Are Staff Paid Living Wages?
An Ongoing Investigation

MAIA HIBBETT
STAFF WRITER

In the past months, we've turned a critical eye to how Conn students, faculty and administration treat issues of justice. Although we've analyzed the issue through a variety of lenses, we have failed to pay much attention to a specific group on campus: the staff.

Early this semester, I took an article pitched to answer a seemingly simple question: "Does the staff at Connecticut College make a living wage?" At the time, this seemed like it would be a relatively simple task. I would do some research on what constitutes a living wage in Connecticut, get some average numbers from HR and interview a variety of staff members. These tasks got progressively more difficult.

According to an MIT Living Wage Calculator, the required hourly wage to support one adult with no dependents is $10.68, while the Connecticut minimum wage is $8.15. On an annual basis, a salary of $22,205 is required to maintain a living wage. These numbers increase as children and dependent spouses are added.

Frankly, it is unethical to ask an employer what their employees make without employee consent—even more so to publish those numbers in a newspaper. That being said, the employer should be aware of what constitutes a living wage and, ideally, be able to state confidently that their employees are paid living wages.

This turned out to be easier said than done. I met with Staff Council Chair Josh Stoffel, and he explained how the College surveys wages for similar jobs in surrounding areas but was unable to give an official statement. He did, however, provide me with a list of contacts in the HR office who might have more information.

After emailing HR, it took me about two weeks to get an interview scheduled with Cheryl Miller, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources & Professional Development. She provided some information about employment benefits and the surveying process, but she made no comment about whether or not she believed staff members were paid enough. She did, however, make sure to mention that Conn was once listed in Connecticut Magazine's "Best Places to Work."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Dorm Damage Dilemma:
How Escalating Damages in Park Represent a Broken System

SARAH ROSE GRUSZECKI
STAFF WRITER

Upon entering Park residence hall, one is immediately greeted by a large mural created by a Connecticut College student. The mural, which was originally conceived to improve the sterile appearance of the Flex's design, was painted earlier this year. Unfortunately, what was once a serene image of ocean hues has become an area of destruction. The mural is now covered with white squares, each representing a portion of the mural that has been punched or kicked in and permanently damaged.

So far this year, students on campus will be paying over $42,000 to cover the cost of dorm damages. This number is close to exceeding last year's count, which totaled slightly over $52,000. However, out of the 23 residence halls on campus, Park's damages surpass all, with charges now totaling over $8,000.

The damages, however, are not just limited to the mural itself. Additional reports within the residence hall include nearly 10 destroyed or damaged exit signs, broken lights, damaged windows, urine in an elevator, feces in a shower, blood signs on the walls and multiple incidents of written vandalism. An anonymous individual also reported seeing a shredded green dot poster in the same hallway as the damaged mural.

Perhaps what is most startling about these events is their deliberateness. As reported at the Park house council meeting, many of the damages have been observed and reported on weekends. We often conceive that these types of damages only occur on drunken Saturday nights.

Therefore, it may come as a surprise that several of these acts have been committed intentionally and, likely, soberly. It has also become apparent that peer influence plays a key role in these incidents. As described by Sarah Herman, a floor governor in Park, "I think it's all about the culture. It's hard not to wonder how the influence of others impacts these incidents. There's this sense of competition where everyone wants to 'make their mark.' It's not like somebody is going to do this on their own. Especially with the mural—that's such an intentional choice. The wall opposing it is almost untouched."

In order to address these damages, some students and staff have suggested implementing security cameras into the main residence areas. This approach has faced heavy criticism as a short-term solution which would conflict with the honor code. "If we are not getting to the root of this issue and we have to turn to security cameras, that speaks to a failure of the community and also a failure of imagination on our part of how to problem solve," explained Education Professor Lauren Anderson. Frida Rodriguez, the area coordinator for North Campus, also expressed concern that if a security system were implemented, it would only lead to further damages.

In light of these recent events, many individuals have also stressed a need for accountability. Especially on such a small campus, recognizing peers on behalf of their destructive actions may be difficult. However, individuals like Rodriguez argue that it is an essential stand which students must take. "At our college, students are taught to be leaders and you have to learn to make the right decisions—not just for you, but..."
The Last Sign Off: How I Commemorate Four Years of Love, Life and Grammar

After 11 issues in print and one online of The College Voice as Editor in Chief and nearly 60 as a staff writer, section editor and senior editor over the past three years, it has all boiled down to an editorial that I am supposed to use to sum up everything that this one extra-curricular has done for me. It is an editorial that I have both dreamed and dreaded writing. I am supposed to say something important, but I cannot quite grasp what that is.

I only had two goals when I started this year: 1) Do NOT go into debt. 2) Just keep things floating. No waves, just twelve passable issues. Finish your thesis. Pass it along. I never identified as much of a journalist, anyways.

Even looking back from this moment, I thank goodness that only met one of those goals. I realize now how ridiculous that goal was and that it was reflective of my unwillingness to recognize what I now consider to be an undeniable fact about the newspaper, despite my best efforts, it has become a mirror of my own spirit. It has become my way of asking: How can we leave this space better than when we found it?

That was the first example I could remember of the campus at large or any administrator taking responsibility members. In a letter to campus last month, from here? the newspaper staff and the newspaper as a whole, it became clear that it would also be the last.

It has become my way of asking: How can we leave this space better than when we found it? Maybe that carries baggage that begs the question as to whether I have violated standards of journalistic integrity. But maybe it’s a question that I’m happy to ask and be asked anyways. Who am I to answer that on my own? The simplest answer is, that I never intended to. I believe that The College Voice is and should be a conversation space for everyone. If this year has taught our community anything, it is that words and language are powerful tools to wield.

I will never deny that this has been a year of mistakes and learning. I will never claim what I did was "correct," but I will always stand by the fact that I was doing what I thought was right. But, despite all the media attention, positive and negative, this community was bombarded with from the outside, the world at large is not our audience. It is here. The College Voice is not called a "campus newspaper" for nothing.

I am lucky to have a team with me that have been equally consistent in asking similar questions. This staff rests on a long tradition of Strong Female Role Models (and also Dave Shatfield) that have shown me what it means to take risks, to take deep breaths through caffeine induced panic attacks and to take a second look at the "Final" edition of the paper, because it can always be better.

I thank Dana and Luca for being the most wonderful team. You’ve already picked up the baton and I can’t wait to see you run with it. Dana, you have been with me every step of the way, in every office meeting with the Deans that I thought would end in a fight, and involved in every late night food run I can remember. Thank you to our adviser, Jim Downs, for convincing me that gut feelings are the truest form of intelligence, and also that it is okay for some emails to go unanswered.

I thank my intrepid staff of editors, writers and designers for putting up with my disorganization and lack of direct eye contact or precise instructions. You’ve been through a hell of a ride. Thank you to the senior staff, Matthew Whisman, Ellie Storck, Dakota Peschel, Eleanor Hardy and Annie Rusk. You can all go into the world knowing that you have a beautiful, shiny title on your resume, and hopefully a few fond memories of broken computers and an abundance of chairs to go along with it.

I could write more. But what I want to close this with, in classic fashion, is a question. Where do we go from here?

At this point, support for the newspaper has come from within a network of dedicated students and faculty members. In a letter to campus last month, The College Voice was referred to as "our campus newspaper." That was the first example I could remember of the campus at large or any administrator taking responsibility or ownership over this organization. As more and more media stories came out attacking specific members of the newspaper staff and the newspaper as a whole, it became clear that it would also be the last.

That means that, somewhere along the lines of "shared governance" and "accountability," something got lost. How can the campus claim us as their own without offering support, whether that be by writing articles or in efforts to educate the staff as to what it means to have journalistic integrity? We want desperately to know that you have a beautiful, shiny title on your resume, and hopefully a few fond memories of broken computers and an abundance of chairs to go along with it.

