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THE COLLEGE VOICE

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER, SINCE 1977

TheLook Rebranded, Now What?

CATJA CHRISTENSEN
STAFF WRITER

We want to rip this house down to the studs and build it fresh and new from the ground up." This was part of an Instagram post on Aug. 23, 2020 after five months of silence when *theLook*, Conn's

fashion and lifestyle magazine, announced its initiative to develop a more inclusive magazine. They welcomed criticism via an anonymous online form. By Feb. 18, 2021, the account had changed its handle to @bspkmagazine and promised more would be "coming soon."

Following backlash over the summer on social media, notably from the @blackvoicesconncoll Instagram account which criticized the unwelcoming environment, formerly all-white Executive Board, and lack of diversity in magazine content, change was long overdue. In context with the Black Lives Matter protests, white supremacy threatening the nation, and the



bespoke.

@bspkmagazine Instagram

Article continued on page 13.

One Year Anniversary of COVID Shutdown

LINDSAY GILTON
CONTRIBUTOR

Grim feelings surface as the one-year anniversary of March 13, 2020—perhaps better known as the Friday the 13th or "shutdown day" in the United States—rounds the corner. We didn't know it then, but this

date marked the beginning of our new normal, one that required us to completely reimagine what it means to simply live. A year filled with unimaginable loss and struggle, it also showed us the power of human resiliency and (virtual) connection. Reflecting on those first days may help us understand where we started, how far we've come, and where we are headed.

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the coronavirus outbreak a pandemic. Within the coming days, hundreds of schools nationwide closed indefinitely, stay-at-home orders were enacted, and thousands of Americans transitioned to a work-from-home environment. The NBA, NCAA, and MLB all either suspended or postponed their seasons, and Disney Parks in California, Florida, and France closed their doors—something that had historically been reserved for extreme weather events and national tragedies. The dining, entertainment, and travel industries were brought to a standstill, and who can forget the national toilet paper shortages? These closures and resource depletions would only worsen throughout the spring.

As Wall Street suspended trading and the U.S. stock market fell by 10%, Congress worked to pass a financial aid package to extend unemployment insurance and paid sick leave, in addition to expanding food assistance and free COVID-19 testing. However, the virus was already running rampant throughout the country; without equitable and reliable access to COVID-19 testing, as well as the conflicting information and varying guidelines for wearing a mask in public, COVID-19 spread like wildfire. By March 13, 2020, the United States had reported 1,629 coronavirus cases and 41 deaths. Less than two weeks later, on March 26, there were 81,321 confirmed cases and more than 1,000 deaths.

The implications for this rapid spread of COVID-19 across the country were far-reaching. Unemployment emerged in unprecedented numbers; in April 2020, the national unemployment rate reached 14.7% and more than 20 million Americans were left without work. As a result, many lost health insurance—a rather dire situation considering the context of living during a pandemic. Students, from ages 5 to 25, had to adapt to remote

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Letter From the Editor

AMANDA SANDERS
MANAGING EDITOR

It's March again in New London, and a whole year has passed since the COVID-19 pandemic first began. Last March, Conn students were sent home to take classes on Zoom, bake bread, make whipped coffee, and hope that things would soon return to normal. It's March again and as February's snowstorms melt into March's mud puddles there's a change in the air that stems from more than just the weather. Students are sitting in the library, strolling across Tempel Green, and studying in New London Hall. New ideas are beginning to bud at Connecticut College as we walk with friends to class, to the 1962 room for Avocado Toast Tuesdays, to our dorms with textbooks and packages in hand. While the weather brightens and as we trade our snow boots for sneakers, the campus has begun to open up in ways that didn't feel previously possible.

I sit in The Voice's office on the second floor of Cro and Facetime our layout editor Leelah Klauber, and we talk about how this semester feels hopeful. We're looking forward to writing more articles about life at Conn this semester and the progress our College is making despite the pandemic's limitations.

In this issue, Lindsay Gilton '24 comments on our new normal and the toll that this long year has taken. Elizabeth Berry '21 cheers us up as she discusses the changes in Conn's student-run coffee shops that have helped make the semester better for students on campus, from having indoor seating again to selling baked goods and creating new fun themed drinks, (if you haven't tried Coffee Grounds' shaken espresso with oat milk, please do). Grace Robinson'24 spoke with spring sports coaches and found out how teams are finally able to compete safely.

While this year has certainly been hard, there is always a way to find a positive. Three vaccines have been approved for COVID-19 and more people get vaccinated every day. Flowers are starting to bloom by Harris dining hall. As you drink your coffee (and maybe even sit inside our coffee shops), you may scroll through the @missed.conn.ctions Instagram which Kelly Wallace '21 remarks is "filled with kindness and good intentions." We're all looking for a bright side in such difficult times.

As we enter our second month back on campus and head into midterm exams, many of us are looking for ways to decompress. Take a stroll with us through Sprout, and read Lucie Englehart's '23 interview with Professor Eric Vukicevich and Sprout's Community Engagement intern and Office of Sustainability Fellow Tess Beardell '23, to learn more about the garden's expansion and what we have to look forward to as the weather continues to improve.

It's March again at Connecticut College and things may be getting better The pandemic rages on but life at Conn continues. Get a coffee or some avocado toast and scroll through our website. We have so much to tell you.

Happy reading!

THE COLLEGE VOICE

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Growing the Sprout Garden

LUCIE ENGLEHARDT
OPINIONS EDITOR

Stretched behind Crozier-Williams is a half-acre sized plot of land that is not only a campus garden for the students, staff, and New London community, but a Friday farmer's market, and a site for a sustainable agriculture curriculum. The seed of Sprout Garden was planted in 2004, but has recently been expanded under the instruction of Professor Eric Vukicevich and the help of fellow students. I spoke with Professor Vukicevich, and Sprout's Community Engagement intern and Office of Sustainability Fellow Tess Beardell '23, to discuss the recent Sprout expansion. Here's what they have to say.

1. I understand that Sprout Garden has expanded considerably in the past year. Can you elaborate on this? What growing/harvesting opportunities has this expansion afforded you?

Eric: The garden has indeed expanded! There was a nice flat grassy area next to the original Sprout Garden and no-one was lawn bowling, so I started asking around and found that, in fact, people would be up for growing food there and students have wanted to expand the garden for some time. We started by killing the grass using silage tarps (a process called occultation), then seeded a cover crop before that first winter. In the spring of last year, we added a bunch (this is a highly technical agricultural term) of compost and were off to the races. None of this would have happened without some real hard work and dedication, and laughs, from an awesome student crew last summer. Emir Kulluk '21 and Bailor Jalloh '23 came out early in the pandemic and kept on coming back (and still do!). These guys helped dig bioswales, build pergolas, confronted nocturnal packs of onion-digging skunks and tomato worms the size of Snickers bars, and grew a ton of food. Actually I think it was closer to 2 or 3 tons in the end, not bad for a third of an acre! We were also lucky to be joined by Manny Yebowah '22 and Melissa Alvarez-Lopez '23, who came out to help farm several days a week, and Tess Beardell '21, who kept us all on the right path from afar, managing our crop plan and community outreach. Having this larger growing space affords us some great opportunities to have a living laboratory for classes, grow enough food to do a 30+ member CSA program with our friends at FRESH New London, and be able to host summer interns and research projects. We have plans to add more features and are continuing to work on making Sprout an engaging and welcoming space where all members of our community can learn, taste, and be outside together.

Tess: What really triggered the change that I think people have noticed is getting the huge new space next to the raised beds. That was done very intentionally based on a partnership Eric had developed with FRESH New London to grow food that supplements their CSA program. We now have a club but we also have an academic space. And they're very much merged. And are not totally separate in that people from either event can move through both spaces, but we definitely became more integrated within the academics.

2. In what ways has academics at Conn been engaging with Sprout garden?

Eric: I teach several courses that utilize Sprout for labs and class projects, including Ecological Agriculture (BOT 230) and Sustainable Agriculture seminar (BOT/ES 493M). Last fall, I piloted a new course called Community Agriculture (BOT 290), where students learn by doing while engaging with materials and discussions surrounding issues of sustainability and social justice in agricultural production. I am looking forward to tuning it up and offering it again next fall. Other Botany professors also use the space for labs in classes like Environmental Plant Physiology (BOT 320), How Plants Feed

the World (BOT 115), and others. It's nice to be able to use the context of organic farming and gardening as a learning environment for the fascinating ecosystem that is the plant and soil world. I expect that as more classes are taught in person, other professors will start to utilize the space as well. I think this will especially be true for a lot of offerings in the Food Pathway and the Food Studies Anthropology Concentration, but why not have other classes out there? What has been cool to see is that some of these opportunities are drawing students from all over campus. I've worked with and taught students majoring in film studies, computer science, physics, music, anthropology, and others.

3. How have you been engaged academically with Sprout, and how would you recommend the student body get involved in Sprout Garden?

Tess: The first time I was learning in Sprout was for a class with Professor Rachel Spicer - How Plants Feed The World - and we had corn growing, so we did a lab on the rate of photosynthesis, and we were actually able to measure that ourselves. Last fall, someone did their Senior Capstone project in the garden. Sprout once did soil testing to determine soil texture, and I worked with Doug Thompson, who is in the Geology and Environmental Science departments.

I do want to mention, these are science-based classes. But I think there is an opportunity for everyone to do something in Sprout. Because I think food - plants - is a really good way to make people feel welcome in a space, so I think the opportunity for classroom engagement in the space is up to any interpretation and however people want to pursue it.

4. How has community engagement - i.e. working with FRESH New London or other CSA programs - been impacted by COVID? How has it caused you to change your community outreach goals?

