A Poetic Analysis of "Boyfriend"

APRIL 9, 2012

EMILY SILBER CONTRIBUTOR

Blanche Boyd is the first to admit that hers is an unlikely story, from the depths of addiction to the solid stability of life as a wife, mother old college professor. But she has harnessed that journey into a life of writing and storytelling. "My life was so wild, with such painful passages in it," she says as she sits down across from me at a booth in the Blue Camel Cafe. "By telling my story I give my students permission to trust me."

Blanche Boyd was born in Charleston, South Carolina, to a family of "outcasts" which inspired one of her books, The Redneck Way of Knowledge. Even with their discriminatory undertones, Boyd admits that they were "kind and goodhearted people, without much respect for reason," a quality that she valued most of all. "My mother used to say, 'you're too smart for your own good' and I thought, what could that possibly mean? I sent her The Redneck Way of Knowledge one time and she left me a message saying that I turned out to be a better writer than she thought."

She began her academic journey at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, where she received a C+ in English her first semester before being more or less asked to leave. "I was drunk all the time," Boyd explains, "and I trouble maker. I used to hypnotize people. I told the Dean I was going to quit school and get married and she said, 'good! I married a man who wouldn't put up with my drinking. He didn't even let me have a television. He told me to get serious, get a job and get my life together. I had never been able to listen to anyone before. He was a smart, stable, nice man and we loved each other."

She took a chance on a little more meat in her diet, with the help of an LFI'B (Lean, Fat-free, Tenderized Beef) from the Beef Products Inc. plant and donned a bright yellow t-shirt with an unforgettable slogan: "Dig in, because pink slime is an additive in every possible description for the substance. It is the "processing aid," according to Food Safety News—something that aids food production, but does not merit inclusion on the list of ingredients (even when it's a component of one of the main ingredients, as in the case here!)."
On a recent weekend, a group of Conn students were in the Tiki bar at the Bulkeley House restaurant on Bank Street in New London. While the details of that night are murky, how it ended is not in question: a student was threatened with a knife by someone at the bar who was a student, and the police had to resolve the situation.

The students who were involved with the incident were left startled by the possibility of violence on a night out. From our perspective here at the Voice, what happened raises important questions about the current state of our social and drinking culture. What does this mean? Are we losing the sense of community that used to be somewhat prevalent amongst our campus community during our freshman and even sophomore year? From our observation, it seems that the experiences we go through are stronger than it was during our earlier years here. When we were underclassmen, we didn’t see our older friends partying on campus, and we bonded with our own class by spending time with them in the places we lived, both during the week and on the weekend. It seems that the time for these interactions is no more. What is driving this change? Why are students now seemingly unattuned with the social scene on campus?

Perhaps because the social arrangements on campus are changing for the worse. Campus Safety has cracked down on floor parties and large gatherings across campus. Thursday has ceased to be a significant partying night. Traffic at the Cro Bar has increased. The Office of Residential Education and Living has increased Abbey House residents about their “shifted reputation,” while they have chided those who live in the Ridge apartments, a traditional site for large-scale partying, for hosting big gatherings.

In such an environment, no wonder that we are increasingly looking elsewhere for fun. We are starting to think that there is anything worse with partying at New London bars. We have done this, and enjoyed it. But it should not become our only weekend option: we came to Conn for the vibrant social scene of its campus community, for the sense of home that it engendered. In other words, we didn’t come to Conn for the New London social life. We think the college is at risk of ending the sense of space that has made it great. Whether tightening of our social life that various parts of the college’s leadership is trying to implement should be liberalized. That is in everyone’s interests: we would enjoy campus life more; there would be fewer opportunities for challenging incidents such as what happened at the Tiki bar; and we would be a happier population. Furthermore, we predict that a less colorful campus social scene will mean lower matriculation for new and incoming classes at the college who are expecting to inhabit an older model of campus living.

Avoiding that possibility is in the administration’s interests. Already, those living on campus, including us, feel a sense of alienation where before we felt a sense of community. That should be. Both the students and the administration should work to make campus life more amenable to gathering and partying. If we tackle a positive change, it will be happier and will have less frequently, engendering the strong sense of community that Connecticut College once had.

—David Liskin, Ethan Hafenrath, Ipek Bakir and Jasmine Hughes
This Week in Photos

PHOTOS BY CECILIA BROWN AND TANAH SIMON
A look into the life of Professor Blanche Boyd

The revolution brought Boyd to Vermont where she spent the next four years with two twelve-year-old twins. Boyd recalls that, "It was in a way horrible. It was hysterical, [tell my students] it was like being on an ice rink without a net. I couldn't stop myself."