I am glad though, to have been along for at least the beginning of what I hope is a long run. I look forward to looking back. The shifting staffs and families are the most consistent home I have known at this school. Perhaps this editorial is so long because I know that the second that it ends, it is my last goodbye.

Signing off,
Ayla

THE COLLEGE VOICE STAFF

THE COLLEGE VOICE

April 27, 2016

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

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**Upon graduating from Connecticut College, A Scattered List of Various Things**

Well, I'm graduating. That's pretty much the time. So was the time, almost exactly four years ago when, as a high school whoer who one month away from another significant milestone, I packed my and my offer from Conn. What came of that decision was the last four years of my life, which were in equal parts fun, stressful, uplifting, frustrating, jarring, moving — and you better believe it — scary. Now I've come full circle. What a ride! I don't have anything all that fresh to add to the conversation on significant moments in one's life such as graduation, so instead here's a scattered list of various things that have marked my time as a Connecticut College undergraduate.

- **The musical things:** I think I've done it all. I played at Florella sophomore year; played the last show my friend David did in Abbey House, rocked out at Burning Camel, performed with the orchestra and brought back barn shows. Many of the friends I spend time with, and not the underage days, but because where and when else I've made all the difference. Yes, I'll or empathy between two kinds of people. Most of them has brought me to my dorms the next morning's issue. The year has been hectic, and don't we know it, but it's been rewarding to process it with you, piece-by-piece, as best we know how. To our staff and those who wrote, thank you so much — you are the bones of this paper and such a boon to our campus community.

- **The Friends:** Obviously. Most of them I've never met before. It's not as though I've got to know only over the last two years. I've been closer with any other group of people. Still, my best friend over these past four years was one I made on the first week of school. I remember helping him into bed when he drank too much freshman year. I also remember walking to my classes in Adapter, I had to think about how strange it was that this walk is what's most familiar to me at Conn. The friends I've kept thinking about how strange it was that this walk is what's most familiar to me. Ayla Zuraw-Friedland, and comfortable. Last year a senior is a failure of our institution as a whole, or whether this is a failure of American culture.

- **The Bad things:** The past year has been a year of my life that I've realized that right when I started getting too comfortable is when I wasn't taking advantage of what Conn has to offer and when I stopped being comfortable, was when I realized how much I love it here. The "yes motto." I've adopted it now, and broadened my idea of getting too comfortable. Last year a senior friend of mine explained that her senior-year motto was "yes" after having had to say no so much. I love to walk through the arbo and explore. Yes, I will gladly listen to your concerns about a problem you're dealing with. Say yes to everything you can. While your Netflix account may be more enticing than the environmental panel in Blaustein, force yourself to go, you won't regret it. Live by the yes. Never stop making friends. Establish a friendly relationship with as many people as possible. Be actively involved if you want something to change. Conn hands us a lot, but if you want to experience change you need to be proactive about it. College isn't always going to be the best time of your life, don't let Animal House fool you, but making minor adjustments, changing your no to a yes, makes a hell of a difference and as I've learned, can get you pretty damn close.

**A Farewell from Eleanor Hardy**

Dear humans of our fair campus, thank you for participating in co-creating this year's The College Voice. In my semester-long capacity as Managing Editor—a long with the immaculate Dana Sorkin—I have seen validated many-dimensions over the need and value for the newspaper we share. To those who read our humble publication, your interest is what keeps us up Sunday nights, hacked over coffee and articles awaiting to take new life in the next morning's issue. The year has been hectic, and don't we know it, but it's been rewarding to process it with you, piece-by-piece, as best we know how. To our staff who wrote, thank you so much — you are the bones of this paper and such a boon to our campus community.

Next year Dana and I will endeavor to fill Ayla's shoes as Editor(s) in Chief. We have no idea what to expect, but I know I speak for both of us when I say we relish the challenge and look forward to bringing the best we can muster in our time at the reins.

So drop us a line and tell us what you think. We'll be here, pushing the bill to be an honest forum for campus discussion and a means for you to be heard. So thank you for your love and criticism. Please excuse our typos.

- **Eleanor Hardy, Sports Editor**

**A Farewell from Dakota Peschel**

Trying to write down everything I've learned this year from The Voice would be pointless; it would take up the entire newspaper, and I know for a fact that there are lessions I've learned that I can't quite articulately just yet. I probably won't be able to until after I've had time to reflect on this past year over the summer, and by the time I get back, it's suddenly be one of the two Editors in Chief.

The fact that I will be Co-Editor in Chief next year signifies the beginning of the end of my experience at Connecticut College. Both are hard to come to terms with, but time isn't waiting for me to accept this fact. Everyone faces the end of chapter in their lives differently. For me, The Voice has become so tightly entwined with my experience at Conn; they are one in the same, and they define each other.

There are too many people that have made my experience working for The Voice possible thus far. Meredith Boyle, for believing in me and my asiasian first-year student with no journalistic experience; other than than the occasional article for their high school newspaper. Dave Stanfield, Melanie, Beauty and Maria Cristina, for their leadership, teamwork and always mandatory friendships. And Ayla Zuraw-Friedland, for showing me how to have a voice, and to use it when it's most needed. You have been one of my closest friends throughout this year, and an incredible role model. I followed you around everywhere, from our brand new office to Philadelphia to Larra- bee, and I wouldn't have had it any other way.

The College Voice would be important and temporary time to be a member of the Connecticut College community, and one of my (many) goals is to have The Voice be a true reflection and record of our time here, and we need everyone's help to achieve that. Just like our time at Conn, The Voice is what we make of it. Please help me and Luca make it great.

- **Dana Sorkin, Managing Editor**

**On Going Forward (Part Luca)**

**On Going Forward (Part Dana)**
I'm ashamed to be an alumna -
Professor Pessin deserves support and an apology

To the Editor:

For the first time in 41 years, I am ashamed to be an alumna of Connecticut College (Class of 1974). Professor Andrew Pessin embodies one of the values for which Connecticut College prides itself - free expression of ideas. Furthermore, to allow one student, Lamia Khandaker, to interpret a Facebook post as “racist” because it suits her anti-Israel agenda, and then condemn Professor Pessin for expressing his point of view, is unconscionable. Second, Prof. Pessin apologized for and clarified that he was referring to Hamas in his post and not the Palestinians, the rationale for Israel’s blockade of Gaza.

All Professor Pessin did was criticize a terrorist organization, Hamas that has been labeled as such by the U.S. government and the European Union. He criticized an organization that uses children as human shields, blows up school buses, reigns missiles on Israeli towns, murders gay people, persecutes Christians, and murders its own people for suspected business transactions with Israelis. Khandaker is speaking for a radical anti-Israel organization, yet she offers no criticism for Hamas.

Khandaker is an example of the radical anti-Israel thought police pervading campuses, which students and professors of sounder minds are trying valiantly to combat with facts and free expression. I never thought Connecticut College would get caught in this web of anti-Israel, anti-Semitic propaganda and lies.

Kudos to Professor Pessin for speaking up for the only democracy in the Middle East. Shame on Connecticut College for abandoning him and running a mandatory session on racism that featured his Facebook post. Shame on the College Voice for running letters attacking him without first giving him the opportunity to respond to the accusation. Shame on me for donating to a college that supports scapegoating and propaganda. Back in the early 70s, I wrote articles for the student newspaper - when journalism was fair and balanced.

Perhaps the remedy is for Connecticut College to hold a follow-up mandatory session on anti-Semitism and anti-Israel hate speech, featuring Khandaker’s emails.

