

paper*

*TheHighSchoolforthePerformingandVisualArtsNewspaper

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THE LOST ISSUE

The Lost Issue

Dear HSPVA students and faculty (and paper* enthusiasts),

It was a dark and stormy quarantine afternoon. The sun hid behind a scrim of thunderous clouds, casting an eerie, yellow glow onto the sidewalk. The sound of the doorbell ringing was masked by wind howling by the windows and strikes of lightning in the distance. Yet, I found my way to my front door to see a mysterious package: the paper* articles of an issue abandoned due to coronavirus. "Publish us," they whispered to me repeatedly. Once the ominous voices of rustling paper became too much to bear, I got to work creating this lost issue of PVA's favorite publication.

Okay, maybe I added in some dramatic flare to that introduction. Alas, there was no mysterious package, ominous weather, or sentient paper products. However, one fact rings true; you are reading the first lost issue of paper*.

Let's be honest, in the scheme of this insane world, reading a virtual edition of paper* in June probably appears pretty normal. We've seen school transfer online, a countless number of zoom calls, and more hours binging television than we wish to disclose. This year, cramming for finals and celebratory pool parties didn't mark the end of school. Instead, we closed our laptops after finishing an online AP exam and called it a day.

This new way of living has left many feeling completely lost, stumbling through each hour like we're living our own personal Groundhog Days. And this is where HSPVA steps in. Students stepped their best foot forward and showcased their talent to the world through virtual performances. From online Diversity Series and happenings to dance recitals and senior shows, students across departments made their art virtual. We didn't let a global pandemic stop us from creating and harnessed the healing medium of art to add some hope into each other's days.

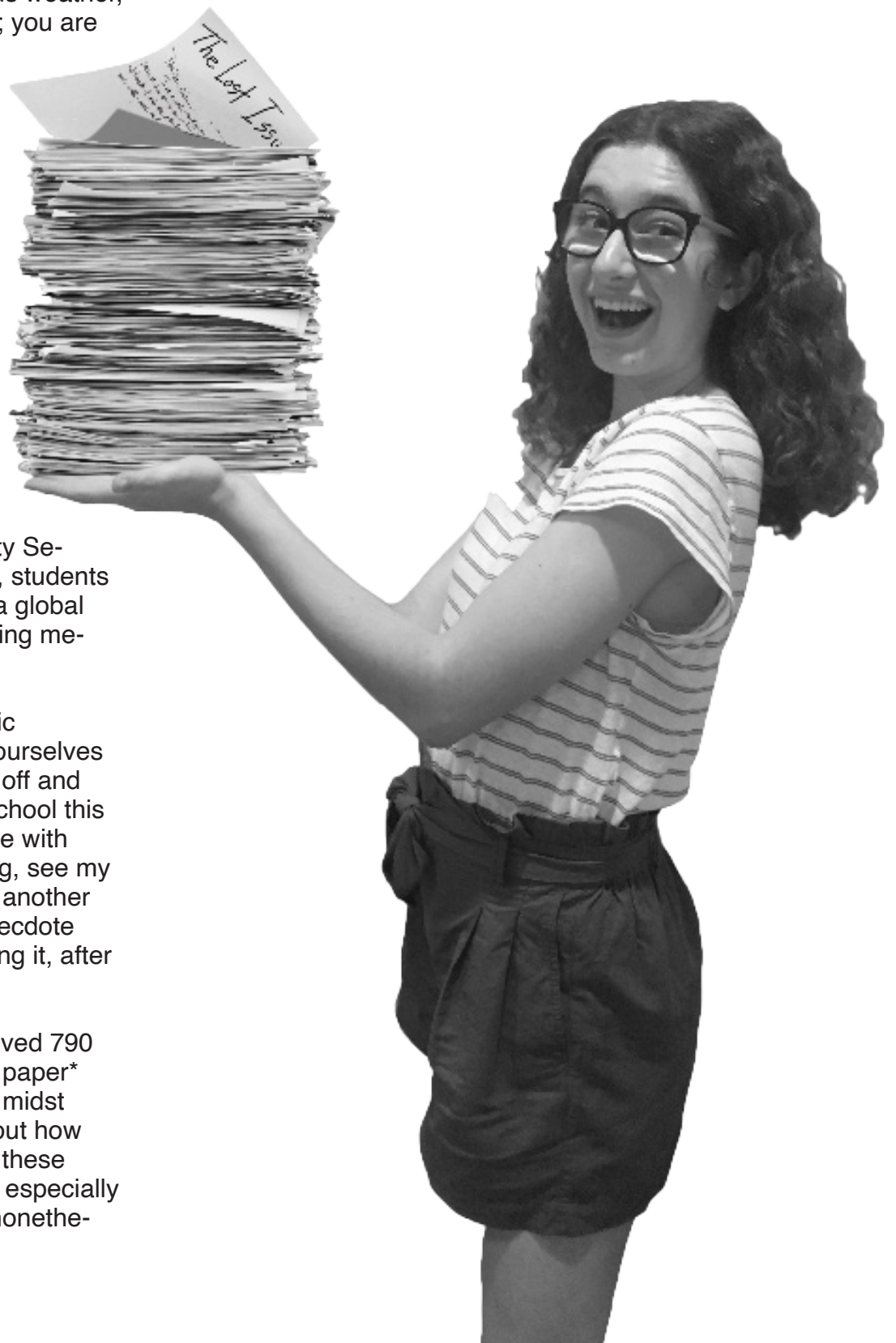
Even with all the success we found through artistic endeavors in quarantine, this new lifestyle we've found ourselves catapulted into still feels off. Somedays, I let myself drift off and think of March 12th, our last day of physically being at school this year. It's odd to think that day, eating lunch on the terrace with friends, I had no idea that I wouldn't return to our building, see my friends and teachers again, and (most importantly) read another edition of paper* this year. Of course, I had to tie this anecdote back to one of PVA's favorite publications; you are reading it, after all.

While we couldn't end the school year at our beloved 790 Austin Street, we wanted to give you one final edition of paper* to end the year. In it are the articles that were lost in the midst of Covid-19 confusion, as well as a few more pieces about how PVA is coping during this difficult time. Because most of these articles were written a few months ago, they may not be especially time relevant. However, we feel they should be shared nonetheless.

Paper* is one of my favorite HSPVA traditions, and I hope that reading *The Lost Issue* throws you into an artsy nostalgia that reminds you of hearing violins in the stairwells and smelling someone's burnt popcorn in the commons during this wild time in history.

I hope you enjoy paper*'s lost issue! Us at paper* truly miss the magic of HSPVA, and we hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,
Shelby Edison



The pieces that make up The Lost Issue were written before the killing of George Floyd and the protests across the nation and globe demanding justice for the black lives taken by police brutality. While no articles cover these developments, we feel it is important to acknowledge these events that rattle our nation. George Floyd’s death was not an isolated incident. Nor was Breonna Taylor’s. Nor was Eric Garner’s. Nor were any casualties of police brutality. These deaths are not simply tragedies; these are killings perpetuated by the system of white supremacy that permeates America. Videos on our phones of black men killed by police confront us with the devastating realities of racially-motivated murders. Every single one of us *must* take a stand against these senseless killings. We’ve become numb to the infrastructure of oppression that has built our country. We *must* speak out against injustice. We *must* educate ourselves about the oppressive systems in place. We *must* compel our lawmakers to implement lasting change. We *must* vote for the representatives that represent our values. We *must* declare that black lives matter. Future generations will look back at this moment in history. Take actions that allow you to say you stood on the just side of history, stood against racism and oppression, stood alongside Americans who knew that enough was enough, stood amongst the people who changed our society.

Teacher Talk

Compiled by Mr. Landry

In this edition of Teacher Talk, we wanted to provide some insight into where your teachers’ minds are at looking ahead after such a wild and unexpected end to this year. While we do not know where the summer will take us, we want you to know that we will be ready for you in the fall, whether 00111010 00101001 or in person!

Mr. Lozano (English): In the last decade plus, society has moved forward digitally, but education has stayed somewhat stagnant. With more remote work available than ever before, we’re able to get students into more modern habits and help fortify their independence in learning. So, if virtual classrooms become our new intermittent reality, I think it will lead to a more cohesive community of educators and students who are more resilient and driven in their pursuit of sharing and obtaining knowledge.

Mr. Alarcon (LOTE): Albert Einstein used to say that “In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity” and during these past weeks all of us had the chance to get better at something or feel encouraged to learn something new. We teachers are incredibly resourceful and no matter how high the waves were, we managed to reach our kids. I plan to keep doing that, and I feel the need to explore the video-based instruction to combine it with the face-to-face learning that we know which should never be replaced.

Mr. McCommis (Math): The last three months was a teaser for learning some aspects of remote learning. I am hopeful that we will be on campus soon, but whether we are or not, I am excited to try out more remote style learning and assessment options that can be blended into our teaching playbooks.

Mrs. Landry (Senior Capstone): The end of the school year really showed me the opportunities that arise when students are free from the pressure of grades. Students are inherently curious and have a desire to learn, and it is up to us as teachers to shape a course that helps students reach self-discovery where possible. Now that we have had this unique shared experience, I look forward to exploring this idea further with my seniors in the fall and applying the idea of autonomy to what comes next in their life journey after PVA.

