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# THE COLLEGE VOICE

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

## Make Hummus, Not War

*Yalla Binna and Hillel come together to feed campus*

DANA SORKIN  
MANAGING EDITOR

"Dear Noam, let me invite you to dinner with my relatives," began Noam Waksman '15, reading aloud a letter written from his friend, Hani Azzam, in their blog "Until Next Year In Jerusalem." The letter was from the blog's first post, and its opening perfectly fit both the context of the blog and the event it was being recited during. In one of the most exciting and delicious events of the year, Connecticut College's Hillel and Yalla Binna teamed up to offer the College community a Food Tour of Jerusalem, one of the world's most cosmopolitan cities. Dinner was served on Feb. 25 in the Hood Dining Room of Blaustein, and close to 100 students attended to try the many homemade dishes being served.

The event also featured the talk from Waksman, who recounted his experience visiting Israel with his high school friend Azzam. Waksman, who is a dual American and Israeli citizen, and Azzam, whose father is Palestinian-American, are linked through the unique connections of their heritages, and in discussing some of the most complex issues of the conflict between Palestine and Israel have found a common ground in food.

As Waksman shared photos from the trip he took to Israel with his friend, many of which featured the food they shared between the two of them, meals with distance relatives still living in Israel and new-found friends who invited the pair into their homes, it became clear that food and the act of sharing a meal can be a unifying force unlike any other.

The act of bringing people together through cooking was seen in the process of planning the event, as president of Hillel Sarah Joelson '15 recalled how both Hillel and Yalla Binna came together in the day before the event to make all the food offered in the kitchen of Hood Dining Hall.



SARAH JOELSON

The experience of cooking for such a large group of students brought the two clubs together, and she explained that it never once felt like two separate groups of students working in the same space, but instead felt like an extended group of friends working together to prepare a meal with a shared vision for the overall event. In preparing for the event, the two groups equally split the work, including planning which dishes to prepare and shopping for the ingredients. Joelson laughed when recalling how the groups needed to buy "tons and tons of chick peas" to create the dishes.

As for the dishes themselves, students who attended the event enjoyed a wide display of Middle Eastern cuisine. From two different types of salad, homemade falafel, humus, baba ghanoush, mint tea and flaky baklava, everyone's plates were piled high. Joelson and Yalla Binna president Michael Fratt '15 welcomed everyone to the event and encouraged students to try everything,

especially the food that looked the most intimidating: the baba ghanoush. Baba ghanoush and humus are prepared in similar ways, but while humus is made mostly from chickpeas, baba ghanoush is comprised of eggplants and has a smokier and more intense flavor. I ate my humus inside the pita and falafel, and cleared away all the baba ghanoush on my plate with an extra piece of pita. The baklava, too, was a delicious way to end the meal. It was flaky and sweet and sticky, and left me wanting just one more piece.

Besides the food, what made this event so interesting was Waksman's talk. Waksman reminisced about the debates and discussions between himself, Azzam, their families and friends, many of which were held over a meal. This idea of coming together over food was apparent not just in Waksman's talk, but in the organization and preparation of the event itself. Joelson explained that it was important to show the College community that we are supportive of

each other, and that the goal of the event wasn't to "dive into the issues surrounding the conflict, but more to bring together our shared culture."

In the same way Waksman began his talk with a line from Azzam's blog post, he ended his talk by reading the final paragraph:

"You may not like what some of those seated [at the table] have to say, and those same people may dislike what you have to say even more. However, I can guarantee you two things: you will not leave hungry, and you will get offered coffee...in this communal fulfillment of one of our most basic instincts, the need to eat, we find that brotherhood of mankind can overcome divisions of race, ethnicity, and politics. This gives me hope that, eventually, we will craft the perfect meal to bring Palestinians and Israelis together to share in this experience. We have been in the kitchen for over 60 years, after all." •

*Letter to the  
Editor:*

**Why Hate  
Speech is Not  
Free Speech  
in an  
"Inclusive  
Excellence"  
Community**

I am infuriated, repulsed and depressed. I feel unsafe. Free speech is a given. Free speech means that you have the right to say what you want to say without the penalty of breaking the law. Does that mean free speech is acceptable in all circumstances? No. Not when your free speech is hate speech and takes place in a community which professes values of "diversity and equity," and "inclusive excellence."

I had not understood the exact importance of my role as Chair of Diversity and Equity until actual encounters of subtle institutional racism were taking place at our academic institution. Not until the college decided to paste my face as the face of diversity on the website's front page, yet sweeps under the rug when an influential member of its own community actively engages in dangerous hate speech. Not until it took a few of us students to identify a problem that should have been recognized long ago by the administration itself. This is not diversity and equity. This is not inclusive excellence. This is institutional racism.

People have this misconception that racism and bigotry are direct; that they are in your face; that they are physical acts. No. Racism isn't explicit. Racism is subtle. Racism is institutional. Racism is system-

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## On new roles and new policies

As our readership grows and expands, it has become clear that the editorial staff of The College Voice needs to set up ground rules. While we are thrilled that the content published in the past two issues has brought forward an outpouring of critique and conversation previously unseen from any readership in my memory as a writer and editor, it was made clear that our shifting role on campus necessitates a change in how we need to interact with the community more effectively, and vice versa.

According to new policies that will be posted on our website, the editors of The College Voice will no longer be setting up meetings with individuals who wish to express concern over content published in each issue of the Voice. This change is based on a new understanding of what our role as a student publication should be. Because we are a publication born out of a community of students and learners, I believe that both our content and form should reflect our function as a teaching newspaper.

On the most obvious level, that means doing our best as a staff with minimal journalistic training to support other students in putting together the best-researched and

well-written articles we are capable of producing. However, it is now clear that this role has grown into something much larger that includes both those who choose to write for us as Staff Writers and Contributors, but those who serve as our audience.

If every journalist met with every person that had a problem with what they had written, nothing would ever get done. It wouldn't fly if a writer marched into the office of any publication in the world and demanded complete editorial control over work they submit. Though our main goal is to at least give those that want to have practice in writing in a journalistic style a place to grow, we hope to serve the role of helping our community develop an understanding of how publications as a whole work.

In lieu of emailing editors and writers in order to schedule meetings that only serve personal goals, we invite all readers that wish to join the larger conversation to submit Letters to the Editor. Letters to the Editor are fully products of the author. On the one hand, this means that no content will be altered or edited. However, this also means that they will not receive the same consideration or support

from our seasoned editorial staff or copy editors. It is completely up to you to represent yourself in the way you wish to be represented. As you can see in this issue, members of the Conn community have already come forward in full force. Conversations can be powerful, but writing is the most powerful method of protest and engagement.

Plus, the feeling of seeing your own name in print? Unparalleled.

Letters to the Editor can be submitted to [contact@thecollegevoice.org](mailto:contact@thecollegevoice.org) by 12 p.m. the Friday before production. Please include a title. Further information regarding similar shifts in policies will be posted on a new FAQ page that will go live on our website by the end of March.

-Ayla

### Contact

## THE COLLEGE VOICE

Editors in Chief: [eic@thecollegevoice.org](mailto:eic@thecollegevoice.org)

Business / Advertising: [business@thecollegevoice.org](mailto:business@thecollegevoice.org)

News Editors: [news@thecollegevoice.org](mailto:news@thecollegevoice.org)

Opinions Editors: [opinions@thecollegevoice.org](mailto:opinions@thecollegevoice.org)

Arts Editors: [arts@thecollegevoice.org](mailto:arts@thecollegevoice.org)

Sports Editors: [sports@thecollegevoice.org](mailto:sports@thecollegevoice.org)

*The College Voice* meets each Monday at  
9 p.m. in Cro 224.

Join us.

## 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."

### AYLA ZURAW-FRIEDLAND

*Editor in Chief*

DANA SORKIN

LUCA POWELL

*Managing Editors*

INES FINOL

*Business Manager*

### EDITORIAL STAFF

ELLIE NAN STORCK

MOLLIE REID

*News*

DAKOTA PESCHEL

APARNA GOPALAN

*Opinions*

MATTHEW WHIMAN

CIARA HEALEY

*Arts & Entertainment*

ELEANOR HARDY

DYLAN STEINER

*Sports*

JUSTIN WINOKUR

*Head Copy*

### CREATIVE STAFF

ANNIE RUSK

*Head Designer*

MAY MORIBE

EMILY WALSH

*Design Staff*

JAMES LAFORTEZZA

*Illustration Editor*

*This week's copyeditors:*  
Mitch Paro & Molly Longstreth

*Thank you for reading  
&*

*Thank you for writing*

### CONTACT US

[eic@thecollegevoice.org](mailto:eic@thecollegevoice.org)  
270 Mohegan Avenue  
New London, CT 06320  
[thecollegevoice.org](http://thecollegevoice.org)



# Letters to the Editor

## Why Hate Speech is Not Free Speech in an “Inclusive Excellence” Community

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

atic. Racism is embedding seeds of hate and bigotry into the psyche of social culture. Racism is only the foundation of what leads to later acts of violence. Racism takes root when we have influential academics in our school who publicly express views of bigotry. Racism is accepted when the institution fails to address the responsibility of academics to watch what they say.

I have had several email exchanges with Professor Andrew Pessin regarding my concerns as an underrepresented student on campus. And each time, his response was more of a, “I’m sorry you misunderstood what I said.” On the contrary, I did not misunderstand. I did not misunderstand his contribution at the Charlie Hebdo panel when he posed indirect, yet problematic questions such as, “How do we tolerate / culture/ of intolerance?” only to end his portion of the Q-and-A session with an emphasis of hate crimes perpetrated by Muslims. I did not misunderstand the content of this public Facebook post that insinuated Palestinians (NOT Hamas) as “rabid pit-bulls.” I did not misunderstand when he told me that, “Muslim terrorists were at the top of the totem pole as perpetrators of violence.” Tell me, what part of all this did I misunderstand? The fact that I may be a “liberal animal rights activist” sympathizing with this “rabid pit bull?” Oh no wait, perhaps, I am the “co-specimen” who sympathizes. Because my people are breeds of dogs, and not human beings? Or, perhaps I misunderstood his flood of articles that specifically talk about the failure of addressing “Arab and Muslim terrorism.”

Just imagine if he substituted Gaza for “Ferguson.” Imagine if he spoke of “Ferguson thugs” as “rabid pit bulls” needing to be “caged,” by its “owner” who provides it with “government assistance, affirmative action, and welfare.” But when giving these “Ferguson thugs” a little bit of space to “breathe,” they start “snarling” and “aim for the throat,” and as a result need to be “put down.” And if you sympathize with Ferguson thugs, you’re either one yourself, or a liberal animal rights activist. Just imagine if all his postings were about Black crime. Would you raise an eyebrow?

One only needs to look at the recent horrific murders of the three Muslim Arab Americans in the UNC shootings to acknowledge that violence against minorities occur through the repetition of stereotypes; through the repetition of “the other” as the violent one; through engrained feelings of

fear, hate and bigotry. I have had Professor Pessin as a student and never felt victimized in his class. As a matter of fact, any students find him smart, engaging, and influential. But that is *the problem*. If students are finding an academic within our institution as smart and influential, and then read his overtly public hateful posts regarding socio-political issues, they are going to listen and absorb. They are going to be influenced by his words, and that is the *biggest danger*.

