

MASH



Intermission?

VOLUME

28

ISSUE

3

THE TEAM



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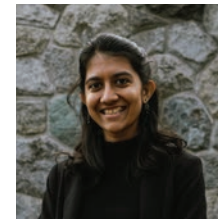
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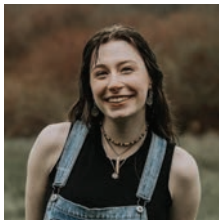
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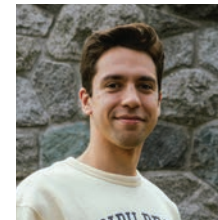
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Mars' Hill is a student publication of Trinity Western University located on the traditional ancestral territory of the Stó:lo people. Floated with funds raised by the Student Association, *Mars' Hill* seeks to be a professional and relevant student publication, reflecting and challenging the TWU community, while intentionally addressing local, national, and international issues.



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FROM THE EDITOR

Hello Reader,

Here we are at the end of the semester. As we push forward to the halfway point of the school year, feelings of exhaustion and burn-out can begin to creep up. The passing of time can be cruel and relentless to us. Our weekly schedules become daily routines that we simply trudge through. We forget our aspirations and our hopes which we started the year with. That is why this break that we get is so important. Spending time with our families—finding peace and quiet which we could not in the semester. Gather yourself and allow your mind to go blank: think of nothing, and relax.

For this printed issue, our theme is *Intermission*. It is a reminder that being in an in-between place is not always a bad thing—not knowing can be a good thing. Not only does life become full of surprises, but we can grow the most when we are open to the next chapter and reflective of the chapter we are leaving. It is not easy, and it is natural to want to feel your feet on the ground. Just take a breath, feel the weight of being unsure, and let it go. Release, and enjoy the intermission—life is beautiful right now.

As far as articles to look out for in this issue, they are all amazing. Read them all and enjoy all the excellent submissions we received for this issue.

Sincerely,
Diego Bascur



Notice of Correction: In a previous issue the feature article, “The Twilight of Trinity’s Theatre Department: Commemorating A Legacy Part One,” stated that SAMC theatrical productions are held four times a year and that the cast stars 18 students. In fact, there are two productions per year and the cast is composed of students, faculty, and alumni. *Mars’ Hill* regrets the error.



MISSION TO MARS

The mission of *Mars’ Hill*, as the official student newspaper of Trinity Western University, is to inform and entertain its readers, cultivate awareness of issues concerning the TWU community, and provide a forum for purposeful, constructive discussion among its members in accordance with the Community Covenant, Statement of Faith, and Core Values of the University.

MARS’ HILL

Mars’ Hill encourages submissions and Letters to the Editor. *Mars’ Hill* reserves the right to edit submissions for style, brevity, and compatibility with the Mission, the Statement of Faith, the Student Handbook, and the Core Values of the University. Anonymous authorship of any material may be granted at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief. Opinions expressed in *Mars’ Hill* belong to the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial board, Trinity Western University, its officials or its Student Association.

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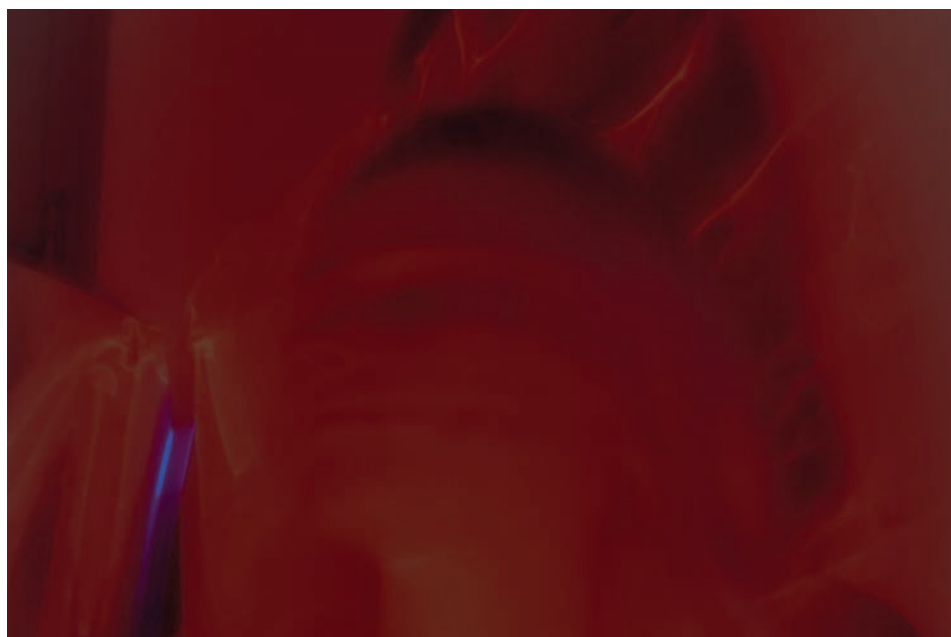
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DECLASSIFIEDS

Too scared to ask out that hot girl from Rels class? Have a thought you're dying to share? Did a professor say something strange or funny? Do you have some information that you want to get out to the student body? Whatever it is, the declassifieds are here for you.

Submit yours at www.marshillnewspaper.com/declassifieds.

can we make it illegal for profs to lick their fingers when handing out paper to students
can we make it illegal for profs to lick their fingers when handing out paper to students
can we make it illegal for profs to lick their fingers when handing out paper to students
If you look attractive in pillar yearbook photos, then you're probably really really (x2) attractive in real life.
I have more sparkly fned stickers. You just gotta find me and ask for one. I might give you one if I'm feeling generous.
Rest in peace to all the funky moustaches that got shaved off after the Top Gun Maverick hype died—they will be missed
Mom, can you come pick me up? I'm scared.

Point of personal privilege: the lights in this room are very bright.
Dear whoever keeps stealing the Fraser 3rd floor vacuum, PUT IT BACK. Sincerely, Everyone on the third floor.
Wait a minute, this isn't Texas Woman's University
we should make a TWU Hinge bingo card
Seth, David, and Bret have a podcast?! Called <i>Mandatory Media</i> ?! And there's an episode on THE FAERIE QUEENE?! Why isn't everyone listening to it and following it on Instagram?! @mandatorymediapod
The Lower Caf should do live music with Abi and Zander and others
Egg

Bring back sexy US presidents
To the guy who plays the guitar and sings in the third floor Fraser study room - please never stop. Your voice is amazing and I love listening to it :)
Scott paper towel dispensers have an absolute chokehold on Trinity
The person who is writing this wants everyone to know that their Starbucks drink of choice was chai LONG before those two little goobers at the Douglas open mic night sang about it
Madalyn Macmillan, please notice me
"I'm slaying a little too close to the sun right now"
Fall and pray
Hello my name is NINO!

Yowie wowie
Let me talk to ya!

Mars' Hill reserves the right to edit or reject submissions based on content and/or length. A printed submission does not reflect an endorsement of any kind, nor does it reflect the opinions of Mars' Hill or its staff, the student association, or Trinity Western University.



Artifice, Asteroids, Anderson

Seth Schouten

Wes Anderson seems to be on a never-ending quest to one-up himself. The American filmmaker's name is synonymous with his distinctive creative flair. For those familiar with his work, the sound of Anderson's name conjures images of symmetrical frames, intentionally stilted performances, and dollhouse sets. Almost three decades into his career, Anderson's style has become increasingly idiosyncratic with each project. He leans more and more into the aesthetics he has become known for. However, if the annoying "Wes Anderson trend" on TikTok this past summer has revealed anything about the filmmaker, it is that these unique visual choices are more than just choices. There is an underlying artistic and thematic motivation for these tricks.

Anderson's movies are artificial. Are not almost all movies artificial? They are written in advance, recorded with cameras and microphones, lit with electric lights, and performed by actors. The difference here is that Anderson *wants* you to know you are watching something unreal; the artifice of the craft is part of the experience. Whereas most filmmakers want the viewer to believe in the reality of the film for its runtime, even if we ultimately know that the film itself is not reality, Anderson keeps one foot out of reality at all times.

For the best exploration of Anderson's style, I turn to *Asteroid City* (2023), his most recent feature film. In *Asteroid City*, we see Anderson explicitly trying to explain his peculiar visual choices. The film is one of his most narratively complex. The film is structured through a series of frame narratives, each adding a layer of complexity and artifice to the story being told. To try to summarize its many parts, the film is a television program that dramatizes the life of playwright Conrad Earp and the writing of his play *Asteroid City*, which is intercut with a group of actors performing the play. Where the frame narratives of *The Grand Budapest Hotel* (2014), for example, are ultimately just to add texture to the execution of the story, the

various narratives of *Asteroid City* begin to blend into each other, creating this weird bowl of metatextual soup.

Asteroid City is Anderson's most visually ambitious film with its sprawling practical sets, shifting colour palettes and aspect ratios, miniatures and stop-motion, and meticulous blocking. As exemplified in this film, Anderson borrows a lot from theatre with its specific blocking, obvious sets, and frequent breaking of the fourth wall. He's making the inherent artifice of film more apparent. In a play, the viewer is more aware of the obvious artifice surrounding the story because of the limitations of the stage. The same thing is evident here. Anderson himself [has been clear about the influence of American playwright Sam Shepherd and the theatre culture of New York in the 1950s on *Asteroid City*](#). These influences are also apparent in many of Anderson's other projects as well. *Rushmore* (1998) clearly borrows from theatre in its story: the film is about a high schooler who stages elaborate theatrical productions at his school. *Henry Sugar* highlights the inherent theatricality of Anderson with sets built for obvious stages and uses of flies and stagehands to shift location.

Anderson's best films are the ones that pair the humorous with the melancholic and the comedic with the tragic. "Anderson's characters are often figures on the cusp of crisis," [writes film scholar Kim Wilkins](#). "Many experience existential malaise, trauma, or grief, and some attempt suicide." These characters go through a lot throughout a given film: divorce, broken relationships, violence, familial deaths, social isolation, the rise of fascism in Eastern Europe circa the early 20th century, and heartbreak. "Yet," Wilkins continues, "because of Anderson's use of irony and artifice, his characters are often presented as amusing oddballs rather than deeply troubled figures." *Asteroid City* is a perfect example of characters on the edge, both in the world of the play-within-the-movie and the story of the actors and crew working on it. These are people who are struggling through life and all its hardship and uncertainty, despite

the veneer of humour that the film puts over itself.

Now, through this blend of the humorous and the melancholic, Anderson creates some very potent moments of catharsis throughout his filmography. Despite the tragedy that befalls the characters, they end on moments of satisfying emotional release, where the world has returned to some sense of rightness. But unlike the majority of his films, *Asteroid City* struggles to tie up its loose ends. There is not a clear sense of catharsis that the film leaves the audience with. It is a puzzling, confusing movie about intense emotions that never really find themselves resolved. The characters themselves are struggling to understand the meaning of the play by the end of the film.

