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THE COLLEGE VOICE

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Conn listed as one of friendliest LGBTQ Schools

DANA SORKIN
MANAGING EDITOR

For the second year in a row, Campus Pride and the Huffington Post have ranked Connecticut College as one of the most LGBTQ-friendly schools in the country. This distinction, which puts us in an exclusive group of colleges and universities from around the nation, comes after years of hard work from students, faculty and staff. According to Campus Pride's website, in order to be deemed one of the most LGBTQ-friendly schools, colleges must adhere to eight different areas of campus life. These areas include: LGBTQ policy inclusion, support and institutional commitment, academic life, student life and housing, among others.

This year, Connecticut College received five out of five stars in five areas, and four and a half stars out of five in the remaining three. What sets apart these schools from the schools that did not make this year's list, as well as Connecticut College from many of our peer institutions, is the inclusion of institutional policies that protect and enhance the quality of life of the transgender community on college campuses.

This year marks the implementation of one of the final policies needed to completely ensure that transgender students are protected academically, socially and now, medically: the student health care plan will now cover many of the medical expenses a transitioning person may need. The new health plan comes as the last of many policy changes, including gender neutral housing, gender neutral bathrooms and the ability for students to have their preferred name be consistent throughout much of the College's documentation.

Associate Professor of History and Director of the LGBTQ Resource Center Jen Manion discussed the history of these policies, citing former Dean of the College Armando Bengochea as instrumental in creating these changes and being very receptive to ideas that would continue pushing the College forward. In 2008, Manion organized some of the first discussions surrounding transgender issues by inviting a representative from GLAAD (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) to come

and hold discussions concerning the needs of transgender students.

Today, five years later, Manion leads "mandatory training for all new faculty" on issues pertaining to the transgender community, and many of the already tenured faculty have also come forward to be trained as well. Jae Majors '15, one of the students who worked towards these monumental changes, also cited training for many student leaders on campus, such as Floor Governors and Housefellows, varsity team captains and members of the ALANA (African American, Latino/a, Asian American and Native American) Sisters and Brothers program.

Identifying the policies that needed to be changed and encouraging the administration to change them was not always easy, but help came from members from all over the campus community. Manion named Catharine Moffett, Director of Student Health Services, as being one of the people most heavily involved in identifying possible new health plans and ensuring one that worked well for the College was offered to students. Moffett was unable to be reached for comment.

Both Manion and Majors discussed the challenges that come with being such a small school and fighting for something as large as a new health care policy, "but," said Majors, "just because we're small doesn't mean we can't have it." Manion said that changes were made when "individual trans students [brought their concerns] to the administration," and Majors said that as the transgender community at Conn continues to grow, these are changes that "[make] a huge difference in how somebody works and enjoys their college experience."

During his first year, Majors helped lead the takeover of Fanning that led to the addition of a gender-neutral bathroom on the second floor. Though there was some resistance from some faculty members who had their offices in Fanning, eventually the bathroom was made gender-neutral, making one of the most important academic buildings on campus more accessible to the transgender community.

Even some of the most seemingly radical colleges and universities in the country still fall behind in creating and implementing policies aimed at making inclusive environments

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Assuming Privilege:

Unpacking socioeconomic microaggressions on campus

DAKOTA PESCHEL
OPINIONS EDITOR

Money is dirty; it is improper and impolite to discuss your finances with your acquaintances or even those close to you in our culture. Why is this? We live in a capitalistic society in which we consistently consume products in order to showcase our financial successes. This cultural taboo is very present on our campus. Even though we claim to be progressive, we still have trouble discussing issues pertaining to students' socioeconomic classes and how this impacts their experience on campus.

Connecticut College was recently on a list of schools that The New York Times deemed "economically diverse." Conn's website states that the comprehensive fee is \$60,895 for the current academic year, and the average financial aid award is \$37,300. 52 percent of students are receiving some form of financial aid. Considering the astronomical fee one pays to attend a private college or university in our current era, it is not surprising that many students cannot afford to pay the sticker price.

Yes, Conn has made great strides in allowing students with more diverse socioeconomic backgrounds have access to a top-notch education through financial aid, but how does money (or the lack thereof) impact individual students' lives on campus? Many often forget that money is an issue for more than half of the student body who are on financial aid in some form or another (the extent of which obviously varies depending on each student's unique situation). We are not all on an equal financial playing field simply because we are enrolled at the same institution, and many forget this fact because of the relative invisibility of class.

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Concerning your voice on campus

This is not a plug to get you to write for us, let me just start there. While I hope that what I have to say in this opening editorial (one that I have been panicking about for three months) will be of interest to someone, somewhere, I don't intend to put any pressure on anyone to come to meetings eat free food, talk about contentious campus issues in an accepting community of writers and thinkers or learn how to fix dangling modifiers with our copyediting staff. No, this is not a plug. Not in the least.

On a more serious note, self-advertising is not the intention of this editorial. Rather, this is a call to action. That phrase always manages to sound more self-important than I would like it to, but for now it is the only one that can convey the weight of meaning I'm trying to convey.

Above all, this newspaper wants to serve as an opportunity for our community to engage in thoughtful conversation. No, I don't mean the conversations that are gathering steam and followers on sites like Yik Yak and ConnColl Confessional. Based on a recent skim through many pages of often offensive and non-constructive verbal abuse, it is clear that an overwhelming percentage of students here have strong feelings about any number of things happening on and off campus. It is rather impressive how the shield of anonymity amplifies opinion and manufactures a sense of solidarity, despite not knowing with whom you are aligned. Opinions are great; their presence generally indicates that thoughts are happening. But how effective can those aggressively typed, nameless opinions be if no one is claiming agency over their own ideas? At last week's Teach-In, "Why does Ferguson matter?" there were 400 people crammed into the 1941 room. This means to me, that there are at least 400 people that have something to say.

As of now it is three in the morning as Head Designer Annie Rusk and I are getting ready to send in this issue to final print. It is surreal to realize that this newspaper can be whatever it is that people care to make it. After 13 hours in our new office debating over issues as large as general content and the significance of titles, to the differences between Baskerville and Minion fonts, it is more and more evident that it takes a small village (or at least a dedicated staff) to put this paper together. But it wouldn't mean a thing without students willing to take responsibility for their ideas and voices to inspire positive and meaningful change.

-Ayla

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The College Voice meets each week at
9 p.m. on Monday.

Join us.

THE COLLEGE VOICE

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

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No Pain No Shain: The Hunt for a new study space

SHATRUNJAY MALL
CONTRIBUTOR

New London Hall, traditionally a favorite for those looking for a more off-beat location to study, has become one of the hottest study spaces on campus. Now with the library off-limits because of its renovation “New Lo,” as it is popularly referred to in college jargon, has become a hub of activity, much to the chagrin of veterans of the place, who have long enjoyed the modern façade and general quiet of the academic building. A newly made friend, who I have frequently seen at New Lo from last semester, relates to me how difficult it has become to catch spots in the building since the semester began. He jokes, how he wish he could put up a placard to reserve a desk for himself.

I was keen to get a more varied view of the situation, from the first years. I met a group of them on the third floor of New London Hall and asked them how it feels to not have a fully functioning library. One of them talked about how he especially loves New London Hall for studying and how he cannot really talk about the library, since he has never experienced having one on campus. Another talked about the difficulty of studying in his room or most of the dorms on Thursday and Saturday nights. They were unanimous that, to put it mildly, it is not ideal, or, to put it more bluntly as one of them said, “it kinda sucks.”

The functions of the library have been spread all across campus, so that now the Neff Computer Lab and the IT Service Desk are in the Plex, and the reference desk is in Blaustein. Blaustein has been billed by the college as the next best thing, an alternate of sorts, to Shain for the year. Desks have been lined up along the hallway of the first floor of the building. The college has allocated the classrooms on the floors above as perfect substitutes for the quiet rooms on second and third floors of the library. And yes, the very basic functions of the library are fulfilled. Books on reserve are accessed with the same ease as before, and interlibrary loan and other such services that the library offers appear to be running pretty smoothly. The printers continue to operate with as much ease or as much difficulty (depending on how it works for you) as they did earlier.

Blaustein however is not quite the perfect substitute for Shain. Students sitting at the desks on the first floor complain of the constant stream of people through out the day at this usually bustling building. This can be a minor disturbance for some, but a breaking point for others.

Most of the classrooms in the building are virtually inaccessible for class hours during the weekdays. This contrasts the library, which was a quiet getaway for study at any time of the day or the week.

Students express a variety of opinions on the renovation. A good friend of mine, though unhappy about the current status of finding a proper spot to study, expressed a hopeful note. He talked about the lack of seats in the library last year—a problem that would get especially acute during finals period, as well as the lack of

lighting and internet reception in some places. He is especially excited to see what Shain library will finally look like once the renovation is complete.

For those who studied best on the quiet third floor of the library, finding an equally attractive alternative on campus can be a challenge. One such friend said that he would rather have a library for all four years of his education here, with all of its apparent flaws, rather than a year without a proper library. His new favorite study spot on campus is the Chapel Library, with which he is generally satisfied, except when it gets crowded with people chatting amongst themselves, something that would never happen on the third floor of Shain.

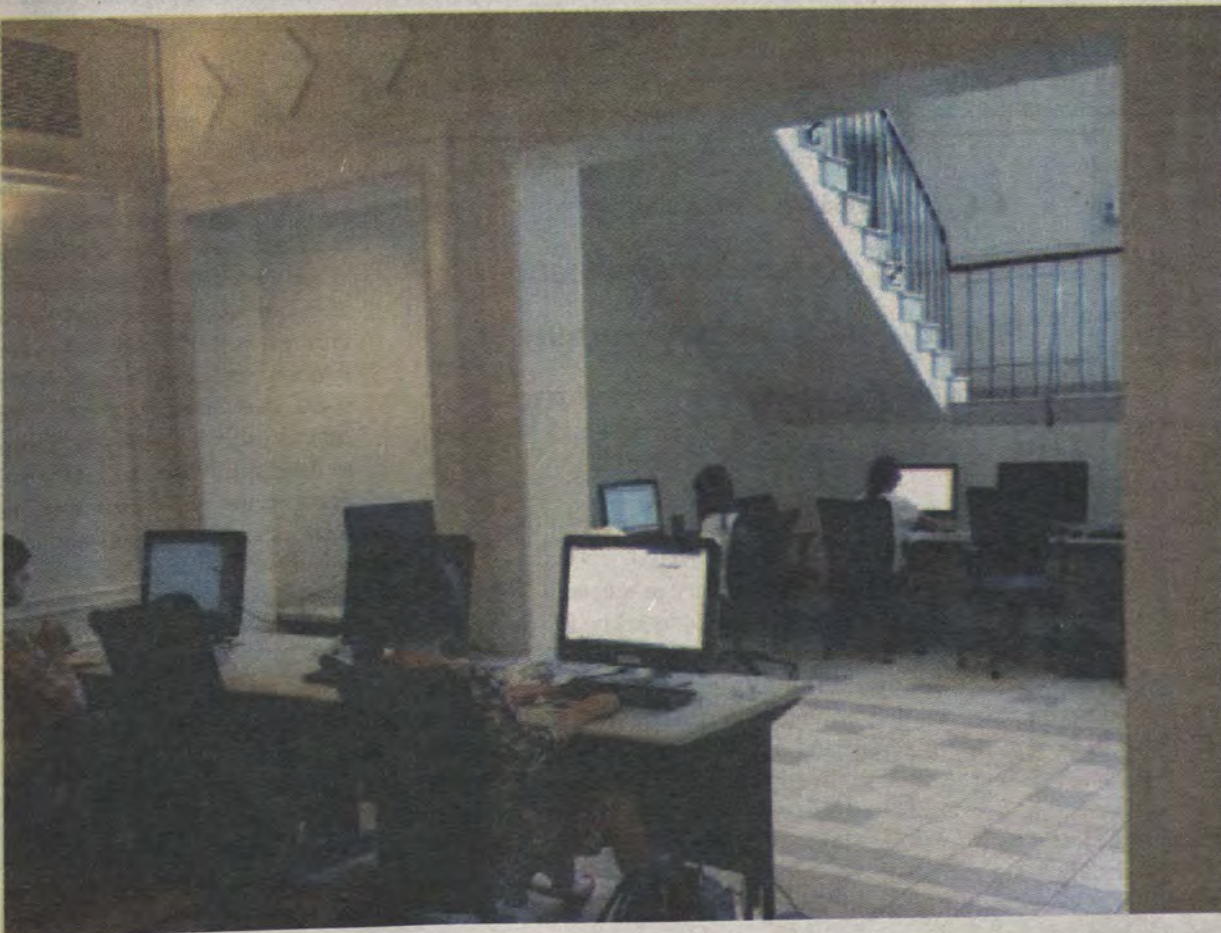
Those living in close proximity to the Shain construction site complain about the noise generated by the construction work, which often wakes them up in the mornings. There are also students who consider the entire library renovation superficial and unnecessary, expressing their satisfaction with the library the way it was.

