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THE COLLEGE VOICE

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

The People's Climate March *Demanding Action against Climate Change*

MAIA HIBBETT
CONTRIBUTOR

The usual honking taxis and crowded buses vacated the streets of New York City on Sep. 21 to make way for a movement that attracted attention for environmental activism on a global stage. At the People's Climate March, dissatisfied civilians from all over the world demanded action against climate change. Groups carried signs and banners reading "Denial is not a climate policy" or "Don't procrastinate- demonstrate" to express their frustration with the neglect with which global leaders have treated the climate issue.

The home base for the march was New York City, but the People's Climate March was a worldwide movement composed of 2,646 events in 162 different countries. In Dhaka, Bangladesh, a group of children carried three signs that when put together read "Action Not Words" an apparent international slogan of the march. In NYC, the mobilization was divided into six main groups united by individual slogans. These ranged from "Forefront of Crisis, Forefront of Change," which was composed of the people most directly affected by climate change (including indigenous populations and environmental justice communities) to "To Change Everything, We Need Everyone," which contained the greatest diversity of representatives, from the LGBTQ community to international marchers. Participants in the march were given the freedom to choose the group to which they felt they belonged and were guided to assemble in set locations according to their affiliation. Group two, entitled "We Can Build the Future," assembled by Central Park West, between 66th and 71st streets. The group included labor unions, public health representatives, families and college students.

Of the college students in attendance, many came from Conn. Students attended with school organizations, members of the New London community, or just went with friends. Conn and New London contributed two buses full of people to the march, but several students and their clubs transported themselves to NYC.

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Dear Mr. Goodell: Do Better. An open letter to the Director of the NFL

PETER BURDGE
CONTRIBUTOR

I am using this letter to call for your resignation as Commissioner of the National Football League (NFL). I know you recently said you are focused on doing your job, but how is that possible when you and all of America know that you are incapable of doing so?

The obvious reason for bringing this up is your gross mishandling of the NFL's domestic abuse crisis that has flooded the me-

dia in the past weeks. My problem is that in your reaction to the "Ray Rice matter," as you so simplistically call it, you have shown the American people, the people who have made your sport a ten billion-dollar industry, that your only focus is keeping your name clean.

At your press conference on Sept. 19, nearly two weeks after you suspended Ray Rice from the NFL indefinitely, you told the nation, "We can use the NFL to help create change...in society with respect to domestic abuse." But if you are so committed to fighting domestic violence, why has

it taken you this long, in your eighth year in office, to finally do something about it? Since your first year as commissioner in 2007, there have been 83 arrests of NFL players relating to assault or domestic violence. So far this year there have been nine. In 2008 there were 15 cases. Where were you, Mr. Goodell, in 2008? Where was your grand announcement calling for change in the league and your office's initiative to curb abuse? There was no announcement because there were no videos for the public to see, and there were few people calling for change.

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On recent campus discussions of race

When I see posters for an event that invites me to talk about race, here's what I know I'm being invited to: observing the internal discourse among white people on this campus as they try to grapple with issues of guilt and political correctness and try to find out what they can and cannot say around non-white minorities. At best, the event helps them realize the best way to alter their behaviors and speech so that these minorities feel less like minorities. The event, in its conception, tries to have racial minorities help in this education of white students, because think about this - why would women want to learn how to "talk about gender" in a personal context? "Talking about gender" is a misleading way to phrase what really should be labeled "talking about non-cismale genders." "Talking about race" is the same sort of misnomer.

Then we get to what the talks don't talk about (hint: the real issue). In trying to make race a personal trait instead of a social one, in sensationalizing personal narratives about individuals' experience of racial profiling, in speaking of overcoming personal racial prejudices, this sort of an approach becomes an enemy of addressing race in productive ways. It becomes complicit with the systems of exploitation that it (at least in claim) seeks to undermine. Why? Because race is historical. It isn't your skin color - it is your experience with centuries of oppression and where that places you in today's world.

I like to think about privilege in time-machine terms - if you time-traveled to different times in different parts of the world, how drastically would your life change? As an Indian woman, I know there is a very narrow slice of the historical timespace that will accept me as a human being. Also, my relative privilege today is not after overcoming forces of oppression - it is despite them. There is proof - there are millions of other Indian women with less privilege. The ways we are oppressed have not simply faded away.

To dehistoricize race is to attempt to shove historical oppression under the carpet. It is pretending that race is just a personal idiosyncrasy that would

be solved if all white people were nice to nonwhite people (I've heard this multiple times at Conn - the "be nice" solution). It is pretending that if everyone at this college accepted minorities as fellow human beings, all the systemic forces that oppress will disappear - the rates of education, employment and incarceration would all fix themselves.

Over the summer there was a campaign that went viral in response to the attack on Gaza - "Arabs and Jews refuse to be enemies." Really? Is that what its all about - the desire to be enemies? Not about like, a struggle for territory and power? Decades of ethnic cleansing, wars and imperialism? Just refuse - why didn't we think of this before?! Now we can all go relax in our pools, feeling good about having helped change the world.

It is this infuriating, this simple-minded crowd-pleasing that these race talks cater to. Profiling and taking offense are not the worst things that happen to minorities, and the personalization of oppression needs to stop.

Mimi Bangali (page 6) tells us of a conspiracy theory from rural Sierra Leon, asks "Why was a cure suddenly available as soon as the first white person got it?" This, I think, is actually a good question to ask - Ebola and the way it is handled cannot be separated from the region's histories of oppression and how they translate into the present. This is how racial histories play out in the real world. Ebola, Gaza, Iraq, the minority and immigrant experiences - all have a lot to say if you know how to ask the right questions.

You cannot meet one fine October evening and understand race. You need to have a sustained dialogue - an Oppression gen-ed built into the curriculum (for true "ReVision"). That's how much there is to learn about race. If Conn is really the progressive school it likes to say it is, it needs to stop catering to deinstitutionalizing race so it can have diversity blog posts on conncoll.edu and take on the challenge of getting real about race.

-Aparna

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The College Voice meets every other week
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THE COLLEGE VOICE

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Check-in with Fresh Check

JORDAN THOMAS
CONTRIBUTOR

On Wednesday, October 1st, Cro was filled with therapy dogs and meditation chairs. To the uninformed student, it was just another Hump Day in the college center. In actuality, the activities were a preview for Fresh Check Day, a mental health fair scheduled for two days later. In an effort to raise awareness about the event, Fresh Check day coordinators organized a mini-fair to get people talking about what more opportunities Friday would bring. Dr. Audrey Zakriski, a professor in the psychology department, admitted that Wednesday's preview was a bit of a departure from typical Conn marketing. "It's unusual. We don't usually have an event to advertise an event," she said.

Yet it would appear that Wednesday's therapy dogs and meditation worked. Friday, October 3, brought Fresh Check Day to the Conn campus for the first time, and crowds of students flocked to Tempel Green to see what the mental health and wellness fair had to offer.

A national program, Fresh Check Day is tied to the Jordan Matthew Porco Memorial Foundation. The foundation was founded in memory of late Jordan Porco, a former student at St. Michael's College who fell victim to the stresses of campus culture. In an effort to raise awareness of mental health resources and suicide prevention and intervention, the foundation launched National Fresh Check Day. The idea behind the day is to involve the entire campus community in the discussion of mental health and to regularly check-in with students about how they're doing. Colleges and universities partner with this program to bring social events like music, dancing and interactive booths to campus. Colleges then have the autonomy to staff the event with their own relevant community organizations and to provide campus-specific resources.

It should come as no surprise that Janet Spoltore, Director of Counseling Services, was the point person in coordinating Conn's Fresh Check Day. Director of Student Engagement & Leadership Education Scott McEver also assisted in planning the event. Zakriski commended their efforts and leadership, saying that Fresh Check was a bit of departure from previous mental health fairs at the college.

Zakriski would know. She is an active member in mental health initiatives at the college and has worked closely with campus organizations over the years to host relevant programming. Currently, Zakriski is the faculty chair for the college's chapter of Active Minds, a national organization that promotes discussion about mental health and wellness on college campuses, and one of the campus organizations with its own booth at Fresh Check Day. According to Zakriski, Fresh Check Day is somewhat of a departure from Conn's former mental health fairs, though she commends its interactive and engaging aspects

"[Fresh Check Day] gives a little more pop to the mental health fairs from the past," Zakriski said. The organization provides large tents, prizes and food for the event, supplies that help make the event larger and more marketable than those hosted in previous years. However, Zakriski was quick to identify the cards that Conn brings to the table. "The 'person-power' is provided by the college. We're merging outside resources with inside organizations."

By inside organizations, Zakriski means the many campus groups that collaborated to make Friday's fair a success. Student Counseling Services, the Think SAFE Project and the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life were only a few of the many groups to host booths. Some organizations opted for pre-designed booths from the National Fresh Check organization, such as the Residential Education



and Living staff's "Let's Talk About the Elephant in the Room" table and the Office of Student Wellness and Alcohol/Drug Education's booth on safe drinking.

Other campus groups created and marketed their own campaigns. Active Minds used the venue to launch their "I Have a Therapist" movement, a visual campaign that asks students, faculty and staff to take photos with signs saying in which ways they support seeking professional help. Student Counseling Services offered free screenings for eating disorders and depression. Other organizations hosted pumpkin painting workshops, belly-dancing lessons and mental wellness trivia.

Students, faculty and staff alike found the day to be a huge success. Dean Carolyn Denard commended the number of prevention screenings and the event's "really good attendance," the latter being something that every Conn event strives to attain. Sarah Bradford '15, a Camel Health Promotion intern with CC Curtis, enjoyed both working the fair as a student leader and enjoying the booths and activities as an attendee. "It was exciting to see so many groups on campus come together to promote health and wellbeing," she said. "I loved seeing so much student engagement throughout the day."

If the number of people in attendance is any indication, Fresh Check Day is a huge step forward for the college. Thanks to the organization's resources and our own campus's passion, a serious conversation about mental health awareness is being broached.

According to Katie Rudolph '15, co-president of Active Minds, that conversation is more than necessary.

"Over 50 percent of students in each graduating class use [Conn's] counseling services before their graduation," Rudolph said. "While not everyone has mental illness, everyone has mental health, and there are a lot of people who care on our campus." •

Conn Students Participate in People's Climate March

MAIA HIBBETT
CONTRIBUTOR

Charlie Massey '18, marched with the CC Democrats and reported that the event was run efficiently and without conflict. He and the rest of the CC Dems walked in the second group, (the student section of the march), and said that their group was next to organizations from Yale and Princeton which carried large, seemingly professionally-made banners. Massey said "We wrote something like 'Conn College supports climate awareness' on the back of a piece of cardboard—so it was pretty rag-tag, but it was cool."

Aimee Manderlink, another Conn freshman, also walked in the People's Climate March, though she attended with a friend from outside the College. She admitted that she was unsure which section of the march she joined, but regardless, she felt connected to a huge movement: it was huge, with an estimated 400,000 people in attendance, 50,000 of whom were college students. Manderlink explained

that she was impressed by the scale and centrality of the march, saying, "I thought we were just going to be walking through back roads, but we went through Times Square." Despite the movement's immensity, however, Manderlink expressed her surprise in the lack of awareness of some New Yorkers. "Even though it got a lot of publicity," said Manderlink, "there were still people on the streets asking what [we] were marching for." It seemed that everyone knew about the People's Climate March except the people living near it.

