
paper*

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VOLUME 13 ISSUE 1

The Senior Show Experience

By Vera Caldwell

I had my senior show on March 1. Weird, that. When I was younger, I thought that the older kids who had senior shows were in a different league than I'd ever be in, impossibly adult and so sure of themselves as artists. Because the experience I just had was unimaginable to me a year ago, I thought I'd walk us through what it was like.

You'll start thinking seriously about your show as a junior, at the shows of the seniors ahead of you. Amidst the flurry of congratulations for these seniors (or awkwardly standing around waiting to congratulate), it will suddenly hit you that You're Next. However, the looming prospect of college will be much more pressing, so you won't focus on senior shows until you're forced to. The time when you are expected to prepare for your senior show differs from department to department. In Creative Writing, it's around October of your senior year. I know some departments pick groups later.

Choosing your senior show group is an exercise in wisdom, and, as such, it is messy. You might want to be in a group with your closest friends, but it's vital to consider whose work goes together best. You'll also want to ensure you're in a group with responsible people you work well with. As with any production, there will be hangups eventually, and you'll have to work together to clear them up. Both Creative Writing and Visual have big departmental meetings where everyone has to hash their groups out, wielding Pinterest boards full of concepts. Theatre students also pick their own groups within their majors. Dance students have to submit pieces of choreography for consideration by their teachers. No matter the department, it's a high-pressure undertaking.

Everyone who's had a show says communication is key. "Communication" is one of those corporate-sounding buzz

words that makes my (and probably your) brain turn to mush, so I'll give you a few real-world examples. If anyone in your group has a different art block than you, set up lunch-time meetings. CC your group members when you email teachers or anyone else involved in your show. Make sure rehearsal dates don't get buried in group chats. You'll avoid the potential for arguments or delays if you're careful from the start.

As much as you might work ahead, some things will happen last minute because of factors beyond your control. My group finished our script in January and finalized our cast weeks early, but we didn't get to block our play in the Studio Theatre until the day before our show. So it goes. It wouldn't be PVA if ten different things weren't happening simultaneously in the same space. Part of PVA's culture is that our work is a little raw, a little DIY.

The day of your show will finally arrive, and you'll feel somewhat divorced from reality. At 3:30, you'll rush to Phoenixia or Shake Shack before doing last-minute prep. You'll watch from the wings as the audience comes in. The house lights will dim, and your work will unfold itself in the colored lights.

You'll be delirious by the end. You won't be able to spend enough time talking to everyone. There will be hugs from people who aren't huggers. Whatever resentments and daily stressors have clouded your everyday life, you'll see the big picture. You're surrounded by lovely people, and from seeing your work they'll understand your approach to humanity, and from seeing their work you'll understand theirs.



Debunking Common Myths of the Ukraine/Russian Conflict

By Matthew Jeong

The Ukraine/Russia War has been a popular topic in recent news. However, misinformation has surrounded the conflict as people attempt to document the ongoing crisis. Here are three common and well espoused myths of the war.

Myth 1: The Ghost of Kyiv

This is perhaps the most well known story of the war; a tale of a daring and mysterious fighter pilot who took down multiple Russian planes. Some accounts claimed that the Ghost of Kyiv took down around five or more planes in one day. The story gained online traction and quickly went viral, reaching more than 9.3 million views on Twitter and 200 million views on Tiktok. Videos were released and circulated with compilations of weaponry and planes to patriotic music, CGI dogfights, and the like. However, though there are reports and evidence of some Russian planes being taken down, there is nothing proving it was by one pilot, and the numbers of downed planes reported are few. This particular story seems far fetched at best and unrealistic at worst.

Myth 2: Ukraine is planning to attack territories through biochemical weapons

When the conflicts between Russia and Ukraine began, the Russian defense minister reported that Ukraine was preparing to launch an attack. News agency RIA Novosti published a report soon after the claim about a variety of chemical weapons in Ukrainian possession given to them by America. However, there is no proof to this claim and this has not been backed up factually.

Myth 3: Russia is defending themselves from NATO’s expansion and imperialism

Russia is not under threat or any expansion by NATO, and it is a stretch to say so, especially regarding Ukraine. Most European countries as well as America have been open to peace talks and discussions regarding territory and claims (regarding Ukraine as well as with other matters). Furthermore, out of the 14 countries that border Russia, only 5 are in NATO. Despite Putin’s claims of feeling threatened by NATO’s “aggressiveness”, this is demonstrably false.

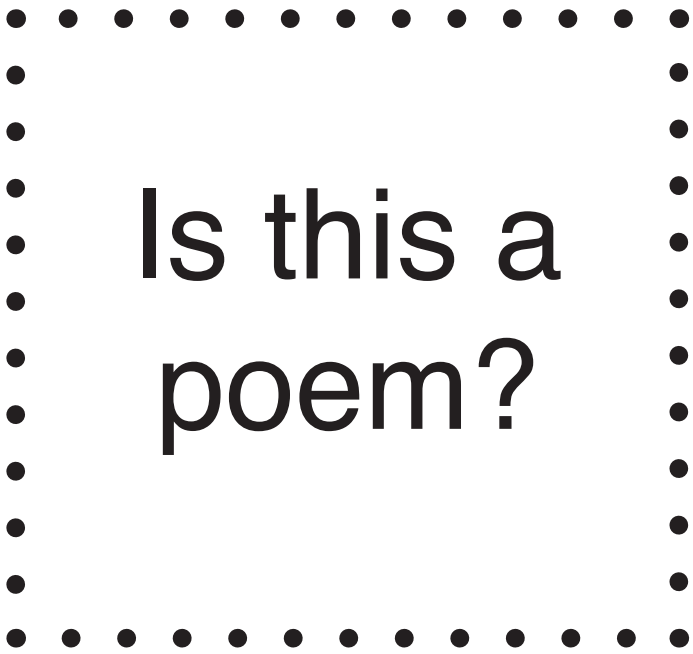
It is difficult to tell fact from fiction during chaotic events and times such as wars. Please check your sources of information in order to get a factual and accurate representation and news of current events.

