The Honors Humanities and Arts Collective's Spring 2021 Zine: **RE:GROWTH**

*We miss you, we will see you soon*

To whom it may concern

We miss you, we will see you soon
Hello HArCo members, Zine readership, and the Honors community,

As some of you may know, for the last two years, Brittany Engert has been the Honors Advisor for the Honors Humanities and Arts Collective. She was an incredible advisor, and we wanted to formally include an homage to her in this Spring 2021 zine to recognize her hard work, kindness, patience, dedication, sincerity, and warmth.

We weren’t her only responsibility - in fact, she wore many hats in the Honors Programming and Events Office - but she made us feel like HArCo was her top priority. Brittany made an effort to get to know each of us as individuals, encouraged our creativity, and helped us carry out our ideas with expertise and grace. She made us feel like she was always on our side, and like humanities and arts issues were the most important. From bringing us personalized coloring pages, to attending our Open Mic night even though it was far later than her regular hours, to helping us apply for funding, Brittany really made sure to meet us on our level as people first and then helped us achieve higher together. Under her leadership and encouragement, HArCo won Honors Organization of the Year last year, and although she didn’t get an award for that, it as much belongs to her as it does to us.

We are so grateful that Brittany was our advisor, and we wish her every success and happiness in her new life in Colorado! Our weekly chats are already missed, and we will be sending her paper copies of these zines so she can stay in touch with HArCo for as long as HArCo lives (basically, forever).

Love from Connecticut,
The HArCo eboard
Well, it’s been quite the year! With its ups and downs, growth and change, one thing (well, multiple things, but for our purposes one thing) stays the same: music.

**it’s not the same anymore**
(rex orange county)

Struggles with the passage of time and mental health - not unfamiliar with the pandemic, but we learn and grow, and things will get better.

**let go**
(frou frou)

It’s important to acknowledge the problems we face, as life can be hard sometimes — don’t be too hard on yourself, work to overcome, and believe in yourself!

**tusk and bone**
(shaman’s harvest)

Times can get rough - moving away from family, struggling with mental health issues, doubting oneself, etc. - but we persevere, learn from our past, and grow.

**graduation**
(kero kero bonito)

Whether having recently graduated, or approaching a graduation now, school (and life) is a wild ride. One with its ups and downs, certainly, that we reflect on — for better or worse — with time. It’s important to recognize the strengths and faults of what we experience, and consider how we can make things better for the future.

**a letter to my younger self**
(quinn xcii, logic)

It’s important to consider our past actions — what we’ve lost, what we’ve done. The actions of others, too, weigh on our own lives and experiences.

To access the playlist, scan these with your camera or Spotify app:
LESTER'S LIE: EXPOSED

Each day, countless students walk by the sign "LESTER E. SHIPEE HALL" without ever giving thought to the person behind that familiar name. But an investigation of that very name lead me to a shocking truth—a lie, peddled on an official university webpage!

Preform a search for Lester E. Shippee, and the first few results will provide little information other than his birth and death dates and of course, the residence hall that bears his name. But soon you will come across an official UConn link—the website for the UConn foundation. It is here, under "Our History", that we uncover this lie. It reads: "The UConn Foundation was founded by UConn President Lester E. Shippee in 1962". Clear as can be, this site alledges that Lester E. Shippee was UConn president in 1962. A factual claim such as this should be easy to check. Both the UConn website for the Office of the President and the Wikipedia article on the subject corroborate each other on this point: Lester E. Shippee was never president. The president in 1962 was, in fact, Mr. Homer D. Babbidge Jr. So just who was Lester E. Shippee?

Another search through the UConn website leads to various newspaper articles and minutes of meetings, from which it becomes clear that Lester E. Shippee was chairman of the board of trustees at UConn until 1959, and later chairman of the Connecticut Bank and Trust Co. It is even possible to find a newspaper from 1968 which quotes then president Homer D. Babbidge Jr. discussing this honor. The evidence is clear, and it appears to be a satisfactory conclusion. So why the lie? If the university wants us to believe that Lester E. Shippee is president, why have available so much evidence to the contrary? Or is the evidence I found the fabrication, and the UConn foundation webpage contains a small slip of the truth? Or is this all a ploy to distract us, and hide the deeper truth? Just what is the secret of Lester E. Shippee???
CT Wildflowers

*Trillium grandiflorum*  
White Trillium  
Spring

*Opuntia humifusa*  
Eastern Prickly Pear  
Late Spring  
(rare)

*Lilium canadense*  
Canada Lily  
Summer

*Anemone americana*  
Blunt-lobed hepatica  
Early Spring
**Sanguinaria canadensis**  
Bloodroot  
Early Spring

**Symlocarpus foetidus**  
Eastern Skunk Cabbage  
Late Winter-Early Spring

**Cypripedium acaule**  
Pink Lady’s Slipper Orchid  
Spring–Early Summer

**Nelumbo lutea**  
American Lotus  
Late Spring–Summer (rare)
and Babylonian, kings under gate.  
Witnesses are called, documents presented.  
Sentence is pronounced:
In my mind’s eye
majesty
is proclaimed
is paradise on
earth.  
this frail
rare now
a cruel streak ran through
them all,
urban overlords.
for example,
wealth and
arms.
now
in what is
their homeland
with lovely buildings.  
embrace...tenderly
the gardens he created
a moonstruck yearning for
a time succeeding
flight
embrace handing

One day I visited a living personification of the empire.

