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Go Greek?

I learned a lot throughout the process of creating this mini-documentary, from both my interviewees and the film-editing portion. I do wonder, like I mentioned in my conclusion, if it would have been better if I were interviewing strangers, or if I had had a combination of both. Although I obviously wasn't looking for women to trash their sororities, I'm sure some of the negative things they think were left out, perhaps because they chose not to be anonymous. Everyone had a different perspective to offer, and although there were some common themes running throughout everyone's interviews, I liked that they all offered new points of views for every question. I would like to mention that I did do five interviews, but I decided that the fifth one did not offer any new perspectives and it seemed like that specific interviewee was answering questions with answers that she thought I wanted and not ones that were necessarily true (which I think is the nature of documentaries, you can never be entirely confident in your content).

In terms of common themes, it was interesting that family had a lot to do with whether or not they chose to Rush, I hadn't realized that it can be a very inherited system. Additionally, it just goes to show how small Vanderbilt can be when all of the people interviewed said the same things about where they choose to spend their weekends; Towers and Broadway. I learned a lot from the film-editing portion as well, mainly that I don't know a lot about film-editing! This process was informative and I asked for some help from a friend who is a film major, but overall I think it was the weakest part of the project, and better execution could have elevated the final product. I'm still proud of the work that I did though.

From an objective standpoint, the documentary was a really interesting idea that just could have benefited from more time and more talented hands behind the camera and at the editing board. The content was fascinating given all the different perspectives, but the vehicle of its dissemination needs to be fine-tuned. The beginning portion gave a good but brief background of Vanderbilt Greek life (it is only supposed to be a mini-documentary). The social media slides offered a new look at what Greek life can look like on a campus that is 43% Greek. I wish it had contained every example of that type of behavior I've seen on social media sites, because it is fascinating how frequently fights between GDI's and Greek members occur.

Overall, the transitions were a little sloppy from clip to clip, which came from a lack of experience with trimming sound on either end of the clips. The sound could also have used some help to make it consistent across the entire film. The different backgrounds for each interviewee were interesting because they help meaning, but they could have benefitted from some more consistent lighting. Also concrete is just ugly, but that can't be helped. The different types of audio and visuals were interesting and helped to keep the film from feeling stagnant. I think the informational slides for each interviewee were the most helpful part of the documentary. The social media slides were a good change of pace, and showed how prevalent Greek life is on campus, because Vanderbilt's Internet activity is a huge part of campus even if it isn't physically available.