Mr. Landry (Science): As much as I have tried to keep up with modern trends, I am guilty of believing that chalk and a chalkboard got us to the moon, so it should be good enough to explain physics for generations to come. Being forced into the online environment pushed me to learn and discover new tools that did in fact illustrate concepts more clearly than some slate and calcium carbonate. I look forward to finding the best way to blend these two worlds together and update my classroom to help students make the next big discovery.

Ms. Chase (Social Studies): I am excited to explore our responsibility to record what we are experiencing. We have an opportunity and obligation to understand our OWN points of view and their relationship to the zeitgeist, and to use this experience to understand how historians analyze and interpret sources. Necessity meant a greater emphasis on the written word this Spring, and I look forward to capitalizing on the power of written analysis, while exploring how our personal attributes, situations, and experiences affect what will be the primary sources of the future.

Home School for the Performing and Visual Arts

By Luca Jarosz

HSPVA prides itself on live performances and showcases throughout the year. Performances and showcases occur throughout the year, whether it be the Fall All School, Black History Production, art galleries on the second floor, Music Fest, Creative Writing showcases, or more; there is never a quiet moment on 790 Austin Street. However, the pandemic forced the students of HSPVA to convert their performances into a digital format.

Amongst many different departments, countless senior shows that were already in planning had to be transferred to a digital format. Many seniors in the Visual Art Department transferred their original gallery ideas into a video format. “I definitely had to edit my ideas for mine and Isabella Mueller’s senior show,” says Sebastian Covington, a senior in the Visual Art Department. “Honestly, I loved the end product of our digital show because it was something that expressed our idea using outside resources rather than just the gallery space.” His senior show with Isabella Mueller, “6 Ft From Home,” as well as many other shows from the Senior Visual Artists are posted on the Kinder HSPVA YouTube.

In the dance department, the school cancellations led to dance seniors no longer having a final dance concert nor a live senior show. Typically, the senior dancers’ senior show is a day consisting of senior choreography, photography, and more. However, with the new digital format, senior dancers had to resort to making new projects digitally; their options were to choreograph a solo, choreograph onto their family, or create a visual project (which could be photography, costume, or more). “I have been listening to music to keep myself sane and still continuing to push my art form. I kept creating and trying to stay focused and gaining ideas for my project,” says Rodrick Barnes, a senior in the Dance department. Rodrick’s senior piece “Drift~Change”, as well as the entire dance class of 2020’s senior show is on the Kinder HSPVA YouTube.

The senior theatre students lost a spring semester of shows (R.I.P. *In the Continuum*, *The House of Bernarda Alba*, and *Into the Woods*) and their senior shows. In a normal year, the theatre senior shows consist of a tech showcase as well as multiple performance showcases. Instead, the seniors made a compilation of their favorite memories from the past four years, those in the technical emphasis have their work displayed on the HSPVA Theatre website, and those in the musical theatre emphasis sang “Like Breathing” as their final performance together. “My

musical theatre seniors and I grieved for a long time over the loss of our senior show; our goodbyes were taken away from us,” says Gina Matos, a senior in the theatre department. “We took a song that was more relevant to this time, a song about allowing yourself to grow and change through the rocky patches of life...”

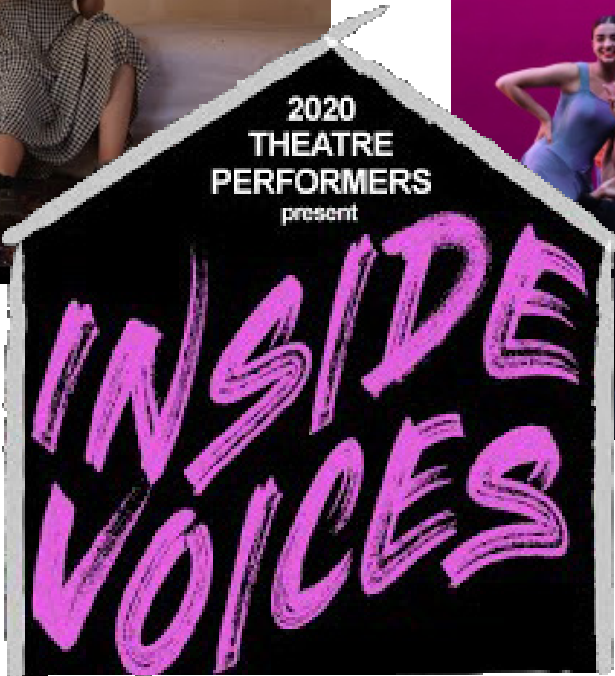
With these performances, other artists from HSPVA have found other ways of pursuing their art throughout quarantine. Multiple happenings, a Senior Limelight put on by the vocal department, and two diversity series events transferred to a digital platform this spring.

Regarding virtual artistic expression, I talked with the seniors about expressing their art through virtual means from home. When I asked the seniors quoted previously what they have learned about artistic expression in quarantine and what they miss about creating in a live environment, they each said the following:

Gina Matos: “While it may be nice to see each other’s faces on zoom calls, this period of time has emphasized how essential human connection is to not only theatre but in our everyday lives; we crave connection because we are human. This makes me more grateful to have been able to do theatre with people every day. I miss the collaboration with my peers and teachers. I miss being able to take risks, to get vulnerable, to push myself. EVERYONE! BE GRATEFUL OF EVERY SECOND THAT YOU ARE AT PVA! I MEAN IT!”

Rodrick Barnes: “I learned that I can do anything creatively even if it gets turned upside down. I miss seeing all the talent in the school and hearing about all the things going on... and hearing about the gossip lol.”

Sebastian Covington: “I have learned that creating at home and not being surrounded by other pieces and artists is a lot harder. I couldn’t put together pieces easily, especially since I wasn’t leaving the house. I miss being surrounded by different departments. I really tried to get inspiration from other people that sang in the hallways or were stretching their legs for a jazz class. I mentally recorded the emotions and experience I got from watching and listening and put that into my body of work, creating spaces that I wouldn’t be able to when being at home.”



Lettuce Get to the Bottom of This

By Shelby Edison and Luca Jarosz

We all have our secret ingredients we add to our coffee to make it our own, whether it be coconut milk, some cinnamon, or even ice cream. However, lettuce doesn't usually come to mind when you think of your average cup of joe. We would think that most people would agree that lettuce does not belong anywhere near the coffee making process. However, one HSPVA faculty member does not appear to live by this unspoken rule and has tainted the coffee machine in the teachers' lounge with shreds of lettuce. Who was this faculty member?

Ms. Cardenas and Tamara had first approached us about conducting this investigation on the day of the paper* meeting, February 20th. Earlier that day, a note was anonymously written on the teachers' lounge whiteboard reading, "Please do not put lettuce in the coffee maker again." Immediately, we knew we needed to get to the bottom of this.

We later found out the cryptic message was written by Mr. Waddell. "I think this is unacceptable. Why would someone want to put lettuce in the coffee machine?" he told us. Concerned and eager to uncover the answer to this question, Mr. Waddell quickly led us to the art faculty eating lunch. The room overwhelmingly expressed their disgust with the lettuce in the coffee machine. Ms. Phillips, who uncovered the scene of the crime, came forward and described what she saw. "I noticed that the water [in the coffee pot] looked like the Galveston Bay and I thought I should clean and refill [the machine]. When I dumped it out, there were shreds of lettuce, and not just any lettuce - iceberg lettuce. Possibly from a pre-packaged chopped salad," Ms. Phillips told us with a shudder in her voice. " I really feel like we need to get to the bottom of this," Mr. Waddell said.

Some teachers expressed a similar shock at the news that lettuce had found a temporary home in the coffee pot. "It was confounding," Ms. Manchac told us. "I thought that perhaps it was someone's attempt at absurdist humor to lighten up the mood of the teachers' lounge. But based on what I understand, there might have actually been lettuce in the coffee maker." Still, other teachers had not even heard that the crime had taken place. "Lettuce?" Ms. Nguyen inquired about our comment about lettuce being found in the coffee machine. "What is this lettuce you speak of?"

We asked Mr. Tellez if we could examine the security footage of who entered and exited the teachers' lounge at the time of the crime. To our dismay, the door to the teachers' lounge is a security camera blindspot

and only a shot of the hallway is visible. Attempting to determine who entered the teacher's lounge to plant the lettuce from only the security footage would be a futile mission. Our investigation had just become much harder.

After scouring the hallways for clues and interviewing every staff member we came across, we pondered the peculiar nature of this case. A few elements seemed off to us. First, the irregularities in who had and had not heard of the crime surprised us. While word of the incident had circulated, it had not permeated into the discussions of all teachers. Secondly, we came across inconsistencies in the accounts of the art faculty and Ms. Manchac. Mr. Waddell and Ms. Phillips placed Ms. Manchac at the scene of the crime, claiming she was present in the teachers' lounge during the lettuce discovery, making her a key witness in our investigation. However, Ms. Manchac claimed that she only heard of the incident later. We began to wonder whether lettuce had actually been placed in the coffeemaker. Were we subjects of an elaborate prank?

We addressed Mr. Tellez with this question. "There was the mixed emotion of was this a joke or was this real [amongst the PVA teachers]. In my opinion, the faculty was fifty-fifty. Some people thought it was funny. Some people thought it was for real," he told us. While he expressed that he did not personally encounter the lettuce, he believes that there was a possibility that he didn't examine the crime scene until later that day.

