Are Staff Paid Living Wages? 
An Ongoing Investigation

MAIA HIBBETT
STAFF WRITER

In the past months, we’ve turned a critical eye to how Conn students, faculty and administration treat issues of justice. Although, we’ve missed the issue through a variety of leaks, we have failed to pay much attention to a specific group on campus: the staff.

Early this semester, I took on an article pitched to answer a seemingly simple question: “Does the staff at Connecticut College make a living wage?”

At the time, this seemed like it would be a relatively simple task. I would do some research on what constitutes a living wage and should, ideally, be able to state confidently that their employees are paid living wages.

This turned out to be easier said than done. I met with Staff Council Chair Josh Stoffel, and he explained how the College surveys wages for similar jobs in surrounding areas but was unable to give an official statement. He did, however, provide me with a list of contacts in the HR office who might have more information.

After emailing HR, it took me about two weeks to get an interview scheduled with Cheryl Miller, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources & Professional Development. She provided some information about employment benefits and the surveying process, but she made no comment about whether or not she believed staff members were paid enough. She did, however, make sure to mention that Conn was once listed in "Places to Work," and, likely, soberly, it has also become apparent that peer influence plays a key role in these incidents. As described by Sarah Herman, a floor governor in Park, “I think it’s all about the culture. It’s hard not to wonder how the influence of others impacts these incidents. There’s this sense of competition where everyone wants to make their mark. It’s not like somebody is going to do this on their own. Especially with the mural—that’s such an intentional choice. The wall opposing it is almost untouched.”

In order to address these damages, some students and staff have suggested implementing security cameras into the main residence areas. This approach has faced heavy criticism as a short-term solution which would conflict with the honor code. “If we are not getting to the root of this issue and we have to turn to security cameras, that speaks to a failure of the community and also a failure of imagination on our part of how to problem solve,” explained Education Professor Lauren Anderson. Frida Rodriguez, the area coordinator for North Campus, also expressed concern that if a security system were implemented, it would only lead to further damages.

In light of these recent events, many individuals have also stressed a need for accountability. Especially on such a small campus, recognizing peers on behalf of their destructive actions may be difficult. However, individuals like Rodriguez argue that it is an essential stand which students must take. “At our college, students are taught to be leaders and you have to learn to make the right decisions—not just for you, but for the community.”

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Dorm Damage Dilemma: How Escalating Damages in Park Represent a Broken System

SARAH ROSE GRUSZECKI
STAFF WRITER

Upon entering Park residence hall, one is immediately greeted by a large mural created by a Connecticut College student. The mural, which was originally conceived to improve the sterile appearance of the Flex’s design, was painted earlier this year. Unfortunately, what was once a serene image of ocean hues has become an area of destruction. The mural is now covered with white squares, each representing a portion of the mural that has been punched or kicked in and permanently damaged.

So far this year, students on campus will be paying over $42,000 to cover the cost of dorm damages. This number is close to exceeding last year’s count, which totaled at slightly over $52,000. However, out of the 23 residence halls on campus, Park’s damages surpass all, with charges now totaling over $8,000.

The damages, however, are not just limited to the mural itself. Additional reports within the residence hall include nearly 10 destroyed or damaged exit signs, broken lights, damaged windows, urine in an elevator, feces in a shower, blood signs on the walls and multiple incidents of written vandalism. An anonymous individual also reported seeing a shredded green dot poster in the same hallway as the damaged mural.

Perhaps what is most startling about these events is their deliberateness. As reported at the Park house council meeting, many of the damages have been observed and reported on weekdays. We often conceive that these types of damages only occur on drunken Saturday nights.

Therefore, it may come as a surprise that several of these acts have been committed intentionally and, likely, soberly. It has also become apparent that peer influence plays a key role in these incidents. As described by Sarah Herman, a floor governor in Park, “I think it’s all about the culture. It’s hard not to wonder how the influence of others impacts these incidents. There’s this sense of competition where everyone wants to make their mark. It’s not like somebody is going to do this on their own. Especially with the mural—that’s such an intentional choice. The wall opposing it is almost untouched.”

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In light of these recent events, many individuals have also stressed a need for accountability. Especially on such a small campus, recognizing peers on behalf of their destructive actions may be difficult. However, individuals like Rodriguez argue that it is an essential stand which students must take. “At our college, students are taught to be leaders and you have to learn to make the right decisions—not just for you, but for the community.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11
The Last Sign Off: How I Commemorate
Four Years of Love, Life and Grammar

After 11 issues in print and one online of The College Voice as Editor in Chief and nearly 60 as a staff writer, section editor and senior editor over the past three years, it has all boiled down to an editorial that I am supposed to use to sum up everything that this one extra-curricular has done for me. It is an editorial that I have both dreamed and dreaded writing. I am supposed to say something important, but I cannot quite grasp what that is.

I only had two goals when I started this year: 1) Do NOT go into debt. 2) Just keep things floating. No waves, just twelve passable issues. Finish your thesis. Pass it along. I never identified as much of a journalist, anyways.

Even looking back from this moment, I thank goodness that I only met one of those goals. I realize now how ridiculous that goal was and that it was reflective of my unwillingness to recognize what I now consider to be an undeniable fact about the newspaper, despite my best efforts, it has become a mirror of my own spirit. It has become my way of asking: How can we leave this space better than when we found it? Maybe that carries baggage that begs the question as to whether I have violated standards of journalistic integrity. But maybe it’s a question that I’m happy to ask and be asked anyways. Who am I to answer that on my own? The simplest answer is, that I never intended to. I believe that The College Voice is and should be a conversation space for everyone. If this year has taught our community anything, it is that words and language are powerful tools to wield.

