New London Elects New Mayor

FRED MCNULTY
WEB CONTENT EDITOR

On Nov. 3, 2015, Democrat Michael Passero was elected to be the next Mayor of the City of New London. This comes nearly two months after the Democratic primary in September, when he defeated the incumbent mayor, Daryl Finizio. Both Finizio and Passero spoke separately with The College Voice.

In early 2014, Finizio initially announced that he was not going to seek reelection as mayor. However, on the day after Election Day 2014, he announced his plans to run for a second term as mayor.

He cited the city’s economic condition as a primary, but not sole, factor that changed his mind. “We had some amazing opportunities before us,” said Finizio, singling out the conversion to an all-magnet school district and the transfer of land for the Coast Guard Museum.” He did not want the progress on these initiatives to falter in the absence of strong leadership.

Finizio was unapologetic in his decision to run for re-election: “If I wanted to keep my commitment to see these projects completed and to keep this progress going, I needed to run for reelection if no other progressive candidate chose to do so, and so I jumped back in.”

On the other hand, Passero noted that he was initially excited to work with Finizio at the beginning of Finizio’s tenure as mayor, but that his enthusiasm quickly evaporated. “The city was not flourishing under his management,” Passero told the Voice: “…departments, especially public works became dysfunctional real quick.” He went on to criticize Finizio for firing longtime employees in what Passero deemed a “political witch-hunt.” He characterized the beginning of Finizio’s administration as a “change of government like in a ‘third world country’.”

Finizio, as one might expect, saw his legacy in a vastly different light. He mentioned balancing the budget, bringing forth the first all-magnet school system in the state, and securing the erection of the Coast Guard Museum as a few of his accomplishments.

Earlier this year, Passero challenged Finizio in the primary for the Democratic Party, which occurred on Sept. 16. Passero described his campaign as a “well-oiled machine,” noting that he could not think of anything he would do differently. Passero said that he was proud of exceeding his fundraising goal by nearly two-hundred percent.

On the night of the primary, Finizio lost all three of New London’s voting districts to Passero, including those tallied from absentee ballots.

Subsequently, Finizio endorsed Passero. He still defends doing so: “While [Passero] is more conservative than I am and we haven’t always agreed over the past four years, at the end of the day he supports the magnet [school] plan, he did vote for the Coast Guard Museum land management, he voted for two budgets, which included a significant tax increase.”

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The state of journalism in the United States in general—not just on college campuses—is in crisis. Clickbait headlines from websites such as Upworthy and Buzzfeed incentivize writers to cater to buzz words and clichés instead of quality writing. In a stunning failure to keep up with the Internet, major publications and news networks are now trying to figure how to adapt to the future. Fearing the accusation of “liberal bias,” many approach the most important issues of the day with a “both sides are equally bad,” false equivalency that fails to answer questions.

As important as these problems are, one issue especially concerns me given my experience with social media: isolation. Older Americans—before my time, of course—remember when people had only a choice of a handful of television and radio networks, and a handful of newspaper options. There was no Internet. For better or for worse, people had to read, listen and watch all the news—even what they disagreed with.

Today, people can shield themselves from truths they don’t want to hear. If you are on the right-wing, you can join Facebook groups that reinforce the disproven beliefs that climate change is a hoax, more guns lead to less crime, or that President Obama is a Muslim. If you are a liberal, you can hide anyone from your newsfeed who dares to tell you that genetically-modified organisms (GMOs) have never been proven unsafe. In ways, it’s too easy.

I assumed the position of Web Content Editor for The College Voice in January 2012. Since then, I’ve done social media management, graphic design work and online polling for the paper. In my personal life, I consider myself a bit of a “techie,” rarely to be found without my iPhone in hand—even when I sleep. I fully embrace technology and I think that society cannot look back. This isn’t a problem with technology. The onus lies on society. And that’s where The College Voice comes in.

There has not been a semester I have spent here where I have not been involved with The College Voice. The newspaper has gone through significant changes since I moved to campus in August 2011. We switched to a biweekly schedule, improving the quality and quantity of the published work. Our presence online has become more accessible, efficient and timely. I’ve seen five sets of EICs work their magic each year.

After December 22, I will leave The College Voice, as I will be graduating from Connecticut College. It has been an honor to serve on the Editorial Board for so long. It is my hope that this publication will continue to force people to confront different points of view to the student body—even unpopular ones.

-Fred
Letters from Paris: Students’ Stories of Terrorism

JOHN SARGENT
CONTRIBUTOR ABRROAD

Editors Note: John Sargent, a junior studying abroad in France during the Fall 2015 semester.

The clock on my phone read 4:34 A.M. as I laid down on the stiff wooden floor and balled up both towels that served as my night’s bedding. Outside, the sirens contin-
tinued to blare, and my mind was forced to consider the unimaginable as I faded into the fitful night-sleep that always seems to come after deep fear or deep confusion. The evening had begun as simply as any other; we were headed over to another friend’s apartment in the 7th arrondissement for drinks before lighting out on the metro for a night of exploring and laughter. Like I said, simple.

So, when the news came that someone had been shot right by our destination, we thought nothing of it. Tragic? Yes. Alarm-
ing? Not really. Paris was a city just like New York or Chicago, a place susceptible to random, albeit upwards, acts of vio-

The attack was profoundly jarring for the French people, and there was no right to freedoms of expression for the victims of this terrifying attack. Dozens dead in mass shooting, my friends and I decided as a collective that it was finally safe to go back to our apartment. The night had been long and uncomfortable, but we were just glad that it was over. We expected things to carry on as usual and the city to quickly rebound. We were wrong.

With this dark prelude was the silence. Paris on a Saturday afternoon, even in the morning, and especially in the area we were in, should be anything but quiet. We should have been met with the whine of mopeds and the chattering from corner cafes. Instead, the streets were deserted, and a weary fog had descended across the river. The only light coming through the film of clouds above us was the motiled glow of a distant sun. Even the metro, usually packed and annoyingly busy on such a morning, was devoid of people.

It was at this moment and during the following days that the true weight of what had happened really began to sink in. At first, after watching the news, I felt sad and a bit frightened; yet, in the end, what truly touched me and my friends was the general air: Paris was in mourning.

The second anything like that happens and you aren’t around, you immediately imagine all of your friends or people you know who are potentially in a situation where they could get hurt. It’s the not knowing that is the worst. I can honestly say that, in my position, I was extremely lucky. I was physically distanced from the attacks them-

Going to see a student performance at the Conservatory at 5 p.m. that night. The music was turned back up and the fidgeting half-sleep that always seems to accompany the aftermath of conflict came back over me. The city was in mourning.

The next day, after the shock of the massacre had worn off, the city returned to normalcy. Museums were closed, along with various shops and boutiques.

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To Fundraise, Conn Students
"Take the Plunge"

MOLLIE REID
NEWS EDITOR
On Dec. 5, 2015, Connecticut College's chapter of Oceana, a student club that raises awareness about the importance of protecting the world's oceans, held its fourth annual polar plunge at Ocean Beach in New London, Connecticut. As tradition dictates, participating students ran into the chilly Atlantic Ocean while other students supported their peers from the shore. Students were encouraged to donate at least $5 to participate in the plunge. "Non-plunging" students could also donate money to the cause by supporting friends. According to a post written by CC Oceana to ConnQuest, the goals of the polar plunge were to raise money to donate to Oceana International and to fundraise for the club itself. Another objective of the polar plunge was to have different student organizations, clubs and athletic teams work together in a fun way to raise awareness about the importance of protecting the oceans.

Oceana, an ocean conservation and advocacy non-profit organization, was established in 2001 by a collection of foundations, such as the Oak Foundation and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. According to its mission statement, Oceana "seeks to make our oceans as rich, healthy, and abundant as they once were... by winning policy victories in the countries that govern much of the world's marine life." Oceana operates on a global scale and seeks to protect and restore the world's oceans through policy and educational campaigns. Since its founding, Oceana has achieved a number of successes. For instance, according to Oceana's official website, in June 2015, the organization helped to establish a ban on shark fin sales in Texas through years of campaigning.

CC Oceana executive board and club members actively promoted the polar plunge. Jesse Kannan '16, one of CC Oceana's presidents, said that club members "tried a lot of different methods to get the word out about the event. We sent out emails to sports team and clubs encouraging them to take part in the event. We also posted on Facebook and Instagram. Coffee Grounds even created a drink called the Polar Plunge to raise awareness. Our most successful way of getting students to sign up was tabling outside of Harris a few days before the event."

The promotion and outreach that Kannan describes proved to be effective. The Connecticut College women's rowing team and the Outdoors Club both participated. Both groups brought a number of eager students to the event as well.

Jessica Wright '16, CC Oceana's other president, and Kannan both feel that this year's polar plunge was especially successful. "I think each year we host this event, it gains more popularity on campus. People now know that it is a tradition and get excited about it. Jessica and I made more of an effort this year to reach out to sports teams, and other Oceana members were really great at spreading the word and encouraging their friends to join us," said Kannan.

Even though Kannan has completed several polar plunges as a CC Oceana member, she still, like many others, gets excited by running into the frigid water. "I definitely know what to expect, but it is still a shock every year. Luckily this year the weather was really warm, which made the plunge a lot easier," reflected Kannan.

Students, faculty and staff can look forward to attending future CC Oceana events for the coming semester, such as a celebration of Earth Day in April and more beach cleanups. Kannan added, "We are also hoping to do a screening of the new documentary, Racing Extinctions!"
"The Half Has Never Been Told"

DANA GALagher HEAD COPY EDITOR

On Dec. 7 in Bluestein 210, Cornell University Associate Professor of History Edward E. Baptist examined the concurrent evolution of slavery and American capitalism. The lecture, which highlighted the findings presented in Baptist’s 2014 book, The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism, diverged from the more conventional theses of many contemporary historians. Analyzing the testimonies of enslaved people and enslavers, as well as statistics on total cotton output from the Revolution to the Civil War, Baptist asserts, “enslavers created a diabolical system that is actually more clearly depicted in 12 Years a Slave than by professional historians.”

Dealers of slavery sought to differentiate their “peculiar institution” from the rapacious businesses of Northern capitalists. The agrarian hierarchy that sustained slavery, they argued, benefited enslaved people, sometimes to the economic detriment of their enslavers. The Southern planter, commissioned to save enslaved people from their innate “barbarism,” claimed to provide for “productive” and “unproductive” slaves alike.