With only a suitcase in hand, Boyd moved to New York where she bought a mattress and a fifty-dollar refrigerator that she held together with a piece of wire. "I also had a typewriter," Boyd adds, "and set out to be a writer. During these years, my drinking and drogging kind of leveled out. It was like being on an escalator that only went down. So I thought the solution was to write another novel. I did but it wasn't any different. Then I accidentally became a rock and roll critic, which was hysterical."

During this time, the second piece of Boyd's work ended up on a list of the best books to read for rock and roll. She laughs and explains, "It was a ridiculous piece of crap and I was proud of it. I was like, 'I don't know what the more people thought I had.'"

The revolutionaries, all white of course, that she knew, Boyd explains sarcastically, "The fact that they thought something was going to happen in this backwater state was absurd, and only stayed there for about a year and a half. I did a lot of drugs and eventually got arrested."

After her fling with the rock and roll scene, Boyd moved back home where she fell in with a group of drug-abusing rich kids. "I finally hit bottom," Boyd says, and was only shaken out of her addiction when her publicist and mentor to a full professor in the English department and she admits, "I was a good teacher."

Currently, Boyd teaches three creative writing courses: Writing the Short Story, Narrative Non-Fiction and the Seminar in Fiction, and has successfully published four novels: Terminal Velocity, The Revolution of Little Gefs, The Redneck Way of Knowledge. In addition, she is working on the live book of a trilogy titled Children of Nod, and has many published articles and essays under her name, including The Redneck Way of Knowledge. "My goal is to go to bed at night feeling like I'm part of what's good in the world. When I last cleaned the fridge, I was part of the problem to being part of the solution. I feel like God's final joke is that I've turned out to be such a happy functional person."
To-Do List
1. Redefine Progress
2. Rethink Collaboration
3. Re-Energize our Community

The inclusiveness, democratic process by which the team chooses the speaker; the initial TEDx at Conn was an independent, not a franchised event, and it was a democratic process for students to fill the role of speaker. In addition, it was an independent event that was not within the purview of the community. The culture created a way to stimulate a conversation that would turn to action. As a result of the event, the college's TEDx committee flourished and has continued to grow, expanding the scope of its impact. The TEDx event has now become a regular event at the college, with a number of speakers and a wide range of topics being presented. The TEDx event has become an integral part of the college's culture and has helped to bring together students from different backgrounds and perspectives. Overall, the TEDx event has been a success and has helped to create a more inclusive and engaged community at the college.

Catherine Monohan, CONTRIBUTOR

TEDx, which stands for Technology, Entertainment, and Design, is a global, non-profit organization dedicated to spreading ideas worth spreading. TEDx events are independently organized conference that brings together speakers and guests to share ideas and experiences on a particular topic or theme. TEDx events are typically held in local venues, such as schools, universities, and community centers. The speakers at these events are experts in their fields, and their talks are designed to inspire and motivate the audience. TEDx events are free and open to the public, and they are typically supported by local sponsors and community partners. The TEDx event at Connecticut College is a collaborative effort, bringing together different members of the campus community, including faculty, staff, students, and community members, to share ideas and experiences on a particular topic or theme. The event is designed to be an inclusive and engaging experience, with a focus on creating a sense of community and collaboration. The event is also a way to connect with others and to promote the exchange of ideas and perspectives. Overall, the TEDx event at Connecticut College is a unique and important event for the campus community, and it is an opportunity for everyone to come together and share ideas and experiences in a supportive and encouraging environment.
Is pink slime safe?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Proponents of pink slime argue that the filler is not only safe to consume, but helps produce cheaper meat. Some expensive meat is more accessible to the average American because of this cheaper product. However, some critics argue that products and toxins from meat Beef Products Inc. did not test properly could find their way into our food supply. The meat product would go to waste. However, the reality is no simple as that. 

The product is named “pink slime” because the bacteria used in the process are pink, and of course, the meat products lack color. The product is made by mixing cow scraps into ground beef. The government is not making much of an effort to test for contamination. Yet the consequences of the process that is underway to test for contamination. So, in an anti-slime stance that reality it’s said no. Still, on online forums, some commentators, who have advocated on behalf of a reduced

This is horrifying. This stuff sounds like a seventh-grade science project gone wrong, and it’s being shipped as “nutrientious,” “lean,” and even “organically grown.” I don’t think that we should be getting pink slime. It’s not really your fault for using cheap meat products, for those who still don’t know about it. No wonder we have large egos: we’ve been told our whole lives that we can do anything we want. While it’s a wonderful sentiment echoed by our parents, it’s technology, clothing or the sub-

We should ask ourselves if we really need to feed our kids this classist, I would urge you to find this classist, I would urge you to find

The Entitlement Generation

MELANIE THIBAULT
ARTS EDITOR

This past weekend, I was asked by my Relay for Life team leader to volunteer with a group at a fundraiser to try and raise more money, but as with every dream come true, it isn’t the only chemical

