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THE COLLEGE VOICE

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1977

"Hello, Privilege"

SHAE ALBERTSON
MARKETING COORDINATOR

Chelsea Handler, an American comedian known for her late-night talk show and various series on Netflix, attempts to apologize for the Netflix comedy-special *Uganda Be Kidding Me*, in her latest documentary: *Hello, Privilege. It's Me, Chelsea*. In *Uganda Be Kidding Me—Live*, Handler crosses a line through her "comedic" attacks toward people of color, disabled individuals, and members of the LGBTQIA community. The crude and vulgar nature of Handler's comedic acts nearly slap you in the face. So naturally, *Hello, Privilege. It's Me, Chelsea* feels like another attempt by a white celebrity to rewrite her wrongs and reconstruct herself as a socially aware activist.

Handler begins her documentary with a series of clips from her repertoire of comedic acts, starting at the beginning of her career, to *Uganda Be Kidding Me—Live*. Does Chelsea Handler believe that creating this documentary offers an opportunity for voices of color to be heard when it comes to structural socio-economic disadvantage? Most likely. However, her binary construction of race and profit from the marginalization of a racialized group makes her approach to understanding white privilege in the United States extremely problematic.

Handler's perpetuation of the binary classification of race in the United States is perhaps the most problematic aspect of the documentary. She ignores several important aspects of identity and how they are socially constructed. For instance, Handler does not how racial categorization occurs in Latin America, the way racialization in this country is in part due to forced racial identification, nor how individuals are racialized based on their linguistic identities. What about those who identify as Latinx and who do not fit the binary construction of race in the United States, but face severe socio-economic consequences due to racial categorization? What about individuals who don't have phenotypic features that are associated with particular racial categories, but are still marginalized based on the construction of whiteness? Why does Handler only discuss black and white bodies?

Celebrities have a complicated relationship with activism and social change. Handler uses her high level of power and influ-

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Missing: The Barn



Boat Weiler in Earth House. Image courtesy of @boatweilerband

GRACE RATHBUN
CONTRIBUTOR

It is common camel knowledge that Barn Shows are among the biggest highlights of student life at Conn. So naturally the student body was disappointed when, after just the first barn night of the semester, news spread that the space would be shut down indefinitely for matters of structural safety. This is not a new issue, but rather an ongoing struggle with the history of the barn itself. As a retired squash court, the space was designed to have a somewhat bouncy floor and was certainly not intended to support crowds of excited young people dancing and jumping up and down. Thus, over the years, the floorboards have been worn down enough to cause concern for the structural integrity of the Barn and in turn, the safety of the students utilizing and enjoying the space.

However, hope is far from lost for the Barn, MOBROC (or Musicians Organized for Bands Rights on Campus), and their numerous fans. The club's executive board has been working closely with the Office of Student Engagement to ensure that the situation with the Barn is addressed and that bands have access to rehearsal and performance spaces in the meantime. The Office of Student Engagement is currently waiting for the College's hired structural engineer, who was unfortunately injured on another job, to recover so that the barn's floor can be assessed and hopefully

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OPINIONS

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Letter from the Editors: *Pressing Issues on Belonging*

"What's pressing to you right now?" – Jozette Moses '21 to John McKnight, Dean of Institutional Equity, in "Bright Future: DIEI's Action Plan Being Realized".

In a Snapchat video, three white men walking across the parking lot of Charter Oaks student apartments were recorded yelling the n-word through the open windows of the dorms of black students. The incident occurred Friday night, Oct. 11 on the UConn campus. The three UConn students laughed as they walked across the parking lot, unaffected by their comments which would leave the black students questioning both their safety and belonging at the institution.

If you have ever questioned the effects of saying the n-word in any space, among any group of students, understand that it has the ability to make our fellow peers feel unwanted in spaces in which they deserve to be included. The n-word is a racial slur; the verbal form of an oppressive past for an entire race of people. To feel as though we can say in it songs, in text messages, or among our white friends reduces a history of racial oppression to an already stigmatized word. This is not insensitivity, it is blatant racism. It continues to be used by white individuals because it is a representation of the change that will not occur. If we have refused to remove one word from our vocabulary (fully understanding its history), how can we change an entire society and system without receiving significant opposition?

Through this language, we have told our classmates that their lived experiences are not valid and that they are not welcome at their respective institutions. Through our actions and language, wherever and whenever, we must hold our peers accountable to remind not only our fellow students but faculty, staff, and friends that they belong.

So how can we create universal belonging? In this issue, our writers discuss hurtful forms of ignorance found on this campus, and in the world. The proposed solutions include making a "social inclusion course" mandatory for students and conversing with POC about their experiences on campus ("What we can all do for racial inclusion on campus"). Netflix documentaries created by celebrities (such as "Hello Privilege. It's me, Chelsea") attempt to create these conversations between white people, yet under public scrutiny and on varying levels of success. Popular films (like the recently released *Joker* and *It Chapter Two*, as reviewed in this issue) portray villains who are actually victims of circumstance. Observers can't be truly empathetic unless personal histories are revealed.

It's not enough to simply state that hate and racism exists. In order to promote these conversations on campus as well as educate one another, *The College Voice* is starting our first "Table Talk" of the year, where we'll host a discussion with the campus community, guided with an article (or two) from *The Voice*. Check regularly on our social media accounts for the date, time, and location. In the meantime, "A Conversation on Race" will be held on Nov. 6 at 7 p.m. in Cummings with the Supreme Court Justice of Connecticut. Hope to see you there.

"Everything. Everything is pressing." – John McKnight

Yours,
Jozette & Sophia •

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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Community Bulletin

Arbofest hosted by MOBROC

Musicians Organized for Bands Rights on Campus (MOBROC) hosted Arbofest on Saturday, October 19th. The event was well attended as groups of Conn students congregated in the Arboretum, bringing blankets for seating during the performances. The day started with two solo performances by Lauren DiCamillo and Emma Bennington. Then four MOBROC bands (Free Beer, The Couch, Boatweiler and Sorry Mom) filled the Arboretum with original songs as well as covers of popular artists.

Wealth Management Weekend

This weekend, interested students participated in Wealth Weekend hosted by CELS. Students were able to hear from alumni and active professionals in the financial field. Among the speakers was Wall Street journalist Veronica Dagher who has focused her work on Women in Finance, interviewing individuals such as Ayesha Curry and Maria Sharapova. She spoke about the nuances and trials she has experienced as a woman in wealth management, and encouraged students interested in financial management to pursue their aspirations.

New Women in Politics Club at Conn

CC Women in Politics was created this year by Xia Morrison and Nicole Caputo to serve as a nonpartisan group dedicated to encouraging and supporting womxn's participation in politics and civic engagement across the ideological spectrum. They aim to provide a space in which womxn's voices, opinions, and ideas are uplifted through weekly meetings, events, and volunteerism. They are open to everyone and hold meetings every Thursday at 7 p.m. in Blasutein 209.

Mayorial Race in New London

The Mayorial Race includes Frida Berrigan of the Green Party, incumbent Democratic Mayor Michael Passero, and Republican City Councilor Martin Olsen. Last Thursday, October 10th, *The Day* hosted a debate with all three candidates at C.B. Jennings International Education Magnet School. All three candidates come from different backgrounds and bring a different perspective to solving New London's issues. The election will take place on November 5th.

Sports Spotlight

By EMILY CHUN

Featured Team: Men's Water Polo

10/19 Salem (at Conn) L, 16-8

10/19 Wash. & Jeff. (at Conn) W, 19-11

10/20 McKendree (at Conn) L, 25-12

Upcoming Events:

Oct. 26 @ Bridgeville, PA

Oct. 27 @ Bridgeville, PA

Coaching Staff:

Matt Anderson, Head Men and
Women's Coach

Featured Team: Women's Field Hockey

10/12 Bowdoin (at Conn) L, 5-0

10/15 WPI (at Conn) L, 5-4

10/19 Tufts (at Tufts) L, 8-0

Upcoming Events:

Oct. 22 @ Roger Williams

Oct. 26 vs. Hamilton

Oct. 30 vs. Wesleyan (Conn.)

Coaching Staff:

Chrissy Needham Chappell,
Head Coach

Krsity Norbert, Assistant Coach
Emily Miller, Assistant Coach

El Camino: A Breaking Bad Movie Movie Review

ELI CHRISTOPHER
STAFF WRITER

For the second time in 2019, we have a totally unneeded sequel that nobody really asked for, but which turned out to be really good and provided a nice,

fulfilling ending to one of the series's main characters.

The first example is *Toy Story 4*, and the second is *El Camino*.

Being one of the many people who believe that *Breaking Bad* is the best thing ever put on television, I was cautiously optimistic for this movie sequel, but pleasantly surprised. No spoilers for the show or movie here, but *El Camino* picks up literally seconds after the end of *Breaking Bad*, following one of the central characters in the fallout of the series finale.

Utilizing their bigger budget on things like cinematography and location, *El Camino* still feels like *Breaking Bad* in the best ways. However, in reality this movie really just feels like a bonus episode to the original series. It's very restrained and still abides by the logic of the original series, while adding just enough to be a very enjoyable, well-made watch.

