

ROUNDABOUT

NC STATE STUDENT MEDIA

Spring 2024

the DUALITY ISSUE



FEATURES

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- 07. Stage and Song
- 17. Together Apart
- 25. Post-Winter Whimsy

MEET THE STAFF



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Pictured from left to right: Autumn Tate, Nimet Betul Karatas, Bran Poster, Katherine Wan, Quinn Gebeaux, Briana Vreuls, Hayden Love, Audrey Javan, Layney Keesee, Emily Peedin, Jackson Webb. Not pictured: Jinju Hughes, Marlowe Henderson, Reilly Williams-Gardner.

Photo by Hallie Walker

EDITOR'S NOTE

ABOUT US

The newest NC State Student Media outlet, Roundabout is a glossy general interest magazine that covers student life, arts and culture.

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THE COVER

Lincoln Kreifels, lead vocalist for the band Wild Party, serenades the audience during the concert in Cat's Cradle on Jan. 26. After a long hiatus, Wild Party reunited to go on a tenth anniversary tour for their first album, "Phantom Pop," which was released in 2014.

Photo by Emily Peedin

Dear Facebook friends and broiler hens,

I typically begin these notes with wackadoodle musings on random shenanigans, but this time calls for something different. This issue marks a milestone in the journey of Roundabout's resurrection from the proverbial ashes of the coronavirus pandemic. After the spring of 2020, this publication was essentially dead: we had no editors, no staffers, no students on the payroll at all. We didn't publish again until two years later, when I was hired as photo editor. Now, two years after that, we've progressed to producing what you see before you – a magazine that deserves to dominate coffee tables and be framed on living room walls! Roundabout went from existing in name only to being this in just four years, and that's testament to the latent talent of the students at NC State. You need only give us an outlet for our creativity, and this is what we produce.

I may have broken precedent with how I started this editor's note, but by no means will I abandon the time-honored tradition of praising everyone who made this issue happen to high heaven. Activate Mount Vesuvius so it can erupt with the vibrant visuals captured by the inestimably extraordinary Emily Peedin, our photo editor without equal. Send in the aliens to beam up the brilliantly bodacious Briana Vreuls, whose handiwork as design editor is truly out of this world. Dig beneath the Mariana Trench to mimic the depth of our commendable copy editor Audrey Javan's efforts to ensure our writing is pristine. Refloat the Titanic with the buoyant energy of our preeminent promotion director, Layney Keesee, who stops at nothing to ensure this magazine makes waves.

Thanks to Zanna Swann and her bevy of business team birds, who eclipse the golden goose in their laying of money eggs. Thank you to Patrick, our beneficent director and temporary adviser. Thank you to our interviewees, the ever-generous sharers of wit and wisdom. Naturally, I reserve the most thunderous, cacophonous applause for all our staffers, the beating heart of Roundabout, who made this issue legendary. And lastly, I must give a word of honor to the living meme, my personal idol and muse, Stinker the cat.

To the Wolfpack with love,

Gebrand (Bran) Poster
Editor-in-Chief

NC STATE

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Madeline Core, a second-year studying history, and Jackson Lods, a fourth-year studying chemical engineering, embrace during a performance of "Jekyll & Hyde" in Stewart Theatre on Feb. 14. Core played Lucy Harris, one of Jekyll's love interests, while Lods played Dr. Henry Jekyll and Edward Hyde.

Photo by Emily Peedin

From "The People Behind the Personas" on page 14.



SECTION 1 —

All rise for the players and songbirds; they are taking the stage as we speak!

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WILD PARTY

CAT'S CRADLE
CARRBORO, NC
// JAN 26 //

PHANTOM POP
10TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR

*Would it let you down
if we don't grow up?*

-WILD PARTY, "CHASIN' HONEY"

Lawson Galloway, vocalist for the band Galloway, cradles the microphone during a performance in Cat's Cradle on Jan. 26. Galloway performed a variety of songs from their discography, including "Boys Like You" and "American Failure."

Photo by Emily Peedin

Written and designed by Briana Vreuls

Naming yourself "Wild Party" is bold, but by this band's tenth anniversary tour, they found a way to more than live up to their name.

This face-melting indie pop band takes inspiration from hardcore punk, but has instead found itself writing danceable melodies woven with lyrics that offer us a chance to wonder why we do what we do and how our wants and dreams shape who we are. On January 26, they played in Cat's Cradle, an eclectic corner of Carrboro, NC. It may not look it, but it's turning into one of the top music venues in the United States. It's become a must-stop for established and emerging musicians alike, a cozy venue that blurs the line between audience and performer to create a unique and memorable experience.

At Cat's Cradle, it's easy to become part of a whole and find a sense of community surrounded by strangers. Wild Party is no exception, and plays music to make real connections with people. They take every chance they have to do the things they love because not doing so simply isn't an option.

If this band wants to be one thing, it's authentic. Lead singer Lincoln Kreifels explained that you can really hear the difference when a song is genuine. I asked him whether it was a struggle to write music for himself versus writing for what he thinks people will listen to and he replied, "It's really not a struggle for me, though, because I really do just write it for myself... The best part about that is that it attracts happy, kind people as well. So tonight will be ... filled with an

audience of really happy, kind people." And so it was. For Kreifels, connecting with as many people in the audience as possible helps him to connect just as well with his fellow performers and the stage.

"I love music, but I love people even more, and connecting with people is probably my favorite thing," he said.

Whether an indie pop fan or not, Wild Party's dedication to playing music with sincerity has led them to write songs that tend to speak, in some way, to everybody. It's about a love of music, and when you listen, you hear that.

"I think that if we're happy with [our music], then hopefully the world is. If not, then whatever. I'm just happy to make music that I'm proud of and that I enjoy," explained Kreifels.