Eric: Since this was our first year with this project, I guess we don't have a "normal" to compare it to, but I am certainly hopeful we can get through this soon because it would allow us to do so much more of what we're hoping to do as far as community engagement goes. When the pandemic hit, we had already committed to our 30+ member families, and due to the pressures the pandemic put on a lot of people, the weekly shares of fresh produce took on another level of importance. We were able to make it happen, like I said, thanks to those students and to a dedicated staff and core youth program at FRESH. We were not able to work together as much as we had hoped--co-learning being a major goal of this program--but we found ways to still make it meaningful and provide food to people who need it in a dignified way, for example, by engaging members with a weekly bilingual newsletter to keep up with our urban agriculture happenings (thanks Tess and Melissa). So community partnership goals haven't actually changed that much, other than we have been pretty serious about delivering quality produce each week and having enough to go around and our day-to-day looks a bit different than it would otherwise.

5. What are some plans for the future of Sprout? (This can be plans for Spring 2021, or a five-year trajectory - anything that is on your radar).

Tess: Our biggest plan right now is that we were approved by the Sustainable Projects Fund for a new high tunnel, which is really awesome. It'll expand the amount of space that we have to do season extension growing through the winter. People will be able to be in that space for more workdays and research projects. We had a really cold winter when we were away, and when I went back, there was spinach and another mustard green still growing in there. We'll have double that amount of space through the whole year, which will be



Morgan Maccione

Article continued on page 7.

One Year Anniversary Since COVID Shutdown (cont.)

Article continued from front page.

these unknown times. The continued rise in cases overwhelmed our hospitals and health care workers. And with a national personal protective equipment (PPE) shortage, medical professionals and frontline workers were left without a sufficient supply of N95 masks, face shields, and gowns. In an effort to “stop the spread,” state and local officials across the country implemented various stay-at-home orders, social distancing guidelines, and eventual mask mandates. But with the continued downplay and denial of the virus from the federal government, many wondered if the United States would ever see the light at the end of the tunnel.

A small flicker of hope emerged at the end of the summer when the CDC began vaccine distribution plans. After a turbulent presidential election that divided the nation, there was one thing that the country could stand behind: an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by the FDA for the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccine in December. It is hard to imagine a better holiday gift than that.

Today, more than 80 million vaccines have been administered, and the recent EUA for the Johnson & Johnson single-dose COVID-19 vaccine is expected to advance the nation’s vaccine rollout plan. Furthermore, the FDA has issued an EUA for the monoclonal antibody treatment, which has

learning, while teachers and professors attempted to navigate education during

shown to significantly reduce COVID-19 related hospitalization and death in those experiencing mild to moderate COVID-19 symptoms. Accelerating vaccine distribution, expanding COVID-19 testing, and increasing the production of PPE through the Defense Production Act is a top priority of the Biden administration. And as more COVID-19 variants emerge, the race to vaccinate the nation is more important than ever.

A year after the infamous March 13, 2020, the United States has reported almost 30 million COVID-19 cases, and more than 500,000 Americans have lost their lives to this devastating disease. President Joe Biden and First Lady Dr. Jill Biden held a memorial on February 22, 2021 to honor the half a million Americans who passed from COVID-19. President Biden, a man well acquainted with grief himself, spoke to the nation as the country experiences unprecedented loss. Echoing his remarks from the day before his inauguration at the COVID-19 Memorial at the Reflecting Pool, President Biden said: “To heal, we must remember.”

While the road ahead remains uncertain, there is comfort in knowing that every day we inch closer to a life that is familiar—a life where we can hug our loved ones, gather for celebrations, big or small, and enjoy the simple pleasures in life, many of which we didn’t realize how much we needed until they were gone. Wherever you are in the world, may this March 13th be better than your last. And may all your future March 13ths be better than that of 2020. •

REAL Staff Member Feels Unsafe, REAL Office Responds

JOSHUA MOYLAN
CONTRIBUTOR

Connecticut College’s REAL office has just undergone a recent zoning change due to a lack of staff members. I spoke to one staff member on how these changes have made them feel unsafe. The

staff member described that what was once campus sections North 4 and 5, has recently combined to form a larger five building block, including 360 Apartments, Earth House, Larrabee, Katherine Blunt, and Burdick House, requiring staff members to complete multiple nightly patrols in additional buildings.

This zoning adjustment means that there are eight REAL staffers for the five buildings. This leaves staff, already affected by multiple staffing changes stressed. “While this means we are on call less often, it has increased our risk of being exposed to COVID while we do rounds two or three times a night in all five buildings,” said one floor governor who prefers to remain anonymous. In fact, a poll, posted to my personal Instagram, stated the situation that these REAL staff members currently find themselves in. The poll, which was seen by 672 people, showed that 76 percent (134 vs. 43) of people would feel less safe in the same situation.

It’s not just the staffers that have been affected by this situation. An anonymous floor governor said that the changes have caused confusion among residents. They often don’t know who is on call, and despite the on-call boards, they tend to knock on the doors of their Floor Governors. These constant mix ups have left many residents feeling like there is nobody looking out for them.

These staffers are working harder than they ever have for residents right now. The anonymous staffer stated that “being on staff this year has also come with more personal stress, and a lot more work trying to adjust programming to help alleviate the loneliness that first-years and other students have been feeling, while still staying COVID safe. In [Alert Lev-

el] Yellow and [Alert Level] Orange, when we can only do virtual events, it’s so hard to motivate people to come because they are sick of staring at a screen for even longer than they need to, but there are not many more ways to reach residents.” What’s more is that the College has, despite the heavily increased workload, kept REAL staff stipends the same.

In response to questions surrounding the current situation, Sara Rothenberger, Assistant Dean for Residential Education and Living, stated: “Our ratio of staff to students in REAL is fairly consistent. If there is a need to adjust our staffing, which happens from time to time, we do so and ensure that we maintain an appropriate ratio of staff to students[...] We work hard to keep the lines of communication open with students in order to keep them informed as changes are made[...] Our staff follow the same protocols to keep everyone safe, and it’s working, given our low levels of COVID on campus. We expect student staff, when responding to calls, to maintain social distancing and to contact Campus Safety and/or professional staff on-call if needed. Student staff have also been equipped with extra PPE if they choose to use it, such as face shields in addition to their face masks.”

This statement ignored questions asking if there were any plans to improve the situation or to improve REAL staffers’ physical or mental wellbeing, and further ignored questions surrounding whether or not pay would be increased.

When asked a separate set of questions, Caitlin Kay, Assistant Director of North Campus, provided no statement other than to reinforce that “The response given by Dean Rothenberger is the response that represents the REAL Office.” These are troubling responses in the face of the mounting concerns from REAL staff members. •

Is Weather to Blame for Winter Storm Blackouts?

MEREDITH HARPER
CONTRIBUTOR

One of Texas's main personality traits is its lack of varied weather. The Lonestar State's weather consists of very long droughts and brief, devastating hurricanes. Having lived in Texas for 18 years, I only saw skimpy snow on a few rare occasions. This "snow" was more akin to a wintery mix of sleet and would conveniently melt as soon as it touched the ground. Texas is not built for inclement winter storms, because history has taught it not to be. Last week, a severe winter storm hit Texas and most of the South, and no one was prepared for its tumultuous and long lasting effects.

A few days before the storm hit, the temperatures dropped. The roads froze, another event unfrequented in Texas. Because Texas doesn't salt its roads, and drivers are unaware of the need for salt, there were many multi-car pile ups. One in Fort Worth involved over 120 vehicles. This was just the prelude to a long week for Texans. In the middle of last week, the snow began to fall. My Instagram feed was instantly flooded with my friends and family member's fun snow days. College kids used anything and everything to sled, primarily being pulled by very big trucks (how very Texas of them). Little kids found excitement in the white flurrying substance that they only ever saw on vacations to Colorado. At first, the snow was refreshing and a fun break from the marathon of 2020.

Then came the power outages and rolling blackouts. Another "unprecedented" event, Texans got their finger pointers ready and searched for the culprit responsible for their freezing, dark homes. Conservatives immediately started posting news threads blaming sustainable energy for their lack of power. Historically against wind turbines due to personal ties to gas and oil companies, Rupert Murdoch is partially the puppeteer behind this "fake news." He adamantly denies climate change and pushes for fossil fuels. Influenced by Murdoch and their own political agenda, Fox News and other sources attacked the "frozen" wind turbines in West Texas, and how they had drastically failed the state. This erroneous news spread quickly across social media platforms. Although the wind turbines were exposed to the harsh elements of the storm, they weren't entirely to blame. Placed in the Texas desert, the plants are exposed to all the elements. Wind turbines can be equipped to deal with freezing temperatures using heated blades, but it made no economic sense to implement these devices in Texas. Professor Sovacool of the University of Sussex, says, "Operators in Texas didn't invest in the usual weatherization or ice protection techniques because generally they didn't expect it to become so cold." This erroneous news, that sustainable energy was the sole offender, spread quickly across social media platforms.

Eventually, the truth was uncovered: ERCOT, Texas's exclusive source for power, was to blame. Texas is unique in the fact that it hosts its own power grid. The rest of the United States is divided between two highly connected grids: the Eastern Interconnection and Western Interconnection. By not being part of the continental power grids, Texas avoids regulation with interstate electricity trading. Texas's "independence" allows them to evade federal regulations and skimp on routine maintenance—ultimately causing their downfall. When temperatures dropped, Texans cranked up their heaters and other electrical appliances. Wind, coal, and natural gas generation all plummeted the first night of the winter storm. It was simple supply and demand: Texas's power plant couldn't keep up with the state's

large demand for heat and energy.

People became desperate and found other ways to be warm. Desperately, people used barbeque pits, charcoal grills, and campfire stoves. In extreme cases, portable generators and running cars were used to spark warmth. All of these appliances release carbon monoxide, a colorless and odorless gas that inflicts brain damage or death in minutes. Over 300 cases of carbon monoxide poisonings took place in Houston alone.

