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THE COLLEGE VOICE

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER, SINCE 1977

NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2023

VOLUME LVII ISSUE 7

THECOLLEGEVOICE.ORG

New Summer Program Starts at Conn

SAM MAIDENBERG
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In an attempt to strengthen Conn's position in the world of academia, the College is launching an inaugural pre-college summer program in July 2023. Four different residential programs, lasting between nine and twelve days, will allow high school students to experience college life in New London. Participants will immerse themselves in an intensive session across one of four fields of study: entrepreneurship, dance, international relations, and environmental studies. Each program, led by an expert faculty member from the College, will foster a deeper understanding of topics that are paramount to the learning experience of Conn students and culminate in final projects that mimic a college-level or real-world product.



Courtesy of Connecticut College

While the College has previously offered limited summer courses and research programs for Conn students, the Summer at Conn program will bring a new dynamic to campus throughout the summer months. According to program director and class of 2020 graduate Ashlyn Healey, the main goal of the Summer at Conn program is to "maintain and amplify Conn's reputation on a local, regional, and national scale." This reputation, according to Healey, is based on the unique education experience and "has a lot to do with the connections curriculum and the identity of the institution." Through programs that cover such a wide array of topics, Summer at Conn will allow for a further proliferation of the ideals that define the College, widening the scope of those who can experience all that Conn has to offer.

The Venture Incubator program, led by Dean of Academic Support Noel Garrett, focuses on critical thinking and problem solving through the lens of developing a functioning business concept. This program is an extension of the Entrepreneur-

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A Snapshot of Senior MJ Peters

HANNAH FOLEY
SPORTS EDITOR

Ever been to a Conn Athletics event and wondered who the student taking the photos was on the sideline? That's senior MJ Peters. Although you'll find her in classrooms pursuing a neuroscience major with Government and Psychology minors, Peters is a top-notch photographer who has been asked to photograph numerous Conn events as well as shoot concerts and music festivals for other organizations.

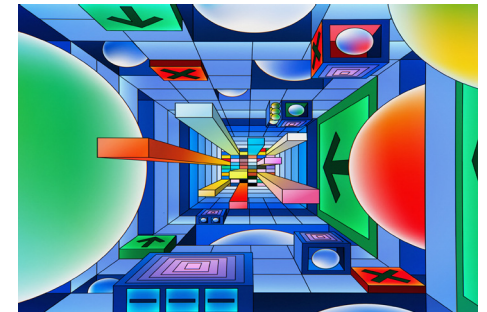
Peters' love of photography started early with father-daughter bonding trips to San Francisco, just 45 minutes north of where she grew up. Her father, a former Kentucky horse racing photographer, would bring his camera and show Peters every part of how to operate and shoot photographs. By the age of 12, she knew everything from how to set the aperture to shooting in the rule of thirds. It was their thing, and to this day, Peters has continued to learn and improve from those initial lessons with her father.

It wasn't until high school that Peters took a photography class. She said "it was a blast" because she knew everything already, so she could just have fun with it. It wasn't until her sophomore year of high school that she started taking photos and putting together fun videos for her school. At Conn, she was a goalie on the women's hockey team (her first passion)

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Courtesy of Unsplash

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Courtesy of Peter Jarvis

Peter Jarvis: A Tribute to our Beloved Music Man

For 20 harmonious years, Professor Peter Jarvis devoted his time to music-making and experimentation as a key member of Conn's Music Department.

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Letter From the Editor

While the start of the Fall semester feels very much like the dog days of summer, the blurred lines of January into February resemble deep winter. Students bundle in a hodgepodge of scarfs, hats and gloves to embark on the treacherous journey from South campus to Harris, as temperatures plummeted into the negative teens and dorm room heating struggled to keep up.

As we stay toasty in the TCV office, we warmly welcome back our incredible Arts Editor Caoimhe Markey '23 and Copy Editor Jocelyn Lewis '24. Our editorial squad feels complete again, but as the 100 Days until graduation celebration quickly approaches, we anticipate the bittersweet day our senior editorial staff members will move onto the next chapter. Nonetheless, we look forward to all the milestones along the way, from Dance Capstones (taking over Catja's life) to Floralia to Senior Week.

Springtime is a sign of rebirth and transformation. To kick off the semester, we are covering new opportunities at Conn, featuring Staff Writer Caroline Snyder's '26 piece on the revitalized Environmental Model Committee, as well as News Editor Keri Kransnoff's '24 coverage of new SVPA staff. Hop on over to our Arts section for a tribute to a beloved Music Professor Peter Jarvis and a review of *The Last of Us* by Caleb Butler '26. Also, try your hand at our comic competition, crossword, and maze.

Camel Athletics have continued at an ever-rapid pace throughout the course of winter break and into the new semester, highlighted by the men's hockey sweep of Tufts in a home and away double header this past weekend. Hannah Foley '23, on page 10, attempts to help the women's water polo team find a goalie ahead of their season... any takers? The Super Bowl is just around the corner, so be sure to grab a copy of TCV, check out our sports section, and complete the Super Bowl bingo card — created by our lovely Sports Editors — with your friends.

Be sure to take a look at our feature on Commencement Keynote Speaker Sally Susman '84 written by Staff Writer Kevin Lieue '26. Although it is truly frigid now, we seniors will soon be sweltering in the May sun and listening to Susman's inspiring talk. Soon after we move our tassels and toss our caps, Conn will kickstart Summer at Conn, a pre-college program for local high schoolers. Check out Sam's coverage on the front page to learn more about this exciting initiative.

Spring semester brings a slew of events, games, performances, and more. The College Voice, which acts as a biweekly archive of life at Conn, is always looking for writers to cover all the wonderful things happening on campus. Come to our biweekly pitch meetings in the Alice Johnson Room at 8pm, send us an email at thecollegevoice@conncoll.edu, and follow our Insta @the_collegevoice!

Enjoy,
Catja Christensen and Sam Maidenberg
Co-Editors-in-Chief

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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New Summer Program Starts at Conn

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ship pathway and a curriculum originally developed for Conn students who have been pushing for more entrepreneurship-focused programming at Conn in recent years. Garrett states that “the biggest learning objective is thinking outside the box and learning how to approach a problem differently, not just applying solutions that you thought about in the past but taking a designed thinking approach to finding different ways to solve the problem.” Further, he stressed the importance of this program as “young people, especially high schoolers, are going to think very differently about what they do for work in the future” as the pandemic has “changed the way people work forever.” Garrett concluded that “getting young people to think differently about how they see their futures is really important and is one of the things that this program can do for high schoolers.”

Along with the expertise that Garrett brings to the Venture Incubator program, the other opportunities further highlight academic excellence at Conn. The Dance Intensive program with Professor David Dorfman, renowned for his work both in Conn’s Dance Department and with his independent dance companies, will “focus on technique and choreography while exploring how bodies serve as powerful conductors of emotion, strength, vulnerability and change,” according to the College website. Melissa Ryan, Director of the Walter Commons for Global Studies and Engagement will run a program titled Global Focus, covering global issues across a spectrum of “global governance, migration, human rights, and the role of media and public opinion in policy making.” This program culminates in a model diplomacy simulation using practical skills developed throughout the initial stages of the program. Finally, the Environmental Action through Research, Theory, and Heart (EARTH) program run by a conglomerate of faculty members across the Environmental Studies and Botany departments, will utilize the arboretum as a research lab to “study the historical global circulation patterns and local geologic evidence that constructed past climates, as well as the science of renewable energy and how it may be used to affect our changing climate.”

In the early stages, the College believes that targeting alumni who have high school age children will allow for the tight-knit alumni network to support the growth of Summer at Conn. However, down the road, the College hopes its summer programs will become a staple of the community and will appeal to a wider range of high school students. While “it is not a goal that we are actively working toward, to have these pre-college students matriculate as undergrad students, it is a side effect that we anticipate having.”

Healey also believes in the importance of fostering a strong relationship between the program and the local community. This summer, the College will be sponsoring 7 students through existing community outreach programs that Conn regularly works with through the office of admissions. Partnering with the New Haven branch of the Squash Education Alliance and the Achievement First Network, both of which work with underprivileged students from a young age and support them with the ultimate goal of college placement.

While furthering Conn’s influence and informing the next generation is at the forefront of the project, Summer at Conn will also work to diversify the College’s revenue streams. Healey noted that “Conn is a tuition-driven institution, and the vast majority of our operating budget comes from tuition.” Further, “the pandemic illustrated to every institution that there is so much opportunity to be creative, and this is just one example of how Conn is taking the opportunity to be creative and to think about things in a new way.” Garrett furthered this sentiment, stating that after initially launching the program and growing it over the years, “it could be a decent revenue generator for the college” as well as “opening the eyes of students to Conn that may now know it exists on their radar of colleges.”

