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Lawyer by Day, Singer by Night: How Marcus Man Became a Musician for Life

A year ago, I was relaxing in my flat while studying abroad at King’s College London when my dear friend and Layout Editor, Zoe Dubelier ‘23, @marcus_man_music, sent me a TikTok from her social media platform. The video featured a man singing to a crowd: “So she knows the offside rule / and she doesn’t care when she might lose / but then again she’s a Tottenham fan, I guess she’s used to that.”

As diehard Tottenham Hotspur fans, Dubelier and I were equally excited for the female soccer fan representation and miffed at the cheeky Tottenham dig (we love our Spur for always keeping us on our toes, for better or for worse). I was intrigued to learn more about this British artist who would dare call us out. Thus began a yearlong obsession with his song, “The Offside Rule,” and curiosity about the music man himself, who agreed to be interviewed by The College Voice.

Marcus Burling, aka Marcus Man, is a 24-year-old singer-songwriter from Warrington, England. His musical aspirations started young when he sang and wrote songs with his cousin, whose surname, Mannering, inspired Burling’s alliterative stage name. His love for music continued to grow even as he pursued a vastly different career path. While he earned a BA in Political Science at the University of Reading and studied Law at the University of Manchester, Burling continued to perform and write songs in his spare time.

“In that year, doing the law, I was kind of in this weird transition period where I was rushing to get out of a lecture so I could go to a gig,” Burling recalls. “I was trying to be a lawyer by day and musician at night, and I think that’s when I decided you can only do one — there comes a point where you have to make a decision.” So, after a year of Law at Manchester, he decided to pursue music full-time.

Burling emphasizes the struggle that comes from being split between academia and more creative pursuits, especially when he genuinely loved both. After undergrad, he worked for a professor for a year studying Syrian War geopolitics, and he felt so set on becoming a lawyer. However, his urge to create and perform music persisted. “I think that creative bone in me just wasn’t going. It was like an itch,” he reflects. “Maybe I thought [the itch] was going to go and it was just a hobby, but you can feel it, can’t you? It’s too passionate to not put everything into it.”

Now, Burling has moved to London and can be found performing all around the city, from playing in pubs to busking at King’s Cross Station. He mixes up his set list depending on the event, blending cover songs with his growing discography of original music. “You’ve got to always read the room,” he says about performing at various venues. “If it’s a Monday night [at a] quiet coffee shop or quiet pub, people aren’t going to be jumping on tables.” His social media platforms showcase performance highlights, including songs by Amy Winehouse and Arctic Monkeys, both of which have influenced his sound.

He says that performing original music is always fulfilling, especially when he can incorporate his songs into pub nights with popular covers. “‘The Offside Rule’ is always quite fun to play,” he tells me after I discovered him from that song. A proud West Ham fan himself, he continued, “I love football and I love playing [the song].” Then he quips, “And nobody likes Tottenham as well so I can make that joke in the song. It’s one of those things you just banter isn’t it?” In addition to “The Offside Rule,” he often performs “Growing Sideways” and his latest single, “Aspirations,” all available on Spotify and Apple Music.

When he’s busking outdoors or in other public spaces, crowd-pleaser covers are popular for large tourist groups. He remembers one special instance with a large group of French students outside the Tate Modern Museum next to the River Thames: “The teacher [came over and said,] “I can play guitar! Can I play and you sing a song?” The students got so excited that Burling ended up playing “Stand By Me” with them. When it comes to chance interactions with passersby, he says, “I think you’ve just got to lean into it. I never know what might happen.”

So, what does the music man have in store for the future? He plans on releasing another single at the end of this year or in early 2023, followed by an EP including the new song with an additional three original tracks. He draws inspiration from all aspects of life, from thoughts he has sitting on the London Underground, to his love for soccer, to the ups and downs of relationships. The development of his own creative process through consistent practice has been vital. “You might not hit the back of the net every time. You might miss, but you’ve got to try,” he says.

Article continued on page 3.
Letter From the Editors

What a week it has been in Camel Land. Your Co-Editors-in-Chief have been running around campus and New England all week. First, we presented at the 4th Annual All-College Symposium on Thursday with the Media, Rhetoric, and Communication Pathway. Fellow senior staff members also presented: Lucie Englehardt (Managing Editor - Food Pathway), Zoe Dubelier ‘23 (Layout Editor - Peace and Conflict), and Ben Jorgensen-Duffy ‘23 (Business Manager - Power, Knowledge, and Practice). Check out Kevin Lieue’s ‘26 article on some students’ reflections on the Connections curriculum. An hour after the Symposium, I changed costumes from business casual to Dance Club chic and ran upstairs to Myers studio to begin my last tech week. This performance weekend was a bittersweet milestone as a senior, made even more so by my family who came to watch for the first time.

Sam and the men’s soccer team traveled to Williams College this weekend, winning the semifinal on Saturday and battling until the end but ultimately coming up short in the final on Sunday. But have no fear, you can still keep up with Camel Athletics’ as highlighted by Sports Editor Hannah Foley ‘23.5 in our winter sports season preview. In other soccer news, the World Cup is quickly approaching, and Sports Editor Fritz Baldauf ‘24 previews the controversial international competition.

Speaking of soccer, ever wonder about the offside rule? Well, it is also the title of British singer-songwriter Marcus Man’s most popular song. Check out our artist spotlight on the Politics and Law scholar turned full-time musician on the front page as written by his biggest American fan: yours truly. Finally, on a British and soccer note, we dedicate our crossword this issue to a good friend, Conn student, and fellow Tottenham Hotspur fan. Get your obscure British trivia knowledge ready to complete this puzzle, along with our debut Thanksgiving-themed word search.

As we sit in our boiling hot office in this November heatwave (high of 72 today and no AC in Cro), we are reflecting on the whirlwind first half of the semester and looking ahead to what’s next. With midterm election day just passed (see the Connecticut election rundown by Andrew Kupovich ‘26), it is more important than ever to be active members of our communities, big and small. As Arts Editor Davi Schulman ‘24 covers, Conn students can get involved with groups like Enrich Mentorship Program, which works with local middle school students.

Thanksgiving Break is just around the corner, and we hope you check out our online edition during the festivities. As always, please reach out to us with any questions, pitches, or ideas at our new email: thecollegevoice@conncoll.edu. We have two more issues to publish this semester, so swing by our pitch meetings every other Sunday at 8 pm in the Alice Johnson room.

Cheers,
Catja Christensen
Co-Editor-in-Chief
Lawyer by Day, Singer by Night: How Marcus Man Became a Musician for Life

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Article continued from page 1.

says. “It’s like a muscle, you might not always be in the mood but you’ve got to try and see what you’ve got on the day.”

For others considering shifting careers to focus on creative and artistic pursuits, Burling advises, “Just do it. Just give it a go and see what happens.” He adds, “I think your parents’ support, when you can get it, is invaluable. My mum and dad are all like ‘Go for it! Got one life!’ which is fantastic.” His own career up to this point, from law school to pubs and from Warrington to London, has been a journey of self-discovery and taking risks to follow his dreams. “I did a lot of reflection… at the end of the day, it’s literally just you. You’ve got to take a leap, and it’s a leap of faith. You don’t know what’s going to happen, but you’ve got to go.”

Thank you, Marcus Man, for letting us get caught offside with you!

Spotify, Apple Music, and YouTube: Marcus Man
Instagram: @marcus_man_music

Camels Abroad: Shawnia Yon ’24

Name, Pronouns, Class Year:
Shawnia Yon, she/her, 2024

Major(s), minors, centers, pathways:
- Majors: Dance and Economics, Pathway: Entrepreneurship, Social Innovation, Value and Change

What program are you enrolled in?
SATA Peru Program

What made you choose this program?
When I took an economics class with Professor Cruz-Saco my freshman year, she mentioned how every 2 years she takes students with her to study abroad in Peru. Fast forward to sophomore year, I literally bumped into Professor Cruz-Saco as she was on her way to have an informational session about the SATA program. I decided to attend the presentation. I recall hearing how life-changing SATA Peru has been for a number of students, in addition to the wonderful experience they had in Peru. When reflecting on when I first found out about the program to now being here in Peru in my junior year, this is honestly a full circle moment.

How have you adjusted to life there?
Finding the things that make me happy and branching out. For me, dance is very important and it makes me feel grounded in moments where I’m feeling lost. When I arrived in Peru, I was on a quest to find a dance studio so I could continue my training and even learn a new style of dance. I asked my Peruvian friends if they knew of dance studios, and I asked my host sister if I could dance with her at her studio. After dance class, I may be tired, but I come home with the biggest smile on my face.

In terms of branching out, I always try to attend events to meet new people. I have made so many new friends, and we try to hang out at least once a week.