After a long week of sleuthing, we've come to the conclusion that this case is more complicated than meets the eye. "I don't think this could be solved in a day, in a week, maybe not even in a lifetime. But I have hope," Ms. Phillips said as we left the art office. The criminal remains at large. Whoever did this, just know that we will find you and justice will be served.



Why It's Not Such a Bad Idea to Put Lettuce in the Coffee Filter

By [REDACTED]

I'm not saying that I put the lettuce in the coffee filter; all I'm saying is maybe we're being a bit quick to judge this whole situation. Let's look at the facts. We are in a global climate crisis. The ice caps are melting, Houston's constantly flooding, and our waste is killing the sea turtles. Sounds pretty bad, right? Well, what if I told you that there was an easy, cost effective way to reduce the waste this school produces with an all-natural, biodegradable alternative to something we use every day? Unless you hate the planet, you'd probably say something along the lines of "That sounds great! Let's do it!"

Unfortunately, due to the response that my—I mean someone's—gracious actions have received, you may want to rethink your kind-hearted motives. Logically, it makes perfect sense to put lettuce in the coffee filter. Leaves are covered in tiny holes called stomata which they use to take carbon dioxide from the air and release oxygen, a product of photosynthesis. This would lead one to think, naturally, that these tiny holes could act similarly to those of a coffee filter, holding coffee grounds while allowing the liquid coffee to pass through. Why it (apparently) doesn't work like this is beyond me (and is likely a result of some sort of anti-environmentalist witchcraft).

In conclusion, I don't think we should harbor hostility toward whatever good samaritan put lettuce in the coffee filter. It was obviously an act of selfless concern for the state of our planet. In fact, I think we should praise this humble individual. Next time you see someone eating, touching, or resembling lettuce, I encourage you to say to them, "I salute you, Lettuce Renegade!" Don't let society's pressures silence you, you leafy little warrior. Viva la revolución!



Quaranfun

by Rebecca Rock

Have you spent your days binge watching Gilmore Girls and feeling unproductive? (Not that binge watching Netflix is unproductive. Maybe you plan to write Netflix reviews. Or not.) Either way, as 'PVA students, you invariably have busy school-year schedules. Whether you spend your nights painting portraits or singing showtunes, this semester has brought many hands across schedules, crossing off events and classes. To counter this burdensome boredom, I decided to embark on a quest for the best ways to spend our days in quarantine. The following list compiles some of my favorite ways students combatted this quieter spring.

1. Make Art - Every time I log into Instagram or check the HSPVA Twitter page, I'm astounded by the perseverance of my classmates during quarantine. They've truly shown that art knows no boundaries, and we can overcome any obstacle thrown in our way. Though resources may be limited, there are plenty of ways to create and share your art with others virtually or even in person. From sending origami to friends to concerts for neighbors, social distancing hasn't limited the creativity of our classmates. Trying a new medium of art can also prove a useful way to spend your downtime. You can become extra prepared and well versed in the other art areas come fall!

2. Bake/Cook - Not only will you get to enjoy a yummy dish or meal, but you may earn some brownie points with your parents. Find a recipe online or in an old family cookbook, just don't forget to clean up after yourself!

3. Spa Day - Put on a homemade facemask and take a luxurious bubble bath. Pretend you're in a movie and spend the day relaxing by the pool reading a new book. Maybe even avoid social media for a few hours. You'll end the day feeling replenished and ready to work.

4. Learn Something New - Learning doesn't cease with the end of our classes! Yale University is offering free virtual lectures for a number of classes, from Italian Language and Literature to The History of Art. Countless colleges are heavily discounting summer classes this year (often even allowing high school students to attend them), and YouTube videos give you infinite methods to learn. Spending the time that you planned on attending a summer program getting college credit or increasing your ability to contribute to dinner conversations will only prove to be an asset. You can even pick up a new language or figure out what you *don't* want to study in college.

5. Start College Apps - Starting college apps early this summer has left numerous rising seniors that I've spoken to more confident about the upcoming fall. Start writing your Common App essay or researching different application deadlines. While you may not be able to hang out with friends now, by finishing college apps earlier your autumn can be spent at shows and galleries instead of stressed about application deadlines.

6. Send Letters - I'm seeing more and more people sending handwritten letters to friends or family during quarantine, and it has truly warmed my heart. A simple note is sure to make someone's day, and a birthday card will go a long way to make someone feel special when you can't visit them in person.

To conclude this list, make sure to make time for yourself, and have some fun! You've earned it.

Movies

Sonic the Hedgehog

By Anna Hethcox

Friday, February 14th. Valentine’s Day, a day of love, but more importantly, the opening night of one of the most masterful yet mediocre trainwrecks I’ve ever witnessed: *Sonic The Hedgehog*. Before I really begin, I would like to acknowledge the fact that this kind of movie is meant for a certain audience: children. However, this movie is in the public sphere, meaning anyone can say anything about it. Let’s set the scene. Me, some friends, two CVS bags full of candy, and a somewhat seedy movie theatre. We went in with high hopes. Sure, it was a kid’s movie, but I felt optimistic that I’d have a pretty good time.

Now, don’t get me wrong, this isn’t a horrible movie. It also isn’t a good one. I don’t want to give too much away, but this entire movie is like any buddy movie you’ve ever seen, plus an insane hedgehog voiced by Jean-Ralphio of *Parks and Rec* and Jim Carey, with a performance similar to the character Robbie Rotten of *Lazytown*. This movie is filled with action, and yet, basically nothing happened. There were approximately four unironically funny jokes, as if that negates the fact that Sonic flosses at least two times in this movie. Every character in this story fits perfectly into a trope. The goofy alien thing and its serious companion, the supportive spouse/love interest with no discernible personality, and the quirky evil villain with a subordinate sidekick. I can bet you’ve seen at least five movies with this exact character breakdown.

Despite my bitter disposition, I’m mostly just disappointed and a little let down. It had all the potential in the world to be a great kid’s movie, like *Megamind* or *The Incredibles*. Something more exciting and interesting could have been created from this concept. Instead, it’s a road trip movie featuring every character Jim Carey has ever played in one person and a blue hedgehog that has an existential crisis every twenty minutes. But, if you’re looking to laugh ironically for about two hours, maybe with some friends, you’ll have a pretty good time despite the madness. Or maybe you’ll fall asleep and leave the theatre bewildered by what you just put yourself through.

P.S. I Still Love You

By Shelby Edison and Rebecca Rock

The highly anticipated sequel to *To All The Boys I’ve Loved Before* (*TATBILB*) dropped on Netflix just in time for Valentine’s Day. These rom-com fanatics (aka Shelby and Rebecca) jumped on the opportunity to root for their teams (John Ambrose and Peter, respectively) and enjoy some light-hearted comedy based on Jenny Han’s celebrated book series. Our consensus: *PS I Still Love You* (*PSISLY*) was overshadowed by its superior predecessor.

To begin on a positive note, the cinematography sparkled. *PSISLY*’s director (and the cinematographer for both *TATBILB* and its sequel), Michael Fimognari, included dazzling bird’s-eye view shots of various family meals and picturesque images of Peter and Lara Jean releasing paper lanterns into the night sky. This movie highlighted Lara Jean’s love of baking (a major plot point in the novels) and treated the audience to lively, cupcake-filled montages. We thoroughly enjoyed that the film largely adhered to Han’s novel — yet, this adherence may have been to a fault at times (we’ll get to that later). Of course, the best part of the film was undisputedly Jordan Fisher’s John Ambrose. This Broadway heartthrob stole even the hearts of Peter Kavinsky’s most loyal fans. To put it simply, John Ambrose is perfect. If for no other reason, watch the movie to see his acts of kindness and to learn the true meaning of “gentleman.”

However, the film was not all heartthrobs and paper lanterns. The plot became quite convoluted. A new level of complexity was layered onto the seemingly flawless Peter Kavinsky (played by Netflix

regular Noah Centineo) that made it hard not to shut off the film at times. Peter as a character seemed to operate on two vastly different spheres: the kind, thoughtful boyfriend and the jealous, secretive jock. We appreciated that the film stayed loyal to the novel, but the plot did not translate well onto the screen.

We also missed the book events that didn’t make the cut, such as Stormy’s more sizable role and the giant tag game launched by Lara Jean and her friends. In addition, this film made us cringe a few too many times. From Lara Jean’s lip syncing to the out of place flying during the end scene, there were moments that just did not work in the film. The melodrama was doled out plentifully, and though the acting impressed, it couldn’t cover up the lack of reality in this movie. Seriously, what’s up with that over the top retirement home? The only redeeming quality about Belleview was the feisty Stormy, played by Holland Taylor (a.k.a. Elle’s favorite professor in *Legally Blonde*). Her mix of elegance and fearlessness was enough to let us turn a blind eye to the unrealistic nature of Belleview.