The renovation is, however, also encouraging people to search for creative solutions to the lack of study space. A friend of mine has been spending a lot of time studying at the Hillel House, the newest building on campus. When I asked her how she feels about studying there, she was enthusiastic. The Hillel House has a very homely feel with its kitchen and other such rooms. It reminds her of her high school days when she would study at home. This provides a contrast to what she considers the impersonal feel of a big library or dorm room.

One thing is certain—the library renovation is having a toll on the study lives of at least some students. The college has come up with a catchy slogan to convince us about the necessity of the library renovation—“No Pain No Shain”. Some agree, others not so much and others still not at all. The tragedy is that seniors this year will never experience a renovated Shain library, a feeling put most succinctly by a Facebook comment I came across “Only Pain No Shain”. Time will tell whether the trouble of not having a library for an entire academic year is worth a rebuilt and supposedly modernized Shain Library. •



Photo Courtesy of Connecticut College



Conn listed as one of friendliest LGBTQ Schools

Administrative progress sets Conn apart

DANA SORKIN
MANAGING EDITOR

for transgender students. Mount Holyoke College, an all-women's school in South Hadley, Massachusetts, made waves early in the semester when President Lynn Pasquerella gave her convocation speech outlining Mount Holyoke's decision to change admissions policies to include transgender women.

"We need a formal policy," President Pasquerella said, before adding, "we recognize that what it means to be a woman is not static."

Only 20 minutes away, Smith College, one of Mount Holyoke's fellow Seven Sisters schools, is currently going through an internal struggle of policy changes concerning the admittance of transgender women to their institution. In 2013, Smith's policies created nation-wide controversy for denying high school student Calliope Wong admission because certain federal forms still listed her as "male."

On Campus Pride's 2013 list of the most LGBTQ-friendly schools, Conn was the only NESCAC school listed. This year we were joined by Amherst College. Besides Amherst, Manion said Williams College is known for having good policies set in place for LGBTQ students, but in the crucial area of student life, it is clear that Connecticut College takes the lead.

In defining the success of the changes, Manion said it "depends on how you view change" — is success creating institutional changes, or social and cultural changes? Majors commented on a steady improvement over the years he has attended Conn, including many professors "integrating more LGBTQ material into the coursework."

There are, however, still things that need to be fixed. New London Hall, one of the College's newest buildings, doesn't have the gender-neutral bathrooms that Majors and other students fought so hard for in Fanning. According to Manion, however, "structurally [and] policy wise, [Conn is] very progressive." As the transgender community grows on campus, the LGBTQ Center continues to put on programming aimed at creating an inclusive experience.

As a coordinator in the LGBTQ Center, Majors has been organizing a gender talk discussion group aimed at transgender and gender non-conforming students (they meet in the LGBTQ Center from 4:30-5:30 p.m. every other Thursday). Majors said that their first meeting saw five or six students attend.

In a nation of institutions of higher education that sometimes struggle to create progressive changes, Connecticut College is one school that is pushing forward both institutionally and culturally. As we continue to move forward, other universities and colleges will eventually follow. •

DEBATE OVER FERGUSON POLICE BODY CAMERAS

Breach of privacy questioned

RILEY MEACHEM
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CONTRIBUTORS

Weeks after the shooting death of teenager Michael Brown by police officer Darren Wilson in Ferguson, Missouri, the city still remains a hotbed of controversy, racial tension and unrest.

While multiple witnesses and crime scene analysts claim Brown was shot after raising his hands in surrender, and although he was unarmed, police insist he was resisting arrest. A media circus has ensued following Brown's death, spurring discussions of racism and police brutality.

And then there is the major impediment to continued investigation: there isn't any real usable evidence of the crime.

Eyewitness reports are almost always inadmissible in court or easily discredited. So the fact that civilians witnessed the shooting may not be of major consequence. Forensic analysts have examined the scene and determined the position Brown died in is fairly inconsistent with that of someone drawing a weapon, but that, too, is circumstantial and can be debated.

In the hopes of limiting any controversy surrounding possible future incidents, Police Chief Thom-

as Jackson has begun to equip his officers with small cameras, which record all of the confrontations and actions they experience throughout their day. Several surveillance companies have provided the Ferguson Police Force with 50 of the devices and have also started to train them in their uses and limitations.

In an interview Jackson claimed that he hopes each member of the police force will eventually use one. This, unsurprisingly, has incited major controversy.

In an interview with Don Gonyea of NPR, criminologist Michael White shared his opinions about the new practice: "Body-worn cameras provide a permanent video record of what happens during a police-citizen encounter... it has what I like to call a 'civilizing effect...' officers are less likely to engage in rude or inappropriate behavior, and citizens are less likely to be aggressive and resistant."

White, however, warns this initiative could also have a dark side.

"Clearly, there are times when citizens have an expectation of privacy that could potentially be violated by a police officer's use of a body-worn camera," says White. "The interview of a child, the interview of a sexual assault victim, for example... Perhaps a police officer

is talking to a confidential informant or someone else trying to get intelligence on criminal activity. When that encounter is recorded, it becomes, in many places, a public document that can be requested by

By signing up to join the force, an officer is essentially surrendering all right to privacy during working hours. If he or she makes a joke about a co-worker, a remark about a case, an unfounded

constantly monitor the words and behaviors of the populace creates a perpetual, unwarranted search for evidence.

Indeed, many states, including Connecticut, already have laws against filming people without their consent. Consequently, the legality of any footage acquired on these devices would be challenged. When the practice was implemented in Los Angeles, the results were mixed at best. The expensive cameras kept breaking, usually under mysterious circumstances, and officers were vehemently averse to their use. While the LAPD still endorses the use of body cameras, their capacity has been mitigated severely.

Whatever the ultimate effect is of these cameras, it comes too little, too late. The circumstances surrounding Michael Brown's death remain unanswered. Darren Wilson has been suspended with pay, and there are no signs of any formal charges being filed. As the city continues to experience turmoil, across the country discussions are taking place, as more and more people are realizing the need to address the issues brought to light as a result of the tragedy in Ferguson. •

“... there are times when citizens have an expectation of privacy that could potentially be violated by a police officer's use of a body-worn camera.”

citizens, by press and certainly by prosecutors.”

Therein lies the biggest qualm about the cameras: every action undertaken by on-duty officers will be a matter of permanent record. This includes private or embarrassing conversations between them and their partners, irrelevant details during cases and interviews with suspects. Before anyone is brought to trial, both the prosecution and the defense will need to view copious amounts of footage. Every action or comment an officer makes could be dragged into the limelight and scrutinized.

theory or a hateful comment, they could quickly be fired, suspended or sued-- which encroaches, in the minds of some, on the First Amendment's right to free speech.

This axiom effectively means that cops would constantly, if unintentionally, survey everyone that crosses their paths. Interactions with random citizens would be available to any attorney, jury or policeman who thought they could be useful. Many argue that this is a direct breach of yet another amendment--the Fourth, which prevents illegal searches and seizures. Having a government employee

Complications in Israel Progress

SARAH ROSE GRUSZECKI
CONTRIBUTOR

This week the United States took a strong opposing stance in response to Israel's decision to appropriate approximately 1,000 acres of land in the West Bank. The U.S. State Department evaluated the decision as "deeply concerning," immediately urging Israel to reverse the controversial territorial claim. It was reported that the Secretary General announced earlier this week that "the seizure of such a large swathe of land risks paving the way for further settlement activity, which—as the United Nations has reiterated on many occasions—is illegal under international law and runs totally counter to the pursuit of a two-state solution."

According to the Israel Radio, this initiative was a response to the kidnapping and killing of three Jewish teens captured by members of Hamas in early June. The incident propelled the Israeli Defense Forces to initiate "Operation Protective Edge," a mission targeting the Gaza strip

and Hamas militants and leaders in the area. Despite multiple attempts at ceasefire, the violence has progressed throughout the summer for over 50 consecutive days and has resulted in an ever-growing death toll. The number of confirmed deaths now exceeds 2,000 casualties in Gaza and 68 in Israel along with the destruction of over 11,000 homes.

The United States is not the only nation opposing Israel's recent decision. The European Union does not approve of Israel's actions and, a recent public statement claimed, "We condemn the new appropriation of land in the West Bank, relating to plans for further settlement expansion, announced by the Israeli government on Sunday... The EU reiterates that it will not recognize any changes to the pre-1967 borders, including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties... At this delicate moment, any action that might undermine stability and the prospect of constructive negotiations following the ceasefire in Gaza should be

avoided."

Many Asian countries have also commented on the situation. Japan recently stated: "Japan once again strongly urges

However, the area is also home to 2.4 million Palestinian residents who argue that, considering how much territory they have already lost, the land right-

attacking the Israeli region. Unfortunately, many experts concede that the peace is far from permanent. The 50-day war that occurred this summer was the third since 2008 and tensions continue to rise over territorial claims and deeply ingrained political disputes. Israel's economy and tourism regions were both exposed to significant damage, and Israel continues to face criticism from many nations over the targeting of Palestinian citizens, especially in densely populated regions. Gaza remains in a deplorable condition with many in the area lacking basic needs such as water and electricity.

Although Israel accomplished a portion of their mission in targeting hundreds of Hamas militants, the IDF predicts that thousands of rockets remain in the hands of surviving militant leaders. The nation remains under tight security restraints and continues to limit access through some of its borders. The war on Gaza may have settled for now, but only time will tell whether this peace and security will last. •

“At this delicate moment, any action that might undermine stability and the prospect of constructive negotiations following the ceasefire in Gaza should be avoided.”

both sides to act to enhance mutual trust as well as to continue to make steady efforts for peace." Several other nations, including Turkey and the United Kingdom, have also demonstrated urgent opposition and issued similar statements.

Approximately half a million Jewish people currently reside within the West Bank region, which is similar in size to Central Park in New York City.

ly belongs to them. Furthermore, the region holds strong religious significance for both Jews and Palestinians alike, and Palestinian authorities expressed concern that the Israeli government would attempt to implement a large Jewish settlement within the territory.

Currently, Palestine and Israel are in a ceasefire. An open-ended truce has been agreed on between Hamas and other groups

Tracking the ISIS Conflict

DAN BURNS
CONTRIBUTOR

Since Obama's recent speech at the 2014 West Point Commencement, ISIS (Islamic State in Iraq and Syria) has obtained enough territory, money, weapons and power to convince Western leaders that the group will cause problems for years to come.