In a time when everyday news headlines are sensationalizing the correlation between “Muslims” and “terrorism,” it becomes increasingly hard to feel safe as a Muslim. I feel unsafe when I go out to the local community. I felt unsafe when my quick stop to Shop Rite resulted in dirty looks, and couples bringing up the topic of ISIS purposely in front of me. I feel unsafe if this is what our own academics are publicizing.

Our academic community, and all academics communities need to address actual issues of diversity, acceptable speech and community values for the sake of the safety of all students, and faculty—especially underrepresented ones. Our academic communities need to have zero tolerance for such speech. It does not matter if these aren’t vocalized in a classroom. It matters if you are an active community member who publicizes such views, no matter where you are.

If I am going to recite, /“We will never, by any selfish or other unworthy act, dishonor this our College; individually and collectively we will foster her ideals and do our utmost to instill a respect in those among us who fail in their responsibility; unceasingly we will strive to quicken a general realization of our common duty and obligation to our College. And thus in manifold service we will render our Alma Mater greater, worthier, and more beautiful,” every / Thursday night, then I expect to see such behavior on our campus on behalf of ALL its members. Or else, I don’t want to be your face of Diversity.

Written by Lamiya Khandaker

## “Respect for the Dignity of all Beings”:

## The Honor Code and Hate Speech

We have often thought about the proliferation of student protests in the 1960s and how pervasive the culture of civil disobedience was during the time of the Vietnam War. Are students in this day and age less politically active than previous generations? Why do we not see outpourings of protest on this campus of the scale that used to be the norm? Rarely in our time at Conn have we seen almost unanimous student uproar about any given injustice barring only the Fishbowl controversy. On Wednesday February 25th, in the aftermath of an ironically timed event called the Jerusalem Food Tour celebrating shared humanity, we found our outrage. We discovered information that put our apathy to rest; it made us sick. It came to our knowledge that Andrew Pessin wrote on his Facebook page a rant on the nature of Palestinians. Professor Pessin compared Gazan Palestinians to “rabid pit bulls” who need to be caged. He described the Palestinian-Israeli conflict as a cycle of letting the “snarling dogs” out of their “cage” and then beating them back into it. One person named Nicole commented on the post suggesting the “dogs” be put down. Professor Pessin responded, “I agree.” Professor Pessin directly condoned the extermination of a people. A member of our community has called for the systematic abuse, killing, and hate of another people. This post came to the attention of students as well as faculty members and has thus far only been spoken of privately. It is clear that the imagery used is not only incredibly offensive, but also particularly damaging within the culture of Islam, which has a potent conceptualization of dogs. We vehemently believe that this deserves the attention of the Conn community: students, staff, and alumni.

What does this statement made by a faculty representative of our school say when our College is in the process of hiring a Dean of Inclusive Excellence? How can we stay true to our ideals as a college that prides itself so much on our inclusive learning community? We must ask ourselves, what kind of community do we want to be? According to a noted scholar of the Rwandan genocide, James Waller, “dehumanizing victims removes normal moral constraints against aggression.” We all know that it is through dehumanizing language that hate crimes begin. We call upon students, faculty, and alumni to ask themselves: Is there a place for this language at Connecticut College? We wonder ourselves how this particular situation would play out had this Professor spoken out against Jews or LGBTQ individuals. We believe that if Professor Pessin made these comments about women, African Americans, Jews, LGBTQ individuals or any other underrepresented group this issue would have reached our ears earlier and he would have been dealt with swiftly. This is not about the beliefs of Professor Pessin regarding Israel or Palestine; this is about hate speech.

individually and collectively we will foster her ideals and do our utmost to instill a respect in those among us who fail in their responsibility; unceasingly we will strive to quicken a general realization of our common duty and obligation to our College. And thus in manifold service we will render our Alma Mater greater, worthier, and more beautiful.”

We invite students, faculty, and alumni to ask themselves: Are the statements of this professor in tune with the ideals of the honor code? We as students are bound by this honor code and are expected to uphold it within the external community as much as we are expected to uphold it on our campus. If a student said these words what could we expect as a response? Are professors not bound by the same moral standards of the honor code? Should we expect more from them as leaders of this institution?

We humbly address President Bergeron. We humbly address Dean Van Slyck, Dean Arcelus, Dean Zimmer, Dean Highbaugh, Dean Garcia and the Board of Trustees. We call for a conversation; cancel classes, events, and athletics on one day. This must be addressed. The administration cannot keep silent over such disgusting hate speech. We implore a response and for the Administration to take action. Years ago before we were students here the former president cancelled all events one day in the wake of a racist hate crime on campus and established an open mic discussion in Palmer that stopped the College in its tracks. This event is deserving of the same attention and we must have a discussion as a campus regarding what the shared values of this College ought to be. Be angry, talk to your professors, start the conversation. This outrage should not be a private matter, this must be public and we must re-evaluate what we think our values are as students, faculty, and alumni of this college. Students need this, staff needs this, we need to lament, we need context, and we need a thoughtful discussion. This is a red line, one that has been crossed. How we proceed now is up for debate.

Written by Michael Fratt and Kaitlyn Garbe

Based on an ancient Athenian oath of citizenship, Connecticut College’s Honor Code states:

“We will never, by any selfish or other unworthy act, dishonor this our College;



## Letters to the Editor

Dear President Bergeron,

I hope your second year at Connecticut College is treating you well and that you are surviving the harsh winter. While we only overlapped a semester at the college, I will always remember your involved and hands on style of leadership as something truly unique about Connecticut College. From the Senior Dinner Series to welcoming my fellow Arabic Studies colleagues and me into your office for an honest discussion, I was moved by your desire to know the students on an individual basis. Thus, I hope you will accept this letter detailing my deep concern over a matter that has recently come to my attention.

I was extremely disappointed to learn this week of some rather hateful comments a certain Professor Pessin of the Philosophy Department wrote on his private Facebook page. The comments purportedly outlined Professor Pessin's views on Gaza and what precisely ought to be done with the people of Gaza. I am not going to quote the comments, as apparently they have been removed and I don't want to falsely accuse Professor Pessin or misquote him based off of hearsay.

While I understand everyone is entitled to his or her opinions, even if hateful, I still feel this should be brought to your attention. I am incredibly proud of Connecticut College and I shamelessly brag about it whenever I can. However, I would be deeply disappointed in my alma mater if I knew that an individual entrusted to provide the education I am so thankful for so openly expressed such hateful and bigoted opinions on a public forum such as Facebook, even if it is a private account. We are all representatives of the College, and thus, I worry about the message we would be sending if individuals who acted in such a racist and inappropriate manner were so irresponsibly employed by the school. This certainly isn't the school I brag about to everyone I meet, nor is it a school I would be proud of.

Let me say, that I have known about Professor Pessin's extremist opinions for some time, but his reported comments that I only recently learned about go much too far. If true, it shouldn't matter whom he said such remarks about, but rather that a member of our community expressed hatred and racism about any peoples. While inappropriate to make a direct accusation without hard evidence in front of me, I do feel it my responsibility as an alumnus who cares about my school to bring this matter directly to your attention. I believe that a thorough and immediate investigation into this matter is imperative.

This comes at a time of global debate on freedom of expression and the limits of free speech. Let me be the first to say that I stand with free speech and freedom of expression and I detest those who wish to restrict this. However, there is a line between expressing one's opinion and thoughts through thoughtful satire or discourse, and bigoted hate speech. If true, the comments I have hopefully enlightened you on fall into the latter category.

I hope you will look into this matter, not just for me, but also for the good of Connecticut College.

Sincerely,  
Zachary Bertrand Balomenos  
Class of 2014  
Amman, Jordan

## From the Men's Ice Hockey team: On Green Dot

As a supporter of the Green Dot program and a member of the Men's Ice Hockey team, I am writing in response to the article published in the opinions section of The College Voice on February 18th, 2015 titled; "Playing Off the Ice: A Reminder to Continue Green Dot Mission Beyond the Workshop". We appreciate those who carry on the Green Dot initiative by being proactive because as we know, "No one has to do everything, but everyone has to do something." We would also like to remind everyone that stigmas are fueled by assumptions and stereotypes. Those who chose to define the members of the Men's Ice Hockey Team in a stereotypical way, do not base their opinion on facts or on having any knowledge of who we are as people. We define ourselves diversely, with many attributes contributing to our individual personalities. The partnership we have with Darcie Folsom is a result of our belief in the Green Dot mission and the sense of responsibility that goes along with it.

Our work with Green Dot, includes advocating for victims of harassment and helping them to seek out the various and appropriate resources we have here on campus. We believe in these resources and their ability to assist people in need. In addition to these resources, we are confident in our judicial process and the security it brings to our community, entrusting that when an issue is brought to light, it will be addressed appropriately. The ability of our administration to support every member of our community is only strengthened by the willingness of the student body to do what is right. The support system and policies in place exist for a reason: to ensure and maintain a safe and secure environment for all members of our community. We as a hockey team fully believe in the system we have in place at the college and will assist in any efforts to uphold these policies. The Connecticut College Men's Ice Hockey team not only embodies, but also deeply believes in the values set forth by the Green Dot program. Whether we are referring to members of our team who are trained, or those who plan to be in the future, we all hold ourselves to a high moral standard, as do our coaches. Both the players and coaching staff have made a commitment to foster a group of inclusive and ethical individuals.

Every Green Dot graduate, whether a hockey player or not, is encouraged to support and practice the principles taught during training. As previously stated, the training is not a pledge to do everything, but rather a commitment to positively contribute to the Green Dot cause whenever possible. We're all trying to do something,

and the Green Dot hockey game is one clear way in which we as a team show our support for the program, by promoting its message and raising awareness in our community. About a third of our team is currently Green Dot trained with many more soon to be. As the Green Dot Captain for the Men's Ice Hockey team, I am proud of that and proud of our commitment to the cause. We have found that even those without training can be just as involved in initiating positive interventions that have a lasting impact on our community. Our team's commitment to the cause is deeply engrained in our culture and in the values of the hockey program. We encourage anyone who does not know the true dynamic of the team to familiarize themselves with us as people before making strong judgments about our character. As with any group, it is critical to remember that one person's actions are not reflective of the group's values. Although the typical stereotype of college hockey players may be against us, I can assure you that for our team there is a solid line that separates us from that perception. The reality is, we have a high sense of values and respectability on our hockey team and anything less is simply unacceptable. We hope that we can continue to hold one another accountable for our actions and encourage people, as the most recent article's title states, "to carry the mission beyond the workshop" as we will do the same.

Respectfully,

Tom Conlin, Member of the Men's Ice Hockey Team and Green Dot Captain



# Letters to the Editor

To The Editor,

I want to comment on the opinion piece, "Playing Off the Ice: A Reminder to Continue Green Dot Mission Beyond the Workshop," published in the Feb. 16 issue of The College Voice. This piece has prompted the kinds of conversations the Green Dot Program encourages among our campus community.

The hockey team is one of four athletics teams that have taken the initiative to promote the Green Dot program through their games. A number of other students have also helped build awareness of Green Dot, including those in the Student Government Association, many of the a cappella groups, the Student Athletic Advisory Council (SAAC), Green Dot Grads, One-in-Four, SafetyNet and Think S.A.F.E. interns. The Green Dot program counts on this kind of student-to-student peer involvement to raise awareness, influence culture, and lead meaningful change on campus. I couldn't be more pleased with the way students on our campus have embraced Green Dot.

