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THE COLLEGE VOICE

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER, SINCE 1977

Russia Invades Ukraine: Here's Conn's Response

ELI CHRISTOPHER
SOHAN MEWADA

Russia has invaded Ukraine. How did we get here and what happens now? In April of 2021, 100,000 Russian troops were sent to line the Ukrainian border for what was allegedly described as a “military exercise,” with the caveat that Russia would withdraw those troops at the end of the month. Sensing an imminent threat towards its sovereignty, Ukraine’s president Volodymyr Zelenskyy met with President Biden in an effort to fast track its membership status in NATO (The North Atlantic Treaty Organization), an intergovernmental organization consisting of 26 European countries and 2 North American countries. In August, President Biden reiterated the United States’ commitment to Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of potential Russian aggression, however, he stated that Ukraine did not meet the requisite requirements for NATO membership. In November, Russia renewed its troop presence by the Ukrainian border, warning nations, such as the United States, of Russia’s capability to invade the country if that was its desire. In December, Russian President Vladimir Putin outlined a set of demands that if fulfilled, would effectively prohibit Ukraine from gaining NATO membership while also forcing NATO troops to withdraw from Ukraine’s neighboring countries, leaving it vulnerable to attack. Diplomatic efforts were launched by the United States, Russia, and various European countries to avoid potential catastrophe. There are two dynamics to pay attention to: Russia making demands to prepare Ukraine for invasion, with the threat that if these demands were not met, they would invade Ukraine, and the second, the United States and its NATO allies refusing to give in to Russia’s demands. With Russia signaling a desire to cut off Ukraine from any potential support from NATO or its allies to prepare for an invasion, and with the United States and European allies’ reluctance to give in to those demands, Ukraine saw itself on the brink of war by January’s end. This brings us to more recent events. On Feb. 21, President Putin officially acknowledged and recognized the two breakaway republics of Luhansk and Donetsk in Ukraine’s Donbas region, officially designating them as the Luhansk People’s Republic and Donetsk People’s Republic. On Feb. 24, Putin introduced his plan to invade Ukraine, and not long after, the Russian invasion commenced.

In response to the Russian invasion, Conn held a teach-in event in Blaustein, helmed by Professors Petko Ivanov, Eileen Kane, Eric Fleury, David Patton & Laura Little. In a packed Ernst Common Room, the professors discussed the context for the Russo-Ukrainian War and stayed for a Q&A session afterward. Professor Little began, greeting the room and quickly emphasizing how the majority of Russian people do not respect nor support the current military occupation before handing the mic off to Professor Ivanov.

Ivanov spoke on Putin’s meeting with his security council on Feb. 21, where Putin delivered an hour-long speech regarding his grievances with NATO and reiterating his stance that Ukraine was not a sovereign nation. At 5:50 am, Feb. 24, Putin announced an outline for invasion, highlighting two key concepts:

- Destroy Ukraine’s military infrastructure
- Take down Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s government, who Putin deems as “Nazis” and “drug users.”

Putin has also issued a number of allusions and veiled threats towards his use of nuclear weaponry, exacerbated by Russia’s military taking control of the abandoned Chernobyl nuclear plant, site of the infamous 1986 disaster and meltdown.

Aside from the fact that President Zelenskyy is actually Jewish, Professor Kane wanted to clarify that Putin’s comparisons of Ukraine to the Nazi regime were baseless and “made up.” Kane further refuted Putin’s claim of a historical precedent for invasion, as if this war was akin to Russia’s efforts against Hitler in the 1940s, by citing Putin as the real aggressor: “This is not about history, this is not a historical problem - this is about violence and land.”

Professor Fleury echoed much of this sentiment with an impassioned speech, emphasizing the complications of the situation, and how many feel about it, stating “we want to understand this issue, but we are also mad about it,” and “war is a tragedy, even when you win.” Commenting on Putin himself, Fleury quoted Tolstoy, saying “the king is the servant of history,” and Putin and his legacy would bear the mark of this maneuver: “He is not a chess master. He is a coward.”

Professor Patton spoke on the U.S and President Biden’s response to the invasion, with Biden announcing personal sanctions on Putin and Russia’s wealthier oligarchs, referring to the President’s response as “quite unusual.” Biden’s response has been criticized as too little considering Putin’s goals are stopping NATO’s expansion and possibly calling for regime change in Ukraine entirely.

The event also featured Conn student Olha Vasylyv ‘23, a resident of Kyiv, zooming in from Paris to share her thoughts. Sporting the Ukrainian flag on her cheek, Vasylyv spoke on a phone call she made to her family once she had heard the news of the invasion, and how waiting for a call back was “the worst and longest ten minutes of my life.” She further commented on the lack of response from international leadership, citing that “the United Nations has done zero to support Ukraine as of now,” and that her parents “feel abandoned.”

Vasylyv expressed worry over the conditions of her homeland, saying “this hybrid war is working, even on those who are not there” and that

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Letter From the Editor

Here we present the second spring semester issue of *The College Voice*.

During class last week, a professor read aloud a notification she received on her Apple Watch. It was a breaking news headline: *Russia Invades Ukraine*. She then noted the interactive options her watch offered: *Dismiss or Save for Later*.

It was not hard to read into the metaphor. The options felt indicative of the ease with which Americans, detached from the harsh realities of war, can disregard such distressing news. We have seen this trend with Afghanistan, Syria, Palestine, Yemen, among many others too plentiful to list. The fact is, when it comes to matters of international crisis, American citizens are relatively shielded.

Our staff, however, has found the news difficult to dismiss. Thankfully, resources on campus have made it possible to understand, investigate, and discuss the crisis at the Russia-Ukraine border. We share takeaways in this issue.

The front page sees Arts Editor Eli Christopher '22 and Business Manager Sohan Mewada'22 attending a Blaustein teach-in led by various professors from the Slavic Studies, Government, and History departments. After the event, in conversation, Christopher and Mewada noted the gravity of the situation felt within the room as professors spoke and a Ukrainian Conn student remotely weighed in from Paris. Complications regarding the crisis were dissected, and feasible methods of support for Ukraine were shared.

Russia is the subject of another article in this issue, as Ellie Wagner '22 writes about the Russian doping scandal at the Winter Olympics. This matter is far from akin to a declaration of war, but it is characteristic of the stamina with which Russian leaders seek to assert authority.

Prevalent still is the ongoing crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic. Sophie Mulvihill '24 compares COVID procedures across all 11 NESCAC institutions, including vaccination, masking, and testing requirements.

Read, also, about on campus happenings like the recent dance department show, the Conn vs. Coast Guard hockey game, and the upcoming theater show *Cabaret*.

Considering joining us? We're always looking for writers, artists, people interested in layout design, and photography. Come to our Sunday night meetings at 8pm in Cro's Nest, follow us on Instagram @the_collegevoice, find us on Connquest, or email us.

As always if interested in offering a correction or if you have further questions please email us at eic@thecollegevoice.org.

Your Managing Editor,
Jackie Chalghin '22

A Note From the Editor:

To submit a letter to the editors please email us at eic@thecollegevoice.org. We review all letters that we receive for publication in our next issue.

All work submitted to *The College Voice* will become a part of the College's archives and our website after publication.

The College Voice mistakenly credited Adham Khalifa as '22 in our Feb. 16 issue. The proper accreditation is Adham Khalifa '23.
The College Voice mistakenly spelled Kyiv as "Kiev" in our Feb. 16 issue.

THE COLLEGE VOICE

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

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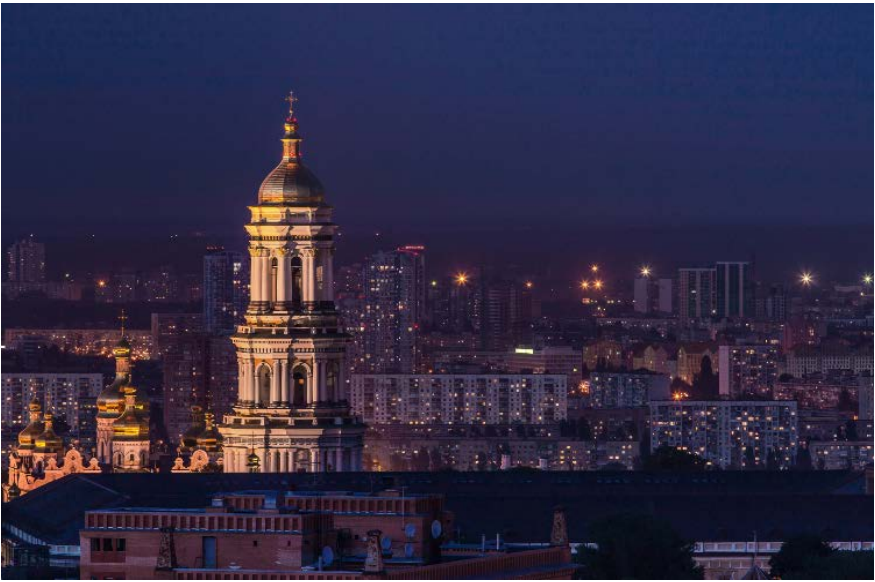
Russia Invades Ukraine: Here's Conn's Response

Article continued from page 1.

everyone still in Ukraine is encouraged to take up armed resistance. This being said, Vasylyv still commended her country's resilience despite the worsening conditions: "My president and the entire country is doing a tremendous job."

