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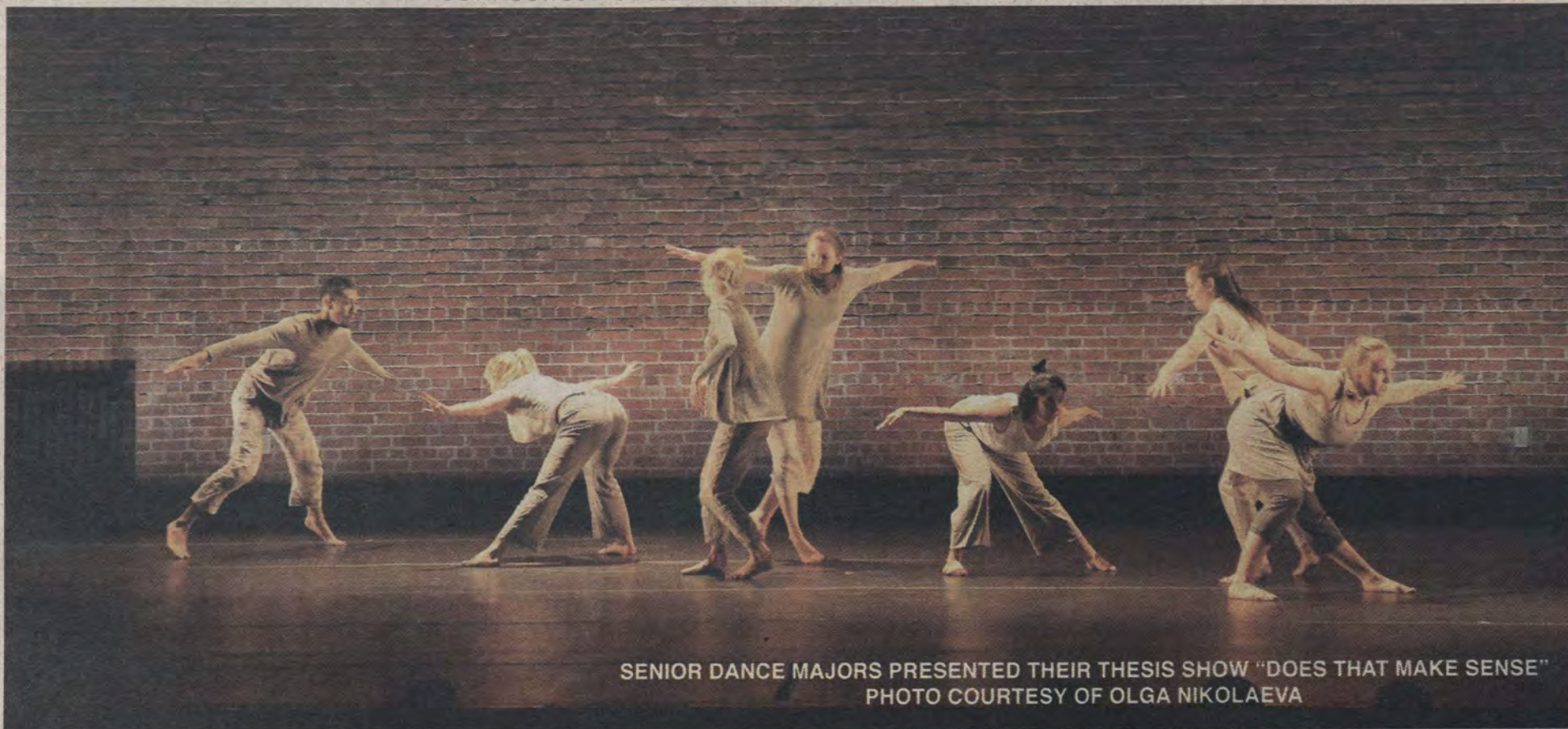
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# THE COLLEGE VOICE

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER



SENIOR DANCE MAJORS PRESENTED THEIR THESIS SHOW "DOES THAT MAKE SENSE"  
PHOTO COURTESY OF OLGA NIKOLAEVA

## A Spotlight on Full Participation in the Liberal Arts

**ISABELLE SMITH**  
STAFF WRITER

"This course will be unlike anything else you've done at this college," promised Professor David Kim, head of the religious studies department. He was speaking about his senior seminar capstone course for students in their final semester at Connecticut College, and students in the course agree with this appraisal. Unlike most courses at Conn, the seminar centers on lived, human experience. Walker Cammack, Christine Connolly, Vanessa Correia, Cory Scarola, Andrew Shaw, Kelsey Millward and Leslie Trueblood engage in self-reflection to promote change. I spoke with Professor Kim over the phone, and met with his students in the library.

With this goal, Professor Kim has challenged his students to consider broad questions, such as who are you? Reflecting on specific question during the first class meeting, Cammack said, "Initially

it seemed like a simple question. But then more questions came out of it, like how do [my] peers perceive [me] and is that how [I] wanted to be perceived? This too expands into questions like have I accomplished everything I want to achieve, and if not, why?" In order to understand people and the surrounding environment, it is essential that students have a more complete understanding of themselves. This is the purpose of the self-reflection. One of the final projects is to complete individual autobiographies. Describing the assignment, Cammack said, "It's an intersection about who we are at our core, our interests and these issues [of categories of difference], which is something that a lot of [us] have never done before. It's exciting to see what we will produce."

Throughout the self-reflection, the students have also considered deeply how the College has

shaped them over the past four years. As Connolly said, "A lot of what we have been thinking about is what the College has done for us, and in other ways how the school may have fallen short." By promoting critical discussion of the college, Professor Kim hopes to change the faults of the College and support its growth. Kim explained, "A liberal arts education, when [it] works well, encourages flourishing of all kinds... When the community is not fully engaged, however, it challenges the liberal arts."

In order to fully engage in the liberal arts, one must understand to what one is applying oneself. Scarola commented, "I think it's funny that the course is called 'full participation' when that is one of the terms that is on the chopping block for us. But it's just called that because that's the College's chosen language." Like "full participation" and "liberal

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## Game of Thrones is Back!

**DANA SORKIN**  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

It may almost be finals, your senior honors thesis may almost be due, but you're going to have to put all of that aside for the time being, because it's the most wonderful time of the year: the season premiere of season six of Game of Thrones is just days away. HBO, of course, has been teasing fans in the weeks leading up to the premiere on April 24, and much, obviously, is still uncertain. If you read the book series Game of Thrones is based off of, A Song of Ice and Fire, you may already know that this season, as well as previous seasons, have taken large liberties in diverting from the source material. Though season six is supposedly based off of the yet-to-be-released sixth novel, The Winds of Winter, a number of character plots are still catching up from the fifth and even fourth novels. In previous seasons I used to revel in the fact that I knew more about what was going on

than my friends who didn't read the books, but from this season on, we're all in this together. We're not all in this together, however, if you're not all caught up — so if you're still making your way through prior seasons on your best friend's brother's girlfriend's dad's HBOgo account, this may be a good place to stop, because I'm about to spoil a couple of moments from last season for you.

In one of the earliest teaser trailers from back in December 2015, HBO is clearly playing on the biggest unknown season six will have to deal with: the death, and possible revival, of Jon Snow. The trailer opens with him, seemingly alive and well, albeit staring blankly ahead of him, before flipping quickly through some of the more, well, memorable moments of past seasons: Jon Snow's death, the beheading of Ned Stark,

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This year, *The College Voice* is proud to host our first annual Journalism Crash Course, a week-long event that will bring journalism and what it means to be a journalist today to our campus community. Each night starting on Monday, April 18, a different professor from across campus will give a talk in Blaustein about journalism and how it relates to their field from 7-8:30pm. You can come to one or two, or you can come to all of them, and if you do at the end of the week you'll receive a certificate to denote the time you put into learning about journalism and human rights, creative writing, multimedia, ethics and reported speech. Throw it on your resume and impress your CELS advisor. And next Monday we're hosting two reporters from the New London Day to talk about the field and their experiences as journalists in the city we call home. Space is limited, and you definitely don't want to miss this event. We hope to see you there!

- Dana

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*The College Voice* will be meeting for our last two writers' meetings of the year in the Alice Johnson Room at 9:30 p.m. on Mondays

Join us.

## THE COLLEGE VOICE

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

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# Students Take a Stand Against Slavery

**ALEXIS CHENEY  
CONTRIBUTOR**

Hershey's chocolate makes a scrumptious s'more. A swig of Coca Cola helps speed along that long day. Forever 21 and H&M sell fashionable going-out clothes. Unfortunately, however, such companies are among the many that rely on slave labor to generate profits comprising the 150 billion dollar forced labor industry.

Members of the on-campus club, Slavery Ends Today (SET), ran an event from 8 am Thursday, April 7 to 11 am Friday, April

and awareness," Waterworth concurred. To raise awareness, the club set up a table in Cro decked out with posters and pamphlets explaining modern slavery.