I will never deny that this has been a year of mistakes and learning. I will never claim what I did was “correct,” but I will always stand by the fact that I was doing what I thought was right. But, despite all the media attention, positive and negative, this community was bombarded with from the outside, the world at large is not our audience. It is here. The College Voice is not called a “campus newspaper” for nothing.

I am lucky to have a team with me that have been equally consistent in asking similar questions. This staff rests on a long tradition of Strong Female Role Models (and also Dave Sheffields) that have showed me what it means to take risks, to take deep breaths through caffeine induced panic attacks and to take a second look at the “Final” edition of the paper, because it can always be better. I thank Dana and Luca for being the most wonderful team. You’ve already picked up the baton and I can’t wait to see you run with it. Dana, you have been with me every step of the way, in every office meeting with the Deans that I thought would end in a fight, and involved in every late night food run I can remember. Thank you to our adviser, Jim Downes, for convincing me that gut feelings are the truest form of intelligence, and also that it is okay for some emails to go unanswered.

I am glad though, to have been along for at least the beginning of what I hope is a long run. I look forward to looking back. The shifting staffs and families are the most consistent home I have known at this school. Two years ago, I only had two goals when I started this year: 1) Do NOT go into debt. 2) Just keep things floating. No waves, just twelve passable issues. Finish your thesis. Pass it along. I never identified as much of a journalist, anyways.

I am glad though, to have been along for at least the beginning of what I hope is a long run. I look forward to looking back. The shifting staffs and families are the most consistent home I have known at this school. Perhaps this editorial is so long because I know that the second that it ends, it is my last goodbye.

Signing off,
Ayla
Upon graduating from Connecticut College, A Scattered List of Various Things

Well, I’m graduating. That’s pretty cool, but let’s be honest. So was the time, almost exactly four years ago, when, as a high school whoer who was one month away from another significant milestone, I received my offer from Conn. What came of that decision was the last four years of my life, which were in equal parts fun, stressful, uplifting, frustrating, jarring, moving and—you better believe it—scary. Now I’ve come full circle. What a ride!

I don’t have anything all that fresh to add to the conversation on significant moments in one’s life such as graduation, so instead here’s a scattered list of various things that have marked my time at a Connecticut College undergraduate.

• The musical things: I think I’ve done it all. I played Floria sophomore year; played the last show of Broadway in Affinity last March, climbed to the roof in Abby House, rocked out at Burning Camel, performed with the orchestra and brought back barn shows back to my next-door neighbors. It didn’t matter that some shows had over 100 people while others barely had ten. They were my friends, and I knew that I could never have had those experiences anywhere but here.

• The friends: obviously. Most of the time, I was reminded that right when I started getting too comfortable is when I really wasn’t taking advantage of what Conn has to offer. That, and when I stopped being comfortable, was when I realized how much I love it here.

The “yes motto” I’ve adopted the past year and half has broadened my idea of never getting too comfortable. Last year a senior friend of mine explained that her senior year motto was “yes” after having had to say no to so many experiences in the fall when she found herself feeling like she was missing something. After vowing to live by the “yes” voice, I have made truly all the difference. Yes, I’ll eat dinner with you and your random friends I’ve never met before. Yes, I’d love to walk through the arb and explore. Yes, I will glad- ly listen to your concerns about a problem you’re dealing with. Say yes to everything you can. While your Netflix account may be more entertaining than the environmental panel in Blaustein, force yourself to go, you won’t regret it. Live by the yes. Never stop making friends. Establish a friendly relationship with as many people as possible. Be actively involved in school and try to complete my thesis on time. I’ll never forget my college hardships and trials, not so I can try to recapitulate the utter dread I felt in those moments, but as a reminder that, no matter how upset and hopeless I may have felt at any given time, I always got past it.

—Matthew Whitman, Arts Editor

A Farewell from Eleanor Hardy

A Farewell from Dakota Peschel

Dear humans of our fair campus, thank you for participating in co-creating this year’s The College Voice. In my semester-long capacity as Managing Editor — alongside the immaculate Dana Sorkin — I have seen validated many-times over the need and value for the newspaper we share.

To those who read our humble publication, your interest is what keeps us up Sunday nights, hunched over coffee and articles awaiting to take new life in the next morning’s issue. The year has been hectic, and don’t we know it; but it’s been rewarding to pro- cess it with you, piece-by-piece, as best we know how. To our staff and those who wrote, thank you so much — you are the bones of this paper and such a boon to our cam- pus community.

Next year Dana and I will endeavor to fill Ayla’s shoes as Editor(s) in Chief. We have no idea what to expect, but I know I speak for both of us when I say we relish the challenge of putting together a newspaper and bringing the best we can muster in time at the reins.

So drop us a line and tell us what you think. We’ll be here, pushing the bill to be an honest forum for campus discussion and a means for you to be heard. So thank you for your love (and criticism), and please excuse our typos.

— Luca Powell, Managing Ed- itor

On Going Forward (Part Luca)

On Going Forward (Part Dana)

Trying to write down every- thing I’ve learned this year from working for The Voice possible- ly far. Meredith Boyle, for believing in an astute first-year student with no journalistic experience other than the occasional article for her high school newspaper. Dave Starnesky, Mar- beau and Julia Cristina, for their leadership, teamwork and always mandatory friendships. And Ayla Zuraw-Friedland, for showing me how to have a voice, and to use it when it’s needed. You have been one of my closest friends throughout my college career, and an incredible role model. I followed you around everywhere, from our brand new office to Philadelphia to Larra- bee, and I wouldn’t have had it any other way.

The most important and important time to be a member of the Con- necticut College community, and one of my (many) goals is to have The Voice be a true reflec- tion of me and our time here, and we need everyone’s help to achieve that. Just like our time at Conn, The Voice is what we made it of. Please help me and Luca make it great.

