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Calliope Spring Edition 2016

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and The DGS Fine Art Teachers



Alessandra Lane '17

S leep has always been paradoxical in nature; while some of us succumb to it within a matter of minutes, others spend hours and hours awake in bed, distracted by that nagging something or distracted by nothing at all. Sleep also has the ability to send us soaring into the illusory plane of the dream world, bringing us that thread of constancy and calm so needed in our busy lives. Yet at the same time, teenagers go to great lengths to avoid and ward off sleep, even when they absolutely need it the most. This year, Calliope Staff has decided to combine all these conflicting perspectives in our 2016 edition through a collection of art, photography, prose, short stories, and poems. Our club members and contributors exist in all places along the sleep spectrum, with some of us garnering the minimal hours needed for survival, and others attempting to undertake the formidable journey of spending all of our lives in a deep state of hibernation. Through this edition, we hope to embark on a truly in-depth exploration into the complexity and nuances that we have in our relationship with sleep, as we attempt to seek balance between its stark contradictions. Intro to section one: Sound Asleep- In an attempt to gauge our fellow student's relationship to sleep, Calliope conducted a rather tongue-in-cheek survey. In section once, "Sound Asleep" we asked students when they fall asleep (if they do) and then, how they trick themselves to sleep when sleep seems elusive.

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Go for a run

I can't

Drink tea

How do you trick yourself to sleep when you can't easily fall asleep? Count down from 100 Watch a more Watch a more

Do math in my head

I'm so tired

So I can focus the next day

I'm bored

..... Section One

Unconscious Fiction

Stories are my only means of falling asleep. Sometimes I read, but the most effective way to send myself to dreamland is to think up an alternate movie plot for my life. After I close my eyes, my mind starts wandering. I find that anything can happen in this alternate universe. Without fail the creation of this plot will send me to sleep. I love that without me consciously making leaps, the plot continues in my dreams. I wake up feeling rested and fulfilled because I made something while I was unconscious.

~Eve Dygdon

A Digital Sleepover

Over the past year, I have been fortunate enough to meet some friends, whom I communicate with solely through Skype. One night, we joked about how we always hear our friend Danny snoring in our calls. This led to the idea of keeping the call going as we slept through the night. I slept peacefully without interuption. Then at 6 am, I was awakened by one of our friends who had not joined us in our digital sleepover. She was a bit confused as to why there was a call running overnight.

"Hello? Is anyone there?" she asked "Hi," I murmured and then was awake for good. A few hours later when I called them again, I asked about the previous night. Apparently, I was pretty quiet during the sleepover, but Tess had been breathing heavily. Jon claimed he heard snoring and grunting. Although all of us heard different noises and had different dreams, there is one thing we all agreed upon. We may not be close in distance but we are not alone.

Then The Room Went Dark

For as long as I can remember, nightfall meant curling up with my coonhound in bed and falling asleep together. Even when I was so small I could barely wrap my arms around her, I still loved nothing more than to simply hold her close to me as the room went dark.

I'd always had this notion in my head that she could fight the monsters under the bed if they dared to show themselves, and I grew up believing she could keep any monsters in my head at bay too. No matter how bad my day had gone or even if I felt that those whom I depended on failed me, she was there at the end of the night. That's what got me to sleep every night for 13 years feeling that I had a companion and protector against all people and all odds.

This past year, I lost that companionship. I've found over the years that the reality of the hardships we go through is much easier to ignore in the light of day, amidst the happy chaos of everyday life. When night comes, sleep can be lost to that reality falling upon us. Without her to fight off that reality or brave through it with me, sleep came slowly, if at all. I never thought my twin-sized bed could feel too big until she was no longer in it. As time has gone on, I've learned to accept the darkness around me without fear and become my own protector against the perils of the night, but there are still some nights when the silence sets in and the space on my bed turns to an abyss where I would give anything just to hold her close to me as the room goes dark.

~Grace DeCarlo



Payton Froats '17





Balance

The aspect of leisure contrasting an unspoken code and breaking our way of life. This attitude yields pessimism towards the enjoyment: time wasted. sanity becomes an unattainable dream and sanctuary is lost within the monotony. lethargy synonymous with Latin. the twin turbo whistles as priorities shift to 8th gear. money compilation for a vacation never to be taken. the fog uncovers the streaks upon funhouse mirrors. any attempt to wipe away and perfect merely creates a more distorted reality. why, picture the utter thought the present is a present that makes one dwell upon the stillness and sheer passing of time. just staring at the dirty white ceiling absorbing the atmosphere as the couch laid upon absorbs you. for time you enjoy wasting is not wasted time.