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Generation, the YouTube Generation and so

No wonder we have large egos: we’ve been told our whole lives that we can do anything we want, how to walk around in shit. Up until now, this meat has usually been remade for use in dog food—it’s not a very healthy option for human consumption, and it’s often screening as “nutrientious,” “lean,” and even “organically grown.” I don’t think that we should be getting pink slime. It’s not really your fault for using cheap meat products, for those who still don’t know about it. No wonder we have large egos: we’ve been told our whole lives that we can do anything we want. While it’s a wonderful sentiment echoed by our parents, it’s technology, clothing or the sub-

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A Jew’s Lament on the Commercialization of Passover

SPENCER FRANCUS
STAFF WRITER

When I was a child, Passover was a time for family, tradition, and remembrance. The Haggadah, which we read throughout the week, reminded us of the Hebrews’ slavery in Egypt and their eventual liberation. It was a time when we gathered around the table to eat the Seder, a ritual meal that commemorated the Israelites’ escape from slavery. However, in recent years, Passover has become more about the food and less about the story.

The Haggadah tells us that the Hebrews did not have enough time to ready their food for the Passover exodus. They did not have time to prepare leavened bread, let alone a full meal. But in modern times, we have time to prepare a lavish meal, even if we don’t have access to the necessary ingredients.

Now, instead of focusing on the story of the Israelites and their liberation from slavery, we focus on the food. We have become so consumed with the commercialization of Passover that we have forgotten the true meaning of the holiday. It is a holiday to remember our past, where we freed our enslaved ancestors.

This year, I am reconsidering the way I celebrate Passover. Instead of focusing on the food, I will focus on the story. I will read the Haggadah and think about the events that led to the Israelites’ liberation. I will also reflect on the sacrifices that the Israelites made during this time.

In the past, Passover was a time for reflection and remembrance. But now, it has become a time for consumption. We are so focused on the food that we have forgotten the true meaning of the holiday. I hope that this year, we can all take a step back and remember why we celebrate Passover.
A Poetic Analysis of “Boyfriend,” by the Illustrious Wordsmith Justin Bieber

However, by closer analysis, we see the beginning of a chronicle written by a very disturbed youth. The use of the conditional “if” throughout implies that he will only be kind to her if she bends to his will — not an auspicious beginning. He also promises to take her places — “you ain’t never been before.” Obviously this blatant affront to the rules of basic grammar and sentence structure is being used as a tool to lower his threat level to his mate: who can be seen in a serious light if he lacks the ability to form the most basic of statements? All this serves as a lure to “take her places — you ain’t never been” more likely, the dark silence of a forest where he may delve deeper into his diabolical plan. However, the next lines that include the words “Swag swag swag on you” cause much confusion. The dictionary definition of the term “swag” is as follows: “a suspended wreath, garland, drapery or the like, fastened up at or near each end and hanging down in the middle, feathery.” Another definition is “to move heavily or unsteadily from side to side,” I surmise that he intends to throw foliage upon her in the form of an attack.

The chorus of this so-called song offer no redeeming qualities to his character. “If we’re your boyfriend, never let you go. Keep you on my arm girl, you’d never be alone. I can be a gentleman...” If I was your boyfriend I’d never let you go...

As of now our disturbed youth is threatening this young lady, in the middle of the forest, to be with him forever, never out of his sight. Throughout the song he becomes more and more controlling. One can almost picture the desperation of the poor young lady! The second verse becomes nearly incomprehensible: “Tell me what you like yeah tell me what you don’t I could be your light and you’d never wanna fight yeah, you already know. Justin make you shine bright like you’re laying in the snow. Brrrr Girlfriends, girlfriend, you could be my girlfren d, could be my girlfriend until the upper world ends. Make you dance do a spin and a twirl.”

It’s clear that our friend Mr. Bieber is out of his right mind because his heightened sexual state has caused a certain amount of heat that is too much for his Canadian structure to handle. The problem of his Canadian hood is evident again in the lines “Imma make you shine bright like you’re laying in the snow....Brrr.” There are not many who are familiar with the sight of someone lying in the snow, dying of hypothermia; however, Mr. Bieber’s Canadian background has evidently given him the insight to know that they emit a certain glow. The last few lines give the distinct feeling of being versed with his “voice gain’ crazy on this hook like a whirlwind.” It is likely that he has proceeded in draping her in foliage for some unknown, disturbing Canadian ritual.

This song is only one of the many examples of how close reading can forever change the meaning of a piece of art. Now the innocence of juvenile girls dancing and declaring their undying love to the haunting lyrics that are the result of this disturbed young man’s mental fantasy can only be another sad example of the pressures of fame causing mental instability in a young star.
Can the latest British boy band One Direction reach *NSYNC status?