For fans of the series, I'd recommend watching this movie. But if you haven't seen the show, it doesn't make any sense to start here. •

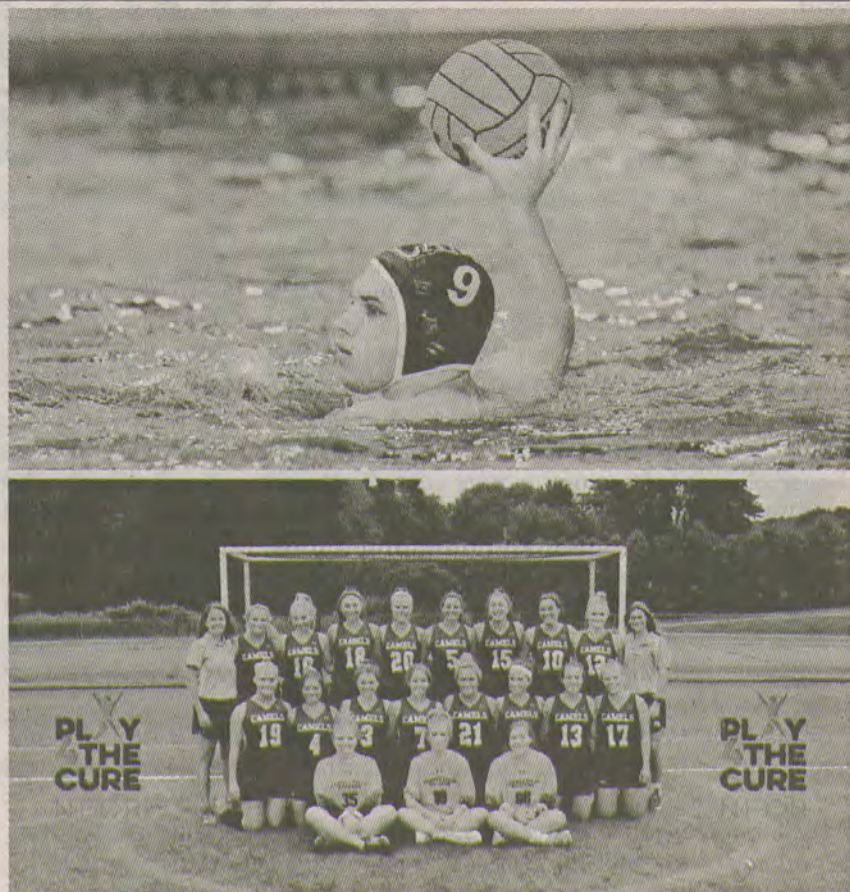


Image Courtesy of the Connecticut College Website

Fight Night Round Four: The Democratic Debate

MAX WHISNANT
STAFF WRITER

The fourth Democratic primary debate featured 12 candidates, the most on stage for a debate this year. Pair that with Senator Elizabeth Warren (NH-D) playing the part of punching bag for the first time, and the debate proved an exciting addition to the 2020 election cycle. Hosted by CNN and *The New York Times*, candidates sparred with each other over impeachment, healthcare, and a number of other hot-button issues. Notably missing from the conversation was climate change, an omission that was roundly criticized by a number of candidates and political operatives.

Outside of policy issues, Joe Biden strongly defended his son's business involvement in Ukraine, essentially making it a non-issue early in the night. Senator Bernie Sanders looked well despite suffering a heart attack that kept him sidelined for the past two weeks. He returned to the campaign trail with as much fire and passion that voters have come to expect from the 78-year-old. Biden might have fared better had his fellow candidates gone after him like usual. Instead, the 76-year-old, was oddly quiet, with the exception of a handful of uninspired talking points. For most other candidates, that isn't necessarily a bad thing, but as the polling front-runner, the relative lack of time he had to make his case proved an uncomfortable position for the former Vice-President.

Much of the excitement came from the candidates trading barbs with one another. Biden avoided a lot of damage that night, but his rivals found another target in the newly-minted frontrunner: Elizabeth Warren. The Senator from Massachusetts seemed ready for the fight, for the most part. She parried most attacks but struggled with questions about her Medicare for all plan. Candidates in need of a "big moment," like Mayor Pete Buttigieg from Indiana and Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar, hit Warren hard on her refusal to say out loud whether her Medicare for all plan includes a tax increase for the middle-class.

Both Buttigieg and Klobuchar had their moments in the spotlight, a change of pace for two of the more genteel candidates. But Buttigieg, who is polling at an average clip of 5% nationally, near the bottom of the top-tier candidates, had the most firepower among those needing a big break. In a heated exchange over gun control with former Texas Congressman Beto O'Rourke, the surprisingly sharp Buttigieg responded with a curt, "I don't need lessons from you on courage—political or personal." He also went after Hawaiian Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard with whom he clashed on Syria, saying that her foreign policy would be one that embraces Donald Trump's "you're dead wrong," he declared. Klobuchar had a strong night, digging in her teeth onto the policies of Elizabeth Warren. Both did well in that they hammered home their intent on making the next debate.

The Supreme Court finally got some attention as well. Buttigieg proved an outlier of sorts with his proposal to put 15 justices on the Supreme Court and tied his answer into how additional justices would protect *Roe v. Wade*. Biden and former Housing and Urban Development Secretary

Julián Castro shot down the idea of packing the courts as they strongly believe it would cause the court to, as Joe Biden put it, "lose credibility."

Ellen DeGeneres elbowed her way onto the debate stage as well. No, she did not join the crowded Democratic field. After her outing with former President George W. Bush made headlines, the moderators took the opportunity to ask what is now called the "Ellen question." Name a friendship that would surprise people. Most Congress members named a fellow Congressional colleague, which was to be expected. A handful even named the late Senator John McCain. Buttigieg delivered a memorable response describing his friendships in the military and how they learned to trust one another with their lives in spite of their differences.

Not every candidate's star shone brightly, however. Kamala Harris, whose campaign showed promise after her verbal takedown of Biden in the second debate, has struggled to gain much traction since then. Her

most notable moment of the night was an important one as she forced the issue of reproductive rights onto the debate stage for the first time this election cycle. She garnered praise immediately from Senator Cory Booker, which eventually led to the moderators asking each candidate how they might protect abortion access. Lower-level candidates like Tom Steyer, Tulsi Gabbard, Julián Castro, and others faded into the backdrop with little fanfare.

What's next? As more candidates are shoved to the sidelines on the debate stage, the field will begin to shrink. November 20th is the next debate and will feature a raised donor and polling threshold courtesy of the Democratic National Committee (DNC). Candidates must poll at least 3% in at least 4 polls,

either nationally or in a poll conducted by a state with a caucus (Iowa, South Carolina, and/or Nevada) or they must poll at 5% in at least 2 polls in a DNC approved early-state. The donor threshold is as follows: 165,000 unique donors and a minimum of 600 unique donors per state in at least 20 U.S. states, U.S. territories, or the District of Columbia. Candidates must meet both thresholds by November 13th in order to qualify for the debate.

So far only eight candidates have qualified for the debate. Joe Biden, Cory Booker, Pete Buttigieg, Kamala Harris, Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, Andrew Yang, and Tom Steyer. As of this writing, the remaining four candidates are not all that close to making it in November seeing as the polling requirements are far more difficult to meet than the donor requirement they have already reached.

Until then, candidates will continue to jockey for position and will move up and down the polls. Some will drop out while others will remain in far longer than is probably necessary. Nevertheless, there is still a surplus of time left until November 2020. Messages will change, truces will appear, and endorsements will enter the fray. This will hardly be the last night in which the candidates have a few spats, and it remains to be seen whether Democratic voters have the patience to see it all the way to the end. •

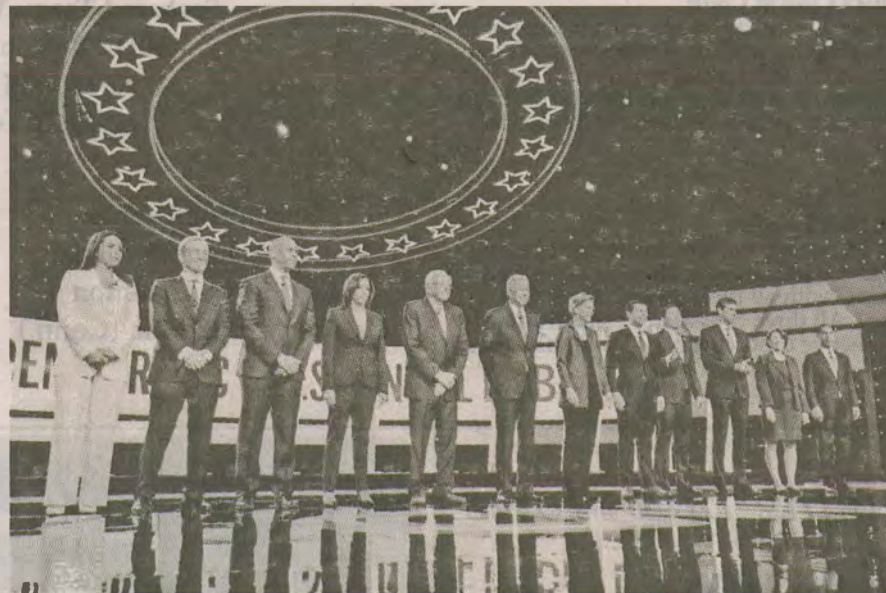


Photo courtesy of Kaiser Health News

Harkness Gas Leak: “What’s That Smell?”

HANNAH NOYES
CONTRIBUTOR

Gas leak? What gas leak? After numerous complaints regarding the smell of gas, Harkness House closed on Wednesday, October 2nd while the New London Fire Department, Eversource (the gas utility company), Facilities Management, and Campus Safety began resolving the issue. Thankfully, students were able to re-enter the dorm that evening, and the smell was gone. Facilities reports that repairs have been made and the line was pressure tested “ensuring operation safety before gas service was restored to Harkness and Jane Addams.” However, many students remain unaware of the incident and some have expressed confusion and dissatisfaction with how the college handled the situation.