As of now, Ukrainian resistance is inarguably high. Days ago, Ukrainian soldiers on Snake Island, told to surrender by a Russian warship, responded "Russian Warship... go f**k yourself" before being captured. President Zelenskyy has refused to flee from the invaded territory, stating "I need ammunition, not a ride."

The question still stands for many of us, however, including at Connecticut College, what can we do? In response to the flood of support she has received, Vasylyv has thanked everyone for their kind words and offers, but now urges people to do more: "Consider donating. Consider calling your local representative - If there is anything that you want to retain from today, please call local representatives to preserve Ukrainian democracy" Vasylyv's Instagram, @olha_vslv, contains a link to many different resources to support Ukraine including ways to donate directly and indirectly to the Ukrainian Army, links to contact your political representatives, and ways to organize rallies for Ukrainian democracy. •



Courtesy of Unsplash

How Does Conn Compare When it Comes to COVID Guidelines

SOPHIE MULVIHILL
STAFF WRITER

As Connecticut's mask mandate for K-12 schools is coming to an end on Feb. 28, the question of what Connecticut College will do about masks has come up. Compared to other colleges and universities across the country, Conn and the other 10 NESCAC institutions have had more stringent COVID guidelines. The three big categories of college COVID guidelines are vaccination, masking and testing requirements.

Vaccinations:

All 11 NESCAC institutions require students and employees to be fully vaccinated and boosted when eligible. There are processes for medical and religious exemptions for students, faculty and staff at all of the schools. However Bates and Bowdoin do not acknowledge religious exemptions from students.

Masking:

Besides Colby College, all of the NESCACs are currently requiring masks in all indoor areas: classrooms, residence halls, most campus events, places like dining halls when not eating and other public places. When outside masks are only required for the unvaccinated. Colby is leaving masking in classrooms and labs up to the discretion of the instructors, and in meetings up to the hosts. They will continue to require them in more public areas. Amherst, Bowdoin, Hamilton, Tufts and Trinity are requiring that surgical or KN95 (or similar) masks be worn instead of cloth ones.

Testing:

Like Conn, most of the schools are requiring testing twice a week for vaccinated students. Hamilton, Middlebury and Trinity, however, only have mandated testing once a week.

Conclusion:

When compared to ten other similar schools, Conn is on par when it comes to COVID guidelines. With no updates from the school, it seems as though the Camels will continue to be masked and tested for a while at least. •

| | Vaccination Requirements | Mask Requirements | How many times a week testing is required |
|------------|--------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Conn | ✓ | ✓ | 2 |
| Amherst | ✓ | ✓* | 2 |
| Bates | ✓ | ✓ | 2 |
| Bowdoin | ✓ | ✓* | 2 |
| Colby | ✓ | ✓^ | 2 |
| Hamilton | ✓ | ✓* | 1 |
| Middlebury | ✓ | ✓ | 1 |
| Tufts | ✓ | ✓* | 2 |
| Trinity | ✓ | ✓* | 1 |
| Wesleyan | ✓ | ✓ | 2 |
| Williams | ✓ | ✓ | 2 |

* surgical or KN95 type masks required

^ instructors and faculty can make masks optional in classes, meetings, etc.

Pioneers of a Zoom Age

KERI KRASNOFF
NEWS EDITOR

As we come close to the two year mark since the world shut down and turned to virtual interactions, it is important to think about what direction higher education intends to go as in-person learning begins to return. The recent snow storm that came to Connecticut on Jan. 29 sheds some light onto how adapted we have become to online learning and whether that's a good thing. Rather than cancel classes, as would be expected in pre-pandemic times, classes were instead moved to remote learning for the week. "Forcing [remote learning] to happen in a time when things naturally slow down, I'm not so sure about that both on a human level and an ecological level," says Professor of Education Paul Madden. "I think that using energy intensive means to overcome natural things has actually become an endemic, or a problem."

While there are benefits of in-person learning and remote learning, it elucidates a larger opportunity at hand for Connecticut College: accessibility and reach to a larger audience. The accessibility aspect of remote learning can have great benefits for students as Madden has noticed in his remote classes and ultimately decided to keep it for his in-person classes. Rather than lecture in person, Madden posts his lectures on YouTube instead. "It's been something that I have been interested in for a while from an accessibility standpoint," Madden explains. "I have ADHD and auditory processing issues as well, and so for me the affordance of having my lectures recorded on YouTube is multifold. One, you can listen to it on YouTube at half speed, two-fold speed, whatever works for you. Also, it has closed captioning. For students who have challenges hearing or English is not their first language, it aids the process of accessing the content."



Courtesy of Unsplash

For Professor of Government Maryanne Borrelli, greater accessibility means reaching out to more students beyond Connecticut College and even beyond our borders. When "we have different communities coming together and different life experiences, your classroom gets richer," says Borrelli. "You can't do that without the help of technology." This semester, Professor Borrelli is teaching a remote class on Politics of Bureaucracy with Conn students and students from Ayeshi University in Ghana. "I just sat there thinking that we invested so much into this," Borrelli explains after it was announced that Conn will return to in-person classes after three remote semesters. "Yes, there are problems with this. Yes, we haven't gotten it down, and yes, it's not the same, but there are resources here that we should really be thinking about more creatively. All this investment has been made, why would we walk away from that?"

It should be noted that Professor Borrelli is not the first to bring in

people across the world with the help of technology here at Connecticut College. In fact, Professor of Slavic Studies and Director of the Toor Cummings Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts (CISLA), Andrea Lanoux beat modern remote learning to the punch by about 10 years when she taught a class with a professor and her students in Russia. "I started working with a colleague from Russia back in 2011 and we taught three courses together," Lanoux says. "We called them networked courses and the class was called Russian and American Youth Cultures and we connected our classrooms in real time." Lanoux continued the networked learning courses two more times in 2014 and then in 2015, calling the experience one of the "most exciting classes I have ever taught." From that experience, Lanoux recounts that she has "learned the power of this model: teaching live in real time with other students talking about how they see things and how they understand culture." Once the pandemic hit, Lanoux continued internationally connecting with students from different cultures with two separate projects: The Summer and Winter Language Challenge and The Global COVID Project. The Global COVID Project in 2021 connected Connecticut College students with students from Ayeshi University, Morningside College at the Chinese University in Hong Kong, Ashesi University in India and The Higher School of Economics in Russia, in a collaborative research project to address the impacts of COVID-19 on various socio-economic factors. "These are three areas where I think it's already the future. We are already doing it. And it's just experimentation and innovation. What we haven't done yet at Connecticut College is institutionalize any of these forms of learning."

While the potential of what remote learning is capable of is intriguing when thinking about connecting with more students on a global level, there are still challenges that both Borrelli and Lanoux have had to face. One major problem that Borrelli touches upon is connectivity. "It's not easy. There is a lot of patience that is involved. And patience comes into the technology and that is what you feel that you have the least control over." For Lanoux, she spoke about the many challenges within the planning aspect of teaching with international classes which can be very time consuming. "It's extremely time consuming to teach with a colleague in another culture. You just have to do a ton of work to figure out how to do this. There are institutional impediments on [the Russian professor's] side. It's like many other challenges, it's just easier not to do it." But for Lanoux, the end product truly made it worth it. "That is the potential: improve the quality of the Conn Coll education by imploring some of these network structures with partners and to sustain them. It has to go from the personal to the institutional commitment."

Overall, in-person interactions as the foundation of learning is essential for Connecticut College as a residential college. "There is just no replacement for international travel," Professor Lanoux emphasizes. "You have to go to the place—there's no substitute for in-person learning."

