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Connecticut College, "College Voice Vol. 42 No. 4 [November 6, 2018]" (2018). *2018-2019*. 8.
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THE COLLEGE VOICE

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1977

Hey, Can I Hit Your Juul?; The Truth Behind the "Cigarettes" of Gen Z



Image courtesy of Josh Valcarcel/Wired

CAMERYN LESKO-JELLEY
STAFF WRITER

Cool mint, mango, cucumber, fruit medley, and crème brûlée; to many of us young adults, we know these vibrant, tasty flavors aren't just that of gum or hard candies we can purchase in our local gas station, but our most beloved flavors of Juul pods. The refreshing taste of cool mint or the sweet juicy, revitalizing taste of mango can make one's weekly purchase of Juul pods a grueling and demanding decision. After seeing your favorite celebrities, friends, and hallmates keep stacks of these fun flavored pods in their purses or back pockets, Juuling inevitably seems like the new, "cool," "pretty safe," and "slightly rebellious" thing to do. The sleek, high tech design of the Juul resembles a flash drive, and the "smoke" it produces is nearly scentless. Users can achieve their quick nicotine high without the pungent smell of tobacco and inconvenience of needing a lighter.

Juul was created by Stanford University design school graduates, Adam Bowen and James Monsees, in 2015. Each used their knowledge of technology and industrial design to create the world's sleekest, most widely used E-cigarette product. Although Juul started as a way of providing one

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Students Temporarily Moved Out of Johnson Due to Excessive Mold

SAADYA CHEVAN
ARTS EDITOR

In early October, College housing and facilities staff struggled to facilitate a process of cleaning an entire dorm affected by mold. Facilities staff needed to clean nearly every surface in Johnson House, and at various points, the REAL office temporarily relocated students to alternative housing for up to two days with less than a day's notice. Unannounced inspections of student rooms by College staff found a high presence of mold. Students reported poor communication by the REAL office during many phases of the ordeal. In some cases, these unannounced visits resulted in students being "written-up" for violations of room conduct policy unrelated to the purpose of the inspections.

In an emailed statement Trina Learned, Associate Vice President for Facilities Management and Campus Planning, attributed the mold problem to HVAC (heating, ventilation and air-conditioning) systems that could not handle a recent increase in regional humidity level-- a problem faced by peer institutions including the Coast Guard Academy.

During individual room cleanings, each resident was required to vacate their room and temporarily move to Lazarus House for time periods ranging from 1-2 days while it was cleaned. *The Voice* spoke to nine Johnson residents; three residents stated that the housing (REAL) office and Facilities Management had dealt with the mold problem in ways that were poorly planned and unprofessional. Another student indicated that the offices had dealt with the issue in an "okay" manner but, like the other three interviewed students, expressed some misgivings about the offices' process for dealing with the situation. The other five students felt that the response to the situation was adequate.

During the week after the College's Fall Weekend, maintenance workers entered all rooms in Johnson to determine the scale of the mold.

One resident who experienced severe amounts of mold in their room claimed they were sick as a result, and that friends who en-

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NEWS

Eve O'Brien and Christina Tougias investigate Conn's renewed Outdoors Adventures Club on page 6.

OPINIONS

Andre Thomas pens a letter to the late Laquan McDonald on page 11.

OPINIONS

Will Canellakis reflects on continued social divisions and how to move past them on page 12.

ARTS

Jackie Chalghin reviews one of Conn's most eclectic bands, Orca, on page 13.

From the Editor

The past two weeks have been a whirlwind for us at *The Voice*. Not the good kind of whirlwind, however, where people unite behind a common cause (my mind immediately goes to the Thai boys that were trapped in cave this summer, whom the world rallied around), but rather it was the bad kind of whirlwind where sorrow, fear, and political divisions were only deepened and made more apparent.

In the past two weeks we saw Ceasar Sayoc's attempted mail bombings on several high profile critics of President Trump, Robert Bowers' ruthless and hate-filled act of anti-Semitic domestic terrorism in Pittsburgh, Gregory Bush's fatal shooting of two African-Americans in Louisville, and President Trump's incredibly racist and inflammatory new campaign ad that paints Central American migrants in broad brush strokes as cop killing criminals. There were many other distressing news stories from the past two weeks, but the ones I listed above are certainly the most damaging.

While it's always important to be thinking about national politics, moments such as the one we're in now stand out as particularly important. In this issue, we have pieces from Miles Hamberg, Max Whisnant, and Will Canellakis that all tackle recent events, and how Conn students are dealing with (or avoiding thinking about) the onslaught of tragedy we've seen. Disillusionment with the political process is pervasive among many young people across the nation, but I'm proud of the writers mentioned above for standing up in the face of apathy and encouraging their peers to be a part of the democratic process.

While it may seem like the United States is reaching a point of no return, and a shift towards far-right conservative rhetoric is becoming more widely accepted in national and local politics, my advice is to stay strong, support those close to you who are most vulnerable, and live your life to the fullest. Be vocal. Be loud. Be you. If you are, there's no way those who seek to instigate hate can win.

What makes this country beautiful is its diversity. Just think about how terribly boring the United States would be without African-Americans, the LGBTQ community, Muslims, Jews, or Latinos. That's not a country I want to live in.

As a student of history, and a Jew, the past two weeks have been incredibly hard for me to process. While racism and anti-Semitism have long been woven into the fabric of our society, it's up to us, at an individual level, to stand up to bigotry. We have to come together and support each other because, to a white supremacist, there's no difference between Jews, Muslims, or any other minority group. We cannot let their hate win out over our love for each other. They want to force us into the shadows, but we cannot let them.

- Max

THE COLLEGE VOICE

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

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CONTACT US

eic@thecollegevoice.org
270 Mohegan Avenue
New London, CT 06320
thecollegevoice.org
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Community Bulletin

Close Connecticut governor election will come down to the wire

The Connecticut governor's race between Democratic candidate Ned Lamont and Republican Bob Stefanowski is still neck and neck, according to an October 30th poll. Stefanowski has outlined a long term plan to cut the income tax entirely, which Lamont argues will benefit the rich while crippling public services. Voting will take place November 6th.

Sexual Assault victims stage rally outside of Catholic church

Victims of sexual assault gathered outside of the Cathedral of St. Patrick in Norwich to protest sexual assault by priests and other clergymen. Protesters seek to eliminate the statute of limitations on sexual assault in Connecticut that can make it difficult to press sexual assault charges once the victim reaches a certain age.

Federal grant approved to restore damaged seafloor habitat

A federal grant of \$75,000 has been granted from the US Department of Agriculture for the restoration of unhealthy shellfish beds in the Long Island Sound, shellfish beds that have been damaged by poor water conditions as well as human use. 20% of the waters in the Connecticut region of the sound are set aside for commercial and recreational shellfishing. Work is set to begin this fall and continue for the next two years.