Millions of people were left with no heat, power, and eventually no running water. Austin and other cities diverted to a "boil water notice;" irony was found in this, as there was neither flame nor water for the chemistry of boiling. Grocery stores and gas stations quickly sold out of water and food, reminding people of the toilet paper shortage a year prior. My friends described it as apocalyptic: no water, power, and empty grocery stores and streets.

Texas college students found their long lost spring break in this wintery natural disaster. Most state schools cancelled classes for the entire week, due to unsafe driving conditions and power outages. It was all fun and games until burst water pipes flooded dorms and college dining options were closed. A friend of mine posted on her story, asking if anyone had food, because there was nowhere to eat. People filled up bathtubs, pots, pans, anything with circumference and depth, as water became scarce.

The power outages became controversial in themselves, especially in Austin, Texas. Downtown Austin, a predominantly wealthy area, held power almost throughout the entire storm; while East Austin, a historically impoverished area, was left to their own poorly charged devices in multiple blackouts. Is there something to be said here? Those who could afford to have their basic needs met were served, while those in need suffered for days?

Needless to say, this storm weathered this state in more ways than one. Lives were lost to housefires, carbon monoxide poisoning, and hypothermia. It was a grim week in Texas, but their populations' resilience has already begun to shine. Restaurants have been feeding communities, power and water has been restored to a large portion of the state, and college kids have returned from their "impromptu spring break." The week was difficult for many—including myself. I have been privileged and fortunate enough to never worry if I or my family would be without heat or water, but I learned that fear recently. For many Texans, this snow-pocalypse will not be soon forgotten. They will also not forget how their government, state, and leaders left them cold and alone in the dark.

Whether we like it or not, the climate is changing. There is a desperate need for leadership to "winterize" the power plants and ensure this devastation isn't repeated. •

Israel's Vaccine Rollout

LUCAS SIEGEL
STAFF WRITER

The NBC sketch-comedy *Saturday Night Live* provoked controversy when a Feb. 20 segment broached a controversial topic: the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. The throwaway joke that provoked outrage went as follows: Weekend Update host Michael Che quipped that “Israel is reporting that they’ve vaccinated half their population, and I’m gonna guess it’s the Jewish half.”

Israel has indeed vaccinated over half of its citizenry. However, Israel has made no such effort to vaccinate Palestinian residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip (collectively the Occupied Palestinian Territories, or OPT), who are denied Israeli citizenship despite living under Israeli domination since Israel captured the territories in June 1967. Thus, while the joke is not literally true, it does reflect reality. The majority Jewish population of Israel receives vaccinations, while the Palestinian population of the OPT doesn’t. Furthermore, 763,000 Israeli Jewish settlers living illegally in the OPT are being vaccinated, while their Palestinian neighbors aren’t.

This, however, hasn’t prevented *SNL* from being accused of spreading “an antisemitic lie” by Israeli Health Minister Yuli Edelstein; of engaging in “modern-day blood libel” by former Trump administration official Ellie Cohan; and of “inappropriately us[ing] Jews as a punchline” by Anti-Defamation League CEO Jonathan Greenblatt, among other condemnations. Israel’s supporters argue that criticism directed at Israeli policy is frequently rooted in antisemitism. While this may be true in some cases, the fact remains that Israel styles itself as a *Jewish* state rather than a liberal state of all its citizens, not to mention Palestinians under its occupation. Thus, pointing out that the Israeli state favors Jews over non-Jews is clearly not antisemitic. A quick overview of Israeli history illuminates this point.

Zionism, the Jewish nationalist ideology to which the founders of Israel subscribed, sought to establish a Jewish national homeland in Palestine. In practice, this necessitated an exclusivist settler-colonial project which sought to forcibly displace the native Palestinians to make room for Jewish settlement. When the opportunity to make this dream a reality presented itself, the Zionist leadership wasted no time seizing it. From Nov. 29, 1947, when the United Nations partitioned the British Mandate of Palestine into two states—one ‘Jewish,’ the other ‘Arab’—to May 15, 1948, when a coalition of Arab states invaded Israel, which had declared independence the previous day, over 300,000 Palestinians were systematically ethnically cleansed from the country. By March 10, 1949, when the fighting was over, Israel had seized 78% of Mandatory Palestine and expelled over 750,000 Palestinians. The Palestinian minority remaining within Israel’s borders, while nominally granted citizenship, was subjected to military rule until 1966.

In June 1967, the remaining 22% of historic Palestine, the OPT, was seized by Israel. Since these territories contained several million Palestinians, many of them refugees from the 1947-9 ethnic cleansing, Israel was faced with a conundrum. Though Israel’s leadership had no intention of withdrawing from the OPT, they could not annex the territories and incorporate their inhabitants without threatening Israel’s Jewish majority, nor could they expel millions of Palestinians without international condemnation (although more limited expulsions of some 320,000 Palestinians were carried out).

The solution, according to Israeli scholar Ilan Pappé, was the establishment of an apartheid regime over the entirety of historic Palestine. On June 19, 1967, “Israel’s political leaders decided [unanimously]... to exclude the [OPT] from future negotiations.” From this point on, the OPT’s fate was sealed: Israel proceeded with de facto annexation, illegally settling Israeli Jews in the OPT while depriving the native Palestinians of their human, civil, and national rights. The Israeli leadership, aware that these actions were illegal under international law, knew they couldn’t be announced publicly. Thus, the formula of ‘land-for-peace’ and a ‘peace process’ was constructed. Junior Minister Yosef Burg laid out this strategy bluntly in a June 1967 cabinet meeting: “We are going to have to hold on to the territories for a very long

time, while claiming we wish to make peace.”

Knowledge of history therefore renders the antisemitism accusation leveled at *SNL* farcical. Israel’s vaccination efforts indisputably favor its Jewish population over its Palestinian population, due to the fact that the overwhelming majority of Palestinians living under Israeli control are denied even second-class citizenship in the state that has controlled every aspect of their lives for over half a century.

Israel’s defenders have pointed out that vaccine access is not limited to Israeli Jews; Israel’s Palestinian citizens are also eligible to receive vaccines. This is true, but *SNL*’s joke did not refer to Israel’s citizenry, but to Israel’s *population*. Only a small minority of the Palestinian population under Israeli control are citizens of Israel. The vast majority live in the OPT under military occupation.

Under Article 56 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, “the Occupying Power [must] ensur[e]... public health... with particular reference... to combat[ing] the spread of... epidemics.” Thus, by refusing to vaccinate Palestinians in the OPT, Israel fails in its basic duty as an occupying power. Israeli officials deny Israel’s legal obligation to vaccinate Palestinians, citing the 1993-5 Oslo Accords between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, which Health Minister Yuli Edelstein claims “says... that the Palestinians have to take care of their own health.” There are several glaring issues with this claim.

Firstly, the Oslo Accords weren’t intended to be permanent; they were meant to provide autonomy leading to the creation of a Palestinian state in the OPT by 1999. Secondly, Israel has consistently violated the Accords’ terms by, for example, prohibiting Palestinians from moving freely within the OPT. Thirdly, Article 17(6), Annex III, Oslo II clearly states that “Israel and the Palestinian side... shall cooperate in combating [epidemics], not that Israel is absolved of all responsibility for Palestinian health. Finally, even if Oslo were permanent, even if Israel hadn’t violated the agreement consistently, and even if the documents said what Edelstein claims, the Geneva Conventions legally override the Oslo Accords. Human rights cannot be signed away by agreement, just as an employee cannot ‘agree’ to receive under minimum wage. The UN reiterated this on Jan. 17, 2021, stating that “[t]he ultimate responsibility for health services remains with the occupying power...”

More important than Israel’s violation of international law, however, is the suffering that violation causes for millions of Palestinians. The Palestinian Authority, the administrative entity established by Oslo which exerts nominal self-rule in 39% of the West Bank, has rolled out a vaccination program intended to achieve 60% coverage with vaccines from abroad. Lack of funding, however, has prevented acquisition of nearly enough doses for a population of 2.7 million. Israel has agreed to vaccinate Palestinians with permits to work in Israel or the settlements; however, this group numbers only about 110,000.

In densely-populated Gaza, governed by the Islamic Resistance Movement (commonly known by its Arabic acronym Hamas), the situation is worse. Israel withdrew its settlements from Gaza in 2005, but continues to occupy the territory through control of its airspace, maritime space, and border crossings, and through a near-total blockade of goods and people in or out. Gaza has received 22,000 doses of vaccinations for a population of 1.8 million. Given the blockade prevents Hamas obtaining vaccines without Israel’s permission, Hamas alone will likely be unable to procure enough doses for even a fraction of Gaza’s population.

Israel’s refusal to vaccinate the OPT will cause thousands of deaths. Given that COVID-19, unlike the Israeli government, doesn’t discriminate between Israelis and Palestinians, some deaths will be Israeli Jews unable/unwilling to receive the vaccine. The fact that a throwaway joke on *SNL* about Israel’s policy of medical apartheid has provoked greater outrage than the policy itself exposes the slanted nature of US discourse on the region. While officials and pundits shadowbox over the moral implications of late-night TV, Palestinians continue to suffer under Israel’s medical apartheid. •

Former Professor Suzanne Langer's Legacy Lives On

LEELAH KLAUBER
HEAD LAYOUT DESIGNER

You look at your friend, and they look back at you. The only thing you do is tilt your head and raise your eyebrows, and you both just had a whole conversation. This might seem like a novel experience, but, according to Susanne Langer, conversation and language has been happening through rituals, symbols, and practiced movements for ever. As a philosopher studying aesthetics, linguistics, and symbolic logic, and later a professor and department head at Connecticut College, Langer thought of language as more than simple communication, but also the way that humans create our own reality. She understood that humans have an inescapable need to put meaning to and create symbols for everything, subsequently starting the task of truly understanding.

