A poll taken earlier this semester revealed that the overwhelming majority of the graduating class could not identify their class president. Of the nearly 300 students surveyed, 82% could not name the 2014 class president. 11% were unaware that Class Council existed in any capacity and only 7% correctly identified their elected leader. However, 100% of the graduating class agreed that whoever the president might be, her or she is doing a terrible job.

"It’s like a puppet regime, but without a puppeteer," wrote one student.

Prashanth Selvam ’14 is widely known across campus as “that handsome Indian kid with perfect bone structure and questionable fashion taste.” He is well-liked by his peers and educators: professors remark on his even temperament and easy smile, and close personal friends describe him as “okay” with an “occasional tendency for uselessness.” Despite his social and academic popularity — and despite having served as class president for two of his four years at Connecticut College — most of Selvam’s classmates were unaware of his prestigious title until they received an invitation for the 100 Days Party this February, signed by their president.

Like many other seniors, 2014 Social Chair Peter Herron was caught unaware by Selvam’s presumptuous signoff, even after having worked alongside him on Class Council. Said Herron, "I like Prashanth a lot, but I always thought we were, you know, just hanging out, not doing ‘class business’ or whatever. Besides, I haven’t been Social Chair since freshman year... wait, what? I’m still Social Chair? All four years? That can’t be..."

Students first began channeling their general dissatisfaction towards Selvam after he slashed the number of free drinks offered at the 100 Days Party from three to two per person. Though Selvam promised that the saved funds would go towards a “much better 50 Days Party down the line,” seniors received an email last week stating that free drinks would not be available at the 50 Days Party after all.

"Why am I paying upwards of 60 grand a year if not for a few nights of maximum intoxication on the College’s dime?" questioned Broseph Gordon ’14, captain of the men’s water-lacrosse team. Instragrams branded with the “#ImpeachPrashanth” hashtag have skyrocketed, and more formal measures are being taken by college officials in an attempt to securely dislodge Selvam from his seat of power...
On Opinions

We of the Opinions section have been having stylistic differences with some of the other College Voice staff. We have been politely advised that our section trends toward “ranting” to which, at first, we disagreed vehemently and stubbornly and then threatened to quit the paper. No, in reality, the team chemistry here is second to none, and our disagreement was dispassioned and brief, and really more of a conversation than a conflict. But this editorial is written in contemplation of this very spot-on accusation.

The Opinions section is often the podium from which students air their grievances and critiques; a podium which we think is very necessary and which we’re privileged to be the stewards of. We do, however, worry that sometimes we are the abettors of a lot of negativity, and even more worryingly, completely unconstructive verbal annihilation of events, people, and policies at Conn. We’re not aiming to publish messes of sugary praise of the college, but we also don’t wish to be enthusiastically handing out the sledgehammers in a carnival of Conn-hashing.

So this, now, for some overdue positivity from the Opinions Editors: There’s something I think is very beautiful about our school that I’ve never heard anyone talk about—our school motto. Let’s put aside the ostentation of it being in Latin and move straight to its translation: “Like a tree planted by rivers of water.” I think this is really brilliant—that as a college, our intention is to be grounded, calm, integrated into our environment, seeping up knowledge around us. At the risk of the sentimentality I’m always trying to avoid (and, which, in my avoidance often steers my articles and those I edit towards the critical)—these words make me proud to be here.

And this motto gets at what I think we at the paper are trying to do too, though we may often be perceived more as “uprooters” than “planters.” Negative, positive, or hedging both ways, the articles we publish are reflections of the soaking up of ideas, of paying attention, and usually, of thorough consideration and affection for this place. Our writers care about this community to want to engage with it, whether through praise or critique.

Whether a fiery defense of the honor code or musings on a igloo built during a snow day, the words published here, in these last months have planted ideas, if nothing else. And that’s powerful enough—it seems that the College Voice Staff can all agree on that, and so atmosphere in the office is peaceful and grounded again, dare I say, like a tree planted by rivers of water. And if you find such tidy endings as the one above suspect, turn to the Opinions section, where I’m sure you’ll find everything you’re looking for.

-Madeline
The Bergeron Inauguration: A fresh perspective on old traditions

MELANIE THIBEAULT
EDITOR IN CHIEF

"I would like the students of Connecticut College to have more opportunities to experience the wonderful features of the city of New London," said President Katharine Bergeron during an interview in her office.

With her upcoming inauguration this Saturday, Bergeron, a native of southeastern Connecticut, is shaping her plans for "deepening the relationship of the College to the surrounding community." Connecticut College, only a few years past its centennial mark, has its roots planted in the local community. Already desiring a women’s college in his city even before Wesleyan ceased to enroll women in 1909, New London schoolmaster Colin Buel was part of the team of founders of Connecticut College. New London and Conn have been connected since the beginning, but relations between the two could stand to be strengthened as we move into a new presidential era.

"Expanding our relationship with New London is definitely a goal," said SGA President Elvert Fowler ’14. While Fowler says that the College has been working to set up the forum for improving relations, "President Bergeron is taking the next steps to make this possible."

Fowler, E’14, a member of the inauguration committee along with Fowler, added: "[Bergeron] is open to listening to everyone’s ideas. I know a senior who has already visited her five times. She’s so supportive and wants to help in any way she can."

Since beginning her term in January, Bergeron has already met with many undergraduates, and cited nearly 30 students who have visited her during open office hours to express their aspirations and concerns about the College and the community. On many nights, Bergeron has stayed in her office until 7 p.m., not wanting to end these conversations early. "I have been edited by the students," she said. "Some want to tell me about their experiences, some want to ask about my experiences, and others want to tell me about specific concerns regarding the campus."

While Bergeron has begun to make an impression on the students, they in turn have begun to make an impression on her. "I’ve listened to the students’ desires to have a positive impact in New London. I want to support the good work that is already going on and build on what we are already doing," said Bergeron. The Office of Volunteers for Community Service (OVCS) and the Holleran Center for Community Action and Public Policy are just two of the College’s efforts to build a positive student involvement in the city. "It’s important to know more about the cultural organizations and notable figures in the city and the surrounding community."

A former Professor of Music at Brown University, Bergeron’s love of theater, only a few years ago, has potential to open doors for positive, rewarding relationships between Connecticut College and New London, which — despite receiving flak from some students as having "nothing to do" — actually has quite the thriving arts and music scene. Bergeron names the Hygien- ic as a personal favorite, and was thrilled with the recent festival "Artful Resist- ence." Of the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra, she said, "It is extraordinary to have something of that caliber in a city of this size. We are really fortunate that we have a city with that kind of personality." I also love Fiddler’s Green," she added. "You can put that in there."