A few Harkness residents returned from Fall Break early on Monday, September 30th. Residents Maddie Taylor '22 and Natalie Solari '22 mentioned encountering a weird smell but attributed it to the age of the building and the “smell” it usually has. Sohan Mewada '22 also returned on Monday and was aware of an unusual smell, but “wasn’t too shocked about it” and also thought it to be the building itself. None of these Harkness residents recalled the smell of gas prior to fall break. Mewada added that after his return it smelled more like gas everyday despite opening windows. Some students were accompanied by their parents upon their return to campus, and they too noticed the smell. After detecting it, the parent of one Harkness resident felt compelled to contact campus safety on Monday. This student (who would prefer to remain anonymous) reported that their parent called Campus Safety that night around 8 p.m. Although Campus Safety showed up at the dorm, the resident commented that they came and left quickly, without meeting with their parent or addressing the concern. After a second call that same evening Campus Safety “said it was fine” and that there was no gas leak in the building.

After being reported on Monday, the gas leak was not addressed until Wednesday. On the afternoon of October 2nd, a day before students were set to return from break, a staff member of Ruan’s Den called Facilities Services after noticing the smell of (natural) gas. At 5:47 PM the REAL Officesent an email to Harkness residents informing them that the House had been vacated “after the smell of gas was detected” and was inaccessible to students until further notice, but that students were expected to gain re-entry into the house that evening. Kayla Brown (Assistant Director of South Campus and Village Housing) commented that the REAL Office did not receive any responses to the emails regarding Harkness needing to be closed, but did not comment on if any students reached out to them earlier in the week regarding the smell.

Considering that the smell of gas had been permeating the building for two to three days, the ambiguity of the email was troubling to many residents. Similarly, the follow-up email sent at 6:52 p.m. was a mere two lines stating that “the situation has been addressed and the house has been cleared to re-open.” Neither one mentioned a gas leak, nor did they specify what the issue was. “The email to re-enter wasn’t reassuring, it didn’t exactly feel safe to return,” said Solari. Anon was annoyed by the emails from housing, felt that it was “handled horribly,” that there was no communication with students about safety, and that they were kicked out of the dorm without sufficient reasoning. “I feel like I don’t know what happened,” remarked Taylor. “We don’t even know why they’re digging in front of Harkness right now,” exclaimed Anon, “the hole is getting bigger, we don’t know if it’s fixed.” Facilities briefly referenced the hole, stating that repairs to the sidewalk are underway, but did not elaborate any further. Essentially, students remain in the dark about these repairs and their relation to the gas leak.

For Taylor, Solari, and Mewada the gas leak was a cause for concern both before and after facilities “addressed” it. “I had a test the next morning,” said Mewada, who wondered at the time “am I going to sleep in my room tonight?” Most students expressed concern regarding access to their room. After communicating with Brown, she detailed that “in the event of

a prolonged need to have a building evacuated we would work to assign students to current vacancies across campus, local hotel partnerships. ... we would work with safety authorities to have students safely access items they would need for the duration of a move.” Even so, Harkness residents wish there had been more reassurance and more details about how the problem was, or will be, fixed.

Most alarming are the health and safety concerns surrounding this incident. Prolonged exposure to gas leaks can have effects on the brain. Gas can begin to emit carbon monoxide which in low amounts causes headaches and nausea. Mewada mentioned that he felt more fatigued than usual and had been experiencing headaches, but was unsure if this was due to the gas. “After the situation, I was very wary,” said Taylor, who questioned the existence of fire escapes on the fourth floor and began identifying them for future reference. Anon heavily critiqued the communication (or lack thereof) with students about safety and conveyed a persisting frustration. “I wish they had taken the situation more seriously, even a potential gas leak is serious.” After a great amount of difficulty in contacting them, Facilities responded to questions of concern and noted that both the College and the utility company closely monitor the natural gas used on our campus, and that “the safety of our students is our highest priority.” They stated that if the presence of natural gas is suspected, “you should leave the building or area immediately and call Campus Safety. Campus Safety will then contact the fire department and evacuate the building.” This statement is meant to inform and put the student body at ease, but it is clear that these steps were not taken because the gas was first reported on September 30th and Campus Safety took little to no action. Also didn’t students and parents report to campus safety to no avail?

Overall, the incident left Harkness residents feeling ignored, without a sense of reassurance and without details respecting how the problem was fixed. Once action was finally taken on October 2nd, the leak was fixed in roughly two hours. Even though the leak was handled quickly, a prompt response to the complaints and conveyance of the situation itself to the Harkness residents were not taken care of sufficiently. Along with an improvement in communication, students hope that Connecticut College will take situations posing potential health and safety risks more seriously in the future. •



Photo courtesy of Sophia Angele-Kuehn

Sean Spicer: Making Conn Proud, One Cha Cha at a Time

AMANDA SANDERS
NEWS EDITOR

Between 1989 and 1993, Sean Spicer was a student at Connecticut College. He majored in Government, served as captain of the sailing team, acted as an SGA Senator for three years, and spent his first year in the Plex. He ran for class president four times, losing each time. In 2017, Spicer served as the twenty-eighth White House Press Secretary and as White House Communications Director under President Donald Trump. Now he's dancing the Cha Cha in a lime green ruffle blouse on ABC's *Dancing with the Stars*.

When Spicer was first announced as a contestant, many people had their doubts, including the show's host Tom Bergeron (no relation to Katherine). They believed that his casting puts us one step closer to normalizing Trump's administration and the policies put into place since his election. If you need a reminder of any of Spicer's previous spotlight moments, may I suggest the one where he claimed that Trump's inauguration had drawn the "largest audience to ever to witness an inauguration, period – both in person and around the globe." (We've all seen the pictures of the inauguration and know that wasn't the case.) Or, when Spicer had to apologize for saying that Adolf Hitler was bad but not as bad as the current president of Syria. Additionally, the phrase "alternative facts" is partially predicated on his press conference style. The American Broadcasting Company (ABC) has made no mention of any of his previous controversies so far, and Spicer himself appears to be enjoying his time in sequins and spandex.

In the past couple years the former Camel has worked to distance himself from the White House and to reinvent his image. After Melissa McCarthy did a popular spoof of him on SNL that has over 34 million views on YouTube, he appeared at the 2017 Emmy Awards. He has also written a book (*The Briefing: Politics, the Press, and the President*) and secured a visiting fellowship at the Institute of Politics at the Harvard Kennedy School.

Spicer is not the only Republican to ever compete for that shiny mirrorball trophy. Former GOP House Majority Leader Tom DeLay competed in Season 9 leaving after only week 3, while former Texas governor and current U.S. Energy Secretary Rick Perry was the second "star" to be eliminated in Season

23. And Marla Maples, President Trump's second wife, was on Season 22 and eliminated in week 4.

Unlike them, however, Spicer appears to be running the show much like a campaign. His Twitter is full of Tweets urging fans to "Text SEAN 10 times to 21523," and he's advertising campaign posters and t-shirts all available on SpicerArnold.com (Lindsay Arnold is Spicer's dancing partner). When opening the site, the slogan "We're counting on your votes to win the Mirror Ball!" pops up. Shirts and hats sell for \$25.00; buttons go for \$10.00. However, the former Press Secretary has narrowly escaped elimination four times and his appearances have led to ridicule more than once. Despite his low scores, Spicer has remained on the show through the votes of the show's viewers. Republicans all over the country have been texting "SEAN", and officials like President Trump himself have been regularly Tweeting their support for him. His opening night dance to "Spice Up Your Life" by the Spice Girls in a lime green ruffle shirt was mocked on social media for days and he routinely has gotten low scores since then. But he appears to be taking the jokes in stride—on his site, he's auctioning off the meme-worthy lime ruffle shirt to benefit wounded veterans through The Independence Fund and The Yellow Ribbon Fund. The shirt sold for \$3,810 in a matter of days.



Connecticut College has made no note of their infamous alum's appearances so far on the show and doesn't seem likely to. When his casting was announced on August 21st, they congratulated another alum—Kristen Park Hopson '01—for her feature in *Business Insider* and announced that they were gearing up for Move-in Day. Spicer wasn't mentioned once. He doesn't seem too upset that his alma mater isn't watching him every Monday night—in fact Spicer doesn't even follow the College on social media. It seems as though the disinterest in each other is mutual.

Why does Spicer want to remain on the show so badly? I slid into his DMs to ask and also sent a couple emails, but he must have been too busy practicing to check his messages. Spicer made \$125,000 just by agreeing to be on the show, and if they make it to Week 3 and beyond, he and his dancing partner will begin to earn additional cash each week. The maximum which contestants can earn is \$295,000. By comparison, Spicer was making just under \$180,000 during his time with the Trump administration, per a White House report released in 2017. It pays more to dance the waltz on television than to work in the heart of America's government, apparently. •



Photos courtesy of CNN.com

The Future of Trump's Impeachment

LUCIE ENGLEHARDT
STAFF WRITER

On September 25th, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi announced a formal investigation into the 45th president, Donald Trump. It's only the fourth impeachment inquiry in American history, and it has (unsurprisingly) been domi-

nating media and the dynamic of the looming 2020 presidential election for the past few weeks. Here are 6 answers to questions you might have been too afraid to ask in today's confusing political climate:

What Is This Inquiry About?

The House is charging Trump with "betraying his oath of office," according to Pelosi, over his conduct with Ukraine. According to the first whistleblower from a US intelligence official, Trump's July 25th call with Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky showed the president urging the Ukraine government to investigate former Vice President and 2020 candidate Joe Biden and his son Hunter Biden. This was just days after Trump told a White House official to withhold \$400 million in military aid to Ukraine. Involving a foreign entity in U.S. elections is an impeachable offense.

What is Impeachment?

First of all, there is a difference between impeachment and an impeachment inquiry. In American politics, when a government official is impeached — keeping in mind that the term impeachment only is constitutionally correct for select government positions — it means the House has voted to charge that official with a certain offence/misconduct and thus begins the process of removing them from office. According to the Constitution, a president's impeachment can be conducted for "treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors." For impeachment to actually occur, a majority vote is needed in the House and the Senate can then convict the president with a 2/3 majority vote. However, it is not entirely clear what exactly constitutes an impeachable offence, which is partly why an impeachment inquiry may not lead to removal.

