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THE COLLEGE VOICE

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1977

THE COLLEGE VOICE

SPECIAL ELECTION ISSUE

Volume XIV, Number 21

Ad Fontes

April 7, 1992

Bringing efficient and confident leadership back to student government forms the backbone of the campaign launched this week by Colleen Shanley, candidate for SGA president.


"Next year SGA has to reassert its own integrity," she said.

Shanley said this year had been "disastrous," and the attitude of the Executive Board was to let the Assembly guide themselves. "The challenge is to give the Assembly direction and put them back on track," stated Shanley.

According to Shanley, Assembly members need to know more about proposals before meetings and interaction between senators and the Executive Board should be facilitated better.

"Last year there was a lot of miscommunication. The Executive Board would dominate the discussion because they were well informed about the issues, [and] they had Executive Board meetings at the beginning of the week . . . It tended to intimidate the Assembly," she said.

PRESIDENT



Colleen Shanley


Taking this week off from classes at American University to hit the campaign trail, Sean Spicer is shooting for the position of SGA president.

Spicer cites his experience at American University as one of the motivating factors for his campaign. While there, he discovered, "what the college has and has not done for me while I was away." The fact that Connecticut College's financial aid does not travel with students studying away, housing troubles for returning students, and a lack of information about the college while studying away are three issues important in his campaign.

The number one item on the SGA agenda, however, is to get students interested in student governance once again, he said. To do this, he plans to address issues that more directly affect student's lives, such as improving financial aid and class size.

"The next president has to . . . really make an effort to let the students know that the SGA isn't just a wasteful bunch of people getting together on a Thursday night doing nothing. It's a position that has power that can bring about change to the student body."

PRESIDENT



Sean Spicer

Photos courtesy of Maia Hibbett and Shain Library

Vintage Spice: Dave Bry Tells the *Voice* about Life with the White House Press Secretary

MAIA HIBBETT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As it turns out, *The College Voice* did not invent White House Press Secretary and Conn alumnus Sean Spicer's infamous college nickname. The following interview with Dave Bry, Sean Spicer's first-year roommate, details this and more about what it was like to share a campus with Spicer. Bry is a 1993 Connecticut College graduate and the author of *Public Apology: In Which a Man Grapples With a Lifetime of Regret, One Incident at a Time*. More of his ruminations on Spicer can be found in an article for *The Guardian* titled "The Trump surrogate who used My Little Pony to defend Melania? My college roommate." This issue contains an excerpted version of the interview; for the full text and audio recording of the conversation between Bry and *Voice* Editor-in-Chief Maia Hibbett, visit thecollegevoice.org.

The College Voice: As you know, I'm calling to interview you about your former roommate here at Conn, Sean Spicer, and I guess I'll just start off with a really easy, softball question. Where did you guys live on campus when you were here?

Dave Bry: We lived in Marshall, dorm room 212, so in the Plex, at the way tip of the Plex, all the

way down, like, hidden as far away from the pretty buildings as you could ever hide anything.

TCV: What was that dorm like back then, and on campus in general, what would you say the political climate was like?

DB: That dorm was, I guess like a kinda standard college dorm, very cement walls—they had put three students into what was clearly meant to be a room sized for one or two people. Our other roommate was named Jeremy Beard, and it was, so you know like living in a cement-walled little prison cell with two other people.

The political climate on campus—that's an interesting question—I grew up in a very conservative area...And then I got to college, and it felt very liberal to me, very liberal. And it affected my life in lots of ways...I remember when people went out and walked and marched in opposition to Apartheid in Africa, that was like, a really big deal for me...Now, you know, throughout college, I ended up going to visit friends at Wesleyan, and learned that Connecticut College was quite conservative compared to some places, and then I'd visit places like Trinity, and learned that Connecticut College was really quite liberal on the spectrum. I think

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Restaurant Reviewers Feel out a Franchise: Ruminations on Longhorn Steakhouse

MAX AMAR-OLKUS
ARTS EDITOR
AND
JOHN CHATIGNY
CONTRIBUTOR

Braving the elements in a car on the verge of its death, we two valiant restaurant reviewers drove at 11:45am on Wednesday, Feb. 1st to the culinary institution known to many as Longhorn Steakhouse, though its diehard fans sometimes refer to it as "A home away from home." At first glance, Longhorn Steakhouse appears to be nothing more than an overpriced Outback Steakhouse, but after peeling back the first layer of the Texas T'Onion (a battered and deep fried onion drizzled with sour cream) we saw all the unique treasures this restaurant really has to offer.

Upon walking through the double doors, you, the bright-eyed new Longhorn patron, should expect to wait for no more than 5 minutes while the ninety-eight-year-old couple in front of you is shown to their table. One advantage of going to Longhorn before 5pm as a college student is that you will more than likely be the youngest diner present by at least 40 years. Unfortunately, you won't be able to reap the senior citizen benefits (such as death).

The host will either seat you in the lively bar area (where you may find two regulars stationed, enjoying a few mid-afternoon beers) or in the intimate yet expansive dining room. Longhorn's interior designers need a raise for their impeccable taste and their ability to make each franchise establishment feel like home. In many ways, a meal at Longhorn could be accurately described as a "no-frills" dining experience. The cloth napkins and candles of "higher class" restaurants are replaced by plain paper towels and horns. The walls, adorned with paintings depicting imagery of the American West—including the Grand Canyon and a set of valiant cowboys riding majestic stallions--tell a story. Who are we? How did we get here? Are those real horns?

Longhorn's advertised encouragement

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Hannah Johnston and Eleanor Knauss break down the particulars of what we commonly call "executive orders" on page 4.	Maia Hibbett speaks with Andrew Lopez about local efforts to ban the disposal of natural gas "fracking" waste disposal in New London on page 5.	Wesley Chrabasz considers the extreme income disparities present at Conn on page 11.	Jennifer Skoglund gives her impression of "Room" and all its wild intricacies on page 13.



Hi again, Conn. It feels good to write. I haven't had my words printed in *The College Voice* in months, which may be why there are so many of them in this issue. There might actually be too many, but so it goes.

It's different now, though, to write and print this paper, since I'm now the face of it (literally, as you can see above, in what probably looks like vanity but is honestly a space-filler). This time around, going to press is a sigh of relief. The paper you hold is proof that I can, in fact, produce an issue as person-in-charge. And though I felt relatively certain that I could do that, it had still never happened before. I'm glad to have it confirmed.

It's been strange coming into this halfway through the year, especially because it's meant introducing myself to a lot of new people who are supposed to believe that they are my staff simply because they voted me in. In the fall, while I was abroad in Nicaragua, I worried constantly about how the *Voice* would change while I was away, as if this modest student paper would morph into some sort of mutant for me to later wrangle. It didn't.

It has changed, yes, and we're operating with almost an entirely new cast, but I should have relaxed and had faith in Aparna. She's smart, and she hired smart people. And when I got back here, I flitted around and pestered them constantly with surveys and suggestions followed by assurances that I do, in fact, know what I am doing (to the degree that any of us do). I adopted a mantra about how I'd dedicated two years to the *Voice* before going abroad, worried that they wouldn't buy it. They did.

This is all to say that I am truly grateful to have this team, for their support, their ideas and their acceptance of a new EIC who may seem a little hyperactive and a lot wordy. And I'm grateful to Aparna, for compiling them and moving forth with a vision for a better *Voice*. If you were to ask her now whether I was annoying as hell last semester, she might lie to protect me. Or, knowing Aparna, and knowing that she is logical, critical and honest, she might tell you the truth: that I bombarded her over email with particularized questions about technicalities and shifts that I felt were being made under my feet, shifts that, I realize now, were what we call "progress." And in the tradition of that progress--and of my inclination to micromanage--I am pleased to announce two developments that come to the *Voice* with this release:

1) **Accountability surveys.** Beginning with this issue, the *Voice* will send out a Google form to all of the sources our writers interview. In these forms, interviewees will evaluate how accurately they were quoted or represented and have the opportunity to request a correction in our subsequent print edition. If needed, print corrections will also return.

2) **Cookie critiques.** It's a simple exchange: write a critique of the *Voice*; get a cookie. Our first cookie critique will be Tuesday, Feb. 7 in Shain. Stop by the first-floor lobby between 2:30 and 6:30 pm and you'll find me, a pile of *Voice* copies, a stack of notecards and lots of cookies. I'm even getting a gluten-free box.

Hopefully these changes will help improve the *Voice's* accuracy, relevancy and receptiveness to its audience. In this bizarre era of "alternative facts" and other buzzwords so baffling they become tiring, we need to work on journalism more than ever.

-Maia

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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*Thank you for reading
&
Thank you for writing*

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Community Bulletin

High-Profile Alumnus Charged with Terrorizing Schoolchildren

James Berrien ‘74, former chairman of Connecticut College’s Board of Trustees and former publisher of Forbes Magazine, was charged on Jan. 31 with breach of peace and disorderly conduct. *The Day* reports that Berrien was identified in surveillance footage from Dec. 21, when he allegedly chased and forcibly boarded a school bus from his BMW.

Conn Students Robbed at Cilantro’s

According to a Campus Safety report, three individuals were arrested for robbing Connecticut College students outside Cilantro’s American/Latin Bar & Cafe on Bank Street. Campus Safety alleged that a “vague threat” was made to the students involved by a 16-year-old boy who has since been contacted by the New London Police Department.

Public Hearing for Connecticut Rail Bills

Three proposals for the Connecticut Transportation Committee will be presented at a public hearing in Hartford at 12:30 pm on Monday, Feb. 6. The bills, proposed by state Rep. Devin Carney, R-Old Lyme and state Sen. Paul Formica, R-East Lyme, would limit the state’s ability to develop a railway running through Southeastern Connecticut without municipal approval and restriction.

Hate Crime in Quebec Leaves Six Dead

On the night of January 29th, six people were killed in an attack on a Quebec city mosque. 17 other people were injured during the attack, five of whom are currently in critical condition. The shooter, described by *The Guardian* as “pro-Donald Trump, anti-immigration and sympathetic to the far right” was 27-year-old Alexandre Bissonnette. He has been charged with first-degree murder and attempted murder.

Acting Attorney General Fired for Defiance

President Trump fired Sally Yates, acting United States Attorney General, for refusing to enforce his executive order enacting a ban on immigration from 7 majority-Muslim countries. After the announcement of the ban, the American Civil Liberties Union raised \$24 million dollars over a single weekend.

Legal Grounds to Challenge So-Called “Muslim Ban”

Federal Judge James Robart ruled on Friday Feb. 3 that there are grounds to challenge President Trump’s executive order curtailing immigration from majority-Muslim nations. Said ruling from Robart has led to the suspension of Trump’s ban, and the state department is now reversing its cancellation of approximately 60,000 visas since the executive order was put into effect.

White House Considering Embassy Move Despite Territory Disputes

Following a statement of intention by President Trump to assist the Israeli government in moving its national capital from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem as its national capital, the White House has begun preliminary discussion regarding the potential relocation of the Tel Aviv-based U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. Both Israel and Palestine have territorial claims to the city, and the proposed move has been criticized for its potential to provoke violence.

Upcoming Star Wars Film Title Announced

Lucasfilms has announced that the title of the next Star Wars Film, Episode XIII, will be “Star Wars Episode XIII: The Last Jedi.” The film will premiere in theaters on December 15th, 2017.