Even President Bergeron’s office offers a refreshing minimalist style as opposed to President Higdon’s shelves of souvenirs (not that his Big Hq t-shirt collection wasn’t a form of art in its own right). To kick off a week of open leaders leading up to the eleventh president’s inauguration, the Thames Club in downtown New London opened its doors for a welcome ceremony, inviting the College community and local community leaders to celebrate the beginning of a new era of collaboration and innovation.

New London mayor Daryl Finizio gave the first speech, re- marking that the College has "made an excellent choice" in selecting Bergeron, and that he looks forward to renewing New London and Conn’s relationship and partnership — a partnership which Bergeron went on to say "is as old as Connect- icut College." After performances from two Conn a cappella groups, the Shifflers and Williams Street Mix, Bergeron spent her time mingling with mem- bers of Connecticut College and the greater New London community. It was her first time at the Thames Club, renowned for being Connecticut’s oldest social club. It was also the first official Connecticut College event of the season, though in the past Conn has been loosely associated with some occasions at the club.

Brian Haugeness, president of the Thames Club, said, "We would love to continue a relationship with Connecticut College. Once [Bergeron] gets settled, we would love to have her back to give us a talk about her plans and intentions."

Though the Thames Club’s first floor boasts two gorgeously deco- rated dining areas, the real treasure exists in the basement of the build- ing: a two-lane duckpin bowling alley. As guests began to arrive, President Bergeron — accompanied by her husband and several Conn faculty and students — stuck around to chat.

Kicking off her heels, Bergeron took an honorary turn at the game. Camera phones flashed and Vice President for Administration, Uly- bbs Hammond, who is also a member of the Thames Club, let out an energetic "woohoo!" Sits full. One for each day left before the inauguration cere- mony. Beginning tomorrow, different events will be held every day in honor of the upcoming inauguration. "We want to get people excited about it and make them aware of what’s going on," said Pamela Zilly ’75, who serves as honorary chair of the inauguration committee. "These events are an opportunity to talk to the president and others in the spirit of the inauguration. It isn’t just one ceremony. It’s really meant to include the whole community."

Thursday night will bring a student reception with President Bergeron, which, according to Fowler is "essentially a hang out with the new president." The am- biance in Einstei will include music from the Death Cab for Cutie Pan- donia station — Bergeron’s pick. She said she will know every song that plays.

Panel and concerts and Camel cookies will provide opportunities for the Connecticut College and New London communities to interac- t and perform together. Twit- ter users can follow and document the week’s events with "#Think- Dod Leap." The hashtag was inspired by Bergeron’s speech leading up to Re:Vision Week on how we at Conn should want to represent ourselves. "It’s like she was planning our own surprise party," Fowler joked.

Saturday’s ceremony and luncheon will culminate the week in a mixture of tradition and trans- formation. "We don’t want it to be the same ceremony over and over again," Zilly said. "We’ve spent a lot of time talking about the tradi- tional aspect of the ceremony, but making it more relevant and more contemporary. It’s tradition, but it’s also a new step, a new installation. It’s important to have a good blend of something that resonates as a tradi- tion, but not as duty."

Associate Dean of the Faculty Abigail Van Slyck, who serves as co-chair of the Installation Com- mittee alongside Professor of So- ciology Ron Flores, echoed Zilly’s sentiments. Planning the ceremony, "We wanted to honor those tradi- tions at the same time, mark and celebrate a new chapter for the College." The committee looked at how they could freshen up past traditions and reflect on what Con- necticut College represents as an institution in the twenty-first century. Fittingly, the musical selections were one way in which the commit- tee feels they have accomplished their goal. Rather than have one stu- dent perform "America the Beauti- ful" at the beginning of the event, this year the song will be sung by a quartet composed of one staff member, one student, one faculty member and one New London resi- dent. "That sort of change is subtle, but important," said Van Slyck.

According to Flores, the end of the ceremony will consist of more celebratory music than past inaugu- rations: jazz. The recession real- ly mattered a lot to us because past installation ceremonies just ended like people leaving after the end of a movie. No sense of joy or hope or excitement.”

Zillt reflects the committee’s and school’s hope for a bright future. Flores said, "We didn’t want people to just leave. We hope to have them dancing in the aisles."

As for the ceremony itself, the President took advantage of spring break to work hard on her speech, the content of which is a secret until Saturday, though she did offer up the title: "Transplanted by a River." Bergeron’s mentor Ruby J. Sim- mons, President Emerita and Pro- fessor of Comparative Literature and Africana Studies from Brown, will be providing the keynote speech. Mayor Finizio and Gover- nor Dannel Malloy will be in atten- dance, as well as 93 delegates from other higher-education institutions. "This is an important time for the institution," Bergeron said. "It’s very moving to see the care and concern for the College expressed by those whose lives take them bey- ond the College."
Crippling Student Protests Persist in Taiwan

Students occupy parliament over controversial trade bill with China

Students in Taiwan have occupied the legislative Yuan (parliament) in Taipei, paralyzing the government in an attempt to stop a controversial trade deal with mainland China.

The occupation began on March 18, after the ruling Kuomintang (Chinese Nationalist) Party reneged on a promise to review the trade deal line by line before submitting it for a vote, accusing opposition parties of obstructing the democratic system and deliberately stalling the debate through misuse of parliamentary procedures.

In response to the government’s refusal to put the trade deal to a vote without the line item review, students and other activists have continued to occupy the Yuan, demanding that the deal be reviewed and altered to address their concerns about the economic and political implications of the deal.

The deal, called the “Cross-Strait Service Agreement,” was negotiated between the respective governments’ representatives during the summer of 2013 and was designed to liberalize trade between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait. It opens 64 economic sectors in Taiwan to mainland Chinese investment and allows people from Taiwan to invest in 80 economic sectors on the Chinese mainland.

It is one of the central policies of the Kuomintang, the Chinese Communist Party’s predecessor in the region. However, many Taiwanese people view the pact with suspicion, feeling that it will make Taiwan dependent on the mainland, fueling fears of the possibility of a hostile takeover in the future. Many young Taiwanese also question the prospects for the future as the island may lose its uniqueness.

The occupation of the Legislative Yuan has entered into its tenth straight day, and shows no sign of stopping. The current protests are among the largest in Taiwan’s history, and show no sign of stopping.

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RESIDENTIAL EDUCATION FELLOWS: A Growing Program

ELEANOR HARDY
SPORTS EDITOR

REF: another unknown Conn acronym to some and a great resource to those who know more about it. When it comes to programming, the Residential Education Fellows are a hidden gem.

Nearly each house on campus has a REF floor governor who works closely with the REF professors involved in the program. After going through a selection process, tenured professors are elected to serve a term and allotted a $1,000 budget to work with throughout the year, creating an endless amount of possibilities.

Professor Catherine Stock, the head faculty of the program who serves as a liaison between Residential Education and Living and the professors sees the REF program as an “opportuni

ity for professors to be creative and connect with students.” In her eyes, the professors selected who have success and are happiest with the results of the programs are “comfortable crossing the boundary between a professional relationship with students and one a bit more informal.” The program is more than just bringing in intellectual life outside the classroom, it also shows a different side of both professors and students.