How Does An Impeachment Inquiry Work?

Any formal impeachment investigation begins with an inquiry, at least according to historical precedent. In this case, Nancy Pelosi set forth the investigation that was initiated by an anonymous whistleblower complaint filed in August 2019. If there are suspected breaches of power such as the aforementioned "treason" and "bribery," then the House has the ability to move forward with the investigation. Right now, lawmakers in the House are busy collecting witnesses and subpoenaing them to speak before Court. The House Judiciary Committee must vote on these alleged encroachments of power by Trump before the charges advance to a full House vote for denying or accepting these

charges. The charges come from breaches of the Constitution, which are called articles of impeachment.

How Common Is Impeachment?

In American history, not very. Bill Clinton and Richard Nixon are the only two presidents that followed roughly the same process as today. Nixon was infamously charged with obstruction of justice (but resigned before the House vote), and Clinton for lying under oath and obstruction of justice. Andrew Johnson was also charged with articles of impeachment for high crimes and misdemeanors but the Senate failed to convict him.

How will This Impact The 2020 Election and Polling?

Right now, there is a fear by some that impeachment could strengthen Trump's standing in the 2020 elections, while there are also many who suggest that the inquiry might have little to no effect on Trump's electability and polls rating. Republicans are either staying silent or actively supporting the president during this investigation. And since this inquiry stems partly from Trump's accusations against Biden and his son's cryptic dealings with Ukraine, Biden will inevitably be called into the investigation—a troubling circumstance for someone who is both a key figure in the inquiry itself and also a 2020 front-runner. Biden's future poll numbers will rest in how many Democratic voters react to this impeachment inquiry. The potential fluctuation of Biden's base would also have implications for other Democratic candidates like Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders, who have recently been moving up in the polls. The impeachment inquiry is also providing motivation for the Democratic candidates lagging behind since the future is more or less unclear in terms of Biden's standing among democratic voters. In the meantime, though, Trump is taking to Twitter to help relay some of the damage caused by this investigation and bringing in other key political figures such as Mitt Romney to this web of impeachment, suggesting that he too, should be "impeached."

What Is Going To Happen Next?

To start, Trump administration officials including Vice President Mike Pence and Energy Department sSecretary Rick Perry must come forward with information related to the Ukraine inquiry. Some will do this via a subpoena. Others are expected to be interviewed in the coming weeks, such as US State Department Counselor Thomas Ulrich Brechbuhl and Trump's former top Russia adviser Fiona Hill. On Friday, Rick Perry faces a subpoena to turn over documents relevant to the inquiry. Mick Mulvaney, the current acting White House Chief of Staff has been subpoenaed by House Democrats. There are a multitude of other key government figures testifying, interviewing, and speaking soon on the inquiry, and possibly many more to come. •

A Conversation on Race with Chief Justice

WILL CANELLAKIS
OPINIONS EDITOR

New London — In partnership with Connecticut College, *The Day* newspaper has secured state Supreme Court Chief Justice Richard A. Robinson to engage in "A Conversation on

Race," a forum hosted in Connecticut College's Cummings Art Center.

Free to all guests, the open dialogue discussion will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2019, from 7 to 8 p.m. — doors open at 6:30 p.m.

"Race is an ongoing issue," says Florin, *The Day* reporter responsible for organizing the event. "Learning how to discuss race, recognize implicit biases, and understand racial equity issues is something we all have to work on."

Florin will have worked at *The Day* for 25 years this November.

"We're hoping a lot of students and members of the New London community will attend," Florin says. "One of the new initiatives at *The Day* is to better engage the audience. This is one effort at accomplishing that."

The star of the event, Robinson, has served on the Supreme Court of Connecticut for over five years. Last May, through his appointment as chief justice, Robinson became the first African American to hold the position.

Former president of the Stamford Branch of the NAACP, Robinson has spent time traveling locally and nationally discussing racial issues and matters of

"cultural competency." He will be speaking about these issues during the forum.

"He is a real authority because he feels strongly that people of all backgrounds should be invested in and trust the court system," Florin said. "Despite being an uncomfortable topic, he's comfortable with helping people learn how to talk about race."

Through preregistration, Florin requests that attendees also submit a question for consideration that Robinson can answer. The forum will consist of a discussion panel followed by a question-and-answer session with the audience. You can register online at www.theday.com/theforum.

"This is the first of many events [on which] *The Day* will be collaborating with Connecticut College," Florin said.

Working with the Institutional Equity and Inclusion Dean John McKnight, Florin outlined plans for future events the college will be hosting. "February, McKnight will bring in Ibram Kendi, a well-known author, to discuss racial issues as well," Florin said.

"I encourage you to come," Florin said. "It's a huge honor that the chief justice is coming. We want to make this as perfect as possible." •

The Effect Evil Has on Relationships: *It Chapter Two*

KELLY WALLACE
CONTRIBUTOR

This article contains spoilers of the film It Chapter Two

Yet another Stephen King novel has been made into a movie, and this time with a sequel. *It Chapter Two* extends beyond the story of the Losers as children by following them into their adulthood. Pennywise, the antagonist they all thought they killed, has returned 27 years later. Each of the Losers (besides Mike) has left Derry, Maine and created new lives for themselves since the first film, but *It Chapter Two* drags them all back to their hometown.

Derry is a town where evil resides. Pennywise is not the only form "It" takes, hence its name. "It" is a manifestation of evil that has been around for centuries and takes on the form of what the person it wants to feed on is most afraid of. For example, in the book Ben is visited by a mummy, Richie sees a werewolf, and so on.

In the first *It* film adaptation from 1990, there was a woman who saw Georgie right before he was pulled into a sewer by It, yet she did nothing. This is a larger theme that is discussed in the book, where the adults in Derry turn a blind eye to what is happening in the town, as a result of "Its" presence.

The Losers are the only people to ever try to challenge and defeat It. However, they did not manage to kill It when they were younger, and thus the evil force resides in all of them until they return to finally kill It in the sequel.

There has been some controversy over the portrayal of relationships in the film, which I would like to address with the help of some insider knowledge (I read the entire 1,168-page book). Let's start with the most jarring relationship to watch: Beverly and her husband, Tom. In the film, Tom is very violent with Beverly and tells her that she is lying to him about her reasons for going back to Derry. When she finally breaks free from the relationship, he says that no one will ever love her like he does, which exemplifies his highly manipulative behavior. Casual viewers who watch this movie most likely see this relationship as just a portrayal of an abusive relationship, which is a slightly common trope in horror movies. However, there is more to this relationship than meets the eye.

Relationships generally cannot be accurately portrayed in horror films, due to the genre's nature. In order for films to show the extremes of human nature, toxic relationships are often at the forefront. The filmmakers of *It Chapter Two* assume that the audience is mature enough to understand that what is portrayed in the film is



Photo courtesy of Clean PNG

not a recommendation for how to act. We do not play violent video games like *Grand Theft Auto* and use them as a guide for how to act in everyday life.

Some audience members have claimed that the film is homophobic. However, viewers need to keep in mind that the novel was written in 1986. Regardless, hate crimes and toxic relationships are not something that should be hidden and never discussed. Films that support awareness and discussions about these behaviors should not be condemned. There is a very noticeable difference between a film that casually displays homophobia or toxic relationships versus a film that dramatizes them in order to start conversations.

Finally, *It Chapter Two* shows how people can escape evil. Once It is killed, Beverly and Ben begin to forge their own healthy relationship (where it will go, we do not know). It shows how an abusive relationship in the past does not mean the person is destined to forever remain evil.

Overall, horror films should not be used as a guide to healthy relationships. Evil resides in many different aspects of life, with one of them being in relationships. We need this toxic representation in order to create awareness and depict the extreme parts of human nature. •



Photo courtesy of LAtimes.com

(Mostly) Meatless Mondays

MORGAN MACCIONE
CONTRIBUTOR

I'm not here to judge. Whether you are a meat-eater, a vegan, or somewhere in between, it is a fact that meat is not the most "environmentally-friendly" food.

Worldwide, greenhouse gases from livestock production fall second only to electricity and heat production production, making up 24% and 25% of emissions respectively as of 2014 (statistics taken from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2014). There seems to be more focus on structural changes today, but there is plenty that individuals can do to cut down on their associated greenhouse gas production.

Being an Environmental Studies major and scholar in the Goodwin Niering Center for the Environment, Meatless Monday is something that I have heard a lot about. So, I was pleasantly surprised to hear that the Office of Sustainability would be hosting a (Mostly) Meatless Monday. On Monday, October 7th, the Office of Sustainability held this "(Mostly) Meatless Monday" dinner in Harris. "Why the 'mostly'?" you may ask... In previous years, the Office of Sustainability attempted to implement "Meatless Monday" as a regular occurrence. This plan was met with backlash from athletes and other students. People mostly had an issue with the lack of choice they had, whether they chose to eat meat or not.

At the latest "Meatless Monday," there were meat options, but less than usual. There was an emphasis on vegetarian options, including an array of roasted vegetables, falafel, and new veggie burgers. The point of a Meatless Monday is not to prevent people from eating what they want, but rather to spark thought and discussion surrounding what we eat and how that impacts the environment. That is why Harris still offered meat options while highlighting new vegetarian alternatives. The college also wants to lower its carbon footprint. Reducing the amount of meat purchased and served in the dining hall can reduce the college's negative environmental impact. Based on data from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, Connecticut College students consumed approximately 14,197 lbs of deli meats, 25,607 lbs of pork, 22,000 lbs of beef, and 106,550 lbs of chicken. While simply serving fewer meat option one meal per week (dinner on Mondays) will not reduce our consumption greatly, it is a step in the right direction.