Sports Corner

EXTENDED VERSION: YOUR FULL UPDATE
ON SPORTS SINCE WINTER BREAK

Women’s Basketball (15-6)

@ Mitchell W 89-40
Hamilton W 70-53
Middlebury L 56-58
@ Trinity L 72-77
@ Amherst L 35-69
Bates W 87-69
Tufts L 48-72
New Rochelle W 90-32
@ Wesleyan W 65-58
@ Eastern Connecticut St. W 72-59
Newbury W 91-50

Women’s Ice Hockey (13-6-2)

@ William Smith W 5-1
@ William Smith T 1-1
@ Trinity W 1-0
Castleton T 1-1
Bowdoin L 0-3
@ Wesleyan W 1-0
@ Wesleyan L 1-2
Williams W 3-0
Williams W 4-1
Manhattanville W 8-0
@ Saint Anselm L 1-3
@ Trinity L 0-1
Colby W 5-0
Colby W 5-0

Women’s Squash (5-14)

St. Lawrence L 0-9
Mount Holyoke W 5-4
Colby L 2-7
Dickinson L 0-9
Bowdoin L 1-8
@ Smith W 9-0
William Smith L 0-9
@ Tufts L 2-7
Virginia L 0-9
@ Wellesley W 5-4
Tufts L 0-9
Wesleyan L 0-9
Hamilton L 2-7

Women’s Swimming (7-2)

Grinnell W 163-68
Williams L 108-186
@ Amherst L 125-163
@ Wesleyan W 205.5-88.5
Fairfield W 215-72
@ Trinity W 227-35
Wheaton W 221-67

@ Wellesley W 226-65

Men’s Basketball (12-8)

UMass Dartmouth W 77-71
Springfield L 57-63
@ Hamilton L 70-86
@ Middlebury L 89-97
Trinity L 52-70
Amherst W 83-76
@ Framingham St. W 67-64
@ Bates W 73-58
@ Tufts L 83-100
Fisher L 63-70
Wesleyan L 75-85
Western Connecticut St. W 95-68

Men’s Ice Hockey (4-13-2)

@ UMass Boston L 1-9
Franklin Pierce W 8-2
Manhattanville W 5-2
@ Hamilton L 2-4
@ Amherst L 1-4
@ Wesleyan T 4-4
@ Trinity L 0-5
Middlebury W 3-1
Williams L 3-4
@ Tufts L 0-3
Tufts L 1-2

Men’s Squash (3-14)

St. Lawrence L 0-9
Colby L 0-9
Dickinson L 0-9
Bowdoin L 0-9
@ MIT L 0-9
Western Ontario L 0-9
Hobart L 0-9
@ Tufts L 3-6
Virginia L 0-9
@ Amherst L 0-9
Tufts L 2-7

Men’s Swimming (6-2)

Grinnell W 143-91
Williams L 90-197
@ Amherst L 123-165
@ Wesleyan W 199-80
Fairfield 203-76
@ Trinity W 168.5-93.5
Wheaton W 214.5-72.5



Women’s basketball currently holds the best record of Conn’s varsity sports.
Photo courtesy of Connecticut College Athletics

Roosevelt Unpacks Executive Orders

ELEANOR KNAUSS
CONTRIBUTOR

Within the first two weeks of his unorthodox presidency, Donald Trump signed over 20 executive actions, including the controversial order to halt immigration temporarily from seven Muslim-majority countries and indefinitely from Syria. Trump's swift, unilateral orders have pushed Americans into action, causing protests, bombardments of Senators' telephone lines and many questions. On Friday Feb. 3, Professor MaryAnne Borrelli answered questions and dispelled myths surrounding the Trump Administration's active first month in office at an event hosted by the Connecticut College chapter of the Roosevelt Institution. The first and most important question discussed doubled as the event's title: "What is an executive order?"

Though executive orders have been an especially hot topic in the past few weeks, the implications of such actions are not as cut and dry as they may seem. The executive clause of the Constitution gives presidents enormous discretion when enacting and enforcing widespread policy change, which manifests most often in the forms of executive orders and presidential memoranda. At Roosevelt's event, Borrelli distinguished between an executive order and a presidential memoranda, which, though operating under different names, have nearly identical effects.

"Both of them have the same effect in that the minute they are issued, they go into force as law," Borrelli stated. Executive orders mirror Congressional legislation--as they are assigned numbers and added to the federal register--but are unilateral and effective without congressional approval. Presidential memoranda fall under much of the same umbrella in effect, but usually regard issues that Congress has already assigned to the executive branch (e.g. the order to resume construction of the Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipelines). Though often referred to in popular vernacular as "executive orders," the 22 executive actions taken by President Trump have mostly fallen under the categories of presidential memoranda and proclamations.

While executive orders and presidential memoranda cover most of the unilateral actions taken and enforced by the President, other commands can be issued by the President in the form of proclamations, signing statements, national security directives and impoundments, all of which give the President power to shape policies and policy enforcement in different ways.

At "What Is an Executive Order?" members of the student body learned how to distinguish between these actions. Their definitions are as follows: proclamations tend to foresee policy action but are generally treated as a presidential comment rather than a command, and they often have to do with lower-stakes issues; for example, presidential proclamations usually indicate ceremonial observances,

such as the designation of February as "National Heart Month" to promote heart-disease awareness. National security directives, as the name suggests, refer to policy directly related to United States national security. Signing statements and impoundments both affect the way policies are enforced, the former by allowing the President to refrain from implementing legislation deemed 'unconstitutional,' and the latter by permitting the President to deny funding to certain institutions and congressional rulings. Impoundments as a whole have been ruled unconstitutional, while no ruling has been made on signing statements, though actions resembling the statements have been ruled unconstitutional in the past.

"You have to learn to drink from the fire hose," Borrelli concluded. Though some of Trump's orders have been intended to reverse those made by former President Obama, the majority reflect policy change Trump promised during his campaign. We are unlikely to see a slowing in executive actions coming from the White House in the near future, as the President has just begun to flex his executive muscles. The path going forward seems yet more shrouded in uncertainty when we consider that the left is fighting back with vim and vigor, the effects of which are already emerging. We saw live evidence of this during Roosevelt's event on Friday night when a federal judge in Seattle temporarily blocked the ban on immigration, calling it unconstitutional. With the ruling, Judge James Robart encouraged resisters to keep protesting Trump's executive actions. This activity promises a tumultuous four years.

So, are executive orders good or bad? "That depends on the content," warned Borrelli. Franklin Roosevelt issued hundreds of executive orders over his 12 years as president, including one which condemned discrimination in our troops and another which paved the way for Japanese internment camps during the Second World War. Executive actions have the potential to create both great victories and great failures. They might promote civil liberties or limit them.

In the case of Trump's executive actions, the country is heavily and starkly divided. On the political side less represented at Conn, many Americans are excited to see action being taken following two terms of gridlock and slow progress under Obama. "The [politically] right part of the country is excited about this," commented Roosevelt club president, Ryan Friend, "they feel like their president is doing something." •

A Breakdown of Trump's Executive Actions (So Far)

HANNAH JOHNSTON
NEWS EDITOR

January 20, 2017: Trump signs an executive order declaring his intention to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

January 23, 2017: Trump signs a presidential memorandum to indicate his intent to withdraw from the Trans Pacific Partnership (a trade deal to lower tariffs for several Pacific Rim nations).

January 23, 2017: Trump signs a presidential memorandum to freeze government hiring in the executive branch (except for in the military).

January 23, 2017: Trump signs a presidential memorandum reinstating the 'Mexico City Policy' which requires that non-governmental American organizations refrain from discussing abortion abroad.

January 24, 2017: Trump signs a presidential memorandum establishing a review process of American manufacturing regulations in order to find ways to reduce said regulations.

January 24, 2017: Trumps signs three different presidential memoranda to build more oil pipelines in the U.S. The first two memoranda were signed to review and approve the building of the Dakota Access Pipeline and the Keystone XL Pipeline.

January 24, 2017: Trump signs an executive order to allow officials to request an expedited environmental review of high priority infrastructure projects.

January 25, 2017: Trump signs an executive order which cuts funding for self-declared 'sanctuary cities.' The order specifically withholds federal funds from cities that don't comply with immigration policies.

January 25, 2017: Trump signs an executive order stating his intention to (and plan for) building a wall along the border between The United States and Mexico.

January 26, 2017: Trump signs a presidential proclamation establishing Jan. 22 through Jan. 28, 2017 as National School Choice Week. The proclamation encouraged Americans to take advantage of vouchers and charter schools.

January 27, 2017: Trump signs a presidential memorandum commanding the Secretary of Defense to conduct a review of the readiness of the military.

January 27, 2017: Trump signs an executive order which temporarily keeps people from majority-Muslim Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen from entering the country for 90 days; the order also keeps Syrians from entering the country indefinitely.

January 28, 2017: Trump signs a presidential memorandum stating his intention to develop a plan for defeating ISIS.

January 28, 2017: Trump signs a presidential memorandum removing many high-ranking military and intelligence advisers as regular attendees of the National Security Council's Principals Committee. The memorandum also states that the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff will only be invited to meetings when necessary, and that council to the White House Steve Bannon will be a regular attendee.

January 28, 2017: Trump signs an executive order requiring all executive appointees to sign an ethics pledge against lobbying (the order, however, only requires that eligible candidates have left their lobbying position one year prior to appointment).

January 30, 2017: Trump signs an executive order to remove two federal regulations for every new one that is proposed by the executive branch of the government.

February 2, 2017: Trump signs a presidential proclamation to declare February 'American Heart Month,' in order to call attention to heart disease (this is an action that has been undertaken by every president since 1963).

February 3, 2017: Trump signs an executive order to establish "Core Principles" in regards to finance and the finance industry. The order also reduced Wall Street regulations.

“Towns Driving State Policy:” New London Aims to Ban Fracking Waste

MAIA HIBBETT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

One by one, Connecticut municipalities are sending a message to state and federal legislators: no to local fracking waste disposal. Following the lead of municipalities across four counties beginning with Washington and most recently including Middletown, New London aims to become the next city to ban fracking waste.

Andrew Lopez, Research Support Librarian in Government Documents and a New London resident, has been actively involved in the efforts to ban fracking waste disposal in New London and has brought the issue home to Conn. At least an estimated ten Conn students will attend the New London City Council meeting at 7 pm on Feb. 6 using transportation facilitated by SGA.

“SGA jumped right on this,” said Lopez, “I’m supposed to coordinate with the group downtown which submitted the ordinance and these guys here, so that we can have maximum impact on City Council.”

New London would be at least the eleventh municipality to pass a ban on fracking waste disposal, but the city could be more vulnerable than many of its peers due to the its demographic makeup. According to 2010 data from the U.S. Census Bureau, New London has a 28.3% Latino population compared to 13.4% statewide in Connecticut and a 17.4% African American population to Connecticut’s 10.1%. Census data from 2015 shows that the median income in New London is \$36,250 to Connecticut’s \$70,331, and while New London has a poverty rate of 28.6%, statewide poverty sits at 10.5%.

Regarding the potential for environmental racism and socioeconomic discrimination to elevate New London’s risk level, Lopez noted, “Historically, that’s how it’s been, right? You go to the low end of the socioeconomic spectrum, and that would make a good dumping ground.”