South Carolina planter and politician James H. Hammond, for example, framed slavery as a moral undertaking. In a 1845 rebuttal to the abolitionist movement, he proclaimed, “We must...content ourselves with our dear labor under the consoling remembrance that what is lost to us is gained to humanity.” Abolitionists, inveighing against such self-serving arguments, viewed slavery as both economically inefficient and morally reprehensible.

For decades prominent historians have shared the abolitionist view on the productivity of slave labor. During his talk, Baptist noted that slavery is neither antithetical to capitalist greed nor economically inefficient. Instead, he claims, cotton accumulated through slavery served as the commodity essential to nineteenth century international trade and development. Slave owners, he observed, pioneered advancements in modern accounting and finance.

Baptist also tied the health of regional and national economies to the interstate trade of enslaved people. When Congress ended the legal importation of enslaved people from outside the United States in 1808, Maryland and Virginia emerged as key trade postings for slaves destined to labor in states bordering the Gulf of Mexico. Baptist estimates that almost one million enslaved men and women were transported to the cotton fields from the Upper South in the years before the Civil War. Harnessing such modern technologies as the steamboat, railroad, and telegraph, slave traders were able to maximize economic efficiency.

According to Baptist, the violence doled out by slave owners accounts for the rise in labor productivity on cotton plantations.

Despite limited technological innovations in cotton picking, output rose 400% between 1830 and 1860. Although some economic historians link this growth to incentives on the plantation, such as the prospect of monetary compensation for good work, Baptist repudiates these theories. He details the “pushing system” of plantation life. Each enslaved person was assigned a daily picking quota, which increased over time. To ensure that slaves steadily increased output, planters meted out modern forms of assault. Planters threatened enslaved people with beatings, sexual humiliation, bodily mutilation and waterboarding. In the cotton kingdom, Baptist contends, “white people inflicted torture far more often than in almost any human society.”

The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism chronicles not only the economics of the slave system but also Southern culture, religion and gender norms. During the question and answer component of the talk, Associate Professor of English and Africana Studies Program Director Courtney Baker, inquired whether sexual violence was employed to increase the enslaved population and thus ensure continued profit on the plantation. “Increasing the slave population may or may not have been a motive of rape,” Baptist responded. The letters of slave traders, he observed, detailed the age and physical appearance of slaves. Because the price of enslaved women “rose and declined at a certain age,” Baptist believes that fertility may have factored into slave value. Enslaved men, by contrast, were priced based upon height.

In a telling explanation on the structural legacies of slavery, Baptist linked gun violence with a culture of violence on the plantation. Southern men carried weapons both as protection against slaves and to guard themselves against possible guerrillas with firearms. To openly carry a weapon was common in the Antebellum South, and to conceal a weapon was considered cowardly.

The intersection of race and gun violence seems particularly acute in the wake of the 2015 Charleston shooting. When asked how the country could prevent future deaths by guns, former presidential candidate Rick Santorum shirked from mentioning gun control or anti-terrorism education programs, and instead noted that “true forgiveness...gave [him] more hope than anything.”

In a June 2015 op-ed for the Los Angeles Times, entitled, “Forgiveness in Charlotte isn’t abolition for 400 years of racial violence in America,” Baptist averred that forgiveness, on behalf of the victims’ family members, is not a vehicle for abolition in white America. “The family members’ statements,” he writes, “will not deliver white Americans to some misty land where they no longer have to hear about the impact of nearly 400 years of racist violence.” Instead of blinding themselves to byproducts of a slave culture, Americans must “consider whether they are complicit in our long history of white supremacy. If white Americans want reconciliation, they will have to brave the dangers of atonement.”

Prominent Writers Debate Free Speech

SARAH ROSE GRUSZECKI & MAIA HIBBET OPINION EDITORS

Connecticut College hosted writers from The Atlantic and The New Yorker on Dec. 3 for an educational and insightful conversation about the relationship between race and free speech on college campuses. Jelani Cobb of The New Yorker criticized the invocation of the First Amendment as a defense of discriminatory and deconstructive speech, while The Atlantic’s Conor Friedersdorf warned against the unintended consequences of insiting speech codes as a protective measure. The dialogue was moderated by John Danksy, the vice president of news at the Connecticut Public Broadcasting Network.

Calling the conversation a “morally urgent” issue, Friedersdorf explained that free speech has often been used to gain rights for marginalized groups, not detract from them. “The Bill of Rights and the people who defend it are my closest allies” said Friedersdorf, noting in his opening speech that what students may or may not say violate the First Amendment and are susceptible to loopholes. He remarked on failed speech codes that ultimately allowed racist students to display swastikas and voice their thoughts on white supremacy while restricting the greater populace.

Conversely, Cobb emphasized that although he is certainly a proponent of the right to free speech, it is imperative to recognize that “not all free speech is created equal.” As he describes, free speech is often utilized to re-inscribe hierarchies and marginalize communities that are already marginalized.

When examining these issues in the context of college campuses, Cobb specifically noted that incidents of racial hostility are directly connected to college retention rates and academic performance for students of color. Therefore, although it may be important to recognize the right to free speech, such a problem arises when “we find ourselves saying one thing while remaining blind to the broader implications that our words have deadly consequences.”

Amidst the journalists’ respectful debate, moments of agreement arose periodically. When Cobb described public surveillance as the most significant threat to free speech, Friedersdorf immediately agreed, referencing his Atlantic piece on Edward Snowden.

During this portion of the conversation, Cobb alluded to the specific incident in New York where NYPD officials followed show his birth certificate because “you get a Yule diploma.”

While the debate remained logical and civil, Cobb and many attendees reacted angrily to Friedersdorf’s word choice.

“That’s like saying President Obama should not feel humiliated by having to show his birth certificate because you get a Yule diploma.”

Friedersdorf elaborated that while students at Yale, for example, were justified in feeling oppressed, they would soon hold added power because “they have a Yale diploma.”

In his closing remarks, Cobb posed the question of whether bigoted speech would become acceptable “if we can eliminate pay differentials, and mass incarceration, and housing discrimination.”

Friedersdorf ended his commentary by observing that “people in different ways,” and therefore while internalized stigma might help some people reverse their bigotry, “other people less so.”

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In response to the conversation’s redirection, Friedersdorf argued, “I dissent from a letter that empowering some conceding or invalidating.”

Friedersdorf also noted that aggressive responses to minor speech infractions at
Multiple Student Government Association Members Resign, Cite Issues Within Assembly, Executive Board, Honor Council

DANA SORKIN
CO-EDITOR IN CHIEF

On Thursday, Dec. 3, just a few hours before their weekly Assembly meeting, six SGA representatives resigned from their positions. In emails obtained by The College Voice, Blackstone House Senator Wesley Chrabasz '17, KB House Senator Margaret Sturtivant '16, Knowlton House Senator Kevin Zealand '16 and Morrison House Senator Sarah Harris '18 sent in their resignations. Chair of Diversity and Equity Asma Ebadi '18 and Chair of Residential Affairs Joey Mercado '16 resigned from the Executive Board.

JA House Senator Fate Rodriguez resigned on the day of the meeting, which was scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. in Ernst in Blaustein (instead of 7:15 p.m., the usual starting time for Assembly meetings). The meeting ended around 10:30 p.m.

Chrabasz, Sturtivant, Harris, Ebdoli and Zealand did not respond to the Voice's emails for comment. The resignations occurred not long after a meeting from Vice President for Information Services and Librarian of the College Lee Morrison House Senator Sarah Harris '18 sent in her resignations.

Board. predecessors, and she doesn't feel a sense to have one per- Emanuels. They have still spirit, they have to contribute) and then brought to the SGA. The following week, they are voted on by Assembly members. Junter suggested switching this process: discuss issues first, and then create a resolution based on what was discussed.

For the House Senators to the more specific criticisms of the role of Parliamentarian Adeline Portis '16.

As Parliamentarian, Portis is tasked with enforcing Robert's Rules of Order, the order of conduct that currently guides SGA Assembly meetings. Some Assembly members felt she had too much power in Assembly meetings, and that Bigay, as Pres-ident, should be taking a stronger leadership role by being the one to introduce resolutions and structure to the Assembly conversation. Portis was not in attendance at the meeting.

Portis told the Voice that, while she realizes that much of her role should have gone to Bigay, the job was one she inherited from her predecessors, and she doesn't feel as though she is doing anything differently from past years. Portis said she has spent the 2015 fall semester "re-structuring the bylaws" and hopes to continue examining the structure of SGA.

"My job is the bad cop role," she said, explaining that it's her job to decide when the con-versation has gone on for too long and needs to be shifted. "It makes sense to have one person on the Assembly to pull people out of the heat of the moment [of discussion]."

Assembly members went on to voice frustra-tion with their Execu-tive Board as a whole.

"The floor to its members to discuss the resignations. What resulted was an exposure of major fissures within the SGA Assembly.

In light of the resignations, SGA President Sal Bigay '16 opened the discussion by remind-ing Assembly members that the Executive Board created both a physical suggestion box and a Google document to hear from Senators. "I think we can work through this and make SGA what it's supposed to be," he said.

The remarks addressed con-cerns by the greater Assembly of being poorly informed of the goings-on in the separate Exec-u-tive Board meetings. But there was no single issue that divided the SGA. The night's discussion ranged from a general critique of

There was also discontent amongst Senators who felt that SGA wasn't doing enough to support the Black Lives Matter movement on campus. Students protested in Harris and JA dining halls, Shain library, and ultimately, the SGA Assembly meeting in the week before Thanksgiving break to raise awareness of racism on campus, and on campuses around the country. The SGA Executive Board supported a Black Out day that week, encoura ging students to wear all black in support of students at Missouri and Yale.

There was an exposure of major fisses within the SGA Assembly, and SGA Vice President Juliette Verrengia '16 said in an interview that they have been committed to creating structural changes in SGA since being elected in the spring. But it was the need for more administrative support that led to the resignations. Bigay, who was in agree ment, responded that he "wants" to get more involved in writing resolutions. He said SGA should be doing more to support student activists. Members also re vealed their own shortcomings, with Park Senator Sam Lichtenstein '17 acknowledging that many of the committees that SGA assembly members staff have still not met. Lichtenstein is a member of the Campus Safety Committee, and the SGA is trying to organize their first meeting of the semester.

Bigay told the Voice that he liked the change in format of Thursday's meeting, which es chewed from Robert's Rules. He said that SGA should be doing more to create changes within SGA while simultaneously keeping SGA run ning, and that changes "take more than one semester.