So, what is modern slavery? Modern slavery is synonymous with "human trafficking" and denotes "all of the criminal conduct involved in forced labor and sex trafficking, essentially the conduct involved in reducing or holding someone in compelled service," according to the U.S. Department of State's website. Human trafficking occurs in

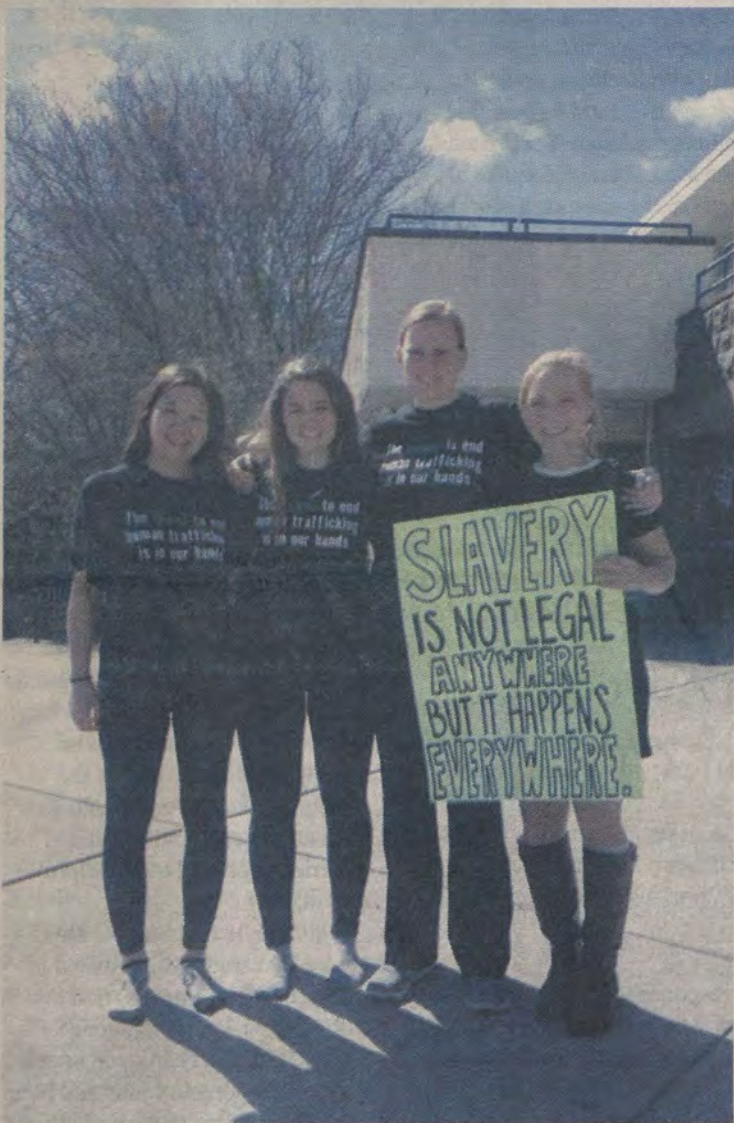
as in Norwich. Of the estimated 21 to 36 million enslaved individuals worldwide, 14,000 to 17,000 individuals are trafficked into the U.S. each year. In Connecticut alone, there have been 300 reported cases of child human trafficking according to an article entitled "How Connecticut is Helping Combat Child Sex Trafficking" published by the New London Patch. Just last year, the Hartford police arrested two men, Dwayne "Crash" Hairston and Eric James "Nut" Williams, for kidnapping and sexually trafficking an 18 year-old woman for over a month. Similarly, in March of 2016 an ex-victim of sex trafficking, Jasmine Marino, provided testimonial at Norwich Free Academy of being recruited by a pimp and then forced to work in locations across New England for five years.

So, what can we do? Individuals can request lawmakers to create legislation improving the capacity of authorities to investigate and prosecute instances of human trafficking. Fortunately, Governor Dannel P. Malloy signed into law a bill in July of 2015 that gives authorities the permission to use wiretaps in investigating domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) and expands victims access to health care, support, and counseling services. Individuals with smart phones can download ethical shopping applications like Good Guide and Buycott, which provide health, environmental, and social performance ratings for thousands of products. Ironically, however, smartphones are made from cobalt in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which child slave laborers often extract. Those without smartphones can read the disclosure statements that companies provide about their products.

Students at Connecticut College can also join the other ten active members of Slavery Ends Today. The club fundraises for local organizations such as Love146 of Southeastern Connecticut, a non-profit organization working to end child trafficking and exploitation. The club also meets bi-weekly to learn more about the issue of modern slavery. At previous meetings the club has screened Redlight, Food Chains, Girls Rising, Love146 online videos, Not My Life and Trapped. Current club initiatives include making the bookstore on campus more ethical by selling Fair Trade clothing and ensure that slave labor has not produced the food sold in Oasis and Harris. Through the event "27 Hours" alone, the club raised \$1,172. Looks like they are one stand, er step, closer to ending slavery. •



**STUDENTS INSIDE CRO STAND FOR FREEDOM FOR THE MILLIONS OF ENSLAVED INDIVIDUALS WORLDWIDE**



**STUDENTS STAND OUTSIDE CRO FOR 27 HOURS TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT MODERN-DAY SLAVERY**

8 in Crozier-Williams to raise awareness about such bitter truths about modern slavery. The title of the event, "27 hours," refers both to the number of hours that club members stood to raise awareness and the estimated 27 million people enslaved around the world. Three warriors – Morgan Cowie-Haskell '17, Kali Guise '18 and Asa Waterworth '18 – remained standing the entire time while other club members and allies took turns cheering them on. "Standing is a statement of commitment and does not come close to the amount of hardship that actual enslaved people face," Cowie-Haskell, president of SET, explained as she leaned on a countertop for relief. "This event is about solidarity

the forms of forced labor, sex trafficking, bonded labor, debt bondage among migrant laborers, involuntary domestic servitude, forced child labor, child soldiers and child sex trafficking. Vulnerable populations, such as homeless youth, immigrants without green cards and underage minors engaged in the commercial sex industry are often victims of slavery. Slavery occurs everywhere: in Bangladesh, in California and in New London. Slaves may be servers at restaurants, maids in hotels, or strippers in bars. They are ubiquitous.

Americans need to face the fact that slavery occurs not only in Southeast Asia and sub-Saharan Africa but also in the U.S., such



**SET PRESIDENT MORGAN COWIE-HASKELL, SEEN HERE LEAVING CRO AT THE END OF THE EVENT, WAS ONE OF THREE SET STUDENT-LEADERS WHO STOOD FOR THE ENTIRE 27 HOURS**

# GOV/IR SAB Brings International Law and Immigration Speakers to Conn

**MOLLIE REID**  
NEWS EDITOR

On April 7, Conn students and faculty had the unique opportunity to listen to a presentation featuring Caitlin Steinke '08 and Mike Doyle entitled "Perspectives and Challenges of International Human Rights Law and Immigration." The event, which took place in New London Hall 101, was sponsored by the Government and International Relations Student Advisory Board (SAB) and Amnesty International.

Government/IR SAB chair, Mia Haas-Goldberg '16, began the talk by introducing the speakers to the audience. First, Haas-Goldberg introduced Caitlin Steinke, a 2008 Conn alumna, who majored in International Relations. Currently, Steinke is a Staff Attorney with the International Justice Network (IJN), "a non-profit organization that provides free legal assistance to survivors of Human Rights abuses and their families, advocates for universal human rights and promotes the rule of law through a network of legal experts, non-governmental organizations and local activists across the globe." Within the past decade, IJN has litigated in US federal courts on "behalf of prisoners indefinitely detained without charge at the US military's Bagram prison in Afghanistan." In addition to her work with IJN, Steinke also works as an attorney with the human rights Law Firm of Tina Foster, which focuses on "representing businesses, non-profit organizations and individuals affected by post-9/11 national security policies and discrimination."

Second, Haas-Goldberg introduced Mike Doyle, the founder of the Immigration Advocacy & Support Center (IASC) in New London, CT, to event attendees. Doyle, a Vanderbilt University School of Law alum, volunteered for service in the U.S. Navy JAG Corps. In 2003, Doyle opened an immigration law practice in Providence, Rhode Island. In the past, Doyle has also "represented individuals in front of the U.S. Immigration Court, the Board of Immigration Appeals, the United States Customs and Immigration Service and the Board of Administrative Appeals."

Doyle was the first speaker to

present his work as a lawyer as well as discuss the importance of IASC to the local community. "One of my roles here is to show you the local, grassroots perspective that might be happening right under your nose or in your own backyard," began Doyle. He continued by providing audience members with some of IASC's history: "IASC was established in 2014 in a small city, which is extremely diverse. There is a large population of immigrants here [New London] and the community is made up of non-native born populations. 32% of the [city's] population speaks another language than English in the home. The population of immigrants in

that IASC has been "fortunate enough to have the support of the Church of the City in downtown New London." The Church of the City bought the Bank of America building on State Street out of foreclosure about three years ago and donated it to IASC to house its staff and services.

Some Conn students may already be familiar with IASC through The Office of Volunteers for Community Service (OVCS). IASC has closely worked with OVCS in gaining student support through IASC's internship program. Due to IASC's small size, Conn volunteers make a difference. "We collaborate extensively. We are brand new, but we have

countries, or they are from Islamic organizations or businesses that do business in places like Iran, for example," said Steinke.

"The work is difficult to describe because we do a little bit of everything we want to do that is meaningful, important and alleviates some suffering that is being experienced by people who cannot find legal counsel to help them with a situation that does not fit into a box," explained Steinke. The Law Firm of Tina Foster also deals with "behind-the-scenes diplomatic efforts with regards to prisoner exchange," said Steinke.

As stated earlier, Steinke also works in the non-profit world of law at the IJN, which was founded

out law school.

Steinke, speaking from experience, also encourages students to take time off before starting law school. "You are learning to think in an entirely different way, and to process information in a new way, and to write in an entirely different way. You go in thinking you do these things very well, and then [in law school] you are told you have to start over," says Steinke. In other words, the time and pressure it takes to adapt from one classroom setting to another can be emotionally overwhelming after four years of undergrad.

Steinke also believes that having some experience in a legal environment can be incredibly beneficial to one's journey in law. One should, however, truly want to become a lawyer if they decide to go into law school. The benefit to early exposure in a legal environment is that "you are walking in with a sense of how you can apply these skills in a real way." The language of law and the theories that one reads about can be understood in practice in a legal environment. "Any experience is going to be valuable for you. There is nothing that is going to be a waste of your time having learned," Steinke said. (Steinke once worked at the Public Defender's Office, even though she does not do criminal defense. The experience proved to be helpful, regardless.)

Both Doyle and Steinke also advise that students interested in international or immigration law fully learn a foreign language. This crucial skill can open opportunities for potential jobs and help communicate more easily with clients.

All in all, those present at the "Perspectives and Challenges of International Human Rights Law and Immigration" talk found it to be informative because it provided students with the opportunity to closely speak with and listen to working professionals. The process of graduating from college, going to law school and becoming immersed in the field as a practicing lawyer became more clear and "human" for those students interested in pursuing a law degree. After Doyle and Steinke concluded their presentations, students who had additional inquiries had the chance to speak with them individually. •

*"One of my roles here is to show you the local, grassroots perspective that might be happening right under your nose or in your own backyard."*

- Mike Doyle, founder, Immigration Advocacy & Support Center, New London, CT

New London has increased drastically. There is amazing growth in the Asian community and in the Latino community here."

Doyle explained that before IASC opened its doors, there was no organization in New London that was wholly dedicated to "the social services for the immigrant population," such as getting a green card. Traveling to New Haven, Hartford or even New York City for immigration services, many of which are costly and lengthy, is not financially easy for families seeking legal help and who desperately need it. Because IASC's legal assistance and educational services are low-cost or even no-cost, families in the area have found it easier to obtain help on immigration law and policy, without travel and financial burdens.