Calculating New London’s exact risk level regarding fracking waste disposal, however, is murky business. Lopez noted that “if there has been exposure, we don’t necessarily know.”

This, he explained, is “a problem with the federal classification of this material. The way that it’s classified or not classified means we don’t really have a way of tracking where it is or where it’s coming, and it’s just being moved around like other forms of waste.”

According to a study conducted by Nadia Steinzor for Earthworks, “Thirty years ago the Environmental Protection Agency exempted oil and gas waste from federal classification as hazardous, not because the waste isn’t hazardous, but because EPA determined state oversight was adequate.” This exemption allows fracking waste to go unmonitored at the federal level, leaving state regulation as the next line of defense. The efforts streaming from one Connecticut municipality to the next suggest that civilians do not trust their state legislature to ban fracking waste statewide.

When not properly tracked, fracking waste can be difficult to identify. CT News Junkie’s Christine Stuart explains that a waste product from fracking called “production brine” has a salinity level five times greater

than that of sea water, which allows the pollutant to be used as a road de-icer. Because the waste products from fracking are not federally classified as hazardous, they can also be processed by any wastewater treatment facility without the knowledge of the citizens whose water the facility processes.

About the ambiguity of fracking waste disposal, Lopez added: “The fact that we don’t know is a reason for us to act.”

Efforts to ban fracking waste in New London and in communities across the state are unfolding while a temporary statewide moratorium on fracking waste disposal remains in place, but according to Lopez, the drive for these bans will persist regardless of whether Connecticut moves to extend the moratorium beyond its expiration date. Enacted under Gov. Daniel Malloy’s leadership in 2014, the moratorium states that no fracking waste may be disposed of in the state of Connecticut between July 1, 2014 and the same date in 2017.

On July 1 of this year, the Regulation Review Committee will decide how to move forward with fracking waste regulation, either by extending the moratorium or by replacing it with other legislation.

“We have reason to believe that they might extend it for another year,” said Lopez, “but [organizers also believe] that that’s only an excuse for not taking action, and that when they do take action, it’s not going to be prohibitive or regulatory.”

Therefore, individual cities and towns are taking prohibitive and regulatory action into their own hands. As Lopez put it, “What’s happening municipally is an attempt to preempt that inaction on the state level.”

Concerning state-level legislation, Lopez commented of Malloy: “I don’t trust him, and I don’t think he will be on our side unless we get mass mobilization. And passing these town ordinances is our attempt to communicate indirectly with people like Gov. Malloy... We want to use these town bans to show the state government: ‘We’re not interested. You can’t be dilly-dallying with this moratorium, and also you definitely can’t leave it unregulated. You can’t allow it.’ This is an attempt to drive state policy.”

Former New London Mayor Darryl Finizio has been unclear about his position on the issue. Lopez noted: “I assume he’s on board, but I don’t think I’ve seen that he signed the petition; I don’t think I’ve seen that he’s liked the Facebook page, which is our main source of communication.”

Current Mayor Michael Passero has liked the page “Ban Fracking Waste in New London” on Facebook and was called “open-minded” and “interested in the issue” by Lopez.

It is likely that the proposed fracking ban’s momentum in New London is in part a result of concerns about new seizures of power in the federal government. Lopez pointed out the appearance, on day one of the new administration, of an “America First Energy Plan,” which claims that “We must take advantage of the estimated \$50 trillion in untapped shale, oil, and natural gas reserves, especially those on federal lands that the American people own.”

“When that happened,” Lopez recalled, “we said you know what, we’ve gotta go. And I think part of this enthusiasm and excitement on campus is also charged by the election results, and it’s one reason why I’m really excited about what’s happening in 2017.”

To speak to on-campus enthusiasm, Lopez noted that Siri Colom, Postdoctoral Fellow in Environmental Studies at the College, plans to coordinate a campus event with Jennifer Siskind of the Connecticut Food and Water Watch. Siskind has presented arguments against fracking waste disposal in many of the towns that have already passed fracking waste bans, and according to Lopez, “anybody who hears the argument from Jen Siskind—they’re voting no.” His hope is that Siskind will bring the same common sense and energy to New London.

Though a fracking ban appears likely for New London, its implementation is not yet certain. “Something really momentous might happen on the sixth, or it could be really anticlimactic,” Lopez clarified, “It could be sent to committee...but we have reason to believe that if they send it to committee, it’s going to go to a committee that’s allied with us on the issue.” He added that New London is far from the end of the line, but rather a potential contributor to fracking ban trend, noting: “If New London passes this, I think Waterford, Quaker Hill and Groton are going to want to pass it too.”

Connecticut, of course, is not the only state that can pass bans on fracking waste. Because the issue is up to state regulation, the municipalities in Connecticut wield the power of influence across state lines. Lopez stated with excitement: “If more and more states do this, then we show the federal government where our policies need to go, which is sort of what’s happening in 2017. I like that. That’s the way it’s supposed to be.” •

A Note on the Inauguration from the CC Republicans and Conservatives

AMIANSU KHANAL
CONTRIBUTOR

The College financed the Connecticut College Republicans and Conservatives club to visit Washington D.C. and witness a historic moment: the inauguration of Donald J. Trump as the 45th President of the United States. Having financed students to attend the post-election Women’s March on Washington, the College also supported CCRC experience the inauguration. This was the College’s effort to foster diverse thought and support students’ pursuit of their political ideologies. Students who attended the inauguration reported impressions of the environment more peaceful than those portrayed by the media. The CCRC does not necessarily support the Trump administration but believes in showing respect to the new United States President on a historic day. CCRC members learned a great deal from their trip to Washington D.C. and from witnessing the peaceful transition of power to a highly controversial administration. •

A Report on the Women's March from an Attendee

ANNA RUBIN
CONTRIBUTOR

Commonly heard in discourse throughout the United States is an immense pride and sense of privilege in the Constitutional right to exercise freedom of speech. When operating properly, freedom of speech gives anyone in the U.S. the right to express their opinion without censorship or restraint. To this end, the First Amendment of the Constitution asserts that "Congress shall make no law prohibiting the free exercise or abridging the freedom of speech."

Pride in diversity and acceptance is, perhaps, a more widely contested concept. The U.S. projects an image of welcoming more immigrants than any other country, praising diversity and respecting others, and to many U.S. citizens and residents, these values are essential. Those who consider that respect, equality and diversity are at the core of our

civilization trace these principles to the language of the Constitution. And when a nation feels that its core values are being put at risk, retaliation is all but inevitable. On Jan. 21, retaliation manifested in 673 marches that took place all over the world.

The Women's March was a worldwide protest to protect policies regarding human rights in the new Trump administration. While the phrase "human rights" in this context and many includes racial equality, LGBTQ rights, environmental protection, just immigration policy and accessible healthcare, the protests that unfolded on Jan. 21 were specifically targeted toward protecting women's rights, which intersect with several of the forms of human rights mentioned prior. The protests aimed to tell the world that "women's rights are human rights." In the United States, the largest protests took place in Washington, D.C., New York City and Boston.

At the Women's March in Boston, protesters reported feeling a sense of unity with their fellow participants. Members of the movement spoke of a desire to stand up for the shared values of a democracy among fellow citizens and chanted sayings like, "When people are united, we'll never be defeated!" "Love, not hate, will make America great!" and "Tell me what democracy looks like--This is what democracy looks like!"

The Women's March exemplified how citizens

of the United States may exercise their right to free speech by protesting. Participants also evidenced a sense of safety in their organization; populated primarily by white women, the Women's March in Boston received no threat of violence or suppression by law enforcement. This demonstrates a freedom often taken for granted, as globally, not all individuals have access to this protected right.

Connecticut College aimed to support student free speech by providing transportation for some students to the Women's March in Washington, the focal point of what became an international movement. The drive to promote a women's rights movement makes sense for Connecticut College, given that the institution was originally established as a women's college and has only been co-ed since 1969. Of course, despite this likely correlation between values, the College remains an institution without a stated political affiliation, and did fund another group of students' travel to Washington for Inauguration Day.

A wall in Shain Library reads, "Our freedom to say or write whatever we please in this country is holy to me. It is a rare privilege not only on this planet, but throughout the universe." This declaration echoes the sentiments and messages voiced at the Women's March in Boston late this January. •

Squash Team's Efforts Fruitless Without Resources

ELIZABETH VAROLI
STAFF WRITER

This past Saturday, the Connecticut College's men's varsity squash team (ranked 29th in the country) had a full schedule, with two matches in two different cities. In the morning, the men headed up to Massachusetts to meet the Tufts men's varsity squash team (ranked 28th) for a close match. After a morning of competitive play, the Tufts men narrowly defeated the Conn men. Tufts won 3 – 6. Despite the loss, the Conn men walked away with big wins at the number 5, 7 and 8 positions on the ladder. Michael Rodriguez '20 won in four games at #5 on the ladder, while Benedict Osajie '17 and Louis Feingold '19 each won their matches in five games at #7 and #8, respectively.

Later on, the Conn men continued their trip, moving on to Providence, where they played the University of Virginia's men's club squash team. They met the UVA team at the neutral site of Brown University for one of the few late night matches of the season. Despite its lower ranking, the UVA is a team on the rise and was able to pull out a 9 – 0 victory over Conn. The Conn men played well, especially given the major line-up changes put into effect after their morning match. With Daniel Reisman and Michael Rodriguez sitting out, most of the players were forced to move up two spots in the ladder.

UVA squash is technically a club sport, but this means little in light of the fact that the team is backed by all of the perks of an impressive Division I institution. Recently, UVA alum Jaffray Woodruff donated over \$12 million to open the McArthur Squash Center. The brand new, state of the art facility is 33,000 ft large. With a glass court, eight

international singles courts and two doubles courts, the facility was given the stamp of approval by U.S. Squash and cleared as a potential host for future elite-level tournaments. With the opening of the McArthur Squash Center in 2013, the UVA program has gained access to some of the best recruits in the country.

Although the Conn men put up a good fight Saturday night, they've been at a serious disadvantage since captain's practices in the fall. While the UVA men have access to an elite facility where the entire team can be on court at once, the Conn men have access to three outdated international singles courts.

Conn provides all it can to support its sports teams, but there are limits to what a Division III school can offer its athletes, especially in comparison to what Division I schools provide. The difference manifests clearly between the Atlantic Coast Conference and the New England Small College Athletic Conference. Facilities, trainers, coaching staff and other factors play a significant role in the performance of a team. Therefore, when looking at the results of Saturday night's match in Providence, it is important to understand that the Conn men, a Division III program, put up a respectable fight against the UVA men, for all intents and purposes a Division I program.

The Conn men have an exciting few weeks coming up. Conn squash fans can look forward to their matches at the NESCACS, a weekend at Hamilton College and another weekend at Nationals, location yet to be determined. •



Men's squash team
Photo courtesy of Connecticut College Athletics

Dean McKnight’s Job Made More Crucial by Current Political Climate

MAIA HIBBETT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

For John McKnight, recently installed Dean of Institutional Equity and Inclusion, the biggest shock of his inaugural semester was not exactly Conn-specific.

“I couldn’t have imagined we would have elected Donald Trump as President,” McKnight admitted, “and it has had a direct influence on, certainly, the campus climate, the current environment and the way I think about my work.”

