A Breakdown of the SGA Forum

Connecticut College’s Student Government Association (SGA) intends to represent the student body. After a rocky start to the fall semester, where camels began a mostly lawless life and then were plunged into Alert-Level Orange as Covid-19 cases skyrocketed up to 170 active student cases in a mere week, unrest began to settle amongst the student body. After the Sept. 19 Covid-19 Town Hall where Deans Arcelus, Rothenberger, Rotramel, Smith, and Cardwell shared the College’s plan for Covid-19 for the remainder of the semester, many students felt as though the Q and A format on Zoom did not enable them to ask the questions to which they truly wanted answers. On Sept. 23, SGA held a strictly Q and A with the Deans in the 1962 room in Cro. The College Voice was able to obtain a transcript of the meeting and has shared the most frequently asked questions, filled in with our personal notes from attending the meeting, and edited for clarity.

Q: Are people who tested positive for Covid-19 able to hang out with people other than roommates in a room without a mask now? Why or why not?
A: No, we’re following the current guidelines [that the College has laid out] and keeping everything uniform for everyone.

Q: Do we have a Fall Break?
A: Yes, please test before leaving campus and then resume your normal testing schedule on Thursday, October 21 and Friday, October 22. While away from campus, please be diligent about mask wearing in public. [Dean Arcelus also suggested that students consider staying on campus for Fall Break]. For those who are staying on campus, you should get tested on Monday or Tuesday, as usual.

Q: Why are there group size limits for socializing outside? How is it different from the large gatherings attending soccer matches?
A: Under the current Alert Level of modified Green and moving towards fully Green, there is no limit to how many people can hang out outside. If you are in close proximity with others in outdoor areas, please wear a mask.

Dance Club: A Club Sport?

Connecticut College’s student-run dance club was officially added to the list of club sports this year. While dance is very athletic and requires bodily strength, most people tend to view it as an art form rather than a sport. Dance is unique because it allows people to express themselves artistically and exercise at the same time.

The Connecticut College Dance Club is an entirely student-run organization that primarily focuses on preparing for a performance at the end of the fall semester. This year’s show will be held in the Martha Myers Dance Studio (turned into a blackbox theater) and includes dances choreographed and performed by about 50 students total. Student choreographers can create dances of any style; this year, some of the styles include modern, jazz, and tap. Students will also be operating the sound and lighting for the show. While Dance Club does not require auditions, students do have to audition to participate in the fall show. Everyone is cast in a dance; the auditions simply determine which dance students are placed in. The current Dance Club presidents are sophomores Jocelyn Daviel Schulman and Kerin Krasnoff.
Letter From the Editor

Amanda Sanders
Editor-in-Chief

The start of this semester has been like no other. Returning to a promise of normal was mired by a rapid increase in Covid-19 cases, a scourge of Yik Yak’s on campus, a “Pied Piper’s tour of Conn,” better known as the adventures of Michael Tracey, and a crushing soccer loss to Amherst on Sept. 25.

The College Voice is ready to brighten your semester by announcing its return to print. Paused by the pandemic, we are working towards resuming our operations and making them greater than before. Once again you’ll be able to pursue our pages and flip through articles in coffee shops, the library, and Cro. Print journalism offers news in a way that is separate from pop-up ads, texts from a friend and allows one to observe the talent and creativity of our layout team headed by Leelah Klauber ’22 as they play Tetris with our articles to combine them into a powerful display of knowledge. Physical newspapers are a testament to the hard work that our staff puts in, in a way that can’t be expressed online. There is something special about holding a newspaper in your hands and we are excited to share that experience with you this year.

Not only can you now read TCV but you can also listen to us on our new podcast, “The Voice” created by our business manager Sohan Mewada ’22 along with editors Jimmy Cork ’22, Johnny Alexandre ’22, Caoimhe Markey ’23, and Catja Christensen ’23. “The Voice” will feature a variety of segments that will cover student life and current events in a way that is not only easy to consume but also engaging. “The Voice” can be found on Spotify with new episodes likely to drop every week. We cannot wait to bring you the kinds of conversations that can’t be fully realized in print and hope that you’ll listen along with us as we embark on this newest adventure.

While the semester may have had a rocky start, we’ll continue to bring you the best of student journalism this year in every issue, starting with this one. Read about life for students who test positive for Covid-19 as they trade Camel Cards for room keys as written by Sophie Mulvihill ’25, stretch your legs as you read about Dance Club’s new status as a club sport as reported on by Daviel Schulman ’25, and learn more about what occurred at the SGA student forum on Sept 23.

We also invite you to consider donating to the CC Mutual Aid fund, a new initiative that aims to support members of the Connecticut College community whose needs are not being adequately met.

I’m thrilled to work with such an incredible team of journalists this year whose interests range all across the spectrum of our student body. If you’re looking to find new ways to engage with the campus community this year, it’s never too late to join The College Voice. We’re looking for writers, photographers, podcast personnel, and a new business manager. Stop by our meetings, every other Sunday at 8 in the 1941 room or email us at eic@thecollegevoice.org. We can’t wait to meet you.
How Low Can Conn Go (with Waste Consumption)?

Keri Krasnoff  
News Editor

Connecticut College is one of the first colleges nationwide to have a refill station for waste-free, low carbon and waterless solid laundry detergent sheets. Regarding the campus’ implementation of the ten year Sustainability Plan from 2018, this new refill station, located in Cro, will help Conn move closer to reducing their total waste and water consumption. The company behind the creation of the refill station is Generation Conscious, a sustainable toiletries company co-founded in Feb 2020 by Greg Genco. Genco started his education at Conn in 2008 before transferring and graduating from Amherst College in 2012. I spoke with Genco on Sept. 17 via Zoom about Generation Conscious and what this news means for Conn.