Word?

By Alayna Davis

Poetry today has become a bit of a mystery. While Shakespearean language is a commonality (and a nuisance) among most high school students, modern poetry has taken different forms that range from abstract to controversial, or both. During the Middle Ages, written art was also a broad topic, from lyric to ballads and epics. However, it proved to be more detailed and definite, with greatly remembered long-rendering works such as The Divine Comedy by Dante, a trilogy of narrative poems that are intended to be more fun than theoretical. Of course that is just one example thrown among a historic pool of lyric, but we see a gap between past works and the modern art boom today. Here lies a great controversy among poets and writers everywhere: the one-word poem, (usually) either mocked or revered for the interpretive and ambitious style.

One thing to take into account when reading these miniature poems is the form. Many poets appreciate the ‘white space’ on a page, or the balance between ink and paper, which can drastically change the entire poem, especially with just one word. In the same vein, this poetry is certainly interpretational, and some of these short poems can stir up small but impactful images in the reader’s mind that certainly differ from the person standing next to them. For those who truly interpret one-word poems, it is an entirely unique and memorable experience. However, It seems they are often with severe cost in both money and gallery space, just one example of what poets are mocked for on a considerable basis, portraying the exact stereotype we push away from in the realm of modern art. For example, the poem ‘aapple’ by Aram Saroyan, a well-known poet in the one-word movement. To some this is a meaningful piece, but when generations to come look back on this work as we do with the Medieval Period, what will they even have to study? Art is constantly progressing, but how will a single word be consistently received years from now when it is no longer a popular style? Poetry is such a powerful form of art and speech, but it is easy to slip away from the integrity behind the verse if we become stuck in our own pretentious ideals. And yet, if those ideals can speak volumes to at least one person, shouldn’t we value art for what it is as a statement? It seems as though this is one opinion too difficult to argue, not because of the topic, but because it lacks any concrete justification (one example—”Why don’t you like fish?” “It just tastes bad!” “But it’s so good!”, and so on). Regardless, it is a provocative consideration, and isn’t that what art is, anyways?



A Response to the “People Against Tellez” or P.A.T.

Dear P.A.T.,

Or shall I address this response to who they really are... a misguided rebel Theatre Department anarchist named Lily and the few rogues that follow her. Citizens of PVA, do not be persuaded by the poisonous words of this source of discontent! She speaks lies and threatens the peace and order that we all currently enjoy!

First, let us be clear that Tellez County oversees the business of the Creative Writing, Instrumental, and Vocal students. Any true Theatre Department member knows that their territorial claims are only valid in Ciudad Perez. It is not the fault of the management of Tellez County that Ciudad Perez citizens do not enjoy the wonderful candy bounties that Tellez County provides out of their immense generosity. Perhaps you should focus on your own realm, rather than conducting such barbaric raids into Tellez County?

Second, the candy limit decree was not placed on Theatre Seniors but rather specifically on the rogue known as Lily. The management of Tellez County are unfortunately not surprised by the villain Lily’s dastardly low tactics in response to a lawful decree. Such actions are dangerous and disrupt the peace and order that the Tellez County Candy Jar has provided for years.

Finally and most importantly, the Candy Jar of Tellez County has been open to all HSPVA Citizens for the past five years. Yes, that’s right! Even the Dance, Theatre, and Visual Arts students of Ciudad Perez have been welcome for years to enjoy the bountiful joy and respite from the rigorous HSPVA Day that the Tellez County Candy Jar provides. This will remain in place under the current management so long as all enjoy fairly and equally.

I once again call upon all Citizens of HSPVA to reject the false and despicable claims of the rebel anarchist leader known as Lily. Will you let this rogue Senior ruin the joys of the Tellez County Candy Jar for all? As always HSPVA, the choice is always yours...

Signed,

Tellez County Management

Con’t: The Tellez County Regime

Hello Loyal Reader,

Following the publication of my last article, P.A.T. realized reinforcements would be needed if we would have any shot of overthrowing The Management. Thus, we decided to call a neighboring city to our rescue, and they have begun swift motions towards our aid. Read the following, an email sent directly from the President of Ciudad Perez.

“To the Honorable Members of P.A.T. (People Against Tellez),

As Presidente of Ciudad Perez, I wholeheartedly give my endorsement and complete support to your worthy cause. For too long, the civil inhabitants of Ciudad Perez have tolerated the obnoxious and oppressive regime of our neighbors in Tellez County. As protector and overseer of the Theatre students, we stand against this favoritism and candy bias and embrace P.A.T. in a formal alliance. You will find refuge and protection here within the walls of Ciudad Perez.

Together we will restore freedom and civility to the 4th Floor Office and beyond!

Viva Ciudad Perez!

Viva P.A.T.!

Viva Libertad!

Presidente Perez”

We are finally beginning to feel safe in the hallways of HSPVA, the place we call home. Life will soon be brought back to the school, as we see the light through the tunnel. P.A.T., we will stand strong in the face of tyranny; we have long fought hard in the face of the man, spitting in his candy jar. I can assure you, Mr. Tellez, that this is no laughing matter. Just wait until the cast of Sweeney Todd comes out on stage and calls you out like Hamilton did to Pence. They will weaponize stacked harmonies and aggressively jazz square at you.