Sports Spotlight

BY PRICE DAY

Men's Results

Soccer win 1-0 vs. Wesleyan, lose 0-1 vs. Hamilton

Water Polo loses 7-13 vs. Mercyhurst, win 16-4 vs. Monmouth

Cross Country places 5th at NES-CAC Championship

Sailing places 9th at Erwin Schell Trophy

Women's Results

Volleyball loses 0-3 vs Bowdoin, 0-3 vs. Tufts

Soccer ties 2-2 vs. Wesleyan

Field Hockey wins 3-2 vs. Wesleyan

Cross Country places 11th at NES-CAC Championship

Upcoming Events

November 10th, Men's & Women's Cross Country New England Regional Championship @ Bowdoin

November 16th, Men's Ice Hockey vs. Wesleyan, Women's Ice Hockey @ Amherst

November 17th Men's & Women's Swimming vs. Middlebury

Staff Recs

Media and journalism recommendations from the staff of *The College Voice*

Dana Gallagher:

"They Don't Really Want Us to Vote: How Republicans Made it Harder," *The New York Times*. In some states, it's easier to vote than ever. In the last three years alone, 15 states have moved to automatically register voters (unless they opt out) when they visit motor-vehicle agencies. But in others, minority voters and college students face an expanding range of partisan obstacles. Nearly a thousand polling places have been closed nationwide in the last half-decade and last year at least 99 bills were introduced in 31 states to restrict voting access.

"Almost Half the Top Jobs in Trump's State Department are Still Empty," *The Atlantic*. In 18 countries, including Australia, the White House has yet to designate a U.S. ambassador. Australians who pay attention to foreign policy see the omission as a slight. Australia is debating its strategic future in a rapidly changing Asia. Should it stick to its traditional role as a military ally of the United States—or cast itself, instead, as a mostly-economic partner for China?

Saadya Chevan:

"Rise of the Armed Left," *The New York Times*. Opinion columnist Michelle Goldberg traveled through several southern states to interview liberals who have established organizations to train themselves to use firearms in self-defense as a result of the rise of right-wing threats and terrorism exemplified by the Tree of Life Synagogue shooting.

Max Amar-Olkus:

"Nigeria's Army Cites Trump to Justify Shooting Shia Protesters," *BBC*. The Nigerian army's official twitter account shared a video with the caption "please watch and make your deductions" after Amnesty International criticed them for open firing using live rounds on Shia protesters throwing stones. In the video, Trump talks about using lethal force on Central American migrants, saying, "When they throw rocks at our military, our military fights back." The number of protesters killed has not yet been independently verified; the army puts the number at six dead, but the group itself says dozens were killed.

Alex Klavens:

"The Stakes for the Harvard Trial are Higher Now That It's Over," *The Atlantic*. Though Harvard University officials predict an affirmative action case will go in their favor, the stakes are high for Colleges and Universities around the U.S. regarding the use of race in admissions.

Price Day:

"Saudi campaign to abduct and silence rivals abroad goes back decades," *The Washington Post*. The killing of Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi agents in Istanbul is the latest example of a pattern of the Saudi government killing or silencing dissenters both in their country and abroad dating back to the 1970's. More scrutiny is being placed on the middle-eastern US ally in light of the recent assassination, a nation which is also still ruled by an absolute monarchy and medieval Sharia law.

Did you know **Midterms** are more important than Presidential elections?

VOTE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Not registered? No problem, in Connecticut you can register on Election Day and then vote. Get all the information you need at i.vote.org/ConnecticutEDR

Problems voting? Call the Election Protection Hotline at (866) OUR-VOTE • (866) 687-8683



VOTE.ORG

Campus Community Mourns Those Lost in Pittsburgh Shooting

MILES HAMBERG
CONTRIBUTOR

On Oct. 27, Robert D. Bowers--a white 46 year old Pennsylvanian--burst into the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh shouting anti-Semitic slurs and began shooting. This deadly act of terror, which claimed 11 lives and injured 6 others, occurred on Shabbat--the Jewish day of rest and observance. The synagogue is located in the neighborhood of Squirrel Hill, a Jewish enclave in Pittsburgh that also happens to be one of the city's most ethnically diverse neighborhoods. Squirrel Hill has a storied history and is home to several synagogues and old fashioned markets.

Bowers, who was armed with an AR-15 and 3 handguns, frequented the website *Gab* which bills itself as "The Free Speech Social Network." But, in reality, it has become a popular platform for white nationalists and alt-right activists since Facebook and Twitter recently refashioned their user guidelines. He was a frequent poster who spread racist memes, called Jews the "enemy of white people" and labeled immigrants as "invaders."

Two days after this tragedy, Connecticut College students of different races, religions and creeds congregated in the Hillel House for mourning. In a stark contrast to the hateful rhetoric that Robert Bowers was spewing online, the memorial event in Hillel began with the Jewish prayer *Hine Ma Tov*, which translates to "How good it is for all of us to dwell together in peace." The event--organized by Rabbi Susan Schein, Interim Director of Religious and Spiritual Programs Angela Nzegwu, and Dean of the

College Jefferson Singer--attracted a diverse group of some 80 students, faculty, and members of the local community. Rabbi Susan pithily noted that while the event was generated because of a specific attack that targeted Jews, "it was intended for the wider campus community... [as] a safe space for everyone to have the experience

on campus, with those directly affected and those in mourning. The vigil ended with the Jewish prayer for peace, *Oseh Shalom*, as many Jewish services do. But on this day, Hillel Board member Leelah Klauber '22 felt the mournful echoes of *Oseh Shalom* in a different manner. "Prayers for peace like *Oseh Shalom*," Klauber said in an interview

with the Hillel Board, "are a really nice way to reflect and appreciate that the Jewish people can stay so open after an event like this that specifically targeted our religion."

This act of terror struck has struck fear into Jewish communities across the country, including Conn's. Emily Douglass '20, who is one of the co-presidents of the Hillel board, summarized her reaction as "shock." Becca Smith '19, the other co-president, noted that Jewish students at Conn "come from a variety of backgrounds and previous experiences

facing anti-Semitism, but this [shooting] sends a strong and clear message that anti-Semitism is still alive and well... and that is still rattling for students in a variety of ways."

Historically, anti-Semitism follows patterns, and scholars say there is clear evidence that anti-Semitism is on the rise around the world. If Conn students are truly going to stand in solidarity with one another, then we must recognize these truths. The turnout for the memorial service at Hillel was great, but it isn't a one shot. Even on a tolerant campus like ours, people must continue to be aware of anti-Semitism and fight it with the same vigor that we use to fight other hate. Hate crimes of all natures are on the rise in the US and abroad. We are living in dangerous times and we can not let minute differences distract us from what is just. •



Image courtesy of Gene J. Puskar/AP Photos

together as a community, and to allow people to feel solidarity with one another." She also noted that in her five years at Conn, this was among the largest gathering of this kind that she has seen for an event not organized by students.

In a gathering rife with fear, heavy hearts, and agony for the future, solidarity was the ethos that reigned supreme in Hillel House. The event was organized by faculty and staff. Although College officials like Ms. Nzegwu and Dean Singer read poems and spoke at the beginning of the event, there was time allotted for just students to express their thoughts and feelings. Jamila Ezbid, President of the Student Government Association (SGA) was one of three students who spoke. She expressed her solidarity, as both SGA president and a Muslim student

Outdoor Adventures Club Finishes First Season a Success

EVE O'BRIEN AND CHRISTINA TOUGIAS
CONTRIBUTORS

During the spring 2018 semester, students received an email from the Office of Student Engagement asking members of the classes of 2020 and 2021 to apply to be leaders of a new program, Outdoor Adventures. This letter explained that the new program would replace Outdoors Club as a way for students to get off campus and engage in various outdoor activities. Students were left wondering what the new program would entail and what differences would be seen. This semester was the program's inaugural season, and activities included ocean kayaking, hiking, and backpacking.