Conn’s unique campus, including the arboretum and waterfront, provide a beautiful backdrop in the summer months. The College, through Summer at Conn, will now utilize its natural assets throughout the entire calendar year by opening its doors to high school students while facilitating a mutually beneficial program that highlights its personalized curriculum and plethora of expert faculty members. •

From Student to Advocates: A New Hope for the Office of SVPA

KERI KRASNOFF
NEWS EDITOR

On September 15, Dean of Institutional and Equity Inclusion (DIEI) Rodmon King announced in an email that Rachel Stewart, our director for the Office of Sexual Violence Prevention and Advocacy (OSVPA), was accepting a new position at a different college. With Stewart’s vital role as an advocate for sexual assault survivors on campus, coupled with Ebony Manning’s recent departure from her role as Title IX coordinator, many students were concerned about a void left in OSVPA.

After a declining trend of administrators leaving OSVPA and a few months with limited administrators in the office, the DIEI administration recently announced Megan Monahan as the new Associate Dean of Equity and Compliance Programs and Title IX Coordinator. Dean King also announced that Nicole Powell will be the new Director of SVPA, starting in early March. Prior to the recent hiring of both Monahan and Powell, two recent alumni were appointed in late November as confidential advocates, alongside Justin Mendillo, who is the current Director of Gender and Sexuality Programs. Zoe Bertone ’22 and Megan Tracy ’22 both worked closely with Stewart and the rest of the OSVPA throughout their time at Conn before graduating last spring. I spoke with Bertone and Tracy about their experience in the office so far and how it feels to come back to serve the Camel community as advocates.

Q: What are your current roles in the SVPA office?

A: “Our current roles are interim confidential advocates. Although we are happy to collaborate with programming when advocates are needed, another interim

position was created for OSVPA programming. This position is currently held by our colleague, Professor Luciana Quagliato who has an extensive background in activism. [Ourselves] and Justin Mendillo are currently the confidential advocates on campus. Luciana and the student staff on OSVPA handle all of OSVPAs programs and communications. To sign up for advocacy hours with a confidential advocate, use this link to reach our calendar: <https://bit.ly/ConnCollSVPA>.”

Q: How does it feel to come back to Conn after graduating last spring?

A: “We are both very excited to be back on campus working with students and survivors again! We are committed to ensuring student survivors are supported in our community.”

Q: Did you apply to become a confidential advocate or did Conn reach out to you to offer a position?

A: “Both! The college knew that finding the next right fit for Director of OSVPA might take some time. During the interim time, OSVPA needed qualified folks who knew the ‘ropes’ of the office, were up to date on current policies and procedures, and had an advocacy background to step in. We were both heavily involved in OSVPA during our time at Conn. We also both pursued advocacy certifications and advocacy work outside of the college during our time. Due to that, we were

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From Student to Advocates: A New Hope for the SVPA Office

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appropriate fits for interim advocacy positions at this time. As alumnae, we also care deeply about the anti-sexual violence movement at Conn!”

Q: Has your perspective of the Conn administration and how they handle sexual violence on campus as a student changed since becoming a confidential advocate?

A: “When we were students, we were both very active in the anti-sexual violence movement on our campus. As advocates, we learn something new every day.

Therefore, our views on sexual violence at Conn are always shifting and shaping. In terms of the institution, there is always more our community could be doing regarding sexual violence prevention and response. That comes from every single member of our community which includes the students, staff, faculty, and administration. It also includes federal and state policies that govern sexual violence response on college campuses. As advocates, our jobs are to ensure survivors and folks affected by sexual violence have the support they need.”



Courtesy of Zoe Bertone, LinkedIn

Q: Have there been any struggles within the SVPA office in regard to many DIEI administrators leaving within the past year?

A: “There is no disregarding the changes that the OSVPA office has gone through in the last few months, mostly due to the departure of Rachel Stewart. Rachel’s departure was felt by everyone in the College, but especially student staff, peer educators, and survivors on campus. We are committed to ensuring advocacy is available for survivors at Conn. Over the last few months, we have seen many students step up and speak up about changes that need to be made on campus. This situation has

also allowed us to step back, and figure out how we can best support survivors. OSVPA has never been made up of one person. It is made up of every single person on campus speaking up, and getting involved.”

Q: What are some things that you are looking forward to in the SVPA office?

A: “We are looking forward to working with students and figuring out how we can best use our role, and identities as recent graduates, to get survivors on campus the support they need. As alumnae of the institution, we are especially committed to the anti-sexual violence movement in the Connecticut College community.”

Q: Anything else you would like to add?

A: “We want to hear from students! Our job is specifically focused on supporting you all, so we more than welcome any comments or suggestions!

You do not need to be a survivor to speak with us. Sexual violence does not just impact the person who experienced it, but everyone around them. We are here to support all students on campus.

We hear you, we see you, we are here for you.

We will be offering some virtual advocacy hours [for students not living on campus]. We recognize that time at home, and with family and friends can bring up a plethora of emotions, so we will be available by appointment. If our current offered appointments do not work for you, please feel free to reach out to us by email and let us know and we are happy to find another time. You can email us directly at mtracy1@conncoll.edu for Megan or zbertone@conncoll.edu for Zoe. We also both regularly check the advocacy email svpa@conncoll.edu.” •

Megan Tracy



Courtesy of Megan Tracy, LinkedIn

Keynote Speaker for 150th Commencement Announced

KEVIN LIEUE
STAFF WRITER

With the spring semester underway, preparations for commencement are coming to light. In an email sent to the College community on November 21, 2022, President Katherine Bergeron announced that Pfizer Executive Vice President and Chief Corporate Affairs Officer Sally Susman ‘84 will deliver the keynote speech at this year’s commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 21, 2023.

A native of St. Louis, Missouri, Susman was recently named by Forbes on their list of the world’s Most Influential Chief Marketing Officers in June of 2022. Susman was recognized by Forbes for her efforts marketing the Pfizer Covid vaccine and embracing non-traditional communications channels, such as TikTok, to do so. In her role at Pfizer, Susman is currently responsible for directing communications, corporate responsibility, global policy, government relations, investor relations, and patient advocacy with Pfizer’s stockholders according to Pfizer. As a member of the pharmaceutical company’s executive board, Susman holds significant influence in

Pfizer’s corporate policies. Additionally, Susman is currently vice chair of the Pfizer Foundation and co-chair of Pfizer’s Political Action Committee.

Outside of Pfizer, Susman serves on the board of numerous corporate and non-profit boards. Currently, she serves as a co-chair of the International Rescue Committee, a globally-involved humanitarian aid organization, and on the board of UL Solutions, a safety science company involved in more than 100 countries. Susman is also a member of the board of the Council on Foreign Relations, an independent think tank specialized in foreign policy. Previously, she has also been a board member of WPP, a global giant in communications, and the U.S. India Business Council.

Before joining Pfizer in 2007, Susman served as the Executive Vice President of Global Communications at cosmetics giant the Estée Lauder Companies for seven years, leading communications for the company’s 28 brands. In the 1990’s, she

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Keynote Speaker for 105th Commencement Announced

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worked in several high level communications positions for the financial services corporation American Express including as a leader of American Express's European Corporate Affairs and Communications.

Prior to her work in the corporate world, Susman worked in government on Capital Hill for eight years. Susman worked as a legislative assistant for the Senate Commerce Committee and later as a deputy assistant secretary for legislative and intergovernmental affairs. As a legislative assistant, Susman focused on handling trade and foreign investment issues for the Senate Commerce Committee. As deputy assistant secretary, she built upon her previous experience as a legislative assistant and led legislative international trade issue strategy. In this role, Susman worked across the Clinton administration and with senators, representatives, governors, and mayors.

Susman's involvement in government did not end with her transition to corporate work. In 2013, she served as finance chair for New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn's bid for New York City Mayor. Susman has also served on the Finance Committee of the Democratic National Committee and on the board of the U.S. Library of Congress.

It should come as no surprise then that Susman majored in Government at Connecticut College before studying at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Susman remains involved in the College's community even today. As a part of the College's Career Informed Learning (CIL) initiative in Connections, Susman has been invited back often to speak to students about government, corporate ethics, and gender in business and politics according to the College website.

In addition to being recognized by Forbes, Susman was named by public relations magazine PRWeek as one of the "20 Most Influential Communicators" of the last two decades and has been named on their "Power List" of influential communications leaders the last two years. In 2019, Susman was honored as a Matrix Awards Honoree by the New York Women in Communications non-profit organization. Susman has also appeared on numerous print publications and broadcast programs including the New York Times, MSNBC, and Big Think.

Prior to her speech at Commencement, Susman's first book *Breaking Through: Communicating to Open Minds, Move Hearts, and Change the World* will be released on March 28, 2023. According to her website, her book will give perspective

on how Pfizer was able to overcome the various communications challenges the pandemic presented. Additionally, she will describe the various difficulties of embracing yourself in the workplace and home and how to become a better leader through candor.

Currently, Susman resides with her wife and daughter in New York City and Sag Harbor, New York. She enjoys reading and gardening in her spare time.

Susman's selection as Commencement Speaker was in large part due to the work of the College's Commencement Speaker Committee. This committee was co-chaired by Lauren Middleton '23 and Dominique Moran '23 and included fellow students Hannah Gonzalez '23, Liam Rimas '23, Sukrit Narang '23, Samuel Maidenberg '23 and faculty and staff members Anne Bernhard, Marc Forster, Tori McKenna, Sunil Bhatia and Tiffany Thiele.