While academics’ commentary on the the new presidency has a tendency to sound ominous, McKnight assumed a concerned but not devastated perspective, clarifying: “The truth is, it hasn’t changed anything in terms of my vision for an engaged campus community...But I guess what has changed is [that] it has intensified, and it has made the work even more urgent.”

McKnight stressed passion and pragmatism, noting that “There’s so much to be on fire about right now...And I think there’s this general perception that colleges want to somehow hamper that or reign it in in some way, and I think that’s a misguided notion. What I want from the student body is to be really clear about the issues that matter to you, know exactly what questions to ask, and find ways of engagement that will be productive and that will really bring about the change that they wanna see.”

Noticeably aware of the critiques that this message of productivity might bring about, McKnight added: “Sometimes that happens in the form of protests or demonstrations, and other times it happens in a more strategic way of approaching a problem...But I don’t want people to hear or read that and think: ‘they just don’t want us to protest.’

That’s not it at all.”

After the election, McKnight’s office immediately got to work. He began with programming catered both to potential protesters and strategic deliberators. “Our division had already planned kind of a gathering, to be able to discuss the implications, for people to celebrate, or mourn, or whatever it is. Not expecting the outcome that we ended up with, it very quickly turned into a very large gathering,” McKnight remarked.

Since that initial gathering, the work has become more technical and rooted in policy. McKnight said that at a luncheon to which all international students were invited, he “brought in an immigration attorney to talk about what we imagine might be coming down the road,” an opportunity which he believes was crucial.

“The number one advice we’ve been hearing from our legal counsel in advising these students is: they all need to have an immigration attorney kind of on speed dial,” McKnight explained. Regarding Conn’s part in making that happen, he added: “We’ve established a fund for people who are seeking legal counsel and may be unable to afford it.”

Because Conn’s student body includes students from countries listed under Trump’s so-called “Muslim ban,” McKnight noted that those students are of particular concern at present. But, he clarified: “The focus keeps shifting. The first week after the election, we were really focused on DACA and undocumented status.”

McKnight added that while Donald Trump’s election has led Americans to shift their policy priorities, one issue’s elevated urgency does not di-



Dean McKnight with Shameesha Pryor '17
Photo courtesy of Connecticut College website

minish the importance of another. He mentioned that the identities of individual students are so varied that Conn and other institutions must provide support across a spectrum of diverse national, racial, religious, socioeconomic and sexual identities.

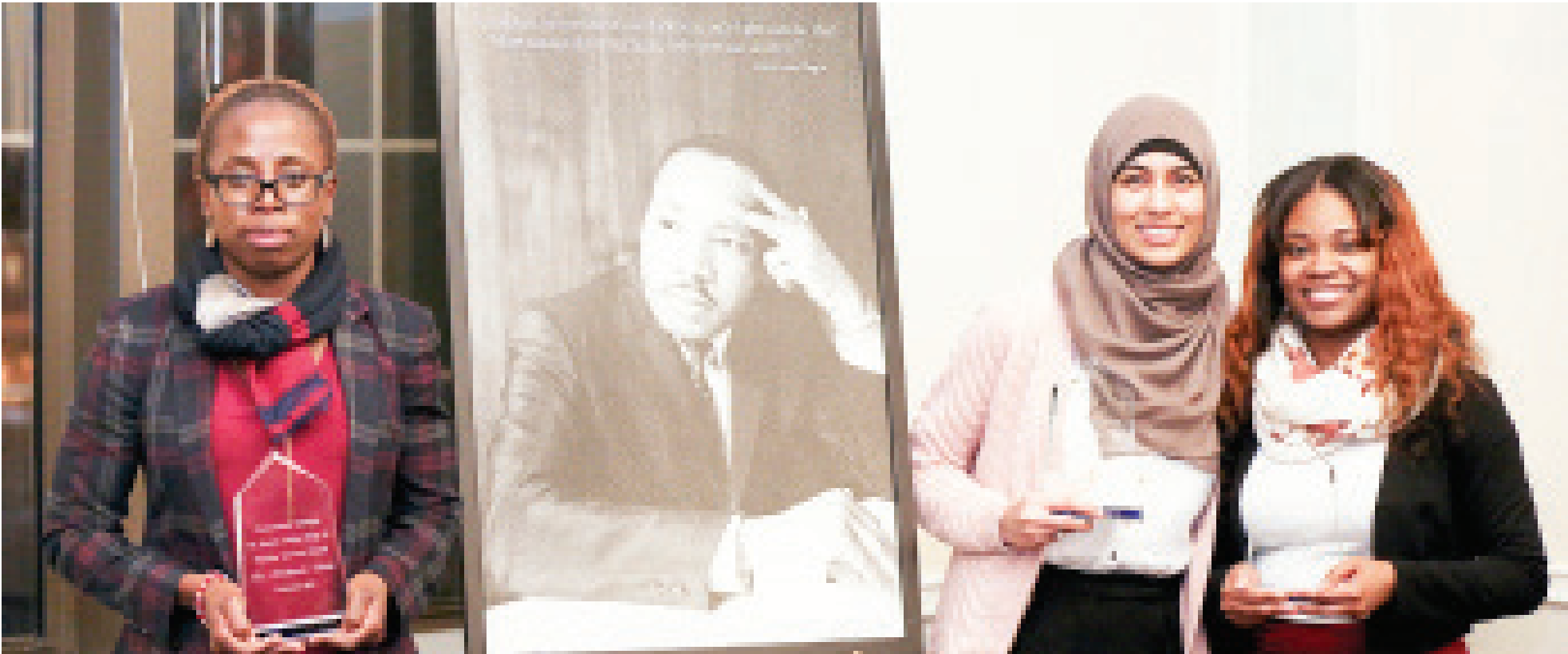
When asked if he was worried about Trump’s vow to disrupt sanctuary cities, McKnight stated: “Yes, I worry about everything he says.”

“Part of the issue with the word ‘sanctuary’ is that it doesn’t actually have any legal bearing right now for any of the institutions that have claimed it,” McKnight admitted. He continued: “But what I love about Conn’s stance on this is we defined, for ourselves, what it means to be a sanctuary...[President Bergeron] said what that meant, and what that meant was we would go to extreme lengths, within the confines of the law, but to extreme measures to protect our students.”

“If this new presidential administration wants to challenge sanctuary statuses,” Dean McKnight posed, “would he start with colleges?” He added that we must critically consider: “What does it mean to ‘go after’ sanctuaries?” •

Three members of the Connecticut College community were honored with Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards at the Black Heritage Month kickoff event “Young, Gifted and Black.”

Honorees (below) from left to right: Nathalie Etoke, Associate Professor of French and Africana Studies; Lamiya Khandaker '17, Government and Global Islamic Studies major; Shameesha Pryor '17, Africana Studies major and Human Development minor
Photos courtesy of Connecticut College website



“How can I describe Sean Spicer?”

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

among the NESCAC schools...Connecticut College is probably about in the middle politically, and I imagine that you have things going on like, colleges in general skew liberal, but maybe preppies in New England—kids from New England prep schools skew conservative, so you get kind of a mix of that, but I would say that it was a liberal place. You know, Sean I think started, or not started, but joined the Young Republican club or something, and he was Republican, and that was obviously kind of a rarer stance/position than most of campus. I would guess that it was 85% liberal versus 15% identifying conservative.

TCV: So you just mentioned that Sean joined the Young Republicans club. What were his other involvements and what was his presence like on campus? His major, anything like that?

DB: He was very into sailing, and he had grown up sailing, and I know one of the things that he talked about a lot was how that kind of provided this automatic little social club for him at the school because

for in, and I was so amazed that Jeremy and he both were like—government and business stuff; they both were very into business, and I had no interest in anything like that—I wanted to major in English...I think Sean majored in Government, maybe with a Chinese minor, but I'm not even sure if he like, you know, kept up and went through with it.*

TCV: And so would you say he was well-known on

“Every year he ran for class president. Every year he lost.”

campus? Well-liked?

DB: Um, no. Not well-liked. Not like hated. How

tion of characteristics, where you could tell he really wanted to be liked; he tried a little too hard. He brought—you know, we had this thing freshman year during orientation where you were supposed to bring one item that describes yourself, you know, that if you would bring to put in a museum about yourself it would let them know about yourself, and I remember he brought his fake I.D. And he said, “Yeah, this is my fake I.D., and it says a lot about me because I really like to drink beer.”

TCV: Okay.

DB: And he kind of got that silence in reaction, too, and everyone was kind of like, “oh, god.” And so that sort of describes him pretty well, I think. But, you know what? I don't wanna like—it's weird; you think back to the way people were, and he was kind of a tool, but like, man, I certainly was a jerk in lots of ways, too. I don't particularly like the person that I was when I think about being 18 years old, so I wanna give people a break, you know? I never thought he was like a bad, evil, hurtful person. He was, like I say, kind of a clown. And he kind of knew it, and he got a little bit clowned, but he had a good sense of humor about it, always, and so he was never anything like, unpleasant, or really really disturbing, he was like a pain in the ass. But overall, I always thought, like, a good-hearted person. So I'd see him on campus, and it would be like, “Hey, what's up Sean?” “What's up, Dave?” you know? It was fine, for the next four years, I mean. We didn't hang out in the same circles, but it was certainly civil. He was fine. If you ended up at a party where he was drinking a beer, I would—we'd drink a beer together and talk about what was going on: “Remember freshman year when we had to live in that crappy dorm?” you know, like that.

I only lived in the room with him for about one half of the first semester. 'Cause a senior moved out on our floor, and then left the door open, and so I kind of squatted so I could have my own room... And then the next semester, my girlfriend actually came to the school and was a guest student at the school for a while, and so I kind of moved into her



Photos courtesy of Maia Hibbett and Shain Library

Shanley and Spicer debate the issues Sunday night.

Coverage of Spicer's campaigns in The College Voice

Above: candidacy for SGA President, April 7, 1992

Bottom right: candidacy for Young Alumni Trustee, April 12, 1993

all the sailors had to get up really early to go to practice every morning, and so you know their schedules were dictated by their sailing classes, and everything else fell behind that. So the sailing club at the school, I remember it was a very insular club—not, sailing team, I'm sorry; I keep calling it a club—it was a team; they competed; they would race against other schools that had sailing teams. And so that really seemed to be his main deal. That was his scene. Those were the friends I think he hung out most with.

He majored in I believe Government, and I wanna say Chinese. Early on, I remember this conversation one of our first days when me and Jeremy and he were talking about what we were gonna ma-

can I describe Sean Spicer? Because he was kind of an interesting guy. He was very into, like, always having a sense of humor, and funny, and laughing and chatty. And that was something that was, you know, kind of pleasant about him. But he wasn't so good at it. And he wasn't very popular, I would say—he was like, he would walk into the room and everyone would kind of go: “Ugh, Spicer.” But he was aware of that, and so then would like, play with it, so he'd be like: “Hey, come on guys! It's just me! Come on, let's have a beer; we love each other! Yeah, come on—oh, I know you don't like me, but that's just because you don't know me!” He'd put his arm around you, and kind of be like, “come on!” you know? And so it was this very interesting combina-



room...but I always had some stuff in my original room, so I would get back there, and I hung out a lot on the floor; all my friends were on that floor and in that dorm, so we were still around each other a lot.