Were there any clichés that were proven true or false?
The fruits taste so much better here.

What is your housing situation? What is that like?
I’m staying with a host family. It has honestly been a lovely experience, and it forces me to practice my Spanish because my host parents speak little English. My host mother is very warm and welcoming, which has made my experience 10x better. We’ve had several one-on-one host mother/daughter bonding time. My host sister is also amazing. We have daily chats, and I take dance classes with her throughout the week.

What is a typical day like? Is it similar to Conn at all?

It’s hard to describe a typical day because every day is different. Some days are simply going with the flow. I have 3 hour academic classes every weekday except Wednesdays. On Mondays, I take dance classes and meet up with my Tandem buddy for language lessons. Tuesdays are pretty open to hanging out if someone texts me and for finishing homework. Wednesdays are dedicated to hanging out with my Peruvian and exchange friends. Thursdays are my homework days. Fridays are dedicated to hanging out with my exchange buddy and my other Peruvian friends. The weekends are usually devoted to exploring different parts of Peru, hanging out with friends, and self-care.

Are you involved in anything outside of just classes?
- REA (class representative) for my Political Economy Seminar class. As a REA, my responsibilities include representing my fellow peers in the class, attending meetings with the President of the University, and communicating with the professor about the needs of the class.
- Salsa classes at the Ladies Studio in Barranco, Peru (I’m starting bachata classes in November).
- BBUP Buddies: The exchange buddy program that the university offers exchange students.
- Tandem: The language program the university offers for exchange and Peruvian students.

What advice would you give to people preparing to go away?
- Going out of your comfort zone is the best way to grow and to open doors to a plethora of new opportunities and experiences for yourself. Para progresar, primero hay que dudar.
- Don’t be afraid to ask questions; you never know what someone may know.
- There will be moments when you feel overwhelmed and sometimes homesick. That’s normal; don’t ever forget that. You will get over it and it will get better.
- Branch out and meet new people. You are abroad. Other students want to meet new people too.

What do you think you would have liked to know that you know now?
Honestly, nothing. Everything has worked out in its own timing. I have been able to partake in so many new experiences since I’ve been here. Since being in Peru, I’ve been able to experience surfing for the first time, jumping off a cliff into a waterfall, zip lining over a creek, taking salsa classes, and so much more. If I had had the knowledge before experiencing those moments, I don’t think it would have been as significant and joyous for me.
¡Comunidad!: Enrich Mentorship Program Builds Community Bridges

DAVI SCHULMAN
ARTS EDITOR

Every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon, the faces of the students at Bennie Dover Jackson Multi-Magnet Middle School (BDJ) light up as they engage in exciting programming with Connecticut College student mentors. The Enrich Mentorship Program gives middle school students the chance to decompress and have fun at the end of the school day, and Conn students the opportunity to form meaningful relationships with those students by leading and participating in various activities. According to an article from the Conn website’s news archives, Enrich began in New London in 2013 after the school district was selected “to receive funding from the Ford Foundation and the National Center on Time & Learning to pilot extended school day programs.” The program has thrived for the past nine years as it formed an important and mutually beneficial partnership between Conn and BDJ.

May Kotsen ‘23 has participated in Enrich since her first year at Conn. She became a Team Leader as a sophomore and is now the Enrich Student Coordinator for her second year in a row. Kotsen shared, “I initially applied to Enrich because I was interested in getting to know the broader New London community and had previously done mentorship programs. The summer before I started Enrich, I worked with New London youth at a summer camp at the New London County Historical Society and I was interested in staying involved with the students I had met.” She is passionate about serving as a support system for younger students and building community. Jenn Bloom ‘24 is an Enrich mentor for the first time this year: “I applied for Enrich as my community placement for my PICA Junior Community Learning Seminar this semester. It felt the most fitting and relevant to the work I’m passionate about, as my PICA area of interest is the impact of youth services and organizations on children’s well-being.” In Bloom’s case, Enrich provides her with practical experience for her academic center while also sparking her interest in community programs for youth.

On Tuesday afternoons, Conn student mentors lead activities at the middle school, and on Thursdays, they bring the students to Conn’s campus or on a trip in the surrounding area. “Every week, we participate in different activities (campus-wide scavenger hunt, apple picking, ice skating) with students from Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School. These fun environments allow the mentors and mentees to make really natural and easy-going connections with each other,” Bloom explained. Sophia Hosford ’26 chose to work as an Enrich mentor for the community learning requirement in her Education and Human Development classes. “I enjoy the different kinds of activities we plan and participate in and learning about the student’s interests. There are a few students in particular who I look forward to seeing every week. It’s also refreshing to see how excited they are by the activities the mentors plan,” Hosford expressed. Mentor Sarah Goodman Duffy ’26 shared, “Especially as a freshman, [Enrich is] a super cool way to get to know the New London community.”

The middle school years are very formative – and sometimes tumultuous – for young adolescents, and programs like Enrich provide a necessary support system and expressive outlet for them. Kotsen explained, “A lot of the students we mentor at Enrich are in the New Arrivals program, so many of them are just learning English. It is exhausting for them to have to navigate in a primarily English school and so having the space to allow them to relax and chat with their friends in the language they are comfortable with allows them to put their guard down even though we are still in a school setting.” Similarly, Bloom described the importance of Enrich: “I believe that having time and space to exert energy, try new things, and decompress is important for children’s well-being. I hope Enrich can serve as a positive outlet for the mentees and excite them amidst the business of the school week.”

According to Kotsen, the Enrich Mentorship Program “fosters a reciprocal relationship between Conn and the city of New London.” Through the Holleran Center for Community Action, Conn has many partnerships with local schools, organizations, and businesses; BDJ Middle School is just one of these connections. All Conn students are able to take advantage of these partnerships and work/volunteer in the New London community if they wish. Bloom said, “I really appreciate how [Enrich is] a community-based program and lets the Conn campus meaningfully engage with local students – it’s a fulfilling and rewarding experience to be a part of.”

Having mentors who go to college in their home city is especially inspirational for the middle schoolers. “I think that Enrich is really powerful because it allows younger students to envision and dream of what they could become and learn about opportunities that exist on a collegiate level,” expressed Kotsen. Kotsen spent nearly her whole college experience working with Enrich and gaining different leadership positions because she wanted more of a say in the way the program was run. She reflected, “Over the last few years with Enrich, I have seen incredible growth in a lot of the mentees. Mentees who barely spoke any English last year are now taking leadership roles in activities and excitedly translating for their friends. Seeing how much more confidence they have is extremely worthwhile.” Enrich is currently accepting applications for Conn students who would like to mentor in the Spring 2023 semester! To take advantage of this opportunity, find the application form link in the bio of @enrichconncoll on Instagram or reach out to May Kotsen (ekotsen@conncoll.edu) for more information.
If you ever had to park in the West Lot (also known as gravel lot) located behind Sprout Garden, be warned that once you park you might have to kiss your car goodbye until the end of the year. This semester has been my first experience with parking in the West Lot after parking my car in the North Lot last year, and there is a big difference in the quality of parking. A benefit of North Lot is that it has a lot of space, since spots are limited to students living in KB, Larrabee, Earth House, and the Plex (not including the first year dorms). However, parking in West Lot is a different story. I always wonder if I will be able to get out of my spot depending on how other cars are parked or whether I will be able to find a spot when I return to campus. Perhaps this is best illustrated by the time my friend and I came back from a concert at 1 a.m. We spent over 15 minutes driving through each aisle of West Lot with two other cars behind us looking for a spot to park, to no avail. To avoid waking up to a ticket in the morning, we ended up parking in a very tight spot at the end of the lot that was almost in a bush.

The root of the issue seems to be that West Lot serves a total of eight residential houses: Windham, Lazarus, Burdick, Smith, Plant, Knowlton, Blackstone and Branford. There are far too many cars assigned to such a limited space. Caitlin Boyd '24 is also assigned to West Lot and constantly has trouble finding a spot to park. “I recently tried to park in West Lot, but there was nowhere to park because the cars were unevenly spaced and it was overcrowded,” said Boyd. Since parking is so hard to find this semester, it is also worrying to think about how much worse the problem will be once the largest class at Conn is allowed to bring cars on campus next fall semester.

Boyd also noted that she was recently ticketed after finding no spots in the lot. “It was unclear where to go if my designated parking lot was full. I ended up being ticketed for parking in faculty parking when there were no student spots,” said Boyd. For the time being, while it is difficult to find more space on campus for student parking, this means that campus safety needs to be more forgiving of students who are also in Boyd’s situation.

With limited parking spaces also comes creative ways for students to park their cars due to a lack of organization within the lot. There are always a plethora of cars that are crooked and taking up two spots, sticking out way too much and blocking cars from backing out, sometimes even both! Since there is no clear distinction of what counts as a parking spot, it is difficult for students trying to find a spot and trying to get out. This problem would be easily solved with parking lines set up so that drivers can be more aware of how to park in order to allocate more space and an easier flow of traffic when entering and leaving the lot.