Maliciousness only strengthened our abilities and drive for candy retrieval. We will make it known to him that his efforts were for nothing. His actions against us did not break us apart, but instead strengthened our organization’s unity, which I know, must lead to triumph!

Signed,

Lily Afghani

Proud Theatre Senior

Champion of Justice

Head of P.A.T.

In Defense of Why I Cut My Food

By Kate-Yeonjae Jeong

Apparently, cutting your food into smaller size portions isn't the norm. Whenever I'm out eating with friends, I'll receive aghast reactions to my innovative methods of consumption. (My family doesn't react because they're used to it.) It's nothing crazy, but that one time I cut a tostada, you would've thought the world flipped.

The truth is, yes, I slice a burger into fractions like a cake, and yes, I suppose that's a little out of the ordinary... but in my defense, it tastes better that way. I can't believe I even have to defend this in the first place, but I guess the world just isn't ready yet and needs some serious convincing. There are numerous reasons to back this point: one, you can avoid the mess you'd otherwise make by grabbing a chunk of your food: no grease, yes please. Two, I know it sounds backwards, but despite cutting it, you'll actually keep your food more intact. It's just the worst when you're eating something and it spills out on the sides. Three, you can savor the food more. I swear, smaller portions have a more resonating flavor- food particle sizes matter, you guys. Four, why would you ever skip out on a chance to use cutlery? Five, It's satisfying to see all the slices disappear one by one. Compare that to the little bite marks you'd make if not cutting your food.

For those who still cannot comprehend the genius of cutting one's food, it's okay. This concept is purely just ahead of its time. For those who are inspired, embrace it. Cutting your food will transform your life. Cutting food is the one factor that will create a before vs after version of you. As heavy as this all is, the executive decision is up to you: to stay the same in an ever-changing world, or to take the bite... or the cut, if you will.



Making My Way Downtown...

By Mo Mitchell

As most of you know, there are quite a number of places to eat near our school, given our downtown location. If you're ever on the lookout for some good eats, I've compiled a list of after-school snacking spots that aren't only the closest to our school, but also the yummiest.

Phoenicia - 0.2 miles away. If you've been at HSPVA for any amount of time, I can almost guarantee you have been here. It's the standard after-school place to go for lunch, dinner, snacks, or just drinks! The food never fails and the delivery time is speedy.

Shake Shack - 0.2 miles away. Granted, Shake Shack is more of a commitment than Phoenicia when it comes to time. You will usually spend more time off-campus if you decide to spring for the Shack Sauce. But, I can't deny that their burgers are a perfect amount of greasy goodness.

Starbucks - 0.2 miles away. We're all art kids who are at the very least, semi-addicted to caffeine. Everyone has been to a Starbucks at some point in their lives, and this Starbucks is nothing new.

Whataburger - 0.3 miles away. You can't say you live in Texas without having tried this burger place. If you're an alt kid, you would know even better.

School store - A few flights of stairs away. If you want to brave the line that normally accompanies the food at the school store, by all means, go for it. The store offers a variety of options for snacks that'll make for a fulfilling lunch.

Frank's Pizza - 0.5 miles away. Hands down, Frank's is amazing. The atmosphere, the food, the service- everything is top notch. Now, if you've had authentic New York pizza, you might find it disappointing, but if you're a native Houstonian, then you're going to love it.

Jimmy Johns - 0.2 miles away. If you're looking for a solid sandwich that doesn't cost an arm and a leg, and is a decent portion that will keep you full, Jimmy John's is where you want to be. They're normally pretty speedy and you can watch them make your food.

Finn Hall - 0.2 miles away. Finn Hall is like walking into the food court of a mall. You'll get swarmed with loads of options for different types of food, prices, and delivery times. As of publication, options include: Dish Society, Lit Chicken, Pho Binh, Yong, Papalo Taqueria, Pizza Zquare, and The Pho Fix.

The Grove - 0.3 miles away (it's in Discovery Green). If you've never been there, you've at least walked past it. It's a typical diner/cafe situation, though it can take a while to receive your food despite getting there early. It's also semi-pricey.

Chipotle - 0.3 miles away. If you're okay with being sick for the rest of the day, night, and possibly the next day, then Chipotle is probably one of the more healthy options you have for a meal.

Springtime Musing Mixtapes

By Tobi Carr and Callisto Lim

New Sky by SiR ft. Kadhja Bonet - SiR moves past a breakup in this breezy song with an airy instrumental and distant but beautiful vocals.

If You Should Try to Kiss Her by Dressy Bessy - This acoustic, playful tune can not only get you dancing but get flowers blooming as soon as you hear the first lyric. Used in the 1999 film *But I'm a Cheerleader*, *If You Should Try to Kiss Her* is perfect for springtime.

B.Q.E. by Kota the Friend ft. Joey Bada\$\$, Bas - The instrumental on this track is beautiful and coupled with the artist's (especially Joey Bada\$\$'s) quick and often funny bars, it's a song that will have you bouncing to its beat.

Silk Chiffon by MUNA - Perhaps one of the sweetest love songs I've ever heard, *Silk Chiffon* exemplifies its title with delicate vocals and bright instrumentals. If your spring season feels like this song does, then you're on the right track.

Move Like a Boss by Fivio Foreign and Young M.A. - Fivio and M.A.'s verses both hit heavy in this song on top of a rolling drill beat, their confidence oozing. Make sure your speaker has some bass on it before you turn this one on.