The idea of revamping the pre-existing club with the new Outdoor Adventures program was formulated by the former club's leaders with assistance from Geoff Norbert, Assistant Dean of Student Engagement and New Programs. The club's leaders believed that Connecticut College lacked a formal outdoors organization common to other colleges, and wanted to elevate the club to a higher level. As Dean Norbert had about 20 years of experience organizing collegiate outdoor programs, he was the appropriate person for this task. According to Dean Norbert, he was interested in this project because, "Outdoor education is a powerful programming area in higher education that can help students connect with peers, empower students, create leadership opportunities, and help students develop transferable life skills to be used after college." Dean Norbert sees the potential for rock climbing, camping, and cross country skiing in the Arboretum--as well as kayaking and paddle boarding on the nearby ocean. Not only are there so many opportunities on and near the campus for outdoor activities, but New England is full of great outdoor locations for longer trips and programs.

According to Dean Norbert, the key differences evident in Outdoor Adventures this year is that it is no longer an entirely student run program. With the involvement of the Office of Student Engagement, the structure of the club has changed and students only need to commit to individual trips as opposed to joining the club for the full year. While it is no longer a student run organization, all of the trips are still led by students as outdoor leaders.

Fifteen student leaders were chosen through the application process last spring. Addie Daly '21, one of the Outdoor Adventure leaders, ex-

plained that the application process involved both an online application and an in-person interview with Dean Norbert and a former Outdoors Club leader. Daly said that training involved meetings with an organization called NESS (New England Science and Sailing) located in Stonington, CT. She detailed that leaders "learned how to operate kayaks and paddle boards, as well as to teach the skills we learned." Training also touched upon water safety and minimizing the risk of outdoor adventures during natural disasters. The training allowed leaders to learn these important skills, while also bonding and having fun off-campus. Dean Norbert expressed his gratitude to these student leaders for the time and dedication they have put into this program, both through training and leading trips.

Over Fall Break the student leaders, Dean Norbert, and Dean Arcelus embarked on a three day, two night backpacking trip in Stratton, VT. The group hiked a twelve mile section of the Long Trail. According to Daly, this trip afforded the student leaders an opportunity to get to know each other, while also learning practical skills like choosing a campsite, setting up the campsite, cooking in the woods, staying warm, and leaving no trace. Daly also particularly enjoyed hiking in the fall foliage and seeing the views from the top of the summit.

There were eight trips open to the rest of the student body this semester, which included ocean kayaking and hiking. Daly was a leader on one of the day hike trips to Lantern Hill in Stonington, not too far from the College. The hike received a great turn-out, and; Daly said that the view was beautiful and the group enjoyed a picnic at the top. The group then stopped in Old Mystic for ice cream, which allowed students from different years to enjoy the day together. Dean Norbert reported that all of the trips had a similarly enthusiastic responses as many of the trips filled on the day the calendar was released and enrollment opened.

Now that Outdoor Adventures' first season has ended, the program has begun looking towards the future. Dean Norbert states that "the vision for [Outdoor Adventures] is to further enhance the leadership development of the trip leaders and provide more impactful experiences for students in the outdoors." Dean Norbert hopes to expand the program to include different types of programs, such as paddle boarding, climbing, snowshoeing, ice climbing, and whitewater rafting, as well as different trip locations. •

A Special Presentation

"Toward a Graphic Re-Mediation of Spatial Thought"

Nicholas Bauch (University of Minnesota)

November 12, 2018, 4:30-5:30pm

Olin 014

Part of the library's Digital Scholarship & Pedagogy in the Liberal Arts Symposium, co-sponsored by the Ammerman Center for Arts & Technology as part of the 2018 Creative Ecologies Colloquia and Workshop Series.



Students Temporarily Moved Out of Johnson Due to Excessive Mold

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

tered their room became ill for the same reason. The student had contacted the REAL Office about moving out of their room but said that the solutions offered were unacceptable. They reported maintenance workers entering their room while they were napping. The workers told the student that they had knocked twice on the door prior to entering. The student said that they normally sleep lightly enough that they would likely have responded to someone knocking on the door, but on that day they had taken a sleep aid as a result of losing sleep from their illness, so it was possible that they were in such a deep sleep that they did not hear it. The student criticized the lack of advance notification. They questioned why the REAL Office or Facilities Management did not send an email at least a day prior to the inspections and noted that the maintenance workers could have opened the door as the student was changing their clothes.

Lydia Klein and Lucy Hindes '22 felt the decision to inspect students' rooms without prior notice violated their privacy. As a result of the inspection, Klein received a notice that she had violated the student code of conduct and was required to pay a \$75 fine for having a string of lights attached to a sprinkler pipe in her room; other students have also allegedly received surprise conduct violations as a result of the inspections such as underage students who stored alcohol in their rooms.

Nearly every private and public space in Johnson House needed a thorough cleaning. In an email to Johnson residents, Learned and Sara Rothenberger, Assistant Dean of Residential Education and Living, noted that "All rooms surfaces...walls, ceiling, floor, shades, furniture..." would be cleaned. Ventilation units were to be "disassembled, sanitized, treated with the anti-microbial [disinfectant], then reassembled and inspected."

Rooms were cleaned during the weeks before and after Fall Break. Students were required to move out of their rooms to temporary housing in Lazarus House while it occurred; they were instructed to take any outfits they would need in the next 48 hours--two days worth of clothes--and told that any clothes remaining would be removed and cleaned by a third-party dry cleaner. Klein and Hindes received an email on the Tuesday prior to Fall Break around 5:00 PM telling them to vacate their room in this manner by 9:00 AM the next day. However, they were also told that they would be unable to access their room in Lazarus until that same time as they needed to get a key from the REAL Office, which was closed until then. They reported that they received no support from the office for moving their things. Pols had a class at that time, so she could not move at the specified time without assistance from her roommates.

The evening they moved into Lazarus they received another email around 9:00 PM saying that their room in Johnson had been cleaned and they needed to move out of Lazarus by 6 AM the next morning (nine hours later) when the rooms there would be cleaned for the next set of students from Johnson. Fortunately they were able to borrow a friend's truck to move back into Johnson.

The inconveniences continued for the three even when they moved back to Johnson. They were informed that--rather than having their washed clothes returned to them on Friday as originally promised--they would

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Senior Spotlight: Julia Vitagliano

GEORGE GROTHEER
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

How exactly does an Olympic gymnast win a gold medal at a bowling alley? For Julia Vitagliano, it's just another day in the life for the Conn women's rowing team's senior standout.

However, life at Connecticut College is so much more than rowing for the senior Psychology major and Gender, Sexuality, and Intersectionality studies minor. Off the water, she is a member of the clinical psychology research group and is involved with PICA and the Women's Empowerment Initiative. She is also an avid fan of women's gymnastics.

During her time at Conn, she has also worked in the admissions office as both a tour guide and a senior admission fellow.

"It's really fun to get to know somebody in a short period of time," Vitagliano says of her work in admissions. "I feel like I just got here... like I was just in that position. These four years went by really fast."