There is a moment towards the end of the film where actor Jones Hall (played by Jason Schwartzman) suddenly has a profound revelation about the work he is performing. "I still don't understand the play," he says. He storms off stage to find the play's director, Schubert Green (played by Adrien Brody). "Am I doing it right?" Hall asks Green in an earnest, pained voice.

Green sits him down, and, after a moment, says, "You're doing him just right."

But Hall still doesn't get it. "I feel lost," he says. "Do I just keep doing it? Without knowing anything? . . . I still don't understand the play."

"It doesn't matter," said Green. "Just keep telling the story."

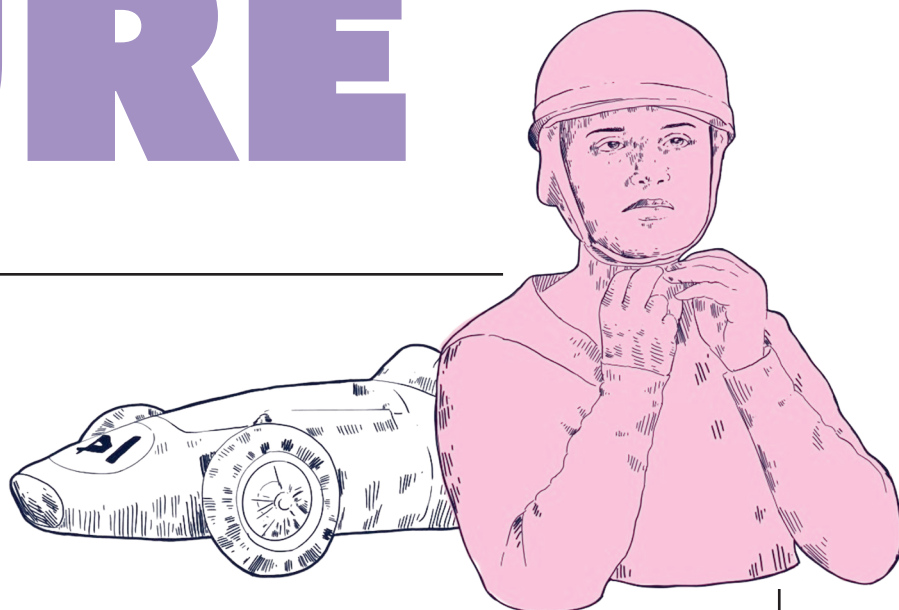
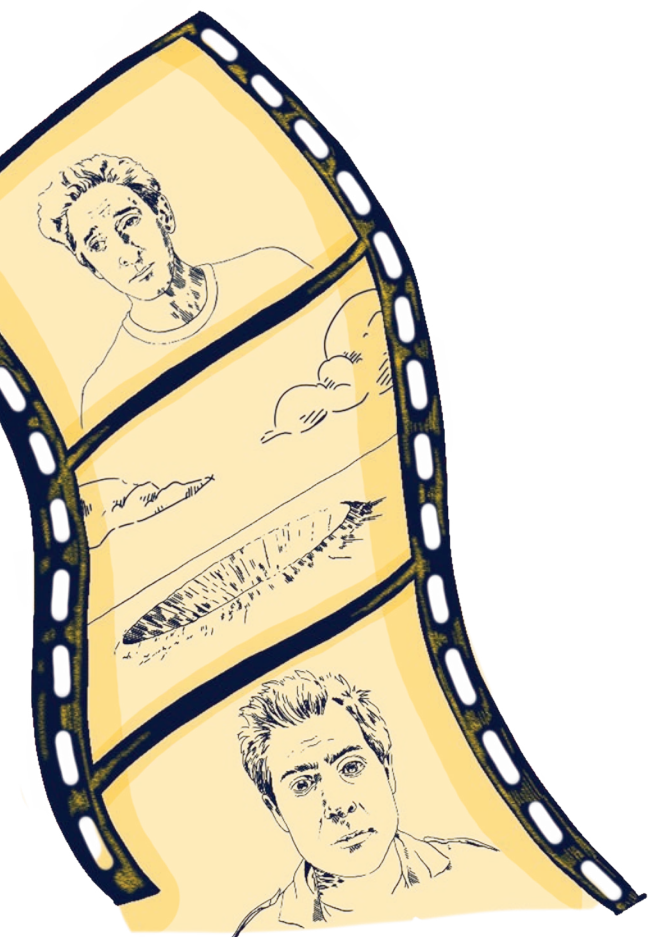
"Fiction often seeks to explain the human condition, to offer answers to questions that elude us in our own lives, but *Asteroid City* refuses that mandate," wrote critic Sam Adams in his [review of the film for Slate](#). If you are anything like me, you will find this lack of proper resolution to be utterly compelling, making for one of Anderson's most enigmatic and complex works yet. But there are many for whom this approach simply does not work, where the lack of



CULTURE

any sort of concrete answer will drive you mad. *Asteroid City's* fictional author, Conrad Earp, does not really know what it is about either. When asked what his play is about, he, after a pause, replies, "Infinity, and I don't know what else."

Anderson's filmography is not just about distinctive visuals and gentle scores by Alexandre Desplat, as your social media algorithm might suggest, but there is an artistic motivation behind it all. Critics of the director's work often use his love of stylized visuals as a critique, saying that the artifice of Anderson's films makes them emotionally hollow. I could not disagree more. There is a purpose to every choice, to all the artifice, and to those iconic symmetrical shots. Perhaps the artifice is an attempt to reconcile with an outside world that seems random and chaotic. The hyper-organization of his style, then, is a way of making sense of it. The worlds Anderson presents are never kind, often pushing characters into extreme, existential circumstances. Maybe, like Green and Hall and Earp, we will never understand the story. Maybe we just have to keep telling it.



Females in Formula One

Alexis Stephen

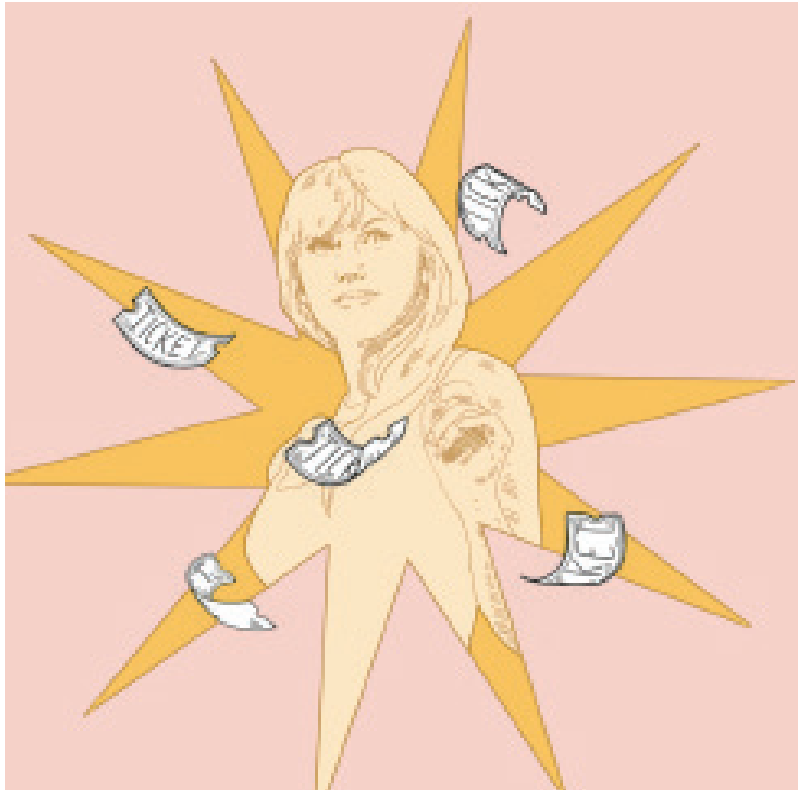
Women and motor racing in the same sentence tends to bring about laughter because it has become a stereotype that women are bad drivers. There are many amazing male drivers, especially in motor racing, as it is a male-dominated field, but there are female racers who have been incredible in it as well. I ask that the men take an intermission and read about one of the riskiest and bravest racers ever, the Italian driver Maria Teresa De Filippis. Women were allowed to compete in motor racing in the 1940s, but many boundaries kept them from being able to do so. This is not to say there are not bad female drivers, just that women are not given the same opportunities as men to train and show off their skills in motor sports. The first woman to ever compete in a Formula One race, who defied all previous opinions about women and driving, and changed the sport of motor racing forever was de Filippis. Formula One (F1) is the highest class world racing championship. It is a single-seater open wheel race and climbing the ranks to get to it is far from easy. One requires specific licenses and money in addition to a lot of wins. The lack of opportunity and interest have prevented many women from competing in motor racing. In fact, in 1976, Lella Lombardi was the last woman (so far) to compete in an F1 race. Unfortunately, the list of women who have competed in the F1 can be counted on one hand and is not growing, but it all started with de Filippis.

After World War II, with a true passion for the sport, de Filippis decided to begin her racing career. It was the comments made by her brothers saying she would not go fast, and making bets that she would be slow, however, that fueled this passion more. She was only 22 years old. After competing in the Italian sports car championship, Maserati decided they wanted her as a works driver, meaning she would drive the company's team, which was a huge accomplishment for a woman at the time. In total, de Filippis raced in five World Championship Grands Prix, but never did manage to take home a win. However, this is not the point. The point is that de Filippis pushed the limits of a male-dominated sport all the way back in the late 1940s. Her bravery and risk-taking proved her to be worthy of that race, no matter her gender.

In fact, Juan Manuel Fangio, the man who dominated F1 racing in the 1940s and won the World Drivers Championship five times, told Maria, "You go too fast, you take too many risks." Yes, this does not sound good, but going from men betting on her to be too slow to having a world champion racer tell her that she's too fast is pretty incredible. There are so many incredible men in motor racing, but I wanted to bring to light that F1 is not only for men; women have participated in it and done a lot better than some men. The fact that there has not been a female participant since 1976 is quite sad, and I hope that will change soon.

Problems that *The Eras Tour* resurfaced; ticket buying; scalping problems

Gabrielle Goh



Ticket purchasing has now become increasingly harder with people discovering different ways of using technology to beat not only the queues, but also the odds of failing when it comes to purchasing tickets.