Langer not only explored the deep human need to create meaning, but also human attachment to art, music, and communication. She argued against the logical positivists, who generally believed that science was the only way to learn true fact, with graceful strength by bringing attention to the importance of the arts. What is astounding about Langer's main argument against positivism is the way she combats it through the discussion of metaphors. While some of the prominent positivists believe that there are only two types of significant premises, both which require verification from sense-experience or a direct definition, Langer does not look at the world with such rigid values. Metaphor allows us to view and understand language much more deeply than the positivists view. When an object or statement becomes a presentational symbol for something else, it creates a connection between the two statements and stretches the barriers of definition.

These revolutionary ideas culminate in Langer's work, *Philosophy in a New Key*. First published in 1941 by Harvard University, it only took about 30 years for the work to sell almost 600,000 copies. While her work was circulating, Langer was teaching at various different colleges, but accepted her first tenured teaching position and chair of department title at Connecticut College in 1954 under Rosemary Park's college presidency. In the May 5th, 1954 edition of *The College Voice*, Langer was described as a "distinguished author, teacher, lecturer in philosophy and aesthetics..." This article showed

how apparent the pride was at Langer's start at Connecticut College. Retired Professor Melvin Woody, who joined the Connecticut College staff only a year after Langer left and became chair of the department, wrote a eulogy for her after her death in 1985. His thoughts matched that of the pride written by students about Langer in *The Voice*. Woody's eulogy was published in *The Day in New London* under the title "The Doors that Were Opened by Susanne Langer." He wrote "When I was a student, everyone had at least one dog-eared copy of Mrs. Langer's.... 'Philosophy in a New Key', which was a non-fiction best seller and it seemed to be assigned reading for half the courses in the College! it was not only assigned to philosophy classes, but turned up on reading lists for courses in anthropology, literature, psychology, religion, art history, and even introductory science." The versatility in all of Langer's writing and knowledge is inspiring.

Despite being a quiet and secluded academic, Langer made a large impact not only on the Conn community, but the academic community as a whole. Yet, it's only in 2021, fifty-nine years after Langer retired from her position at Conn, that a class is being taught on her work. Led by Professors Larry Vogel and Derek Turner, this major texts course, Suzanne K. Langer's *Philosophy*, on *Philosophy in a New Key* is an eye-opening and riveting seminar on a true paradigm in academia. Let's hope Conn continues honoring her legacy! •



Connecticut College Newspaper Archives

Growing the Sprout Garden (cont.)

amazing.

Eric: So many plans...As far as plans for the physical space, this spring we are going to build a second high tunnel, which will give us a lot more growing space to use during the school year. This means more class projects, more ability for students to garden under cover in a warm place, and more salad bar greens in Harris. We also have plans to build a pavilion that can be used for classes, student activities, and performances. There are really no covered outdoor spaces on campus, so this could help with that. We also have plans to plant a berry patch and more native pollinator habitats. It is exciting to work with the Arboretum staff to make this happen and it's been fun to have students work with them a bit as well, helping to integrate Sprout into the amazing landscape that we have here at Conn. Also, Tess is working on putting together an information station/bulletin board so people can learn about what we do there, how to get involved, and Sprout's history. Oh yeah, and we took the big fence down this winter because it was starting to rot out. I kind of like how open and inviting it looks now so we will see if we can use a lot of deer repellent and see how it goes before we commit to building another fence. If you see deer out there, please let me know!

As far as programming, partnerships, and curriculum, I'm pretty excited as well. Like I mentioned, course offerings are continuing to develop in the Botany department, the Food Pathway, and the Food Studies Concentration in Anthropology. And we are continuing to develop our summer internship program, building on what we started last year. As much as is safe and allowable, we will do more activities together with FRESH staff and youth program participants. We are also looking forward to helping with the New London

Farmer's Market, also given our ability to participate based on COVID restrictions.

Students are looking forward to having some socially-distanced hangouts as the weather is starting to warm a bit and the Sprout Club is planning some other events to come. This winter, we lost a dear friend, Hans Horst-Martz '21, who was such a positive force at the garden. Sprout has been a good space to remember his energy, humor, and caring attitude towards his peers and we are working on figuring out a good way to honor his spirit at Sprout this spring. He will be missed very much. I hope we can carry his positive energy with us as we continue to transform that space into a big old delicious, healthy, salad bowl of student and community engagement.

Lastly, I want to highlight that Sprout is there for you to enjoy. It is great to see students eating lunch under the pergola, checking out what's growing, and exploring what's going on in the high tunnel. Hopefully we can continue to make it a place that people like to hang out, whether or not they are wanting to learn about agroecology and food systems. Sometimes a garden is just a good place to have ideas and to meet fun people.

6. What is your favorite part about Sprout Garden?

Tess: Definitely the people who come through there. Everyone is always in a good mood when you're in Sprout. It is such an easy place to connect with people. People are at ease when we're with plants and in the dirt. It is easy to step outside of yourself when you're producing something that is going to feed people. •

Article continued from page 3.

Becoming a Vegetarian With Conn's Limited Options

SERGIO REYES AGUILAR
CONTRIBUTOR

For a regular omnivore, this might go unnoticed, but choosing a meal can be challenging for those with dietary restrictions. Connecticut College has gone out of its way to make sure students enjoy their experience on campus amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. But are they putting the same effort into creating vegetarian-friendly meals? I have been researching the benefits of a vegetarian diet because I wish to become one. It turns out there are quite a few benefits: improved bone health, the protection of innocent animals, and a reduction in the likelihood of acquiring a disease. It is also worth noting that some people are vegetarian for religious reasons. Regardless of the reason one might choose this diet, this much seems to be true: Connecticut College does not offer a great variety of vegetarian options.

Emily O'Brien '24, a vegetarian student who is allergic to gluten, said that "the vegetarian options at Conn are kind of depressing. They usually include tofu with some sort of pepper, sprout, lentils, or beans that are supposedly chili. Most of the time, I skip getting an actual meal and just get tofu cubes and salad from the fridge." Similarly, Elias Garvey '24, a pescatarian, often only eats rice, lentils, or a salad. He remarked, that "even though occasionally they have some really good options, most days they tend to have very similar food. The vegetarian options can be especially repetitive since they often consist of lentils, quinoa, or some sort of stew." People with dietary restrictions on campus are not starving, but why do they have such limited choices? Why is it that there is always plenty of rice and pasta with sauce, even when students get bored of eating this every day? These two options are significantly less expensive than salmon or plant-based meat; however, it would be beneficial to re-evaluate the distribution of food at dining halls. For example, this semester, I have seen less variety of salads at Harris, Jane Addams, and the 1962 Room, all of which have offered the same four options since students got back on campus: Caesar salad, garden salad, arugula salad, and baby kale, grapefruit, papaya salad. Occasionally, they also offer spinach salad with corn and pepitas. A recent addition to the Harris menu is the Beyond Burger, which is an appetizing replacement from the tasteless bean burger. However, the Beyond Burger is served only two days out of the week, on Tuesdays and Saturdays, while the beef burger and chicken patty is a consistent option at Harris. Although there is always a vegetarian option at the grill, it ranges in quality. Many different kinds of meat have been offered for the past four weeks, such as honey pork loin, orange chicken, and chicken wings, providing meat-eaters with a considerable selection.

The lack of variety and options on campus for people with dietary restrictions is an undeniable fact, but it is important to understand why this happens. While speaking to Michael McGuirk, Dining Services Supervisor, he said that naturally there is more variety of meat because the ratio of students who are meat-eaters is bigger than those who do not eat meat. If a student is allergic to a seasoning or a particular food, they can work closely with the Dining Services Board and special meals will be prepared for them. Otherwise, options for all kinds of diets will be very generic. Thankfully, the dining halls do not have poor selections every day, but they tend to get repetitive considering that all three dining halls serve the same food, with exceptions such as Avocado Toast Tuesday for lunch exclusively at the 1962 room. One thing McGuirk pointed out is that if students

really were dissatisfied with the food selection, they would have expressed their discontent by now. Garvey and O'Brien are certainly not the only students who are not happy with the lack of variety at dining halls, but neither of them would be willing to contact Dining Services unless more students join them. If we get more students to express their discontent, would it make a difference? When multiple students complain about an issue, shouldn't it be addressed? How would this issue be addressed by the staff at Connecticut College? Let's wait and see. •



The Democrats' Impeachment Failure

PETER GATTUSO
STAFF WRITER

For weeks, Republicans have asserted that the second impeachment of Donald Trump was designed to serve the Democrats' political interest rather than holding Trump accountable. On Feb. 13, the Democrats practically admitted this point to be true when they denied allowing witnesses for the Senate impeachment trial. Despite Democrats consistently advocating the need for witness testimony in a trial for both Trump's first and second impeachments, they ceded responsibility and dropped that narrative upon the realization that the impeachment process had ceased to be a useful political tool for their interests.

The House impeachment managers communicated to Senate Democrats early that day that they would request witnesses to testify. Senate Democrats initially supported this movement, with Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD) affirming "If the managers believe it would help their presentation, we should let them have witnesses." After a 55-45 vote in the Senate in favor of allowing witnesses, the House managers shockingly announced that they would close their case "without the need for subpoena, deposition and other testimony." It was later reported that this sudden turnaround was a result of significant pressure from Sens. Chuck Schumer (D-NY), Chris Coons (D-DE), and Joe Manchin (D-WV), along with other Senate Democrats. These Senate Democrats advocated to the House managers that a prolonged trial from a result of witness testimony would likely cost Republican conviction votes, and delay the policy agenda of President Biden. As Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE) so eloquently put it: "people want to get home for Valentine's Day."