The mission of Generation Conscious is to address eco-classism and make sustainable products as accessible as possible to college students, especially for first generation, low-income students, who Genco explained, disproportionately come from ‘environmental justice communities,’ emphasizing how it is important that those students are prioritized. Nationwide, Generation Conscious is working with students and their administrations from other universities and colleges such as Hamilton College, Princeton, Rice University, University of Miami, and the University of California schools to add refill stations on their campuses. It’s important for Generation Conscious to be able to “provide people with plastic free products that everyone can access and to also ensure that those who may not even have access, making sure that the school pays for those students upfront.”

Everyone who has purchased a refill plan has already received a reusable container and ten detergent sheets in that container. According to the SGA Chair of Sustainability Milo Becker, there are 220 students who have bought refill plans so far. When comparing regular laundry detergent that can be purchased at the bookstore versus their laundry detergent sheets, Genco noted that the benefits of purchasing the detergent sheets are twofold. Firstly, “priced refills of the laundry detergent sheets are 20 percent cheaper than Tide Pods.” Secondly, the amount of solid waste management is reduced “by not having to dispose of a single-use plastic container helps to improve our whole ecosystem”which would ultimately improve land and water quality. While Genco acknowledges that laundry detergent is only “a small percentage of the total waste,” he hopes to “inspire people to start to critically think about how they consume and what they are consuming.” Becker states, Generation Conscious has partnered with SGA, DIEI, and the Office of Financial Aid to “combat eco-classism by subsidizing the cost for 300 students who would benefit from the aid the most.”

To further address eco-classism on campuses, Generation Conscious is also creating opportunities for first generation, low income students to further get involved with the installation, distribution, and the marketing sectors of the company. “We wouldn’t just create a sustainable company if it wasn’t just prioritizing and centering low income black/brown communities and workers,” Genco stated. “The implementation of the workforce development program will aim to hire a first generation, low income student to maintain the machine. In addition, students will be given the opportunity to learn about the circular economy and be able to participate in monthly executive meetings with the Generation Conscious team.” Students who are interested can reach out at info@generationconscious.org with a short letter of intent of only a few sentences and a resume in order to be considered.

By the end of the fall semester, Genco hopes to see about 10 percent of the Conn campus utilizing the machine on a monthly basis. By next year, ideally 15 percent of the campus will use the machine on a monthly basis. When asked about what students can expect from Generation Conscious in the future, Genco mentioned hand soap strips and multi cleaner purpose strips. From there, the company will determine student demand and preference to identify the next products in order to make sure that they serve as many students as possible before releasing a new product so that we are only releasing products that students actually want to use. Becker hopes to see tooth tablets be available for students on campus as soon as Generation Conscious is ready.

If you are interested in purchasing laundry detergent sheets, it is never too late to purchase the refill plan. In fact, Becker encourages students to sign up because of how easy it is to receive refills for the whole semester. Students can buy their subscription whenever they want on Generation Conscious’ website, or scan the QR code at the refill station which will bring students to a purchase link. For more updates on future events and products, follow their Instagram @gencoworld, or go on their website, www.generationconscious.co. Overall, this refill station is an exciting addition to campus and is only the beginning of Conn’s transition to a more waste-free campus.
Q: Will the College open Humphrey’s bar?
A: Administration wants to open up the bar, but there are still logistics that need to be sorted, such as how to staff it and how to keep everyone safe given that indoor bar settings are highly risky regarding Covid-19.

Q: There was a suggestion made about making Humphrey’s an outdoor bar space. Since fans at the soccer game are allowed to be unmasked, why can’t we do that with Humphreys?
A: The College has considered this option as an alternative to an indoor bar setting. Being outdoors does limit risk, but being unmasked close to others is still complicated. There are also infrastructure and logistical obstacles to making this happen at the moment. Dining staff is stretched thin making food for people in isolation and a permit must be granted to move Humphrey’s to an outdoor location and be able to hold events there.

Q: How would you recommend people socialize? Will we have social hosting training for Ridges and Winches?
A: You are allowed to socialize and can do it within the limits. Social host training is required for hosting more people than is currently allowed by the College. We are changing protocol according to the situation and we don’t know about the social hosting training yet.

Q: What is the endgame of all this with people vaccinated?
A: We'll be living with it but we're not at a point where we can live a normal life. Protocols and policies are constantly shifting according to current situations in order to best protect everyone. Hopefully things will change for the better soon.

Q: Can the College elaborate on the need for testing twice a week compared to other NESCAC schools who are not testing as frequently?
A: Only two of our fellow NESCACs (Trinity and Middlebury) are not testing as we are. While their reasons for not testing as frequently is unknown, our testing policy is in place in order to catch positive cases as early as possible so the College can respond in a timely manner and contain the spread before it gets out of hand.

Q: What is the purpose of vaccinating the people if we’re getting tested twice a week?
A: The Department of Public Health and the Center for Disease Control has said that more people would likely become positive without testing and there is a greater likelihood of more severe infection than what is being observed in vaccinated individuals. Ultimately, COVID affects everyone differently, but the vaccines have been an important first step in keeping campus safe.

Q: Why did classes have to go to remote classes? Understanding that cases have not spread in the classroom settings, if there is another outbreak, can those who test negative attend in person if a particular faculty member is comfortable holding in person classes?
A: There are different policies at different alert levels that need to be maintained universally. During Alert-Level Orange, in-person classes are not possible. At Yellow and below, in-person classes can resume, according to the situation. We must also be mindful that different professors [have different] situations [that] they are in (immuno-compromised, family with members who cannot be vaccinated etc.). [There are] different situations for different people.