To close the film, we get the gift of an admittedly cute encounter between Peter and Lara Jean. Simply stated, *PSISLY* warmed our hearts while also making them cringe. Though after watching this film, we are not waiting with bated breath for the third installment of this trilogy, *Always and Forever, Lara Jean, P.S. I Still Love You* warrants a spot at a movie night with friends.

paperviews* Ratings
Quarantine Edition


Discovering a vaccine for the coronavirus

Submitting your online AP exam without any glitches

Facetiming friends (but missing seeing them in person)

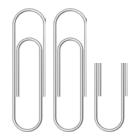
Running out of items to bake from your cookbooks

Breaking social distancing guidelines



Books

Trust Exercise



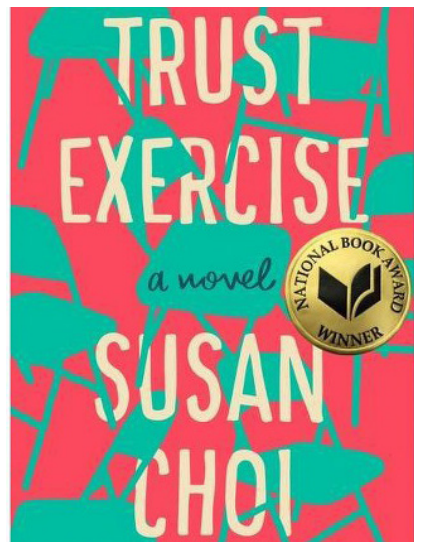
By Pieper Grantham

Two questions to ask when reading fiction are “whose story is it?” and “what is the payoff?” The answers to both questions are unclear in Susan Choi’s newest National Book Award winner, *Trust Exercise*, a #MeToo exposé of a Southern performing arts school that seems just familiar enough to make you say, “Wait, I know that.”

The story starts by following Sarah and David, naïve theatre (yes, “theatre,” the book insists) students as they are emotionally manipulated by their teacher, Mr. Kingsley, in their class aptly named Trust Exercises. The pair experiences lust, heartbreak, and embarrassment under the scrutiny of Kingsley and their entire class, and Sarah struggles to avoid crumbling under the pressure of the spotlight (both the literal one she faces from the stage as well as the watchful eyes of her peers, teachers, and mother). After a particularly unfortunate party scene that leaves readers shuddering in their skin, Choi abruptly changes pace in what is possibly the year’s most spoilable literary moment.

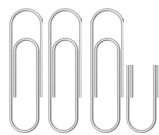
Without giving too much away, I can only say that the twist in *Trust Exercise* involves the reader in a trust exercise of its own making that calls into question the traditional relationship a story has with its audience. It will either leave you in love with Choi’s narrative boldness or pulling out your hair in frustration at a series of narrators that may or may not be unreliable, a string of plot arcs that don’t seem to reach completion, and an ending that leaves only a bitter taste in the mouth and a singular thought in mind: “what just happened?”

But despite all of this, *Trust Exercise* remains a page turner for one main reason: it seems to be almost written for us. Us, the students and alumni of the school we left behind which appears so clearly in Choi’s book with our “slippery black-and-white checkerboard” floors and “air-conditioner’s resonant hum” still fresh in many of our memories. Susan Choi herself attended HSPVA and much like Sarah was a theatre techie with a penchant for semi-autobiographical writing. Thus, a new question is left for us students and staff: just how autobiographical is *Trust Exercise*? The setting and students seem so achingly familiar, yet you hope deep down that the actions in the fictional Citywide Academy for the Performing Arts are purely fiction. Choi has made clear in interviews that the events at CAPA did not take place at our HSPVA, but Susan Choi has lied to us before, hasn’t she?



Music

The Slow Rush



By Julian Cotom

Finally! Tame Impala, a psychedelic rock-pop experiment with front man Kevin Parker in the recording studio and a band on tour, can no longer be called “underground.” *Currents*, his previous album, put him in the spotlight with the hit song, “The Less I Know the Better”, but he was not considered mainstream until after a couple months post-release. Now, Kevin Parker (Tame Impala’s singer/songwriter) can release a single and have it get up to 1.5 million views within 24 hours; he is officially mainstream. Not that I WANTED him to get mainstream, but I finally have a reason to knock someone’s block off when they call their music taste “underground.”

It was definitely a slow rush waiting for this album. After the official announcement in October 2019, many fans, old and new, were eager to listen to a new record from the pop music project. Parker made sure to give samples to his fans by releasing some tracks from the album early, and the general verdict was great. When the final product was released on February 14, some fans, like me, had to take it in more than a couple times, and it got mainly mixed reviews.

First, I believe Parker handled the concept of time and how we utilize it very well in this album. All of Tame Impala’s albums revolve around Kevin’s behavior and his person throughout the years. *The Slow Rush* focuses on time, how it is both slow when we live in it but zips by when we observe it from a distance. The album’s songs all focus on the past, present, and future of Kevin’s musical career and passion, and I think that path is handled very beautifully.

However, that doesn’t mean the album is perfect. Like all other previous projects, this album overstays its welcome, meaning it drags a little in some songs. The opening track, “One More Year,” while being a great way of expressing the feeling of time bring minuscule, stays in the same place for about three minutes, not going anywhere until the bridge of the song. “Tomorrow’s Dust” doesn’t switch throughout the entire song too. “Glimmer” feels like useless filler when it could have been beneficial to the vibe of the album. I believe all of these songs contain important insight into Parker’s mind, but I don’t believe he made them songs that I can hold onto, and that’s really unfortunate.

That being said, the rhythm section on this album might be the best performed on any Tame Impala project. On the track “On Track,” the drums don’t enter until the chorus. The single booming hit of a bass drum slowly evolves into a catchy drum beat

that goes well with the hopeful bliss of the song. This album features some of the best psychedelic pop songs that Tame Impala has made. “Borderline” is an amazing upbeat song that demonstrates that feeling of being on the verge of an experience and a deadline. “Lost in Yesterday” shows the listener that not all memories are made to be dwelled on.

The album conveys Kevin’s feelings about his life moving slow and fast at the same time, and he goes in depth with many of the songs on the track list. He contemplates what will become of his musical career, his love life, and how he goes about to change its current trajectory. This album feels more personal to Parker than *Currents* but without as much structure. Nevertheless, it’s one of the richest sounding albums I have heard this year. If your music taste is more simple, I can’t guarantee you’ll enjoy this. If your taste is more complicated, you might find yourself enjoying this. For me, I think it is a solid project from Tame Impala, and it is perfect to listen to when you want to dwell in nostalgia; get lost in yesterday, if you will.



Opinion: Courtney Love Deserves the Medal of Freedom

By Liv Anderson

The Medal of Freedom! Not only is it the ultimate flex, but it is also the highest award that a civilian can receive. The intent of the medal is to honor people who have made “an especially meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of the United States, world peace, cultural or other significant public or private endeavors.” Recipients include people widely regarded as American heroes, like Harvey Milk, Cesar Chavez, and Rosa Parks. Other people who have made notable achievements in pop culture have also received the medal, like Ellen Degeneres, Tom Hanks, and Bruce Springsteen. I am not the president. I have no control over who receives the Medal of Freedom. Courtney Love deserves one.

For decades, people have dismissed her as a drug addict, a bad mother, and, as many conspiracy theorists seem to think, a murderer. Often dubbed a “controversial” artist, she is put under harsh criticism for her personal life while male rock stars are expected to have messy personal lives. Take Courtney Love’s deceased husband, Kurt Cobain. His fans and grunge scene kids worship Cobain, eternally youthful, pained, and talented. Cobain and Love had nearly identically hectic lives and erratic behaviors, but while Cobain’s history with drugs is widely overlooked, and even romanticized at points, Love’s similar old habits are used to invalidate her talent and writing. It’s time to publicly recognize Courtney Love as the American hero that she is.

Unfortunately, that didn’t happen last month. Instead, this guy got the medal of freedom: “It makes her a slut, right? It makes her a prostitute. She wants to be paid to have sex. She’s having so much sex she can’t afford the contraception. She wants you and me and the taxpayers to pay her to have sex.”

These are the words of celebrated misogynist Rush Limbaugh. Here, he is viciously slut-shaming Georgetown Law student Sandra Fluke. Limbaugh gets her name wrong. He personally attacked Fluke for a powerful speech during a House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee meeting on contraceptive insurance coverage. She cited a friend with polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) who needed to pay over \$100 a month for birth control to treat her disease and was repeatedly denied coverage for her medication by her Georgetown insurance plan despite PCOS being covered by the plan. Fluke did not talk about her own experiences during the speech. I don’t think he actually heard the speech. It seemed like he got his information from asking a Fox News anchor to give him a quick rundown of the speech. He also seemed to think that the need for contraception was proportional to the amount of sexual activity. How embarrassing for him. Limbaugh receiving this award represents a step backwards in feminist progression in the U.S.

If she wanted to, Courtney Love could quickly piss off a lot of women (remember that time she threw a shoe at Madonna?). But Rush Limbaugh could NEVER make *Celebrity Skin*.

In 2005, Courtney Love warned women about Harvey Weinstein and was punished for it. “If Harvey Weinstein invites you to a private party in the

Four Seasons, don’t go,” she commented. After speaking out against Weinstein’s history of sexual misconduct, Love was eternally banned by Hollywood agency CAA. She was one of the first people to publicly speak on the subject, despite many people holding knowledge of it.