"The need for a new strategy reflects the fact that today's principal threat no longer comes from a centralized al-Qaeda leadership," President Obama pointed out. "Instead it comes from decentralized al-Qaeda affiliates and extremists, many with agendas focused in the countries where they operate."

ISIS's origins can be traced back to the al-Qaeda offshoot group in Iraq (AQI). The Sunni group was able to heavily influence insurgency efforts in Iraq until the surge of U.S. troops in Iraq coupled with the Anbar Awakening. By this time, Osama bin Laden and other al-Qaeda already disassociated themselves with AQI due to their brutal killing of Sunni civilians. Around this time, AQI formed the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) after joining forces with small Sunni organi-

zations in the region in a collective effort to create a force that was not necessarily dependent on terrorist actions.

In late 2011, the U.S. pulled out of Iraq, which allowed ISI to develop. ISI soon began to focus its actions on the Syrian conflict in 2012 in an attempt to take down the Assad regime. According to then-ISI members, a Syrian group known as al-Nusra Front merged with them during this period, thus creating ISIS. However, leaders of al-Nusra deny any affiliation with ISIS.

The primary objective of ISIS is to establish a caliphate, an Islamic government headed by a religious leader, otherwise known as a caliph. The current so-called caliphate envelops a large portion of eastern Syria and eastern/northern Iraq. ISIS is led by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, who is now the self-proclaimed caliph of ISIS-held territory as well.

Al-Baghdadi proves to be an elusive figure, and there are very few public pictures and videos of the man. He is described by *Washington Post* writer David Ignatius as being "the true heir to Osama bin Laden" in regards to his fight against Western influence, adherence to Sharia law and the amount of power he has

in the region.

ISIS deploys some terrorist tactics, but unlike al-Qaeda, ISIS takes a more organized military approach to fighting. A State Department official testified that ISIS is not "simply a terrorist organization—it is now a full-blown army." There are an estimated thirty thousand fighters in the organization. Around 12,000 of those are foreigners from over 70 countries. An estimated 100 of these foreign fighters are from the United States.

ISIS has an estimated \$2 billion USD in assets and is padded by the millions of dollars brought in each day through the sale of gas and oil from captured sites in Iraq and Syria. Through raids of Iraqi military weapon caches, ISIS has accumulated weapons, ammo, tanks, humvees, helicopters and other military equipment from the United States.

Using social media as a tool, ISIS has demonstrated that it is able to effectively wield its influence. From extremist hashtags to videos calling for foreign fighters, ISIS is controlling a part of Internet that is becoming more widely used by extremist organizations. The most prominent media postings that ISIS has uploaded were the beheadings

of two captured American journalists.

On top of generating worldwide concern, ISIS's actions have directly resulted in the migration of more than a million Iraqis and the massacre of close to six thousand Iraqi citizens (mostly religious and ethnic minorities) in this year alone. They continue to threaten the local population through their control of Iraq's second largest city, Mosul, and are beginning to obtain territory surrounding the Iraqi capital of Baghdad.

President Obama shows great care and concern for how he addresses the issue of ISIS, and for good reason. Every president since the senior George Bush has initiated operations of substantial warfare in Iraq. The strategies deployed in Iraq by the U.S. have caused contention and President Obama does not want to create another Iraq War situation where the U.S. occupies the area for another decade.

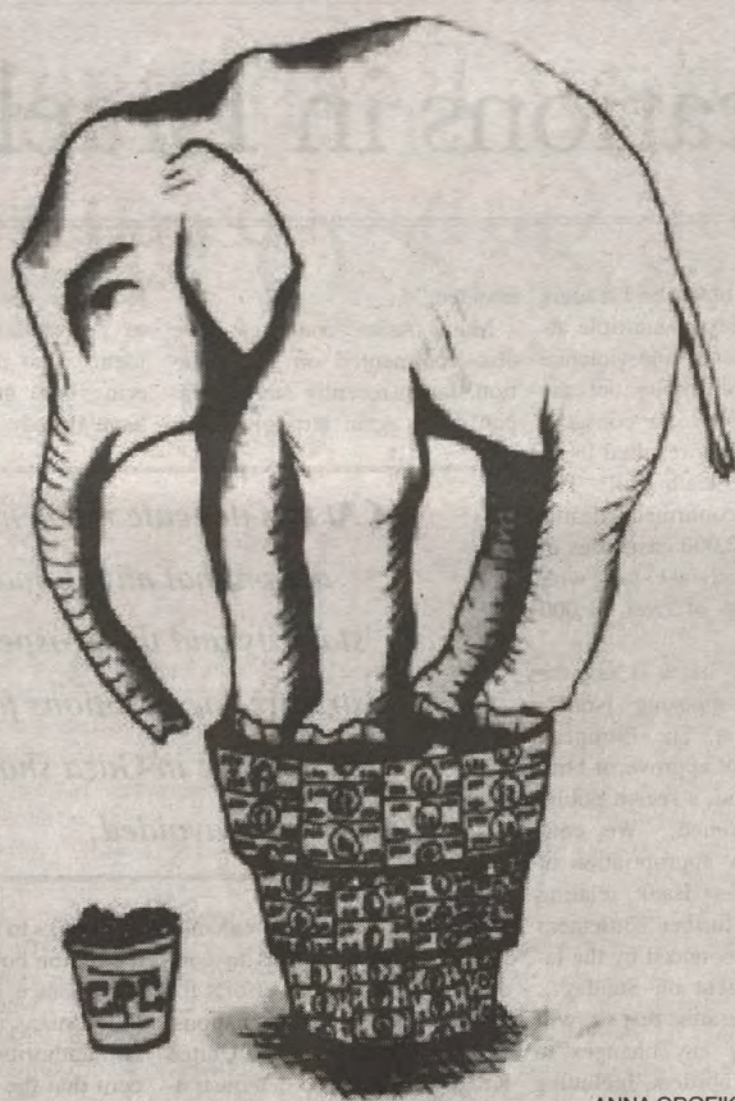
Yet this hesitance displayed by Obama can be seen as a weakness as ISIS grows in power and size and establishes targets beyond its territory. "ISIL [ISIS] may not appear to be an imminent threat to the United States," stated Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel. "It is a threat to the Unit-

ed States. It is a threat, a clear threat to our partners in that area, and it is imminent."

Thus far, the U.S. has focused all of its efforts on fighting ISIS though the use of fighter planes and drones. In a recent interview on *Meet the Press*, President Obama stated that the U.S. does not plan on deploying ground forces in the future, and instead is concerned with supplying the opposition with the necessary weapons and tools necessary to combat ISIS.

"We're going to have to develop a moderate Sunni opposition that can control territory and that we can work with," Obama asserted during the interview. "The notion that the United States should be putting boots on the ground, I think would be a profound mistake."

Since that interview, according to a *New York Times* article published on September 11, Obama has officially announced an expanded plan for military action to include the deployment of 500 advisers to Iraq, along with additional air and drone strikes on Syria. He shirks the notion, however, of returning to full-on war with Iraq. •



ANNA GROFIK

Assuming Privilege:

Unpacking socioeconomic microaggressions on campus

DAKOTA PESCHEL
OPINIONS EDITOR

In the beginning of my first year, it was really hard for me to adjust to the sheer amount of wealth on this campus. Let me preface this by saying that I come from a predominantly white, middle class town where many kids had their own cars, a signifier that their families were doing well. Yet, I was still uncomfortable when I began to realize that many of my peers were, in fact, fairly wealthy. I had never before seen such a vast array of luxury vehicles parked in the student parking lots and I felt inferior because of my own financial situation. As I have come to learn how to navigate this space, I understand that this is just a part of life as a student at any elite liberal arts college of a similar caliber; however, that initial culture shock was a doozy as an incoming freshman.

It was also difficult for me to digest that so many students did not work for their own spending money. Throughout high school and college, I have been working in order to cover many of my own personal expenses. In my town, working a part-time minimum wage job was fairly standard. Coming to Conn and learning that many of my peers did not work in high school was shocking, and having to work for money while others did not was strange, particularly because I was living in such close proximity with these students.

This is not to say that this is standard here on campus. Many of my peers work multiple jobs in order to afford books, snacks, transportation and other expenses that accumulate as the years progress. Having worked an off-campus job for 3 semesters (which is virtually unheard of on this campus), I can say that while I often had an abundance of spending money and was able to pay off my car loan, I was consistently stressed and often extremely sleep-deprived from trying to balance my academics, extracurriculars and jobs both on and off campus. Even though I miss having more money, I decided that ultimately my mental health was more important than being able to go out to dinner every weekend or having the option to frequently buy new clothes.

I asked others who are in similar situations how they felt about the relative invisibility of socio-economic class on campus. They all felt that because of the cultural climate and attitude toward money that permeates our culture, they were perceived as having enough money to experience the “typical” Conn lifestyle. I was interested in knowing if they had experienced microaggressions related to money and how that perhaps shaped their lives on this campus.

One student, a white female hailing from a single-parent house-

hold, explained that since her freshman year, she has stopped hanging out with people who continually made her feel inferior because of her financial situation. She stated that in her freshman year, someone she had met was shocked that she didn’t have a passport and she was asked, “Isn’t travelling important to you?” The same student also told me that when she confessed to being on financial aid the same year, some students received this negatively and told her that it was “like they put a nice 50% off sticker on [her] acceptance letter,” which made her feel that her peers were suggesting that she was “getting [her] education on clearance.” Another student stated that she feels frustrated because she “has been buying her own clothes and working since age 13” and that “[we] go to school with people who actually don’t know how to clean a bathroom.”

One student, who identifies as biracial, discussed how discussing study abroad made her “uncomfortable saying that [she] didn’t want to spend money on it” and therefore did not go. She added that “it makes [her] sad and happy to see [her] friends having these amazing experiences abroad and [she wishes] that it was available to [her].” Yes, financial aid does cover tuition for abroad programs, but this does not include plane tickets, spending money, and often meals are not included in certain study abroad programs. We discussed how this was an issue for both of us that ultimately led us to decide that we simply could not afford it.

My limited pool of interviewees does not speak to the volumes of other marginalizing experiences to which students on this campus are subjected. Regrettably, I was only able to discuss this issue with predominantly white women who understood that their whiteness allowed them to pass as of a higher socioeconomic class. Other students whose identities are intersecting and experience multiple oppressions obviously have a far different experience here at Conn. We also only discussed peer interactions, and I’m sure that similar situations have occurred throughout many other areas of campus life.

Inevitably, we all inhabit this extremely privileged space together, yet we do not all come from similar financial backgrounds, which can be troubling for some students attempting to navigate this climate for the first time. It is not to say that change is impossible, but recognizing the range of experiences on campus is an important step to pursuing further conversations that will help to close the gap between students. •

Student Responses to “The Cleaning Camel Laundry Service”

Business as usual

HARPUR SCHWARTZ
CONTRIBUTOR

There is a new cleaning lady in town that goes by the name of The Cleaning Camel. Are you someone who gets frustrated when you're a minute late taking your clothes out of the machine and you come to find that someone has hastily thrown your entire wardrobe on the floor? Do you live in one of the dorms in Central or South campus where the laundry machines can only be found in the basement? Is it annoying when you are trying to do your laundry and there are no available machines because it seems like you are doing it along with the entirety of your dorm? If you answered yes to any of the above questions, then today is your lucky day. For \$699.99 a year you can have your dirty clothes picked up at your dorm room to be washed, dried and folded. But wait, there's more. For an extra \$599.99 your dry cleaning will also be taken care of.