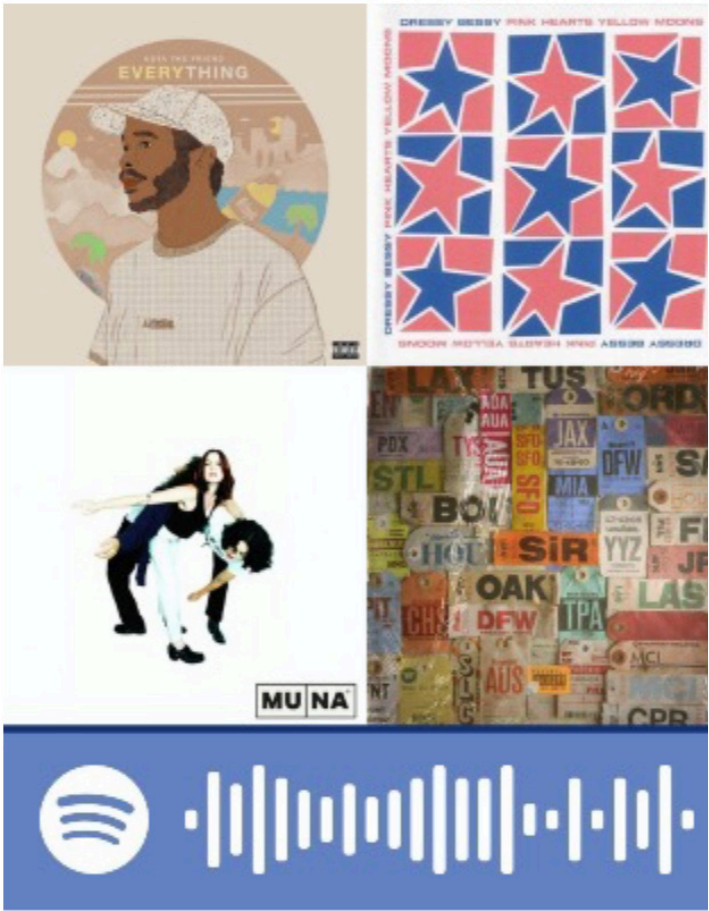
Vienna by Billy Joel - An ode to enjoying your life, this Billy Joel classic strikes you in the best places possible. If you want to take a break, go on a walk to truly bask in Spring's beauty, *Vienna* is the song to do it to.

Pink + White by Frank Ocean - A song on immortality and mortality, on life and the things that you can't control. This song floats, as if hang-gliding off the moon.

Love Song by Sara Bareillies - Maybe this song isn't exactly spring-esque, but it's definitely catchy and timeless in a way that can easily bring a smile to your face. This spring, you should let yourself lay back and enjoy some hits from our childhood, including *Love Song* and its sweetly passive-aggressive flow.

The Difference by Flume and Toro y Moi - The kind of song that would play as a protagonist falls in love. The production traps you in an endlessly upbeat world of synths, 808s, and vocals from Toro y Moi.

Everything is Everything by Ms. Lauryn Hill - I mean, it's Lauryn Hill. She's perfect for every season. As she says in this beautifully soulful track: After winter must come spring.



Top 5 Trees In No Specific Order

By Callisto Lim



This is just my opinion, but be aware that I have done at least 5 more minutes of research on each of these trees than you have.

Baobab trees - The Baobab tree is native to Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. An Arabian legend has it that “the devil plucked up the baobab, thrust its branches into the earth, and left its roots in the air.” because it has a unique shape. There’s also an Australian species which is very much the same. Their fruit is naturally citrusy and is a major export of many countries. Its bark is used for rope and cloth, and the hollow trunks are used by humans as water reserves, and even prisons and burial sites among others.

Redwood trees - First off, these trees have really cool names. They’re called *Sequoioideae*, and they’re the tallest and largest trees in the world. They grow in the Pacific Northwest, but are dying en masse due to forest fires in the area.

The World Tree from Hunter x Hunter - World Trees are a tree from the anime *Hunter x Hunter*. They put their roots on a mountain range and take magma in through their roots. They grow past the atmosphere, and the only one in the show is just a sapling, even though it’s about a mile tall and takes Gon basically an entire episode to climb it. Only 30 people climb to the top of this sapling every year.

Yggdrasil - Yggdrasil is part of Norse mythology. It holds together the 9 worlds filled with giants, dwarves, dragons, and everything in between. A giant dragon gnaws at its roots, a giant eagle lurks in its branches, and a giant squirrel runs in between them, acting as the messenger.

Dragon Blood Trees - I think the name speaks for itself—it’s a type of tree native to an island off the coast of Yemen. It gets its name from the blood-red resin it drips when it is cut and is often used in love potions.

Away

By Adelaide Fairbanks

temptation to video a concert that will be plastered all over the internet in a few hours anyway.

Gonna Let It Shine

By Adelaide Fairbanks

nothing else, I'm sure some stan account will greatly appreciate it.