In 1991, Love stage-dived at a Hole concert in Glasgow and was repeatedly sexually and verbally assaulted by the audience, her clothes and dignity torn from her. This event, eerily metaphorical of the aggressive male reactions to Love’s feminist music and bravery, inspired Hole’s breakthrough album, *Live Through This*, which recently turned 25 years old. The cultural importance of this album is underappreciated, partly because it was released only days after Kurt Cobain’s death. The album is a story of redemption, with Love compelling the public to hear her creative voice rather than her controversies. Love dived head-first into a male-dominated grunge music scene, and the public was quick to humiliate and judge her. She was also a Riot Grrrl icon, often writing her music with themes of sexism, beauty standards, and female sexuality. Love’s music paved the way for future female punk and grunge artists, and her shameless and loud character made her a force that changed music forever.

How can we justify the Medal of Freedom for a loud mouthed bigot? How can we deny the cultural impact of a strong woman? Maybe this disparity is exactly representative of American society.



Dealing with College Rejections

by Layla Salmonon

By the time this article comes out, seniors have received their college decisions. Huzzah! No longer shall we spend our precious hours each day dwelling on our applications, scores, supplements, acceptance rates...it's anxiety inducing just thinking about it. At last, we have closure. However, that closure can come at a price. As someone who applied mostly to reach schools, I had been waiting and expecting rejection for months, but regardless of preparation, it still mega sucks to find out that your dream school will remain a dream. So, here are some tips on what to do after you've read that dreaded decision letter:

1. Realize that the college admissions process is WACK:

No matter who you are or how qualified you are, your chances of getting at least one rejection are pretty high purely because colleges are looking for something in particular that varies wildly from school to school and is impossible to predict. I remember watching college decision reaction videos where someone would get turned down at almost every school they applied to but accepted to MIT or Stanford or Vanderbilt. This just goes to show that one college not letting you in doesn't say anything about your value as a student and a human being; different schools are just looking for different, weirdly particular qualities in their applications.

2. Understand that statistics aren't everything:

This goes for both you and your schools. Keep in mind that you are more than your grades and scores

and essays. Most colleges use holistic review for applications, so there's no use dwelling on that one supplement or your B in APUSH. Additionally, just because you didn't get into the school with the lowest acceptance rate doesn't mean you'll have a worse college experience. Every school has pros and cons when it comes to location, campus, food, vibes, classes, size, etc., and no matter where you end up, I'm sure you'll find something there that you'd never find at your "dream school" that will make it all worth it.

3. Fall in love with where you are going:

Even if you only applied to your school because your parents made you, there are still plenty of things to love about it. Maybe it has a lot of diversity, a good program for your major, beautiful facilities, sick extracurriculars, or really good food. With a little research and a shred of optimism, I promise you'll be able to find at least something to look forward to wherever you're going.

4. Try not to dwell on it too much:

At the end of the day, where you went to college doesn't really matter THAT much. Sure, it may change the path you go down, but that doesn't mean your future will be worse. Wherever you end up, you'll still have opportunities to learn and memories to make, and if you still really don't vibe, there's always a possibility of transfers. At this point, there's no use in torturing yourself over future speculations or what could have been, so enjoy this summer and get excited for a new school year and new opportunities.

Dealing with College Acceptances

By Alison Wang

1. Party
2. Apply for scholarships

An Open Letter to UC Berkley

by Alison Wang

Dear UC Berkeley Health Services,

Recently you created a post on Instagram warning about "common reactions" to the coronavirus pandemic, one of which included "Xenophobia: fears about interacting with those who might be from Asia and guilt about these feelings."

When should xenophobia ever be a "common reaction" to anything? Ever since news about a highly contagious, flu-like virus in Wuhan, China, broke, racist attacks against Asians have skyrocketed. Whether it's an off-hand remark about "dirty Asians," a refusal of service to Chinese, or outright violent attacks on facemask-wearing Asians, these targeted assaults on Asians are on the rise because of unfounded fears and assumptions. Racial tensions can be more subtle as well; Chinese businesses are suffering; Asians are being avoided on buses and trains, and Chinatowns across the country are dying out due to dramatic decreases in customers.

By masking xenophobia under an issue of wellness and treating it like a health concern, you do not take accountability for perpetuating a subtle yet present racial attitude against Asians. You begin to treat Asians as outsiders rather than as Americans.

As a university with an Asian population of over 30%, it's insulting that you are able to dismiss xenophobia as a "common reaction" to a virus that has caused an increase in normalized racism across the globe. While you have thus far taken the Instagram post down, the apology you issued was merely a "sorry for any misunderstanding we caused." But this was not a misunderstanding— you even went so far as to define what xenophobia was, just in case it wasn't clear enough.

Rather than blaming others for taking offense, you should own up to your own ignorance in insinuating that xenophobia toward Asians during a global pandemic is "common." Take responsibility and learn from your ignorance. Further enforcing stigmas toward Asians will only result in anger and fear, while we need to instead be creating an atmosphere of support and communication by educating people about the virus.

Sincerely,
A Proud Chinese-American

Ruth + Denney’s Advice Column*

by Ruth and Denney**

I need advice on how to get back into writing! My art area doesn’t get me as excited as it used to. :(
--A Tired Senior

Dear Tired,
The (stereo)typical how-to-be-a-writer advice usually goes something along the lines of, “Don’t wait for motivation or inspiration to strike you, just write.” That’s for good reason! Instrumentalists need to practice their instruments to get good; why should writing be any different? Try freewriting as a warm-up. Then, look at prompts or jot down ideas you’ve had, pick one, and write to it for 15-20 minutes. If you don’t want to stop after 20 minutes, then don’t stop; if you’re done after 15, be done after 15, and that’s okay too. Here’s a prompt to get you started: Write the worst piece you possibly can. The more it resembles something you’d find on WattPad, the better. The best part of writing for yourself is that nothing you write on your own time has to be good; it just has to exist! Good luck, my friend, and happy writing!
Yours,
Ruth

Dearest Tired,
Some of the most impassioned writing I’ve ever come across (and I’m sure you’ll agree with me) resides in the mysterious land of rant tweets and YouTube hate comments. The correlation is clear: people are most inspired when their work comes at a cost to others. Simply find something (or someone) you truly, truly despise, and write! Spite and hatred are said to be some of the best motivators, so don’t hold back. Write about that one car that didn’t use its turn signal this morning. Write about the group of freshmen that somehow blocks off the entire hallway, despite there being only four of them. Write about how utterly repulsive Mr. Landry’s physics banana is. Rip whatever it is that gets under your skin to shreds and watch the words flow like the tears of your enemies!
Happy Toremending,
Denney

I’m having a stressful time in my department right now because I know a group of my department-mates are talking bad about me behind my back. I don’t know what they’re talking about, but they’ve suddenly just started treating me coldly and coyly. It all feels so middle school, and I want to confront them about it, but I’m not sure they know that I know. Should I wait until one of them brings it up, or should I just go for it?
--Is This Just Mean Girls, Is This Just Fantasy

Dear Mean Girls,
I don’t think you should wait for your department-mates to bring it up--if they wanted to do that, they would have by now. It’s up to you to be the big kid here. You say you don’t know why they’re gossiping about you; ask! But be civil. Tell them that you’ve felt iced-out by them recently, and ask if there’s a reason why. Then listen to what they have to say. It’s gonna be tough. There is no way around it. Once you have your response, try to look at it from an outside perspective, (or find someone with an outside perspective) and see if there’s anything you can do on your end to resolve this without sacrificing your self-worth or self-confidence. If there is, do that and see what happens. However, if there really and truly isn’t anything you can do, fall back on friends outside of this group and be secure in the knowledge that you’ve done the grown-up thing and there are people outside of this group (and likely outside of this department) that will love and support you exactly as you are. Sometimes you just have to remember the old cliché: “What other people think of me is none of my business.” I wish you luck, my friend.
Yours,
Ruth

Dear Mean Girls,
The number one rule when surrounded by artists is to remember that artists are a truly inferior race. This is clearly communicated by their new-age-basic music taste, high-waisted everything, and impulse-cut bangs. Criticism from creatures of this brand holds the significance of a pinto bean. The second thing to remember is that artists are fragile--both mentally and physically. This gives you two clear paths for retaliation. As I said in the last paper* issue, there are numerous departments--particularly visual and theatre--that are equipped with tools that can easily be weaponized, and since mental pain is just as real as physical pain, I don’t see why violence shouldn’t be an obvious response. However, if you want something a little less involved, try starting your own rumors about them. Some good options are “One time _____ stepped on Obama’s toe and didn’t even apologize,” or “I heard _____ used to be a beekeeper, but all their bees died because they were using immoral business practices to try to get ahead in our capitalist society.” Whatever you choose to do, I’m sure it’ll make them cry harder than I am right now thinking about those poor, poor bees.
Stay Vengeful,
Denney

My parents are getting a divorce because of me, and I can’t help but feel a little gleeful that my dad will be gone. One of the only things I’m upset about is him taking the Amazon, Netflix, and Hulu with him. Am I the jerk here?
-- Netflix and Very Conflicted