Overall, for the $75 that students have to pay to be able to park their cars on campus, there should be better quality parking and a guarantee that you will have a spot. The stress that comes with parking in the West Lot is only going to get worse as it gets colder. With snow and ice, it will be even more difficult to find space in a lot where the number of cars seems to exceed the maximum capacity. The administration needs to step up and acknowledge this problem before it gets worse. For the time being, lines should be set up and campo should not penalize students for parking in faculty spots until administration finds a solution to the lack of parking for camels.

No Parking for Camels

How 10 Students Want to Spend Money at Conn

Though we all wish we could control the environments in which we live and how those in charge spend money, it’s simply not possible... but what if it was? Here’s the first thing Conn students would address if they were in charge of the college’s finances:

Meagan Zaccagani ‘26
Having at least two options for people who have dietary options. The Office of Sustainability says there must be two meals available for people who have the top 8 allergens (milk, eggs, fish, shellfish, tree nuts, peanuts, wheat, and soybeans), but many of the options are not labeled, even if they are gluten free.

Sarah Duffy ‘26
There should be money invested into the different support systems like SVPA and SHS so they can have more expansive resources and teams so they can most effectively support students.

Anonymous ‘24
Financial aid - giving more money to need based students. More money towards the work study programs so more students are able to work to go here.

Jazmin Villalba Gimenez ‘25
Updated bathrooms - There is only one functioning shower on the third floor of Blackstone. There are no water fountains in the building. There are three stalls, and one shower. Five people have class at 9am in the morning, so we have to wait. We only have two sinks - for the whole floor.

Andrea Mandujano ’25 & Alejandra Romero Sanchez ’25
I wish there was clean water where we could fill up our water bottles in my building. There should also be kitchens in every dorm. Maybe every floor could have communal cleaning supplies.

Christian ‘25
Only the plex is accessible to handicapped students. None of the other dorms are. We also need new light bulbs and overhead lighting in the older dorms.

Hannah ‘25
We should be paying the staff more and we should be removing cockroaches, slugs, and other bugs from the buildings.

Kitt ‘25
My basement room flooded last year. They should have the windows sealed and ensure that the rooms are waterproof.
Connecticut is an overwhelmingly blue, Democrat-voting state. And in the leadup to the midterm elections on November 8th, there was little reason to think that would change. Elections analyst FiveThirtyEight gave Democratic governor Ned Lamont 98 in 100 odds at besting his Republican challenger; Democratic senator Richard Blumenthal stood at 99 in 100. The entire Connecticut congressional delegation — two U.S. senators and five U.S. representatives — is Democratic.

But pop the hood, and things aren’t so clear cut. In rural, less wealthy parts of the state, conservatism dominates; in other areas, purple politics prevail. Since 2015, New London, Waterford, and the surrounding towns that make up the deeply purple 20th State Senate district have been represented by centrist Republican Paul Formica. The longtime senator, though, did not run for reelection, sparking a competitive race to replace him. In the hotly contested campaign that followed, the same nasty scare tactics and talking points that national politicians had been hammering for months managed to rear their ugly head in our corner of Connecticut.

On one side, Republican Jerry Labriola vowed to carry the torch of “moderate” Republicanism, and on the other, Democrat Martha Marx promised to be a progressive in the Senate. Objective, neither candidate was particularly extreme; most likely, neither was evil, either. At this local level of politics, there’s not a whole lot of similarity with the national political scene. State senators and representatives get votes the old fashioned way: knocking on doors, going to events, calling anyone who still has a landline.

These people are no Biden or Trump — chances are, you’ve seen your state representative from back home around town. Maybe their niece or nephew was even on your baseball team in fourth grade. But despite the colossal gap between state and national politics, the race for the 20th State Senate district brought a vitriolic, partisan microcosm of the national political environment to New London.

On the Republican side, Jerry Labriola’s campaign seemed determined to convince voters that Martha Marx, a local nurse and mother of four, wants to set the police officers of Southeastern Connecticut on fire. In fact, on one absurd flier that landed in the mailboxes of 20th district voters, Marx is depicted doing just that — setting a police hat and badge, under text that reads “LESS POLICE. LESS FUNDING. MORE DANGER.” The Connecticut GOP and Labriola’s campaign also set up TheRealMarx.com, where voters were reminded that the New London Democrat will “destroy[] our quality of life.” The website urged visitors to “Stop RADICAL MARTHA MARX before it’s too late.” Despite having positioned himself as a moderate, throughout the campaign, Labriola utilized scare tactics straight out of the Trump playbook.

For her part, Democratic candidate Marx, too, parroted the same talking points that her national Democratic colleagues had lodged at their opponents. Attempting to capitalize on the Supreme Court’s decision in Dobbs and political anxieties around abortion access, Marx repeatedly accused her opponent of being pro-life, and painted herself as the only candidate to protect reproductive rights — despite the fact that he has unambiguously expressed pro-choice views. And just as Labriola cast his Democratic opponent as an unhinged extremist (“marxist Martha Marx”), Marx accused Labriola of being an election-denying Trumpist.

The Connecticut 20th State Senate District is as purple as they come: in 2020, the Republican incumbent won by just 2.3% of the vote. Although national elections get far more media attention, it is ultimately state and local officials who have the most direct impact on our day-to-day lives. And that’s the way it should be. They’re our neighbors, members of our communities — exactly the people who should be making the decisions that affect us most. Whether you’re registered to vote here in the 20th district or back home, your vote matters. I hope you used it.

Andrew Kupovich
Contributor
Are Centers and Pathways Worth the Effort?

Kevin Lieue
Staff Writer

Last Thursday, the Connecticut College community gathered for the fourth annual All-College Symposium. In this Symposium, seniors from different pathways and centers presented the projects and research they have done through the college’s Centers and Pathways.

Through these Centers and Pathways, seniors were able to specialize their study in interdisciplinary topics. This year, 239 of the 426 seniors (56%) chose to be a part of the five centers, ten pathways, and one certificate program included in the Connections program.

The Connections program was fully implemented in 2016, and according to the Connecticut College website, this process was led by faculty and titled “reVision.” This process led to strengthened first-year seminars, a new team advising system, the creation of ConnCourses, and new graduation requirements. At the heart of the new curriculum was the creation of integrative Pathways and academic Centers.

The creation of the new curriculum led to a considerable amount of attention for the college. President Katherine Bergeron appeared on a Forbes podcast, Sirius XM, and The Chronicle of Higher Education to discuss Connections. Additionally, the college was honored by The Aspen Institute and received a $750,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to help implement the curriculum.

This additional interest in the college extended to prospective students. According to reports on the college’s website, Connecticut College reported receiving a record number of 6,400 applications just two years after the implementation of Connections.

However, just six years later, much of the enthusiasm has petered out among many students.

Ben Jorgensen-Duffy ’23, an Educational Studies and Human Development double major and History minor, first learned of the Connections program when touring as a student. “There was a lot of promotion of Centers and Pathways as the default for what you were going to do,” said Jorgensen-Duffy. “Centers were sold to me as really easy to get into and that if you wanted to get into one you could.” However, it quickly became clear that this was not the case. “I applied to PICA [Program in Community Action] and didn’t get into PICA and they referred me to [the] Power, Knowledge, and Practice Pathway.”

Jorgensen-Duffy later joined the Power, Knowledge, and Practice Pathway but not all was smooth sailing from there. “We had one thematic inquiry class which was just an education class which was kinda confusing and very loosely based,” said Jorgensen-Duffy. “Then we kinda came up with an animating question but honestly for all of junior year there was absolutely no structure and support there [in our pathway].”

Leading up to the Symposium, Jorgensen-Duffy felt that his Pathway did not have much of an impact on his academic journey in college. “It seems like I have done a lot of cool things and that I have done my individual path through my college experience but in completing those they really had absolutely nothing to do with the pathway,” said Jorgensen-Duffy. “The pathway provided no structures that supported them and I just did stuff that I would’ve done anyway and now reflectively I can say that it was part of this journey that they want me to talk about.”

Jorgensen-Duffy felt like the pathway was more of a resume builder than a life-changing experience. “At the end of the day, what I feel like is that the pathway gives me an opportunity to sell myself in a way that’s somehow creative and it makes the school look like they have something special going on with their academics but on both ends it’s really more of a performative dressing up of a normal college experience than anything substantive.”

The biggest problems Jorgensen-Duffy found with his experience in the pathway were related to staffing. “[Conn] has way too many pathways and not enough people committed to teaching them, especially since it takes a lot of commitment to be with the same cohort over the years.” This personally affected Jorgensen-Duffy, as the support he received in his pathway was often inconsistent.