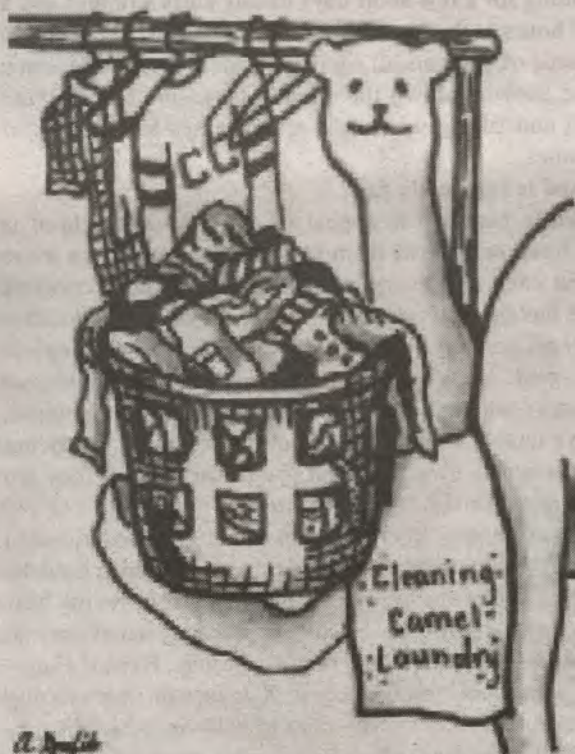
With the ability to outsource almost everything these days, the question becomes, “is this new laundry service a gift from the camel gods, or are we simply contributing to the already disdainful label of the ‘lazy college student?’”

The Cleaning Camel is in fact backed by Connecticut College, but Conn only receives 10% of the profits from this service. The money goes directly to the programming funds for Residential and Educational Living. So who is actually behind The Cleaning Camel? That would be Copacetic Life, better known at Conn as Jeff Celniker, the entrepreneurial member of the sophomore class and the guy who we now trust with our dirty laundry. Most of us will agree with the statement that doing laundry is a tedious chore – I know I do. But thanks to Celniker, this is a chore that you can choose to no longer worry about.

According to Celniker, “You can do your laundry just like you can walk into downtown New London, but you're probably going to pay more for the gas to get there in your car because it is more efficient.”

This is a service for those who want it. If you are willing to pay, then you will. If you want to do your laundry on your own, then that's fine too. This service is one that is great for athletes or students too busy with extra-curriculars.

The Cleaning Camel was considering twenty different businesses before they settled on the Groton Laundromat and Shalett's Cleaners to participate in the newly developed



ANNA GROFIK

cleaning service. Once you sign up, you are given a laundry bag and/or a dry-cleaning bag for your dirty clothes. The laundry service pick-up is Monday, and clothes are returned on Wednesday. The dry cleaning service does pick-up on Tuesday and returns clothes by Thursday. Customers are told to leave their clothes outside of their door for pick-up. As of right now The Cleaning Camel only cleans clothes, so if you want clean linens you will still have to launder those yourself.

Fast turnaround is the main focus of The Cleaning Camel service. Students want their clothes back fast; they do not want to have to wait a week. The motto for The Cleaning Camel service is “time is money.” Most students on campus are involved in extra-curricular activities, and time is of the essence. The flyers all around campus ask students to consider, “How much is your time worth?”

Well, as an uncertain college sophomore whose future is up in the air, I'd say my time is roughly worth the equivalent of a minimum wage paying job, about \$8.70 per hour. So, if I do about 3 hours of laundry a week it means I am roughly losing \$26.00 of my time. If we factor in the fact that I am already spending \$3.00 to wash and dry my clothes (we all know that as a college student, I am going to try and

shove as much laundry as possible into one load in order to save money), it seems that Celniker should sign me up for his service which would cost me roughly \$28.00 per week, \$699.99 a year.

Of course, the plot twist at the moment is that laundry is temporarily free (how long it will last is unknown, so get all your laundry

done now. I mean it; wash everything!) So, would you rather spend three hours of your time a week doing laundry, spend \$3-\$6 (not including the price of detergent) while multitasking and maybe doing homework as you wait, or would you rather pay for the service to be done for you?

When I first heard about the service, I had a few concerns. First, I wasn't sure how I felt about leaving my clothes outside my room. What if someone took my bag, and with it the entirety of my closet? Celniker believes that theft will not be an issue unless someone is the exact same size as you. Of course, we also have the Honor Code.

Because The Cleaning Camel is a new business, there will be some things that need to be ironed out. For instance, do you have an allergy to certain detergents? Are you a dancer whose clothes need to be washed a certain way? Celniker asks you to write a note and he will help you to the best of his ability. If you are thinking of signing up for a few weeks before opting out, don't. Getting your money back is possible, but not necessarily easy or hassle-free.

Money can buy happiness in the form of clean, freshly laundered clothing. However, there are some people that would argue that you go to college not only to receive an education, but also to learn basic life skills such as doing laundry. Regardless, it seems this trend of outsourcing the every day chore is spreading. Numerous other NESCAC schools have laundry services, such as Hamilton College's HillFresh and Middlebury College's Middlebury Wash and Carry. But, suppliers are catching on to what college students are willing to pay for. For instance, at George Washington University there is a service called DC3 where you can pay a cleaning service to come clean your dorm room. At the University of Texas at Austin, you can order snacks, condoms, and even kegs to be delivered to your dorm room. At Cornell University there is a service that you can pay to pack up and move you out of your dorm room at the end of the year.

What have we learned from all of these new, somewhat outrageous services available to students? There is a fine line between a student who is too busy to do their own chores and a student who is simply just too lazy. But who are we to decide where to draw that line? •

Laundry for the rich?

ANIQUE ASHRAF
CONTRIBUTOR

Connecticut College is committed to the principle of diversity.

At least, that's what we hear all the time; from the website's front page to speeches given by the school's leaders. We are constantly reminded that Connecticut College strives for diversity in its student body. Now diversity can mean a lot of things: aside from race, sex, sexuality, gender identity, ethnicity or national origin, it can also refer to academic interest, individual innovation and personal expression. All of these are openly discussed on campus, as they should be. Except for class. We never talk about class or economic diversity.

The New York Times recently came out with a list of colleges that admit the most economically diverse students, based primarily

on Pell grants. Connecticut College is number 65. This is not a criticism. The fact that a small college like Conn even made it to the list is a good thing, and a lot of Conn's financial aid is not based on Pell grants. Besides, we've moved up six positions from last year. We're doing well.

Enter the Cleaning Camel Laundry service.

I know your rebuttals. I know that the college did not come up with the service, that it's not mandatory and even the ridiculous notion that it actually saves you money because your time is somehow worth minimum wage while you do nothing, just because you exist (hah!).

The college endorsed the service. We received a campus-wide email about it. There are posters everywhere. 10% of the profits go to programming at Residential Education and Living. Conn is in-

vested. The first argument is moot. As for the “not mandatory” line of reasoning – I urge you, reader, to wake up. It is not a choice precisely because you have to pay for it. It's not about your willingness to pay \$700 a year to get your laundry done, it's about your ability to pay. In other words, it's not a choice if you don't have the money.

Why is this bad, though? We live in a capitalistic society. This happens all around us. Why am I angry with this?

Because Connecticut College is committed to the principle of diversity and you're a complete hypocrite if you believe that and think Cleaning Camel is okay. Because we are exposed to the systems and cycles of inequality. Because our professors research poverty, because we are aware of the unfairness of the system. Because we know that you don't just

make money by yourself and that there are a ton of privileges rich people have that mostly include being white and male and straight. Mostly, though, I'm angry because my friend last year did her laundry by hand because she couldn't afford the regular washer and dryer – \$3 total for one load – all while working fifteen hours a week and taking classes. I'm angry because I've run out of money for laundry myself and waited until my next paycheck to do it, all while I continued having time to live my life at college. I'm angry because we are perpetuating a cycle of inequality so ingrained that most of us don't even see it.

I'm angry that you don't see a problem with this precisely because you're rich enough not to.

Listen, I don't care if you do your laundry by yourself or if you pay seven hundred dollars to get it done. I do care that you know

there's people on this campus that live paycheck to paycheck. I want you to confront your privilege. I want to point out, in no uncertain terms, that the likelihood of you spending seven hundred dollars of your own money to do laundry is very low. I want you to know that a lot of people aren't as privileged as you are in the parenthood department. I want you, also, to know that yeah, you're being lazy. Laundry takes an hour and a half max because of the new washers and dryers. I want you to know that you could do homework while doing laundry. It's not a ridiculous concept. No one stands around the washer the entire time. I want, finally, to leave you with this quote from Momin Javed '16 in response to the Cleaning Camel Laundry Service, “What's next? The Camel Reading and Paper Writing Center?” •

The First-Year Perspective

On learning to deal with registration frustrations

RILEY MEACHEM
CONTRIBUTOR

If you're enrolled here at Connecticut College, chances are you're probably taking or intending to take a variety of courses. In fact, that's probably the reason you're paying so much to be here right now. But if you go through your weekly schedule, it is more than likely that there is a class or two that you aren't quite as keen on taking. So the question is, why are you signed up for it? Well, oftentimes it is due to a General Education or major-based requirement, but in many cases it boils down to the fact all the classes you wanted were already taken during the add period.

Registering for classes, as many of you know, can be extremely trying. Remember the very first time you had to access Self Service? Feeling that hot, constricting sensation in your throat as the minutes turned to hours? That empty feeling in your stomach as you realized every instant you spent scribbling down a CRN number or waiting for a slow page to finish loading, classes were gradually filling to the brim? That crushing wave of despair as the class you just knew would be perfect for

you had reached maximum capacity? Of course you do; everyone does.

Registration remains inactive for months, before re-opening for a few short days during early summer and a few hours at the beginning of the semester. The result is a horde of students all signing up for classes at the same time, slowing down the already large and labyrinthine site, and filling up sought-after classes in a matter of minutes.

And is that really fair?

While part of the appeal of a liberal arts school is the freedom to drift from class to class and learn more about each and every subject, many of those enrolled here have a concrete idea of what they want to do after college, and have a detailed plan of how to accomplish this goal. So when they cannot get into their desired classes - whether it be due to faulty internet connection, being unable to get to a computer or simply not being fast enough - they have lost one of the reasons they are paying exorbitant tuition to attend.

Unfortunately, there are not many easy solutions to this problem. While in an ideal world there could be classes for everyone who wanted them, in reality this entails hiring new professors, or asking current ones to do much more work than they do already. Even if everyone who wants to take course X is just fit into existing classes, this causes class sizes to balloon, which in turn detracts from the student-based environment Conn is all about.

Why even have this online system anyway? Well, on the one hand, it makes life much easier for the bursars and registrars who would otherwise be forced to fill out ridiculous amounts of paperwork and be inundated with demands and requests from students. It also allows students to be freer with their class choices. Without this system, students would have to get different documents from various professors and staff to ensure they got into the class they needed to take for their major, or at the very least, require students to send in letters or forms which cost money and kill trees. But while no one denies this saves some hassle and has few better alternatives, is it worth the consequences? Is it worth possibly not getting a necessary prerequisite and having to stay an extra semester? Is it worth the frustration of trying to get into a course only to see it filled up?

Maybe this is one of the more important lessons to be learned from college: there is no guarantee you will get what you want or what you need. There is no rule dictating that you will find the course you're looking for, or get the major you want, or even graduate in four years. It's just a toss-up, a \$60,000 coin toss we go through every single year in our sad search to delude ourselves into thinking we're on some special path. Perhaps the course registration isn't some malign entity trying to complicate our lives. Maybe that's just life. •

On new beginnings

ALLSON KYFF
CONTRIBUTOR

"It's all happening." Whether you're familiar with the film "Almost Famous" or not. Those words mean something. Say it out loud a few times. See what I mean?