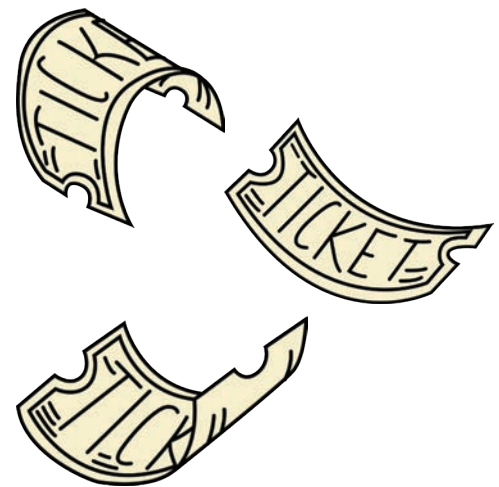
Taylor Swift. This name has been synonymous with the biggest musical artist for as long as many can remember. The world-renowned country-turned-pop sensation has millions lining up to make purchases for the *The Eras Tour* from Paris to Tokyo. With talks of *The Eras Tour* possibly raking in 1 billion dollars in ticket sales, another industry observes a boom in sales: the scalper industry. Some countries and cities have made efforts to stamp out the possibility of this exploitation by regulating punitive measures against reselling tickets for higher prices, or scalping: Brazil introduced its “Taylor Swift law” which forces scalpers to face a one to four year sentence, and Victoria, Australia, has bestowed

the “major event status” upon *The Eras Tour* which imposes more stringent regulations against the act of scalping. However, scalping is not illegal in many other parts of the world. Many argue about the morality behind purchasing hundreds of tickets in bulk for the sake of making an enormous profit, but a *CNA Insider* episode shows a scalper justifying his profession as merely “providing a service and receiving a percentage of the money for [the service].”

Being the worldwide-anticipated *Eras Tour*’s only Southeast Asian stop, Singapore sold out six nights in approximately eight hours. From camping outside post offices in tents to taking leaves of absence from work (or school), fans made every conceivable attempt to obtain one of the coveted tickets. In the spirit of making every attempt conceivable to purchase a ticket, buyers resorted to procuring fan-registered codes and bypass links, on consumer marketplaces for example, to increase

their chances. This, however, did not proceed as smoothly as many would have preferred. The sheer amount of local users (and bots) as well as users from surrounding countries purchasing online tickets led to more difficulties on the already-crashing servers and the invalidity of externally-sourced codes.

With the rise in technology and the greater difficulty for true-blue fans to acquire tickets, some would begin wondering about the possibilities of different methods of ticket selling. *CNA Insider* interviewed Joshua Yap, the founder of CrowdServe (a “blockchain ticketing solution”). He described the blockchain alternative as one that uses a 30-second-changing QR code that requires all users to go through multiple “loops” and tests. This “proof of attendance protocol” acts as an additional verification procedure in efforts to restrict the bots on ticket-buying sites. This process also provides the rest of the ticket buyers with a “fair advantage.” These QR codes were said to only have the ability to be resold in “controlled environments” that mandated price ceilings which would cause the scalping business to be “less profitable,” discouraging scalpers. However, having a dictated price ceiling still allows resellers to sell their tickets at a higher price. Should this alternative method of selling tickets still be considered by major titans in the industry such as Ticketmaster?



Lux Perpetua Luceat Eis: Eulogizing David Ferry and A.S. Byatt

Bret van den Brink

Dear Reader, picture me donning an “inky cloak,” for I am in mourning. David Ferry and A.S. Byatt are dead. O what ululations I am tempted to howl—“Howl, howl, howl, howl!” As Albany senses at the close of *King Lear*, the world is impoverished for the loss of these titans:

**The weight of this sad time we must obey;
Speak what we feel, not what we ought to say.
The oldest hath borne most:
We that are young
Shall never see so much, nor live so long.**

Is this a touch dramatic? Yes, but “[a]ll the world’s a stage.” Ferry and Byatt were both wordsmiths who knew the power that language bears to heighten and enrich our experience of the world, and they bore that power skillfully. Here I will eulogize these pre-eminently intertextual authors by weaving them a shroud of allusions.

David Ferry had, until the fifth of November, been my favourite living poet. (Who is it now? I cannot say. Perhaps Jay Wright or Anne Carson.) Aged ninety-nine, I was well-aware that he would die soon, and as often as he would come to mind, I would check that he was still breathing. For years I have read and re-read his poems in his National Book Award-winning collection *Bewilderment*, along with his eloquent translations of Virgil.

I can give Ferry no higher praise than to say that when I ponder over the myth of Orpheus, as often I have the occasion to, I ponder over it from Ferry’s translation of Virgil’s *Georgics*. The beauty of Ferry’s translation haunts me more even than Dryden’s, and that version of the myth haunts me more than any of its reprisals that I have encountered, though Milton’s “Lycidas” is a close second. What gives Ferry his peculiar strength here? He is our Orpheus, and his wife, Anne, herself an accomplished scholar, is his Eurydice. *Bewilderment* is dedicated to her memory, beginning, “You lie in

our bed as if an orchard were over us. / You are what’s fallen from those fatal boughs. / Where will we go when they send us away from here?”

His characteristic tone is quiet, questioning; unassured of certain uncertainties, to play on a line of Eliot’s. His questions are not without hope. The beginning of “To Where,” a poem whose title is itself a question, descends into the underworld, but it does arrive at a lightless gloom: there is “[t]he glimmer of something glimmering there.” Its end is the beginning of an ascent: “Step after step together we make our way, / In the darkness of my memory of our house.” There is a sense of separation in Ferry’s work—there is a kind of veiling, as the poem “Scrim” explores—yet there is also a sense that someday the veil might be parted—“Tell me your name. How was it that I knew you?” Few poets consider loss so sensitively and so wisely as Ferry, giving grief its due despair while not denying grief its hope.

While I had time to make peace that Ferry would pass on in the near future, Dame Antonia Susan Duffy, better known as A.S. Byatt, is an entirely different story. It is perhaps strange that Milton’s phrase “no sooner blown but blasted” comes to mind upon hearing of an octogenarian’s death, yet to me she was entirely a new discovery, and her passing was as untimely as “frost to flowers that their gay wardrobe wear / When first the white thorn blows.” I first encountered her work less than a month before her death, yet her *Possession: A Romance* might perhaps be my favourite novel from this century. What can I say? I am a sucker for romance, for fairy-tale, and for poetry—all of which Byatt weaves into a masterful narrative.

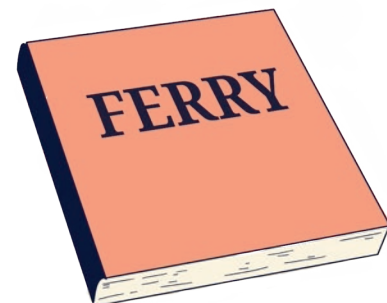
Such is her strength, that even while I mourn her, I am possessed by the spirit of her writing, which is not tragic. Byatt dared to write a romance, a pre-generic mode which Northrop Frye associated with summer, at the close of the hibernal twentieth century. She might have passed in the cold, long-nighted November, but November did not reign

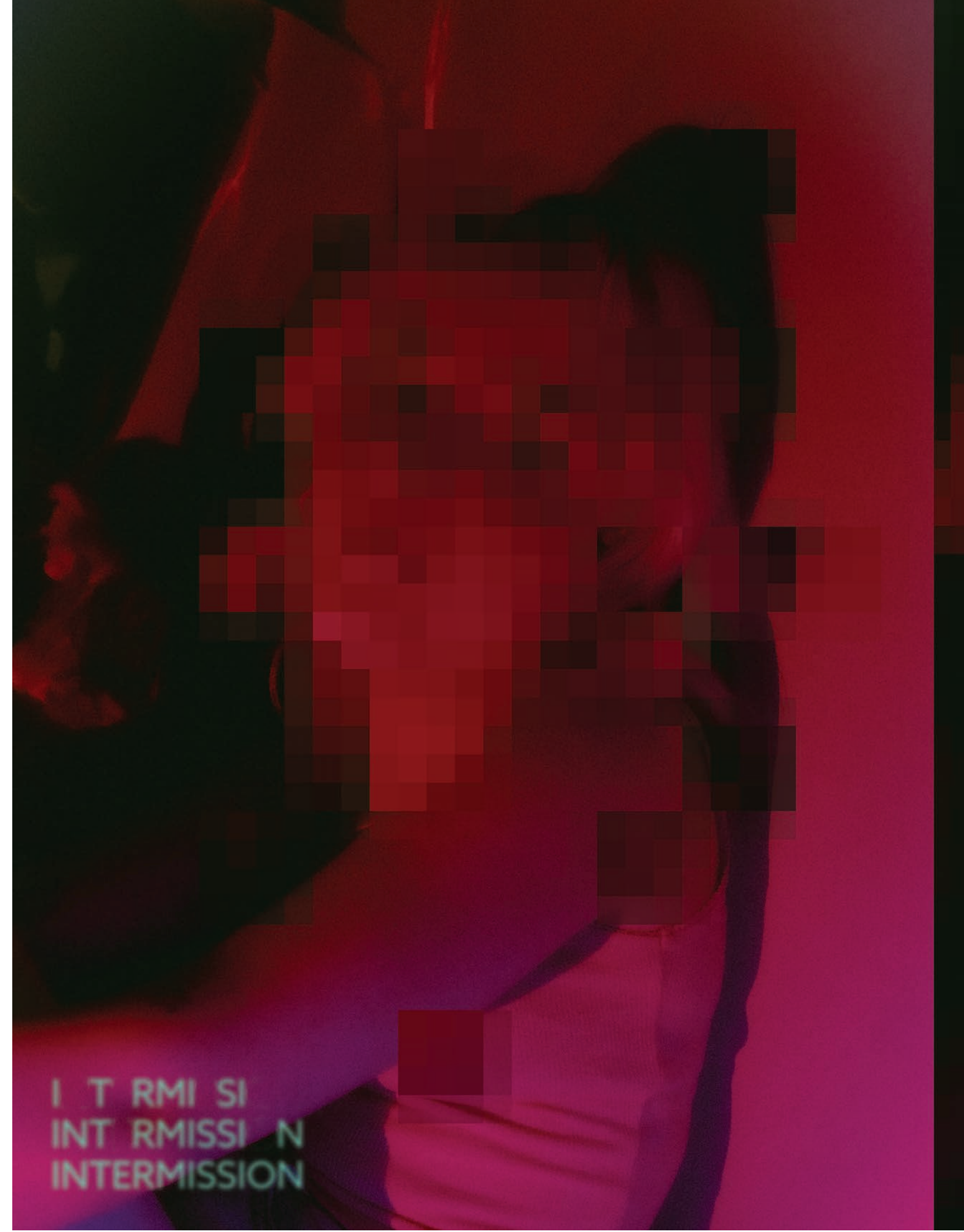
in her heart. She answers the shadow of winter, as Thomas Campion answered it, “Let well-turned words amaze / With harmony divine.” Her home is “The Muses Elizium” of which Michael Drayton wrote—

**There in perpetual Summer’s shade,
Apollo’s Prophets sit
Among the flowers that never fade,
But flourish like their wit.**

What awaits Ferry and Byatt, I cannot say, yet I do hold out a Keatsian hope—

**Bards of Passion and of Mirth,
Ye have left your souls on earth!
Ye have souls in heaven too,
Double-lived in regions new!**





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ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

Artist Spotlight - Teah Schneidereit

Katie Vermeulen

Teah Schneidereit is what one might call an all-star human being: a former synchronized swimmer, a trained martial-artist, an undiscovered film director, a well-versed camp counsellor, and a nurse-in-training. The only quality which she possesses in a higher measure than talent is humility, hence the necessity of listing her many abilities. Hailing from Nanaimo, BC, Teah is precisely the expected product of crossing a Vancouver Islander

cultivates her skills with dedicated labour—whether that be nursing school or musical excellence—and lays them at the altar for the glory of Christ alone. What a privilege it is to know Teah and what a joy it is to see her glorify God as this year's SNA leader.