Doyle continued by saying

great interns. We also partner up with other non-profit organizations in the community so that we have this cross communication and try to capture people when they might be in crisis," Doyle said. This sort of collaboration across places in New London "magnifies IASC's impact in the community," Doyle remarked.

Steinke began her portion of the talk by discussing her dual role as an attorney. "I work with a private law firm and a non-profit organization. There is a lot of overlap between my two jobs," Steinke makes up half of the Law Firm of Tina Foster. "It's me and one other attorney," she said. "A lot of the work [we do] is across the U.S. and is international. We focus on post-9/11 national security policies and discrimination. A lot of the people we represent are either Muslim or from Middle Eastern

in response to the lack of lawyers who were litigating in U.S. courts on behalf of detainees at the Parwan Detention Facility, also known as the Bagram Theater Internment Facility in the U.S. Bagram Airbase in Afghanistan. "This really difficult work [the litigation went on for about a decade] is what sustains us as lawyers," Steinke reflected.

Because many of the students at the talk are soon-to-be graduating seniors, much of the presentation involved questions from audience members. Doyle recommends that students take a year or two off from undergraduate before starting law school to "gather oneself" before heading into the drudge of graduate school. The first two years of law school are emotionally taxing and it can be difficult to maintain the high energy one comes into school with through-

# Obama Continues to Pardon Offenders, Cites Importances of Second Chances

**SAM WILCOX**  
NEWS EDITOR

Earlier this month, President Obama commuted the sentences of 61 drug offenders. This brings the total number of commutations issued by Obama to 248, far outweighing the combined number of 139, granted by the previous six United States presidents. Throughout his two terms, Obama has expressed determination to reform the criminal justice system. Now, with less than a year remaining in his second term, the president has more aggressively utilized his executive authority to address mass incarceration, which resulted from the "War on Drugs" initiated by the Nixon Administration in 1971, and expanded by the Reagan Administration during the 1980s.

The drug policies implemented during the War on Drugs created determinate sentencing guidelines and mandatory minimums, undermining a judge's discretion to sentence in a case-by-case manner. As a result, the nonviolent prison population skyrocketed, creating the issue of mass

incarceration that faces the nation today. Over time drug policy laws have evolved, and as a result, many of the inmates incarcerated for nonviolent drug offenses are serving sentences that are exponentially longer than if they were convicted under today's laws. Of the 61 commutations that Obama recently granted, about one-third were serving life sentences. During his presidency, Obama has commuted a total of 92 life sentences. Most of these inmates were serving life sentences for nonviolent offenses, although several had additional charges for firearm possession.

In addition, Obama has met with many of the formerly incarcerated individuals to hear more about their reentry into society. This is often a challenging process that sometimes results in the individual returning to prison, often because of the lack of resources available to him or her upon release. Most recently, on March 30, Obama went to lunch with a group of formerly incarcerated individuals who received commutations. During the lunch, Obama

spoke of the importance of the unexpected opportunity to be free, cautioning those who received clemency to show that not only did they deserve this second chance for themselves, but also for the thousands of individuals that remain behind bars yearning for a new life.

Obama states, "The power to grant pardons and commutations...embodies the basic belief in our democracy that people deserve a second chance after having made a mistake in their lives that led to a conviction under our laws."

Clemency, although powerful in that it gives individuals a second chance, does not address the larger issues of the criminal justice system. For the first time however, criminal justice reform has become a bipartisan issue. Both Republicans and Democrats agree that sentencing laws are outdated and unnecessarily harsh, driving up prison populations, draining resources, and destroying lives. The Obama Administration in particular, has expressed support for greater use of drug treatment programs

rather than incarceration. Furthermore, with the legalization of marijuana movement, questions have been raised on how to address the sentences of individuals who are serving time for cannabis-related offenses. With criminal justice reform on the agenda for conservatives and liberals alike, and the changing attitudes toward drugs in the United States, it is surprising that many of the presidential hopefuls have not provided a concrete stance on the issue. Regardless, no matter what party is in the White House come 2017, criminal justice reform is likely to become one of the dominant issues faced by the next president. •

## CONTINUED FROM FRONT

arts," many terms have become commonplace, and consequently have lost a singular definition. Before the Connecticut College community can "fully engage in the liberal arts," a definition must be decided upon. "We're looking at how you bring meaning back to things like that, or at least don't get stuck on the language and get to the essence of what you are actually trying to accomplish in your college experience," described Cammack. "There is a working definition for students who practice [the liberal arts] and those who teach," said Professor Kim. Correia put forth her idea: "The liberal arts is like adding a layer to your education that you can't get anywhere else... I believe, it's a way of educating the whole person so that you leave prepared to enter the world in every way in terms of ethics and understanding other people and yourself."

How can students understand

the people around them if they don't share common experiences? An issue that the course addresses is one of changing conversation space. Shaw explained that the group discusses "how [to] make questions of race and other categories of difference more central conversation rather than peripheral conversation. They happen, but they happen in dorm rooms and centers of historically marginalized people. They don't happen in campus-wide efforts, and as

## Floralia Working Group's Recommendations for 2016 Event

**ALLIE KYFF**  
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

At the SGA meeting on Thursday, March 10, 2016, the Working Group discussed recommendations for this year's Floralia.

Members of the Floralia Working Group include Sara Rothenberger, Director of Residential Education and Living (co-chair), Sal Bigay '16, President of SGA (co-chair), Eduardo Araujo '16, Housefellow Tom Conlin '16, Mary Kate Fox '19, Treat Hardy '18, Molly Provencher '17, C.J. Robinson '16, Ariana Taylor '16, Campus Safety Shift Supervisor Louis Argarin, Head Track and Field Coach Ned Bishop, Associate Professor of Anthropology Anthony Graesch, Director of Student Engagement Scott McEever, Assistant Director of Unity House, Women's Center Advisor Jennifer Nival and Josh Stoffel, Campus Sustainability Manager.

These individuals worked together to create what they described as a "fun and inclusive event that people feel comfortable attending," "an event where the health and safety of students, alumni and guests is a priority for everyone," and where "students, alumni, and guests are in the best position to meet expectations when they are clearly defined and effectively communicated." These were considered the three main goals the group set out to fulfill in planning for this year's (and future year's) Floralia.

The Working Group created a

list of recommendations for this year's Floralia. In terms of the venue and logistics, the Floralia Working Group believes that Floralia should return to the library green with a "clearly marked perimeter using green snow fencing and clear entrances/exits." The Working Group believes that there should be green snow fencing so everyone understands where the concert venue location is and where 21+ students may consume alcohol.

In addition, the Working Group believes that the venue should have an increased number of trash cans/recycling bins, water stations and port-a-potties. This will reduce clean up the next day.

Lawn chairs or other furniture intended for lawn use may be brought to the concert venue. However, this year, couches, armchairs ect. should be prohibited.

Like past years, general admission wristbands should be distributed at house meetings.

Wristbands should be checked at the concert venue entrances. Everyone entering the concert venue must have a wristband.

21+ students may exchange their general admission wristband for a 21+ wristband the day of Floralia. This method ensures only 21+ students receive the correct wristband and is consistent with how 21+ wristbands are distributed at other College events. This is a new suggestion from the

Working Group.

This year, the Working Group suggests that students are allowed to be entering the concert venue at 10 a.m. "This designated set-up time ensures the concert venue is appropriately staffed when students/alumni/guests are present." In years past, students have begun to set-up for Floralia as early as 4 a.m.

Finally, "in order for students, alumni, and guests to feel comfortable and safe at the event, the working group identified that there needs to be a consistent method of addressing instances where people fail to abide by the guidelines."

For even more information about this year's Floralia's working group; <http://www.conncoll.edu/floralia/>. •

# On the Importance of Intellectual Diversity

VLADIMIR CHLOUBA  
CONTRIBUTOR

I read Carlos Heros' '16 *No, This is Not 1934* from issue ten of *The College Voice* with much appreciation, for his article could very well start a fruitful discourse on the nature of intellectual life on campus. Heros focuses his piece primarily on the current presidential race, but there is no doubt that his observations apply to discussions about politics in general. What Heros correctly points out is that respectful disagreement is a natural outcome of intellectual diversity.

Few would doubt that bringing diversity to our campus is crucial to enriching the academic experience and creating a vibrant environment, which is the *sine qua non* of genuine learning. But the definition of diversity should not be limited to a few descriptive characteristics. Intellectual diversity, including the diversity of political opinions, is just as indispensable. In fact, is it not the proposition that people of different backgrounds and experiences will bring with them their unique viewpoints that constitutes perhaps the most powerful argument in favor of increasing a college's diversity? Is it not the richer, often unpredictable and therefore more challenging nature of our conversations that means more to us than proudly parading ratios that demonstrate how diverse a school we are? If, as the author of last issue's article believes, this is so, then the intellectual diversity of political viewpoints is of utmost importance. The question that our community has to ask is: what can we do to ensure this kind of diversity?

Sooner or later, we will have to revisit the term "political correctness." The sentiment behind political correctness is undoubtedly desirable. It is the effort to recognize the particular place and time in which a conversation takes place, including, at times, the long history that determines the positions from which the parties to a conversation speak. Perhaps even more importantly, thinking about our words before we speak them compels us to put ourselves in the shoes of others, empathize,

and for a little while remove the emphasis from what *we* think and *we* want to say about a given subject to how *others* might see it and be affected by it. Lastly, as Mark Twain put it, it *sometimes* enables us to remain silent and be thought to be a fool than to speak and remove all doubt. But unfortunately, excessive emphasis on political correctness can have quite the opposite effect. It can stifle discussions and remove the incentives to voicing an unpopular opinion. It can put the stakes of making a mistake or perhaps inadvertently offending someone so high that many choose not to participate in a discussion at all

and thus avoid the consequences of backlash. It can act as a barrier to opening up one's mind – quite the antithesis of its original intention. Now, it is unlikely that we can remove the social pressure of voicing unpopular opinions completely. Nor should we. What we can do, however, is to create an environment that recognizes that opening up one's mind to sometimes entirely foreign ideas is a fragile process which allows for occasional misunderstanding and mistakes.