~Drew Steichen



Dandelion

she was a dandelion going wherever life took her gusts of wind took pieces of her - pieces she would never get backleaving her filled with emptiness her mother took a piece of her when she left home for the last time and her father when he said she would never be as important as her sister. she slowly began to wither away into nothing iust like a weedshe didn't mean anything to anyone. she was an inconvenience she felt uncomfortable and irritating her face could light up a room but as soon as you look into her eyes you could see the hollowness and lightlessness of her soul she feels as if her heart was going to beat out of her chest every single time she stepped foot into her front door filled with anxiety and hopelessness she would push herself to grin as she sauntered through the living room where her brother once overdosed on drugs day by day she withered into nothing but a skeleton of who she used to be

~Domenique Aguirre





Analy Martinez '16









Beauty in Beholders Eyes

Red Roses are in my blood Leafy green stems are my veins A small canary lives in my rib cage It sings all day, cute little notes for 18 years it never missed a beat My voice like autumn leaves and soft grass, influencing you to listen to my words

Silver and Gold glitter sprinkles rest on my cranium sometimes the glitter accumulates then like snowfall it builds itself into words but other times my brain messes up and makes a piece of coal I hate when it does that.. strawberry fields grow out of my scalp and lay onto my shoulders while laser cut emeralds lay in my eye sockets showing me the outside world

and to think I'm not considered beautiful

~ Maria Bartos



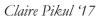
Bitter Sugar

Sugar is a golden flavor, Such a sweet creation A cherished ambrosia That creates a sublime, alluring presence. One in many forms A sugar that's a diamond for the eyes. Or, A melody for the ears, Maybe even a candy for the lips. More, more, more you cry, I need more! You take, take, and take but never share. You seclude it all. Then it changes, The diamond doesn't sparkle, The melody rings hollow, The candy turns sour The flavors turn dull and rotten. Bitter, Bitter Sugar.