Emotions felt suspended in midair as he walked off the stage and into the crowd to play one final song and the room sang along. There was an authenticity that's hard to match, but easily found for those looking in the right places. Supporting local venues and small concerts can make all the difference for artists trying to share their love for music, and create indescribable memories for everyone in the room.

Lincoln Kreifels, lead vocalist for the band Wild Party, belts into the microphone during the concert in Cat's Cradle on Jan. 26. Wild Party performed the entirety of their debut album, "Phantom Pop," alongside some new music.

Photo by Emily Peedin



The band Wild Party suspends a quiet moment during their concert in Cat's Cradle on Jan. 26. After a long hiatus, Wild Party reunited to go on a tenth anniversary tour for their first album, "Phantom Pop," which was released in 2014.

Photo by Briana Vreuls



Harsh Hoag, lead vocalist for the band Cousin Simple, raises his hands toward the audience during the concert in Cat's Cradle on Jan. 26. Cousin Simple performed songs like "Prima Donna," "Boy.Girl" and "You Want It You Got It."

Photo by Emily Peedin



Cary LaScala, drummer for the band Wild Party, raises his sticks in the air during the concert in Cat's Cradle on Jan. 26. Wild Party performed a variety of songs from their discography, like "Chasin' Honey" and "OutRight."

Photo by Briana Vreuls

Post-Winter Catharsis Playlists

By Roundabout Staff
Designed by Marlowe Henderson



So Alright, Cool, Whatever

The Happy Fits Layney's Pick

"Just like the band name implies, this track is perfect for rolling your windows down and singing at the top of your lungs. Plus, this song isn't played on the radio, so you can be insufferably pretentious for knowing it while still infusing the dreary cold with summer vibes"



Move Your Feet

Junior Senior Marlowe's Pick

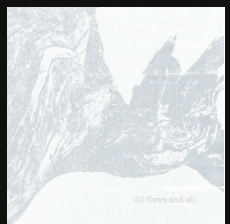
"This song has a great tempo for power-walking to class in the warm weather. You can't help but move your feet regardless of the song's lyrics. It's been a classic hype song since our generation's introduction to it in 'Just Dance 2.'"



Flowering

LUCY Audrey's Pick

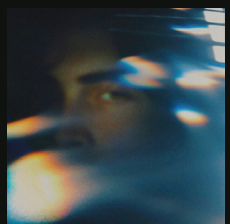
"This song — from lyrics to tune to bright violin melody — is the audio equivalent of the warm, swirling spring wind that blesses kites, flower petals and pinwheels. There's truly nothing like this song to uplift the heart and get it to start running again, excited to be beating."



love.

wave to earth Autumn's Pick

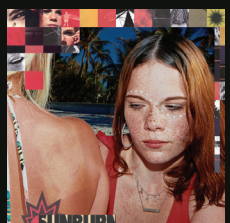
"It was just so hard to pick one singular song. I love the calming vibe of wave to earth songs in general — they're perfect for easy listening. This song in particular has a slower heartfelt melody that almost makes you feel like levitating, creating such a dreamy atmosphere."



Ultraviolet

Aiden Bissett Hayden's Pick

"The song has a great head bop vibe to it that can pick you up out of anything. It makes you appreciate the moment, view things a little more positively and take in moments with the people you care about. This song makes you feel like the main character in your movie."



Mona Lisa

Dominic Fike Briana's Pick

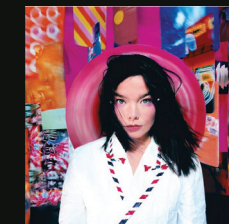
"I've never listened to this song and not danced. It builds really slowly, peppy on the down-low, in a way that fills your chest with the same joy felt during those first days of the year that you can leave the apartment without your jacket."



Soren

beabadoobee Jinju's Pick

"It's impossible not to feel an overwhelming wave of serenity the second this song plays. The melody's gentleness and the lyrics' tenderness feel like a warm, soothing hug around your ears. This song may remind you of that one special person — or their absence."



It's Oh So Quiet

Bjork Jackson's Pick

"From the glittering big band horns to the manic vocal performance, this song serves as both a celebration that the gloomy winter days are behind us and a looming reminder that the same gloom will return. Plus, you get to correct people on how to say Björk, and that's fun."



Bird Song

Grateful Dead Reilly's Pick

"From the first iconic guitar line, this song draws you into its soothing calm hippie beat. Then, flowing into this vista of music, Jerry Garcia's smooth voice further expands these feelings and sends your mind into vast new worlds."



Dreams

Fleetwood Mac Emily's Pick

"Similar to a black and white TV vampire, this song causes my coffin door to slam open and myself to arise from within. In it, Stevie Nicks sings of some needed new beginnings with the cleansing of a good rain — something we all might need after winter season."



Trees

Maude Latour Katherine's Pick

"This song is a cathartic reflection of grief, proving the lasting impact of a loved one to be as natural as the breathing of the trees. What better way to herald the end of winter than to listen to Latour's sweet and calming voice, as full of breath as the trees she sings of?"



Scooby-Doo, Where are You?

Scooby-Doo Bran's Pick

"If the Scooby-Doo theme song was an over-the-counter pain reliever, I imagine that its label would warn patients that it may cause disorientation and mild hallucinogenic effects. In my mind, it's a musical reflection of the ennui of winter break that I want to escape from."



The People Behind the Personas

University Theatre Staff Reflect on Jekyll & Hyde

By Katherine Wan, Photos by Emily Peedin

This spring, University Theatre explored good and evil and the true nature of humanity through their “Jekyll and Hyde” production. “Jekyll and Hyde” is a musical adaptation of the 1886 novella “Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde” by Robert Louis Stevenson. In the musical, Dr. Jekyll attempts to cure his father’s mental illness by separating good from evil in the human psyche, but instead unlocks his own evil alter-ego, Mr. Hyde.