Mercado, the former Chair of Resi-dential Affairs, told the Voice in an interview that, while the structure of SGA was a problem, issues within the Executive Board created a "toxic environment." He specifi cally cited a GroupMe chat (a cell phone group chat texting application) for the Executive Board members. Messages sent in this private chat included com ments on the physical appearances of senators, and other inappropriate jokes at the expense of the Assembly members, sometimes being sent while Assembly meetings were going on.

Though Bigay, Verrengia and several other members of the Executive Board were asked by some of the members of the Assembly to resign from their positions, only former Chair of Honor Council Ariana Taylor '16 has done so.

Rodriguez, former Senator of JA, spoke to the Voice on Dec. 8. She said that SGA is "not an environment that is conducive to full participation," and that many students, whether they are part of the Assembly or not, do not feel comfortable walking into SGA. She expressed the need for the structure of SGA to change, and that SGA leaders be "held accountable for their actions and statements."

Rodriguez resigned in person at the end of the meeting, as opposed to over email, and reflected on that decision by saying, "As a woman of color, I had to resign [as person] because when I was sitting in my last meeting... people were misconstruing what people resigned for, so I thought that if I resigned the same way, my message was going to be per ceived differently. Unfortunately, I had to go very hard to not fall into the stereotype of the angry woman of color which would completely undermine my reasons for leaving.

Conversation continued during the SGA Assembly's next and final meeting of the semester on Dec. 10. Weib presented a list of grievances against the Executive Board, and the Assembly spoke at length about both the messag es from the GroupMe as well as larger structural issues needing to be reformed. More calls came for the Executive Board to resign, but, at press time, only Taylor has resigned. Taylor told the Voice, "What I said was my personal opinion in a professional setting. I would like to say to students, I apologize for my lapse in professionalism; however, I still have their best interest at heart.

Zach LabRock '16, an elected member of Honor Council, also resigned. He told the Voice, "I am neither surprised nor shocked by the SGA Executive Council's behavior, but I am deeply and pro foundly disappointed that we as a student body now must confront, in a very public way, the fact that the individuals we elected to serve us have ethical standards that are just so low."
Unique Study Spaces to Consider

**On Campus**

- **Hilled House** - Located in North campus, near the Winthrop Offices and Earth House. There are study spaces on both levels, with comfy couches, games, and a television downstairs for a well-deserved study break of course!
- **Harris Azran** - Above the entrance to Harris Refectory, there are tables and carrels hid by a glass ceiling. Warm, sunny, and close to food!
- **Durn Common Rooms** - A classic. And don't worry, you're welcome in any common room on campus! Feel free to occupy the spaces that are not yours, like the United States.
- **Frie Comfortable and innovative, climb up as high as you can for amazing sights and have the squirrels provide you with complimentary chatter as soothing background noise.
- **Classrooms (with big tables)** in Fanning, Bluestein, Bill Hall, New London Hall - Grab a few friends and inhabit a room for a long study sess.
- **Coffee Grounds and Coffee Closet** - Coffee Grounds is located next to KB, and Coffee Closet is part of Harkness. Both have extended hours during finals, in addition to caffeine and snacks.
- **A Closet** - Hunker down in this dark and isolated spot. Located in your or someone else’s room. For added warmth and comfort, make sure your only light source is a candle, and perform an impromptu séance to the underworld gods if you need a quick study break.
- **3rd Floor Creo** - Dance studio lobby on the third floor has nice couches to hang and read (or nap) but all of creo has lots of tables.
- **Underground** - Guaranteed to be quiet and tranquil. Shovels can be provided by Groundskeeping. Language and Culture Center (LCC) - On the first floor of Bluestein, this welcoming spot has couches, computers, and resources in a large variety of languages. And free tea!
- **Chapel Basement Library** - A favorite quiet location on campus, there are large tables, couches and a great spot to escape from the hoards of people in Stain.
- **H紊乱 House** - Super comfortable and quiet, with lots of nooks and crannies for studying. Located right next to the bridge to the AC.
- **Blaustein** - This welcoming spot has couches, computers, and resources in a large variety of languages. And free tea!

**Off Campus**

- **Muddy Waters** - 42 Bank Street, New London. A cozy spot (hello couches) with killer sandwiches and a view of the water.
- **Washington Street Coffee House** - 13 Washington Street, New London. Great food, great vibes, and great drinks. Bonus: they have $2 tacos on Friday and Saturday nights.
- **A Parking lot** - Plop yourself down in the middle of any parking lot, in use or abandoned. The cold hard surface is certain to keep you awake as you fight off the sleepies.
- **Starbucks** (Groton, East Lyme, Waterford) - Two words: “Eggnog Latte.”
- **Panera** (Groton, Waterford). Also two words: Bread bowls.
- **Your mother’s womb** - The warmest place around. Great to crawl back up when the world all just becomes too much.
- **Groton Townhouse** (open 24 hrs) - Your usual dinner fare. If your studies have you craving waffles at 3 AM, this is the place to go.

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3**

The armed personnel that flooded the streets per order of President François Hollande made it feel as if Paris were under occupation. There was even a momentary crush put in place the night of the attacks, one of the first since 1944. What all of this produced was a sense of distress, a feeling of deep anxiety that permeated the usually jovial glow of such a fantastic city. People walked tall with their heads high, but there still lingered within their eyes a distant unease. For just a moment, despite the international and domestic support, Paris was defeated. It was a sensation that hung languid in the air.

It is strange for me to think about how much can be stirred up and thrown into chaos in such a small amount of time. I often think of wars or mass tragedy as something in capital letters, pieces of profound history that are written in the pages of textbooks and newspapers. But I forget that sometimes the most horrifying events can be set off by small scale acts of hatred. Even though I wasn’t a victim and I didn’t know anyone harmed in the attacks, I still felt assaulted, defeated, along with the Parisian citizens.

I was excited to show off my new home to my two friends visiting from Barcelona and Prague. Paris had evolved for me in those first few months to something beyond a city on a postcard or the backdrop of a movie. It had flowered into something bolder, more tangible, a place that I could touch and experience and get lost in. It was as if I was adopted by the cobbledstone streets and heavy marble facades. I felt at ease and welcomed.

So, now, when I read headlines about how what happened on the night of Nov. 13 has sparked worldwide trauma and produced volatile political conditions across Europe and the Middle East, I am saddened. I remember that even beyond the international implications that such terrorism had, at its core, it was just senseless violence against innocent people. These people who ventured out into Paris to get a drink, catch up with friends or attend a music event featuring their favorite band. To those victims and their families, the global unrest must feel insignificant in the wake of such loss.

In the end, I think what needs to be remembered beyond the faceless headlines and body counts of any global tragedy, whether it be Paris or Beirut, is that within those numbers and statistics exist names and families. We must do our best to focus on those who weren’t lucky enough to say, “I wasn’t there.”
Divestment: The Price of Clean Money

LUCA POWELL
CO-EDITOR IN CHIEF

In 1988, a group of Connecticut College students urged a motion for the college endowment portfolio. Its goal was to get the College’s money out of apartheid South Africa in order to undermine the then apartheid regime. After contentious debate that resulted in the resignation of trustee Barry Bloom, the Board resolved not to further invest in companies doing business in South Africa. I have resigned as a Trustee of Connecticut College in order to protest the adoption of this ill-considered divestment policy,” wrote Bloom in a letter to the Editor of The Day in 1988. Bloom was Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees while simultaneously President of Pfizer Central Research, which had operations in South Africa. He divested, with the aim to persuade the Board to theorem. By that token the College’s commitment to sustainability is fundamental but the movement has always been characterized by disinformation campaigns and speculative science.

Advocates for divestment insist that investing into the ethically sketchy fossil fuel industry is hypocritical in academia, a socially irresponsible and, ultimately, to aligning itself with industry giants like Exxon, who have called it “out of step with reality.”

Because of the way Connecticut College exports the management of its relatively small endowment, explained Vice President of Finance Paul Maroni in a 2014 interview with The Voice, it would be difficult to divest. Maroni suggested that the College’s obligations to sustainability are in the hands of the Office of Sustainability.

“It makes no sense to green the campus without also greening the portfolio,” said Bill McKibben, an environmental activist and Professor at Middlebury College, when the divestment debate persists. Meanwhile, at Bates, Amherst and Bowdoin, the movement has been blocked by administrators.

It is clear that the economic impact of our College’s divestment on the industry would be marginal. The significance of such a motion would largely be political to the College. Divestment would be a demonstration of the College’s commitment to sustainability, to actual shared governance on administrative matters, and, ultimately, to aligning itself as an intellectual institution fundamentally opposed to the fossil fuel industry, which has been long characterized by disinformation campaigns and speculative science.

Divestment: The Price of Clean Money

[VOLUME 18, NO. 21

Fanning Takeover Forces Action

By Fernando Evangelista-Arrieta

Writer & Publisher

Assistant News Editor

The Fanning Hall, Todd Hall, Agora Hall, Appleton Hall, Tupper Hall and

The Voice’s student divestment campaign,

the students of the College.

and, ultimately, to aligning itself with industry giants like

President Clayton Spencer in an open letter to the students. From a

President Stavins, Director of Harvard’s environmental economics program, said that Harvard was not to divest. Harvard President Drew Faust responded to the professors that the endowment is not political and should not be used as such. Among schools with more comparable endowments to Conn — where the economic impact of divestment would be largely symbolic — the administrators echoed Harvard. In the NESCAC, Bates soundly refuted a drawn student divestment campaign, enumerating a host of reasons as to why divestment is fundamentally flawed.

The transition would result in significant transaction costs, a long-term decrease in the endowment’s performance, an increase in the endowment’s risk profile and thus a loss in annual operating income for the College,” said President Clayton Spencer in an open letter to the students. From a
W. G. Sebald’s The Emigrants

MITCH PARO
ARTS EDITOR

W. G. Sebald (1944-2001) was a German writer, academic and emigrant. Though his written language was German, he taught only in England and held positions at both the University of Manchester and the University of East Anglia. He wrote four novels (and supervised their translation into English), as well as a number of poems, essays and short stories.

Though Sebald’s career was relatively short, spanning only 11 years before his early death in a car accident in 2001, his work earned and continues to earn substantial acclaim in both Europe and America.

