Conn listed as one of friendliest LGBTQ Schools

DANA SORKIN  MANAGING EDITOR

For the second year in a row, Campus Pride and the Huffington Post have ranked Connecticut College as one of the most LGBTQ-friendly schools in the country. This distinction, which puts us in an exclusive group of colleges and universities from around the nation, comes after years of hard work from students, faculty and staff. According to Campus Pride's website, in order to be deemed one of the most LGBTQ-friendly schools, colleges must adhere to eight different areas of campus life. These areas include: LGBTQ policy inclusion, support and institutional commitment, academic life, student life and housing, among others.

This year, Connecticut College received five out of five stars in five areas, and four and a half stars out of five in the remaining three. What sets apart these schools from the schools that did not make this year's list, as well as Connecticut College from many of our peer institutions, is the inclusion of institutional policies that protect and enhance the quality of life of the transgender community on college campuses.

This year marks the implementation of one of the final policies needed to completely ensure that transgender students are protected academically, socially and now, medically; the student health care plan will now cover many of the medical expenses a transitioning person may need. The new health plan comes as the result of many policy changes, including gender neutral housing, gender neutral bathrooms and the ability for students to have their preferred name be consistent throughout much of the College's documentation.

Associate Professor of History and Director of the LGBTQ Resource Center Jen Manion discussed the history of these policies, citing former Dean of the College Armando Bengochea as instrumental in creating one of the most important academic buildings on campus more accessible to the transgender community.

Even some of the most seemingly radical colleges and universities in the country still fall behind in creating and implementing policies aimed at making inclusive environments and holding discussions concerning the needs of transgender students.

Today, five years later, Manion leads "mandatory training for all new faculty" on issues pertaining to the transgender community, and many of the already tenured faculty have also come forward to be trained as well. Jae Majors '15, one of the students who worked towards these monumental changes, also cited training for many student leaders on campus, such as Floor Governors and Housefellows, variety team captains and members of the ALANA (African American, Latino/a, Asian American and Native American) Sisters and Brothers program.

Identifying the policies that needed to be changed and encouraging the administration to change them was not always easy, but help came from members from all over the campus community. Manion named Catharine Moffett, Director of Student Health Services, as being one of the people most heavily involved in identifying possible new health plans and ensuring one that worked well for the College was offered to students. Moffett was unable to be reached for comment.

Both Manion and Majors discussed the challenges that come with being such a small school and fighting for something as large as a new health care policy, "but," said Majors, "just because we’re small doesn’t mean we can’t have it." Manion said that changes were made when "individual trans students [brought their concerns] to the administration," and Majors said that as the transgender community continues to grow, these are changes that "[make] a huge difference in how somebody works and enjoys their college experience.

During his first year, Majors helped lead the takeover of Fanning that led to the addition of a gender-neutral bathroom on the second floor. Though there was some resistance from some faculty members who had their offices in Fanning, eventually the bathroom was made gender-neutral, making one of the most important academic buildings on campus more accessible to the transgender community.

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Assuming Privilege:
Unpacking socioeconomic microaggressions on campus

Dakota Peschel  OPINIONS EDITOR

Money is dirty; it is improper and impolite to discuss your finances with your acquaintances or even those close to you in our culture. Why is this? We live in a capitalistic society in which we constantly consume products in order to showcase our financial successes. This cultural taboo is very present on our campus. Even though we claim to be progressive, we still have trouble discussing issues pertaining to students' socioeconomic classes and how this impacts their experience on campus.

Connecticut College was recently on a list of schools that The New York Times deemed "economically diverse." Conn's website states that the comprehensive fee is $60,895 for the current academic year, and the average financial aid award is $37,300. 57 percent of students are receiving some form of financial aid. Considering the astronomical fee one pays to attend a private college or university in our current era, it is not surprising that many students cannot afford to pay the sticker price.

Yes, Conn has made great strides in allowing students with more diverse socioeconomic backgrounds have access to a top-notch education through financial aid, but how does money (or the lack thereof) impact individual students' lives on campus? Many often forget that money is an issue for more than half of the student body who are on financial aid in some form or another (the extent of which obviously varies depending on each student's unique situation). We are not all on an equal financial playing field simply because we are enrolled at the same institution, and many forget this fact because of the relative invisibility of class.

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The Moral Questions of Police Body Cameras and the Ferguson Protests

Two First-Year Students Offer Their Initial Impressions of Conn

Player Profiles: Livi Block '18 and Zach Punt '15

Review of Connecticut College Bands at Eighth Annual 1 AM Music Festival
Concerning your voice on campus

This is not a plug to get you to write for us, let me just start there. While I hope that what I have to say in this opening editorial (one that I have been panicking about for three months) will be of interest to someone, somewhere, I don’t intend to put any pressure on anyone to come to meetings, eat free food, talk about contentious campus issues in an accepting community of writers and thinkers or learn how to fix dangling modifiers with our copyediting staff. No, this is not a plug. Not in the least.

On a more serious note, self-advertising is not the intention of this editorial. Rather, this is a call to action. That phrase always manages to sound more self-important than I would like it to, but for now it is the only one that can convey the weight of meaning I’m trying to convey.

Above all, this newspaper wants to serve as an opportunity for our community to engage in thoughtful conversation. No, I don’t mean the conversations that are gathering steam and followers on sites like Yik Yak and ConnColl Confessional. Based on a recent skim through many pages of often offensive and non-constructive verbal abuse, it is clear that an overwhelming percentage of students have strong feelings about any number of things happening on and off campus. It is rather impressive how the shield of anonymity amplifies opinion and manufactures a sense of solidarity, despite not knowing with whom you are aligned. Opinions are great; their presence generally indicates that thoughts are happening. But how effective can those aggressively typed, nameless opinions be if no one is claiming agency over their own ideas? At last week’s Teach-In, “Why does Ferguson matter?” there were 400 people crammed into the 1941 room. This means to me, that there are at least 400 people that have something to say.

As of now it is three in the morning as Head Designer Annie Rusk and I are getting ready to send in this issue to final print. It is surreal to realize that this newspaper can be whatever it is that people care to make it. After 13 hours in our new office debating over issues as large as general content and the significance of titles, to the differences between Baskerville and Minion fonts, it is more and more evident that it takes a small village (or at least a dedicated staff) to put this paper together. But it wouldn’t mean a thing without students willing to take responsibility for their ideas and voices to inspire positive and meaningful change.

-Ayla
No Pain No Shain: The Hunt for a new study space

SHATRUNJAY MALL
CONTRIBUTOR

New London Hall, traditionally a favorite for those looking for a more off-beat location to study, has become one of the hottest study spaces on campus. Now with the library off-limits because of its renovation "New Lo," as it is popularly referred to in college jargon, has become a hub of activity, much to the chagrin of veterans of the place, who have long enjoyed the modern façade and general quiet of the academic building. A newly made friend, who I have frequently seen at New Lo from last semester, relates to me how difficult it has become to catch spots in the building since the semester began. He jokes, how he wish he could put up a placard to reserve a desk for himself.

I was keen to get a more varied view of the situation, from the first years. I met a group of them on the third floor of New London Hall and asked them how it feels to not have a fully functioning library. One of them talked about how he especially loves New London Hall for studying and how he cannot really talk about the library, since he has never experienced having one on campus. Another talked about the difficulty of studying in his room or most of the dorms on Thursday and Saturday nights. They were unanimous that, to put it mildly, it is not ideal, or, to put it more bluntly as one of them said, "it kinda sucks."

The functions of the library have been spread all across campus, so that now the Neff Computer Lab and the IT Service Desk are in the Plex, and the reference desk is in Blaustein. Blaustein has been billed by the college as the next best thing, an alternate of sorts, to Shain for the year. Desks have been lined up along the hallway of the first floor of the building. The college has allocated the classrooms on the floors above as perfect substitutes for the quiet rooms on second and third floors of the library. And yet, the very basic functions of the library are fulfilled. Books on reserve are accessed with the same ease as before, and interlibrary loan and other such services that the library offers appear to be running pretty smoothly. The printers continue to operate with as much ease or as much difficulty (depending on how it works for you) as they did earlier.