In order to attract publicity for the movement and express their support, various big names were present at the People's Climate March. Icons from pop culture, like Leonardo DiCaprio, to environmental activists, like Al Gore, came out to New York City walk, voice their support and take pictures. Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, attended the climate march, thus making his stance on climate change clear prior to the UN's climate summit meeting, which occurred the following Tuesday.

The People's Climate March did not provide a once-and-for-all solution, nor did it in any way conclude the growing movement to reduce the detriments of climate change. Instead, the march was closely followed the next day by Flood Wall Street, a large sit-in of the United States' business capital that interrupted the typical conduction of business and acted as a sequel to the People's Climate March. Both events directly preceded the UN Climate Summit meeting, at which countries declared their goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and carbon dependency. There, UN representatives agreed that they would compose a binding climate agreement in Paris in December of 2015 that will hold all UN members accountable for taking real action.

A diverse crowd of people with a shared vision made an astounding spectacle and loudly spoke their message but their work is far from being done. •

Departmental Shifts: A Student Perspective on the Faculty Staffing Plan

DAKOTA PESCHEL
OPINIONS EDITOR

Having a chance to look at the staffing plan is a privilege that not many students are afforded, yet inevitably the faculty that are present on campus during the years that students are enrolled impact experiences on campus.

Every year, departments request positions to hire faculty based on their needs. This is influenced by how many majors are enrolled in the department, how many students in total are taking their courses offered, and their recent loss of faculty members. In order to understand how this process is affecting the academic climate, two departments were asked to comment on how their particular staffing plan may impact the future of academics on campus.

The Gender and Women's Studies Department is in a rough patch this academic year in the wake of recent controversy over the decision to deny tenure to Professor Shubhra Sharma. Professor Ariella Rotramel is currently the only full-time professor, though she does not have tenure track position either. The department then relies on other professors to cross-

list their courses for students to fulfill their major requirements. While the major is truly interdisciplinary in nature, the substantial lack of departmental faculty seriously impacts the current majors.

The department is therefore looking to fill three positions in the next three years: two full time tenure-track positions and one full time visiting position. Professor Candace Howes, chair of the Economics Department and/or Chair of the Gender and Women's Studies Department, discussed how the department essentially has to be rebuilt from the ground up and the future plans are still a "work in progress." She said that they were unsure of exactly which direction the department will take, mentioning that affiliated faculty are scheduled to go on a retreat to discuss the future of GWS. The only change that she stated would probably occur would be to change the name of the department to "Gender, Women's and Sexuality Studies" in order to "keep up with trends" in academia as scholarship shifts in this direction.

Two years ago, the Literatures in English department also experienced a blow when they lost a position they were hoping to fill to the Film Studies Department, which desperately needed another instructor to handle growing student interest.

Chair of the Literatures in English department, Professor Lina Wilder, spoke about how the loss of this position was hard on the department, and how they are looking to rectify this in the future. Since the department requires majors to take a class focused on world literature, the department has not had a steady position that would provide students the opportunity to take courses centered around non-western and postcolonial literatures. The current faculty have had to scramble to offer options to fill this requirement since the tenure-track Postcolonial Literatures position, formerly filled by visiting professor Jeanne Marie Jackson, was lost. Professor John Gordon, having recently announced his retirement at the beginning of this academic year, will leave a tenure-track position open that the department hopes to capitalize on.

Professor Wilder said that ideally the department is looking to hire someone who specializes in "global modernism" and "postcolonial theory." They are interested in broadening the understanding of modernism as a global movement that would challenge the understanding of modernism as a phenomenon specific to American or British literature. This position would essentially combine both Pro-

fessor Gordon's specialty with the world literature position the department lost. The position would also strengthen the departmental concentration in Race and Ethnicity, which has had low enrollment rates without a steady position in recent years.

In addition, the department is looking for someone to make connections to revive the Africana Studies major or the newly forming Global Islamic Studies major.

The way that departments are staffed affects the experiences of every student on campus. Other departments requesting faculty positions include Anthropology, Economics and Psychology among other popular departments.

Although these changes to departments will not affect many of the older students, it is still a pressing matter that will be an integral part of how younger students select their majors. The revision of our current liberal arts curriculum is still a work in progress and many departments are planning ahead in order to foster a truly interdisciplinary academic environment on campus. •

First-Year Class Leaders Discuss Campaign Strategies

HANNAH JOHNSTON
CONTRIBUTOR

In the election of its cabinet members in early September, the Class of 2018 became a part of the College's system of shared governance. The two first-years elected to the vice presidency and presidency (Max Becker and Josh Lee, respectively) accomplished this feat without using any posters, campaign videos or streamed Facebook posts. Both delivered eloquent and memorable campaign speeches. The College Voice sat down with the two students to discuss their plans for the Class of 2018.

TCV: Where were you guys when you found out you had been elected?

JL: I was in New London Hall!

MB: My dorm room.

TCV: How did it feel to know that you had been elected by about 500 people?

MB: I thought it was really awesome. I was surprised just because I felt like some people may have represented themselves a little bit better, but I thought my speech was good. It's like, you don't know what's going to happen because we've been here for three weeks, so the rest of our class doesn't really know us that well and we don't know all 500 oth-

er students; it was just a "woah" moment.

JL: It was surprising given that every other candidate had all of these posters up, so I was very shocked.

TCV: All of the dorms did seem to be covered in posters.

MB: Having a solid speech was the approach that won, not spamming everyone. I didn't post on election day, I didn't want to nag anyone because I figured that if they wanted to vote for me they would.

TCV: What stands out in your mind as your most important motivation for running?

MB: I was supposed to play soccer here, and I didn't end up being able to do that

for a multitude of reasons. I realized that

I really wanted a group to be a part of - one of the philosophies that drew me to Conn was its value of shared governance, so I thought that it would be really cool to get involved with government. It felt like it would be a great way to contribute to the campus community.

JL: I didn't come to Conn to play soccer, and I didn't come to be class president either, but people said that I should run and I am always looking for ways to help out. It wasn't an premeditative decision or anything.

TCV: What do you think was the main reason you won?

MB: I think the "normal guy" approach worked really well!

TCV: Now that you've won, what are you most excited to get working on?

JL: Definitely some sustainability projects. I'd like to get some more green initiatives

passed, from our class specifically rather than SGA. One idea is a more visible composting program. We have hand dryers in

some of the bigger buildings, like in Cro, but getting them in the dorms would be

a great step. In other areas, the "kicker" of my campaign was milkshakes in Cro.

JL: Sustainability-wise, definitely

TCV: You also said you wanted to focus on outreach in New London, what do you think the best way to approach that will be?

JL: Well, specifically outreach related to bringing first-years into New London. The

main disadvantage we have coming into the school without cars is the lack of access to

transportation. That's why, as I mentioned before, CamelVan reliability is so important.

TCV: Anything else that you want to say to your class?

MB: It's gonna be a good year. We are the 100th class, we've got to leave our mark! •

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A Brief History of the South Sudan Conflict

DANIEL BURNS
STAFF WRITER

President Obama promised to help advance Sub-Saharan Africa in 2012. In a White House released fact sheet from that same year, President Obama's administration stated that the US "remains fully engaged in supporting Sudan and South Sudan." Yet, South Sudan is on the brink of a potentially crippling civil war. The Obama administration has failed to address the problem, and if they do in the future, it may be too late.

The Sudanese region has been an area of conflict since 1955 with only a few years of peace. The state's religious and cultural divide fueled the conflict for years. The northern region of Sudan was primarily made up of Arabic speaking Muslims, while the southern region consisted of more ethnic Africans who were Christians influenced by Western values. After the country gained independence in 1956, the northern region attempted to instill its religious and cultural values on the southern region. This led to a conflict with few periods of peace that waged on until 2005 when there was a peace treaty signed.

Two intertwined groups led the war efforts of southern Sudan during the civil war beginning in 1983: the political spearhead, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the military force, the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). The leader of these two groups was John Garang, who was actually sent by Sudan to quell the rebellious southerners. Garang received assistance in the creation of these organizations from Salva Kiir, a bold military commander. Together, they helped advance the SPLM/SPLA to anchor the southern efforts in the war.

Major conflict continued until 2005 when a peace agreement was formed. The southern region of Sudan was given six years to administer to their area, and then there was to be a vote of independence. Garang took reign as President of the area, but died in an unexpected helicopter accident that left Kiir in charge.

The independence of South Sudan was easily secured in 2011 with 98% of the new country's citizens voting for in-

dependence from Sudan. The government was voted in the year previous with a continued reign of Kiir at the helm. He was not left without controversy during the election due to strong indicators of rigging and vote manipulation. Alongside the elected Kiir was his vice-president, Riek Machar. Machar was part of the SPLA/SPLM camp during the civil war until he decided to splinter off to form the SPLA-Nasir. The group consisted primarily of ethnic Nuers in contrast to the ethnic Dinka led SPLA/SPLM.

The conflict between Machar and Kiir began with Machar's massacre of around two thousand Dinka citizens at Bor. Conflict between ethnic groups in the southern region became more apparent after this event, so much so that the level of aggression between ethnic groups in the region was greater than the clash between northern and southern forces. Machar eventually backed off his splinter group and became part of the SPLA/SPLM movement in 2003.

From the beginning of the newly created South Sudan state, President Kiir accused Machar of running a separate government as vice president. In July of 2013, Kiir addressed his feud with Machar by removing him from the vice-presidency along with the rest of the cabinet ministers. The dissolving of these positions was constitutionally backed, but it created a splinter in the SPLM party that was primarily defined by Nuers and Dinkas. Supposed accomplices of Machar escalated the situation on December 15 when violence broke out against the SPLM. Kiir believed that Machar attempted a coup d'état that day, and thus the conflict inflated into what it is now today.

What began as a political battle now stemmed into an ethnic conflict that is beginning to rival the days of the Sudanese Civil War. The Riek Machar led faction and the opposing South Sudanese government have both committed major ethnic massacres. Around 1.5 million people are currently displaced due to conflict, with around 100,000 of those people being housed at UN refugee camps. Tens of thousands of South Sudanese have been killed in conflict, and the numbers continue to rise. Officially, cease-fire agreements have occurred between both parties. They remain meaningless as conflict continues.

The conflict has also had mass effect on important sectors South Sudan. Oil is the primary source of revenue for the government. 98% of the government revenues came from oil after South Sudan's independence. The current conflict along with disputes with Sudan, which has the majority of pipelines leading out of the landlocked South Sudan, have led to a major decrease in output of oil. Conflict along with a devastating drought have also created a shortage in food that is currently leading to a famine that will affect nearly seven million of the country's eleven million people.

Elections were planned in 2015 for the general assembly including the Presidential position. However, President Kiir has pushed back the elections to probably 2017 or 2018 in response to the internal conflict. He recently spoke to the UN General Assembly, and stated that the problem with the UN's current involvement with South Sudan is that the organization is focusing their efforts on protecting civilians rather than nation building. How can nation building exist in a state where more than 10,000 people have died in the past year and more than 1.5 million people displaced? Nation building requires that the nation have a somewhat stable society, a society in which government institutions can be formed. A nation does not have the ability to build its own infrastructure when it is devoting a large amount of its resources military action.