During the Commencement ceremony, the College will present Susman with an honorary doctorate of humane letters (*honoris causa*), to recognize her work fighting health misinformation at Pfizer and her commitment to lifelong learning according to the College. •



Courtesy of Sally Susman, LinkedIn

\$500

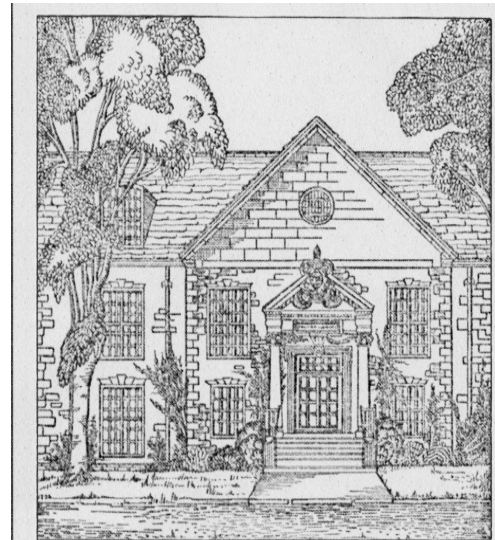
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Environmental Model Committee Makes Spaces for Sustainability

CAROLINE SNYDER
STAFF WRITER

From net zero to sustainable design, almost everyone here on campus has certainly heard about Conn's efforts to go green. If not through grandiose statements, such as Conn's goal to go carbon neutral by 2030, then through simply existing here at the College. Walk around campus, and you will quickly come across sustainable solutions students can take advantage of, such as water bottle fillers, laundry sheet dispensers, and reusable takeout containers. Though there are many environmental clubs and groups here on campus, there is one opportunity that remains, to an extent, shrouded in mystery— the Environmental Model Committee (EMC).

The EMC is made up of a collection of professors and other faculty from various departments. The current Faculty Director of the Office of Sustainability, Doug Thompson, has chaired the committee four times and has over fifteen years of experience on it. He describes it as “more of a think tank than a policy committee.” It is an open forum— essentially, anyone can participate and propose ideas, though voting is limited to faculty and students with specific roles. According to Thompson, it is not a contentious group, nor one where nasty debates or disagreements should be expected – open-ended discussions are common, and different perspectives and ideas are welcome and desired.

Established in 1969 as an informal group, it was not until about twelve years ago that the EMC began to meet more regularly. It is important to note, as Thompson does, that the environmental movement in the United States was just beginning when the committee was first established, and any examination of its history should take this into account. The original focus was simple— to create a group that focused on environmental issues on campus— and this initiative continues into the work of today's EMC. According to SGA Chair of Sustainability Liam Rimas '23, the committee's focus has remained very much the same throughout COVID, even as it has evolved to address issues created by the pandemic. It has continued to be an open discussion space despite the challenges of the last few years, and will remain on this path.

This semester, the committee is chaired by Professor Jane Dawson, who was elected to the position very recently. According to Professor Derek Turner, who is also currently serving on the committee, the structure of the meetings generally depends quite heavily on the chair. Generally, it consists of discussing an agenda, speaking on various issues,



Courtesy of Caroline Snyder '26

and planning for the next meeting. At this point, the committee meets once a month for an hour— meaning meetings generally have to cut right to the chase.

Currently, the most important issues the committee is tackling involve how to meet the goal of net-zero carbon emissions set forth by the college, and whether the college is on track to meet this goal by 2030 as planned. The lack of sustainability initiatives in the proposed renovations of Crozier-Williams is currently a major concern – not only because the proposed additions would make the goal of net-zero much harder to achieve, but because the carbon offsets that Conn purchased years ago to address the current lack of sustainability of the building are soon set to expire.

Beginning again this year, the EMC is meeting in Blaustein, a shift away from the Zoom platform it has utilized in the past few years. Though student involvement has varied in the past, it has always been open to interested community members. The next meeting, for anyone interested, will take place on February 24th in Blaustein 211 at 9am. While the EMC does not have any formal relationships with other environmental organizations on campus, it is an open forum, and anyone— including members of other groups— are welcome to attend and engage in discussions. According to Professor Turner, student voices are extremely helpful and important in determining issues to focus on— after all, we are here for four years, and do have an incredibly significant impact on how the College operates. He encourages students, during their time here, to try to learn as much as possible about the way Conn works— and the EMC is a great place to do so. Ultimately, student voices have a lot of power, and with power comes the possibility for real change.

While Rimas became involved in the committee primarily through running for SGA, it is by no means limited to students with leadership positions. All are welcome, and encouraged, to attend— regardless of who they are or any positions they hold. The EMC is not going away, and neither are sustainability issues— it has, and will, evolve with them. As members of the community— will we evolve, and get involved, too? •



Courtesy of Catja Christensen '23

Leave Robots out of Literature: The Pitfalls of Chatbots and AI Writers

CAROLINE SNYDER
STAFF WRITER

As interdisciplinary learners across all academic fields, we are inevitably bound to write. As humans, though, we are also inevitably bound to procrastinate. Even the most meticulous planners among us will, at some point, find ourselves with little time to do much. Enter, AI writers and chatbots.

In an age of instant gratification, of typing a few words into a search bar and receiving thousands if not millions of results in seconds, it makes sense that shortcuts for the sometimes-tedious act of writing would eventually come to be. As learners, too, one of our fundamental goals is to improve at what we do and become better at it. Whether it be to work towards a specific career, out of a desire to change the world in some way, or simply due to personal interest, it is an aim for all of us, in some sense or another. It is understandable that any tool intended to save time on some facet of work or another will be, at the very least, tempting to try.

That said, if I could stop every single one of you from ever using an AI to write for you, I would do so in a heartbeat. Ultimately, they are detrimental to both the originality and integrity of writing, and to our power as learners and teachers.

Even those for whom sitting down to read novels and poetry sounds far more like a chore than an act of enjoyment, writing remains both a vital aspect of originality and a cornerstone of the human experience. Even in times of great strife, people have turned to writing— and, in doing so, have helped us to both document and understand the mistakes and experiences of the past. Every great tragedy, and every great victory, have been marked by the written word— in song, in poetry, and in prose. What marks so much of our understanding of the ancient world? Of the birth of democracy? Of our belief systems? Of the pitfalls and successes of our ancestors? Words— penned at the hands of people, not machines. From sacred texts, to beloved works of fiction and song, to documents and diaries of the governance of the past, words have shaped us, and words have made us. Do we really want to give up that power, that autonomy over our own futures and the futures of everyone after us?

In using AI, perhaps I would form an opinion with some semblance of nuance, but I would not be a better writer for it. I would not be a better learner, and I would not learn to better communicate information. I use myself as an example, but I am not unique. Even for those of you in the hard sciences, those for whom writing is a secondary skill rather than the most fundamental component of your fields, it remains a vital skill. As an English major who writes for pleasure, I aim to be better all the time, and my work is never done. What I do know, though, is how valuable writing is to what we do as learners and as people— it allows us to highlight our own unique voices and understand

those of others. I am a better writer by far than I was a month, a year, five, or ten years ago, and the reason for that ultimately comes down to two things: practice and feedback.

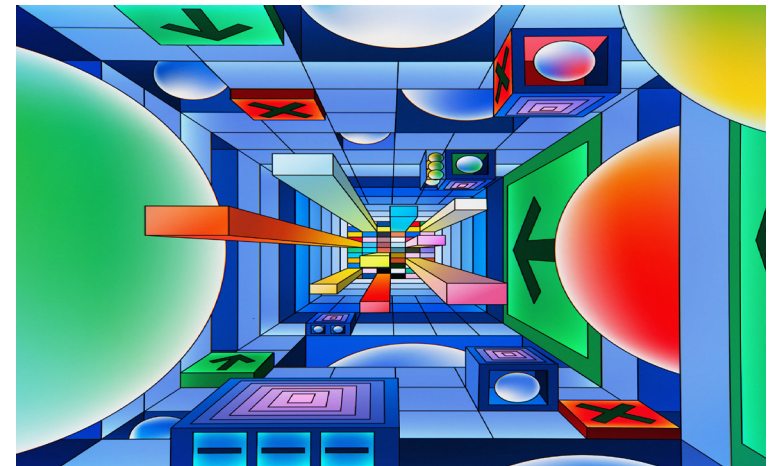
If I simply researched a

topic and threw sources and a stance at

someone else and asked them to form a work around it, I would not improve. Writing is communicating, especially in our digital world. Writing helps us conceptualize and visualize in ways that oral tradition does not. It lets us transmit information, especially information not easily absorbed via spoken word, and gives us a unique voice and means of communication that are simply not replicable via artificial intelligence.

All of this said, I am a firm believer that many circumstances demand we work smarter, not harder. If digital planners and Google Calendars are a sin, I can by no means be considered saintly. They are helpful, and they make busy lives easier. I certainly do understand the appeal of AI writers; after all, time is precious, and even poorly-formed works take significant time to construct. They are not, though, worth the detriments they entail. Our autonomy, and our future, depend on our own hands, and we should keep them within our grasp.