Blaustein however is not quite the perfect substitute for Shain. Students sitting at the desks on the first floor complain of the constant stream of people through the day at this usually bustling building. This can be a minor disturbance for some, but a breaking point for others.

Most of the classrooms in the building are virtually inaccessible for class hours during the weekdays. This contrasts the library, which was a quiet getaway for study at any time of the day or the week.

Students express a variety of opinions on the renovation work, which often wakes them up in the mornings. Those living in close proximity to the Shain construction site complain about the noise generated by the construction work, which often wakes them up in the mornings. There are also students who consider the entire library renovation superficial and unnecessary, expressing their satisfaction with the library the way it was.

The renovation is, however, also encouraging people to search for creative solutions to the lack of study space. A friend of mine has been spending a lot of time studying at the Hillel House, the newest building on campus. When I asked her how she feels about studying there, she was enthusiastic. The Hillel House has a very homely feel with its kitchen and other such rooms. It reminds her of her high school days when she would study at home. This provides a contrast to what she considers the impersonal feel of a big library or dorm room.

One thing is certain—the library renovation is having a toll on the study lives of at least some students. The college has come up with a catchy slogan to convince us about the necessity of the library renovation—"No Pain No Shain". Some agree, others not so much and others still not at all. The tragedy is that seniors this year will never experience a renovated Shain library, a feeling put most succinctly by a Facebook comment I came across "Only Pain No Shain". Time will tell whether the trouble of not having a library for an entire academic year is worth a rebuilt and supposedly modernized Shain Library.
Conn listed as one of friendliest LGBTQ Schools

Administrative progress sets Conn apart

DANA SORKIN
MANAGING EDITOR

for transgender students. Mount Holyoke College, an all-women's school in
South Hadley, Massachusetts, made waves early in the semester when Pres-
ident Lynn Pasquerella gave her convocation speech outlining Mount Holy-
oke's decision to change admissions policies to include transgender women.

"We need a formal policy," President Pasquerella said, before adding, "we
recognize that what we want to do is to be a woman is not static."

Only 20 minutes away, Smith College, one of Mount Holyoke's fellow Seven Sisters schools, is currently going through an internal struggle of policy changes concerning the admittance of transgender women to their institution.

In 2013, Smith's policies created nationwide controversy for denying high school student Calliope Wong admission because certain federal forms still listed her as "male."

On Campus Pride's 2013 list of the most LGBTQ-friendly schools, Conn was the only NESCAC school listed. This year we were joined by Amherst College. Besides Amherst, Manion said Williams College is known for hav-
ing good policies set in place for LGBTQ students, but in the crucial area of student life, it is clear that Connecticut College takes the lead.

In defining the success of the changes, Manion said it "depends on how you view change"—is success creating institutional changes, or social and cultural changes? Majors commented on a steady improvement over the years that he has attended Conn, including many professors "integrating more LGBTQ material into the coursework."

There are, however, still things that need to be fixed. New London Hall, one of the College's newest buildings, doesn't have the gender-neutral bathrooms that Majors and other students fought so hard for in Fanning. According to Manion, however, "structurally and policy wise, Conn is very progress-
ive." As the transgender community grows on campus, the LGBTQ Center continues to put on programming aimed at creating an inclusive experience.

As a coordinator in the LGBTQ Center, Majors has been organizing a gen-
der talk discussion group aimed at transgender and gender non-conforming students (they meet in the LGBTQ Center from 4:30-5:30 p.m. every other Thursday).

Weber, however, warns this ini-
tiative could also have a dark side.

"Clearly, there are times when citizens have an expectation of privacy that could potentially be violated by a police officer's use of a body-worn camera," says White. "The interview of a child, the inter-
view of a sexual assault victim, for example...Perhaps a police officer is talking to a confidential infor-
man or someone else trying to get information on criminal activity. When that encounter is recorded, it becomes, in many places, a public document that can be requested by the police or by some other party in a per-
sonal capacity."

By signing up to join the force, an officer is essentially surren-
dering all right to privacy during working hours. If he or she makes a joke about a co-worker, a re-
mark about a case, an unfounded theory or a hateful comment, they could quickly be fired, suspend-
ed or sued—which encroaches, in the minds of some, on the First Amendment's right to free speech.

Whatever the ultimate effect is of these cameras, it comes too little, too late. The circumstanc-
es surrounding Michael Brown's death remain unanswered. Darren Wilson has been suspen-
ded with pay, and there are no signs of any formal charges being filed. As the city continues to experience turmoil, across the country discus-
sions are taking place, as more and more people are realizing the need to address the issues brought to light as a result of the tragedy in Ferguson.
Complications in Israel Progress

SARAH ROSE GRUSZECKI
CONTRIBUTOR

This week the United States took a strong opposing stance in response to Israel's decision to appropriate approximately 1,000 acres of land in the West Bank. The U.S. State Department evaluated the decision as "deeply concerning," immediately urging Israel to reverse its controversial territorial claim. It was reported that the Secretary General announced earlier this week that "the seizure of such a large swath of land risks paving the way for further settlement activity, which—as the United Nations has reiterates on many occasions—is illegal under international law and runs totally contrary to the pursuit of a two-state solution."

According to the Israel Radio, this initiative was a response to the kidnapping and killing of three Jewish teens captured by members of Hamas in early June. The incident propelled the Israeli Defense Forces to initiate "Operation Protective Edge," a mission targeting the Gaza strip and Hamas militants and leaders in the area. Despite multiple attempts at ceasefire, the violence has continued to progress throughout the summer for over 50 consecutive days and has resulted in an ever-growing death toll. The number of confirmed deaths now exceeds 2,000 casualties in Gaza and 68 in Israel along with the destruction of over 11,000 homes.

The United States is not the only nation opposing Israel's recent decision. The European Union does not approve of Israel's actions and, in a recent public statement claimed, "We condemn the new appropriation of land in the West Bank, relating to plans for further settlement expansion, announced by the Israeli government on Sunday... The EU reiterates that it will not recognize any changes to the pre-1967 borders, including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties... At this delicate moment, any action that might undermine stability and the prospect of constructive negotiations following the ceasefire in Gaza should be avoided."

"At this delicate moment, any action that might undermine stability and the prospect of constructive negotiations following the ceasefire in Gaza should be avoided."

Many Asian countries have also commented on the situation. Japan recently stated, "Japan once again strongly urges both sides to act to enhance mutual trust as well as to continue to make steady efforts for peace."

Several other nations, including Turkey and the United Kingdom, have also demonstrated urgent concern and issued similar statements.

Approximately half a million Jewish people currently reside in the West Bank region, which is similar in size to Central Park in New York City. However, the area is also home to 2.4 million Palestinian residents who argue that, considering how much territory they have already lost, the land right-ly belongs to them. Furthermore, the region holds strong religious significance for both Jews and Palestinians alike, and Palestinian authorities expressed concern that the Israeli government would attempt to implement a large Jewish settlement within the territory.

Currently, Palestine and Israel are in a ceasefire. An open-ended truce has been agreed on between Hamas and other groups attacking the Israeli region. Unfortunately, many experts concede that the peace is far from permanent. The 50-day war that occurred this summer was the third since 2008 and tensions continue to rise over territorial claims and deeply ingrained political disputes. Israel's economy and tourism regions were both exposed to significant damage, and Israel continues to face criticism from many nations over the targeting of Palestinian citizens, especially in densely populated regions. Gaza remains in a deplorable condition with many in the area lacking basic needs such as water and electricity.

Although Israel accomplished a portion of their mission in targeting hundreds of Hamas militants, the IDF predicts that thousands of rockets remain in the hands of surviving militant leaders. The nation remains under tight security restraints and continues to limit access through some of its borders. The United States may have settled for now, but only time will tell whether this peace and security will last.