Once she arrived at Conn, the Newton, Massachusetts native knew she wanted to get involved in the campus community and saw the women's rowing team as a chance to try something new after playing basketball and running long-distance in high school.

"I didn't plan to do a sport, but I joined the team as a freshman in October, in time for winter season. It's made my Conn experience really great," she says. "It's been a great experience and I've met so many new people."

Being a part of the team has been a transformative experience for Vitagliano, as she believes rowing has increased her self-esteem and confidence. Although she was not a very vocal member of the team during her freshman season, she has grown to bring positive energy and strength to the stroke seat during her senior fall.

"Having a group of strong, powerful women being by my side every day is a big aspect of that. Doing a sport that is so taxing on the body for all four years is a big accomplishment. Some of my best friends are on the team, and we're all really close."

The closeness of this team is best represented by events that take place during one of the campus's quieter times – spring break. The team returns from break after a short time away to practice for the spring season, and has time off the water to engage in team-bonding activities such as a costume contest at a bowling alley.

"We dressed up as Olympic athletes, so I went as a gymnast and won the gold medal for the costume contest. We had fun, we bonded, we bowled together... It was a fun time for all of us. The little moments we share have made us become closer as a team."

Now that her four years are nearly spent, Vitagliano has turned some of her focus towards life after Conn. Once she graduates, she plans to take a year to work and travel while applying for graduate programs in prevention and intervention surrounding mental health.

Vitagliano is described by her friends and teammates as being very positive, and she carries that trait with her in all aspects of her life. She is inspired by empowering others and sharing a positive outlook on life with others. She wants to have as much fun in life as she can. •

Students Temporarily Moved Out of Johnson Due to Excessive Mold

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

instead be returned a Saturday, the day after Fall Break began. Klein noted that she had already made plans to visit a friend rather than go home over break and was forced to buy new clothes as a result of this.

Klein described the events as “probably the worst week of my life.” As a result of her two moves in one day, Klein said that she had to ask a professor for an extension on a midterm assignment, something she was not accustomed to doing as a first-year college student; she reported that she received no support from the REAL Office in this matter. In terms of their overall reaction, Klein and Hinds noted that while they were glad the mold had been cleaned and understood that the situation needed to be dealt with, they felt it was handled poorly. Kay stated that “all students were able to work with their class deans to advocate for any class needs,” but based on the students’ statements it appears that the REAL Office may not have been making deans or professors aware of their students’ move out schedule.

In response to a question about why emails were sent to students less than twenty-four hours prior to their deadlines for moving out of and into their rooms, Kay stated that “The decision to do it this way was due to the schedule often changing. We didn’t want students to prepare to move one day only for them to move two days later instead.” Kay also added “We understand that at times this meant a quick turn around for students and can appreciate their difficulties.”

Even after students received their laundry, some reported missing items of clothing. The problem was apparently bad enough that the REAL Office shared a Google Sheets spreadsheet with all residents in order for them to report any missing items, so that the other residents who had received them could contact them and arrange to return them.

According to Kay, as a result of the incident, “All [Johnson] residents that are participating in residential lottery next year are receiving a 150 point deduction on top of any other deduction they are eligible for. The college is also making a \$150 donation on the behalf of any senior in the building toward their senior week.”

The REAL Office is also compensating students who had lost or damaged items due to the mold or negligence of the third party companies involved; in one case, a student’s mattress pad was so moldy that it had to be disposed of by the cleaning company. However, students

who wished to receive compensation were initially told they were required to submit receipts for their purchases to the REAL Office despite some of them having already repurchased lost items without retaining receipts. According to Kay “Any student that has an item that is lost or missing is welcome to submit a screenshot of what the item currently costs online. All of the information will be sent to Accounting who will make the final determination of reimbursements.” No student interviewed mentioned that this was an option, although the Voice did not interview any student impacted who mentioned that they lacked receipts.

Maria Ferreira ’21 reported that several of her outfits went missing as a result of the cleaning process. While she did not find getting reimbursed cumbersome, she was unhappy that her lost outfits were no longer available in stores or online.

All but one of the nine students interviewed felt that the REAL Office communicated at least parts of the process poorly to them. They referenced instances such as not responding to some of their emails about the problem as the cleaning progressed. One student noted that they also communicated with Mike Provost, Supervisor of Building Trades within Facilities Management, and said that the responses they received from both Provost and the REAL Office indicated that neither entity was entirely aware of how the other was responding to the problem. According to Hinds “Whenever I called I felt like they didn’t have any firm information they could give us; it just all felt really bureaucratic.” Kay stated that “The REAL Office did our best to communicate with students as information became available.”

As a result of the many complaints about the process, the REAL Office held a community meeting for Johnson residents on an evening after Fall Break. Both Rothenberger and Learned were present at this meeting. Kay stated “we gained some insight that will be helpful if something similar were to occur in the future. This includes assistance in temporary relocations as well as publishing a tentative moving schedule even if the dates must fluctuate.” Klein and Hinds described the meeting as tense, saying it was the first time some staff members, particularly those from the REAL Office, seemed apologetic for the first time. They noted, however, that staff seemed intent on establishing they were not at fault for the incident. They reported that Learned was particularly confrontational with students, at one point suggesting that they were at fault for the severity of the incident as they had not report-

ed the problem to Facilities Management in a timely manner.

Klein and Hinds were concerned about what they did not know: what kind of mold was in Johnson, and whether or not the mold was a health risk. Learned, said that “mold was identified by visual inspection. No lab tests were done to determine its type.”

Affected students were not contacted by Student Health Services (SHS) about potential health effects. Senior Associate Dean of Student Life Sarah Rothenberger, who oversees SHS, explained this action, saying “I think [affected and unaffected] students know that they could go [to SHS or urgent care].”

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) website notes “certain molds are toxigenic, meaning they can produce toxins (specifically mycotoxins) [although mold on its own is not toxic].” All mold that can be seen or smelled may pose a health risk. A person’s susceptibility to mold related disease is dependent on their tolerance level and the type of mold present. Regarding mold found in private homes (the CDC’s website does not provide direct suggestions for college residence halls), the CDC usually does not recommend testing it as it is not a reliable method for determining individuals’ health risks, and there is no standard for what a tolerable level of mold is.

The three students, along with several other students the Voice interviewed, also questioned why the mold incident happened in the fall in the first place because they felt Facilities Management should have discovered the possibility of a mold incident to occur during its annual cleaning of the building this summer. Responding to a question about the maintenance of Johnson with regards to mold Learned stated that the maintenance process for student residences, which takes place between College Commencement and Reunion and again at the end of each summer “includes “a thorough inspection (furniture, windows and window shades, switches and lights, heating and air conditioning (AC in the Plex only), and smoke detection) to assess that all are intact and fully operable. Any deficiencies are corrected and each room is thoroughly cleaned.”

In response to a question about the potential for a similar incident to occur in housing within the next twelve months Learned wrote “Now that we are in heating season, the warm dry air has eliminated mold’s host environment. Facilities is working with engineers to modify HVAC systems, making them more responsive to counteracting the effects of prolonged high-humidity.” •

Hey, Can I Hit Your Juul?; The Truth Behind the “Cigarettes” of Gen Z

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

billion smokers worldwide with an alternative to tobacco products, it has now become the number one vapor product in the United States used by both once cigarette-addicted adults and teens who were previously nonsmokers. The FDA has banned the sale of Juuls and all other E-cigarettes to people under 18. Although Juul pods and other vaping devices can't legally be sold to teens, there are hundreds of ways for minors to get their hands on them. It's extremely easy to buy Juuls and Juul pods online, at a gas station, convenience store, and even smoke shops.