TCV: And so when *The College Voice* assigned Sean Spicer his infamous nickname, was there a big campus reaction? Did a lot of people notice?

DB: Yes, yes. It was a thing, for sure, a lot of people remember it—I know from talking to other people I've been in contact with, a lot of people remember. It was funny; he was—he was a Republican trying to run for president of the class every year. Every year he ran for class president. Every year he lost. Every—four years running for class president, four years losing. So he was kind of, he kind of made himself into Sean Sphincter, you know? That was his nickname; people teased him about that, and then, when it got into the press, you know, he had that reaction, and it was a story on campus.

TCV: So, did *The College Voice* come up with that nickname, or was it a preexisting thing on campus?

DB: Oh, no, I don't think so. That was just a preexisting nickname. I think one of the people that worked on the *Voice* was kind of in this group of guys that were sort of friendly with Spicer on the sailing team and they kinda teased him, and then he put it in the paper first, I think. So maybe it was like, that person invented that nickname, and it was not—no, I can actually remember that no, lots of people had that nickname for him before it ran in the paper, I think, to the best of my memory.

TCV: You've already spoken to this one pretty significantly, but as a roommate, just as a person to live with, what was [Spicer] like?

DB: He was kind of gross, really. I mean, but look, again, I have to take some complicity in this, like—so I had this habit of bringing up the ceramic coffee mugs from Harris. After every meal, I would bring up a coffee mug to the room. And then I would just leave the coffee, finish my coffee, and I would leave the coffee mugs around the room. And so our room became, like, every inch of every flat surface of our room had a coffee cup on it. It was ridiculous, like, literally 30 or 40 coffee mugs around the room. And I think Spicer and Jeremy were probably always like, "Get rid of these coffee mugs!"...it's kind of on whoever is being grossed out—he's just gonna lose, you know?...it was almost like a competition where, like, "No, I'm not gonna clean up. You guys are the dorks for caring about having a clean room. So if you want something done about the coffee mugs, fine, take care of it, you know; it's not my responsibility," which is a horrible way that boys who are 18 years old think.

But what Spicer did was like, he dipped, you know, he chewed tobacco, and he smoked, and so all the coffee mugs that I had left there ended up getting filled with like, his tobacco spit and tobacco ashes, from the smoking, which just made them like, so much, way more gross. And

then it was like kind of a little war about like, okay well, who's gonna clean them up? And I was like, "I'm not touching those things because they have your dip spit and ashes in them and are disgusting, so I'm not gonna touch them." And he was like, "Well you left them there, so you get rid of them." So they ended up just staying there, for like, you know a good month, maybe more. Probably until I like, moved out of the room there were these coffee mugs with remnants of coffee and tobacco juice and ashes in them. Horrible, disgusting, you know. Funny you think about how, like—funny for me, as an old person, to think at like how human beings lived in dorms. I don't know, you might still live that way; I'm sorry if you do, but anyway.

TCV: Not quite.

DB: Good, good. Good for you. You should definitely—cleanliness is next to godliness.

TCV: Okay, and so you already mentioned that after you were roommates you kind of

Sean Spicer FOR SGA President

Dear Student,

Over the past few years the student government at Connecticut College has lost touch with its real purpose. I am running for president in order to change the focus of the SGA back to serving the needs of the students. I have served on the SGA Assembly for two years as a senator and have witnessed the executive board of the Assembly lose its ability to effectively handle issues that reflect the problems that the students have brought forth. It is time that the Assembly stopped consistently wasting time on issues that have no effect on student life.

By electing me as president, I will change the role of president by becoming an active and voting member of the Assembly. In the past few years the president has taken a backseat in bringing forth proposals and actively participating in debate. It will be my goal to end this tradition. I believe that if I am elected by the

students, I should serve the students as an active member of the Assembly. In assuming this role I will pay close attention to the real need of the students and the changes that needs to happen, whatever they may be; academic or social.

I have the ability to lead the SGA and the innovation to make real change. Please vote for change on April 7th or 8th.

Thank you, Sean M. Spicer

Plan for Change: *Active and voting member of SGA, *Support of cultural events, *Review of 3/2 and general education, review of housing problems and special housing needs, *Review of student/faculty ratio, *Support of change in time that events must end to 3am, *Support of "alternative" events/clubs, *Accountability of all SGA members, *Thorough review of SGA structure, *Publicity of SGA events and current proposals, *Allow more student participation, *Restructure of SGA committees

Experience: House Senator of Harkness, House Senator of Wright, SGA Committees: Alcohol Policy, Food, Shareholders Responsibility (voted to divest holdings in South Africa), *Orientation Committee, *Sailing Team Captain

of my questions for today. Do you have anything to add?

DB: No. I'm happy to answer your questions. I'm psyched to see the story. •

***Editor's note:** According to the Connecticut College Alumni Directory, Spicer graduated with a major in Government.



Marisa Fariña, Tim Crowley, and Jeff Berman listen to fellow YAT candidate Sean Spicer address a panel question at speech night.

Four seniors tackle important issues before an Ernst crowd

Top right: candidacy for SGA President, April 7, 1992

Bottom right and above: candidacy for Young Alumni Trustee, April 12, 1993

just kept a casual relationship on campus, but did you ever stay in touch at all after graduation, or was the next time you saw Sean Spicer when he was the Press Secretary?

DB: The next time I saw Sean Spicer was—no, not when he was the Press Secretary. I mean, you know, I read the papers, and he'd been coming up through politics. There had been—he was working for certain congressmen that would be passing certain actions or pushing for certain laws, let's say, and he was often a spokesperson for these people...he was someone whose name would get in the paper, and they way people pay attention to that stuff, when it's—you know, someone would send an email, be like, "Look at Spicer! He's got this job for this senator!"... Yeah, so we'd been following, I had followed his career.

TCV: Have you seen him in person since [college]?

DB: No. No, I haven't seen him in person since college ended.

TCV: Okay, well I think that takes care of all

SEAN M. SPICER FOR YOUNG ALUMNI TRUSTEE

MESSAGE TO THE CLASS OF 1993:

As the class of 1993 grows closer to its time of commencement, we must choose a member of the class to serve as the Young Alumni Trustee. I am seeking your support for this position.

In the coming years, the college will face many hurdles in its effort to provide a quality education while maintaining cost control. As a small liberal arts college with a relatively low endowment, the college must seek new ways of increasing revenue while not cutting those programs which make Conn the unique institution that it is.

As a candidate for the Y.A.T. position, it is my belief that the college budget and education process at the college are the two most paramount issues that must be addressed.

It is my belief that the recent attempts at cutting the college budget will prove to be detrimental to the environment of this community which has become an important part of the college community. While most of these attempts at restructuring will in fact save money, they detract from a type of learning environment in which the students, faculty, and staff all participate. It is crucial that the trustees understand that sometimes the learning that occurs outside of the classroom can be as important as that which occurs within the classroom. Every once in a while it is prudent to reexamine the college's budget and tighten the belt, but in an effort to save money the college should not cut those services which have an adverse effect on the environment of this community.

While Conn seeks to gain national recognition, the quality of education should not be sacrificed within the classroom. This institution should be dedicated to providing students with a learning environment in which the faculty is committed to teaching. A low student to faculty ratio is not as valuable if the students are unable to access the faculty.

As a senator for the past three years, I have attempted to bring issues to the assembly which of concern of the students. It is my goal to bring that same spirit and enthusiasm to the Board of Trustees.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 437-7706.

An Open Letter to Sean Spicer

SAADYA CHEVAN
STAFF WRITER

Editor's note: In the open letter to the right, *Voice* writer Saadya Chevan alludes to a Facebook post that I made parroting the nickname "Sean Sphincter," an epithet heard across campus and read in *Voice* pages in 1993. While Saadya makes valid points about the need for accountability in journalism, I should note that I do not match his feelings of responsibility for the choices of the 1993 *Voice*. I do not look to the 1993 *Voice*'s decision to print Sean Spicer's nickname as a model of good journalism. I instead view it as evidence of what we are: student journalists.

I believe that we should strive for the highest quality reporting possible. I also believe that we are young, and we are learning, and we are human.

When the "Sean Sphincter" story broke, my reaction, before ethical concern or risk calculation, was informed by the impression that the 1993 *Voice* had given what now appears a sly nod—but was originally probably a clumsy attack—to a man who I can now state, without hesitancy, is an enemy to the press. That is not a partisan claim. Regardless of political affiliation, it is the purpose of journalists to seek the truth, and a White House Press Secretary who tells blatant lies to the press impedes that purpose at its highest operating level.

So because I find that behavior infuriating, I suppose I was less quick than Saadya to criticize the 1993 *Voice*, and because I recognize those 1993 students' humanity, I am less inclined to grow concerned over their alleged mistakes.

Have I ever had a criticism of the *Voice* of my own? Of course. I've even had my own name misspelled. Though I have never chosen to criticize the *Voice* within the publication itself, and though I find his approach unorthodox and his claims extreme, Saadya is a valued writer, and his opinion matters. In fact, his comments point to some of the planned changes I have detailed on page 2.

Saadya's letter—and the need for corrections in general—shows evidence of a key plight of journalists: our inconvenient humanity.

-Maia

Dear Mr. Spicer,

I get it, *The College Voice*'s infamous autocorrect error on your last name that managed to slip through the entire editing stage of a report on SGA was an incredibly obnoxious slight on your person. Of course the newspaper was being just as obnoxious when, in a separate article published that same semester, it alluded to the never heard of before or since position of "hosefellow" on Wright's "house council." I should note that the article mentioning Wright's "hosefellow" was most controversial for its erroneous claim that a student elected by the house to manage its funds had been removed from office.

The *Voice* of Spring 1993 contained many similarly embarrassing articles that featured errors and/or reporting that violated the high principles of objectivity and integrity for which our paper stands (the paper also did contain several other equally or occasionally more nasty letters to the editor). I suppose by writing a letter to the editor in response to an autocorrect mistake that allowed your last name to be published as "Sphincter" (did you know I nearly had my own contribution to this tradition when I misspelled someone's last name in a draft of my first article for the *Voice*), you saw yourself as defending everyone whom the *Voice* had wronged.

But whatever your reasons for drafting a letter, you were right to submit it. The misspelling was a serious slight that the *Voice* made against you in 1993 during a semester when the *Voice* made many significantly more serious mistakes. Recent events indicate that the *Voice* continues to suffer from editorial mistakes. A post on the *Voice*'s Facebook page from two weeks ago, for example, invited writers who "have something to say to Sean Sphincter" to come to a staff meeting. This post was much more egregious than the 1993 typo itself because the post implied that our editors could let a mistake slip through if it happens to conveniently advance their personal views. If the *Voice*

condones errors for political purposes, we are indeed an organization that does not always practice what it preaches.

Your letter came at a time when the *Voice* made many mistakes, so we should not be quick to judge your arguments as being completely invalid. However, the apparent link between the letter as well as other letters that appeared in the *Voice* at the time, and your behavior before the national press over the past six months is very striking. As I have said before, I do not think it was right for the *Voice* to refer to its own mistake, but I realize that you have exposed yourself in such a way that many of your actions can easily be poked fun at.