President Obama and his administration must address this issue while attempting to create a solution that is beyond aid to displaced citizens and the ceremonial sanctions placed on leaders. A solution is easier said than done, but the Obama administration has lacked to even verbally condemn the violence. Cease-fire and peace talks must be continued by the UN with political pressure from the US to comply. No peace will come to a nation headed by either Salva Kiir or Riek Machar. Kiir has had the right intentions of uprooting corruption, but he has too strong of ties with a military and is has obtained presidential powers beyond constitutional limits. President Obama must stick to his word of creating a strong sub-Saharan Africa in order for conflict to end. •

Electoral Reform Plan Sparks Student-Based Protest in China

SCOTT KALUZYNY
STAFF WRITER

A series of student strikes and protests erupted in Hong Kong surrounding the thorny issue of electoral reform. Just weeks after the Chinese government announced that the next Hong Kong chief executive would have to be nominated by a pre-screened committee, over 80,000 protesters participated in an occupation of the Central Business district, and have threatened to move on government buildings if their demands are not met.

Though Hong Kong is an integral part of China, it is afforded rights and privileges not given in mainland China, including the right to protest and demonstrate freely. Hong Kong was a British Colony from 1897-1997, during which time it developed a legal, political, and social system that differed from those used by the Communist of this fact, the Chinese government agreed with Britain in 1984 in the joint Sino-British Declaration that

upon the proposed handover Hong Kong, would, "enjoy a high degree of autonomy, except in foreign and defence affairs"

Under this system, Hong Kong has continued to be governed largely separately from the rest of China. A host of freedoms and privileges not available in other parts of China are available to the people of Hong Kong, and almost 20 years after the handover significant cultural and political differences distinguish many Hong Kong Chinese from Mainland Chinese. Furthermore, under the agreement, the Chief Executive of Hong Kong, unlike other parts of China, is not to be directly chosen by Beijing, but instead "appointed by the Central People's Government on the basis of the results of elections or consultations to be held locally."

Under the previous system, this had entailed an electoral college of 800-1,200 prominent Hong Kong residents choosing a chief executive and voting amongst themselves. Critics contend, however, that the majority of the people on the 1,200 person committee were more loyal to Beijing than

the people of Hong Kong. Groups that identify as "pro-democracy," such as the Hong Kong Federation of Students, have long lobbied the central government to allow Hong Kongers to elect their Chief executive on the basis of "one person, one vote".

Article 45 of Hong Kong's basic law under Chinese rule states that, "The ultimate aim[of the government] is the selection of the Chief Executive by universal suffrage upon nomination by a broadly representative with democratic procedures." According to the protesters, that means Beijing renege on it's commitment when it decided upon the new election plan, which involves citizens voting on two to three candidates selected by the current electoral college.

However, the exact meaning of Beijing's commitment has been debated by the protest's detractors. Some have argued that the use of nominating committee is in line with democratic procedure used in many countries, and that the new scheme will allow Hong Kong's

citizens to participate in the governance of their city more than the current plan.

Furthermore, many citizens of Hong Kong are frustrated with the continued occupation of public space, which they view as an illegal and unnecessary disruption. A group called the Silent Majority for Hong Kong has held counter protests, contending that the majority of people in Hong Kong oppose the protests and accept the new process put in place by Beijing.

The Hong Kong government and protesters were expected to meet to negotiate an end to the crisis, but a series of clashes between protesters and counter protesters Friday night led the Student Leaders to cancel their planned meeting with the Hong Kong government. They intend to remain where they are, and for the foreseeable future, it seems unlikely that anything will make them move. •

Living in the Hot Zone: An Alumna Combating Ebola

Editor's Note: This week, The College Voice received this portion of an email correspondence between Mimi Bengali '13 and Associate Director of CISLA Mary Devins. After graduation, Bengali returned to her home in Sierra Leone. This letter describes conditions in the rural areas of the country, where access to healthcare and accurate information regarding the virus is sparse. We publish this letter in the hopes of humanizing the virus, and as a vote of support for Bengali. We hope to continue printing updates from her as we receive more information about how the College community can help.

If you've been following the news, you'll know that the country [Sierra Leone] just finished a three-day lock down. Everyone stayed home for three days, and about 21,000 volunteers were tasked with visiting every home in the country to give them the correct information on Ebola, distribute soap, demonstrate hand washing - you know, basic stuff like that. The UN and other development partners were tasked with monitoring this exercise.

It was quite an experience.

No sooner than I had recovered from my second round of malaria, I was deployed to Moyamba, a district in the south of the country. I learned a lot more about my country in those three days than I had my whole life. I was born and raised in the city, and before this job had never set foot in a rural village in Sierra Leone. Now I found myself in the middle of the bush for three days with no internet access and no cell phone signal. I was meeting people that had never seen a city in their lives, had never had running water or electricity, didn't use money but lived daily off their farms or still engaged in the barter system. Some of these villages were so far into the bush that they were inaccessible by vehicle; we'd drive as far as we could go, then get out and walk the rest of the way, sometimes crossing a river or two. I was meeting people that didn't speak the national dialect, just their own tribal tongue. The children called me "pumui," which means white man; probably because my complexion is a shade or two lighter than the average Sierra Leonean. Or perhaps it was because I looked a little nerdy peering at them through my glasses as I hopped out of an NGO vehicle.

Either way, it was like I was on a completely different planet. I saw first hand how crippling illiteracy can be to a nation. While my colleagues in the city were lambasting the government about the uselessness of the exercise, calling it a total waste of resources, I was appreciating the need. We went to some villages where they couldn't tell us the first thing about Ebola; they couldn't even pronounce the name, much less tell us about modes of transmission or methods of prevention. Other villages with confirmed cases were convinced it was witchcraft. I spoke to a quarantined family that was quite livid at being locked up, insisting vehemently that their brother had been "shot with a witch's gun." Another family lost two children within 12 hours. They too insisted that it was witchcraft.

We went to some villages that were completely empty. One entire village had fled into the bush to hide because they knew we were coming. They had been told that we were going to point a gun at them (this was the infrared thermometers). Even in the city, a lot of people had never seen an IR thermometer before. The government has set up checkpoints all around the country; when you get to one you get your temperature checked by these thermometers that are pointed at you. There have been cases of people being so terrified as they approached these checkpoints they suffered a nervous break down, because of rumors that something was going to be pointed at you, and that the thing gave you Ebola. Rumors of this

mysterious object had filtered back to the villages, and many people did not want to be around when it arrived. There were even rumors that the government has conspired with Western organizations like WHO to have a certain number of people die before the disease is brought under control, and no one wanted to be part of this ill-fated quota.

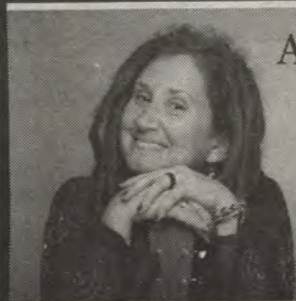
These malicious rumors are doing a lot of damage. Many people refused to take the soap being distributed, because they had been told that it causes Ebola. We went to many households and saw the bar of soap sitting untouched where the volunteers had placed it, the residents eyeing it suspiciously. There were reports of people burying the soap, dropping it into latrines and even boiling it to rid it of Ebola. Some people say these rumors were started by the opposition to undermine the efforts of the government. The whole thing is being politicized. The opposition is having a field day pointing out every blunder and misstep the government makes; everyone knows how this epidemic is handled is going to be one of the major factors in the next election, and people are getting distracted by that.

While rumors of contaminated soap and Ebola-causing temperature guns abound among the less educated, an even greater number of conspiracy theories are making the rounds among the educated. I am yet to meet a single person who doesn't believe one theory or another. A lot of people think this whole thing was an experiment using us as lab rats; why else will the cure only work for white people? Or that this is part of a bigger ploy to reduce the population of Africans; biological terrorism. People keep saying we've been eating bush meat for generations, and never had Ebola. Why now? Why was a cure suddenly available as soon as the first white person got it? Why did the availability of the cure coincide with the outbreak of the disease. People are saying someone started this outbreak to test whatever cure they had come up with.

It's physically, emotionally and psychologically draining to be in this country right now. Nowhere is safe. Living under a constant threat is tiring. There is a definite gloom that has settled over the country. There is the conspicuous absence of school children playing in the streets; there is no more music blaring from speakers in the streets, as was the norm. There is no outlet for people's frustrations. Everyone is scared, myself included. I am glad I am contributing towards the fight, but sometimes I just wish I could leave for a while. My friends have all left the country and my family has decided to send my brother away, since he doesn't have a job locking him in.

I am heading back to Moyamba in a few days to train more contact tracers there, since they just had a sudden exponential increase in the number of cases.

On the plus side, some friends of mine have started an Ebola challenge to raise funds for MSF, since they seem to be the most effective organization in this fight. I hope Connecticut College can take up the challenge. We definitely need as much help as we can get. •



An Evening with Kristen Graves, Connecticut's 15th State Troubadour

7:30 p.m, Friday, October 17, 2014. Doors open 7:00 p.m.

Unity Hall, All Souls UU Congregation,

19 Jay Street, New London, CT

860-443-0316 Tix/Info at fridaynightfolk.org



INVESTING IN THE PARADOX

Reconciling profit and environmentalism

SHATRUNJAY MALL
CONTRIBUTOR

With the exception of some who for ideological or other reasons diminish or even deny climate change, most thinking people agree that climate change is happening, and it's happening for real. The increasing number of freak weather events and extreme seasons are just a few amongst countless examples out there to demonstrate that the earth's climate is changing. The burning of fossil fuels by human activities is cited by scientists as a major cause for higher average global temperatures. Many of the most risk-prone areas around the world are in the Global South. In addition, petroleum and coal companies, the biggest contributors to global warming, are also big polluters of water and the air, not just destroying eco-systems and the natural world, but also causing health issues for human beings.

One of Connecticut College's goals as an institution is "inclusive excellence," rightly so, because a college (in theory) exists to educate regardless of paying capacity to create opportunities for those who may not have access to them. Conn maintains a substantial financial aid program, providing 52% of enrolled students with aid (a total of \$35 million). In addition to these costs, maintaining and expanding existing facilities is expensive.

"Fossil fuel companies are precisely the kind of companies that colleges would like to be invested in," said Josh Stoffel, Campus Sustainability Manager. "These companies are economically very valuable; they guarantee a consistent return on investment." Just what an institution like Conn is looking for. Conn's endowment of \$237 million is relatively small. In comparison, Amherst, a similarly sized college, has an endowment of \$1.823 billion. A large research university like Stanford has an endowment of over \$18 billion.