Likewise, Will Bryant ’23, a History and Music Studies double major and Education Studies minor, also a member of the Power, Knowledge, and Practice Pathway, encountered many of the same problems in his journey. “I joined my pathway because I decided going into my sophomore year of college that I wanted to become an educator,” said Bryant. “Since Conn was dialing back their Education Department, [the Pathway] was a way for me to become more invested in what I thought would be an education path.”

However, Bryant’s Pathway experience was not at all he expected. “Our advisor had to step down during the experience and it felt very weird when we were flying in the dark for a while,” said Bryant. “We had no checking in, no new advisor, and very little structure after our initial Thematic Inquiry.” As a result, roughly half of Bryant’s peers in the Pathway dropped out.

Ultimately, support came, but much later than Bryant would have liked. “The only support we had after was before the Symposium when we had to talk about how much of a positive experience it was at the Symposium.”

Though the experience of a pathway was not what he expected, Bryant has no regrets. “Even though the experience wasn’t what I thought was sold to me, I don’t regret it,” said Bryant. “I was able to structure more coursework well to reflect my pathway and what I was passionate about.”

If given the opportunity to bring changes to the Pathway system, Bryant would totally restructure it. “He continued, “Pathways are a big selling point of the college, and Symposium day is a huge day so why students are left unsupported after their initial thematic inquiry and land in their senior year without knowing what’s going on is beyond me.”

In addition, Bryant feels that the pathways should have more support. “I think there definitely needs to be more regular check-ins,” said Bryant. “I think there maybe should be a one or two credit course junior year to ensure people are on-track with their pathways because it’s pretty common for people’s animating questions or goals to change as they get deeper into their work.”

In contrast, a junior in the Goodwin-Niering Center for the Environment has enjoyed her experience. “[The experience] has had its ups and downs but overall it’s been positive,” said the junior. “It’s really nice to have a smaller community on campus and we have seminars every semester and the topics are very interesting.”

Though she believes that her overall experience has been positive, not all has been easy. “I do feel that [the Center] can be unnecessarily stressful at times with requirements,” said the junior. “You have to do an internship the summer after your junior year in Centers and you have to take three classes that relate to your proposed project that are outside your major and that’s the real issue for a lot of us at the moment.”

In contrast to the lack of guidance others experienced in Pathways, the junior has had no problems with support in her Center. “We have quite a lot of guidance,” said the junior. “We always have a faculty advisor each semester as well as three to four faculty members dedicated to the center and an additional faculty group.”

Through her experiences, the junior would recommend Centers to all. “I’ve been talking to a lot of people about how centers are very useful for people who know what they want to do in the future and have a concrete idea of what they want to do for a project,” said the junior. “But, I’d definitely recommend everyone to look at Centers and talk to advisors.”

Aware of the challenges many of her peers in Pathways face, the junior would like Pathways and Centers to have more common ground. “I’d definitely make the Centers and Pathways as a whole more cohesive,” said the junior. “I’d make them more of the same across the board.”

It seems as though many students don’t regret joining a Center or Pathway but feel as though much can be improved across the board. These improvements would include adding more staff support and guidance in pathways, having clearer guidelines in both centers and pathways, and adding more opportunities for those in pathways to get to build community. Hopefully, the college can take steps to reflect these prevalent suggestions.
From One Camel to Another – A Reminder of US’ Actions Abroad

Anonymous Contributor

In the summer 2022 issue of the Connecticut College Magazine (Vol. 30, No. 3), Eugene B. Kogan ’03 was interviewed for the piece “The War in Ukraine.” Kogan “conducts research and teaches about power dynamics in negotiation and mediation at Harvard.”

I was disappointed in some of Kogan’s rather ahistorical answers, and upon further research I started to connect the dots. According to his bio on Harvard’s website, he “has conferred with all of America’s top diplomats,” including Henry Kissinger. If that name doesn’t immediately set off alarm bells for you, a cursory internet search of his accomplishments should quickly fill you with unbridled rage.

I want to highlight this question and answer: “How important is it for Ukraine to win this war, and if Russia wins, what does it mean for democracies and the world order?”

He responds that “the civilized world cannot afford to countenance the unprovoked invasion and destruction of a sovereign country. [...] If allowed to stand, the fact of a nuclear-armed power invading and destroying a non-nuclear armed state will create a precedent of nuclear impunity.”

It’s not necessarily a secret that the United States has a long history of “unprovoked invasion and destruction of a sovereign country” and being “a nuclear-armed power invading and destroying a non-nuclear armed state [creating] a precedent of nuclear impunity”? I also found it dishonest for him to call the conflict “unprovoked,” though he isn’t the first to say this.

Regardless of one’s stance on the conflict, those reading this probably attend(ed) a college in the US, and the US shares responsibility for this crisis. I want to take this time to clear things up and help readers navigate some of the nuance here. First, a short bit of history.

Since it developed and used nuclear weapons on civilians in Japan during WWII—needlessly at that—the United States has repeatedly engaged in the “unprovoked invasion” and “destruction” of several non-nuclear armed states. (Thankfully without further use of nukes, though Korea came close.)

This list includes Korea (1950–1953), Vietnam (1965–1975), Grenada (1983), Kuwait (1990–1991). Under the thin guise of NATO and UN-led operations, there was/is Afghanistan (2001–2021), Iraq (2003–2021, with continued “advising” from US military personnel), Somalia (2007–present), and Libya (2011), while never seeing US troops on the ground, is also worth studying. (Tip: you can pretty much always replace “NATO” or “UN” with “the US” when it comes to conflicts.)

Millions have died in these invasions. Korea (then united) suffered three million deaths—10 percent of the peninsula’s total population. The North alone lost 12-15 percent of its people; it’s population was half that of the South prior to the war. The US Air Force virtually flattened the North, using more ordinance than what the entire USSR’s (illegal) dissolution in 1991, NATO has grown eastward. 14 new country-members have been welcomed over the past two decades; something our president Biden helped push for. Now, Russia is almost completely flanked by NATO and its weapons on its western border. (Imagine if Russia or China formed a military alliance with Canada and positioned missiles within range of Washington, D.C., or even the submarine base right by our campus! The claim that the invasion is “unprovoked” suddenly seems to hold less water.)

Ukraine seems to be next on the list (at least, Biden has reaffirmed the Russia-excluding “open-door” policy of NATO to Ukraine). Were that to become the case, NATO countries would surround Russia on its entire western border. This would mean that NATO (the US) would be completely within its abilities to position long-range advanced missile systems capable of striking Moscow (see: the US in Italy and Turkey prior to the October Crisis of 1962).

To grossly simplify for print: Russia is a large, powerful country, and does not align itself with US hegemonic desires. They (and the BRICS countries) threaten the US-led unipolar world. Between the Nord Stream II explosion forcing Europe to buy US oil (at much higher costs than Russian-exported gas), the Ukrainian-led Crimean bridge attack, and billions in funding and weapons shipments, it’s clear the US doesn’t want this conflict to end peacefully—or without sending a strong message to anyone challenging their global dominance.

I truly hope this conflict ends with a ceasefire—and soon. I’d also like to use some of this space and say we need to stop framing this as only either a Russian or Ukrainian victory. Russia has a population of over 144 million people, and Ukraine has a population of 43 million people; nearly 200 million people are suffering needlessly (through combat or sanctions, which either don’t work or cause more harm than good) because the United States isn’t getting its way and doesn’t want to get its hands dirty (for now). Currently, the only victors are the shareholders of weapons manufacturers and the Pentagon, their mouths frothing every day the conflict continues.

There need to be peace talks now if we don’t want to see a nuclear winter anytime soon. Find a principled anti-war or anti-imperialist organization near you and learn from them, see what you can do to help. Most importantly, if you’re going to talk about a geopolitical conflict in your alma mater’s magazine, make sure you remember your history. •
Top Contenders in Qatar: Previewing an Unorthodox World Cup

The World Cup approaching would normally mean that summer is upon us, but not this year. Due to the intense summer heat of the Middle East, the 2022 FIFA World Cup will be held during the holiday season, starting in late November. The 2022 Cup has been a source of controversy since Qatar was announced as the host in 2010. Controversies range from an inability to purchase alcohol in the stadiums to the well-documented and horrific human rights abuses during the construction of the stadiums for the tournament. Despite the controversies, however, there is still soccer to be played and a world champion to be crowned. Here we will rank the top six contenders to hoist the most coveted trophy in the world of sports.