The day prior, Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-CA), one of the ten Republicans to vote in favor of impeachment, publicly offered to testify as a witness to provide details of a phone call conversation between House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) and President Trump during the storming of the Capitol (relayed to Herrera Beutler by McCarthy). According to CNN sources, as McCarthy pleaded with Trump to tell his MAGA supporters to stop the siege on the capitol, he responded, "Well, Kevin, I guess these people are more upset about the election than you are," to which McCarthy reportedly retorted: "Who the f*ck do you think you're talking to." Despite Herrera Beutler's brave public offer to testify, all potential witnesses were swiftly quelled by Sen. Coons Valentine's Day plans.

Sen. Coons's argument, masked by a concern for the interruption of his Valentine's Day plans, was that a prolonged Senate trial caused by witnesses would have been pointless as there were no more Republican minds to be changed. However, Coons's claim proved to be false that same day, when Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC) unexpectedly and shockingly voted in favor of conviction. Earlier that week, Sen.

Bill Cassidy (R-LA) also changed his mind on the constitutionality of a Senate impeachment trial post-presidency, stating: "The House managers had much stronger constitutional arguments. The president's team did not." If two Republican senators changed their minds based on the case brought by the Democratic House managers, it must be likely that non-partisan witness testimony could have persuaded other Republican senators to follow suit.

It is no secret that Republican leadership—at this point practically controlled by MAGA-mob-rule—weren't taking the impeachment process seriously. That makes it all the more disappointing that the Democrats decided to not take it seriously either. From the beginning of the process, Democrats seemed more intent on scoring political points by ostracizing Republicans outside the Overton window (range of tolerable political ideas) that would benefit their hopeful progressive agenda than actually holding Trump accountable to his actions. In the House, the Democrats led by Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) stalled the impeachment process, provided an overcharge in the articles of impeachment, and appointed a completely partisan team of managers. Prior to the impeachment vote, Herrera Beutler had asked Pelosi for seven minutes of speaking time on the floor—she was granted a minute.

Despite the dire importance of holding Trump responsible for his reckless actions, the Democratic leadership denied the opportunity to show the world an inside account of Trump's actions (and intentions). On Jan. 6, Jaime Herrera Beutler put her career on the line and offered to speak up against Trump in both the House and the Senate. Democrats said no. The Senate could have brought in witness testimony from those with Trump on Jan 6. Democrats said no. The Senate could have brought in Jake Angeli, the infamous horned barbarian who shortly presided over the Senate Chamber during the siege and offered to provide testimony. Democrats said no. The Senate could have requested the witness testimony of Georgia's Secretary of State, Brad Raffensperger, whom Trump told "I just want to find 11,780 votes," or from Sen. Tommy Tuberville (R-AL), whom Trump called on the phone during the Capitol siege, or even Vice President Mike Pence. Democrats said no. Both Republicans and Democrats in Congress have ceded their constitutional duties in favor of scoring political points, whether that be appeasing the MAGA-mob or gaining an extra two weeks to push a progressive policy agenda. As Sen. Ben Sasse (R-NE) postulated on the inefficiency of modern Congress, "the important thing is that when the Congress neuters itself and gives power to an unaccountable fourth branch of government, it means that people are cut out of the process." •

No Spring Break Will Affect Our Mental Health

KERIN KRASNOFF
STAFF WRITER

Spring break at Connecticut College and plenty of other universities across the nation has been cancelled in order to limit the spread of COVID-19 from students travelling back and forth. Already, popular locations for spring break like Miami and Fort Lauderdale have implemented restrictions for the upcoming spring break to further prevent a surge of cases from students traveling. While this decision is understandable given the circumstances, breaks can be safe and should still be allowed—with a pandemic, mental breaks are more than necessary. Breaks are a time for students to relax in the middle of a stressful semester, so how will the absence of one affect the wellbeing of students?

As *The Chronicle* states, "If students need breaks under normal circumstances, it stands to reason they especially need them now." Even though students at Conn had a longer winter break, that still doesn't address the need for a break in the spring semester; balance is important between work and rest in order to prevent overdrive and burnout. Moreover, the College has come up with an alternative called "college community day," with a total of two days off: March 10th and April 27th. During these days, campus activities and events will be continued as planned. While one or two weeks off would be preferable, shorter breaks are better than nothing and can still be helpful. According to research done by the American Psychological Association on the types and lengths of breaks necessary for our wellbeing, taking shorter breaks can still effectively improve one's mental health and allow time for self-care. Short breaks are beneficial for improving our atten-

tion for class and other obligations on campus, allowing students to get back into a routine that is hard to maintain.

The need for some sort of break has led to other universities to come up with inventive and safe ways to offer breaks for students, such as the implementation of "wellness days" at Penn State. While there is no definite plan yet of what a wellness day entails, the main goal is to address the mental health of students by offering shorter breaks throughout the semester. Harvard also introduced "wellness days" to replace their own spring break. Specifically, their plan is to "schedule [wellness days] roughly every other week," with activities throughout the days for students such as yoga and movie nights. Last semester, Davidson College created a successful plan to make up for no fall break, introducing "surprise days." These "surprise days" allow students to relax while also minimizing the spread of coronavirus through travel since these days off are last minute. While this seems like a step in the right direction, reactions from students have varied from positive to negative. Some students argued that one day in the middle of the week sprinkled throughout the semester is not enough, while other students believe that these days would be beneficial.

Overall, it is important to remember that this semester is a hard and stressful time for everyone. You are not alone. It is important to take care of yourself and be mindful of how you're feeling throughout the semester, and be mindful of resources on campus, such as student counseling services. The good news is that we are halfway through the semester, so good job and you got this! •

The Induction of NEISA Tide

MIYA PREYER
CONTRIBUTOR

After the death of George Floyd during the summer of 2020, the BI-POC community unified, as the United States clamored for accountability. This unacceptable series of events challenged us all to start an uncomfortable but imperative dialogue in an effort to identify and combat the deeply rooted prejudices and racial disparities within established facets of our lives. Even the most long withstanding institutions came to acknowledge that more could be done on their part to create a more cohesive environment.

One such entity that wished to channel this energy of improvement was the world of college sailing. In recognizing that sailing is a predominantly white sport frequented by those of a higher socioeconomic status, many members of this community realize that our sport may appear exclusive or inaccessible to those who are peering in from the “outside.” This unintentional reputation is one of the reasons why many who have come to love this sport have been inspired to devise a way to shake this exclusionary image and open up this mentally and physically engaging sport to all those who wish to find their passion within it.

Most notably, a group of sailors from the New England Intercollegiate Sailing Association (NEISA) pushed for the formation of The Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity committee (TIDE) to be established within the Inter-Collegiate Sailing Association (ICSA), which is the governing authority for collegiate sailing competition across the nation.

This student-led organization, of which I am a representing member for Connecticut College, has taken impressive strides despite its very recent inception. Led by Preston Anderson '22 of Bowdoin, TIDE has already seen success in drafting an amendment to the NEISA constitution which establishes a requirement of all teams within the conference to complete an educational program about

race and diversity prior to participating in competition for the season.

The organization has also established an infrastructure that is divided into subcommittees such as Education, Community Outreach, and School Outreach and Recruiting. Each subcommittee has been working tirelessly and enthusiastically on their respective focuses, all driven by the hope of expanding their beloved sport to those traditionally unable to access it, as well as creating a more inclusive environment for all to feel comfortable and accepted.

Not only do TIDE meetings lead to productive ideas such as expanding the collegiate sailing recruiting pool or how to promote more inclusive language on and off the water, but I have also noticed that those within TIDE have found a sense of community based on this common interest of inclusivity. Given that these engagements involve communicating and working with sailors from all across NEISA, I have had the opportunity to meet so many compassionate and engaging individuals who share not only my love for sailing, but also my passion towards creating a more accessible and diverse sailing experience.

As a sailor who identifies as BIPOC, I cannot stress how important the establishment of TIDE is for the future of this sport. It is time for people to recognize that collegiate sailing is an environment for anyone to develop a passion for the sport and find lifelong friendships in those who they encounter. I know that, from personal experience, the members of Connecticut College's own Varsity Sailing team have taken great strides to acknowledge the progress that has been made in collegiate sailing towards a more inclusive and diverse environment, and it's incredibly uplifting to feel so supported by a community that I care deeply for. I do hope that, with continued momentum, the efforts we have spearheaded today will foster an environment that allows more people, regardless of their race or ethnicity, to compete at the collegiate level. •

An Update on New Protocols for Athletics Events

GRACE ROBINSON
STAFF WRITER

The spring 2021 semester has been considered better than the fall semester for many reasons, one of which is the prospect of athletic events returning to campus. This fall, our sailing team was one of the only teams in the NESCAC able to compete against other schools. However this spring, there are plans to bring many more regattas and other sporting events to Connecticut College. Winter sports are currently able to compete and the decision to have an official spring sports season is pending among the NESCAC presidents. On February 27 and 28, the Women's Basketball team faced off against Babson College in Massachusetts, unfortunately losing 46-77 and 44-72. The Men's Basketball team faced a similar defeat against Merchant Marines, losing 61-77 and 50-61. The Men's Ice Hockey team also played Norwich on February 28th in Northfield, Vermont, losing 2-6. However, on March 6 they won in Dayton Arena winning 6-2 over Albertus Magnus.

There are new protocols that come with athletic events. In order for Conn to consider an opponent, the prospective school must have a comparatively low rate of positive COVID-19 cases on their campus. Internally, all Connecticut College athletes get tested every Monday and Thursday, and will undergo rapid testing on the morning of their game. Additionally, the opposing school, their staff and all bus drivers or other involved personnel will take a rapid test on the morning of the event for further

caution.