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I’m ashamed to be an alumna - Professor Pessin deserves support and an apology

To the Editor:

For the first time in 41 years, I am ashamed to be an alumna of Connecticut College (Class of 1974). Professor Andrew Pessin embodies one of the values for which Connecticut College prides itself - free expression of ideas. Furthermore, to allow one student, Lamiya Khandaker, to interpret a Facebook post as “racist” because it suits her anti-Israel agenda, and then condemn Professor Pessin for expressing his point of view, is unconscionable. Second, Prof. Pessin apologized for and clarified that he was referring to Hamas in his post and not the Palestinians, the rationale for Israel’s blockade of Gaza.

All Professor Pessin did was criticize a terrorist organization, Hamas that has been labeled as such by the U.S. government and the European Union. He criticized an organization that uses children as human shields, blows up school buses, rains missiles on Israeli towns, murders gay people, persecutes Christians, and murders its own people for suspected business transactions with Israelis. Khandaker is speaking for a radical anti-Israel organization, yet she offers no criticism for Hamas.

Khandaker is an example of the radical anti-Israel thought police pervading campuses, which students and professors of sounder minds are trying valiantly to combat with facts and free expression. I never thought Connecticut College would get caught in this web of anti-Israel, anti-Semitic propaganda and lies.

Kudos to Professor Pessin for speaking up for the only democracy in the Middle East. Shame on Connecticut College for abandoning him and running a mandatory session on racism that featured his Facebook post. Shame on the College Voice for running letters attacking him without first giving him the opportunity to respond to the accusation. Shame on me for donating to a college that supports scapegoating and propaganda.

Back in the early 70s, I wrote articles for the student newspaper - when journalism was fair and balanced.

Perhaps the remedy is for Connecticut College to hold a follow-up mandatory session on anti-Semitism and anti-Israel hate speech, featuring Khandaker’s emails.

I’m ashamed to be an alumna.

Sherry Alpert ’74
CONTRIBUTOR

The senior cast members of this year's production of As Told By Vaginas! How did they take the reins as seniors.

TCV: What do you think went really well? RM: I was very excited. I really wanted to be the artistic director, and I was really nervous that we wouldn't get it because I wanted it so badly. It's really special to me because we've both been doing iterations of this show since we were first-years. It's exciting to take the reins as seniors.

TCV: How was the first meeting of new leadership for the 2015-2016 year? RM: It was great! I thought it went really well. We have a lot of really awesome people. I think what has been a standout this year is leadership in comparison to other years is that not everyone has the same opinion. There was a lot of pushback and challenging in ways that were respectful and sustainable, and that will help us a lot to move forward.

TCV: How do you think went well with the big transition of the show this year from The Vagina Monologues to As Told By Vagina? RM: I think people in the cast and on leadership and who eventually saw the show felt more connected to what they were seeing, reading, performing and speaking. That was the main positive feedback I received about the production. There are a lot of new leadership and also a performer. People heard something like "Vagina" and the "Angry Inch" [a monologue performed in As Told By Vagina] and related more easily. With The Vagina Monologues there are a lot of monologues in one as well but there are also many that are pretty dated. I was in one last year and I didn't really know what it was about - my whole monologue group didn't know what it meant. People in the audience were like, yeah you did a great job, but what was your monologue about? To have that kind of disconnect and misunderstanding really added to people not feeling as excited about The Vagina Monologues. What's exciting about this is that it changed every year. People aren't going to go to The Vagina Monologues this year because it's the same show. This new production is going to have so much more variety and there is always going to be something different every year.

TCV: What are you looking forward to improving on for the upcoming production? RM: One of the things that I would like to happen is a few more bonding-oriented events. I think one of the main things that draws people into this type of show is the sense of community. A lot of that comes from tech week, where the whole cast of dozens of women are stuck in a room together every four hours every night of the week and then all day the night of the show; and it's so much fun! You walk into that room and the excitement is tangible. It's the best thing that I've experienced at this school and it's one of the reasons why Rachel and I wanted to do this again. It could be even stronger if there were more supplementary events; and we have an amazing woman, [Alenka Katsnelson] '16 in charge of supplementary events this coming year. Hopefully there will be more events on the weekends and in the evenings for people to get together and bond more and share experiences. We have also considered creating a purchasable, bound book of monologues, which would be a lot of work but also really exciting.

TCV: Do you think that separating the club name from the name of the show will make the supplementary events easier to organize? RM: Yes, I think so because we are a feminist club, and in years past the club has been essentially only about The Vagina Monologues and the content of the show and now we have the opportunity to make club events open to everyone and to engage with the wider community.

TCV: What are you guys most excited about for next year? RM: I'm excited to read new monologues! I was on the reading committee this year and reading new monologues was incredible. I'm excited to read about people's experiences, especially people who are at this age where they are figuring everything out. RM: Yeah, monologues, I'm excited to get different perspectives. I'm really excited about this new outreach position that we've created because I think this is what was missing this year. There are three people of color on leadership and I'm excited to be in the position that I'm in as a person of color. I can relate to that experience of sitting in an audience and asking where I fit in onstage and I'm excited to be in that role. RM: On campus outreach chair, and Anna Marshall '16 (off-campus outreach chair), to talk to groups and say "Let's talk about our experiences" and having really good conversations that can generate change and will be meaningful to everybody on campus.

TCV: What can members of the Conn community do to get involved with the show over the next year? RM: REACH OUT. Really, really reach out. I understand the desire and urge to only talk to your friends and people you're comfortable with and with whose perspectives you understand, but that only goes so far. We will be acting on our beliefs, opinions and experiences as well as those that we hear. We can only work with the feedback input that we hear. We heard feedback about the name and now we're putting that feedback into action. I really hope that the community can see that we are trying to make a difference. I also hope that everyone writes monologues and auditions for the show, and comes to see the show. It's also important to ask questions. If you hear or see anything that you want to talk about, come to me or Rachel or any of the 25 people on leadership.