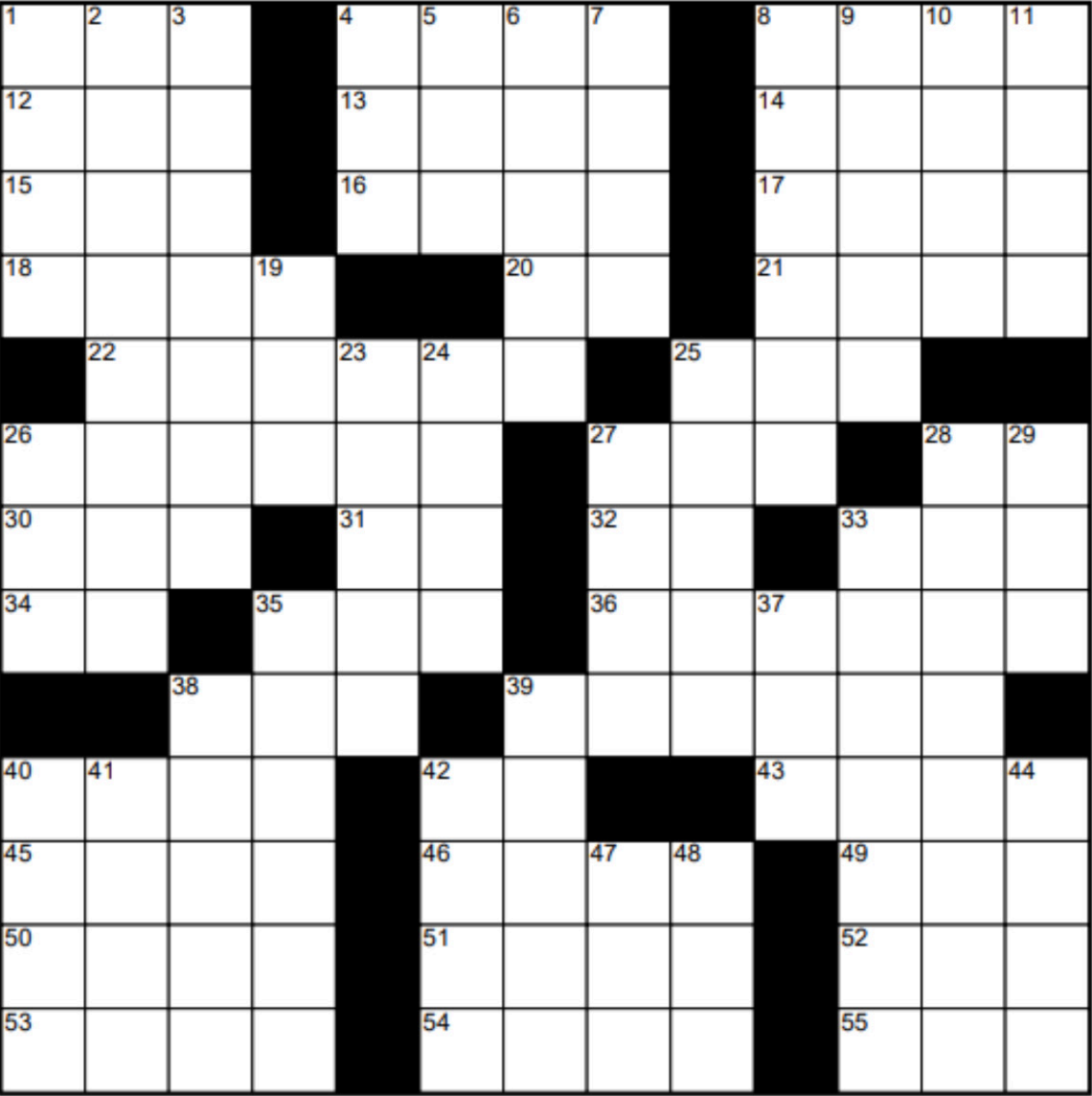
Teacher Overheards Matching

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| A) Mr. Hune | 1)_____ “Really? ‘Your mom?’ You can be more original than this, guys. My mother has nothing to do with Spanish” |
| B) Ms. Hall | 2)_____ “You told me you were absent from the dentist but other kids told me you were at a concert.” |
| C) Sr. Alarcon | |
| D) Mr. Davis | 3)_____ “Get your head out of that child’s bosom.” |
| E) Ms. A
(Alexander) | 4)_____ “Freshman, honestly, no one cares about you.” |
| F) Mr. Inocencio | 5)_____ “If you want me to be hashtag manboss you have to let me say what I want.” |
| G) Ms. Apte | 6)_____ “I have spiritually moved on from that assignment. I don’t want to think about it anymore.” |
| H) Mr. Morales | 7)_____ “I do aromatherapy. I put orange peels in my mask and it calms me.” |
| | 8)_____ “You’re the reason why teachers drink, Douglas.” |

Answers: 1) C, 2) G, 3) B, 4) H, 5) A, 6) F, 7) D, 8) E

Crossword: Berry Time!

By Sofia Fontenot



DOWN

- 1. ____ 'n' Andy: 1920s sitcom sponsored by Campbell's Soup
- 2. Its calendar has February 29th
- 3. The witching hour
- 4. A real banger of a song
- 5. DuVernay, director of A Wrinkle in Time
- 6. Many might be baked into a pie, or a hint to the starred clues
- 7. Egyptian symbol for life
- 8. Oolong pouch
- 9. *Respected senior
- 10. German grocery chain
- 11. Pole for a ship's sail
- 19. Is, in hindsight
- 23. *Scarecrow stuffing
- 24. Ivan The Terrible of Russia was one

- 25. Bruce Springsteen's "Born ____"
- 26. "My dude!"
- 27. Like students at dismissal
- 28. Like a good, well-read book
- 29. G. Biv's first name?
- 33. PVA Happenings location
- 35. Admits to, with "up"
- 37. Smoked salmon on a bagel
- 38. Find a fossil, perhaps
- 39. *Mother of nursery rhymes
- 40. Palindromic pop group that wrote Dancing Queen
- 41. What Sally does by the sea-shore
- 42. ' ____ first you don't succeed...'
- 44. What tech theater kids design
- 47. ____ Miserables
- 48. Kit ____ (candy with over 300 different flavors)