Dear Netflix,
No, I don’t think you are a jerk for having complicated feelings around your parents’ divorce. There is no “should” when it comes to emotions because “should” implies a logical rubric to judge validity by, and human emotions are everything except logical. I didn’t get a lot of background from your letter, but the fact that you said your parents are divorcing “because of” you waves an enormous red flag. Couples divorce because they couldn’t make their marriage to each other work for whatever myriad of reasons. Parenting philosophies may have played a role in the split, but it was their disagreements over parenting that led to it, not you. If your dad contributed, directly or indirectly, to the guilt you’re feeling about their divorce, I’d be happy to be rid of the guy, too. Just don’t smash his flatscreen, and you are ethically in the clear. I wish you lots of luck in adjusting to this major life change.
Yours,
Ruth

My Dear, Lovely Netflix,
The answer is obvious: NO. The jerk here is your dad. Amazon, Netflix, AND Hulu? How many streaming platforms does one person need? According to my research, the chances of him having more than two eyes are very slim, therefore, he only needs two streaming services max. This is exactly the kind of selfish thinking that probably led to the whole divorce thing in the first place. That being said, most parents, no matter how self-centered, are still somewhat susceptible to guilt tripping and emotional blackmail. Have a mental breakdown or two mid-conversation with him, then slip in a password request while he’s flustered and full of pity. If that doesn’t work, I’m sorry to be the one to break this to you, but that’s not your dad; that’s Agatha Trunchbull from Roald Dahl’s *Matilda* (1988). Just be thankful you escaped that cold-hearted witch without a trip to the Chokey.
Freak the Elders,
Denney

* do you want Ruth and Denney to give you some advice? email hspvapaper@gmail.com with your questions!
**not one person involved in creating paper* condones Denney’s actions. paper* does not endorse their advice.

Parasite - A Bigger Win Than Just “Best Picture”

by Gina Matos

For the past few years, the Academy Awards has dealt with dwindling ratings and reviews for its evident lack of diversity in nominees and recognition. The director of *Parasite*, Bong Joon-ho, made a not-so-subtle comment to Vulture last year jabbing at the Academy: “The Oscars are not an international film festival. They’re very local.” This consensus, shared by many, signals that there are bigger fish for international filmmakers to catch than an Oscar, as the award is not in itself a true representation of authentic artistic merit. The jokes throughout the 2020 Oscars about the lack of diversity and inclusivity of all artists allows one to realize that the Academy is very much aware of and laughing about a systemic, ingrained problem and tradition. But at the end of the night, *Parasite* became the first non-English language film to win “Best Picture,” *making it its fourth Oscar of the night. Even the slight pause before Jane Fonda announced the winner and Tom Hanks screaming for more time for the ensemble’s acceptance speech affirmed that a truly historic moment was happening (I swear, I can’t NOT cry at the awarding and acceptance speech video on YouTube). But Quentin Tarantino and movie goers alike have made the argument that the award should be based off of artistic merit and not a demographic. I even have Korean family relatives and friends that argue the Academy “needed” Parasite to win to save it’s deteriorating reputation, and that the movie may not have deserved the award. However, this article is not so much about whether the movie deserved as many awards as it won (which it ABSOLUTELY did and that’s on PERIODT), but that it solidified South Korea’s artistic and cultural breakthrough in Western culture and something entirely bigger in the arts world.*

A significant part of who I am, where I’ve come from, has derived from my roots in South Korea. I’ve grown up immersed in Korean culture: I was raised around the odorous scent of fermented kimchi, Korean variety shows, OG K-pop boy bands, and most importantly the stereotypical ladies with visors and vests always pushing you to eat more. It is apparent that Korean culture is on the rise globally; the Korean Wave (“hallyu”) is exponentially dominating pop culture. Korean barbeque restaurants are popping up in neighborhoods (but I’m going to say it: urban Houston lacks authentic Korean cuisine... THERE I SAID IT), Korean makeup is a new trend, the K-pop fan base is more fanatical than ever (trust me, it’s FANATICAL, I was once part of it), and Korean soap-operas are making their way into Netflix customers’ recommended lists. But I have to say that one thing in particular taught me to truly cherish the unique characteristics of Korean culture and art: Korean cinema.

Let me tell you, the Korean people are an extremely emotionally dynamic and sensitive group of people. Korean people love a good cry, trust me, they know how to perfectly combine heart wrenching music and sad acting scenes. But in all seriousness, I can testify that Korean cinema is a beast of its own. My love sprouted from my addiction to Korean drama marathons with my mother, and through this I learned the characteristics of what makes Korean cinema truly Korean.

1. Emotion- It’s indescribable in words and you have to see it for yourself! Koreans know how to empathize within every perspective in their work. From light-hearted Korean dramas surrounding love triangles to political thriller films surrounding the painful history of Korean society and culture, Korean filmmakers can utilize a sort of softness and vulnerability that can strike deep in ways you have never experienced before.

2. Thoughtfulness and Intention- Koreans take

time in their processes with detailing and perfecting the cinematography, screenplay, and music they utilize in their works. Nothing is there without there being 200% intention behind it.

3. Integration of Culture- Korean filmmakers constantly embrace their culture in their work, utilizing unique national treasures such as such different dialects and including their popularized Korean pop-up outside snack bars and karaoke bars, etc.

Our lovely paper* Editor-in-Chief, Tamara Wattenbarger, told me my job was not to get too review-ish or too in-depth with an analysis with how I think the film most artistically and creatively encapsulates the complexities and realities of class division in modern society... *sigh*... but let me just say that I think that *Parasite* is an exact representation of all of these Korean unique cinematic characteristics (the only thing you can do now is to go watch it). Director Bong Joon-ho didn’t have to succumb to using traditional Western film techniques or forcing his actors to speak in English to win the Academy’s “Best Picture.” This means the start of something big, something progressive that we need right now is coming. To garner world-wide recognition, foreign directors don’t have to follow a certain formula, instead they can be liberal in their creative choices in embracing who they are and what they are trying to represent. All artists shouldn’t have to be ignored because of the “one-inch boundary of subtitles” or their cultural differences. All artists shouldn’t have to hide who they are or be a certain way to gain acceptance. This is what the celebration of art should be: a supporting, open-minded environment that recognizes and is inclusive of all kinds of cultures and backgrounds. It’s truly an honor for *Parasite*, a South Korean film (WOO WOO KOREAN PRIDE), to be one of the first films to take these first steps forward for other international filmmakers and artists.

So, to all of the people who roasted me in middle school for spending all of my time watching Korean dramas and Korean movies... who’s laughing now?



Zan's Mixtape

By Zander Tate

It's summer: Houston's heating up, and thanks to the coronavirus, everything seems to be falling apart. Here are some fun songs that can cheer you up, even on your worst days.

"4 Da Trap" by 645AR - While we await new Playboi Carti, this squeaky voiced track that sounds like the birth of Christ will have to suffice for all of our baby-voice needs.

"Elon Musk" by Lancey Foux - This entertaining track is bouncy and erratic, proving British rappers capable while referencing our favorite capitalist lizard (and now father)*.

"Ignorantes" by Bad Bunny ft. Sech - This beautiful track showcases the emotional side of superstar Bad Bunny, and its inclusion of LGBTQ+ couples in its music video is an incredible move for mainstream Latinx music.

"Backhand" by HVN - This gritty banger off HVN's debut EP makes him a rising star in Houston's rap scene.

"No One" by Alicia Keys- You just gotta groove to this one. You know the vibes.

"Rascal" by RMR- A lovely twist on Rascal Flatts's "Bless the Broken Road," converting a pop-country classic into an anti-police and pro-scamming anthem. What's there not to love?

"Mammas, Don't let your Babies Grow Up to Be Cowboys" by Waylon Jennings and Willie Nelson - Rodeo season may have ended early, but continue to

pick guitars and drive them old trucks and just have fun yee-hawing (while social distancing)!

"Earned It" by Chief Keef - A trap anthem that allows for an extreme cathartic release and just makes you want to forget all your problems. I highly recommend jumping around to this when stressed.

"She Will Be Loved" by Maroon 5 - A true classic which can match whatever mood you're in and flood your mind with nostalgia. Don't we all miss this Maroon 5?

"Dior" by Pop Smoke - R.I.P. to the Woo. Pop's energy in early 2020 was unmatched, and he was gone way too soon. This track highlights the intense fun he had with the rap game.