TCV: Is there anything else you want people to know about next year? RM: Come chat! If there's anything that you want to know, there are 25 of us, so whoever you're most comfortable with, come have conversations. Now is the perfect time for us to be getting feedback and making changes.

JCV: I also want to say that last year, everything that happened because there was an "off" push for a change. I want to say that this isn't the end of The Vagina Monologues or As Told By Vaginas, it's a continuation of everything that happened before. I hope that people really take it upon themselves to understand what's going on with issues that are important to them. I hope that people write down the posters for the 2015-2016 show, they realize that it's conveying the same message that it's always been conveying.
Student Protests Against Whole Foods Marketing Tools

EILIE N STORCK
NEWS EDITOR

There has been much national mobilization and protest recently regarding the Whole Foods Animal Compassion claims, which sells the idea that the corporation raises and kills animals in a humane way. Across the country, animal rights activists— including multiple from Connecticut College, some of which are from the CONN C.A.R.E.S. organization, have gathered on several occasions to peacefully protest the campaign that Whole Foods has created.

On the company website, Whole Foods claims the following on the "Animal Welfare Standards" page: "At Whole Foods Market, we're dedicated to helping you make informed choices about the food you eat. It's often easy to forget that the burger, steak or drumstick on your plate was once an animal. How was it raised? How was it treated? Where did it come from? What about added hormones and antibiotics? Was it grown artificially to get to market quicker and reduce feed cost? We are committed to answering these questions. Many activists have taken action to peacefully protest and investigate Whole Foods' claim to humane animal treatment.

"There have been multiple undercover investigations into Whole Foods suppliers' farms, and the conditions are just as bad as factory farms— in fact, identical," explained Selena Sobanski '16, founder and co-president of CONN C.A.R.E.S. "So the protests and movement have been trying to raise awareness about the 'humane myth' that has gained speed in food marketing lately," she said.

Zach Groff is an animal activist and writer in New Haven, Connecticut who has been working hard to peacefully protest at different Whole Foods establishments in the New England area. "The animals on Whole Foods' farms live lives that are nasty, brutish and short. Worse, Whole Foods and other corporations like it are selling consumers on the idea that animals on farms are raised humanely, despite the fact that 99 percent of animals are raised on factory farms.

Many activists have gone so far as to investigate the farms where Whole Foods get their animals. "At the 'Certified Humane,' cage-free farm we investigated, hens were crammed so tightly into a shed that they could barely breath. The hens we rescued, Mai Hua, was left rotting in her own feces with her feathers pecked off of her wings by other birds amid the stressful and densely-packed shed where they were kept," said Groff. He explained that the strength of animal activism is rapidly growing, and activists like him have been happy to see the strength in numbers. "I think I can speak for all of us when I say that there are few things more powerful than going into a place where violence against animals is the norm and speaking the simple, and obvious, truth. This is a large part of why our numbers are growing and our actions are becoming increasingly confident and unified. This is the path that leads us further to counter-protest because, quite simply, Americans are animal lovers and are starting to realize that animal agriculture is inherently violent."

Activists across the United States like Groff and Sobanski hope that eventually, they will see a positive change in the treatment of animals marketed at companies like Whole Foods. "The most important thing right now is taking nonviolent direct action to take down the humane myth peddled by Whole Foods," said Groff. 

The Exercise of Power

ANDREW SHAW
STAFF WRITER

In recent weeks, the campus community, and particularly the student community, has been invested in a particular struggle: how it is deployed. Who holds power and who is able to deploy it? The annual faculty staffing plan—a document that students rarely see or know about, is one part of this process. Although there is no rule that keeps students from seeing it, according to Dean of the Faculty Abigail Van Slyck, there is also no established practice of sharing it with students— even though such a practice would be in keeping with shared governance and increase student understanding of how decisions are made at the level of the senior administration.

Due to sabbaticals, retirements, resignations and other departures, temporary and otherwise, Connecticut College is in the midst of a state of flux. To manage this state, the Dean of the Faculty draws up a faculty staffing plan each year. Phrased in terms of new positions that the College would like to fill, it is written in consultation with President Katherine Bergeron and the Faculty Steering and Conference Committee (FSCC). They take into account the Educational Planning Committee's (EPC) "five-year curricular plan," which is "new[ed] and revised" each year, said Dean Van Slyck. Faculty vote on the plan. In the fall, the Dean of the Faculty also meets with the chairs of departments that will submit staffing requests (by December 1) on that year. Whether she approves the requests or not "depends so much on the size of the department and what department it is," said Dean Van Slyck. In this meeting, Dean Van Slyck said that she and the department chair talk about defining departmental quality at Conn. She asks, "How do we think about quality of a department and its overall size?" The university method of having every subfield of a department represented in a department simply is not feasible at Conn, so the College has to define "quality" differently.

Advisory Boards (SAB), which include students in the hiring process of tenured and temporary faculty, are also involved. Once a student is involved in these processes, the Dean of Van Slyck said, "I think it's really important that students have an opportunity to share their experiences and reflect on [them]." When asked what the end goals of the current staffing plan process, she responded, "I continue to think it's working well." She maintained that using the existing committees and procedures "really vigorously" for conversation among faculty, staff, students, and administrators will continue to yield fruitful results.