The Conn experience in the fall was new for everyone as the College attempted to keep students safe and bring some normalcy to campus life. With this past semester under everyone's belt, people have gained experiences and confidence to attempt to bring back sporting events. So far this semester, Conn has a record low number of COVID cases, which could have contributed to the school's confidence in bringing back sporting events. This has allowed winter sports such as basketball, ice hockey, and squash to compete this semester. The Women's Ice Hockey team won 5-2 against Becker College on March 6, and the Men's Basketball team traveled to compete against Mitchell College in New London, and the final score was 76-43.

It does not need to be pointed out that people want the pandemic to end so things can go back to normal. However, a few things may stick around. The sailing team “compete[s] every weekend for two to three days,” says Head Sailing Coach Jeffery Bresnahan. COVID has demonstrated that if regattas are scheduled more efficiently, then they can be shortened. This would give significant time back to students. In tennis, it was customary to shake hands with your opponent after a match. Head Tennis Coach Chris O'Brien thinks that “coming up with a new way to thank your opponent for a match” could be “a nice change.” Overall, athletics this spring will not be ‘back to normal,’ however, the addition of sporting events is a great step in the right direction. •

Reasons Behind the Testing Center's Relocation

JOHNNY ALEXANDRE
CONTRIBUTOR

Bi-weekly Covid-19 testing has become a religious part of Conn's campus life. Go to the testing center for your appointment within a half an hour of the time you scheduled it, swab each one of your nostrils three times, put your sample in the bin, and be on your merry way. With testing as regular a part of campus life as classes, one could wonder if having the Testing Center in the Athletics Center, far away from the dorms and across CT-32 is really the best place for it. Although it gives everyone a good excuse to get outside and go for a walk amidst an onslaught of virtual classes, maneuvering through the sporadically foul East Coast weather to the testing location often feels more like a hike.

Thankfully, the weather is beginning to warm up. Large snow piles that once kept cars trapped in parking lots are beginning to melt and icy patches on sloped sidewalks are thawing out. However, with weather including rain, snow, and below freezing temperatures still ahead in the forecast, it is worth wondering if it would be better to have had the Testing Center in a more central location.

When deciding which facility to use for the Testing Center, Dean Cardwell, Senior Associate Dean of Student Life, and staff, collaborated with Hartford HealthCare to make this decision. They decided that the most important attributes of a safe testing center were its accessibility to students and its ventilation, especially its ability to be properly ventilated in the cold months of winter. What was also important in the decision to use the wood basketball court was its isolated location and sole purpose of being a testing center.

By having an isolated location like the wooden gym, faculty could be sure that students wouldn't be passing through at random. If a facility like the 1962 room had been used, there would have been students passing through for all sorts of reasons while others were being tested. This would have caused problems by threatening the unnecessary spread of COVID-19 as well as for contact tracing purposes.

There is an exception, though, to the notion that the basketball court isn't being used for any other reason than COVID-19 testing. Recently, as the campus has again seen success managing the spread of the virus, athletic teams have begun practicing again. Three Conn varsity teams, the Women's Volleyball, the Women's Basketball, and the Men's Basketball have begun using the wooden gym for their practices.

The wooden gym, which includes two basketball courts, one used for the Testing Center and the other used for athletic practices, are divided by a stack of bleachers and curtained barriers. COVID-19, aside from being spread through the air, can also be spread by touching contaminated surfaces hours and even days after it was first contaminated by someone contagious with the disease.

One of the teams to use the wooden gym, Womens Varsity Volleyball, has been practicing in the wooden gymnasium all year, as they usually would. When the school decided to move the Testing Center from the ice rink to the wooden basketball court it took many girls on the volleyball team by surprise, raising questions of whether their safety was going to be compromised.

In volleyball, to score a point and ultimately win, the ball needs to hit the floor on the opponent's side of the court. In order to prevent this from happening, volleyball players engage in common acts to keep the ball in the air, before returning it over the net to their opponents side of the court. What often results from this effort is players ending up on the floor following their dives and digs to keep the ball alive.

The womens volleyball team also couldn't move to practice in the neighboring blue basketball gym, as other teams had, because the rubber floor

surface would be harmful to the players when they engaged in the common volleyball acts mentioned previously.

What was once a tense situation, however, has now calmed down. The school has been very transparent in their communication with the volleyball team. They have made sure that the team is aware that they are taking every necessary precaution to ensure that not just the volleyball team is safe, but everybody who passes through the wooden basketball gym on a regular basis is, too.

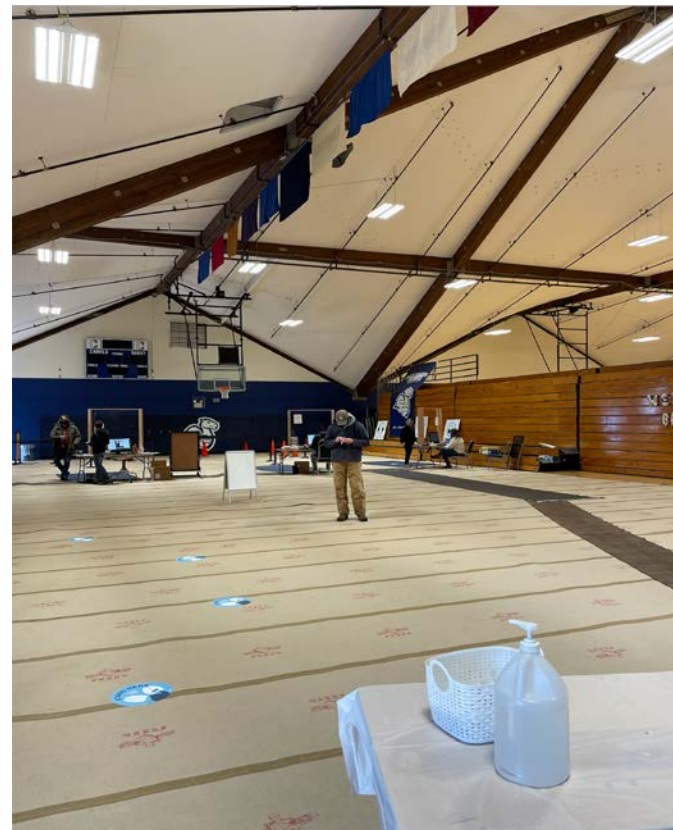
With all this newfound security, a new question arose. If the gym is so safe, why can't Conn host home athletic contests in it? This season, all of Conn's games that would have been taking place in the wood gym have been scheduled as away contests.

Josh Edmed, the Women's Volleyball Coach and Associate Director of Athletics, said Conn's "inability to host (basketball or volleyball) is not a reflection of the Testing Center in terms of its operations and proximity. It is a reflection of the space required to host a competition."

While slightly disappointing that we can't cheer on our Camels in person, it's just another sacrifice that members of the student body have so selflessly made to continue to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 on campus and elsewhere.

While it would have been nice to have had a more central testing location on the dormitory and classroom side of CT-32, having the Testing Center down by the athletics center has many silver linings. The view of the Thames River as you walk down the stairs from the bridge, the properly sized parking lot to fit Conn's large population of student vehicles to make for easy transportation to the testing center, and most importantly everybody's safety should make our entire community grateful to go to a school so committed to its students well being.

Go Camels! •



Morgan Maccione

Poems and Other Delights: An Evening With Ross Gay

JACKIE CHALGHIN
NEWS EDITOR

Ross Gay began his March 2 reading with pieces he called “cousins of poems”—genre-bending essays from “The Book of Delights.” But not before an introduction by Jeanine DeRusha, English professor at Manchester Community College, who—more than his myriad accomplishments as poet and writer (Gay is a Guggenheim recipient)—emphasized the need for poetry in a time where she has never had so many students speak so candidly to her about depression and anxiety. Representing the Connecticut Poetry Circuit as its 2020-21 touring poet, Gay reminded a youthful audience of 80 about the bright, gentle worlds made possible through poetry.

Among the small delights Gay spoke about was one that the pandemic has made dangerous. Touch factored largely in the first piece he read: a teenage girl high-fives him, a man smacks his bicep, a waitress squeezes his shoulder. The larger book was written in a period of one year, a delight a day (give or take, Gay says), from August 1, 2016 to August 1, 2017. As the country split, Gay memorialized the solace felt in touch. The socially distant reality that increased the virtual room’s appreciation for the first essay, Gay could not have foreseen.

In another piece, the speaker watches a man feed a pigeon under the Washington Square Arc; the pair is intimate, they are “slow dancing.” “Giggling” at his “good fortune” for having seen such a sight, the speaker turns a corner, and almost immediately sees a woman pull breadcrumbs from her pocket—a bird flaps into her hand, ready to be fed. The narrator stares in “bafflement,” and the woman smiles, nodding at him “as if to say, *we are everywhere*.” Gentle quotidian surprises are celebrated by the poet, who presented delights even when not reading.

Perhaps it was because Gay had read first from “The Book of Delights” that I was attuned to those that presented themselves in the brief waiting period between poems. Gay often laughs at his own poem titles, silly ones like “Ode to Buttoning and Unbuttoning My Shirt” and “An Abundance of Public Toilets.” Before

he begins what he calls perhaps his “most-foul mouthed poem” (a bird releases its last meal onto the speaker), he pulls a forgotten pressed lily from between the pages of his book. Calls it good luck.

Ross Gay’s answers during the question segment after the reading were like his poems: perhaps mystical, but never reticent. Gay’s approach to his writing is rooted in generosity. He does most of his work in the revision phase, and acts against the common writing advice to cut material; instead, his revision process is one of “expansion.” First drafts are where he gets things down, “conceives,” and second drafts are where he “disrupts,” teasing out what he really means.