Seen as a useful forum for discussing issues of diversity, whether ideological, political or a variety of other things, REF programs provide a safe space that’s not within the four walls of a classroom.

The programs also bring forth a certain synergy between students and faculty as they cultivate new ideas together. Open to almost any idea, floor governors are allowed to work with residents, friends, classmates and other staff members to create unique programs. Collaborative events have been extremely successful for the REF program this past year. Most recently, a large group of REF floor governors hosted the “KB in KHF” event, which brought together a variety of students to engage in an informal & QA session with President Bergeron. Delicious desserts and dinners provided through the substantial budget also add a bit of encouragement for students to attend events.

Connecting faculty and students of a variety of interests, REF professor Marc Zimmer’s favorite part about being involved in the program is “having contact with students I wouldn’t normally meet and getting to show them some cool science.” The REF program allows professors and students to branch out and explore topics completely inside their area of study. Katie Cunningham ’16, the KB REF Floor Governor, never interacted with science, but teamed up with a fellow REF to do an event on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and ended up discussing about a subject she never would have discovered on her own.

This year, in an effort to be

come more widely known, on the REF program engaged in a Six for Six Program catered towards freshmen. The program consisted of six events for freshmen only and took place over six weeks at the beginning of the fall semester. The idea behind the program was that the freshman class would meet new people and form common interests among friends through programs. As well as engage with different professors and the faculty they may encounter later during their college career. A stepping stone into greater possibilities.

A stepping stone into greater possibilities. The Six for Six Program was a success. The REF program is a vast resource on campus that is widely underused. While lack of attendance events are sometimes most successful, producing engaging and intimate conversations, the event would be surprised by what they can gain both intellectually and personally from attending REF events. With that, the REF Program encourages students to reach out to floor governors and faculty and participate in programs.

The misconception that the programs are purely educational may be what’s hindering student participation. The REF program is more than just bringing students that will thrive in Conn’s culture is in order to attract students that will thrive in our campus’s atmosphere. The same student also said, in regards to thoughts about transferring: “What ultimately made me stay were the amazing friends I made and the academics. I have such close bonds with some of the professors here. I would be heartbroken to leave them.”

Conn’s student-to-faculty ratio is 9:1, which provides the time and opportunity for strong connections and relationships to form and ultimately help students throughout their college careers, as well as into the so-called “real world.” However, academics are only a portion of what makes us in the campus environment.

The key to increasing the retention rate, it seems, is to improve more year.

Casey Dillon
STAFF WRITER

Think back to the beginning of a freshman year. How many freshmen did you have at orientation who did not complete their education at Connecticut College? Your list might turn out to be longer than you expected. According to Dean of the College Carolyn Denard, Conn’s average retention rate over the past decade has been about 95%. At a school with just over 1,000 students, the absence of that 10% largely accounts for the campus community. Dean Denard cited a number of reasons that students transfer, including the possibility of entering a major different from what they initially chose to attend a larger school, is interested in a major we don’t offer, has a health issue or has other personal reasons for leaving.

As one junior who contemplated leaving Connecticut College said, “The bubble here can be so stifling.” Conn’s small size and distance from the heart of New London, all contribute to an isolating and remote feeling that many incoming students are not necessarily prepared for. A number of factors contribute to the preconceived notions that incoming students have about college life, and it is the job of the current students, staff and faculty to ensure that incoming students have an accurate idea of what Conn’s culture is in order to attract students that will thrive in our campus’s atmosphere.

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Celebrated Investigative Journalist Seymour Hersh to Speak on Campus in Human Rights Lecture Series

SARAH LANGFITT
CONTRIBUTOR

Seymour Hersh, who is widely considered to be the best investigative journalist of our time, will be speaking at Connecticut College on the April 3 in Evans Hall. He will be the fourth speaker in the anonymously funded Human Rights Lecture series. The talk, entitled, "This Day in History: Reflections on U.S. Foreign Policy and Human Rights Practices," will begin at 4:30 p.m. Other speakers in the series have included New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof, the founder of the North American chapter of Doctors Without Borders, Richard Heinzl and Program Director of Witness's Sam Gregory.

Seymour Hersh gained renown with his expose on the My Lai Massacre in 1969 and the military cover-up that followed to protect the troops who participated in the slaughter of as many as 500 civilians. In his article, he did not rely on government sources, but on first-hand accounts of the massacre. The military conducted an investigation under pressure from the government and American Studies Professor of the United States massacre, Hersh will also address the topic of Abu Ghraib and the United States military a decade later. In an interview with Brook Glashow from On the Media, Seymour Hersh was critical of American leadership questioning its ability to learn from and react to the past. In that same interview, Hersh admits that there are some justifiable parallels between My Lai and Abu Ghraib, Hersh, the biggest difference being that at Abu Ghraib, they were not killing people. He describes a similar process of revealing the atrocities at Abu Ghraib to that of My Lai. Hersh also said that releasing the footage of intense rage present in the military towards the civilian population that is seen in both the Vietnam and Iraq wars.

Investigative journalist Seymour Hersh has played a huge role in working to reveal the truth about injustices and human rights abuses committed across the globe. His work on the United States government's involvement in the My Lai massacre is crucial in helping to contain the massive force that is the Government and the U.S. military. His experiences lend an important narrative to the fight against poverty and above-the-law mentality expressed in the American military and the importance of awareness when it comes to human rights.

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The Effectiveness of Notes on Napkins
Senior Sarah Huckins Defends Dining Services Tradition

SARAH HUCKINS
STAFF WRITER

The cost of tuition, or rather cost of attendance argument is a tricky one and one that ought to be used judiciously. By using tuition cost as reasoning for why something should be provided to us, it implies that we have paid for said thing, that we are entitled to it. And that is a difficult argument. Especially for granola.

Now to the really, really bad issues revolving around the cups. There is a movement to effectively wash down that whole whey cracker/cheddar cheese combo, you need to have at least three cups because one just will not do it. I don’t know much about environmental studies past my fifth grade trip to the “Trash Museum,” but if the general idea still holds true that using a lot of plastic is bad (especially when you don’t throw it away) then Al Gore will be pretty peeved at our carbon footprint. You think you can be slick and get away with one cup and just go back for refills but when there is a free cheese and fruit platter, what makes you think that not every broke, starving college student within a one-mile radius will all be hovering over the snack section at the same time? Honey, there is no way you’re going to be able to make it back to the water spigot.

Now, I do not hate all of Conn’s plastic tableware. The forks and knives at catered events are so durable it’s amazing. The Connecticut College napkins, I’d say it is also a great feature that I would never want to see gone.