Tracking the ISIS Conflict

DAN BURNS
CONTRIBUTOR

Since Obama's recent speech at the 2014 West Point commencement, ISIS (Islamic State in Iraq and Syria) has obtained enough territory, enemy splinter groups and power to convince Western leaders that the group will cause problems for years to come. The "need for a new strategy reflects the fact that today's principal threats no longer come from a committed al-Qaeda leadership," President Obama pointed out, "Instead it comes from decentralized al-Qaeda affiliates and extremities, many with agendas focused in the countries where they operate."

ISIS's origins can be traced back to the al-Qaeda affiliated group in Iraq (AQI). The Sunni group was able to heavily influence insurgency efforts in Iraq and Syria during the Fall of 2003 in Iraq coupled with the Arab Awakening. By this time, Osama bin Laden and other al-Qaeda affiliates already created a group with AQI due to their brutal killing of Sunni civilians. Around this time, AQI confronted the Islamic State of Iraq and had growing conflicts with small Sunni organizations in the region, a collective effort to create a force that was not necessarily dependent on "U.S. assets," as now they were relying on Turkey and Pakistan for aid.

In late 2014, the United States launched a military approach to fighting. A State Department official confirmed that ISIS is not "simply a terrorist organization—it is a full-fledged army." There are an estimated thirty thousand fighters in the organization. Around 12,000 of these are foreigners from over 70 countries. An estimated 100 of these foreign fighters are from the United States. ISIS has an estimated 2 billion USD in assets and is padded by the millions of dollars brought in each day through the sale of gas and oil from captured sites in Iraq and Syria. Through sales of military weapon caches, ISIS has also bought weapons, uniforms, tanks, helicopters and other military equipment from the United States, as well as using social media as a tool.

ISIS has demonstrated that it is able to effectively wield its influence. From constant threats of violence to its "caliphate" leaders, ISIS is able to control a part of Internet that is becoming more widely used by extremist organizations. The most prominent media postings that ISIS has uploaded were the beheadings of two captured American journalists. On top of generating worldwide terror, ISIS's actions have directly resulted in the migration of more than a million refugees and millions of displaced Syrian and Iraqis citizens (mostly religious and ethnic minorities) this year alone. They continue to threaten the local population through their second largest city, Mosul, and are beginning to obtain territory surrounding the Iraqi capital of Baghdad.

President Obama shows great care and concern for how he addresses the issue of ISIS, and for good reason. President Obama stated that the U.S. does not plan on deploying ground forces in the future, and instead will continue a "fretful and obstructionist" relationship with their "veteran" services in Iraq and Syria. Despite the continued threats, Obama believes that the United States should support "boots on the ground."

Since the United States must focus on creating a new plan for military action,宓 should include the deployment of American military leaders and the publication of additional air and drone strikes on Syria. Despite the nation's current frustration with ISIS, it is imperative for the United States to continue to make steady efforts to fight against this new threat. With this in mind, the U.S. stands strong in the face of ISIS. It is a threat to the United States and the world.
Assuming Privilege:
Unpacking socioeconomic microaggressions on campus

DAKOTA PESCHEL
OPINIONS EDITOR

In the beginning of my first year, it was really hard for me to adjust to the sheer amount of wealth on this campus. Let me preface this by saying that I come from a predominantly white, middle class town where many kids had their own cars, a signifier that their families were doing well. Yet, I was still uncomfortable when I began to realize that many of my peers were, in fact, fairly wealthy. I had never before seen such a vast array of luxury vehicles parked in the student parking lots and I felt inferior because of my own financial situation. As I have come to learn how to navigate this space, I understand that this is just a part of life as a student at an elite liberal arts college of a similar caliber; however, that initial culture shock was a doozy as an incoming freshman.

It was also difficult for me to digest that so many students did not work for their own spending money. Throughout high school and college, I have been working in order to cover many of my own personal expenses. In my town, working a part-time minimum wage job was fairly standard. Coming to Conn and learning that many of my peers did not work in high school was shocking, and having to work for money while others did not was strange, particularly because I was living in such close proximity with these students.

This is not to say that this is standard here on campus. Many of my peers work multiple jobs in order to afford books, snacks, transportation and other expenses that accumulate as the years progress. Having worked an off-campus job for 3 semesters (which is virtually unheard of on this campus), I can say that while I often had an abundance of spending money and was able to pay off my car loan, I was consistently stressed and often extremely sleep-deprived from trying to balance my academics, extracurriculars and jobs both on and off campus. Even though I raised having more money, I decided that ultimately my mental health was more important than being able to go out to dinner every weekend or having the option to frequently buy new clothes.

I asked other students who are in similar situations how they felt about the relative invisibility of socio-economic class on campus. They all felt that because of the cultural climate and attitude toward money that permeates our culture, they were perceived as having enough money to experience the “typical” Conn lifestyle. I was interested in knowing if they had experienced microaggressions related to money and how that perhaps shaped their lives on this campus.

One student, a white female hailing from a single-parent house-
There is a new cleaning lady in town that goes by the name of The Cleaning Camel. Are you someone who gets frustrated when you're a minute late taking your clothes out of the machine and you come to find that someone has hastily thrown your entire wardrobe on the floor? Or do you live in one of the dorms in Central or South campus where the laundry machines can only be found in the basement? Is it annoying when you are trying to do your laundry and there are no available machines because it seems like you are doing it along with the entire of your dorm? If you answered yes to any of the above questions, then today is your lucky day. For $699.99 a year you can have your dirty clothes picked up in your dorm room to be washed, dried and fold-ed. But wait, there's more. For an extra $599.99 your dry cleaning will also be taken care of.

With the ability to outsource almost everything these days, the question becomes, "Is this new laundry service a gift from the camel gods, or are we simply contributing to the already disdainful label of the 'lazy college student?'" I do. But thanks to Celniker, this is a chore that you can trust with our dirty laundry. Most of us will agree with the better know at Conn as Jeff Celniker, the entrepreneurial member of the sophomore class and the guy who we now trust with our dirty laundry. Most of us will agree with the statement that doing laundry is a tedious chore - I know I do. But thanks to Celniker, this is a chore that you can choose to no longer worry about.

According to Celniker, "You can do your laundry just like you can walk into downtown New London, but you're probably going to pay more for the gas to get there in your car because it is more efficient." This is a service for those who want it. If you are willing to pay, then you will. If you want to do your laundry on your own, that's fine too. This service is one that is great for athletes or students too busy with extra-curriculars.

The Cleaning Camel was considering twenty different services, the majority on Pell grants. Connecticut College is number 65. This is not a criticism. The fact that a small college like Conn even made it to the top of the list and Conn's financial aid is not based on Pell grants. Besides, we've moved up six positions from last year. We're doing well!

Enter the Cleaning Camel Laundry service.

I know you're thinking, that the college did not come up with the service, that it's not mandatory and even the ridiculous notion that it actually saves you money because your time is worth $30 an hour. I do agree that you can earn $30 an hour. I do agree because you're rich enough not to. I'm angry that you don't see this as a ridiculous concept. No one stands up and by doing the cleaning and may be a hipster, but you're rich enough not to. I'm angry that you don't see this as a ridiculous concept. No one stands up and by doing the cleaning and may be a hipster, but you're rich enough not to.

Why is this bad, though? We live in a capitalist society. This happens all around us. Why am I angry with this? Because Connecticut College is committed to the principle of diversity and you're a complete hypocrite if you believe that and think Cleaning Camel is okay.

Because the college endorsed the service, that it's not mandatory and even the ridiculous notion that it actually saves you money because your time is worth $30 an hour. I do agree that you can earn $30 an hour. I do agree because you're rich enough not to. I'm angry that you don't see this as a ridiculous concept. No one stands up and by doing the cleaning and may be a hipster, but you're rich enough not to.

Because the professors research poverty, because we are aware of the unfairness of the system. Because we know that you don't just shove as much laundry as possible into one load in order to save money, it seems that Celniker should sign me up for this service which would cost me roughly $26.00 per week. $699.99 a year.