5. England:
Semifinalists in the last world cup and runners up in Euro 2020 (2021), England are looking to finally win the big one. All eyes will be on their group stage match against the United States on Black Friday. On paper, they could be viewed as the overall favorites, but the squad has been in relatively poor form leading up to the tournament, and manager Gareth Southgate has done little to inspire faith in his decisions. Additionally, center back Harry Maguire has been England's Jekyll and Hyde recently. Despite these concerns, the star power alone of the likes of striker Harry Kane, and forwards Raheem Sterling, Jack Grealish, Mason Mount and Phil Foden should be enough to carry England on another deep run.

4. France:
This might feel low for the defending world champions, but all hasn’t been right in their camp lately. Les Bleus will be without the starting midfield duo of N’Golo Kante and Paul Pogba that carried them to victory at Russia 2018, which is a monumental loss, and it will be a tall task for manager Didier Deschamps to make up for their absence. There’s also the defending champions’ curse looming over the French (four of the last five defending champions have failed to make it out of the group stage of the following World Cup). These concerns aside, France is still a formidable force, with a solid back line and one of the most dynamic attacks in the world, anchored by 2022 Ballon d’Or winner Karim Benzema and one of the best young stars in the game, Kylian Mbappe.

3: Germany:
The 2014 World Champions are looking to regain their luster after a disastrous showing at Russia 2018 and a disappointing round of 16 exit at Euro 2020. The Germany squad has looked much better in the past year since Hansi Flick took over managerial duties from Joachin Löw, employing a dynamic high pressing system. The German midfield and attack are anchored by Bayern Munich's stars. The center of the pitch is held down by arguably the most formidable double pivot in the world: Joshua Kimmich and Leon Goretzka, and the attack, although it lacks a true number nine striker, is dynamic and fluid, with Germany legend Thomas Müller leading the way, and supported by three of the best young attackers in the world: Serge Gnabry, Leroy Sane and Jamal Musiala. As always, Germany will be anchored at the back by the best goalkeeper of the past fifty years, Manuel Neuer. Germany has a slightly more challenging group, which includes another contender (Spain), but this revamped squad should be a force to be reckoned with.

2: Argentina:
This will likely be Lionel Messi’s last chance to win football’s most coveted trophy, and it appears that Argentina finally has the team around him to do it. The 2021 Copa America winners have a solid back line, a strong midfield, and of course the best player of all time leading their attack. What is different in this World Cup is that it feels that Argentina will have its best supporting cast in attack for Messi. Veteran Angel Di Maria is a steady presence on Messi’s opposite wing, and the attack is made ever more dynamic by the presence of young stars Paulo Dybala and Lautaro Martinez.

1: Brazil:
Perennial contenders and the country that has won the most world titles, Brazil are looking to get back on top of the world for the first time since 2002. An easy group should ensure a quick qualification to the knockout stage, and once their Brazil are as dangerous as anyone. A dynamic, quick attack of Neymar Jr., Vinicius Jr, and Gabriel Jesus will give opposing defenses nightmares. Ederson is one of the best keepers in the world. Thiago Silva and Marquinos provide an elite, veteran presence on the back line, and Casemiro still serves as one of the best physical enforcers in the midfield. Although they are not the clear cut favorites in this tournament, Brazil’s overall depth and dynamism makes them the initial favorites in a stacked field to hoist that coveted gold trophy in Qatar this December. •
As the temperatures get lower and the last leaves fall, it can only mean one thing: it's time for winter sports! The longest of the three sports seasons, winter athletes compete from November to sometimes as late as March, many giving up part of their winter break to practice and play games in hopes to compete for a championship. This year, Conn has multiple teams hoping to match, surpass, or avenge their previous season, and we can't wait to watch them compete!

Women's Basketball
Coming off a tough, injury-ridden season last year, the women's basketball team is looking to make a splash. Senior Molly Cronin says her expectation of the season is “to be the underdog team that is going to surprise a lot of people.” Senior Jaycie Rojik echoed this, saying, “There has been a noticeable shift in the energy and culture where I really expect great things this season. (...) With the roster we have, I expect to go far and graduate knowing that this team is on the up & up.” Both seniors expressed the team's expectation is to be a contender for the NESCAC championship. The team is looking forward to facing rival Trinity twice this season. They will face Trinity in the first home game of the season on Nov. 18 and then again at Trinity on Jan. 13.

Men's Basketball
After a historic season that led the Camels to host a NESCAC playoff game for the first time in a decade, the men's basketball team has renewed its quest for the title. Junior Billy Whelan says the game against Bowdoin, the team who knocked them out of the playoffs last year, will be one to watch: “That game is definitely marked on the calendar for all returners. (...) With the roster we have, I expect to go far and graduate knowing that this team is on the up & up.” Both seniors expressed the team's expectation is to be a contender for the NESCAC championship. The team is looking forward to facing rival Trinity twice this season.

Women's Hockey
In a little over a week, the women's hockey team will find out if an off-season commitment to creating a culture of buy-in and bonding has turned them into the team they hope to be for the upcoming season. Last season ended with a heartbreaking game that knocked the Camels out of the second round of the NESCACs.

This season, senior co-captain Caroline O'Keefe says “our goal for the year is to host a playoff game.” Senior co-captain Melanie Conka agreed, adding, “We definitely started early setting our expectations for the year, and everyone's hopped on board.” The team is looking forward to opening weekend, their 25+1 celebration which includes a bunch of alumni returning, against Wesleyan on Nov. 18 and 19. O'Keefe and Conka agree that the game at Trinity on Jan. 20 and 21 will be another to catch since the in-state rivalry is always fun.

Men's Hockey
After losing in the NESCAC Quarterfinals last year to in-state rival Trinity, the men's hockey team went back to the drawing board to figure out how they could make their 2022-23 campaign more successful. “We have heightened expectations from last year,” said senior Rob Radochia. “I trust that our modified strength & conditioning program and high-intensity practices will translate well to in-season competition.” Radochia added, “While we graduated several impactful players, the first-year class has been able to effectively fill those roles.” The men's hockey team will start their season away at Wesleyan on Nov. 18 and host their first home game of the season against Manhattanville College on Nov. 26.

Women's Squash
With the recent hiring of Coach Scott Brown, an alum of the Conn squash program, the women's squash team is ready to hit the ground running. Although graduating three key players, the team thinks they have the talent to reach their goal of being ranked in the top 25 teams in the College Squash Association (CSA). The biggest matches to look forward to this year are against Haverford College in an away game on Jan. 15, and a game at Colby College on Dec. 3. Colby and Haverford are both responsible for the early end to last year’s season in the CSA Championship, so revenge is on the menu for those games.

Men's Squash
With a new coach at the helm, the men's squash team is looking to crack the top 30 in the CSA rankings. Although graduating 5 seniors last year left big shoes to be filled, a strong recruiting class brought a large group of new players that now makes up more than half of the team. “They are all very motivated players looking to push themselves and the team,” according to returning seniors on the team. The men are looking forward to games against Denison University on Jan. 14 and two shots at a rematch of last year’s final game against Haverford College on Nov. 19 and Jan. 15.

Women's Swim & Dive
Bringing a larger team to the pool this season, the women's swim and dive team is looking to build towards a top performance in the NESCAC tournament in February. After finishing in the top 20 teams in the country for the 5th straight season, the team is looking to a large freshman class to see what they can offer. So far, senior Abby Martin says the freshmen are “each showing much promise.” The women's swim and dive team will host their first home match of the season against Roger Williams on Dec. 10.

Men's Swim & Dive
After graduating almost half the team last year, the men's swim and dive team is hoping to make a run for the title adding 3 freshmen and returning 2 NCAA Championship participants. The team was not available for comment at the time of publication. The men will start their season at Middlebury on Nov. 19.

Women's Indoor Track & Field
While mostly an individual sport, the women's track and field team is working to...
Pucks and Balls and Cleats, Oh My! Winter Sports Are Back

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Article continued from page 10.

will have the opportunity to compete on a banked track, which allows the runners to run faster, at the NESCAC invitational on Jan. 29. They also will compete at the Division III New England Championships at the end of February.

Men's Indoor Track & Field

The men's track and field team is feeling confident that this will be a season to remember. Returning senior All-American Jeffery Love as well as several athletes coming off a wildly successful cross-country season, the team is hoping to contend for a top spot in the NESCAC. Sophomore Jayson Firmin says that while many of the seniors last year were key members of the team, the freshmen this year are really exciting. In terms of meets to get excited about, the indoor track and field team has no home meets as Conn doesn't have an indoor track. However, the indoor track & field season often blends into the outdoor season in the spring, so while the team is very excited about meets like the one at the New Balance Track in the winter, it's the outdoor NESCAC Championship in the spring that is the big ticket because Connecticut College is hosting the NESCAC Championship this year.

Best of luck to all our winter sports teams as they start their seasons! Go Camels!