- Camryn Munday

A conversation with third-year nursing student, Teah Schneidereit.

MH: Teah, such a pleasure to speak with you! Let's jump in, while growing up in Nanaimo, when did you start playing music?

TS: I started learning piano when I was five. At church I would go up to the piano as a 10 year old, I think the first song I did was 'How Can I Keep From Singing.' I learned guitar when I was 14 and it has now become the main instrument that I use to lead worship.

MH: Sounds like sung worship has been a part of your life for a long time. What does the outlet of singing and music mean to you?

TS: It's just such a source of healing. If I ever need to get my emotions out, I will just start playing. It happens quite naturally—when I'm feeling low, it just makes sense to sing and cry out. Some worship songs put clarity and words to my emotions in ways I could never figure out on my own. It's powerful to be able to sing what I truly feel and to also sing what's in line with who Christ says I am. I really find power through repetition and tradition or by coming back to songs tied to tangible experiences of God's faithfulness.

MH: That's beautiful. What is something you've learned since becoming a worship leader at TWU?

TS: It's challenged me in what my understanding of worship is ...just realising all the things worship leaders put time into doing. Like creating an arc (a story within the night of worship), always presenting the Gospel message, and trying to [keep] in mind the audience of new believers in the room. Having a good balance of songs about God, compared

to songs about us just responding and calling out to Him.

[Finally], choosing songs that are more communal—[saying] "we" instead of being very "me" centred. I like to make the worship space more "Jesus and we" centred versus "Jesus and me" centred. It's something we are doing together as one body.

MH: What is one of the most important elements in the worship arc?

TS: There's a lot that goes into presenting the Gospel message, and an important part of that message is confession and recognizing our own need for God. It's actually hard to find songs about us confessing our sins. So finding creative ways and songs that do include that message. I don't know if you know Lord I Need You? It's a song that starts with "Lord I come, I confess". So just looking for pieces to tie together like that. And then also finding a balance of *how much do I speak versus how much do I let the lyrics and Word speak for themselves?*

MH: That intentionality of helping balance the perspective of lyrics and narrative truly is an art. When do you feel most deeply impacted by worship?

TS: When I'm able to recognize how big He is over the whole world. When I think about how big He is I get emotional. So when I see many nations represented in our body at [TWU] and hear all their voices in sung worship, that's what deeply impacts me the most.

It's only been in the last two SNA nights that we changed from stage and congregation to having the instruments in the middle so everyone was in a circle, facing inward towards the cross. We have SNA in the RGK building so having everyone in a circle with the high ceilings you can hear and see everyone—it's very powerful and reminds you that you're not alone. That's something new this year and we're planning on keeping it that way for the rest of the year.

MH: That's such a creative way to create a more Christ centred and unified experience. What worship artists have been inspired by lately?



with a Worship Leader: a guitar-wielding songstress who dresses strictly in earth tones and Blundstones.

To know Teah is to stand within earshot of Christ's gentle, loving whispers—His voice echoes through in everything she does, beckoning you nearer, prompting you to be more like Him. One cannot help but admire the fervour with which Teah pursues her vocation. She

SPOTLIGHT

TS: I've been inspired by The Porter's Gate album "Work Songs" and REVERE's album "The Mystery of Christ."

MH: I hear you are also an undiscovered film director?

TS: [Laughs] I do love video editing because it's a great way to capture beauty. Most times I edit it to bring people joy. I've recorded some music videos for fun, directed a film that won the Fraser Film festival, and love creating videos from family trips to remember that good things are going to happen. I've also done some casual editing for small companies and ads.

MH: Final question, with our issue theme being *Intermission*, what does the word intermission mean to you?

TS: Having an intermission to me means slowing down to delight in what is around you. I recommend the book *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry*. When I'm able to slow down I am able to appreciate God's presence so much more in nature and people. It's so easy to miss if we don't take 'intermissions' along the way.



COMMUNITY

Letter from TWUSA President

Jeremy Joosten

Dear Trinity Western University Students,

I would like to start this letter with an apology.

I have not done the best at letting you, the student body, know what I have been doing to bring intentionality, opportunity, and community to TWUSA and TWU. I promised that I would accomplish these goals. A promise I made is a promise I kept and a promise I will keep. Here are some important achievements of the semester.

Intentionality:

TWUSA partnered with the Faculty of Natural and Applied Sciences to donate boxes of presents to kids in need through Samaritan's Purse. We replaced the type of coffee beans to a flavour that more students appreciated. The TWUSA lounge has been reserving lounge bookings and equipment rental forms at a pace that I have not seen before. We partnered with Sunday Night Alive to create "Sunday Sundae" and give out ice cream after the evening of worship. This is an initiative I hope we can do again. Finally, TWUSA launched "Dine with a Mind," a chance for students to eat with and talk to TWU Executive Leadership Team members.

Opportunity:

TWUSA is striving to give students opportunities to get involved on campus through ratified clubs. We now have more ratified clubs this year than before. The 20 plus ratified clubs create a positive impact on campus for students to connect with peers and professionals in their field of interest. Some notable clubs that were introduced this year are the Chess Club, the film club *Dramatis Personae*, the TWU Art Club, Haven Poet Society, TWU Law Club, the TWU Conservatives Club, and the TWU Young Liberals Club.

Community:

Our student community has grown and

become more diverse than ever before. TWUSA represents all undergraduate students, and we want to make sure we can provide the insight we hear from students directly to TWU. We have relaunched our focus on committee work and placed a greater emphasis on fostering community on campus through our committees. TWUSA team members meet regularly with ICP and the Global Engagement Office, Resident Directors, Student Life, Commuters, and Catholic Pacific College to make sure that what we do is in the best interest of the students. At a more direct level, TWUSA has helped students by partnering with Community Facilitators (CFs) to help pay for food at numerous different events. One of my favorite TWUSA/CF collaborations was the Fort Week Banquet, where the CFs planned the event and TWUSA hosted the venue and dance party. TWUSA is here to create a community. As you may know, TWUSA has also hosted the Back to School BBQ, Skit Night, Halloween, Dorm Extravaganza at Extreme Airpark, and the TWUSA Christmas Gala. Next semester we will also be hosting a Silent Disco, Hootenanny, Grad Banquet, and more! Please do not hesitate to reach out to us at TWUSATeam@gmail.com for opportunities to collaborate and grow the community.

What we have accomplished so far is only possible because of the exceptional work that each of the members of the TWUSA, *Mars' Hill*, and *Pillar* teams have done. Thank you to each one of you who has helped make TWUSA a better, more intentional, and more opportunistic place of community.

And now, the much-anticipated updates about a chapel building:

When I campaigned for the presidency last year, I promised first and foremost to advocate and fundraise for a chapel. I have asked many different TWU executive administrators, faculty, and TWU employees, "Will a chapel be built?" At the time of writing this letter, I no longer

need to ask that question. The questions I can now be asking are: "Where will the chapel go? How big do students want the chapel to be?" and "What do the students want the chapel to look like?"

Opportunity for student involvement:

We are making progress towards building a chapel and I need the help of the student body on making some crucial decisions. No idea is a bad idea; I want to hear every idea that you have. Send me your ideas! Let me know where you think the chapel should go, send me images of what the chapel should look like, and how big it should be via my email: TWUSAPresident@twu.ca.

How we are going to raise awareness for a chapel:

The TWUSA team is going to launch a series of films where we show donors the locations where students go to worship on campus. Filmed like a documentary, but shot and told in a cinematic way, TWUSA is hoping to express the students' feelings about not having a chapel building in the form of a visual cinematic story. We hope to record the effort that students put into prayer and the importance of Christ in our lives and show this to donors so we can raise money for a chapel that is designed for and by the students. If you are interested in participating in this cinematic documentary or would like to know more about it, please contact Marko Zolotarov, the TWUSA VP of Student Relations, at TWUSAvpstudents@twu.ca.

Together, we can start the process of building a chapel that is designed for and by students. Let us make a difference together.

Carpe Diem,
Jeremy Joosten
TWUSA President 2023/2024



TV LIVING

Clubs and Ratification

Joelle Nelson

Have you ever thought about what constitutes a club, or ever wanted to start one yourself?

The Trinity Western University Student Association Club and Affiliated Entities Policy Manual defines a club as, “a student group that is recognized and has been ratified by TWUSA.” Ratified clubs on campus are compatible with the Student Association (TWUSA) mission statement and with the student outcomes of our university. Each club has a clear purpose that is related to an academic discipline or connected to a program, faculty, or college at TWU.

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT CONSTITUTES A CLUB, OR EVER WANTED TO START ONE YOURSELF?

When starting a new club, a form can be accessed on the TWUSA website to start the ratification process. Once ratified the club is responsible for maintaining a complete record of income and expenses, and to communicate this with TWUSA’s Vice President of Finance. A club’s President and Treasurer are responsible for these expenses. They are also responsible for hosting fundraising events and/or for managing membership fees since the Student Association cannot provide full financial support for clubs. It is recommended that clubs request no more than \$500 per semester. Before funds are distributed, the club funding request is voted on by the Representative Assembly during TWUSA meetings, which are open to all students who want to observe. As stated in the by-laws, political-affiliated clubs cannot receive funding from the Student Association.