There are many reasons that people choose to eat less meat (or none at all):

health, ethics, environment, etc. More meatless options are important for all of these reasons. The purpose of a Meatless Monday is to encourage more sustainable food habits. The production of meat requires a lot of resources, like land and feed for the livestock, and is a factor in greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, the razing of forests to provide more farmland is responsible for an extra 2.8 billion metric tons of carbon emissions per year. The production of just 1 kg of beef requires 34.6 kg CO₂ equivalents. Even just cutting down beef consumption could help, as the same amount of chicken meat produces 4.57 kg CO₂ equivalents (Environmental Impacts on Food Production and Consumption).

SustainabiliTeam Fellows were present during Harris dining hours to inform people about why this Meatless Monday event was important and how it helps us, as a college, to be more sustainable. Students had the opportunity to pledge their support for a Meatless Monday as they entered Harris. There were also short surveys that asked about people's support of a Meatless Monday every week. Having the option of eating meat seems important to students. According to survey results, only 55% of students said that they would support a fully meatless Monday, but 75% stated they would support a mostly meatless Monday. 75% is great- but why are more people not supportive of limited meat options for Monday dinners?

Senior Emma Brooks '20 stated; "I think that we are misguided about nutrition. A lot of people think it is important to have meat in their diets. People who know and care about sustainability are supportive [of Meatless Monday], but others are just apathetic." On a similar note, Ella Rumpf '21 claimed that the lack of support for Meatless Mondays may be because "people don't know where to get plant-based protein." Of those surveyed, 16% of students chose against going meatless "because of protein." The majority of Americans eat more protein than they need- nearly two times the recommended amount (Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine). Plant-based protein sources include tofu, chickpeas, lentils, broccoli, quinoa, and almonds, just to name a few. Tofu, beans, and quinoa are nightly staples at Harris and the dining halls add other plant protein options quite regularly.

Having a Mostly Meatless (or Totally Meatless) Monday will not solve all of our issues, but it is one small, yet important step in taking real action, especially for a college that prides itself on sustainability and environmental consciousness. •

SustainabiliTEAM Meatless Monday Survey Data

Did you choose to go meatless?
65% said yes

The top reasons people said they went meatless were for environmental reasons (38) or that they liked the vegetarian options available (20)

The top reasons people said they did NOT go meatless were "I like meat" (22) and because of protein (16)

Would you support FULLY meatless Mondays?

Yes - 102 (55%)

No - 54 (29%)

Maybe - 30 (16%)

Would you support MOSTLY meatless Mondays?

Yes - 139 (75%)

No - 19 (10%)

Maybe - 28 (15%)



Photo courtesy of Morgan Maccione

What We Can All Do for Racial Inclusion on Campus

KETSITSENG TSOLO
CONTRIBUTOR

People of Color (POC) on Connecticut College's campus don't need any more student organizations. We have discussed our issues, we have connected, and we have created a community within ourselves. All we need now is for everyone else to enter the group chat. The current structure of inclusion attempts to offer solace to POC with the least amount of disruption to white existence. The problem with this is that it forces the aggrieved to change, 'be stronger', 'care less', 'live with it' and imposes nothing on the aggressor. That sounds a little like a racist system, right? So here's what you can do to change that.

Admit privilege and insensitivity

Whiteness in our world is invincible and invisible. It gives the lucky a passport to simply exist, allowing one the opportunity to be perceived relative to the significance of any one individual on this planet. These privileges are bestowed upon white people because whiteness is seen as superior and the norm. As you can imagine, these niceties are not extended to non-white people. Our presence in a room draws attention. Our actions warrant extra scrutiny. Usually, this puts us in a lose-lose situation where we simultaneously attempt to diffuse attention from ourselves while also highlighting our competence. In this struggle to balance these two realities, we have to also deal with microaggressions and ignorance.

Imagine this. *"You wake up 10 minutes before your class begins. Like a superstar, you get ready in 5 minutes and are out of your room running to Fanning—you live in Lambdin by the way. On the way, most white people you pass expect you to move out of the sidewalk, so you're basically walking on the dirt. Your new Nike kicks are ruined. You get to class, and the Professor asks you to group in threes. You are the only POC in the class, already feel out of place and now have to awkwardly scan the room and make eye contact to gauge who might need a third person in their group. The Professor gives every group 10 minutes to come up with a solution to a problem. You're excited and think you have great suggestions but weirdly every suggestion you make is met with at best a "Yeah!", while your other group members' suggestions are discussed and developed further. This happens all the time but every time it happens it feels coincidental. They obviously don't mean to dismiss me! Every time it happens it ends up taking over your day. Your mind is conflicted. Should I be angry? They are good people. Why would they want to make me uncomfortable? Should I tell them? I mean, it's such a small thing. Should I report this? Your mood is ruined. You have two more classes and in your last class the Professor asks you to speak on another case of police brutality you haven't heard of yet. Somehow they always expect me to know everything happening to my race. It's too much! The day couldn't get worse than it is."*

Tell any POC on campus this short story and they will turn it into a book. The truth is that white people on campus may not realize the impact of their actions, they may not even realize the actions themselves. As a white person, you probably have contributed to a POC feeling out of place on this campus and you probably will continue to. The first step is to admit and believe this.

Register for that race class!

There is blatant racism, and then there is covert racism and its

microaggressions. Microaggressions are the kind of racism that the aggressor does not notice and that makes the aggrieved feel queasy and confused—the kind that lingers in the psyche the longest. This is also the most common racism on a campus like ours. When a person is blatantly racist, one knows their exact intentions and can use Grandma's advice on how to deal with a racist person. We cannot do the same for microaggressions because we are rarely sure of the intentions. We also cannot report these instances because they seem too trivial to persecute. How could I report that you always make me walk on the dirt? This means that these experiences pile up in our minds and eventually create the guarded and unapproachable persona that a lot of POC display to deal with a general feeling of not belonging.

To reduce the occurrence of these small situations that end up having an enormous impact on the college experience of POC, white people need to better understand the experiences of POC. This means taking a class that focuses on race and identity, a class that teaches the history that POC carry on their shoulders and which explains the vigilance in our approach in interacting with non-POC. Hopefully, after engaging with academic theories and historical narratives on race, white people will be more cautious in their interactions with POC, and microaggressions will be significantly reduced.

Engage with POC

The best way to understand the experiences of POC and become aware of the actions that push POC to the perimeter of the Conn community is to personally engage with POC. POC have plenty of Student Organizations that welcome everyone and create events with a focus on sharing our experiences and different cultures. An important step in being an ally is purposely putting yourself in the uncomfortable position of being with the community you have wronged, working to gain their trust and understanding their plight so that you can influence the necessary institutional changes that only you, who holds the power, can influence.

To take it a step further, go out of your way to engage in these kinds of conversations with POC. Who knows, you might just end up making a friend (that is, if they're not your friends already). Most of us are open to having the race conversation as long as there is acknowledgment of privilege and ignorance and there is a genuine desire to understand and influence change. You could walk up to a POC and say, "Hi, I'm _____. I read a piece in *The College Voice* on how to improve racial inclusivity on campus and it suggested having a conversation with a POC on their campus experience. Would you like to talk over coffee in Ruane's Den?" She might say no but at least you tried, right?

Now you know what you personally can do. Here's what we can get the administration to do: With our united voice, we could make taking a social inclusion course on campus compulsory. Don't worry, it does not have to be a race class. There are plenty of minority communities on campus including but not limited to the LGBTQIA+ community, international students, persons living with disabilities, and womxn. Thank me later when they reduce the GPA-killing language requirement to one semester because now they're investing in your woke development. •

“Hello, Privilege”

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

ence to attempt to create a discussion about her own white privilege. The entire documentary creates a conversation about how Handler herself seeks to change her perspective of whiteness in the United States. Handler uses the documentary as a public act and quest to re-establish her moral position on race.

The documentary begins with Handler asserting her Jewish identity and the ways in which she was rewarded for “hustling” in Hollywood. In an attempt to posit symmetry between the experiences of Jewish and black people, Handler uses her Jewish identity throughout the entire documentary to attain empathy for the one aspect of her identity that has historically faced extreme oppression. However, she unfairly universalizes the experiences of black and Jewish people as the same kind of suffering. She discusses the “many nuances” of what it means to be black, but only deconstructs broad privileges of what it means to be white in the United States. Handler states, “I’m clearly the beneficiary of white privilege, and I want to know what my personal responsibility is, moving forward.”

Handler strategically interviews and highlights many different groups in an attempt to create a credible perspective. At an open mic night with a USC student group, the documentary highlights perspectives of several students of color. One student states, “This rabbit hole goes deep ... deeper than a documentary.” Another states that she’s “really embarrassed to be here ... this is just another example of white privilege.”

While Handler verifies her privilege in the creation of the documentary, she ultimately concludes that “black people are sick and tired of being asked questions about white people’s problems... it’s a white person’s problem.” She then uses various statements from the students, backed by activist and author Tim Wise, to shape the rest of the documentary.

In order to provide a contrast to the perspectives Handler introduces throughout the documentary, she interviews a group of Republican women

from Orange County, California. In Somerville, New Jersey, she visits an ex-boyfriend from high school who faced more than 10 years of incarceration. If anything, Handler explains an unfair system through the comparison of herself to her black partner. She explicitly states that because of the system in place, she clearly faced many benefits. Yet, in introducing her ex-boyfriend, Tyshawn, a man she chooses not to see for 25 years, it feels as though Handler is forced to make an obscure connection in order to create an intersection of her life as a celebrity with black lives.

Handler clearly makes the argument throughout the documentary that discussions of whiteness in the United States need to occur between white people, that white people must hold each other accountable for checking their privilege, and that ally groups should advocate in all spaces for racial justice. While she does offer a platform for black voices to be heard, ultimately, one ought to question who this documentary is really for. After all, Handler could process her feelings about whiteness with other white people in her life, not just people of color, but because she is a benefactor of streaming for a largely white audience, she attempts to dismantle white privilege at the cost of people of color and their participation in the documentary.