Despite the common belief that E-cigarettes such as Juuls are considered safer, “cleaner” and more “sophisticated” than your traditional pack of Marlboro or American Spirit cigarettes, new research suggests that Juuls are just as bad, and possibly worse, than traditional cigarettes. One Juul pod is equivalent to smoking one pack of cigarettes or 200 puffs. Some teens who frequently Juul can go through one pod in as little as one or two days. These pods have a much higher nicotine concentration than individual cigarettes, which could result in our generation becoming swamped with masses of nicotine addicts who can't get their custom Louis Vuitton printed Juul out of their mouths. According to the *New York Times*, “E-cigarettes deliver nicotine through a liquid that is heated into vapor and inhaled, cutting out the cancer-causing tar of combustible cigarettes. But vaping liquids contain additives such as propylene glycol and glycerol that can form carcinogenic compounds when heated.” Diacetyl, the chemical used to flavor the juice in the Juul pods, has been found to scar and obstruct the lungs' airways. In addition, a study published in *The Journal of Pediatrics* in March found “substantially increased levels of five carcinogenic compounds in the urine of teenagers who vape.”

Connecticut College student Celia McNally '22 is aware of the dangers of Juuling and has noticed that a decent number of people Juul on campus. “In high school I noticed way more students Juuling, because it was a new thing and people thought it was so cool,” McNally claims. “But now it seems that the people who continue to Juul in college are doing it out of habit.” Although some college students may still believe that they are Juuling just out of sheer fun, they are most likely in denial about having a nicotine addiction.

Lily Davey '21 has noticed her peers who are Juul users become irritable, anxious, and nervous when their Juuls are about to die or if they are running out of Juul pods. Juuling is clearly a real addiction and will affect student's lives in many ways ranging from lung and heart problems to an increase in stress and anxiety levels.

With cigarettes, researchers have been studying the long-term health effects for many years and many people have a pretty good idea of what risks are involved when smoking cigarettes. However, because many of the long-term health effects of Juuling are unknown, we don't know the lifelong risks of inhaling these flavor-

ings and dyes, which is extremely worrisome. Today's youth will be guinea pigs of Juul use. Piper Oren '20 brings up the concern that “because Juuls don't have the same social stigma surrounding them as cigarettes, even athletes (a group of people usually concerned with their physical well-being) think it's okay and possibly healthy to Juul, even though they are secretly so bad.”

Even though the chief administrative officer of Juul, Ashley Gould, said that the company's products are intended solely for adults who want to quit smoking, claiming, “we don't want kids using our products. Our product is not only not for kids; it's for non-nicotine users.” Davey believes that Juuls are so popular because they know how to target their product to teens. She claims “the point of Juuls were originally to help people quit cigarettes, but now it seems like they are shifting the target market towards younger people because that's who are buying their product.” The plethora of flavors, chargeable function, and sleek, compact, portable design can all be seen as marketing techniques that results in its popularity among teens.

Griffin Taylor '20 has struggled with a nicotine addiction and chose to start Juuling to ween off cigarettes. However, although he struggles with addiction, he is not an advocate for Juul use and even claims “no one should use them.” Taylor states that “the stress from college amplifies my nicotine addiction because I feel like taking a hit of something will make me less stressed. I don't know if this is a mental thing or just my addiction taking over, but I know that over the summer when I didn't have school stress I stopped using my Juul.” Cigarette and E-cigarette companies ultimately want to make money above all else, so they target demographics that are most susceptible to being stressed out, such as college students like Taylor.

No matter how stressed, depressed, anxious you are or how much you want to be “cool,” Juuling clearly isn't the solution. Juuls are part of a billion-dollar E-cigarette business. This company is making millions of dollars off of the insecure, underconfident, rash, impulsive and underdeveloped teenage mind. Juuls are creating the newest generation of nicotine addicts, and in a time when young adults feel refreshed with the idea of having their own independence and living their lives under their own control, a nicotine addiction can really hold you back. All drugs have had their peaks--cigarettes in the late 1950s and early 1960s, general amphetamines and LSD in the 1960s, marijuana in the 1970s, crack and cocaine in the 1980s, and heroin and meth in the 1990s. Hopefully Juuling has already hit its peak, and we will see a decline in users in the upcoming years. Having fun blowing smoke out of your mouth for the image, oral satisfaction or snapchat views is not worth putting nicotine in your lungs and bloodstream. As Taylor puts it, “just don't Juul, it's not worth it financially. It's not worth sacrificing your health. The image of being a Juul user is not something you want. You don't even get a head rush after the first time using it, you get nothing out of it.” •

Climate Change: The Early Arrival Nobody Wants

EMIR KULLUK
BUSINESS MANAGER

During the first week of October, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released a landmark report, which stated that unprecedented changes are required in dictating how humanity lives on Earth. If such changes suggested in the report are not made, the world might become uninhabitable for man by the year 2040, when lethal heat waves and droughts are expected to ravage our planet.

The UN already had one such agreement, the Paris Climate Accords, which put the responsibility of reducing greenhouse emissions on all the countries within the UN. The Accords encouraged signatories to keep the temperature increase of the planet between the 1.5-2 degrees Celsius range.

However, scientists say that even if this agreement is fulfilled, the effects of climate change may continue to be felt. There has to be a severe change in our reliance on oil and other fossil fuels, our dedication to renewable energy,

recycling, and our consumption to actually improve our environment in the long-term.

As of now, the picture seems bleak. On June 1, 2017, President Donald Trump promised to pull the US out of the Paris Climate Accords and open up new possibilities for the fossil fuel industry and others. Similar to Trump, Brazil's newly elected president, Jair Bolsonaro, has also stated that he plans to pull out of the Paris Climate Accords in order to open up the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Climate Change

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Amazon rainforest to agribusiness. Based on a report from *The Guardian*, only 100 companies are responsible for 71% of global emissions of greenhouse gases that have resulted in such change in our environment, and they have no intention to stop.

Given all of these facts, what action should one take? At this point, individuals should not bear the burden of reversing the whole process of climate change. The individual needs guidance, as well as support from government policies, on how to significantly change their lifestyles to affect climate change. For example, Norway provides tax-cuts and free refueling stations for people who invest in electric cars, which has reduced the number of people who purchase cars that run on diesel or fuel. Some states within the US, such as California, have taken Norway's lead and provide benefits to electric car owners. These benefits, however, are not significant enough to push a large scale shift to electric cars.

The fossil fuel industry contributes to climate change. Coal or oil companies, especially ones listed as producing the most greenhouse-gas emission, should be motivated to invest in clean, renewable energy instead of building new pipelines to further fossil fuel harvest. Governments should further implement restrictions on companies if necessary, ranging from where they could operate and to what extent drilling for oil is permissible. This would force companies to adopt new, environment-friendly policies--if not change companies entirely.