Of course, the plug twist at the moment is that laundry is temporarily free (how long will it last unknown), so get all your laundry done now. I mean it; wash everything! So, would you rather spend three hours of your time a week doing laundry, spend $3-$6 (not including the price of detergent) while cleaning and maybe doing homework as you wait, or would you rather pay for the service to be done for you?

When I first heard about the service, I had a few concerns. First, I wasn't sure how I felt about leaving my clothes outside my room. What if someone took my bag, and with it the entirety of my closet? Celniker believes that theft will not be an issue unless someone is the exact same size as you. Of course, we also have the Honor Code. Because The Cleaning Camel is a new business, there will be some things that need to be ironed out. For instance, do you have an allergy to certain detergents? Are you a dancer whose clothes need to be washed a certain way? Celniker states that the college had no issues with the detergent, and the response to the Cleaning Camel Laundry Service, "What's next? The Camel Reading and Paper Writing Center?"

If you live in Central or South campus, you want clean linens you will still have to launder those yourself.

Past tarmarous is the main focus of The Cleaning Camel service. Students want their clothes back fast; they do not want to have to wait a week. The notion for the Cleaning Camel service is "time is money." Most students on campus are involved in extra-curricular activities, and time is of the essence. The flyers all around campus ask students to consider, "How much is your time worth?" Well, as an uncertain college sophomore whose future is up in the air, I'd say my time is roughly worth the equivalent of a minimum wage working job, about $8.70 per hour. So, I do about 3 hours of laundry a week, this means I am roughly losing $26.00 of my time. If we factor in the fact that I am already spending $3.00 to wash and dry my clothes we all know that as a college student, I am going to try and save money, it seems that Celniker should sign me up for this service which would cost me roughly $26.00 per week. $699.99 a year.

Connecticut College is committed to the principle of diversity and you're a complete hypocrite if you believe that and think Cleaning Camel is okay.

Because we are exposed to the systems and cycles of inequality. Because our professors research poverty, because we are aware of the unfairness of the system. Because we know that you don't just make money by yourself and that there are a ton of privileges rich people have that mostly include being white and male and straight. Mostly, though, I'm angry because my friend last year did her laundry by hand because she couldn't afford the regular washer and dryer. $3 total for one load - all while working fifteen hours a week and taking classes. I'm angry because I've run out of money for laundry myself and waited until my next paycheck to do it, all while continuing having time to live my life at college. I'm angry because we are perpetuating a cycle of inequity so ingrained that most of us don't even see.

I'm angry that you don't see a problem with this precisely because you're rich enough not to.
The First-Year Perspective

On learning to deal with registration frustrations

RILEY MEACHEM
CONTRIBUTOR

If you’re enrolled here at Connecticut College, chances are you’re probably taking or intending to take a variety of courses. In fact, that’s probably the reason you’re paying so much to be here right now. But if you go through your weekly schedule, it is more than likely that there is a class or two that you aren’t quite as keen on taking. So the question is, why are you signed up for it? Well, oftentimes it is due to a General Education or major-based requirement, but in many cases it boils down to the fact all the classes you wanted were already taken during the add period. Registering for classes, as many of you know, can be extremely trying. Remember the very first time you had to access Self Service? Feeling that hot, constraining sensation in your throat as the minutes turned to hours? That empty feeling in your stomach as you realized every instant you spent scribbling down a CRN number or filling up sought-after classes in a matter of minutes? That crushing wave of despair as the class you just knew would be perfect for you had reached maximum capacity? Of course you do; everyone does.

Registration remains inactive for months, before reopening for a few short days during early summer and a few hours at the beginning of the semester. The result is a horde of students all signing up for classes at the same time, slowing down the already large and labyrinthine site, and filling up sought-after classes in a matter of minutes.

And is that really fair? While part of the appeal of a liberal arts school is the freedom to drift from class to class and learn more about each and every subject, many of those enrolled here have a concrete idea of what they want to do after college, and have a detailed plan of how to accomplish this goal. So when they cannot get into their desired classes - whether it be due to faulty internet connection, being unable to get to a computer or simply not being fast enough - they have lost one of the reasons they are paying exorbitant tuition to attend.

Unfortunately, there are not many easy solutions to this problem. While in an ideal world there could be enough classes for everyone who wanted them, in reality this entails hiring new professors, or asking current ones to teach classes for everyone that they needed to take for their major, or at the very least, require students to send in letters or forms which cost money and kill trees. But while no one denies this saves some hassle and has fewer better alternatives, is it worth the consequences? Is it worth possibly not getting a necessary prerequisite and having to stay an extra semester? Is it worth the frustration of trying to get into a course only to see it filled up?

Maybe this is one of the more important lessons to be understood from college: there is no guarantee that you will get what you want or what you need. There is no rule dictating that you will find the course you’re looking for, or get the major you want, or even graduate in four years. It’s just a toss-up, a $60,000 coin toss we go through every single year in our sad search to delude ourselves into thinking we’re on some special path. Perhaps the course registration isn’t some malign entity trying to complicate our lives. Maybe that’s just life.

On new beginnings

ALLSON KYFF
CONTRIBUTOR

"It’s all happening." Whether you’re familiar with the film "Almost Famous" or not, those words mean something. Say it out loud a few times. See what I mean?

A few weeks ago, I entered my dorm on the third floor of Freeman. It was a muggy, overcast August day and I had just arrived after an hour spent with my stomach in knots and goosebumps on my legs as I anticipated my first day of college. The usual questions raced through my head: "Will I make friends?" "How will my parents feel with-out me around?" Even though I was nervous, I powered through and am not halfway through my third week here at Conn.

It’s all happening. I’ve already built the foundations for strong friendships, learned my way around campus and gotten used to the routine around here. Hon oral, who works in the cafeteria always greets me with a smile. Not to get all sentimental, but Conn is a special place.

Now, though I still can’t comprehend how some people think of the Yik Yaks they post and I want to admit the walk from Freeman to Harris is a little less than ideal, I’ve enjoyed my time here these past few weeks.

They come to school after a summer pre-season with a built in group of friends. However, with a sunny disposition, it’s easy to find great friends on campus. The town of New London isn’t as bad as it’s made out to be. It’s kind of a quirky little place. I’ve enjoyed a lunch at Muddy Waters and even gone with my friend to the tattoo shop in town, it’s only the third week. It’s a great little town with much more to offer than what first meets the eye. And we’re so lucky to live on the water. Hey, we’re the only NES-CAC with an ocean view!

They’re a great group of friends that I feel so blessed to have met so early on in my career at Conn. Most I met through my seminar, but others I met in other ways like spending time on Saturday nights in my classes. I even got lucky enough to be great friends with my roommate!

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In all honesty, I love this school. I don’t want to sugarcoat anything; making the transition to college life has been hard and full of surprises, but I really do feel lucky to have the opportunity to grow into an adult here. I’ve already made friendships that I know will last a lifetime. Conn is a place full of support where each student is really valued and cared for and I am happy to be here."
Anxieties and Reflections of a Returning Senior: Internalizing Experiences Abroad

LEAH SWINSON
CONTRIBUTOR

As a senior who witnessed the chaotic arrival of first-year students, my first day at Connecticut College seems like a blur. I remember, with both fondness and embarrassment, getting my "old" Camel Card with a picture of me looking away from the camera and being unable to understand why our orientation had an abundance of picnics and bagpipes. What seems even more unfathomable at this point is to remember back to my senior year of high school.

Throughout high school, I chose career goals the way a five-year-old picks a Halloween costume. Despite all the pressures it presented, getting to college seemed like the embodiment of adolescent success, the universal gateway to the "right path" that would guide me to the rest of my life.

Since I was unsure what that path would be, Connecticut College’s liberal arts education seemed like the best fit as a community of students engaging and exploring their interests in order to pursue whatever it is about which they are passionate.

"Not all the paths to post-grad life will be linear and the right ones will be whatever ones we end up on, whether we envision them or not."

A major milestone in this journey for many Conn students, myself included, is the opportunity to study abroad. According to the Office of Study Away, over half of the junior class studies abroad for at least one semester, and in 2009, Connecticut College received the prestigious Paul F. Simon Award for Campus Internationalization.