The central themes of his writing are memory; the loss of memory and its recovery; the decay of civilization, nature and mankind; and the loss of home and homeland, as well as the obliteration of the home and homeland. These themes are present in his novel The Emigrants.

Sebald has been described as a writer of the “new literary photography,” a term that he is often credited with coining. He uses photography as a metaphor for memory and the attempt to capture and preserve it. In The Emigrants, Sebald uses photographs extensively, and the novel is structured around the photographs that are found in the text, which are more often cryptic than revealing.

The Emigrants bears each of these earmarks of Sebald’s style. The novel is structured in four sections, each longer than the one before it and each dealing with the history, life and death of an emigrant. Each of these men carries, in an indelible way, the negative space of his character, an emptiness caused by the loss of homeland. Three of the men are German, and one is Lithuanian. Each is connected personally with the narrator – two housemates, a former teacher and a great uncle.

The narrator remains nameless but has undeniable biographical similarities to the author. For example, the first sentence of the novel reads: “At the end of September 1970, shortly before I took up my position in Manchester, I drove out to Hingham with my brother in search of somewhere to live.” Sebald started at Norwich in 1966, and his wife’s name was Ute.

The man that he meets at the house he finds in Hingham, the novel’s first emigrant, Dr. Henry Selwyn, is pictured only a few pages later in his butterfly garb. He bears, as the narrator points out, a curious resemblance to the author Vladimir Nabokov, who was himself an emigrant from Bolshevik Russia as well as a passionate lepidopterist. Still more cryptically, the presence of the figure or spectator of this “butterfly man” is one of the few commonalities of these four disparate stories. One’s inclination, in any case, is to take this photograph as a representation of Dr. Selwyn himself, a man whose name one might have found in the phonebook.

These are only two examples in the novel where the line between a real person and an invented character is deliberately blurred. But one is not compelled to begin a Wikipedia hunt for personal details, but compelled, rather, into the curious intimacy of Sebald’s stories.

In the course of each story, moreover, the narrator and the question of the narrator fall away, replaced by the much more compelling question of the story’s main character. In The Emigrants, as in Sebald’s other novels, the story is told primarily through reported speech, through stories told by characters in the story (the characters of which often tell stories in turn), through books, newspapers, journals and photographs. The two longest stories each end with the narrator making a journey to a central location of the preceding narrative. He carries with him the weight of this story (complete in his mind as it can never be for the person who lived it), and brings it himself to an end.

Back in Manchester, returning to his hotel room after visiting the dying Ferber, he begins to enter into the missing memories of we’re not sure who the view from his fifth-story window and the sounds rising from the city below begin to seem to him, and then become indistinguishable from photographs he had seen the previous year, in Frankfurt, Germany, of the Litzmannstadt ghetto.

Returning to Walden

LUCY WEAVER
CONTRIBUTOR

As our winter break draws near, many of us are probably thinking about the ample free time to finally read for pleasure. The question of what books to read will undoubtedly come up, and for that I have a solution. Take a few days to return to one of those Great American Classics and think critically as you follow Henry David Thoreau on his two-year excursion to Walden Pond near Concord, Massachusetts.

If you had to read Walden for an idealism or nature course in high school, now is a good opportunity to reread without the burden of reverence that often comes with Thoreau. Instead, read with an air of cynicism, for while Walden has some great philosophical ideas about humans and the environment and government, Thoreau was a satirist at heart. Allow yourself to be amused at his overall belief in his own superiority.

His observations range from bragging about how much money he saved building his cabin by hand to stating that Concord, home to not only himself but also to Emerson, the Alcotts, Hawthorne and more, had “no taste for the best or for very good books.” This declaration could ruffle the feathers of those not familiar with Thoreau’s tendency toward bluntness.

Regarding trashy books, in fact, Thoreau goes so far as to say that they cause “a dulness of sight, a stagnation of the vital circulations, and a general deliquem and slopping off of all the intellectual faculties.” Conversely, he says that “the works of great poets have never yet been read by mankind, for only great poets can read them.” Between his feelings about trashy books and great poetry, one wonders what Thoreau actually did like to read. You’ll find gems like this in and around his philosophy.

So, Connecticut College students, I recommend leaving behind your “lives of quiet desperation” this winter break and rereading Thoreau’s masterpiece at Walden Pond. His “enemies are worms, cool days, and most of all woodchucks” — whose aren’t? You may not find his philosophy common with him than you thought you did.

Aim high.

The dual-emphasis Ph.D. in Economics
Developing research economists and college teachers

90% of graduates placed in tenure-track positions

Jennifer Trudell, Ph.D 2014
Assistant Professor of Economics,
Sacred Heart University.

University of New Hampshire
Peter T. Paul College of Business and Economics

Paul College of Business and Economics
New Hampshire 603.862.1367

THE COLLEGE VOICE DECEMBER 14, 2015
ARTS 9

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Students and Faculty Come Together to Conclude Russian Winter Arts Festival

ISABELLE SMITH STAFF WRITER

The chapel vibrating as sound bounced out of the piano was a magical experience. On Thursday, Dec. 3 and Friday, Dec. 4 the Russian Winter Arts and Music Festival continued from earlier in the semester. The first night featured student performances, showcasing Will Platt ’19, Justin Winokur ’18, Mitch Paro ’16, Andrew Shaw ’16, Claire Raizen ’18 and faculty accompaniment by Tony Lin and Christine Coyle. This was a particularly fun performance because of the variety of instruments and styles featured.

Plant and Lin, playing violin and piano, respectively, opened up the evening. The piece, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky’s “Valse sentimentale,” from the end of the 19th century, had a slow dance rhythm. It compelled the audience to sway along.

Next, Winokur and Paro performed a tenor-piano duet. As a listener, it was harder to pick up the tune in this piece because of the piece’s complexity. Both musicians seemed to be following their own beat, but there would be moments of perfect alignment. Together, both piano and tenor would shorten and sharpen their sounds or elongate them. This was really fun to listen to because the chaotic nature of the piece had moments of complete fluidity.

The next instrument encountered was the clarinet, played by Shaw and accompanied by Lin on the piano. The music, Rimsky-Korsakov’s “Flight of the Bumblebee,” was very appropriately named. This piece had a dizzying effect. As the clarinet song spiraled downward, the piano accompaniment seemed to spin upward.

Following Shaw, Winokur played his second piece of the evening on the cel-lo. This piece has a romantic way to it, encouraging the audience to picture a ball room in a tsar’s palace full of synchronized dance moves.

Next was Raizen’s short, fast cello piece.

The surprising change in tempo made it all the more enjoyable.

And for the finale of this performance, Lin played two pieces. Sergei Rachma-ninoff’s “Etude-tableau in D major, Op. 39, No. 9” and Sergei Prokofiev’s “Etude in D minor, Op. 2, No. 1.” Lin played in an engaging style; he changed his position on the bench depending on the tone of the notes. When he played high notes, he seemed to be sitting on nails, but when performing low notes, he pounded on the keys. Both pieces were fast and dramatic.

The music, of compete fluidity. “Flight of the Bumblebee,” was very appropriately named. This piece had a dizzying room in a tsar’s palace full of synchronized pieces because of the piece’s com-petition had moved on to the next picture. One of the really cool things about the names of the pictures being represented was that they displayed elements of Russian culture. “The Premenade,” “The Market Place at Ligmoges” and “The Great Gate of Kiev” displayed the city life of a Russian town through the loud, exclamation, hustle-bustle music. Meanwhile, “Cattle,” and “The Ballet of Unhatched Chicks” provided an image of country life, with low steady overtones; and burns of high notes, respectively. The pieces about “The Gnome,” and “The Hut of Fowl Legs (Baba-Yaga)” referred to Russian folklore—particularly Baba-Yaga. She is supposedly a witch who lives in the woods in a tree house. But instead of a tree, the house is made of chicken legs. The music based around this piece was suspenseful, fast then slow, and seemed to be saying, “uh oh, uh ugh.” All the pieces combined produced a beautiful work of art.

Lin played this composition masterfully. It was a very impressive display. When the final notes of “The Great Gates of Kiev” rang through the chapel, the audience stood and cheered for one of the primary organizers and performers of the Russian Arts and Music Festival.*

The Russian Arts and Music Festival continued all of the next day, too. In the afternoon, there were presentations on Russian masterpieces of art by students from Slavic Studies 165. From Russia with Love. Molly Brunson, a professor of Slavic languages and literature at Yale University, responded and expanded upon each of the students’ comments, continuing the discussion about Russian visual artworks.

Later that evening, Olga Nikolaeva read sections from Boris Godunov, while the audience followed along in translation. Emily Frey Gianisircana’s lecture, “Boris Godunov and the Terrorsil,” followed. These presentations were an interesting addition to the festival, adding an academic component. The only issue for the non-experienced ear is that the Russian language is difficult to decipher, so listening to the plots and characters became confusing very quickly. Fortunately, most of the members seemed to have some experience with the Russian language. Even some members from the Russian New London community on piano produced quite a sound. One would play louder with more emphasis, and the other would play quieter background music. Then they would switch. They were a dynamic duo.

The final piece of the night, Modest Mussorgsky’s Pictures at an Exhibition, played by Lin, was by far the most magnificent. The piece took about 20 minutes to play through. The titles of each of the pictures were listed in the program, and as the tone changed, it was obvious that the composition had moved on to the next picture.

Rimsky-Korsakov’s Pictures at an Exhibition, for the later lecture. Students get to observe their plots and characters became confusing very quickly. Fortunately, most of the members seemed to have some experience with the Russian language. Even some members from the Russian New London community on piano produced quite a sound. One would play louder with more emphasis, and the other would play quieter background music. Then they would switch. They were a dynamic duo.

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Poetry Corner

"Aubade"
They say one day
The sun will swell,
Encapsulate the earth.
And this brings fear
To have so near
Such molten, stellar girl.

The grass will bake,
The trees will fry,
The air will cook you fast.

A microwave
Of date and glade,
No building built to last.

But these mornings one looks coldly
On glowing sun in morning haze;
Our lives in hug of heat and light.

Roots of cars,
Consumers, coffee drinkers,
Hold it as their given right:

A finger given to an infant,
Thoughtless, hungry, and dependent.
We love its hug of heat and light.

-DA

Editor’s Note: This poem, by Emma Horst-Marrz ’18 and Grace Shearman ’18, is brought to you by the Women’s Empowerment Initiative, an organization dedicated to bringing women’s voices to the stage and page.

