The Freedom to Create: Interdisciplinary Arts Symposium Projects

This Nov. 3, the Connecticut College community will gather for the fourth annual All-College Symposium. In this symposium, seniors from different pathways and centers will present the research they have done through the college’s unique Connections curriculum.

Through the Connections curriculum, Connecticut College students are offered the opportunity to join an interdisciplinary center or pathway. These centers and pathways both offer students the opportunity to specialize their study in various topics. For example, the Ammerman Center for Arts and Technology allows students to combine the study of arts and technology. Similarly, the Media, Rhetoric, and Communication pathway allows students interested in media, communications, or journalism the opportunity to study these topics. The college does not offer these majors. Interested students apply for centers or declare for pathways during the first semester of their sophomore year. They then spend the next five semesters taking the necessary courses and researching to create a senior project.

This year, 239 of the 426 seniors (56%) are part of a center, pathway, or certificate program and will be presenting at the symposium. All five centers, ten pathways, and one certificate program will be presenting at this year’s symposium. In these presentations, seniors answer specific animating questions and explain how their learning in the Connections curriculum influenced their studies and research. “Students will share their animating questions and how they grew out of their courses, global/local experiences (internships, community partnerships or study abroad), and their majors and minors,” said Libby Friedman, Assistant Dean of the College for Connections. “Everyone’s question is unique and designed by the student, so it is very personal to them,” she added.

Some of these seniors choose to focus their projects on arts-related topics, one of whom was The College Voice’s own Co-Editor in Chief Catja Christensen ’23. A Dance and English double major, Christensen is a member of the Media, Rhetoric, and Communications Pathway. Though Christensen is not a member of an inherently arts-related pathway or center, Christensen worked to keep her study of arts as relevant as possible.

In her presentation, Christensen showcases her experience in her two main interests: journalism and dance. She highlights how the internships she has had in journalism connect with the experiences she has had in dance. “My animating question is how arts and culture reporting can reflect what society values at the time and also how it influences what society values over time,” said Christensen. To answer this question, Christensen draws on what she has learned through her internships she has had with media outlets such as Final Bow for Yellowface, The Oslo Desk, and Pointe Magazine.

Christensen was drawn to the Media, Rhetoric and Communications Pathway because it allowed her the opportunity to study topics surrounding journalism. “I joined the pathway because there is no other journalism related anything on the campus,” said Christensen. “[The pathway] would focus my studies so I could take my English and Dance majors and try to combine them,” she added.

On another note, Moqu Alqudah ’23 created an original dance show for his Ammerman Center project. A Dance major, Alqudah’s production is titled “The Infinitive Cracked Hourglass: A Dance of Retrospection.” His production showcases the many techniques Alqudah has learned over the years in dancing and the tech skills he has learned from the Ammerman Center. “I started working on my project sophomore year,” said Alqudah. “Initially, I wanted to do a dance film, and then it kind of formed into doing a piece, and now I’m doing a whole show,” he continued.

Alqudah fully choreographed his own show, and it will feature aspects of production design including lights, wearable technology, and sets made of wood. Alqudah said that the many challenges he has had to face in the Dance Department as a non-classically trained dancer motivated him to create his production. “The gist of the piece is how the interactions over the past four years bled into my life and in my heart,” he shared.

Like Alqudah, Adham Khalifa ’23 is also a member of the Ammerman Center. Khalifa’s project is titled “Scene Description” and focuses on music technology. “My project aims to create a new form of engagement in musical performances that can allow people to experience music differently through haptics and visuals using computer vision and sound processing,” said Khalifa. Though initially unsure of his project’s subject, Khalifa found inspiration online. “I was watching a video about a deaf musician and was curious to learn how the deaf community developed ways to experience music through haptics,” said Khalifa. “Then, I thought about how the computer could help improve this experience by giving more details about a musical performance,” he added.

Coincidentally, fellow Ammerman Center member Lana Tilke ’23 stumbled across her project medium online. “I landed on the medium of stained glass as a possibility [for my project] through the Instagram explore page and stained glass artists,” said Tilke. An Astrophysics major and Math and Computer Science double minor, Tilke focused on reflecting astronomical art and science communication through stained glass in their project. “Over the summer I did a research internship at the University of California Berkeley as a part of their SETI research institute,” said Tilke. “My work there as well as my previous interests in the field made me want to tell the story of SETI through art and technology,” they expressed.

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The fall semester becomes segmented between Fall and Thanksgiving break, rapidly transitioning from New London beach trips to leaves covering Tempel Green and culminating in snowy treks from your dorm to Shain library. The semester is flying by, and this edition marks our third of six for the semester. Midterms are similarly well under way, as morning walks to class are quickly beginning to warrant a light jacket. With one break under our belt, Conn students should be feeling rejuvenated and looking forward to the next long weekend.

Many things, however, stay the same. Squirrels continue to run rampant on campus, rummaging through leaf piles and providing constant joy, or angst, for students on a daily basis. Student burnout remains on a slow, agonizing grind, explored by contributing writer Edin Sisson ’23, in her Opinions article about the taxing intersection between classes, extracurriculars, and jobs on campus. The food on campus, accompanied by long lines and Conn-tainers, remains bang average, while brewing issues about staffing and equipment no longer go unnoticed with coverage from Marc Stern ’23.

With the All-College Symposium just around the corner, Kevin Lieue ’26, previews performances across interdisciplinary genres of the Arts. Halloween also looms, and if your dorm room pregame needs a playlist to match, the editors have put together more than four hours of tunes… QR code on page 18. In similarly spooky fashion, News Editor Ellie Wagner ’23 finds the best ghost-hunting spots near campus.

Many things change as the semester rumbles on, while other, typical features of Connecticut College, continue to bring students joy amidst the rigors of our day to day. The College Voice, as always, strives to cover what’s most important to our student body, achievable only through participation from you all. Instead of airing your grievances on Yik Yak or ranting in Coffee Grounds, come to our pitch meetings, starting on Sunday, October 23, and continuing every other Sunday for the rest of the semester. If you can’t make the meetings, send us an email with your thoughts and ideas. Pitch an idea, pick up a story, and participate in the ongoing conversation on campus.

Good luck on midterms,
Sam Maidenberg
The Freedom to Create: Interdisciplinary Arts Symposium Projects

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Though difficult, the project idea grew on Tilke over time. “I got really excited about [my project] especially in connection to astronomy because astronomy is all about light filtering through glass,” said Tilke. “So to tie in that visceral aspect of what astronomy with the material I’m creating my art with has felt like I’m participating in something a little bigger than just my project,” Tilke continued.

Tilke was drawn to the Ammerman Center because of the opportunity it allowed them to combine interdisciplinary study. “The Ammerman Center was the reason why I ended up choosing to come to Connecticut College,” said Tilke. “Interdisciplinary work is something I’ve always been interested and involved in and I immediately knew I wanted to be involved with the Ammerman Center,” they shared.

Though having so much freedom in something as important as a final project can be daunting for many, these seniors and many more presenters at the All-College Symposium have been able to truly combine their interdisciplinary passions into their passion-filled projects.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3

ALL-COLLEGE SYMPOSIUM 2022

8:30 AM-3:30 PM INFORMATION DESK & SYMPOSIUM EXTRAS!
9 AM-12 PM PRESENTATIONS
12:00-1 PM LUNCH BREAK
1-4 PM PRESENTATIONS
4:00-4:45 PM END-OF-DAY CELEBRATION (’62 ROOM)

FOR SCHEDULE AND DETAILS: conncoll.edu/connections/all-college-symposium
Download Guidebook for Detailed Schedule:

Much-room for Mushrooms: Mystic Holds Annual Wild Mushroom Festival

Grace Contreni Flynn
Opinions Editor

Calling all fungi fans! Whether you favor lilac boletes or chicken of the woods, you were guaranteed to find the wild mushroom of your dreams at the October 15th Wild Mushroom Festival in Mystic. The festival is a signature Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center event and aims to highlight the wilderness of Connecticut as well as raise money for the Nature Center’s various programs. The Nature Center resides on over 300 acres, including the nearby Coogan Farm, and uses the land to host a variety of nature-oriented events year-round. It is a non-profit preserve, animal sanctuary, and educational space. As a result, all of their events are fully staffed by volunteers. Aside from the Wild Mushroom Festival, it is perhaps the most well-known for its outdoor education programs which range from birding afternoons to regular hikes. While these events usually attract a steady crowd of participants, this year’s Wild Mushroom Festival was undoubtedly one of the most popular events in recent history.

The festival lands on National Mushroom Day and is part of a larger, week-long celebration of wild mushrooms at the Nature Center. “Mushrooms are kind of everywhere,” said Anna Sawin, the Director of Communications at the Nature Center. Thanks to a rising interest in mushroom foraging and general mushroom-themed items during lockdown, the festival saw massive success this year and sold out two days before it was held. “All we had to do was announce that we were having it and people started buying tickets. It really seems like people have been waiting for it to come back,” noted Sawin. The keynote speaker at the Wild Mushroom Festival this year was Amy Demers, who founded the Connecticut Foraging Club in early 2021 and did not have a particular interest in foraging until the pandemic. Demers’ club, along with many other groups across the state, is host to regular mushroom foraging events and educational sessions.