Good writing takes time. Good writing takes patience. Good writing takes thought, care, and energy that an AI cannot effectively replicate. Whether you realize it or not, your writing has a voice and a style, and there is a sense of humanity to it that no robot can replace. I put no stake on my own ego in saying that no other writer on the planet would have written this article in the voice and with the words that I am writing it in— and if you had written it, no one else could write it like you. It is your work, shaped by your own unique experiences, education, and values. Why would you want to give that up? •



Courtesy of Unsplash

"Write a Funny Newspaper Article about Skunks at Connecticut College"

CHATGBT
CONTRIBUTOR

New London, Connecticut – The students at Connecticut College were in for a stinky surprise this week as a group of mischievous skunks took over the campus.

The skunks, who are known for their foul odor and striped fur, have been causing chaos around the college. The creatures have been seen raiding trash cans, digging up flower beds, and even taking a dip in the campus pool.

"These skunks are quite the troublemakers," said campus security officer, Chuck Skunk-slayer. "We've been trying to get rid of them for weeks now, but they just keep coming back. It's like they have a personal vendetta against us."

The students, however, seem to be taking the skunk invasion in stride. Many of them have been posting pictures and videos of the creatures on social media, which has caused quite a stir.

"I mean, it's pretty funny," said student, Sarah Skunk-Lover. "I never thought I'd see a

skunk swimming in our campus pool. It's like a scene from a Disney movie."

Despite the humor, the college administration is not amused. They have issued a statement urging students to stay away from the skunks and to report any sightings to the campus security.

"We understand that the skunks are a source of entertainment for some, but they are also a potential health hazard," the statement reads. "We need to ensure that our students and faculty are safe."

The skunks, however, seem to be unfazed by the warnings. They continue to roam the campus, spreading their stinky scent and causing a ruckus.

In conclusion, the Connecticut College skunks have sparked a mix of outrage and laughter on campus. While the administration tries to get rid of them, the students are enjoying their newfound celebrity status. Who knows what these creatures will do next? Stay tuned! •

A Snapshot of Senior MJ Peters

Article continued from page 1.

until the end of her junior year. While still on the team, she made a hype video for fun that she posted on Instagram. Her coach, Kristen Steele saw it and passed it along to the former sports information director, Matt Chmura, who offered Peters a spot as a student photographer/videographer for the Conn Athletic Department.



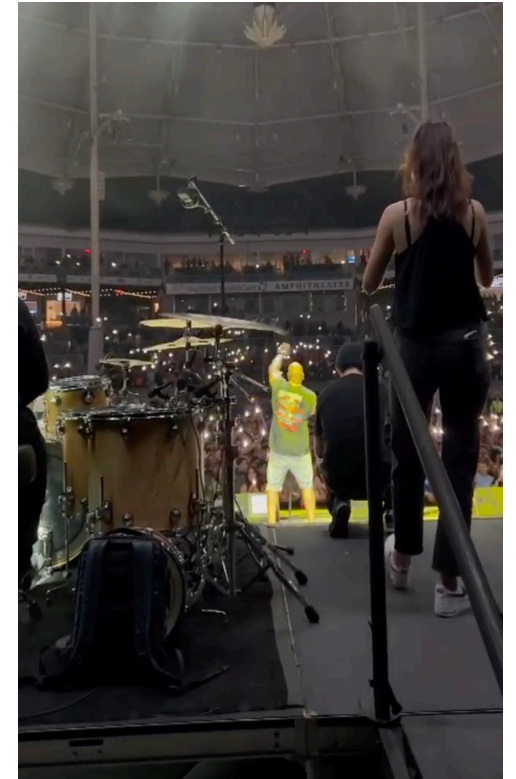
Courtesy of MJ Peters '23

Since then, Peter's photography has grown exponentially. You can check out her photography Instagram @mjpeterscreative for an idea of her content and the many collaborations she has captured. When she's not on the sidelines of a Conn athletic event, you can catch her photographing concerts headlined by big names like Flo Rida, capturing some lacrosse action with ADVNC Lacrosse back home in California, or taking pictures for clubs around campus. She's partnered with a production company in New York City called the Respective Collective to shoot some other concerts and festivals too.

After graduating, Peters plans on giving photography her full attention to see if she can make it a profession. She says her mentor, the videographer for the LA Lakers, has been a huge help in figuring out the steps to working in content creation. "It's something I've always genuinely really loved with my whole life, like loved as much as I loved hockey, but I spent so much of my life focusing on hockey, and I think I was kind of insecure about (pursuing photography.) I knew a Ph.D. degree would bring in money, but will being a freelance photographer/videographer?" Peters continued, saying, "I think we're really fortunate to live in a time where you can be successful in that field, in creativity and following your passion and what you genuinely love. And my big thing is I don't want to be sixty years old and look back and regret not ever giving it a try, because I love it."

At Conn, Peters entered college with the plan to pursue a Ph.D. in Neuroscience. She has dealt with concussions first hand so she wanted to study CTE, the evolving science of the effect of concussions on the brain. However, in true liberal arts fashion, Peters' photography pursuits show that our studies can be used for so many things, and sometimes our careers don't align with our degrees, and that's ok.

So next time you're at a Conn Athletics event, keep an eye out for MJ Peters capturing the game on the sideline! •



Courtesy of MJ Peters '23

Sports Spotlight

Featured Team: Men's Ice Hockey

2/4 vs. Tufts 6-4

Upcoming Events:

2/10 7pm @Hamilton
2/11 3pm @Amerherst

Stat Leaders:

Goals: Rocco Testa-Basi: 8
Goal Tender: Cam Fernandez: 2.97
Goals Against Average

Featured Team: Women's Ice Hockey

2/3 vs. Manhattanville 3-2

Upcoming Events:

2/7 7pm @Johnson & Wales
2/10 7pm vs. Hamilton

Stat Leader:

Goals: Melanie Concha: 12
Goal Tender: Abby Wieczorok: 1.64
Goals Against Average

Featured Team: Men's Basketball

2/3 vs. Tufts 65-57

Upcoming Events:

2/10 7pm vs. Middlebury
2/12 2pm vs. Williams

Stat Leader:

Pts: David Murray: 13.6 PPG
Assists: Cam Schuirfeld: 3.2 APG

Featured Team: Women's Basketball

2/3 vs. Amherst 47-58

Upcoming Events:

2/10 7pm @ Middlebury
2/12 3pm @ Williams

Stat Leaders:

Pts: Jaycie Rojik: 11.78 PPG
Assists: Molly Cronin: 2.65 APG

More Than a Game: The Longevity of Football

MADDIE VANECH
STAFF WRITER

It has been over a month since Buffalo Bills safety Damar Hamlin collapsed on the field during the now infamous Monday night game against the Cincinnati Bengals. However, if and how the game, and the NFL, will change in response to this horrific event remains to be seen.

Damar Hamlin, a 24-year-old second-year player, is believed to have suffered commotio cordis— a rare injury with a low survival rate that occurs when an individual is struck over the heart at a specific time in the heart's rhythm, causing the heart to stop— after making a tackle. Hamlin was resuscitated on the field, surrounded by players and staff from both teams, before being taken to the University of Cincinnati Medical Center in critical condition. The recovery process for Hamlin looks lengthy but promising, but at the time of his collapse, and for several hours after, football fans had no idea what would become of him. "I was watching the game and it was terrifying because they had dead air for like 30 minutes and they kept going back to these newscasters who didn't know what to say," said sophomore football fan Elizabeth Flathers, "nobody knew if he was alive."

Football is an incredibly dangerous game, there is no debate. On top of the use and stress injuries typical of athletics, high-impact collisions make football players particularly susceptible to brain injuries that forever alter, and even end, their lives. Though an injury such as Hamlin's is rare, its severity is not unique, and research suggests that the long-term effects of playing football are detrimental and still being discovered. With the mountain of research and countless op-eds in opposition to the sport, as well as the fresh trauma of Damar Hamlin's injury, even long-time fans of football are forced to wonder what the future of the sport will be.

Questioning the ethics of engaging with football feels nearly anti-American.

The sport is so ingrained in our culture and steeped in our values of competition, excellence, violence, and dominance, that interrogating its presence in our lives feels unsettling. Plus, it's fun to watch. Rooting for one's team, observing the game strategy, participating in fantasy football, and spending time with loved ones at a tailgate, watch party, or Sunday afternoon at home elicits an intoxicating mix of comfort and thrill. The concept of giving up these comforts and thrills is disturbing. It is also disturbing that we as a society gain so much joy from watching men destroy their bodies and minds for our entertainment.

This cognitive dissonance leaves football fans with the devastating question: How much longer can we support the industry of football?

Sophomore rugby player Victor Alayande, who sees both the danger and the allure of football, thinks Hamlin's injury won't have much impact on football and the NFL. "It's not just a sport," said Alayande, "it's business[...]way too many people's money is involved." Alayande is correct. The total revenue of the NFL in 2021, the most recent available statistic, was \$17.9 billion, and has been growing steadily since its inception (with the exception of 2020) making it the most profitable professional sports league in the United States. This measurement includes all of the NFL's revenue streams— sponsorships, media, partnerships, ticket sales, and concessions— but does not capture the full picture of just how much money changes hands in this industry. Another roughly \$7 billion is spent on player contracts across the 32 teams. The NFL itself has an annual revenue of \$930 million, American college

football is estimated to be a \$4 billion industry, and Fantasy NFL is a \$70 billion industry. None of these statistics include staff salaries, unofficial merchandise, unregulated gambling, and purchases tangentially related to football— think portable grills and beer koozies— or the money spent on pre-professional players. All this is to say, it's impossible to chart the full financial impact of football in the United States, but the football industry is worth approximately \$100 million.