"Boobie Pride"

In the West it’s all about the best breast
we push up and pad, we chicken cutlet ourselves mad.
but now the hipsters help the small chested sisters,
making fads saying small boobs are rad
then what happens when my itty bitty ditties aren’t considered so pretty?

it’s nice to not worry about luggin big jugs,
but we’re told that those jugs are like drugs to the guys we want to love
middle school was rough for the girls who had chest stuff
and the girls who were ashamed because one staff wasn’t up to stuff
three nipples, two nipples, or even none at all

The WE Initiative
is proud to present:
Coming from the Beast

Our annual narrative-based production,
written entirely by women on campus
February 20th

Auditions will be held January 30th
Email empowerinitiativecc@gmail.com for info
Of Guardian Angels, Watergate, Slave Ships and a Triple-Dog-Dare

Individual actions, often appearing insignificant, do matter.

STEPHEN HALLOQUIST 
STAFF MEMBER CONTRIBUTOR

Before Buddy the Elf found his true identity and discovered the joys of eating spaghetti with maple syrup, or before Ralphie convinced his father that a perfect Christmas gift was a bronze half-scale model air rifle, it was _It's A Wonderful Life_, directed by Frank Capra and starring James Stewart and Donna Reed, that was an enduring essential for getting into the spirit of the holidays. While my family enjoys watching _Elf_ and _Christmas Story_ every year around Christmas time, _It's A Wonderful Life_ is a movie that speaks to us all year long. The story is about a guardian angel named Clarence, hardly one of the heavyweights like Gabriel, Raphael or Michael, but one of those apprentice angels trying to earn his wings. In order to be a full-fledged angel, Clarence is charged with the task of convincing a kind-hearted yet suicidal small-town businessman what life might have been like if he hadn't existed at all. The lesson is revealed as Clarence directs his charge, George Bailey, to be a spectator of the lives of others who would never have known him. With one Christmas Eve night, Clarence proves that without George, the lives of so many would have been a disaster. The message realized by George is unambiguous, poignant and vital. You matter.

The movie's lesson is not just one for holiday consideration, but one that can be witnessed in so many lives in a number of circumstances. In my own life, I've witnessed it directly and in few degrees of separation. In those experiences, it became obvious to recognize the impact a single person's contribution could make to the big story. Individual actions, often appearing insignificant, do matter.

That point was driven home for me in the summer of 1973, when I witnessed three sessions of one of the most infamous episodes of modern times: the Watergate hearings. I was living in nearby Arlington, Virginia at the time, and I couldn't imagine being close enough to something as significant in American political culture to see it live. These hearings, along with impeachment proceedings being conducted in Congress, ultimately would lend to the resignation of a sitting president, Richard M. Nixon.

It's a pretty good bet that, on the night of June 17, 1972, President Richard Nixon did not know Frank Wills. At the time, Wills was a 24-year-old, 5'8"-tall security guard who was faithfully doing his job at the massive Watergate complex situated along the Potomac River in Washington, DC. It's also a pretty good bet that Frank Wills started the night with no clue that he was about to change Nixon's life, as well as the course of American history. While Wills was conducting his rounds, a fairly boring routine, he discovered a break-in of the offices of the Democratic National Committee. He alerted the local police, who, upon their arrival, discovered five men associated with the Republican National Committee and the Committee to Re-Elect the President (Nixon). They were arrested, and the rest is history.

Although it is true that many individuals had a part in the ultimate outcome of the Watergate affair, it's not difficult to see the impact of one solitary individual on the whole story. Frank Wills had no intention of starting a series of events that ended as it did. He was merely doing his job. He showed up and fulfilled his duty. His faithful actions made a huge difference, even if he never thought represented by former United States president John Quincy Adams. The decision of the court was to grant the slaves their freedom.

Until the infamous Dred Scott decision of 1857, the _Amistad_ case was considered the most significant case regarding the issue of slavery in United States jurisprudence and provided a means for many enslaved people to seize their freedom. But without the efforts of one local man, Dwight Plimpton Jones, the fate of the slaves would have been a no-brainer, and Steven Spielberg would have had to find another subject for a film. According to New London Maritime Society records, "Janes had already been an active figure among New London's abolitionists when the _Amistad_ arrived in port. Born on July 31, 1801, he grew up in the fiercely anti-slavery community of St. Albans, Vermont. After marrying Jane Wuthrath Allen, daughter of a prominent New London family, Janes lived in Montreal and attended the American Presbyterian Church, led at that time by abolitionist minister Joseph Christmas. Janes carried his views to New London when he moved there in the 1830s and began working for the grocery and mercantile firm Hurlbut, Butler & Co. He joined the American Anti-Slavery Society, distributed abolitionist materials, and tried to stir an anti-slavery prayer group at the Second Congregational Church."

Janes managed to get aboard the revenue cutter _War on Bradford_ for the initial legal hearing, and noticed that the captives were speaking in their native language. Jose Ruiz, one of the Amistad's owners, told Janes that none of them spoke Spanish or English because they were "just from Africa." It was enough to convince Janes that the captives were freeborn Africans, not Cuban slaves as the Spaniards claimed. He sought to bring the matter to the attention of several prominent abolitionists, writing to Roger S. Baldwin, a New Haven lawyer; Joshua Leavitt, editor of The Emancipator; and Lewis Tappan, a silk merchant.

The actions of Janes were significant to the case, enough so that without his testimony, the Africans would have been doomed to continued slavery, prison, or worse. Unlike Frank Wills, Dwight Jones acted with intention. Either way, with or without intention, their lives mattered to many people and redirected the course of American history of social justice. While it's possible to go on sharing how significant one life can matters in the affairs of others, I'd like to encourage the Connecticut College community to look at what can be done right here on campus, in New London and its surrounding communities. You will never know how significant your contribution may be. With or without intention, just being there in the lives of others raises the odds that you will bless those around you. I triple-dog-dare you! •
Stop Saying "Last Semester,"
but Keep Saying Something

MAIA HIBBETT
OPINIONS EDITOR

and currently relevant as racial justice. As students become familiarized with the campus, they should be made aware of issues of importance to large portions of the student body.

Dean Canton noted that to a certain degree, this is an issue of student agency. With that strength we bring to the forefront of discussion. We should not get caught up in the threatening malice of their classmates.

So, if activism precipitates the opposite cause. Conversely, there is danger in invalidating the assertive emotional expression of protesters. "I've been a spectator when an organization is fighting for what they believe in and I remember feeling receptive, and wanting to know more about the topic they were discussing," Shelly Rodriguez '16 shared. "I felt like I needed to give them a chance, to give them a voice that made them feel heard."

I don't agree that you, when you become students at colleges, have to be coddled and protected from different points of view.

When we consider the effects of activism, we must acknowledge that invalidation of emotional reactions to activism might be as harmful as invalidating the cause itself. Activism aims to educate, so it should never deny a student who is first confronting the realities of societal injustices the ability to engage these issues at a comfortable pace. There is danger in assuming a lack of active participation indicates a lack of emotional connection or the absence of information internalization.

One flaw in some activism," a student suggested, "is when it generalizes an audience based on assumption. Not actively engaging does not mean you support the cause."

Cort clarified that if he remembered correctly, the floor governors were not, however, explicitly instructed to address their residents about the spring's events.

Dean Canton pointed out. He suggested that students who felt dissatisfied with the way the situation was handled wrote a letter or request an open forum to voice their concerns.

"Let them come talk to me," he stated plainly.

Dean Rossi-Rleder added that administrators experienced a setback this fall when Rev. Dr. Junius Washington, President and Founder of the Washington Consulting Group and the Social Justice Training Institute, cancelled his visit to Conn due to scheduling issues.

"That's really where the conversation was going to take place," noted Dean Rossi-Rleder, describing Rev. Dr. Washington's cancellation as "a loss for us."

Dean Canton said that the event had been designed as "a whole forum for the first-year class" and was scheduled for Oct. 23.

Trevor Bates '18, a student adviser, noted that first-years did receive some racism awareness information in the format of a panel discussing Whirling World, the Class of 2019's summer reading. Some students claimed that the social psychology book was problematic for lacking a diverse representation of cases.

It appears, then, that Conn tried to address the ongoing tensions from last semester. Notably, the information exists for those who seek it, but the problem stems primarily from those who would prefer not to acknowledge it. While nearly everyone has, at some point, contributed to our racist culture—whether intentionally or accidentally—there are students who typically make the effort to educate themselves about racial justice are not the main perpetrators of aggression and exclusion. Likely, the most problematic group will not visit the webpage.

Additionally, this is an issue of institutional memory. Forgetting last spring's conflict is in the best interest of Conn's public image—that is, at least, if we're pursuing the image of a NESCACสถาตุป. As a student body, however, we have the power to decide whether we will erase our points of contention or consider them as we move forward. It is up to us to decide whether our institution is inclusive or exclusionary.
Why Members of the SGA Executive Board Must Resign

DEION JORDAN
CONTRIBUTOR

When members of the SGA Executive Board repeatedly perform poorly and engage in gross misconduct, should they be held accountable?

When members of the SGA Executive Board, to be more specific, repeatedly create an injurious climate, wantonly disregard the safety of others, attack Assembly members while performing official duties, and act in a way that constitutes a serious lapse in judgment, should they all resign?

For me, these questions have a concrete answer: yes. However, it seems as if members of the Board reached a different conclusion. Despite being compelled to resign by those affected by the repugnant actions and coarse speech of members of the SGA Executive Board, many of them have decided not to do so. SGA may fulfill its duty and obligation to create a better Connecticut College for students and a mission to increase school unity and spirit, but when it comes to intragovernmental affairs and the Executive Board as a whole, issues continuously arise.

Restructuring as Process

LEAH ROFSOFSKY
CONTRIBUTOR

Editor's Note: Leah Rososky is the President of the 2015-2016 executive year for SGA. As Presidential Associate, she is appointed by the President, and not elected by the student body.

The Executive Board and Chairs Council has had lapses in judgment, reflected in cell phone correspondence, GroupMe messages, and tweets. SGA members and Chairs have taken responsibility for, are said to be the catalyst for creating a "toxic environment." However, this correspondence is not an indicator of a toxic environment; it is instead a reminder that SGA, as a space, has been structured in a way that has disfranchised students.

I would like to acknowledge that I am not speaking on behalf of the entire Executive Board and Chairs Council. My purpose in writing this article, as Presidental Associate, is not to deny that negative events occurred; rather, my goal is to shift the focus of our communications and broaden the contextual scope. I argue that SGA, exists and operates within a system that would never be able to meet the demands being asked of it. SGA does not have the type of institutional pull that students want it to have.