The conclusion of the documentary is also troubling. Clips praising Handler for her inspiration to establish this conversation and applaud her desire to understand her white privilege take up the last five minutes of the documentary. Many have, and will continue to, admire Chelsea Handler for *Hello, Privilege. It’s Me, Chelsea* and for boldly disregarding her role as a comedian to discuss serious structural issues in the United States. Yet, if one analyzes this 64-minute film with a critical perspective—one that seeks a true understanding of whiteness in the United States—one must acknowledge that Handler’s film is neither fully engaged nor committed to the issues it attempts to discuss. •



Photo courtesy of Netflix

Food Pathway Will Surpass Home Ec Class

ELIZABETH BERRY
ARTS EDITOR

want to learn how to make lasagna and brownies? Count me in. I also hope I am not the only person who sat through freshman orientation, overwhelmed as we listened to deans and professors explain the new Connections curriculum from the five Modes of Inquiry to the Eleven (and growing) Integrative Pathways.

I came to Conn knowing I wanted to apply to the Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts (CISLA), so I accepted ignorance when it came to Pathways. However, when I heard the news that a Food Pathway was in the works, I was fascinated and desired to learn more.

This is about to be a major plug, but I run a food Instagram dedicated to eating in college (@healthy_eclair). So, if you have seen me running around Harris like a crazy person, holding my own avocado and peanut butter, that's why. That being said, food is extremely important to me, not only because I love to cook and bake, but also because I enjoy healthy eating. When it comes to eating in the dining halls, it can be hard to abide by a non-dairy, gluten-free, vegan, or vegetarian diet. With the uproar of the closing of Freeman Dining Hall, it seems cruelly ironic that the college's administration has begun to plan a Food Pathway.

Modeled after the four centers for interdisciplinary internships, the Integrative Pathways are a cornerstone of Connections. Each pathway consists of establishing a thematic inquiry, enrolling in three courses relevant to your pathway, engaging with the community at a global or local scale, and completing a senior reflection that will be presented at the All-College Symposium for pathway and center scholars in early November. According to Conn's website, "the goal of the Pathways structure is to close the gap between practical preparation for a career and the development of critical thinking skills that impact virtually every area of the student experience." The question then becomes, how does a Food Pathway combine a student's interests? Would students simply enroll in the class because they want to relive their study abroad experience in Florence while sipping wine and discussing the history of pasta shapes? Or would students breakdown barriers and common misconceptions about disciplines outside the typical liberal arts curriculum? Who is to say making a five-layered ricotta lasagna with your peers is not relevant for the real world?

After all, food goes beyond the sustenance we devour at Harris or JA. Ashley Drummey '21 is a biology and Hispanics double major and CISLA scholar who plans to look at how wine resonates in Spanish culture. Drummey believes this pathway would be pertinent to have in the curriculum because "food is multidisciplinary." That being said, this pathway would exemplify the values of a liberal arts college and the Connections program.

I have to agree with Drummey here; I enrolled in Food: Reading and Writing with Professor Jessica Soffer last semester in which I learned not just how to narrate a recipe, but describe food in a relatable way. Professor Soffer explained in an email that "food is the great connector, the common denominator; and it's important to say that no one gets left out of the equation." She goes on to say that "no matter the topic (History, Creative Writing, Philosophy, Marine Biology, Psychology), food and all its themes and bearings are there, revealing critical information about who we are and how we live."

This approach to food is exactly what Anthropology Professor Black, who is also the coordinator for the Food Pathway, hopes to achieve. Professor Black specializes in researching the anthropology of food, and has been working closely with the administration and faculty to have the Food Pathway approved by Spring 2020 and then launched the following Spring. She has also been in contact with the dining staff in order to investigate ways students can engage with Conn's dining halls that would allow them to feel more at home as they dish baked ziti onto their plates.

Professor Black and I met over lunch in JA (I know, how appropriate?) to

Surely I am not the only one who envied anyone that had home ec class in middle school. I mean, who wouldn't

discuss the pathway in further detail. She explained how interdisciplinary the food field is, making it the perfect concept for a pathway. She hopes to not only recruit professors from the English, Italian, and Art History departments, but also engage with the local community. The pathway would be an opportunity for students to engage with food programs such as the Brigade Community Dinners, Fresh New London, and the Sprout Garden. The curriculum would not be confined to a classroom, an internship, or a semester abroad, but instead be a way for students to connect over food. Students would discuss food access and justice and analyze how we engage with food in a capitalist and consumer society.

Professor Black explains that there are so many concepts a student can learn in a kitchen that go beyond how to make the perfect cheese omelet. In previous courses, Black has brought her students to the kitchen in Lazarus House, and hopes to practice a similar routine with Pathway students so they may learn how to cook and eat in a communal living space. Food was once at the center of Cro renovation, which would have been an ideal teaching space for students. However, Professor Black is now looking into other on-campus kitchens students could use such as Unity, Earth, and Hillel House.

Viangely Asenico '20 is in the Global Capitalism pathway and believes the Food Pathway is "very promising, especially in the humanities or the environmental sciences." She goes on to say that the pathway would ask students to question "how can we be sustainable with our food and eating habits?"

As college students, it can often feel like we live in a bubble. However, the Food Pathway would allow students to engage with the local community, as well as think critically — a crucial element of a liberal arts education. Whether this article entices you to apply for the Food Pathway, buy your avocados from Fiddleheads Food Co-op in New London rather than Shoprite, or simply experiment with your meals at Harris, I, along with Professor Black, encourage you to reflect on what food means to you and to others. •



Photo courtesy of @healthy_eclair Instagram Page

Beyond the Pumpkin Spice: Fall Beverages at Conn

SHARON VAN METER
STAFF WRITER

tionally, the introduction of seasonal beverages at each of the campus coffee shops has ushered in arguably the best season of the year.

Autumn, in particular, is notable for its beverage options, marked traditionally by the pumpkin spice latte (PSL), a beverage so popular that Starbucks has started to offer it as early as late August. While the PSL has proven to be a notable fall beverage, I was curious as to what other seasonal beverages each of Conn's three coffee shops would be offering this autumn. I decided to compare the menus, try a beverage from each shop, and share the highlights.

I started my tasting at Coffee Grounds. While the shop had the fewest amount of seasonal beverage options, it did offer pumpkin flavoring. Coffee Grounds' cornerstone for seasonal beverages is a hot or cold apple cider from B.F. Clyde's Cider Mill, a drink that barista Clare Coyne '22 stated was her favorite fall drink. In addition to offering the locally made apple cider, their prices were the cheapest of the three coffee shops, with a small apple cider costing \$2.50 and a large totaling \$3.00. I opted for a small hot apple cider, which I enjoyed while reading an essay for my Feminist Philosophy class. While the seasonal drink options at Coffee Grounds may be more limited than the other two shops, the apple cider was reasonably priced and tasty, especially for a cold autumn evening. Additionally, out of the three coffee shops, Coffee Grounds has provided the greatest variety in fall-themed baked goods, with options such as a pumpkin whoopie pie highlighting the autumnal pastries.

My taste test next took me to Blue Camel Cafe, which, in addition to offering apple cider (\$2.75 for a small and \$3.25 for a large), also offered the option to add pumpkin spice and maple spice flavors to a drink for an additional 75 cents. The cafe also offered the most unique seasonal beverage I had ever heard of: the maple caramel freeze. While one does not often see the word "freeze" in the title of an autumn beverage, the drink proved to be an unex-

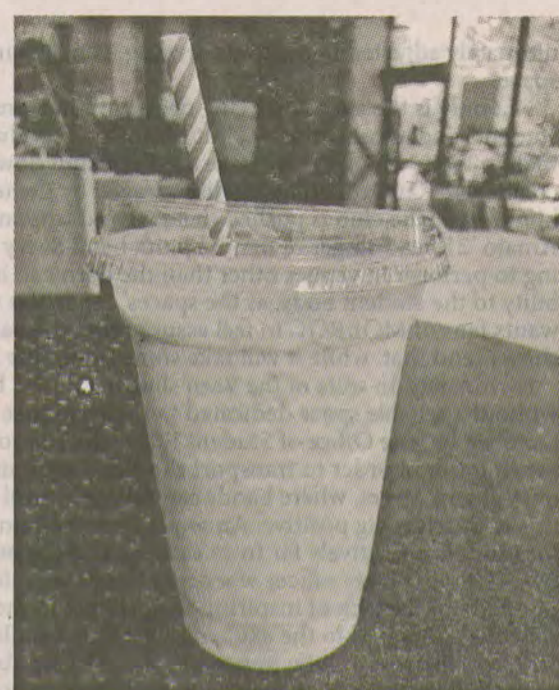
The colorful foliage, noticeably colder temperatures, and emergence of sweaters has signified the beginning of autumn at Connecticut College. Addi-

pectedly delicious and refreshing offering. It was reminiscent of a Starbucks Frappuccino, and the maple and caramel flavors did not overpower one another. I also opted to get the free shot of espresso in the drink, which helped make the beverage less sweet. I would recommend this drink as an occasional treat, as it was on the sweeter side and was the most expensive beverage I tried, totaling at \$5.37 with the addition of sales tax.