That said, Dakota's piece includes an allegation of harassment. We have reached out to Dakota to offer information about the resources available on campus for reporting allegations of sexual misconduct or harassment, and asked that he pass this on to the student Dakota interviewed.

Dakota's piece was also very concerning for the hockey coach and members of the team, especially given their long-standing support for Green Dot. They took the allegation very seriously, and we met with the team and the hockey coach to discuss the issue.

We can all agree that harassment in any form is never acceptable. Under the leadership of Darcie Folsom and the widespread involvement of our students, our Green Dot program has helped to improve the culture on our campus. We must continue to talk about these tough issues and hold each other accountable to the highest standards.

Sincerely,  
Victor Arcelus  
Dean of Student Life

I want to highlight the absence of journalistic integrity in an opinion piece in the 7th issue of The College Voice, "Playing Off the Ice". The utter lack of source vetting, thorough research, balanced interviewing, and clarity regarding potentially criminal accusations represents the journalistic differences separating The New York Times from The National Inquirer.

At a College Voice open meeting, Aparna Gopalan, an Opinions Editor, presented a pitch regarding a controversy surrounding the Green Dot hockey game and players involved. When no one volunteered, the Op-Editors emailed all published Op-Ed writers at Conn. An email excerpt containing the "terribly exciting" pitch, is shown here:

"Green Dot Hockey Game – apparently, there are people involved in the game who have little to do with Green Dot but cash in on the event. Explore the controversy! (We have a great source for whoever writes this)"

The following day, Ethan Underhill, SGA President, emailed a response expressing his concerns regarding the pitch, "[It implies] the only people who possess the capacity to spread a message or change our institution for the better are the ones who put in the hours organizing events themselves....The positive image around a person/club/department/organization is simply a secondary effect of a decision that continues the mission of something downright awesome."

That evening, the Op-Editors wrote back, "The pitch...was based off our conversation with a student who...approached us and told us about her not-so-great experiences with the Green Dot hockey game and some of the players last year...Pitches do not represent our opinions as editors."

Again, no one volunteered and Op-Editor Dakota Peschel took on the pitch himself. What ensued was the article in the 7th issue, Playing Off the Ice.

Before I continue, I must explicitly state I am not on the hockey team and am not Green Dot trained. I write neither in support nor condemnation of either entity. I am not judging the honesty of Peschel's source. To be victimized by sexual harassment is horribly terrorizing and we should all aspire to uphold the Green

Dot mission. My greatest fear is that Peschel's article will cause future victims to hesitate to come forward because they assume a cavalier relationship between Green Dot and sexual assault.

Peschel calls his opinion piece an "investigation". The definition of investigation is: a searching inquiry for ascertaining facts. Peschel cites an unverified source. He directly labels the perpetrators as "hockey players", yet provides no names, confidential or otherwise. Without specifying dates, Peschel accuses team members of unexplained actions which fail to provide evidence of harassment. It seems reasonable in an investigation, to assume Peschel interviewed members of the team – the accused. I learned from the Green Dot Hockey captains, Tom Conlin and Will Leedy, no players were contacted. Furthermore, they confirmed, to their knowledge, no current team members have previously been or currently are subjects of a harassment investigation.

Investigative journalism requires thorough research when discussing such serious topics like sexual assault or harassment. Journalists need verifiable sources, dates, and actions. Additionally, emails from the Op-Editors to Underhill state, "the not-so-great experiences with...some of the players" took place last year which Peschel withholds. This infers the accused are current members of the team and community. Printing broad and accusatory claims of harassment without detailed investigation is egregious. After exposing the research done for this author-coined investigation, it is improper to label it anything except libelous.

The final product derives from a pitch proposed by one Op-Editor then written by the other Op-Editor, contradicting previous email statements, "pitches do not represent our opinions as editors". The piece is an Op-Editor's opinion who self-labeled an investigation. Moreover, emails from the Op-Editors to Underhill characterize the event as a "not-so-great" experience, differing drastically from the printed claim, "I was harassed."

Peschel quotes Darcie Folsom, Director of Sexual Violence Prevention and Advocacy, "1/3 of the team has been through Green Dot training," then says, "I was initially surprised the number was so low, but con-

sidering the number of non-athletic students who are Green Dot trained, this number seemed to be an accurate reflection of our campus at large." Of the 1,922 students at Conn, 398 (21%) are Green Dot trained. The Green Dot National Organization's stated "critical mass" is to train 10-20% of the student body. 10 of 32 (31%) members of the Men's Hockey Team are Green Dot trained. According to those numbers, the Men's Hockey Team not only surpasses the National Organization's benchmark, but proportionally has more players trained than the entire campus. Peschel was informed 5 players were signed up for training in January, but Folsom had to cancel for personal reasons. Peschel knew this and withheld it from his piece. The cancellation was noted in another article in that publication, but edited out by an unknown editor.

As Editors, Gopalan, Peschel, and Ayla Zuraw-Friedland must uphold the guidelines of journalistic integrity. There has to be some sort of fact-based information to support these types of potentially criminal claims. Otherwise, the line of defamation is toed. As Op-Editors, Gopalan and Peschel are accountable for content published in their section. As Editor-in-Chief, Zuraw-Friedland is accountable for all content published in The College Voice. While their intent may have been otherwise, they have all acted irresponsibly as journalists.

My request to interview the Editors was denied by Zuraw-Friedland, who commented, "It is not in our policy to meet with individual writers."

Alex Milofsky

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# THE RETURN OF KNOWLTON DINING HALL

*Assessing the Damage and Looking  
to the Future of Language Tables*

**APARNA GOPALAN**  
OPINIONS EDITOR

Many strange things have been afoot at Conn in our Shain-less year, not the least of which has been the displacement of Knowlton Dining Hall to the 1973 room in Harris. However, in the wake of several open table discussions with students, staff and administrators, we can confirm that the Knowlton Dining Hall and its language-centered tables will be returning home in the Fall 2015 semester.

Knowlton Dining Hall, which doubled as the language dining hall and a space Knowlton residents have used to build community over the years, was relocated for the academic year amidst much resistance from Knowlton residents. This move, according to Ulysses Hammond, Vice President of the College, was catalyzed by the need to bring technology to South Campus for the year. Now, with the newly renovated library slated to open the week after Spring Break, the computer lab in Knowlton is ready to be packed up. The conversation around Knowlton's future has begun taking place in a series of discussions in Coffee Grounds where faculty, staff, residents and friends of the dining hall are voicing their opinions about the year off from Knowlton dining hall and its return.

Before meeting with administrators, I was under the impression that there was a conflict around the return of the dining hall. Students seem to suspect that the school was going to use the excuse to scrap the Knowlton dining hall as a cost-cutting measure. According to Danielle Palmieri '15, the Housefellow of Knowlton dorm, such confusion was a result of the first Coffee Grounds event, where "since they promised that it would be put back in Knowlton when they took it out and the Knowlton residents protested, a lot of people who attended the event were confused about the point of [the event,] since it is supposed to go back anyway."

It seems that these discussions were held simply to clarify whether Knowlton residents still wanted to have the dining hall in the dorm. Director of Dining Services, Ingrid Bushwack, spoke about the possible advantages of having the dining hall remain in the 1973 room by pointing out

the ease of access for faculty who are unable to enter Knowlton without a Camel Card. Instructional Designer of the Language and Cultural Center, Laura Little, also contended that Harris made language tables more visible and "appealing to a wider spectrum of people on campus." Fortunately, members of the administration were quick to clear the air by very resolutely declaring that the dining hall was to go back to Knowlton in Fall 2015, as promised.

However, despite good intentions on the part of the administrators and other departments, it is understandable that Knowlton residents and regulars have been wary of the desire to bring to question the future of the dining hall. The disruption in its absence has been considerable. Spanish learner, Nabeeh Asim '17, commented, "I used to go there everyday." He continued to say that this year wasn't the same because professors didn't go to Harris as regularly and because "random people sit there."

Little explained this point: "Some students don't honor the signs at the tables — that is, they sit at them because they are free, with no intention of speaking any language but English. This disrupts the 'language microcosm' that the space is intended to be."

Additionally, language learners have disliked the noise level of the 1973 room. "It's hard enough for beginners to comprehend authentic speech," concurred Little, "when you can't hear well, it's a real hindrance." In addition to these concrete issues, the issue of "the Knowlton environment" has been significant. As Vice President Hammond rightly recognizes, "warmth, the coziness and the community of Knowlton is tough to compete with."

In addition to disruptions to the language program, on the Knowlton community has also suffered. Alicia Perez '17, a two year Knowlton resident, said, "I used to know everyone in Knowlton but now I don't know anybody." Palmieri agreed that "the community has been impacted in a negative way." As one of our traditionally close-knit residential communities, Knowlton has been hit hard by the absence of the dining hall.

For all these sacrifices, Vice President Hammond expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the Knowlton community and for the campus as a whole for their collaboration in the renovation of

Shain library and mentioned that while the year has not been easy for anybody, he did not receive any complaints from anyone. However, it is important to keep in mind that while residents have had to consent to the absence of the dining hall for "the greater good," as it were, the experience has been taxing both for the language program and for the residents of Knowlton, and is something that future projects should seek to avoid.

For now, college administrators look toward the silver lining. In this context, future meetings in Coffee Grounds will be "brainstorming sessions" looking for ways to bring the positives of the 1973 room back to the dining hall. Vice President Hammond expressed hope that people who have discovered and enjoyed sitting in the 1973 room will transition back to Knowlton, increasing the language traffic next year. One can also hope that having the language tables in the 1973 room will make it a little more "social" and that the room will continue to be used for group meetings and class lunches.

Bushwack mentioned plans to revamp the kitchen in the basement of Knowlton in the near future. This opens the door to the possibility of converting sections of Knowlton into an independent housing option with an international theme. These new ideas are all being considered to make sure that the dining hall and the language tables return stronger than before after their "year abroad," as Little calls it. In the meantime, the language tables will have to be content with the remaining months of anti-sociality before heading home.

# Senior Dinner Series: Students Turned Chefs

**ELEANOR HARDY**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Senior year involves many traditions: dances, ceremonies, senior week, senior giving and so much more. This year, a new tradition continues to evolve: the senior dinner series with President Bergeron. The dinners began last year through the work of Nick Golner '14, who hosted smaller scale dinners with members of the class and President Bergeron. This year, three seniors have been working to establish the dinners as another beloved senior tradition. Adam Chilton '15, Ellie Storck '15 and Conor Quilty '15 have quickly donned chefs' hats and accepted the challenge.

"Nick reached out to Connor at the end of last year knowing that Conor loved cooking," Storck explained. With Conor on board, he recruited Adam and Ellie knowing of their love for cooking. Chilton said that the three "had no idea what they were going into, but it sounded like fun," and with their positive attitudes, they took on the challenge.

The dinners, which began in November, have required that the three learn how to transition their cooking from small scale to large scale without sacrificing the quality of the meal.

Storck explained that a simple recipe they can cook for themselves usually needed to be multiplied by large numbers, and there were often difficult conversions. Timing has also been a learning lesson. "You know water takes a certain amount of time to boil, but boiling gallons of water for pounds of pasta really changes things," said Chilton, "so it's always important that we think of the timing of the meal and what needs to happen when. The preparation before cooking even begins is really important."

Rather than rely on catering services, or buying bulk from the store, the trio works tirelessly to ensure that all of the food is locally sourced. These efforts have allowed them to extend beyond just forming connections with the senior class, and through meeting with farmers, working with community members at Fiddleheads and receiving support from the dining staff, the dinners are enhancing our community in more than one way.