Sports Spotlight

Upcoming Events

11/11 Women's Basketball @ Maine Maratime Academy, Waltham, MA
11/11 Men's Basketball @ Umass Dartmouth, North Dartmouth, MA
11/18 Women's Hockey vs. Wesleyan University, New London, CT
11/18 Men's Hockey @ Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT
11/12 Women's Cross Country @ NCAA Mideast Regional, Canton, NY
11/12 Men's Cross Country @ NCAA Mideast Regional, Canton, NY
11/18 Men's Squash vs. Navy, Middletown, CT
11/12 Women's Squash vs. Georgetown, Middletown, CT
The Struggles of Three Legendary Quarterbacks

Leo Saperstein
Staff Writer

The NFL regular season is nearly halfway over, and three legendary quarterbacks have still not found answers for their struggles on the field this year. The lackluster performance of quarterbacks Tom Brady, Aaron Rodgers, and Russell Wilson have nearly stifled the offensive firepower they were expected to show at the start of the season. But why are these excellent quarterbacks struggling so much? Their offenses have looked anemic, and it traces back to poor quarterback play. The answers to these struggles may have been hiding in plain sight.

Tom Brady - Tampa Bay Buccaneers:
Tom Brady decided to return for his 23rd season after initially retiring a month prior. Brady is the oldest active player in the NFL at the unprecedented age of 45. Due to his age, he is particularly adverse to taking hits and isn't mobile (not that he ever was). These flaws in Brady's game have been unmasked by the fact that the Buccaneers offensive line is among the worst in the NFL, missing several key pieces, like Shaq Mason and Tristan Wirfs, due to injury.

Brady's return also created tension between him and his wife, Gisele Bündchen. Allegedly, Bündchen was upset because she wanted Brady to be more present in the life of their three kids. It became all the more clear when the seven-time Super Bowl champion took 11 days off from preseason camp away from the Buccaneers for “personal” reasons. After months of anticipation, the couple finally announced that they would be getting a divorce.

Aside from his marital issues, he is 45 years old, and father time might have finally caught up to the future Hall of Famer. His performance in this stage of his career has limited the Bucs’ offense.

It’s not entirely on Brady that the Bucs aren’t achieving at the level they had hoped. Much of the roster is on the back half of 30, the offensive line has been greatly affected with the departures of Alex Cappa and Ali Marpet, as well as injuries. The promotion of Todd Bowles from Defensive Coordinator to Head Coach, after the retirement of Bruce Arians, hasn’t been as what they had hoped either.

Luckily, they play in a rather weak division where none of the four teams have a winning record, so there is time to figure things out. But right now, as former Buccaneers quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick said, “this offense is broken.”

Aaron Rodgers - Green Bay Packers:
The Packers are another team that have been unable to find any stability. After barely beating the New England Patriots with a third-string quarterback, they lost to three very beatable teams: New York Giants, New York Jets, and Washington Commanders.

The Packers’ poor performance all boils down to one aspect of their play — their offense. Aaron Rodgers has been upset with the Packers organization for a few years now as they had never drafted a wide receiver to support him throughout his entire tenure with the team. They even drafted another quarterback, Jordan Love, in the first round in 2020, which sparked him to request a trade from the organization.

To make matters worse in Titletown, the Packers were forced to trade away All-Pro wide receiver Davante Adams to the Las Vegas Raiders. Neither the Packers nor Rodgers knew that this would have to happen, and it has once again caused resentment between the two parties. It is safe to say that Rodgers is sorely missing the presence of Adams as he has been unable to get anything going with any of his other receivers, including rookies Christian Watson or Romeo Doubs.

Rodgers seems to heavily prefer the targets of Allen Lazard and Randall Cobb (who is now on injured reserve). He also is not handing the ball off to his running as much as he should. Furthermore, Rodgers should be utilizing the play of two top-tier running backs: Aaron Jones and AJ Dillon.

The Packers are currently trailing the 6-1 Minnesota Vikings, who just traded for star tight end TJ. Hockenson. In order to remain relevant in the playoff race, Rodgers needs to build chemistry with the receivers he currently has to work with.

Russell Wilson - Denver Broncos:
“Broncos country... let’s ride”? This is a ride Broncos fans want to get off of.

In the offseason, the Broncos, looking for an upgrade at quarterback over the Drew Lock/Teddy Bridgewater duo, traded for the longtime Seattle Seahawks signal caller. The Broncos gave up a king’s ransom in exchange for his services. Denver also handed Wilson a five-year contract extension worth $245 million ($165 million guaranteed), keeping him in Denver until he’s 40.

Trading for the four-time all-pro seemed like a very good move for Denver because they needed a quarterback upgrade. However, it hasn’t gone the way anyone had expected.

Maybe there was a reason why Seahawks coach Pete Carroll did not “let Russ cook.” Wilson’s decision-making has cost the Broncos several games.

One example of Wilson’s poor game management was during the Broncos’ Thursday night game against the Indianapolis Colts. During the final play of the game, Wilson took the snap from the shotgun at the 4-yard line, instead of handing the ball off to his running back Melvin Gordon. The pass was broken up by all-pro cornerback Stephon Gilmore to end the game. The Broncos lost by a demoralizing 12-9 score.

While Wilson’s Broncos have been severely struggling, Pete Carroll’s Seahawks have been exceeding expectations this year. This leads one to believe that perhaps it was Carroll who was behind the Seahawks’ success for the last decade. With the poor play calling and time management from Denver’s new coach, Nathaniel Hackett, taking a toll on the Broncos’ offense, there is more than enough evidence to suggest that maybe Russell Wilson was just a system quarterback of the Seahawks.

Apparently, Wilson is not as popular among his former teammates in Seattle either. Both former Seahawks cornerbacks Richard Sherman and running back Marshawn Lynch have blasted Wilson. They both expressed frustration with having to speak to his agent in order to reach Wilson himself. They also cited significant clashes between him and the rest of the team, especially with the defense.

The Broncos pretty much mortgaged their future to get Wilson, and so far, it has not worked out in the slightest. Because of this, the Wilson era in Denver might end in complete failure, and the Broncos will enter dire straits much sooner than they had anticipated. Russell Wilson and coach Nathaniel Hackett need to figure things out fast before the Broncos enter a bottomless freefall.

So what do we as fans take away from this? All three of these quarterbacks with past successes have regressed significantly this season. Each one is dealing with their own unique set of problems. There are multiple steps that each organization can take to support their franchise guys, but it is ultimately on the players themselves to step it up playing the most important position in football. Only time will tell if their efforts will be enough to right the ship.
A Colorful Night of A Cappella

Caleb Butler
Staff Writer

Despite a lack of Greek Life on campus, Conn shocks new students each fall with the sudden appearance of a cappella groups. They hold an annual audition and selection process that feels like an odd combination of sorority rush season and scenes from the “Pitch Perfect” movies. At the end of September, all seven groups — Vox Cameli, Williams Street Mix, ConnArtists, Miss Connduct, ConnChords, The Shwiffs, and Coco Beaux — tabled in Cro. Each group spent hours calling out to students on their way to pick up a package from the post office or a snack from Oasis, imploring them to sign up for an audition.

Prospective members of a cappella were asked to prepare a short piece of music, and, for some groups, were asked to bring something else, such as a fun fact or a show and tell item. Following a week of auditions and callbacks, on the evening of October 9, Fight Night arrived. That evening, members of each a cappella group convened to decide who they would accept. Prospective members were asked to remain in their rooms that night, left to await either an email explaining that they had not been chosen or the surprise arrival of their new a cappella group at their door to sing them a welcome song. In previous years, Fight Night has occurred on a Saturday, giving the newly completed a cappella groups the opportunity to celebrate their new members without the threat of classes in the morning; but, as a result of Fall Ball happening on the typical Saturday, Fight Night was moved to Sunday night, leaving any subsequent celebrations to be postponed to a later date in order to occur without looming Monday morning classes.

Every Halloweekend, the seven a cappella groups on campus come together to have their first concert of the year featuring their new members. However, the Halloween Challenge Concert is more than a simple concert. Each year, the A Cappella Council votes on a theme, with each group proposing three possible themes. Some of the proposed themes for this year included Woodstock, songs about rain, 90s alternative rock, and upcoming artists. The theme of this year’s concert was songs with colors in the title. This year's selections included Lana Del Rey’s “Blue Jeans,” Lizzy McAlpine’s “Orange Show Speedway,” and Harry Styles’ “Golden.”

This year, the concert fell on the evening of October 30th. Attendants and performers alike packed into the 1941 Room in Cro as each a cappella group, dressed in their respective color for the challenge, anxiously awaited their turn to perform. Many audience members had to sit on the floor or stand in the crowded space at the back of the room, with far more people attending the performance than there were chairs available to seat them. Before the doors even opened, students filled the halls of Cro, eagerly lining up for the chance to see the show of the weekend. As the 1941 Room filled, nearly running out of room, a cappella members remarked that this was the largest audience seen at an a cappella concert in years.