A few weeks ago, I entered my dorm on the third floor of Freeman. It was a muggy, overcast August day and I had just arrived after an hour spent with my stomach in knots and goosebumps on my legs as I anticipated my first day of college. The usual questions raced through my head: "Will I make friends?" "How will my parents feel without me around?" Even though I was nervous, I powered through and am not halfway through my third week here at Conn.

It's all happening. I've already built the foundations for strong friendships, learned my way around campus and gotten used to the routine around here. Honora, who works in the cafeteria always greets me with a smile. Not to get all sentimental, but Conn is a special place.

Now, though I still can't comprehend how some people think of the Yik Yaks they post and I have to admit the walk from Freeman to Harris is a little less than ideal, I've enjoyed my time here these past few weeks.

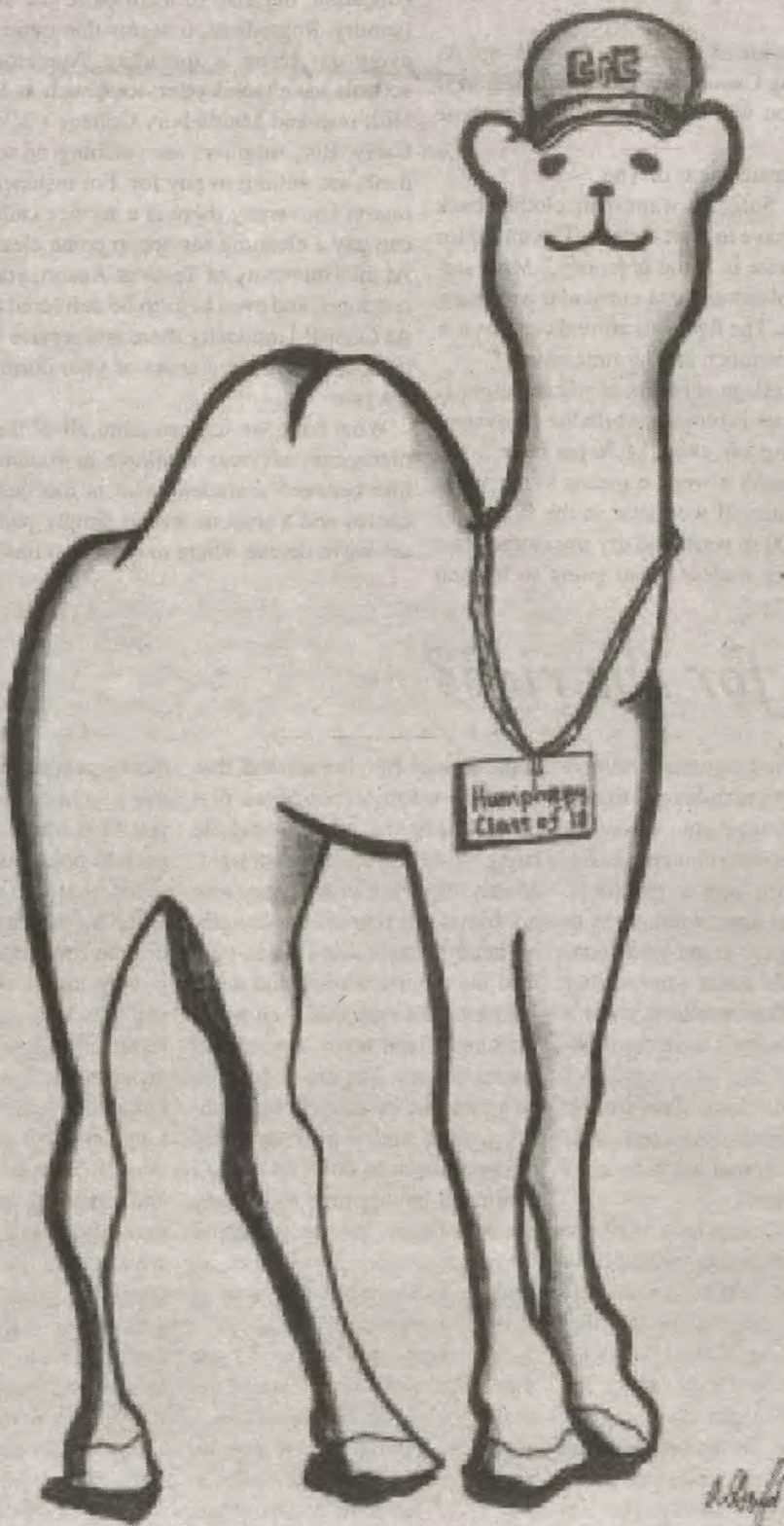
If there's one thing I wish I could change it's the fact that I don't play a sport. Through orientation, and even now, it seems like those on the sports teams have it just a little bit easier.

They come to school after a summer pre-season with a built in group of friends. However, with a sunny disposition, it's easy to find great friends on campus. I was lucky enough to meet some really special people through my First Year Seminar and in my dorm.

They're a great group of friends that I feel so blessed to have met so early on in my career at Conn. Most I met through my seminar, but others I met in other ways like spending time in Cro on Saturday nights or in my classes. I even got lucky enough to be great friends with my roommate!

The town of New London isn't as bad as it's made out to be. It's kind of a quirky little place. I've enjoyed a lunch at Muddy Waters and even gone with my friend to the tattoo shop in town, and it's only the third week. It's a great little town with much more to offer than what first meets the eye. And we're so lucky to live on the water. Hey, we're the only NES-CAC with an ocean view!

In all honesty, I love this school. I don't want to sugarcoat anything; making the transition to college life has been hard and full of surprises, but I really do feel lucky to have the opportunity to grow into an adult here. I've already made friendships that I know will last a lifetime. Conn is a place full of support where each student is really valued and cared for and I am happy to be here. •



Anxieties and Reflections of a Returning Senior: *Internalizing Experiences Abroad*

LEAH SWINSON
CONTRIBUTOR

As a senior who witnessed the chaotic arrival of first-year students, my first day at Connecticut College seems like a blur. I remember, with both fondness and embarrassment, getting my “old” Camel Card with a picture of me looking away from the camera and being unable to understand why our orientation had an abundance of picnics and bagpipes. What seems even more unfathomable at this point is to remember back to my senior year of high school.

Throughout high school, I chose career goals the way a five-year-old picks a Halloween costume. Despite all the pressures it presented, getting to college seemed like the embodiment of adolescent success, the universal gateway to the “right path” that would guide me to the rest of my life.

Since I was unsure what that path would be, Connecticut College’s liberal arts education seemed like the best fit as a community of students engaging and exploring their interests in order to pursue whatever it is about which they are passionate.

*“Not all the paths
to post-grad life
will be linear
and the right ones
will be whatever
ones we end up on,
whether
we envision them*

A major milestone in this journey for many Conn students, myself included, is the opportunity to study abroad. According to the Office of Study Away, over half of the junior class studies abroad for at least one semester, and in 2009, Connecticut College received the prestigious Paul F. Simon Award for Campus Internationalization.

Yet my decision to study abroad, while initially cause for excitement, later became a source of increasing anxiety as my departure date approached. Not only did I fear the practical realities of communicating in a foreign language, but also the more abstract pre-occupations that my semester abroad came to signify. For me, my semester abroad became the first tangible moment in college where I wondered: “Am I making the right choice?”

When we choose our courses, we are

faced with numerous and often slightly overwhelming possibilities. We have this magical thing called “the Add/Drop period” where we get to voluntarily switch out of classes we do not like.

During a semester abroad, however, and particularly when you choose a program with a set curriculum, there is no other option. You are there, in your country of choice, for the full four months you committed to, often without the opportunity to return home until the program ends.

I made the decision to study abroad in a country I never imagined myself studying abroad in because I wanted to push myself outside of my comfort zone and have an adventure. My study abroad program seemed dynamic, immersive and presented opportunities to study and travel in multiple cities. Focused on both policy and education, its academic premise reflected the areas of interest I had most strongly explored at Connecticut College.

While abroad, I had countless rewarding and exciting experiences: I formed incredible connections with my host families and fellow students, adventured across two countries, participated in marches for equality, and even accidentally swan-dived in front of a city bus while crossing the street. Yet, there were also parts of my program that bothered me, challenges I did not expect and a sense of unfulfillment.

The perception on campus is often that studying abroad is supposed to be a truly transformative experience, where students return from abroad “knowing more about themselves” and “truly understanding who they are” while simultaneously feeling an unwavering sense of emotional attachment to their host country – none of which I seemed to feel.

Other students explained why they chose this particular study abroad program focused on policy and education. Many of them responded with aspirations of becoming teachers, lawyers, Foreign Service Officers or improving their foreign language skills – all of which are noble pursuits. As I listened to their answers, however, I realized with a sinking feeling that none of their responses applied to me, even though I thought they once had.

This revelation shocked and scared me because as I reflected back on my wider college experience, I discovered that in pursuing these particular interests, I had neglected other equally important parts of myself, the parts that made me truly happy. My personal reflections since returning from abroad have certainly been formative, but mainly because they have helped show me what it is I do not want to do, rather

than what I do.

These revelations would have happened anyway, regardless of my decision to study abroad, though that semester became a catalyst that allowed them to happen. That summer, I chose to return to an organization where I had previously interned to complete my CELS funded internship, choosing familiarity and an atmosphere I enjoyed over another opportunity to try something new.

The field in which I interned this summer provided countless good experiences and is a job I know that I could do and do well, but also know wouldn’t make me entirely happy.

My return to campus this August made me increasingly anxious. In addition to the pressure I place upon myself, I feel there is also an unspoken expectation of seamlessness, that the path of major, minor, center, study abroad and funded internship are supposed to fit together.

Now, as a CELS Fellow, I inherently know that this is not true. I regularly meet students that have interests scattered across the board and struggle to decide which ones they want to explore. I also hear stories of alumni changing career paths, returning for the invaluable resources CELS has to offer all current and past Connecticut College students. Even though I knew these things, I still experienced an overwhelming sense of terror and isolation when it became my life, my plan and my goals that changed as I entered my senior year.

The Princeton Review recently recognized Connecticut College as one of



ANNIKA TUCKSMITH

the top colleges for career services, distinguishing the CELS Program amongst those at other colleges across the country, and rightly so. One year out from graduation, 96 percent of graduates are employed or pursuing graduate degrees, an immensely impressive statistic for such a small school.

What is important to remember, however, is that this statistic shows a formidable result, instead of the equally formidable journey that led to it. Amidst our alumni network are history majors who became doctors, religious studies majors who became realtors and biology majors who became librarians. Not all the paths to post-grad life will be linear and the right ones will be whatever ones we end up on, whether we envision them or not.

As my Dove Chocolate note once told me, “You are where you are supposed to be.” That place is here at Connecticut College with my fellow seniors whose diverse experiences continue to set Conn apart from other institutions. College continues to be the same gateway I imagined it would be, as difficult as that is to remember when post-grad realities await us.

The liberal arts experience does not end upon graduation, but is merely a transition point that prepared us with a skillset that will lead us to our next exploratory adventures. My post-grad adventure may not be the one that I thought I planned and it may not be the one that I stick with forever, but I am excited for where it will take me, wherever that may be. •

Season Preview: Men's Soccer

JOHN CUNNINGHAM
CONTRIBUTOR

The Connecticut College men's soccer season has officially kicked off, and so far the Camels are starting strong. The Camels are two and one at this point in the season, after a competitive home game versus Middlebury this past Saturday.