Q: Why can’t the College implement a strategy like the city of New York? Why do we require masks if people are vaccinated or have tested negative within the last 72 hours?
A: The 72 hours idea may not work because people can get Covid-19 between their last test and their next test and spread it. All the [current Covid-19] cases in CT are the Delta [variant] and it’s a serious concern.

Q: Will the Covid-19 testing location be changed?
A: Yes, starting Thursday, Sept 30, it will be in the 1962 room in Cro.

Q: If the Testing Center moves to Cro, where will we have events?
A: We have other places: upstairs, Cummings etc. You can do outdoor events and you can do indoor events with masks. You can do events if you follow the protocols.

Q: How can we hold people accountable in classes for not following the Covid-19 protocols set by the College?
A: Faculty should be addressing this. You can email Dean Cardwell, and you can do it anonymously if you feel more comfortable.

Q: Is there a chance of testing ending if the people wish differently as the decision to be tested twice a week was from the student’s choice? With K-n95 and N-95 masks do we need this level of strictness?
A: The complexity of the Delta variant is a bigger deal than the Covid-19 we dealt with last year. We are not anticipating for it to be removed this semester.

Q: Do students breaking protocol go to Honor Council?
A: A decision [was made] in conjunction with Honor Council; [issues in Alert-Levels] Yellow and Green will be dealt with by the administration but [issues in Alert-Levels] Orange and Red will go to the Honor Council. Contract tracing information will not be shared with the administration or with the Honor Council. The Department of Health was clear on this.

Q: Where is the line for repeated protocol violations?
A: Contract tracing information will not be shared with the administration or the Honor Council. We hope people respect the honor code.

With the current difficulties surrounding forming peer groups and other experiences, why Connecticut College? The community... It's about figuring out how to form groups. People are doing great stuff in the face of difficulty, having amazing internships. Keep in mind why you chose to be here at all times. We'd invite people to share the sense of community.
The New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC) has some of the strictest Covid-19 protocols amongst colleges, and appears to be continuing on that trajectory. All 11 schools require vaccination and masks inside at all times. Within the NESCAC, seven out of the eleven schools are currently testing students twice a week: Amherst, Bates, Bowdoin, Colby, Connecticut College, Tufts and Wesleyan. Hamilton and Williams currently test once a week. The outliers are Trinity and Middlebury, which have different testing protocols. Trinity tests its unvaccinated students once a week and conducts surveillance testing on 10-15% of the vaccinated student population each week. Surveillance testing is done to provide a look into how much Covid-19 is on campus, if any. Trinity’s surveillance testing tests around 300 random vaccinated students per week. Middlebury tests their unvaccinated students once a week and does not perform weekly testing of their vaccinated students. If a vaccinated student comes in contact with someone that tests positive for Covid-19, or if they feel sick, they can schedule an appointment at the testing center. On Middlebury’s Covid-19 information page, it refers to CDC guidelines that “fully vaccinated people with no Covid-19-like symptoms and no known exposure should be exempted from routine testing programs.” Testing is required for all students before athletic competition and travel, as all NESCAC varsity sports teams are rapid tested before games and meets.

Compared to Conn’s Covid-19 positivity rate in the past few weeks, none of the other NESCAC schools have experienced such a significant spike in cases. As of Sept. 24, Amherst, Bates, Hamilton, Middlebury and Trinity have had under 12 cases, and Bowdoin, Colby, Wesleyan and Williams recorded under 46 cases. Tufts is not included in this count because it is not comparable to the other colleges in the NESCAC due to its student population size and multiple campus locations.

The low case numbers at other schools do not necessarily mean that their students are acting differently than students at Conn. In a recent email to students, Amherst warned that there were large indoor gatherings of unmasked students and that “significant numbers of students were missing their assigned testing days.” A student at Bowdoin, who wishes to remain anonymous, said that off-campus gatherings and trips to local bars were the norm. Trinity reported a “lack of compliance [of mask wearing] in common areas such as the dining hall, the fitness center, and the library.”

The extensive testing conducted in the NESCAC demonstrates how breakthrough cases are not unusual, and every school has reported that none of their positive students have experienced a severe case of Covid-19. While testing and preventative measures are a top priority in the NESCAC, this is not the case at other colleges. The Covid-19 policies of the Ivy League most closely align to the NESCAC, but there are differing protocols across colleges in the Northeast. Many schools, including Sacred Heart, University of Connecticut, Boston College, St. Anselm’s, and New York University conduct randomized testing of the vaccinated student population (athletes are subjected to more testing in some cases). The University of Vermont, Springfield College, the University of Rhode Island, Bryant University, and Fairfield University do not have surveillance testing programs, but have tests available to vaccinated students if they wish to be tested. Indoor masking is required...
Connecticut College was proud to report a Gold rating in the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) over this past summer. This rating system was developed as a way to compare university-level sustainability efforts by quantifying often subjective characteristics. A college or university’s evaluation categories include academics, engagement, operations, planning & administration, and innovation & leadership. Each of these categories has up to 9 subcategories, which in turn provide a set number of credits to an institution. The final rating is presented as a percentage of the number of credits earned out of the total possible. The minimum score for a gold rating is 65 percent. Connecticut College’s current rating sits at 69.06 percent.