These answers, switching to renewable energy

and shrinking the fossil fuel industry, are the main solutions people point to when climate change is discussed. There are, however, many other factors that affect climate change. Two of them are farming and agriculture. Farming is

This is where the individual comes into play. In order to preserve Earth as we know it, we need to change the habits that have been etched into us over the centuries. We need to change our eating habits, relying less on cattle and

breeding, and switch to a more eco-friendly diet, where main nutrients are acquired from vegetables and legumes. We also need to decrease our waste, whether it be waste from food items, water, plastic, or paper. Instead of utilizing and supporting disposable items, we should switch to reusable, long-term products. Countries such as Germany no longer provide plastic bags in supermarkets as a way to promote tote-bags use, and other countries like Taiwan have

followed suit. All these aspects will both reduce pollution at an individual level while also signaling to large companies to switch gears and start adapting to sustainable public trends.

Over the last couple of decades, climate change policy has not been a priority because people thought they had much more time to create a sustainable environment. At this point in time, one cannot toss such a subject to the side. Climate change is rapidly impacting our planet to a point where we need to respond or else the only home we have will eventually become uninhabitable. Even though people would prefer an early arrival rather than a late one, climate change is that one thing that nobody wants to see arrive early. •



A power plant in Tyumen, Russia letting off toxic air pollution
Image courtesy of Sergei Butorin

more efficient when yield is produced with less land. Several projects with this idea in mind have started to enter the mainstream, most notably Kimbal Musk's farm of the future. With support from his brother, entrepreneur Elon Musk, he has managed to build a farm in a container that provides the same yield as a regular farm. With growing efficiency in farming, fewer contaminants such as pesticides would be used and less damage would be done to nature. Another more critical aspect of farming is cattle. The breeding of cattle to an extent where enough food is produced for millions, even billions, of people results in a huge release of methane, a severe greenhouse gas.

A Letter To Laquan McDonald

ANDRE THOMAS
CONTRIBUTOR



Image courtesy of Chris Sweda/Chicago Tribune/Getty Images

Dear Laquan,

The papers say you were a jokester, a young man who loved his family, someone who loved to give everyone a hug. The police say you were a threat, a young man who seemed “off,” someone who looked dangerous. I say you were an inspiration, a young man who defied the hardships of his upbringing to excel academically, someone who deserved a life like the rest of us. Who would you have said you were?

A lot has happened since you’ve been gone. Perhaps the most redeeming of the events was the conviction of the officer who took your life, Jason Van Dyke. Yes, he was convicted of second-degree murder and 16 counts of aggravated battery with a firearm, in fact. He was the first of his kind convicted in 50 years. One person involved in reaching this verdict was Charlene Cook, the only Black juror on the case. She fought for what was right. She fought for you. You might’ve given her a hug too if you were still here.

In her song “Very BLK,” Chicago-based singer Jamila Woods sings, “You take my brother, I fight back.” You’d be happy to know we, Chicago, fought back. We marched. We spoke out. We cried. We watched. We listened. We mourned. You were our brother, one of many killed on the streets of our beautiful, but condemned city.

I guess I’m saying all of this to say I’m sorry. I’m so sorry. I’m sorry you didn’t get to experience your 18th birthday. I’m sorry that, while trying to walk away from the officer, you were shot 16 times. I’m sorry that you encountered Jason Van Dyke, who in his 14 years as a Chicago police officer had 20 excessive force complaints filed against him. I’m sorry that you were profiled. I’m sorry that your name was added to the lengthy list of other Black youths whose lives have been taken from them. Most importantly, I’m sorry that it took four years for Van Dyke to be convicted.

You’ll always be our brother, Laquan. We love you. Rest in peace. •

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Sad Times

WILL CANELLAKIS
CONTRIBUTOR

It happens again, and again, and again. Someone commits a heinous act, the world ignites with a fury, but at the end of the day, all that is left is silence. Today we add two more individuals to an unrelenting list of people who disseminate hate. Today we add Teresa Klein and Robert Bowers to a list that illustrates the worst of humanity.

Ms. Teresa Klein falsely accused 9-year-old Jeremiah Harvey of sexual assault. She called the police on the child, accusing him of inappropriately groping her rear; however, it wasn't until she was shown footage recorded of the scene that she finally realized the damage she had caused. A white woman accusing a black boy of assault. She later issued a half-hearted apology to Jeremiah Harvey, the victim of this implicit act of racism, stating, "Young Man, I don't know your name, but I'm sorry." Despite this, she quickly pivoted, recanting her apology in favor of criticizing Jeremiah's mother for being, "overly aggressive." It seemed that even though her accusation was wrong, Ms. Klein still felt the need to criticize Jeremiah and his mother.

Robert Bowers is the prime suspect in the recent Pittsburgh synagogue shooting. Upon his capture, he was quoted by police as saying, "All Jews should die." And, "They [Jews] were committing genocide on his people." Eleven people were massacred that day. Eleven lives were consumed by Mr. Bower's vengeance. Eleven lives were lost because Mr. Bowers believed himself a *vigilante*— after all, the Jews were *committing genocide on his people*. He was apprehended after encountering a law enforcement officer and engaging in a gun-fight during which shots were fired by both the officer and Mr. Bowers. He is currently awaiting trial, facing 44 counts of murder, hate crimes, and a multitude of other offenses subsumed into the prosecutor's request for the death penalty.

It's a theme. It seems that America always falls prey to another act of domestic terrorism or domestic hate. It seems that time in and time out, we're forced to face violent people who make violent choices in the name of bigotry. Yet, what makes these hate crimes so unbearable isn't the fact that people like Teresa Klein infect the world with racism every

day or that people like Bowers play the role of executioner— shooting up a synagogue full of innocent people. What makes these hate crimes so unbearable is the fact that we're numb to it.

These deeds of hate occur. They spread like a virulent disease. The repercussions are felt in the visceral bodies of the people. But eventually, over time, these repercussions die and someone else commits another act of hate. Where's the change? Guns are still accessible to people who desire to kill. Racism is still a toxic concept that births real, tangible, unimaginable pain.

There was a time— a time not too long ago— when the art of journalism was revered. There was a time when muckrakers and journalists alike were feared by the corrupt powers. But now, although we have proof, although we have evidence, *although* we have audio recordings of our president spreading racist, misogynistic and bigoted messages to the underrepresented peoples of this country, we still don't know who to believe. The truth has been twisted and manipulated to the point where no one knows what to believe.

We are challenged with a passive youth, many of whom are simply apathetic to the prospect of voting. But, perhaps, the reason the youth aren't voting isn't due to a phenomenon of national negligence; rather, it's due to this phenomenon of utter numbness manifested in a lack of concern for the political climate. Do we truly comprehend the power of our voices? It seems that in this country, people can commit the ugliest of crimes, but if they're connected... if they're rich... it doesn't matter what the youth vocalize because at the end of the day, the perpetrator is still in power and the youth is left feeling stuck and left feeling as if their voices are insignificant.

As Americans, we must rise above those whose actions echo the screams of the past. It's our job to create a better future. Each of us has a voice. Yes, today, it may seem small and insignificant but tomorrow is yet to come. Your voice can make all the difference in the shaping of it. We have the power to stop history from repeating itself. We have the power to stop the continuation and perpetuation of hate. We have a voice to end this. Use your voice. Don't be passive. Don't allow hate to amass more bodies through its continued power.