Stanford recently decided to divest from coal companies. The much smaller Hampshire College, with an endowment of \$28.9 million, has also decided to do the same. It has divested from all producers of fossil fuels, deciding to invest

in the future-in companies creating the next big wave of renewable energy technologies. In an article for *Huffington Post*, Hampshire College President Jonathan Lash summed up the dilemma for non-profit educational institutions such as Conn best, when he writes "as 'mission driven' (rather than 'for profit') institutions, colleges and universities often grapple with the question of whether to apply their values to the way that they invest as well as the way that they spend their funds, even if doing so might diminish their earnings."

The problem with divestments is that they are hard to put into practice, explained Paul Maroni, the College's Vice President for Finance. "The investments of our endowment are managed by fund managers," he said "with good track records of maximizing return. These funds are very much like mutual funds and the College does not decide on its investments."

Because the College has a small endowment, and hence relatively less to invest, it would be hard, if not outright impossible, for the College to exert pressure on these fund managers to change their investment portfolios. These fund managers who are entrusted with Conn's endowment maximize their return on investment for a large and diverse clientele. From day to day, the fund managers may invest in fossil fuel companies like Exxon Mobil that could provide a good return, Mr. Maroni said, "just as they might in General Electric, the world's largest producer of wind turbines."

A few years ago, the College's president had tried, in the case of the Darfur conflict, to influence the fund managers through a letter-writing campaign which, though well received, had little impact. The College is also wary of financial commitments in the New London community that could impact the local environment. "We had a bitter experience of making losses on our investments in the 1990s with the New London Development Corporation of which the then-president was head."

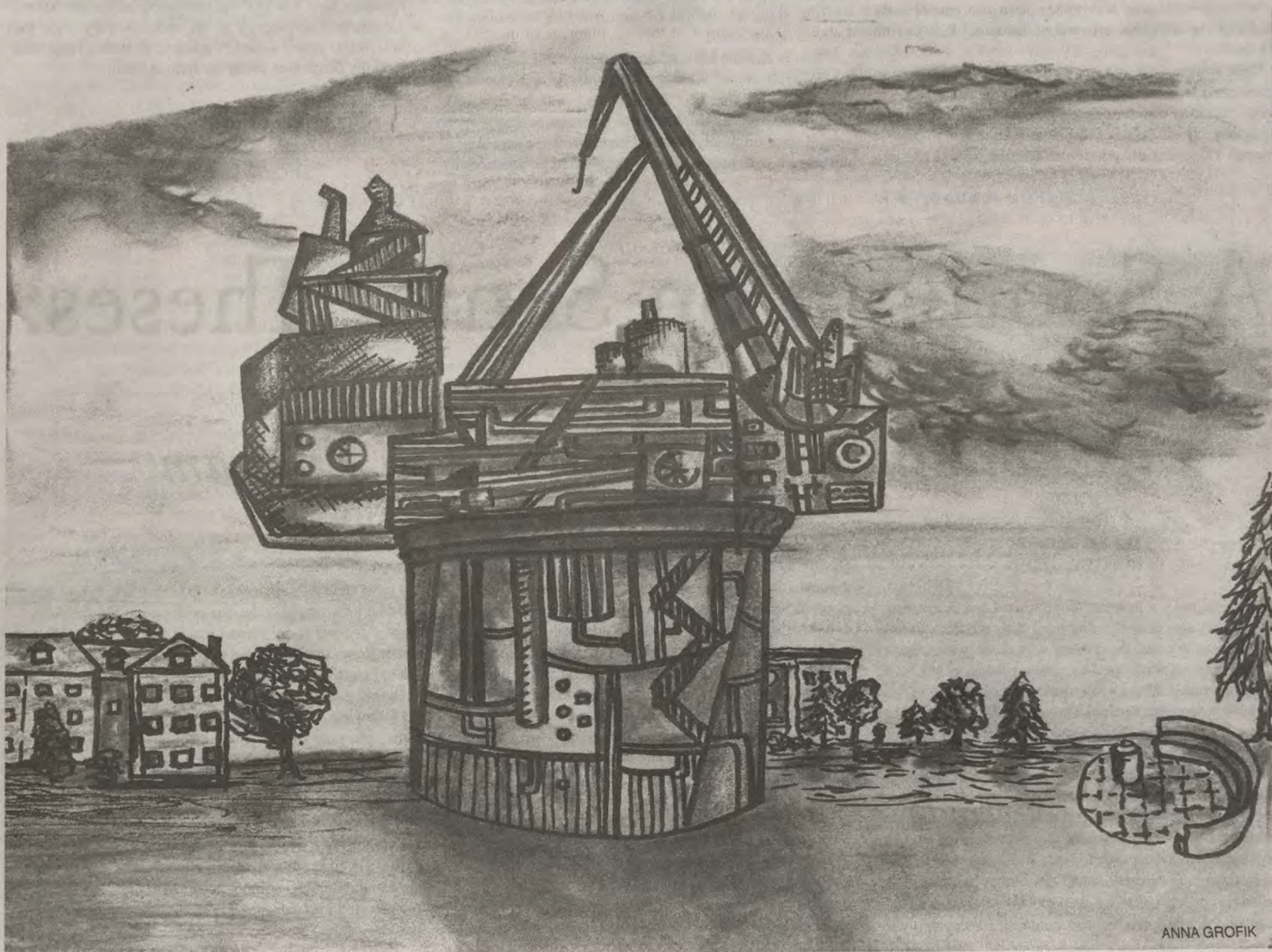
According to Mr. Maroni, the College's focus is directed much more towards its direct impact as an institution. One important initiative in this direction has been the Sus-

tainability Fund, which makes savings and investments through sustainability a priority for the College. The Office of Sustainability is responsible for putting conservation and a sustainable lifestyle into practice here at Conn.

As I learned from Josh Stoffel when I visited his office in Steel House, he is working with Physical Plant and other staff and administrators at the College as well as with Sustainability Fellows from the student body on the installation and expansion of motion sensor lighting and improved heating with a lower carbon footprint, which are just a few of many programs. "What makes sustainability very viable is the savings in terms of energy costs that it can bring for years into the future," he pointed out. That in turn makes the Sustainability Fund a good long run investment, and not just from an environmental point of view.

There is no denying that Conn is attempting to make itself a more sustainable institution. However, its inability to do much beyond its institutional confines is a result of being in a world where issues related to the environment are often side-lined in favor of other supposedly more important problems. Some commentators have suggested that the fossil fuel divestment movement has grown as a reaction to the lack of action by world leaders to address and solve environmental issues. This means that those who consider climate change and other environmental issues of the utmost importance and care for the earth's future need to organize themselves on a greater scale and make their voices heard, as we saw in the People's Climate March in New York City last month.

While there are many on campus who are thinking and working at ways to make more of an impact, more needs to be done and on a more organized level. What the College definitely needs is for the student body to promote more events and more dialogue involving faculty, staff and the broader New London community. The message needs to go out to those who call the shots in society that more of the same platitudes will not be accepted. •



Anonymous Bliss

Yik Yak's impact on campus culture

JENNIFER MORRISSEY
CONTRIBUTOR

"How many *Mean Girls* references will be made today? The limit does not exist." October 3 always fills the internet with quotes from the 2004 hit *Mean Girls*, but this year, they are found in a different form. The latest electronic fad, Yik Yak, has been spreading across the nation and landing primarily on college campuses.

We are part of a millennial generation with a so-called "addiction" to technology. Changes in communication technology in the last decade have been incredible, and there are quite a few of these that cannot be considered inherently good.

Yik Yak is similar to Twitter, except that all posts are anonymous. It also only shows Yaks that have been submitted within a ten mile radius of the user. For Connecticut College, this means the app primarily picks up on Conn students and the Coast Guard Academy. "I think Yik Yak is a good app, and I like it because of how easy it is to just pull it up and read some opinions and thoughts from random people around campus," says Karl Johnson '18.

There are certainly advantages to this. It is a simple application that acts as a way to connect with the college community, and the creators have made navigation of Yik Yak almost effortless. It has become a humorous campus-wide chatroom and, to a degree, a somewhat informative service to get the scoop on what's happening on campus. Often, the app is filled with a stream of wildlife updates like, "Skunk spotted chilling outside JA patio. Exit with caution," or "I wonder if the skunks and squirrels ever get involved in turf wars." There's even the occasional pick-me-up to help you through your day: "Conn college students are really, really, ridiculously good looking."

"It's an entertaining way to see what the student body thinks of the stuff that happens on campus," Lex Levitte '18 said.

Most students use the application as just that: a form of entertainment to see what is happening on campus. At times, the Yaks can definitely be respite to get through a strenuous day of classes. There is also an option to browse through Yaks currently posted on different college and uni-

versity campuses across the country through the "peek" tab at the bottom of the screen.

As the app has become prominent on college campuses, many of the Yaks also relate to partying, drinking and drug consumption in relatively light-hearted ways. For example, dozens of Yaks like, "I really appreciate how every other floor at this school smells like weed and mine smells like brownies :) Oh. Wait. Shit," and "Tomorrow's forecast: heavy rain followed by heavy drinking" have been seen on the app.

As fun as some of the posts can be, there have also been some concerns that have surfaced about Yik Yak with its newfound popularity over the past months. Since it was released, the app has been banned in high schools due to its potential for slander and negativity.

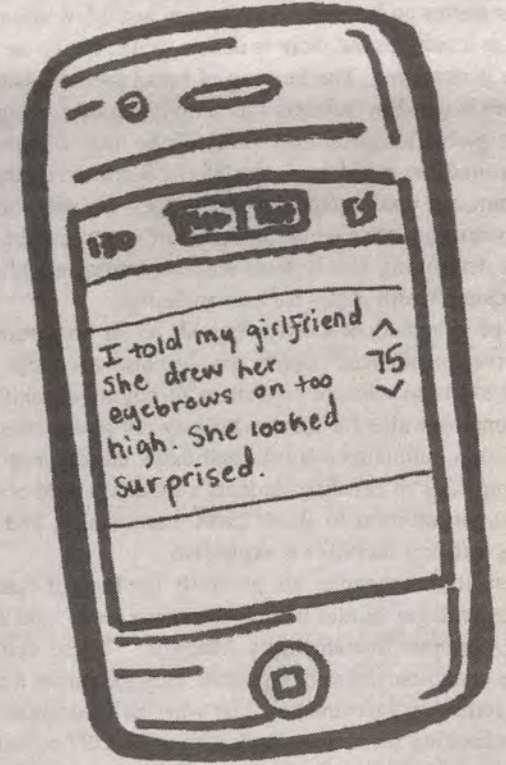
"I think the anonymous nature of it is really smart because people can be more honest without the fear of repercussions than on a medium like Twitter," Johnson said. "I don't think it has any adverse effects socially or in terms of how we communicate because if anything, it gives people an outlet to express how they feel and opinions they wouldn't want to voice in person, in a fairly harmless way."

The anonymous aspect of the app is definitely controversial because, as Johnson pointed out, it can be used as an outlet to express opinions untraceably, without having to take responsibility for them.

"The only thing that could happen that would make me worry about the app is if it got too personal, [such as] calling out specific names it groups, and the anonymous and carefree nature of the app was lost," Johnson said.

Since the app was first released in 2013, there have been cases of cyber-bullying that have come up due to its anonymous nature. As it has become a sudden hit on college campuses across the country, this is a reason for alarm, especially since the authors of such rowdy Yaks cannot be stopped or prevented.