Before even considering the personal and cultural impact of football, it's clear that the sport cannot be discontinued. So what can be done?

Short of banning football, there are steps that can be taken to make the game safer for the players. Sports opinion columnist for the Washington Post, Fred Bowen, believes only playing flag football before high school and shorter seasons with fewer games for high school and college teams would reduce the volume of dangerous collisions. A Stanford alum urged his alma mater to abandon their football program in 2020, stating "There is no quick fix; football cannot be bettered with improved

tackling techniques or by similar fixes that tinker away at the edges of a fundamentally violent sport." If more colleges, such as Stanford, that don't rely on the income from football, disband their programs, perhaps a cultural shift away from football could begin to take place.

Recognizing the low likelihood of disbanding these programs, sophomore Victor Alayande proposes altering the norms of the NFL— giving players more agency in their careers, communicating decisions to them effectively, and improving post-career care with increased pensions and life-long health insurance. Though NFL careers can be relatively short, players will cope with the health ramifications of their football careers for the rest of their lives. Sophomore Elizabeth Flathers believes increased mental health care in the NFL, as well as support for players' families and communities, could begin to

address some of the harm playing professionally causes. Alayande and Flathers both see a need to humanize football players in the eyes of football fans and the league. Alayande wonders how many players have actually met the owner of their team, remarking that from the owner's box "way up there, looking down, you're seeing [players] as little dots. You aren't seeing people. You're seeing things move around." It is difficult to ignore the racial implications of team owners, mostly wealthy white men, gazing from a cushy private box upon the players they effectively own, 71% of which are people of color according to NBC News, and earning millions of dollars while their players destroy their bodies and minds.

Despite the complicated ethics of football, millions of people tune in on Thursdays, Sundays, and Mondays to eagerly watch grown men run, jump, and slam into each other for 5 months of the year. According to Statista, around 100 million people will watch Super Bowl LVII on Sunday, February 12th, which is the most-watched television broadcast each year in the United States, and one of the most-watched annual sporting events in the world. It is unclear if Damar Hamlin's injury has shifted the public's perception of football, but it is clear that football is not going anywhere anytime soon. At the end of the day, football is a business, and in our capitalist economy, it will always put profit over people. Until society shifts away from these values, the best sports fans can do is advocate for improvements that make the game safer, and the players healthier. •



Courtesy of Hippopx

Finding a Keeper

HANNAH FOLEY
SPORTS EDITOR

Are you a strong swimmer? Do you like making lifelong friends and playing games? Have you been thinking about joining a sports team at Conn? The women's water polo team may be just the place for you.

With the spring sports season fast approaching, the women's water polo team is one crucial piece away from being competition ready: a goalie. Being a sport primarily played on the West Coast, Conn is one of just five Division 3 schools with a varsity water polo team on the East Coast, and one of ten in the entire country. Because of this, recruiting is tricky, and the few goalie recruits opted to go elsewhere this year. So now, the team is turning to the Conn community to find their next superstar keeper to help this team make a strong showing at the CWPA championship this year in April.

Having little knowledge of water polo, I sat in on a captain's practice last week. The game is a combo of hockey and soccer in a pool. There are 7 players (6 field players and a goalie) in the pool per team. All the players tread water when stationary, but for the most part, they are actively swimming to get the ball or to get open to be passed to. The only person who would be treading water for the majority of the game is the goalie.

During practice, the team started off with some passing drills and then switched to taking shots on goal. The players are taking turns playing goalie right now, but all of them prefer a field position. Honestly, I was pretty tired just watching them, but not once did I see anything but smiles and laughter from the team. That's what makes a sport fun: the team environment that works through the good and the bad together.

Senior captain Maria Sell says an ideal goalie candidate would be "a swimmer who has some arm strength [...] who can throw a ball, or at the opposite end, someone who has played goalie before, like in hockey or soccer, who can also swim." Sell went on to articulate that a goalie doesn't actually swim up and down the pool often, it's primarily treading water while they wait to be shot on.

Sell has been on the team for 4 years and coaches high schoolers back home in California over the summers. She grew up in San Mateo, California, and began playing water polo in 4th grade. "It's funny," said Sell, "Coming here, there's not a lot of people who have seen water polo. [The] West Coast is definitely the top water polo area. I'm from California. A lot of the freshmen are from California." Sell told us the team is excited to travel to California during Spring Break to play some of the top teams in the country, including Occidental College, California Institute of Technology, and Chapman University.

The women's water polo season starts practices on February 8 and their first set of games are at home on March 4 against Utica College and Carthage College. There are 7 experienced first-years joining the 14-woman squad, so the team is feeling positive about the season outlook.

If you're interested in being the goalie for the women's water polo team, contact Maria Sell (tsell@conncoll.edu) or Head Coach Matt Anderson (Manders8@conncoll.edu). •



Courtesy of Hannah Foley '23

Super Bowl 57: A Quick Guide and What's Happening Around

LEO SAPERSTEIN
STAFF WRITER

It's that time of year again! January has come and gone, and the stage is set to play for the biggest prize in football — the Vince Lombardi Trophy. The Super Bowl is back, and it's taking place this year at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona, between the Kansas City Chiefs and the Philadelphia Eagles.

People watch the Super Bowl for numerous reasons. Since it is a football game, fans from across the country tune in to watch the game and, if they're lucky, cheer on their favorite team as they make their final push for the coveted Lombardi Trophy. Others, however, simply watch for the unique commercials or the glamorous halftime show. For those looking for a place to watch the game, or just the halftime show, I asked some Conn students what their plans are.

First and foremost, there will be a Super Bowl watch party in Cro's Nest which many people will surely be attending. Organized by the Student Activities Council, the event will have food and some prizes. This is open to everyone in the community, so make sure to get there early if you want to get a seat. The get-together at Cro's Nest is a perfect opportunity for students to meet new people and enjoy time with other members of the Conn community.

For some people, football is a family tradition that they are involved with whether they like it or not. Quinn Furgueson '24 said that even though his favorite team, the Dallas Cowboys, will not be in the big game, he said he would still watch it with his father: "I watch it because my dad enjoys it and I like spending time with him," he said. The best part of the Super Bowl for everyone is getting the chance to hang out with friends. This is what Annabella Melillo '25 intends to do: "I'm not a huge football fan," she said, "but I do like watching it to hang out with my friends." This is also the attitude of many students on campus, especially from those who don't follow football throughout the season.

For fans who were rooting for the Cincinnati Bengals or the San Francisco 49ers, the teams that were eliminated in the previous round, the sting of defeat still lingers, and

they now watch for other reasons. "Now, we watch for the halftime show," one said. Another student told me, "I'm hoping for a really close, high-scoring game with lots of errors by both teams and a slim win margin." This game certainly has a great chance to be that way.

For those watching for a good football game, the Chiefs and the Eagles consist of two of the most explosive offenses in football, so expect a lot of action. They are each led by an MVP candidate at quarterback, with Patrick Mahomes and Jalen Hurts. Not only do both teams have incredible quarterbacks, but they also have numerous playmakers that burn through defenses. The Hurts-AJ Brown connection is one of the best in the NFL for the Eagles. On the other side, Mahomes always has his reliable, all-pro tight end in Travis Kelce, along with solid receivers like Juju Smith-Schuster, Marquez Valdes-Scantling, and Kadarius Toney.

The backfield is also worth paying attention to. For the Eagles, Miles Sanders reached over 1000 rushing yards for the first time in his career and has developed into one of the top running backs in the league. Isaiah Pacheco has burst onto the scene in his rookie year for the Chiefs, adding yet another weapon for the offensive juggernaut. One other storyline to follow is one of the Kelce Brothers; the aforementioned Travis Kelce, and his brother, Eagles center Jason Kelce, will become the first pair of brothers to play each other in Super Bowl history.

Both teams have already been in the big game multiple times throughout history, especially in recent years. For the Chiefs, this is their third appearance in the last four years. They won against the 49ers in 2020 and then lost to the Brady-led Tampa Bay Buccaneers the very next year. The Eagles made the Super Bowl in 2018 where backup quarterback Nick Foles, replacing the injured Carson Wentz, led the team to a victory over the New England Patriots in a back-and-forth offensive game. Expect this game to be the same.

There is a chance this could be the greatest Super Bowls we've seen in a while. So grab your snacks and settle in for the last evening of football for the 2022-23 NFL season. •

Professor Peter Jarvis: A Tribute to our Beloved Music Man

CATJA CHRISTENSEN
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

For 20 harmonious years, Professor Peter Jarvis devoted his time to music-making and experimentation as a key member of Conn's Music Department. Following his final semester as a beloved mentor and musician to many, Jarvis and his students reflected on his career and legacy. I had the pleasure of learning from the music maestro as a dancer in the New Music and Improvisation Ensemble, one of Jarvis's most cherished music contributions.