The Wild Mushroom Festival experienced a bit of remodeling this year given that the event had not been held in-person since 2019. Due to ongoing Covid-19 concerns, the festival was limited to about 400 attendees. However, this limitation did not put a damper on the festivities. In fact, the festival was at its liveliest in years. Groups like the Connecticut Foraging Club provided plenty of inspiration

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Much-room for Mushrooms: Mystic Holds Annual Wild Mushroom Festival

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For new activities and the Nature Center was able to invite 25 new vendors to the artisan market for a total of 37 vendors on site. This made for an eclectic selection of mushroom-themed wares which were on-sale throughout the day.

On the day of the festival, attendees followed a rugged path through the forest preserve, crossing streams and coming upon rescued hawks housed in broad cages. The trekkers walked until they were eventually greeted by the sound of folk music and the smell of mushroom stew wafting over the trees as they entered the rustic dale where the festival was held. According to one attendee, “the full experience was akin journeying through an enchanted forest and coming upon a hidden fairy gathering.” Once inside the festival grounds, mushroom fans could be found wandering the woods with Amy Demers, sitting through forager Keith Kelly’s mushroom identification table, or inside a small cabin attending wild mushroom talks hosted by a range of experts. There were three main clearings with two operating as satellite spaces to one larger field. Various vendors bordered each of the clearings.

Among the vendors in attendance was Ellen Perry Hammen of Sweet Art Attack Ceramics. Hammen was contacted by the Nature Center this past summer with an invitation to sell her mushroom-themed dishware at the festival. She predominantly sells online, however in speaking with her on-site, she expressed gratitude for the opportunity to meet her patrons in person. Nikki Saccoccia, another artisan, was at the festival representing her business NatureHappyMe. Saccoccia was selling birch bark earrings and art prints. “A lot of my work is inspired by my wildlife photography. Actually, mainly photos taken here on this property at the Nature Center,” said Saccoccia of her art. Along with mushrooms, her prints depict owls who live in the sanctuary at the Nature Center and represent the seven years that she spent working there as an environmental educator. A slew of local eateries were represented as well including BleuSquid which is a breakfast, lunch, and bakery cafe in Olde Mistick Village. The owner of the BleuSquid, Gail Filippetti, was on-site serving mushroom dip and rosemary focaccia to attendees.

Those who were unable to attend the festival and are intrigued by the opportunity to experience the magic of the preserve first-hand are in luck. Autumn is an eventful season for the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center with the Spooky Nature Trails coming up on October 21st and 22nd. Additionally, if reading this article has given you the mushroom bug, the Connecticut College Arboretum is packed with a variety of seasonal mushrooms including jelly ear and chanterelles. It is advised, though, to attend a mushroom foraging session with a group such as the Connecticut Foraging Club prior to taking off on your own wild adventure.

A Ghost Hunter’s Guide to the Ghosts of CT

Spooky season is upon us, and with that comes increased interest in the paranormal. This year, the state of Connecticut was deemed the “most haunted state.” I decided to take a look into just how haunted our little state truly is. A piece in the CT Post titled “Haunted Connecticut” led down a fascinating rabbit hole of research into the spooky spirits lurking throughout our area. Nora Swensoni’s 2009 article for The College Voice, titled “Campus Safety Officers Reveal the Most Haunted Spaces on Campus” offered some insight into the ghosts that may be calling our campus home.

First of all, avid student ghost hunters need look no further than our very own Connecticut College campus. There are several buildings and spaces that are reportedly haunted. The general consensus among students and staff members is that the most haunted building is Knowlton. There are many stories as to why this is, with the most popular being about a student who hung herself after being rejected by a Coast Guard cadet. Perhaps the most well-known college ghost is the spirit of an old woman that lingers in Palmer Auditorium. She is referred to as Claire or Ruth, and has been seen occupying a seat in the upper balcony. The recent renovation and re-opening of Palmer leaves students wondering what our friend Claire thinks of the new space. In addition to Knowlton and Palmer, there have been reports of spooky encounters in Harkness, Freeman, and Windham. Living in Windham this year, this makes me a bit uneasy. At one point while I was writing this article, my LED strip lights turned on and then off by themselves. I looked over and the remote was in its usual spot across the room. Perhaps it was simply an electronics malfunction, or perhaps it was a ghostly friend making me aware of their presence.

However, Conn is definitely not the only haunted place in our area. Just to the south of us sits the Seaside Sanitorium in Waterford. The sanatorium was built to house tuberculosis patients, specifically children. Designed in the 1930s, the now abandoned and decaying building sits upon the shores of the Long Island Sound. Ghost hunting sessions conducted inside the building have discovered evidence of the paranormal, including orbs and disembodied voices said to belong to former patients of the sanatorium. Due to the building’s stellar location, plans have been made to transform the property into a lodge. The architecture itself is quite beautiful, and with a bit of refurbishment it could be inhabitable again. However, will the spirits that remain appreciate being disturbed yet again?

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A Ghost Hunter’s Guide to the Ghosts of CT

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One may choose to dine at the Captain Daniel Packer Inn in Mystic in the hopes of spotting the ghost of an old sea captain who is known to linger around the premises. This restaurant is said to be near the site of the “Mystic Massacre,” where Connecticut colonial forces set fire to the Pequot village, blocked the only exits, and killed anyone who tried to escape. Hundreds of men, women, and children were killed in the massacre. With a history like this, it’s no wonder the site might hold lingering paranormal activity. Perhaps the spirits of those killed were drawn to the lively atmosphere of the inn, where they still reside today.

Outdoorsy folks may want to take a stroll through Devil’s Hopyard State Park in East Haddam, about 30 minutes from campus. The name gives its lore away; the Puritans believed that Satan hid among the trees in the park. This legend came from the appearance of potholes near the park’s waterfall. Though we can explain this phenomenon now using science, early settlers were baffled by it. Their story was that the devil himself walked by the falls and burned the holes in the stones as he walked away. Still, those that have visited the park have reported hearing demonic voices in the forest. Demonic lair or not, Devil’s Hopyard State Park also makes for a lovely autumn stroll through nature.

Another very well-known haunted site not far from Conn is the Norwich State Hospital. Fans of the show Ghost Hunters might remember this site, as it was featured in a 2010 episode. In fact, the hospital is regarded as one of the most haunted places in the nation. The hospital treated many different types of patients throughout its 92 years in operation and the property contained over 40 different buildings at one time. Some of the evidence captured here includes orbs, voices, and electromagnetic pulses. Visitors also recall experiencing chills throughout the buildings.

There are dozens of reportedly haunted sites in the state of Connecticut, and on our very own campus. If you wish to hunt for ghosts, there is no shortage of places to do so. However, always remember to be safe when seeking out the paranormal. Do your research, don’t enter abandoned or condemned buildings without permission, and take precautions to protect yourself. Happy ghost hunting, camels!

Floridian Camels Cope with Disaster

SOPHIA HOSFORD
STAFF WRITER

Hurricane Ian has ravaged the United States’ southeastern coastline. In Florida, damages have exceeded billions of dollars. Several native Floridians at Conn have been impacted by the hurricane and the overarching climate crisis.

According to Florida Governor Ron DeSantis’ office on September 28, “Ian is currently a Category 4 hurricane with maximum sustained winds of 155 miles per hour, nearing a category 5.”

By definition, a Category 5 hurricane will leave most of the impacted area uninhabitable for weeks or months. This displacement has already begun in Florida. Per the Miami Herald, 10,000 people are already in shelters due to the effects of Hurricane Ian.

Christian Jacobsen ’23 is from West Palm Beach, Florida. He lives on the east coast of Florida, where there was “no expectation to get hit by Ian.” The west coast of Florida has “a lot of old infrastructure and they were not prepared for a hurricane of this degree,” he added. Jacobsen has experienced hurricanes before, and most people don’t begin to take them seriously until they hit Category 3, he explained. Where Jacobsen lives on the east coast, most homes have been built with hurricanes in mind: “There most likely wouldn’t be homes floating away, as seen in Naples” he added.

Marcus Shestack ’26 is from Miami, Florida. Shestack tells us that the Miami area was not hit badly, but the city lent its “rescue and fire team to other cities,” such as Tampa and Fort Myers. In 2017, South Florida was hit by Hurricane Irma leading Shestack and his family to evacuate. After that, Miami began “raising roads on coastal communities in response to flooding and sea level rise.” Shestack has several friends attending college in Florida who have been greatly impacted, Shestack added that his friends got over a week of school off.

The same year that Irma struck Florida, Hurricane Harvey had a catastrophic impact on Louisiana and Texas. Houston native Miranda Medina ’26 was among those affected by the category 4 storm. “Water was leaking everywhere and there was molding,” she said. Medina’s cousins who live in Pasadena were forced to evacuate on account of their house flooding “had to be rescued” she explained. Medina recalled that the entirety of Houston was destroyed. There were no plumbers available to fix Medina’s destroyed bathroom for a year and a half. Medina added, “We couldn’t go to stores or turn on our electricity.”

In terms of adding solar panels and other preventative measures to mitigate the effects of hurricanes, Professor of Geoscience and Environmental Studies, Douglas Thompson believes it should be a no-brainer. “The climate is very conducive to solar down there… solar is a really viable option.” Given the mass destruction, rebuilding homes is a significant undertaking. Thompson believes that “they should be rebuilt with different standards in mind so that they’re elevated, higher above the ground than they were originally to try to lessen the damage that could be caused with the storm surge coming in.” Amending protocol and home standards could help protect residents on the west coast of Florida the same way they are protected on the east coast.