However, there is a lot of potential for connecting institutionally that could be used to further elevate the experience at Connecticut College. Professor Borrelli does not think that total remote learning is the answer, but she does think that we should "diversify our learning," especially since technology is the future. "This is not just a teaching investment but also a learning investment. Your generation will be doing a lot more virtually. And virtual learning in terms of presentations and work is very different." When asked how her remote class is going so far this semester Borrelli responded, "Everyone who is participating in this, especially the students, all of us are pioneers. Pioneer is a really good term because you are kind of going out into this unmapped landscape. Everybody I feel has to be very patient in order for it to work because there are so many things that we did not anticipate."

For now, we will just have to wait and see what the future holds for remote learning at Connecticut College. •

Deborah Bial Named Commencement Speaker

AMANDA SANDERS
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Connecticut College has announced its chosen keynote speaker for the 104th Commencement. In an email sent out by President Katherine Bergeron on Feb. 9, 2022, she informed the student body that the founder and president of The Posse Foundation, Deborah Bial will speak at this year's Commencement on May 22, 2022.

Bial, a graduate of Brandeis University and Harvard University, is best known for her work as the founder of "Posse." Posse is a national nonprofit organization that began in 1989, providing scholarships for students to attend partnered colleges and universities in the United States. Bial received a MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship in 2007 for the organization.

Connecticut College has been a partnered institution with Posse since 2008 with coalitions in Chicago and New York. 161 students at Conn have been enrolled as Posse scholars and roughly twenty are expected to matriculate each year. 95 Posse scholars will have graduated from Conn by May 2022. Notable Connecticut College Posse alumni include Maurice Tiner, Director of Race and Ethnicity Programs at Connecticut College, and Chakena Sims Perry '16, Chair of Cook County Young Democrats.

"As part of the Commencement ceremony, the College will award Bial a doctor of humane letters honoris causa, a degree that reflects her lifelong commitment to fostering campus environments where students thrive, reach their potential, and contribute to others' flourishing—what we like to call full participation," wrote Bergeron.

The Commencement Speaker is chosen by the graduating class in their junior year. The decision is made by the Commencement Speaker Committee, the Board of Trustees, and the President. Their efforts began back in the fall of 2020. 2022's committee was made up of co-chairs Lauren Middleton, the Secretary of the College, and Ava Ernst '22; Piper Burke

'22, Elizabeth Lopez '22, Long Ta '22; as well as faculty and staff members Anne Bernhard, Luci Chaplin, Marc Forster, Ayako Takamori, and Tiffany Thiele.

The student handbook notes that the steps in this process are thus: "(1) a Commencement Speaker Committee is established, (2) the Junior Class submits nominations to the Commencement Speaker Committee, (3) the Commencement Speaker Committee develops a list of candidates to be presented to the President, (4) and the President selects a candidate to be invited and is responsible for securing the final candidate to speak."

The Committee hopes to have roughly 10-12 names to choose from each year. It is common for names in politics, journalism, and entertainment to be on the list. "We go through and see what's feasible for the College, sometimes we look at the previous year's list too," said Middleton. Bial has previously been on the list for commencement speaker as well as for this year.

The list is then vetted through the campus Honorary Degree Committee and the Board of Trustees Committee on Academic Affairs. "We want to make sure that the speaker is someone we feel comfortable giving an honorary degree to," Middleton elaborated.

When the 2022 committee first began their search, Ernst informed the class that "the College will not pay speaker fees but will cover the cost of travel and lodging, and therefore having a connection to the candidates is going to be very important in order to guarantee their participation." The College does present the speaker with an

honorary degree.

Often the process is finished by the fall of the senior year, when President Bergeron offers the formal invitation to the selected speaker. Being chosen as Commencement Speaker is a huge honor at Connecticut College, and The College Voice formally extends its congratulations to Deborah Bial. •



Courtesy of Connecticut College

A poster for a TEDx event at Connecticut College. The background is white with large, stylized, overlapping shapes in red and orange. The text is centered and reads:

CONNECTING THE DOTS

TED^x ConnecticutCollege

x = independently organized TED event

April 9th, 2022

Cummings Arts Center

Music, Food, & Entertainment

Kamila Valieva, Eteri Tutberidze, and How Russia Will Do Anything For Power

ELLIE WAGNER
STAFF WRITER

It's no secret that Russia has a pretty shady history when it comes to the Olympics. Due to the controversy surrounding a state-sponsored doping program, the country is currently banned from competing in the Olympics, with its athletes only able to compete under the name, "Russian Olympic Committee." Still, the country's Olympic athletes show off the best in Russian talent, discipline, and athletic excellence. However, lurking beneath the surface is the reality of what it means to be a Russian Olympic Committee athlete. The recent revelations about 15-year-old figure skater Kamila Valieva testing positive for a banned substance on a drug test reveals that there is no level the Russian Federation won't stoop to for the gold medal.

In recent years, women's figure skating champions are on average significantly younger than champions in other countries. At the 2018 Winter Olympics, the men's, pairs, and ice dance champions were all nearly a decade older than women's champion Alina Zagitova, who won at age 15. Women have been retiring much earlier as well. Russian skaters Kamila Valieva, Alexandra Trusova, and Anna Shcherbakova, who competed in the 2022 Olympics and all made their debut this year were aged 17 or younger. Compare this to the three-woman U.S. team which features 16-year-old Alysa Liu, 22-year-old Karen Chen (competing in her second Olympics), and 25-year-old Mariah Bell.

This entire situation can be brought back to one person: renowned Russian coach Eteri Tutberidze. Tutberidze is credited with coaching the women who started the "quad revolution" in women's skating, producing a high number of female athletes who were able to execute quadruple jumps, a feat long considered to be physically impossible for women. While men have been able to do quads for years, relying on their genetic disposition for more muscle, Tutberidze seems to have "cracked the code" for women. Her method relies on low body weight and the delayed onset of puberty, making it most effective for very young teenage girls, and much less lucrative for young women. However, Tutberidze's methods led to injuries and lasting damage to her athlete's bodies. Most of her athletes begin to decline around age 16-17, after hitting their peak at age 15, leading most of them to retire before the age of 20.

Training in this way leads to lasting injuries and physical burnout, but it produces medals. At the 2014 Winter Olympics, relatively unknown 15-year-old skater Yulia Lipnitskaya stunned the world with her Free Skate in the team event, skyrocketing her and her coach, Tutberidze, to national fame. Lipnitskaya was hailed as the "future of figure skating." However, injuries and an eating disorder forced Lipnitskaya into permanent retirement in 2017 at just 17 years old. Flash forward to the 2018 Winter Olympics and 18-year-old Tutberidze student Evgenia Medvedeva was favored to win the gold medal. As we have learned, Tutberidze skaters begin to burn out around 17, and Evgenia's fellow Team Tutberidze member, 15-year-old Alina Zagitova, is chomping at the bit. In a stunning upset, Zagitova finished just ahead of Medvedeva. In the end, two Tutberidze skaters stood on the Olympic podium, raising Tutberidze's profile as a coach and Russia's standings in the world of figure skating.

Which brings us to the 2022 Olympics in Beijing. On Feb. 7th, 15-year-old Russian skater (and Tutberidze prodigy) Kamila Valieva became the first woman to land a quad on Olympic ice, leading the Russian Olympic Committee to a gold medal in the team event. By Feb. 9th, medals still had not been handed out, and the news broke that Valieva had failed

a drug test. As rumors circulated through the media, some said it was marijuana, others said it was the banned heart medication trimetazidine, some said it was a plot by the U.S. to get the gold for themselves. It was not until late on Feb. 10th that the International Testing Agency offered a statement: a sample was taken from Valieva ahead of the 2022 Russian Nationals in January. The results of a drug test did not come back until Feb. 8th and showed a banned substance, identified as trimetazidine, in her system at that time. When the results came back, Valieva was provisionally suspended from all events, including the 2022 Winter Olympics.

This is an interesting situation, as the sample was taken for a Russian event, and therefore is under the jurisdiction of the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA), not the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Valieva challenged the provisional suspension in a hearing on Feb. 9th, and the RUSADA Disciplinary committee subsequently lifted the suspension, making Valieva eligible to compete in the ladies' individual event

the next week. The World Anti-Doping Code gives the IOC the right to appeal any decision, which they did. On Feb. 14th, the appeal was denied by the Court of Arbitration for Sport, and Valieva was cleared to skate. The decision cited how long it took for the test results to come in, as well as her age, and the impact disqualification would have on a 15-year-old. This sends a pretty harmful message to Eteri Tutberidze and her team, who make a living out of breaking young skaters. This decision makes it seem that it is okay to use prohibited substances, as long as it's only on young children, because there will be no consequences. This is an extremely dangerous precedent to set, and threatens the integrity of figure skating as a sport. Many figure skaters have come out on social media and in the news in opposition of the decision, including Meryl Davis, Adam Rippon, and Scott Moir.