I’m ashamed to be an alumna -
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The NEW IDENTITY of As Told By Vaginas

HANNAH JOHNSTON
CONTRIBUTOR

The senior cast members of this year's production of As Told By Vaginas have recently released the new list of leadership for next year. The show, which debuted in 2016, was named Technical Producer and Rachel Maddox '16 was named Artistic Director. The College Voice sat down with Per- vengia and Maddox to discuss the new leadership team, next year's show, and what exactly is going on in the name of the club and the production.

TCV: Congrats on leadership for As Told By Vaginas! How did it feel when you found that you would be technical producer and artistic director?

JV: When I found out that I would be technical producer, I was really, really, really excited. I thought it would be a little bit nerve-wracking because we have a lot to do to, but it was a prepared and excited kind of nervous.

RM: I was also very excited. I really wanted to be the artistic di- rector, I was really nervous that I wouldn't get it because I wanted it so badly. It's really special to me because we've both been dedicated to this show since we were first-years. It's exciting to take the reins as seniors.

TCV: How was the first meeting of new leadership for the 2015-2016 year?

RM: It was great! I thought it went really well. We have a lot of really awesome people. I think what has been a standout in this year's leadership in comparison to other years is that not everyone has the same opinion. There was a lot of pushback and challenging in ways that were respectful and sus- tainable, and that will help us a lot to move forward.

JV: I agree, I think that we have a lot of perspectives, probably a lot more perspectives than there have been in the past - especially in re- gards to class-years. There are a lot of first-years and a lot of soph- omores which is exciting because we know that when Rachel and I leave there are people that care.

TCV: What is the deal with the name of the club and the show? That's definitely something that has garnered a lot of confusion throughout campus.

JV: This is probably one of the biggest hurdles that the transfeminist group on campus has had to han- dle. The Vagina Monologues is the feminist show for years and years. Eve Ensler (writer of The Vagina Monologues) did amazing work and the word vagina became much less taboo and a real source of strength for cis-gendered women, which is where the movement was at the time. The movement has since changed, and we've worked on this idea of vagina for a little bit more progressive. So in recent years, The Vagina Monologues has not been as applicable and inclus- ive as it once was. So last year we changed the production and the name to As Told By Vaginas. We kept the word vagina in the title because we wanted to main- tain continuity and express that the overall message was the same. We have gotten a lot of feedback from the community that the name was exclusive and not explicative of all of the parts of being a woman because being a woman is more than just having a vagina. We have tried to respond to that feedback by naming the club The Women's Empowerment Initiative, or The WE Initiative and as a group (the whole leadership team) we decided that the name of the production would be chosen based on the monologues that we get in the Fall. So now hopefully the club name will be able to stay the same from year to year and the production title will change every year with our new leadership and monologues. I think the change is going to be really positive.

RM: Definitely more positive than what we were working with this year.

JV: One of the last things we want is for anything to take away from the message of the show and also from the point that it is a fundraiser for a really amazing, non-profit organization called Safe Futures.

TCV: What do you think went well with the big transition of the show this year from The Vagina Monologues to As Told By Vaginas?

RM: I think people in the cast and on leadership and who event- ually saw the show felt more connected to what they were seeing, reading, performing and speaking. That was the main positive feedback I received from somebody who was on leadership and also a performer. People heard something like "Vagina and the Angry Inch" [a monologue formed in As Told By Vaginas] and relat- ed more easily. With The Vig- ina Monologues there are a lot of monologues in one as well but there are also many that are pret- tily dated. I was in one last year and I didn't really know what it was except that my whole monologue group didn't know what it meant. People in the audiences were like, yeah you did a great job, but what was your monologue about? To have that kind of disconnect and misunderstanding really added to people not feeling as excited about The Vagina Monologues. What's exciting about this is that it chang- es every year. People aren't going to go to The Vagina Monologues for the same message every year because it's the same show. This new production is go- ing to have so much more variety and there is always going to be something different every year.

TCV: What are you hoping to improve upon for the coming produc- tion?

JV: One of the things that I would love to see happen is a few more bonding-oriented events. I think one of the main things that draws people into this type of show is the sense of community. A lot of that comes from tech week, where the whole cast of dozens of wom- en are stuck in a room together for four hours every night of the week and then all day the night of the show, and it's so much fun! You walk into that room and the excit- ment is tangible. It's the best thing that I've experienced at this school and it's one of the reasons why Rachel and I wanted to do this again. It could be even stronger if there were more supplementary events, and we have an amazing woman, [Alexena Katsnelson '16] in charge of supplementary events this coming year. Hopefully there will be more events on the weekends and in the evenings for people to get together and bond more and share experiences. We have also consid- ered creating a purchasable, bound book of monologues, which would be a lot of work but also really exciting.

RM: Definitely more positive than what we were working with this year.

TCV: Do you think that sepa- rating the club name from the name of the show will make the supplementary events easier to organize?

JV: Yes, I think so because we are a feminist club, and in years past the club has been essential- ly only about The Vagina Mono- logues and the content of the show and now we have the opportunity to make club events open to every- one and to engage with the wider community.

TCV: What are you guys most excited about for next year?

JV: I'm excited to read new monologues! I was on the reading committee this year and reading new monologues was incredible. I'm excited to read about people's experiences, especially people who are at this age where they are figuring everything out.

RM: Yeah, monologues, I'm ex- cited to get different perspectives. I'm really excited about this new outreach position that we've creat- ed because I think that is what was missing this year. There are three people of color on leadership and I'm excited to be in the position that I'm in as a person of color. I can relate to that experience of sitting in an audience and asking where I fit in on stage and I'm excited to go to The Vagina Monologues '16 (on-campus outreach chair), and Anna Marshall '16 (off-cam- pus outreach chair), to talk to groups and say "Hey let's talk about our experiences" and have real ways that conversations can generate change and will be mean- ingful to everybody on campus.

JV: I think that this year, ATBV leadership did a great job, espe- cially producers Bettina Weiss '15 and Alix Israel '15. It was a huge transition, the work that went into it was incredible and we raised $15,000 for Safe Futures, but I'm excited to see how we can improve and how we can address those gaps of representation that were there this year. There's going to be a more consolidated effort towards larger inclusion and I think that's going to be really exciting for ev- eryone.

TCV: What can members of the Conn community do to get in- volved with the show over the next year?

JV: REACH OUT. Really, real- ly reach out. I understand the de- sire and urge to only talk to your friends and people you're comfort- able with and with whose perspectives you understand, but that only goes so far. We will be acting on our beliefs, opinions and experiences as well as those that we hear. We can only work with the feedback input that we hear. We have to feedback about the name and now we're putting that feedback into action. I really hope that the com- munity can see that we are trying to make a difference. I also hope that everyone writes monologues and auditions for the show, and comes to see the show. It's also important to ask questions. If you hear or see anything that you want to talk about, come to me or Rachel or any of the 25 people on leadership.

TCV: Is there anything else you want people to know about next year?

RM: Come chat! If there's any- thing that you want to know, there are 25 of us, so whoever you're most comfortable with, come have conversations. Now is the perfect time for us to be getting feedback and making changes.

JV: I also want to say that last year, everything that happened because there was such push for a change. I want to say that this isn't the end of The Vagina Monologues or As Told By Vaginas, it's a continuation of everything that happened before. I hope that people really take it upon themselves to under- stand what's going on with issues that are important to them. I hope that when people see the posters for the 2015-2016 show, they re- alize that it's conveying the same message that it's always been.