The first dinner, a pot roast, involved 64 pounds of meat and more work than one could imagine. Contacting over fifteen farms, the group slowly learned that buying locally sourced food in bulk wasn't as easy as they hoped. "I just kept receiving rejection e-mail" after rejection

e-mail until finally a farmer in Hudson Valley, New York offered us 57 pounds," Quilty remembered, "so we had to drive six hours to go pick it up, but it was worth it." Chilton and Quilty made the long journey to get the meat, and the first dinner was a success.

While the cooking involves a great deal of work, "it's been a lot of fun," Storck explains. "Everyone helps out. The three of us start out in the kitchen, and slowly our friends trickle in and pitch in wherever it's needed." The students' willingness to help one another and get involved in creating a delicious meal is what makes the dinner unique and draws classmates closer.

The dinners, which began as a way for President Bergeron to connect with students before they graduate, have evolved into much more. Storck explained that students leave the dinners saying that they did not realize how many seniors they did not know. "People are good about branching out and meeting one another at the dinners," she said.

Savannah Berger '15 and Claire von Loescke '15, who are responsible for the logistics and preparations of the dinners, recently began having students invite a professor to accompany them to the dinner. Quilty explained, "After the second dinner had a lower attendance, inviting professors was a good way to get more of the campus community involved."

With so much hard work and dedication put into this dinner series it would be easy to believe that the three hope to continue this work into the future. When asked if he would want to work in the food service industry, Chilton said, "if anything, this has made me less interested. Being a part of the service industry is hard." While all three have spent time working in kitchens and restaurants through summer jobs, it's unlikely to be a part of their future. Storck shared that she plans to pursue food journalism, so this has been a great culinary experience.

Chilton, Storck and Quilty are working hard to establish the dinner as a legacy so that it can be passed on to the next class. Whether hand-making 36 pounds of pasta or getting creative making vegetarian dishes like barbeque tofu, the trio have mastered their roles as student chefs.





PHOTOS BY: DANA SORKIN

## Update on ReVision

DANA SORKIN  
MANAGING EDITOR

Since the 2013-2014 academic year, students, faculty and staff have continued to brainstorm, discuss, debate and plan out the changes in our General Education system, and the possibilities are endless.

The ReVision process is being led by faculty members, and on Feb. 25 an event was held to discuss one of the newest proposed components of the changes: the Integrative Strands. While much about the Integrative Strands are still being discussed, they are a method of linking a variety of classes under a common theme or question, and may perhaps include a team of professors working together to develop that specific strand. Strands can be based off of any question or idea, and some of the proposed ones include the economics behind food and an exploration of the liberal arts in classical antiquity and today.

Keep your eyes open for more ReVision events, and have your voice be heard concerning how you envision our future Gen Ed requirements. •



## As Told by Whom?

### One Cast Member's Reflection on As Told by Vaginas' First Run

MIRANDA YOUNG  
CONTRIBUTOR

*Miranda Young '16 was a cast member of this year's production of As Told by Vaginas. This article was written for Professor Blanche Boyd's Narrative Non-fiction class, and is her reflection on being a part of the show and her hopes for next year's production.*

"Just think, the girl who wrote this is sitting out there, watching you perform her monologue. You need to do this right. For her. For all of them."

My cast mates and I were narrating a story of violent rape. A girl my age had sat down with two other women and told her story. Her story followed two timelines. The two women had collaborated to write a monologue, and submitted her story to this year's production of "As Told By Vaginas."

This woman's vagina narrated a tragic story of uneven power dynamics and violent forms of patriarchy. She had been molested by her cousin and violently raped in a hostel while studying abroad. The brutality of violent oppression she faced was lucid and graphic. Her words hit the gut like a swift sucker punch. Nausea was inevitable as words like "helpless" and "attacked" and "covered in blood" passed through our lips as we read off the trembling script. Her's was a cathartic narrative. It was a confession and a contemplation. It was a narrative that was to be whispered like a ghost story to wide fearful eyes. It was an important monologue.

As the seven of us stood backstage, awaiting our performance, no sounds were to be heard but soft breaths and nervous feet-shuffling. I'm not sure what the other girls were thinking, but I wanted her narrative to matter. I was entirely emotional without any rationale. I was taken over by this guttural state of fear, anger, and something else that I can't really put into words.

That week, I had passed the rehearsals struggling to feel that I was not at the periphery of something that I thought I understood. I hadn't felt at home with this particular feminist collective. The cast seemed to bond over a version of heteronormative white feminism that left me with the feeling that something was missing.

In all transparency, I had been one of the women vehemently advocating for the revolution that overthrew the regime of the Vagina Monologues. There were a number of political issues surrounding lack of representation of certain marginalized groups in the Vagina Monologues. We felt as though it was time to say thank you to Eve, but we needed to try to create a space for women on campus to reveal their own demons and share their stories of oppression. It seemed like the political move at the time. It made logical and ethical sense.

Yet I sat through those rehearsals, and through the excitable calls for girl power, something felt wrong. The monologues that were written portrayed a message of feminism. But it felt like the wrong message. The realization came quickly. We had torn down an old regime and put a significantly less radical puppet regime in its place. Not

only had we removed the sharp bite of the criticism of racial difference, class mobility and violence against the trans community, but we couldn't even see that those were missing. Because these were our monologues.

My stomach dropped. I realized that I was a part was essentially a reiteration of the views I had been fighting against. I walked home alone that night before the show and thought about the individuals that would be sitting in the audience, feeling once again unwelcome and suffocated by the hand of mainstream feminism.

The end of the monologue "Young Love" was upon us, and we walked in a slow line onto the stage. As we began the narrative, we were able to observe the transition of emotions on the audience's faces. We watched fear, shock, nausea and mourning. With each word I felt a guttural fury overtake me and it swallowed me up entirely. It suddenly became so apparent that it was insane I hadn't seen it before. It mattered that this monologue came from one of us. It mattered that this woman was our peer. While I would never understand the precise experience that this woman had dealt with, I felt an attachment to her from my very core. The rage burned from my depths and spread throughout my form that I could feel this electric current running to the tips of my fingers.

We need the monologues to be written by our community. This was a given. It felt right. It is right.

I feel no need to take back the political criticism. There was something missing

in the show that took place this year, but I believe that the function of As Told By Vaginas is not only important but necessary. The fact that our women are writing these monologues creates a space for empathy, and empathy is an absolute imperative of activism.

We find ourselves encountering a young show, with potential for growth. The show was undoubtedly successful, but there's also no doubt that it requires contemplation. Emphasis on inclusion should be at the forefront when considering the content in next year's show, as well as how we go about encouraging new voices. Because we are no longer under the thumb of The Vagina Monologues, we have the freedom to allow the show to evolve to an all-inclusive form of activism. In the future, perhaps monologues discussing class identity, racial identity and trans identity will be entered. These will only serve to further better the show, as these identities are all incredibly important to the experience of womanhood.

I'm not really sure what the clear answer is. I'm walking home the night before the show in a state of total dissatisfaction, and I'm also the person on the stage who stood in solidarity with my cast sisters, the women who submitted the monologues and the women who could not.

I'd like to formally thank the woman who shared her story for the monologue "The Past Seven Years." Her strength is the reason why I am a feminist. •



# Questioning TRIP Course Planning:

## What the Cancellation of the Bangladesh TRIP Says About Commitment to a Global Education

MAIA HIBBETT  
STAFF WRITER

Here at Conn, as at most colleges, the administration loves to throw exciting phrases and terminology at students—both current and prospective—that enhance the apparent connection between our sheltered campus and the real world. In order to promote this ideal and a “global focus” within the student body, we have a number of designated Traveling Research and Immersion Program (TRIP) courses that, for a short period of time (one to three weeks), take students from campus and send them to a country or region which they have studied in that class.

Unfortunately, one of this semester’s TRIP courses will not embark over spring break as planned. A Global Islamic Studies class taught by Professor Sufia Uddin was slated to go to Bangladesh over spring break, but due to recent political unrest in the country, the trip has been cancelled.

Understandably, the students of the class are extremely frustrated. Students had to apply with a proposal and interview in order to

enroll in the course and they feel rightfully scorned by the trip’s failure to proceed. One student, Lamiya Khandaker, told me that she was “deeply saddened” by the news, but she “can’t blame the college either for an unfortunate condition.” Professor Uddin told me that her students were “terribly disappointed,” but she believes the trip’s cancellation was a necessary measure.

When I spoke with Professor Uddin about this issue, she expressed her regrets and personal disappointment about the trip’s cancellation. She explained to me that the call was not easy to make, and ultimately high-ranking members of the administration—Dean of the Faculty Abby Van Slyck and Interim Dean of the College Marc Zimmer—decided that cancelling was necessary. What this shows us, then, is that considerable thought and administrative action went into voiding the plans, and this was not a personal call made by Professor Uddin.

Professor Uddin gave me some background to help justify why the trip had to be cancelled. She informed me that violence in Bangladesh began on Jan. 5 of this

year, and that the date marks the anniversary of some Bangladeshi elective decisions that were deemed undemocratic by the opposition alliance, which therefore sparked outrage. The country has been experiencing *hartals*, a term which means “strike action” in several South Asian languages, defined by the Overseas Security Advisement Council (OSAC), as “a mass protest and recognized political method for articulating a political demand.”

Because of these *hartals*, OSAC has issued a security message for U.S. citizens considering travel to Bangladesh. Additionally, OSAC warns U.S. travelers and embassy employees that “unpredictable violence, such as the use of homemade explosive or incendiary devices, can occur” during a *hartal*. Therefore, the Bureau of Diplomatic Security recommends that all U.S. citizens in Bangladesh—and particularly those in Dhaka, the capital city—keep themselves safe and take cautionary measures. Lamiya added that “Political opposition protesters are known to throw petroleum bombs at cars and moving vehicles, so [the students’] transportation within the

country would’ve been extremely limited and dangerous.”

Situations like this often illicit reactions of shock, sympathy, and then quick dismissal by uninformed recipients of the information. Of course, the students who enrolled in the TRIP course have a right to be disappointed, and on the College’s part, the students’ safety must take precedence when considering the stakes of an excursion. That being said, we must note what this situation really tells us.

On Friday, Feb. 27, BBC World reported that American writer and blogger Avijit Roy was assassinated in Dhaka in response to his self-identified atheism. While this story is tragic and no person should be killed over their religious beliefs, why is it only Roy that we hear about? According to Bangladeshi newspaper *The Daily Observer*, 85 people had already died because of the *hartals* as of Feb. 10. I could not find a single report of the death toll from a U.S. or international newspaper. It appears as if Avijit Roy’s death was the first one that counted.

Not all people get an embassy-issued warning against traveling to a dangerous place. For

some, violence is simply a reality; they cannot elect to avoid it because it takes place in their backyard. The option to travel or to remain in place is itself a mark of our privilege, and we should keep in mind that we are, in fact, lucky to sit in classrooms and learn about these situations rather than suffer them ourselves.

I am not saying that people should keep themselves isolated and appreciate their safety at a distance from the rest of the world. In fact, I think everyone should travel and experience the lives of people less privileged than themselves. That being said, sometimes when we study difficult situations, we get so busy marveling at others’ hardship that we forget to consider what it would be like if such problems were simply an element of our daily lives. Issues like oppression, violence and poverty are not badges to be sought after, but plagues that should be taken seriously and eliminated.