Courtesy of Peter Jarvis

“This school was lucky to ever have Pete Jarvis on its payroll, and we as students who were able to work with him were the luckiest of them all,” said Seth Wells '24, a fellow member of the New Music and Improvisation Ensemble. The Ensemble, which included ten student musicians and dancers during the fall 2022 semester, is one of Jarvis's greatest projects and legacies at Conn. We performed our final concert with Jarvis in December 2022 in Evans Hall— a poignant, emotional culmination of our work together. A highlight of the evening was “Mudgrave,” a fusion of silent film projection, live music, and dance. The show closed with a true improvisation session— an unrehearsed, unstructured demonstration of the bond and trust we developed together.

Jarvis's percussion pursuits began when he was in fourth grade at a school music assembly. He was initially assigned to play the trombone, but the drums always called to him. “In my own way, as a ten-year-old kid, I borderline rebelled. I was originally assigned a trombone even though I requested drums. I played trombone, badly, for a year or so, but when I got to fifth grade, I just kept asking the band director if I could play drums instead, and he finally let me trade the trombone in for drumsticks and a pad,” he recalled. His persistence paid off, and he has played the drums ever since. Jarvis's high school mentor — lauded percussionist Joey Cass — gave him advice that he passed on to his own eager music students: “Just play absolutely every single thing that you're invited to play, and then find ways to get involved in even more playing experiences, but play everything you can.” The students involved in Jarvis's final ensemble did just that, moving between instruments spread across Evan Hall's wooden stage. Jarvis joined, walking from piano to vibraphone to drumset and even to flower pots while conducting students through improvisation scores.

After high school, Jarvis attended William Paterson University to earn his master's degree in music. Following his graduation, Jarvis performed an impressive feat: in 1984, he led the New Jersey Percussion Ensemble in Charles Wuorinen's “Percussion Symphony” at The 92nd Street Y, memorizing the entire score. “It took me two years of countless hours, sometimes four, five, six hours a day,” Jarvis recalled. “I didn't go anywhere without that score.” From family holidays to restaurants to downtime parking lots when he worked as a cab driver in New York, Jarvis's dedication to musical excellence is one of his most defining qualities. Following the 1984 performance, The New York Times reported, “Peter Jarvis conducted this 40-minute piece without score, yet did full justice to its rhythmic complexities; Mr. Jarvis and his forces richly deserved the standing ovation they received.”

Jarvis was introduced to the new music field at his alma mater by mentor Raymond des Roches, who founded The New Jersey Percussion Ensemble. Jarvis helped co-direct that ensemble while studying, and des Roches passed the baton

to him upon his retirement in 2002. From his first year at Conn in 2003, Jarvis established new music as an area of musical study, filling a gap that he noticed in Conn's music education that primarily focused on older, established works. He explained, “At heart, I'm a traditionalist. Although I'm a new music person, I spent most of my career performing music that comes directly out of the traditions of the 18th and 19th Centuries. I'm not interested in breaking away from tradition, although sometimes it becomes seemingly necessary; rather I am interested in expanding upon and continuing the work of my predecessors.”

Jarvis's education at William Paterson University taught him the importance of having access to a wide array of percussion instruments for students to succeed and expand their repertoire. Over the years at Conn, he gradually grew the Music Department's percussion inventory with their annual budget. Thanks to him, students of all experience levels are able to learn new instruments, which is a huge asset for the Ensemble. Students are limited only by their imagination, which never seems to be a problem for the enthusiastic members. “I had a lot of support from [the Department],” Jarvis said. “Conn was fun because of the students, and because we, as a group, received the type of support that allowed me to do whatever I wanted to do. I had complete artistic freedom.”

In addition to conducting, performing, and teaching, Jarvis also performs in film scores, notably composing and performing music for “Moonrise Kingdom,” Wes Anderson's acclaimed 2012 film.

As much as his students lauded him, Jarvis equally admired his students, emphasizing that teaching and respecting students of all experience levels is key at a liberal arts college. Unlike a conservatory, students at Conn are not always only focusing on music, and many bring various approaches and viewpoints about music to their classes. Trust is key among students and faculty to foster a breeding ground for new music. “I think students at Conn, who generally are exceptionally open-minded, instantly recognized the quality of the music I was exposing them to, and quickly developed confidence in my vision,” Jarvis expressed. “[They] were, therefore, willing to give new music a try. It is gratifying to know so many of my students developed an even deeper passion for music than they already had.” From composing original music for his students that fit their individual skill sets to challenging the Ensemble to play music without a downbeat or with simultaneous different time signatures, Jarvis's innovative nature inspired generations of Conn students to defy personal and artistic boundaries.

Ensemble dancer Bella Donatelli '25 fed off of Jarvis's energy, conducting musicians in the fall performance with her dancing that resulted in an organic, dynamic swell of music and motion. This improvisation score grew from a rehearsal when Donatelli and the artists played around with different ways of creating. Jarvis encouraged their ingenuity and added it to the program. “At Conn, I was exposed to dancing with live musicians in styles other than ballet and was eager to do more,” Donatelli ex-



Courtesy of Peter Jarvis

Article continued on page 12.

Professor Peter Jarvis: A Tribute to our Beloved Music Man

Article continued from page 11.

plained. “Pete was not a dancer, but his knowledge was invaluable across all disciplines. Throughout my time working with him, I learned how to communicate with the musicians, work with new qualities of movement, and had the opportunity to compose a piece. I’m very grateful to have had the opportunity to work with him.”

Wells attended his first Ensemble rehearsal after his friend and talented keyboardist and percussionist, Joe Carroll ‘24, invited him to perform improvised spoken word poetry at a rehearsal. Wells was hooked. “I went, and I am eternally grateful I did,” he recalled. “Bodies flailing across the stage with the grace of wind, me screaming nonsense into a microphone, gongs ringing endlessly, and talented mallet players exploring the

outermost limits of their instruments. It was the most beautiful thing I have ever been a part of at this school.”

Wells spoke for the Ensemble members (Dylan Bronowich ‘23, JC Letizia ‘23, Nick Gribbins ‘23, Yeseri Vizcaino ‘23, Joe Carroll ‘24, Sam Rubin ‘24, and Anna Barnocky ‘26) when he emphasized that we are endlessly grateful to have learned from and collaborated with “Pete.” “We created our own language to express our own individual sensibilities towards living in a world that is truly falling apart, and the culmination of all our voices crescendoed into the beautiful space that was the New Music and Improvisation Ensemble. I speak for more than myself when I say Pete Jarvis will be missed but his legacy will live on through the students he taught.” •

The Last of Us: A Frighteningly Grounded Apocalypse

CALEB BUTLER
STAFF WRITER

This article includes spoilers for the first two episodes. “What if, for instance, the world were to get slightly warmer? Well, now there is reason to evolve. So if that happens? We lose.”

Thus begins the first episode of HBO’s new post-apocalypse adventure saga, “The Last of Us.” Based on the 2013 action-adventure video game, “The Last of Us” tells the story of a world ravaged by a fungal infection, which consumes the minds of its victims and sends society crumbling. “The Last of Us” begins in 2003 and shows the initial days of this breakout. The fungus genus *Cordyceps* spreads through the flour supply, quickly sending the entire world into a crisis. In the first episode, the very first days of the outbreak cause the rapid collapse of everything that was believed to be entirely stable, then fast forwards to the sparse remains of humanity that are left twenty years later.

The main character, Joel Miller, portrayed by Pedro Pascal, is a construction worker living in Texas with his teen daughter, Sarah, at the beginning of the series. Viewers see the beginnings of the outbreak through Sarah’s eyes; the narrative only switches to Joel’s perspective following Sarah’s death. Twenty years after the start of the outbreak, Joel works as a smuggler within the designated quarantine zones, searching for a way to contact his brother. After being double-crossed by a client, Joel is tasked with transporting Ellie, a teen girl portrayed by Bella Ramsey, across the country. According to a rebel group (the Fireflies), Ellie is immune to the infection and could be used to find a cure. Despite the concept, “The Last of Us” remains incredibly grounded in reality. The first episode’s opening scene – framed as a television interview from the 1960s – presents the impending outbreak as something that is very plausible. In reality, it would take hundreds of thousands of years for fungi to evolve to survive in human body temperatures, however, “The Last of Us” convinces us that it is possible, that we very well could be contending with a fungal apocalypse at any moment. At the beginning of each episode so far, “The Last of Us” contextualizes the rest of the story. In the first fifteen minutes of the second episode, instead of following the protagonists, viewers are taken back to 2003, in Indonesia, where a professor of mycology – similarly to the interview in the first episode – identifies the lack of a cure for the *Cordyceps* infection during the earliest days of the outbreak. These scenes give viewers insight into the larger ramifications of the outbreak, creating a fully developed world past the limited scope of the protagonists.

On top of the already chilling pseudo-reality of the plot, the victims of the *Cordyceps* outbreak, known as “the infected,” are nothing short of utterly terrifying. With bodies in various stages of decomposition, “the infected” move in mobs, all connected to the greater fungal hive mind. They are covered in fungal growths, tendrils reaching out of open mouths and gaping wounds – their once-human bodies turned into nothing more than hosts for something much larger than humanity.