Listen to the playlist on spotify using the QR code below:



Making Fetch Happen at 'PVA

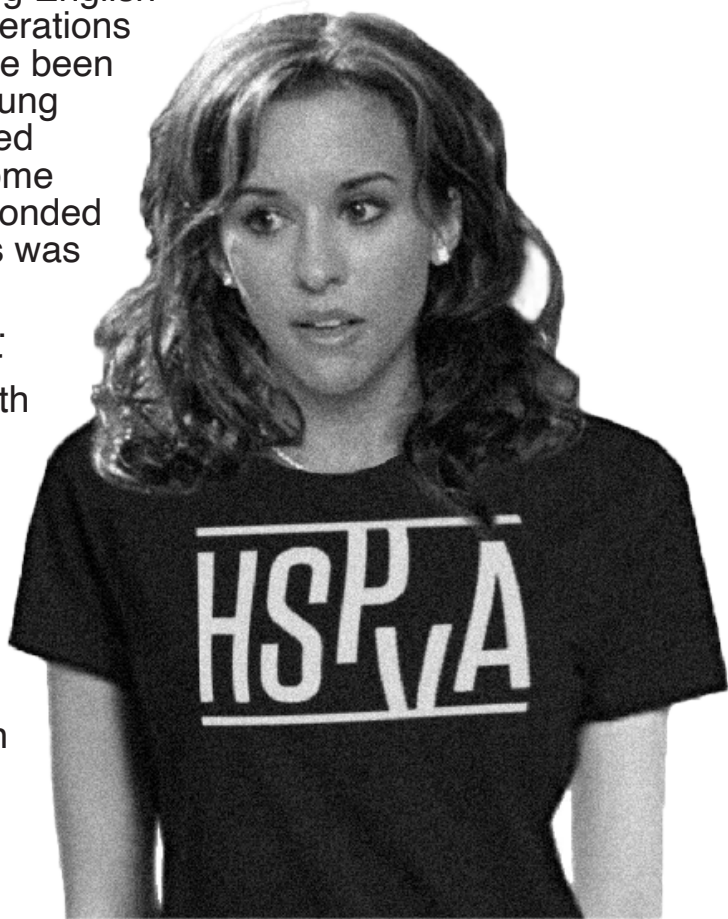
By Rebecca Rock

Do you ever catch yourself using slang from HSPVA then having to explain it to other people? It may seem like coming to 'PVA means learning a new language, but in reality, we're the ones creating the language for everyone else. We make trends; we don't follow them.

Want some examples? Ever want to show off but not in a super annoying way? You humblebrag, a term coined by the late alumnus Harris Wittels. Or, do you ever have to explain yourself to others when you look annoyed but are actually just bored? The term "RBF," or "Resting B**** Face," stemming from the mind of alumnus Emily Towers cured this dilemma.

I never fully understood "making fetch happen" in *Mean Girls* until recently. I found keeping up with new words in the dictionary annoying and inconvenient. People have been speaking English for over a thousand years -- if the vocabulary was good enough for generations of Americans, why are we changing it? Then I realized what should have been obvious at the get-go: we are gaining new products every year. As a young child, I once asked my mom what people had invented that year. I figured that since toasters, T.V.'s, and washing machines were all created at some point, someone must have invented something that year. My mom responded with the iPhone (it was 2007 at that point). The concept of smartphones was foreign to me at that time, so I was unimpressed. Now I see children as young as two or three playing with their parents' iPhones in restaurants. Someone had to create the word "smartphone." Although that particular word didn't come into popular use until 15 years after its conception (with the iPhone), it was thought of by *somebody*.

Why shouldn't this "somebody" hail from a creative hub in one of the largest cities in the U.S.? We are in the prime location for creation and innovation. Our alumni have created some of the most recognizable slang of these past two decades. They have and continue to influence our everyday speech and even our thoughts. I could compile a huge list (yes, even larger than the Wiki one) of HSPVA alumni (and current students) who are doing incredible things every day to change the way we view art and the world. The expression of such through words is changing every day, with HSPVA being a vital source of that change. So keep on trying to "make fetch happen," because one day it will.



*we'd like to congratulate Mr. Musk on his newborn, X Æ A-Xii, or whatever their name has been changed to due to California law.

Which Member of the Avatar Team Are You?

(Quarantine Edition)

Quiz by Eva Trakhtman

1. It's the first week of quarantine and the first thing you do is -
a. Research when school will be back in business
b. Attempt to maintain a semblance of organization by immediately making yourself a list of quarantine goals
c. Sunbathe and ignore all responsibilities
d. Stay in bed. You still attend all your classes, but in bed.
e. Barricade yourself in your room. You can't stand all the extra noise your family generates.

2. What is your favorite quarantine snack?
a. Sweet and sexy fruits
b. Soup
c. Self-declared "gourmet" sandwiches
d. Anything
e. Tea

3. You need to distract yourself from the tediousness of quarantine life. What games do you turn to?
a. Animal Crossing
b. Anything on GamePigeon. Oh how you love those digitized versions of physical games.
c. Minecraft! The breath of childhood!
d. Big brain chess
e. Civilization VI
4. What do you miss the most about PVA?
a. Carelessly sliding down the stair railings
b. Eating lunch on the fifth floor patio
c. Gradually taking over whiteboards with absurd drawings and elaborate charts and tables
d. Random but masterful flash mobs
e. Nothing

5. Finally, how are you attempting to stay in contact with your friends during quarantine?
a. Drive, bike, or walk to their houses and force them to come outside
b. Letters! Old fashioned postal service, baby!
c. When I game, they game, we game.
d. Facetime sessions, who knows what types of conversations those calls may spawn.
e. Through powerful opossum memes



Mostly A's - Aang

Quarantine caught you very much off-guard. You're a social butterfly, you miss your friends greatly, and you need to get back to them. You're overwhelmingly positive, sometimes to an unrealistic extent, but oftentimes in more of a refreshing manner. Besides feeling cooped up, quarantine is treating you well. Recently you realized that the neighborhood raccoon has taken a liking to you. It is now your life goal to befriend it.

Mostly B's - Katara

Even though quarantine to you was an unpleasant surprise, you keep trudging forward as if nothing happened. For you, quarantine is a time to recharge and refocus yourself, and you've been doing so phenomenally! You miss your friends, but recently you've been a bit off-the-radar as you have devoted all your attention to making cards for senior citizens.

Mostly C's - Sokka

For you, quarantine is a time of relaxation and a long-deserved vacation. Your quarantine is spent as a mix of long naps in random locations intertwined with discussions of business opportunities as well as random game strategizing with your close friends. You have the extraordinary ability of keeping the people you love close to you at all times, so you never feel alone. It almost seems as if no quarantine-restrictions were ever imposed.

Mostly D's - Toph

You are, have always been, and will always be able to roll swiftly with the punches life throws at you. Quarantine doesn't change much for you, except that you feel a bit restrained at times, but you deal with these emotions in a productive and safe manner, channeling your frustration into exercise or learning and mastering new hobbies. For example, yesterday you sent out to master baking, and you did! You baked an exquisite three-tiered cake and then laughed at the whiny babies on the *Great British Baking Show*.

Mostly E's - Zuko

You hate quarantine. The monotony of it keeps you alone with thoughts and issues that you may not feel you are ready to face just yet. However, after surviving a few weeks of silent agony, you've started to become more decisive and willing to face your problems. You become the face of determination: setting personal goals for yourself, finding some quiet space for yourself, meditating, reflecting, etc. While you went into this quarantine expecting nothing but the worst, this has actually turned into a time of active change for you, and you expect to leave quarantine feeling better with yourself than ever before.

An HSPVA Missed Connection

By Charlotte Stallings

Have you ever noticed how paper* doesn't have a "missed connections" section? That's probably because, in our tiny school, everybody more or less sees each other at one point or another. All that said, I'm looking for a rising senior who probably has a photo with my dad from the 2017 "Inside Scoop" event.

As an incoming freshman, I attended the "Inside Scoop" with my dad to register for classes and get my first of many complimentary black HSPVA shirts. I waited in line to take a photo with the HSPVA backdrop and pose with my new T-shirt (with a checkmark beside "theatre" on the back.) As I meandered throughout the commons looking for my father, I suddenly became struck with horror. My dad was posing for a photo with a girl and her family. I had no idea what to do and remained hidden behind the poles adorned with baby-faced photos of HSPVA's class of 2021. When my dad was finished talking to this poor girl, he made his way back to me. Then, he gave me the real inside scoop; somehow this girl mistook my dad for an administrator, thanked him profusely for her acceptance into the school, and asked for a hug and a photo. To be fair, my dad was wearing a suit and did improvise lines like "your audition was a standout!"

In short, this missed connections article has two goals. First, I really need a photo of my dad and whoever this girl is. If this is you please send me a picture!* Additionally, I want everyone's opinion on who this girl mistook my dad for. I've attached a photo of my dad for reference.



contact paper via email at hspvapaper@gmail.com or on social media with any information or hunches

Horoscopes

By Maja Neal

As you've probably heard from your local Twitter goth by now, June will be an especially chaotic month, with six whole planets in retrograde. Based on this, June is a time for inward change and realization of your goals beginning from within. Sit down, kids; it's time for your horoscopes.

Capricorn: You tend to make sudden moves, and now is sooo not the time. STAY INSIDE. And in your lane. As long as you don't do anything regrettable, you've got the time and opportunity here to heal some open wounds, which is never a bad thing to do!

Aquarius: So you're ultra-sick with cabin fever and also scared of not being able to control what's going on around you. Focus on what you can do -- making your friends, family, or yourself as happy as possible. Remember how important your loved ones, whether chosen or by blood, are in a time like this. If that means hopping on some stupid MMO with the boys, so be it.

Pisces: Congrats -- you're doing sort of, mostly, maybe okay!! Don't exert yourself because if all of this unrest around you fogs your mind, you're going to get the worst of it. Your sensitivity -- and, yes, penchant for drama -- aren't going to help you at all right now, so remember to take heavy breathers. An episode of *Bake Off*, a cheesy romance Webtoon -- if it relaxes you, good.

Aries: You've got some strong emotions going on this month, maybe even old tensions and bad relationships coming to the surface. The positive stuff is great -- embrace it! Spread it around to your friends! But if you find yourself considering arson, vagueposting, or sympathizing with Big Ed from *90 Day Fiancé*, take a second to reflect.