ACROSS

- 1. Key with 'ctrl' and 'delete'
- 4. Yaga of Russian folklore
- 8. Group of players
- 12. "I'm not super jazzed about it"
- 13. Feature of the gingerbread house in Hansel and Gretel
- 14. Fitzgerald, the Queen of Jazz
- 15. It helps to row your boat
- 16. Playground place
- 17. Puts two and two together, perhaps
- 18. Gush, as from a volcano
- 20. Chemical symbol of rhodium
- 21. Get tagged in a schoolyard game
- 25. Sticky street-paving goo
- 26. Wild animals
- 27. Pea soup
- 28. One with a PhD
- 30. Ewe's husband
- 31. Egyptian god of the sun
- 2. Acronym at a train crossing
- 33. Pigeon's call
- 35. Not close at all
- 36. A speech in one's honor
- 38. *Droplets on the dandelions
- 39. Full set of genetic material
- 40. Unaltered
- 42. Jupiter's moon or mythical lover
- 43. St. Nick's time of year
- 45. Uses puppy eyes
- 46. People
- 49. Rock fans might dig it?
- 50. *Green minus yellow
- 51. Like many a sailor
- 52. Butterfly catcher
- 53. Mountain range that crosses eight European countries
- 54. Many a midterm final
- 55. Camera cards

Lozano Tower

By Kate-Yeonjae Jeong and Mr. Lozano

It all started when a bunch of boxes filled with legal pads were delivered to Mr. Lozano's classroom. So naturally, he had to do what he had to do: stack them up as high as possible in a safe manner, all whilst assembling the tallest legal pad tower in the history of 790 Austin Street.

As you might notice, the tower kind of looks like a spine with a bit of a curvature; in fact, the scoliosis nearly caused the tower to fall. However, with a spirit of innovation and calculated method of engineering, the structure was secured, and history was made.

Behold, the legal pad tower of PVA:



***in case you care what we think**


Uncut Gems

I stopped watching around the 30 minute mark. It's not a pleasurable experience. I can appreciate it (after I was coerced into watching the whole thing with Will and Saranna) as a cinematic masterpiece and the work of two extremely talented filmmakers who can capture with painful, realistic prose, what it would be like to slowly bury myself alive in the diamond district of a grimy, unforgiving New York. But also, in my spare amount of free time with friends, I'm not jumping at the fence for the looking-over-my-shoulder-every-two-seconds-for-some-mean-looking-goons-to-whack-me-in-an-alley-or-suffocate-me-to-death-in-a-car-trunk-where-they-won't-find-my-body-for-weeks-until-the-next-character-vignette-cuts-to-my-desiccated-corpse-while-"For The Damaged Coda" by Blonde Redhead-plays-in-the-background experience. Great film though. Not a traditional "fun" watch. This is an acquired taste, NOT comfort food.

My closest friends will probably skip this review because they already hear me recite my thoughts on Uncut Gems at least twice a day. The reason why Uncut Gems is so significant is because it is a perfect example of two directors paying homage to their influences but still staying true to the uniquely fresh directorial style they have created. The Safdie brothers are bold film makers in every respect. They film gritty New York crime stories in a way that feels like you're watching a documentary or good piece of cinema-verite (Their use of non-actors and real life criminals in key roles helps with the realism). The Safdies constantly have you saying "This can't be real" and for good reason. They try their best to create the most amount of stress possible while also keeping the story and setting buyable. You're not protected by any movie magic that reminds you of the film's artifice. Nothing is overly violent or said in a clear uninterrupted line of dialogue. Everything is presented with a brutal honesty that is incredibly entertaining and impressive to watch....Also, I go to sleep to the sound of Adam Sandler cursing at jewelers and loan sharks. Just me?

By Anna Grace Hethcox

From the opening shot of this movie, the audience is invited into a gritty world of self-examination and an enthralling sense of danger. So, we're off to a pretty great start. From the beginning, we as viewers understand we're getting something different from this movie than in previous iterations of the Bat. This time, we are getting a detective story reminiscent of the classic film noirs of the 1940s, where Bogart and Bacall ruled the screen. Now, it's 2022, and it's Pattinson and Kravitz, which doesn't roll off the tongue like their predecessors. Still, regardless, their acting prowess cannot be denied. The movie is ultimately a message in surveillance, a commentary on the dangerous power of the social media echo chamber and the corruption that takes part in our everyday life. This version of The Batman shows Bruce early on in his crusade still burned by the world around him, unable to find the balance between Bat and Bruce, unlike Pattinson's predecessor Christain Bale, whose character mastered the balance between playboy and superhero. Robert Pattinson instead indulges in the emo that lies secretly within us all, serving as the darkened recluse hiding from the light to serve his true purpose in the shadows. This version of Batman reminds the viewer more of John Wick than of classic James Bond. One is a mission-driven weapon, unable to rehumanize himself, whereas the other has time to impress the ladies. Ultimately, you are in for a treat if you see this movie. The creativity in the storytelling and the dry and subtle humor contrasting with the totally bad-ass fighting will satiate any superhero or detective story fan. It is an exceptional version of the story. It is just so exciting and anxiety-inducing yet thrilling and altogether satisfying.



Still getting winded when climbing the stairs



Reservoir Dogs

Saranna Zhang:
It just kept getting worse.

Matthew Fu:
I just kept telling Saranna that it would get worse.

Will Newman:
I think it got better as it went on but maybe that's just me.

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Ruth and Denney*

*(questionable) advice

Ruth and Denney,

My crush rejected me and I don't really know where to go from here. Any tips?