All this begs the question, why women's figure skating? What is Russia's obsession with not simply coming out on top, but filling the podium with Russian skaters by any means necessary? Well, to find that answer we need to look back at the history of women's figure skating. Since the very inception of the Winter Olympics, the USA has been pretty dominant in women's figure skating, making the podium almost every year. Some of the best known

American figure skaters come from the ladies discipline, such as Tara Lipinski, Nancy Kerrigan, and Michelle Kwan. The U.S. reached its peak in the 90's, producing incredible skaters winning plenty of medals. In recent years, however, the United States has been replaced on the podium by Russia. In addition to the U.S. being a dominant force in women's figure skating, three Asian countries have found a home at the top, including Japan, South Korea, and China. Perhaps Russia's ambition to remain on top of the podium is some kind of Cold-War-style power-grab against the United States, or perhaps it is some ploy to overpower some of the most powerful countries in the world through the medium of figure skating. Whatever the case, it is clear that women's figure skating matters in some capacity to the Russian federation, and they will resort to anything to remain on top. The Figure Skating World Championship is set to begin in March, and it will be interesting to see whether Valieva or the whole Russian team is allowed to participate. The decision to allow an athlete with a positive doping test to participate in competitions is unfair to the athletes who compete clean, and the ISU should impose consequences on the Russian team, including (but not limited to) investigating Eteri Tutberidze. •



Courtesy of Unsplash

Coast Guard Vs Conn Club Hockey Game Returns To Dayton Arena

AMANDA SANDERS
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The long-awaited club hockey Coast Guard versus Connecticut College game made its return to Dayton Arena on Feb 19, 2022. Normally one of the most popular sporting events at the College, it had been canceled in 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This year the game was able to return in a smaller capacity; fewer tickets were available in order to ensure that the game would follow the guidelines set in place by the College relating to COVID safety.

Students lined up in the Crozier-Williams Student Center at 12:15 PM on Wednesday, Feb. 17 in hopes of acquiring a ticket to the game, stretching all the way out the back door by Sprout Garden. By 12:22 PM, the Office of Student Engagement had run out of tickets.

Even before the game, excitement (and possibly gas) filled the air. Students arriving earlier than the expected 7 PM start time were told to wait in the Athletic Center while the New London Fire Department investigated a possible gas leak. Once the fire department gave the all-clear, the game was set to commence. The stands quickly filled with rowdy students from Connecticut College and Coast Guard alike. The excitement manifested in proud chants across the stands, viewers banging on the protective barriers as their favorite players skated by.

The game began with all-female acapella group the ConnChords performing the national anthem, before moving on to celebrate their seniors: Conn students Jake Corcoran (captain), Matt Guittari (alternate captain), Brady Young, Zach McCrystal, Dareious Linss, and Matt Park.

Even the players couldn't resist the energy surging through the crowd. After a tough first period where Coast Guard pulled ahead, Conn fought back in the second period managing to score a goal. By the third and final period, the score was close as the cadets raced across the ice to keep their lead against the Camels. The tension was palpable, and at one point seemed to burst during a pile-on between the two teams where the officials needed to get involved, tearing bodies away from one another.

The game's final score was 4-3, Coast Guard.

"We'd like to thank our coach Andrew Tomarchio, for committing his time to us every week and showing up when we needed him most," said Young. •

Photos taken by Bree Bohle '22



Tom Brady Might be Coming Home, but Not to New England

FRITZ BALDAUF
CONTRIBUTER

7 Super Bowl Championships, 3 NFL MVPs, countless memorable moments, and one greatest-quarterback-of-all-time career later, Tom Brady is calling it quits.

Or is he? Ever since Brady officially announced his retirement on Tuesday, Feb. 1, speculation has been rampant about whether or not he will come out of retirement for one last stint in the league. Despite being 44, it's undeniable that it feels like Brady has another good year or two of football in him.

Rumors of Brady's return to play have been stirred up by several prominent members of the NFL media, including Bill Simmons, Scott Zolak and Mike Florio. Brady himself has done nothing to quell these rumors, stoking more fuel to the fire last week by saying "you never know" when asked if he would come back and play. All of the speculation of a Michael Jordan-esque, Washington Wizards return to play have centered around Brady playing for one team and one team only, and it isn't Tampa Bay. It seems that if he comes out of retirement, Tom Brady would be going home. And no, not home to the New England Patriots.

When Brady first left New England, it became quite clear which team he wanted to play for the most. Brady grew up in San Mateo, California, about 40 minutes south of San Francisco. As a kid growing up in the 1980s in the Bay Area, the young Brady got to witness the San Francisco 49ers dynasty first hand. He idolized Joe Montana as a kid, the man who led the Niners to four of their five Super Bowls, and the man who preceded Brady as the likely greatest quarterback of all time.

When Brady announced he was leaving New England after the 2020 season, the 49ers made too much sense for him. They were coming off a Super Bowl run in which the only area of improvement seemed to be the quarterback position. They sported a loaded, young roster featuring the likes of George Kittle, Deebo Samuel, Nick Bosa, Fred Warner, and more, and a great young coach in Kyle Shanahan. It even came out this season that Tom Brady told his former wide receiver (and 49ers wide receiver coach from 2019-2021) Wes Welker that he wanted to come to San Francisco.

However, the Niners opted to stick with quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo, the man who New England originally drafted as Brady's eventual successor before opting to trade him to the West Coast in 2017. In hindsight, that decision was a mistake by San Francisco. Brady led Tampa Bay to a title the next season while Garoppolo and the Niners suffered through a barrage of injuries and missed the playoffs. At the time, the Niners logic was sound. Garoppolo was coming off of an excellent statistical season, even if the eye test was shaky at points. He was (and still is) loved in the Niners locker room, and was just one missed throw away from winning a Super Bowl. Not to mention the fact that 2019 had been one of Brady's worst seasons.

In 2022, things are different. The Niners made the NFC title game, but have been planning to move on from Garoppolo since they traded up in the 2021 NFL Draft to select North Dakota State QB Trey Lance third overall. Lance was the youngest quarterback in the class, and widely considered to be very raw and in need of a lot of development. Next season the Niners will be built to win the Super Bowl, with a roster that's nearly as good as the one that almost won the Super Bowl in 2019. The plan was for Lance to sit behind Garoppolo for one season to learn and then eventually take the reins in 2022, ala Patrick Mahomes sitting behind Alex Smith in Kansas City in his rookie year. Garoppolo's play in 2021 was widely criticized, and while he had some great moments it was clear why the 49ers decided that they will move on from him when the new league year starts on March 16th.

With San Francisco almost certainly moving on from Garoppolo, the question shifts to Lance. Almost all NFL pundits agree that his ceiling is sky-high. He has physical tools reminiscent of Mahomes and Bills QB Josh Allen, two of the five best QBs in the league today. But is he ready? He's only



Courtesy of Unsplash

going to be 22 years old at the start of next season. In two games he started this season when Garoppolo was hurt he showed flashes of his immense potential but also showed growing pains. The Niners only have so much room for growing pains next season. They are a team that is built to win now. Pressure will be high on everyone in the organization to capture that ever-elusive sixth Super Bowl. If Lance isn't ready to lead the Niners, Brady makes sense.

Even though he is officially retired, Tampa still owns the rights to Brady so the Niners would need to trade for him (similar to what Tampa did to acquire Rob Gronkowski from New England in 2020). The trade idea that has been floated is the 49ers would send Garoppolo and a draft pick to Tampa for the rights to Brady, and Brady would then unretire. Now why would Tampa do this? Well based on the buzz around the league it seems quite clear that Brady doesn't want to play for Tampa again, and the only thing that could lure him out of retirement is a chance at a homecoming on the team he grew up rooting for.

It could work out perfectly for San Francisco if Lance needs another year. He is still the long term plan in the city by the bay, but when the GOAT is interested in joining your team you have to listen, and Lance could also benefit from sitting and learning for one more year behind an all time great quarterback, similar to how Aaron Rodgers sat for several years behind Brett Favre in Green Bay. Mike Florio, who covers the NFL for NBC said last week that Brady "will certainly" be starting for San Francisco come week one of next season. Although they haven't directly referenced Brady, the two greatest QBs in 49ers' history, Montana and Steve Young have both said in the past week that they don't think that Lance is ready.