Previous years' staffing plans influence each subsequent plan. The plan written last year emphasized the on-going nature of curriculum revision, and that the new general education curriculum, when it eventually comes into effect, will affect departmental curricula as well. Each department, if it needs, can use new curricular offerings to meet goals or stay competitive. The plan lists curricular offerings, and this year's plan will "re-emphasize the on-going nature of curriculum revision, strengthening or establishing interdisciplinary connections across curricula, and offering continuous or maintaining major offerings." The History Department, for example, asked to retain a vacant 1.0 FTE tenured-track line "to hire a specialist in sub-Saharan African history." As such, faculty positions are designed "to keep in mind our activism in food marketing. The plan here is unified. There have not been any Whole Foods advocates on our activists are becoming increasingly confident and unified. This is a large part of why our numbers are growing and our actions are becoming increasingly confident and unified. This is the path that leads us further to counter-protest because, quite simply, Americans are animal lovers and are starting to realize that animal agriculture is inherently violent."
"Be brave enough to start a conversation that matters."
~ Margaret Wheatley

The Offices of Student Life congratulate everyone involved in the first Color Brave Monologues. We want to recognize the extraordinary work done by the students who wrote about their life experiences and perspectives and those who stood before our community with passion and commitment to share their own and each other's truth. Your engagement in this inaugural event has expanded how we understand our community.
Dorm Damages Dilemma:
How Escalating Damages in Park Represents a Broken System

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

SARAH ROSE GRUSZECKI
STAFF WRITER

Dorm Damages Dilemma:
How Escalating Damages in Park Represents a Broken System

for your entire community. Because that's the expectation—that we will all do what is in the best interest of our community. And if people don't speak up there are certainly consequences.

In my own examination of these events, I have reached a similar conclusion: short-term solutions such as cameras are not the right choice. Although it may be helpful to explore the possibility of heightened security measures, these measures will not allow us to get to the root of what is triggering these incidents. In order to genuinely approach dorm damages, we must engage in more critical discussions about privilege, gender and the culture of our institution. Most of us know that when an

unreported damage occurs, the charges are distributed to all the residents within that dorm. That money is added to every resident's tuition bill in installments throughout the course of the year. For many individuals on campus, these fines go without consequence. For others, however, they impose an enormous financial burden. The people who are doing this aren't affected by those numbers. There are no financial consequences for them, which is why they are destroying the property without thinking," explained Anthony Namrum, a current floor governor in Park.

When discussing privilege, we also often neglect how wealth may influence a party culture. At a recent campus event, one student explained, "It takes a certain amount of money to get drunk enough to commit some of these damages and a lot of students here simply do not have access to that kind of money. If we are distributing charges equally, that has to be a part of the discussion." As a part of the Commission, all of the students who have been caught committing these damages have been male. When analyzing the gendered nature of the student activism, one student noted, "There is a culture of male violence and we are seeing that being replicated here. That is a group that can be held accountable. I just can't imagine seeing girls carrying around bats destroying these walls. When we talk about it, we don't discuss how it is gendered." Multiple students shared these sentiments; they felt that although many of us have become far too accustomed to. Unlike security cameras, this culture change will not be seen overnight. But if we truly learn to hold our peers accountable, respect our community and see the honor code beyond words on a signed page, we may actually witness this imperative change.

THE COLLEGE VOICE
APRIL 27, 2005
Are Connecticut College Staff Paid Living Wages?

MAIA Hibbett STAFF WRITER

Although HR provided some concrete information, the staff was the group whose input I really wanted. I knew I could not simply walk up and interrupt work for invasive and time-consuming interviews, so I chose to send out a mass email to all of the dining, custodial and facilities staff. I thought that that, of all tasks, would be the easiest, seeing as the email group staff@conncoll.edu exists. I wrote up an email detailing my project and ensuring staff members that anyone who wished to comment could email the entire staff.

I cut College Staff Directory, (continued from front) which includes that staff member's hyperlinked name, email address and close the window. The window opens directly to Outlook hyperlinked email, which opens directly to Outlook window. The window in-cluded that staff member's hyperlinked email, which opens directly to Outlook window. In order to send an email to multiple recipients via Gmail, the user has to copy and paste the email address and close the new window. This is a sim-ple enough task when connect-ing a single-digit number of people, but I did it over 200 times.

Of course, this trivial and time-consuming work has seemed completely worthwhile had I gotten a sig-nificant staff response. How-ever, after sending it out in three acts and contact-ing more than 200 people, my grand total number of re-ponses came to a whopping one.

Cesar Osuba, a custodian who agreed to be identified by name, was the only staff member who responded to my email. During his inter-view, he made generally posi-tive comments about working for Conn with some qualms about staff representation and the lack of programs de-signed to incentivize labor, but he stated clearly: "Mine can't be the only opinion that you get." I agree with Osuba, and that is why this project is far from finished. The truth is that I cannot write a conclu-sive article without hearing from more staff members. When I asked Osuba why he thought I did not receive any other re-sponses, he said "some of [the staff] don't even know they have [Conn] emails." Why would staff not be informed of their institutional email accounts? In the pres-ence technological age, email acts as an essential means of communication, and every member of our campus has a right to interact with the rest of the community. It con-cerns me that at a school that so heavily stresses shared governance, it becomes near-ly impossible for populations on campus to talk to others.

The difficulty of answering the living wage question is a symptom of a greater prob-lem: the disconnect between sectors of campus. Why, then, is the staff at Conn so isolated, and how are we go-ing to change it?

I once overheard an older family mem-ber talking to someone else his age. I don't remember the exact context, but he was try-ing to explain that he wasn't pointing the finger of blame at anyone. What he actually said was, "We're not trying to finger any-one here." This is a pretty harmless example of a time in which I use language dif-fered from someone with a different iden-tity: specifically, that of age. Many people my age would never have used that term in that way. In this case, it turned into a light-hearted argument about the appropriate use of language. I laughed and told him that he could just use that phrase.

But what happens when the accusations of the "appropriate" use of language are more serious? What happens when those making the claims hold particular positions of power? What happens when they begin to link the use of language to notions of intelligence? And what under-lies these claims?