The Camels' first victory came against neighboring school Mitchell College. After a slow start in the first ten minutes, the Camels turned it on and took control of the match. Mitchell was held to one shot on goal in four attempts for the whole game, while the Camels attempted twenty-three shots on goal and put ten of them in. Matthew Bitchell '16 scored the first goal of the game twenty-six minutes in off a pass from sophomore Pat Devlin. The Camels put the game away in the seventy-sixth minute when senior Kevin O'Brien scored a breakaway goal after a well-played ball from sophomore Charlie Overton.

The Camels then took on a tougher opponent, UMASS-Dartmouth. They came out to a flying start, scoring a goal within the first twenty seconds of the game, but the referee immediately rescinded the goal. Regardless of this call, Bitchell scored just three minutes later off a pass from sophomore Ibrahim Mutala. Although UMASS-Dart-

mouth gave the Camels a bit of a scare when they brought the game within one goal twice in the second half, the Camels sealed the game when sophomore Christian Schmidt buried a breakaway goal, finishing it off with an impressive front flip celebration. Devlin, Bitchell, and Mutala all ended the game with two points, and sophomore Charlie Overton, senior Kevin O'Brien and Schmidt each tallied a point of their own.

Captains Zach Punt '15 and Lucas Corrubia '15 talked about their goals for the season as well as the team's strengths and weaknesses and the biggest challenges they'll face this year. The team has never won a NESCAC playoff game in program history but have their sights set on winning it all this year. With both the confidence and skill to do so, this goal is far from lofty. With a back line dominated by seasoned, senior veterans and a deep offense consisting of fresh, young talent, the team has not only a NESCAC Championship, but also a NCAA playoff berth in their sights. The team fell one game short of the minimum required wins last year but believe they will be in the running for the championship if they stay healthy and work hard throughout the season.

The team formed a tight bond very early on, spending a week in the summer playing pickup games and getting to know one another before the school



year even started. While it will be difficult to replace recent graduate Billy Hawkey, the NESCAC Player of the Year and league leading scorer last season, the captains are confident that their strengths seem to far outweigh their weaknesses. Players like Punt and senior Mike Flippin anchor the back line with strong defense, while Devlin and junior Colin Patch control the midfield with calm, smart plays, and accurate long balls. The Camels' speedy forwards, Mutala, Weller Hlinomaz '17, and Bitchell also add to the

mix.

In the past, the team has tended to get off to a slow start in games and will now focus on putting together an entire game, beginning at the starting whistle. The team feels that they have the ability to rise to any occasion, which they proved last year by beating Amherst and playing strong games against Wesleyan, Amherst and Middlebury, perennial NESCAC rivals. With hard work and dedication, the team feels the NESCAC Championship is theirs for the taking. •

Women's Field Hockey Gets a Fresh Start

ELEANOR HARDY
SPORTS EDITOR



The Women's Field Hockey team is off to a fresh start this year. In addition to nearly half the team being made up of first-years, they're starting off the season with new head coach Chrissy Needham. Needham, a Connecticut native, is also a former field hockey player from UCONN. Senior Mallory Kosow shares that Needham's "experience as a former player at such a successful program is especially beneficial, as it gives her the ability to demonstrate to us what she's coaching along with the

understanding of the intensity it takes to be a competitive team." With this knowledge, Needham comes to Conn athletics ready to work and start anew after a rough last season.

Coming most recently from coaching at American International College and previously at Kenyon College, Needham has a wealth of coaching experience. During her time as a player, Needham played in two NCAA Division I Final Fours, further adding to and enriching her coaching expertise. Drawn to NESCAC schools because of their unique combination of athletics and academics, it was a huge surprise when the head coaching position at Conn opened up. Coaching within the NESCAC and in her home state of Connecticut was ideal, and her career goals at the time fit in perfectly with what Conn was seeking. She's looking forward to turning things around and providing the program with the new energy it needs to really take advantage of their fresh start.

After sitting down with Needham, it is clear that she is what the program may need. Needham hopes to "treat every game as its own challenge" and that their opponents recognize their

"hard work rate and competitive spirit." Although she hopes to take the season one game at a time, the overarching goal is to qualify for the NESCAC tournament, a goal she feels is "definitely within reach." Additionally, the team will encounter five non-conference teams this season and Needham, along with assistant coach Anika Goodhuge, aims to have an undefeated non-conference record.

With a young team made up of a majority of first-years and sophomores, now is the optimal time to "build up and compete for the future," explains Needham. "They have high confidence and we can work out the kinks." First-year Berklee Vaillancourt explains that Coach Needham "is always focused and dedicated to making us the best we can be" giving the program a promising future in the years to come.

The Women's team started off the season playing Amherst, a fierce competitor, who entered the NESCAC season ranked tenth. After winning last year's NESCAC championship, the Camels knew that this first game would not be easy and most certainly a mental challenge. Facing the very experienced Amherst team,

Conn reached the goals they set for the game, despite coming out at a 7-0 loss. The first half ended with Amherst up one goal, showing how strongly the Camels played and how both mentally and physically they did phenomenal work holding off such a strong team. By the middle of the second half, they were mentally fatigued. Although after 50 minutes of hard play they began to lose it, the team took away a lot from the game.

Despite the tough game against Amherst, the Camels defeated Babson this past Saturday 2-1, moving them one stop closer to their goal of an undefeated non-conference record. Taking an early lead in the game, they held their ground and Coach Needham claimed her first victory as head coach.

There is much hope ahead for the Women's Field Hockey program. With many young players and an impressive start to the season, Coach Needham has come at the perfect time to develop the program to its fullest potential. •

Player Profile: Livi Block '18



HANNA JOHNSTON
CONTRIBUTOR

Hometown: New York City, NY
Alma Mater: Fieldston School
Years Playing Soccer: 13

Livi Block '18 is one of the new members of the Women's Soccer team. With her top speed and clear vision on the field, she helped lead the team to a 3-1 win over Albertus Magnus last week.

Why she plays: It's been a passion of mine ever since I was five years old. My father, brother and I used to bring a soccer ball with us wherever we went. As I've gotten older, another aspect of the game that keeps me excited about playing is the camaraderie that forms among teammates.

Favorite thing about being a Camel so far: The girls on the team are so nice and welcoming, and our coach is really insightful. Being on this particular team has been especially awesome because there's a great bond that forms when everyone is living, learning and relaxing in the same place.

Strategy on the field: Because of the aforementioned bonding, we have great chemistry when we play. What we try to do is swing

the ball back in order to open up the field. We also play to people's feet, meaning that we try to keep the ball as grounded as possible.

Pre-game ritual: In the locker room, before games, we put music on and dance. Right before we go up to play, we all hold hands in a circle and make sure our feet are touching. One girl squeezes another girl's hand and that girl squeezes the next girl's hand and so on until we all feel the pulse. Then, we are ready to play!

Post-game food: We normally have tailgates, so I eat a lot of different things at them because all of the parents make awesome food.

First game: It was really exciting. We possessed the ball a lot, so we had a ton of opportunities to go to goal. Alexa Tribelli, a fellow first-year teammate, scored the first goal, which was an awesome way to kick off the season.

Hopes for the season: The usual goals. We are taking it one step at a time! Hopefully we get some good wins this season and go to the NCAA tournament.

Fun fact: Surprisingly, I'm a leftie with my hand for writing and eating, but my right foot is actually my dominant one when I play.

Player Profile: Zach Punt '15



ELEANOR HARDY
SPORTS EDITOR

Hometown: West Hartford, CT
Alma Mater: Kingswood-Oxford School

Men's soccer captain Zach Punt '15 has led the Camels to a strong start this season. A tenacious defender, Punt is involved on and off the field and brings much experience to the team. Relied on for his consistent penalty kicks and known for his celebratory antics, here's more about the senior captain:

Years playing soccer: I started playing soccer when I was a youngster, around 4 or 5 years old for a town recreational league. At the age of ten, I became more serious and decided to try out for a local premier team that played around the country. At this age my interest in soccer really kick-started.

Why he plays: I started playing soccer because my parents registered me for a town-league team when I was too young to make those decisions for myself. I played pretty much every sport there is as a little guy, but I really took a liking to soccer as I grew up.

Favorite in-season moment: My all-time favorite in-season moment definitely has to be defeating Amherst my first year. At the time they were a top five team in the nation and were looking to finish an undefeated season against us. If I remember correctly, it would have been their first undefeated season in 40 years or so. We ended up beating them on their home soil in a thrilling 3-2 game.

Thoughts on the season so far: So far I feel optimistic about this season. More than any other year that I have been here, it feels like we have established a true brotherhood among the team. This year's team is more talented than any other year that I have been at Conn. We look strong this year, but we have plenty of work to do in order to accomplish our goals this season.

Game rituals: As a center defender, I don't score too many goals. Most of my goals come from penalty kicks. Before the penalty kick, I take several deep breaths to keep myself calm. I take a set amount of steps back and to the side prior to each kick. After scoring I have trouble containing my excitement, which usually ends in me doing some sort of celebration with my mates. Ironically, all of the nerves hit me after I take the kick.

Post-game food: My post-game food is whatever the parents bring for our post-game tailgates. Typically it's a turkey sandwich, some protein bars, salad and plenty of Gatorade and water. I try to replenish with plenty of protein and electrolytes within 15 minutes of the final whistle so I can properly recover from a long game.

Fun fact: Game day always ends with an ice bath and a team shower. These things are never overlooked. Also, my family has supported me at every soccer game in my career and I am so appreciative and blessed for that.

What he will miss most next year: I will miss literally everything. Soccer is my life.

THIS SECTION AND GARDENING TRIBUTE

THE SOUND OF SILENCE

Friday Night Folk at All Souls presents Ron Gletherow & Mike Bailey of Maggie's Guitar, and the Maxwell Brothers.
7:30 p.m., Friday, September 19, 2014. Doors open 7:00 p.m.
Unity Hall, All Souls UU Congregation,
19 Jay Street, New London, CT
860-443-0316 Tix/Info at fridaynightfolk.org



From Wolverine to Camel



COLLEGIATE WATERPOLO

DYLAN STEINER
SPORTS EDITOR

This year there is a fresh presence on the pool deck down at Lott Natatorium. Matt Anderson, the men's and women's head water polo coach, begins his first season with the Camels. Anderson arrives in New London after a prolific 12-year span at the University of Michigan, where he led the women's water polo program to four national tournaments, coached an Olympian and mentored dozens of All-Americans, amidst numerous other honors.

"A big reason why I accepted the job is just a general feeling that I got from the people I interacted with while I was here interviewing, and that has not changed," said Anderson. "It allowed me an opportunity to coach both men and women and to continue my career in a more family-oriented atmosphere. I wanted to head east for my next coaching position, and the timing happened to work out to allow me to pursue that."

The transition from an athletic program at a large university to that of a small liberal-arts college is one that Anderson is passionate about, so he is prepared to reapply and refocus the expanse of coaching expertise and philosophy he built while at Michigan.

"I believe college athletics is a place where interaction and coexisting is very important, and I believe that Connecticut College coaches and people fit that mode. At times, athletics can get into a big business mode—but I

grew up personally and professionally where it is best when you don't forget the simple qualities it has." Anderson now faces the challenge of applying his coaching principles at the Division III level, where time is a constricting element.

*".. just as
the players
will continue to
change and want
to move forward,
I will need to be
able to continue
to be flexible and
move forward
with them."*

"Combine the men's and women's season at Division III and it is not as long as one women's season or one men's season at Division I. So at the Division I level there is so much to cover over the course of 132 water polo practices...where here you have roughly 50 practices to cover things. So I'll need to learn how to teach maybe not as many things in a shorter amount of time. I felt after 132 days of practices/games at DI that I wish I had more time...that's the biggest chal-

lenge and change I will adjust to."