Will Brady stage one last dance in the City by The Bay? As a 49ers fan myself, I personally wouldn't bet on it happening, but it's impossible to rule out. Brady's deep connections to the Bay Area are well known. His parents still live there, and like the slew of elite quarterbacks in the league today who grew up in Northern California (Rodgers and Allen), he was a die hard 49ers fan as a kid. The Niners have a roster that can rival anybody's in the league, a great coach, and might have a need at QB if Lance isn't ready. If he wants, and if the 49ers feel it right, they could let Lance learn behind the GOAT for one year and then hand him the reins as Brady rides off into the sunset, ideally with another Lombardi trophy. However likely or unlikely it may be, imagine the storyline it would create. The greatest QB of all time returning for one last season to his favorite childhood team, with a chance to end the longest Super Bowl drought in the proud history of the 49ers and the chance to win an unprecedented eighth Super Bowl title for himself as his final act. •

Sports Spotlight

Featured Team: Women's Ice Hockey

2/25 @ Wesleyan w, 3-3 (2OT)

Seniors:

Natalie Witkowski, Sydney Jones,
Kaaren Liston, Melissa Alexander,
Samantha Hunt, Carly Denora

Coaching Staff:

Kristin Steele, Head Coach
Kenzie Lancaster, Assistant Coach
Bob Bellemore, Volunteer Assistant
Coach

Featured Team: Men's Ice Hockey

2/25 @ Bowdoin W, 4-1

Seniors:

Colin McCabe, Steven Senese, Tim
Kobler, Chris Adamson, Paul Capozzi,
Peter Scheschareg, Sam Stone, Kyler
Shero, Anthony Quatieri, Mike Mchale

Coaching Staff:

Jim Ward, Head Coach
Joe Giordano, Assistant Coach

Featured Team: Women's Squash

2/25 vs. Mount Holyoke W, 8-1

Seniors:

Johanile Hurtado
Birgitta Salvensen-Quinn
Lili Vazquez

Coaching Staff:

Michael MacDonald, Head Coach

Featured Team: Men's Squash

2/20 vs. Haverford College L, 1-8

Upcoming Events:

Billy Fleurima, Demetrius Iatridis, MD
Jawad, Chris Mach, Luigi Pasquariello

Coaching Staff:

Michael MacDonald, Head Coach

The Legend of Mattress Mack

JOHNNY ALEXANDRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Jim “Mattress Mack” McIngvale is a businessman from Texas who owns and operates the Gallery Furniture retail chain. Mattress Mack has become sort of an internet sensation for the exceptionally large wagers he places on sporting contests, most recently with his record-setting total \$9.5 million dollar bet on the Cincinnati Bengals to win Super Bowl LVI.

Not only is Mack notoriously famous for gambling gigantic sums on sports contests in his personal life, but he uses a similar approach in his business. Mack offered Gallery Furniture customers a full “reimbursement to those who spent \$3,000 or more” on furniture from popular brands like Sealy, and Tempur-Pedic if the Bengals were to win. He also has run this same promotion for the Astros in the past. Unfortunately, Mack lost his massive bet when the Bengals lost Super Bowl LVI, but as a result did not have to reimburse customers.

Mack played football himself in college for the University of North Texas. Coming out of college, Mack and his wife moved to Houston to run the furniture store that started “as a small business” and eventually grew to the \$200 million annual business it is today. At the start of their business venture, Mack and his wife used to sleep in the store, and Mack, as a last resort when initially struggling financially, invested his last \$10,000 to air a TV commercial. The commercial became a huge success when Mack spoke at a rapid-fire pace to get his whole message to fit in the 25 seconds allotted. At the very end of the Gallery Furniture advertisement, Mack exclaimed, “We will save you money!” The slogan “save you money!” stuck to this day and so did McIngvale’s nickname, Mattress Mack.

Living by the slogan, “living is giving,” Mack is ultra generous with his money, opening up a free, on-site Gallery Furniture preschool, high school, and trade school, which essentially trains people the necessary skills they need to earn a living, build confidence in themselves, and break cycles of poverty in Texas. Additionally, Mack offers all employees free breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

When Hurricane Harvey devastated Texas in 2017, Mack opened up his store to house people in crisis and made donations to help victims get back on their feet. And unlike what one would expect of such a celebrity, Mack, now aged 71, still works ten hours a day, seven days a week, manning the front desk of his store, greeting customers, and assisting salesmen. When I called the original North Freeway, Houston, Gallery Furniture location to try to reach the legend himself and see if the rumors were true, a worker picked up the phone and said, “Mack is walking the store, if you call back in 30 minutes he’ll probably pick up the phone.”

All this, and Mack has become most well known for the gargantuan sums he wagers on sporting contests, highlighted by his record gamble on this year’s Super Bowl. As a local icon, as the local icon he is, most of Mack’s bets are typically in support of Houston teams, such as the Texans of the National Football League and the Astros of Major League Baseball.

Just to get a glimpse of his recent habit, Mack was 0-2 in the 2020 NFL playoffs when betting against the Kansas City Chiefs. He bet in favor of the Texans to win the AFC championship 2020 against the Mahomes led squad, and then followed that up with a \$1 million bet on the 49ers in the Super Bowl against the Chiefs that same year. Mack got his revenge the next year, however, when his \$3.4 million bet on Tom Brady led the Buccaneers to take down the Chiefs hit.

Mack has bet millions on the Astros as well, and once even paid for a nun to attend the Astros ALCS game against the Red Sox, which proved effective as a good luck charm when the Houston team won.

I called again later and this time Mack picked up the phone. •



Courtesy of Robbie Lynch

Come to the Cabaret!

CATJA CHRISTENSEN
OPINIONS EDITOR

Step into the nightclub and get lost in the music, dancing, drama, and politics of Cabaret this first weekend of March. The Theater Department's annual spring musical kicks off the grand reopening of the newly renovated Palmer Auditorium with the classic 1966 hit.

The Kander and Ebb musical, based on the book by Joe Masteroff, play by John Van Druten, and stories by Christopher Isherwood, "brings us to the Kit Kat Club where sensitive souls insist on love and self-expression in a darkening political world," as described on the Theater Department website. Set in early 1930s Berlin as the rise of Nazism and antisemitism permeate all aspects of life, Cabaret explores complex relationships amidst the sordid, glamorous nightlife through the eyes of American novelist, Cliff Bradshaw (played by Adam Dutton '22). English cabaret performer Sally Bowles (played by Brielle Blood '24) enters his view, and an unexpected romance blooms between them along with surrounding violence, sacrifice, and political strife. The cabaret serves as a theatrical escape from the stressors and antagonism of reality just outside.

"We too look for a haven to celebrate ourselves, love who we want to love, and live without political terror because we simply express who we are and actualize who we are," says Director and Professor Ken Prestininzi, commenting on the timeliness of performing Cabaret in 2022. "But we also need to see how the political forces are determining our future while we might be indulgently living freely without care in our own self-made bubbles." Shifting the historical scope from the individual to the societal and vice versa is a common theme in the show, and it is challenging to reflect upon such a destructive time period. Wylie McCann '23, playing the Emcee, says, "It is so necessary [to reflect] as it gives us insight into our own circumstances as we navigate incredibly divisive times. Most of all, it's a moving story, filled with energy, passion, angst, and love."

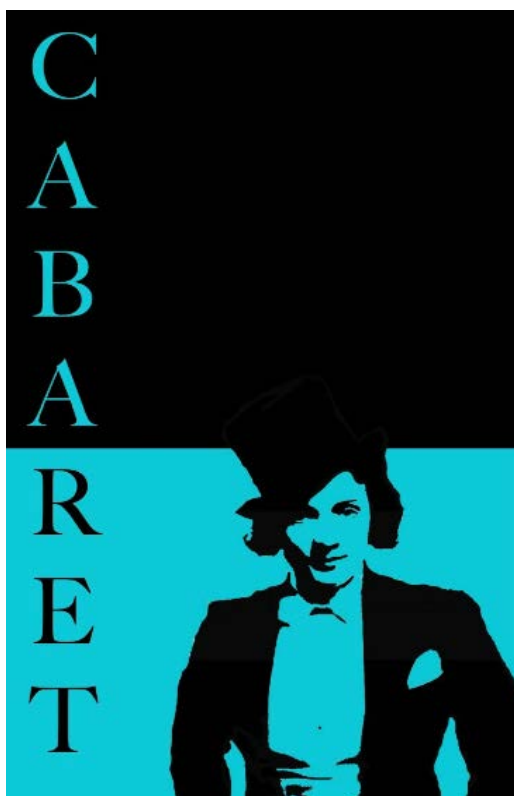
McCann's role may sound understated, but it is anything but that. The Emcee is traditionally played by cis-gender male actors in drag, but McCann is reshaping the narrative as a female-identifying person. "Prestininzi has granted me the permission to create my own version of this character, one who can twist pain into beauty and celebrate how beautiful life can be... and one who can really pull off a pair of lederhosen," she quips. She also reflects on the show's inherent sexual promiscuity and how choreographer and Professor David Dorfman worked on how to abstractly emulate the period's sexual liberation. Dorfman was inspired by the rich musical score, which he says has "so much narrative, drive, humor, and pace," which he uses as the storytelling foundation. While the stage production and 1972 film are sources of inspiration, he doesn't like to reference them so that they can present a fresh take on

the well-known source material.