Some communities are prepared to handle hurricanes, but many are not. This is partly due to the increase in hurricanes and their intensity according to the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions. “With climate change, hurricanes are getting much stronger and dropping much more rain due to the warming atmosphere that holds more water,” says Government and Environmental Studies Professor Jane Dawson. The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) cites warmer ocean temperatures, rising air temperatures, sea level rise, and longer-lasting storms as a byproduct of climate change. These factors influence the severity of hurricanes. To mitigate the effects of climate change and its consequences, the NRDC advocates forgoing the burning of several nonrenewable energy options such as oil and gas in favor of more renewable, non-carbon emitting energy sources.

Despite the severity of both climate change and Hurricane Ian, Thompson is unsure if even this could change the minds of those who deny climate change. “If anything climate related should be very obvious it’s what’s going on out West with forest fires and drought. That’s been going on for 20 years now.” Undoubtedly, Thompson says, “The water shortage that’s taking place out there is undeniably a climate issue, and you’re still not necessarily seeing everyone react to that.”

Thompson advocates putting plans into place to reduce damage and catastrophic events like that of hurricanes even if they minimize resale value of homes or take a long time. Much of the practices in these communities are meant for attractiveness, but actually make things more dangerous. “They cut in canals so that boats can access the docks right next to homes… but that means the ocean surge can come right up all these channels and makes it easier to flood the homes.”

Even though Ian has caused mass destruction, Jacobsen believes that “with any large event, things will eventually return to normal.” Our climate, however, will not return to normal without significant changes in public policy as well as how we personally interact with our environment. Addressing climate change and the horrific destruction it creates is critical, now more than ever, as thousands of lives are being taken from California to Florida due to climate inaction.
Ya Think Ya Know a Guy: The Ned Fulmer Analysis

In 2018, Keith Habersberger, Ned Fulmer, Zach Kornfeld, and Eugene Lee Yang left the behemoth media corporation Buzzfeed to create their own company: 2nd Try LLC. The four men had worked together at Buzzfeed under the title “The Try Guys” and brought the moniker to their own business, trying everything from sampling the entire Panera Bread menu, to performing a drag show, to challenging a poker champion, and so much more.

As Keith and Zach noted on a recent podcast, The Try Guys premise was originally unique because it followed fairly average guys trying new things. However, as the brand grew, these four men became a whole lot less average. They have devoted fans, over 8 million subscribers on their Youtube channel, and are generally well-known, and their relatability is intrinsic to their appeal. The Try Guys are often distillled to a few base identifiers, and essentially represent a character of themselves. Each has a signature color, a few symbols, and some base components of their identity that make them an easily recognizable brand. Any Try Guys fan would know that Keith cares deeply for fried chicken, Zach is passionate about tea, Eugene has impeccable style, and Ned loves his wife.

Therefore, the Try Guys’ massive audience was shocked when it was revealed that Ned not only cheated on his wife, but did so repeatedly, with someone who works for him. This article is not to explain the drama of the situation, a quick google search can accomplish that. Instead, we will be analyzing why the general public – far beyond the most dedicated Try Guys fans – are so enraged that a medi- um-attractive, slightly annoying, white man cheated on his wife. The reason seems simple: we thought we knew who Ned was and we were wrong, but this situation can teach us more about monetizing identity and parasocial relationships.

Ned’s “character” on the Try Guys was centered on his identity as a husband and father. He frequently talked about his family, and they were often featured in Try Guys content and on his personal social media pages. His wife, Ariel Fulmer, is one of the hosts of a Try Guys podcast “You Can Sit With Us” and has frequent cameos on the channel. Over the years, Ariel has become a beloved part of the team, perhaps more so than her husband. As one TikTok creator analyzing the situation said, “The most interesting thing about Ned was always Ariel.” The Fulmers had a podcast about parenthood, published a “Date Night Cookbook” together, and have even hosted seminars about healthy relationships. Not only is Ned’s personal identity that of a caring and faithful husband, but his professional identity is too. In making the choice to marry these identities and monetize his relationship with Ariel, Ned made his wife his business partner. Yet, Ned and Ariel are not equal in these transactions. He was an owner of 2nd Try LLC, he was pre-established with Buzzfeed, and he was praised as a working father, while working mothers often face stigma. This inherent inequality, combined with Ned’s infidelity, transforms Ariel from a partner in his business, to an object of his business. This is not only upsetting because fans thought they knew Ned; it is upsetting because Ned’s Try Guys persona is meant to be a symbol of ideal fathers and husbands. He makes his living representing the model family man, so straying so far from that character feels that much more disingenuous. The person who was previously seen as charming because he couldn’t stop talking about how great his wife was, is now seen as a liar using the mother of his children to boost his image, ego, and bank account while he disrespects her, their marriage, and their children. Of course, this scandal would leave any observer feeling, well, scandalized, but Try Guys fans and even outsiders familiar with the guys feel betrayed not just because of Ned’s atrocious behavior but because it feels like they know him personally.

This scandal reminds us of the hard truth about fame: we think that we know famous people, but we don’t. Through their relatable content and comedy, we build parasocial relationships believing celebrities are our friends. This understanding, though, is just the persona of the celebrity, not a friendship. Fame splits the person into a persona, or who we think they are, and their real selves. When a celebrity acts outside of their persona, we are scandalized. We thought we actually knew them. There is also an element of nostalgia present in this scandal. The Try Guys’ audience is mainly people in their late teens and early twenties, many of whom watched The Try Guys on Buzzfeed, and followed the group’s transition to their own channel. This strengthens the parasocial relationships because as The Try Guys were growing their business, their fans were growing up. The Try Guys’ honesty and transparency through the process of starting their own company and beyond, made fans feel even more included in the real lives of Keith, Ned, Zach, and Eugene, which is a huge aspect of the group’s appeal. However, since some fans have been both invested in and looking up to these men for nearly a decade, this heartbreaking scandal feels personal. Ned and Ariel’s online presence, and monetization of their personal lives, gave people a license to take sides, become personally invested, and express both their outrage toward Ned and support for Ariel as though they are personal friends.

With all the media coverage on the celebrity couple, we can’t help but feel conflicted. The public loves a good story, but at what emotional cost to the real people involved? As entertaining as controversies are, they spark rumors, speculation, and in-fighting among the fan base on whose side to take. The truth is, it’s not our business to inquire, but we feel conflicted on how we regard celebrities. What is the function of a celebrity if not to entertain us? On the flip side, we do not know the nuances and complexities of Ariel and Ned’s personal lives, and we are not owed this information, even if we feel entitled to it. Already, Ariel’s Instagram comments have been flooded with people urging her to leave Ned without taking into account that she has children and a house with him, not to mention a will of her own. There has to be a middle ground of interacting with celebrities who have a positive impact on our lives without infringing on theirs.

In a recent podcast episode, Zach and Keith debriefed the whole situation candidly and casually. “I think that you are valid and okay to feel sad about this even though these are not people that you knew in real life,” Zach said, addressing fans directly. “I think that you are valid and okay to feel sad about this even though these are not people that you knew in real life,” Zach said, addressing fans directly. “I know that the word parasocial’s been thrown around a lot and then some people have tried to make you feel bad for having that parasocial attachment to begin with. You’re allowed to care about the content you watch and you’re allowed to care about us if we’ve had an impact on your life.”
Impacts of Burnout on Student Workers

Edin Sisson
Contributor

Joining as many clubs as possible, attending guest lectures, meeting new people, playing sports, making meaningful connections with professors, working on campus, and taking challenging courses are all aspects of college that are encouraged to students here at Conn. While many of us take on multiple extracurricular and academic engagements, we are not warned of the key to long term success in college: a work-life balance. Whether it be through admissions, the post office, athletics, or on-campus coffee shops, there are plenty of ways to earn some money through the school. As these jobs are lumped onto the growing pile of expectations for students, a major question looms: is it all sustainable?

To explore the topic of burnout among our student workers, I talked to a few students who work jobs as a part of their everyday schedule. For Hannah Boldt ’23, it was only in the accompaniment of varsity sports that she experienced burnout. Working 5-10 hours in the varsity weight room and gym, she now enjoys her job and is able to do homework while she works. Boldt appreciates the opportunity to learn as an aspiring colleague and conditioning coach. In contrast, her time playing for the women’s soccer team proved to be too much of a workload for one person to handle sustainably. In her words, “I have experienced burnout as a student, but not because of my job. It has been a result of balancing sports and large amounts of schoolwork. It happened when I felt like I didn’t have enough time in the day to accomplish both.” The sustainability of student life compounded with so many extracurricular expectations brings into question the presence of balance between students’ schedules and personal wellness.

Will Bryant ’23, a member of the men’s cross country team and the acappella group Connartists, has had similar experiences of working through burnout. As a barista at Coffee Grounds, he works about 9 hours a week in order to keep his commitments manageable. Will reflects that his enjoyment of his job is what allows it to be sustainable with his schedule as a busy student. He comments, “With how busy my schedule is, especially towards the end of the semester when I might have a lot of performances, my season is wrapping up, and I have big assignments due, it makes it hard to get excited to wake up early and work. The main reason for my burnout has been overcommitment, especially when I need to give my brain a rest.” Similarly to Boldt, Bryant has “experienced burnout in the past,” but has found the necessary tools to work through it and create a manageable lifestyle as a student worker.