Heros urges us in his article to engage Donald Trump's ideas, and based on what I wrote above, I should probably agree. However, I differ with Heros in that I believe that the mix that Trump offers the nation is dominated by populist gimmicks rather than by genuine

ideas. Trump himself changed his opinions over the years and now claims to be the most conservative of all the candidates. This exposes his hypocrisy, which is quite calculated and which is something that should not be excused by our willingness to debate ideas different from our own. But it would be a simplification to suggest that extremely polarized and polarizing political debates came with Trump.

The current campaign is not the first instance of emotions sidelining rational discussion. The gay marriage debate, which until recently stirred passionate arguments, demonstrated this

phenomenon. Even though there were good people on both sides of the issue, marriage was rarely recognized as a social institution whose merits and usefulness could be discussed. Rather, many proponents of the traditional definition of marriage saw themselves as defenders of morality and many supporters of gay marriage as advocates of greater liberty. Neither of these groups was prepared to engage in a true critically analytical discourse.

The challenge is to recognize that ideas concerning social (political) reality and phenomena are *qualitatively* equivalent. It is the content of ideas that can and has to be debated, and it is the content of ideas that enables us to judge them on their merit. Ideas are possible suggestions, proposi-

tions and conjectures and should be attacked for what they *say* and *imply*, not for what they *are*. Ideas can be debated, and arguments in their favor can be raised or refuted. Because ideas have implications and consequences on which we can agree by examining the facts, they are not the same in their outcomes and, therefore, their worth. They are, however, equal in their qualitative nature. When it comes to social reality, *there is perhaps no truth but there is a productive and critically analytical method of assessing the various "truths" that ideas present*. The approach to intellectual inquiry that I have articulated

here therefore concerns above all the method that our discourse employs. True tolerance stands for the recognition that no idea is qualitatively supreme. I believe that in an ever more complicated world, such tolerance is invaluable. It is often difficult to embrace this notion because people's intellectual pursuits are generally driven by two motives. The first is an urge to think, analyze, to find out how things work. The second—and this is particularly true for social reformers—is the conviction that this world can be made a better place and that these reformers are correct in their understanding of what a better place looks like. Make no mistake; this kind of vigor is necessary for any (and certainly for positive) societal change. But the crucial necessity

that some activists fail to pay attention to is to find vigor while continuing to critically reflect on one's own ideals.

The choice of a method necessarily impacts our perception of the phenomenon that we wish to discuss. Furthermore, it affects the results of our analysis by virtue of defining what kinds of arguments are admissible. In this sense, the approach explained above, too, is biased. It invites rational arguments that can be critically analyzed and leaves less room for passions, emotions, epiphanies, intuition and beliefs based in faith. That is not an objection that can be easily dismissed, for the understanding of social institutions such as marriage is for many based in their faith and thus does not lend itself to simple rationalization. The gap between critical analysis driven by rational arguments on one hand and faith-based positions on the other is one our method cannot possibly bridge. It can, however, result in a fruitful discussion among those who are prepared to acknowledge the undeniable advantages of the former. First, this method invites (self)criticism as a useful way of learning about the world and ourselves. Second, it has a preciously humbling effect on those who are willing to employ it, for it exposes our own fallibility. Third, it provides for systematic enquiry which presupposes that people holding diverse views can be *partners* in the quest for knowledge and that knowledge itself can be cumulative in the sense that we can learn ever more about the world and ourselves. Lastly, and this is no small achievement, it empowers us to *understand* rather than merely hear the other side's positions. This, I believe, can very well be the foundation of the kind of tolerance that encourages diverse views and builds a common ground necessary for the sorts of common solutions that today's rapidly changing world asks of us. •

*What we can do, however, is to create an environment that recognizes that opening up one's mind to sometimes entirely foreign ideas is a fragile process which allows for occasional misunderstanding and mistakes.*

# Abstain, Write-in, Not Voting at All: Why the SGA Election Process Needs Reforming

SAADYA CHEVAN  
STAFF WRITER

The recent SGA board elections were an insult to the ideals of student democracy that SGA espouses. In uncontested elections, five positions were filled, including those of president and vice-president. It is shocking to stand by and watch as half of the newly elected officers of SGA are sworn in without any opposition or scrutiny. Just four months ago, there was division and uproar over the behavior of many of the SGA board members. Now Connecticut College students seem content to ignore SGA's latest coup.

Admittedly, the controversy that SGA faced last December has likely negatively impacted students' opinion of SGA. Only three of the ten positions had candidates running who lacked experience holding office in SGA, including two of the three candidates for Chair of Diversity and Equity, which suggests that perhaps many students outside of SGA do not want to get involved in the student governmental process.

I spoke with Ramzi Kaiss '17, who was elected next year's president of SGA unopposed, and he agreed with me that the lack of opposition in the recent elections was "not great for the school and not great for SGA," an opinion that especially resonated with his own predicament of having been elected president without a test from any opposition. Kaiss also felt that students have disengaged from the process, saying, "You don't have a campus-wide atmosphere" for elections. He noted that at speech night, he felt like not many attendees were actually trying to form opinions on the candidates.

On another note, last Thursday the SGA assembly was presented with the long-awaited proposal for revising the SGA bylaws that has been in the works since last summer. In my opinion, almost all of the changes that are being proposed should be made. I did, however, notice that a rule claiming house senators "should remain aware of larger campus issues surrounding topics of inclusivity and diversity" has been eliminated. That line should be brought back, as senators need to pay attention to all campus issues -- with a special focus on equity and inclusion.

Overall, the changes being made are incredibly superficial and involve eliminating and adding parts and aspects of SGA that have either ceased to exist or

come into being. There's nothing hidden in this document that will have serious effects on its operation. That being said, I would not consider the SGA bylaws a "living document" that should be changed every year, which is its official status. The bylaws are still incredibly oblique and occasionally contradictory.

Admittedly, if the changes had been more drastic I might be writing an article encouraging the assembly to reject them. If I were to suggest one major change to the bylaws, I would recommend downsizing the role of the Parliamentarian. The role of that office has been questioned this year, likely because the position is too powerful for an unelected officer. The bylaws have still not been revised to clarify the difference between the roles of the President and Parliamentarian, as both appear to have the authority to run SGA meetings. In most deliberative bodies, the president runs meetings and the parliamentarian advises the president rather than running the meeting themselves. The Assembly should take a closer look at the Parliamentarian's responsibilities.

I worry that no matter how the bylaws are changed, the Assembly will still rely too heavily on the people running it to give it direction. At present, the Assembly is supposed to be run under Robert's Rules, but the revision adds the option of using "a suitable alternative." Robert's Rules offer members of a deliberative body a guide for conducting fair and effective meetings. For example, Robert's Rules grant members the right to appeal a president's decision. Assembly members should remember that ultimately they have a say in every scenario. At the moment, if a seriously rogue SGA board ever held power, the only recourse the assembly would have would be to impeach its members. This is wrong. There needs to be more clearly articulated ways to check the power of the board if the need arises.

Recently, the elections highlighted another essential issue: the difference between voting online and voting using a paper ballot or in-house meetings. The SGA bylaws were written under the assumption that paper ballots would be used, and this language still more or less exists in the revised version. Online systems are actually much more limiting than paper because they require the

people programming them to take into account the many things a person can do with a paper ballot. In April 2015, Taryn Kitchen '16 wrote an excellent piece here in the *Voice* revealing discrepancies in the tallying of votes on Camelweb for honor council candidates, which, according to Chief of Communications Julia Horowitz '18, has been fixed with this year's switch to ConnQuest. While yes, these systems have improved, I was still able to find problems that physical ballots would not allow.

Write-ins have been abandoned. Julia Horowitz, Sal Bigay, and Addie Poris state: "We believe that if you are dedicated enough to running for SGA, you should run an official campaign, not a write-in one," and the current system supports this notion: ConnQuest does not allow people to cast write-in votes. However, having write-ins would have made the recent elections more legitimate because in theory, all five candidates who were running unopposed could have been defeated. I should know; four years ago my mom ran as a write-in candidate protesting the reelection of a rather divisive city councilor. She received 100 of the 1500 votes cast after only a week's worth of telling people to vote for her. Write-ins exist for a reason; they give people the opportunity to protest candidates and occasionally form a safety net. If I could make one serious reform to the current process, it would be to reinstate write-ins. If the SGA assembly wishes to do so, they should consider sending a request to the company that manufactures ConnQuest to add this capability.

Students are required to vote for every position on the ballot. Like any good obnoxious online form, ConnQuest will not accept your ballot unless you vote for all the offices listed on it. This is different from a paper ballot which permits students to abstain from voting for certain positions. However, voting "abstain" and an actual abstention are not the same thing. Based on my interpretation of the bylaws and several e-mails I exchanged with Horowitz, I



## CASTING YOUR VOTE WITH LIMITED OPTIONS BY ILLUSTRATION EDITOR ANNA GROFIK

came to the conclusion that voting "abstain" actually means that a student is voting for someone to get elected, in essence voting "yes." However, after discussing my conclusions with her, I believe that abstaining is often treated as a student expressing disapproval for the candidates, in essence voting "no." Still these passages remain unrevised and indicate a procedure where voting "abstain" could be treated as a vote in favor of an unopposed candidate. Thus, the bylaws could be reinterpreted in that way in the future.

The official guide to Robert's Rules, Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised in Brief, says: "The phrase 'abstention votes' is an oxymoron, an abstention being a refusal to vote. To abstain means to refrain from voting, and, as a consequence, there can be no such thing as an 'abstention vote.'" According to Horowitz, Bigay, and Poris: "Abstentions are still an exercise of voting power that actively abstains your right to vote for either candidate, functioning as a third option. The technical definition is Abstention (n): an instance of declining to vote for or against a proposal or motion."

Perhaps abstentions are an exercise of voting power, but that does not mean that they should be treated as such. The current process gets around this loophole by forcing people to vote their abstentions, which is not the same thing as the technical definition of abstention. To abstain is not to make a selection, in essence to not

vote, whereas choosing "abstain" is voting.

I quote in full a response from Poris to a follow-up question I sent about students' inability to mark their abstentions: "We believe that each position on Executive Board and Chairs is equally important to the maintenance of shared governance at Connecticut College, and that the Board and Chairs should focus as a cohesive whole. Therefore, all of the positions on the ballot require either a vote or an abstention - if you're going to participate in voting for one office, you should participate in voting for all of them. That being said, as we outlined before, the 'abstention' option is there if you prefer not to vote for all of the offices listed on a ballot."