WE Initiative leadership team members:

Technical Producer: Juliette Vernaglia
Artistic Director: Rachel Maddox
Directors: Emma Weinberg, Hayley Smith, Hannah Boai, Kate Goldberg, Chiara Gero
Supplementary Events Director: Alenka Katsnelson
Day Of Chair: Zoe Davis
Off Campus Outreach Chair: Anna Marshall
On Campus Outreach Chair: Fara Rodriguez
Safe Futures Liaison: Bridget Horan
Outreach Committee: Hannah Johnston, Miranda Young
Public Relations Director: Emma Hibbard
Public Relations Committee: Becca Tinuto, Sara Rosenberg
Monologue Committee Chair: Mattie Barber-Bockelman
Monologue Committee: Samantha Weisenthal, Marta Martinez-Fernandez, Michelle Lee, Sarah Treaster, Joren Kajzel, Miranda Young, Phoebe Masterson-Bickert, Mia Haas-Goldberg

THE NEW IDENTITY
OF AS TOLD BY VAGINAS

May 20, 2017
The Exercise of Power

ANDREW SHAW  STAFF WRITER

In recent weeks, the campus community, and particularly the student community, has been invested in the hiring process as it is deployed. Who holds power and who is able to deploy it? The annual faculty staffing plan—a document that students rarely see or know about—is one such process. Although there is no rule that keeps students from seeing it, according to Dean of the Faculty Abigail Van Slyck, there is no established practice of sharing it with students— even though such a practice would be in keeping with shared governance and increase student understanding of how decisions are made at the level of the senior administration.

Due to sabbaticals, retirements, resignations and other departures, temporary and otherwise, Con涅quot College has an ongoing process of recruiting faculty to fill these open positions. At this state, the Dean of the Faculty draws up a faculty staffing plan each year. Phrased not in terms of specific professors, but rather in terms of human resources and tenure-track lines that are moved in and out of departments based on perceived staffing needs, the plan determines how each of the currently 162 lines gets distributed across the College in the next five years. The staffing plan is in four parts and performs four different functions. It contains a prioritized wish list of new positions that the College would like to fill. The plan also categorizes both openings and anticipated openings in faculty positions during the next five years. There are processes in place to move openings from one group to another, or that positions that might become available for reallocation. Projecting over five years, the plan assesses and governs departmental staffing needs and resources other than tenure-track faculty. Finally, the plan contains a list of the approved faculty searches, which ultimately lead to hires.

"Our staffing plan process is very unusual... [for] the extent to which it is consultative," said Dean Van Slyck. At other institutions, the plan is usual- ly the provost's decision alone. At Con涅quot, the plan is written in consultation with President Catherine Bergeron and the Faculty Steering and Conference Committee (FSCC). They take into account the Educational Planning Committee's (EPC) "five-year curricular plan," which is "rewritten and revised" each year, said Dean Van Slyck. Faculty vote on the plan. In the fall, the Dean of the Faculty also meets with the chairs of departments that will submit staffing requests (by December 1) on that year. Whether she approves the requests or not "depends so much on the size of the department and what department it is," said Dean Van Slyck. In this meeting, Dean Van Slyck said that she and the department chair talk about defining departmental quality at Con涅quot. She asks, "How do we think about quality of a department, not just in size?" The university method of having every subspecialty of a field represented in a department simply is not feasible at Con涅quot, so the College has to define "quality" differently, she said. Students are involved in this process in a couple of places: in the Priorities, Planning and Budget Committee (PPBC), which advises the president and includes faculty, staff (both hourly and salaried), and students. Departmental Advisory Boards (SAB), which involve students in the hiring process of tenured and temporary faculty, are also involved. Once student involvement in their capacities, the Dean Van Slyck said, "I think it's really important that students have an opportunity to share their experiences and reflect on them." When asked about the end result of the current staffing plan process, she responded, "I continue to think it's working well." She maintained that using the existing committees and procedures "really vigorously" for conversation among faculty, staff, students, and administrators will continue to yield fruitful results.

Previous years' staffing plans influence each succeeding year's plan. The plan written last year emphasized the on-going nature of curriculum revision, and that the new general education curriculum, when it eventually comes into effect, will affect departmental curricula as well. Each department, if needed, needs to align course offerings with the goals, whatever they may turn out to be, of the new general education curriculum. However, for both last year's and this year's plan reiteration, no one is able to predict how the new general education curriculum will affect enrollment patterns, which is largely what the staffing plan responds to. Drawing upon previous years' plans, 2014-2015's plan emphasizes, apart from curricular revision, strengthening or establishing interdisciplinary connections across departments, and enhancing or maintaining majors' offerings. The History Department, for example, asked to retain a vacant 1.0 FTE tenure-track line "to hire a specialist in sub-Saharan African history and politics." As such, the committee suggested funding this position to be "not necessarily to hire someone with specific expertise" for the academy, but to "have someone in academic knowledge in the field, because it will maintain the current geographical scope of their curriculum, while also building the department's capacity to offer comparative, global, and transnational approaches to the study of history. In addition, the position will play a major role in the revitalization of the College's Africana Studies program and support global Islamic studies." The plan uses Conn's admissions peers and other NESCAC schools, as well as the direction that a given discipline is moving in, as a barometer. It also considers "enrollment pressures," and how assigning a faculty line will improve "the College's diversity efforts" and its "initiatives to weave principles of inclusive excellence throughout our increasingly international curriculum." Of course, ultimately, all of this is dependent upon financial resources. Dean Van Slyck declined to give the size of the budget for hiring and retaining faculty, saying that the number is not "usually shared" outside of PPBC.

Though Computer Science, Economics, Human Development and Psychology all asked for additional tenure-track lines, none were granted this year due to lack of resources. This year's plan generally authorized that departments could retain their unfilled tenure-track lines, as well as authorize certain departments to hire temporary faculty or staff. Religious Studies, for example, will lose a tenure-track line after a retirement, and at the moment is only authorized to search and hire a full-time visitor. Assuming the hiring process goes as planned, that person will be here during academic years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018. About temporary faculty, Dean Van Slyck said, "I'm so proud of us." Where the national trend is to increase the reliance upon temporary faculty, Dean Van Slyck said that "our line is flat." Dean Van Slyck also commented on the "quality of the applicants and visitors." However, regardless of temporary faculty members' quality, and ability to maintain what this year's staff is authorized to do, "flexibility," what we gain in flexibility at the institutional level by employing any temporary faculty members, we lose in long-term growth, particularly at the departmental level.

The current version of the staffing plan (dated 7 April 2015) is available on The College Voice's website, www.thecollegevoice.org. •

EILLIE NAN STORCK  NEWS EDITOR

There has been much national mobilization and protest recently regarding the Whole Foods Animal Compassion claims, which sells the idea that the corporation raises and kills animals in a humane way. Across the country, animal rights activists—including multiple from Con涅quot College, some of which are from the CONN C.A.R.E.S. organization, have gathered on several occasions to peacefully protest the campaign that Whole Foods has created.

On the company website, Whole Foods claims the following on the "Animal Welfare Standards" page: "At Whole Foods Market, we're dedicated to helping you make informed choices about the food you eat. We are often too easy to forget that the burger, steak or drumstick on your plate was once an animal. How was that animal raised? How was it treated? Where did it come from? What about added hormones and antibiotics? Was it grown biologically to get to market sooner and reduce feed cost? We are committed to answering these questions. Many activists have taken action to peacefully protest and investigate Whole Foods' claims to humane animal treatment. "There have been multiple undercover investigations into Whole Foods suppliers' farms, and the conditions are just as bad as factory farms—in fact, identical," explained Selena Sobanski, '16, founder and co-president of CONN C.A.R.E.S. "So the protests and movement have been trying to raise awareness about the 'humane myth' that has gained speed in food marketing lately," she said. Zach Groff is an animal activist and writer in New Haven, Connecticut who has been working hard to peacefully protest at different Whole Foods establishments in the New England area. "The animals on Whole Foods' farms live lives that are nasty, brutish and short. Worse, Whole Foods and other corporations like it are selling consumers on the idea that animals on farms are raised humanely, despite the fact that 99 percent of animals are raised on factory farms. Many activists have gone so far as to investigate the farms where Whole Foods get their animals. At the 'Certified Humane,' cage-free farm we investigated, hens were cramped so tightly into a shed that they could barely breathe. The hens we rescued, Mai Hau, was left rotting in her own feces with her feathers pecked off of her wings by other birds amid the stressful and densely-packed obse where they were kept," said Groff. He explained that the strength of animal activism is rapidly growing, and activists like him have been happy to see the strength in numbers. "I think I can speak for all of us when I say that there are few things more powerful than going into a place where violence against animals is the norm and speaking the simple, and obvious, truth. This is a large part of why our numbers are growing and our activism is becoming increasingly confident and unified. This is what is needed to take down the current dynamic of counter-protests because, quite simply, Americans are animal lovers and are starting to realize that animal agriculture is inherently violent. Activists across the United States like Groff and Sobanski hope that eventually, they will see a positive change in the treatment of animals marketed at companies like Whole Food. "The most important thing right now is taking nonviolence to the next level to take down the humane myth peddled by Whole Foods," said Groff. •
"Be brave enough to start a conversation that matters."