Hungry Hungry Camels?

Marc Stern
Staff Writer

Hungry Hungry Camels are chomping away, but it doesn’t seem as though Connecticut College is ready to play just yet. In what should be a banner year in New London with a nearly complete return to normalcy from COVID, athletics looking stronger than they have ever been, and the largest freshman class this institution has ever seen, there are still some areas that need to be addressed. One of the most pressing issues is dining services. Only seniors remember the days when Toll House Pies were served on Thursday nights, when you could order turkey bacon at the grill in the mornings, and when we had more than one fully functioning dining hall where students could eat. However, these amazing food options, along with what feels like much of the dining services staff, quickly vanished when we were all sent into lockdown and have not returned.

Since the beginning of the school year, the lines at Harris for hot dinner around 6:30pm can take over 20 minutes just to get food, cutting into valuable studying time. When standing in an interminable Harris line, the large number of hungry students disproportionately outweighs the limited staff that often appear overwhelmed by the sheer mass of students. In speaking with several of the dining services members, some preferred to remain rather quiet about the matter, while others were willing to speak rather freely, with the most glaring and upsetting comment being “this place effing sucks.” They have also alleged that issues with their working conditions/how they are treated has been exacerbated since last year when the campus was reopened and most covid restrictions were lifted. It is quite upsetting to see the people who have worked so hard to make sure that students are well nourished and prepared to study effectively be treated this way.

Now that college is back in full swing, many workers have not returned after being put on reserve status, and now, there are not nearly enough workers to feed the students. The employee who stayed alleged the college is “mistreating the help” and they are “lacking the respect (they) deserve”. All this has contributed to the substantial decrease in dining halls (loss of Smith, Freeman, Knowlton, Burdick, and half of JA over the last 10 years, which has led to “a larger workload” on dining services members. Dining Admin Chris Manfredi explains that this is not due to lack of staffing, but has been done over the last 10 years as a way to increase dining options at Harris such as the wok station and vegetarian options.

That said, the equipment in Harris has not been refurbished since “around the 80s,” a rough guestimate of one dining services member and is desperately in-...
need of a major overhaul, something that the college has been trying to get done since COVID, but has been having supply chain issues. While many people think that these issues involve equipment such as the grill (which broke down last year), or the dishwasher (which broke down for a short time this year), it is the smaller equipment that also requires attention. A few years ago, dining services were given weights to measure the amount of food that they were serving. However, these were allegedly taken away by the College so that they didn’t have to know their carbon footprint and the sheer amount of food that we are wasting. Although it is great that this food is given to the less fortunate in the community at the end of each day, it might be better to portion control, budget our food a little more, and give fresher food to the New London community if needed. What dining services members are looking for is not more money, but to get “the necessary small equipment to be able to feed well”.

The issues kept growing and growing as I began looking around the actual facilities in Harris. “It feels as though they’re just trying to patch things up and not looking at all towards the future,” says one dining services member. This staff member also went on to say that the working conditions, cleanliness and quality of supplies/equipment are “not at all” suitable for either students or dining staff. There are holes in the ceiling as you walk in as well as where people are eating. There were mice crawling through the walls, which were only repaired with some duct tape. Within the first few weeks of this year, a heavy sign that was above the deli area fell about ten feet and injured a student, cutting up his back. If the College is planning to renovate Harris, then that should have been made a priority above Palmer, Tansill Theater or a new sign at the front entrance. The College is putting a band-aid on a major wound.

Despite all this, it is incredibly important to note that dining administration is trying to make Harris a better place, but the many in the hospitality industry have quit as a whole since COVID, and there are very few people who want to take their place. When I discussed this with dining services members, their reason for continuing to work at Conn was because they “love what they do and to help out the students”. On top of that, Manfredi stated that supply chain issues are hindering the College’s ability to meet all the required repairs.

Perhaps, rather than dramatically increasing the College’s investment portfolio for the future, the College should have a better balance between investing current students, faculty and staff. I spoke with a few students and alumni to see how they felt about how dining services has been doing this year compared to pre-covid, and one quote from Micaela O’Malley ’23 stuck with me: “It feels as though this college spends most of its resources advertising to make Conn look like a great place rather than actually making it the great place it has the potential of being”. The College should have more transparency about what goes on behind the curtain, have better treatment of dining service members and better treatment of the students that eat there. Most importantly, the college should create a panel of students, dining services and school administration to see what can be done for Conn to reach it’s full potential in the future.

Welcome to New England, It’s Wicked Cold

Connecticut College is home to students from all over the globe. While it may feel like the majority of us feed from New England, plenty of students come from outside of this six-state bubble. New England is known for its pristine and picturesque winters which are accompanied by bitter cold. Many Conn students aren’t used to these teeth-chattering winters; they come from warmer states or countries around the world. So, how does a student who’s never had a winter that’s dropped below 60 degrees Fahrenheit handle the Northeast cold? How does a student whose winters have consisted of 90 Fahrenheit heat waves and beach days prepare for a winter in New England?

Eli Craddock ’26 from Austin, Texas is getting ready to handle the challenge. An average day in Texas for him is about 90 degrees Fahrenheit, whereas a typical winter for him might drop down to 60 degrees Fahrenheit, and rarely hit the 30s or 40s, but it never involves snow. This cold starts for him in December and usually lasts until the end of January. Craddock takes trips with his family to Nebraska, where he’s experienced what a cold winter is like, but never for longer than a week.

“I like to layer, but I’m not a huge fan of the cold,” Craddock says. “I think [a New England winter] is going to be pretty rough for me the first time around. I feel like I will be fine, but I know that it’s going to get really cold, so it’s just going to be hard to get myself out of bed, put on a lot of clothes, and walk to class in the snow.”

In Texas, Craddock usually wears shorts in the winter, and occasionally pants. In preparation for a winter up in Connecticut, he has bought more pairs of pants and winter gear, such as coats. The activity he’s most looking forward to this winter is sledding, which will be a first-time experience for him. He’s most scared about walking to Harris in the cold, as a non-Plex resident.

Heading east from Texas, Marcus Shestack ’26 is from Miami, Florida. Year-round in Florida, temperatures range from 80 degrees Fahrenheit to the 100s. In the winter, it says on the lower end of that, while in the summer, it frequently breaks 100. Shestack has only been in snow once, so in preparation for a winter at Conn, he bought a winter jacket for the first time and already has plans to drink hot coffee to keep him warm this winter. He’s also looking forward to ice skating.

“I’m excited to see snow,” Shestack said. “I’m loving fall right now. I’ve never seen the leaves change, and I think it’s beautiful. I’m excited to experience the atmosphere and environment in winter.”

Now, surfing on over to the West Coast, Isabelle Di Liberti ’26 is originally from San Diego, California and lives there when she’s not at Conn. But, she’s lived all over, including Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Belgium. She’s experienced a West Coast, Midwest, East Coast, and Northern European winter, but has yet to see New England one.

“I feel very underprepared for the winter,” Di Liberti says. “People have told me about varying temperatures [they have experienced in the winter at Conn], so I don’t know what to expect. But, considering I get cold when it reaches 50 [degrees Fahrenheit], I’m a little worried.”

To prepare for the winter, Di Liberti plans to bundle up with lots of wool, her winter coat, and a few turtlenecks. While she can’t wait for the thrills of snow and sledding, she’s not looking forward to the dreaded snow sludge and bitter cold wind. Regardless of where they’re from, every student at Conn can look forward to a fun-filled, yet frigid winter. Students who haven’t experienced the cold in New England yet can expect lots of surprises: some picturesque, exhilarating, elegant, and crystalline, but some not as delightful. As long as you’ve got a winter coat, gloves, and some wool socks or hat, this winter should be a blast.
Small Marvels During My Senior Falls

Growing up in South Texas, I didn’t get to witness the rhythm of the seasons; there, the summer is “hot” and the winter, “not so hot.” In my last few years here in Connecticut, I have grown to cherish this beloved transition from the sticky summer heat to a sleepier September and beyond. Autumn is also an expression of mortality, a seasonal echo of doors that close – such as that of my undergraduate career.

When I truly reckoned with this at the start of the semester, I had a quasi-existential crisis. The fleeting nature of autumn mirrored the fleeting nature of my time in college. By mid-September, as fall took shape and time progressed in its defiant form, I wanted to reach out and put it on pause before each tree had gone bare. I know many fellow seniors that currently feel similar; our year is moving quickly and we are no stranger to the inevitable and albeit well-intentioned small talk: “so, what are your post-grad plans?” Which, even if we do have plans, complicates the balance between “staying in the now” and our looming postgraduate lives that are currently alight on the mind’s horizon. I was being reasonably dramatic in early September; it seemed “everyone” was applying to grad school, or preparing themselves for their long-established futures. Why was I so far behind? Ironically and unsurprisingly, this all-consuming desire to pause the present moment preoccupied the more precious ones I could have spent actually staying present.

What makes fall so beautiful is its impermanence. The sentiment of death and rebirth, the process that begins anew each year though never quite the same. Now, I do what I can to stay present. I write down my moments of gratitude, and I pay attention to sacred moments each day. There are subtle gifts of seniority: the longevity of my closest friendships, the cadence of the conversations in my senior-level classes, the fleeting time pushing us closer together. And, the joy of working with interested and interesting young writers at The College Voice, embodying their infectious eagerness.