Assistant Director Brinley Carter, a second-year student studying communication, explained Dr. Jekyll’s frustrations with the Board of Governors in the play. Due to their own selfish desires, Dr. Jekyll is initially prohibited from carrying out an experiment to find a cure for his father. The unfair treatment he received from the governors only motivates him more. In order to study good versus evil within people, he carries out the experiment without permission. However, without permission, he is left to experiment on himself, which ultimately backfires and he must grapple with the consequences, as his two personas fight for dominance over his body.

“I feel like that evil was already inherent in him in a sense, and I’m not sure if that’s the message that Danica, our director, meant to convey,” said Carter. “I found that really interesting, how Jekyll almost takes on this persona, [but] that they are kind of the same person.”

Bri Bernhardt, a first-year student studying psychology, took on the role of Bisset, the apothecary in the production. Although Bisset can be played by any gender, the role is more commonly played by men, given that women were often not allowed to study medicine during the time “Jekyll and Hyde” was set in. This gave Bernhardt a unique opportunity to play with the characterization of Bisset, setting aside extra time for research and discussions with her director.

“I had a lot of discussions with Danica about ... what it was like for a woman to be an apothecary back then, the kind of respect she would get in the medical field and how she would combat the gender stereotypes by doing things like wearing pants, wearing her hair up; it’s as simple as that,” said Bernhardt.

Not only did Bernhardt research to prepare for the role, she also spent countless hours pouring over her script and lyrics, practiced

lines with her roommate and even created a playlist to get in the mindset of the character she plays. As an actor, there are a set of expectations that come with every role, even internally. And for newcomers like Bernhardt, there’s an additional set of expectations to get along with others and to make friends. Fortunately, Bernhardt was able to find a community in University Theatre.

“I had a support system of people that cared about me, who were all there for [the] common ground of just wanting to collaboratively create with each other,” said Bernhardt. “And that was something so beautiful, and that quickly eased those challenges and made things 10 times more fun in the process.”

For Carter, who is also a swing, or understudy, in the musical, there is pressure to know any part she may be called for, even if she never gets to perform it. But if she does, she must ensure that other actors can perform smoothly despite the change in cast. Her work as assistant director and a swing, along with the work of many others, is the reason the show exists.

“As assistant director, [seeing] you guys shine, not even because of the lights or because of all the effects that we have going on, but because of all the hard work you guys have put into it was really just amazing,” said Carter, speaking directly to Bernhardt.

Although University Theatre’s “Jekyll and Hyde” production may have come to an end, they are always looking for fresh faces to fill Stewart and Titmus, both on stage and off.

“As long as you just come with that creative sense of just wanting to freely play and not be afraid to make mistakes, and [a] hard work ethic ... you are so welcome here,” said Bernhardt. “All it takes is one email, all it takes is showing up to one audition.”

Scan the code below to visit the University Theatre website.



Madeline Core, a second-year studying history, mimics a cabaret performance during “Jekyll & Hyde” in Stewart Theatre on Feb. 14. “Jekyll & Hyde” focuses on the duality of good and evil within man.



Jackson Lods (left), a fourth-year studying chemical engineering, stares into the eyes of Madalyn Alexander (right), a fourth-year studying psychology and English, in Stewart Theatre on Feb. 14. Lods played Dr. Henry Jekyll and Edward Hyde, while Alexander played Emma Carew, one of Jekyll's love interests.



Day Steed, a fourth-year studying biochemistry, reaches out towards the audience during a performance of "Jekyll & Hyde" in Stewart Theatre on Feb. 14. The musical was based on author Robert Louis Stevenson's novel, "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde."

SECTION 2 —

The dichotomies are what make us a unit — listen, look and learn from each other

Together Apart

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STEM VS. Liberal Arts

Written by
Jackson Webb

Designed by
Jinju Hughes



dichotomy is Jornell Bacon's 2018 piece "Furano," where bright kaleidoscopic colors contrast against rigid geometric shapes and textures. At the time, Bacon was a second-year studying industrial design, and that same attention to shape and efficiency of space and meaning shine through in a way that is both dynamically chaotic and concisely organized. "Furano" both praises the wonders of the joy of creation while also showing that creation itself is not entirely based on dreamlike flights of fancy, but is something that builds upon itself, establishing order and direction. The strengths of both STEM and liberal arts are represented within the design of "Furano." Similarly, Daoru Wang's 2014 ink painting "The Land in my Dream" mixes exacting precision from their background as a civil engineering first-year with the ephemeral beauty of a dream, representing the uneasy consistent logic of a fleeting memory.

Within a school as STEM-forward as NC State, it is important to remember that the skills of technical and analytical reasoning are equally important as communication and abstract thinking. A balanced and successful person needs skills in R (an open-source programming language) as well as familiarity with the works of the Renaissance: if not for combatting a single-minded focus on success, then for the enrichment of the soul. And this doesn't have to take the form of taking an English class alongside your finance coursework; it can be as simple as joining a book club, or going

to an art museum. For the liberal arts students out there, take an interest in the physical creation of the art you love, the materials and science of the buildings you admire, the formulation of the paints you use or the engineering of the paper for your books. Not only does this make you a more well-rounded person with empathy for the more STEM focused among us, your work itself will improve as you learn more about the facets of different ways of life.

Knowledge is knowledge and learning is learning, no matter the form it takes, so open yourself up to the side of your brain that you may not use as much. I know I have.