The Liberal Club and Conservative Club are our two most recently ratified clubs on campus. These clubs align with the Student Association mission statement because they promise to build future careers for students by connecting them

with political personnel. Their goal is to equip students as Christian members of the political workforce. Neither of these clubs exist for political debates but rather for life training and experience building. Stay tuned for articles on these clubs. For more information on how to start a club, you can access documents and forms on TWUSA.ca



INTERMISSION

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ଲେଖନୀ ଯେଉଁଠି
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OPINIONS

Outdoor Play: The Essential Classroom

Katie Vermeulen

The busy life of a university student often revolves around lectures, assignments, and exams, leaving little room for the rejuvenating effects of outdoor play. Depending on a student's major, their commitment to extracurricular activities, and other life circumstances, time playing outdoors may become very limited. The Western world is growing more technology centered, sedentary in movement, and disconnected from the natural world and each other. The significance of engaging university students in outdoor activities extends far beyond productivity. In this exploration, I delve into the fascinating effects of outdoor play, highlighting its transformative impact on physical health, mental well-being, academic performance, and overall campus culture.

Activities such as hiking, cycling, or participating in team sports not only contribute to cardiovascular fitness but also serve as stress-relievers. The outdoor environment becomes a natural fitness center, offering opportunities for exercise, recreation, and the development of lifelong healthy habits. Encouraging outdoor play on university campuses can contribute to a healthier and more active student body. Education psychologists Bento, G., & Dias (2017) reported in the Porto Biomedical journal *The Importance of Outdoor Play for Young Children's Healthy Development* that the outdoors is an open and ever changing environment, where freedom, expressive movements, and contact with natural elements can be experienced. Bento's article states that "while playing outside, children benefit from being exposed to sunlight, natural elements, and open air, which contributes to bone development, stronger immune system and physical activity." The benefits of outdoor play are holistic and found in different areas of the body and soul. It is easy to neglect movement while studying. Consider a walk or just 30 minutes spent outside as a study break. It can go further than you think in the long run of the semester.

Arguably the most fascinating aspect of outdoor play is the effect it has on mental well-being and cognitive restoration. In the *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, Felsten (2009) "Where to take a

study break on the college campus: An attention restoration theory perspective" discusses the positive effect of nature called Attention Restoration Theory (ART; Kaplan, 1995). According to ART, fast-paced urban living taxes attentional capacities and leads to cognitive fatigue. This fatigue may manifest through difficulties in concentration, higher levels of irritability, and negative affect (Kaplan, 1995). Negative affect is a psychological term that can be described as a variance between anxiety, sadness, fear, anger, guilt and shame, irritability, and other unpleasant emotions. Kaplan also notes that in contrast to urban environments, natural environments are suggested to contain elements that are inherently fascinating and draw upon attentional capacities only modestly, thus allowing for the replenishment and restoration of cognitive resources (Kaplan, 1995).

Contrary to the notion that outdoor play may distract from academic pursuits, research suggests that it can enhance cognitive function and academic performance. Time spent in nature has been associated with improved focus, attention, and creativity. Integrating outdoor play into university programs can serve as a catalyst for innovative thinking and problem-solving skills. It offers students a break from the academic routine, rejuvenating their minds, and potentially improving their overall academic performance.

Outdoor play in social settings can contribute to better communication skills through team sports, group hikes, or outdoor events because students have the opportunity to forge meaningful friendships outside of an academic setting. Shared outdoor experiences create a sense of camaraderie, breaking down barriers, and fostering a more inclusive campus culture.

Feelings of awe and wonder in the presence of creation or the natural world are extremely humbling. In noticing the diversity, the details, the power, and the strength of the forest, ocean, desert, land, lakes, and waterfalls, it helps put students' lives into perspective. It is easy to get caught up in the details of school and without taking a step back to internalize the bigger picture. Often as a student myself, I forget that just as the lilies are dressed beautifully, the Lord

dresses us all the more so (Matt. 6.28-33). Students can find endless parallels between life and nature and can gain wisdom by learning from the elements and natural kingdom.

The effects of outdoor play on university students extend far beyond the realm of leisure. By recognizing and incorporating the transformative potential of outdoor activities, universities can contribute to the holistic development of their students. The benefits—ranging from improved physical and mental well-being to enhanced academic performance and community building—illustrate the importance of integrating outdoor play into the university experience. As we strive to create well-rounded and resilient individuals, the great outdoors emerges as a captivating and essential classroom for university students.





What Are You Going To Do Now?

David Witzke

In my last year of university, I was inundated with the question “What are you going to do after you graduate?” and wrote an article about my frustrations with that question and the pressure to pick a career so readily. Over a year has passed since *Mars’ Hill* published that article and here I am, fully graduated, and not much has changed. Instead of hearing “What are you going to do after you graduate?” I now get “What are you going to do now?”

Some people I know walked straight into a job (usually as a teacher, nurse, or re-joining a company from an internship), but everyone else I know has joined me in a multi-month brigade of never-ending job applications. Multiple friends who have recently broken into new careers told me they only got their jobs after applying for nearly 200 positions. My previous article focused on the obsession we seem to have for clear roadmaps in our lives and our careers. If we can break free from these barriers, we can remember that to be human is to change. Hooray! Thanks, past David, the problem is magically solved and we can all go home now. Once again, I must admit that I have no idea what I am doing.

It took a bizarre combination of a break-up, the formation of a *Dungeons and Dragons* group, an unsent letter still sitting on my desk, and a planned-but-never-executed round of minigolf for me to

finally clue into the underlying confusion I felt.

Simply put, I had not realized how desperately lonely graduation would be. Neither did I realize just how similar many of my friends felt either. The ones that graduated feel like they lost a community, while the ones still there look out among a sea of unknown faces. If that sounds abysmally depressing—good news—it totally is. Graduation was supposed to make my life better, right? Instead, I cannot help but feel adrift in a rapidly shrinking world. Perhaps the most painful part is not the fact that so much has changed, but the fact that so little has changed. Graduation happened and my life was the exact same, except I would probably never need to use the word phantasmagoria ever again. Instead of my life being the size of a campus, it shrank down to the size of my parents’ house.

I recently joined a few friends on a freelance gig — we were helping operate the camera and run the livestream for a rugby tournament. During a break between games we sat together in our perch on the topmost level of the stadium. We gazed out over the pitch as the sun set, aimlessly chatting. Each of us had no idea what we were going to do next, nor any real master plans or ambitions, only our idle dreams. Yet in that moment, the feeling of being adrift lessened. It was not a moment we explicitly shared

with each other more than it was a moment of recognition for me. I was once again reminded that each of us is not alone in this life.

When I look back on that day, I scarcely remember the cold weather, the rickety tripod I used or the work I did. I remember sitting up in the stands with my friends, basking in the glow of a warm winter sun.

In all my existential wanderings, I have found that being adrift alone is manifestly worse than simply being adrift. As much money as I paid to get my degree, so far, the only thing of real and immeasurable value that I have kept since I graduated are my friends. That is the truth of what fourth-year David did not understand. For all my anxious grumbles about careers and passions, I neglected the very real truth that while we may be defined by our careers, it is our relationships that make us who we are.

I ended my last article with the sentiment that to be human is to change. That was the hope of a lost fourth year, but this is the new sentiment of an equally lost graduate: change takes time. For some people, change takes no time at all, and for others it will take decades. Yet life is not about change, it is about the people we change with. So what are you going to do now? I guess we will see what happens.

Writing and Fighting

Jackson Letsche

The pen is mightier than the sword? Perhaps, perhaps not. But the strength is not only in power to conquer. Both can tear down strongholds, depose leaders, and draw great blood. It is not in protection. Both can fend off intruders, whether they be ideological or armed. The power of the sword is not in killing. The power of the pen is not in writing.

People will forget what you say, what you write. People may forget what you did, for, or against them. But no one forgets how you made them feel.

The sword draws blood from the inkwell of life, writing eulogies to ghosts. The power is not in the jets screaming across the sky; it is the single scar of smoke that connects the cloud to the dirt. The power is not in the rubble of buildings left behind; it is the burnt children's socks laying under the rocks. The power is not in the strike against the man, returning him to the dust; the power is the man in uniform holding a folded flag outside a door as a mother opens it and realizes her son is gone.

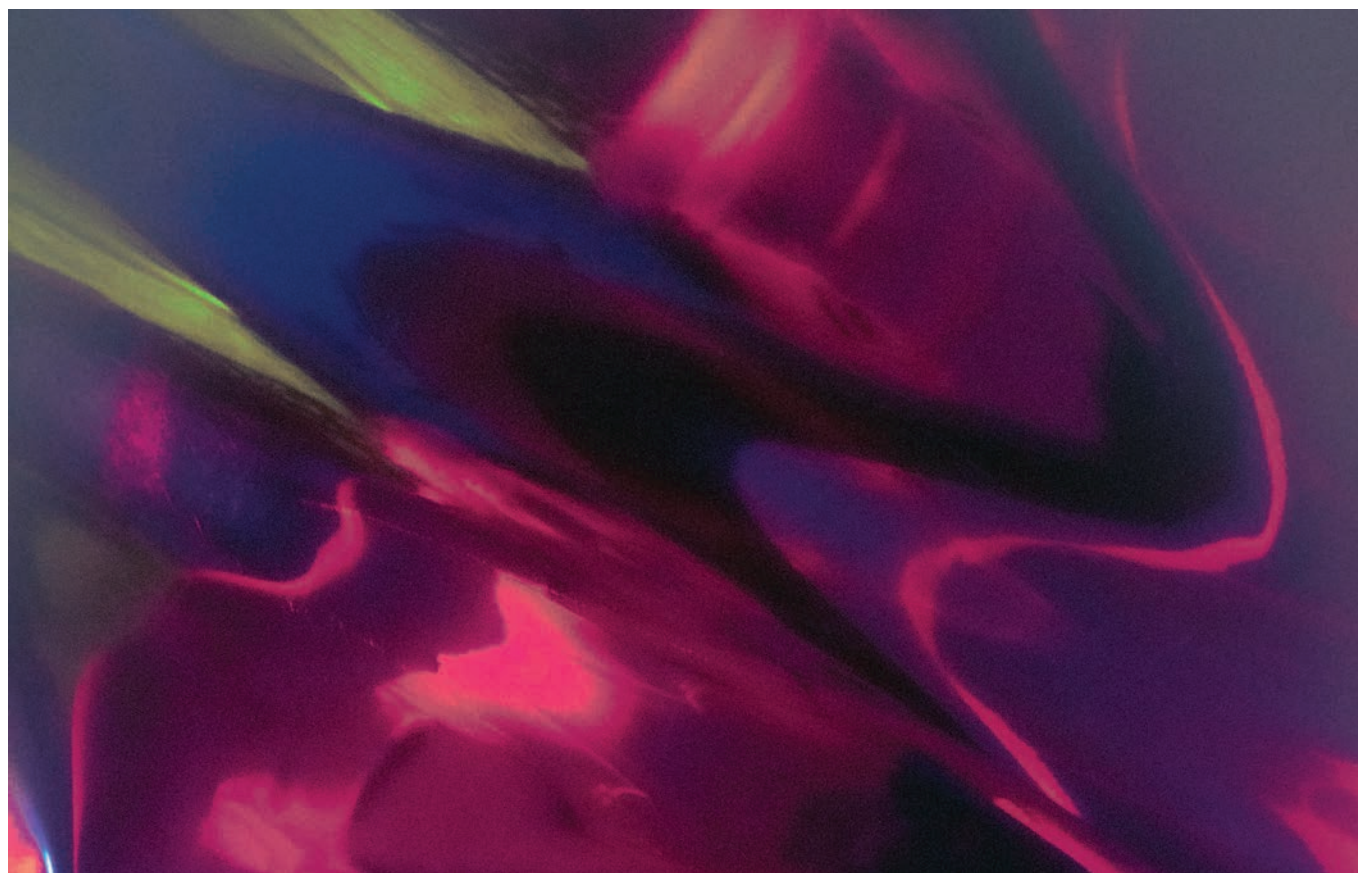
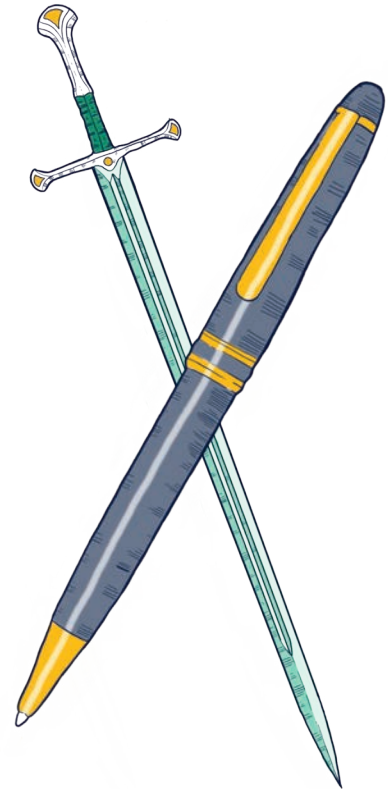
The pen draws ink from the sheath of intellect, wielded by poet and king alike. Its power does not lie in pages of thought, but in the way the light of