Yet my decision to study abroad, while initially cause for excitement, turned into a foreign language, but eventually caused a source of increasing anxiety while initially cause for excitement, later a community of students exploring their interests in order to pursue whatever it is about which they are passionate.

As my Dove Chocolate note once told me, "You are where you are supposed to be." That place is here at Connecticut College with my fellow seniors whose diverse experiences continue to set Conn apart from other institutions. College continues to be the same gateway I imagined it would be, as difficult as that is to remember when post-grad realities set in.

The liberal arts experience does not end upon graduation, but is merely a transition point that prepared us with contiguity of seamlessness, that the path of major, minor, center, study abroad and funded internship are supposed to fit together.

Now, as a CELS Fellow, I inherently know that this is not true. I regularly meet students that have interests scattered across the board and struggle to decide which ones they want to explore. I also hear stories of alumni changing career paths, returning for the invaluable resources CELS has to offer all current and past Connecticut College students. Even though I knew these things, I still experienced an overwhelming sense of terror and isolation when it became my life, my plan and my goals that changed as I entered my senior year.

The Princeton Review recently recognized Connecticut College as one of the top colleges for career services, distinguishing the CELS Program amongst those at other colleges across the country, and rightly so. One year out from graduation, 96 percent of graduates are employed or pursuing graduate degrees, an immensely impressive statistic for such a small school.

What is important to remember, however, is that this statistic shows a formidable result, instead of the equally formidable journey that led to it. Amidst our alumni network are history majors who became doctors, religious studies majors who became realtors and biology majors who became librarians. Not all the paths to post-grad life will be linear and the right ones will be whatever ones we end up on, whether we envision them or not.

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Season Preview: Men's Soccer

JOHN CUNNINGHAM
CONTRIBUTOR

The Connecticut College men's soccer season has officially kicked off, and so far the Camels are starting strong. The Camels are two and one at this point in the season, after a competitive home game versus Middlebury this past Saturday.

The Camels' first victory came against neighboring school Mitchell College. After a slow start in the first ten minutes, the Camels turned it on and took control of the match. Mitchell was held to one shot on goal in four attempts for the whole game, while the Camels attempted twenty-three shots on goal and put ten of them in. Matthew Bitchell '16 scored the first goal of the game twenty-six minutes in off a pass from sophomore Pat Devlin. The Camels put the game away in the seventy-sixth minute when senior Kevin O'Brien scored a breakaway goal after a well-played ball from sophomore Charlie Overton.

The Camels then took on a tough opponent, UMass-Dartmouth. They came out to a flying start, scoring a goal within the first twenty seconds of the game, but the referee immediately rescinded the goal. Regardless of this call, Bitchell scored just three minutes later off a pass from sophomore Brham Mutala. Although UMass-Dartmouth gained the Camels a bit of a scare when they brought the game within two, they were not able to get any closer after that, with Charlie Overton, senior Kevin O'Brien and Schmidt each tallied a point of their own.

Captains Zach Punt '15 and Lucas Corrubia '15 talked about their goals for the season as well as the team's strengths and weaknesses and the biggest challenges they'll face this year. The captains are confident that their strengths seem to far outweigh their weaknesses. Players like Punt and senior Mike Flippin anchor the back line with strong defense, while Devlin and junior Colin Patch control the midfield with calm, smart plays, and accurate long balls. The Camels' speedy forwards, Mutala, Weller Hinnor '17, and Bitchell also added to the mix.

In the past, the team has tended to get off to a slow start in games, but will now focus on putting together an entire game, beginning at the starting whistle. The team feels that they have the ability to rise to any occasion, which they proved last year by beating Amherst and playing strong games against Wesleyan, Amherst and Middlebury, perennial NESCAC rivals. With hard work and dedication, the team feels the NESCAC Championship is theirs for the taking.*

Women's Field Hockey Gets a Fresh Start

ELEANOR HARDY
SPORTS EDITOR

The Women's Field Hockey team is off to a fresh start this year. In addition to nearly half the team being made up of first-years, they're starting off the new season with a new head coach Christy Needham. Needham, a Connecticut native, is also a former field hockey player from UConn. Senior Mallory Knows shares that Needham's "experience as a former player at such a successful program is especially beneficial, as it gives her the ability to demonstrate to us what she's coaching along with the understanding of the intensity it takes to be a competitive team."

With this knowledge, Needham comes to Conn athletics ready to work and start anew after a rough last season.

Coming most recently from coaching at American International College and previously at Kennesan College, Needham has a wealth of coaching experience. During her time as a player, Needham played in two NCAA Division 1 Final Fours, further adding to and enhancing her coaching expertise. Drawn to NESCAC schools because of their unique combination of athletics and academics, it was a huge surprise when the head coaching position at Conn opened up.

Coaching within the NESCAC has been a home state of Connecticut to Needham, and her career goals at the time fit in perfectly with what Conn was seeking. She's looking forward to turning things around and providing the program with the new energy it needs to really take advantage of their fresh start.

After sitting down with Needham, it is clear that she is the program may need. Needham hopes to "treat every game as its own challenge" and that their opponents recognize their "hard work rate and competitive spirit." Although she hopes to take the season one game at a time, the overarching goal is to qualify for the NESCAC tournament, a goal she feels is "definitely within reach." Additionally, the team will encounter five non-conference teams this season and Needham, along with assistant coach Anika Goodhue, aims to have an undefeated non-conference record.

With a young team made up of a majority of first-years and sophomores, now is the optimal time to "build up and compete for the future," explains Needham. "They have high confidence and we can work out the kinks." First-year Berkley Vaillancourt explains that Coach Needham "is always focused and dedicated to making us the best we can be" giving the program a promising future in the years to come.

The Women's team started off the season playing Amherst, a fierce competitor, who entered the NESCAC season ranked tenth. After winning last year's NESCAC championship, the Camels know that this first game would not be easy and most certainly a mental challenge. Facing the very experienced Amherst team, Conn reached the goals they set for the game, despite coming out at a 7-0 loss. The first half ended with Amherst up one goal, showing how strongly the Camels played and how both mentally and physically they did phenomenal work holding off such a strong team. By the middle of the second half, they were mentally fatigued. Although after 90 minutes of hard play they began to lose it, the team took away a lot from the game.

Despite the tough game against Amherst, the Camels defeated Babson this past Saturday 2-1, moving them one stop closer to their goal of an undefeated non-conference record. Taking an early lead in the game, they held their ground and Coach Needham claimed her first victory as head coach.

There is much hope ahead for the Women's Field Hockey program. With many young players and an impressive start to the season, Coach Needham has come at the perfect time to develop the program to its fullest potential.*
Player Profile:
Livi Block ’18

HANNA JOHNSTON
CONTRIBUTOR

Homecoming New York City, NY
Alma Mater: Framingham State University
Years Playing Soccer: 3

Livi Block ’18 is one of the new members of the Women’s Soccer team. With her high speed and clear vision on the field, she helped lead the team to a 5-3 win over Albertus Magnus last weekend.

Why she plays: It’s been a passion of mine ever since I was five years old. My father, brother and I used to go to a soccer ball with us whenever we went. As I’ve gotten older, another aspect of the game that keeps me excited about playing is the camaraderie that forms among teammates.

Favorite thing about being a Camel so far: The girls on the team are so nice and welcoming, and our coach is really insightful. Being on this particular team has been especially awesome because there’s a great bond that forms among everyone living, learning and relaxing in the same place.

Strategy on the field: Because of the midfielders’ balancing, we have been able to play very strategically. I try to get out in front of the ball back in order to open up the field. We also play to people’s feet, meaning we try to keep the ball as grounded as possible.

Pre-game ritual: In the locker room, before games, we put music on and dance. Right before we go up to play, we all hold hands in a circle and make sure our feet are brushing. One girl sits between a girl’s head and that girl’s knees, the next girl is behind and so on until we all feel the pulse. Then, we are ready to play!

Post-game ritual: We usually have hot dogs, and I’ll eat a lot of different things at these because all of the parents make awesome food.