Express your voice. Be heard. Vote. •

When We All Vote

MAX WHISNANT
STAFF WRITER

When we all vote, we vote for something far greater and more important than any legislation. When we all vote, we show that we care what happens to our country. When we all vote, we take one step closer to showing the world that we are better than the malice that floods our streets and invades our homes. When we all vote, we honor those who fought for that right before us. When we all vote, we change the world.

The mentality that issues don't affect us or matter is toxic. Of course, the issues affect us. Of course, they matter. Maybe not immediately, but that's no excuse not to care. We're the generation poised to take control next, and apathy is not an option. Your voice matters and can make a differ-

ence. Believe in your ability to bring about change. Use your right to vote wisely.

I'm reminded of the wonderful scene Robin Williams' character in *Dead Poets Society* delivers to his students. "That the powerful play goes on and you may contribute a verse. What will your verse be?" The play is life and we the lucky ones are those who can add something to it, something beautiful. It's about living and working for things greater than just a job, money, or fame. That's what voting is. Voting is more than just filling in a bubble. It's shouting from the hilltops that you care, which is the absolute best thing you can do this coming Tuesday.

The young people of this country have the ability to vote in leaders who represent us. Hasn't that been the point all along? If we elect new and energetic representatives who don't automatically hate the person sitting across the aisle from them,

we can rise above the discord. I believe in us. Because despite how bad everything looks right now, we still have an incredibly high ceiling to do good things.

We have the remarkable privilege this November to change our own narratives. It's a chance to right the ship. President Obama said it best in his farewell address, "I am asking you to believe. Not in my ability to bring about change – but in yours." He believed in us and I do, too. Since 1982, the highest turnout we as a country could muster during midterm season was 42%. It hasn't been much better in Presidential elections where we hover around 50% in the same timeframe. This is not who we are. Since at least 2010, our nation's politics has devolved into ugly displays of cruel one-upmanship. This is not who we are. November 6th is our chance to reach higher and change the status quo. Do it. Write your verse. •

Artist Tiago Raises Awareness of Hurricane Relief Using Art

GRACE AMATO
ARTS EDITOR

On Oct. 26, Puerto Rican artist Tiago delivered a gallery talk during the installation of his art exhibition “The Frailty of Strength and vice-versa” in Unity House’s Pepsico room.

On the wall, 130 monotype paintings hung in neat rows. They were all the same size, a little larger than a piece of A5 paper, painted with muted blues, reds, greys, and purples. The paintings were abstract action pieces that, as Tiago later explained, he created by expressing his feelings at the present moment through painting onto a piece of glass, then transferring that painting onto a uniform piece of paper. Therefore, each is unique and cannot be replicated. As Tiago spoke, he continued to mount his pieces as a form of performance art to accompany his exhibition.

Sporting a baseball cap and Star Wars t-shirt, Richard Santiago--known as Tiago in the art world--exudes a relaxed energy, which makes his lecture much more accessible. In fact, accessibility is one of things he is passionate about, especially after losing his art studio and many of his pieces, during Hurricane Maria. “There’s a whole market out there that makes it really hard for us to paint,” Tiago said. “And so, I felt that [losing my materials] was not an excuse not to do something. I made a point to use the least amount of equipment possible to [make] this.” Additionally, in order to ease traveling and transportation costs, he wanted the pieces to be small instead of using huge canvases. As a result, each piece can easily fit into a binder that can be brought onto a plane in his carry-on. Tiago, as an artist and as a person, emphasizes accessibility, not only through being cost effective, but also through reject-

ing the pretentious attitude that the art world can promote. The lecture, too, was casual. As Tiago continued to mount his pieces,



Images courtesy of Grace Amato

he invited us to grab some food, traditional Puerto Rican food like rice and beans and plantains, before he began speaking.

Throughout the lecture, Tiago focused not only on his art process and the collection’s significance but also on the Puerto Rican experience as second-class American citizens. Before Hurricane Maria devastated the island, many citizens struggled economically, a reality journalist Naomi Klein documents in her book, *The Battle For Paradise*. Tiago himself identifies as a Puerto Rican refugee--he was forced out of his home and migrated to Chicago to seek refuge from the poor living conditions in his homeland before and after the hurricane. Tiago is pro-independence for the island, a statement he made in the lecture along with other political critiques. This event gave the audience a lot to think about in terms of how institutions interact with each other. For example, his lecture touched upon the imperial relationship between the United States and Puerto Rico. This relationship is reflected not only in Puerto Rico’s status as a “territory” of the United States but the structure of education systems and art institutions. He challenged American imperialism through the background copied onto each canvas before the action painting--a paper towel design as a condemnation of President Trump’s dehumanization of Puerto Ricans through throwing paper towels at the hurricane victims.

Although there are currently 130 pieces hung up in Unity House, Tiago aims to create a total of 911 to honor the number of victims claimed by the government, all of whom were mass cremated. The main goal of this art collection is to honor these 911 unnamed victims and give them an identity. If anyone wishes to honor the memory of a victim, they can pay \$15 and meet with Tiago to tell them about someone they recently lost. He will then take this



Student Choreographers Stun At Most Recent Dance Club Performance

EVE O'BRIEN
CONTRIBUTOR

Dance Club's fall show, "Human Intentions," featured the work of ten student choreographers performed by their peers in Cro's Myers Dance Studio. In the program for the event, club presidents Journee Hardaway '21, Elisa Kennedy '21, and Riley Myhaver '21 explain this title refers to each person's "individual intention" and was chosen to bring consciousness to how the "idea of intention in relation to our lives...can manifest in our bodies." They added that, for them, this consciousness includes both distinct physical movements and being aware of one's own thoughts. This concept can be applied to life in general, but is particularly significant in dance as it is based in conveying emotions entirely through movements rather than words.

The show began with a piece choreographed by Alex Bernardo '20, titled "Incandescence." The piece began with a shocking drum-beat that commanded the attention of the audience. The movements of the dancers, who wore bright red and black, remained just as strong as the beat. The dancers exhibited an interesting mix of short, exact movements, and larger, more fluid actions. The next piece was choreographed by Kate Garven '19 and was titled "Δ." This piece featured lots of graceful movements and repetition in small groups. The music chosen for this piece was softer and slower, and the dancers wore white dresses. The striking juxtaposition between this piece and "Incandescence," drew me into the show.

The piece before intermission, titled "and on we float," was choreographed by Elisa Kennedy '21, who explained in the program that we all have "somewhere in our lives that brings us happiness and comfort, that connects us to others and is there when we need it"; this piece represents how the ocean is that place for her. To further convey this maritime theme, the dancers wore blue outfits. The piece was danced to two songs: "Coastline" by Hollow Coves and "Featherstone" by Paper Kites. There was a break in the music and dancing between the two songs, during which the sound of waves crashing could be heard and the dancers laid on the floor. This was a superb choice, as their movements were reminiscent of both the fluidity of the water and the tranquility that Kennedy mentioned the ocean brings her. As the second song began, the dancers began to smile and gleefully jump around the stage, clearly feeling the happiness the choreographer wanted to convey. This provided insight into the emotions behind movements and relates back to the overarching theme of "Human Intentions" beautifully. I found this story-telling aspect of the piece made it easier for audience members who may not have as much experience with dance to interpret the meaning of the piece. I also really appreciated that all aspects of the piece – from costumes to music to choreography – directly reflected Kennedy's own purpose and intention in creating the piece.