- Loveless and Listless

Dear Loveless,

Alas, my friend, they weren't interested. We have all gone through this one way or another. While this may hurt now (and maybe for a bit later too) you must understand that you cannot control how said crush feels. Maybe it felt like you two shared something special in those elongated glances and shared snacks, but if it is not mutual, the prospective relationship could not have lasted. Although this may be hard to hear right now, it was for the best. This heartbreak is better than the one that could have happened if your crush lied and said they felt the same when they didn't. Use this time to focus on loving yourself. As Maya Angelou says, "I do not trust people who do not love themselves yet tell me, I love you."

Wishing the limerence away,
Ruth

And you've come crying to us? There's no time for that. Now a better person— Ruth maybe—would tell you to move on, reconcile friendship, whatever; I'm here to tell you to follow the path of revenge, not really so much against them, but through yourself. Not in a damaging way, that'd be gross, but you have to simply be better than your crush. It's easy and fast enough; you're already you of course (better in the first place) and your no-longer-crush is them (eh in retrospect). Of course, you can one-up them even more by being happy, spending time with friends, maybe even finding a new crush. Perhaps... one who likes you back? One who turns into a new partner? Lover? Soulmate? You could transform into an even better person than you were through these acts of great revenge, full of love and joy; make it so obvious you didn't need to be romantically involved with them in the first place for your life to be complete. If that doesn't work, then you can start committing acts of Ring (2002)- esque horror, obviously.

Get good or get to crawling out of televisions,
Denney

Have a gripe that needs solving?
Email Ruth and Denney at
hspvapaper@gmail.com

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What Early 2000s Musician Are You Based on How You Were As a Kid in 2009(ish)

By Anna Grace Hethcox

1. What was your favorite activity in like, 2009?
 - a) Singing in the mirror
 - b) Fighting/playing with your siblings
 - c) Creating soap operas with your dolls
 - d) Playing “wolves”
2. What was your favorite show on abc cable television in the day?
 - a) Victorious
 - b) Jersey Shore
 - c) The Proud Family
 - d) Courage the Cowardly Dog
3. What’s your favorite Y2k fashion trend?
 - a) Fashion glasses without lenses
 - b) Bucket hats/visors
 - c) Low-rise mini skirts
 - d) Vests of any kind
4. How would the child version of you handle a bully at recess?
 - a) Not say anything and write a song about it when you get home
 - b) Laugh it off, you’re too cool to take notice
 - c) Stand your ground and have your besties watch out for you
 - d) Listen to the edgiest rock you’ll parents will allow on your way home on the bus
5. Finally, what’s your favorite early 2000s music video trope?
 - a) Battling the evil brunette
 - b) Random product placement of old tech
 - c) Monochrome set/costumes
 - d) Everyone wearing tophats



Mostly A’s: Taylor Swift. You were a dreamer. And probably a horse girl. You loved songs about heartbreak, even though you were nine. You must have begged your parents to get you a mini guitar every christmas and birthday so you could emulate your country-pop idol.

Mostly B’s: Black Eyed Peas. You were definitely the class clown. You always came back from recess sweaty from playing four square or kickball, both of which you treated like an Olympic sport. You ruled the dance floor at any school or family function.

Mostly C’s: Destiny’s Child. You were probably part of that one friend group in elementary school that was untouchable. You guys had matching Baby Lips and newest body sprays from Bath and Body works.

Mostly D’s: Panic! At the Disco: Ok. so. Maybe you were a little weird growing up. You tried so desperately to be edgy, and definitely tried to pull off the side swept scene bangs. XD.

The Urban Legends of HSPVA

By Lila Mankad

Always eat a bagel before performances, or the Ghost of the Rabbi will curse your show! The legends say once, a theatre kid didn’t follow this rule, and broke a leg.. literally.

“Freddy the Fourth Floor Ghost” died in a fire at the old Sam Houston High School where the current PVA building stands. Now, they terrorize students and teachers. “I am traumatized.” says Mr. Lozano, who witnessed doors opening and slamming in his classroom. Students in Mr. D’s class have had even closer encounters. A beaker toppled from the upper shelves onto a student for no reason. Later the same week, another piece of equipment hit another student. Regarding these ghastly encounters, Mr. D says, “This is a racist ghost!” Apparently, the ghost has been targeting Asian students. Clearly, this ghost has no limits, so if you’re ever on the 4th floor alone.. watch out. Especially if you’re Asian.

A child’s headstone in the old school’s library. The Montrose building was built on an old cemetery. Yes, it was a real headstone. Some say her ghost haunted the kids skipping classes.

The lore of the missing sixth floor. The Class of 2016 Student Council lost a box of money in the move to Austin Street. But it wasn’t lost: it was stolen by the entity lurking on the sixth floor.

Horoscopes

By (The Ever Omnipotent) Gabby Iaroslavitz

Aries

Hi Aries, it's your season!! This has been a stressful time of insecurity and anxiety much like your sister sign, Libra. Your birthday season will turn this mess around and allow you to get out of your head a bit.

Listen to: Ivy- Frank Ocean

Taurus

Taurus! It's your season next! You have been experimenting with getting to know new people and getting out of your shell. Keep it up, reach out to your new friends. Ask to hang out!

Listen to: Romanticist- Yves Tumor

Gemini

Your two- facedness has been coming out recently Gemini, this is not a bad thing! It is good to have two different outlooks on important matters. However this can also cause rifts in relationships, stay kind and mindful.

Listen to: Mayonaise- The Smashing Pumpkins

Cancer

Cancer, babe not everything has to be an argument. Next time you're getting heated, chill for a bit and see if the battle is worth fighting. I promise this will make life easier.