First game: It was really exciting. We possessed the ball a lot, so we had a ton of opportunities to go to goal. Alexia Tribott, a fellow first-year teammate, scored the first goal, which was an awesome way to kick off the season.

Hopes for the season: The main goal is winning. This was my first year, and I realize that we have a ton of potential, and I’m not the only one that believes in it.

Fun fact: Surprisingly, I’m a writer by my hand for writing and reading, but my right foot is actually my dominant foot when I play. (AC: What is your position on the field?"

Player Profile:
Zach Punt ’15

ELEANOR HARDY
SPORTS EDITOR

Hometown: West Hartford, CT
Alma Mater: Kingswood-Oxford School

Men’s soccer captain Zach Punt ’15 has led the Camels to a strong start this season. A tenacious defender, Punt is involved on and off the field and brings much experience to the team. Reared on for his consistent penalty kicks and known for his celebratory antics, here’s more about the senior captain:

Years playing soccer: I started playing soccer because my parents registered me for a town-league team when I was too young to make those decisions for myself. I played pretty much every sport there is as a little guy, but I really took a liking to soccer as I grew up.

Favorite in-season moment: My all-time favorite in-season moment definitely has to be defeating Amherst my first year. At the time they were a top five team in the nation and were looking to finish an undefeated season against us. I remember correctly, it would have been their first undefeated season in 40 years or so. We ended up beating them on their home soil in a thrilling 3-2 game.

Thoughts on the season so far: So far I feel optimistic about this season. More than any other year that I have been here, it feels like we have established a true brotherhood among the team. This year’s team is more talented than any other year that I have been at Conn. We look strong this year, but we have plenty of work to do in order to accomplish our goals this season.

Game ritual: As a center defender, I don’t score too many goals. Most of my goals come from penalty kicks. Before the penalty kick, I take several deep breaths to keep myself calm. I take a set amount of steps back and to the side prior to each kick. After scoring, I have trouble containing my excitement, which usually ends in me doing some sort of celebration with my mates. Ironically, all of the nerves hit me after I take the kick.

Post-game ritual: My post-game food is whatever the parents bring for our post-game tailgates. Typically I’ve got a turkey sandwich, some protein bars, salad and plenty of Gatorade and water. I try to replenish with plenty of protein and electrolytes within 15 minutes of the final whistle so I can properly recover from a long game.

Fun fact: Game day always ends with an ice bath and a team shower. These things are never overlooked. Also, my family has supported me at every soccer game in my career and I am so appreciative and blessed for that.

What he will miss most next year: I will miss literally everything. Soccer is my life.

Friday Night Folk at All Souls presents Ron Cleftherow & Mike Bailey of Maggie’s Guitar, and the Maxwell Brothers. 7:30 p.m. Friday, September 19, 2014. Doors open 7:00 p.m. Unity Hall, All Souls UU Congregation, 19 Jay Street, New London, CT 880-443-0316 Tix/Info at fridnightfolk.org
From Wolverine to Camel

DYLAN STEINER
SPORTS EDITOR

This year there is a fresh presence on the pool deck down at Lott Nata- 
torium. Matt Anderson, the men’s and women’s head water polo coach, 
begins his first season with the Cam- 
els. Anderson arrives in New Lon-
den after a prolific 12-year span at 
the University of Michigan, where he 
led the women’s water polo program 
to four national tournaments, coached 
an Olympian and mentored dozens of 
All-Americans, amid numerous oth-
er honors.

“A big reason why I accepted the 
job is just a general feeling that I 
got from the people I interacted with 
while I was here interviewing, and that 
has not changed,” said Anderson. “It 
allowed me an opportunity to coach 
both men and women and to continue 
my career in a more family-oriented 
atmosphere. I wanted to head east for 
my next coaching position, and the 
timing happened to work out to allow 
me to pursue that.”

The transition from an athletic pro-
gram at a large university to that of a 
small liberal-arts college is one that 
Anderson is passionate about, so he 
is prepared to reapply and refocus the 
expansive coaching expertise and 
philosophy he built while at Michigan.

“I believe college athletics is a place 
where interaction and coexisting is 
very important, and I believe that Con-
necticut College coaches and people 
fit that mode. At times, athletics can 
grow up personally and professionally 
where it is best when you don’t forget 
the simple qualities it has,” Anderson 
now faces the challenge of applying 
his coaching principles at the Division 
III level, where time is a constraining 
element.

“. . . just as 
the players 
will continue to 
change and want 
to move forward, 
I will need to be 
able to continue 
to be flexible and 
move forward 
with them.”

“Combine the men’s and women’s 
season at Division III and it is not as 
long as one women’s season or one 
men’s season at Division I. So at the 
Division I level there is so much to 
cover over the course of 132 water 
polo practices...where here you have 
roughly 50 practices to cover things. 
So I’ll need to learn how to teach may-
be not as many things in a shorter 
amount of time. I felt after 132 days 
of practices/games at DI that I wish I 
had more time...that’s the biggest chal-

enge and change I will adjust to.”

Last spring, under interim head 
coach Ryan Pryor, the women won 
the CWPA Division III championship 
for the second year in a row. With no 
graduating seniors, they return a full 
roster in their pursuit of a trifecta 
championship crown in 2015. Mean-
while, the men start their season with 
a highly competitive schedule against 
multiple Division I teams. Here, An-
derson’s experience with elite opposi-
tion will come into play.

“Regardless of where any team is, 
continuous improvement needs to be 
what you’re working for every year... 
[they need] to continue to believe 
about how good they can become 
and to be given the opportunity to be-
come better than they currently are,” 
said Anderson. “The women’s team is 
in a good place right now and needs 
to continue to strive to get better, the 
men’s team is currently striving to get 
to the level that the women are and I 
do believe that will happen sooner 
rather than later.”

Anderson’s debut as head coach of 
the Camels was Sept. 14, when the 
men headed to Brown University for 
the Bruno Fall Classic.

“I believe that I have strong qual-
ities as a coach that I can continue to 
improve upon, that can go from tac-
tical to technical to student-athlete 
interaction...just as the players will 
continue to change and want to move 
forward, I will need to be able to con-
tinue to be flexible and move forward 
with them,” said Anderson. •
Conn Faculty Brings Community Action to the Stage

JENNIFER MORRISSEY CONTRIBUTOR

fall of 2013, but their breakthrough came this past January when they strayed from the theatrical norm of performing in a theater and instead produced a performance in a hospital.

"In January 2014, we did a site-specific production of Edward Albee's The Death of Bessie Smith. We did it inside a hospital," Strabone said. "Interfaith Medical Center was going to close; it had fallen out of the headlines. And we approached them and said [how] we had wanted to do this play that is set in a hospital, in their hospital to bring the attention back."

After running the show for two months, members of Congress, actor and singer Mario Belafonte and labor leaders came to performances, and after each performance, the audience, cast and crew were involved in a dialogue with each other.

"We spread a lot of consciousness about the show, and the newspapers and the TV stations came back to the hospital. And politicians said they were not going to let this hospital close, and the hospital was saved," Strabone said. "And the people that ran the hospital said that we were the reason it was saved, and we had actually used theater to save lives.

The Death of Bessie Smith was not the first time that the company reached into their creative reservoirs to put on a play. Strabone ended up writing an original adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's An Enemy of the People to stage in West Virginia.

"There was a chemical spill in West Virginia this past year and 300,000 people couldn't drink water or take showers. Since Ibsen's An Enemy of the People is a play about poisoned water, we built a floating stage on the river that was polluted and performed on the stage, and the audience literally sat on the river that was polluted," Strabone said.

Interacting with the audience and engaging them into the shows is one of the core goals of the NBT. They have been able to achieve this by introducing conversations with the audience after each performance and allowing them to share their thoughts with the company.

"We do great plays, and then we use the plays as an opportunity to have a dialogue. On our website we have a mission statement, and part of our mission is to use theater, whenever theater is needed to [help] move forward a public conversation," Strabone said. "We're staging great art that is great on its own, but it's also always connected with a kind of social function. We're always asking ourselves and [the] audience, 'What more can the theater do in the world?'"