Last spring, under interim head coach Ryan Pryor, the women won the CWPA Division III championship for the second year in a row. With no graduating seniors, they return a full roster in their pursuit of a trifecta championship crown in 2015. Meanwhile, the men start their season with a highly competitive schedule against multiple Division I teams. Here, Anderson's experience with elite opposition will come into play.

"Regardless of where any team is, continuous improvement needs to be what you're working for every year... [they need] to continue to believe about how good they can become and to be given the opportunity to become better than they currently are," said Anderson. "The women's team is in a good place right now and needs to continue to strive to get better, the men's team is currently striving to get to the level that the women are and I do believe that will happen sooner rather than later."

Anderson's debut as head coach of the Camels was Sept. 14, when the men headed to Brown University for the Bruno Fall Classic.

"I believe that I have strong qualities as a coach that I can continue to improve upon, that can go from tactical to technical to student-athlete interaction...just as the players will continue to change and want to move forward, I will need to be able to continue to be flexible and move forward with them," said Anderson. •

WANTED!
PHOTOGRAPHERS FOR
THE COLLEGE VOICE

contact: eic@thecollegevoice.org

Conn Faculty Brings Community Action to the Stage

JENNIFER MORRISSEY
CONTRIBUTOR

Professor Jeff Strabone can definitely be considered more than ordinary. Aside from teaching English, Strabone acts as both the chairman and a cofounder of the New Brooklyn Theater (NBT).

The journey began for Strabone in 2012 when he first incorporated the company with Jonathan Solari.

"One of my former students who is a theater prodigy wanted to start a company, and he asked me for advice," Strabone said. "I ended up joining the board, right at the start, so I just said 'Sure, let's do it.'"

The NBT started producing shows in

fall of 2013, but their breakthrough came this past January when they strayed from the theatrical norm of performing in a theater and instead produced a performance in a hospital.

"In January 2014, we did a site-specific production of Edward Albee's *The Death of Bessie Smith*. We did it inside a hospital," Strabone said. "Interfaith Medical Center was going to close; it had fallen out of the headlines. And we approached them and said [how] we had wanted to do this play that is set in a hospital, in their hospital to bring the attention back."

After running the show for two months, members of Congress, actor and singer Harry Belafonte and labor leaders came to performances, and after each perfor-

mance, the audience, cast and crew were involved in a dialogue with each other.

"We spread a lot of consciousness about the show, and the newspapers and the TV stations came back to the hospital. And politicians said they were not going to let this hospital close, and the hospital was saved," Strabone said. "And the people that ran the hospital said that we were the reason it was saved, and we had actually used theater to save lives."

The Death of Bessie Smith was not the first time that the company reached into their creative reservoirs to put on a play. Strabone ended up writing an original adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People* to stage in West Virginia.

"There was a chemical spill in West Virginia this past year and 300,000 people couldn't drink water or take showers. Since Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People* is a play about poisoned water, we built a floating stage on the river that was polluted and performed on the stage, and the audience literally sat on the river that was polluted," Strabone said.

Interacting with the audience and engaging them into the shows is one of the core goals of the NBT. They have been able to achieve this by introducing conversations with the audience after each performance and allowing them to share their thoughts with the company.

"We do great plays, and then we use the plays as an opportunity to have a dialogue. On our website we have a mission statement, and part of our mission is to use theater, whenever theater is needed to [help] move forward a public conversation," Strabone said. "We're staging great art that is great on its own, but it's also

always connected with a kind of social function. We're always asking ourselves and [the] audience, 'What more can theater do in the world?'"

Helping renovate the theater on 1215 Fulton Street in Brooklyn is also incorporated in the theater's mission. The theater was first opened in the early twentieth century, but has not been used for well over a decade.

"It's been closed since 1998, and we want to convert it into a performing arts center. In fact, we're working with architects, theater designers and the new owners," Strabone said.

The company hopes to finish with the renovations within the next three years and eventually hold their performances there. In the meantime, the company has been performing in various theaters throughout Brooklyn and started a new reading series this summer.

"We took four early African American plays that people have forgotten, and we are staging [them] again," Strabone said.

Once the NBT has finished resurfacing these four plays, the audience will be asked to give advice on which play would become the company's full production this fall; yet another way the company members strive to involve the public.

For Strabone, The NBT, however, is more than just a way to bring people together and put on performances.

According to Strabone, "the theater company brings together everything I care about: literature, performance, activism and fun" •

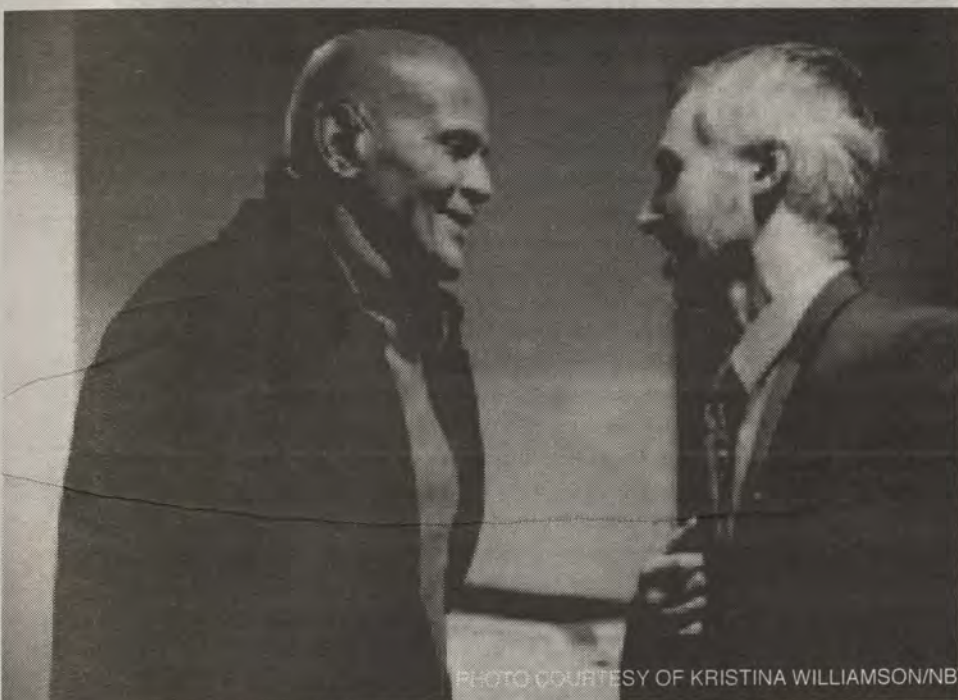


PHOTO COURTESY OF KRISTINA WILLIAMSON/NBT

We interrupt our coverage of Arts and Entertainment to bring you an SGA Update:

SGA Meeting Notes: September 11

DAN BURNS
CONTRIBUTOR

Ethan Underhill '15 sat at the helm of the SGA meeting in the Hillel House with a look of satisfaction. His presidency is still in the infancy stages, but he is already making a substantial impact on future events for the college. Underhill held a moment of silence at the beginning of the meeting for the lives lost on 9/11, a respectable gesture to start the meeting off humbly.

Open forum was dominated by two topics: Camellympics and the newly established offshoot group As Told by Vaginas. Residential Life staff laid forth a new format for Camellympics that involves the event being cut down to one day instead of the typical two-day spectacle. The staff is also attempting to increase interest and participation after citing how juniors and seniors

apparently do not find Camellympics "cool". Bettina Weiss, from *As Told by Vaginas*, gave a rundown of the somewhat new program. After a study done by Alia Roth '13, it was determined that the relationship between women in The Vagina Monologues show was the most important aspect of the show after receiving feedback from the one hundred and three women in the cast. The offshoot group As Told by Vaginas, is the result of this study and determination that it would better serve the women of the group.

The extended process of Committee elections dominated the majority of the 2-hour assembly. Committees are concerned with specific areas at the college, such as library services and campus safety. One of the more enjoyable elections was listening to the students looking to run for Parking Committee who cited excessive parking tickets partially obtained by them, as their rea-

son for running.

Another topic discussed at length later in the meeting was the status of the New York Times delivery to Connecticut College. The estimated fee for the New York Times delivered in print along with online passes for students is around \$14,700 for the 2014-2015 academic year. The online subscription constitutes around \$8,000 of this cost. In a resolution passed with an overwhelming majority, SGA decided to have this \$8,000 cost allocated from the sustainability fund due to its sustainable nature. That means this money typically taken from the SGA fund can now be put towards SGA events or other expenditures that are taken on by them.

SGA meeting are held weekly on Thursday nights at 7:15 in Hillel House. Attendance is open to any member of the college. •

Ears Open:

*Rock fan, Andrew Rich, dives head first into the world of album reviews. The catch:
He has no idea who the band is.
No clue? No problem.*

ANDREW RICH
CONTRIBUTOR

When I began thinking about writing this column, I realized that choosing to listen to a band that I had never heard of was going to be difficult. I like to consider myself a reasonably open-minded and diverse music fan. On the same iPod where there is Black Sabbath, Rush, Deep Purple, Metallica and AC/DC, there is also Madonna, ABBA, Eminem, Stevie Wonder and Kraftwerk. But having to go and listen to a band with zero knowledge of who they are and what they sound like is not something that I can do just like that. Even the most liberal of music fans has a fickle side.

So I thought about it for a bit and I came to the conclusion that the answer to my problem rests mainly on album covers. Nowadays, album art tends to be a lost, well, art. Most casual music listeners these days care little about the cover of an album and digital downloading certainly hasn't helped with that. The way I see it, if I don't know what to choose, an eye-catching album cover is a great way to get my attention.

Which is why the first album I'm going to review is Royal Blood by Royal Blood.

The cover of *Royal Blood* immediately caught my eye. Drawn strictly in black and white, the cover features a torso-up portrait of a woman dressed—and I can't find another way to say this—in nature. Not naturally, mind you. In nature. Her dress, covering everything except her hands, is made up of a miniaturized forest scene: trees, bushes and mountainous rock encompass her front. Her entire head, minus her eyes, is shrouded in an enormous headdress that expands upwards to reach the top of the cover. Hundreds of white dots fill the black expanse of the headdress, as if we're looking at a map of stars. Leaves, twigs and blades of grass peak out of its edges. The cover is striking yet strangely appropriate, considering the band's name: from afar, the woman conjures up an identity of a noblewoman from some far away land.

Of course the old saying is "Never judge a book by its cover." While my expectations for the



"forest noblewoman album" were something akin to, say, Iron & Wine or Bastille, what I got was something ten times louder and ten times harder.

Yes, Royal Blood is a pure cut rock and roll band. I suppose you could call it garage rock or noise rock too. But it's rock and roll. They're a British duo that formed just last year, and in that short time they've gone from playing in bars to opening in front of 30,000 people for Arctic Monkeys. In less than a year! Most bands take forever to make it, but Royal Blood seems determined to smash its way into the mainstream as quickly as possible, and the music certainly reflects that. Lead vocalist and bassist Mike Kerr and drummer Ben Thatcher (that's right, they don't have a guitarist, although it's hard to tell over the constant sonic boom of the duo's instruments) stomp their way from beginning to end, with riffs and drum beats that grab you for a ride from the get-go. Songs like "Out of the Black" and "Little Monster" make you want to bang your head and strum along with your air guitar, despite there not actually being a guitar in the "music." Even the bluesier, slower (and I use the word "slower" very, very lightly) songs like "Blood Hands" and "Better Strangers" still have that loudness to them.

The production is very tight and the lyrics come through loud and clear; no scream-o death metal vocals or wacky voice filters here, albeit Kerr does invoke The Black Keys' Dan Auerbach a couple times. Also, one should expect to be done listening to this in quick fashion. At ten songs, the album clocks in at roughly 32 minutes, just enough to leave you satisfied, yet wanting a little bit more.