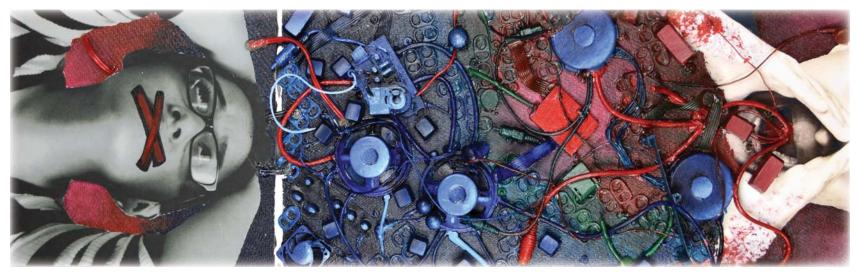
~ Chris Lipi











Kristen Krajewski '16





Michelle Mo '17





Alessandra Lane '17





~Monika Ziogaite

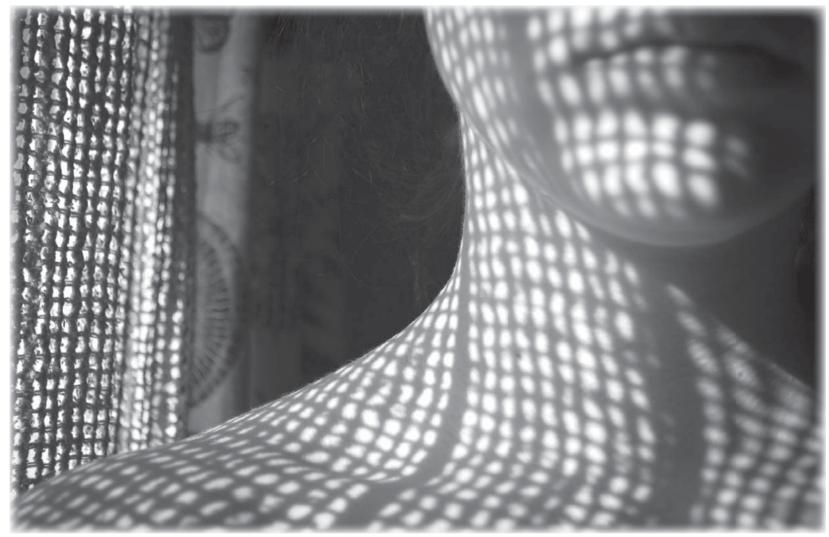
The Breadth of My Hand

Revealing all the precious moments that will forever be missed. The in between of my fingers and my wrist, Engraved in me for the rest of eternity. And the dreams held clenched. That concave part of my hand, Every indentation, every flaw, Providing insight into my past, And grasped only victories. Has battled all challenges, Displaying the toll of living, To sodden and forgotten. From parched and achy, My palms are my story, My palms are my story, My palms are my story, And my sooner future. The souls touched, The tears wiped, Are they yours? My present,

\sim Monika Ziogaite

The things we watched our parents struggle with for years, The moment that we say our final goodbyes slowly beginning to taunt us in our ears the time in which we part and discover all the things that we wished we would As we enter the world of adulthood, or worrying about the simple things Bring on the jobs, taxes, and loans, But while getting old is frightening, So put on that graduation cap, it comes with much more time, such as being out past curfew. No more relying on parents we are forced to grow up the world of the unknown, who we are truly meant to The time has finally come, to home-cooked meals, time for enlightenment. and be all on our own. you're sadly no longer strut down that aisle, never have to know. and clear blue skies. but just remember, for all that they do, are finally here, teenage rules, going to be become a child.

Farewell



Paige Massey '17





Chloe Lapen '16

Sydney Antiporek '18





Katie Turyna '16







~Catherine Lin

i do, and because i look in the mirror, but sometimes i can pretend that it's too dark to tell the mirror does not lie and so the mirror lies and it reflects me it reflects my lies and i let it

i will set a date i will stick to it this time

even though i claimed to have thrown her away because i keep her in my pocket and by my side all day or maybe that's me in my memory in my heart

the mirror lies

The Mirror Lies

where the lighting is dim enough for me to see what i want to see against the cracked dry wall and ignore what i don't in my mother's room the mirror lies

so i decided "that's enough for now" and turned back on the scowl and got a glimpse of happy here i put on a dress i looked in the mirror for her

the mirror lies across from the one built because it was too close to the light into my mother's thrifty wardrobe the one i keep my back facing to not catch in my hair and i fear

it'll hurt when it catches in my sight and in my mind as well

how i shoved her signature into the pocket of my jeans, i threw them in the wash i watched myself tear her letters up and they couldn't wash her away so i could prove to myself i did it but it was too dark to see

Lens

The setting sun of life that once illuminates A fiery sky contrasts the deep magentas of the silencing clouds that will reclaim one's soul, Clouds thick enough to walk on that suffocate The serene waterfalls of life's torrential emotions. A deep green moss covers the jagged edges of the rocks like a child's blanket, supporting the silhouette of a man Who develops the world around him, To see a better version of himself, to see what he wants to see, wants to be, All through the lens of his camera