Dorfman also calls the interdisciplinary collaboration the most rewarding part of the process, specifically praising Prestininzi and musical director, Jake Cannon, for their contributions. Prestininzi concurs: "We have great performing arts departments, and to finally be in the same room with David Dorfman creating and collaborating with my colleague has made me grow as an artist and educator." Erin Flanagan '24, who plays the featured Kit Kat Girl Texas, says, "The whole ensemble — performers, pit band, stage management, costume crew, all of [the] tech crew and the creative team — works so hard because we all love theater." Professor Sabrina Notarfrancisco and the team of student costume shop workers alter and organize the racks of costumes necessary for the show, and Theater Services always excel with the technical aspects behind the scenes.

Two years since both the renovations and the pandemic began, live performances are still grappling with the standard rehearsal processes, especially moving back into the auditorium. They will not begin rehearsing in Palmer until tech week in the last week of Feb. which is standard practice. However, COVID cases have spread rapidly in the past few weeks, with 89 active student cases at the time of publication. Both student performers and faculty have struggled with the variable quarantine lengths cutting into rehearsal time; some students are even in quarantine during tech week hoping to make it out by opening night. Dorfman missed nine vital rehearsal days in February when he was in quarantine and says that "time is real currency in a project like a musical." Flanagan adds, "Operating during the pandemic is always scary and challenging, but the show always goes on. Even in dark and scary times, getting to be a part of this show has been such a gift."

Despite the setbacks, Dorfman is still very proud of the production and looks forward to sharing their work. "As a Jew and an 'elder,' this subject matter is very close to my heart. I only hope to do it some justice. Please 'come to the Cabaret!'" •



Courtesy of Connecticut College Theater Department

See Cabaret in Palmer Auditorium:

Fri, Mar. 4 - 7:30 PM

Sat, Mar. 5 - 7:30 PM

Sun, Mar. 6 - 2 PM

Student Works Dance Department Concert

DAVI SCHULMAN
STAFF WRITER

On the weekend of Feb. 18, Connecticut College dance students of all class years choreographed and performed their own unique pieces for the Student Works Concert, held every spring. The show featured eight dances, including five solo performances, two duets, and one group number. Each dance was choreographed by one or two students who expressed interest in choreographing and attended feedback sessions with Dance Department

faculty members to refine their work.

"We follow some of the principles for feedback created by Liz Lerman, a choreographer from DC. Essentially, people say what they see in the work in a neutral, non-evaluative way," Dance Department Chair Heidi Henderson shared. "Choreographers can ask questions of the viewers, to specify what they are working on or struggling with. This method creates a supportive

Article continued on page 11.

Dancers Dazzle in Student Works Concert

Article continued from page 10.

atmosphere.”

The Student Works Concert was a truly collaborative show. Not only did students serve as choreographers and performers, but they also assisted as production managers and crew members. The students taking Professor Shawn Hove’s Dance Production class this semester even designed the concert’s lighting.

Mary DiMaggio ‘22 choreographed and performed a solo dance titled “Treehouse.” She began the dance lying on the floor, and stretched in a candlestick position, while dressed in a brightly colored and patterned outfit. These elements established the dance’s themes of youthfulness, joy, dreaming, and balance. She was also inspired by “funky-shaped trees in the arbo” when creating her dance. DiMaggio intended for her piece to look like “a dance performed in a treehouse under the stars, with the audience watching through a window.” She described the style of her dance as “modern for the most part, focusing on smooth movements with some sharper hits as well.” DiMaggio reflected on her choreographing experience, “to start with one idea unsure of where it would go, and then develop that idea over time to create a dance was a very cool experience, and it was interesting to see where different ideas came into play within the dance and compare the finished product to where I started.”

Corinne Robbins ‘25 also choreographed and performed a solo dance called “fare you well, land lovers.” She danced in silence at the beginning and end of her piece, with music playing in the middle portion. The lighting design in Robbins’ piece was unique, and created an image of an ocean. When asked about her style of dance, she said, “I would describe my style of dance to be mainly contemporary with some modern...for my piece I focused on the concepts of losing control after feeling restrained, and returning back to what’s familiar.” She was inspired by a piece her two sisters performed a few years ago. One of her sisters danced while her other sister read her original poetry. “Their piece was about my mom, who she is and who she is expected to be, and it used a lot of ocean themes and large movement. I wanted to create choreography based on the story they told, and my personal reaction to it,” Robbins shared.

Jocelyn Lewis ‘24 and Emily O’Brien ‘24 choreographed and performed

an untitled dance to the classic song “When I’m Sixty-Four” by The Beatles. Their collaborative piece had a fun and lighthearted tone. Their humorous gestures and movements allowed the audience to sense a dialogue between the two dancers.

Yeseri Rosa Vizcaino ‘23 choreographed a lively dance that she performed with Hisa Amaya ‘23. The dance was set to upbeat drum music and the two dancers wore white dresses with flowy skirts, which they utilized in the choreography. The dance is very personal to Vizcaino, who hoped to celebrate the life of a close family friend she lost last year. She drew inspiration from the Dominican celebration “Fiesta de Los Palos,” which honors Catholic saints and the anniversaries of family deaths.

Bella Donatelli ‘25 choreographed and performed a solo piece titled “Zenith.” Donatelli’s dance included several impressive turn sequences and highlighted her control and flexibility. In her program note, she wrote, “This piece explores the concept of the distortion of classical lines, shapes, and movement in general. Throughout the process, I found an interesting juxtaposition of control and freedom within movement.”

The concert’s final dance was choreographed by dance major Mary Fitzgerald ‘22 and performed by a group of six dancers: Alyssa Bodmer ‘23, Chloe Davis ‘25, Genevieve Kuhlmann ‘22, Molly McGovern ‘22, Susanna Procario-Foley ‘23, and Zoe Zitner ‘24. Each dancer began the same dance sequence at different times, creating a sort of ripple effect, and the dance finished in unison. In her program note, Fitzgerald explained, “In this piece, I was really interested in exploring how information changes as it goes from person to person, and what the implications of those changes are.” Ethan Chin ‘25, who designed the lighting for Fitzgerald’s piece, said “Mary’s timeless piece really stood out to me with the idea of individualism coming together to form something bigger. I was able to use effects throughout the piece to subconsciously draw the audience’s focus at specific times to emphasize the way each dancer performs their combination.”

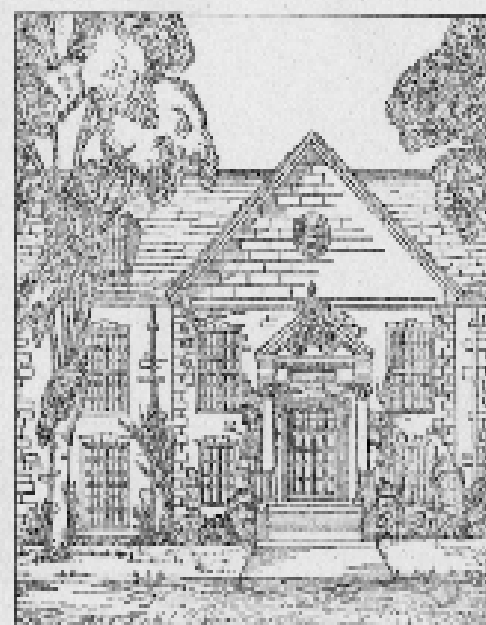
Henderson expressed, “Although the whole thing is super quick, less than a month to make a dance, the process is thoughtful and kind, the results are collaborative, exciting to watch, and the whole atmosphere creates community.” The Student Works Concert was a joyful and inspiring celebration of dance and student creativity. The Dance Department’s next performance is the Senior Capstone Concert on April 21, 22, and 23 in Palmer Auditorium.

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INFORMATION SERVICES

Peacemaker: Is it Worth Watching?

HANNAH STOEVER
STAFF WRITER

Recently, James Gunn's HBO Max series *Peacemaker* came to its season one finale. Confirmed for a second season, the television sequel to the summer 2021 film *The Suicide Squad* featured uncommon elements for both

the superhero genre and television as a whole. Was this series worth watching, and is the second season worth waiting for? In my opinion, the answer is a definite yes.