I finished my taste test at the Walk-In Coffee Closet, which boasted the largest seasonal menu out of the three shops. They offered maple, cinnamon, and pumpkin flavor shots to all coffee and espresso drinks; apple cider (\$3.25 for it hot, \$3.50 for it iced); and a pecan pie latte for \$4.00. I opted to try a hot pecan pie latte. Upon ordering, I was informed that the beverage's primary flavor profile was butter pecan and was asked if I wanted to add another flavor. I decided to add cinnamon in addition to the butter pecan, which resulted in an excellent fall beverage. The cinnamon added an additional dimension of flavor that perfectly balanced out the sweetness from the butter pecan. One recommendation I have for those wanting to try the pecan pie latte is to have it with skim milk. Butter pecan and cinnamon together make for a very rich speciality latte, and drinking it with skim milk makes it lighter.

Overall, I was impressed by the diversity of offerings I sampled during my taste test. While maple, cinnamon, and pumpkin often serve as dominant fall flavors, I encountered a wide arrange of beverages, from the classic apple cider to the innovative maple caramel freeze and the rich pecan pie latte.

Even if traditional fall flavors aren't your favorite, the beginning of fall is the perfect time to indulge in your favorite beverage from a campus coffee shop. When I interviewed Natasha Strugatz '20 about her favorite seasonal beverage, she informed me that she was not a fan of fall flavors, and prefers to drink a hot chamomile tea on cold days. Despite the colder temperatures, some Conn students prefer to continue drinking iced beverages. Year-round, the drink of choice for Jennifer Wilson '20 is an iced vanilla latte, although she did express excitement for the beginning of holiday seasonal beverages. Whatever your preference may be, you will be sure to find a satisfying seasonal beverage at any of the campus coffee shops this autumn. •



Photos courtesy of Sharon van Meter

“Five Dollar Fridays” at Spill’s Mexican Grill

DAMIAN RAPTOPOULOS
CONTRIBUTOR

Spill’s Mexican Grill and Bar is located in downtown New London, five minutes away from campus. The restaurant

has terrific Latin American food with dishes that have an American twist as well. I highly recommend this spot to everyone who wants to try delicious food from a new restaurant in New London.

The restaurant itself is a bit hard to find, as it is tucked between two buildings on State Street. Depending on the side of the restaurant you go to, there is a different atmosphere. For a more mellow and relaxing time, you should stay on the restaurant side with the brighter lights and sit down tables. If you are looking to have fun and be in an environment that feels like a club, check out the bar side. But once you enter, the space has a homey feel.

The food at the restaurant is authentic and is made from scratch, making it different from other restaurants in the area. Spill’s offers a variety of different options at a good price, with all of the entrees under the price of 15 dollars. This dynamic combo makes it the perfect spot for college students.

There are a variety of items on the menu, divided into different sections including tacos, entrees, sides, and a kids menu. They also offer quesadillas, nachos, and a Mexican salad as well as vegan and vegetarian options.

I ordered the Carne Asada Fries, which is composed of French fries topped with steak, pico de gallo, sour cream, cheese and guacamole. I wanted to get a dish that would give me the most bang for my buck, and considering how much “stuff” was in the meal, Carne Asada Fries was the perfect choice.

The service at Spill’s was great. I received my food in less than 20 minutes and also engaged in a conversation with the waiter. He was a down-to-earth

person who you could definitely crack a few jokes with.

The Carne Asada Fries dish was one of the best meals I have had since I arrived on campus. In addition to the meat and fries, there was also melted cheese, guacamole, sour cream, tomatoes, and more. The steak was chopped up into bite-sized pieces and had an excellent flavor. The fries were tasty and the combination of guacamole, cheese, and vegetables made the dish even better. It’s one of the biggest dishes on the menu you can order, but you could always take it to go and finish the dish on campus at a later time instead of going to Harris or JA for dinner.

Though I was unable to go to their bar, it is a major part of the restaurant. Spill’s posts deals on their Facebook page almost daily, so before going, check out what they have to offer. They have a deal called “Five Dollar Fridays” where premium liquor costs five dollars a shot. They also have guests come to DJ for the night, such as DJ Kid Hype. As long as you are over the age of 21, you can enjoy your Friday and Saturday nights at Spills.

However, Spills isn’t as popular as other restaurants among students at Conn. This may be because the restaurant is a newer spot to hang out at. When I went to Spills, there were not a lot of people; however, the atmosphere could be different at a later time or on a different day, like a Friday or Saturday night. In the future, I plan on going back to the restaurant the next time I am in downtown New London, and I hope that others will try the food from Spills as well.

With a convenient location near the train station, the restaurant is very accessible for students to check out while in downtown New London. They are open from 2 PM until 2 AM on Friday and Saturday nights and until 1 AM on every other day. Their address is 123 State Street and their phone number is (860) 961-0696. Happy eating! •

Missing: The Barn

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

ultimately adjusted to continue serving its new purpose as a bustling concert space.

Not only is the situation being dealt with in a positive manner between the students and administration, but MOBROC co-chair Jack Pacilio ’20 claims that, in fact, “whenever we have the Barn shut down is when we have to think creatively.” Rather than being discouraged by the temporary loss of their home-base, the club is pushed to adapt and respond in innovative ways. Grace Amato ’21, lead singer of femme punk band Sorry Mom, also noted that having to perform in venues other than the barn can improve the shows’ accessibility to the student body, as the spaces’ capacities will be less limited. Pacilio wants fans of MOBROC to feel assured that the bands “are still going to play shows” and that, while it will take some time, “the Barn is coming back.”

Fortunately, in spite of the Barn shutting down, bands have not been left without a reliable space dedicated to their practice and growth. On Tuesday, October 1st, the Office of Student Engagement provided MOBROC with a moving van in order to transport the club’s equipment to 33 Gallows Lane, off of Williams Street, where bands can rehearse until the barn is reinstated. While this is clearly a big positive, Amato commented on the inconvenience of this location. It is relatively far from campus and the building needs to be unlocked by a Campus Safety officer whenever bands want to rehearse. Amato also pointed out the lack of inspiring atmosphere in the old Gallows conference room as compared to the exuberant graffitied walls of the barn. She argues that “there’s something really important about being able to personalize the music space that you’re in ... you need to be able to be creative, and if you’re not having that opportunity, you feel stifled in that space.”

According to Pacilio, we can still expect performances in the near future “wherever [they] can drag the equipment...” Since the closing of the Barn,

there have already been Boatweiler concerts sponsored by MOBROC at Abbey House and the Larrabee House common room. Student groups, including Sorry Mom and a new first-year band, The Couch, have also had the opportunity to perform out in the open at the annual Arbofest held October 19.

Whether it be inside Cro, Unity House, or even just outside, MOBROC intends to work with the Student Activities Council and Student Government Association to improve the production quality of shows on campus. So not only can we expect plenty of upcoming shows, but we can expect them to be even better than they already have been.

Pacilio notes that correspondence between MOBROC and the college administration has remained positive and supportive in light of the situation with the Barn. The Office of Student Engagement is committed to getting the Barn back and up to standard. He points out that investing in MOBROC may be a wise long-term budget strategy for the Office of Student Engagement and SAC, as more, higher-quality student bands can replace DJs and other performers hired by the College.

In spite of the Barn being shut down early on and preventing MOBROC from being as productive as it potentially could be, this semester has still proven to be a good one for the club. According to Amato, MOBROC has become bigger, more open, and overall more of a community. The new academic year has brought a lot of new talent and interest. This is especially important right now, in the midst of what Pacilio compares to a “changing of the guard,” as many members of current bands will soon graduate. Pacilio emphasized the importance that the space (the Barn, when possible) be kept active and the scene alive, even after the familiar faces of MOBROC have moved on. He affirms that we can expect as many as “four new bands on the scene within the month.” It would be inaccurate to say that no challenges or delays have come for MOBROC with the closing of the Barn. However, rather than forming a barricade, this obstacle has proven to be a mere bump in the road that has helped reignite the creative spirit of the group and its members. •

More Scary Clowns in *Joker*

ELI CHRISTOPHER
STAFF WRITER



Photo courtesy of Variety

If I had to put money on it, I'd guess that you have already heard quite a bit about the new movie, *Joker*. Whether it be the large amount of critical praise the film is receiving or the larger amount of criticism it has gotten for being perceived as too dark or promoting negative behavior, *Joker* was in the news months before it was actually released.

While *Joker* is being hailed as a brilliant piece of art by both select fans and critics alike, it has also received an abundance of criticism for both its subject matter as well as its theme development. People have critiqued the movie for promoting gun violence, or acting as some sort of encouragement for those that feel socially persecuted to resort to violence in order to feel seen and heard. But is the movie as socially irresponsible as some critics are claiming? Or is it actually a masterpiece like some fans are saying? To me, the answer to both questions is no. However, that being said, the movie is both very unnerving and very good.

I have seen more than any reasonable human being's fair share of movies, and it is rare that one actually leaves me feeling bothered. In fact, I can't even remember a horror movie that left me feeling quite the way that *Joker* did. The only other movie I can actually remember making me feel the way that I did walking out of the theater last Sunday was Martin Scorsese's *Taxi Driver*. And this is absolutely no coincidence. In the broadest of descriptions *Taxi Driver* is a character study that follows a mentally ill man, played by Robert De Niro, as he turns to violence in an effort to combat some of his personal trials, as well as some of the larger societal issues of 1970's New York City.

Joker director Todd Phillips has unabashedly claimed that his movie takes heavy inspiration from Scorsese movies like *Taxi Driver* and *The King of Comedy*, and this shines through in his

movie quite a bit. Perhaps even a bit too much sometimes. The movie from time to time goes a little bit overboard trying to pay homage to *Taxi Driver*, as it's set in a similar setting and time period, and even has Robert De Niro in its cast. And although *Taxi Driver* is indisputably a much better movie, this actually works to the movie's advantage in creating a rather disturbing and certainly troubled central character. *Joker* centers around Arthur Fleck, portrayed by Joaquin Phoenix, and his slow descent into violence and madness as the titular comic-book villain.