~ Margaret Wheatley

The Offices of Student Life congratulate everyone involved in the first Color Brave Monologues. We want to recognize the extraordinary work done by the students who wrote about their life experiences and perspectives and those who stood before our community with passion and commitment to share their own and each other's truth. Your engagement in this inaugural event has expanded how we understand our community.
Dorm Damages Dilemma: How Escalating Damages in Park Represents a Broken System

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

SARAH ROSE GRUSZECKI
STAFF WRITER

for your entire community. Because that's the expectation—that we will all do what is in the best interest of our community. And if people don't speak up there are certainly consequences.

In my own examination of these events, I have reached a similar conclusion; short-term solutions such as cameras are not the right choice. Although it may be helpful to explore the possibility of heightened security measures, these measures will not allow us to get to the root of what is triggering these incidents. In order to genuinely approach dorm damages, we must engage in more critical discussions about privilege, gender and the culture of our institution.

Most of us know that when an unreported damage occurs, the charges are distributed to all the residents within that dorm. That money is added to every resident's tuition bill in instalments throughout the course of the year. For many individuals on campus, these fines go without consequence. For others, however, they impose an enormous financial burden. The people who are doing this aren't affected by those damages have been male. When caught committing these damages, all of the students who have been caught committing these damages have been male. When analyzing the gendered nature of experience at Conn as a whole, it is important to note that with the implementation of our honor code, which stressed high academic and personal ethics, the role of socioeconomic status and class must continue to be part of our active dialogue.

Furthermore, when examining how these damages have been reported, the rate of gender cannot be ignored. According to the members of the Park house council, all of the students who have been caught committing these damages have been male. When analyzing the gendered nature of these issues, one student noted, "There is a culture of male violence and we are seeing that being replicated here. This is a group that can be held accountable. I just imagine seeing girls carrying around bats destroying these walls. When we talk about it we don't discuss how it is gendered. Multiple students shared these sentiments; they felt that although gender was not isolated to any group of students, it is crucial that all individuals, regardless of gender, hold their peers accountable.

Finally, if we truly wish to engage in a productive dialogue about dorm damages, we must talk about how to deflect our current school culture. It is easy to think that with the implementation of our honor code, which stresses high academic and personal ethics, it is possible to live in a community of mutual respect. Unfortunately, as our campus has witnessed in the past few months, this is not always the case. As evident through anonymous venues like Yik-Yak, some students on campus feel that if their name is not attached to an action, they are free to do or say whatever they please, regardless of how aggressive, destructive or hurtful that action may be. It is indispensable that these dorm damages are destructive, both to our community and to our facilities. However, they also provide a unique opportunity to challenge this culture which many of us have become far too accustomed to. Unlike security cameras, this culture change will not be seen overnight. But if we truly learn to hold our peers accountable, respect our community and see the honor code beyond words on a signed page, we may actually witness this imperative change."
Are Connecticut College Staff Paid Living Wages?

MAIA Hibbett
STAFF WRITER

Although HR provided some concrete information, the staff was the group whose input I really wanted. I knew I could not simply walk up and interrupt work for invasive and time-consuming interviews, so I chose to send out a mass email to all of the dining, custodial and facilities staff. I thought that of all tasks, would be the easiest, seeing as the email group staff@conncoll.edu exists. I wrote up an email detailing my project and ensuring staff members that anyone who wished to comment could remain anonymous if they so preferred, and I sent it out to the "staff" email group.

Unfortunately, I learned that students are not authorized to email the entire staff for reasons undefined. I then turned to the Connecticut College Staff Directory, which I thought would provide me with a list of emails that I could copy and paste. I was wrong about that too.

In order to find an email in the Staff Directory, the user has to click on the staff member (continued from front page)’s hyperlinked name, which then opens a pop-up window. The window includes that staff member’s hyperlinked email, which opens directly to Outlook without Gmail. In order to send an email to multiple recipients via Gmail, the user has to copy and paste the email address and close the new window. This is a simple enough task when contacting a single-digit number of people, but I did it over 200 times.

Of course, this trivial and time-consuming work did have seemed completely worthwhile had I gotten a significant staff response. However, after sending my email out in three acts and contacting more than 200 people, my grand total number of responses came to a whopping one.

Cesar Osuba, a custodian who agreed to be identified by name, was the only staff member who responded to my email. During his interview, he made generally positive comments about working for Conn with some qualms about staff representation and the lack of programs designed to incentivize labor, but he stated clearly: "Mine can’t be the only opinion that you get." I agree with Osuba, and that is why this project is far from finished. This is the truth that I cannot write a conclusive article without hearing from more staff members. When I asked Osuba why he thought I did not receive any other responses, he said "some of [the staff] don’t even know they have [Conn] emails."

Why would use staff not be informed of their institutional email accounts? In the present technological age, email acts as an essential means of communication, and every member of our campus has a right to interact with the rest of the community. It concerns me that at a school so heavily invested in shared governance, it becomes nearly impossible for populations on campus to talk to others.

The difficulty of answering the living wage question is a symptom of a greater problem: the disconnect between sectors of campus. Why, then, is the staff at Conn so isolated, and how are we going to change it?

I once overheard an older family member talking to someone else his age. I don’t remember the exact context, but he was trying to explain that he wasn’t pointing the finger of blame at anyone. What he actually said was, “We’re not trying to finger any one here.”

This is a pretty harmless example of a time in which the way I use language differed from someone with a different identity: specifically, that of age. Many people my age would never have used that term in that way. In this case, it turned into a self-centered argument about the appropriate use of language. I laughed and told him that he just can’t use that phrase.

But what happens when the accusations of the “appropriate” use of language are more serious? What happens when those making the claims hold particular positions of power? What happens when they begin to link the use of language to notions of intelligence? And what underlies these claims?

Recently, a fellow student attempted to force me to believe that being intelligent means being able to speak ‘proper’ English. I asked him to explain, and he went on to say, and I paraphrase:

“We go to an elite school, and if people don’t know these rules of language, then maye they shouldn’t be here.”

I know every other person on this campus has likely heard some overt or subtle, direct or passive comment about someone not being smart or good enough because of the way they speak and communicate. And when people do this, they are lightening the color of language to enact biases.

Next time you say or hear something that assumes connections between language and intelligence, question that idea coming from. Question how you are measuring intelligence. Question your standards of the “right” way of speaking. Because many understandings of the “right” way to speak English are drawn from the same standards that determine the “right” nationality, the “right” race, the “right” class, the “right” ability status, the “right” education level, and so many other categories.

These categorizations of the “right” way of speaking and how they reflect the “right” form of intelligence reflect a very particular structure of power which excludes people who do not hold power in that structure and discounts many articulations of intelligence. It’s a centuries-old, colonial, racist, classist, ableist, xenophobic understanding of the “right” way of being. And our peers are operating within these assumptions and expectations of language and power every day.