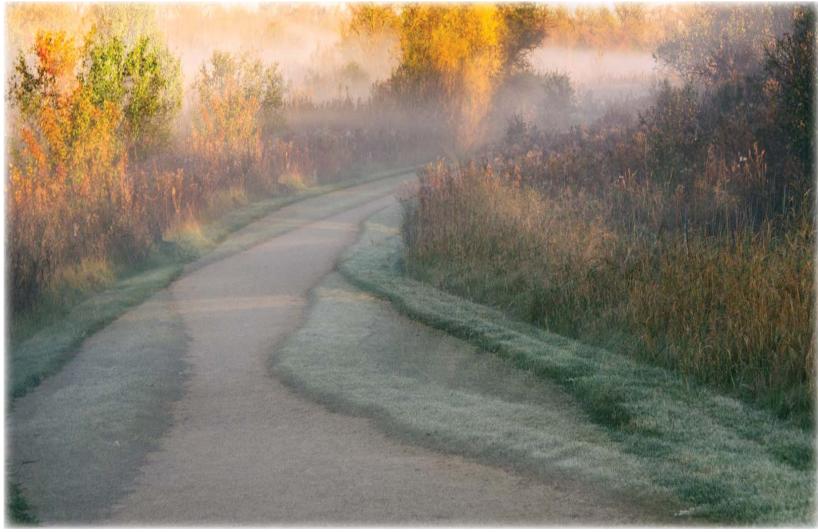
~Connor Keegan

The Finest Friend

Tea is an amiable ally. A cozy, fine flavored drink oftentimes Infused with herbs like sage or chamomile. One not inimical or hostile, but of tender kin. Small curls of wispy steam rising Slowly through the air Are consolatory and enticing. Their warmth calls out to you To abandon your cluttered desk And embrace your companion once again. A companion who asks you in a quiet Voice how your day has been and gently consoles you if you're not hale. To me, fair It would be hard to live without You. Or replace You.

~Bridget Moroney

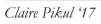




Analy Martinez '16











Juliette Moushon'16



Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

"Since 1923, the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards have recognized the vision, ingenuity, and talent of our nation's youth, and provided opportunities for creative teens to be celebrated. Each year, increasing numbers of teens participate in the program, and become a part of our community—young artists and writers, filmmakers and photographers, poets and sculptors, video game artists and science fiction writers, along with countless educators who support and encourage the creative process.

Our Mission

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards are presented by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers. The Alliance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to identify students with exceptional artistic and literary talent and present their remarkable work to the world through the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Through the Awards, students receive opportunities for recognition, exhibition, publication, and scholarships. Students across America submitted nearly 320,000 original works during our 2016 program year across 29 different categories of art and writing." http://www.artandwriting.org/

This year Claire Pikul and Allesandra Lane won three National Scholastic Medals and will be honored at Carnegie Hall in June 2016. In addition, Claire won nine regional Scholastic Gold Keys, four Scholastic Silver Keys, and two Honorable mentions. Alessandra won four regional Gold Keys, one Scholastic Silver Key and one Honorable Mention. Congratulations to these extremely talented students.

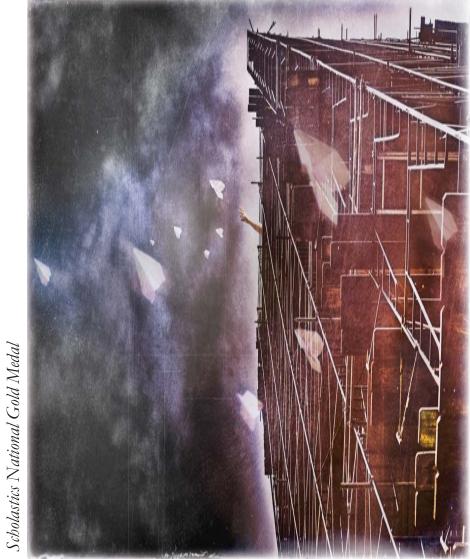




Scholastics National Silver Medal

Alessandra Lane '17





Claire Pikul '17





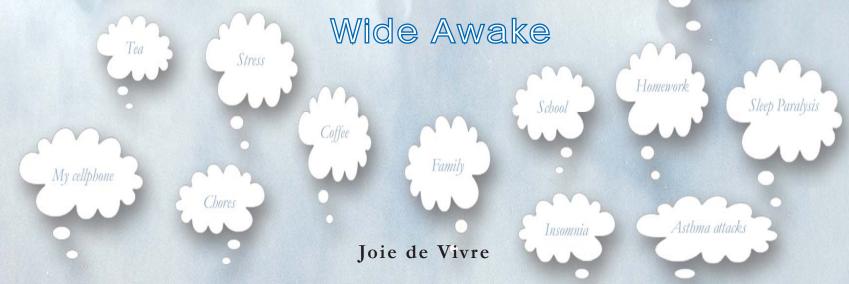




Section Two.

Wide Awake

The "Wide Awake" section explores the myriad of things that tend to keep us awake. Below are the responses gathered from DGS's (hopefully not sleep deprived) students from out not-so-scientific survey.



What keeps me awake at night is insomnia with a helping of having an overactive mind. When I'm not writing something, I feel like I should be writing. Therefore, plots clutter my head like dust bunnies under a couch. If I'm not thinking of fictional storylines, it's an outline for a poem or for a short narrative. There is no way to stop me once I get started on one plot line that I have interest in, either, and suddenly it's after two in the morning and I have been laying thinking about something I could be writing down in lieu of sleeping. And if it's not that, it's thinking about something stupid I have done recently; this usually leads to a train of thought on how I could include this into a plotline, and I'm back to square one.