In the original bylaws, class or student election proceedings (which do not include house elections, such as house senator and house council) required a detailed proposal to be approved by the Assembly. The new bylaws, however, state that only major changes need the Assembly's approval. If the chiefs of communications had ever submitted detailed proposals, someone in the Assembly likely would have caught on to some of the discrepancies that Kitchen and I have found. As it stands, the Board may have to run changes through the Assembly in the future, but the status quo won't change unless someone on the assembly does something about it.

Some voices in the Assembly  
**CONTINUED ON PAGE 8**

## TWO TROUBADOURS

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LARA HERSCOVITCH



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See [fridaynightfolk.org](http://fridaynightfolk.org)  
for tix.





# Bag Checks Galore!

## *Critiquing Floralia Reform Efforts*

**SAM WILCOX**  
NEWS EDITOR

Apparently right now, the Floralia Working Group is deciding what kind of fencing to box us in with on May 7. According to my dorm senator, it could possibly be a “white picket fence,” which might be the most Connecticut thing I’ve ever heard. And I’ve heard a lot of things here during my four years.

When I first learned that there was going to be a “Floralia Working Group,” I didn’t give it much thought. I assumed it was just a formality and that nothing was going to change. I haven’t been this wrong since I predicted Hannah Montana would be Disney Channel’s biggest failure.

As a 21-year-old senior with fewer than 50 days left here, you might be asking why I care about the new Floralia guidelines – the fencing in, the checkpoints, the bag checks. They don’t really affect me because I’m permitted to bring alcohol into the event. But I have a special talent for complaining about things that don’t actually affect me, which my mom calls “annoying.” First off, I understand that safety was the

primary concern of the Working Group when it formulated these new guidelines. While I agree that creating a safe and fun environment is incredibly important, I actually think that the new rules might have the opposite effect.

Students, regardless of their age, are going to drink on Floralia if they want to. Not allowing them to do so on the library green might lead to some negative consequences. One possibility is that they just won’t come to Floralia, though this seems unlikely to me, because it’s an event that most of Conn’s student body attends. Two, and more likely, is that they will drink elsewhere.

Instead of drinking over the course of a few hours on the green, students are now more likely to chug a couple beers or do a few shots in their dorm room before going to the event. The amount of alcohol consumed might be the same, but the speed at which it is consumed is not. Students are not going to want to miss out on the music, so they’ll probably drink quickly in their rooms, looking for a quick fix to feel the effects before they return to the venue. This may mean

they increase their alcohol intake beyond what they would normally consume. Science tells us that consuming alcohol at an accelerated rate gets us drunker faster, so that’s not great. Also, students are not going to want to keep leaving the event to refill their drinks, so one beer might become three beers when they do.

If all students, regardless of age, were drinking on the green, at least campus safety would one, know where they are, and two, be able to keep their eyes on students as they drink. The new rules encourage students to drink in secrecy, instead of in a centralized location where everyone can look out for each other.

Upperclassmen who are 21 will bring in drinks for underage students. It’s inevitable. Students will figure out how to get away with it. We’re pretty smart when it comes to certain things. So if you’re an underage student with no 21+ friends, good luck!

Bag checks. So this one is fun. If I were underage, I would probably pack my bag with tampons in an attempt to make whatever campus safety officer who gets stuck looking through it feel awkward.

So beyond the general invasion of privacy, I’m a little confused about bag checks. If I bring a water bottle filled with something that may-or-may-not-be alcohol, how are they going to tell? Are they going to open it and sniff it? Maybe try a bit? I’ve actually seen this happen to one of my friends at a different concert when a security officer sniffed her drink, and she got away with it by saying it was “just fruit juice.” It wasn’t. But still, someone’s nose had by that point been in her drink, which is gross.

Some things are more easily hidden in bags than others. I’m talking about drugs. Either students are going to bring them into the event somehow, or they’re going to do them in their rooms. Unlike alcohol, which leaves your body at a constant rate, drugs have half-lives. This means they remain in your system and produce long-lasting effects. So don’t worry about having to leave the green to refill your drink, just pop some molly in the morning and you’re good to go!\*

Suggestions. Here is what I would’ve done differently. Have more people walking around

checking on things. Have a medical tent for emergencies. Provide more snack stations and water stations throughout the green, not just at the perimeter. My friend had the excellent idea of having someone walk around with snacks and water, handing them out to people. Drunk people will take anything you hand them, especially food.

It seems like during my four years here, Conn has increasingly treated its students less and less like adults. Some people aren’t responsible, it’s true, but don’t treat all of us that way. •

\*Note: Please don’t actually do this.

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

have called for more oversight. Again, contrary to the bylaws, this year the Board ran house senator elections online rather than having Housefellows run them during the initial house meetings, a decision that the Board made in consultation with REAL staff. The Assembly later debated the merits of this decision and the precedent it set. During a debate at the September 17 SGA meeting former Blackstone house senator Wesley Chrabsz—one of many senators to resign in December—questioned the decision to override the bylaws. According to the meeting minutes, Poris responded: “The bylaws are self contradictory and confusing. Every week I’m sitting down with the bylaws and revising them. Whenever we figure out how we as a body we’ll move forward.

[sic]” Chrabsz then asked Poris to notify the Assembly if she was making other changes, which she agreed to do. In my opinion the switch to online elections was innovative, and the revisions reflect that by stating that the SGA board and Housefellows will now decide how house senator elections are run each year. However, I would encourage future boards and Housefellows to let the decision be made by members of the house during the initial house meeting in keeping with the democratic spirit of house life.

However, the exchange between Chrabsz and Poris shows the Board limiting the oversight and authority the Assembly has over its decisions. Senators like Chrabsz fight for the Assembly’s power, and they are the same senators who resign upon recogniz-

ing the futility in attempting reform. Robert’s Rules give a great deal of leeway to the President to enforce them, but the ultimate control of a meeting rests in the group as a whole; those in charge are merely facilitators. SGA is designed to be run by elected representatives of each house and class, with its decisions executed by students elected by the entire student body. At this critical moment of change in the organization, the Assembly should make sure it stays that way. •



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Free students, \$15 members, \$20 public

#### **Spring Foraging for Native Plants**

Saturday, April 30, 10 to 11:30 a.m.  
Free students and members, \$10 public



# Pathways to Nowhere? Critical Reflections on the New GE

APARNA GOPALAN  
MANAGING EDITOR

The revised GE (Connections) has not found enough space in the pages of our newspaper or even in conversations around the College that students are involved in. As an attempt to embark upon a corrective, I thought it would be worth investigating the way that Connections is represented on the Conn website.

Most people have heard that the existing general education system will be eliminated in favor of a revamped one. What is this change? Instead of seven GE Areas, students in the classes of 2020 - '22 will have to take one class in each of five Modes of Inquiry to fulfill their GE (i.e. 5

classes). After class of 2022, the GE will require all students to complete one Integrative Pathway (i.e. 4 classes).

The five Modes of Inquiry that are replacing the seven GE Areas are: Creative Expression, Critical Interpretation and Analysis, Quantitative and Formal Reasoning, Scientific Inquiry and Analysis, and Social and Historical Inquiry. Clearly, this set of options closely resembles the existing schema of seven GE areas, the only changes being that all the social sciences and humanities are now consolidated into "Social and Historical Inquiry," eliminating the three earlier options of "Social Sciences," "Philosophy and Religious Studies," and "Historical Studies."

Such a change, at best, would reduce exposure that a student is required to have to the humanities and social sciences, but most of the rest remains the same.

But one could say this criticism is moot. What matters most, after all, is the Integrative Pathways, since they are going to be the long-run product of curricular revision. An Integrative Pathway consists of four courses organized around a common theme or set of questions. Each class in a Pathway must use a different Mode of Inquiry towards the same theme. In theory, pathways are an effort to make general education more intentional and thematic as opposed to a random selection of courses that are only taken to

fulfill a graduation requirement.

It is heartening to see that Pathways look to use different methodologies to interrogate the same set of questions since this means that Pathways do not just provide students knowledge on a subject but aim to show students how knowledge is produced in different disciplines (assuming that MOI courses will foreground a way of thinking as well as their course content, which is a shaky assumption at this point).

What I am concerned with, however, is the work that a "pathway" might do when there is no consensus on where ought to lead, and what modes of inquiry are good for unless there is clarity on what should be inquired into and why.

The news story from 2015 that first announces the launch of Connections features the college career of a hypothetical student, Sarah. This student is described as someone who comes to college interested in the environment, Spanish, and economics. Once in college, the website tries to show how all of the interests that Sarah comes to college with are nurtured as she takes classes on environmental issues, pursues an economics major, and studies abroad in Peru. Sarah takes a class on "Global Capitalism and Indigenous Religious Practices" and at the same time is deeply interested in her economics major, pursuing more classes in economics and statistics. She takes economic development classes on her SATA Peru trip and soon after interns with an NGO in Peru which works with indigenous communities on environmental issues.

The story of Sarah is a story of progress and growth, one in which she comes to Conn ready with interests that the College is responsible for nurturing and connecting with each other to fashion into a feasible (and fashionably "social justice" oriented) career. The various things that Sarah studies at Conn help her grow, as if from a seed to a plant, in one inevitable direction. She not only retain but goes further in all of her interests and makes them operational. The message is clear: Connecticut College will make your dreams come true, whatever they might be. It will provide a pathway to wherever you want.

Yet, Sarah could only be a hypothetical person. She only "grows" but does not change. To gain any deep understanding of global capitalism, or struggles for justice amongst indigenous communities, will necessarily mean that one will have to understand that a lot of these struggles for justice are precisely struggles against "economic development." Sarah's interests, if pursued deeply, contain each other's undoings. She could not just have "grown" but would have been forced to change, to make choices - gasp -

political choices.

But such a story of rupture, discontinuity, and political reorientation is not one the Conn website could have told because education has to be marketed as apolitical, or it does not sell.

I experienced a rupture such as Sarah's first-hand. I came to college with goals of being a development economist, goals which were derailed upon taking a history course in which I discovered that development does not do what I thought it does, and discovered also that the economics discipline is not conducive to the study of capitalist inequalities because of its own complicities in the existing system. In taking this class, I came to seriously question the categories of analysis and description that economists use to make sense of the world, and this resulted in me losing my interest in economics and changing into a different kind of person. The disciplines did not merely work together to provide me a politically neutral set of "skills" which I could use to do whatever I wanted. The disciplines instead undid each other's foundations.