Gay expands on his definition of “disrupt” in regards to revision. He makes clear that he is not one to “wrangle” or “discipline” a line, but to place them on a different course to see if they ride. His explanation stands in distinction to poets of sonnets or sestinas, who, loyal to form, apparently do the wrangling that Gay steers away from. “Lines are breaths,” he says, then continues, “poems are bodies—and profoundly bodily.” They must be allowed to follow their natural course, otherwise they might suffocate and die.

Perhaps one of Gay’s most striking assertions is, “my voice is a choir.” He believes the poets he reads and admires guide him during the writing process, so that his thoughts when he writes might be “There goes Terrance Hayes at this turn of phrase, and now here comes Lucille Clifton.” (He notes as an aside, in regards to Clifton, “she’s always there.”) Gay disrupts the notion of writing as solitary; sure, he might write alone, currently in a single room at a retreat, but a symphony of voices point him to what he is trying to pen.

He works first from the body, extending those impressions onto the page. Listening to Gay speak about his process, it becomes obvious why his lines linger in a reader’s consciousness, why images take shape fast and bright. He is always “listening for something” when he “does not yet know what to listen for.” Meaning, he reaches for that which he himself cannot yet conceive, and bestows upon the reader a chance to do the work. And what a chance it is. •

"The Day His Journal Went Blank": Conn Alum Gets Published in *NYT*

NEFERTARI PIERRE-LOUIS
MARKETING MANAGER

In a sincere sentiment, Annabelle Allen ‘19 shares, “I look at other fathers who make money and pancakes and kiss their wives, and I feel depressed for how small my father’s world has become.” Her newest piece, “The Day His Journal Went Blank,” published in *The New York Times* “Modern Love” column, is a vulnerable plunge into the reality of caring for someone with a memory-destroying disease. Allen navigates us through the emotional findings of her father’s personal journal, a relic of his life prior to Alzheimer’s. His dated writings aren’t just stories of the past he rather not tell, they are stories of the past he can not tell, or remember.

I sat down with Annabelle and posed a few questions regarding her sensational publication:

What was it like having a story so personal to you published in *The New York Times*? Were you nervous or hesitant to share this piece with the world?

I was very nervous. I had the usual doubts, like “Is this good?” and “Will people even care?” My family has been so isolated during this time, so of course I felt fearful about letting so many know what was happening in our private life. But the response has been overwhelming. I’ve had over 300 emails from strangers expressing the different ways they relate to my story. Some are young caregivers, some are older and reckoning with their mortality, and I’ve even had people with Alzheimer’s write and reach out to me themselves. I have printed every email, they are all so special to me and really healing. We’re all a part of a similar club it seems.

What was your father’s reaction to your publication?

We actually didn’t tell my dad the story was about him until the day of. We kind of said things like “Annabelle is going to be published in the *Times* this weekend.” He would say he was proud. When the article came out we received so many beautiful responses, and I wanted to share them with him. There were even some from his old co-workers who recognized the person in the essay. When I read them to him, he just cried like a baby, saying “this is the best day of my life.” Technically, he was published in the *Times* too because of his journal entries, so that was exciting for him! I did read some of the essay to him, but only the positive parts. Reading the whole thing would’ve felt kind of devastating.

You ended your piece on such a heart-warming note, and I’m sure it left many readers in tears. Was it difficult to discover the words you wanted to write? Or did this piece come easier to you than most?

Oh, I had a very difficult time putting words to what I was experiencing and feeling. I think that’s why I started trying to write it in the first place. To help myself make sense of it all.

The harrowing experience of witnessing a loved one’s decline is seldom describable. For Annabelle Allen, her father’s disheartening battle with Alzheimer’s disease was a sight promoting pain and confusion. “The Day His Journal Went Blank” is a touching illustration of what it means to exist in the lives of others, it is a poignant reminder to stay present. In beautifully plain-spoken words, Annabelle writes, “I took a breath and turned off the TV. I did my best to join him in the moment, as that is all we have.”

Read “The Day His Journal Went Blank” by Annabelle Allen here:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/05/style/modern-love-alzheimers-the-day-his-journal-went-blank.html>

Here’s more on Annabelle’s post graduate life:

As a writer, are you hoping to publish a novel in the future? How has freelance journalism been since your graduation from Connecticut College?

A novel, wow. Possibly. I just started at CBS News [as a Broadcast Associate], so I figure I will focus on that for a while. But maybe someday! Freelancing and reporting was a lot of fun. As a reporter your job is basically to ask a lot of questions so I learned a ton from that. At times I felt very financially strained. I worked a lot of odd jobs on top of reporting to pay rent. I worked at the Farmers Market, I modeled, I helped an artist make little string men out of wire and yarn for his mobiles, I even worked as a barista. I hope to return to reporting in the future, but for now I am taking comfort in the stability of my full-time gig at CBS. **During your four years at Connecticut College you were a founder of 360 Storytelling! Is that still around?**

Yes, it is! We’re trying to do seasonal events. We just had our last event, virtually, in January. You should totally come next time!

360 Stories is a narrative nonfiction, storytelling open mic established by Annabelle Allen ‘19, Rose Montera ‘19 and Summer Wrobel ‘19. To learn more and get involved visit: <https://welcome360stories.squarespace.com>. •

TheLook Rebranded, Now What?

Article continued from front page.

primarily white image perpetuated harmful exclusivity for BIPOC students. Reform was needed, both in leadership structure and content.

Co-Editors-in-Chief Sydney Lamb '21 and Emma Furgueson '21—along with Creative Director, Photographer, and Photoshoot Producer Helen Fulmer '21—explain why they decided to rebrand the magazine and how they plan on transforming it into a more welcoming, inclusive, and fashion-forward publication. All three had attended their first meeting for *theLook* as first-years in 2017, and they state that is when their desire to improve the publication began.

Lamb says after that first meeting, she felt like the magazine did not seem like a place where she wanted to spend her time, and she only returned sophomore year because of friends who were involved. As a photographer, she values the opportunities to have her work published. Now, as an Editor-in-Chief revamping the organization, she says she does not want other students to “miss out on that potential growth and opportunity” due to feeling unwelcome in the space.

Furgueson recalls how she felt intimidated by how “cool” everyone was at that first meeting and how she felt her fashion had been different from the 2017 leaders. “One of my pledges to myself throughout my four years at Conn was to change the culture surrounding *theLook* so that anyone would feel comfortable being themselves, no matter what that looks like,” she says.

Lamb and Furgueson’s discomfort speaks to a major criticism the magazine has faced: its former name. Fulmer explains that the new name, “Bespoke,” is a “180 from *theLook*,” which implied there being one mold in fashion. In an email announcement, the board clarifies the name’s meaning: “the word ‘bespoke’ has become a frontrunner in the way the [fashion] industry is describing creation and design. In its simplest form, bespoke means custom-made.” Lamb says that the name “signifies a new era for the magazine,” one that does not decide who has “the look” and, instead, celebrates the customizable nature of fashion and lifestyle content. Even so, she says that they know changing the name is not enough, and they are working on concrete structural changes to the organization to address past shortcomings.

Regarding criticism of *theLook*, Fulmer says, “*theLook* was a magazine that was very white-centered, and it had a very specific image and brand and audience that it focused around, and I think that that’s something that everyone on campus was aware of.” Reflecting on the whiteness of the former brand, she says *theLook* “catered towards the students on campus who enjoyed middle-, upper-class high fashion” or people who like “dabbling in Gucci or Louis Vuitton or Vineyard Vines” while not representing a wider array of fashions and styles. At a predominantly white institution, they recognize the importance of diversifying who they represent and what styles they showcase as one of the campus publications.

The most significant changes in *Bespoke* are within the leadership structure, specifically in edits to their constitution as well as adding new positions. Notably, the Director of Diversity and Inclusion is a new addition to the executive board. “We’re hoping this position allows us to always remind ourselves that we can always do better and always be more inclusive even if we think we’re doing as well as we can,” Fulmer says. The position, currently unfilled, would help keep leaders accountable in terms of model scouting, article topics, and other aspects of production. They are still discussing the exact duties and responsibilities of this position, as with another new position: model scouts.

These scouts would be in charge of finding models within the student body in the hopes of avoiding past favoritism and exclusivity. Lamb elaborates on the new club structure, saying that there will now be a division between the Executive Board, composed of the Editors-in-Chief, Creative Director, Directory of Diversity and Inclusion, and Treasurer, and the Leadership, which would include head writers, photographers, scouts, and other contributors. The Executive Board would oversee all other leaders to

ongoing global fight for social justice, the affluent,

ensure that their new mission of inclusivity is upheld in every aspect.

As seniors, they are focused on the legacy and longevity not only of the new brand but also of the changes they instituted this year. They are focused on being more transparent and open with all leaders and contributors about past problems with *theLook* and clearly defining what is expected of each position in the publication. Additionally, they acknowledge the past concerns of nepotism in which some prior leaders allegedly chose friends for specific positions in the magazine, bypassing a fair election and application process. In addition to editing the constitution, Lamb says that they will host meetings to explain the new positions and process while also giving prospective applicants an opportunity to pitch themselves for certain roles. Voting will be reserved for club members, but qualified candidates who are not currently part of the club are welcome to apply. As elections will be held in April, the Director of Diversity and Inclusion, the model scouts, and other new positions will not be filled until after the first issue is released.

Furgueson remarks that the biggest challenge has been publishing *Bespoke*’s debut issue within COVID-19 outbreaks and campus restrictions. Last semester was full of uncertainty regarding holding photoshoots safely and adjusting to a new campus lifestyle, and they were unable to complete the publication. They plan on releasing their first issue in late March, and they held their first two photoshoots—a timely mask fashion shoot and a monochromatic outfit shoot to highlight their new models—over the last weekend in February. Without their new scouts or Diversity and Inclusion positions yet filled, these photoshoot participants were selected from peers, friends, and fashionable students on campus. They want to make sure that “everyone sees themselves, people that are like them, or people who they are friends with and love,” especially in this first rebranded issue that will set the tone for their future.