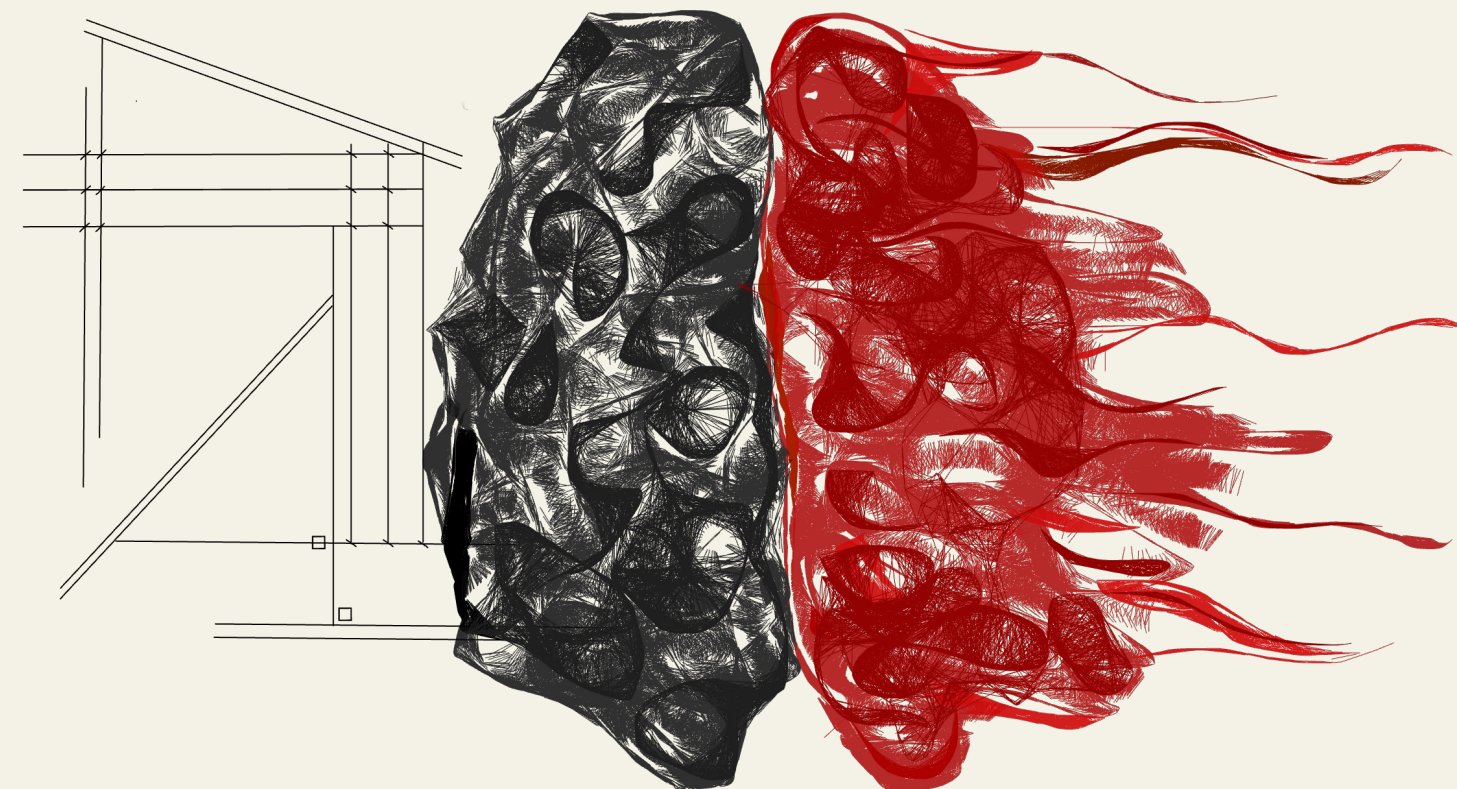
I sat in my academic adviser's office, the spring of my second year, feeling the pit in my stomach. I really, really didn't want to, but I had to break up with them. It wasn't them, it was me. I had done something awful, unforgivable and that I would soon come to regret: I was becoming a STEM major. Previously, I had committed to laying down a single plank on the attempted bridge between STEM and the liberal arts by being a dual biology and English major, but that commitment was not something I held myself to for long. Classes I needed to take stacked up, deadlines loomed and the two sides of my brain threatened to strike if I kept disrespecting them with my indecision. So I made the decision and stuck with biology, jettisoning English and, unfortunately, my adviser. They took it well, better than I thought they would. Leaving the office, the pit in my stomach remained. I thought it would be gone with the relief of an assurance that

"I'll be fine" and
"You'll do well over on
that side of campus,"

but it stayed, lingering with the rest of my doubts. Swimming through my mind were the great minds who did what I couldn't and built that bridge. Da Vinci. Sagan. Audubon. Masters of both the rigors of scientific discipline and the communicative precision of the arts. And I had abandoned them.

I can't imagine I'm the only one who has ever had to make this choice. From early on in the educational system, disciplines are distinctly separated into subjects, carved out in hour-long blocks; there is no overlap, no chance for the mind to meander into the fault lines that delineate the beginnings of language arts from the ends of mathematics. Barriers between the subjects are placed early and remain ingrained into the mind of students for the entirety of their education and into adulthood. When taken with the considerable societal preference given towards careers that produce a large amount of tangible output, such as the buildings of an engineer or the medications of a scientist as opposed to the abstract writings of a philosophy or history student, then it is easy to see how these early biases against STEM or liberal arts remain staunchly held throughout life.