I'd like to talk about some of the issues I had with season one before we move on to the more enjoyable parts of the series. One of the elements that didn't always work was the humor. A common opinion that I've seen about director James Gunn is that some of his humor is meant to be "edgy," bordering on offensive just for the sake of it, and I can agree with that assertion. There were genuinely great, comedic moments in the series, and I often found myself laughing out loud. But a few of the jokes relied on being specifically risky and more focused on gross-out and sexual humor, and they didn't land as well as other moments did.

The “will they/won’t they” element between characters Emilia Harcourt (Jennifer Holland) and Peacemaker/Christopher Smith (John Cena) also came across as an overused and tiring trope.

Despite its flaws, the show certainly has some positive elements. Firstly, the title sequence is awesome due to having a complete dance number as the credits rolled. While dance numbers have happened often in films and tv shows, to have a full choreographed sequence for the show's intro was phenomenal. It's incredibly fun and I can never skip it.

In regards to Peacemaker as a character, the writing was strong. The narrative follows what was first established in *The Suicide Squad* in that he is just not a great guy. We learn quickly that he was raised by his terrible, racist and homophobic father, and much of the first season is Smith being educated on his own comments that he makes, as he tries to understand his mistakes and learn from them. By the finale it is evident that Smith is trying to do better.

Most of the show's cast was fairly well-written and pleasant to watch, Freddie Stroma's Vigilante was definitely a stand-out character of the season due to his acting and the character's fighting abilities. Like with every character, he had some not-so-great moments, at times making incredibly ignorant comments like Peacemaker does, but he is also called out for them. Vigilante seems like the kind of character who means well, but just doesn't always go the right way about doing so.

Leota Adebayo, played by Danielle Brooks, was another one of the show's most interesting characters. She's strong, resourceful, and ready to stand up for what she believes is right. It was awesome to see a queer woman of color as one of the show's central characters, and she is such an essential part of the team and the series. The friendship that she builds with Smith is a fascinating one, especially because she doesn't let him get away with being ignorant. She's the character we follow almost as often as we follow Smith, and we're able to truly understand the conflicts she has, with wanting to make her mom proud, while also maintaining her friendships with the team members.

The strong LGBTQIA+ representation was also powerful. While some moments were weakened by weird comments often made by Smith about Adebayo's relationship, her marriage to Keeya, played by Elizabeth Faith Ludlow, was shown to be incredibly strong and healthy, being able to withstand Adebayo's hectic and dangerous job. Not only was Adebayo established as a lesbian at the show's beginning, but Peacemaker was later confirmed as bisexual. While not depicted as explicitly as the former, Peacemaker's bisexuality was alluded to in several pieces of the show's dialogue, and would eventually be confirmed and covered in multiple online news outlets. I was incredibly happy to see more bi representation in the superhero genre, and I hope that the show further explores Smith's identity in the second season. While representation of minority groups still has to improve in the television and film industries, this show did a fairly decent job at depicting a same-sex couple and a bisexual man.

I also thought it was great to see many of the women characters not take the insults from the male characters in the show, often firing back or calling them

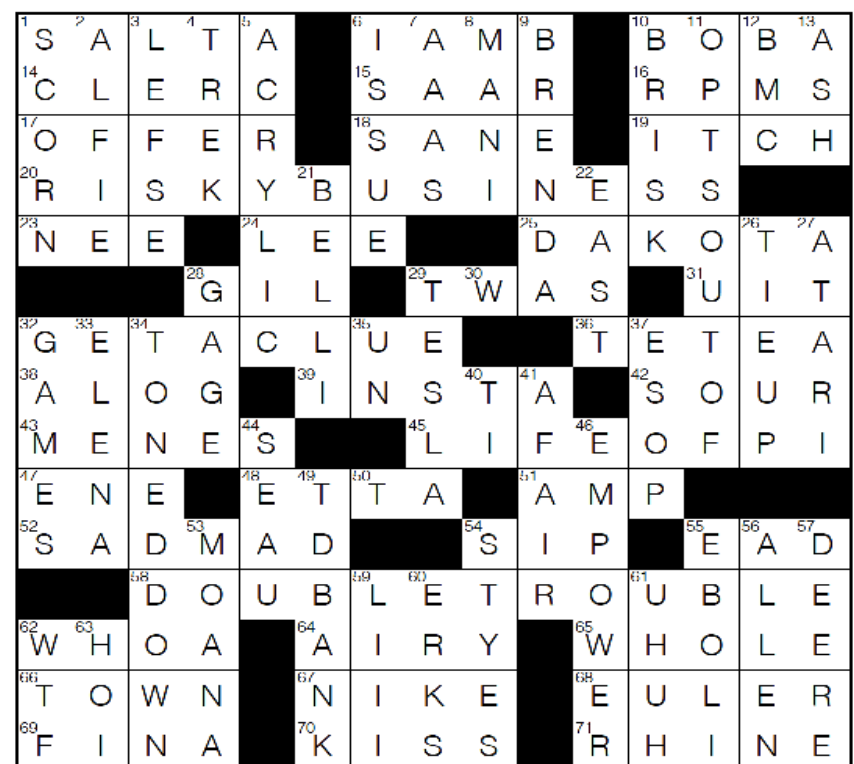
out on their comments. The environment that the women are placed in is clearly male-dominated from the start, and it was exciting to see each of them attempt to combat the patriarchal system in their work fields.

Smith's pet eagle, ironically named Eagley, was one of my favorite parts of this show. While I was definitely worried for the safety of my other favorite characters (Gunn, the creator, tends to kill off important characters towards the end of a film, thanks James), Eagley was the one who I was holding my breath for quite often. While not having much screen time, Eagley had many sweet moments with Chris, such as "hugging" him a few times. I also found the idea of someone having an eagle as a pet to be so absurd, yet heartwarming at the same time. That CGI eagle means a lot to me.

Lastly, I wanted to talk about the antagonists of the show. I do want to warn readers that the show does depict a group of white supremacists led by Smith's father, who don white cloth over their heads meant to resemble KKK hoods, which can potentially be triggering to viewers. While the main threat in this series is an extraterrestrial race of intelligent, dangerous creatures who go by the unassuming title of 'Butterflies', this secondary threat is arguably more frightening, due to the reality which reflects on the deeply-rooted racism that continues to impact people of color around the world. are a reminder of James Gunn's history as a horror writer, as they bury into humans' brains to take over their bodies. There is something definitely creepy about the creatures, but the show manages to make the audience a bit more conflicted about them as the narrative progresses.

If you enjoyed *The Suicide Squad*, I definitely think you will enjoy this. There were moments that didn't work as well as I hoped, but I do think there still are a lot of strong aspects in the series! For the most part, it's a lot of mindless fun and action, while still remaining thoughtful about character development and narrative building. The acting is also pretty strong, especially from John Cena, whose character is deeply guilt-ridden throughout the series but is also given the chance to become a better person, free from his father's influence. If anything, I recommend checking the show out just for the title sequence alone. •

Last Issues Answers:



"Getcha Head in the Game"