I’m ready to make a change, to see a difference, one that will not only affect those associated with Connecticut College but one that will change the world—say no to tiny cups.
When Group Work Hurts
Splitting the Grade with the Slacker

MADELINE CONLEY
OPINIONS EDITOR

On Sundays, I meet with my U.S. and
Vietnam class group to work on our project on Lyndon B. Johnson.1 I love these meet-
ings, to which we all arrive ten minutes ear-
lier, prepared to enthusiastically present to
each other our vigorous research floating on
the surface, sticking to our
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As with most articles of this nature, a de-
gree of informal polling goes into its writ-
ing. In an effort to find the merit of group
work, as I know there is some. I spoke to
what I thought was a generous cross-se-
tion of students. Few people wanted to be
quoted with their name attached, mostly be-
cause few people had positive things to say
about working in groups.

Students, in fact, have some pretty nasty
things to say. I spoke with a friend who had
recently been an unwilling participant in a
disastrous group project, and when I asked
if in quoting her about her experience, her
group members might be offended at being
slandered in print, she said she wasn’t wor-
ried. She wasn’t worried because, as far as
she could tell from working with them, they
were illiterate and therefore wouldn’t be in-
clined to read a college newspaper anyway.
She added also that the experience made
her “lose all faith in people.”

If group work is a medicine that when ef-
ectic, produces collaborative, educational
bliss and soothes the burden and the isola-
tion system just isn’t designed for group
work well with others seem as irrelevant as
learning to herd sheep or administer leech-
ing. The choice to work with your
friends is good, although it can be danger-
ous territory.

One senior I talked to, disproving a few of
the theories above, told me, “Last semester
I was in an upper-level seminar and worked
with close friends, and I had to carry them
on my back the whole way...I thought it
was ridiculous because we’re seniors—I
shouldn’t have to do that anymore.” Herein
is one of the strongest themes articulated in
these conversations: people hate being the
disciplinarian, and in group work, someone
nearly always has to be

Here’s, now, is where I so much want to
write some recommendation for the future,
introduce a new idea that will lessen the
frustration and disorder of group work—
something that transforms that which is
written above from a series of complaints to
a useful proposal in the ever continuing
discussion on how to make this college run
better, think better, feel better. But here’s
the twist: I think it might be our fault. I’m
not sure if professors are to blame, even
those who are confusingly straddling the
line between individualistic and collabor-
eative curriculum. I think we need to get
better at this stuff, I think we’re too ready
to finger-point, and we’re even readier to
give up.

Generally, professors seem to trust that
the world is good, we are good, things are
good. They believe in us, in our ability to
cooperate, to communicate with each oth-
er, to create something that surpasses the
ability of the individual. My fear is that we
don’t.

The name of the class and the subject of
the group project has been changed. You
know why.

On Sundays, I meet with my U.S. and
Vietnam class group to work on our project on Lyndon B. Johnson. I love these meet-
ings, to which we all arrive ten minutes ear-
lier, prepared to enthusiastically present to
each other our vigorous research floating on
the surface, sticking to our
ideas for our final presentation flow
on

As with most articles of this nature, a de-
gree of informal polling goes into its writ-
ing. In an effort to find the merit of group
work, as I know there is some. I spoke to
what I thought was a generous cross-se-
tion of students. Few people wanted to be
quoted with their name attached, mostly be-
cause few people had positive things to say
about working in groups.

Students, in fact, have some pretty nasty
things to say. I spoke with a friend who had
recently been an unwilling participant in a
disastrous group project, and when I asked
if in quoting her about her experience, her
group members might be offended at being
slandered in print, she said she wasn’t wor-
ried. She wasn’t worried because, as far as
she could tell from working with them, they
were illiterate and therefore wouldn’t be in-
clined to read a college newspaper anyway.
She added also that the experience made
her “lose all faith in people.”

If group work is a medicine that when ef-
ectic, produces collaborative, educational
bliss and soothes the burden and the isola-
tion system just isn’t designed for group
work well with others seem as irrelevant as
learning to herd sheep or administer leech-
ing. The choice to work with your
friends is good, although it can be danger-
ous territory.

One senior I talked to, disproving a few of
the theories above, told me, “Last semester
I was in an upper-level seminar and worked
with close friends, and I had to carry them
on my back the whole way...I thought it
was ridiculous because we’re seniors—I
shouldn’t have to do that anymore.” Herein
is one of the strongest themes articulated in
these conversations: people hate being the
disciplinarian, and in group work, someone
nearly always has to be

Here’s, now, is where I so much want to
write some recommendation for the future,
introduce a new idea that will lessen the
frustration and disorder of group work—
something that transforms that which is
written above from a series of complaints to
a useful proposal in the ever continuing
discussion on how to make this college run
better, think better, feel better. But here’s
the twist: I think it might be our fault. I’m
not sure if professors are to blame, even
those who are confusingly straddling the
line between individualistic and collabor-
eative curriculum. I think we need to get
better at this stuff, I think we’re too ready
to finger-point, and we’re even readier to
give up.

Generally, professors seem to trust that
the world is good, we are good, things are
good. They believe in us, in our ability to
cooperate, to communicate with each oth-
er, to create something that surpasses the
ability of the individual. My fear is that we
don’t.

The name of the class and the subject of
the group project has been changed. You
know why.
Tour Guide Deception

ANDY STEIN-ZELLER
STAFF WRITER

There are two different ways that Tour Guides engage in the art of deception. The first is unintentional deception, e.g., they will give a statistic or description of some facet of the College that they think is right but is not. "Students live in Unity House" and "People never run out of printing money" are two examples I heard recently. This is more often something that new Tour Guides (like myself) do when put on the spot by an abrasive question or when they feel some sort of inexpert-based anxiety. Compared to the other two ways we bend the truth, these instances are more so a series of semantic mistakes rather than anything actively deceptive. On my first tour, my athletics-related statistics were dripping with errors. And, because families are bombarded with so many facts, stats, opinions and anecdotes, one little slip-up here and there is more likely than not to have consequences of a negligible order.

The other way that Tour Guides inaccurately represent our college is through straight up lying, in the willingly-stating-something-about-the-College-that-we-know-is-not-true-in-order-to-present-it-in-the-best-possible-light sense of the word. The good news is that these lies are, new to my knowledge, handed to us by Admissions in the form of numbers and statistics. Our stats and general facts about the College that we memorize and rattle off are rock solid, and in no way aim to bend the truth. An example of how this happens elsewhere is at a college of a similar size with Greek life, where Tour Guides are told to tell their tours that 30% of the student body takes part in Greek life. What they don't say is that pledges can't join until sophomore year, and that 70% of non-fraternity participants in Greek life. This is a willful, not to mention cunning, choice on behalf of the Admissions Office at this particular school, and again, to my knowledge, none of the stats about Conn given to us by Admissions are manipulated.