Anita Ballinger
STAFF WRITER

{-1960}nto music sales has affected CD sales

The rise of online music sites has affected CD sales

How the rise of online music sites has affected CD sales

The Latest Endangered Species

The music industry is not dependent on television anymore. Today, everything is produced quickly to keep up with the fast-paced society in which we live. Everyone wants to be a "celebrity" today as easy as clicking "upload." A video to MTV of a person singing rhy-
This Week in Athletics

PHOTOS BY AMY DEGARNO (RUGBY), JOHN LYONS (LACROSSE), AND HOITT MCALLISTER (TRACK)
AMANDA NADILE
SPORTS EDITOR

For the past two years, Connecticut College has been busy preparing for and celebrating the centennial year. Since most of Conn's student body is from another state, there is another centennial birthday that must be celebrated. Fenway Park, home to the Boston Red Sox, Fenway Park has served as the home ballpark for the team since it opened in 1912.

Whether or not you are a Red Sox fan, you know that there is something special about this well-decorated stadium. As the Red Sox Museum president, I was impressed with the entire ball park, and it is also just one of two "classic" ballparks in use, next to the Chicago Cubs Wrigley Field.

As baseball fans expand and as the Red Sox have gained popularity, there have been many stories about "Mayhem on the Diamond," a league of women sailors along with two alternates for the team. The women's team goes to women's regattas race course could have no wind at all, so boats behind them. Whole portions of the water, there are puffs of wind that only make the team at Connecticut College truly has been over the years and will hopefully into the future.

Last year I was down by Dwayne field in the pouring rain, and I ran past our section of Thames-side waterfront, I noticed many members of the student body have no clue, myself included, how it works at all. Great team; many members of the student body have no clue, myself included, that put time and love into a sport that requires very little knowledge across campus. A mention on

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The Red Sox defeated the New York Yankees (reinstated the Yankees the following year) in what was probably the most dramatic game of the 1919 World Series. Pesky's pole, the right field foul line, is another very important landmark. Despite popular belief, home runs aren't winning, there is reason to visit this amazing place. On March 7, 2012, Fenway Park was added to the National Register of Historic Places. Despite the mystery surrounding the sinking of the Titanic, Fenway Park is definitely a place to visit this year, there is reason to visit this amazing place. On March 7, 2012, Fenway Park was added to the National Register of Historic Places. Despite the mystery surrounding the sinking of the Titanic, Fenway Park is definitely a place to visit this year, there is reason to visit this amazing place. On March 7, 2012, Fenway Park was added to the National Register of Historic Places. Despite the mystery surrounding the sinking of the Titanic, Fenway Park is definitely a place to visit this year, there is reason to visit this amazing place. On March 7, 2012, Fenway Park was added to the National Register of Historic Places.
Douglas Wright, a senior distance runner from the nationally ranked Dartmouth College track and field program, is ready for the championship season. Wright's time comes after a struggle with the distance during the indoor season, where he peaked at over twenty-five minutes. After this race, Wright is confident and looks at this time less as a season sluggishness and more as a step-up for longer races leading into the championship portion of the season.

"It felt pretty good, better than my previous efforts at the distance. I hope to continue my season through the championship season, and run under fifteen minutes in the 10,000," said Wright. "My favorite workout is definitely the 8K tempo; it feels easy," said Wright.

A tactical race means that the runners will pack up at the beginning, trading off the lead to try to tempt one another into running hard alone in the front, burning more energy than necessary. A negative split would mean that Wright is able to run faster in the second half than the first, a feat that many runners cannot even fathom. At the NESCAC championships, Wright is confident he can perform.

"I think that I can run into the low thirty-one minute range, because it will be a tactical race and I'll likely negative split," he said.

NESCAC POWER RATINGS

The poll was devised by Sports Editor Amanda Nadile and Jeff Belling. These rankings were based on NESCAC standings as well as quality wins and influential losses to NESCAC opponents. These scores were averaged to create a composite overall standing for each school.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT SCORES

Saturday, April 7th
Men's Lacrosse
vs. Kean University
Win 12-3

Thursday, April 5th
Women's Water Polo
vs. Brown
Win 27-10

Saturday, April 5
Women's Lacrosse
Vs. Manhattanville
Win 18-2

Friday, April 6th
Men's Tennis
vs. Middlebury College
Loss 9-0

SO YOU DON'T MISS IT GAMES

April 10th
Men's Lacrosse at Keene State College
Time TBA

April 10th
Women's Lacrosse at Amherst College
7PM, Amherst College

April 13th
Women's Water Polo
Grove City College at Ursinus College, 3:30 PM