I have never been particularly fascinated by zombie apocalypse stories, the mere concept never frightening me as much as was intended, but I must admit that “the infected” are arguably the most frightening horror monsters I have ever seen. Their pres-

ence is felt in every shot of the show, creating the most delicious anticipation for the few moments in which we are presented with a whole horde of them.

Although this is a very plot-driven story, the characters have no fewer layers. Pascal offers depth in his portrayal of Joel, letting him become more than his anger and prickly exterior from the very first episode. Although this version of the character does its best to stay true to the source material, HBO’s adaptation allows for cracks in Joel’s rugged surface to show. Conversely to the seemingly superhuman strength shown by the character in the game, Pascal’s Joel is imperfect. He suffers from hearing loss due to a gunshot and other body aches that come with age. This version subtly underscores the trauma which Joel has experienced since the beginning of the outbreak, offering a heart-wrenching depth beneath his gruff exterior.

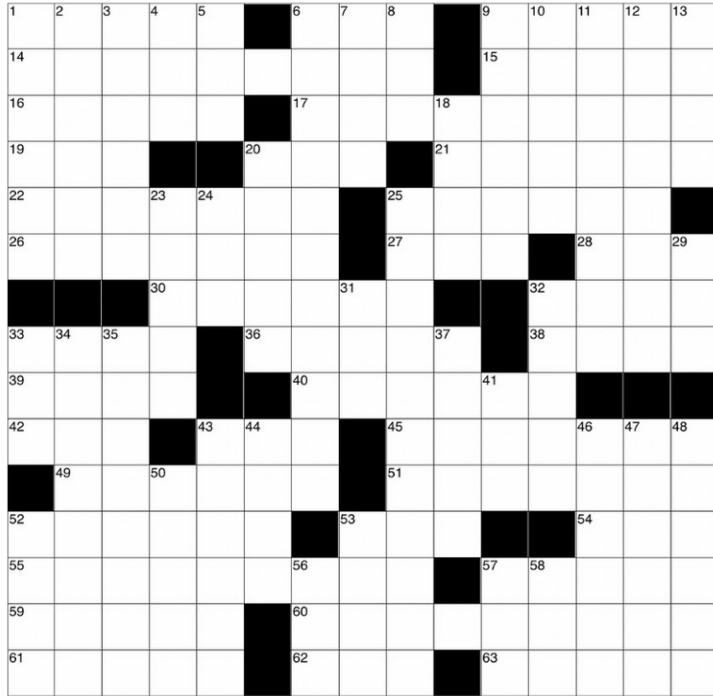
Bella Ramsey is nothing short of a standout as Ellie, filling her character with an anger only possessed by one who has never known a life full of anything other than fear and death. Beneath that anger, Ramsey brings a much-needed levity to the show, her adolescent optimism and wonder preventing the story from becoming fatalistic, resigned to the circumstances. Through Ellie’s eyes, the viewers are given the chance to see hope and the necessity for human connection in times of struggle, as Ellie is somewhat representative of such a need. Ellie – an orphan with no one left to take care of her – emphasizes the need for people to take care of each other, to “save who you can.” Her precocious wit leaves her seemingly unswayed by the circumstances, but I eagerly wait for the upcoming episodes to further unveil her many layers.

Despite “The Last of Us” being nothing short of impressive as a piece of horror fiction, questions arise about whether or not – independent of the show’s quality – it is a sufficient adaptation of the original source material. While the players were bound to a closed narrative in the original game, there was still some level of player agency (as is the case with any narrative-based game). In adapting “The Last of Us” into a TV show, the writers, including Neil Druckmann, the writer of the original games as well, are forced to contend with this loss of player agency, allowing for only one path from the beginning of the game to the very end. Although I have never played the game myself, only watching clips and video essays, I found that nothing has felt forced about this newly restricted format, and each character choice and plot beat seems nothing short of natural.

Regardless of any challenges “The Last of Us” may have faced thus far, the show has already been renewed for a second season (though we do not know yet whether or not it will follow the plot of the second game in the series). The show’s 22 million viewers gave near-universal praise after only two episodes. While I cannot guarantee that this show will continue to receive such uncontested praise for the rest of its first season, I would be thoroughly surprised if it did not continue on an upward trajectory. •

Overpoints and Overrides

By C&Z



Across

1. 270 Mohegan Avenue
6. 52 in a yr.
9. Find this on a rose before whiskers on kittens
14. Table for one
15. Conn in 1911, abbr.
16. Governing body for Conn sports (plural)

17. Famous Communist work by Marx
19. Minimal light
20. ___ Lingus
21. Boston party theme in 1773
22. National animal of Scotland
25. Perishable, in a way
26. Composer of "Amahl and the Night Visitors", Gian Carlo

27. North London rivals of TOT
28. Family
30. Made amends
32. Views
33. Disgruntled sighs
36. Escapes
38. Etch, abbr.
39. Painter Mondrian
40. Took to the soapbox
42. Neither's partner
43. UVA athlete, informally
45. Original McDonald's mascot
49. What to do when the nuclear plant explodes
51. Music app, box, and avatar planet
52. Congratulations singer, post
53. Classic sandwich trio
54. "vroom vroom"
55. World's largest island nation
57. Dress cut of a women's bathroom sign
59. Shoot from distance
60. Skeeters in San Juan
61. Coffee Grounds customers are often caffeine _____
62. Root of the MLB Biogenesis scandal, abbr.
63. January flower (and Catja's tattoo)

Down

1. Appendix
2. Winning city of the first AAGPBL championship
3. Brightest star in Draco
4. Agency controlling retirement funds, abbr.
5. Disability office at Conn, abbr.
6. Lydia-Jane and Elizabeth Bennett in "Pride and Prejudice"

7. Tree truck knot
8. One of a D.C. 100
9. Recommends
10. "I saved you ___ in class"
11. Reply to a seat seeker
12. Portman, Dormer, and Wood
13. File sharing software
18. Ripley's "Believe ___ not"
20. Sun Tzu's "The ___ War"
23. Move off momentum
24. Baseball Hall of Famer you ought to know
25. Belly flopped
29. White House advisory grp.
31. Always, in verse
32. Teamed up (with)
33. Original network of "Veronica Mars" and "The Twilight Zone"
34. James Baldwin wrote about this Italian man's room
35. Badges of the English monarchy, descriptor
37. Celebrated man on Mar. 17
41. Suffix for velvet
43. Host of major French film festival
44. Ball stand in baseball and golf
46. Cool Ranch or Spicy Nacho
47. Before, in a sonnet
48. Listen to juicy gossip
50. Take an idea for one's own use
52. What's 9+10? 21!
53. Work subtitled "A Life": Abbr.
56. Disappointed text reply
57. It borders It.
58. Hamilton writer, Manuel-Miranda

Comic Competition

Draw your best comic commentary on life at Conn for a chance to have a feature in the next issue. Email us a picture at thecollegevoice@conncoll.edu!

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February Horoscopes

CASSIOPEIA
STAFF WRITER

We've reached the part of winter when we all grow tired of staying indoors and having to bundle up in layers when we do go outside. Every sign is having some sort of reaction to this claustrophobic, cabin fever-esque feeling. Some of us are diving headfirst into our wildest impulses while others have retreated to the quiet safety of familiar people and places. Wherever you find yourself, Aquarius season (January 20–February 18) is sure to inspire adventure, vulnerability, and some wistful daydreaming. Aquarians are known for their unconventionality, so use this time to embrace your eccentricities.

Aquarius (January 20–February 18): It's your season, Aquarius, and you are feeling it! It's true, you're not like other signs. You're different. You're so...quirky. And that's actually a massive benefit for you. You have a very cut and dry approach to situations when you're not pleased with them. Yet, you're also capable of strategically and creatively inspiring change when you want to. You're a lovely, wild mix of features. Take this month to lean into the parts of you that feel different than anyone else, celebrate yourself and others will too.

Pisces (February 19–March 20): Pisces, Pisces, Pisces. You're feeling pulled in directions you were barely aware of just weeks ago. Fabulous. Truly! There are so many elements of life and of yourself that you aren't aware of yet. You have acres of space to grow into. Don't restrict yourself with expectations rooted in the person that you've been in the past. Open yourself up to radically new ideas and opportunities. Your motto for this month is: You don't know what you don't know. So, go find out!

Aries (March 21 – April 19): You're weak, Aries. Well, that's what you've been telling yourself. You think that you don't have the willpower to follow through on your dreams. That's ridiculous, because you know what you do have? You have a spark. A bubbly, energetic feeling in your chest that surfaces when you think about all you could be and create. Try to notice the moments when that feeling comes up and then generate more. Here, you'll find your grit and ingenuity.

Taurus (April 20–May 20): Taurus, I'm glad for you. You've had a tumultuous past few months. Recently, though, you've been cozying up to a sense of peace. This isn't the peace you've idealized in the past. It's true contentment. Your social life hasn't necessarily taken a backseat, it's just...easy. And you made it that way. Maybe you've also been particularly connected with your family recently—this could be relatives or a chosen family—and are taking note of the solace they provide you. Relish these opportunities for relaxed connection. They are a true joy of life.