Student government acts as a liaison between the students and the administration. The President and all elected Executive Board members who engaged in gross misconduct evidenced by the GroupMe chat. In order to understand why the Board must resign, we need first understand the gravity and potential impact of the deliberate actions and inactions. The main role of the SGA, as student leaders, is to work to ensure a healthy college environment for all students socially and academically and when producing curricular policies.

However, major fissures exist amongst the Assembly. Distress and disconnect are at its peak due to the clashing nature of the Executive Board, which ultimately produced the poisonous environment that initiated this debacle. All things considered, it is no exaggeration to say that the Executive Board members were not fulfilling its duties, yet no one agrees that this is true. During Thursday’s meeting, members of the Board decided to fight against those with genuine grievances by placing the blame on the student’s actions and perhaps even the entire meeting to be a disingenuous charade.

I listened to the meeting with disgust and contempt. Members of the board avoided responsibility and decided they were not in the "right state of mind" to produce a concrete decision—forcing oneself to violate official duties, and act in a way they believe is being blamed for a structure that does not exist to the harsh conditions that exist on Thursdays in Ernst Common Room. The SGA Constitution holds that the President and all elected Executive Board members may be impeached for gross misconduct related to the specific Board member’s office. Members of the Board commenced a verbal assault against their colleagues and must be held accountable.

Regardless of what you may think of SGA, seeking the removal of representatives who have engaged in negative acts at the expense of their own colleagues is a students right and necessary steps to oust members who have been slighted by these leaders and contact your House Senators and ask them to take the necessary steps to oust members of the toxic regime.

Restructuring as Process
Paying Forward what my Teachers Gave Me

LUISE RAMOS
CONTRIBUTOR

As a college senior, I am asked about post-graduation plans on a regular basis. Like many seniors, I have struggled to come up with a set plan that does not change from semester to semester. After taking an elective course in the College of Connecticut known for its demanding and rigorous curriculum, I realized that understanding architecture would give me a unique perspective to see the world. While I didn’t know exactly where that would lead me, I never imagined the incredible opportunities my four years here would afford me. I’m unexpectedly grateful for each and every one of these — but also a little sad. So many of the classmates I grew up with in a working-class neighborhood in Houston won’t get the same chances that I’ve had to learn and grow, and won’t have the choices that I do as I move into full-fledged adulthood.

Unfortunately, my former classmates in Houston are not unique. Millions of kids growing up low-income don’t have access to the education they deserve. This infuriates me. I didn’t get to Conn because I was exceptionally gifted or talented. I got here because of my school and the teachers at YES Prep in Houston — mentors and role models who pushed, guided, supported and loved me. As I thought more and more about my post-grad plans, these teachers kept showing up in my mind (partly because they also show up in my phone so often — still emailing and calling regularly). Doing, offering help, and get the latest on campus life. Many of my most influential teachers at YES Prep were Teach For America corps members. As I noticed TFA posters going up on campus this fall, it became clear to me that I now had that freedom and responsibility to follow in their footsteps. I’ll never be able to pay back what they did for me. But I can pay it forward.

I know Teach For America isn’t perfect. No organization is. But the criticism I’ve heard of TFA just don’t match up with my reality. Our education system is deeply flawed, and fixing it is going to take the hard, dedicated work of thousands of people across sectors. TFA corps members and alumni are a part of this — not the whole story or solution by any stretch but certainly a key part of it. Without TFA, many of my favorite teachers would never have made it to my classrooms. And they certainly wouldn’t have landed in my school. Founded by TFA alumni, YES Prep is changing the game for low-income students. It’s the reason I have the choice to become an educator. It’s the reason I can’t imagine choosing anything else.

You don’t have to think TFA is the answer. But you do have to understand the impact its teachers and alumni are having on kids like me before you dismiss it. If we want to live in a world where every student can walk into her closest neighborhood school and get a great education, we need to do everything we can to support, celebrate, and partner with the people who are trying to make that happen. When I enter the classrooms as a teacher next fall, I won’t be trying to push a private agenda. I’ll be joining an incredibly diverse community of educators, some who came through TFA and some who did not, coming together to give underserved kids what they need to create bright futures for themselves. It’s a privilege and an honor. •

Conn Forgets Turbulent Past

SAADYA CHEVAN
STAFF WRITER

Some Conn students associate the name Pfizer with New London’s woes. The first time I heard of the pharmaceutical giant mentioned in the context of New London, I was told that a dwindling trend in New London’s Jewish population could be partially attributed to Pfizer’s departure from the city. I noticed more mentions of Pfizer while investigating a Connecticut College students’ protest in 2012 over the selection of former investment banker and United States ambassador to the United Kingdom Louis Susman as commencement speaker. Students degraded Susman’s character based on his daughter’s position as a Pfizer vice president.

Concurrently, I discovered a New York Times article from the early 2000s that reported on the resignation of Connecticut College President Claire Gaudiani and made several prominent mentions of campus backlash due to her involvement with the New London Development Corporation and Pfizer in New London’s redeveloping Fort Trumbull neighborhood.

The subject of Pfizer came up again during an interview with Stephen Hallquist, a well-known mailroom staff member. Hallquist pointed out that we must understand not just how we perceive New London but also how New London perceives us. With that, we launched into a discussion about the College’s involvement in bringing Pfizer to New London.

For a more detailed account of how Pfizer came to New London, I would highly recommend reading Jeff Benedict’s book Little Pink House, which is incredibly detailed and well-researched. It is currently being adapted into a movie, though I don’t think Benedict’s adaptation that will likely leave out the College’s involvement.

The story goes something like this. In 1997, then Republican governor of Connecticut John Rowland decided to revitalize New London’s waterfront with the hopes of attracting a Fortune 500 company. As part of this push, his administration recruited Connecticut College President Claire Gaudiani to head a quasi-public development agency, the New London Development Corporation (NLDC), which would use state money to implement their plan. Gaudiani, who had connections to Pfizer through her husband and the College’s Board of Trustees, was aware that Pfizer had aims to house a new research and development facility and began floating the possibility of Pfizer coming to New London. To her credit, she was able to convince the company to select the New London site against almost impossible odds.

As a result, the company demanded many concessions that would require the NLDC to acquire almost all of the property in the Fort Trumbull neighborhood, demolish all the buildings there and turn over some of that empty land to Pfizer, while developing most of the remaining land.

This would eventually result in a massive fight over the NLDC’s use of eminent domain, the much despised and highly controversial power of government to force people to sell their land so that it can be used for the public good. The most prominent opposition figure was Susette Kelo, a resident of Fort Trumbull who led the neighborhood in the fight against the NLDC to determine whether the organization could take their houses. Kelo also received assistance from members of the New London community, including Hallquist and Professor of History Fred Paxton who, despite pressure from Gaudiani, became a prominent member of the College in opposition to the NLDC.

Kelo’s name rose to prominence through the lawsuit Kelo v. City of New London, which ended with a decision by the Supreme Court in 2005 in favor of the City. The case focused mainly on whether the City had the right to transfer possession of private land to Pfizer. In a dissent to the ruling, Justice Sandra Day O’Connor summed up the opposition: “Nothing is to prevent the state from repossessing property of individuals, and a贵州 of 50% of Americans disagreeing with it and over 40 states passing laws that would safeguard against similar proceedings. Notably, Connecticut did not pass such laws.

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Which large mammal could you take in a fight? On a date?

S: I've spent a long time thinking about this and after I was ridiculed for answering with 'whale' for dating, I would have to say that I would fight a possum. And still date a whale. They are beautiful and majestic and then I would travel the oceans.

R: I will admit, I did in fact ridicule Suze for this answer, but I will admit to the majesty of that ocean-dweller. Personally, I'd have to say I'd fight a swan. I did in fact almost fight one that was challenging me on Moomacko island. We were fighting over the same rock to meditate on.

S: Swans are not in fact mammals though. And I doubt they meditate.

R: My specialty is pop-lock and dropping. Not biology. But fine. I'd date a panther and fight an armadillo.

I'm a freshman and struggling to adapt academically. In high school I got really, really good grades with astoundingly low effort. The very idea of college terrified me. I had spent the last week in a perpetual state of panic, making last minute, late night revision notes for my classes mumbling in frustration because I can't use French words while trying to write sentences and I forgot how to "with" and "lettuce" in Italian again. Things were not playing out the way I thought they would.

S: As someone who spent 95% of her college experience in the library and is now a senior wondering what happened, I would have to recommend that while studying is important having other adventures are too. The transition to college is challenging and many people find that even though they work hard, they don't get the same grades they did in high school. Just takes some time to adjust to the workload and your other responsibilities.

R: My speciality is pop-lock and dropping. Not biology. But fine. I'd date a panther and fight an armadillo.

I'm in love with my Arabic tutor, what do I do?

S: Wait until you're not being tutored, and ask him/her if they want to go out for lunch or something.

R: I second that Suze. My narrative is actually pretty similar to yours anonymous question asker. I did jack in high school and got away with it. College really cranks up the heat, but if you're like me, you'll rise to the challenge when you find something you're passionate about. If you're feeling burnt out in the classes you're taking now, try out others ones in different departments. While grades matter, finding your subject of interest and cultivating a relationship with the professors is vitally important to getting to most out of the academic sphere at this place.

Dear Suze, I'm hooking up with a guy who seems super into me when we're together but gets kind of weird and awkward when we run into each other around campus or in town. How do I tell if he's really into me?

R: Well, everyone displays affection differently. However, we've reached a point where we are too old for games. Perhaps the awkward comes from him not really knowing where you stand either. Try to have an open dialogue next time you're alone. No games, just ask him what's up.

S: I agree with Randy. We are too old for this. It's SUPER important to learn how to be an adult about these sort of things. If you feel comfortable, talk about it. Otherwise I would cut your losses and move on to someone who is not going to act like a fool when you run into them.

I'm in love with my Arabic tutor, what do I do?

R: Wait until you're not being tutored, and ask him/her if they want to go out for lunch or something.

S: Wow, Randy that was some good advice. What a surprise that we're both still single.

R: Dude, I know right? To be completely honest, anonymous question asker, it's been a while since I've "asked someone to lunch." If you do that, you're a braver human than I. Hats off.