This issue also begs a question of interest: where did this TRIP’s funding go? •

## Fred’s Presidential Line-up

FRED MCNULTY  
SOCIAL MEDIA DIRECTOR

*This article expresses Fred McNulty ’15’s presidential speculations and does not necessarily represent the opinions of The College Voice.*

### DEMOCRATS

#### Martin O’Malley

Advantages: As the governor of Maryland, he has executive experience. Further, he is viewed as favorable to the progressive wing of the Democratic Party.

Disadvantages: He lacks name recognition.

Fun fact: O’Malley used to be the mayor of Baltimore.

#### Joe Biden

Advantages: He has massive name recognition. He is the Vice President, after all.

Disadvantages: Biden is known for having a really big mouth.

Fun fact: Biden has never taken a single drink of alcohol, as alcoholism runs in his family.

#### Elizabeth Warren

Advantages: Her message of economic populism appeals to many, even outside of progressive circles. Her southern background also gives her an edge outside of the northeast.

Disadvantages: She isn’t running.

Fun fact: She claims to enjoy a Coors Light at the end of a hard day. As a personal supporter of hers, I would like to believe that this isn’t true.

#### Terry McAuliffe

Advantages: He is currently the governor of Virginia and possesses significant business experience.

Disadvantages: He is disliked by many progressive democrats for being too cozy with Wall Street. Also, there is scant evidence that he will run.

Fun fact: He used to be the Chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

#### Hillary Clinton

Advantages: She has notably high poll rankings and name recognition, as well as an extensive and decorated career in politics. Also, any potential baggage has likely already been uncovered.

Disadvantages: The aforementioned baggage. She has

also displeased many in the progressive wing of the Democratic Party for her ties to big business and hawk-ish foreign policy.

Fun fact: Despite widespread, pervasive media speculation, Hillary Clinton has not officially confirmed her 2016 run.

### REPUBLICANS

#### Jeb Bush

Advantages: He is a member of the wealthy, well-connected Bush family. Since Hillary Clinton is the likely Democratic candidate, it would mean that he would not have to defend attacks claiming that he is part of a political dynasty.

Disadvantages: His brother is one of the least popular presidents in American history and Jeb has done little to prove that his policies are substantially different. Out of his 21 foreign policy advisors, 19 have worked either with his brother or with his father. He also supports both immigration reform and Common Core; both are anathema for the GOP base.

Fun fact: “Jeb” actually stands for “John Ellis Bush.” This means that referring to him as “Jeb Bush” is redundant.

#### Rand Paul

Advantages: His libertarian views have enabled him to reach beyond the usual GOP crowds.

Disadvantages: His libertarian views have alienated some within the usual GOP crowds. His support for diplomatically recognizing Cuba has already lost him the important state of Florida in the primary.

Fun fact: Rand Paul’s medical certification is not recognized by the American Medical Association.

#### Scott Walker

Advantages: His executive experience is nationally-recognized as the governor of Wisconsin.

Disadvantages: His national-recognition was gained for attacking labor unions and stripping them of their right to collective bargaining.

Fun fact: In college, Walker attempted to run for student government but lost following an infringement in election guidelines.

#### Chris Christie

Advantages: He is perceived as a moderate Republican who can “relate to the common man.”

Disadvantages: His gubernatorial administration is under

numerous federal investigations for corruption. Further, an anonymous GOP source reports that he is planning on taking a presumably well-paying media career after the New Hampshire primary. (If he’s not in federal prison by then).

Fun fact: Christie has attended over 120 Bruce Springsteen concerts.

#### Carly Fiorina

Advantages: She was the CEO of California-based Hewlett-Packard until 2005, but holds staunchly conservative viewpoints.

Disadvantages: She was labeled by some as the “anti-Steve Jobs” during her tenure at HP.

Fun fact: She recently moved from California to Virginia, which is a smart move for her if she were to run for president.

### THIRD PARTY

#### Jill Stein

Advantages: She will likely run unopposed for the Green Party primary.

Disadvantages: She is a member of the Green Party, which assures that she has no chance of winning in the general election.

Fun fact: She was also the 2012 nominee for the Green Party.

#### Gary Johnson

Advantages: He will likely run unopposed for the Libertarian Party primary. He was the governor of New Mexico for almost a decade.

Disadvantages: He is a member of the Libertarian Party, which assures that he has no chance of winning in the general election.

Fun fact: He was also the 2012 nominee for the Libertarian Party.

#### Bernie Sanders

Advantages: He has significant experience being an independent senator from Vermont.

Disadvantages: He is a self-described socialist, and the United States still hasn’t gotten over its “Red Scare” phase yet.

Fun fact: He has promised not to be a spoiler candidate against Democratic nominees. •



# FRANKIE

## SAYS

# Saying No to Surveillance Cameras in Conn's Dorm Hallways



Dear Frankie

My parents are constantly nagging me about what I should choose to major in. They want me to major in something "marketable" so that I have a better chance of finding a solidly paying job. The thought of crunching numbers and papers all day makes me dizzy, and I've always been drawn more towards artistic pursuits, shall we say? At the same time, I know student loans don't pay themselves. Do you have any advice for this freshman, who prefers mixing paints instead of acids and bases?

Sincerely,

Take me back to kindergarten

## DEAREST TAKE ME BACK TO KINDERGARTEN,

Although a degree in Econ could prove to be quite lucrative in the future, you'd be surprised to know that pretty much any major here can parlay into many opportunities for a sustainable career. It's the Liberal Arts honey! For those of us who are right brain dominant, including myself (yay Art History), it is possible to find jobs that can lead to a future of career fulfillment.

A big part working is building relationships with people. If possible, during the summers take the time to find jobs/internships where you can gain experience and skill sets to add to your overall body of work (resume seems rather a stale word). You'll also have the opportunity to meet people you

can learn from. You could meet people who can lead you to a better job, in a better city, with higher pay and benefits... But I digress. What I'm basically trying to say is that while you are here, I think it would be best for you to follow your interests simply because that will make you happy. When you are happy and passionate about what you are working on in general, things will fall into place, as you'll have gained the confidence to know that you have something meaningful to contribute.

Warmest Regards,  
Francesca

NEED ADVICE? FEELING STUCK? SEE WHAT FRANKIE SAYS! SEND  
YOUR LETTERS TO [CONTACT@THECOLLEGEVOICE.ORG](mailto:CONTACT@THECOLLEGEVOICE.ORG)

MOLLIE REID  
NEWS EDITOR

In the span of 24 hours, a multitude of activities can happen in the hallways of a college dorm. Among other common occurrences, students can chat with their friends, take the trash out and emerge from the bathrooms in just a towel with an accompanying shower caddy. On Saturday nights, especially on Cro Dance nights, this list may read differently. As students of the College, I imagine that most readers will be familiar with what I am referring to.

While discussions of using cameras in dorms is theoretical, it is still interesting to consider the implications. In either scenario, be it night or day, the use of surveillance cameras in dorms seems risky and a breach of privacy. Many students who do not live in singles, excluding those in common interest housing, feel more comfortable with talking on the telephone in the hallways if their roommate is in the room. The presence of a security camera during calls home to parents or friends would most likely cause students discomfort, even if the camera cannot "eavesdrop" or listen in like another human could. Even for mundane activities, like unlocking rooms, the feeling that a camera is forever watching you can be unsettling.

The integration of security cameras would also be unpopular among many parents, who place a great deal of trust in the safety of the College. The placement of a security camera in a space that is intended to feel like a home away from home signals levels of distrust, and that there is something to potentially be worried about. Of course, parents whose children are geographically far from them would want to ensure that their children are safe. This is naturally a good caution to have, but I do not think that there is any dangerous activity on campus that warrants the placement of cameras in dorm hallways. Sophie Sharps '16 state, "I personally would say no to cameras in dorms because they are a huge expense that we can be spending elsewhere. I don't feel threatened or unsafe in my hallway and I have not experienced vandalism, but that is just in my personal experience."

Due to the layout of many dorms on campus, the technical details of placing cameras in dorm hallways would be tricky and expensive. For example, on the third floor of Katherine Blunt, there is a main hallway, but at the end of that hallway, there

are separate hallways. I currently live in Freeman, where the layout is similar. In order to effectively cover one hallway of either dorm, there would have to be at least four cameras in place, five including the floor's pantry or laundry room. For a dorm that has at least four floors, there would have to be at least sixteen cameras. The floors in Morrisson, although they are straight, have bathrooms that run through the middle of the hallway. As a result, there would have to be a set of security cameras for each "half."

Of course, not all dorms follow such a layout. Knowlton, for instance, has one hallway on the second floor. Larrabee has one long hallway per floor (although there are smaller hallways that split from the main hallway). Regardless, to place security cameras in some dorms and not others would be ineffective. If cameras were to be implemented, all dorms would need to have them. Not doing so would most likely anger students, thereby creating unnecessary and unproductive tension and friction in the campus residential community.

While I oppose placing surveillance cameras in the dorms, I can understand why some students and faculty members would want them. Dorm charges can be difficult for students to pay for in addition to other expenses that might be of a higher priority, like books or food. Having the cameras in place would help to hold individuals accountable for their irresponsible actions, such as breaking exit signs or vandalizing walls. Considering the high costs of dorm damages in certain residence halls across campus, a security camera in place would help to relieve the anxiety of the unlucky person who no longer has a wallet or computer. I do not mean to delegitimize the criminal activities that have occurred on campus, but it comes down to personal responsibility.

Instead of placing responsibility on security cameras to "catch" guilty individuals, students should hold other students accountable for their actions. This would include talking to a dorm's housefellow or to the College's Honor Council. Although this may read as a naive or idyllic approach to countering theft and dorm damage, I believe that upholding a sense of privacy in a space that is intended to feel like a home should be protected. If one goal behind implementing security cameras is to increase safety for students, I would recommend investing in brighter street lamps first. •

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## Player Spotlight: Pursuing Coaching

ELEANOR HARDY  
SPORTS EDITOR



Senior Kaitlyn Cresencia '15 may have finished her basketball career as a player here at Conn, but her time with the sport is only just beginning. Last week The Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) announced its class for the annual "So You Want To Be A Coach" program and Cresencia was selected as one of 29 players.

The program revolves around increasing the player's understanding of skills that are needed to find coaching positions in women's basketball. Additionally, the program will raise awareness of the existing talent of female basketball players who have the passion for a career in coaching.

Women's Head Coach Brian Wilson shares, "She has always led herself well and it has been a pleasure to see her grow and become more comfortable with bringing teammates along with her. As a tri-captain this year, her leadership has helped guide us to one of our most successful and enjoyable seasons in recent history."

Cresencia has known that she wanted to be a coach since her freshman year. She will head to Tampa, Florida this April to participate in the WBCA program. Her CELS experience last summer allowed her the opportunity to coach the AAU program she was a part of, the New Jersey Panthers. This exposure to assistant and head coaching experience "solidified her love for being a member of a coaching team."