Beginning the performance were the Conn-Chords, who led the concert into their gentle yet powerful harmonies. They were followed by Vox Cameli, introducing themselves with their jubilant cheer of “Vox Rocks!” Next in the lineup were the Conn Artists, performing a high energy rendition of a Lizzy McAlpine song, and Miss Conduct, with a beautiful duet. As a member of Vox, I was unfortunately unable to watch all of the performances myself, instead having to listen from the hall, but even such an incomplete experience gave me the chance to hear just how hard each group had worked to prepare for the concert. In the concert’s second half, Williams Street Mix performed, splitting up their rendition of Carrie Underwood’s “Two Black Cadillacs” amongst their five new members, giving each the chance to shine. Coco Beaux sang a cheerful arrangement of “Golden,” each member donned in glittering gold accessories, including cowboy hats, feather boas, and even a tinsel-laden wig. Finishing up the concert were the Shwiffs, bringing the evening to a close with their beautiful voices.

Despite the concert running smoothly, it was not the easiest road to get there. In the weeks prior to the performance, the concert was rescheduled multiple times due to a packed Halloweekend schedule on campus. Since a cappella concerts are typically held in the Chapel, the location for this year’s Halloween Concert was out of the ordinary, leaving the seven groups to adjust quickly to the new space. Avery White, ’23, co-president of Vox Cameli and member of the A Cappella Council, agrees that scheduling this year was more difficult than most: “The planning process for an a cappella concert is tedious. There are seven groups and each has roughly fifteen members at the most. That’s quite a few schedules to consider when choosing a date. The Council wondered... Would students attend a concert in the middle of such a social weekend? What obligations do our singers have? What are the acoustics like where we are performing?” Despite the struggles along the way, the concert itself was a definite success. “We were pleasantly surprised to see so many smiling faces despite being in such a tiny room that is not equipped for musical performances. As a senior I can say that the senior comradery is what helped us reach our end goal. We auditioned for a cappella together almost four years ago and now work side by side to keep the singing cycle going.”

Although the rehearsal process was stressful to say the least, I can say with complete confidence that I consider my first concert experience as a member of Conn’s a cappella to have been a total success. The feeling of performing in front of such a large crowd was exhilarating, and although I have been involved in as much theater as possible since the pandemic, this truly felt like the return to live performances that I have missed so much in the past few years. Despite not getting the chance to watch each group perform their song, it was so rewarding to hear what every member of a cappella has been working on since the addition of their new members, only for such work to be met with effusive praise and a promise for more astounding performances to come. •
Taylor Swift Gets Personal in Midnights: Joy, Relationships, and Insecurities

On October 21, I was one of many fans who anxiously counted down to midnight. I mouthed the countdown from 11:59:50 to 12:00:00 and hit “play.” Instead of hearing the first notes of “Lavender Haze,” I saw the message: “We’re sorry, but something went wrong. Please try again.” I tried again many times, even closing the app and reopening it (the Wi-Fi in my room is very weak). But, many other listeners experienced this as well: Swift had crashed Spotify. Fortunately, Spotify worked again about ten minutes later. But let’s backtrack.

On August 28, 2022, Taylor Swift’s “All Too Well Short Film” earned her the Video of The Year award at the VMAs. In her acceptance speech, she shocked fans by announcing, “My brand-new album comes out October 21st.” Later, Swift shared a post on Instagram, revealing the title: Midnights. In a series of TikTok videos she posted from September 21 to October 7 called “Midnights Mayhem With Me,” she revealed the new album’s tracklist in random order.

The album opened with “Lavender Haze,” a song detailing the “all-encompassing love glow” of a relationship. With a pop beat, Swift makes it clear that she wants to stay completely in love with her partner and not worry about future plans or questions from the media. Many Swifties found the track’s beat similar to “I Think He Knows,” the sixth track of Swift’s seventh studio album, Lover. The second track, “Maroon,” explores the complexities of a relationship. The chorus describes different aspects of Swift’s relationship in different shades of red, such as “the burgundy on my t-shirt,” “the blood rushed into my cheeks, so scarlet,” and “the lips I used to call home, so scarlet, it was maroon.” Track three, “Anti-Hero,” became a fan favorite, as Swift delves into her insecurities, declaring, “It’s me / Hi / I’m the problem, it’s me.” One lyric in the second verse confused some fans; Swift sings that she feels like everybody is a “sexy baby” and she is the “monster on the hill.” This refers to Swift’s insecurities about her age (in her 2020 Netflix documentary, “Miss Americana,” Swift comments on a “phenomenon of famous women being discarded in an elephant graveyard by the time they’re 35”).

The fourth track is titled “Snow on the Beach” and features singer Lana Del Rey harmonizing in the background. As Swift states in an Instagram video, the song details the experience of “falling in love with someone at the same time as they’re falling in love with you.” The simile of snow on the beach refers to how surreal this experience can be. The fifth track, as many Swifties know, is typically the most emotionally vulnerable track of a Taylor Swift album (i.e. “All Too Well” and “Dear John”). Swift continues this pattern with the song “You’re On Your Own, Kid.” This track expresses Swift’s harsh realization that friendships and romantic relationships are fleeting, and that she has to face life on her own. Swift alludes to an eating disorder that she first discussed in Miss Americana, when she sings, “I hosted parties and starved my body like I’d be saved by a perfect kiss.” The sixth track, “Midnight Rain,” threw some people off, myself included, when it began with a lower-pitched version of the chorus. However, the song has grown on me. Swift explains why a past relationship ended, “He wanted a bride, I was making my own name,” and reveals that she wonders what could have happened had the relationship worked out.

The seventh track, “Question…?,” not only samples, but parallels Swift’s hit single “Out of the Woods” from her album 1989. Both of these songs are speculated to be about her very public relationship with Harry Styles from late 2012 to early 2013. The song describes a very turbulent and fragile relationship, much like Swift has stated that “Out of the Woods” described. The eighth track, “Vigilante Sh*t,” tells a story of revenge. Swift adopts the role of a man’s mistress, who teams up with his wife to get revenge on him by reporting his “white-collar crimes to the FBI.” The album’s ninth track, “Bejeweled,” should not be confused with the popular matching game. Fans speculate that the song is about Swift’s former boyfriend, Calvin Harris, telling off a lover who doesn’t appreciate her.

“Karma,” the eleventh track, criticizes people with whom she has previously feuded, such as Kanye West and Scooter Braun. Swift describes karma as her “boyfriend” and “a cat/purring in my lap ‘cause it loves me.” Swift has alluded to karma previously in her career, stating, “karma is real” in a 2016 “73 Questions With Vogue” video, and referencing it in her hit song, “Look What You Made Me Do.” Fans even suspect that if her 2016 feud with Kim Kardashian and Kanye West had not caused her to spend a year in hiding, she might have released a sixth studio album titled Karma, as she changed her hair and had a pattern of releasing albums every two years. The twelfth track, “Sweet Nothing,” was written with the collaborator William Bowery, who she worked with on her album folklore, and revealed in the companion documentary folklore: the long pond studio sessions to be Joe Alwyn, who she has dated since her disappearance in 2016. It gives an insight into Swift’s happiness with her current relationship, which is beautiful. The thirteenth track, “Mastermind,” lays out Swift’s careful planning in order to make her relationship work. This proves to be the antithesis of “invisible string,” from folklore, which claims a series of coincidences brought her and her partner together.

At 3:00am, Swift released a deluxe version of the album, titled Midnights (3am edition), with seven bonus tracks. The first bonus track, titled “The Great War,” describes Swift and her lover experiencing a conflict, but coming out of it stronger. The second bonus track is called “Bigger Than The Whole Sky,” griefs the loss of a loved one, and for this reason, has resonated with many people who have experienced miscarriages, as it grieves a seemingly senseless loss of someone who had a massive impact on the narrator, despite never getting to know the person lost. The third bonus track, “Paris,” describes Swift being madly in love. “High Infidelity,” the fourth bonus track, details a relationship burning out, and detailing that Swift is moving on. The fifth bonus track, “Glitch,” details an unplanned romance, as Swift and her lover were “supposed to be just friends.” “Would’ve, Could’ve, Should’ve,” is another fan favorite, a more retrospective version of the song “Dear John,” off of Swift’s album Speak Now. It appears to provide another look at her relationship with singer John Mayer when she was nineteen and he was thirty-two. The seventh and final bonus track, “Dear Reader,” provides advice to the listener based on her experience in the spotlight.