When I talk about the food at Conn, which we can all agree has its ups and downs, I say that it's "good, and sometimes even excellent." By not saying that it can be bad (Harris codfish and old lettuce from JA can really throw a wrench in our digestive tracts, no?), I'm lying. Although the food can be good, and sometimes can even be excellent (Soup and Bread, the Festivus Roast, and some of the Harris Sandwich specials have brought us a lot of happiness over the past four years), I'm still lying. I lie because to do otherwise would conflict with the primary goal of our Admissions office (and every Admissions Office in the country), which is to get as many people to apply to the school as possible.

"I lie because to do otherwise would conflict with the primary goal of our Admissions office (and every Admissions Office in the country), which is to get as many people to apply to the school as possible."

Tour Guide does this in one way or another, and we have enough impressive statistics and factsoids (free music lessons, 9:1 student/faculty ratio, equal distribution of all four classes in non-specialty housing, unlimited meal swipes for everyone living in a dorm, etc.) to complement instances where the information is relayed via personal opinions that are not grounded in evidence.

Again, I cannot stress enough that Admissions really handles any potential dishonesty with the utmost integrity. Rather than go the route of other colleges and give inaccurate statistics, they encourage us to do one of the things we should be learning how to do at Conn in the first place, and that is to communicate ideas with clarity by synthesizing the objective and the subjective. This sort of rhetorical strategy is to be found in almost any real-world situation, where so often success depends on someone fashioning a veil, an illusion of sorts or a stretching of the truth. I've asked my superiors how to handle talking about the less-than-perfect aspects of being a Camel, and they are guilty of nothing more than encouraging me to "stay positive." A good Tour Guide will read between the lines on that one, but at the same time I've never felt like I was being pressured to lie by a superior.

Much of the "sugar-coating" comes from what we don't say, rather than what we do say. For instance, so many people are attracted to Connecticut College because of our flagship interdisciplinary centers, and it gives me great pleasure to talk about how the centers are a unique opportunity to both sharpen our academic focuses and broaden what's possible for an undergraduate student to accomplish. What I don't say is that the Ammerman Center for Arts and Technology has had a 50% retention rate amongst its senior class and that the CISLA sophomore seminar often breeds circular, static discourse because of the relatively enormous number of students it admits. Although the former, a fact, and the latter, a subjective opinion, would offer a balanced look at the centers, I don't tell either to tours because it would make the College look bad. We also omit things like Fishbowi (or used to, RIP), detailed descriptions of Floralia and Cro Dances and things like how much free alcohol the College gives (or doesn't give) to the senior class, simply because parents tend to be anxious enough about losing their child and don't need to get any ideas planted in their heads about said child turning into a debaucherous alcoholic who on occasion gets naked in public (private-college-bubble public, but nevertheless).

Why then, as students of an Honor Code school that values truthfulness and integrity above all else, are we comfortable engaging in this type of behavior? First, the good at Conn College unequivocally outweighs the bad, and any lie cannot even begin to obscure what this school has to offer. Limitless are the opportunities for students to get involved with so many different parts of this machine, to make decisions and take actions that author the future of the College, to choose from a hugely diverse range of academic and social environments. We are more or less free to do anything we want, and free to constructively (or unconstructively) criticize what we cannot do. We are an institution that every day rises to new levels of ambition, of prestige and of reputation, and the coming of President Bergeron, our increasing commitment to sustainability, the Academic Resource Center, our all-Steinway status, our trash-off-the-premises 3-D printer and all other things new and exciting do nothing but augment Conn's momentum. While we cannot, of course, the imperfections, our college was founded precisely because a group of women were dissatisfied and worked together to solve the problem of getting an education. The need to constantly improve and to never cease striving for betterment is at the core of our essence and our heritage, and without the imperfect that train ride of progress would come to a screeching halt.

The second reason is that tours are arguably the most efficient way to attract an increasingly strong and increasingly large body of applicants, which in turn will ensure that the quality of our student body accelerates in parallel with that of our resources. The strongest applicants—kids who are intelligent, outgoing, ambitious, virtuous and high-spirited—are going to be critical of all tours they attend, and to give a great tour means to be confident, fluid and sincere, but also positive. Through a few minor exaggerations, omissions and even fewer good old-fashioned lies, we Tour Guides can engage in a process that has limitless potential to ensure the sustainability and growth of student bodies for generations to come.*
RACHEL MADDOX
CONTRIBUTOR

Why Connecticut College Will No longer Perform The Vagina Monologues

One Billion Disagreeing?

RACHEL... on this production, mentor each other and maintain a space of creativity, passion, advocacy and critical engagement.

It used to be that if someone was too loud or too sexual, they were incarcerated — is furthermore indicative of the aforementioned claim.

Chief Elk adamantly makes these broad arguments, backed only by passive references to "Twitter chats." These are arguments that are simultaneously convulsive in nature, making this part of the article feel more like a tempest than a reasoned search.

This brings us to the first outrageous claim: that Eve Ensler, by demanding more of American law enforcement and seeking to improve female prison environments, is reinforcing and therefore supporting a system that regularly abuses women.

The problem with this claim is problematic because this issue is so much more complicated than that.

In fact, there is no doubt that the prison system in this country is incredibly fractured: there is corruption within the staff, gangs, racial divisions, and lack of action on the part of many law enforcement officers. And, on the other side of the coin, is not working to improve conditions within prison systems.

Eve Ensler's focus is the sexual violence issue as it operates within this particular prison. Chief Elk is suggesting that American prison systems are a completely different ball game. In other words, Chief Elk perceives any part of the problem with sexual violence to be so complicated that white settlers also include white women. In essence, she is saying that attacking one part of the overarching issue that catalyzes sexual violence.

We have now arrived at the second central point of controversy that has changed so many women's lives — the executive board had already been working tirelessly on producing this show.

It was not until the spring, when requirements were placed on this project that I began to feel frustrated with the lack of autonomy I had in production.

I could not alter the script, and I could not add or take away monologues even when they were more offensive than powerful. Among these offensive monologues were:

- "Coochie Snorcher" -- essentially the glorification of rape between two women, one being a fourteen-year-old girl.

- "The Woman Who Loved To Make Vagina Happy" -- a favorite for many. We tend to forget that the line "the Black woman moan," "the Jewish moan" and "the uninhibited bisexual moan" are written in this monologue. These lines are then followed by "stereotypically some other moan." Among the chief of Interior monologues and not one person said that performing the monologues was her favorite part of the show. Instead, the monologues were said to be "dreary," "dull," "redundant," "boring," "depressing," "frustrating," "distressing," "overwhelming" and "overwhelming"

- "Chief Elk" -- essentially the glorification of rape between two women, one being a fourteen-year-old girl.

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MLB Expectations: After Opening Day

PETER BURDGE
CONTRIBUTOR

Baseball's Opening Day has finally come, that one American tradition that has for so long given fans a beacon to of hope throughout the cold, wind-whipping winter nights of winter that has made it into our lives.