Her desire to be a coach stems from the coaches who served as mentors throughout her career as a player. These coaches inspired her "to want to motivate others," and she is excited about the opportunities that lay ahead. Although sad to be ending her career as a player here, her career aspirations have offered a transition that will allow basketball to always be a part of her life. •

## Does Boston Need Olympic Rings?

*Boston pushes to be considered home for the 2024 Olympics*

LIZ VAROLI  
STAFF WRITER

The Olympics are coming to the United States... possibly. The Boston 2024 Partnership has submitted a bid to be the hosts of the 2024 summer Olympics and Paralympics. They made it past the first round of eliminations, and have been named the one American city still in the running to host, beating out bids from cities such as Los Angeles, San Francisco and Washington D.C. The International Olympic Committee is set to announce the winning host of the Olympics in 2017, but Boston and Massachusetts as a whole have already started making plans for their possible Olympic debut.

Boston is a strong contender as a location for the Olympics to take place because it is such an enlivened city. Boston is home to universities,

major sports teams and a large cultural population. In their push to host the Olympics in Boston, The Boston 2024 Partnership has suggested that hosting the games will bring jobs, tourism and infrastructure improvements to the city and the state as a whole.

The most recent Olympic games have been unusually expensive, so in Boston's bid plan they argued they would host a cost effective event. The bid committee also suggested that hosting the games would cause an economic boom throughout all of Massachusetts and the Northern United States.

Multiple venues in Boston have already been suggested for various portions of the games. The Boston Convention Center, Gillette Stadium and Harvard Stadium are just a few that have been mentioned. Boston and Cambridge are

full of colleges and universities that have facilities already in place for the games to be played. There has already been talk that Harvard University would act as the location for events in field hockey, tennis, aquatics, fencing and water polo. The Olympics' use of Harvard's facilities would even benefit Harvard. Using Harvard facilities would require that some fields and other facilities receive improvements, on the dime of the Olympics, not the university.

The Olympics have not been in the United States since Salt Lake City hosted the winter Olympics in 2002. It has been even longer since the summer Olympics have taken place in this country. The last time was when Atlanta hosted them in 1996. Many people are advocating for the summer Olympics to be hosted in

America after almost three decades of being hosted elsewhere, but there are some who are vehemently fighting against the possibility. Critics of the bid have argued that hosting the Olympics will not actually cause an economic boom, but will divert resources away from more important and permanent matters such as education and transportation. Their biggest complaint is that the exorbitant amount of money that would flow into the Olympics could be spent on more important things. An organization that refers to themselves as No Boston Olympics has stated, "Boston is one of the greatest cities on earth, and we don't need rings to prove it."

Boston appears to be a strong contender for the 2024 summer Olympics. Boston's bid is going up against others from Rome, Melbourne, Paris and Is-

tanbul, among other cities. Plans have been drawn and excitement has built up, now all The Boston 2024 Partnership needs is the go ahead. Future Connecticut College students and faculty might be watching the 2024 summer Olympics from just a state away. •



# Local Legend Seizes Spring Training

PETER BURDGE  
STAFF WRITER

Rejoice, ye haters of winter! Throw out your tired hats and snow-worn jackets. Beat out the stubborn sand hiding in the soles of your boots. Pictures of dancing palm trees, visions of sun-swept fields and cloudless skies await. Spring Training is here, and with it comes the summer-ready feel of baseball.

But what is the point of Spring Training? Training represents the happy beacon of light that gives baseball fans the illusion of breaking free from their winter shells. But how else does the month-long camp provide Major League teams with the ability to contend? For Pete Walker and the Toronto Blue Jays, Spring Training is the key time of the year to look at the cards the team has and to figure out how best to use them. Toronto knows they have the ingredients to be a contender; the team only needs to mold itself into one.

Pete Walker, Toronto's pitching coach, who was gracious enough to sit down and chat with me, knows the New London area as well as anyone. A graduate from East Lyme High School, he is one of several MLB players from this corner of Connecticut. Drafted by the Mets out of the University of Connecticut, Walker made his mark in the big leagues as a relief pitcher for the Blue Jays. In over 100 appearances between 2002 and 2006, Toronto relied on him as the anchor of their bullpen.

But it is in this community that Walker has perhaps made his biggest impact. After retiring from playing the game, he and his brother Andy opened America's Game, a youth baseball facility in Old Lyme. Walker recalls that growing up, "There wasn't much in the area" for player development.

He wanted to start this program because "[He] love[s] teaching the game, and it's an opportunity to give back." During their years at America's Game, Walker and his brother have taught young players to "make sure the foundation is there and make sure they have fun playing the game."

We are in an especially unique area, as Walker is not the only breakout star from New London County. In fact, two other former Blue Jays, Rajai Davis and John MacDonald, call southeast Connecticut home. Davis graduated from New London High School, and MacDonald followed Walker at East Lyme. Yet perhaps most notably, Mets pitcher Matt Harvey, a true sensation in New York and a godsend to the Mets organization, played at Fitch Senior High School across the Thames Riv-

er in Groton.

Is all of this talent packed into a small corner of a small state a coincidence? Walker likes to think of it as a "natural progression," a kind of cycle that provides young players with more hope as more local heroes make it to the big leagues. In this area that has "quietly become a hotbed for baseball," Walker feels that "Kids realize it's possible. These kids know that there is a chance to make it big, since people from their own communities have done it before them."

Walker grabbed a great opportunity in 2011, re-entering the Blue Jays organization as a bullpen coach, which led to his current position as the team's pitching coach. And so here he is in Spring Training, at the genesis of a brand new season, a blank slate of opportunity for a team on the rise.

That opportunity is heightened with the addition of catcher Russell Martin, who Walker believes is a "vital piece to this team winning, with a young pitching staff and some inexperienced relief arms." Martin is a three-time All Star, and for years has been considered a top producing catcher, adding to what Walker believes is a team offense "as good as anybody in baseball."

So, Toronto is ready to make a move with our local contributions. A perfect storm of offseason acquisitions and lighter competition could equal a special season. Yet much of their success will hinge on their young pitchers, those who will work with Walker to make sure they are "just playing to their capabilities without necessarily exceeding expectations." And that is what Spring Training is for: to work with players on establishing goals and doing their jobs. Throughout camp, Walker and the other Toronto coaches will "have many discussions with the players about what we think they're capable of doing," in order to prepare them for the long haul of the season.

Spring Training is a time of excitement and anticipation for every team—and with these young and

unproven players, Toronto has a special amount of anticipation, not quite knowing what to expect. With this kind of youth, there are always breakout seasons. There are always disappointments.

"Certainly it doesn't always pan out," says Walker, and yet "it wouldn't surprise us to see them have outstanding seasons." Time will tell.

But it won't only be time determining Toronto's success this year. In the American League East division, the Blue Jays will have to outcompete the restocked and rebounding Red Sox, a wheelchair-ridden Yankees team, the declining Rays and the rising Orioles, last year's division champion. And to outcompete them, they have to begin now. They have to begin under the white Florida sun, as the palm trees swoon in the background and the warm summer breeze kicks up the infield sand in playful wisps. This is the time where it comes together for team, player and coach. Where discussions begin and goals are set. Where the slate is clean and life runs on anticipation and dreams.

Walker still lives in the area during the offseason, and plans to replant his baseball roots here when his coaching ride is over.

"At some point down the road," he hopes, "I'm sure I'll open up another place" in this hotbed of baseball. In doing so, he will continue the tradition of baseball passion and success in the New London area.

For now, Walker can only focus on this season and the pitching staff he has in front of him. To build a contender, his job begins in the Florida sun. And our dreams of summer baseball begin now. •

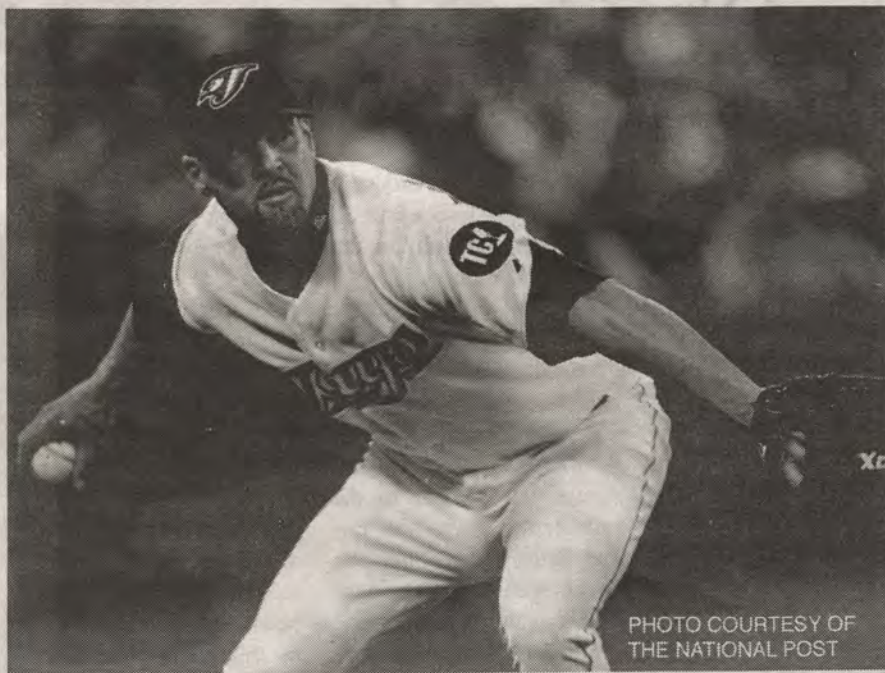


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THE NATIONAL POST

# 2015 Women's World Cup: The Gender Politics of Turf

AMMIE MANDERLINK  
STAFF WRITER

Any athlete who has played on turf before is probably well acquainted with the sweet, sweet sensation of a turf burn. Though your slide tackle may have won the game, your shins lost a layer of skin in the process to the artificial surface beneath you. Had you been playing on grass, you would instead be proudly wearing grass and dirt stains instead of a bloody, festering wound.

For soccer players especially, turf burns are a disgusting, unavoidable part of playing on turf. The threat of this injury unique to artificial turf deters players from sliding and diving, key components to a soccer game, which changes the style of play.

Accordingly, all World Cup tournaments to date, both men's and women's, have been played on grass. FIFA is defying tradition—and safety—this summer as the 2015 Women's World Cup is set to be played on turf.

Last fall several high profile female soccer players signed a petition and filed a lawsuit in response to FIFA's controversial decision, accusing the organization of gender discrimination. United States star national team members Abby Wambach and Alex Morgan were among those to sign on to the lawsuit. FIFA representatives asserted that synthetic turf facilities are being used because they are the best facilities available in Canada, this World Cup's host country.

The participating athletes see the situation very differently. The switch to synthetic turf is more than just a change in playing surface; it is an example of gender inequality. Wambach vocalized this view, stating that FIFA is treating women as second-class athletes.

Morgan also pointed out that brand new stadiums and venues were constructed in Brazil for the men's World Cup tournament last summer, while the women are forced to play on what is already available.

Though the "turf war" gained widespread support from women's soccer players all over the world and high profile male athletes including Kevin Durant and Kobe Bryant, the plaintiffs dropped the lawsuit.

Continuing the mistreatment of the athletes, FIFA refused to acknowledge the players' legal battle, stating they hadn't "properly been served papers" according to an NPR report. FIFA secretary general, Jérôme Valckle, reportedly dismissed the athletes' claims of discrimination, citing them as "nonsense." The plaintiffs were also denied an expedited hearing, terminating any hope of change, as the World Cup begins in June.