Bespoke’s upcoming March issue will reveal how much progress has been made in terms of inclusive representation with models, content, and styling, but the efficacy of their new executive board structure remains to be seen following spring elections. •

Erasure Poetry Challenge!

- **Camel alum E. Kristin Anderson '05 recently wrote an article for the New York Times all about erasure poetry.**

- Anderson used a story from the NYT and turned it into a poem by blacking out lines of text.

- **Now it's your turn...**

- Using a story from our latest issue, blackout lines of text to create your own poem!
- DM or tag us in your poems for a chance to have your poem featured!

TCV

Find Your Love Connection on Missed Connections

KELLY WALLACE
OPINIONS EDITOR

Promoting campus unity during a difficult time, the new Instagram account @missed.connections has it all: cute coffeehouse barista sightings, students holding doors open, and more. Have you ever seen someone you thought was cute around campus but weren't brave enough to say it to their face? Or saw another student being kind towards you or someone else and wanted to commend them publicly? Well, this is the premise of @missed.connections. Here are some reasons why you should follow and submit a missed connection of your own.

Since all the posts are kind and complimentary or just neutral acknowledgment of cool students, it has a high potential of making some students here smile, whether it's because they were the "missed connection" or because it's a sweet experience a few Conn students have. If you're the type of person who prefers to keep your thoughts to yourself, you can stick to reading posts recounting a time when Conn students missed the chance to meet each other. As a senior at Conn, I think it's fantastic that students now have a space to share their experiences and run-ins, especially during the pandemic when most of us are feeling more isolated than ever before. The Instagram account is comprised mainly of wholesome posts and some less so (although never mean). It is so important to have a space that is filled with kindness and good intentions. These places seem increasingly difficult to find, but @missed.connections is radiating some hope and joy in a dark time.

While the world can be a scary place, especially during the pandemic, it is nice to know that we are not alone on campus. Sometimes when I'm walking to the 1962 room or Harris, it feels quite isolating. I might see one or two students walking together

sometimes, but it's much emptier than it used to be. @missed.connections helps us see that we are not the only student shivering on our way to pick up food from the dining hall on a stormy night. Maybe someone was having a great day and was really confident in their ensemble, and instead of it going unnoticed, perhaps another student saw and thought they looked amazing. Spreading kindness, like many other things in life, is a choice. Even if you're naturally a kind person, you still choose to share your kindness each day, either subconsciously or consciously. The Instagram account shows us that for the students on- and off- campus, we are more than just faces on a screen. I don't think I'm the only one who's seen another student from one of my classes in a social setting and thought to myself: "Whoa, that's Jake from economics class!" (there is no Jake in economics that I know of, but you get the point). Fewer things will go unsaid and that is a benefit of this Instagram account that I love as a writer and as a human who cares and wants to listen.

Now I'm going to mention one of the more primitive selling points of the account, in case everything above doesn't persuade you. We all know that Conn students, like all college students, love to gossip, or spill the tea, if you will. This love is usually coupled with a fear that what has been said between trusted friends may be told to others and spread to those whom they do not wish to be aware of their information. Now there's an Instagram that allows Conn students to spill the tea and to listen to that of other students here at Conn, while being mindful of each other. Let's not have a Gossip Girl situation break out at Conn. Submit a story about another student you saw on campus whose vibe you love, tell a friend that their outfit looks great, and always remember to be kind and respect your fellow Camels. •

missed connections


* Required

tell us about your missed connection!

Your answer _____

by clicking this you give us permission to post your story (anonymously) on instagram! *

yes!


missed.connections
⋮

tell us about your missed connection!

To the guy who gave me a rose on temple green last night, thank you very much that made my night

by clicking this you give us permission to post your story (anonymously) on instagram! *

yes!

♡
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Managers Spill the Tea About Running A Coffee Shop During COVID

ELIZABETH BERRY
ARTS EDITOR

There probably wasn't a day during my sophomore year at Connecticut College that I didn't post a photo of an oat milk Bee's Knees (honey and cinnamon latte) on my Instagram story. Going to Coffee Closet for this latte between classes became my routine and consequently, the student-run coffee shop became an escape from the lonely cubicles in Shain Library. My first article for *The College Voice* was even a review of student artwork hanging in Coffee Grounds, the second student-run coffee shop on campus known for hosting poetry readings, acapella concerts, and comedy shows.

Needless to say, Coffee Closet and Coffee Grounds are two prominent spaces on campus that exude a welcoming atmosphere for students. Campus-wide COVID-19 restrictions have forced the coffee shops to reimagine their space and role on campus.

Both shops follow COVID-19 protocols implemented by the College, but the managers were responsible for creating their own sanitation procedure. That being said, there is some flexibility, if approved by their supervisor and Associate Director of Student Engagement and New Student Programs Jeanette Williams, when it comes to developing their protocol. Fiona Hull '21, the operations manager at Coffee Grounds, says developing a COVID safe space was overwhelming in the fall as the four managers were thrown into a whole new environment with little instruction. Not to mention, the managers were hired just before students were sent home from Conn last spring. Sohan Mewada '22, financial manager at Coffee Grounds, says in an interview that they learned how to adapt pretty fast. For Coffee Closet, this also meant closing Little Closet, the OG Coffee Closet in Cummings before the Walk-In moved into Ruane's Den in Harkness, as it is too small for social distancing and only takes cash. However, Lara Cazemajou '21, operations and scheduling manager at Coffee Closet, is determined to maintain this pivotal part of their history as a coffee shop and is re-imagining its role next year and beyond.

In addition, the College requires two baristas per shift: the first is in charge of preparing drinks while the second, a "bouncer," checks students' Coverified and wipes down surfaces after use. Although this is a new scheduling structure, Coffee Grounds has decided to continue with this format moving forward as the sense of community among baristas has become stronger, explains Izzy Goldberg '21, communications manager at Coffee Grounds. Cazemajou adds that "having two baristas on per shift was difficult when we were in Yellow and didn't have indoor seating," but is helpful during Alert Level Green when the coffee shops can stay open later and students are allowed to sit socially distanced in the shops.

Level Green also means more flexibility when it comes to what products the shops can order and the type of events they can hold. Hull and Cazemajou explain that during Alert Level Yellow, they can only order products from US Foods, a popular online store used by restaurants across the country for wholesale items like milk, flour, syrup, chai, etc. However, in Green, they can order from independent vendors which is why Coffee Closet now has cold brew, kombucha, lemonade, chips, and hummus. Perhaps most exciting in Green is the possibility of baked goods, especially Coffee Closet's notorious chocolate chip cookies. But Cazemajou says this presents new challenges as food items must be wrapped as individual servings, which adds to their waste output. Payton Mulvehill '22, business manager at Coffee

Grounds, adds that student bakers will also have to come in during open hours rather than at night to bake.

While seating is available and baking is in the oven, the possibility of events being held inside the coffee shops is still a no-go. Cazemajou says that they are only allowed to host in-person events inside if it stays within their capacity limit and includes only staff members. However, she is hopeful that smaller clubs may be able to host events later in the semester if things continue to go well. She is also enthusiastic about hosting outdoor events and collaborating with MOBROC, Scuds, and N20. In fact, last semester Coffee Closet sold Halloween-themed mocktails to students prior to a MOBROC concert. Coffee Grounds has similar ideas in the works. Not only do they hope to host outdoor events on Larrabee Green and the courtyard between the shop and the financial aid office, but they are also working on themed-menu items. Mulvehill reports that Williams wants them to plan a St. Patrick's themed event. There is continuous pressure from deans to plan events as both Coffee Grounds and Coffee Closet have taken on central roles for safe socializing when all other means are egregious. Hull adds that while the coffee shops are always mentioned in the emails explaining the alert levels, there is still a lack of communication between the College and the managers of the shops.



Morgan Maccione

Nonetheless, the vibe of Coffee Closet and Coffee Grounds lives on even during the pandemic. Hull expresses how these spaces feel more 'normal' compared to other student spaces. Goldberg, who runs Coffee Grounds' Instagram, recounts how Cadenza and FYS classes reached out in the Fall to organize open tabs for events and students. These tabs are especially important for first-year students who may not have found their place on campus yet. Mulvehill emphasizes that students should come in, order a drink and hang out, especially now with the newly added 90 Dining Dollars to each student's Camel Card which can be used at the coffee shops. She also urges student clubs and organizations to reach out if they want to collaborate.

While there may not be any "couch layers" lounging in Coffee Grounds, Hull explains that their goal is still "maintaining the essence of Coffee Grounds and what it means for stu-

dents." Goldberg has been highlighting staff, not just food and drink on their Instagram (@onthecoffeegrounds) to emphasize community. Mulvehill says Coffee Grounds has represented a safe space for her, as it is "a stable part of my college experience and I have met so many people just hanging out." Ah, yes the simple act of spontaneously making friends. Mewada adds that "I don't think I realized how much I loved Coffee Grounds until this year when everything else I did was taken away." Morale is, of course, higher during Level Green: "It makes the shop feel more alive, more itself," says Cazemajou.

Maintaining morale and building community among staff and customers has been the biggest challenge, explain the managers. While social media has been a way to connect with first years and students who are remote, both coffee shops still struggle with creating their pre-Covid atmospheres in a pandemic. Mewada says, "Everyone went through growing pains of adapting to college life last semester." But so far the spring has been good, which is why we need to keep following the College's guidelines. Of course, both shops will face challenges as the semester progresses when it comes to hiring and training first years and sophomores who do not know what the coffee shops were prior to the pandemic. But as the saying goes: "April showers bring May flowers." Or, in the words of Goldberg: "Peace, love, Coffee Grounds (and Closet)." •