Taurus: My sweet fellow Tauruses. I didn't need the stars to tell me this, but we've got some family conflicts coming up. Combined with the general uncomfiness of being cooped up in one place for too long, you may feel like the emotional equivalent of last week's takeout. HOWEVER, don't worry too much. The new moon later this month will be kinder to you, so make sure to say thanks for what you've got.

Gemini: Your general extra-restless attitude is suffering because of quarantine. Use this runoff energy to do something else -- improve mistakes you've made in the recent past. I don't know who you need to apologize to, but do it now. However, near the end of June, you might get a rude awakening of some sort, so just focus on bettering yourself and your relationships for the time being!

Cancer: My crabby companions, focusing on and romanticizing the past because of last month's retrograde is not healthy. NO EX TEXTING AND I MEAN IT. In contrast, late June may have some spicy prospects for you. So, think about letting new people in instead of old.

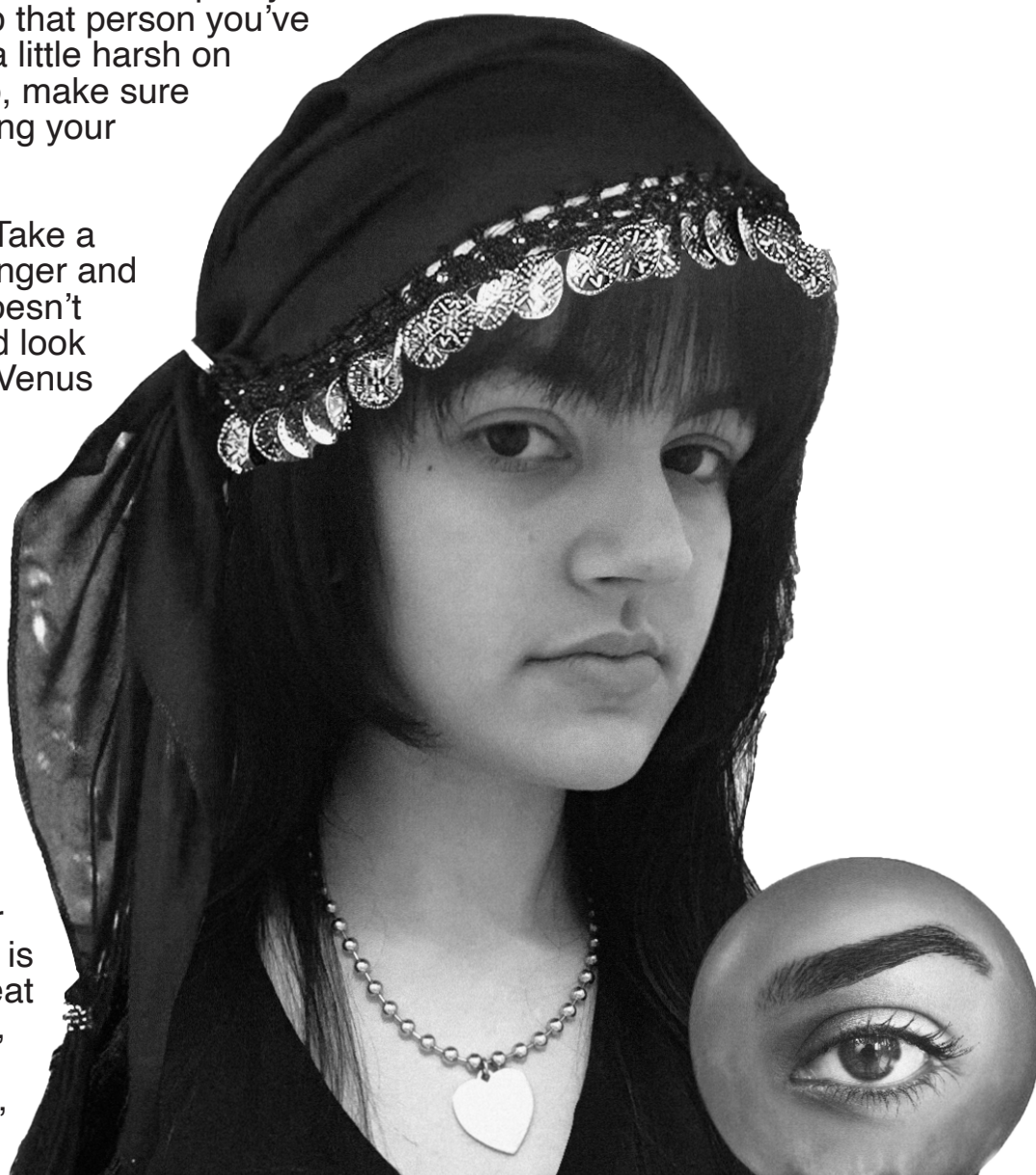
Leo: I know how hard it is to be "productive" right now, and a lot of people like to say that taking care of yourself and doing things you like isn't productivity. But it is! Your confidence will go a little sour as we progress into June, in which case it's safe for you to pull back from socializing and set your sights on an emotional chilling out. As my sixth-grade math teacher used to tell me (no joke), "God helps those who help themselves."

Virgo: Despite your want for it, actual, physical adventure is pretty impossible at the moment. Instead, maybe hit up that person you've been thinking about. Last month might've been a little harsh on you in matters of the heart, so go for it now! Also, make sure you're still treating your friends right and not taking your frustration out on them.

Libra: It's a stressy, stressy time for you, Libra. Take a minute to not look at the news every day. Your anger and sensitivity is most likely well-founded, but that doesn't make it any more fun for you -- so take care! And look forward to the end of the month. The end of the Venus retrograde spells good luck with love. As Paris Hilton would say, "That's hot."

Scorpio: You're craving attention and really frustrated at a time when that feels worst. Try to shoot that anger through something healthy -- drawing, singing, boxing, absolutely destroying your siblings at Mario Kart. If it's safe, doing some exercise or taking a walk outside can help too. It's okay to be really, really mad, but it's not okay to let that rot inside you.

Sagittarius: You just need a little fun. If you have an especially cool outfit that you can't wear anywhere, wear it around the house. If the news is tiring you out, listen to something intense and beat the devil out of a pillow. If you're on the sad side, reach out to friends and have a Zoom tea party. Just make sure to keep yourself on the high end, and move forward, forward, forward.



Overheard@PVA

“You reek of capitalism”
- Katherine Willcockson

“I’m promoting you to
CFO of Vibes, gotta
make sure those
vibes are fiscally
sound, my brother.”
-Jude Hill

“No, I don't know what Hawaii
sounds like.” -Sebastian Zelaya

“La Croix is Topo
Chico for people who
hate happiness.”
-Henry Odell

“27 is the best number in the
alphabet.” -Solomon Marlin

"If you want your
spicy more spicy:
spicé"
- Alex DeGreiner

"Unleash the
eyebrows"
- Elena Oliveira

“I’ve only cried once
at this school and it
was in front of Ms.
Patel.” - Marin Hart

"Wait, clams are
real?!" - Riya Shah

“I got pasta on
my face!”
- Aidan Leake

“I may not speak Spanish,
but I know Economics” - KM

"A Nigerian Prince
is going to pay my
college tuition."
-Layla Salomon

“Ah, *West Side Story*,
the classic European
musical.” - Eka
Savajol

“Bro, I got pasta on
my Yeezys.”
- Andrew Shaw

“Is that me?”
-Luca Jarosz

“That’s David
Dobrik.”
-Chelsea Chilewa

“You can be
Mexican Mindy
Kaling!”
- Andres Martinez

"It's like a maraca,
but with brains."
- Eva Trakhtman
explaining what a
concussion is

“It’s different with
white people”
- Matthew Fu

“I’m huffledorf.”
-Hune

“The most common
theme in overheards is
communism and white
people.”
- Tamara Wattenbarger

“I am not a McCarthyist.”
- Shelby Edison

“We’re just God’s
Playmobils.”
-Juliana Johnson

“As Socrates
famously said,
‘Hurting people
bad.’”
- HSPVA 2020
Ethics Bowl
team

“SpongeBob sings in
tune, you don’t!”
- Ms. Hall

"Bank of Jamaica is
one of my favorite
central banks" -KM

“I regret turning nicer after 9th
grade. I could’ve totally been
voted Most Lovable Jerk.”
- Chloe Madding

"I always
thought
*Friday Night
Lights* was a
war movie."
-Allie Guerra

“Your coffee
smells like
my great
uncle’s
balcony. In a
really good
way.”
- Molly
Masson

"My kidneys are
NOT fluorescent."
-Eli Johns-Krull

“Attacking historians
with excitement is
kind of a running
theme in my life.”
-Ms. Manchac

"She's pretty swag until she
commits genocide."
- Maja Neal

“As x approaches 0,
so does my grade.”
-Auden Chen

"Look, look, look! Worms
have legs!" -Mia Rodriguez

“I’m still waiting
on my 40 acres and a
mule...”
- Lauren Dotson

“I wasn’t
born, by the
way.” -Mr. D

“I AM NOT A
RADISH!”
-Samantha
Pape

Mr. Landry: *explains the
experiment where he hangs a
banana from the ceiling all year*

"Oh, so it thinks it's still in the
tree" - Lucy Stickney

“I will give extra credit if
you buy my house.”
-Ms. Seward

“Life turns us into
Squidward.”
- Molly Masson

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paper
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