However, biases established in kindergarten do not necessarily need to remain. Through a holistic understanding of the benefits gained from both STEM and liberal arts educations, not only can the learner themselves become a much more well-rounded person, but a greater sense of empathy for those with different skills can emerge. Dotting the walls of the Talley Student Union are numerous pieces of artwork created by students from both STEM and liberal arts backgrounds. These artworks depict abstract emotions from joy to loss to hope, combining the strengths of both disciplines and synthesizing an understanding of the human experience beyond that of the dogmatic binary of left vs. right brain. Exemplifying this



The Literary Practice of Judging Books by their Covers

By Audrey Javan, Designed by Nimet Betul Karatas

The literary community, like any art community, thrives on hierarchy. Whether it's to uplift elitist critics/scholars/authors, or whether it's made to genuinely help the reader, the resulting structure exists nonetheless. It goes by many names, and can take many forms. One of them is literary merit.

AP Literature gave me many formative memories of my early English career, one of them being exam prep, where I first heard of literary merit. For those who didn't take it, the exam, among many other herculean tasks, asks for a short analysis essay about either one of the books you studied in class or "a book similar in quality," according to the College Board. My teacher — a brilliant woman who isn't fully characterized in this story, just so you know — explained that we were to analyze a book with literary merit for this prompt.

According to the people who study this kind of thing, literary merit is awarded based on the quality of the novel; complex characters, deep themes, originality, use of literary devices and beautiful prose are some features of meritorious literature. When I asked what kind of book that would be, all my teacher said was, "Not 'Harry Potter'!"

That memory has stuck with me. Certainly she didn't mean that "Harry Potter" is the only book or series to lack literary merit. Perhaps she was referring to middle-grade or YA series, which are generally looked down on as lesser art. I'm not as well-versed in middle-grade as I was when I was in middle school, but do famous YA titles like "Six of Crows" by Leigh Bardugo or "The Raven Boys" by Maggie Stiefvater not contain complex themes, characters and masterful writing? I can't think of a single technical category in which those series lack, and yet, where are their academic achievements? Why aren't they present in the exclusive lists of worthy literature?

As the exam approached, I joked to a friend that I would write my analysis paper on MXTX's "The Grandmaster

of Demonic Cultivation," an iconic epic of fantasy and mystery. Undeniably, it contains complex themes and characters. The writing was well-spun even through the online fan-made translation I was reading. Its convoluted plot line spanning decades of war and political intrigue involving dozens of characters with multiple names and titles never got tangled, and the author didn't forget a single loose thread by the end. There are themes of family trauma, grief and the dangers of rumors and reputations wrapped in Austenian romance and a deep magic system, all of which written to the level of novels I've been assigned to read in university English courses. I hold that if this book was traditionally published by an Englishman at least 20 years earlier (and if the romance was straight), it would be a fantasy classic.

Given this, does it have literary merit? Probably not, based on the academic perception of Chinese romantic fantasy. Perhaps I could argue it, given half an hour in front of some secret committee, but the College Board doesn't want to deal with that. I was too scared to analyze it for the class. I probably wrote about "Hamlet" instead.

Maybe the point of assigning literary merit is to demarcate which books the reader will benefit from reading. Scholars mark off the books that they're certain contain deep, philosophical themes and empathetic characters and masterful use of language and whatever, and place those up on a pedestal separate from all the other books, which they're unsure of. On one hand, I see the point of this. Reading is a hobby, it's an escape, but it's also meant to teach us things about the world and about ourselves. In a book that's been given the literary stamp of approval, you can more easily assume that someone can read it and grab a meaningful, lasting souvenir. It's not impossible that those literary themes won't be missed in a classic, given the

number of adaptations in which Dorian Gray is a brunette, but it should be at least less common. On the other hand, a book itself isn't at fault for inattentive reading, and I don't think that should count against the book's legacy. Just because a scholar or award committee hasn't stamped a novel for its success in portraying theme or character doesn't mean that that book doesn't portray theme and character. A skilled, joyous reader will be able to pick apart complex meaning in many unlikely texts, and you won't find them suffering for that. As long as the theme is conveyed and extracted, what's the problem?