But after Opening Day, why should you watch Major League Baseball this year?

Because 2014 is looking to be one of the exciting seasons in recent memory, so expect headlines. Here are the four most compelling stories that will jump into the sport's landscape, and give everyone a reason to watch:

1. Boston's run to repeat as World Series Champions. Every year, we follow the World Series winner in the official 'team to beat', but never, since the Yankees three-year time frame from 1998-2000, do teams win consecutive championships. The 2014 Red Sox are different. With a great deal of overlap from last year's roster, Fenway Park will be rocking with the continued excitement and chemistry that carried the team to 42 one-run wins and 11 walk-off wins.

   - Boston will have some concerns, however, namely with its inexperienced left-side infield defense (led by Xander Bogaerts and Will Middlebrooks). They will also need to accommodate Grady Sizemore, a one-time All-Star plagued by injuries, as he makes his first Major League start in more than two years.

   - Though the team showed its consistency last year, never losing more than three games in a row, much of its success came from reliable role players and a strong bullpen—qualities that are difficult to constantly rely on. It will be hard for the Red Sox to recreate last year's triumphs in a more competitive American League and at a time of growing parity in the game. But if they do, it won't be without a considerable struggle.

2. The Yankees' and Dodgers' attempts to buy a championship. This off-season, the Yankees reverted to their old selves by fishing with furrowed determination for the best possible talent on the market, scooping up Jacob Ellsbury, Brian McCann, Carlos Beltran, and Japanese sensation Masahiro Tanaka. The value of those four contracts alone amounts to around a half a billion dollars.

   - Yet in their attempt to build a super-team, the Yankees still find themselves with a pool of players on the downswing of their primes, or completely past them. Even the pitching staff, which should get a boost from newcomer Tanaka, is iffy, with C.C. Sabathia coming off of a mere 14-win season, a far cry from 20 win seasons of his earlier days. No matter how well the Yankees play, though, their star specked roster undeniably guarantees half-a-billion-dollar worth of storyline.

3. New phenomenons players. Baseball's pipeline of young talent is especially thick this year. Jose Abreu will be a new addition to the American public eye, as he spent his former career in Cuba before defecting and signing with the White Sox. In his last Cuban season, Abreu hit 33 home runs and drove in 93 runs, a season that would be impressive for a power hitting minor league, but somehow Abreu did it in only 66 games.

   - Xander Bogaerts is ready to become a major factor in the Red Sox lineup after showing himself to be comfortable under pressure after playing only a limited role on teams a year before. The 2014 Red Sox Series. Bogaerts had been touted as one of the best prospects in Boston's minor league system, and his bright future begins this year, with the potential to already be one of the best offensive stopgaps in the game.

   - Who doesn't like a dangerous base stealer? Baseball has not had a legitimate threat, someone whose speed can carry a team, since Ricky Henderson in the 1980s and 90s. The Cincinnati Reds have one this year in Billy Hamilton. In 2012, while in the minor leagues, Hamilton stole 155 bases. 106 more than MLB's leader that year, and 25 more than Henderson's modern Major League single season record. Baseball has not seen a 100-steal season since 1987, and Hamilton looks poised to break that 27-year drought.

4. Instant replay and the tournament. One of the most common critiques of baseball of late has been the inane pace of games, as if they were football or basketball.

   - But after only the first two rounds of this year's tournament, by either in the batter's box or on the mound) between pitches, arguing that, "If we want to engage fans 18 to 49, we have to play faster."

   - This has created an efficient system, placing a group of umpires at the league offices in New York, who, after reviewing the disputed play, will communicate with the umpires on the field as to what the correct call is. The system is past its experimental stages, but will surely come with criticism as it marks an end to the traditional norms that have become staples of the American game.

   - So let us begin the season, if not with pomp and fanfare, then perhaps simply with high expectations for what is to come. Opening Day is here. That is something we can all celebrate.

Warren Buffett's Conditional Billion Dollar Pledge

NICO PREMUTICO
CONTRIBUTOR

Every passing March brings a new prize, as scores of men across the nation as well as across the world, are more and more locked into the March Madness bracket madness.

   - Every March brings a certain competitive spirit to fans of sport and a fan out of any of us. As millions of people spend hours upon hours trying to guess which March Madness brackets money changes hands at an exponential rate. Everyone loves to fill out a field for a contest of 100. ten thousand dollars to the top two runner-ups (if none were indeed perfect by the end of the tournament).

   - At first glance, his pledge seems risky, engaging oneself as Buffett, who could afford to lose that much fifty times and still be a billionaire. But keep in mind that there has never been a recorded perfect bracket, and Buffett's analytical prediction told him the odds of doing so this year were virtually 0.

   - Just to put the mathematical randomness of March Madness into perspective, the last remaining perfect bracket in the entire country for this year's tournament was held by Brad Binder. The 23-year-old from Illinois claimed he just "entered for fun to see what happened," and made his picks in a mere three and a half minutes.

   - Ironically, he did not even enter the contest for the Billion Dollar Bracket. And, of course, his bracket is no longer perfect after the plethora of first and second round upsets have occurred in this year's March Madness brackets perhaps reinforces a reality for Buffett's 15 million participants: that a shot in the dark, for one billion dollars is just that, a shot in the dark.
SAM GILL ’14 TAKES HOME NATIONAL TITLE IN 100 METER BACKSTROKE SWIM OF MY CAREER.

I’m glad to say I left it all in the pool with nothing left to prove”

Over spring break senior Sam Gill/G/Over spring break, senior Sam Gill joined the small, elite group of national champions at Connecticut College. The fifth Camel ever to take home a national title, this was Gill’s third and final year competing as a standout swimmer in the NCAAs.

Gill and a senior from Emory became NCAA co-champions of the 100 M backstroke with a time of 47.62 seconds, just 0.01 seconds off from the current NCAA record. Gill shared that winning the national title “has been a surreal experience and absolute honor.” After coming in a close second by 0.1 seconds in the hundred yard butterfly the previous day, Gill felt that “there was even more drive to prove.”

In the hundred yard butterfly, Gill felt that the previous day, Gill felt that “there was even more drive to prove.” Not only was there was nothing left to prove in the water, but great strides were made in proving the success of Conn’s swim program. With a national title, Gill sees their success at this year’s championships as a “solid start.” Able to break 20 of 22 school records this season, Gill always comes back to recognizing the team he has been a part of such an incredible team, “I’m glad to say I left it all in the pool with nothing left to prove” shares Gill. Not only was nothing left to prove in the water, but great strides were made in proving the success of Conn’s swim program. With a national title, Gill feels that “these achievements, including my own, would not have been realized without Coach Benvenuti.” Being named NESCAC Men’s Coach of the Meet for the second year in a row, an award greatly deserved, Gill is hopeful that “with him at the helm, the Camels can only continue to improve.”