So whom do they sound like? Royal Blood brings to mind a lot of "newer" bands that have been trying to resurrect the garage rock sound since the early 2000s: The Black Keys, The White Stripes, Japandroids, Arctic Monkeys, Queens of the Stone Age and Wolfmother, to name a few. These bands—some of them duos themselves—are all intent on bringing heavy guitars, fast riffs, pounding drums, and a bluesy sensibility back into the rock and roll mainstream. As a fan of all of those bands, Royal Blood fits right alongside them. They are not breaking new ground with their debut album, but it's certainly another point in the win column for rock and roll.

Oh, and one more thing: Royal Blood recently hit number one on the UK album charts. Number one. Did I mention they've only been around a year?

The verdict: Thumbs Up •



OnStage Returns for Ambitious New Season

LYDIA MOURNEAULT
CONTRIBUTOR

The onStage at Connecticut College performance series is back for another season. Throughout the year, many diverse and talented acts will come not only to perform for the school, but also to teach students at Conn and in the New London area through various education residency programs.

Although the first official performing arts series held at Conn happened in the 1940s, the school has been inviting professional performing artists to stage productions for students since 1917. Current Director of Arts Programming at Connecticut College Robert Richter has kept this tradition alive with onStage. For the 2014-2015 season, he has handpicked a program that he is sure has “a little bit for everyone.”

The selection process for the series is long. Richter starts over a year in advance, getting feedback from colleagues and students about the most popular groups.

Richter says there is no theme for this year’s series, but the word that came up most when describing the lineup was “eclectic.” With everything from a jazz violinist to the reinvention of the works of playwright Eugene O’Neill, this season will be innovative, intriguing and inspiring.

The act Richter is most looking forward to is one very close to his heart. From the Peshawar region of Pakistan, Khumariyaan comes a quartet who uses traditional instruments to create an intense contemporary sound that has “reawakened the live music scene” in their home country.

Richter recounted the eye-opening experience of how he met the group while on a dangerous government-sanctioned search for new Pakistani performers to tour the States. He was immediately impressed by Khumariyaan.

He is excited to welcome them to New England for the first time and to promote the idea of bringing two cultures together through music, though he harbors some anxiety about how they will be received due to the conflicts going on between Pakistan and the United States. Coming from a part of Pakistan devastated by the Taliban, their performance on October 11 will be one of the group’s first performances in front of a large audience.

“It’s always a risk,” Richter says, “but I’ve made a choice and I want people to see it.”

Other acts on the program include Lucky Plush, a dance/theatre company that will perform “The Queue” a performance about waiting in line at airport security, on September 20. Then, on October 24 there will be *The Complete & Condensed Stage Directions of Eugene O’Neill*, Vol. 2, which excludes all dialogue and only uses the extremely detailed stage directions found in O’Neill’s works. Richter described it as “funny, moving and poignant.”

During election week, onStage will welcome a performance of *Tea for Three*, featuring Elaine Bromka as three different First Ladies.

Currently in-residence at Conn, David Dorfman Dance will be reviving some of their older works for onStage on February 6.

Acclaimed cellist David Finckel and pianist Wu Han are coming to onStage for a program of classical chamber music on February 20, and jazz violinist Regina Carter will return to Conn on March 27 after over a decade, having reworked the traditional songs that her family has sung for generations to fit her unique jazz sound.

This year the onStage at Connecticut College program will celebrate all facets of the performing arts. According to Richter, “You’ll see things you won’t see any place else in Connecticut and nowhere else in New England.” Tickets are available online, by phone and at the Connecticut College Ticket Office. •

New Barn, New Path Forward

MOBROC revitalizes organization with renovated space

LUKE GRAVES
CONTRIBUTOR

Most students here at Connecticut College are probably ignorant of the green building that stands amidst some trees, a playground and The Sprout Garden on the edge of campus near Crozier-Williams. Some might have a vague idea about what goes on inside this building, occasionally hearing loud noises bursting forth from the ominous building as they pass. But for the students on campus who play in bands, “The Barn,” as it is ceremoniously named, is a veritable haven for musical expression and growth.

Open to any band or individual interested in practicing their music, The Barn creates a space that transcends its physical presence. Musicians are able to jam, practice and experiment with their sound however they choose: a crucial step towards musical progress in a group. Due to the recent crumbling state of The Barn’s roof and floors however, parts of the musical experience started to diminish. This past summer, the administration rolled out plans to restore the hallowed grounds, a move that reflects President Bergeron’s “Think.Do.Lead” ideology.

The organization that oversees The Barn consists of a mixture of campus musicians and leaders. The group, Musicians Organization for Bands Rights on Campus (MOBROC), is led by Co-Presidents Caitlin Kullberg, ’16, and Joseph Gray, ’15, along with Vice-President Connor Storms, ’15 and Treasurer Jesse Guterman, ’16. They work closely with the Office of Student Engagement to plan shows, manage funds and maintain The Barn.

Though these students appreciate the importance of The Barn, Storms noted, “the condition of the space ... began to take its toll on not only the structure, but also the equipment and in some cases the morale of members of MOBROC.” While it was a valuable space for meeting, last year Storms acknowledged that, “the leaking roof harmed a lot of our equipment, which was particularly

devastating since the equipment we use is quite expensive and the funds we have to replace or repair this equipment are limited.” Unfortunately, The Barn has been deteriorating for several years now, which has left students frustrated yet determined.

“The old Barn had character, but it also represented the state of the organization. With the new Barn, it’s almost like a blank slate.”

Enter Jeanette Williams. Towards the end of last year and continuing into the summer, Williams worked closely with the Co-Presidents of MOBROC to outline a plan for renovating and refurbishing The Barn. Gray defined the timeline of the renovations: “The whole process started at the beginning of last year when I made a push to get our chronically leaky roof fixed. Jeanette contacted Physical Plant...[but] it was nearly Christmas before they had a chance to check out the damage...When Physical Plant went into the barn they (bless their sweet, sweet souls) decided to implement more extensive repairs.”

Kullberg admitted, “The Barn has been in great need of repair for years now... With the new roof, the replaced floorboards, the new doors, and the repainted walls, The Barn has become a much safer and more functional practice space for student musicians.” Not only has The Barn been repaired but because it is now up to code, MOBROC

can also host events on campus; an exciting contrast to the prototypical Saturday Night Cro-dances (though I have been known to frequent one or two in my day.)

While the maintenance was a much-needed service to sustain the integrity of The Barn, some students maintain that the renovation is not enough. Drew Andre, ’16, a member of the campus band Montreal Protocol, along with the a cappella group Co-Co Beaux, extolled the hard work of the administration and Physical Plant: “The renovation is the dawn of a new era for the culture of MOBROC. The old Barn had character, but it also represented the state of the organization. With the new Barn, it’s almost like a blank slate.” But, while The Barn’s renewal is a step in the right direction, Andre hopes “the administration follows through with the renovation by allocating a little more funding. They gave us a nice space, but we still have equipment that holds us back.” Andre lamented that it “may not be important to the administration, but if you’re in the heat of the moment of playing, and you can’t hear yourself, or something goes wrong, it’s not okay, it’s not manageable.” Hopefully with Katherine Bergeron at the helm, this space for musical creativity can be improved and preserved for future generations of Camels.

Despite the shortcomings in MOBROC’s equipment, the group is unanimously excited about the newer, safer Barn. Despite the “old” Barn’s charm and eclectic aesthetic (student artists had decorated the walls over the years, giving the space an authentic and sacred atmosphere), the new Barn holds the promise of an alternative social space for members of the community to gather and listen to student music. With a little more work, MOBROC could, as Andre remarked, “revolutionize the social scene of weekend nights.” •

Join us!
Open writer’s meetings every
other Monday.
9PM, Cro 224

Camels Perform Under the Sun

Connecticut College Represents at I AM Festival

SARAH BRADFORD
CONTRIBUTOR

New London hosted its eighth annual free independent arts and music festival in five locations downtown on September 6. Bridging the gap between campus and the city, Conn students Maya Belgrade '15 and Haley Gowland '17 opened up the stage at The Telegraph and Hygienic Art Park.

I hopped in the car midday with music major Maya Belgrade. With an acoustic guitar in hand, she was one of the first performers of the day. Maya has been singing and writing since her childhood, from L.A. to Tokyo — no, just kidding, from her birthplace, Tokyo, to San Francisco. After a delicious and satisfying breakfast at Washington Street Coffee House, we walked over to The Telegraph, a record store, for Maya's 1p.m. slot. She serenaded the vinyl-browsing customers with melodic vocals and rhythmic finger picking, playing entirely original music. True musical passion could be felt in the air of the room. The audience erupted with laughter during the performance of Maya's sweet sounding song "I Loved You A Second Ago" which continued with the lyric "but now I hate you so much." "I was excited to receive laughter here. My close friends know the song, so they too were excited for me," Maya said. The Telegraph welcomed five musicians, and at the end of the day, the final artist shared his pride to have been amongst a group of such great talent. "After I performed, I got so happy and hyper. I was reminded of how much I enjoy it, and that it's something I want to continue," Maya said.

You may know Haley Gowland from the popular MOBROC band Canopy or the all-female a capella group ConnChords. On this occasion, she was rocking out with the indie alternative Boston area based band, The Cranks. Her twin brother, Connor, from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and their energetic bassist and vocalist, Alex Markoski from University of Rhode Island, accompanied her vocally. Musical talent runs in the Gowland family. The Gowlands' father played in a band, and with equipment accessible, they began to jam in their basement with Alex, with whom they have recorded three albums. The Cranks have since been described as, "Paramore marries Guster, has an affair with the Strokes, and a secret family with the Pretenders," and, impressively, the group recently

played second stage for Paramore and Fall Out Boy at Meadowbrook Pavilion in Gilford, New Hampshire.

From the start of The Cranks' set at Hygienic Art Park, chemistry was made evident both their vocals and their enthusiasm onstage. Gowland connected with the audience and especially the Camels when she introduced "I'll Never Learn" with a grin. "This is actually [President] Katherine Bergeron's favorite song, so now it's my favorite song," she said. The group mostly performed songs off of their most recent original album Orange with a smattering of crowd-pleasing covers, including Weezer's "(If You're Wondering If I Want You To) I Want You To" and "Jenny" by Walk the Moon. Upon receiving a request from the audience for their original song "Fishbowl" off Orange, drummer Connor joked around and then started his signature rhythmic drumstick move.

In the midst of the entertainment of our peers, I AM Festival offered other local bands. Coming from that other Connecticut city, New Haven, the pop folksy Goodnight Blue Moon enlivened the main stage at Parade Plaza with their assortment of string instruments. Toddlers and older women alike danced without a care in the plaza, creating an amusing spectacle.

The festivalgoers were fortunate to have the beautiful, sunny Saturday, but when humidity became overwhelming, the New London Whale Tail Fountain was extremely inviting for splashing friends and cooling off. Passersby walking around downtown were attracted to the yodeling of Connecticut College alumni The Can Kickers. The Telegraph turned out to be an excellent reprieve from the heat as well, with soothing acoustic music from the native Mainer, Dan Blakeslee and Sam Perduta of Elison Jackson, a band based in New Haven.

I AM Festival appealed to all ages. As night fell, Oasis Pub and 33 Golden opened and welcomed 11 artists. The 21 and older crowd arrived and danced to the independent music. The final band of the festival, The So So Glos, performed at the main stage in Parade Plaza for a unique spectator experience. The crowd unified as the lead singer encouraged a mass "to be seated," until everyone rose again and clapped to the beat of the drums. Everyone should look forward to the ninth I AM Festival next fall! •

TORY STEWART

JORDAN THOMAS

JORDAN THOMAS