The only way I can fall asleep is by listening to a song that has lyrics on a loop and being hyper focused on every word. Sometimes, having so much in my brain pays off; I always have something to write about. Other times, it's not as great because it's hard to focus. Regardless of how I feel about having something constantly in my mind, I'd take that over silence any day - or night.

~Charley Malloy

Other people's energy and

positivity

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Self-induced Insomnia

... Section Two

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meditate on the day's events sifting, filtering, soaking in your internal electrical storm what if i did this or said that or left the door closed instead of leaving it open what if i had not forgotten to have done that which I intended to do thoughts tumultuously rolling through the mind flattening all they see while the faintest string of that something tugs you, insistent, waiting to be heard be quiet you say let me meditate and so you think about how stupid you sounded when you said that Very Important Thing to that Very Important Person when you tried to let her know that your appreciation extends beyond the empty, insubstantial platitude of "thank you" but simply ended up repeating yourself reliving embarrassment has always been an ugly thing you know that but you're also a fool so every night, you continue to meditate

~Akila Shanmugham







The Wayward Light of Consciousness

My mind is a firefly Idling through aimless fantasies a rarity during the day Hallways and exchange blur "what was that again?" i ask

My mind is a firefly or a lightning bug maybe Flares of thought and reflection sometimes withheld in a drought on occasion a torrent that comes tides of contemplation towing me under and I let myself tumble among them.

My mind is a firefly Faculties of thinking, willing, choosing, nocturnal by nature Unattached, flying from opinion to judgment to belief Occasionally trapped in the jar of an idea enraptured, luminous till daybreak

~Nikitha Gade



Missed Trains

i trap my words inside as though they were my prisoners, I as they pull into the station, my feet become frozen, but I stand there and watch as the people get on my mouth is a package you'd receive in the mail, and i say to myself, "I cannot miss another train" as though a cold winter has just taken place, one by one as though each had a number day in and day out, you hear a chorus I don't understand why, they're going was given the chance, I think it's time of sighs, another train missed, another I'll make sure that I go somewhere the trains that have come for me refuse them the keys and I watch somewhere I'm not, but I let that them beg, as friends pass by, my all the things I didn't say when I to open up, this dusty old shop taped up so nothing falls out my thoughts are missed trains has been closed for too long train leave as I fill with regret, No more trains will be missed their faces blank canvasses, and I watch them sit down, words will hide and I miss Not sure where to go but destination not reached

~ Hannah Sprandel





Katie Turyna '16





Hannah Maes '17



True Art

paintings on a canvas tell more about a person than what the mouth can the mouth says you are not good so don't speak, do not waste breath you cannot be completely silent you have talent, to paint, draw, express so you put beauty on a canvas, you make the art with parts of you that have been told are to be silent you think the patterns in your mind are the real art you're on the streets, but that doesn't make you dirty. you have failed to see that you are the art canvas supplies a space but the canvas is not where the beauty is you are the holder of that you are the art

~ Briana Kesterson



Rachel Irwin '17



Rachel Irwin '17 **To Be or Not to Be**

To be or not to be the words flooded my mind like a basement I saw the evidence with my own eyes, it stung but like a car crash I couldn't look away The pain sliced me right down the middle the image of him laying with her in that way was the rubbing alcohol in the cuts I prayed so hard for this to be a nightmare God must have been busy the past few days A snow globe took place of my heart salt water streams kissed my heart I could control the world with one hand only if he was holding the other he let go, the world shattered.

~ Maria Bartos





~Gabrielle Henderson

No eyes are on the sparrow To tell her if she's real. And still she sings. To watch her

Not even the mountains echo her calls. And it makes her song easier to sing She knows that no one is watching She is a broken record.

She will keep singing until she hears her song returned. She says 'I love you' To a vast nothing And still

No eyes are on the sparrow

Trying to save the ones who left her behind. Beating her small wings She still fights

No eyes are on the sparrow And yet

Like flies to fire.