Humble about joining this small clan of elite Conn athletes, Gill always comes back to recognizing the team he has been a part of such an incredible team, “I’m glad to say I left it all in the pool with nothing left to prove” shares Gill. Not only was nothing left to prove in the water, but great strides were made in proving the success of Conn’s swim program. With a national title, Gill feels that “these achievements, including my own, would not have been realized without Coach Benvenuti.” Being named NESCAC Men’s Coach of the Meet for the second year in a row, an award greatly deserved, Gill is hopeful that “with him at the helm, the Camels can only continue to improve.”

Although his hard work and dedication to the sport and Conn’s program can be seen as the driving force behind his recent title, Gill feels that “these achievements, including my own, would not have been realized without Coach Benvenuti.” Being named NESCAC Men’s Coach of the Meet for the second year in a row, an award greatly deserved, Gill is hopeful that “with him at the helm, the Camels can only continue to improve.”

ELEONAR HARDBY SPORTS EDITOR

NESCAC POWER RANKINGS

Compiled by THE COLLEGE VOICE

This is the first installment of the spring NESCAC Power Ranking. The Power Ranking will be posted weekly and will rank the eleven NESCAC schools based on men’s and women’s hockey, men’s and women’s basketball and men’s and women’s swimming and diving.

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The poll was devised as follows: Sports Editor Luca Powell ranked all NESCAC schools in each sport. These rankings were based on NESCAC standings as well as quality wins and influential losses to NESCAC opponents. These scores were plugged into an impossibly complex algorithm to composite an overall ranking for each school.

THE COLLEGE VOICE

APRIL 1 12016

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Women’s Lacrosse: Conn 11- 4 Springfield Conn 9 - 11 Tufts
Men’s Lacrosse: Conn 9- 2 UMass Dartmouth Conn 13 - 21 Tufts

Men’s Tennis: Conn 6 - 3 Coast Guard Conn 2 - d Wesleyan
Women’s Tennis: Conn 1 - 8 Methodist

SO YOU DON’T MISS IT

Men’s Lacrosse: vs Trinity 4/3 4:00 PM vs Bowdoin 4/5 1:00 PM
Women’s Lacrosse: @ Trinity 4/2 7:00 PM @ Bowdoin 4/5 12:00 PM

Women’s Tennis: vs Mount Holyoke 4/5 10:30 AM vs Smith 4/5 3:00 PM
Men’s Tennis: vs Trinity 4/3 3:30 PM vs Bowdoin 4/6 10:00 AM
It's been a tough couple of years for the Teflon Don, who lay in the ICU to January of 2013. Rick Ross was the victim of a drive-by shooting, although he was not grossly injured. A few months later, he lost a lucrative sponsorship from Reebok after some of his lyrics in rapper Rocko's song "U.D.E.O." described an encounter that could only be characterized as date rape. While Rick Ross certainly has tried to sweep the latter incident under the carpet, he puts the drive-by shooting at centerstage for his new album, Mastermind. While the shooting does not really inform the overall tone or flow of the album, an audio recording of a 911 phone call from the scene titled "Shots Fired" is featured early on, perhaps in an effort to Ross's own authenticity as a gangster. The message seems to be that this is a man who was gunned down and has come back for revenge, not with bullets, but with raps.

But while Kanye West’s “Through the Wire” gave meaningful insight into how an almost fatal car crash affected West’s outlook on his music and his life, we soon forget that Rick Ross was ever supposed to be a underdog because he refuses to say anything prioritizing the event. Where as Kanye rapped: “Just imagine how my girl feel / On the plane, scared as hell / that her guy look like Emmett Till,” Ross can only mutter: “False floors for firearms is how you should ride / Tried to murder me while in mine so that’s how I survived.” His boisterous attitude floods the album throughout its entirety, delivering what we’ve come to expect from a Rick Ross album. At a time when artists like Kendrick Lamar, Drake and Kanye West are sincerely exploring deeper emotions, Rick Ross remains impenetrable. With innumerable references to his cars, women, cocaine and gold chains, the only emotion Ross is caught expressing is the emotion (or sin) of pride. Ross probably spends a few too many moments reveling in his success and his clearly inspired gangster affectation is difficult for the listener to indulge in for all of the EP’s nineteen songs; still Ross has done an exceptional job recruiting some great guest artists who spice things up and is jam-packed to keep things interesting.

Ross does step away from the triumphant horns and drum crashes of ‘90s era hip-hop to briefly explore his more melancholic side. Lil Wayne’s support on the “Thug City,” an eerie, bass-heavy track, showcases some of Lil Wayne’s best work in quite a long time. On “In Vein,” the Weeknd slows things down even further with his signature goomy and carnal vocals. Delivering the hook and a verse, the Weeknd’s presence pervades over the entire track. When Ross finally shows up to do his part, the result is surprisingly satisfying. The bravado is undimmed but his growing voice contrasts nicely with the Weeknd’s desperation, which manifests itself through his high-pitched moans and wails.

Ross raps so much about Ross (and chicken wings for that matter) that it can be easy to turn off from the self-appointed “mastermind.” But if we realize that he might not be taking himself as seriously as previously thought – we remember that this is a genuine artist who spent the last four years not only focusing on his music but also his business ventures – the rest of the album does not stray far from doing what he does best. His lyrics and flow have always been limited, but that doesn’t mean they aren’t enjoyable. No one is going to be running out to proclaim Mastermind a classic or that Rozay is changing the face of hip-hop, that doesn’t seem to be his aim anyway. The album benefits greatly from the presence of guest artists who spice things up and is jam-packed with well-picked music from the likes of DJ Mustard, J.U.S.T.I.C.E. League, the Weeknd, and Mike Dean. These influences allowed LeWitt to develop his artistic style, which is geo-metric, saturated with color and systematically formulated. In addition to drawing and painting, LeWitt began exploring three-dimensional work. His first sculptures, or as he liked to call them, “structures,” were primarily wooden, closed forms. In the mid 1960s, LeWitt decided to take a drastically new approach to his three-dimensional work by revealing the structure of forms, and the square became an iconic shape for his “building block” fascination. In 1997, LeWitt created Irregular Tower (Horizontal Bricks #2), which was installed at Connecticut College just south of Freeman House during the same year. According to the Sculpture and Decorative Arts Conservation Services LLC report in 2009, the piece is listed with moderately high conservation priority. Its current condition, however, is listed as “poor.” On the surface, the sculpture has several orange and black stains due to moisture accumulation, salt deposits andichen growth. Chunks from lower part of the piece are missing, most likely a result of weed-whacking or moving damage. The Sculpture and Decorative Arts Conservation Services LLC report recommends a “wash once per year with a non-ionic detergent. When moving, keep at least one foot away from the sculpture.” In fact, the report divulged, “The artist’s intent should be clarified in order to determine whether or not weathering, staining, and biogrowth were desired and appropriate. After getting in touch with LeWitt’s assistant, Susanna Singer, she expressed that Mr. LeWitt would not have wanted the object to become stained or covered with bioflora. He preferred clean lines and was not interested in having the piece revert to nature.”