On speaking English as her second language, Ellie Kim ’15 expressed:

“When I open up my mouth and let words come out of me, I feel as though every word I say would be evaluated, for its pronunciation, meaning, idiom, grammar, etc. This fear of being wrong, of being not proper, of coming across as inadequate makes the very act of speaking anxiety-provoking.”

What Language Obscures:
Exploring the politics of “proper” English

MOLLY LONGSTRETH
CONTRIBUTOR

Intentionally or not, hierarchies of language and the belittling of “improper” uses of English serve as tools to silence our peers.

Merkia Ngobo’ki ’15, in discussing her experience and expression of Ngobo’ki, stated that her parents understood that “those who speak the ‘proper’ way have so much more power than those who do not.”

Because of the connections between English and power, and more specifically between “proper” English and assimilated intelligence, her parents “were so focused on making sure that we spoke English the ‘right’ way, that they failed to teach us their native language, and because of that, I often feel as if part of my identity is missing.”

Gigi Gonzales ’15, also a first-generation American student, also discussed part of her parents’ experiences as immigrants and the “right” way of speaking English. She remembered that “they could tone down their Filipino accents whenever they felt they needed to,” but, “over the years, I noticed they ceased this practice as an unapologetic act of defiance against those who infantilized them.”

When someone makes a claim about another’s intelligence, based on the way the person speaks, their definition of intelligence reflects the intelligence of those who hold power. The accuser is likely not taking into account the students who feel they are forced to focus more on the words themselves rather than their content, for fear of appearing uneducated. They are not taking into account the intelligence of speaking multiple languages, or of the modes of intelligence and thought that cannot be articulated in English.

They are not taking into account the intelligence of resistance through language and modes of speech despite the attempts at repression by the force of the dominant standards of English.

These three experiences in no way represent the experience of every other student who may share elements of the identities or backgrounds of Metika Ngbokoli ’15, or of the students who do not represent all the countless ways that power is constructed through language, or all the ways that language has been used on this campus to devalue particular identities and experiences. There are many ways students on this campus are navigating these limited, imposed categories of “right,” “intelligent,” and language from the position of accusation and accused.

But it is clear that those who make assertions about someone using the “right” kind of English do not account for how the “right” form is constructed and maintained. They do not account for the ways someone of “improper” English is a tool to silence not only the form, but the content of the words.

We are not simply hear someone draw the connection between use of language and intelligence, challenge that claim and challenge what it is grounded in. To accept only a limited understanding of what constitutes “intelligence” and to accuse others’ language of falling short of that limited expectation is what is truly unthinking.
Assessing Democratic Integrity in SGA Elections

TARYN KITCHEN CONTRIBUTOR

On Tuesday night, I drafted an article critiquing majority-rule democracy in the context of the recent SGA election. I asked questions such as: how can majority-rule democracy ever hope to represent the minority, and therefore represent the whole, when it's explicitly in the interest of the majority? And, doesn't this form of democracy (they would argue) ignore the historical power dynamics in "leadership"? In writing that piece, I did a little research to figure out just how the ballots are counted here, only to find that information was virtually non-existent. I was hoping to explain how putting a second or third choice takes away numerical strength from your first choice, but in looking through the bylaws, no information on the counting system used by SGA could be found. So, I followed their suggestion, and contacted the Chief of Communications, Sarah Bradford '15, for more information.

After two days of conversations among SGA representatives, the Senec Web Developer and students-at-large, it was finally established that this year's election was based on a factor-combo-in which first choice selections were given five points, second-choice was given three and third choice was given one.

I urge you to ask yourself: Did you know how this worked when you were voting?

Many students, and candidates themselves did not. Some students didn't put second and third choice candidates in fear of that taking away strength from their favorite. Others put multiple names, thinking they would get equal points. Others thought second and third choice didn't even count—they didn't last year! And still others thought second and third choice were only used in the case of a run-off election.

This is voter misinformation. This is not democracy and this is not transparency. I have to admit that the SGA Assembly has done an excellent job acknowledging these issues and agreeing to simplify the system and better inform voters for future elections.

However, if we can agree that these elections were problematic, and agree that they need to be changed, it would be contradictory to say this past election was okay. There is still time to fix that. We need to revote.

SGA is our legitimate voice as students. We need to know that SGA represents our interests. The revote may well produce the results we desire, but it is not a sure thing. 

On Reconciling with the Idea of SGA

APARNA GOPALAN OPINIONS EDITOR

Over a year ago, I wrote an article in the Voice calling for a complete overhaul of student government elections at Connecticut College. I suggested that even choosing SGA members via lottery would be preferable to the current facade of an election that imagined that all issues that students might have could just go to a school-wide online referendum instead of bureaucratizing around the archaic structure of an election.

This year, I find myself interested in contesting the results of the recent elections on the grounds of misinformation and lack of transparency. What happened? Where did I find all this faith to invest in SGA that made me want to expect transparency, from them, given that I have never recognized the legitimacy of SGA as an elected body?

This winter, in the aftermath of this year, February, March and April 2015 were transformative in more ways than one: Apart from demonstrating the social identity-based (race, class, gender and so forth) fault lines in our "community," the events showed that the "administration" and those looking for social change must always exist in tension with each other. The events made obvious the corporate nature of the institution we live and work in, and showed that corporations, no matter their legal status, are not people — they are devoid of the compassion one expects from a person. This means that to work within a corporate body, one must use tools of political coercion instead of voicing moral outrage. We also learned that the lone student voice doesn't cohere well because it is prone to getting shut down. But the collective, especially in collaboration with media sources that create a PR disaster, cannot be ignored as easily.

These few months have also showed us how different students inhabit different political spheres at the College. The surface of sameness that was becoming routine was shattered as we saw camps of political ideology develop. My complaint from a year ago, of every candidate running for election being the same in essence, became void this year.

Platforms emerged and the campus politicized.

In the face of politicization, and in the face of the realization of administrative blockages clogging up the process of change on this campus, it seems that a strategy of "adaptive resistance" is called for — which is to say, anything goes. We protest, write resolutions, email, talk to the media, have presentations, demonstrations, teach-ins — we do whatever we need to do to further the cause of social justice and equity. No holds barred.

In this spirit of dynamism, I have come to realize that while the electoral process might sometimes seem unworthy of participation because of its flippancy, SGA is inevitably one of the strategies that we must employ.

Which means it is ours to fix. It is ours to make sure that the elections can be less of a joke, that the meetings can be less elitist and classist in their form and less restrictive in their content, that the organization as a whole can be less of a self-centered veneer where one group can "win" over another and more of a forum for changing systems that continue to fail us. It is ours to peer closely at elections that no one understands. This is probably the one place in the world where we have the most agency to change the political and social structure around us, and as dismasted or irrelevant as it might seem at first glance, SGA can be revolutionized to help serve this end.
The Connecticut College
Academic Resource Center

Congratulates
the
Class of 2015

and wishes them the best of luck in all of their future endeavors!

Be sure to reach out to ARC for help and resources during your final round of exams!
Located on the second floor of Shain Library
Conn has a Poker Team?

Yes, and they're filthy

JOHN CUNNINGHAM
STAFF WRITER

Not too long ago swimmer Carson Owlett '17 was just a casual poker fan that had fun playing online. Recently, though, Owlett has been taking poker more seriously. Carson, along with eight other students at Conn, just competed for the title of best collegiate poker team in the United States. Owlett and his teammates Ashley Giordano, Roberto Gochicoa, Deion Jordan, Sean Lee, Will Stockard, Sam Turco, all class of 2017, Mark Ferreira, Jordan, Sean Lee, Will Stoddard, Sam Turco and Karl Johnson '18 came up just short of winning the national title when they lost to Florida State University, a team made up of 70 players. "The most surprising thing that we lost to Florida State University, a team made up of 70 players. "The most surprising thing was that we beat those guys pret-ty good earlier in the year". How is it, Owlett?