Sarah is the College's way of saying that there is a middle way - between the College clearly mandating things that all students must learn before graduating (something a common core curriculum would do), and just making students jump through a random set of hoops so they can graduate (which the current GE does). Connections seems to want to impart a politically neutral set of "skills" to students that they can use to achieve whatever they would like, only tempering this vocational "skill learning" by mandating "thematic" commonalities to a student's GE. But what constitutes a theme? What themes should do, why have them? There's nothing but silence on the matter.

Connections seems to have found a way to continue avoiding clear learning goals, or a clear mission statement that names the goals this education attempts to accomplish. Instead it sets up a free market model of education in which the College is "the marketplace of skills and ideas," a politically neutral forum in which anything can be exchanged, imparted, bought, and sold. Instead of taking the whole institution to task by establishing a clarity about what kind of learning should happen and why, Connections once again lets the College get away with tough unanswered questions - what does Connecticut College stand for, what is it trying to produce in the world, and why does it exist at all? •

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## Reflections on “*The Shattered Chronicles of Svetlana Alexievich*” Panel Discussion and Reading Group

MITCH PARO  
ARTS EDITOR

Late last month, a panel of five professors and two students gave a panel discussion on the works of Svetlana Alexievich, a Belarusian journalist and the most recent winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature. The panel followed a series of reading groups in which the participants read and discussed Alexievich's two works available in English: *Voices from Chernobyl* and *Zinky Boys*. These sessions, lead by Anika Kahlia '16 and the present writer ('16), brought faculty, students, and community members together for in depth discussions of Alexievich's work. The purpose of the panel was to give the campus community a general idea of the project of this important and unconventional champion of human rights. In particular, it allowed professors able to read her other four books in the original Russian to let the rest of us know what she's up to.

Faculty participants associated with the department of Slavic Studies were Andrea

Lanoux, Chair of the department, Petko Ivanov, Chris Colbath of the ARC, and Laura Little of the LCC. Professor Eileen Kane, Associate Professor of History, who teaches courses on Russia and the Soviet Union, rounded out the faculty constituent. The student presenters, both English majors, discussed the reading groups, while the

professors placed Alexievich's work in its political, historical, and literary context--especially the last years and the breakup of the Soviet Union. This context proved to be a necessary frame for the reader to appreciate the political significance of her visceral writing. The writer's bravery, too, came across in the knowledge that she was the first to publish books on both the Chernobyl disaster (*Voices from Chernobyl*) and the Soviet-Afghan war (*Zinky Boys*) when the Soviet government had hidden or skewed public information on these topics. Professor Ivanov called the Soviet-Afghan war the Soviet equivalent of Vietnam--that is, in terms of its moral dubiousness and the vilification of its veterans by the public--only this war was secret: information came back to families in dribs and drabs, and then unopenable Zinc coffins.

Alexievich responds to the political silence that surrounds her subjects, that fences them in, by speaking to the sufferers, and rendering in her writing, with raw pathos, their voices. “I perceive the world through the medium of human voices” she writes in the afterword to *Zinky Boys*, and this is how she makes the reader perceive the world too. Her method is to interview 500-700 people and transcribe a handful, three dozen or so, into writing, but

writing only the interviewee's portion of the conversation, and stylizing that considerably. The result is a book that contains a number of what seem to be stories (she calls them “monologues” in *Voices from Chernobyl*) told from a variety of viewpoints whose only unifying factor, most often, is to have had a firsthand experience of a given event. Hence the title “*The Shattered Chronicles*,” which points to the broken form of the books as much as the governing emotion among Alexievich's interviewees, the true unifying factor: a sense of being shattered, damaged, lonely, dying, hopeless. For the apocalyptic gravity of the events she takes on--Chernobyl, the Soviet-Afghan war, World War II, Suicide, the dissolution of Soviet socialism--it is no wonder. In her work, she tries to speak not just through, but as the world she hears, which is replete with pain. No reader can be deaf to these cries of anguish. We hear her, and know how small our own voices are as we ask: what can we do? •



A PORTRAIT OF ALEXIEVICH  
ILLUSTRATION BY CATHERINE ROCKETT '19



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7-8:30pm in Blaustein 201

Thursday, April 21st

Tristan Borer: Human Rights and Journalism

7-8:30 in Blaustein 205

Friday, April 22nd

Petko Ivanov: Sociolinguistics of Reporting

7-8:30 in Blaustein 205

# Audience Work

**ANDREW SHAW**  
ARTS EDITOR

In her TEDTalk on Saturday, Leise Trueblood '16 made a point of connecting her discussion of race in *The Lion King* to people who don't regularly see theater. I'll make a different argument: Go see theater.

I see every play I can in the last few years, and I've never been quite sure why. The ones that stick out – Samuel Beckett's *Endgame*, David Mamet's *Oleanna*, and Lisa D'Amour's *Detroit* – tend to be dark and depressing and sometimes funny. They tend to be about people's lives falling apart. They are way too close to home for comfort. These shows have flooded me, causing existential crises.

But I keep going.  
I keep going because the ex-

istential crises that theater often offers can be cleansing as well as flooring – supportive, and hopeful in a way.

Partially as an attempt to understand the reasons behind my fairly new attraction to experiencing theater, I have spent altogether too much time over the last two-and-a-half years trying to wrap my head around performance theory. Performance theory is the theorizing of lived experience, the attempt to understand how people construct identities in time and space. It interrogates the ways in which we move through the world, bringing consciousness to this work. And yes, moving through the world is indeed work.

When we turn to this theory, we learn why it is that good theater can hit us so hard. "Performance transforms [us as] social, psycho-

logical, and emotional being[s]" because it provides a space in which "the politics of identity [can be] negotiated," performance theorist Deborah Kapchan has written. It is that negotiation that can be so difficult. With a single sentence, she has explained why my existential crises occur.

Theater is a space that allows us to safely try lives on for size as they traverse the stage in front of us. Through their being staged, narrative-lives are made physical and visible, which seems to me to make them more possible than they are when they remain chained to the paper of novels and poems. Like archives, performance is a project of legitimizing, and of finding and making space for oneself and others. It is an expanding of the possible. Performance is a constant reminder that

our lived realities do not have to be the way that they are. We can change them.

Some of this increased possibility is perhaps due to the fact that these lives become shared when they are enacted and embodied on the stage. We experience them communally and socially instead of experiencing them in the way that we read: "in silent privacy, in the lair of the skull" (to quote the late Benedict Anderson). Thus, theater becomes a test drive of the socially possible "that," Kapchan writes, "attempts to make social sense of schism, ambiguity and division through 'public reflexivity.'" The "shared reality and 'fund of common experience' that theater establishes enables 'mutual understanding.'" As just such a communal experience, theater gives us something that every-

day life does not always give: an opportunity for consensus, which is etymologically "feeling together" (as Kapchan and others have pointed out). In this, theater provides something that our everyday lives simply do not on a regular basis. Go see theater. •



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# What Makes a Successful Floralia Headliner?

**CAM NETLAND**  
STAFF WRITER

Connecticut College's spring-time festival Floralia boasts an eclectic musical history. This year's musical guests are: Betty Who, an Australian singer/songwriter now operating mostly in New York City, and Louis the Child, a Chicago electronic down-tempo duo. Both groups evoke memories of last years performers: Misterwives and Cash Cash. The Betty Who song "Runaways" for example sounds as if Misterwives relied less on guitar and more on studio production. Louis the Child follow similar dance structures as Cash Cash--using gradual crescendos that lead to engaging dance beats-- but their sound is more minimalist than Cash Cash. We can presume that Betty Who will be a successful

Floralia act because of her engaging stage presence and summer-time oriented music. Louis the Child, who are performing at Coachella this year, also promise to be a powerful force for the year end festival. Which act will be more successful largely depends on stage presence, audience engagement, and lighting.

So what makes a successful Floralia artist? What do the students of Connecticut College want from their performing artist? Consider last year's guests: Misterwives and Cash Cash. Misterwives, a popular New York City band led by a bouncing Mandy Lee, delivered alternative-funk rhythms to the enthralled students whose energy was ignited by Lee's infectious hooks and commanding stage presence. Cash Cash followed afterwards and

changed the direction of the show from funk to EDM. Misterwives' trumpets and rock band aesthetic were replaced by Cash Cash's layered arrangement of synthesizers and ethereal vocals. Cash Cash relied heavily on a light show and the sheer volume of their music to carry the students.

Overall, the crowd responded well to both bands. But in hindsight, the general consensus is that Misterwives outperformed Cash Cash. Why? Well, at the danger of extrapolating, it appears that Connecticut College students generally want a personal connection to their artists. Mandy Lee was engaging with the students and was mobile on stage while the band itself played energetically and with conviction. With a group like Cash Cash however, where there is not much movement on

stage and the songs topics revolve around crass subjects such as partying, there is less variability and attraction to the artist themselves.

This does not disclude all electronic artists from being a successful Floralia artist however. Consider two years ago when St. Lucia played. St. Lucia is essentially a contemporary Depeche Mode or, in other words, an 80's pop-electro group. Students responded extremely well to St. Lucia's engagement and stage presence. Despite the fact that much of it was generated with digital music software, the music felt authentic because there was a band and people playing instruments along to the music.

This kind of artist interaction and genuine attachment to the music is what constitutes a good Floralia band. A band or singer

that plays fun, catchy, summer oriented music is one that will be successful at Floralia because that is what has worked at Connecticut College in the past. However, if that band wishes to capture the hearts of the students, it has to convince them that it cares about being at Connecticut College and engage with the concert goes appropriately. Our reaction to Betty Who and Louis the Child will largely depend on which band exhibits a more genuine stage presence and also which band concludes the year with music that resonates stronger for those reflecting on the last few months. •

## CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Arya Stark losing her vision, the deaths of Rob Stark and Joffrey Baratheon at their respective weddings, Jaime Lannister losing his hand, among many others. Over these quick cuts an unnamed and unseen narrator says, "We watch. We listen. And we remember. The past is already written. The ink is already." These moments flash by almost too quickly to recognize on your first viewing, but after the camera stays on Jon Snow for a couple seconds longer, blood pooling around his face. But, what is the most interesting is that Jon Snow is not the last character seen - that title goes to Bran Stark, a character not featured in season five. For just a split second we see Bran, his eyes rolling back into his head, before saying, "they have no idea what's going to happen." This is all an obvious indication that Bran is going to be prominently featured in the coming season, and that his ability to come into the consciousness of others will be more heavily explored than before.