Conn excels in areas requiring engagement on behalf of the students, staff, faculty, and community. Conn’s Gold STARS report details numerous specific examples of sustainability projects and programs on campus. The Points of Distinction category that outlines the unique areas of excellence for the institution describes Conn’s student-led solar array installation project, the development of course SUS293: Applied Sustainability, which allows students to work with alumni to develop sustainability project pitches for the Office of Sustainability, the creation and requirement of Social Difference and Power courses, Conn’s inaugural membership in the Racial Equity Alliance, the required diversity, equity, and inclusion training for all members of campus, a reusable menstrual cup initiative, the collection of coffee grounds for compost, multiple campus-organized clothing swaps, and a switch from halogen to more efficient LED light bulbs in some buildings.

While this rating is a point of pride for the College, there is still room for great improvement. In an interview with Milo Becker ’22, the SGA Chair of Sustainability, Becker recognized Conn’s strength in student engagement and sustainability-focused academics. The campus has the capacity, and arguably the responsibility, to achieve more. Becker explained that the College is still a fossil fuel-dependent campus with a so-far unquantified level of emissions. It is an important reminder that there is still work to be done. As far as the STARS is concerned, there is a recognition higher than gold. This past summer, four institutions achieved the highest rating, Platinum: Arizona State University, Cornell University, Université de Sherbrooke, and the University of Connecticut. The coveted STARS Platinum rating, requiring a score of at least 85 percent, 16 percent more than Conn’s current score, would place Connecticut College alongside only 11 total campuses worldwide.

Moving into this school year, the Office of Sustainability’s focus is minimizing plastic waste. With the banning of plastic water bottles on campus and partnerships with sustainable companies like Generation Conscious, Conn is taking promising steps. When looking further in the future, Becker hopes the College can remember to be motivated by more than this digital assessment. Sustainability is the goal, not just STARS Gold or Platinum (though they are beneficial tools to share measured success with other campuses and prospective students). Becker believes the next step for Connecticut College is to implement a climate action plan. A comprehensive plan would include emission reduction targets and detailed steps for the College to reach those goals. However, before Connecticut College can develop or sign on to such a climate action plan, the College needs to collect data on the campus’s current emission levels in order to set effective goals and achievable steps.

Lack of action perpetuates a lack of results. In this case, to remain stagnant while at the same time equipped with the necessary knowledge and resources to make a difference in our environment is to be a bystander in humankind’s greatest crime. A clear motivation is present in the students of Connecticut College to make our lives on this planet more sustainable. Our first step is here on campus.

Students interested in participating in sustainability efforts on campus can get involved with Sprout Garden located behind Cro at 8 a.m. every Saturday or the Climate Collective, a student-led climate activism club, that can be found on Instagram, @ccclimatecollective. To get involved with the Office of Sustainability, students may also reach out to Margaret Bounds, Assistant Director of Sustainability, at mbounds@conncoll.edu or Milo Becker at mbecker2@conncoll.edu.

Connecticut College’s full STARS report can be found at: https://bit.ly/3CM4rFj
Let's Yak About Yik Yak

Bryce Young
Contributor

I do not do social media. I joke about how my mother was the one who made me download Instagram for college. It’s a personal choice made in how it can affect people’s career and work opportunities depending on what gets posted by you and about you. Yik Yak is another social media app which allows people within a certain area to post anonymously and view others’ posts. As soon as I requested to write this article, I downloaded the app and started to figure out how it worked. Two days later, Michael Tracey came to campus and that’s when I really learned what Yik Yak is for.

Yik Yak’s company policy is all about anonymous free speech. Users can share anonymous messages with one another within a five mile radius. Yik Yak’s method to this is to create a massive group chat of people within an area who can say whatever they want without getting reprimanded. Yik Yak is incredibly popular on college campuses. There are some guidelines to preserve anonymity and basic bullying/hate speech guidelines; however, to report a post, you have to find the “report” button which is a three step process.

On Connecticut College’s campus, Yik Yak is basically a free for all. Users post their thoughts about events on campus. From egging Michael Tracey’s car to the amount of money spent on Campus Safety, Yik Yak offers in-depth coverage of the going-ons at Connecticut College. If you want a feel for people’s inner thoughts, download Yik Yak. It is an excellent insight into the minds of college students.

The app has allowed for me to see a variety of student perspectives that may differ from my own. While I had just accepted our situation regarding our change in Covid-19 procedures earlier this September, many shared their frustrations and feelings on the change in Alert Levels. The comments posted hilarious and frustrated takes on the situation and the people involved. Yik Yak allows for people take off their rose-tinted glasses and realize what is really happening at Conn. However, with anonymity comes the danger of rude commentary from behind the digital facade. While it is empowering to say whatever you want without fearing any real life consequences, it means that people can be unforgiving when posting about their opinions without thinking about how one could view or interpret those words. The reactions vary but the thing that stays the same is that once someone is given the power to say whatever they want without fear of repercussions, at their worst posters are numb to the feelings of others.

One of the best features on YikYak is the upvote/downvote policy, which allows users to express a positive or negative reaction to an existing post. This creates a contest of who can hold the “Yak of the town” for the longest. By upvoting and downvoting posts, the conversation can change quickly, which creates a fluent discussion with everyone. However, when a certain number of people downvote a post, the post gets removed from the discussion.

The challenges and tribulations of using such an app are difficult. Do the pros outweigh the cons? There are a lot of pros such as anonymity, a sense of unity, and a sense of security in yourself and what you post. All of these are wonderful Yik Yak does try to protect these as much as possible. However, I feel that the negatives outweigh the positives. I feel that I am compelled to have an opinion on everything from the bees at dinner (which I actually don’t mind) to the darties happening at the Ridges.

Yik Yak is like a black hole, I mindlessly scroll until I realize that it has been a half hour and I have not gotten any work done. However, I can recognize its importance on campus. It allows for students to air their grievances or look for connection. People ask for advice about issues they were unsure of or unwilling to speak to someone about.