My personal favorite tracks on the album, in no particular order, were “Anti-Hero,” “The Great War,” “High Infidelity,” “You’re On Your Own, Kid,” and “Mastermind.” I relate the most to “Anti-Hero” and “You’re On Your Own, Kid,” while the lyrics of “The Great War” and “High Infidelity” are a somber kind of beautiful that I have always liked, and the lyrics of “Mastermind” are a perfect match to the synthesized beat. Overall, Midnights is one of my top three favorite Taylor Swift Albums.
For Nick

Across
1. Royal Fern Seed
6. Jamie Tartt of Ted Lasso descriptor
11. Indian lentil dish popular in the UK
14. London's Stansted Airport country
15. The USSR's last First Lady who met with the Queen of England in 1991
16. J.R.R. Tolkien supreme being of the universe
17. "O' Captain, My Captain" poet
19. Floor-swabbing tool used in Buckingham Palace
20. Genre of Virginia Woolf's "Kew Gardens"
21. English model, actress, singer, and businesswoman, ___ Campbell
23. Princess Diana's revenge dress was "__" (slang)
24. RAF airplane used during the Falklands War, Avro ___
25. American football?
28. Student storage in secondary school
30. Popular chain coffee shop in London
31. You might find these small tropical fish in the National Marine Aquarium
32. Shakespeare's "Mach __ About Nothing"
35. British weaver and artist who was appointed as an OBE, Sutton
36. Everything but the shaded clue
38. "Congratulations" to Sasha Baron Cohen, "Mazel ___"
39. Recipient of State Pension, abbr.
40. Poetic metrical feet
41. Leeds' river
42. "ya" in British Parliament
44. Organizer of the Daytonas 500
46. A Brit invented the steam version of this machine
48. Lorry
49. Late Queen's favorite dog breed
50. A member of the House of Lords
55. Fixtures for the Champions League are currently ___ (abbr.)
56. Betty White, Bea Arthur, Estelle Getty, and Rue McClanahan
58. Simple descriptor for the British Monarchy
59. Golfer who won the British Open in 1953, the only time he ever competed in it
60. Eight PM EST in Manchester
61. British R&B artist Des'
62. Iconic British with beans
63. Note from the gaffer's office

Down
1. Action taken by costumer at Shakespeare's Globe
2. American equivalent of a practice GCSE
3. Capital city 718 miles north of London in Norway
4. If Boris Johnson makes a blunder, he may ___ his statement
5. Ferguson: Prince Andrew :: Princess Anne: Mark Phillips
6. Alcroft, creator of "Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends"
7. "Round and Round" American Band who's reunion tour took them to London
8. "I love you" across the Channel, "Je t'___"
9. Co-EIC Catja's old flat building in London, abbr. (ask Catja)
10. A large menorah is place in Trafalgar Square for this holiday
11. Commonality between the British Parliament and the US Congress
12. Whittard has a distinct one during holiday season
13. Werewolf professor of the Defence Against the Dark Arts
14. Prince William's position on the throne
22. Get a pint of this at the pub
24. Players for "Charlie and Lola" VHS tapes
25. Sword practice between knights
26. D-Day invasion river
27. Weather measurement in Brighton
28. "___ it ___" popular Beatles tune
29. Amateur sex therapist, Millburn
31. What Big Ben keeps?
33. Charles Dickens' daughter and character in "David Copperfield"
34. Waterloo Bridge spans the Thames
36. "Tottenham's laid a ___ when they beat Marseille on Tuesday"
37. Jewels on coronation crown
41. Very foolish
43. Sponsor for Women's British Open Golf Championship
44. Lights on the London Eye at night
45. What you call your friends when you go on holiday to Mallorca
46. Sir ___ (foster father of King Arthur)
47. Baron, Earl, and Duke class
48. Used pounds
50. Single plant organism growing in Serpentine Lake
51. Snogging and hand holding
52. Robin Hood's merry men hid in this
54. English fashion designer and judge on "The Great British Sewing Bee", Young
57. Email response from Liz Truss, abbr.

Word Search
By Merriam and Webster

Parade
You
Santa
Bro
Naptime
Cider
Flu
Sis
Football
YungGravy
Cooked
Potato
TakingAWalk
Bar
Colonization
OldGravy
Autumn
Wine
Baked
Yum
Family
Pie
Yam
Soup
Roast
Fun
Leaves
Meal
Baste
Apple
Bread
Turkey
Gobble
Pot
Drama
Care
Bad
Break
Thank
Peace
Wifey

B S O U P  O T F A M I L Y
C A I Y A M A O R E D I C
O O K S R A K O E L P P A
L E O E A M I T U R K E Y
O A M K D A N B T P A A U
N U G I E R G A A S I C N
I T T O T D A L T S A E G
Z U H Y B P W L A N T O G
A M A O D B A D E E A E R
T N N U A R L N N A M S A
I F K R E E K I U V U V
O L D G R A V Y W I F E Y
N U O R B K P O T A T O S
An Honest Dance Club Review By a 13-Year-Old Critic

M. CHRISTENSEN
CONTRIBUTOR

As the younger sibling of two pre-professional dancers, I've attended lots of dance performances, both good and bad. I was excited to see Conn Coll Dance Club perform for the first time this weekend, and I have some thoughts.

For the past two months, the Dance Club has been swamped in work and sweat preparing for their "Unwind" showcase. On Friday and Saturday, club members performed their own choreographies and frankly, it was really good. The talent in these dancers was evident through the depth of the pieces and their deeper meaning.

After speaking with my colleagues at The College Voice, the overall fan-favorite was "Smile for Me" choreographed by Catja Christensen '23, who is also the Co-Editor-in-Chief (and, full disclosure, is my sister). The whole underlying message was on the overturn of Roe v. Wade and how these women are portrayed as the stereotypical "1950's housewives." Suddenly, the facade breaks, and their aprons come off to reveal their unpolished emotions and frustration. Her message was clear and to the point.

After watching her piece a second time, I told her honestly that I really loved it. I thought there was definitely room for improvement such as more energized dancers, more thought to the transitions, and what message she is trying to tell the audience, but I think the choice of music was excellent.

"Desperado," choreographed by Ava Dobro '26, was another fan-favorite. As the title says, the music that the group of four danced to was, in fact, "Desperado" by Rihanna. This was another favorite between me and my associates. They really enjoyed the red colors and the clean, synchronized movements. On the other hand, I believe that music can do a lot for a piece, and in my opinion, I thought it was a bit "Tik-Tok-y." The choreography itself was very good, very clean, and very precise. Perhaps the overuse of the popular song has tainted my feelings, but that was my only criticism.

I thought that "Transient Apertures," choreographed by Alyssa Bodmer '23, was an enjoyable piece that matched well with the music. It provided a peaceful atmosphere to contrast with some of the others dances, but I did find that a lot of us thought that it was not as easy to understand. I noticed a lot of repetition and emphasis on smaller movements, but the flow did not seem to match the description in the program. I do like the idea of seeing what it feels like to be in a bubble, but it would have been nice to see more of a connection between this and the dance.

"did you see her?," choreographed by Zion Martin-Hayes '23, used blue and pink lights to highlight the dancers dressed in black hoodies. I liked the use of colors to add a fun layer to the individuality of the movements. I did notice that it felt that we were watching people dance as opposed to being brought into the story, but after reading the description of the piece I definitely think it matched the party dance theme. My biggest critique of this piece was actually the screaming coming from the audience and fellow dancers. I was sitting in the back row of the audience and while I definitely get supporting the work of your friends, the screaming was a little too much for me and it almost took away from what I liked about the dance.

In contrast, the vibe of "All the Homies on a Sunday Afternoon" choreographed by Yeseri Rosa Vizcaino '23 definitely incorporated the screaming of fans into the vibe of the piece as a whole. The music and the high energy dancers provided a freshness that was both interesting and engaging for the audience. Although the screaming was a lot for this piece as well, it did make me feel the sense of community that was talked about in the piece's program description.

At the end of the show, I did have a conversation with my mom and colleagues about performance etiquette. My mom is used to watching classical ballet dance performances and she did not love the constant screaming. She was confused at the screaming before the piece even started, and she also felt bad for the dancers and pieces who were not getting any screaming appreciation. After talking to my colleagues who were used to this behavior at Dance Club shows, they were all understanding of the screaming for friends but also felt bad for the left out dancers.

Since this was my first time attending a Dance Club performance, I don't know what the vibe is for the shows and can't say too much about it. However, I can say that these dancers really put their heart into all of these pieces and it was really fun to see the show.

TCV Playlist: rx: seasonal depression dopamine enhancer

GRACE CONTRENI FLYNN
OPINIONS EDITOR

Is daylight savings getting you down? Or maybe it's the mid semester slump? Here at TCV, we have your back with the grooviest playlist meant to bring a touch of light and happiness into your life. We hope you enjoy!