Additional teaser trailers include the Hall of Faces clip, released in February. Locating the viewer in Brasvos across the sea, Arya Stark spent season five as an apprentice in the House of Black and White. The camera pans past faces of those we know are already dead, quotes from them playing on top. Ned Stark, Rob Stark, Catelyn Stark, Joffrey Baratheon. But then two more faces appear: Jon Snow and Tyrion Lannister. And as the camera pans back more faces of characters still alive up until this point come into view, including Danaerys Targaryen. Though this teaser trailer was certainly dramatic and a unique

way of connecting Arya's storyline, which took an isolating turn last season, with those of the rest of the cast members, it's hard to really read into what this trailer is saying. I'd hate to eat my own words, but I find it hard to believe that crucial characters like Tyrion and Danaerys would be killed off anytime soon.

In March, when the country is focused on NCAA March Madness, HBO one-upped college basketball with their own March Madness teaser. This trailer gives the most comprehensive look thus far at content from the upcoming season, with clips spanning the gambit of Game of Thrones' character list. A couple shots of Danaerys back to square one with the Dothraki, Tyrion trying to keep Mereen together, Ramsey Bolton being as terrifying as ever and, of course, an obligatory White Walker shot at the end. The second half of the trailer is narrated by Jaqen H'ghar, who says that, one way or another, a face will be added to the wall. Shots flip between the main characters, suggesting it can be any one of them. And, in true Game of Thrones fashion, it probably will be -- no season is complete without killing off at least one main character, totally surprising fans. It's difficult to predict who it could be, as most of the expendable characters have already been let go. Perhaps Tommen or Littlefinger, less likely Cersei, Jaime or even Jorah Mormont, who as we see in the trailers is still as scaly as we left him last season.

And now, on to the big one. The full length trailer, coming in at just over two minutes, continues to play on the is-Jon-

Snow-dead-or-not question, opening with shots from the Nights Watch and the chaos currently surrounding it. It then flips briefly to Tyrion in Mereen, before back to Westeros, where King's Landing is struggling to find a balance between that pesky church and state. A quick shot of Melisandre before we're brought back across the sea to the Dothraki, where in the most impressive scene of the trailer thus far is of a fully-grown dragon flying high above the *khalasar*. We see a quick second of Arya in the House of Black and White before back to Danaerys, and back to Arya again.

Sansa, Ramsey and Littlefinger make their first appearance, with Sansa narrating that it's "all I think about, what was taken from me," perhaps alluding to the infamous scene of Ramsey raping Sansa after their wedding -- a scene that didn't exist in the books, and that drew backlash from many fans of the show. After more quick shots of numerous characters, we see our first glimpse at the current king of Westeros, Tommen Baratheon. His mother, Cersei, redeemed after her punishment for admitting to adultery (but not incest), narrates to "stand at the head of our army where you belong, show them what Lannisters are, what we do to our enemies." Tommen, known for being nothing if not benign and boring, would be an unlikely military leader, but is easily manipulated by his mother. Yara (formerly known as Asha), also makes a quick appearance, but she is quickly pushed aside but what we all know is the biggest threat to Westeros: the White Walkers. And this time, the White Walkers have fire.

The rest of the trailer is quick clips, showing characters you may have forgotten about and now need to quickly refresh yourself on, but not much else. There are momentary and mandatory scenes of sex and violence, because what would Game of Thrones be without those, but it's not until the very end is the viewer able to make out something substantial. The very last clip shows Tyrian, holding a torch as his only source of light, in the dungeons of Mereen, where two of Danaerys' remaining dragons live. He turns in slow circles, before a dragon appears, breathing fire into the shot to end the trailer. Dramatic, yes, but hopefully signifying the larger role the dragon's will play in this season.

In an interview last month, show creators David Benioff and Dan Weiss called this season their best yet. And in another interview, the pair confirmed that, yes, eventually Game of Thrones will end -- probably sooner than you'd think. In fact, one idea they suggested was that the next two seasons, seven and eight, would be shortened to fewer episodes. But, for now, we're just along for the season six ride. •

# It's Storytime, Denver!

GEORGE GROTHEER  
STAFF WRITER

A domestic violence case involving Jose Reyes cracked open a door of opportunity for Trevor Story. Now, the Colorado Rockies shortstop has blown that door off its hinges with an impressive Spring Training.

Brought in at last year's trade deadline blockbuster deal, Jose Reyes was supposed to be the shortstop of the team's future. However, his batting average took a turn for the worse in his 47 games in the Mile High City, dropping from .285 with the Toronto Blue Jays down to .259 with Colorado. At the end of the Rockies' disappointing 2015 season, he was expected to be their leadoff hitter and starting shortstop for the duration of his contract—one that has already seen him traded twice since signing with Miami following the 2011 season.

On Oct. 31 Reyes engaged in a verbal dispute with his wife Katherine at a hotel in Maui. The harsh words soon turned into violent actions, with Reyes grabbing his wife by the throat and shoving her into the sliding glass door of their hotel room. Hotel security called the police, and Reyes was arrested that night. He was later released on \$1,000 bail and had to appear in a Maui court three weeks later.

Reyes was placed on Colorado's paid leave list in February, meaning he would be away from the team until all legalities were sorted out and some form of punishment from the commissioner's office was handed down. New York Yankees closer Aroldis Chapman received a thirty-game suspension for similar domestic violence allegations, though charges were ultimately dropped.

The absence of Reyes in Rockies camp this spring allowed for a prospect to take a shot at the starting shortstop gig. Story was that prospect, and he delivered with

a showing impressive enough to land him a spot in the Rockies' Opening Day starting lineup. In 20 Spring Training games, Story batted .340 (18-for-53) with 6 home runs and 13 RBI, along with a .407 on-base percentage and a .792 slugging average. He also scored 17 runs in the spring slate.

While Reyes was suiting up for the first day of his trial on April 4, Story was also 'suing up' in a different way—uniform number 27 for the Colorado Rockies. He immediately delivered, rewarding his team's faith in him with a two-homer day against new Arizona Diamondbacks ace (and last year's National League Cy Young Award runner-up) Zack Greinke in *his* debut for a new team.

In the following games, Story knocked five homers in five games: 2 more against Arizona (one each on April 5 and 6), two at home against San Diego on April 8 and another against the Padres on April 10. He barely missed another pair against San Francisco on April 13, 'settling' for two triples instead.

Story's seven home runs in six games to start the season broke the previous MLB record of six (which was held by Hall of Famers Willie Mays and Mike Schmidt, as well as former MVP Larry Walker). The seven homers in his first six career games also shattered the previous record for home runs in such a short span to begin a career.

It's certainly been a remarkable opening to the 2016 campaign for the 23-year-old shortstop. It'll be interesting to see how this rookie takes to a full season in the big leagues. •

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for more information.

## Play (1861) Ball!

Come watch the Thames Base Ball Club, New London County's vintage baseball team, play Connecticut College's club baseball team play a 9-inning game on Tempel Green at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 23. 1861 baseball rules will be played.

1861 baseball rules feature numerous differences between baseball played in the MLB, most noticeably including not gloves. The ball is also a quarter of an inch bigger than today's baseball, as well as having a different style

of stitching. The ball is pitched underhand, though the speed is up to the pitcher and their skill level. There are no walks, and foul balls are not considered strikes. Runners aren't allowed to overrun first base; if you run past first, you can be tagged out with the ball. These are just a few of the differences between the two styles of play, you'll have to come out and watch the game to see the rest! •

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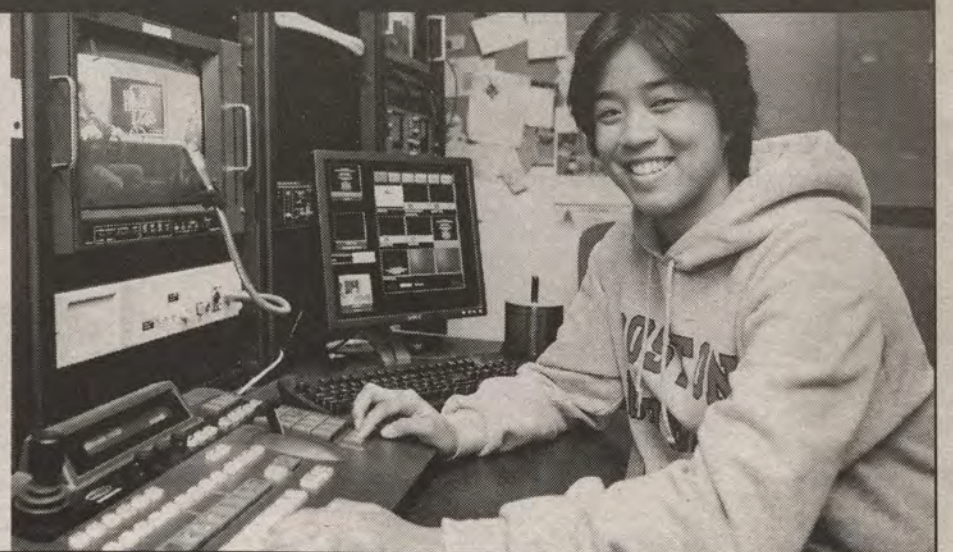
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## UConn Women Bring Pay Disparity to Center Court

ELIZABETH VAROLI  
STAFF WRITER

On April 5, 2016 the University of Connecticut's women's basketball team won its fourth consecutive NCAA National Championship. In an impressive 82-51 victory over Syracuse, the UConn women once again defended their national title. With this win, UConn set incredible records and obtained countless accolades. They became only the second team, next to the UCLA men, to ever win four straight national championships. The school, the team, the coach and individual players have all been honored throughout the nation for their success throughout the years.