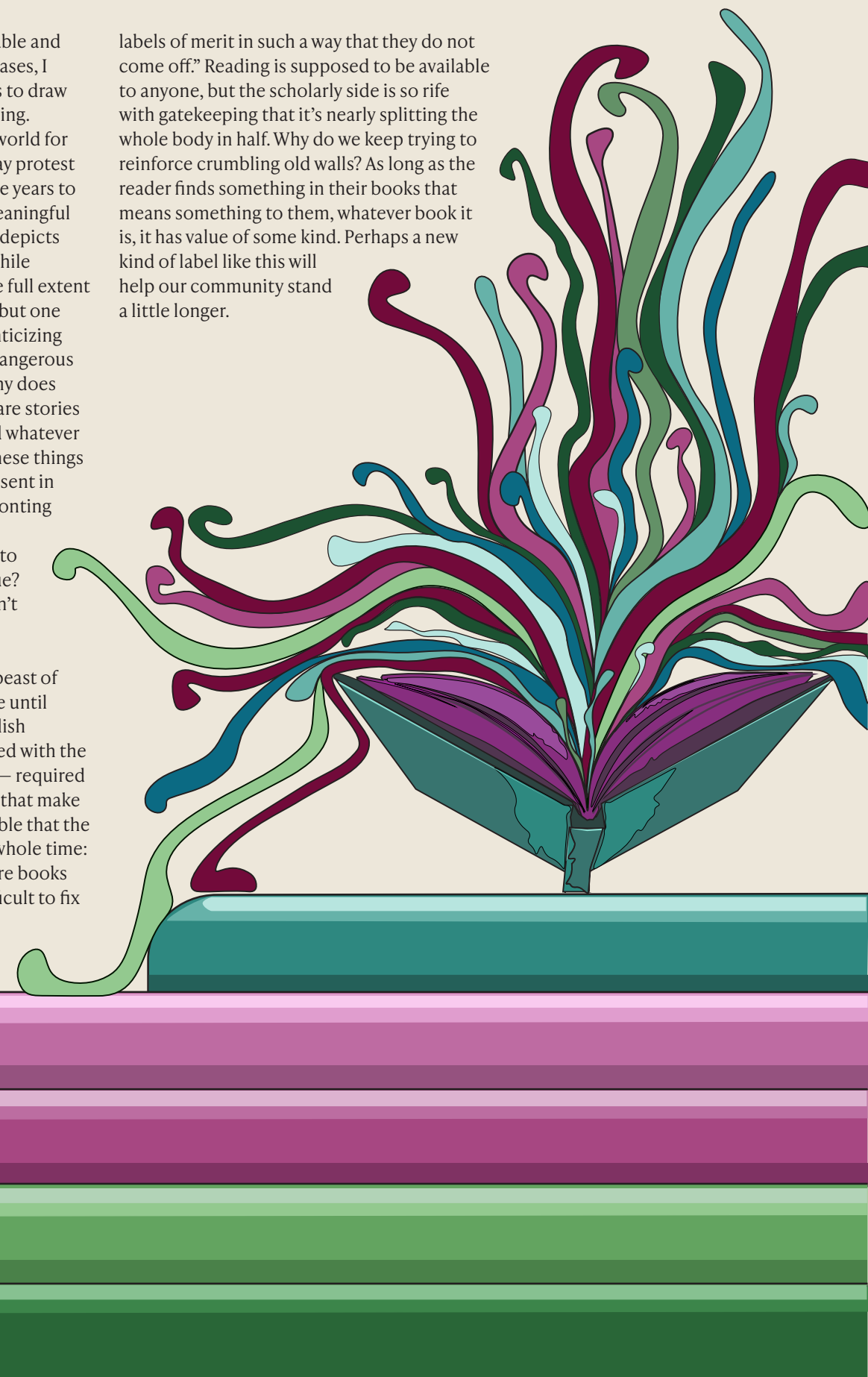
Ursula K. Le Guin, an author known famously for her science fiction, critiqued a similar hierarchy in "Genre: A Word only a Frenchman Could Love." In the speech, she was specifically calling out distinction between realistic fiction and genre fiction, in which realistic fiction was placed in high prestige and genre fiction was something to look down one's nose at. Fantasy is for kids, sci-fi is for dweebs, horror is for freaks and romance is for saps. There's nothing to be gained in reading these genres. Realistic, literary fiction, on the other hand, is for the educated, the ones who really know what literature is all about. Surely, whoever came up with and upholds this distinction has never really challenged themselves while reading. If they had, they would realize that genre fiction, like high fantasy and hard sci-fi, can contain deep, personal truths about humanity the same way that a literary work can. Maybe sometimes, even better.

It is also not lost on me that most of the books of artistic value are ones that almost wallow in darkness. They're often biting stories about rough lives wrought with pain and disaster, often without resolution. While these

kinds of stories are absolutely valuable and unfortunately true to life, in many cases, I think that it can be quite dangerous to draw a line connecting suffering to meaning. This concept has existed in the art world for uncountable years and, though I may protest it, I can see it existing for many more years to come. Art is more (perhaps only) meaningful when the artist is suffering, when it depicts suffering, when the reader suffers while consuming it so they can realize the full extent of the suffering in the world. It's all but one single step away from simply romanticizing the suffering itself, which is a very dangerous thing to do. It begs the question, why does only gritty art get celebrated? Why are stories of hope, love, magic, friendship and whatever else sidelined as secondary when these things are just as important and just as present in the world? By predominantly forefronting tales of woe as the only stories of value, what are we implicitly saying to readers? That happiness has no value? That you've grown out of light? I can't agree with that.

It's quite possible that this elusive beast of definition will continue to elude me until I attain my symbolic nirvana of English scholarship. Then, I shall be rewarded with the sight — or maybe just the snobbery — required to truly see the inferiority of books that make the reader smile. It's also very possible that the answer has been right with me the whole time: as Virginia Woolf once wrote, "Where books are concerned, it is notoriously difficult to fix

labels of merit in such a way that they do not come off." Reading is supposed to be available to anyone, but the scholarly side is so rife with gatekeeping that it's nearly splitting the whole body in half. Why do we keep trying to reinforce crumbling old walls? As long as the reader finds something in their books that means something to them, whatever book it is, it has value of some kind. Perhaps a new kind of label like this will help our community stand a little longer.



League of Legends: Women's Flag Football

By Quinn Gebeaux, Photos contributed by Intramural Women's Flag Football League

Believe it or not, Monday Night Football is returning this spring. Under the lights on Miller Fields, you can find several teams competing in the second season of the intramural women's and sorority flag football league.

Kappa Alpha Theta's team is entering this season with a goal in mind: to return to the playoffs and win the league title. Last season they reached the championship game – played at Close-King Indoor Practice Facility – and lost to fellow sorority, Sigma Kappa. A year previously, Kappa Alpha Theta was competing in the open division, which is welcome to any player, regardless of gender.

Following that season, Emily Tummino, a player on the Kappa Alpha Theta team, reached out to Wellness and Recreation about reinstating a women's and sorority league. A women's and sorority league has existed before, however it had been discontinued by spring 2022.

"I think they assumed women did not want to play flag football," said Ava Berry, another Kappa Alpha Theta player. Berry primarily plays the "spy" position, man-marking and potentially rushing the opposing team's quarterback.