In my final fall in college, I am spending much of my time in the arboretum on dewy mornings. The days are slowly set by the sun, its light falling softly on the golden and auburn trees, leaf-by-leaf falling to kiss the earth below. The view before me, so beautiful in its bounty, forces me to treasure these sacred moments.

In terms of my postgraduate future, I know what drives me, what excites me and what inspires me. I know I want to be a lifelong learner, and with this I feel equipped. Autumn is a meaning-making process, a reminder that the world will continue to turn, and there are efforts greater and more honorable than how I might make myself capitalistically successful the moment upon graduation. I am endlessly thankful for the seasons here in Connecticut, and the new spaces they provide me with so that I can grow anew.

Standing outside, where nothing feels so good as the sunlight cast on my skin, I am grounded and humbled by the change I get to witness before me. I hope to treat the passage of time as a reminder to stay present and close to what I love, and to take comfort in both the promise of regeneration and the beautiful ephemerality of seasons to come.

Lucie Englehardt
Managing Editor

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The College Voice

OCTOBER 21, 2022

10 • Sports

Pawns, Bishops, and... Anal Beads?

Adrien Prouty
News Editor

It's not often the chess world makes headlines, but the 2022 Sinquefield Cup (one of five tournaments in the annual World Chess Tour) did just that, and the game may never be the same. During the third round of the competition, on September 4th, Magnus Carlsen—the five-time World Chess Champion—lost to Hans Niemann, a 19-year-old from California. Carlsen first earned the title of Grandmaster at the age of 13. At 19, he ranked #1 in the International Chess Federation world rankings, the youngest person to ever do so at the time. Following what has been described as a “humiliating” defeat, Carlsen tweeted suspicions of Niemann cheating. Accusations and conspiracies then took the internet by storm. Some suggested Niemann could have a vibrating shoe insert. Some claimed he could have bribed the camera crew or arbiters (chess cheating monitors). One conspiracy gained particular momentum, especially after it was picked up by tech billionaire Elon Musk: Hans Niemann must have used anal beads to receive morse code messages from an observer, possibly with the assistance of a chess engine.

In an attempt to explore the feasibility of anal beads in this environment, I asked an anonymous source to share their opinion based on personal experience. I was initially interested in whether morse code or any code based on the number of vibrations would be intelligible when transmitted this way. They said it depends on the speed settings, how much space is between each vibration, how quick they are, etc. Likely, this sort of thing would take practice. I was also interested in how a set of beads could hypothetically be used indiscreetly in Niemann's place with his opponents in close proximity for an extended period of time. They said, “I think they make certain ones that are meant to be ‘discreet’ so I do think—if it was high quality enough—it could definitely be silent.” Though they added that it would depend on the setting of the vibration as well as the user’s clothes and seating cushion. In conclusion, a person could theoretically receive morse code vibrations through anal beads while those around them are unaware.

As far as the feasibility of a cheating method like this with the security measures of most high-stakes chess competitions, cheating seems unlikely. For example, chess competitions have arbiters present whose jobs are to watch players and ensure the integrity of the game. At the Sinquefield Cup, where questions of Niemann's integrity first received the spotlight, all participants were scanned with a metal detector wand on their front and back before play. Despite some reports, this measure was in place before Carlsen and Niemann played each other, as is evident in the recorded online streams of each day of the competition. Cameras for various news and chess broadcast services are also present to record nearly every angle of each board. Often, these competitions are broadcast with 15-30 minute delays as well to prevent people watching from being able to assist in cheating attempts. With these measures in mind, it seems as though successfully sneaking in and using anal beads to cheat would be quite difficult.

As with any other sport, cheating is taken very seriously. The International Chess Federation (FIDE) expressed their disagreement with the way Carlsen handled the situation but is opening an investigation into Niemann's previous over-the-board (aka in-person) games and playing history—something the organization has never done before. After analyzing whether or not there is justification for the cheating accusation, they will review Niemann's performances at other competitions. If no basis for the suspicions are found, however, there will be consequences for Carlsen’s accusations. Chess.com has also responded to these suspicions by publishing a 72-page report detailing Niemann's history on the platform including over 100 instances of cheating in online games. Chess.com has also stated that there are several other chess grandmasters that show evidence of cheating online but whom they will not reveal because there is no current investigation into their conduct. The report reveals cheating in online games before 2020, but no information about games since then. Chess.com does not have the authority or equipment to monitor in-person games, so the report is limited to games played online on the Chess.com platform.

Chess.com plans to purchase Magnus Play, Carlsen's mobile app where players can practice and learn chess techniques, for $82.9 million. The deal is set to close sometime in the upcoming weeks. How much this has influenced the report on Niemann is unclear. Chess.com declares its impartiality but others are skeptical. Chess.com user “HighestGorilla” in a comment under the report said, “The way it looks is: Carlsen mounted a campaign (rightly or wrongly) spurred by a shocking personal defeat, and Chess.com immediately followed suit.” They added that it “don’t smell right.” Another user, Eduar-do Santander, agreed, saying “Chess.com & Carlsen have manipulated the information, two heavyweights against a lightweight like Niemann. A sporting disgrace.”

Niemann responded to Carlsen’s initial accusation by saying “Chess.com does Santander, agreed, saying “Chess.com & Carlsen have manipulated the information, two heavyweights against a lightweight like Niemann. A sporting disgrace.”

As for now, Hans Niemann and Magnus Carlsen, as well as the rest of the world’s chess grandmasters, are preparing for the 2023 World Chess Championship. At this time, the greatest impact of these cheating allegations is on the reputations of the two players, which is not to be understated. The reputation of a player can ruin their future in chess since many tournaments are invite-only and will not permit untrustworthy players to attend. Much rests on the results of the FIDE investigation which may determine the future for Niemann and Carlsen. Will Hans Niemann be found out as a chess charlatan or a promising prodigy? Are Carlsen’s allegations reflections of his insecurities and jealousy or is he justly protecting the sanctity of the game of chess? Only time will tell. •
It feels like just yesterday that the Golden State Warriors were lifting the Larry O’Brien Trophy on the parquet floor of TD Garden in Boston to cap off their fourth title in the past eight seasons, but just like that, NBA basketball is upon us once again. The upcoming season brings plenty of intriguing storylines: drama for the Nets and Lakers, the race to the bottom for generational draft prospect Victor Wembanyama, and, of course, the question of who will raise the Larry O’Brien trophy next June. Here we will be focusing on the top three contenders from each conference who could realistically make the NBA Finals.

Eastern Conference:

Milwaukee Bucks:
The 2021 NBA Champions come into the season as the consensus favorite to represent the Eastern Conference in this season’s Finals. Many feel that if Khris Middleton, their second-best player, hadn’t been injured in last year’s playoffs they would have made it to the Finals and potentially beaten Golden State. Milwaukee has an elite core, centered around the consensus best player in the world, Giannis Antetokounmpo, the aforementioned Middleton, and star defensive guard Jrue Holiday. If healthy, they should be viewed as the favorites to come out of the East, but if any of those three miss time in the playoffs there is a real question of whether or not there is enough depth in Milwaukee’s supporting cast to pick up the slack.

Boston Celtics:
Last season’s Eastern Conference champions are returning all of their key players from last season’s run to the Finals, and they added important depth and ball-handling with the addition of veteran point guard Malcolm Brogdon via a trade with the Indiana Pacers. The Celtics have a lot of continuity heading into this season; stars Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown will lead the way. Defensive Player of the Year Marcus Smart and key shot blocker Robert Williams will buoy an elite defense. However there is a cloud hanging over the Celtics heading into the season. Head coach Ime Udoka has been suspended for the entire season due to what the team describes as a “consensual yet inappropriate” relationship with a female member of the Celtics’ staff. Udoka was widely credited with turning around the Celtics last season, and it remains a big question whether or not the team will be able to reach the same heights with inexperienced interim head coach Joe Mazulla at the helm.

Philadelphia 76ers:
Philadelphia was largely a disappointment in last season’s playoffs after a lackluster flameout against the Miami Heat in the second round. After acquiring veteran star shooting guard James Harden from the Brooklyn Nets to pair with MVP candidate center Joel Embiid midway through last season, expectations were at least a berth in the Eastern Conference Finals. Embiid struggled to stay healthy in the playoffs, and the aging Harden looked like a shell of his former self, appearing out of shape for much of the season. Coming into this year, Harden appears to have himself in better shape, and though he may not be the MVP candidate he used to be, he can still be a top twenty player in the league and an effective running mate for the dominant Embiid (provided, of course, that they can both stay healthy). Philadelphia also will rely heavily on a blossoming star in the form of third year guard Tyrese Maxey, and two...
Draymond’s Punches, the Celtics’ Coaches, and Injury Returns

key defensive aces: Matisse Thybulle and the recently acquired PJ Tucker.