Chasing the wind

For the ones who have rejected her She still sings And yet

No eyes are on the sparrow

Sparrow

Caught

Sunday night on the road Streetlights paving the way I've driven this route so many times You had me caught in a web forcing repetition like a needle on a vinyl record that has reached the end I felt comfort in the rhythm Connected to you by wires, it leads my path through the desert and the rainforest, forward is where I drive

This desolate road I travel is one you used to travel with me Well worn in its journey with warm winds, sun tanned skin, and laughter It's hard not to feel abandoned when you left me to drive this road with only the cold wind and dark skin to remember you by. We are trees that we planted together Much of what you saw was raw Roots exposed out to you, Right there for you to grasp.

And so you did.







Katie Turyna'16

Self/Mind

You could have found the very cure for cancer and keep it to yourself If you don't listen to a word fall out of my mouth for the rest of your life That you grow roots so strong Hurricane Katrina couldn't tear you out If I could string together a code that would heal your heart and give Remember, there's nothing wrong with being satisfied with yourself And a voice louder than thunder I swear you shook me, struck me lost for words, completely breathless in awe of what you could be You can write a bestselling novel and never publish a copy from the soil because you've defied mother nature herself You start cutting your edges to try to fit the puzzle but love, When you lose yourself you find your worth in another soul You are as light as a cloud and as influential as a match You can have a million dollars and never spend a penny You start obsessing and identifying with other feelings with lightning and pinned me to every mountaintop, Love, if I could give you one single word of advice, You are as tall as the Sears Tower and as strong You fail to realize you have emotions yourself But it's worth nothing if you don't believe it so help me God listen to this one last spiel You can part the Red Sea like Moses did Find a home in your skin and plant your or defy gravity and fly to the moon, as the iceberg that sunk the Titanic Find a soundness within your mind Find a sanctuary in your laughter two feet so deep in the ground There are no boundaries here Find a sparkle in your smile your soul a place to stand Please don't lose yourself, Don't sell yourself short, that lights a forest fire Value yourself So love, Love,



If you don't listen to a word fall out of my mouth for the rest of your life

So love,

so help me God listen to this one last spiel

and the sickly can't donate an organ to give someone else life

Because the homeless can't provide shelter

You need an intact entity to be somebody's eternity

Like I said before, love yourself first and then maybe, if you find room

for someone else let them in

~Kellie Strakalaitis



Sarah Casey '18





Ari Ganahl '16





Claire Pikul '17

Lifting Weights

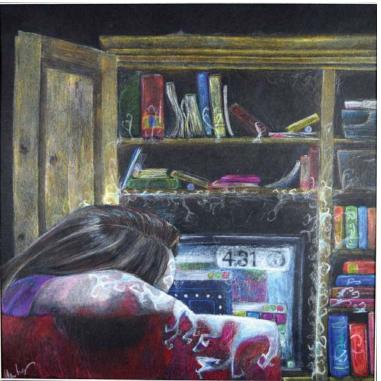
She says she's going to the chiropractor again But she already knows what they're going to tell her That she's carrying too much That her back can't take the weight she's holding But maybe it's not just the weight of the drums she carries every day She bears the burden of everyone around her She holds all of their problems and concerns and complaints Always seeming happy to give advice But they don't seem to see that the weight of the world is a hell of a burden For her it's a problem to say it's your problem Learning how is a lesson not taught in school no matter how important it is It's a lesson learned through realizing that caring for those who don't care is death To find life you need to carry only what you need Otherwise the weight will drag you down to the depths But there are ways to stay afloat True soul searching is finding those that will keep you up Those that will bear the world with you even if you ask them not to Those few that when you say you need a day off will hold the whole thing Just so that you can take a small break Those few that would not let you sit at another table at lunch The few that instead of dumping everything on you Seek to help you with the weight you already have

~Sean Roney



Mind Your Mess

My room is a wreck



Chloe Lapen'16

I can't seem to rid myself of the possessions I don't need, Like the books I've already read, or the letters I neglected to send My mom constantly complains because she can't see the floor, I can hardly crack open the door If you can see past the clutter, confusion and disarray You could grasp the fact that my mind is precisely the same way because my mind is chaos, mayhem, and clutter I can't seem to do away with the memories I don't need or the empty words you spoke to me the baggage that weighs me down firmly, as if the earth doubled its force of gravity pinning my beat-up shoes to the ground I keep thinking about the same thing for days, weeks and months Yet I still can't even remind myself to bring money for lunch Head in the ceiling fan goes rolling, because you couldn't get me to focus if you tried and if I said I understood I lied

~Kellie Strakalaitis





Payton Froats '17





Mya Glover '17





I wanted to know your story;

I wanted to read your books so bad.

seen.