The league has not seen a lack of interest. After hearing Tummino's suggestion, Wellness and Recreation added a single women's and sorority division last fall. The league ended up with five teams and eight on the waitlist. Those five teams were Walking Red Flags, Sigma Kappa, Zeta Tau Alpha, Kappa Killas and Kappa Alpha Theta. This year, the league has five teams and six more on the waitlist, yet still only one division.

Kappa Alpha Theta has worked through several milestones, from scoring their first points, to finally winning a match, to reaching the finals.

"After each game we talk about what we can do better," says Nitin Chitrala, the team's coach. Chitrala says he draws inspiration from watching NC State football games and doing his own analysis. "I'm sure a professional would say we were wrong." Still this has not stopped the team from experimenting and achieving good results.

During last season, the coaching staff has turned into a roster itself, with an offensive coordinator, defensive coordinator and offensive analyst. This seems to be the case with intramural sports: students sign up for them to do

something with friends, but it quickly becomes something much more serious. Joking about adding a short audible (an on-the-spot change to the play that the quarterback yells at the line of scrimmage) turns into the quarterback shouting launch codes at the next game.

Carolyn Szempruch, a tight end for Kappa Alpha Theta, says introducing more women to the sport can be incredibly rewarding: "I didn't shut up about it."

Some players may not have experienced the competitive intensity of sports before, which makes it all the more fun to see them play for the first time.

"That's one of my favorite things," said Szempruch. "Seeing them come out and just letting their emotions run wild. I know I'm stomping the ground. ... You've got to dial them back a little bit."

"There was one game in particular – I scored four touchdowns that game," said Szempruch. "I ate my Wheaties that morning."

"I was on the sidelines, just yelling, 'Run that again, throw it to Carolyn,'" Chitrala recalled.

Women's flag football has been met with a high level of interest despite there being few opportunities until now. In just 2022, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools started the state's first women's high school flag football league. Locally, 19 Wake County high schools will start offering women's flag football this spring. Both of these programs are supported by grants from the Carolina Panthers. Still, the majority of schools in North Carolina, especially those not in larger school districts, do not run flag football programs for women. Nationally, only 19 states offer women's flag football at a high school level.

One barrier to the expansion of intramural sports for all participants is the lack of referees. Flag football, 11v11 soccer and competitive basketball all require three officials. It can be hard to



A sign applauding the coaches of the intramural women's flag football team sits on the ground during their championship game in Close-King Indoor Practice Facility on Nov. 29, 2023.

meet this demand when the referees are given a base pay of \$11 an hour. Increasing their wages could incentivize more students to give it a shot. Another possibility Wellness and Recreation could consider is linking being a referee to a better chance of getting a ticket in the football and basketball ticket lotteries.

Berry points out another potential change: having a trainer available on the busy game nights. Campus Health closes at 5 p.m. on weekdays, so injured players have no on-campus options to receive urgent care. Berry has had personal experience with this issue; she sustained a concussion while playing in the open flag football league last spring.

"He was flag guarding, but they didn't call it," she said.

She did not get diagnosed with a concussion until late the next day, after she had already taken an exam in class. Teammates will likely not have the knowledge to diagnose injuries or give basic treatment. It can be especially hard to give advice to an injured teammate that desperately wants to get back into the game.

Even with all the limitations, women's flag football at NC State has seen a quick rise in popularity since its revival.

"We had more watchers than we had players," said Szempruch. "It's electric. People bring out cameras and signs."

Intramural sports are a great way to spend a weekday night with friends and let off steam, whether you're playing or watching. For those that have not participated in organized sports before, or been denied the opportunity, they can also be a chance to see yourself and your teammates under a new light.

Scan the code on the right to visit the Intramural Sports website.



(Left) Lily Wilson, a second-year studying fashion and textile management, throws the ball during their championship game in Close-King Indoor Practice Facility on Nov. 29, 2023.



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SECTION 3 —

Fun times are
popping out of the
frost like daisies!

Post-Winter Whimsy

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VICTORIAN FLOWERS

and HOW to USE THEM

By Layney Keese, Designed by Briana Vreuls

When the phrase “Victorian era” crops up in conversation, many people’s first thoughts might be of proper, well-to-do men and women, or perhaps of the life-threatening concoctions they used as medication, or even of the arsenic they used in wallpaper and the lead plates they ate off of. These generalizations of the period, as true as they might be, often depict the Victorian era as humanity’s great period of trial and error, with heavy emphasis on error.

However, if there’s anything that the Victorians did right, it was subtlety. Seemingly everything had double meaning, including flowers. Many books were written and dedicated during this time period to serve as a comprehensive guide in how to communicate solely in foliage. While some flowers today are still associated with particular meanings, like roses symbolizing love, we as a society have largely done away with the language of flowers. Some meanings are still applicable today, as they represent emotions all of humanity faces, but some are a little outdated. Therefore, I’ve composed a list of common flowers, their historical meanings and how they could instead be applied to college culture today.

CARNATIONS

In some species of flowers, the meanings can differ in stark contrasts between colors. A carnation could simply be an indication of a woman’s love, but striped and yellow carnations take on more negative connotations: striped carnations are indicative of refusal, while yellow carnations are a sign of disdain. Today, carnations of all colors are used frequently in Mother’s Day arrangements and anniversary presents, but I suggest going back to the root of the flower’s history. A beautiful bouquet of striped and yellow carnations is perfect for that Tinder date that came on a little too strong.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS

Chrysanthemums were, in the cases of red and white varieties, symbols of love and truth respectively. However, in the times of the Victorians, yellow chrysanthemums symbolized a fear of falling in love. While we simply think of them as a seasonal front porch decoration to accompany pumpkins, a Victorian would look upon our house decor with morose pity. Perhaps gifting a bunch of yellow chrysanthemums to your academic advisor will properly demonstrate your commitment issues when it comes to sticking with a major.