Western Conference:

Golden State Warriors:
Last season’s champions are playing with house money. The legacy of their dynasty’s stars, Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson, and Draymond Green is secure after last season’s title. The Warriors can now get greedy. Along with the aforementioned three stars, they are returning most of last season’s key pieces, such as key forward Andrew Wiggins, veteran center Kevon Looney, and emerging star combo guard Jordan Poole. They accounted for the losses of Gary Payton II and Otto Porter Jr. to free agency by signing Donte DiVincenzo and JāMychal Green. The Warriors will also count on more contributions from emerging young role players Moses Moody, Jonathan Kuminga, and James Wiseman. Potential concerns are the age of the core, of course; Curry will be 35 by the time the playoffs roll around, and Thompson and Green aren’t far behind him. There is also the potential concern of team comraderie after a recent training camp incident where Green got into a physical altercation with Poole, ultimately punching the young guard. While the tussle certainly wasn’t what the Warriors wanted coming into a title defense, if any team has the infrastructure to effectively handle it, it is the Warriors. The Warriors will likely coast through the regular season and not worry too much about seeding, prioritizing the health of their stars heading into the playoffs. Despite any concerns, Curry’s stardom and the Warriors’ championship pedigree and experience should make them the early favorite to come out of the West.

Los Angeles Clippers:
The Clippers missed the playoffs last year after an injury riddled year in which superstar forward Kawhi Leonard didn’t play all season while co-star Paul George was used sparingly. Now, both are healthy, and the Clips have a deep roster to complement them. They have no shortage of lengthy athletic wings: George, Leonard, Nicolas Batum, Robert Covington, Terrance Mann and Norman Powell can cause teams fits on defense, and they have two solid veteran ball handlers in the form of Reggie Jackson and John Wall. Although many analysts have rushed to crown the Clippers as the favorites in the West, it’s important not to overlook the injury concerns with Leonard and George; both of them have rarely put together fully healthy seasons in the past five years, and George has long had a reputation for disappearing in the playoffs. Additionally, all of their key rotation players (with the exception of Mann) are on the wrong side of thirty years old. The ceiling on this team is incredibly high, but the floor is also a lot lower than most will acknowledge.

Denver Nuggets:
Denver is buoyed by back-to-back MVP center Nikola Jokic, who is undisputedly one of the top three players in the world, along with Antetokounmpo and Curry. What makes them a title contender this year compared to last season is the returns of young star guard Jamaal Murray from an ACL tear he suffered in the 2021 season and of young swingman Michael Porter Jr. They will have an incredibly high regular season ceiling due to Jokic’s absolute dominance. The big concern with Denver will be their playoff defense, where Jokic has often been exposed in the past. Murray and Porter Jr. aren’t good defenders either. The Nuggets are hoping that the additions of defensive-oriented role players such as Kentavious Caldwell-Pope and Bruce Brown will help improve that defense to a championship caliber to match that of their elite offense.

Projected Regular Season Standings:

Eastern Conference:
Philadelphia 76ers
Milwaukee Bucks
Boston Celtics
Cleveland Cavaliers
Brooklyn Nets
Toronto Raptors
Atlanta Hawks
Miami Heat
Detroit Pistons
New York Knicks

Western Conference:
Denver Nuggets
Golden State Warriors
Los Angeles Clippers
Minnesota Timberwolves
Phoenix Suns
Memphis Grizzlies
Dallas Mavericks
New Orleans Pelicans
Los Angeles Lakers
Sacramento Kings

Projected NBA Finals
Golden State Warriors over Milwaukee Bucks in seven games •
Spotlight on NFL Concussions Brightens

Leo Saperstein
Staff Writer

Tua Tagovailoa's career nearly ended on the football field, and the NFL completely turned a blind eye. On September 29, a Thursday night game against the Cincinnati Bengals, Miami Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa was sacked and thrown forcefully to the ground. Tagovailoa stayed down for nearly three minutes in a fencing position before being carted off of the field.

The week before, Tagovailoa had taken a late hit from Bills linebacker Matt Milano which led to him appearing concussed. He was able to get back up, but then nearly collapsed after losing his balance soon after. Tagovailoa was removed from the game and backup quarterback Teddy Bridgewater played the rest of the first half.

In a surprise to many, Tagovailoa played the second half of the game against Buffalo. Tua seemed fine, but this prompted a lot of questions. Why was Tua playing? It seemed like he could barely walk, let alone command an offense with the hit he took. Considering the NFL has already been under scrutiny, one would think that they would take such a scary incident more seriously instead of letting the Dolphins rush their franchise player. Unfortunately, nobody in the Dolphins organization did the right thing and had Tagovailoa sit out the rest of the game.

The doctors involved came to the rather quick conclusion that the issue the former Heisman Trophy finalist was dealing with was a back injury. However, the way he stumbled after he took his hit against the Bills was clearly a neurological issue to those who were watching. Those concerns made by the football world were all but confirmed the following Thursday when Tagovailoa had to be carried off the field on a stretcher after the scary moment the football world witnessed. It was shown right then and there that Tua should not have been anywhere near the football field that night.

Throughout this saga, the conversation of concussions in the NFL has been revived as a large-scale issue. What happened during the Dolphins’ Thursday night game shows that despite the recent lack of activity on this topic, concussions are still a real issue for the NFL and one of the most prominent dangers of playing football, and the NFL still does not entirely take the issue seriously.

Many experts expressed their concerns about how the Dolphins handled Tua’s injury. Neuroscientist and former WWE wrestler Dr. Chris Nowinski sounded the alarm on Twitter about Tagovailoa’s injury several times throughout the week leading up to the game against the Bengals.

“If Tua takes the field tonight, it’s a massive step back for #concussion care in the NFL,” he said in a tweet. “If he has a 2nd concussion that destroys his season or career, everyone involved will be sued & should lose their jobs, coaches included. We all saw it, even they must know this isn’t right.”

Dr. Nowinski was one of the first prominent figures to say that he did not believe the injury of the former first-round pick was a back injury.

“Watch the vid,” he tweeted, “Tua shakes his head multiple times to ‘clear the cobwebs,’ which is a specific sign of vision impairment after #concussion. He also wobbles getting up before falling. His return is a fail #NFL.”

Tagovailoa may have cleared NFL concussion protocols, but they have always been sketchy, and this instance once again proves that protocols should be reviewed. It never takes three days to recover from such a blow. He simply should not have been playing.

The final straw for many fans was when Tagovailoa was laid out after the sack in a fencing position. It disturbed many watching.

“It was awful. Made my stomach churn,” a lifelong Dolphins fan told me, “I had to turn off the game I was so disturbed by the hit. The guy slammed Tua to the ground. There was no need for that.”

He stated that he lost all enthusiasm for the game after seeing Tagovailoa carted off. According to an Associated Press report, the NFL Player’s Association (NFLPA) later fired the independent neurotrauma specialist. This all but confirmed that Tua’s injury was not a back issue, but a serious neurological issue.

A few days later, Dr. Bennet Omalu, who inspired the movie “Concussion” starring Will Smith, told TMZ Sports that Tua should stop playing football altogether and retire.

“If you love your life, if you love your family, you love your kids…it’s time to gallantly walk away,” Omalu said in an interview with TMZ, “Go find something else to do.”

The NFL and NFLPA both released statements, along with the opening of a joint investigation into the handling of Tua’s severe situation. This also received a lot of skepticism, especially from former NFL players.

When the NFLPA said that player safety is important to them, Former Charger quarterback Ryan Leaf tweeted in response, “THE F— IT IS!! Stop pushing out your and the NFLs propaganda. You are just as complicit in what happened. How do you look at yourselves in the mirror?”

Tagovailoa’s freak injury once again raises the predicate of concussions in the NFL, as well as Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE), which has been found in many former NFL players.

Joe Burrow, the Cincinnati Bengals quarterback, also weighed in on concussions and other injuries in the NFL.

“I’ve been hit and forgot the rest of the game,” Burrow said on the Colin Cowherd Podcast, “That has happened a couple of times.” In the same podcast, he said sometimes forgot the entire second half of the game.

Burrow’s remarks are shocking, but not surprising, considering also the long-lasting effects of big hits.

One prime example of this is former all-pro wide receiver, Antonio Brown. Brown is mostly known nowadays for his many off-the-field antics. However, after taking a massive blow to the head by Bengals linebacker Vontaze Burfict in a 2015 Divisional Round game, he simply has not been the same.

It is believed that Brown got permanent brain damage from Burfict’s hit, which may have driven many of his impulsive and outlandish actions on and off the field. Even his interviews were drastically different compared to before the hit in the way he spoke, the way he delivered himself, and his overall demeanor. And it’s a shame because he was easily on a trajectory for the Hall of Fame.

As for Tagovailoa, this is already a make-or-break year for him as the potential franchise quarterback for Miami, and the lack of awareness by coach Mike McDaniel, general manager Chris Grier, owner Stephen Ross, and the organization, for his health and well-being might come back to haunt him and the Dolphins.

The hit Tua endured could possibly result in permanent neurological damage, which would affect not only the rest of his career, but the rest of his life. These types of injuries are career-threatening, and the NFL needs to take action quickly before they start losing more fans.
After graduating from Conn in 2002, Robbie Guertin started playing in an indie rock band called Clap Your Hands Say Yeah (CYHSY). The band released its first album in 2005. Guertin left the band in 2012 after releasing three more albums and going on several tours. 20 years later, Guertin is still working as an artist, graphic designer, and musician. Guertin designed album art, promotional items, and merchandise for CYHSY as well as for his two side projects, Radical Dads and Uninhabitable Mansions, and is now working as a freelance designer and illustrator. He has worked on several accounts for big companies like Spotify and Healthline.

SH: You acted as designer and occasional artist for CYHSY as well as for your two side projects. Is that something you knew you wanted to do beforehand, or did it kind of fall in your lap and you took on artistic responsibility?