childhood returns to someone's eyes. Ink is empty, and pages are dead, but the deep experiences of a life not her own will stay with a reader long after the cover is closed. Nations fall at the touch of a pen, not because the pen invades, but because it draws out a truth long ignored in the attic of culture.

As Maya Angelou said, "People will forget what you said. People will forget what you did. But people will never forget how you made them feel."

Life is not won or lost on the pages of war or the battlefields of books. Power is not in the killing, nor in the writing. Power is in evocation. Poets of old speak to the corners of life, all the while seeming like they do not say anything at all, but the art of poetry is merely a chisel that slowly chips away at the bits of ourselves we have sealed away.

Storytelling will happen one way or another, either at the end of a pen or at the point of the bayonet. Both can tell good and bad stories alike, for we live in a fallen world redeemed by God. Mighty is the hand that knows when to pick up the pen or the sword. Learn the need for both.



Is Psychology Unholy?

Katherine R. Friesen

“How do you reconcile being a Christian and a psychology major?” I blinked at the person who had intruded on my study session.

“Excuse me?” I replied.

“How can you study counseling psychology if you’re a Christian who believes God is the only one who can heal people?” I looked down at the table. He must have read the cover of my theories of counseling textbook. As a Christian and a psychology major, it had never occurred to me that these two views should be opposed. Once or twice in my life, I have been blessed to formulate the perfect response to a difficult question on-the-spot. Unfortunately, this was not one of those times. Rather stupidly, I will admit, I responded by asking, “Why do you go to the doctor, then, if God is the only one who heals?”

The field of psychology is not a false prophet that is trying to show that the theories and ideas of men are more insightful and powerful than God’s and that there is no place for Him in our lives

Thanks to *Mars’ Hill*, I do not have to live with this underwhelming response and have been afforded the opportunity to fully flesh out what I wish I had said. If you, like me, do not understand why psychology might be unchristian, I will try to break it down as best I can and demonstrate that psychology *is* compatible with Christianity.

Some Christian traditions erroneously believe psychology is a field that explores the functioning of the human mind and the behaviours that could result from it. It can be seen as a field of study that seeks to possess an all-encompassing knowledge of the mind. This perspective is flawed. Most

psychologists agree that it is impossible to fully understand humans’ cognitive processes, but I digress. Psychology has ancient roots in philosophy. Plato, Socrates, and Descartes are all notable pioneers in the discipline of psychology; however, none of these men were Christian. Some would argue that without Christian origins, the product cannot be holy. Taken out of context, the Bible even says: “Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit” (New International Version, Matt. 7.17-18).

By this logic, many areas of study could be considered unholy. How far are we willing to accept this idea? Is a discipline not rooted in Christianity inconsequential? Is it not possible to learn from sources outside of the Christian sphere? I not only think that it is possible to learn from non-Christians, but it is an integral part of learning that prevents us from falling into the echo chamber where our parochial views are always reinforced and alternative ideas are never considered. Christianity is actually discernible in the field of counseling psychology through the idea that we must help those who are struggling, and that although we will not be perfect at it, it is important that we try. God uses others to show how much he wants to care for us and part of caring for people is ensuring that both their emotional and physical needs are met. God calls us to use the resources and abilities given to us to help others in practical ways. The insight psychology has given us is a gift passed on to us by God. Prayer is an important part of healing but it means very little without actions. “Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?” (Jas. 2.15-16). It is not enough to tell someone you will pray for their pain to subside, knowing that you can also take steps to alleviate that pain.

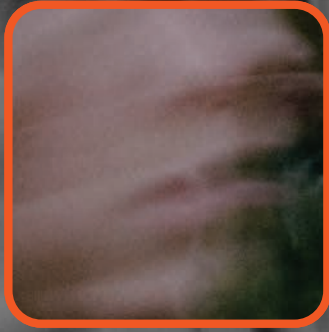
The field of psychology is not a false prophet that is trying to show that the

theories and ideas of men are more insightful and powerful than God’s and that there is no place for Him in our lives. Some mistakenly believe that the field of psychology aims to let people use psychology as a crutch on which to lean instead of God. There have been countless studies showing that prayer and spirituality are integral parts of combating negative mental health outcomes such as anxiety, loneliness, and depression. Psychology simply seeks to understand potential reasons behind our cognitive processes and to use what we have learned to understand how to help people best.

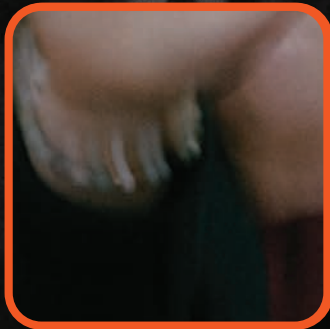
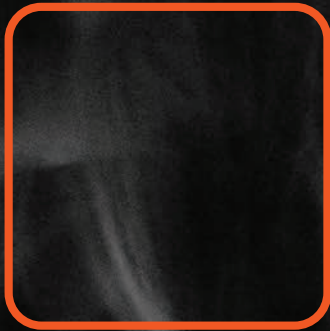
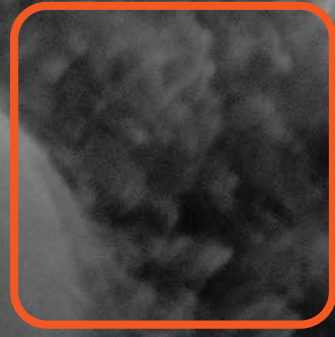
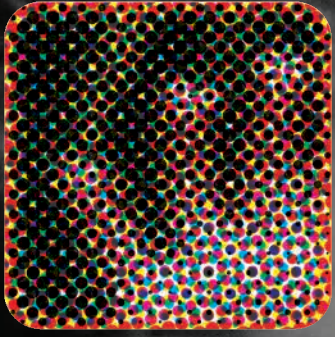
It has also been argued that since people are inherently sinful; they cannot be perfect enough to help others in the same way God can. But a large part of being a counselor is being self-reflective and knowing where you fall short. Henri Nouwen eloquently illustrates in his book *The Wounded Healer* that wounded healers offer their hurts to help others receive comfort and encouragement, highlighting that we do not have to be perfect to offer our help. It is in those wounded parts of ourselves that we find the compassion and empathy needed to help others.

God has gifted us with curiosity and creativity. He has gifted us with the desire to understand the world. The more we understand the world the more we can see the intricacy of God’s design. I see psychology as a resource that God has given us to understand ourselves better as well as each other. We know we will never fully understand the human mind, but that is not the goal. The goal is to understand how we can help people best. “ For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works” (Eph. 2.10).





I N T E R M



I S S I O N

HUMOUR

A Day in the Life of Germany Juice-Ten

Oli Nicholson



Unstoppable Voice, Immoveable Cat

Lorin Scaiano

An unstoppable voice actor. An immovable cat. What happens when one collides with the other? Soon the age-old question will finally have an answer.

Garfield is the undisputed heavyweight champion of immovability. This orange fur ball has been slacking on Mondays and devouring lasagna since time immemorial. Move over, cockroaches; Garfield will outlast us all. He's The Fat Orange Cat, a position he's held since the invention of humour. Eternal, unyielding, and possibly plotting world domination.

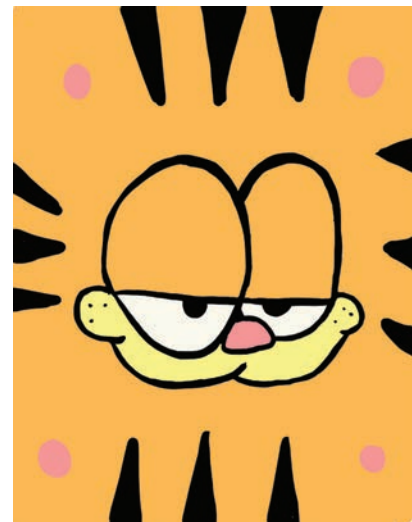
Now, picture Chris Pratt, the guy who made LEGO come to life with his voice. If that's not a testament to unstoppable force, what is? He's jumped from toy blocks to plumbing pipes, voicing the iconic Mario. To him, Garfield is just another conquest in his animated empire.

We find ourselves standing on the precipice of a cosmic comedy. It's not just an animation; it's a collision of comedic galaxies where the unstoppable force of Pratt's voice meets the immovable object of Garfield's perpetual existence.

As the canned laughter plays through galaxies above, we're left gazing into the unknown. The very laws of physics and the fabric of reality seem to unravel. A dimensional ballet unfolds, defying our understanding of existence. Will Pratt's voice conquer every animated corner of the universe, or will Garfield's immortality stop Pratt in his tracks?

We watch this animated Armageddon with a mix of awe and trepidation, uncertain of what lies beyond this collision of wit and humour. Are we on the brink of a world-ending punchline, a cosmic joke that transcends the boundaries of our perception?