Recently, a fellow student expressed to me his belief that being intelligent means being able to speak well. I asked him to explain, and he went on to say, and I paraphrase: "We go to an elite school, and if people don't know those rules of language, then maybe they shouldn't be here." I know every other person on this campus has most likely heard some overt or subtle, direct or passive comment about someone not being smart or good enough because of the way they speak and commu-nicate. And when people do this, they are using the power of language to enact biases.

Next time you say or hear something that assumes connections between lan-guage and intelligence, question what ideas are coming from. Question how you are measuring intelligence. Question your standards of the "right" way of speak-ing. Because many understandings of the "right" way to speak English are drawn from the same standards that determine the "right" nationality, the "right" race, the "right" class, the "right" ability status, the "right" education level, and so many other categories.

These categorizations of the "right" way of speaking and how they reflect the "right" form of intelligence reflect a very particular structure of power which excludes people who do not hold power in that structure and discounts many articulations of intel-ligence. It's a centuries-old, colonialist, racist, classist, ablist, xenophobic understanding of the "right" way of being. And our peers are operating within these assumptions and expectations of language and power every day.

On speaking English as her second lan-guage, Ellie Kim '15 expressed:

"When I open up my mouth and let words come out of me, I feel as though every word I say would be evaluated, for its pronunci-ation, meaning, idiom, grammar, etc. This fear of being wrong, of being not proper, of coming across as inadquate makes the very act of speaking anxiety-provoking."

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On Tuesday night, I drafted an article critiquing majority-rule democracy in the context of the recent SGA election. I asked questions such as: how can majority-rule democracy ever hope to represent the minority, and therefore the whole, when it’s explicitly in the interest of the majority? And, doesn’t this form of democracy they considered approach to historical power dynamics in “leadership”? In writing that piece, I did a little research to figure out just how the ballots are counted here, only to find that information was virtually non-existent. I was hoping to explain how putting a second or third choice takes away numerical strength from your first choice, but in looking through the bylaws, no information on the counting system used by SGA could be found. So, I followed their suggestion, and contacted the Chief of Communications, Sarah Bradford ’15, for more information.

After two days of conversations among SGA representatives, the Senec Web Developer and students-at-large, it was finally established that this year’s election was based on a factor-cum-in, in which first choice selections were given five points, second-choice was given three and third choice was given one. I urge you to ask yourself: Did you know how this worked when you were voting? Many students, and candidates themselves did not. Some students didn’t put second and third choice candidates in fear of that taking away strength from their favorite. Others put multiple votes, thinking they would all get equal points. Others thought second and third choice didn’t even count—they didn’t last year! And still others thought second and third choice were only used in the case of a run-off election. This is voter misinformation. This is not democracy and this is not transparency.

I have to admit that the SGA Assembly has done an excellent job acknowledging these issues and agreeing to simplify the system and better inform voters for future elections. However, if we can agree that these elections were problematic, and agree that they need to be changed, it would be contradictory to say this past election was okay. There is still time to fix that. We need to revote. SGA is our legitimate voice as students. We need to know that SGA represents our interests. The revote may well produce the results of the recent elections on the grounds of misinformation and lack of transparency. What happened? Where did I find all this faith to invest in SGA that made me want to expect transparency from them, given that I have never recognized the legitimacy of SGA as an elected body?

This year, I find myself interested in contesting the results of the recent elections on the grounds of misinformation and lack of transparency. What happened? Where did I find all this faith to invest in SGA that made me want to expect transparency from them, given that I have never recognized the legitimacy of SGA as an elected body? We need to know that SGA represents our interests. The revote may well produce the results of the recent elections on the grounds of misinformation and lack of transparency. What happened? Where did I find all this faith to invest in SGA that made me want to expect transparency from them, given that I have never recognized the legitimacy of SGA as an elected body?

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This past semester, we’ve learned to celebrate student agency and critique shared governance. This is our chance to assert our agency, to say that shared governance matters, and for our voices to be represented. The election has currently been “suspended” and the SGA Assembly will be voting this Thursday on whether or not to invalidate the election and do a revote. Therefore, I urge you to talk to your house senator and class president about your desire on the issue, whether you think a revote is necessary or not. A simple email will suffice. Or come to the meeting in Ernst on Thursday at 7:15 to speak during Open Forum or support your peers.

On Reconciling with the Idea of SGA

APARNA GOPALAN
OPINIONS EDITOR

Over a year ago, I wrote an article in the Voice calling for a complete overhaul of student government elections at Connecticut College. I suggested that even choosing SGA members via lottery would be preferable to the current facade of an election system imagined that all issues that students might have could just go to a school-wide online referendum instead of bureaucratizing around the archaic structure of an election.

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continue to fail us. It is ours to peer closely at elections that no one understands. This is probably the one place in the world where we have the most agency to change the political and social structure around us, and as dissatisfied or irrelevant as it might seem at first glance, SGA can be revolutionized to help serve this end.

WHAT'S MORE
IMPRESSIVE
THAN OUR STATS? OUR GRADUATES.

At Quinnipiac University, our students are our main focus. It's why we offer graduate degrees in fields ranging from business to health sciences. It's also why Quinnipiac was ranked among the top master's-level universities in the North by U.S. News & World Report and first in the northern region in U.S News' Up-and-Coming Schools category.
The Connecticut College Academic Resource Center

Congratulates
the
Class of 2015

and wishes them the best of luck in all of their future endeavors!

Be sure to reach out to ARC for help and resources during your final round of exams!
Located on the second floor of Shain Library
Conn has a Poker Team?