There were many other ways for the *Voice* to make a Facebook post about the mark you left on Conn without seeming to condone its own mistake. I found your failed campaign to become Young Alumni Trustee to be a very interesting story about your time here. You were the only candidate to mention that you had "known many trustees over the last four years." I wonder why? Admittedly, in that election, the *Voice* recommended that students vote for one of its own former publishers, but ultimately neither of you won (all facts that do not appear in your letter).

Respectfully, I worry that the way the *Voice* seemed to ignore the wrong it had committed in the past when this incident resurfaced means that it intends to become an echo chamber for continued partisanship that will do nothing to end gridlock in Washington. I am concerned that the precedent set by President Obama's reliance on executive power will result in too many of the functions of government being influenced by current presidential administrations. I worry that we could devolve into a cycle where the only real "progress" that gets made in Washington will take the form of executive orders that reverse the policy stances of previous administrations. Your loyal fellow Republican Senator Rob Portman of Ohio expressed a similar sentiment on CNN last week when he said that Congress should have been in-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Punching Pepe: Meme Magic and Ethics Regarding Free Speech

CAM NETLAND
CONTRIBUTOR

The "alt-right," a white supremacist movement that originated within extremist internet forums such as 4chan's /pol/ in 2010, has become the subject of controversy and media fanfare surrounding the 2016 presidential election and American political climate. Largely condemned by politicians, the alt-right has recently resurfaced in ethics debates after the movement's representative, Richard Spencer, was assaulted on inauguration day. The attack has forced many Americans to question the moral implications of publicly-condoned violence. Is it morally condonable to assault neo-Nazis who preach hate? Do violent words merit violent response? What would be the most entertaining song to synchronize with the punching? Why does Grandma care so much about free speech all of a sudden?

To begin, let us examine the underlying factors that prompted the punch. First off, meme culture. Richard Spencer was in fact discussing memes; more specifically, he was discussing the "Pepe" meme at the time he was punched. Pepe the Frog, considered an amusing car-

toon when it first circulated the internet in 2005, has been adopted by the alt-right and recently declared a hate symbol by the Anti-Defamation League. The controversy surrounding Pepe underscores the alt-right's controversial use of internet speech. Deep internet forums, such as those in which the alt-right gained traction, often incorporate memes to emphasize a position or encourage lulz. "Lulz" are schadenfreude-derived laughs at the misfortune of others--often enhanced through the ubiquity and influence of meme culture. Along with memes and lulz, the internet features millions of activists who are overjoyed to see bigotry punished. After the overwhelming support for the assailant was spread online, Spencer commented: "I'm afraid this is going to become the meme to end all memes. I'm going to hate watching this." He also commented on his fear of traveling without a bodyguard but has so far taken no legal action in regard to the punch.

The minority of people upset by the assault on Spencer argue that supporting violence against speech of any kind could lead to an uncanny social acceptance of violence in the future. Opponents of the punch, such as comic book writer

Nick Spencer (no relation), argue the pleasure one derives after seeing a bully get what they "deserve" should be quenched. Spencer, after all, has legal tools at his disposal to respond to the assault in court.

The argument seems to follow that punishing a bully constitutes bullying itself. Yet this doesn't hold. The hatred of Nazis does not equate to the hatred Nazis harbor for innocent people. Moreover, the violence involved in assaulting a Nazi who chooses to publicly spew his or her bigotry and hatred is comparatively pre-emptive. Whereas the Nazi spews racial hatred in order to proselytize or even incite violence toward minorities in the moment, a good samaritan who hates Nazis and assaults one does a public service by stopping the dangerous flow of racial diatribe and taking the trash off the street.

From the perspective of people concerned for the future of America, the general consensus has been: yes, it is ok to punch a Nazi. Hate begets hate. You get what's coming to you. Free speech does, and should, have its consequences.

Now, how would these activists respond if Spencer had contacted police and arrested his assailant? Could the puncher's actions be justified

from a legal standpoint? The answer is no. Spencer is within his complete jurisdiction to report and arrest anyone who has done harm to his person.

Yet what about the legality of hate speech? In many countries, a Nazi would be committing a crime by disseminating hateful ideology. In the United States, where hate speech is legal, a simple punch reveals the degree of freedom average citizen possess to distribute justice on their own.

In today's world, especially in Trump's world, we have to be especially scrupulous about how we define free speech. People may resort to violence, or other instinctual responses to dissent, more often than not in the age of Trump. While we may derive some sense of justice from watching a Nazi get socked in the face, this violence reflects a civil decorum that is spilling through the hourglass as we transition into a new political leadership. As a citizen, I condemn the actions of the person who punched Richard Spencer, but as a person I applaud it. Whether these two personas are mutually exclusive or not, in the blurred lines of Trump's America, we may lose both altogether. •

Let's Talk About Class

BY WESLEY CHRABASZ
STAFF WRITER

"How much does your family make?" As if by instinct, nearly every student at this college might immediately furrow their brow in response to such a question. "Well, that's none of your business!" Of course, such a reaction is by no means confined to the student body of Connecticut College. One would likely receive a similar response in any other part of the country. But why is it that we are often so defensive when it comes to discussing our socioeconomic status? Is it due to personal privacy? Or is it perhaps because the subject is so uncomfortable to discuss? I, for one, am of the belief that the most uncomfortable subjects are the subjects that deserve to be discussed the most.

A few weeks ago, *The New York Times* published an article titled "Some Colleges Have More Students From the Top 1 Percent Than the Bottom 60" which reported on the status of income inequality on college campuses across the United States. Based on research from the Equality of Opportunity Project, the article identified thirty-eight four-year institutions of higher education in the United States which had more students from the top 1% of income earners than from the bottom 60%. Currently, there are 3,026 four-year institutions of higher education in the United States. That means that roughly 1.3% of all four-year colleges and universities in the country report having more students from the top 1% of income earners than the bottom 60%. This portion of colleges is so incredibly small, one might wonder why I even bother to write about it. Well, you might be interested to know that Connecticut College made the list.

Of the country's 3,026 four-year colleges and universities, Connecticut College ranked twenty-second in terms of income inequality. Further, *The New York Times* ranking reported that 18% of Connecticut College students come from households that earned greater than \$630,000 annually (the top 1% of households in the United States), while only 14.8% of students come from households that earn less than \$65,000 annually (the bottom 60% of households in the United States). To put this in perspective, consider that if you were in any given course with twenty students, it would not be unlikely for four of your classmates to be millionaires.

To some students, these revelations regarding the College's near-obscene level of social stratification may be surprising. But that 14.8% of the student body from the bottom 60% of income earners has likely been aware of the College's overrepresentation of wealthy households since their first week on campus. You're probably familiar with the term "culture shock" in the context of an individual's difficulty in adjusting to the way of life in foreign countries. Well, it does not seem unfair to characterize the experience of middle class and low-income students on this campus as marked by their own degree of culture shock. Prior to my first year at Conn, I had never heard of Vineyard Vines, I had no idea what a prep school was, and I couldn't point to the Hamptons on a map. I have to admit, many of my social interactions were a bit confusing. I met people who hadn't ever done their own laundry. Some claimed to have never eaten in a

food court. And everyone had seemingly taken a trip to Europe at some point. It was clear that I had a different cultural experience growing up than many of my peers.

Beyond my cultural differences with the more affluent students at the College, over the years I began to notice how many of them were woefully ignorant of the economic realities that the less-affluent faced. For example, I once asked another Conn student what threshold they considered to be low-income in the United States. In all seriousness, they responded "Anything under \$200,000." For those of you who are unaware, the

U.S. Colleges and Universities with More Students From the Top 1% than the Bottom 60% Ranked by Ratio Between Income Groups

1. Washington University in St. Louis
2. Colorado College
3. Washington and Lee University
4. Colby College
5. Trinity College
6. Bucknell University
7. Colgate University
8. Kenyon College
9. Middlebury College
10. Tufts University
11. Lafayette College
12. Georgetown University
13. University of Notre Dame
14. Vanderbilt University
15. Elon University
16. Dartmouth College
17. Bates College
18. Hamilton College
19. Claremont McKenna College
20. Wake Forest University
21. Princeton University
- 22. Connecticut College**
23. Southern Methodist University
24. Villanova University
25. Bowdoin College
26. Duke University
27. Yale University
28. Pitzer College
29. University of Pennsylvania
30. Brown University
31. Franklin & Marshall College
32. Boston College
33. Davidson College
34. Furman University
35. Texas Christian University
36. Dickinson College
37. Muhlenberg College
38. Skidmore College

Source: The New York Times

median household income in the United States was \$55,000 in 2015.

This campus is extremely fortunate to have such spaces as the Womxn's Center, the LGBTQIA Center and Unity House for students to come together and discuss critically important issues surrounding gender, sexuality and race. The presence of such spaces and the continuation of such dialogue is not only conducive to a rigorous and intersectional education, but also invaluable in the formation of a student's worldview.

Writing this is not my way of advocating the formation of a center specifically to discuss issues regarding class, poverty and social status. However, I feel that the lack of discussion of issues regarding class, paired with the reality that so many of our students are much more affluent than the average individual, has created a campus culture shrouded in ignorance of the economic realities of the rest of the country, and, indeed, the world.

The issue of class is especially relevant today, in light of the working class movements ignited by both Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump during the 2016 U.S. Presidential election and the economic themes that both candidates' campaigns brought into the forefront of political discussion. However, I fear that within the student body of Connecticut College, there exists a dominant culture of elitism that is all-too-quick to dismiss many of these voters as "white trash" and the like. I have to wonder: when students discuss free trade agreements, minimum wage, health-care law and the like, do they realize that they are not speaking in the abstract? Or does their privileged perspective prevent them from understanding the human experience of economic violence?

I can't speak for any other students on campus, but class is certainly an identity which I feel separates my own life experiences from those of others. My family falls into the bottom 60% income bracket and has existed there for as long as I can remember. One of my immediate family members received unemployment benefits during the most recent recession. I have tens of thousands of dollars in public and private student loans. I went to a public high school where most of my classmates went off to community college or directly into the workforce upon graduation. I once had a summer job pushing carts at the local Walmart, and--besides the limited policy that the College required me to purchase--no one in my household can afford health insurance. But perhaps the most ironic insight of all is that, even having been accepted to multiple state universities, I made my decision to attend Connecticut College primarily because their financial aid package made it the cheapest option I had. I feel no more or less comfortable sharing details about this aspect of my identity than I would any other.

So why do we not talk more about class on this campus? Why is it still considered rude to discuss one's household income or socioeconomic status? Many of our students are more than happy to share their experiences regarding race, gender and sexuality. So what's so taboo about sharing our experiences regarding class?

I don't pretend to know the solution to these problems on our campus, but it couldn't hurt to commit at least some of our intellectual effort toward understanding the perspectives of middle-class and low-income students on campus. Or, of course, we can choose to take our ranking in the top 1.3% of U.S. colleges and universities in terms of income inequality and wear it with pride. •

The Mouth of a Shark

AMIAN SU KHANAL
CONTRIBUTOR

no one leaves home unless
home is the mouth of a shark.

you only run for the border
when you see the whole city
running as well.