Blackout Poem by Lauren Pawlowski
Jar of January by Ellie Fitzgerald
Why?

It’s a pretty simple question. One word. Yet, it is one that far too many UConn students fail to ask. The campus is built as an umbrella killing wind tunnel. Construction zones pop up even where there’s no construction, attracting hordes of squirrels. Oat Blenders disappear, return, and disappear again with no notice or explanation. You are told not to step on the campus seal, lest you perish before graduating.

These are statements of fact, simple and earnest. But, why? Why does UConn’s administration organize our school in a way where such things happen, usually against common sense logic? Why is there always another mystery, and why do our leaders try to deny us the answers?

Throughout my time in Storrs, I have investigated the shadows of lies around every corner. Time after time, the evidence has of course verified my initial conclusion, and UConn has quickly reacted by covering their tracks. But I am just one nameless, untraceable shadow being. Contrary to popular belief, I am not omnipotent (yet), and my time at UConn will be over shortly. There will always be more changes, more rumors, more questionable policies. More things that just don’t seem quite right.

Yet, there has always been one mystery at the center of everything. It has dominated my brain space for years. The seal. It always comes back to the seal. From the very first time a high school junior takes a campus tour, they are told that they should not step on the seal. This is reinforced at orientation, at the Weekend of Welcome, at the involvement fair. “Don’t step on it, or you won’t graduate.”

I have spent countless hours interrogating this supposed curse. Why does it persist? The obvious answer is that the warning is authentic. Nice try, but it isn’t. Brave dissenters (yes, including me) have valiantly undermined this tyranny of intimidation, taking the ultimate risk by stepping on the seal, and there has been no tangible effect. Of course, I don’t doubt that UConn officials track who has stepped on the seal and find ways to punish those individuals throughout their lives. That is why we are martyrs. Perhaps a decade from now my kneecaps will suddenly meet their end the week after a suspiciously long Board of Trustees meeting. It’s a price I’m willing to pay. Regardless, the official legend is just that – legend.

So, the answer isn’t that simple. The obvious next possibility is that the seal is hiding something or marking a spot for something beneath it. Perhaps it disguises a lair where UConn faculty and administrators experiment with new mind control chemicals on human subjects. Maybe the seal disguises a pressure plate which unlocks a secret jewel chamber adjacent to the UConn tunnels. Or maybe the legend itself is just an endless test to measure the degree of effort necessary for administrators to subdue and gaslight tens of thousands of students. If that’s the case, it evidently doesn’t take much.
The unbearable truth is, I just don't know. I have crafted countless theories to figure it out, but they're all incomplete. None fully explain the lie. None really get to the root cause or the motivations at play. In fact, I don't think I'm even close. The fact is, stepping on a seal is not even a unique UConn taboo. There are plenty of other institutions who have similar myths and beliefs. The seal must be part of something much larger than anything Susan or TomKat could ever craft. A less skeptical (read: dumb) person might just suggest it is probably just a common, fun tradition without ulterior meaning, as is the case with most superstitions.

No. Superstitions of this scale come from somewhere. There is always a why. The perpetuation of this myth gave someone something that they wanted, and continues to do so. It has to. That is the nature of the world. There are no accidents. I mean, there probably are, but this isn't one of them.

So, I have failed. I have reached the end of the line. But I have not given up my dream, the dream that one day UConn students will recognize and understand their manipulation. That they will open their eyes to the plots of the powerful to trick and control them. That they will understand the seal and eradicate its power.

Go forth my brethren, there is no time to waste in pursuit of truth.

- Anonymous

P.S.: Does your lion approach nothing? Great are ferocious friends, never effacing youth.
re:cipe
dorm omelette

craving one of those dining hall omelettes at midnight on a Saturday? do it yourself without leaving your dorm!

**what to do!**

1. spray/grease your mug with oil
2. crack 2 eggs into the mug and add 1 tbsp of milk, then mix
3. add cheese, toppings, and a pinch of salt and pepper each
4. microwave in 30 second increments until the egg is cooked
5. eat!
2) Don’t over/under water! Assess how much water your plant needs by testing its weight. The lighter, the more it needs to drink — usually once or twice per week in the summer, and only a few times per month in the winter!

3) Plants like bright light (sunlight from south-facing window) or filtered light (sunlight through a curtain/light from a bulb)

Tips:

1) Start with soil! Espoma is a go-to.

2) Don’t over/under water! Assess how much water your plant needs by testing its weight. The lighter, the more it needs to drink — usually once or twice per week in the summer, and only a few times per month in the winter!

3) Plants like bright light (sunlight from south-facing window) or filtered light (sunlight through a curtain/light from a bulb)

4) Plants that need acidic soil: add a few tbsp of coffee to water and water plants that need acidic soil

5) green tea: naturally fertilize houseplants by steeping green tea bags and watering your plants with the liquid.

-hard to kill: aloe, jade plants, string of pearls, peace lily, spider plant, english ivy
collaborative HArCo drawing

wow the moon is a cute

the moon says I love u

the rich

get the rich

moonfeather

erin hunter

is my mom

sucks

wth

art

strong

ghost cat

meow wow

my name is daniel
thanks for re:ading!

Edited by: HArCo 2021 Members