There is also the issue of unreliability. Like many social media applications, what is posted on the app cannot be believed to be true, and although posts can be removed, there is no way to know if false information has further spread since originally posted. Therefore, it can lead to gossip around college campuses, which could be emotionally



ANNA GROFIK

detrimental to the targets of such rumors.

Over the past few weeks, on-campus communication using the application has been slowing down. Students certainly still use it, but they openly discuss what they see less and less which may be associated with its controversial nature or a shame that comes from some of the inappropriate Yaks posted.

Although how Yik Yak will ultimately affect the culture at Connecticut College, if at all, remains hazy, over the course of this year it is clearly going to be both a funny and potentially dangerous social medium at Conn. •

A Spotlight on Senior Theses:

Researching military successes in Vietnam

MO SMOLSKIS
CONTRIBUTOR

My thesis looks at how the Coast Guard and the Brown Water Navy successfully completed their missions during the Vietnam War and the reasons why these two services were successful while the U.S. counterinsurgency (COIN) campaign failed. I began my thesis last spring and will finish up this semester because I am graduating in December.

The journey to my thesis topic began spring of my freshman year when I read the book "Learning to Eat Soup with a Knife: Counterinsurgency Lessons from Malaya and Vietnam" by Dr. John Nagl, (Lt. Col., Ret) for Professor William Rose's course "Insurgency and Counterinsurgency." Basically, this work focuses on how organizations that are able to learn and adapt tend to have more success in carrying out COIN campaigns. Nagl calls this concept organizational theory. After reading Nagl's book I began to wonder, could this theory apply to

other armed services beyond the Army and the Marines? During the spring of my sophomore year, I decided to try to tackle this question and began a one-semester Independent Study with Professor Rose of the Government department, who is now my thesis advisor.

For that project I took a very cursory look at the role of each armed service during the Vietnam War. I quickly realized there was not much analysis available about the Coast Guard or the Brown Water Navy (which undertakes all the operations that took place on rivers - brown water - rather than on the ocean) and decided to write a thesis to address this gap in the literature.

One of the best parts of my research has been gaining access to the Coast Guard Academy's historical records from the 1960s and 1970s. Some fun facts: there used to be a girl of the month in the Academy's newspaper, and she was almost always a Conn girl. In the back of the handbook given to all 4th Class students there was a map of Conn. Each year for Christmas, many crews sent

postcards from where they were stationed back to the Academy.

I have received invaluable help from Capt. Brigid Pavilonis, an international relations professor at the Academy. Capt. Pavilonis is my second reader and along with Professor Rose, she has helped keep me focused and on track when I started to talk or think myself in circles.

Before this thesis, I really wasn't sure what I wanted to do following graduation. I thought maybe I would go into policy planning for the government or work for a think tank dealing with foreign policy. I had thought about joining the Army previously but realized that it was not for me. However, after learning about the missions, history and culture of the Coast Guard I realized that this was a military service whose culture and values align with my own. I am currently applying for the Coast Guard's Officer Candidate School and if accepted, I hope to continue my research into the role of the Coast Guard in unconventional warfare. •

One Department's Struggle Against Academic Mediocrity



JAMES LAFORTEZZA

WALTER STUART
CONTRIBUTOR

Starting this year, Connecticut College will be enforcing new requirements on students who wish to be economics majors. Over the last few years, the College has seen an increase in the number of students who wish to be Economics majors, and while this is not a problem in and of itself, it can complicate things within the department and within the academic landscape as a whole. The new standards will require students to receive a B- or higher in both introductory macroeconomics and microeconomics and students will have to complete at least two 300-level courses by the end of their junior year. These changes will likely lead to students who aren't necessarily devoted to becoming economics majors shifting towards other areas of interest. To talk more about the upcoming changes, I sat down with department chair Professor Candace Howes.

Howes has been at the College since 1995 and is currently serving as the department chair for her third time. The department first began to see an increase in the number of majors during the 2008 recession. According to Howes, "The number of majors in the Economics department has increased from 43 in the graduating class in 2007 to 84 majors in the class of 2015, which means by the spring when sophomores declare we will have as many as 240 majors." This means that in 2015 one in four males graduating will be an

Economics major. In my opinion, having so many majors in one department can lead to a less diverse academic landscape within the college and can ultimately be harmful. Howes believes that the increase in majors comes from the belief that being an Economics major can lead to greater job security in the future. Howes went on to say, "We do not believe that economics is the only path to good jobs. In fact, what businesses look for is college graduates with good analytical and communication skills, both of which can be learned in a broad range of majors." By holding a higher standard the department will limit the major towards those who are more interested and invested in the program. Howes makes a good point when she talks about economics not being the only option going forth after college. Most of us here at the College know the benefits of a liberal arts education and know that with the resources provided here at the College almost any major can lead to good job opportunities.

When asked about the overall purpose of the changes, Howes responded, "These changes are designed to ensure that students are well prepared, as they enter their senior year, for upper level courses, seminars and honors theses." Due to the increase in Economics majors at the College it has become more difficult for majors to apply and complete honors theses. Of the 84 majors set to graduate in the following year, only eight of those graduates will complete an honors thesis, less than 10%. It is also important to note that while these changes are meant to better prepare students, they do not necessarily inhibit any student from becoming an Economics major, Howes stressed this point, stating, "We are not limiting the number of majors, just setting a standard that students have to achieve to be admitted to the major. It is possible that students, knowing that they have to get a B- in the two intro courses will work somewhat harder and be better prepared for the intermediate level courses." The reason for the changes, however, is more than just setting a higher standard for students; these changes will ultimately push students who may have decided to major in Economics because of post-grad employment uncertainties. Hopefully by pursuing other interests in departments where they are more intellectually invested, students will find themselves being more successful academically.

Over the next few years, the College will begin to see a change in the curriculum as a whole in order to increase academic rigor and make connections across the disciplines. Potential changes may include an increase in the number of seminars first-years will be required to take. Howes stated that, "In order for the Economics department to participate in these changes, they will need fewer students demanding attention." Decreasing the amount of majors will allow the department to better focus on creating new classes for first year students and allow professors to work more closely with senior students doing intensive research. Increasing the number of first-year seminars will give new students a larger variety of choices in more departments. The current seminar program is limited in the number of potential departments that new students can get involved in, so any way to increase that number would be a bonus.

The new changes to the department were modeled after what other schools including Trinity, Wesleyan, Williams, Amherst, Colby and more are implementing. These changes will lead to a better experience for new students who benefit from professors with more free time and to older students who find themselves able to work more closely with their professors. Students who are unable to declare an Economics major will hopefully find themselves in a different discipline that suits them better and will lead to better choices in their futures. •

A Review of the REF Event, "Race 101"

ANIQUE ASHRAF
CONTRIBUTOR

It is not that I have a problem with organized events about race. I swear. I have a problem with those events when they do not address the issue. The panel at the 1941 room in Cro on Wednesday came dangerously close to this but managed to avoid it.

It was a REF event, organized by the REAL staff with a panel of four professors and two students, Ramata Diallo '17 and Maurice Tiner '17. The panel started with Professor David Kim of the Religious Studies department asking us a few questions: which ones of us are comfortable talking about race, who is not and where do we do it? There was a scattering of hands at the first two; I raised mine on both. Then, it was mostly student led, with people contributing personal narratives, political opinion and feelings.

Lamiya Khandekar, '17, talked about how race and religion stratify her as the "Other." She spoke about having difficulties about expressing herself in class while talking about issues like ISIS because she knows that her opinion is going to be perceived as "the Muslim opinion." In doing so, she pointed out a very important facet of white privilege: white people are not looked at as representing their entire community. Their opinions and feelings can be personal and are usually not generalized or used as a standard for other people. Deion Jordan, '17 was also an active part of the discussion; he expressed some discontent at the fact that we were talking, or as he put "just talking" about race and not doing anything. While I understand the frustration in sitting around in a circle and having only occasional events to discuss something that should be a part of our deeper consciousness, I also feel (as I pointed out) that even the act of talking about race in a public forum is useful in some way. Nothing can start without critique, and we critique things to make them better, or at least, I would hope so.

The discussion passed its two hour mark pretty easily; between getting food and setting up the room, we were already pretty late. We were still talking in abstracts, though, as Professor Nathalie Etoke, of the French and Africana Studies departments, pointed out. She wanted us to start at the micro level, inwards. I agree with her: race as a construct is so huge, with so much historical baggage, that the most efficient way to deal with it is within your own community. She also mentioned that we consider the segregation of Harris, an issue that I had brought. And talking about it does help, because it converts the distant political into the very real personal.

The real meat of the event was an incident that happened between a black student and a white student. The white student called the black student "eloquent" when talking about them, and they were offended. The discussion kept circling back to this incident and as uncomfortable as it made me (and I'd imagine, most people in the room), it kind of made the whole issue much more real. There was an obvious lack of context there; the history of that particular word and it being used as a surprised, "Black people can talk too" kind of phrase. And I don't begrudge the white student because I know they didn't mean harm, but they got very defensive. There was a staff member there, an older white person, who then started defending the student, and then left. Professor Audrey Zakriski, professor of Psychology, pointed it out well when she talked about how to deal with one's own internalized biases. If you do something racist, admit it, apologize, move on and then maybe never try to do it again.

When the black student talked about how that word has baggage for them, the white person's response was a dispassionate, "that sucks" absolving themselves of all responsibility. This is where the event became real for me; the discussion and the panel were interesting, but they were far away. They didn't address the issue the way an organic conflict could. It was interesting when students started talking to each other and not the professors (which one professor did not like) and called each other out. The aim of this event was to teach white people how to talk about race because people of color already talk about race - it affects their lives on a daily basis. And that is fine. But the event should be advertised differently. I know that this College is majority white and they want to learn about race and racism, but the event should be explicit about its intentions.

Personally, I was frustrated with white people telling stories of how they confronted their privilege. Good for them. But the fact that they thought this event catered to them is beyond ridiculous. People of color can apparently not even discuss their own systematic oppression without white people making it about themselves. This is why the talk frustrated me. The fact that you have to confront your privilege somehow superseded that you had that privilege in the first place. People of color are not better off because they don't have to confront their privilege, they're just not privileged as you are. That event taught people how to confront their internalized racism, though, which is good and productive and useful. This is why I believe the talk worked: not because that was in its structure but because of the feelings and thoughts it provoked. •

Open Letter to NFL's Goodell

PETER BURDGE
CONTRIBUTOR

Therein lies the problem of your tenure as commissioner. You have led a dysfunctional and disorganized league office that runs and makes decisions solely on public opinion. You believed that prior to Ray Rice's situation, these domestic abuse issues would play themselves out, that maybe you could hand out a suspension or two and sweep the matter under the rug. That is also what you were trying to do with the Ray Rice matter until, unfortunately for you, the public saw what happened.

You suspended Ray Rice on July 24 for two NFL games after TMZ released a video in February showing the running back dragging his unconscious fiancé out of an elevator at an Atlantic City casino. In fact, according to a USA Today report, you have suspended five players for domestic violence, each for one game. Rice's initial suspension was therefore the largest suspension you have handed out for domestic

violence, and I applaud you for taking that extra step.