As someone who dedicated 13 years of her life to playing soccer, I am all too familiar with injuries related to turf. My legs are marked with permanent scars to prove the imminent consequences of playing on synthetic material. Turf not only induces injuries a natural, grass surface does not, but also changes the style of play. The ball bounces more and moves faster, causing it to go out of bounds much more often. Turf affects the fluidity and rhythm of soccer, critical components of play and part of the reason why soccer is such a beautiful game to watch.

Furthermore, I don't believe that any professional men's tournament would be subject to such controversy, and if they were I hardly think that FIFA would address their protest as nonsense.

If FIFA truly cannot provide the proper playing grounds for the women's World Cup, the least they could do is treat these professional athletes with respect. It is shameful that the organization refused to even acknowledge a lawsuit backed by many of the most talented athletes in the world. These women have dedicated their lives training for the opportunity to take the field at the World Cup. They are incredibly strong, determined, hard working, serious athletes.

Yet FIFA's actions tell them they deserve only what is available. This is the same organization that was so willing to bend over backwards to construct brand new facilities for the men's World Cup last year. To call the allegations of discrimination nonsense is obtuse. Protect your athletes, FIFA, don't turn your back on them. •



# Large School Spirit, Small School Game

*Counting goals, squids and Presidential commencement speeches*

**NOAM WAKSMAN**  
STAFF WRITER

The Coast Guard Game elicits the kind of sports-induced, crazed school spirit that can be hard to find around here sometimes. There is just something about playing your across-the-street rival that is close enough to share a Yik Yak feed with, that brings out the inner Camel in all of us. And for the most part, it's a hell of a lot of fun.

It is especially fun when we win, which we did handily 7-2.

The shenanigans that go along with the game live in infamy amongst the administration. The kind of infamy that results in a campus-wide email from Dean Arcelus that contains a, "nice balance of expectations for conduct with pos-

itive support of the teams and celebration within the community." We should start calling ourselves the Camel Crazies.

The game itself, as far as the hockey was concerned, was pretty wacky. The first period alone saw seven penalties, four goals, one ejection (a Conn player took a swing at a Coast Guard player), and no squids. But squid fans didn't leave unhappy as the second period saw two squids thrown onto the ice, both flung by Coasties. The first one was in line with hockey tradition and thrown after Coast Guard's first goal, and the second one was hurled in frustration due to the fact that Coast Guard was unable to score again in the second and that particular cadet was probably tired of holding onto a squid.

If it had been just the two

squids that were thrown, it would have been fine, but unfortunately the game was marred by the sheer amount of garbage that was thrown onto the ice. Most of it was beer cans, and most of it was thrown by the aforementioned Camel Crazies. Fans not throwing stuff and players were united in their common frustration as each thing thrown onto the ice caused a stoppage of play and a two-minute delay of game penalty. This resulted in a jerky second period that saw ten penalties. Needless to say it wasn't the best period.

Next year guys, let's agree to not throw shit on to the ice and let the boys play.

Something else we should probably fix for next year: the side of the ice we sit on. Conn fans were sitting on the inside bleachers, so if we wanted to stretch

our legs or head back to campus, we had to wade through a sea of cadets. I saw one guy lose a hat. So next year, let's sit on the near side bleachers.

That being said, there was a rowdy energy at the game that is exceedingly hard to come by at a NESCAC school like ours, and it was fantastic. Dayton Arena was packed to the rafters, the glass was rattled consistently, and the chants were loud. The banter between Camel fans and the cadets is the best part. Maybe "Navy rejects" is a little harsh, but who am I to argue with a classic, and a chorus of "Daddy's Money" always faithfully counters it. What's that sound? It's school spirit.

Some rapid-fire fun-facts: Strangely, goals were scored exactly 33 seconds into the first and third peri-

od (the first one was scored by us and the second one was scored by them.) Senior captain Matt Orenstein scored Conn's and the game's seventh and final goal. Conn killed an entire two-minute 5-on-3 power play as part of a successful five-minute penalty kill late in the first period. And finally, although I don't have the actual time on this, there was undoubtedly more 4-on-3 hockey played in this game than there has been in the entire NHL so far this season.

It was a great game for fans who like a lot of open ice, a lot of all-in offense, and very little defensive commitment.

Hockey aside though, it was a great game for every fan in attendance (minus the throwing stuff part). Whether you like hockey or not, and whether you have

friends on the team or not, it is a ton of fun to root for your school.

Most of us, myself included, came to Conn partly because we wanted a small school in the Northeast. One of the known sacrifices that we made in doing so was getting to experience a big-time athletic program. Now I'm not saying that Conn vs Coast Guard is Michigan vs Michigan State, but for 60 minutes each spring we get to cheer like it is, and that is pretty cool.

The bottom line is this: Barack Obama may have given his commencement address over there, but we are just flat-out better at club hockey than The United States Coast Guard Academy. That has to count for something. •

*Congratulations  
to the Connecticut College  
Men's and Women's  
Hockey Teams  
on your well fought games  
in the NESCAC  
Tournament!*

Watch the men's team take on  
Williams College this Saturday,  
Mar. 7 online on NESCAC.com.  
Go Camels!

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

### Women's Ice Hockey:

Conn 2 - 3 Bowdoin  
NESCAC Quarterfinal

### Men's Ice Hockey:

Conn 4 - 3 Hamilton  
NESCAC Quarterfinal

### Women's Lacrosse:

Conn 13 - 12 Babson

### Men's Lacrosse:

Conn 8 - 9 Roger Williams

## SO YOU DON'T MISS IT

### Women's Lacrosse:

@ Springfield  
Mar. 5

### Men's Lacrosse:

@ Endicott  
Mar. 4

### Women's Track and Field:

ECAC-Division III  
Championships  
Mar. 6

### Men's Track and Field:

Tufts-Last Chance Qualifier  
& ECAC-Division III Championships  
Mar. 6

### Men's Ice Hockey:

vs Williams  
@ Amherst, Mar. 7  
NESCAC Semifinal



*Life shrinks or  
expands in  
proportion to one's  
courage  
~ Anais Nin*

The Offices of Student Life congratulate the women from As Told By Vaginas who had the courage to think differently about how to represent the experiences of Connecticut College women. Of particular note, we want to acknowledge the women who shared their stories, experiences, and perspectives.

Your passion and commitment have expanded  
how we understand our community.



# Transmissions From Me to You

*Art Students and Faculty Engage in Shared Community*

OLIVIA WILCOX  
STAFF WRITER

Laughter and smiles were abundant on Thursday, Feb. 19 inside the Lyman Allyn Art Museum, where family, friends, students and fellow faculty members were celebrating the opening of the Art department's faculty show, *Transmissions: Teaching and Learning in the Studio*.

This is the first full faculty show at our neighboring museum, an exciting time for both the faculty of the Art department and for the Connecticut College community. With its close proximity to campus, it is surprising the number of students who haven't ventured to the Lyman Allyn before, myself included.

The reception was held in the library, where most of the lively discussions between the artists and their friends and family took place, surrounded by live music, good food and the scent of worn books.

To show support, President Bergeron and her husband, Butch Rovon, along with Dean of Student Life, Victor Arcelus, were in attendance to discuss the works with the artists.

Professor Greg Bailey, the current chair of the department, made remarks about the hard work that everyone involved in the show contributed. He cited Pam Marks, professor of drawing, as being responsible for the show's title.

Marks explained in more detail: "I first came up with the title *Transmission* and it was discussed and expanded upon by the entire art faculty. We are coming together for this exhibition as committed artists and educators. The research and learning that takes place in our studios is always in conversation with our teaching in studio art. We agreed upon *Transmissions: Teaching and Learning in the Studio* for an appropriate title."

Their choice of the show's title is also reflected in the close-knit community that Conn hopes to encourage between its faculty and students in and outside the classroom.

Sam Quigley, the director at the Lyman Allyn, also spoke at the opening and was grateful that the art department was finally having a full faculty showing. He ended his speech with an encouraging message: "Keep coming back and tell all your friends!"

I knew all the artists at the reception and therefore was

not hesitant to approach them during the opening to compliment (gush over) their works. It allowed me the freedom to ask detailed questions about individual pieces. I learned that Professor Chris Barnard usually works on multiple paintings at once, and that the inspiration behind Bailey's "Improvvised Armour" was that he wanted to create art that in part could be bulletproof. Hearing and seeing the varied perspectives on each faculty member's artistic process was intriguing—every professor approaches art with a different mindset. It was a great reminder that Conn's art faculty are also working artists

who produce their own works, besides being instructors.

In the first of three artist talks, Professor Chris Barnard, Professor Tim McDowell and Professor Pam Marks spoke about their various processes. McDowell reminded the audience that we are always students. This reiterates the artist statement for the show: "Art creation involves full time, life-long learning in the classroom and beyond. It is a dynamic that flows both ways, from teacher to student and back. Fresh viewpoints, new questions and surprising answers are the energizing results of the teaching and studio relationship. They

bounce back to the individual artist fueling new work and shifting directions."

Not only are there transmissions of ideas and energy being bounced back and forth between the students, but also between the faculty. This relationship allows for great discussions in the classroom, as part of being an artist is experiencing an exchange of ideas.

The exhibition will be up until June 7, and the show's pieces comprise a wide range of mediums, from photography and paintings to video installation and sculpture. •

The Lyman Allyn Art Museum hours are:

**Tuesday-Saturday**  
10 a.m. - 5 p.m., **Sunday**  
1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

There will be artist talks at the Lyman Allyn Art Museum:

**March 25** Professors Hedrickson and Bailey  
Reception: 5 p.m. Talks 5:45 p.m.

**April 29** Professors Assor, Wollensak and Pelletier,  
Reception: 5 p.m. Talks 5:45 p.m.



PHOTOS BY: OLIVIA WILCOX



# Things We Like (About the Dance Club Show)

ELLIE NAN STORCK  
NEWS EDITOR

The Connecticut College Dance Club presented their 2015 spring show, *Things We Like*, in the Myers Dance Studio on Feb. 26-28. The show consisted of 12 student-choreographed pieces that ranged in style from modern to lyrical to tap-dance. The performance was broken up to two parts with 13 student choreographers.

Traditionally, senior Dance Club members do not dance in the spring show. As such, all dancers were first-years, sophomores and juniors. I saw the show on Saturday, and it was completely packed—audience members were seated on the stairs—and I understand why. This show was full of emotion, grace and artistic freedom. Each piece was engaging and through the dancers and the choreography, it was clear that so much practice, patience and dedication were put into the performance. Audience members were on the edge of their seats smiling and laughing at some moments and quietly observing at others.

Each piece in the show goes through an adjudication process at the beginning of the semester in which students and a faculty member select the pieces for the final performance. Dance Club presidents Amy Wasielewski '17 and Erika Martin '17 introduced *Things We Like* by telling the audience about Dance Club and the students that help to organize the show.

Inside the program, each choreographer wrote about what inspired him or her to create the piece, and, essentially, what it's about. The inspirations ranged from exploring individuality to friendship, from reconciliation to finding a happy place, from childhood memories to love—there was even a dance inspired by Christmas.

"All of the pieces this semester were based on the things we like and love," said Wasielewski. "Whether it is ABBA, friendship, Christmas, joy or something else inspired by the choreographer, we wanted a title that would encompass the individuality of each piece, so the show was a true celebration of dance and art."

And that is exactly what the show felt like as an audience member—a celebration.