In the early 1950s, LeWitt at-tended the School of Visual Arts and pursued side work as a graphic designer for the architect I.M. Pei and Seventeen magazine. In 1960, he took a job at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City as a receptionist and clerk, surrounding himself with works by Mark Rothko, Le Corbusier and Edward Steichen.

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CALI ZIMMERMAN
STAFF WRITER

If you have not heard, Kim Kardashian and Kanye West were on the cover of Vogue. For all those who disapprove of Anna Wintour’s decision, take a step back to realize you are a mouse falling right into a 14-karat gold, gourmet cheese trap that Wintour meticulously designed. There was no question that this cover would be met with major backlash. Kim is a constant target in the media for her existence alone, and Kanye continues to question his existence on Earth. Our existence is a constant target in the media for how we observe celebrities. I grew curious as to what it must be like to be in Kimye’s shoes, to have their every move scrutinized. What makes Kimye and McConaughey homogenous is the way in which they publicize themselves. McConaughey has worked to undermine his romantic comedy image to become an elite dramatist. He is looked at for his body in a completely different way (due to the drastic nature he went about looking the part in Dallas Buyers Club.), He is still considered sexy, just not sexualized. Kim and Kanye have also perfectly maneuvered themselves to become publicity gold. While their approach is the opposite of McConaughey’s, their use of sexuality and excess glamour makes them a marketable dream. Every outfit designed not Kim and Kanye pull is set to cause a stir in mainstream media shows the importance of not becoming a cliche. Both McConaughey and Vogue are known for being typecast: McConaughey for his buffness and Vogue for its high art content. By subverting their images, both are now constantly in the media.

The controversy with having Kim and Kanye on the cover of Vogue will follow the magazine for issues to come, because people will be wondering what Vogue’s next move will be. Will the magazine continue on the trail of pop culture? Will Annie Liebowitz use filters on Instagram to edit her photos? Regardless, McConaughey, Vogue, and Kimye are all cultural icons now that we will continue to exasperate over until there is something else to hate watch.

Kimye Climbs the Social Ladder

Will the magazine continue on the trail of pop culture? Will Annie Liebowitz use filters on Instagram to edit her photos?

Swaying in Smocks

Contemplations on the Trisha Brown Dance Company

EMILIE STOLL
CONTRIBUTOR

Trisha Brown Dance Company comes with a complimentary combination of performance versatility. Trisha’s show in Palmer this weekend didn’t only leave me inspired after it ended, but it drew me in during. What stood out to me was the dancers’ constant play with internal and external focus as well as the attention to points of initiation in their bodies.

Within the movement, there were moments where the dancers focus as well as body language was more introverted and grounded into the floor during repetitive, slower movement in unisons. The energy between each dancer was still radiant in the almost breath-like seamlessness between each transition and ability to travel across the stage. In other moments, the dancers, without force, had genuine moments of eye contact. As a viewer, this gave me a comforting feeling of strong partnership and community. It was nice to see the performers not just look at each other but really see each other and even occasionally smile; it was evident that they were at ease in their motions.

Trisha’s style enables her dancers to play with using initiation as the central cause of movement. Each dancer had such clear points of initiation in their bodies in the way they would bend in their joints or balance with a specific part of their body. Men would lift the women through hip connection or foot to torso connection; ways of lifting that I had never thought of but were executed seamlessly. I appreciated the articulation in the shapes the dancers made and the clarity of their moments whether they were being linear or more round and three-dimensional.

I especially loved the final piece of the show, entitled, “I am going to toss my arms if you catch them they’re yours.” All nine dancers were wearing what looked like big white smocks, which they gradually took off one by one throughout the work. On stage right were big fans blowing throughout the entire piece, which gave the piece a nice airy quality and weightlessness. It was visually striking to see the smocks blow off stage when the dancers would take them off revealing brightly colored leotards for the women and briefs for the men. I grew curious as to what it must be like to dance in front of such winds.

The company comes with an admirable sense of strength, cohesiveness, attention to detail, and authenticity. It is apparent that they love what they do, which only makes me love what I watch.
We arrived at Washington Street Coffee House in downtown New London around 6:30 p.m. on a rainy Saturday evening. My roommates and I frequent Washington Street for Sunday breakfasts but had never been for dinner. It's BYOB and meals are inexpensive, usually between $5 and $10. We'd seen the signs for $2 Taco Night on Fridays and Saturdays, so we decided to give it a try.

Although we weren't there on a night with a performance, the cafe often features live music on weekends. The place has a relaxed feel, with paper lanterns hanging from the ceiling and work by local artists covering the walls. There's a "free" box by the door to take or leave miscellaneous items (this time it was filled with ties). The place has a young vibe, but customers of all ages enjoy Washington Street, from families with little kids to a group of older regulars who gather to read the newspaper together.

Washington Street's cuisine manages to combine Mexican with Asian-fusion with classic American, which makes for an eclectic menu that incorporates quality ingredients like prosciutto, as well as homemade sauces.

We brought a bottle of red wine, which we drank from paper cups. I ordered the chicken tacos with goat cheese, cabbage, red onion, and house-made jalapeno hot sauce. My roommates ordered the same tacos, the Thai green curry with bok choy and the sesame ginger chicken wrap.

I love tacos, and these did not disappoint. The jalapeno hot sauce was fresh and zesty with just a little kick—a surprising complement to the tanginess of the goat cheese. We ran into Spencer Francis '14, who also had the chicken tacos, and commented that said goat cheese was "a revelation."

"Liz Spackman '14, said that her Thai curry didn't taste especially like curry, but it was more like rice and steamed vegetables in a broth. Although she might not order that dish again, Spackman remains a huge fan of Washington Street. She loves the banh mi (pork belly) sandwich, which she says "melts in your mouth." She also recommends the meatloaf sandwich, which is "probably overlooked because a lot of people have bad associations with meatloaf or think it's boring, but they do it really well and it's perfect if you're looking for some down-home goodness. They make their own ketchup, too."

While we enjoyed our meals, we agreed that nothing compares to their breakfast. We recommend the oatmeal with apples- and cinnamon, the huevos rancheros, and the breakfast sandwiches (which come on homemade English muffins). Their pastries are also excellent, and their coffee is so strong that my roommates jokingly refer to it as "jet fuel."

Any time of day, Washington Street Coffee House is a great spot for students and locals alike. The natural light from its huge windows and its attractive but minimal decor make it a great place to study. It's also a unique place to bring visiting friends if you want to impress them with great food and a cool scene. We can't say enough good things about Washington Street!