The cover of your book was more appealing than any other book I had ever

You were a book that had my interest from the first moment.

Your stories gave me a reason to keep going.

Emotional sections and happy parts.

There were countless words, numerous chapters, and a heap to understand.

A book that pushes people away; not so congenial to readers.

You are a book.

The Beauty Within

A world where you can experience a different kind of life.

Looking at you, I could see something atypical;

that you were a significant kind of book.

You were a difficult book to read.

There were many different climaxes in your book. Several twists and turns.

what you make people feel;

what they think about.

I needed to know.

You showed me a life that I had never experienced before. I could follow you to the beginning,

just to relive the start.

Maybe then we'd remember to slow down, at all of our favorite parts.

You are my favorite book to read.

~ Cassidy Dresden

Effusion

Return is infinite disorder. Pages crimped, curled, I'm left confused As I read line after line of my blackout poetry Trying to get better in the time I have - it's precious and limited. With souls bared in a group of teens, Most add to their books I divide the pages and dissect the story Trying to figure out who I am and How can I express that I am breathing I am existing and I take up space and that's okay Even when I'm not.

Of the words that people spat at us when they said that we I have this chaos in my mind that I express with every slice The pages are my enemy and while I take them apart until we became phoenixes, rising from the ashes Regret is natural and I cannot go back. In our group we tell our stories I screw up but that is sanity. I put myself back together. Adequate. weren't

It's messy, and it's complex, and it's like trying to scream un-It is hard to go back to someone you left behind. But it is vital. derwater, ~Charley Malloy



Christina Markovski '18









Art

This poem might be considered art. To some it might even be a masterpiece. It will talk about the complexities that surround life. It will mention the dead and the living. This poem will be deep and dense just like the dead sea. It will reach heights to the eiffel tower. As beautiful as a flower. Cause tower and flower, they rhyme, so now this poem will be fit for the books of Shel Silverstein talking about endless sidewalks, and backwards houses. This poem is hardly art, It's a poem, about a poem, that may or may not exist.

~ Chloe Lapen









With ivory like diamonds and wood so shiny, I swear we're all a bit older but at least we're together The keys sound sharp and the wood is wearing ivory like diamonds and wood so shiny, I swear our piano is family and our piano is love, it has that when I was born looked lively and new Dust lines the keys and trails up to the top My mom always played to express herself She waves goodbye, grabs all the books, She'd play all night, her beautiful music, Mom teaches kids inside of our home, There's a piano that sits in the corner, There's a piano that sits in the corner, the familiar tunes that i used to know There's a piano that sits in the corner, There's a piano that sits in the corner and my parents are always stressed our piano represents so much more while notes were all we could play. that creaks whenever it's opened I could always see my reflection and my sister and I would listen. that's starting to wear and tear then closes the lid on the keys my reflection no longer there and in many different ways My sister's away at college It looks as though it's aged that now is covered in junk Life is catching up to us it has changed my life I rarely hear it played to listen once again

The Piano in the

Corner





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Ivy Bukowski '18

Zzzz Assignment

as inspiration for their photos, setting out to capture a moment that Lynn gave her students a prompt specifically tailored to our theme within the pages of this year's magazine and we urge you to seek feels like " $\mathbf{Z}_{\mathbf{z}z}$ " sounds. Many of these works have been nestled them out, as their contributions are nothing short of breathtaking. " $\mathbf{Z}_{\mathbf{z}_{\mathbf{z}}}$ ". Students were given poems, phrases, and famous works seamlessly flows with our theme. This year, instructor Ms. Michelle Photo Studio courses for stunning covers and artwork that Throughout the years, Calliope has relied on Digital

alliope

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Calliope was compiled, edited, and designed using Adobe InDesign CS6.

Visual art submissions are emailed to:

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Written submissions are emailed to:

zkuhn@csd99.org

Artwork was edited in Adobe Photoshop CS6.

Body type is Century Gothic. Display type is Garamond Bold.

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