YES, AND THEY'RE FILTHY

John Cunningham
Staff Writer

Not too long ago swimmer Carson Owlett '17 was just a casual poker fan that had fun playing online. Recently, though, Owlett has been taking poker more seriously. Carson, along with eight other students at Conn, just competed for the title of best collegiate poker team in the United States. Owlett and his teammates Ashley Giordano, Roberto Gochicoa, Deion Jordan, Sean Lee, Will Stockdell, Sam Turco, all class of 2017, Mark Ferreira '15, and Karl Johnson '18 came up just short of winning the national title when they lost to Florida State University, a team made up of 70 players. "The most disappointing part about the loss," says Owlett, "is that we beat those guys pretty good earlier in the year." How is it, then, that a team of nine made it as far as the national championship as major underdogs? "It isn't too complicated really, me and my friends got together and started playing poker. We got really into it and started looking at online leagues and stuff like that. We found this one at www.collegepokertour.com and since then we have played all the way to the championship," said Owlett.

Even after the team lost their final match though the season didn't end. There is a team portion of this college poker tour, but there is also an individual part as well. Seven of the nine members of the team managed to earn the right to compete for a $10,000 prize in the form of a scholarship. In order to qualify to win the $10,000 prize, participants need to go through four rounds of play. The students play no limit Texas Hold 'Em. The final nine players of the fourth round are flown out to Scottsdale, Arizona (all expenses paid) where they will compete against one another May 30 on live television for the $10,000 prize and the claim to the United States top collegiate poker player. Some players on the team managed to qualify for round one simply by playing in and earning a spot. Giordano and Jordan qualified for round one and then went on to fight round one in the top nine, and moved on to round two. Turco and Johnson received automatic qualification bids to round three because of their rank on the tour. Ferrera, Gochicoa and Owlett all received automatic qualification bids to round four based on their rankings on the tour. The events were streamed live on twitch.tv on April 19.

Gochicoa emerged as the top individual player for the Camels and clinched the 9th invite spot for the individual national championship. He will be flown out to Scottsdale at the end of May along with other top poker players from around the country.

Owlett hopes that after this year he will be able to make his team a little more official. He has applied to make the team an official club, and is even trying to get the school to approve the team as a club sport. He encourages anyone that is interested in playing to email him. "It doesn't matter if you're an expert or you've never played poker in your life. If you're interested just shoot me an email and we would be more than happy to have you," he said. He hopes that the team will grow in size so that they can compete with the larger teams like Florida State University.

The Turtle Mambas won the championship. Some returning teams from last year are Island of Misfit Toys, Team 2, Team Gilmore 3.0 and So Much Sass. Kerr said, "There's a great turnout and a lot of great talent this year. The games have been excit- ing and thrilling so far." Many players have been training in the off-season in preparation for intramural soccer.
Reflecting on the Boston Marathon: Two Years Later
A City Continues to Heal

ELIZABETH VAROLI
STAFF WRITER

4.15.13
This is the date that has gone down in history as the day of the Boston Marathon bombing. On April 15th 2013, the Tsarnaev brothers set off two pressure cooker bombs near the finish line of the Boston Marathon on Boylston Street. These atrocious bombs yielded three dead and 264 injured. The Boston Marathon is usually a day filled with excitement for inhabitants of Boston and viewers around the world but instead this day was filled with events that nearly shut the city down: manhunts, shelter-in-place orders, a lack of communication and a half on public transportation.

4.15.13
This is also the date that Lelisa Desisa, an Ethiopian runner, won the Boston Marathon for the first time, running a little over 26 miles with a time of 2:10:22. Desisa completed the race a mere five seconds faster than Micah Kogo, the silver medalist. Desisa was one of the few runners who was able to complete the race so many of the other projected finishers were derailed by the bombs. In the aftermath of the attack, the marathon awards ceremony was cancelled. Many consider Desisa to be the "forgotten champion" of the Boston Marathon in that his incredible finish was completely lost amidst the tragedy. After the race, Desisa returned his gold medal to show his solidarity with the city of Boston and all it had lost.

4.20.15
This is the date of the 119th Boston Marathon. Two years and five days separate this day from the Boston bombing. This is still an emotional day for the entire city of Boston but it also marks their ability to move forward. Boston, a city completely shaken by the events of the bombing, embraced the "Boston Strong" motto that had guided them through the initial shock. Many runners indicated that they would be running the race in memory of their friends, to honor all the victims, or to raise money for charity organizations. The marathon was a sort of community bonding and healing event, but it was also a chance for many to run a race they had always dreamed of running. After last year's more sentimental race, the one-year anniversary of the bombing, it appears that after two years the race has turned its focus back a little more to the running.

4.20.15
This is the date that Lelisa Desisa won the Boston Marathon for the second time. During this race, his time improved by over a minute, finishing in 2:09:17. This race was not as close as the 2013 race. Desisa crossed the finish line with a 31 second lead over Yemane Adhane Tsegay, the second place winner. When Desisa crossed the finish line he announced "Strong Boston." Being from Ethiopia, his English syntax wasn't perfect but the sentiment of his statement stuck and touched all who watched. This year, there was a formal medal ceremony where Desisa received his gold medal that he would actually keep for himself this time.

I hope Lovie Smith knows what other quarterbacks have Heineman behind them: Johns-
maned, Troy Smith, Matt Leinart. How are they doing in the NFL? Troy Smith and Lein-
art barely had NFL careers, and Heineman's future is in question. In fact, besides Cam Newton, no Heineman winner since 2002 has made an impact in the NFL. But why is that? What, what kinds of teams get the top draft picks? Bad teams, i.e. teams with the worse records. This year, that bad team is you. And so when a bad team picks a quarterback ear-
ly in the draft, it expects him to immediately become the savior of the franchise. Great college players like Winston frequently, are drafted early because they are the best. And bad teams want the best.