And you threw the hammer down on September 8 when TMZ released a new, horrifically graphic video of Rice spitting at and striking his fiancé in the elevator. You suspended him indefinitely after the Ravens cut him from the team. But what was it that forced you to change your decision? Were you so utterly disgusted by this new video and so surprised by what you saw that you didn't want to look at Ray Rice in an NFL uniform again? Or were you scared that now that the public has access to what you had known for months, people may question the integrity of your league? The situation reeks of damage control.

I am not going to conjecture about whether you saw the video of Rice striking his fiancé before your initial suspension because that is not the point of this letter. But I do wonder if the second video gave you any new information about the mat-

ter. In other words, did you extend Rice's suspension because you saw this video, or because the public saw this video? After speaking with Rice and overseeing an "investigation" into the matter, it is hard to believe that you learned anything new from that video that made you change your mind.

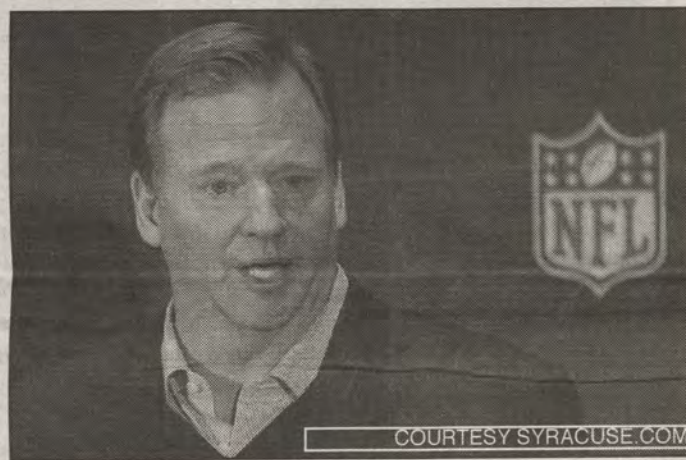
That is why this is all damage control. You want to convince the public that you care about the campaign against domestic abuse, something you have ignored for eight years, and so you make an example out of Ray Rice. The problem is that there were 82 other examples that you could have used to promote your so-called initiative. If you really cared about this, your league could have led the way in the campaign. In 2008, when 15 of your players were arrested for assault, you could have announced a new personal conduct policy. You could have used your position as the head of the most popular sport in the nation to promote

domestic and dating violence awareness in America and to put an end to abuse. If you really cared, Mr. Goodell, you could have shown us that the NFL does not take domestic violence lightly, and you could have punished those 82 players for their horrific crimes.

But instead, you let them walk free. You let them walk free in the hope that the nation would turn a blind eye to the abuse that has tainted your league and would focus its attention on the game itself. But

now you have been caught, and in your panic you have revealed where your priorities lie not in helping abuse victims but in enhancing the face of your league.

You have let us down. You have let down children mimicking your biggest stars on America's playgrounds. You have let down victims of domestic violence. You cannot lead the country's biggest sport while nobody in the country trusts you. You must step down. •



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Sports Journalism**
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Law

JD - Juris Doctor
JD/MBA
(Joint degree in law and business)
LLM in Health Law

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(post-professional)*
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Social Work

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Family Nurse Practitioner
Care of Populations
Nurse Anesthesia
Nursing Leadership*

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Arts & Sciences

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Organizational Leadership*

* Program offered only online
** Specific program tracks offered either on campus or online
*** Program offered on campus and online



Player Profile: Nate Summers

JOSHUA MOSS
CONTRIBUTOR

Number 24, Nate Summers, is a first year center on the men's soccer team.

Hometown: Westfield, MA.
Alma Mater: Berkshire School
When he started playing: Six years old

Why he started playing: "I started playing soccer because my brother played, and I wanted to be like him."

How the season is going so far: "The season is halfway over and we are 5-3. We are 2-2 in conference thanks to hard fought victory over Williams. It was the first time in 20 plus years that the Men's Soccer team has beaten Williams."

Goals for the rest of the season: "Win the NESCAC and make NAAs."

Why he chose Conn: "The great coaching staff led by Coach Murphy followed by assistants Coach Prophet and Coach Swanson, rounded out with legendary goalkeeper trainer Coach Pete."

Next year's team: "We will lose multiple seniors who play big roles on the squad, leaving the current juniors and underclassmen with big shoes to fill."

Fun fact: "I was a three-sport athlete in high school. I also played hockey and baseball." •

Player Profile: Cailyn Straubel

ELEANOR HARDY
SPORTS EDITOR

Women's Volleyball captain Cailyn Straubel '16 has led the team to a great start this season.

Bringing them to a huge victory over Colby College with 27 digs, she is showing her young team what it takes to make it to the NESCAC Tournament. With a 2-2 conference record, here is more on the reliable player:

Hometown: Dallas, Texas
Alma Mater: The Hockaday School
Major: Human Development Major, Elementary Education Certificate
Minor: Psychology

Years playing volleyball: 13

Why she started playing: When I was about eight, my dad asked me if there were any other sports (besides soccer and gymnastics) that I wanted to try, and I immediately said volleyball. My dad played volleyball in college and was very excited about getting me involved. He found a club team that I could join in the area, and from then on I was hooked!

Favorite in-season moment: My (current) favorite in-season moment would have to be beating Bowdoin on their home court in three sets! At the time, Bowdoin was ranked #1 in New England, and we had a record of 2-5. Winning this match was a great way to start NESCAC play and truly showed the potential of our team! Fun Fact: Bowdoin has only lost two of their last 54 home matches and both of them have been to Connecticut College. The first was my first year in 2012. The second was this season!

Thoughts about this season so far: So far, we have had a really good season. Although we had a bit of a rocky start, things are starting to fall into place. We are a super young team with a lot of potential and we are still working out the kinks, but I am so proud of how far we have come in such a short time and I am super excited to see how the rest of the season pans out!

Season goals: Qualify for the NESCAC Tournament (top eight of 11 teams qualify) and win the NESCAC Tournament

Pre-game ritual: Before every home game we take about five minutes to just sing and dance together in the locker room. It's a great way for us to let loose and de-stress before focusing on the game. When we are away, we do this individually. It really helps everyone focus on what needs to be accomplished once we get on the court.

Post-game ritual: My post-game ritual includes showering, getting ice and then making a turkey sandwich (the official post-game food of CCVB). •



October 2-5

In Case You Missed it:

2-1

Conn v Bates
Women's Field Hockey

2-1

Conn v Bates
Men's Soccer

2-0

Conn v Bates
Women's Soccer

3-1

Conn v Bates
Women's Volleyball

3-0

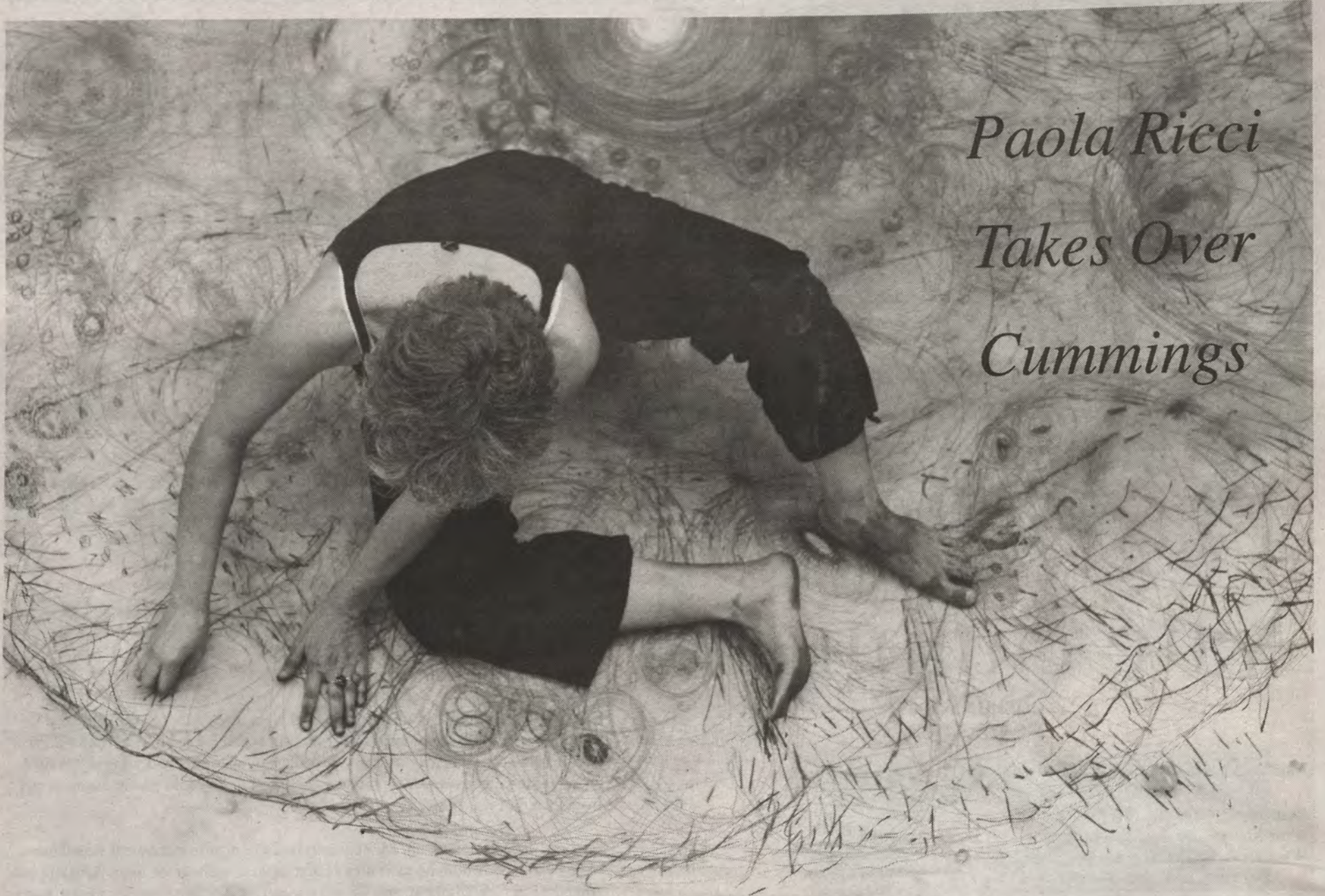
Conn v Clark Univ.
Women's Volleyball

20th
of 40

Lehigh's Paul Short Inv.
Women's Cross Country

21st
of 40

Lehigh's Paul Short Inv.
Men's Cross Country



Paola Ricci Takes Over Cummings

Sept. 23-24: Visiting artist, Paolo Ricci, took over the floor of Cummings to render her perception of the universe in the form of an interactive performance art piece.

Conn Alum Returns to Screen New Film *Memphis*

ANNIE RUSK
HEAD OF DESIGN

Written and directed by Tim Sutton; director of photography, Chris Dapkins; edited by Seth Bomse; music by Willis Earl Beal; production design by Bart Mangrum; produced by John Baker; released by Kino Lorber. Running time: 1 hour 15 minutes. This film is not rated.