After going 38-0 this season and defeating Syracuse by such a wide margin, the UConn women have received quite a bit of attention. The team has been the topic of various criticisms and praises. In particular, Breanna Stewart has become the main focus of conversation. Many claim that the team's success should be attributed to Stewart. Stewart swept individual honors throughout her four-year career at UConn. Just one of her honors includes being named the "Most Outstanding Player" in the Final Four for four years in a row. Moreover, in her final championship she led the team in assists, rebounds, and blocks. Since high school she has played for various USA basketball teams and even competed in the 2011 Pan American Games. Stewart has truly been the star of nearly every team she's played for. Audiences everywhere love to watch Stewart play as she puts on a clinic for all of her opponents, truly exemplifying her superior skills.

Basketball fans following Stewart's career are eager to see what her next step is. Many expect to see her dominate the WNBA in the same way she dominated high school and college. On Thursday, April 14, Stewart was the first pick in the WNBA draft, going to the Seattle Storm. Joining the Storm, she'll play with fellow UConn alum Sue Bird. After Stewart, UConn had the next two picks of the draft with Moriah Jefferson and Morgan Tuck getting picked second by San Antonio and third by the Connecticut Sun, respectively. This 1-2-3 pick is yet another unprecedented record set by the UConn women.

After remarkable achievements in college, it is no surprise that UConn's graduates, especially Stewart, will be pioneers in professional basketball. It will be fascinating to watch Stewart's transition from a collegiate athlete to a professional basketball player, especially considering the current

discussion about female athletes and the gender pay gap. Stewart's entrance into professional female sports will likely be greatly affected by the U.S. women's national soccer team's fight to gain equal pay.

In their recent complaint to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the U.S. women's national soccer team emphasized the fact that the men's and women's national soccer teams are required to play the same twenty exhibition games every year in addition to competing in the World Cup. Despite the fact that the two teams perform the same exact job, and even though the women have been more successful than the men, they get paid strikingly different wages.

The U.S. women's national soccer team's fight has gained a lot of publicity lately, but it is not the only gender pay gap battle. Many critics have drawn attention to the pay disparity in professional basketball. This idea has been exemplified by the fact that the WNBA maximum salary is \$107,500 while the NBA minimum salary is \$490,180. This embarrassing disparity in pay has belittled female athletes for decades. Many athletes are advocating for female rights in professional sports and are hopeful the pay disparity will be obliterated over time.

The U.S. women's national soccer team and other advocates have paved the way for potential pay equality in the future but it is unclear how soon their efforts will be beneficial to professional female athletes. As one of the greatest up-and-coming female athletes, it will be interesting to see how Stewart fits into this dynamic. Stewart's salary in the pros will reveal whether or not the battle for gender pay equality is achieving any success. Hopefully, Stewart presses this issue forward and acts as a champion for gender equality.

Only time will tell. Currently, UConn's National Championship represents an incredible achievement for the school and its players. Hopefully in the future, UConn's successes play a role in the even greater battle for international gender equality. Stewart's skill and likely future accomplishments should provide yet another reason to expunge the gender pay gap in professional athletics. •

## Warriors Poised to Clinch Greatest Season in NBA History

COLE MITCHELL  
STAFF WRITER

The NBA playoffs have started and the greatest team in league history is competing for the title. In the 2015-16 regular season the Golden State Warriors won 73 games and lost only 9. That is the most wins in a regular season by any team in NBA, but do they have what it takes to win in the clutch and take home the title? Are there any teams that can compete with the No. 1 seed from the West or will the Warriors do what they have done all season and continue to win?

In the Western Conference the eight playoff teams are the Golden State Warriors, San Antonio Spurs, Oklahoma City Thunder, L.A. Clippers, Portland Trailblazers, Dallas Mavericks, Memphis Grizzlies and the Houston Rockets. The conference's two top teams that should meet in the NBA West Championship Series are San Antonio and Golden State. The Warriors start out playing against Houston and the Spurs start off against the Grizzlies. The two teams should end up competing for a spot to play in the Finals against the best team in the Eastern Conference.

In that conference, the eight playoff teams are the Cleveland Cavaliers, Toronto Raptors, Miami Heat, Atlanta Hawks, Boston Celtics, Charlotte Hornets, Indiana Pacers and Detroit Pistons. The Cavaliers were able to maintain the same core group of players from last year's run to the Finals and with the No. 1 seed in the Eastern Conference, they plan on going back to the Finals. They open the playoffs against the Detroit Pistons, while the Raptors begin battling the Pacers. The Raptors are the No. 2 seed,

but they are new to the playoffs and, although they are expected to play in the conference championship, they could struggle under the pressure of playoff basketball. The Cavs and Raptors should compete for a spot to play against the Warriors or the Spurs for the ultimate basketball trophy.

Golden State was the best team in the NBA this season, but last season they also had the league's best record, and their playoff series with San Antonio still went six games. The Warriors may have won 73 games this year, but none of those games matter in the playoffs. They kept the core five players that won the championship, but so have the Spurs, and if they play San Antonio in the conference finals again, it will still be as tough a fight as last season.

San Antonio's Tim Duncan, Manu Ginóbili, and Tony Parker are all still around and they'll want revenge for last season.

If the Western Conference is decided between these two teams, it will be a battle of the best and the series will come down to who can win more road games. Since the Warriors have the best record, they will always have home court advantage, so for the Spurs to beat them they will have to have at least one game in Golden State. The Warriors will win the series against the Spurs because they rarely ever lose at home (based on this year's 39-2 home record), displayed by wins in San Antonio during this regular season and last year's playoffs.

In the East, the Cavaliers are the frontrunners to make it to the Finals. All the other teams in the East are young, and the Raptors might look to have the

best chance of being the team the Cavaliers will play. The Raptors would have home court advantage against any team except the Cavs, and they will have the second easiest schedule to get to the Conference Championship. If the two play for a spot in the NBA Finals, Cleveland will have a serious advantage. The Cavaliers have won more games in the regular season and would have home court advantage against Toronto. LeBron James and company have played longer together and are used to playoff basketball. They look like the overpowering team in the Eastern Conference.

In a final matchup between the Warriors and Cavaliers it would all come down to little important details in each game that decide the winner. The Warriors would have home court advantage, but that doesn't mean the Cavaliers did not learn a thing or two from last year's Finals. They could be ready to march into the Warriors' Oracle Arena and steal some games. I think that the Warriors' bench is too deep for the Cavaliers to compete with, and, as long as they do a good job of limiting LeBron James, and force other Cavs to take a lead role, Golden State will win another title. This will make them the greatest single-season team in NBA history. In order to be the best they still have to win the final game of the year. •

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# Women's Water Polo Dynasty Continues with NCAA DIII Four-peat

MARC KLEPACKI  
STAFF WRITER

After a 13-9 win over Washington & Jefferson College, the Connecticut College Women's Water Polo team is once again the DIII Champion, coming off another incredibly impressive season.

Since the graduation All-Americans Nicky Jasbon, Kate Jacobson and Isabel Baneuz, as well as three out of the team's four goalies, the Camels have had big shoes to fill. But the team still has many skilled returning players, as well as an additional five first-years to bolster its roster.

This season the Camels are led by senior co-captains Kelsey Millward and Abbey Wroblewski. A returning two-time All American, Millward has scored a remarkable 63 goals so far this spring, with 14 assists and eight steals. Wroblewski has scored 14 goals, with 19 assists and 15 steals. Junior goalie Sarah Sovia has thus far had an incredible 150 saves, adding to 3 assists.

Junior Brianna Harrity has also been having an impressive season, with 24 goals, 19 assists and 15 steals. A strong sophomore class makes up the bulk of the offense, including April Anderson and Sophia Soriano, both of whom have scored 17 goals apiece, and Emma Stephens who has scored 14 this season.

The team kicked off its season with a 4-2

start during its first tournament at Carthage College in Wisconsin on March 12 and 13. Securing four consecutive victories against Penn State-Behrend (12-5), Grove City (11-7), Utica (8-6) and Monmouth (10-5), the Camels closed out their opening weekend with only two losses to Washington & Jefferson (2-11) and Carthage College (9-14). Millard scored a whopping total of 19 goals over the course of the weekend, and Wroblewski scored 8 goals. Sovia made a total of 53 saves.

After a 10-4 loss to Siena College at home, the Camels flew out to California for a tournament against Macalester and Cal-Tech in Pasadena to claim two more victories. Millward, Soriano and sophomore Emma Stephens all scored two goals to help the Camels win 10-9. In the game against Cal Tech, Millward scored 5 goals, with Anderson scoring 3 and Wroblewski and Stephens getting 2 apiece to overwhelm the Beavers with an overtime victory. Sovia made a total of 20 saves over the course of the weekend.

The Camels hosted Brown University back home the following weekend, and the Bears beat the Camels in an intense high scoring game, 17-14. Leading the Camels again was Millward, who scored five goals

with one assist during the game. Junior Brianna Harrity showed an impressive four goals and five assists. Stephens scored twice, and Wroblewski scored a single goal for the Camels.

But their defeat at Brown did nothing to discourage the Camels; on the first day of the succeeding tournament at Penn State-Behrend, Conn scored another series of three wins against Grove City (13-8), Monmouth (12-8) and Macalester (13-8). The Camels lost again to Washington & Jefferson in a close match (6-7) only to come back for a crushing victory over Carthage College (14-5). Millward earned 26 goals and 10 steals over the course of the five games. Sophomore Shannon Cry made her debut after the conclusion of the NCAA Division III Swimming and Diving Championships, scoring 6 goals and 13 assists during her opening performance.

The Camels came back the next day to beat both the Behrend Lions (10-8) and the Utica Pioneers (8-6). Millward scored four goals and two assists over the course of the day, while Soriano scored four times and Stephens earned three.

Freshman Kendra Baity, as well as Soriano, Stephens and sophomore Paige Cackovic all scored one goal during the

match against Utica, highlighting the team's versatility and all-around skill. Sovia made 68 saves over the course of the weekend.

The Camels' 6-1 record at Behrend secured them a #2 seed in the upcoming Division III Conference Championship. After one more tough loss to Brown University (10-17) on April 6, the team wrapped up its season this weekend by hosting the championship tournament here at Conn.

Seeded #2, the Camels' only real challenge was Washington & Jefferson College, which is the only Division III team to have beat Conn twice this season. But Millward is one of the strongest players in the conference, and her leadership combined with an effective offensive cast proved to be a force to reckon with. Sovia, recently named CWPA Player of the Week on April 8, was more than capable of holding down the fort for the Camels.

Congratulations to the Camels on their big win, and best of luck as the team continues on to the CWPA Eastern Championship and their first game against Harvard University on April 29. •