"When the intramural soccer captains received the email from Coach Satran, Connecticut College's basketball coach and head of intramural soccer, it was as if students were glowing: 'Students at Connecticut College partake in intramural soccer each spring. The teams compete in Dayton Arena, on turf placed over the ice. Commissioner of the league Dillon Kerr '15, a varsity soccer player, has set a standard of competitiveness and fun. The league consists of 11 teams with more than 100 people competing. There are nine members on the field at once. Many intramural players have been looking forward to the season since the final of last year where Darling Marter '14 and his team The Black Mambas won the championship. Some returning teams from last year are Island of Misfit Toys, Team 2, Team Gilmore 3.0 and So Much Sass. Kerr said, 'There's a great turnout and a lot of great talent this year. The games have been ecstatic and thrilling so far.' Many players have been training in the off-season in preparation for intramural soccer."

One of the most intense games so far was a matchup with Team 2, captained by Charles Overton '17, versus Pheebs, captained by Phoebe Ivan '18. The April 14 match ended with Team 2 victorious, but Pheebs made it competitive with a lot of hard work. Most valuable player went to CC Chadwick '18. Overton, a referee in the league as well, had a lot to say after the match. "It was intense."

One team to watch out for is Team 7 captained by Matt Lillie '17. This team works incredibly hard in their matches and has some good team chemistry, as this is their second season together. Some standouts are Jon Sokolsky '17, David Pottle '15 and Steph Gittings '17. In goal, Gittings currently has the leading number of saves. In one match versus The Black Mambas, Gittings marked 22 saves for her team. Captain Lillie said this of Gittings: "I'm really happy with the way Steph has been playing recently. If she keeps this up she could be MVP of the league. Sokolsky, a forward on the team, is praised for his incredibly high work rate up front competing for every 50-50 ball. He's good with defensive shape up front and has a good strike. Pottle has good footwork, can play with both feet and is often man-marked by the opposition."
Reflecting on the Boston Marathon: Two Years Later
A City Continues to Heal

ELIZABETH VAROLI
STAFF WRITER

4.15.13
This is the date that has gone down in history as the day of the Boston Marathon bombing. On April 15th 2013, the Tsarnaev brothers set off two pressure cooker bombs near the finish line of the Boston Marathon on Boylston Street. These atrocious bombs yielded three dead and 264 injured. The Boston Marathon is usually a day filled with excitement for inhabitants of Boston and viewers around the world but instead this day was filled with events that nearly shut the city down: manhunts, shelter-in-place orders, a lack of communication and a half on public transportation.

4.15.13
This is also the date that Lelisa Desisa, an Ethiopian runner, won the Boston Marathon for the first time, running a little over 26 miles with a time of 2:10:22. Desisa completed the race a mere five seconds faster than Micah Kogo, the silver medalist. Desisa was one of the few runners who was able to complete the race as so many of the other projected finishers were derailed by the bombs. In the aftermath of the attack, the marathon awards ceremony was cancelled. Many consider Desisa to be the "forgotten champion" of the Boston Marathon in that his incredible finish was completely lost amidst the tragedy. After the race, Desisa returned his gold medal to show his solidarity with the city of Boston and all it had lost.

4.20.15
This is also the date of the 119th Boston Marathon. Two years and five days separate this day from the Boston bombing. This is still an emotional day for the entire city of Boston but it also marks their ability to move forward. Boston, a city completely shaken by the events of the bombing, embraced the "Boston Strong" motto that had guided them through the initial shock. Many runners indicated that they would be running the race in memory of their friends, to honor all the victims, or to raise money for charity organizations. The marathon was a sort of community bonding and healing event, but it was also a chance for many to run a race they had always dreamed of running. After last year's more sentimental race, the one-year anniversary of the bombing, it appears that after two years the race has turned its focus back a little more to the running.

4.20.15
This is the date that Lelisa Desisa won the Boston Marathon for the second time. During this race, his time improved by over a minute, finishing in 2:09:17. This race was not as close as the 2013 race. Desisa crossed the finish line with a 31 second lead over Yemane Adhane Tsegay, the second place winner. When Desisa crossed the finish line he announced "Strong Boston." Being from Ethiopia, his English syntax wasn't perfect but the sentiment of his statement stuck and touched all who watched. This year, there was a formal medal ceremony where Desisa received his gold medal that he would actually keep for himself this time.

I hope Lovie Smith knows what other quarterbacks have Heisman behind them: John- man, Troy Smith, Matt Leinart. How are they doing in the NFL? Troy Smith and Leinart barely had NFL careers, and no matter how famous a quarterback's fates are in question. In fact, despite Cam Newton, no Heisman winner since 2002 has made an impact in the NFL. But why is that? Well, what kinds of teams get the top draft picks? Bad teams, i.e. teams with the worst records. This year, that bad team is you. And so when a bad team picks a quarterback early in the draft, it expects him to immediately become the savior of the franchise. Great college players like Winston frequently are drafted early because they are the best. And bad teams want the best.

The problem is that such a player has no supporting cast. He is thrown into an impossible situation, trying to carry the drags of the league on his back all by himself and without any experience. And when it doesn't work, as in the case nine times out of ten, he is automatically a bust. It may work that one time out of ten.

Andrew Luck and Cam Newton have led their teams to the playoffs on multiple occasions—but they need to be special talents to succeed. Winston excelled in college, but he is no special talent. So while all of your scouts and experts, I'm sure your research is light-years ahead of mine, but I only want to point out some basic observations. First of all, Winston makes a lot of mistakes. In only three games last year did he fail to throw an interception, and in five games he threw more than one. In a game against an abysmal Florida team, and with Florida State in the midst of championship hopes, Winston threw four interceptions. And he threw all of them while backed up in his own end zone, a spot where holding onto the ball is imperative.

Against mediocre competition throughout his sophomore season, Winston made vital errors after error, only to secure, by a schedule of college football still runs with an unprecedented regular season. You can say, then, that he's a winner, that even though he makes all of those mistakes he always finds a way to win.

For his entire college career, though, Winston has a stout Florida State defense to back him up. He is an automatic bust. It may work that one time out of ten.

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A Language of Their Own: A preview of the Art Major show

DAKOTA PESCHEL
OPINIONS EDITOR

The maze known as Cummings is a space that very few of the student body attempt to understand, however many have made this building their surrogate home and studio for the past 4 years. The senior art major show titled "Fragment - Process," opening on May 1 at 5 p.m. in the galleries on the second and third floors, contains a selection from the intensive year long exploration that all senior majors are required to undergo to complete their undergraduate experience. I was lucky enough to be present during the beginning stages of set up to talk with a few of the art majors about their year long endeavors.

Cascading ceramics greet the viewer upon entry into the Joanne Toor Cummings Art Gallery on the second floor of Cummings. Esther Mehoez '15 uses this medium to explore her familial and cultural history in Hungary. The repeated forms she utilizes throughout her work "are antiques teacups from a particular tea set... (that) hold sentimental meaning to the past for my parents." Her work is intensely concerned with connecting her experiences in embodying her cultural heritage in both the United States and Hungary.

Newton explains that this piece is about "transformation through the process of fitness," featuring casts of her own body parts as "shel skin," a video installation that mimics "the trance of being in the gym," and finally the green dress that she will be wearing while "wild horses running around the hills" in fits of sleeplessness.

Some of the first animals to be represented in all of Newton's body work are antiques that conspicuously mark one's space of the senior art show. Citrus is an annual dance production put on entirely by students. Featuring a multicultural dance show, a fashion show, and a dinner, this weekend is a celebration of cultures and their histories throughout the world.