The problem is that such a player has no supporting cast. He is thrown into an impossible situa-
tion, trying to carry the drags of the league on his back all by him-
self and without any experience. And when it doesn't work, as it was the case nine times out of ten, he is automatically a bust. It may work that one time out of ten-
Andrew Luck and Cam Newton have led their teams to playoff successes...
A Language of Their Own: A preview of the Art Major show

DAKOTA PESCHEL
OPINIONS EDITOR

The maze known as Cummings is a space that very few of the student body attempt to understand, however many have made this building their surrogate home and studio for the past 4 years. The senior art major show titled "Fragment Process," opening on May 1 at 5 p.m. in the galleries on the second and third floors, contains selection from the intensive year long exploration that all senior majors are required to undergo to complete their undergraduate experience. I was lucky enough to be present during the beginning stages of set up to talk with a few of the art majors about their year-long endeavors.

Cascading ceramics greet the viewer upon entry into the Joanie Toor Cummings Art Gallery on the second floor of Cummings. Esther Mehez '15 uses this medium to explore her familial and cultural history in Hungary. The repeated forms she utilizes throughout her work "are antique teacups from United States and Hungary. Until.."

Eclipse Fashion Show
Highlights Culture, History in Dress

CIARA HEALY
ARTS EDITOR

The annual Connecticut College Eclipse Fashion Show was on April 24 leaving no disappointment to those who attended. The history and assortment of fashion throughout time and region. Now entering its 40th year, Eclipse is an annual dance production on campus, as well as students and campus organizations, the students who were running the show were 'never to wear" the sneakerheads "never wear" the objects and more specifically Bill Brown's "thing theory." In the memorializing of objects it is important for others to know that one person is not representative of an entire culture, race, or country.

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An air of excitement streamed through-out the cramped wooden walls of the Bulkeley House Saloon on Thursday, April 16. It poured over the crowd in swift, steady waves. The tight quarters on the 2nd floor of the bar, better known as Tiki, suggested there might be a reason that 111 Blank St. on this night was generating such significant numbers.

Looking around, I could imagine numerous possibilities that explained why each member of the growing stream was there. Maybe they needed a break from the academic rigor of April, or maybe they just wanted a night off with friends.

However, when the dimmed lights suddenly flared up and revealed to the crowd the previously silhouetted figures on stage, I knew there was a common purpose for every student’s presence; Montreal Protocol.

Despite not being able to hear the music within the first five minutes due to the uproar of the crowd, the pulled Protocol gave another stellar performance by doing what they do best: playing music.

Covering a variety of classic hits and performing a few originals of their own, MP made sure that no dull moments undermined their time on stage. But such torments should never have been necessary to the band of five (Tim Flannery ’16, Drew Andre ’16, Sam McKeown ’17, Luke Graves ’16 and Joe Donohue ’16).

There seems to be something unique about Montreal Protocol that extends beyond the black and white aspects of their makeup, an intangible chemistry that can only be understood when observing the band without the lights, music and screaming crowds.

“We are stupid,” says Graver, drummer and a junior at the College. “We drink together, we party together. We are friends.” This sort of camaraderie within the band is evident, but the strong social bonds within Montreal Protocol are born of the incredible effort they put into their music.

“Behind every show, there are probably 20 hours of work put in by each member of the band,” Luke emphasizes, leaning forward in his seat. “It’s our work and our friendships that contribute to the non-verbal communication that people are seeing on stage.”

Luke went on to describe how Montreal Protocol’s time together has always been about the mutual enjoyment of music, but this didn’t mean they were always natural performers.

“We were bad,” he retires, a slight smile on his face preparing me for the tale of how Montreal Protocol got their humble start. “I remember I was on the second floor of Jane Addams my freshman year. I heard a couple of kids playing some songs in a dorm down the hall and I just went in and introduced myself.”

The people jamming in that second floor dorm room were Drew Andre and Tim Flannery, two fellow janies and current band members today. Yet, little did Luke, Tim or Drew know that this casual interaction was the beginning of something that would come to fill their lives in the coming years. Still, things did not take off immediately.

“It can’t be rehearse in a dorm room,” says lead vocalist Drew Andre, laughing at the reminiscence on those first shaky weeks in Montreal Protocol’s infancy. Drew explained to me how things developed very slowly for the band early on because they lacked the necessary space to nurture their creativity, which ultimately hampered their ability to grow.

It wasn’t until the band joined MO-BROC that they began to further develop their abilities. Montreal Protocol gained access to “the Barn,” an old converted squash court behind Cro, where they could practice in a proper setting and even perform small shows.

“Having that space is so crucial,” Drew says, “It’s almost impossible to have the same learning experience without it.” To the band, the Barn was a safe environment where their musical talents grew unhindered. The space allowed them to explore the deeper complexities of the group and to find their own musical style.

“The ability to be in your own space and in your own heads collectively, you are able do things you can’t normally do alone.” The band sees this as crucial in propelling them to new technical heights which ultimately enhanced not only their music but also their stage presence and work ethic. Or as Drew puts it, “Now we jam until we can’t jam anymore.”

With this discipline toward their craft in place, Montreal Protocol has an optimistic view of things to come. “I think right now we are focusing on the live performance,” says Joe Donohue, who mains the sweet synthesized rhythms of the band’s keyboard. “I think that Tiki set the groundwork for the near future. It didn’t really prove anything to us, but it showed to the audience that we could perform and perform well.”

Joe expressed excitement for the future, and said that Montreal Protocol will try and get off campus more often for live shows in the coming year. “We are going to try to get up into Boston and New Haven.”

However, even beyond next year when the band will face their final year at Connecticut College, Joe said that their commitment to Montreal Protocol is absolute. “We haven’t thought about stopping, we just want to do what we love and make it happen.” For Montreal Protocol, the act of getting together with friends to make music transcends the bonds of Campus life, a devotion that has marked the band as something special.

With a pensive look in his eye, Drew says “We don’t want to be forty-something at a reunion and talking about what we could’ve done different” and I don’t believe they will.”

Montreal Protocol Takes Music to Downtown New London

JOHN SARGENT
STAFF WRITER

...
Eclipse: The Revival
April 25, 2015