-Warsan Shire, "Home"

Keeping the nation's population safe is the utmost duty of any state leader. However, the steps adopted by President Trump to ensure Americans' safety are not only unconstitutional but also dangerous in the long term. After Trump's Jan. 27 executive order banning immigration from seven majority-Muslim countries, hundreds of Muslim Americans--permanent residents and citizens alike--were held in airports nationwide. In some cases, permanent residents were deported. This act is unconstitutional since sections 212 and 237 of the Immigration and Nationality Act state that a permanent resident has the right to live permanently in the U.S., provided they have not committed any major crime. Therefore, what TSA did nationwide, last week, was unconstitutional.

According to President Trump, the West is the greatest enemy of Muslim extremist organizations such as ISIS, Al Qaeda, Taliban etc. However, said terrorist organizations do not just abhor Christians, but anyone with a set of ideology that does not comply or align with their set of radical beliefs, including other Muslims in the region. Based on the statistics listed at the beginning of the article, it can be inferred

that no one is more hurt by these terrorists than the Muslims in the Middle East; no one is more adversely affected by their barbaric agenda than everyday Muslims in Syria, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Yemen and Somalia, and no one wants to see these radical terrorist groups defeated more than Muslims.

Civilians of these nations are drained, tired of having to live under conditions where getting raped by a gang of men is--at this point--disturbingly routine. It is disheartening to comprehend that people live under such dire conditions where each day is a

Americans harmed/killed by refugees from countries included in President Trump's ban list:

0

Chances of a U.S citizen/resident dying in an attack by a foreign-born terrorist:

0.00003%

Yearly deaths caused by traffic accidents:

37,000

Americans killed yearly by Muslim extremists since 9/11:

9

Iraqi/ Syrian civilians killed by Muslim extremists in the past year:

250,000

Source: CNN

bag full of unpredictabilities. It is unfair and unjust that these people have to live under such tyranny. More disheartening is the demonization of refugees from these countries as they try to save their lives by relocating. As Warsan Shire puts it in her poem "Home:" "no one puts their children in a boat unless the water is safer than the land."

As the so-called most charitable people in the world, and as a nation that reintroduced liberating ideas like those of the free market and democracy to the modern world, it is our utmost duty to help the helpless. It is our utmost duty as a leading nation of the free world to help these refugees who have seen

far more cruelty from life than one needs to see. It is our utmost duty to defeat Islamic extremism; but vilifying the everyday Muslim is not the way to victory, only to alienation and undue prejudice. Trump's immigration ban vilifies the average Muslim by equating him/her with terrorism and this practice will not help us defeat ISIS. Continuing with this tactic will only further terrorist agendas and solidify their first principle of indoctrination: "the West is evil, the West dislikes you; therefore, you should join our cause." In the long term, the continuation of this line of thought and policy will only further the reach of dangerous radicalism and we will not be able to defeat this evil entity.

If we can discern the difference between moderate Christians and Westboro churchgoers, then we must be able to differentiate an everyday Muslim from a member of ISIS. When we accomplish this, then we will be a step closer to defeating Islamic terrorism. It should be the whole world against radical terrorism and Islamic extremism, not the whole world against Islam--and yes, there is a major difference.

On the other hand, I believe that vetting is an absolute necessity for ensuring the safety of America, but the vetting process should be made smoother and more organized. Subsequently, banning an entire flock of immigrants from majority-Muslim countries looks more like a "Muslim ban" than "thoughtful foreign policy". It is indubitable that religious extremism in any form is lethal. Undoubtedly Islamic extremism is a salient issue and a major point of concern for the whole world. Yet the world is not just the West, and more than anyone else, Islamic extremists threaten the everyday Muslim living in the Middle East. These extremists target their own people for not following in the footsteps of their radical religious beliefs. Therefore, as leaders of the free world, the United States and its citizens bear a significant responsibility in providing safety for the refugees. We must help refugees affected by radical Islam in the Middle East. Humanity must prevail over the barbarism proposed by the extremists. •

Letter to Spicer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

volved in the executive order halting entries of refugees and citizens of certain nations.

Despite our occasional mistakes, I still strongly believe in the overall ability of the *Voice* to report campus news accurately and fairly. I have been writing in the *Voice* for over three semesters now and I have seen many highs and lows. I continue to support and believe in the *Voice's* overall mission to inform the student body even if I have occasional disagreements with its editorial decisions. Two weeks ago our sister New London newspaper, *The Day* (which also produces the copies of our print edition), wrote an editorial acknowledging the reality that journalists do not always execute the duties of their profession faithfully, which I recommend that you read. *The Day* claimed: "Serious journalism is an imperfect art practiced by skeptical idealists and admitted obsessives. They never have all the answers." If we can agree to acknowledge our mistakes, then our readers must accept that we always strive with integrity to provide the best information we can on issues facing our campus and lives, a promise that should also be held by the White House Press Office.

When we make these mistakes, we risk letting our readers believe that journalists cannot ever write in an objective manner. Even a single Facebook post, such as the *Voice's*, can be used by writers disseminating fake news as evidence that their unfactual articles constitute a public service. I am most worried, however, by mistakes that occur without editorial accountability. I have been concerned about how, in recent semesters, we have made very few attempts to make our corrections process transparent to readers. This has given the impression to the community that we are unconcerned about our mistakes. I am happy to report that our new editor-in-chief has pledged to make the *Voice* more accountable this semester,

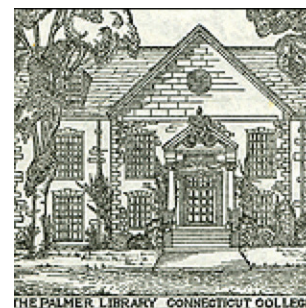
which I hope will allow the campus to place more trust in us.

In closing, I would draw your attention to comments Professor William Frasure made in an article recently published by the College about you. Specifically, he stated: "The most important journalists in America will be sitting before him every day. Aside from Trump's, his will be one of the most listened-to voices in the country." I think that Professor Frasure assumed you would be doing your job with the highest integrity, the same integrity that college and professional journalists aim to practice every time we write for and publish an issue. Professor Frasure is right to call you a "great talker," but can you do more than just talk?

Thank you for taking the time to read my attempt to acknowledge the wrongs that this newspaper has committed against you. I hope that we can both agree to act with integrity and transparency about our mistakes as we try to get the facts correct in our respective jobs. In particular, I personally expect you to be honest in the statements you will release in response to petitions I and others signed on the White House website calling for the release of President Donald J. Trump's tax returns and his divestment of assets in a blind trust. These two petitions are the only ones to have received over 100,000 signatures, which means that you have to respond to them. Hey, it's better than explaining why an extraordinarily low number of Syrian refugees are allowed to enter this country or why only a "medieval maniac" (in the words of Charlie Chaplin) would categorize Black Lives Matter as a terrorist organization! Since the petitions were posted on Jan. 20, and the White House has promised you will respond within ninety

days of their posting, I look forward to seeing what you have to say about them on April 20. After all, I hope you will prove yourself to be a more responsible Press Secretary than the ones Barack Obama appointed, who always seemed to be late responding to their White House petitions. •

Announcing two prizes sponsored by the Friends of the Connecticut College Library



\$500 Scholarship

A scholarship award to help pay for a graduate degree program in Library Science or Archival Studies. To be considered for this award, please submit a personal statement of approximately 250 words and a résumé outlining your experience and career goals in libraries or archives by March 3. Contact Ben Panciera at x2654 or email bpancier@conncoll.edu.

\$500 Library Research Prize

Awarded to the best example of research conducted using library resources (print or electronic). For guidelines and a link to the application, please visit <http://conncoll.libguides.com/libprize> or email LibPrize@conncoll.edu for more information. Applications must be completed by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, February 12.

A Spastic, Entertaining Cry for Freedom: SITI's Woolf-Based "Room"

JENNIFER SKOGLUND
PERSPECTIVES EDITOR

A one-woman act of madness, inspiration and femininity came to Conn's Palmer Auditorium on Feb. 3: "Room," directed by Anne Bogart and starring Ellen Lauren. Conceived of by SITI Company, "an ensemble-based theater company committed to providing a gymnasium-for-the-soul," "Room" consists of Lauren as writer Virginia Woolf delivering excerpts from Woolf's various epistolary efforts and essays. I consider it a stab at broaching the modern relevance of Woolf's convictions through theatrical application, if you will. The result? Funny, poignant, a bit obstreperous; altogether, "Room" is an interesting call to arms for women's autonomy and intellectual freedom.

The performance opens with a startling confession: "It is true, I am a woman," Virginia declares. She reads from "A Room of One's Own," emphasizing the importance of having "room to move...to breathe...to imagine." She speaks of the impossibility of knowing a human being or knowing to what a life amounts. She uses the beautifully descriptive imagery of *The Waves* to illustrate the cyclical nature of time. "All life and reality really is," says Virginia sagely, "is memory." A wise woman, huh?

Her existential musings are as jarring as they are funny. "Am I alone in my egotism when I say that never does the pale light of dawn filter through the blinds of 72 Tavistock square," she recalls from her Self Portrait, "but I open my eyes and exclaim, 'Good God! Here I am again!' – not always with pleasure, often with pain; sometimes with an

acute spasm of disgust – but always with interest."

I'm sure this sounds highly profound so far. Still, you might be wondering how I sat through 90 minutes of a grown woman flailing around on stage while lecturing on how to read a book. Lauren as Virginia managed to keep my admittedly goldfish-like attention with vigor and youthful animation; in-

that help illustrate her message as well as the dangers of alcoholism. Whether during instances when her jutting, muscularly spasmic movements match sharp, shocking piano notes or when her smooth, rolling motions meet with soothing timbre, the choreography is ceaselessly entertaining. At one point, Virginia lies on stage and almost swims in place with a surreal smoothness, as



Photo courtesy of Chast Amney/SITI Company

whisper to her to extinguish her mental curiosity.

Virginia's confession to homicide is only our foray into the horrors of existence she sketches. The music builds to a piercing, Hitchcock-like accompaniment as she confesses to having been "afraid of her own body," before telling a story of childhood sexual abuse. Yet she refuses to stay silent just because the topic is "unpleasant."

"We are all women here," she says solemnly, "let us admit that these things happen."

For Woolf, the erratic and sometimes unjustly horrifying nature of reality forges two types of "being," being and non-being. Only by fully embracing being do we experience the shock of creative inspiration, a force which drives us to leave our mark, however small, in this cold, uncaring void of a universe. Virginia's appreciation for being and creative literary expression builds to a crescendo of rapturous delight as she rolls around on

the ground shrieking in ecstasy. The performance concludes with a shockingly calm explication of Modernist principles of artistic experimentation. Virginia dares us to challenge forms, to overflow where structure has not yet accounted for our creative powers.

While she sometimes borders on the manic, I liked Ellen Lauren as the Big Bad Woolf. For modern readers, Virginia's message, if the somewhat incoherent dramatized composition of the letters could be said to have such a thing, is thus: autonomy--having a mind of one's own--is the only way to live freely in our erratic reality. •

deed, it was the energy of her performance that kept me stirring. Just when her stern advice starts to become too somnolently self-indulgent and pedantic, Virginia switches trains of thought and explodes with energy, leaping around the stage in an ecstasy of histrionic delight. With the way the stage lights cast her dancing shadow on every wall, the performance is almost acrobatic. But what truly kept my interest throughout the show was a combination of the wonderful musical accompaniment and Virginia's bizarre physical movements. Our heroine's gyrations and writhings synchronize to a musical number

if she were a moulting insect.