Yik Yak is what an anthropologist might use to better understand the Connecticut College community. Users can coordinate events or parties anonymously or people can inform the larger community of situations that occurred on campus. Some may even use it to feel a little less alone. However, as it is anonymous, take each post with a grain of salt, no one truly knows if there is a party on Tempel Green or if it was a joke. If you are interested to learn that at 1:30 am, the sprinklers are turned on on Tempel Green, or are simply looking for others who can relate to you, YikYak is the perfect app for you.

zine WORKSHOP

Tuesday, 9/28, 2-4pm, Living Room, Shain Library
create a page for the library’s "Shainzine"
paste, cut, stencil, draw, experiment

Hosted by Olivia Loo '24

INFORMATION SERVICES
Zoom College: Maybe It Isn't All Bad?

Madelyn Rose
Contributor

The days of traditional education seem to be over. Tables and chairs have turned into an array of colorful tiles on a pixelated screen. The frustration of students, staff, and families on campus is palpable, as we barely got a lick of in-person schooling before transitioning to learning on our web application: Zoom. However, the way I see it, Zoom University is not all terrible. All it takes is a bit of reframing.

Adaptability is the name of the game. Tuesday, Sept 7. 8:25 AM. “Potential Spam, New London, CT.” This is the phone call all students received alerting us of the heightening Covid-19 restrictions the campus would begin implementing, effective immediately. The following day we replaced our developing routines with blue hyperlinked text and a blinding white glow of a laptop. As someone preparing to leave my building for an 8:45am class, this came as truly shocking news. As surprised as I was, I can sympathize with the professors, whose lesson plans got flipped upside down in a matter of 24 hours. However, most of us showed up to our classes, bearing our degrees in Zoom Literacy, sat down, and learned.

I will not pretend that I was all smiles for our transition to Zoom learning. My once laser-focused mind has recently found itself drifting into games of solitaire more often than ever before. I found it significantly harder to prioritize my learning when surrounded by all of my creature comforts. Learning does not feel the same when outside of the intimate classroom environment, which brings me to the idea of personal accountability. It is far more challenging to get away with checking a notification when sitting directly in front of a professor. But on Zoom, what the professor can’t see can’t hurt them. And that’s not limited to the scrolling through social media. Online classes open another can of worms: the opportunity to cheat. With Connecticut College’s Honor Code, reasonably so, the school aspires to eliminate another can of worms: the opportunity to cheat. With Connecticut College’s Honor Code, reasonably so, the school aspires to eliminate cheating. However, things slip through the cracks, and Zoom happens to open up those cracks wider than ever before, which is where personal accountability comes into play. More often than not, it’s far easier not to play by the rules and copy and paste a question into Chegg. But what do you gain from that? Zoom challenges one’s ability to self-discipline and allows you to take responsibility for your actions and learning.

If the prospect of gaining valuable life skills doesn’t feel like enough for you to appreciate your Zoom classes, consider the spare time. It may not be much, but every minute counts to an overworked and overtired college student. With what time you save by not having to walk to class, gather all of your materials, and assemble an outfit suitable for the Met Gala, you can catch up on some Zs, finish that Netflix show you’ve been working on for the past month, or hit the books for a while longer. Whatever you choose to do, whether it be nothing or solving world hunger, it’s undeniable that remote learning makes for a bit more free time in the day, which I, for one, can appreciate.

In short, maybe all it takes to appreciate Zoom is changing your mindset. The positives that come with remote learning do not come about from Zoom itself; they come from within and what you choose to do with the negative situation at hand. It’s far easier to moan or post online about how miserable going back to the virtual education world has made you, but remember, this is temporary. Instead of focusing on all Zoom eliminates from your college experience, think of what the platform is helping you gain. A myriad of opportunities awaits beyond the “Join Meeting” button. All you need to do to open your laptop and, in turn, your mind.

TCV Editors Give Advice

TCV Staff

We’re one month into the semester and the editors at The College Voice have been abuzz in our office discussing what they’d wish that they’d known during their first few weeks and months at Connecticut College. Below is some of our greatest advice for your four years at Conn.

“My best advice is to formulate your own opinion of Conn. Asking others what they think can greatly influence your positive opinion of the school or maybe even further your negative opinion if you have one. But I say, if you love and support the school like I do, you shouldn’t let the bad opinions of others affect your Camel pride.” - Nefertari Pierre-Louis ’23, Social Media Manager.

“I’d recommend joining clubs on campus! If you’re not a varsity athlete there’s plenty of club sports that are less intense but still competitive allowing team camaraderie and getting the chance to travel to compete against other schools!” - Johnny Alexandre ’22, Sports Editor.

“I don’t know. Don’t drink the orange juice in Harris. That’s all I got for now.” Sohan Mewada ’22, Business Manager.

“Take as many baths as you can in the bathtubs on campus.” Eli Christopher ’22, Arts Editor.

“Don’t ever take a bath in the bathtubs on campus.” Leelah Klauber ’22, Head Layout Designer.

“Don’t feel obligated to do everything all at once just because you can or your friends are doing it, there’s no need to rush into college. Explore the campus — go out to the arbo, the river, Caroline Black gardens, all the coffee shops and buildings. We have a lot of hidden gems. Reach out whenever you have questions or need help, from peers, class deans, advisors, friends, REAL staff, we’re all here to help each other out.” Elora Roy ’23, News Editor.

“Don’t feel like you have to change who you are in order to fit in. College is a time for learning more about yourself and what you like!” Keri Kransnoff ’24, News Editor.

“Get involved on campus as much as you’re comfortable. You may not end up sticking with everything but you’ll always meet good people.” Jimmy Cork ’22, Opinions Editor.