Helping revitalize the theater on 1215 Fulton Street in Brooklyn is also incorporated in the theater's mission. The theater was first opened in the early twentieth century, but has not been used for well over a decade.

"It's been closed since 1998, and we want to convert it into a performing arts center. In fact, we're working with architects, theater designers and the new owners," Strabone said.

The company hopes to finish with the renovations within the next three years and eventually hold their performances there. In the meantime, the company has been performing in various theaters throughout Brooklyn and started a new tradition called "We take four early African American plays that people have forgotten, and we are staging [them] again," Strabone said.

Once the NBT has finished re-surfacing these four plays, the audience will be asked to give advice on which play would become the company's full production this fall; yet another way the company members strive to involve the public.

For Strabone, The NBT, however, is more than just a way to bring people together and put on performances.

"We took four early African American plays that people have forgotten, and we are staging [them] again," Strabone said.

SGA Meeting Notes: September 11

DAN BURNS CONTRIBUTOR

Ethan Underhill '15 sat at the helm of the SGA meeting in the Hillel House with a look of satisfaction. His presidency is still in the infancy stages, but he is already making a substantial impact on future events for the college. Underhill held a moment of silence at the beginning of the meeting for the lives lost on 9/11, a respectable gesture to start the meeting off humbly.

Open forum was dominated by two topics: Camel-lymics and the newly established offshoot group As Told by Vaginas. Residential Life staff laid forth a new format for Camel-lymics that involves the event being cut down to one day instead of the typical two-day spectacle. The staff is also attempting to increase interest and participation after citing how juniors and seniors apparently do not find Camel-lymics "cool". Bettina Weiss, from As Told by Vaginas, gave a rundown of the somewhat new program. After a study done by Alia Roth '13, it was determined that the relationship, and the audience, 'What more can the theater do in the world?'"

Another topic discussed at length later in the meeting was the status of the New York Times delivery to Connecticut College. The estimated fee for the New York Times delivered in print along with online passes for students is around $14,700 for the 2014-2015 academic year. The online subscription constitutes around $8,000 of this cost. In a resolution passed with an overwhelming majority, SGA decided to have this $8,000 cost allocated from the sustainability fund due to its sustainable nature. That means this money typically taken from the SGA fund is now able to be used for other expenditures that are taken on by them.

SGA meeting are held weekly on Thursday nights at 7:15 in Hillel House. Attendance is open to any member of the college."
Ears Open:

Rock fan, Andrew Rich, dives head first into the world of album reviews. The catch: He has no idea who the band is. No clue? No problem.

ANDREW RICH
CONTRIBUTOR

When I began thinking about writing this column, I realized that choosing to listen to a band that I had never heard of was going to be difficult. I like to consider myself a reasonably open-minded and diverse music fan. On the same iPod where there is Black Sabbath, Rush, Deep Purple, Metallica and AC/DC, there is also Madonna, ABBA, Eminem, Stevie Wonder and Kraftwerk. But having to go and listen to a band with zero knowledge of who they are and what they sound like is not something that I can do just like that. Even the most liberal of music fans has a fickle side.

So I thought about it for a bit and I came to the conclusion that the answer to my problem rests mainly on album covers. Nowadays, album art tends to be a lost, well, art. Most casual music listeners these days care little about the cover of an album and digital downloading certainly hasn’t helped with that. The way I see it, if I don’t know what to choose, an eye-catching album cover is a great way to get my attention.

Which is why the first album I’m going to review is Royal Blood by Royal Blood.

The cover of Royal Blood immediately caught my eye. Drawn strictly in black and white, the cover features a torso-up portrait of a woman dressed — and I can’t find another way to say this — in nature. Not naturally, mind you. In nature. Her dress, covering everything except her hands, is made up of a miniaturized forest scene: trees, bushes and mountainous rock encompass her from her entire head, minus her eyes, is sheathed in an enormous headdress that expands upwards to reach the top of the cover. Hundreds of white dots fill the black expanse of the headdress, as if we’re looking at a map of stars. Leaves, twigs and blades of grass peak out of its edges. The cover is striking yet strangely appropriate, considering the band name: from afar, the woman conjures up an identity of a noblewoman from some far away land.

Of course the old saying is “Never judge a book by its cover.” While my expectations for the "forest noblewoman album" were something akin to, say, Iron & Wine or Bastille, what I got was something ten times louder and ten times harder.

Yes, Royal Blood is a pure cut rock and roll band. I suppose you could call it garage rock or noise rock too. But it’s rock and roll. They’re a British duo that formed just last year, and in that short time they’ve gone from playing in bars to opening in front of 30,000 people for Arctic Monkeys. In less than a year! Most bands take forever to make it, but Royal Blood seems determined to smash its way into the mainstream as quickly as possible, and the music certainly reflects that. Lead vocalist and bassist Mike Kerr and drummer Ben Thatcher (that’s right, they don’t have a guitarist, although it’s hard to tell over the constant sonic boom of the duo’s instruments) stomp their way from beginning to end, with riffs and drum beats that grab you for a ride from the get-go. Songs like “Out of the Black” and “Little Monster” make you want to bang your head and strum along with your air guitar, despite there not actually being a guitar in the “music.” Even the blurrier, slower (and I use the word “slower” very, very lightly) songs like “Blood Hands” and “Better Strangers” still have that loudness to them.

The production is very tight and the lyrics come through loud and clear; no scream-o death metal vocals or wacky voice filters here, albeit Kerr does invoke The Black Keys’ Dan Auerbach a couple times. Also, one should expect to be done listening to this in quick fashion. At ten songs, the album clocks in at roughly 32 minutes, just enough to leave you satisfied, yet wanting a little bit more.

So whom do they sound like? Royal Blood brings to mind a lot of " newer" bands that have been trying to resurrect the garage rock sound since the early 2000s: The Black Keys, The White Stripes, Japandroids, Arctic Monkeys, Queens of the Stone Age and Weezer, to name a few. These bands — some of them duos themselves — are all intent on bringing heavy guitars, fast riffs, pounding drums, and a bluesy sensibility back into the rock and roll mainstream. As a fan of all of these bands, Royal Blood fits right alongside them. They are not breaking new ground with their debut album, but it’s certainly another point in the win column for rock and roll.

Oh, and one more thing: Royal Blood recently hit number one on the UK album charts. Number one. Did I mention they’ve only been around a year?

The verdict: Thumbs Up.
OnStage Returns for Ambitious New Season

LYDIA MOURNEAULT
CONTRIBUTOR

The onStage at Connecticut College performance series is back for another season. Throughout the year, many diverse and talented acts will come not only to perform for the school, but also to teach students at Conn and in the New London area through various education residency programs.

Although the first official performing arts series held at Conn happened in the 1940s, the school has been inviting professional performing artists to stage productions for students since 1917. Current Director of Arts Programming at Connecticut College Robert Richter has kept this tradition alive with onStage. For the 2014-2015 season, he has handpicked a program that he is sure has “a little bit for everyone.”

The selection process for the series is long. Richter starts over a year in advance, getting feedback from colleagues and students about the most popular groups. Richter says there is no theme for this year’s season, but the word that came up most when describing the lineup was “eclectic.” With everything from a jazz violinist to the re-enactment of the works of playwright Eugene O’Neill, this season will be innovative, intriguing and inspiring.

This year onStage will also host an “Open to Any Band or Individual” event, which will take place in late September. The Barn is not only a mix of campus musicians and leaders. The group, MOBROC, revitalizes an organization with renovated space.

New Barn, New Path Forward
MOBROC revitalizes organization with renovated space

LUKE GRAVES
CONTRIBUTOR

Most students here at Connecticut College are probably ignorant of the green building that stands amidst some trees, a playground and The Sprout Garden on the edge of campus near Crozier-Williams. Some might have a vague idea about what goes on inside this building, occasionally hearing loud noises bursting forth from the omnious building as they pass. But for the students and campus who play in bands, “The Barn,” as it is ceremoniously named, is a veritable haven for musical expression and growth.