Listen to: Pay No Mind- Beach House

Leo

Leo, where are you? Your friends miss your vibrant personality. Lately, you've seemed distracted. It's ok to get out of your head once and a while. Let your friends in on your life.

Listen to: Rapp Snitch Knishes- MF DOOM

Virgo

Virgos tend to be very even tempered and non-confrontational, so don't let this positive quality sour by letting people walk all over you. You may not even realize this is happening, but you deserve to be treated with respect.

Listen to: Your Dog- Soccer Mommy

Libra

Wow Libra this has been quite the season. You're irritable, tired, anxious, and just overall burnt out. Take a moment to do something for yourself, maybe immerse yourself in your art without the academic connotation, see how it feels.

Listen to: Ignore The Feeling - Rose Ette

Scorpio

Let's be honest Scorpios, you are overworked. Take a day during the weekend (for exemption purposes of course) to just rest. I promise you need it more than you know.

Listen to: Next Of Kin- Alvays

Sagittarius

Sagittarians let's be real, do you really like your new favorite niche interest? You are a very passionate sign and you tend to mimic those around you, be yourself. You draw people to you naturally; don't worry about putting up a front for others.

Listen to: Love- Lana Del Rey

Capricorn

Much like your sister sign, Cancer, you are in the mood to disagree, though not in the same way. Cancer is more confrontational while Capricorn is more avoidant. Just talk out your issues, being passive aggressive is not only annoying but doesn't accomplish anything.

Listen to: Blame- Jesse

Aquarius

You are feeling generous in this season. This feeling may cause you to overextend yourself so feel free to say no to things and feel comfortable with silence. Not everyone wants help and no one is entitled to your time, resources, and energy.

Listen to: Circle The Drain- Katy Perry

Pisces

Pisces, your season has come and gone and it has been an emotional one for everyone except you, it seems. Be mindful that everyone has their seasons of difficulty, so offer a helping hand when you're able during this Aries season.

Listen to: Boys On The Radio- Hole

An Assortment of Our Unused Senior Yearbook Quotes

By Adelaide Fairbanks and Anna Grace Hethcox

Addie:

"'Being overdressed' is a myth made up by people who don't want you to have fun and be sexy."

- Twitter user @sainoorvin

"I was always something of an individualist...Well, a show-off, anyway."

- Alice Roosevelt Longworth (daughter of Teddy!)

"I would say that I outdid myself, but I'm always this good. So I simply did myself." - Tahani Al-Jamil

"I love ____" (Choices can include: that, Grant, them, Megamind, stuff, my mom, and more!)

Anna Grace:

"This girl is either a witch or Civil War reenactor"

- Tyler Williams

"You got to win big to lose big. And what are we doing now? We are losing big." - Katya Zamolodchikova

"Vice is blocked. That's so fascist." - Joshua Inocencio

"I will not Jodie Foster this behavior." - Trixie Mattel

"Are there witch colleges?" - Mr. Davis

"Addie, don't quote me on that."

Overheards*

*have you heard? Submit to @hspvapaper on insta!

Did you know Mr. Hune went into labor today? - Colin Mee

Clink clank. I can't hear you over the cogs of the machine you're a part of. - Erick Arakelian

I feel like I'm going to marry my cousin. - Lauryn Palmer

If you're bi, that means you can date a girl or a guy, but if you're not dating anyone, does that put you on stand-bi? - Robert Wise

Donald Trump wrote the Constitution. - Callisto Lim

Elon Musk eating the fried potato on a stick made me feel some kind of way. - Kristyn Leroy

I don't have a mind to change. I don't have enough brains for that. - Kat Henry

One day you're gonna apply for a job and I'm going to tell them that you eat highlighters. - Lale Dean

Italian is not a race. - Ethan Bard

Bro, I've been getting really into oat milk lately. - Matthew Fu

Your shadow is so big I can feel it. - Ollie Grishaber

I didn't volunteer to do it, I got voluntold. - Nic Lam

I learned that, by the way, there is such a thing as 'yassified.' She's like, 'Mr. D, I'm gonna yassify you!' And I'm like, what is yassified? - Mr D

I would eat a Spaghetti-Os popsicle. - Jamie Garcia

Cuz they have daddy issues. - Ms. Garza

I always have a gaggle of girls. - Carter Neil Dobbs

Jaden Madgett is the sweatiest person on the planet. - Katie Randall

Don't let your children be happier than yourself. - Isobel Perez

I can kinda see the future, if you can't tell already. - Charlize Tabrizi

I got sent to an AP once, for a little spanky-spank. - Mr. Mertz

Gay clubs in Paris is fashion linkedin. - Guillaume Novoa-Gueneau

Don't touch my Transformers thermos. - Raf Pina

Batman's first name is Lego. - Lily Afghani

You're either dead-on with your impressions or you sound like a South Park character. - Rebecca Lembke

Just, like, cancel me. - Mr. Hune

I'm going to turn your pen-is into a pen-was. - Hobie Bernosky

paper* Staff

Editors: Kate-Yeonjae Jeong, Adelaide Fairbanks, Anna Grace Hethcox, Vera Caldwell

Media Extraordinaire: Lila Mankad

paperboy*: Henry Hackney

Contributing Writers: Matthew Jeong, Alayna Davis, Carmina Andrade, Lily Afghani, Mr. Tellez, Mr. Perez, Mo Mitchell, Tobi Carr, Callisto Lim, Sofia Fontent, Mr. Lozano, Saranna Zhang, Matthew Fu, Will Newman, Gabby Iaroslavitz