RG: I always liked doing the art side of being in a band just as much as the music. It’s a great excuse to make stuff - you always need posters, album art, t-shirts, whatever else you can think of. Since I was an Art major at Conn, I had access to all the facilities at Cummings, so I would make all the posters and art and what not for my bands there, whether it was a print or a drawing or designing something digitally. When I started with CYHSY I just automatically fell into that role, and since we were always a pretty DIY operation and because I enjoyed it, I kept on doing it. It was the same with my other bands Uninhabitable Mansions and Radical Dads.

SH: You majored in Art at Conn; did you develop a passion for art in college or before? Did you explore other disciplines while at college?

RG: I wasn’t totally sure what I wanted to do, but I was always leaning towards Art. My first year I took an art class each semester. My second year I took two... by the end it was pretty much all art. The one thing I stumbled into was Computer Science. When I started, I was just doing it to fill a requirement and it was looking like I might have to drop the class because I wasn’t understanding anything, and then I somehow turned a corner and figured it out and got through the first course, then ended up almost doing a minor in it. I didn’t quite make it to the minor, but it did lead me to the C@T program, which I did complete, and it has definitely been useful to have a good foundational understanding of computers as they’ve gradually taken over so many parts of our lives these days.

SH: What made you pick Conn?

RG: I was deciding between Conn and Skidmore, and they both seemed like good fits for me. I spent a night at both before coming, and I just got better vibes from CC, so I went for it.

SH: When did you meet your CYHSY bandmates?

RG: I met everyone at Conn, though they were all one or two years ahead of me, so I didn’t hang out with them too much there since we only overlapped a bit. Mostly I knew them all through bands they were in and MOBROC. Everyone was constantly forming and joining and leaving and breaking up bands. Lee ‘02 and Tyler Sargent ‘02 were in a band called Clown Down, among many others, and I was their biggest fan. I remember one of Alec’s bands doing a great cover of “Psycho Killer” at a show at The Barn one night. Sean was an amazing guitar player and singer and was in a bunch of bands, including the Guns and Roses tribute band Mr. Brownstone, but he wanted to try the drums, so he also played drums for the first time in a band with me called Robots in Disguise. I also joined a band called Made in Canada that Tyler was in too after he had graduated. After school we all eventually ended up in New York City, where I did a few random projects with Tyler and Sean, and eventually CYHSY came together.

SH: 20 years after your graduation, do you feel connected to the college and its community?

RG: Most of my best friends I met at CC, so that has been my main connection to the school.

SH: How did your art courses at Conn prepare you/teach you about pursuing art professionally?

RG: Working sort of in between the illustration and design worlds, I see a lot of artists who aren’t very comfortable on the design side of things, and a lot of designers who don’t have very solid drawing fundamentals. CC helped me build a solid foundation in both of those directions and has helped me feel confident in whatever new project I’m taking on. I also feel confident working in both physical and digital directions, which was again all thanks to all the different directions I was able to explore in the Conn Art department. I got a solid foundation in drawing from Professors McCabe and Hendricks, I was able to explore lots of different techniques and mediums in the printmaking studio with Professor McDowell, and I always remember Professor Wollensak’s focus on teaching design, not just how to use the different programs, which are of course always changing and evolving.

SH: Can you remember your favorite classes or spots on campus?

RG: I spent most of my time either in Cummings, in the MOBROC barn, hanging out at WCNI, or playing club soccer.

SH: Out of all the accounts and projects you’ve worked on, which are you most proud of?

RG: I’m generally more partial to my personal projects and bands, which are more labors of love. I’ve made some music videos for my band Radical Dads, and for the video for Institution I did all the drawings all by hand on paper with colored pencils and I was pretty proud of how that turned out. With my professional projects, I’m usually most excited about whatever the most recent stuff is. My more recent projects with OutSchool and Cookies have been more on the illustration and animation side of the spectrum, so that has been fun.

RG: I always liked doing the art side of being in a band just as much as the music. It’s a great excuse to make stuff - you always need posters, album art, t-shirts, whatever else you can think of. Since I was an Art major at Conn, I had access to all the facilities at Cummings, so I would make all the posters and art and what not for my bands there, whether it was a print or a drawing or designing something digitally. When I started with CYHSY I just automatically fell into that role, and since we were always a pretty DIY operation and because I enjoyed it, I kept on doing it. It was the same with my other bands Uninhabitable Mansions and Radical Dads.

SH: You majored in Art at Conn; did you develop a passion for art in college or before? Did you explore other disciplines while at college?

RG: I wasn’t totally sure what I wanted to do, but I was always leaning towards Art. My first year I took an art class each semester. My second year I took two... by the end it was pretty much all art. The one thing I stumbled into was Computer Science. When I started, I was just doing it to fill a requirement and it was looking like I might have to drop the class because I wasn’t understanding anything, and then I somehow turned a corner and figured it out and got through the first course, then ended up almost doing a minor in it. I didn’t quite make it to the minor, but it did lead me to the C@T program, which I did complete, and it has definitely been useful to have a good foundational understanding of computers as they’ve gradually taken over so many parts of our lives these days.

SH: Did you learn to play instruments at Conn or before? If before, at what age?

RG: I sang in my church choir, had some piano lessons, and played trumpet through middle school, and mostly just learned guitar on my own in high school. The MOBROC barn was such a great asset for meeting people and practicing and forming bands and all that. Since there were usually a bunch of drum sets set up in there, I ended up going in there on my own a lot during my senior year and started to figure out how to play drums. I got better as I went along, but it was definitely crucial to have that initial time/space to get the ball rolling.

SH: Out of all the accounts and projects you’ve worked on, which are you most proud of?

RG: I’m generally more partial to my personal projects and bands, which are more labors of love. I’ve made some music videos for my band Radical Dads, and for the video for Institution I did all the drawings all by hand on paper with colored pencils and I was pretty proud of how that turned out. With my professional projects, I’m usually most excited about whatever the most recent stuff is. My more recent projects with OutSchool and Cookies have been more on the illustration and animation side of the spectrum, so that has been fun.
Nasty Women Connecticut Create Nasty, Beautiful Art

IN THE LOBBY OF Cummings Arts Center, there is art. Not renaissance portraits or impressionist landscapes or pristine marble statues. Instead, there are sculptures made of old clothes and used tampons, paintings of women asleep in an idealized Garden of Eden and standing atop a funeral pyre, waving a flag. There is art born from the powerful intersection of anger and hope.

This art installation, “The Will to Change: Gathering as Praxis,” was created by Nasty Women Connecticut (NWCT), an organization with the goal of creating “inclusive platforms for community-building through the arts,” according to the NWCT website. “The Will to Change,” currently in its sixth iteration, was influenced by the writings of feminist bell hooks. Following hooks’ death in Dec. 2021, NWCT dedicated this exhibit to the work and thoughts espoused by bell hooks, holding at its core hooks’s belief that “healing does not take place in isolation.”

In every iteration, “The Will to Change” aims to include work from artists of any kind to wrestle with the current attacks on women’s rights occurring around the world. Following the recent death of Mahsa Amini in Iran and the overturn of Roe v. Wade in June, along with myriad other acts of sexism happening worldwide, “The Will to Change” makes us think more deeply about these issues and ask ourselves how art can be a vessel for social change. The exhibit also sparks thoughts about how we as a community can more deeply engage with the issues and questions raised by the pieces of art, and how the art itself needs to grow and change in order to better address such issues.

NWCT wants their art to push the boundaries of what “feminist art” can be, what questions it can ask, aiming to further embody bell hooks’ hope of what feminist studies really are, as was written in her book “Feminism is for Everybody”: “Imagine a mass-based feminist movement where folks go door to door passing out literature...to explain to people what feminism is all about.” Beyond finding a way to embody hooks’ teachings, NWCT asks a vital question in “The Will to Change”: What do we do after we exit? This exhibit implores visitors to ask themselves what they will take with themselves after leaving, what this art means, what it can mean, and, most importantly, if it is enough.

Although concepts in “The Will to Change” are relevant to all people, it has a deeper connection to Connecticut College. Professor Luciana Quagliato in the Gender, Sexuality, and Intersectionality Studies Department is a founder of Nasty Women Connecticut and helped bring this exhibit to campus. In her speech at the exhibit’s opening, Quagliato explained, “We have chosen poetry over war, we have chosen art over guns, we have chosen love over hate, we have chosen to gather and build communities over isolation,” and she hopes to reflect that continuous choice in the art displayed in “The Will to Change.”

In a corner of the exhibit, there are a number of bookshelves, surrounded by chairs and pillows. This section of the exhibit is the “un•named zine library,” created by artist and poet Aly Maderson Quinlog, invites all who visit to engage with the work on a more personal level, to seek out what interests them the most about the art they have seen and to think deeply about the ideas that have been presented to them. This library features zines such as “Brained Hair; An Exhibition Catalog with Poetry by Sussy Santana,” “a few things about cempasuchil marigolds,” and “friend music.” The zines included in this library bring “The Will to Change” from an unattouchable work of art, merely hanging on the walls to be observed, to something that the community can engage in. Although there is still much work to be done when it comes to community engagement in the issues illustrated in “The Will to Change,” this zine library invites those who otherwise would have been mere viewers of the art to become part of the experience themselves. But, this zine library is not only a place to view zines that have been created by other artists. It also gives people the opportunity to create their own zines and to record their thoughts and feelings on the art they have experienced.