Open to any band or individual interested in practicing their music, The Barn creates a space that transcends in physical presence. Musicians are able to jam, practice and experiment with their sound however they choose: a crucial step towards musical progress in a group. Due to the recent crumbling state of The Barn’s roof and floors however, parts of the musical experience started to diminish. This past summer, the administration rolled out plans to restore the hallowed grounds, a move that reflects President Bergeron’s “Think. Do. Lead” ideology.

The organization that oversees The Barn consists of a mixture of campus musicians and leaders. The group, MOBROC, revitalizes an organization with renovated space.

The Barn, Storms noted, “the condition of the space... began to take its toll on not only the structure, but also the equipment and in some cases the morale of members of MOBROC.” While it was a valuable space for meeting, last year Storms acknowledged that, “the leaking roof harmed a lot of our equipment, which was particularly devastating since the equipment we use is quite expensive and the funds we have to replace or repair this equipment are limited.” Unfortunately, The Barn has been deteriorating for several years now, which has left students frustrated yet determined.

He is excited to welcome them to New England for the first time and to promote the idea of bringing two cultures together through music, though he harbors some anxiety about how they will be received due to the conflicts going on between Pakistan and the United States. Coming from a part of Pakistan devastated by the Taliban, their performance on October 11 will be one of the group’s first performances in front of a large audience.

“It’s always a risk,” Richter says, “but I’ve made a choice and I want people to see it.”

Other acts on the program include Lucky Plush, a dance/theatre company that will perform “The Queue” a performance about waiting in line at airport security, on September 20. Then, on October 24 there will be The Complete & Condensed Stage Directions of Eugene O’Neill, Vol. 2, which excludes all dialogue and only uses the extremely detailed stage directions found in O’Neill’s works. Richter described it as “funny, moving and poignant.”

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Enter Jeanette Williams. Towards the end of last year and continuing into the summer, Williams worked closely with the Co-Presidents of MOBROC to outline a plan for renovating and refurbishing The Barn. Gray defined the timeline of the renovations: “The whole process started at the beginning of last year when I made a push to get our chronically leaky roof fixed. Jeanette contacted Physical Plant...” but it was nearly Christmas before they had a chance to check out the damage... When Physical Plant went into the barn they (bless their sweet, sweet souls) decided to implement more extensive repairs.

Kullberg admitted, “The Barn has been in great need of repair for years now... With the roof, the replaced floorboards, the new doors, and the repainted walls, The Barn has become a much safer and more functional practice space for student musicians.” Not only has The Barn been repaired but because it is now up to code, MOBROC can also host events on campus; an exciting contrast to the prototypical Saturday Night Cro-dances (though I have been known to frequent one or two in my day.)

While the maintenance was a much-needed service to sustain the integrity of The Barn, some students maintain that the renovation is not enough. Drew Andre, ’16, a member of the campus band Montreal Protocol, along with the a cappella group Co-Co Beaux, extolled the hard work of the administration and Physical Plant. “The renovation is the dawn of a new era for the culture of MOBROC. The old Barn had character, but it also represented the state of the organization. With the new Barn, it’s almost like a blank slate.” But, while The Barn’s renewal is a step in the right direction, Andre hopes “the administration follows through with the renovation by allocating a little more funding. They gave us a nice space, but we still have equipment that holds us back.” Andre lamented that “it may not be important to the administration, but if you’re in the heat of the moment playing, and you can’t hear yourself, or something goes wrong, it’s not okay, it’s not manageable.” Hopefully with Katherine Bergeron at the helm, this space for musical creativity can be improved and preserved for future generations of Camels.

During the shortcomings in MOBROC’s equipment, the group is unanimously excited about the newer, safer Barn. Despite the “old” Barn’s charm and eclectic aesthetic (student artists had decorated the walls over the years, giving the space an authentic and sacred atmosphere), the new Barn holds the promise of an alternative social space for members of the community to gather and listen to student music. With a little more work, MOBROC could, as Andre remarked, “revitalize the social scene of weekend nights.”

Join us!
Open writer meetings every other Monday
9PM-10:30
Camels Perform Under the Sun
Connecticut College Represents at IAM Festival

SARAH BRADFORD
CONTRIBUTOR

New London hosted its eighth annual free independent arts and music festival in five locations downtown on September 6. Bridging the gap between campus and the city, Connecticut College students Maya Belgard '15 and Haley Gowland '17 opened up the stage at The Telegraph and Hygienic Art Park.

I hopped in the car midday with music major Maya Belgard. With an acoustic guitar in hand, she was one of the first performers of the day. Maya has been singing and writing since her childhood, from L.A. to Tokyo — no, just kidding, from her birthplace, To-kyo, to San Francisco. After a delicious and satisfying breakfast at Washington Street Coffee House, we walked over to The Telegraph, a record store, for Maya’s 1 p.m. slot. She trembled the vinyl-buying customers with melodic vocals and rhythmic finger picking, playing entirely original music. True musical passion could be felt in the air of the room. The audience erupted with laughter during the performance of Maya’s sweet sounding song “I Loved You A Second Ago” which continued with the lyric “but now I hate you so much.” I was excited to receive laughter here. My close friends know the song, so they too were excited for me,” Maya said. The Telegraph welcomed five musicians, and at the end of the day, the final artist shared his pride to have been amongst a group of such great talent. “After I performed, I got so happy and hyper. I was reminded of how much I enjoy it, and that it’s something I want to continue,” Maya said.

You may know Haley Gowland from the popular MOIBROC band Canopy or the all-female a cappella group ComChords. On this occasion, she was rocking out with the indie alternative Boston area based band, The Cranks. Her twin brother, Connor, from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and their energetic bassist and vocalist, Alex Markowski from University of Rhode Island, accompanied her vocally. Musical talent runs in the Gowland family. The Gowlands’ father played in a band, and with equipment accessible, they began to jam in their basement with Alex, with whom they have recorded three albums. The Cranks have since been described as “Paramore meets Guster, has an affair with the Strokes, and a secret family with the Pretenders,” and, impressively, the group recently

played second stage for Paramore and Full Out Boy at Meadowbrook Pavilion in Gilford, New Hampshire. From the start of The Cranks’ set at Hygienic Art Park, chemistry was made evident both with their vocals and chemistry on stage. Gowland connected with the audience and especially the Camels when she introduced “I Can Never Learn” with a grin. “This is actually [President] Katherine Bergeron’s favorite song, so now it’s my favorite song,” she said. The group mostly performed songs off of their most recent original album Orange with a smattering of crowd-pleasing covers, including Weezer’s “If You’re Wondering If I Want You Too I Want You To” and “Jenny” by Walk the Moon. Upon receiving a request from the audience for their original song “Fishbowl” off Orange, drummer Connor joked around and then started his signature rhythmic drumstick move.

In the midst of the entertainment of our peers, IAM Festival offered other local bands. Coming from that other Connecticut city, New Haven, the pop folk band Goodnight Blue Moon enthralled the main stage at Parade Plaza with their assortment of string instruments. Toddlers and older women alike danced without a care in the plaza, creating an amazing spectacle.

The festivalgoers were fortunate to have the beautiful, sunny Saturday, but when humidity became overwhelming, the New London Whale Tail Fountain was extremely inviting for splashing friends and cooling off. Passersby walking around downtown were attracted to the emotion of Connecticut College alumni The Can Kickers. The Telegraph turned out to be an excellent reprieve from the heat as well, with soothing acoustic music from the native Mainzer, Dan Blakeslee and Sam Perduta of Elson Jackson, a band based in New Haven.

IAM Festival appealed to all ages. As night fell, Oasis Pub and 33 Golden opened and welcomed 11 artists. The 21 and older crowd arrived and danced to the independent music. The final band of the festival, The So So Glos, performed at the main stage in Parade Plaza for a unique spectator experience. The crowd unified as the lead singer encouraged a mass “to be seated,” until everyone rose again and clapped to the beat of the drums. Everyone should look forward to the ninth IAM Festival next fall!