“There is a learning curve for all kinds of knowledge... don’t be afraid to welcome into your learning spaces what you don’t know.” - Lucie Englehardt ’23, Opinions Editor.

“Don’t feel as if this has to be the best period of your whole life. The less you try to make it so, the better time you will have. It’s counterintuitive. Also writing all of your papers the night before gives you excellent time management skills, the ability to work under pressure, potentially a caffeine dependency and more time to do things that don’t suck!” Eli Christopher ’22, Arts Editor.

“If you’re really in a bind, an iced shot in the dark from Coffee Grounds can solve all your problems. If it doesn’t, take a walk and clear your head. The green space here is something to value.” Amanda Sanders ’22, Editor-In-Chief.

Our best advice would be to join The College Voice this year. Our meetings are every other Sunday at 8pm. Find us on Instagram @the_collegevoice and on ConnQuest.
Dance Club: A Club Sport?

Lewis, Haley Michel, and Zoe Zitner. Traditionally the presidents are sophomores as many juniors plan to study abroad and senior dancers often work on Capstone projects. The news that Dance Club became a club sport this year came as a bit of a surprise to even the presidents, who found out at one of their Student Advisor training sessions over the summer. In the past, Dance Club had some interactions with the Connecticut College club sports staff, but it was mainly under the supervision of the staff in charge of general clubs. Zitner explained that Dance Club never had to attend club sports meetings, sign injury compliance forms, or schedule their “practice times” before this year. According to the presidents, the school’s rationale for turning dance club into a club sport was that there is a high level of risk associated with dance because it is so athletic and dancers often get injured. Making Dance Club a club sport was a way of acknowledging this. Dean Norbert, the Assistant Dean of Student Engagement and New Student Programs, elaborated, “We recognize the athleticism and talent it takes to be a dancer and so there are some similar policies that the dance club must follow that are the same as our club sport teams. However, we do recognize they are very different than a competitive team sport. We are working with the club to make sure that expectations and processes make sense for their club and their unique needs.”

Michel is glad Connecticut College sees that Dance Club is “as important as the other club sports.” She added, “Our show is as important to us as tournaments and games are to other sports.” Lewis agreed that it feels “good to be recognized” because Dance Club is very large but was left out of the loop of communication between club sports before. Despite the advantages, Lewis, Michel and Zitner noted that dance is an art form and they hope this change will not take away from the artistic identity of the club.

After learning about their new status as a club sport, the Dance Club presidents immediately began receiving emails for club sports leaders. Lewis said that they felt “a little out of place” at the required Zoom meeting for all club sports leaders. The presidents indicated that one key difference between dance and other sports is that dancers rehearse, while athletes practice. They were asked to send their “practice schedule” to the head of club sports, Rachel Loughran, but Dance Club is composed of smaller groups that create their own rehearsal schedules. Michel expressed that Dance Club runs similarly to the Connecticut College club MOBROC (Musicians Organized for Bands Rights on Campus). Dance Club and MOBROC are both large clubs that are made up of several student-led groups. The Dance Club presidents plan to follow MOBROC’s model of creating a Google Calendar for all groups to list their rehearsal times. Lewis, Michel, and Zitner look forward to growing their club and gaining more support from Connecticut College staff throughout this school year.

The 2021 fall semester Dance Club performance is on Nov. 5 and 6 at 7 p.m. and Nov. 7 at 2 p.m. in the Martha Myers Dance Studio (located on the third floor of the College Center at Crozier-Williams).

Sports Spotlight

Featured Team: Men's Cross Country

9/18 @ Bates Invitational finished 2nd

Upcoming Events:
Oct. 1 @ Paul Short Run (Lehigh University)

Coaching Staff:
Luke Maher, Head Coach
Sam Alexander, Volunteer Assistant

Featured Team: Women's Cross Country

9/18 @ Bates Invitational finished 3rd

Upcoming Events:
Oct. 1 @ Paul Short Run (Lehigh University)

Coaching Staff:
Ned Bishop, Head Coach
Emily Mauro, Assistant Coach
Laura Nadelberg, Assistant Coach

Featured Team: Men's Soccer

9/25 vs. Amherst L, 0-2
9/26 @ Hamilton W, 3-1

Upcoming Events:
Oct. 2 vs. Middlebury 2:30 pm
Oct. 3 vs. Williams 2:30 pm

Coaching Staff:
Reuben Burk, Head Coach
Andrew Storton, Assistant Coach

Featured Team: Women's Soccer

9/25 vs. Amherst L, 0-4
9/26 @ Hamilton T, 0-0 (2OT)

Upcoming Events:
Oct. 2 vs. Middlebury 11:30 am
Oct. 3 vs. Williams 12:00 pm

Coaching Staff:
Norm Riker, Head Coach
Analisse Rios, Assistant Coach

Featured Team: Women's Volleyball

9/25 vs. Clark W, 3-2
9/25 @ Smith L, 1-3

Upcoming Events:
Oct. 1 vs. Bates 7:00 pm
Oct. 3 vs. Colby 2:00 pm

Coaching Staff:
Josh Edmed, Head Coach
Nicole Fellers, Assistant Coach

Featured Team: Women's Field Hockey

9/25 vs. Amherst L, 1-3
9/26 @ Hamilton L, 1-3

Upcoming Events:
Oct. 2 vs. Middlebury 11:00 am
Oct. 3 vs. Williams 1:00 pm

Coaching Staff:
Chrissy Chappell, Head Coach
Jess Walsh, Assistant Coach

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Article continued from front page.
Marvel Fatigue is Real: Part 1 of 2