Following intermission was a hip-hop piece, "Touch the Sky,"

choreographed by Alex Medzorian '19 and Jai Gohain '19 and performed to a medley of "Love Lockdown" by Kanye West; "Reborn" by KIDS SEE GHOSTS, Kanye West, and Kid Cudi; and "Stronger" by Kanye West. Though it began in a similar manner to the opening number of the first act – an assertive, attention-grabbing beat – this piece promptly found its unique identity. The choreography and staging were exciting and dynamic. A sole dancer began this piece, but as the song progressed the rest of the dancers entered in pairs and joined the individual on stage, before all dancing in unison. What captured my attention and made this piece so interesting and unique was the brief interlude between songs where each dancer performed a unique dance accompanied by a recording of themselves describing what they believe makes them strong. Then, as Kanye's "Stronger" began to play, the group came together once again to close the piece with a dance circle. The circle featured individuals and pairs performing their own dances. The decision to structure the dance in this way really called attention to individuals – not just their ability to dance, but also their personality. I enjoyed that this provided me with an opportunity to gain insight into fellow students and reinforced the idea of individualistic intentions that the show was named after.

This dance was followed by another upbeat, exciting piece, "Untitled Note – 1:17 AM," choreographed by Angelina Annino '20 to "Babes" by Hockey Dad. This piece was energetic, with the dancers wearing patterned outfits and moving quickly to match the loud guitar and drums heard in the song. At the same time, there was a sense of despair, as the dancers repeatedly sat on the floor and put their heads in their hands. I lost the stated meaning that the piece intended to convey because the emotions conveyed by these movements were so different.

The following dances, while beautiful and interesting to watch, fell into a monotonous and mellow pattern. They directly contrasted the slower tempo of the music accompanying the remainder of the dances in comparison to earlier pieces, which were all modern and contemporary. Given that the end of a long performance was approaching, my focus may have been held longer had there been as much variation in tempo and style as there had been earlier in the show.

This year's Dance Club Fall show was a beautiful display of the student talent here at Connecticut College. While there were moments in which the energy began to drag and the themes became unclear, they were far outweighed by the plethora of interesting and beautiful moments. Each dance shone through both its choreography and performance. It was clear that this production was the manifestation of this semester's hard work on the behalf of all of the members of Dance Club. With a theme relevant to everyone -- that was highlighted by the different stories conveyed through brilliant choreography-- and great variation in both dance style and musical selection, this was truly a production that had something for everyone to enjoy. •

Orca: The Unorthodox Jukebox of Conn

JACKIE CHALGHIN
CONTRIBUTOR



Image courtesy of Jackie Chalghin

Watching from the upstairs balcony in the back of the MOBROC barn, overlooking the crowd and directly facing the band, I saw the mass of people gathered below swelling with energy. The music inspired some to sway, others to mosh, and the rest to fall somewhere in between. Students had started to pour into the dimly-lit barn at around 10:00 p.m. on Oct. 19. They congregated within the graffiti-veiled walls facing the low-hung multicolored string lights, situated right above the student-run band who were performing their first show of the year: Orca.

Of the five Orca members, four are current members of MOBROC while singer and piano player Meridan Cavanaugh '18 is a former member, who participated her entire time at Conn. MOBROC—Musicians Organized for Band Rights on Campus—is a student-run organization that was started in the late 80s to provide a practice space for student bands at Connecticut College. A concert, however, has

to be registered with Jeanette Williams and The Office of Student Engagement.

Before a concert, “the band schedules practice times over the interweb,” says Orca singer, guitar, and piano player Oliver O’Neill ’19. During one of these practices, the band came in with a list of about 20 songs, vetoed half, and landed on the ten that would make up the roughly hour long setlist of that Friday’s show, one being a medley of “Hold On We’re Going Home” by Drake and Daft Punk’s “Get Lucky.” “I couldn’t really tell you who suggests each song,” O’Neill continues, “we just end up doing songs.” According to bass player Luke Pacilio ’21, “most of it is playing some fun tunes and curating a particular, ironic aesthetic.” Pacilio continued, saying, “We’re the unorthodox jukebox in that we play all the bangers that you didn’t think you would hear,” Pacilio says, “and didn’t know you wanted

to hear.”

Other songs included Daniel Caesar’s “Japanese Denim” and Prince’s “It’s Gonna Be Lonely,” the wide-ranging setlist ensuring that just about every student at the show would be able to sing along to lyrics of at least one song. Darcy Whitman ’22, who typically attends barn shows, knew just about every song, but she said Orca’s rendition of “Mardy Bum” was her favorite. She says because of its small size prevents bands from performing elevated stage, the barn “brings you so close to the music; you can sing and dance and no one’s going to judge you.” She remained in the front row about the entire time, where the band played practically within reach.

Orca delivered a high energy performance, and ended the night with The Who’s “Baba O’Riley.” Like the rest of its set, the band put its own spin on the song to maintain consistency throughout the show. “We’re the unorthodox jukebox in that we play all the bangers that you didn’t think you would hear,” Pacilio says, “and didn’t know you wanted to hear.” •

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information and work on the action painting, based on his emotions at the moment. Therefore, “Each time someone reaches out to be a part of the collaborative piece, the piece changes [because] the composition changes,” Tiago said, in response to a question about its significance. The beauty of this work is that it is created collaboratively. It cannot be completed without these donations. The pieces represent the solidarity between Puerto Ricans in the aftermath of the hurricane, according to Tiago.

Each piece, unique and not able to be replicated, is also representative of fingerprints. The fingerprints of the victims, too, were lost during the mass cremation process and therefore will never to be identified. Therefore, Tiago hopes to basically create new fingerprints for the victims through these pieces of art. The victim count, although based off of a government statistic, are not just a number. Instead, art must honor the individuality of those lost. Tiago was conscious of this. He did not want each piece to get lost in the overall composition and display of all 130, and eventually 911, pieces. Instead, he challenges the notion that “a lot of people [will] walk into an abstract art show and it’s all just glancing. And then they go directly to the food and wine.” Tiago explains, “I wanted them to be small pieces so people would go near and really look at the difference between all of them.” However as a whole, it is a powerful way to convey the amount of damage and lives lost during Hurricane Maria and the aftermath.

Tiago has created a beautiful homage to the victims of Hurricane Maria that extends not only to the number recorded by the government but raises awareness around the lack of concern by the United States and Puerto Rican governments. His work, too, is not overshadowed or lost in the historical significance. The art is able to stand on its own and inspire a reaction from the onlooker. The fact that the art is still in process creates a form of performance art as it travels from place to place before settling in Puerto Rico. Creating this piece has helped the artist process these events that feel so unjust. “This is the story that I chose to write because my life and my work has changed. I can’t see the world in the same light as I used to,” Tiago stated. “I feel a lot more empowered also to be able to confront the real problems.” Tiago’s work will be in Unity House until the end of the semester. •

STOP TRUMP

VOTE

NOV.
6TH

Ned Lamont
DEMOCRAT FOR GOVERNOR



NED
FOR CT