There was noticeable raw emotion in this show. A dance titled "You often help me remember who I am," was described in the program as a dance about friendship, and that was so clear through

the choreography and the dancers themselves. The back and forth between Sasha Peterson '16 and Stephanie Reeves '16 was full of tangible happiness, sadness, anger, shouting and tension—everything one experiences in a friendship. The two dancers leapt around the dance floor with wide, long motions, and then the music would stop and the dancing would be more tense and tight. At one point the two girls started yelling at each other. By the end of the piece, a single spotlight focused on a prolonged hug between Peterson and Reeves. Another very emotional, beautiful piece was "Give Your All To Me," choreographed by Ashley Barattini '17 and Brooke Ross '17. This dance was much more lyrical, with sweeping movements. The piece was meant to tell a story about love, and that could be felt from both the dancers.

I was very drawn to not only the range in style and inspiration for the pieces in the show, but also the music. There were both lyrical and instrumental tracks used in the pieces. There were artists I recognized like The Rolling Stones, ABBA, Bibio, The Civil Wars, Beyonce and Mariah Carey, and many that I didn't. Some pieces used more than one song, and some, like "You often help me remember who I am," used one song broken up by silence. In Maia Draper-Reich '16's piece, titled "Summer Dance," she danced to one song, and then music stopped while she continued to dance and spoke aloud to the audience, telling a story.

I was very excited with the inclusion of tap-dance in the show. It's a style that I've never seen at the Dance Club shows I've been to in the past, and the tap-dancers were so engaging. The piece was titled "One Time," and dancers Augie Sherman '18 and Sarah Hyde '18 smiled the entire time while tapping in unison and playing off of each other's moves. It was an excellent addition to the show.

Throughout *Things We Like*, there was a tangible connection between each dance involved as well as between dancer and audience. This show provided a beautiful balance of song, dance and human connection that was truly a pleasure to be a part of. I always leave the Dance Club shows feeling inspired and excited, and this was especially true after this performance. •

# "As Told By Vaginas"

*A reflection on process, product  
and moving forward*

MATT WHIMAN  
ARTS EDITOR

Almost a year in the making, *As Told By Vaginas* (ATBV) has been one of Connecticut College's largest student-run efforts in recent memory. Since the beginning of the academic year, its production leadership has hosted information sessions, held fundraisers and attracted its fair share of controversy, all along the way to the first ever performances, which took place in Evans Hall on Saturday, Feb. 21.

Having sold out the 7 p.m. performance, and nearly doing the same with the 2 p.m. show, it accrued over \$10,000 and counting in fundraising for Safe Futures—a New London shelter aimed at helping survivors of domestic abuse and sexual assault. ATBV has had a significant impact on campus and the greater New London community in the short history of its existence. But how did it all happen?

Show co-producers, Bettina Weiss '15 and Alix Israel '15, explained how ATBV came into being after students decided to stop producing Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues*, which Conn had previously been associated with for 13 years.

"A lot of the women loved being in [The Vagina Monologues] for the community it built, but didn't have strong ties to the content," said Weiss.

Israel echoed that sentiment by saying, "When I did [The Vagina Monologues] sophomore year, the actual monologues were not the core of why I did it." Instead, most students involved in the show felt connected to the community of women that came together to put on the performances.

Building the production up from nothing was no easy task. Though the performance took place in late February, ATBV leadership had begun work on the show from the first week back on campus last August. That work involved solidifying the idea for the show and figuring out how to spread the word about it. Through word of mouth and several information sessions, ATBV leadership sent out a call for monologue submissions—students were asked to submit their stories that reflected their personal experiences with wom-

anhood in any dimension.

"We were worried," said Israel. "A lot of us [leadership] thought, 'Are we going to get monologue submissions? Are people going to try out for the show?' The Vagina Monologues was such a commonly accepted thing at Conn, to make a change—we were terrified that it wasn't going to catch on."

It did catch on. 34 monologues were submitted for consideration before the November deadline and 81 women took part in putting the show together, including the 75 women who auditioned to be in the cast in the days after winter break.

Of course, the process of creating and solidifying ATBV in its first year has not come without its growing pains.

Certain members of the Conn community feel that the show's title alone presents a narrow definition of what it means to be a woman and confines it to a single physical aspect, one in which some who identify as women cannot relate to and may not even have.

"I hate the name [As Told By Vaginas]," said Renna Gottlieb '15, who was involved in *The Vagina Monologues* her sophomore year and was also a cast member in ATBV. "Feminism and gender and sexuality are such complex issues. Stripping them down to the biological entity of the vagina is not the point."

In regard to the name, Weiss stressed how important it is to those involved in the cast to merely hear and say the word "vagina." "One of the biggest growing processes in *The Vagina Monologues* was actually saying the word. We wanted to retain that aspect of the show because of how empowering it is for the cast. We are not trying to narrow a women's experience to biology. Instead we see the vagina as a starting point for the telling of experiences," she said.

"Inclusion is a really difficult word, because not everything can include everyone," Israel added. "There's a difference between inclusion and exclusion. Although I know that not everyone may be included [in ATBV], we're not excluding anyone."

Both co-producers also stressed the undeniable importance of the show in terms of fundraising. When Conn produced *The Vagina Monologues* in the past, 90% of proceeds went to Safe Futures

and 10% went to V-Day, Eve Ensler's global initiative to end violence against women. This year, 100% of the proceeds are being given to Safe Futures, meaning everything raised goes directly back to the community. Additionally, some 70% of the ATBV cast went to Safe Futures to see and learn about the organization they were raising money for.

This added to the strong sense of community within the cast, but the content of ATBV—created by the women of Connecticut College—is what really united those involved.

"The community [was] the biggest drawing point to the production for me," said Gottlieb. "It [was] much easier to draw a personal connection to the show this year—it more accurately represent[ed] me and my peers."

Israel also noted the importance of the community created by ATBV: "It brings girls together with commonalities that they wouldn't necessarily have connected over before."

The community and bonding experience carried over to the actual performances, as most monologues were performed by a group of women, sometimes as many as seven. Monologues ranged from humorous—"Vagina and the Angry Itch" was about the unfortunate way one woman first discovered she was allergic to latex—to serious—"Dear James" and "Young Love/Yuong Levo" were powerful accounts of abusive relationships.

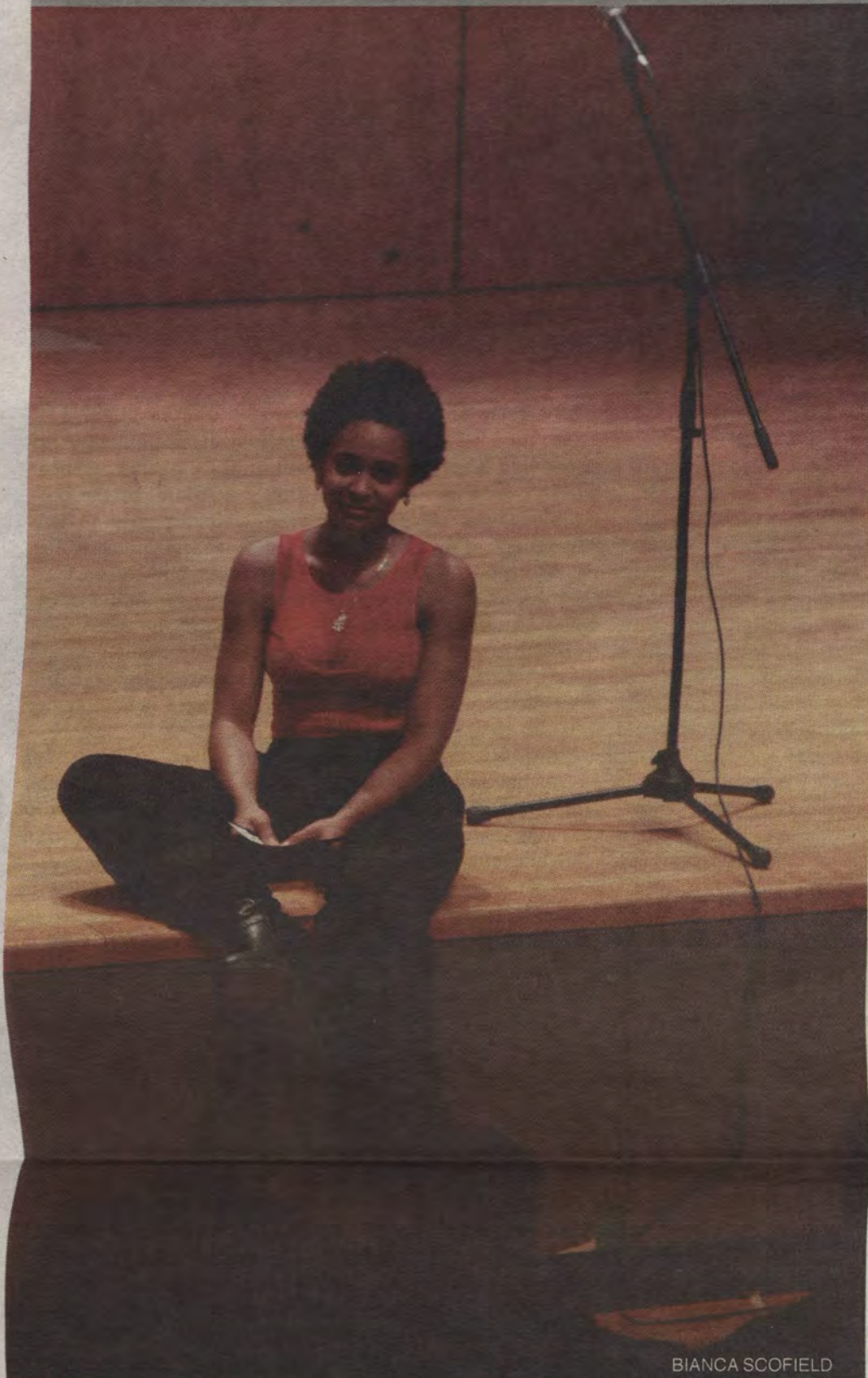
Some monologues landed in a middle ground of being funny while also impactful. "Being Lonely" and "Somewhere Between Johnson & Freeman" had moments of humor sprinkled in amongst powerful declarations of pride in womanhood and independence.

Overall, the show was sure to have an effect on audience members just as much as they did on those involved in bringing ATBV to the stage. For Weiss, the most powerful moment came before the performances, when all of the cast members gathered to dedicate their performances.

"There were quite a few women who dedicated the show to the anonymous voice of the monologues, and thanked that student for sharing her story," said Weiss.

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## *As Told By Vaginas*

"The mission of the show to represent students through unique but unifying voices was realized in that moment. It was just so clear that everyone was on the same page and we were all there for the purpose of coming together and supporting each other and the voices of the monologues."

Feedback from the community has been equally powerful. "It is a really amazing feeling to have peers approach me and thank me for helping to create the show because it changed their perspective," Weiss said. "The impact that the show had on the audience was even more powerful than I anticipated."

Moving forward, many are excited to see what the future holds for ATBV. Some, like Gottlieb, hope to see the production move forward in its goal to

capture the thoughts of the campus and include a larger spectrum of voices on not just gender, but a more intersectional look at oppression across the campus community.

"The role of intersectionality [was] not really discussed at all," said Gottlieb. "There are a lot of smart people here who can produce something that is more critical."

As for Weiss, she hopes that this year's first production of ATBV will inspire more women to speak up and share their stories. "I think that students who may not have thought their story was right for the show were empowered by hearing the stories of their peers and will be more inclined to submit monologues next year."

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HALLIE CARMEN