Eli Christopher  
Arts Editor

There was an idea... called The Avengers initiative. The idea was to bring together a group of remarkable characters, in a shared cinematic universe, to see if they could become something more. To see if they could bring in audiences together in a way that solo films never could. Eli Christopher left the theater after seeing Avengers: Endgame still believing in that idea. Now don't worry Marvel, this isn't a breakup. It's just a chat for now. But to be honest, we've maybe been seeing too much of each other lately and I'm getting a little tired of the same s**t, different day type of drill. After all we've been through this year, and not all of it was so bad, I'm really feeling like you're only bringing the same formulaic stuff to the table. So, let's talk. It really sucks feeling yourself get tired of something that you once enjoyed. In a year where there are scheduled to be eight live action Marvel Cinematic Universe properties of four TV shows and four movies (three and two of which have already come out respectively), now is the time more than ever to make sure that we're on the right path going forward. Because, recently it's been feeling kinda monotonous, if not a little stale.

Basically, Marvel movies and TV shows are beginning to weigh heavily one me, due to feeling overly formulaic, lacking real stakes and individual personality, and feeling more like they are made by a studio machine rather than actual filmmakers. This sentiment has really set in after movies and shows like Black Widow, Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings, The Falcon and the Winter Soldier, and major portions of Wandavision.

What's odd is that the MCU didn't start this way. People may not remember, but way back in 2008, the first MCU project was Iron Man and it was actually a risky venture. Even the casting of Robert Downey Jr., which we can now look back on in hindsight as perhaps the best decision Marvel has made, was a shocking call. The Marvel of today would never cast a former convict who had a major fall out from Hollywood to lead one of their blockbusters. The Marvel of today doesn't really take any risks. Even as they were kicking off, the idea of a shared cinematic universe was basically unheard of at this level, which seems kind of funny now considering how many franchises and studios have tried to copy this format's unparalleled success to varying degrees of their own. Marvel was still trying to prove themselves up until the first Avengers in 2012, and even for some time after that. While some of their more generic projects were certainly there, they didn't feel like they were quite the standard yet. Guardians of the Galaxy is a movie starring a tree, a raccoon and the schlubby guy from Parks and Rec. It was already a risk, so artistically it could be treated a little like one.

So what traits actually distinguish the best Marvel movies? I think there are two camps: The first are the ones that actually feel like they have stakes. People can die. The action has weight. People are injured when they should be, and said injuries may not magically be fixed by the end of the film. They're real consequence or reverence for violence and injury is distracting. If I can easily infer that there is no threat to the characters, because they're functionally invulnerable, then I have no reason to care about the events on screen.

And for my second requirement, I don't see any individuality among the movies and shows at this point at all. They're all shot, edited and structured the same in order to abide by a formula. The ones that begin to make an effort to escape this are all pulled back to formula. The best parts of Wandavision are when it starts as something truly weird, feeling like a scary fever dream and unfamiliar territory. But naturally by the end there's an underdeveloped surprise villain to have a laser battle with for the fate of the world. The Falcon and the Winter Soldier's strongest points are when they actually touch on the complications of historic and contemporary racial issues or the muddled nature of U.S foreign policy. This isn't a show that should end with the oh so daring resolution of “You need to do better, Senator”, instead of something actually challenging, nuanced or at least taking a stronger stance. Whenever we begin to touch on something unique or of substance, I just get frustrated when we're forced to return to something more generic. Black Panther is great because it actually has the courage to discuss complex issues unapologetically, and without talking down to the audience or compromising its message. Black Panther's biggest weaknesses are the ones wrapped in the Marvel formula like bad CGI, awkward humor, and unnecessary dialogue so that the seven year old in the audience can understand what's happening and still have a good birthday.

Outside of their surface level topics, they all feel mostly the same as well. All of the jokes have the same kind of rhythm and delivery regardless of which character is saying them or which movie they appear in. Not only that, but they're said all the time. I'd like to be able to watch a fight sequence that seems to have strong choreography without the movie either cutting to slow motion or some random a**hole making a joke about his vlog. Having a cringe worthy, pace killing joke in the middle of an action sequence that should be intense is tragically standard fare at this point for the MCU, but I genuinely groaned "Oh, Jesus Christ," in Shang Chi when in the middle of an expository scene with at least potential to have emotional poignancy, they deliberately interrupted it for no other reason than to have an awful joke that took too long, had no purpose and slaughtered any emotion besides “fun.”

And perhaps that's the fundamental issue here. Marvel movies are at this point meant to only be the most accessible source of cinematic fun at all times. They are a fun machine, and anything that could compromise this mission is not a risk worth taking. Artistry is now coming second to accessibility.

I'll elaborate on this point as well as the challenges the MCU faces in the future in Part 2.
**Review: Project Hail Mary, by Andy Weir**

**Anika Ledina**  
**Contributor**

Imagine waking up in a room with no windows, no clothes, and multitudes of tubes hooked up to you. You have no idea who or where you are, but somewhere in the back of your mind, you know, you are here for a very important reason:

1. The sun is infected with "Astrophage" a bacterium that feasts on the energy of stars.
2. Every other star in the local part of our galaxy is getting dimmer: Except Tau Ceti.
3. It is your responsibility to go there, figure out why Tau is immune, and how to save the sun.

The kicker: your crew mates are dead, and even if you succeed, you don’t have enough fuel to get home. This is a suicide mission. You are quite literally, Earth’s ‘Hail Mary’ pass at surviving a star plague.

This is the predicament of Dr. Ryland Grace, the former microbiologist and cool science teacher from an American junior high school.

From Andy Weir, the bestselling author of *The Martian* (2011) and *Artemis* (2017), comes his latest novel and my new favorite science fiction thriller, *Project Hail Mary*.