All of this entertaining staging couches a lecture--if it can be called a lecture--on artistic integrity and the necessity of free thinking which is anything but boring. The blown-up shadow of Virginia's silhouette bounces across the walls as she confesses to murder. "I killed the angel in the house," she declares. She has killed the ideal picture of domestic docility, the silent and mindless woman she was supposed to be. "It was self-defense," she explains, that moved her to murder. She feels shad no other choice when she felt the clammy, lifeless "hand of the angel at her throat" and heard it

Refugee Crisis Education Efforts Continue with *Salam Neighbor*

SHATRUNJAY MALL
BUSINESS MANAGER

Cummings Arts Center's Evans Hall screened the 2016 documentary *Salam Neighbor* on Feb. 4. *Salam Neighbor* features Chris Temple and Zach Ingrassci, two American filmmakers who lived among 85,000 Syrian refugees at the Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan for a month. The film focuses on the lives of refugees, whose stories get lost amid the torrent of news headlines. It is thus a highly moving film that shows the everyday struggles of individuals who have had to leave their homes and, in many cases, family members, because of the internecine conflict of the Syrian Civil War. The film shows us that due to this conflict, many people have lost loved ones and are struggling to rebuild their existences. Despite the hardship they experience, many of the individuals and families featured show resilience

in the face of immense turmoil and difficulty.

The screening was free and open to the public, but attendees were given the opportunity to make donations supporting refugee families escaping conflicts in the Middle East to settle in the New London area. The event featured a discussion and question and answer session following the screening and was sponsored by Connecticut College's Committee on Refugee Relief and Education and Start Fresh, a local non-profit refugee resettlement team. Not only did the screening and discussion of *Salam Neighbor* provide the Conn community with an easy opportunity to learn about the harsh circumstances that thousands of people worldwide face daily, but it also helped connect Conn students to local residents and organizing efforts. •

Longhorn Steakhouse

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

to “play matchmaker with perfect pairings” appeals to the romantic in all of us. While Longhorn may be a bit pricey for the average college student, it’s the perfect location for a third date. If you and your special someone want to split an appetizer but want to avoid onion breath, steer clear of the Texas T’On-ion. Instead, opt for the Sweet Corn Fritters, served with a red chili ranch dipping sauce. Light, crisp and delectable, these fritters function as the perfect palate cleanser between the complimentary bread and butter and the Buttermilk Fried Chicken Tender Salad—a dish that amounts to being just a few pieces of chicken sitting on a bed of limp greens.

For the non-carnivorous patrons, Longhorn Steakhouse offers a wide variety of vegetarian side-dishes. Family favorites such as french fries, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes and broccoli offer a flavor to the menu that is lacking in the meat-based dishes (of which there are many). It’s a simple



*The long horns of Longhorn
Photos courtesy of Max Amar-Olkus*



Sweet Corn Fritters

touch, but a nonetheless appreciated one.

There are no wine tastings to be found here, but the bar at Longhorn rivals that of even the most high-end casinos. If you’re over 21, you can (and should) try a delectable strawberry margarita served with a rock candy stirrer. The tragic closure of Captain Buck’s Tiki Bar and Grill has left many students lost and seeking a

place to go on the weekends. If you are in this position, look no further--experienced bartenders at Longhorn supply you with the experience Tiki wishes it could have given you. For those under 21, bottomless refills on your favorite soft drinks will help to wash down the countless calories that you’re likely to consume.

When the time comes to order a main course at

Longhorn, customers may be slightly overwhelmed by the sheer variety of meat options. Fear not, however, as it is very hard to go wrong here. Be it the Bourbon-glazed Salmon served on a bed of rice, or the simpler but no less decadent Cowboy Pork Chops, each and

every choice is a delight to the senses. After perusing the lunch menu for several minutes, John ultimately decided on the Steak & Bacon Cheddar Melt, served with a side of fries, paired well with a tall glass of water which was refilled so often, it was as if the waitress heard a cry for help whenever it was empty. Max’s

\$8.99 Burger combo came with a small Caesar salad that tasted as if it had been made three days prior. The wilted greens were encrusted in a veneer of day-old dressing. The burger, while large and cooked properly, was succinctly described by Max as “kind of ass.” Unfortunately, we were unable to save room for dessert, but if we had the choice, the “Chocolate Stampede” which weighs in at a modest 2,430 calories, looked like a delightful mix of sweet and savory.

After we left, we continued to be puzzled by the beautiful contradiction that is Longhorn Steakhouse. The decor and overall am-



Max and John enjoy their meals



Max peruses the menu

bience paint a picture of the old American West, but one look at the clientele tells a vastly different story. The Longhorn Steakhouse in Crystal Mall Plaza is a special place, a place that welcomes people from all walks of life. Regardless of political affiliation, race, creed, religion or stance on the music of Brad Paisley, Longhorn unites everyone by tapping into one of the most fundamental human urges: the desire to eat unthinkable amounts of beef. •

Painting with a Camera: A Visit to Lyman Allyn

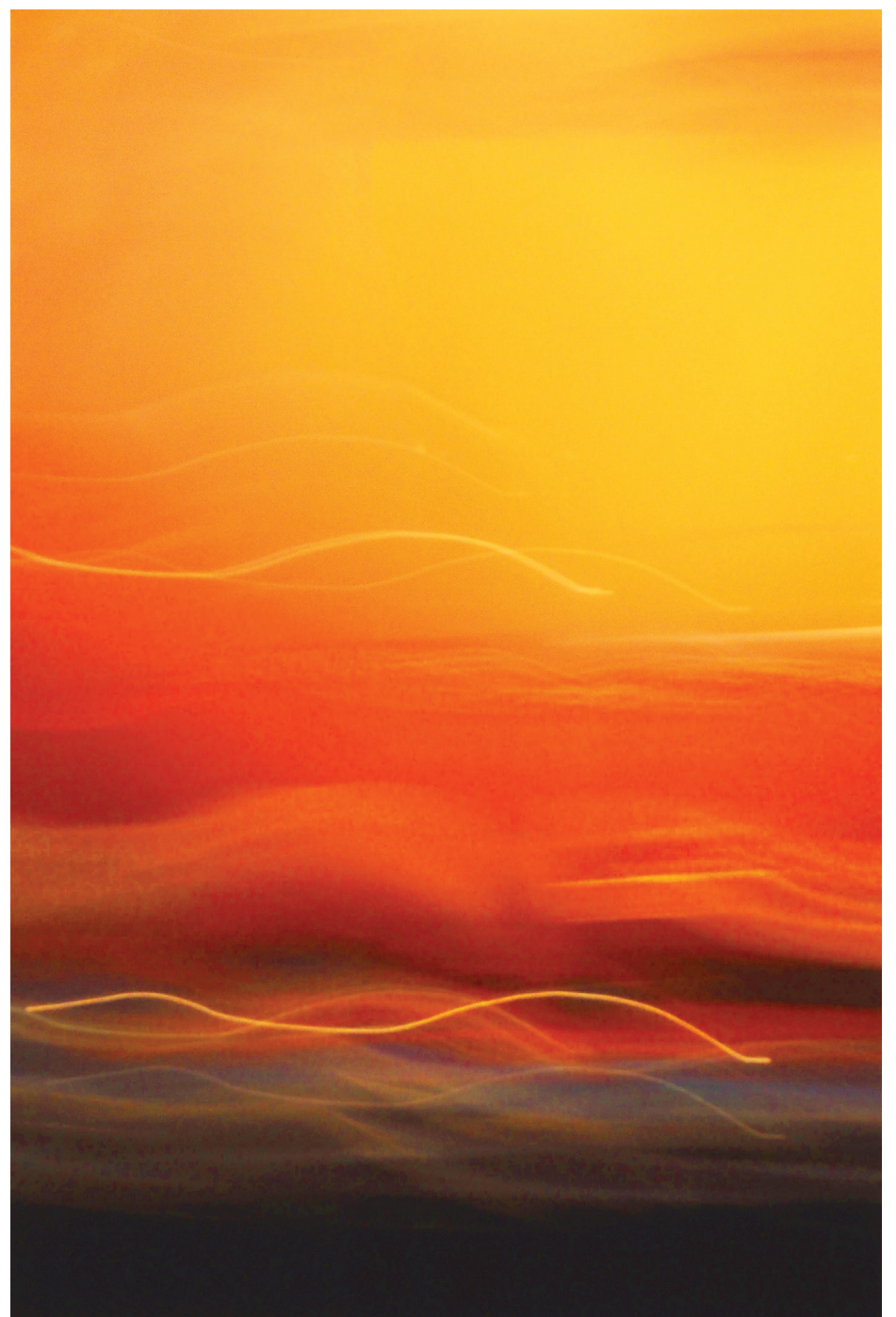
SOPHIA ANGELE-KUEHN
CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Blurry photographs are the bane of day-to-day snapshots, but the unclear, large-scale photos of Peter Daitch on display at the Lyman Allyn Art Museum could be mistaken as the latest pieces of modern art. The exhibit is titled Peter Daitch – Photographs: Landscapes, Abstracts & Urban Scenes and will run until April 2, 2017 in the Glassenberg Gallery. It showcases digital photographs taken mostly in New England locations like Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut, yet there are a couple from Aspen Valley, Colorado as well. As familiar as the locations may seem, the photographs are unfamiliar and thought-provoking.

Besides including a few traditionally sharp shots of foggy cityscapes, Peter Daitch employs ideas of expressionism and abstract artwork using the camera as his only tool. For those unfamiliar with expressionism, it can be best defined by the iconic early 20th century painting “The Scream” by Edvard Munch with its striking undulating lines. Daitch’s artistic photography, however, is more streamlined and technological—a bafflingly simple yet skillful grasp of camera techniques that combine long exposures and a swooping motion of the camera lens to create something new.

Sam Quigley, the Director of the Lyman Allyn Art Museum eloquently puts it, “His expert eye and engaging empathy for his subjects draw us into a world that is familiar yet newly presented in fascinating moments. These abstract and artfully rendered photographs inspire us to view our surroundings with new appreciation and humility, and to open ourselves to alternate perceptions of the world around us.” Today’s flawless vistas of sunset-backed mountains and sunny beaches have become so common that they have lost artistic attraction and cause for contemplation. Daitch’s work forces the eye to hunt through each curve and take a guess about the original subject matter. The realistic details have been erased, leaving only the light, colors, and composition being conveyed. The mundane has been updated and revamped, and art has come back into photography.

Daitch’s interest in photography began with an attraction toward dynamics. When he was young, Daitch tried capturing his friends’ professional-looking skateboard poses, and in late high school he enjoyed venturing into Boston’s ballet studios to photograph dancers’ strong movements. In this way, his work attempts to infuse 3D motion into a rigid 2D form to move observers in conjunction with his subjects. He received a BFA in photography from the University of Bridgeport in 1985 and only recently has focused on expressing abstract and expressionistic landscapes through images. Apart from typical art forms like drawing and sculpture, the photographer records a specific existing moment in time from one unique viewpoint. Peter Daitch has shown that gallery worthy art can spring from local nature scenes with the help of a perceptive eye and a camera. •



Women’s March and Inauguration: *A Voice* Photo Comparison

*Women’s March in Boston
Photos courtesy of Anna Rubin*



*Inauguration of the 45th President of the United States in Washington, DC
Photos courtesy of Amiansu Khanal*