I'm trying not to drink this semester, but I feel as though it is hard to go out with my friends and stay sober. Should I not go out or should I find new people to hang out with?

R: Listen, drinking and partying at college is like less than 0.5% of the fun. Your friends will realize eventually, and if they don't, then I think it'd be the world to spread your social circle. That being said, engaging in conversation is a consistent theme in a lot of our lives. Try to open a dialogue with them to let them know where you're coming from. If they're having wine night, you bring the cheese. Stay within your comfort zone when you want to leave. I promise, you won't be missing out on anything.

S: I am a HUGE fan of taking a night off and just spending some time in my room watching TV or reading. I also am a proponent of hanging out with different types of people as a way to mix up your friend group and to try something new on the weekends. If you are unhappy hanging out with your friends at the moment, try something else. Doesn't mean you can't hang out with them at other times during the week but when it's a Thursday or Saturday night you do your own thing or reach out to another group. I agree that not drinking when other people are can be a challenge and it's something I struggle with too, but ultimately it's about doing what's best for you. Your real friends will support that no matter what.

Editor's note: The College Voice is bringing back the classic advice column in a big way! Ask Suze, our in-house relationship and lifestyle guru, all the questions you've been mulling over. Send Suze your questions anonymously at www.sayat.me/CCCollegeVoiceAdvice.

This week Suze is joined by special guest Randy who specializes in wing-manning, pop-lock-and-dropping and listening to your heart.

One Semester Down

KATIE COWHERD
STAFF WRITER

The two hour car ride from Redding to New London, Connecticut seemed alarmingly short on that first day. I watched the sunrise silently from the backseat, tuning out my parents' banter and wiping my nervous, clammy hands on the car seat.

I had spent the last week in a perpetual state of panic, making last minute, late night Target trips with my mother and staying up until 2 am reorganizing boxes and suitcases to ensure that I hadn't forgotten anything as I packed.

The very idea of college terrified me right from the start. As someone who was shy, quiet, and a little nerdy, I was worried that I wouldn't be able to make friends. I was worried that my roommates would be weird, unfriendly, or too friendly. I was placed in a quad, which had not been part of my plan, and was in itself a terrifying experience of minority students here, and their experiences are in the world in general. I came to Conn blind, but it has been an eye opening semester.

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While Pfizer was able to build their facility long before the case was decided, in an "I told you so" manner to several supplicators, they closed it in 2009, a mere eight years after opening. Additionally, Gaudiani was forced to resign from her position 2000 after it was revealed that the school was facing a huge budget shortfall, causing a massive number of students and faculty to demand her departure.

Personally, I would be very surprised if any Conn students knew about these events. Although the proceedings received a sizable amount of media attention when they occurred, current students were too young to be aware of them. Considering that the final verdict of the case was handed down ten years ago, most seniors here would not have been older than 13 when it was ruled.

While it is probable that many faculty and staff members know about the case, those who arrived at the College after the ruling likely have little to no awareness of Conn's role. However, the residents of a city, unlike those of a college, do not constantly change. Although the students who opposed Gaudiana and the NLDC are long gone, there are still plenty of people in New London who remember the Kelo case and Claire Gaudiani's involvement with the NLDC. The case quietly slipped into the history books much more quickly here at Conn than in New London.

This chapter in Conn's history reflects a basic problem in our campus culture: our lack of institutional memory. From conversations and from reading Benedict's book, I came to the understanding that this was a scary time to be at Connecticut College, especially for faculty. It was difficult to be in opposition to Gaudiani, who was very set on getting her way no matter what. In some ways, the problems our college has faced recently are very similar to the ones that we faced 15 years ago. In both cases, people have been afraid of speaking out because of the possibility of backlash.

Critiquing Worldviews Through Gender

ANDREW SHAW
ARTS EDITOR

I decided to write this article when I noticed how many of the restrooms outside of dorms adhere to the gender binary while bathrooms inside dorms do not. Was this the result of policy not being put into practice? Was it the idea that Conn wanted to create and sustain a public image for prospective students and other campus visitors that adhered to social norms? I wanted to find out.

When Conn went co-ed in 1969, there was no room for "sex-segregated bathrooms," said Prof. Jon Manton, Associate Professor of History and Director of the LGBTQ Resource Center. The dorm bathrooms went co-ed when the admissions process did. The establishment of some gender-neutral bathrooms outside of dorms is the result of years of activism's work. A list of gender-neutral bathroom locations is available on the College's website.

Courtsey Barton '16 said, "The bathroom conversation has been had in many ways for the last five or six years. That I know what she meant by the "bathroom conversation" only highlights this. Despite the conversation's duration, discussions on consent — BLINN, for example — still do not have gender-neutral bathrooms, however.

The conversation has now expanded to include housing, healthcare and counseling. Barton pointed out that gender-inclusive housing is only available to upperclassmen, and noted that several buildings have gender-neutral bathrooms located on the College's website. "First-year students and transfer students are assigned roomsates of the same biological sex," [These] students can live with someone of a different biological sex [or gender identity] only by going through the College's room change process, which takes place...[three] weeks into the fall semester!" The site justifies this limitation by noting that "the gender-inclusive housing option should be part of a process in which two people who know one another enter into a roommate situation." I'm not convinced by this reason, which adheres to heteronormativity. Regardless, outside of gender-inclusive housing we are not required to know our roommates before we room with them. "The gender inclusive housing option is not for people in romantic relationships to room together," it says. "It's for trans people who can feel safe on this campus. And to be honest [Conn] has a high transfer rate for trans* kids," said Barton. Conn's overall four-year retention rate has hovered around 90% for the last few years.

The conversation about potentially reforming policy does not aim to demonize any of these spaces but rather is about meeting students' basic needs. The goal is "to have conversations with different people on campus who could affect the lives of trans* kids... They desire to walk into the health center or the counseling center and feel just as safe as you or I do," said Barton.

This conversation matters because, as Barton said, "We're literally talking about people's safety and comfort." Additionally, gender is an axis of power through which disenempowerment occurs. In order to understand disenempowerment, we need to understand power, hence the present discussion.

Gender is a system that grants and removes power. Not acknowledging that gender exists along a spectrum, and forcing a person to conform to one side of a binary or the other — as happens in a variety of socially-defined spaces such as bathrooms and shared dorm rooms — means that we are not fully acknowledging someone's personhood. Who we choose to recognize — because it is a choice — is incredibly powerful. By enforcing the gender binary, we are forcing space for trans* individuals. Conn marginalizes individuals who do not fall on one side of the binary or the other.

Indeed, it is trans* and gender non-conforming individuals who expose the gender binary for what it is, a regulatory system, precisely by not adhering to it. As Joan Scott said on Dec. 10, "Diversity doesn't cure the problem. In fact, it draws attention to the structures that perpetuate the problem." Gender is one arena in which we can question who has power. This power is understood not as something that is "uniform, coherent, and centralized," but rather as "dispersed constellations of unequal relationships," Scott wrote elsewhere. Because it is one of many organizational systems for social relationships, "gender [is] implicated in the concepts and construction of power itself... Gender inequality [helps to structure] all other inequalities... [It] affects [even] those areas of life that do not seem to be connected to it," for the "imposition... of the rules of social interaction are inherently and specifically gendered."

Related to this question of how power is dispersed is the question of who we recognize as legitimate, as "fifty" human. Gender serves to legitimize some people and not others, as Scott and many other scholars have noted. Because historically we've been told that gender is polarized, we enforce that system and discount the people who do not fall at either pole. We erase trans* and gender non-conforming individuals as a whole. Because gender norms are culturally bound, they rely upon the "refusal or repression of alternative possibilities," as Scott reminds us. In this context, the "position that emerges as dominant is stated as the only possible one," when in fact it is not. Regardless, we begin to consider these normative positions and the product of social consensus rather than of conflict. In the context of our campus, "People don't see [trans*] people all the time so they forget they exist... [Then] they're part of our family," Barton said. Justin Mendillo '17 said, "Let's get some visibility... through 'targeted queer hiring' or bringing certain speakers to campus. 'Let's talk about trans people,' because that "validates [them]."

It is through this analysis that the gender binary suggests, Scott concludes in her article, "we must... continually subject our categories to criticism, our analyses to self-criticism. "Critique allows us to recognize that our worldviews have sources, reasons why they are the way they are. Through this analysis, we can potentially change and improve those worldviews. Regardless of whether we change them, "consciousness," as Marx has written, "is something the world must acquire, like it or not."
Reflections on Investigative Journalism in a Time of Upheaval on College Campuses

ANDREW SHAW
ARTS EDITOR

Most of the reportage that this newspaper does quite local. Something happens on campus, we cover it. In the process, we do speak with students, faculty and staff. We speak with, that is, people we know, at least as people who are affiliated with Connecticut College. It's a pretty straightforward process. We interview them, sit down and talk about some excitements of travel. And when my train arrived in New Haven around 3:40, with the sun scheduled to set before 5:00 and my sense of direction nonexistent, I found the way around Yale's campus became a challenge, then I had less time. Oh, the excitement of travel.

When the first person I asked about the tense campus climate declined to speak on it ("No thank you") I wasn't very hopeful that the article that I had expected to write - about what's happening at Yale and why similar events keep happening on campuses across the country - would come together. And it didn't. I didn't discover much new in terms of the contested issues that had been stated elsewhere, and I wasn't remiss here.

During my investigation, I had two experiences. Most students didn't want to talk. Two would speak to me, but offered to do so only off the record. Each chose suggests that they didn't have a confident response to the issues, which only emphasizes how complicated and potentially divisive these issues are. Perhaps no one wanted to say something that they might regret later. People didn't want to have their words attached to them because they didn't know what they thought. That is, what they thought was changing, was as entitled as an opinion, and so people choose not to speak. They speak when they think of something that they believe they will be able to stand behind.

Or, perhaps the students' views weren't changing, and they were simply uncomfortable voicing an opinion that might elicit a backlash. In a time of upheaval and fear, people can feel pressured to voice the socially acceptable response. This sort of mob mentality can limit dialogue because it forces people to try to stay one step ahead of the other person, always guessing the reaction that their words might draw and preemptively tailoring their words to that reaction. This is especially true in times of upheaval and fear, when people don't know who their friends are.