First and foremost, it has to be said that Phoenix gives an outstanding performance as the principal character. People have already begun comparing him to Heath Ledger's (Jared Leto who?) iconic, Oscar winning performance as The Joker in 2008's *The Dark Knight*. Although I still definitely prefer Ledger's performance, I don't think the comparison is at all unearned. Phoenix's portrayal of the Joker has cemented him as a Best Actor frontrunner. Phoenix plays Arthur with an excellent balance between being sympathetic and absolutely menacing. The movie is only assisted by some of the situations we see of Arthur's life, where we as an audience truly feel bad for him. So much of the brutality and misfortune he receives is not at all his fault. He's regularly subjected to different sad situations and varying degrees of abuse. Arthur suffers from some very serious mental illnesses, and has little to no control over many components of his life. However, what makes the film truly work is that at the end of the day Arthur is not completely innocent of his actions. He is indisputably still a bad person that makes some very wrong, and immoral choices, regardless of his circumstances, and I think the film does a good job at portraying this.

In fact, when it comes to the claims of social irresponsibility, or a movie that promotes anarchy or violence, I would use this portrayal as the primary defense. Everything that Arthur does is shown through a subtle, but not too subtle, depiction that his ideas and actions are absolutely wrong and certainly not to be reproduced. That idea is made plenty clear, and is definitely obvious enough for an adult audience to understand. And remember: this movie is for an adult audience. The film, unlike most other comic-book movies today, is R rated, and undoubtedly earns its rating.

As an original comic-book, the movie also strikes a nice balance between having the types of easter eggs and references that moviegoers like myself crave, and being able to stand by itself as an enjoyable film for everyone. I was happy to tell one of my friends that you really don't need to have seen any of the Batman movies, or to even know who The Joker is, to

follow and enjoy the movie. However, if you're a geek like me, there's certainly some stuff in here that you'll pick up on, which in my case, gave me goosebumps.

The only things in this movie that don't work, are less objective flaws, and more comes down to your subjective film taste. This film is unarguably both violent and off putting, in a pretty realistic manner. In fact this realism was the primary component that left me feeling bothered after my first viewing. Within a few moments out of the theater I texted my parents saying that this movie was definitely not for them. Even for my more cinephile, nerdy friends, I felt obligated to tell them that while the movie is very good, it's "a lot." So if you don't want to see a dark movie, with realistic depictions of evil, depressing views on mental illness, and shocking scenes of violence (which is very understandable), avoid it like the plague.

However if you can bear this type of cinematic experience, I'd really recommend it. Headlined by a stellar lead performance by Joaquin Phoenix, and aided by clever twists, a strong supporting cast, dark themes, good production design, and a fantastic third act, *Joker* is one of the best movies of the year, even if it's not everyone's taste. •

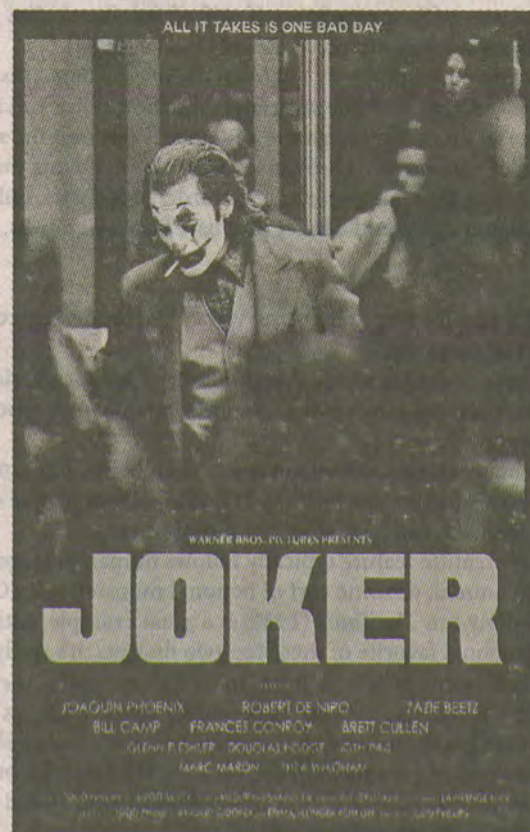


Photo courtesy of Big Cartel

Top 5 Movies to Watch This Halloween

ELI CHRISTOPHER
STAFF WRITER

With Halloween approaching, now seems like a good time to make some horror and thriller film recommendations. Here's my list of the top five scariest movies to watch this October.

#5. "Best president in my lifetime. Hands down."

Each numerical entry on this list will get progressively darker and more terrifying. But for now, let's start light.

Horror comedy may seem like an oxymoron, but when done right, they can provide great movies that range from goofy parodies to the type of dark humor that even your favorite edgy stand-up comedian might be put off by. On the lighter side, you have comedy classics like Mel Brooks's *Young Frankenstein* (1974) or *Ghostbusters* (1984). I came close to reviewing the British cult-classic *Shaun of the Dead* (2004), but elected something a little more twisted and a little more recent: Jordan Peele's Oscar winning *Get Out* (2017).

At this point, you've likely seen this modern day classic, but if you haven't, for the love of God, get to it. This is the type of movie that will be studied and discussed on and off college campuses for decades to come. Intertwining legitimate tension and scares, big laughs, and enough cutting social commentary to fill more essays than we could even publish, *Get Out* is as funny as it is disturbing.

#4. "We've become a race of Peeping Toms."

Perhaps no genre of film is as inherently tension filled as the mystery genre. The journey of a good "Whodunit" or disappearance film is filled with many twists and turns, and in many cases, scares. Director David Fincher certainly deserves an honorable mention for great mystery movies like *Gone Girl* (2014) and *Se7en* (1995). Although, be wary, *Se7en* is still one of the most disturbing movies I've ever seen. A scary movie list would not be complete without at least one spot going to the Master of Suspense himself, Alfred Hitchcock. I'm giving the number four spot to his mystery masterpiece, *Rear Window* (1954).

As you could probably tell from the release date, this is one of the slower films on this list, but that doesn't undermine how tense and incredibly well made this movie is. From the get-go the audience is put into the shoes, or in this case wheelchair, of a man with a broken leg who begins spying on his neighbors, only to begin suspecting that one of them has murdered his wife. Full of great acting, beautiful cinematography, and a killer premise, *Rear Window* is, to me, Hitchcock's greatest movie.

#3. "I admire its purity. A survivor. Unclouded by conscience, remorse, or delusions of morality."

Maybe the most iconic component of a horror movie is the villain. The villain is the singular source of evil — an unstoppable force who is only seeking to harm the protagonists.

In many stories, the villain is a human being, like Annie Wilkes in *Misery* (1990) or Max Cady in *Cape Fear* (1991). While these people are utterly terrifying, creature features, can be just as, if not more, scary.

The creature feature typically follows human protagonists going up against a real world animal, or some sort of fictional monster. John Carpenter's super gross but incredibly fun *The Thing* (1982) is a great example. Although *Jaws* (1975) might be my personal favorite of these top two finalists, it's really more of a summer watch. For Halloween viewings, it has to be Ridley Scott's *Alien* (1979).

Alien is indisputably the queen of sci-fi horror. It is claustrophobic, atmospheric, and never without tension or terror. It is essentially a slasher movie in a spaceship, but instead of a human villain, we have HR Giger's iconic Xenomorph. I would also be remiss if I didn't mention the film's protagonist and one of cinema's best heroes, Sigourney Weaver's Ellen Ripley.

And remember... "In Space, No One Can Hear You Scream."

#2. "Come play with us Danny..."

The three previously listed sub-genres are inarguably scary, but they share one comforting trait among them. The threats are real, or at least more realistic. They are physical beings in a physical world that we can overcome in a physical way. But what about a threat that we can't even comprehend one that isn't from any world or realm that we know of, one that isn't a man or beast, but something else entirely?

Enter the world of supernatural horror. A classic example might be *Rosemary's Baby* (1968) and the dangers of the Faustian bargain. Perhaps the most famous of the supernatural scary movies would be 1973's *The Exorcist*, commonly regarded as one of, if not the, scariest movies of all time. Though I'm a fan of the movie, it doesn't take the number two spot. For most of its runtime it is a solid, well acted thriller, but really it's only truly exceptional for the last twenty minutes of the movie.

But when it comes to the supernatural, you really can't beat a good ghost story. For the number two pick, I'm going with the much beloved, constantly quoted, and often parodied ("Shh! You wanna get sued?") *The Shining* (1980), directed by Stanley Kubrick.

The Shining is a little slower, and certainly more abstract than the other movies on this list, but its slow pace is one of the key components that make *The Shining* as good, and as utterly horrifying, as it is. Low on actual violence and bloodshed (although don't get too comfy, it's definitely in there), *The Shining* rolls together components of cabin fever, insanity, and the supernatural to create one of the all time classic horror movies, filled with a sense of mystery, isolation, and terror.

#1. "A census taker once tried to test me..."

We've covered what we understand, and what we do not, and how they can both scare us. But what about what we're too scared to even try to understand? What about when we're too frightened to admit what might actually exist... inside of us?

The number one slot goes to psychological horror. I was about an inch away from doubling-down on Hitchcock and going with *Psycho* (1960), but when it comes to the horrors of the mind, you really can't beat *The Silence of the Lambs* (1991).

A rookie FBI agent has to catch a serial killer, and in order to do it she has to interview another serial killer to get inside the mind of an "expert." Yes, it's just about the most intriguing and terrifying premise of all time.

I'm not going to talk too much about this one, because if there's one movie that I've named that I really want to recommend, it's this one. I really think you should just see it. My favorite leading actress performance paired with my favorite supporting actor performance combine to make my favorite movie hero with my favorite movie villain. *The Silence of the Lambs* is one of my favorite movies of all time, and one of the realest renditions of scary you'll see. •



Jack Nicholson in *The Shining*. Photo courtesy of wbur.org