Like his previous novels, Weir gives his characters a sarcastic, practical and conversational tone in the face of seemingly insurmountable challenges. With every new complication, change in circumstance or serious mistake, Weir walks readers through the character’s practical thought process, including layman’s explanations of their mathematical and scientific reasoning. This creates a fascinating, immersive, and terrifyingly real reading experience.

Meet characters like Eva Stratt, the matter of fact, morally grey administrator who has complete control of all the UN’s resources in order to get the mission to Tau Ceti, ‘Project Hail Mary’ off the ground. Dimitri Komorov, a Russian scientist who designs an interstellar travel method using the very bacteria that are eating the sun, a ‘spin drive’ so powerful that they can only test them in the middle of the ocean. Francis LeClerc, a climatologist who dedicated his life to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, ironically only to end up figuring out how to blanket the earth with them to preserve heat as the sun dims. Oh and who can forget Rocky: Dr. Grace’s unexpected five legged roommate.

Essentially, if you want to be puzzled by a brand new fictitious solid metal compound (somehow made out of a Noble Gas?), gain a new respect for the potential field of extraterrestrial linguistics, or appreciate the idea of having a dorky alien roommate who makes you feel bad about your math skills and watches you sleep, then this is definitely the book for you.

That said, this book does have some inconsistencies. One brought up by the initial review of the book in The Washington Post, is the insane lack of checklists. This may seem like a small thing, but modern missions, manned and unmanned, from any country all rely on exhaustive and redundant sets of lists to ensure that missions go off without a hitch. No such planning is evident here, if only to create situations for Weir to show off Grace’s creativity and quick thinking.

Some scientists got more nitpicky about the book, including Alex Howe, a recent PhD graduate from Princeton University, who noted some of Weir’s evaluations of exoplanetary conditions were inaccurate, including the relative brightness on the surface of a planet with 29 atmospheres worth of pressure. Another general mistake Howe points out is some subtle inaccuracies within the math pertaining to relativity and interstellar travel.

In my opinion, these mistakes do not take away from the book at all, but merely bring home the idea that no book, nor author, is perfect.

Action packed, nerdy, and humorous, *Project Hail Mary* is a great choice for a wildly entertaining weekend read.

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**The Unforgettable Charm of a Fictional Football Team: A Ted Lasso review**

**Hannah Stoever**  
**Contributor**

When it comes to TV shows, I tend to watch the more grim and heavier-toned series, not typically comedic or upbeat and quirky ones. That being said, the Apple TV original series *Ted Lasso* came as a pleasant surprise. I was reluctant at first to watch the show, considering that I didn’t really know much about it, except that everyone around me had enjoyed it immensely. To add to my initial hesitation for the show, one of its main premises revolved around football, otherwise known as “soccer” in the United States. However, to my shock the series has found its way into my heart, and I absolutely love it.

*Ted Lasso* follows the titular character (played by Jason Sudeikis), an almost impossibly positive coach/manager coming from Kansas along with his friend and team coach, referred to as Coach Beard, or simply “Beard.” (Brendan Hunt) The two have been hired to travel to London to coach a football team, however they are most well known for their coaching of an American football team. It becomes apparent that Ted is fairly inexperienced with European football, and this leads to high tensions with both the media and the team itself. Hiring the two men is Rebecca Welton (Hannah Waddingham), who, unbeknownst to them, has only hired Ted as an act of revenge against her now ex-husband, the original owner of the Richmond football team.

While the main character is, of course, Ted, the majority of the team have their own story arcs as well, that help to round out the season and make the audience feel connected to the storylines.

The team may have some wonderfully charming characters, but it doesn’t end with them. Coach Beard is blunt yet fairly quiet, but his and Ted’s characters compliment each other with their differing personalities. The viewer is also introduced to Nate Shelley (Nick Mohammed), the friendly equipment manager who has a passion for the sport and team itself. While there are other characters worth mentioning, Rebecca Welton is the only one I will continue to reference in this review. While it would seem easy to write her off as manipulative and antagonistic through the beginning of the series, her character arc gives you someone to possibly sympathize with as the show goes on. One of the absolute best parts about this show is that each character rejects one-dimensionality, and mostly everyone has enough time for you to get to know and understand them more. This is an impressive feat, considering how many characters are in the show, and while not everyone has had their moment yet, I am absolutely sure they will in the series’s runtime.

*Ted Lasso* is a show that not only has a number of lovable characters, but it tackles a variety of topics that one wouldn’t tend to expect in a series that is mainly branded as a comedy. Mental health plays a significant part in the series’s development, especially in terms of Ted’s own storyline. The show re-establishes the notion that even the happiest and most positive people in the world, such as how Ted is depicted, can suffer too. I think while the show could be seen as trying to encourage the development of a more optimistic mindset in its audience, the depiction of Ted’s coaching (inspirational) side versus his personal (naturally more somber) side is well-crafted and refreshing. The series is attempting to push back against the stigma of mental health issues, and reaffirming that it’s okay to not feel overly happy every waking moment, and to me that’s more reassuring than the show’s consistently cheerful tone.

There is no particular way to fully capture *Ted Lasso*’s memorable and appealing qualities. To only describe it in a few hundred words is nearly impossible, but I can only recommend that you explore the series for yourself. Even if you aren’t a sports fan, the characters themselves will grab your attention (and heart) for the entirety of the show. *Ted Lasso* is such a fascinating and quick-to-love character, not just for his funky dancing and words of encouragement, but for his overall kindness and vulnerability. The Richmond football team has a long way to go before they reach victory, but I for one am very excited for what’s to come. *Ted Lasso* is available on Apple TV, and is currently on its second season, confirmed for a third.