Gemini (May 21–June 21): Let loose, Gemini! Shake off that winter blues and embrace the fiery, honest person you are. This Aquarius season invites you to run off with your creative impulses and be emotionally vulnerable. You're feeling inspired right now and that can be exciting! Allow it to be exciting! While you're at it, pay attention to your inner voice. Communicate authentically, especially if that means admitting that you don't have the solution or that you've messed up. You are a rockstar just as you are Gemini. Trust that.

Cancer (June 22–July 22): You've been feeling a bit stuck lately. Maybe you're feeling some confusion about where you stand with someone or, on the other end of the spectrum, whether you want to continue a relationship in the same way you have been. Don't sort through these feelings alone. They will only tangle over themselves in your head until you have no idea how you actually feel about the situation! Instead, try talking it out with someone that you don't usually open up to. An outside perspective is a bit like asking someone else to take a look at the puzzle you've been working on for hours. Sometimes all it takes is a pair of fresh eyes.



Courtesy of Robbie Lynch '24

Leo (July 23–August 22): You multi-faceted, complicated sneak! You've been putting on airs that you have your sh*t together and, in a way, you do. Socially, you're starting to realize that there's a reason that you seem to make friends easily. You have that undeniable, infectious Leo energy! Ok, does that make your ego feel better? I hope so, because otherwise...you've been letting your fears take the reins. Staying up at night overthinking a conversation, an outfit choice, or any other throwaway concern. You do know that you can trust your intuition right? Those fears only feel so big and build up to such heights because you're paying attention to them. Try distracting yourself with something simple and silly, this way you'll gradually shift the gears in your mind.

Virgo (August 23–September 22): The emotions are stirring, Virgo! Right now, your heart and mind more closely resemble a tornado and hurricane. So, positive news first. On the bright side, this is a great time to dive deep, or even deeper, into any creative pursuits. After all, the tortured artist cliché is a cliché for a reason. In all seriousness, however, you might be dipping into some irritability this month. This is completely understandable considering your state of mind. Take this as an opportunity to expand your comfort zone. I don't mean taking risks necessarily, no. Rather, find a new favorite film or dessert. Go on a walk somewhere beautiful and, first and foremost, learn how to be gentle with yourself. Learn what gentle looks and feels like for you. There is power in your softness.

Libra (September 23–October 22): Get out your calendar, Libra! Self-discipline has you booked. You're knee deep in a few projects with high-potential so take your energy, time, and space seriously. This doesn't mean you can't have fun. Hustle culture is fake and bad for you. You don't need an immaculate morning routine or, really, to even appear fully put together. Just plan out a bit of time each day to put the pedal to the metal and focus. The third floor of Shain isn't that scary, it could actually be helpful.

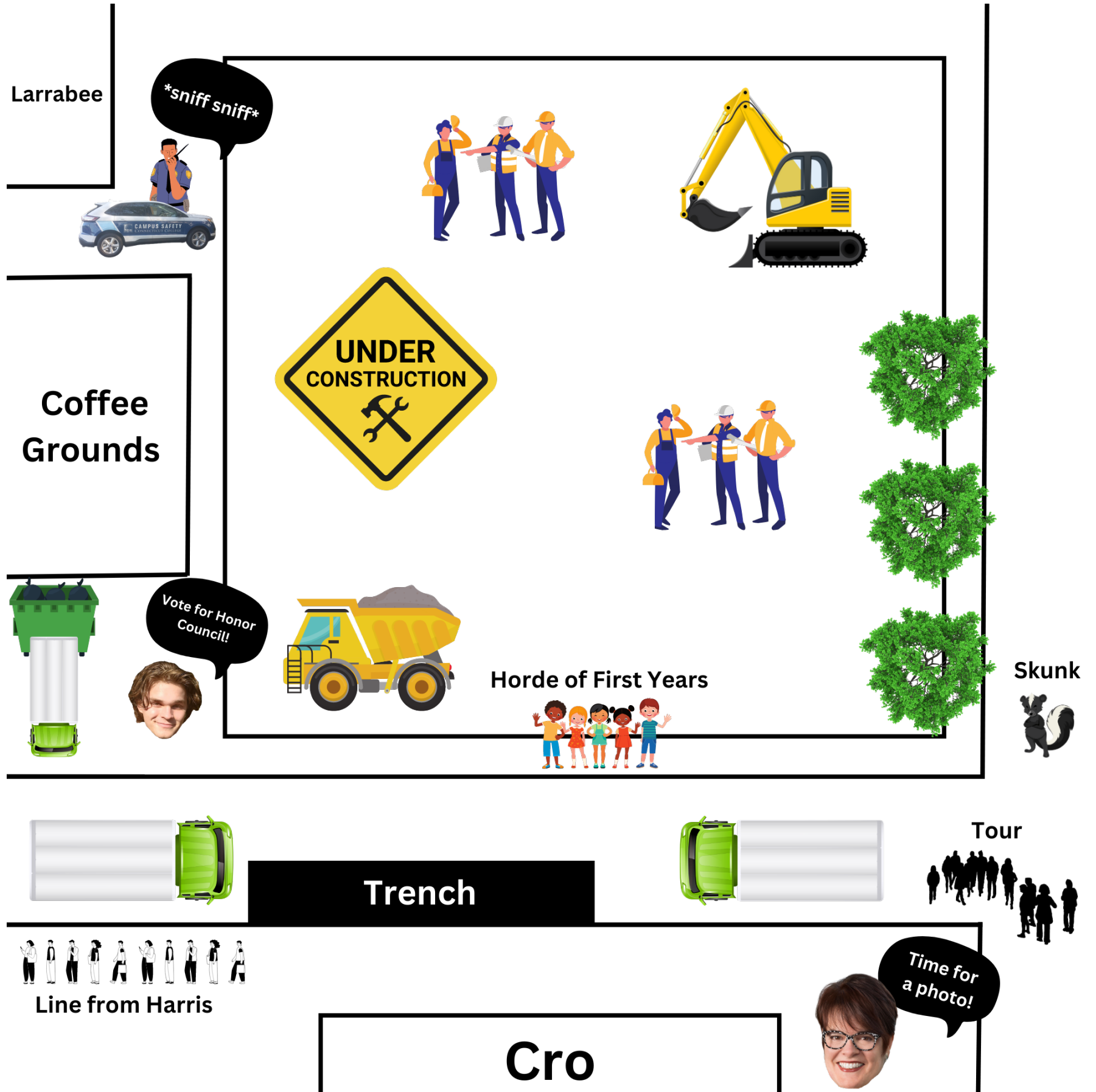
Scorpio (October 23–November 21): Here's some revolutionary advice: mind your own business. Like, literally. You have a lot going on in your life right now that needs tending to. Gossip can be fun but be honest...those people don't deserve your energy. Seek out a few hobbies that feel grounded in joy rather than skeezy speculation. Or, you know, at least keep your gossip between you and your out of state friend. Be a Drew Barrymore not an Ellen Degeneres. If you don't understand that reference, I recommend watching Barrymore's talk show. It's truly like therapy on TV.

Sagittarius (November 22–December 21): Dry spell, huh? Academic dry spell that is. You're a Sagittarius! It's like you feel as though you're destined to absorb all of the knowledge in the world. So this month might feel a little disorienting for you. You can't find a book to stick with for more than a few pages and you're spacing out a lot more than usual. That's fine. In fact, it's perfectly human. Sit with this discomfort, don't try to concoct some sort of hairbrain solution that will inevitably only leave you feeling dizzier.

Capricorn (December 22–January 19): Typically horoscopes are based on the astrological season, however, you are far more in line with the month itself. February is all about passion, free expression, and—most importantly—love. Your emotions might catch you off guard this month, Capricorn. Follow them. It's a bit like a mystery to solve when you suddenly find yourself having feelings for someone you didn't expect to or, perhaps, feel the urge to buy yourself a wedding cake just for fun. Explore the parts of yourself that scare you this month Capricorn and enjoy it. •

Defying Boundaries

Find your way from Cro to Coffee Grounds without defying the boundaries!



Super Bowl Bingo Card

Announcers mention Eagles are offended people thought they "had an easy path" to the Super Bowl	the Lombardi Trophy is shown	Announcers mention this is the first time 2 black QBs are starting in the Super Bowl	Someone mentions the "Philly Special"	Announcers talk about Tyreek Hill getting traded
Rihanna sings Umbrella at halftime show	A QR code is shown in a commercial	Tom Brady is mentioned	White guys nod approvingly from their suite	Nick Foles is mentioned
Announcers mention how great both fanbases are	Announcers talk about how Andy Reid used to be the Eagles coach	FREE - Rihanna has an awesome halftime show	Gronk hits the halftime field goal	Andy Reid mentions his post-win cheese burger
Damar Hamlin is mentioned	Announcers fawn over Patrick Mahomes	Announcer mentions Kansas City is in Missouri, not Kansas	Mahomes' brother or wife shown	Eli and Peyton Manning are shown
Kelce brother's mom is shown in the split jersey	Someone mouths a curse word on the sideline	Greasing the lamp post in Philly is mentioned	A ball is given to a fan after a touchdown	A dog stars in a commercial