Despite the core ideas of this exhibit and regardless of what the artists are hoping to say with the collection as a whole, the art speaks for itself.

One of the first pieces you see when entering the exhibit – arguably the most striking piece in the collection – is “Eidolon of A-Ngho,” created by Julie Chen. This piece is simultaneously a sculpture and a costume, donned by Chen in a performance; regardless of how one is able to witness this piece, “Eidolon” is memorable. The sculpture is an abstraction of Chen’s mother, created following her passing using Chen’s mother’s clothing to make up the body and the head, with masks of varying expressions circling the head which was made of her mother’s ashes. Chen described this piece in her artist’s statement as a way for her to process “the death of the person who once gave me life and the many lives she had led.”

Other than “Eidolon,” there are a number of other paintings making up much more of the exhibit. Two of my personal favorites are “Dreamt of God in Blue,” painted by Christina Jones, and “All in the Name of Liberty,” painted by Nathan Lewis. “Dreamt of God in Blue” depicts a young woman lying asleep in a garden, with a blue figure holding her close. This figure has no face, only blossoming flowers where a head should be. In painting this piece, Jones aimed to depict “emotionally engaged narrative paintings with figures among vivid nature dreamscapes and promote creation, spirituality, and sexuality through a queer lens.” Where “Dreamt of God in Blue” examines the role of queerness in religion, “All in the Name of Liberty” raises vital questions of female bodily autonomy. In this painting, Lewis paints a young woman, seen from multiple angles, wearing only a torn white t-shirt. This young woman stands atop a burning pyre despite her bare feet and waves a black flag above her head. By painting this, Lewis wanted to reflect “a belief that the world can and will change, and that it happens now, every day, in the way we see, challenge, take action, and support each other.”

Through all of the art shown in “The Will to Change,” Nasty Women Connecticut asks us to think about what art can mean, what we can take from it, and what it needs to mean for it to make necessary change. •
Across
1. UK public news network
2. Longtime NYC punk rock club
3. What you may call a lacrosse-playing Econ major
4. Little batteries
5. Swedish currency
6. Gemini, Libra, and Aquarius are ___ signs
7. The first chapter of this organization was founded at SFSU
8. "How to Save a Life" band (The)
9. Just fine in space
10. Not chosen
11. Stinking
12. The worse of the North London Derby teams
13. Supporter of a proposal?
14. Largest urban region in Germany
15. "Kiss Me More" featured artist
16. Longtime Elton John label
17. Scottish resort town named after its whisky distillery
18. Went on a Carnival ride
19. Greek god of war
20. Hot button academic concept, especially in the summer of 2021, abbr.
21. NFL scores, abbr.
22. 1, 2, ____, in dance
23. Classic diner beverage
24. Martinique, par exemple
25. Nickname of Jelena Hadid
26. Richie Valens classic
27. Baby attire
28. Virginia Beach descriptor
29. Knit art
30. Opposite of NNW
31. "Why you gotta be so ___" - Taylor Swift
32. American airline
33. Old MacDonald had a cow, EIEIO, with a "___" here
34. Roman equivalent of 26 down
35. "It's not easy ___ green" - Kermit
36. Famous New Deal program
37. Fire remains
38. Revolutionist Guevara
39. Shiba ___ (dog breed)

Down
1. Pace University Marketing Degree, abbr.
2. Charge for point shaving
3. Aquino, Time's Woman of the Year 1986 and former Filipina President
4. Stipulation
5. Wee Scot
6. Voice actor of Olaf, Josh ___
7. Witching hour in Vihius
8. "XxY" and "Friendly Sex" singer, Cairy ___
9. 180 degree turn, informally
10. Enzyme suffix
11. 06:00 hours in Milan
12. "Smack That" rapper
13. Dubrownik resident
14. "I'm cold"
15. Foam found in Coffee Grounds
16. Conn students collectively
17. Academic with, ___ roam
18. Pace University Marketing Degree, abbr.
19. Charge for point shaving
20. Aquino, Time's Woman of the Year 1986 and former Filipina President
21. Stipulation
22. Wee Scot
23. Voice actor of Olaf, Josh ___
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58. 06:00 hours in Milan
59. "Smack That" rapper
60. Dubrownik resident
61. "I'm cold"
62. Foam found in Coffee Grounds

WELCOME TO COFFEE
WHAT CAN YOU GET YOU?
FOOTBALL
WE ARE FRESH OUT OF CHAI
A CHAI LATTES
OK... DO YOU HAVE REGULAR COFFEE?
OF COURSE, WE ARE OUT OF CUPS 13 TO GO OK?
THIS IS PERF THANK YOU!
GOT NOMILK?
WHAT ART MAJOR THINKS SPORTS ARE...
HEADS!
FRISBEE
FOOTBALL
I HARDLY KNOW HER!
SOCCER
October Horoscopes!

**Pisces**
Get out your watercolors and tarot cards. It's time for some hardcore mysticism. Wander in the Arbo until you find yourself or God or the ghost haunting the woods.

**Aries**
Turn the music down in your dorm, your roomie doesn't appreciate it. Headphones exist for a reason.

**Taurus**
It may be midterm season, but we know you're looking forward to something else: cuffing season. You either got back together with your ex over fall break or you're on the hunt. Remember to ask for consent!

**Gemini**
You've got some challenges coming up, but don't back down. You have to stand up for yourself at some point, might as well be today!

**Cancer**
The single life is for you. Dump that side piece, you need some time for yourself. It's time to get some tears flowing, they don't deserve you.

**Leo**
Do something with spray paint this week. There is a concrete slab for this purpose behind Cummings – use it, and thank me later.

**Virgo**
Those midterms are heavy on your mind, and they should be. They are gonna suck, so grit your teeth and bear down. There is light at the end of the tunnel!

**Scorpio**
It's time to enter your existential crisis. You're ready and, I can assure you, that question that's been weighing on your mind is a promising one.

**Libra**
Make that decision! Roll a die, cue up a random number generator, or just ask a friend to tell you what to do. Then…actually commit to it. Truly, save yourself any more suffering and full steam ahead.

**Capricorn**
Come out of your cave and spend some relaxed time with your friends. It is possible to make time for yourself as well as your work.

**Sagittarius**
Cool your jets, it's not that serious. Time to do some meditation and drink some water. Your roommate will appreciate it.

**Aquarius**
Hand some candy out to faculty kids to fill your soul. Steal a few pieces for yourself too, you could use a sugar boost.
S

pooky season is upon us! Whether you're partying, cozying up with a scary movie, or taking a stroll on campus this playlist is the ideal concoction for a spooky, scary end of the month.

Fritz Baldauf, Sports:
"Creepin", Eric Church
It's got a good spooky vibe, and also gets you excited. The type of song that you would want as your walk up song if you were coming up to bat down a run with two outs and the bases loaded in the bottom of the ninth. The slow haunting intro gives way to an exciting first verse and an electric energy filled chorus.

Ellie Wagner, Opinions:
"Thriller" by Michael Jackson
My mom showed me the music video for this song when I was little, and it scared me so badly I didn't sleep that night. Now, as an adult, I actually really like that video. It has werewolves AND zombies! Even though it traumatized me as a kid,

Madeline Cho, Layout:
"Graveyard" by Feist
This song isn't scary, but it has a dark, solemn feel that's perfect for when the weather gets chilly. Feist's haunting vocals and melancholy lyrics will make you want to join her in the graveyard this Halloween. Personally, I think it's the perfect song for taking a nighttime stroll around Temple or making a cup of tea before bed.

Hannah Foley, Sports:
"Werewolves of London", Warren Zevon
This song just makes me laugh. I have some vivid memories of rolling down my windows and cruising down the highway going "aaaahhhh-hoooooo WERE-WOLVES OF LONDON!!" I don't know any other words from the song, but werewolves = halloween… right?

Catja Christensen, Co-Editor-In-Chief:
"W.I.T.C.H." by Devon Cole
This is my go-to get ready in the morning song! Who doesn't want to be a "woman in total control of herself?" It's upbeat, empowering, and just a great bop. Great for dancing in your room and singing into a hairbrush.

Grace Contreni Flynn, Opinions:
"Everybody Wants to Rule the World" covered by Lorde
The original Tears for Fears rendition of this song is perfect for rolling the windows down on a sunny afternoon but Lorde's cover? It is pure horror. This version of the song is almost unrecognizable from the original. Lorde's guttural wail "Welcome to your life. There's no turning back. Even while we sleep. We will find you," will chill you to your bones. This song is perfect for midnight walk on All Hallow's Eve.

Conn-Lib

On Hallows Eve, I was hanging at Ridge/Winch ____ (Ridge/Winch number) with ______________ (Professor) after eating some ______________ (adjective) ______________ (Harris meal). We decided to ______________ (activity) near the ________________ (New London landmark). Dressed in our ________________ (costume) costumes we headed to Oasis to munch on some ________________ (Oasis snack) before heading to the Halloween Dance. We walked in and everyone was curious why I was with Professor ________________ (same professor) until the song ________________ (song) came on and we hit the dance floor. Together we busted out a _________________ (dance) and the crowd went crazy. I cooled off with some ________________ (drink of choice) while Professor ________________ (same professor) picked up the mic and karaoke'd to _______________ (different songs). What a ________________ (adjective) night!
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YOUR MIDTERM

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