Z and C

ACROSS

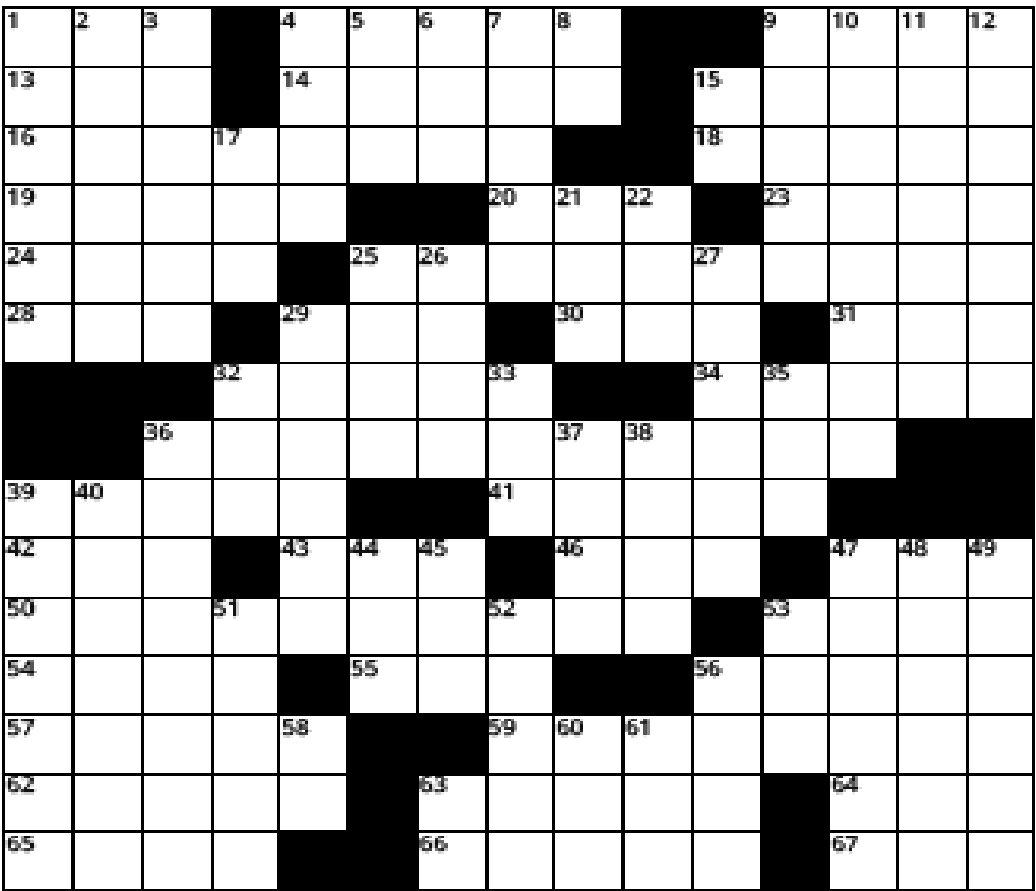
- 1 Units of wt.
4 Jazzersize cousin
9 Previous overseer of Nasdaq
13 "I went the wrong way! I need to make a ____"
14 Liberty Bell note
15 Distressed Italian Premier League manager
16 Gamblers on the court?
18 Group of eight
19 Folded gymnastics jumps

20 Operating system of iPhone
23 "Float like butterfly. Float like ____"
24 Mendoza, former first lady of Puerto Rico
25 Hairdressers on the court?
28 N2, O2, CO2, H2O
29 Digital surfing?
30 Response to "are we there yet?"
31 Island in the River Thames
32 Group of Irish speakers
34 Rakes in
36 Percussion "instrument" from "Getcha Head in the Game" and a hint to 16, 25, 50, and 59 across
39 Softest wood
41 Nabisco cookie
42 de Armas, Marta in Knives Out
43 Yellow tag store, Best ____

- 46 Label of Miley Cyrus, Justin Timberlake, and Beyoncé
47 [lightbulb]!
50 Gryffindors on the court?
53 Israeli airline
54 Lestrage, Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them
55 34th President of US, affectionately
56 Crosswalks in the UK, ____ crossing
57 Private university in Georgia
59 Vacationers on the court?
62 Schisms
63 Feeling after brushing teeth
64 "There's no ____ team!"
65 Umpire's call
66 With the new trash cans, the squirrels are forced to eat ____
67 The general's chicken

DOWN

- 1 Filipino spring roll
2 "Itsy bitsy, teeny weeny, yellow, polkadot"
3 Harry Potter's position in quidditch
4 Father of the gods
5 MMA org.
6 Iconic Civil Rights leader
7 Plain-jane
8 Hiking trail up the Eastern US, abbr.
9 Truth, in slang
10 Arthur and D.W.
11 "He's got one a hand feel on the ____ wheel"

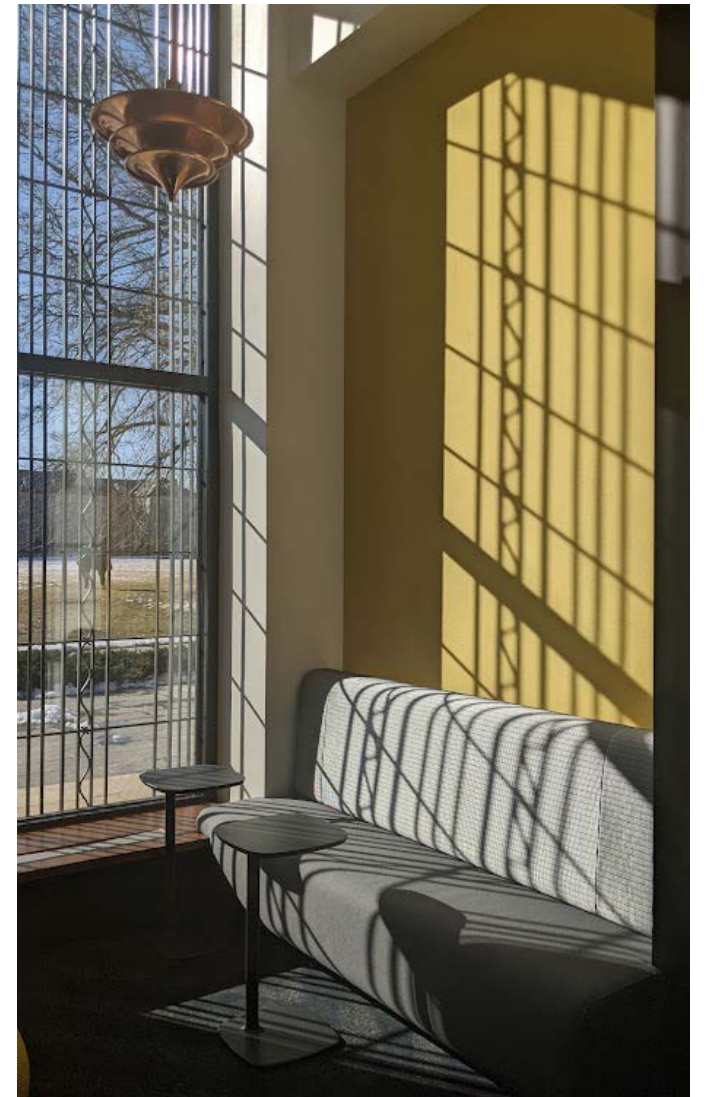


- 12 Hates
15 Home of the Rockies, abbr.
17 Egyptian household protector
21 Grand ____ Opry
22 Command for dog
25 National symbol of Wales
26 Ready, willing, and ____
27 Spanish rice dish
29 Mater's pistachio ice cream
32 Petrol in America
33 Grand Central, abbr.
35 Pie ____ mode
36 "Pat, pat, pat..." -Little Einsteins
37 Frequent flyer
38 Baseball championship, abbr.
39 Extremely good, slang

40 British blood condition
44 Lil ____ Vert
45 Social media common on college campuses, Ylk____
47 Notwithstanding
48 Conn's spot to get Sunday Sundaes
49 Regretful reply
51 Walt, in Berlin
52 Artifact
53 "Yikes!"
56 "Pillowtalk" singer
58 Syzygy has lots of them
60 Year, in Spain
61 "See ya!", in text slang
63 It seems most Conn students are from this state, abbr.

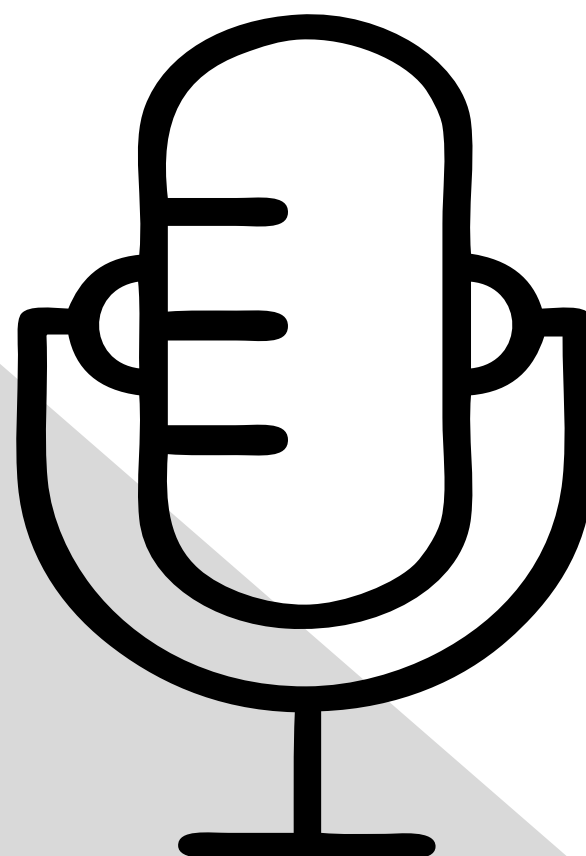
A Look Inside The New Palmer Auditorium

Palmer Auditorium, which has been closed since October of 2019, will officially reopen in April of this year. The renovation was funded by a multitude of gifts to the College totaling \$24 million. Opinions Editor Catja Christensen '23 took some photos of the auditorium for *The College Voice* to share with the campus community so that we know what to expect in the new space.



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