The laughter may fade, but the echoes of this cosmic clash will resonate across the known universe, leaving us in both reverence and fear of the unpredictable celestial punchline that follows.



Taco Bell

Jackson Letsche



It's the most wonderful time of the year! The time when the semester ramps up and more and more papers come flooding in all at the same time. Stressful, right? What better way to lay off the work and take a break than heading on down to Taco Bell for a late-night snack with your friends? It can not only help you blow off steam—in more ways than one—but can also help you with the upcoming stress of having to find a gift for your brother who always answers the question of “what do you want for Christmas?” with “I don't know” and never elaborates. Socks won't do this year, because Taco Bell is here!

Supplement that delicious mix of the same ingredients in whichever form you order with a gift for mom! Taco Bell earrings, hot sauce themed socks, or a dashing purple scarf are sure to make this Christmas a season of joy, mirth,

and awkward questions from visiting relatives.

Speaking of relatives, we are all at that time of life when we have friends or family that have newborns. What better way to welcome them into the struggle that is life than with the soothing salve that is a Taco Bell blanket. Thoughtful quilts are a thing of the past when you can give a taco-themed blanket to that special niece or nephew and watch your sibling's face figure out how to process the gift you just presented to their child.

And we all know that formal events are a staple of this time of year. Get your dad an eye-catching fire sauce bow tie to go with that flashy Christmas suit that fits a little too tight around the holidays! Need something for that sports-obsessed brother? Get some purple Taco Bell slides that provide a luxurious and stylish fit that's sure to catch eyes both

on and off the court.

Still too young to enjoy that spiked eggnog or other “adult beverages” that seem to make people talk more? Hop on down to your local grocery store and find the Baja Blast soda, now sold *outside* of Taco Bell proper! You don't even need alcohol to talk more! The sugar and caffeine will make you the life of any holiday bash!

“How do you know about all this, Jackson?” you ask. My family may or may not have a tradition of getting someone something from the website every year, butthatsnotimportantrightnow.

Make sure to take advantage of easy shopping this holiday season with Taco Bell merch! Perfect for both serious and meme gifts this holiday season. Batteries not included. Some assembly required.





A Swiftie's Guide to Football

Sarah Bickley

With the news of Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce's relationship becoming official, many Swifties are learning about the magical world of the National Football League (NFL). To help the Swifties understand the game better, I've compiled a list of keywords that will help you understand how the game works.

Superbowl: Like *The Eras Tour*, but for men.

Stadium: Taylor performs at these as well, but instead of a stage, there is a long strip of grass that the players run across.

Quarterback: They are the Taylor Swifts of the football game. They lead the team and call the shots on what plays would be best for the game.

Football Team: They are like the background dancers of the football world; they aid in getting the ball across the field to the other side.

Jersey: Football players wear these

to show which team they are on; each team has their own unique colour scheme similar to the colour schemes of the different Taylor Swift eras.

Touchdown: When the team makes the goal on the opposing side of the field—kind of like when Taylor hits the high notes in her songs.

Favourite Team: You have your favourite Taylor Swift era/album, football boys have their favourite football teams that they'll try and claim is "their team."

The Opposing Team: Each football fan has their own version of the opposing team based on who their favourite team is playing. Think of them like Taylor's

exes. You don't wanna root for those guys.

Football Fan: Kind of like Swifties, except they are allowed to act crazy and call it "passion" for screaming about their favorite team unlike Swifties, who are told they act crazy for screaming about Taylor Swift.

Tackling: Remember the Ticketmaster scandal when *The Eras Tour* was first announced and everyone was fighting each other? Football boys do that all the time but for fun.

These are only some of the terms that will help you understand football. Remember these next time that guy you're interested in is forcing you to watch football. He'll be very impressed by your knowledge. And who knows...maybe you'll turn him into a Swiftie. Maybe that was the *mastermind* plan all along. But you didn't hear it from me ;)

Christian Horoscopes: Fun Facts Edition

Bailey Froese

In the last edition of "Christian Horoscopes," I promised an issue with a horoscopes section composed entirely of fun facts. Call it an intermission from our regular programming. Don't worry, these facts will still be helpful for your future. You'll thank me later when your life depends on knowing what a teratoma is.

Business

If you want "Happy Birthday" to be sung in a movie, TV show, or other piece of widely viewed media, you have to pay Warner Music up to \$10,000. Warner Music makes up to \$2 million a year off of it. I often think about Christopher Nolan paying this fee for *Batman Begins* (2005), which is the only movie I can think of with "Happy Birthday" sung in it.

Nursing

A teratoma tumor is a growth that can sprout teeth, eyes, or hair. If you're ever in an operating room where one of these is removed, please take a picture and send it to me.

HKIN

It is healthier to defecate standing up than sitting down. Do with that information what you will.

Social Sciences

There's a disorder called Foreign Accent Syndrome which causes people to wake from strokes with what sounds like a different accent. Cases of people developing British or Chinese speech patterns after traumatic brain injuries have been reported. I'm sorry to report that this excuse does not hold up in court after impersonating a French food critic to avoid paying at a restaurant (don't ask).

Humanities

Traffic lights were invented before the car was. If you think car accidents are common, the rates of horse accidents were even worse. Cars have their problems, but at least they don't get spooked by loud noises.

Education

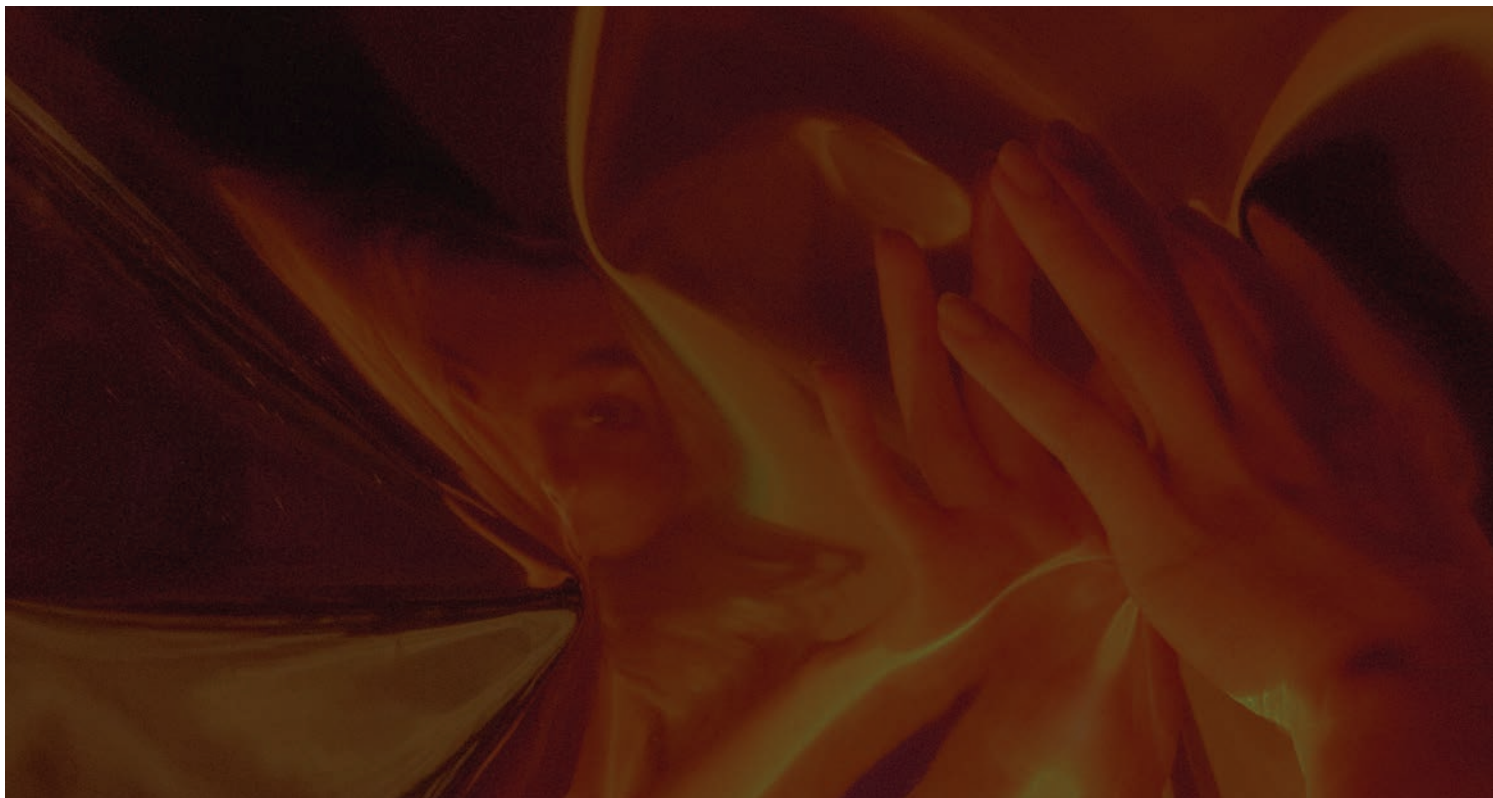
Some Japanese Kit-Kat flavors include Baked Potato, Sports Drink, Corn, and Soy Sauce. If Japan churns out a few more flavors, an all-Kit-Kat Thanksgiving could be possible, complete with Turkey Kit-Kats and Stuffing Kit-Kats. Are Kit-Kats the meal replacement of the future?

Natural & Applied Sciences

Opossums cannot carry the rabies virus because their body temperature is too low for it to survive. This means it's perfectly safe to hug an opossum friend

SAMC

There's a funeral clown company in Ireland called Dead Happy Ireland. The clowns provide entertainment during funeral services like balloon animals and falling into coffins. I hear they're hiring recently graduated Theatre majors.



CURATED PLAYLIST

INTERMISSION // Strawberry Guy
WAIT // M83
MIGHT WINGS // Cheap Trick
IF I JUST ASK POLITELY // Bears in Trees
DON'T LET ME BE MISUNDERSTOOD
// The Animals
THIS YEAR // Beach Fossils
COMFORT // Basement
DON'T STOP // Fleetwood Mac
I LOVE MUSIC // Ahmad Jamal Trio
SUSPENDED // Sampha
WHERE THE WIND BLOWS // Spence Hood
I LOVE TO SING ABOUT IT // Maverick City
PRIORITIES // Riders
PAUSE. BREATH. // Kindred Worship
SPIRIT 2.0 // Sampha
AIR I BREATHE // Sondae, Isabelle Brown
DANCING IN THE COURTHOUSE // Dominic Fike
FORREST GUMP // Frank Ocean
HEY BLONDIE // Taletta
DON'T GOTTA WORRY (PHILIPPIANS 2:6-12)
// Ri-An
BEFORE WE DRIFT AWAY // Nothing But Thieves
YOUTH // Glass Animals

A Drink with Myself

Jackson Letsche

I have spoken before about the different needs for different times and the changes in appreciation one should have for the past or proper planning for the future. But I will never be this version of myself again. I would like to merely sit and have a drink with him.