Connecticut College alumni Tim Sutton '92 returned to campus on Wednesday, Oct. 2 for a screening of the film *Memphis*, which he both wrote and directed. Sutton started off the screening by reflecting back on his days at Conn, mentioning that he lived in Freeman Tower and that at the time there was no formal Film Studies Department, "just kids who went around with cameras" and appeared to know what they were doing. He advised current students to take in the film and view it the way one would drink wine, since—as he put it— "you don't chug wine."

Set in Memphis, Tennessee, the film's location is extremely important and even seems to take on a persona of its own. With its rich musical history, Memphis is a place where artists come from all over seeking inspiration. The main character of the movie, Willis, is one of these artists. The film follows this character as he tries to create a record, but then loses himself in the process. Whether he loses himself to the beautiful landscape of Memphis, drugs and alcohol, religion or something else is left unclear to the viewer, leaving one to come to his or her own conclusion.

As Sutton pointed out after the screening, the film is not about having a clear plot, but rather "creating an environment." In fact, the first thing that struck me, as others mentioned in the discussion after the screening, was the beautiful lighting and images that worked to move the scenes along. This film embodies the term "moving images," with the lens of the camera lingering on the picturesque scenery.

Creating an environment for the film resulted in not only beautiful imagery but also vivid secondary characters that all in some way embody aspects of Memphis. For example, one boy shown often riding a bicycle and also playing cards with Willis becomes an all-know-

ing figure who comments on religion and gives perspective for Willis. His continued eye contact with the camera reflects his persona and creates a feeling that he is not only aware of something beyond this world in a religious sense, but that he is aware of the creation of the film and its purpose. The religious man in a bar who beckons Willis to continue to sing because it is his God-given talent becomes the voice of the Baptist church that Willis visits at various times throughout the film. The one-legged man who acts as Willis's sidekick becomes a representation of the musical scene and inspiration that Memphis provides. As the sidekick drives around with Willis, Willis begins to lose himself more and more in the world created within the film.

As the audience gets wrapped up in the beauty and personality of Memphis and these characters, Willis, too, falls in love with the place and ends up camping out in a forest made to seem like a kind of Eden. The film shifts from a story about searching for musical inspiration to a quest for something bigger, a universal truth. •



COURTESY OF THE NEW YORK TIMES

Sinaguglia's "Hard Times" is Easy to Enjoy



MATTHEW WHIMAN
ARTS EDITOR

Dave Sinaguglia likes wood; he really, *really* likes wood. He likes wood so much that most of the objects you will find while exploring his show "Welcome to Hard Times" are made out of wood. Even those pieces that aren't constructed directly out of the material feature it in some way. His two video works in the exhibition, "Infomercial" and "Never Going to Give You Up," are both shot inside of a wooden shack built by Sinaguglia that he refers to as "The Man Camp Cabin".

What is most striking about all of the wood in Sinaguglia's whimsical new exhibition is how differently it is used throughout. Whether it is a direct application like in his sculpture and furniture, or less so like in his videos and installations, Sinaguglia has managed to create an eclectic-yet-unified body of work, in large part thanks to the varied ways in which he uses his favorite material.

Sinaguglia backs up his work with an equally impressive resume. Having graduated with a BFA from the Hartford Art School and an MFA from the University of Connecticut, he has also spent time training at the International Yacht Restoration School in Newport, Rhode Island. Most recently, he has taken another shift in craft and has begun making furniture.

If Sinaguglia's rich background in art, craft and design suggests a diverse creative output, "Welcome to Hard Times" is the definitive proof: photographs and videos share wall space with sculptures both impressive in craftsmanship and often downright funny; gorgeous pieces of wooden furniture are used as parts of curious installation pieces; and adze handles—used in yacht building—are assembled as a sculpture that mirrors the sheerline of a boat.

The quality of Sinaguglia's work more than matches both his ambition and sprawling vision. It is clear that Sinaguglia not only prefers wood as a material to work with, but is also a master of various kinds of woodcraft.

Minute details such as the frames around each hanging photograph are made of wood. While they literally frame the picture within them, they also add a

further element of unity between the photos and the rest of the show. It's just one of the many fine points that Sinaguglia has accounted for throughout "Hard Times", and it works wonders to enrich the overall experience of the exhibition. All of this is not to say that the work in "Hard Times," lacks deeper substance.

Wood is a hard, sturdy material, befitting of the exhibition's name. It is also a handy parallel to the vision of masculinity that Sinaguglia illustrates in pieces as thought provoking as they are amusing.

Take the video "Infomercial" as an example. What appears to be a straightforward invitation to partake in a solitary lifestyle a la Thoreau turns out to be a tongue-in-cheek parody of what activities and manners of living are generally considered manly. The paradoxical idea of being autonomous together with other men, along the sheer absurdity of everything delivered in a cute infomercial is just plain funny.

Humor is something Sinaguglia manages to incorporate into his work quite well, almost as a way of acknowledging that, while he may take his craft seriously, he can still have fun with it.

Not too far from some furniture and an impressive hanging wooden sculpture is a sloppy looking cross-stitching that reads "I <3 Being a Man." The juxtaposition of a masculine statement used as a part of a craft traditionally considered feminine, an endearingly haphazard piece of work among other technically strong ones, is hilarious and disturbing all at once.

It is difficult to call "Hard Times" a retrospective; a quick look through Sinaguglia's website will prove that the works in the show are hardly representative of everything he has done. Still, the exhibition is wide ranging and shows a natural evolution of work and artistic focus, something surprising considering Sinaguglia's relatively young career. The one constant throughout is wood, and it is refreshing to see that over an artistic career that has progressed through sculpture and installation, shipbuilding and now furniture, Sinaguglia is still finding new ways to create with an old favorite.

Creative Recipes to Spice Up

Harris Meals



LIZ VAROLI
CONTRIBUTOR

If you walk around any campus you will realize that to college students, food is very important. Very, very important. Listening to snippets of conversations, no matter what time of the day, you'll hear people setting plans for their next meal, talking about what they ate at their previous meal or arguing about which dining hall is their favorite.

Harris is the largest dining hall on campus. As such, it has the most options. Harris is also the dining hall that most students choose to go to, especially for dinner. It always has its staple foods like cereal, peanut butter, pasta, soups, grilled chicken and whatever the main dish of the day is, but after a while of eating the same combinations of food over and over again, everyone needs to switch it up a bit. I asked a few students what fun recipes they have come up with in Harris and they are pretty creative! So if you are getting a bit tired of the food on campus, consider some of these options before you spend all of your money at Oasis or head off campus.

Most of us have the luxury of an unlimited meal plan, so why not use it? Grab all the food you can and experiment... within limits of course.

Many students said they cannot function in the morning if they do not eat breakfast, but most days they are running late for class and don't have time to sit down for cereal or a waffle. For breakfast, there are always eggs and some type of bacon or sausage. But eggs and bacon is average, so why not spice breakfast up? Try and make

a breakfast sandwich on your own. First, gather your ingredients, take a spoonful of eggs, whatever breakfast meat is available, and cheese from the sandwich bar. Then toast a bagel or bread, add the eggs, meat, cheese and—tadah!—you have a great breakfast sandwich. This introduces new flavor combinations to breakfast and is perfect if you have to eat breakfast on the go.

My favorite thing to do at lunch in Harris is use the panini press, that machine can turn any average turkey and cheese into a hot, gooey and delicious sandwich. You do not have to use the panini press only for lunch sandwiches; you can make a ton of different things on it. One option is to create a quesadilla. There are always tortillas; all you need to do is take your favorite cheese from the sandwich station and place it on half of a tortilla and then fold the tortilla over. If you like chicken and cheese quesadilla's, you can cut up some grilled chicken and throw that onto your tortilla. Just put your quesadilla on the panini press for two minutes, put some salsa on the side to dip it in, and you have a perfect Mexican meal. You can try any number of combinations with this machine; all it takes is some creativity!

The more ambitious chefs in the kitchen, or Harris in our case, take on the microwave. Harris serves pizza a couple days a week, but the same type of pizza all the time can get a bit boring, so some students have progressed past Harris pizza and started making pizza bagels. All you have to do is pour some marinara or red sauce from the pasta bar on your favorite bagel from the bakery, put whatever cheese and

toppings from the salad bar you like on pizza and take your concoction to the microwave. You could make a pepperoni pizza bagel, a pepper and olive pizza bagel or just a good old cheese pizza bagel. Putting your pizza on a bagel also makes it more filling so you don't have to keep taking trips to the food line to get more pizza! Trust me, making a pizza bagel is as easy as pie (pizza pie that is).

On the other hand, the salad bar is always a great option if you are trying to lay off of all the pasta and pizza. But if you always eat a green salad and want something different, try a bean salad. Try olives, some type of bean—whether it be kidney or edamame—and green beans. If you toss these ingredients in a bowl and drizzle some balsamic vinaigrette on top, you can have a healthy salad with a twist. You could even toss a spoonful of mozzarella cheese or bleu cheese in your bean salad if you'd like. This is an easy and delicious side dish, and for a bonus it has a lot of protein!

Connecticut College is known for having some of the best food out of all colleges across America, but eating the same food for months on end can make even the best food not so appealing. It is up to you to create your own fun and delicious meals. You can try some of the ideas that I heard from kids around campus, like a breakfast sandwich, panini, quesadilla, pizza bagel or a bean salad, or you can experiment and develop your own recipes! Ask around; everyone has their recipes from Harris that make eating in a cafeteria a bit more fun. •

Caffeine Connoisseurs: A Complete Guide to Conn's On-Campus Coffee

**CHLOE OCAIN
LEAH SWINSON**
CONTRIBUTORS

Comedian Lewis Black once said, "I like coffee because it gives me the illusion that I might be awake." At Connecticut College, this statement certainly rings true. With four plus courses, athletics, student government, a cappella and a whole host of other clubs and activities to contend with during the week, our student body often seems like a bunch of zombies only appearing to function because of coffee. With the semester fully underway—and as we officially come to terms with our absentee library—it's important to take advantage of the diverse coffee options Conn has to offer. So, here is *The College Voice's* run-down on each of the four on-campus coffee shops.

Coffee Grounds: Often described as the "Central Perk" of Connecticut College, Coffee Grounds is one of two completely student-run businesses on campus. Located in Katherine Blunt House (KB), Coffee Grounds has a truly eclectic feel and is a favorite for both students and faculty alike. Its creative menu offers a wide variety of options, from regular coffee to espresso to lattes and non-caffeinated drinks, too. The hot coffee is always warm and richly flavored, and there are always multiple choices for milk: whole, skim, or two percent. Sometimes, the iced coffee even comes with coffee ice cubes, which is always a plus. But, if you're jonesing for the last-minute coffee before class, you may need to wait for more than a minute, as the baristas make each drink separately.