There is a lot that goes on behind the scenes in order to make the fashion show successful. By reaching out to clothing vendors off campus, as well as students and campus organizations, the students who were running the show were able to get the word out about the need for models and designers. Auditions were held for models, which called for pieces from Connecticut College to represent clothes from various regions. Once models are cast, measurements are taken and hewelry pieces begin in order to ensure that everyone is placed in the collection. All of the models were students and contributed to the show for at least one collection. The designers featured in the show were called from outside of the College to create unique and fit clothes specifically for the models, ensuring that they are worn properly. The students use the fashion show as a way to add their own personal flair to a given style. The clothes on display are worn traditionally, but the students are able to add attitude and personality to each outfit.

Most of the clothing was his torical and represented trends throughout time. To be mindful of misleading clothes from different countries, clothes from countries in the same vicinity were placed in the same area of some given collection. For the Asian collections, there were clothes from South and East Asia, many of which have been seen in Fusion. For the Latin collection, many of the clothes were from Mexico and Guatemala, with a few pieces from other places. There were two non-profit organizations from off campus that let models wear their clothes as a way of showcasing the culture that the organization identifies with. Kpfuma was one non-profit organization that participated in the fashion show both last year and this year. Their work is to improve the overall literacy of children and adults in a small community in Guatemala. Both organizations showcased clothing from both countries and were given the opportunity to fundraise with 100% of the proceeds going back to their organization. CCASA (Connecticut College Asian & Asian-American Student Association) and MEChA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán) were the two organizations from on campus that contributed clothes to both the Asian and Latin collections. Eclipse is a program that focuses on not only showcasing the arts and the use of art as an intermediary as a way for people to willingly learn about other cultures. On a predominantly white campus, it is very important for students of color to have an outlet where they can express their own identities in an accepting environment that welcomes their peers into their perspective of their individual culture. It is very important to remember that one person is not representative of an entire culture, race, or group. The beginning, Eclipse has been about using artistic forms to showcase the hidden faces of Conn. This was the driving force in the plan to bring Eclipse back to its roots. This project included bringing back the art fair, an initiative that the 2013-2014 Executive Board began. This year, based on the overwhelming success of last year’s Fashion Show, they were able to have a larger venue and continue the legacy of those who came before. The fashion show is a great opportunity for those who like to let their clothes, personality and attitude speak for them. They are able to express to others that each of them that society is not often accepting of. Eclipse began as an outlet for students of color and the use of art as an intermediary is not considered to include their allies as a means of cultural self-expression for all.

Eclipse Fashion Show

Highlights Culture, History in Dress

CIARA HEALY
ARTS EDITOR

The annual Connecticut College Eclipse Fashion Show was on April 24 leaving no disappointment to those who admired the history and assortment of fashion throughout time and region. Now entering its 40th year, Eclipse is an annual dance production on entirely by students. Featuring a multicultural dance show, a fashion show, and a dinner, this weekend is a celebration of cultures and their histories throughout the world.

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PHOTO BY HALLIE CARMEN
Montreal Protocol Takes Music to Downtown New London

JOHN SARGENT
STAFF WRITER

An air of excitement streamed throughout the cramped wooden walls of the Bulkeley House Saloon on Thursday, April 16. It poured over the crowd in swift, steady waves. The tight quarters on the 2nd floor of the bar, better known as Tiki, suggested there might be a reason that 111 Bank St. on this night was generating such significant numbers.

Looking around, I could imagine numerous possibilities that explained why each member of the growing stream was there. Maybe they needed a break from the academic rigor of April, or maybe they just wanted a night off with friends. However, when the dimmed lights suddenly flared up and revealed to the crowd the previously silhouetted figures on stage, I knew there was a common purpose for every student’s presence: Montreal Protocol.

Despite not being able to hear the music within the first five minutes due to the uproar of the crowd, Montreal Protocol gave another stellar performance by doing what they do best: playing music.

Covering a variety of classic hits and performing a few originals of their own, MP made sure that no dull moments undermined their time on stage. But such tumults allowed viewers no surprise to the band of five (Tim Flannery ’16, Drew Andre ’16, Sam McKeown ’17, Luke Graves ’16 and Joe Donohue ’16).

There seems to be something unique about Montreal Protocol that extends beyond the black and white aspects of their makeup, an intangible chemistry that can only be understood when observing the band without the lights, music and screaming crowds. “We are stupid,” says Graves, drummer and a junior at the College. “We drink together, we party together. We are friends.”

This sort of camaraderie within the band is evident, but the strong social bonds within Montreal Protocol are born of the incredible effort they put into their music.

“Behind every show, there are probably 20 hours of work put in by each member of the band,” Luke emphasizes, leaning forward in his seat. “It’s our work and our friendships that contribute to the non-verbal communication that people are seeing on stage.”

Luke went on to describe how Montreal Protocol’s time together has always been about the mutual enjoyment of music, but this didn’t mean they were always natural performers.

“We were bad” he relates, a slight smile on his face preparing me for the tale of how Montreal Protocol got their humble start. “I remember I was on the second floor of Jane Addams my freshman year. I had a couple of kids playing some songs in a dorm down the hall and I just went in and introduced myself.”

The people jamming in that second floor dorm room were Drew Andre and Tim Flannery, two fellow jaynees and current band members today. Yet, little did Luke, Tim or Drew know that this casual interaction was the beginning of something that would come to fill their lives in the coming years. Still, things did not take off immediately.

“You can’t rehash in a dorm room,” says lead vocalist Drew Andre, laughing as he reminisces on those first shaky weeks in Montreal Protocol’s infancy. Drew explained to me how things developed very slowly for the band early on because they lacked the necessary space to nurture their creativity, which ultimately hampered their ability to grow.

It wasn’t until the band joined MO-BROC that they began to further develop their abilities. Montreal Protocol gained access to the “Barn,” an old converted squash court behind Creo, where they could practice in a proper setting and even perform small shows.

“Having that space is so crucial,” Drew says, “It’s almost impossible to have the same learning experience without it.”

To the band, the Barn was a safe environment where their musical talents grew unhindered. The space allowed them to explore the deeper complexities of the group and to find their own musical style.

“The ability to be in your own space and in your own heads collectively, you are able do things you can’t normally do alone.” The band sees this as crucial in propelling them to new technical heights which ultimately enhanced not only their music but also their stage presence and work ethic. Or as Drew puts it, “Now we jam until we can’t jam anymore.”

With this discipline toward their craft in place, Montreal Protocol has an optimistic view of things to come. “I think right now we are focusing on the live performance,” says Joe Donohue, who mains the sweet synthesized rhythms of the band’s keyboard. “I think that Tiki set the groundwork for the near future. It didn’t really prove anything to us, but it showed to the audience that we could perform and perform well.”

Joe expressed excitement for the future, and said that Montreal Protocol will try and get off campus more often for live shows in the coming year. “We are going to try to get up into Boston and New Haven.”

However, even beyond next year when the band will face their final year at Connecticut College, Joe said that their commitment to Montreal Protocol is resolve.

“We haven’t thought about stopping, we just want to do what we love and make it happen.” For Montreal Protocol, the act of getting together with friends to make music transcends the bonds of Campus life, a devotion that has marked the band as something special.

With a pensive look in his eye, Drew says “We don’t want to be forty-something at a reunion and talking about what we could’ve done different.” and I don’t believe they will.”

Subjects

We slice them thin
I interject, how, with a deli slicer?
Yes, she replies, exactly

We slice them thin
We peel back the skin and get in to their brains

She said she can get twenty slices to examine under a microscope and evaluate the extent of the damage of a life spent under controlled conditions.

I imagine my own brain sterilized in a cold sink
And my headless corpse
Still in a fogged chamber

-Jon Litt

Poetry Corner

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