(Theorem, determining whom one's allies are is the first step in any sort of group protection.) In such situations, it can feel as if there is no room for respectful disagreement, and so people choose not to speak. If the Yale students I spoke to understood anything, it was how tenacious and provisional their understanding was. There is a story, with many actors, in this fear and discomfort. Both despite and because of these many actors, this fear and discomfort actually resulted in a paucity of voices. It resulted in speculation, of which this article is a part. This is, I think, a story of a place that, while it is supposed to be a community, is not in fact a community. Community is impossible while people feel that they cannot express their views.

The truth of this is being borne out in demonstrations on college campuses across the country right now, including here at Conn. This attempt at investigative journalism, travel and all, reminded me of the purposes of a newspaper. When I realized that whatever I could write about Yale would certainly not be - could not be - a terminal story, I remembered that a newspaper is not meant for terminal stories. It's periodic, iterative. It's a snapshot in time of what we think at that time.

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I attended a series of events, hanging in the back, listening, trying to understand. I feel like I'm not doing anything to change what needs to be changed, and I know a lot of my friends do too, but I think that it's important to understand what's going on. It's the first step towards us actually helping everyone on campus feel like they belong here (which they most definitely do, we all worked our butts off for this opportunity).

The fact that administration did nothing to address these issues on race and free speech during our absurdly long orientation (ours was days longer than orientation at any other NES-CAC) is a problem. They needed to put a considerable amount of time aside to make sure that this incoming class was actually prepared for the campuses racial climate. We should have spent more time talking about how it's against honor code to use racial slurs and more time talking about the fact that they had been written in stalls in the bathroom in Cro. They should have spent less time telling us that we cannot make offensive jokes, and more time telling us about the intense debates and protests over the idea of hate speech that occurred last semester.

The first time I heard someone say "Penuin" my response was to say "Guzuntight" because I had no idea that that was the name of a professor that was linked to intense racial debates at this school. This is a problem. Now that the semester is starting to end, I'm mostly focused on surviving my last round of finals with my sanity intact. Papers, presentations, exams, oh my! I have more to do than I have had all year and I'm just not entirely sure how that happened. I'm very tired. I walk around in a perpetual haze of exhaustion from late nights making outlines and studying verb tenses. I twitch a little whenever someone says "cofee" and I almost cry every time I actually can smell one.

Here's to hoping that next semester will be an eye opening as this one was, if a little less terrifying at the onset.

THE COLLEGE VOICE DECEMBER 14 2015

Wishing the entire campus community a restful break, happy holidays and a healthy new year. See you in 2016!
Sport: Medicine for Misfortune

DYLAN STEINER
SPORTS EDITOR

Minutes after an international soccer match between France and Germany began on Nov. 13 at the Stade de France in Paris, a terrorist attack at the Paris National stadium, the Stade de France, initiated one of its first direct attacks on the Western world and the deadliest attack on Parisian soil since WWI. French President Francois Hollande was in attendance, and concern that the chaos close to the stadium would alarm crowds forced the game to finish prematurely. As fans eventually left the stadium, many only starting to see the full scope of the events outside, thousands of fans supporting the French national anthem.

The German national team was prevented from returning to its hotel due to the threat of further attacks, and instead spent the night in the stadium. The French team decided to join the Germans in a display of unity. One of Germa- ny’s national soccer stadiums, the Allianz Arena, lit its exterior with the colors of the French flag. Many American professional and college sports teams waved or displayed their French flag before games in the aftermath of the Paris attacks. The Washington Capitals projected the French flag on to the ice before a game.

As harrowing as events like these are, sport has time and again proved its power to unite people across borders and languages in times of heartbeat and hardship. Citizens of all nations can relate and celebrate the universal qualities that sport exemplifies: teamwork, selflessness, integrity and tenacity. The Paris attacks are only the most recent display of the strength of these values. The New England Patriots and the Denver Broncos represented him in his remarks. This list includes such legends as the former heavyweight boxer Muhammad Ali and the pro basketball star Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

In response to Trump, Ali said “I am a Muslim, and there is nothing Islamic about killing innocent people in Paris, San Bernar- dino or anywhere else in the world. True Muslims know the ruthless violence of so-called Islamic extremists goes against the very tenets of our religion.” Similarly, Abdul-Jabbar accused Trump of stoking fears rather than offering actual solutions to the problems of terrorism, adding, “Trump’s irrespon- sible, inflammatory rhetoric and deliberative propagation of misinformation have created a frightened and hostile atmosphere here that could embolden people to violence.”

Other highly eminent Muslim-American sport personalities include the former heavyweight champion boxer Mike Tyson and the former pro basketball stars Shaquille O’Neal and Hakeem Olajuwon. In American society, he seems to the mainstream of American sports.

Beyond American sports, several of the top athletes in the world are Muslim, most notably in soccer. This includes Muslim and Arab-American athletes such as the Watford striker<br>Abdul-Hamidyoussoufian, who played for France. All four represented their countries in the FIFA World Cup. Were<br>Turkey to impose its travel ban and deport all Muslims from the United States, athletes would be deprived of viewing some of their favorite players in a wide variety of sports.

How would Trump make America great by undercutting American sports? By excluding some of the country’s and the world’s best athletes? Further, how would the United States ever qualify for hosting the Olympics, the FIFA World Cup and several other interna- tional sports competitions?

What is especially surprising (or perhaps not so much) about Trump’s comments is that he has often met and been photographed with several of the most famous Muslim sports personalities, including O’Neal, Ali and Abdul-Jabbar and even tweeted at them before, referring to them as friends of his. However, there is logic to Trump’s mindset. By overlooking the vast contribution of Muslim-Americans to the world of sports, Trump aims to further exclude Muslims from the mainstream of American society. He evokes Muslims as perpetual “foreigners,” who are beyond the pale of acceptability. This is a category that has included, at different points of time in Ameri- can history, such groups as the Irish, Italians, Jews, Chinese and Japa- nese, among others.

It is also perhaps no coincidence that many of the most accom- plished Muslim athletes in the United States belong to racial mi- norities. Because of the racialized imagination of Muslims in the Unit- ed States as “brown” or “black,” Trump’s Islamophobia is ultimately a statement of white supremacy, which has an ugly history since the colonization of North America and the establishment of the United States.

That the fascist Trump is gaining (and not losing) popularity because of his chauvin- istic rhetoric is the most recent sign yet that racism is far from over in the contemporary United States.

Trump Ignores Muslim Sports Heroes

SHATRNJAY MALL
STAFF WRITER

The ongoing presidential campaigns of Ben Carson and Donald Trump for the Republican Party nomination have relied on political mobilization based on explicit xeno- phobia to an extent that has not been seen in recent years.

In a similar vein, Donald Trump, real estate developer and reality show host turned politician, has gained an infamous reputation for racism. While running his campaign, he referred to Mexican immi- grants as “criminals” and “rapists” who needed to be deported and prevented from coming into the United States. He wished to “build a wall” along the U.S.-Mexican border. Since the Paris terrorist attack in November, he has also directed his attacks towards Muslims in the United States, a prominent target of his ire. He has most recently called for a ban on Muslims entering the United States and arranging for their deportation. This is perhaps no surprise, given that Trump’s candidacy is closely related to the Trump Foundation, which has been found guilty of tax fraud.

In his speech that Muslims are “people who hate America” and that the colonization of North America and the establishment of the United States.

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In response, Donald Trump tweeted “Obama said in his speech that Muslims are our sports heroes. What sport is he talking about, and who? Is Obama profiling?” which like some of his other controversial com- ments have since been roundly condemned and refuted.

Among those who have criticized Trump for his comments are precisely some of those Muslim sports heroes who he has purposefully ignored. As well as the beloved professional athletes such as Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Trump has neglected to instigate disorder. It is also perhaps no surprise, given that Trump’s candidacy is closely related to the Trump Foundation, which has been found guilty of tax fraud.

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Among those who have criticized Trump for his comments are precisely some of those Muslim sports heroes who he has purposefully ignored. As well as the beloved professional athletes such as Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Trump has neglected to instigate disorder. It is also perhaps no surprise, given that Trump’s candidacy is closely related to the Trump Foundation, which has been found guilty of tax fraud.

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Women's Basketball
Commands on Court

DANA SORKIN
CO-EDITOR IN CHIEF

The Connecticut College Women's Basketball team is starting their 2015-2016 season doing everything right. Eight games in (including a win against NESAC rival Tufts), and they have yet to lose a single one. Their level of play to begin the season has been so strong that many of their games have ended with the team winning by upwards of 20 points.

The depth on the team gives the Camels a strong advantage, with all players contributing equally and when it matters most, and many have been recognized for their achievements. The team is coming off of a strong 2014-2015 season, during which they went 16-9, reached the NESAC tournament quarterfinal round and won accolades such as the NESAC Women's Basketball Rookie of the Year awarded to Mairead Caouette '19. But they want to do even better.

Senior captain Willa McKinley said that unique challenges arise with being a team with a winning record. "Lots of people want to beat you," she said, noting that being a NESAC team is an additional bonus because non-NESCAC teams are always looking for an upset.

With the NESAC considered to be one of the best DIII conferences in the country, McKinley knows the biggest challenges have yet to come. Their first NESAC game, on Dec. 12, resulted in a win against Tufts, ranked ninth in the nation. Mairead scored 14 points, and Liz Malman '17 had nine. Though this wasn't considered a conference game (the Camels were playing at Tufts), ranked ninth in the nation. Mairead Tufts, ranked ninth in the nation. Mairead Caouette '19 scored 14 points, and Liz Malman '17 had nine. Though this wasn't considered a conference game (the Camels will play Tufts again on Jan. 23, 2016), it certainly set the stage for what the team hopes their rest of the season will look like.

McKinley said that the team practices as hard as they play, and it shows. Many of their wins so far have been complete blowouts, though McKinley said that this comes with challenges. "It's really hard to play by your standards when you're so much better than a team," she said, before adding that thechemistry on the team is found not only on the court, but also off of it. McKinley said that their rest of the season will look like, because their hardest and most important games are yet to come. McKinley said that it's equally important to win non-conference games so the team goes into the NESAC games with confidence, which she described as being a "lot more competitive and difficult." McKinley spoke on the differences in this team that makes them better than ever, mainly their depth. This year's team has six first-year students and six veterans, and there are obvious challenges that come with playing a college-level sport for the first time, but the team's first-year players "have stepped up" overall, according to McKinley.

She described the first-year class as "taking on the role of sophomores" in terms of adapting to college basketball. The rookies aren't just making an impact on the team, but within New England as well. Payton Outomette '19 was honored as the New England Women's Basketball Association's Rookie of the Week in late November.

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