If all of me from different eras got together in a room, I have no doubt we would chastise the younger ones, telling them to sit down and that they do not know all they think they do. We would ask questions of the older, making sure to listen to ourselves, although I would hesitate a guess that our pride would stop us from listening to even ourselves if we heard something we did not like. We would get along great, barring a few, but I would imagine that even though we are all the same person, there would be a sense that this is a room full of individuals, all very similar of course, but unique in their own ways.

That is part of the beauty and sadness of growing up. Sometimes, going back and playing a game you loved as a kid does not hit the same, not because the game is any less fun than it was, but because you thought you missed the game when you actually missed the feeling of being a kid.

I wonder what it would be like to take this version of myself out for drinks. I

do not have any particular information that he does not. I am neither wiser nor better. I suppose it would be like going out with an old friend who is dying. We have known each other for years, going through highs and lows together, but soon enough, I will continue onward, and he will not.

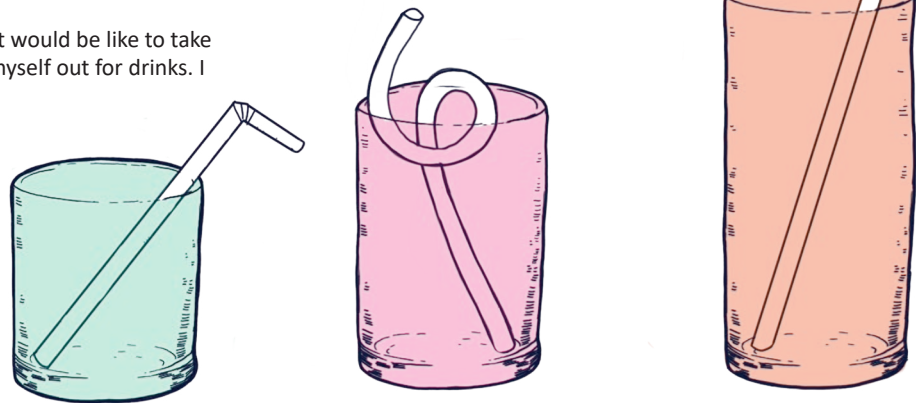
We could talk about anything under the sun, and yet I imagine it to be a much more passive time, like two old friends looking out at a sunrise, knowing that they do not need to talk, just sitting with the other. Sunrises will come and go, and so will he. In good time, he will make way for a slightly older and perhaps wiser version.

I scan the horizon, looking for new opportunities for myself and make plans according to the dreams I lay out on the table, like the optimistic character dramatically sweeping the clutter off a table to make room for an elaborate map with which to explain the plan. But with that comes the idea that progress must be made. Progress is good, necessary even. However, no one got up a flight of stairs by skipping all the middle ones. Those of you with needlessly long legs can differ, but the exception proves

the rule, I guess.

Once this version of me fades to make room for the next, I will have a drink with him, too. Maybe we will reminisce about us back in the day, like two old men recounting the glory days. Or maybe we will say that, back then, we still had some growing to do and things did not work out the way we had hoped.

No matter the case, I hope that he will not be mad at me for the things I have done. He too will pass, and while he will have things that need work, I know that he will never again be. And so, it's only right that we share a drink. To versions present and past.



CREATIVE WRITING



Colourless Void

Diego Bascur

It filled me
It had me
You had me
I was deep
Sunken
Not sure the right way up
I am still not the right way up
The way moves forward
As does the void
As does the heart
As does the breath
So do the trees
And the birds
And the bees
Holy creation
Void fulfilled
And then some
The culmination of heart and soul
Penetrates my inner being
My deepest longing
My only desire
Residually falling
Continuously dying
Surrender
Find me there
I am going now
Look for me
I am going there
Follow me please
It is passion I follow
Beauty I scour
And loss I accept
Truth is merely my faded memory
I am now in reflection with love
Hold tight and follow me
We are in love
Holy love

Concealing

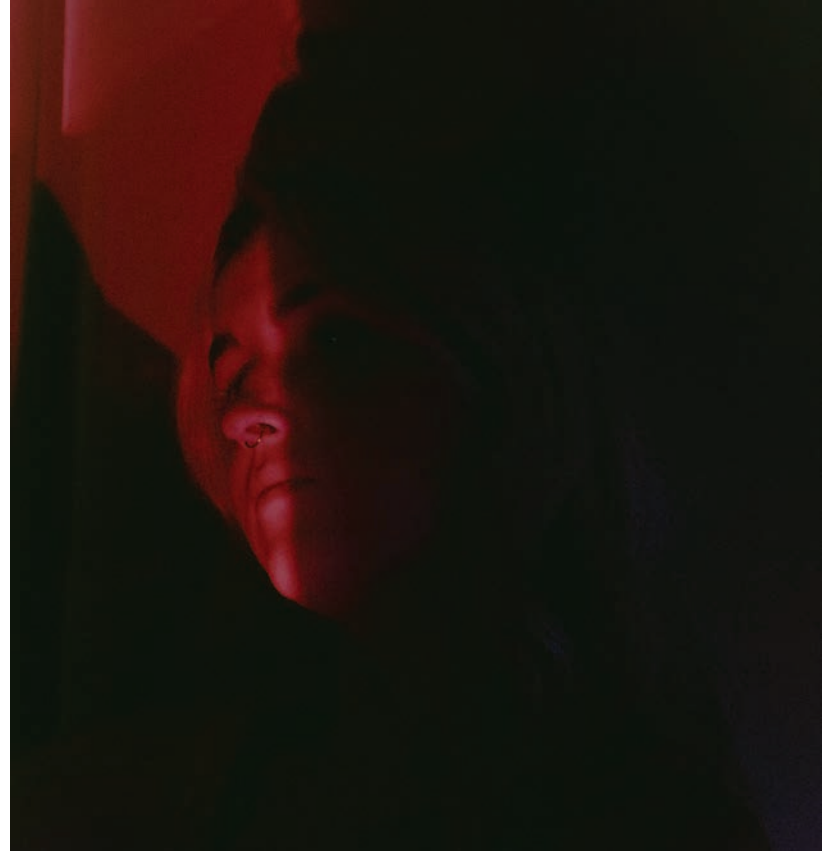
Alexis Stephen

The tree outside may appear to be strong,
From it, leaves spring and flowers bloom,
Yet its roots have dried, for they are not long
In its bark a mold grows like gloom.

Why do I look at it with reverence?
If it is trying to deceive,
Because in front of me is evidence,
eyes seek what they wish to perceive.

Portrays a full life, yet dying within,
Looming over me, this tree cried.
Its trunk weighted to the ground, stuck with sin,
It will not grow, due to its pride.

If only the tree had turned to the Son,
Maybe with light, its roots would grow,
As the seasons change, its time soon done,
You will only reap what you sow.



Goodnight TWU (A Parody Of Goodnight Moon)

Bailey Froese

Goodnight TWU, my alma mater
Goodnight Sodexo, smell you later
Goodnight bell, so loud this late
Goodnight Josh, guard of the gate

Goodnight dorms, rot in peace
Goodnight flocks of spiteful geese
Goodnight commuters, drive home steady
Goodnight residents, SHUT UP ALREADY

Goodnight Spartans drenched in sweat
Goodnight TWUSA's slow internet
Goodnight profs; do you lecture while sleeping?
Goodnight Theatre peeps, cease your stage weeping

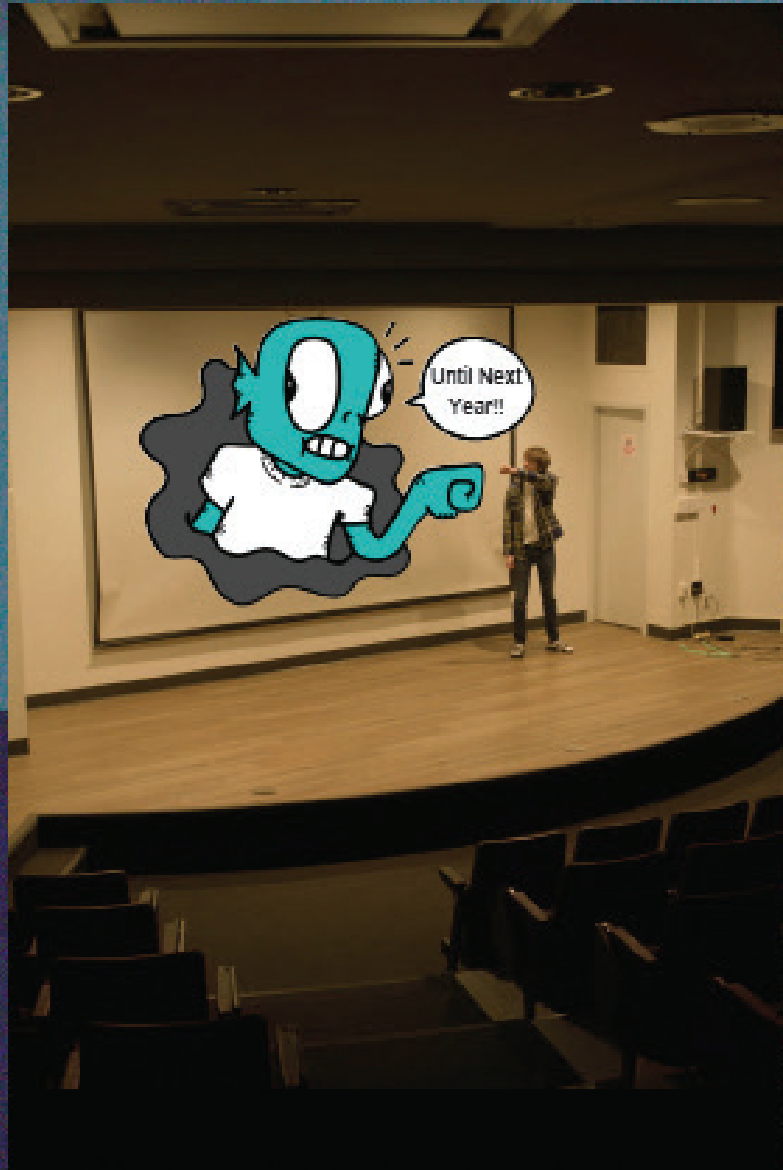
Goodnight phone in charging cocoon
Goodnight papers due so soon
Goodnight wallet bare of wealth
Goodnight burned out mental health

Goodnight upstairs neighbor's feet
Goodnight train across the street
Goodnight bed in which I snore
Goodnight Mars' Hill, see you 2024!





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