As a study space, Coffee Grounds is always great during the day when it's a little quieter. At night, the café usually has a more social atmosphere, but it still maintains a calm and invigorating feeling, enhanced by the decorative lights and student art hanging on the walls and by the windows. The Open Mic Nights allow Conn's musicians to showcase their talents, and the

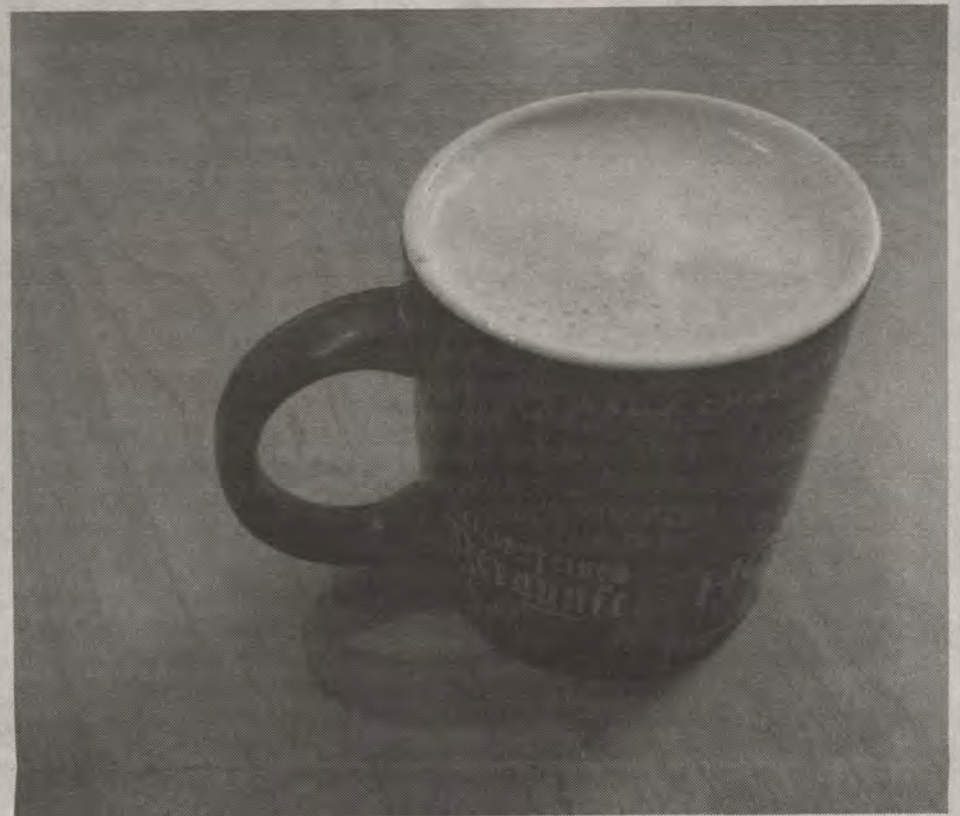
bands hosted by MOBROC always provide a great counter to the typical Friday or Saturday night experience. Here are some of the best highlights:

Chai Latte: "I like the chai at Coffee Grounds the best because they have the most options," said Mo Smolskis '15. These include, dirty chai, vanilla chai, and even apple chai. Chai lovers, rejoice.

Fall Drinks: Since fall means the start of everything pumpkin spice, the pumpkin spice at Coffee Grounds is a no-brainer. But if pumpkin spice isn't your thing, don't freak out. Coffee Grounds also has killer apple cider that can be served hot or cold, so take your pick.

Blue Camel Cafe: Perhaps the most centrally located coffee shop on campus, the Blue Camel also offers one of the best study spaces. Now located in the Faculty Lounge in Blaustein, Blue Camel is the only on-campus coffee shop that has computers and is within 5 feet of printers—a huge plus, considering the state of the library this year. The round tables are great for small group meetings and projects, and the double screens on every computer are also a benefit—who says you can't watch Netflix and study at the same time? The Writing Center and IT Services even hold appointments there, too.

Since it's no longer in the actual library, Blue Camel is smaller this year, which means that space can sometimes be limited. However, the quality of coffee can balance out any negative. Deliciously satisfying, Blue Camel's coffee, hot or iced, only uses locally-grown coffee from Ashlawn Farm Coffee in East Lyme and also offers chai, albeit less creatively than Coffee Grounds. One of the best aspects of Blue Camel is the food: Greek yogurt, chocolate croissants, artisan soups, and asiago cheese bagels. If you have to study and can't make it to Harris, the Blue Camel Cafe provides. Recommendations:



Café Latte: If you need a solid late night boost and want something more than just coffee, the café latte is always a solid choice. Because who doesn't love the delicious swirls of espresso and steamed milk?

Hibiscus Tea: If school has really got you stressed and your coffee intake has reached its limit, tea is a great alternative. While it may not have caffeine, the warmth of hibiscus tea can help calm you down enough to actually get work done and its antioxidants can help you reboot your immune system to prep for the next round of late night studying.

The Coffee Closet: The other entirely student-run coffee shop, The Coffee Closet, is the perfect location for students who frequent Cummings or live in South, but may be out of the way for some, especially those living in North. It is completely worth the trek to indulge in their beautiful baked goods and drinks.

The smallest of all the coffee shops, it makes up for lack of seating with a delicious and creative menu. With a few small tables at the entrance to Cummings, this is a great study location for anyone who doesn't mind a fair amount of traffic as well as sounds of various instruments while studying. If the tables have filled up inside, the seating outdoors overlooking the soccer fields is peaceful as well.

Their menu includes a list of "special" drinks, all of which are wonderfully creative in their names and flavors. For example, Glen Cocoa (peppermint and chocolate), Horchata Mama (cinnamon and vanilla) and The Bee's Knees (honey and cinnamon) are all hits. Be sure to hit up the Coffee Closet for these great drinks:

Cold Options: Deliciously caffeinated, their iced coffee with shots of espresso provides tons of energy to make it through your next class or reading. For those avoiding the caffeine, the extension offering of Harney & Sons tea tastes just as good as their tins look.

Fall Harvest: A special seasonal cinnamon and pumpkin latte, this drink has perfectly blended spices. It's like a chai latte, but somehow even better.

Jazzman's Cafe at Ruane's Den: Located in Harkness, Jazzman's Cafe is probably the most convenient location for South residents to grab a coffee on the way to classes. There is abundant seating with a usually quiet atmosphere. It is a great study space for those who thrive with a little bit of background noise. The large tables are great meeting spaces for groups, and the comfy couches and chairs are perfect for solo work.

They have a standard offering of hot and cold coffee options, as well as tea, smoothies and hot chocolate for those trying to avoid caffeine (kudos to you). They also have a large assortment of packaged snacks to eat on location or to bring back to your room for later. Recommendations:

Pumpkin Caramel Latte: For anyone trying to get into the fall season, the pumpkin caramel latte is a great substitute for the classic chai.

Hot Chocolate: Perfect for late night study sessions when you'd like to start winding down and don't want to keep pumping your body with caffeine. •





Wig and Candle Stages *Rent* for a Cause

SARAH ROSE GRUZECKI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Oct. 3, Connecticut College's student run theater program Wig and Candle brought Jonathan Larson's acclaimed play *Rent* to the stage in an ambitious and highly memorable benefit concert.

The production, which packed all of Harkness Chapel within a matter of minutes, had just four weeks to prepare the rock-operetta show. Despite its limited rehearsal schedule, the performance did not disappoint in its adventurous pursuit. It immediately captivated both diehard fans and newbies alike. Directed by senior Madison Winey and accompanied by Musical Director Andrew Marco '14, the production featured an excellent music ensemble, which was pit alongside both an impressive and diverse cast.

For those who are not familiar with *Rent*, the show is set in the mid 1990s, at the height of the United States AIDS Epidemic. "It's the story of friends living a bohemian life—a life with no money and little opportunity—where people were really struggling to make ends meet," said director Madison Winey '14. "It's all about them trying to live, love and understand why their lives are so important in this era in New York, when it seemed like there was so little to live for."

Every year, Wig and Candle has made it one of their central goals to hold a fundraiser or event that supports Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS (BC/EFA). *Rent* immediately presented itself as the perfect opportunity to raise awareness and financial support for this highly successful

non-profit organization. "AIDS is a backbone of the plot of *Rent*, so it's important to raise awareness through the show and be able to give back to such an important cause," said Winey.

Since its founding in 1988, BC/EFA has raised over 250 million dollars to provide care and treatment for individuals living with HIV/AIDS. However, the organization is no longer restricted to solely AIDS related causes. Its mission statement has expanded to provide assistance for all individuals in need. The charity has reached out to natural disaster victims, as well as multiple women's organizations. It also frequently collaborates with other foundations to improve the quality of life for individuals fighting illnesses.

Although Wig and Candle's production of *Rent* was held for free, its commitment to fundraising was consistently apparent throughout the show. Throughout the intermission and conclusion of the show, the cast and crew could be spotted scouring the audience sporting rainbow plastic hats to collect donations for the cause. After audience members donated, many cast members expressed their gratitude by serenading the generous donors. In the spirit of the Broadway born organization, each individual was celebrated for his or her commitment to AIDS research and treatment.

The mission statement of Wig and Candle's production certainly extends beyond just fundraising.

"I think it's important for college students to remember that we don't live in a bubble, and that events of the world and outside of the community do affect us,"

said Winey. "We aren't immune to our own lives changing in a second and we forget that we don't have superpowers. The show is difficult to watch at points and I think that experience is truly good for the soul."

"I also understand that there are a lot of people in the Connecticut College community who do not know about HIV/AIDS and its history. I love that theater gives people the opportunity to learn about things that are so far away from them, which they may not have been exposed to otherwise."

Although the discussion of HIV/AIDS is certainly not an easy one, *Rent* presents these topics in a manner that is both accessible and entertaining. The disease is primarily portrayed through the core six characters of the play, all of whom are wrestling with HIV-positive test results. This poses both an opportunity and challenge in casting the production, as it demands skill and distinction within every cast member.

As Winey described, "The characters themselves are complex and oftentimes caricatures of certain people who live in New York. We wanted a cast that was diverse both in ethnicity and in class year. When students cast shows, they often cast their friends, which is something we wanted to stray from. The characters are incredibly eclectic, which was something we wanted to portray though the cast here at Conn College."

The concert-style production of the show functioned specifically as a unique casting opportunity for the talented musicians throughout campus. "I think doing shows like this, especially through Wig

and Candle, gives students who sing but have never acted before the opportunity to perform onstage," said Winey. "It was our goal to fuse these two departments and give people the chance to have experiences they would not have been given otherwise."

A highlight of the production was the incredible dance and vocal performance of "Today 4 U" by senior Dance major Miles Keeney. Powerful ballads including the reprise of "I'll Cover You," sung by Hallie Grossman '16, also lit up the chapel stage, as well as the stunning vocals of first-year Katie Soricelli in "Without You." One also can't go without mentioning director Madison Winey's personal favorite, "What You Own," performed by two of the cast's passionate *Rent* fans Trevor Bates '18 and Steve Cofrancesco '17.

"These two performers know the play by heart and have been wanting to perform it all their lives," said Winey. "It's been incredibly awesome working with them and watching them grow."

For those new to *Rent*, the concert-performance proved to be a perfect taste of the production's incredible music. "It was really well done, entertaining and energetic," said musician and audience member Haley Gowland '17. "For my first experience with *Rent*, it was a pretty awesome one."

The performance certainly set an impressive bar for future Wig and Candle productions and was a memorable and exciting evening for both audience and cast members alike. •