allegiance and support of UConn athletics to this day.

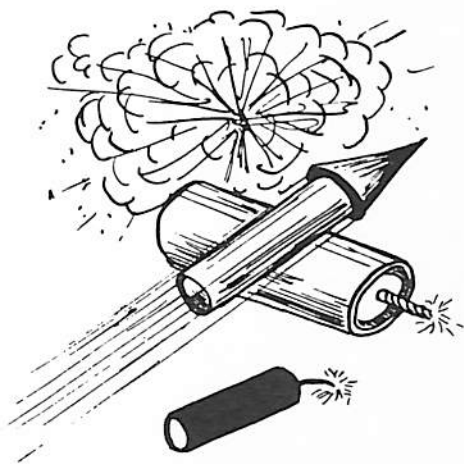
On behalf of the 75,000 University of Connecticut graduates, may I extend our best wishes for continued success in the UConn Club's Margin for Excellence in athletics.

Sincerely,

Betty

Elizabeth A. Bradlau
Alumni President

EAB:md1



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Walter Dropo — Vice President, 1947

George Dropo — Secretary-Treasurer, 1955