Dianthus caryophyllus
for refusal and disdain



C. X. Morifolium
for commitment issues



DAISIES

Red and white daisies demonstrate beauty and innocence. However, I find these meanings in particular uninspired and overdone, as roses in the same colors can represent the very same things and are much more iconic. What if these flowers symbolized school spirit for NC State instead? Red and White Week might just be that much more interesting with the presence of brightly-hued flowers. After all, how many universities can say they have a school flower?



Bellis perennis
for Wolfpack pride

DOGWOOD BLOSSOMS

As dogwood blossoms are North Carolina’s state flower, it’s perfectly fitting to add them to the list. Not to mention the Victorians used them to convey total indifference, which is both somewhat humorous and depressing. In my mind, there is no meaning I could conjure for this flower that would be better than what the Victorians suggest. The perfect use of a bundle of dogwood flowers would be a gift to the professor you don’t get along with. Maybe they’re a harsh grader or maybe they’re just plain mean. What better way to show some passive aggression than to give them beautiful blossoms?



Cornus florida
for indifference

LAVENDER

Historically, lavender was used to represent distrust. Again, I don’t suggest we change the meaning of this one, and instead supply some common instances where it might be useful for us today. Use lavender for your best friend’s shady partner or the ex-situationship you keep bumping into on campus. Hopefully they take the hint.



Lavandula
for distrust

HYDRANGEAS

Hydrangeas are indicative of arrogance. Unfortunately, hydrangeas are my personal favorite flower, and I’d rather they had a more positive meaning. So, I propose hydrangeas instead stand for friendship and gratitude. Cliche as it may be, sometimes the biggest reward of our college experience is the people we meet and the lifelong connections we make. Give these pastel petals to your roommate who became your best friend, the professor who helped you in your academic journey or the faculty that help keep campus running.



Hydrangea macrophylla
for friendship

Humans have always been too complicated and messy for direct communication. In our modern day, we’ve reinvented hieroglyphics with emojis and implemented slang that would put our great-grandparents in comas just so our vernacular never gets too easily decodable to those outside our circle. However, our modern three-letter abbreviations feel decidedly boring and simply not dramatic enough when compared to our Victorian ancestors. I vote we bring back the floral language we have collectively forgotten. After all, who wants to have a clear and easily understood conversation when you can leave vague hints with pretty flowers?

Sorf Narolina Drate University's Temporal Master Plan

By Bran Poster and Audrey Javan, Photos by Emily Peedin

The following is a satire inspired by NC State's latest Physical Master Plan, "Framing the Future."

Attention humans: make obeisance¹ to the Eleven Deans and be humbled, for their Holiness the Senior Vice Provost of Propheteering, blessed be, has proclaimed the seventeenth iteration of Sorf Narolina Drate University's sacred Master Plan. What follows hence is the transcription of his grand ramblings, so that our beloved student body may look upon them and turn bright eyes towards the future.

"And lo, mine eyes beheld skybridges splitting the heavens, as mine ears felt the external rhythm of window facades," their Holiness intoned. "The word became flesh and the flesh became brick."

As their Holiness expounded², the fenestration³ pattern precedent of surrounding buildings overwhelmed the Eleven Deans, who began chanting the mantra of tripartite⁴ organization: "BASE, MIDDLE, TOP. BASE, MIDDLE, TOP."

Meanwhile, Bleeblorb and Snozgrad, the Martian architects commissioned by their Holiness to execute the master plan, expressed their passion for the project to a reporter from Boundarout.

"This is the first time we've built human-scale structures since dynastic Egypt," said Bleeblorb.

"We had to account for human grasp, reach, stride, mobility and the distances at which people can recognize and hear one another, which was really thrilling," added Snozgrad.

The Martian's designs include multiple "micromobility corridors" for smaller humans and gnomes, as well as "The Seam," a shanty town for indebted grad students. Bricks have been incorporated into the blueprints whenever possible, for, to quote their Holiness, "metal is subordinate to brick."



A sign restricts pedestrians from entering a construction zone outside of D.H. Hill Library on Feb. 17. According to the library website, the building received major renovations that were completed in 2020.

It is well known that this university adores its students, and choosing between class cohorts is like choosing one's favorite child: the latest is always the best. With that in mind, the prophecy envisions a grand reinvigorating of this campus with new life symbolic of the new life we will someday receive. Though the current students may be impeded slightly by the demolition of dining areas, living accommodations and main roadways, that is a sacrifice the Eleven Deans are willing to make.

Their Holiness exhorted the current penitents of Sorf Narolina Drate: "Have patience, dear body, and be not vainglorious⁵! It is not in your cards to enjoy the luxuries of campus, but to spend your youthful university days tiptoeing around ditches and inhaling dust and exhaust for the sake of progress. It is truly the least you can do for the incoming future generations of our Sorf Narolina family."

As is the vision of their Holiness, when the young eyes of the next generation of students behold the all-new campus sometime around or possibly beyond 2045, their joy will make every struggle worth it.

Some have asked the Eleven Deans, "What of the eternal poison found in the ducts and drywall and, indeed, the very air of Poe Hall?" (Redaction made to protect the mental wellbeing of the readers who may not know of the eternal poison.) To this, the council has expressed little concern.

"We are aware of the eternal poison," said the Dean Supreme of the West Corridor, "and we promise that none of our new buildings will have it. Have no fear."

After dispensing this encouragement, the Dean Supreme shut his eyes and returned to his vow of silence.

Sorf Narolina Drate has always placed high value on preserving history, which, do not forget, includes the multipurpose facilities built during the great Era of Poison. These structures remind us of a prosperous time. With every available resource diverted towards the gradual reintroduction of bricks to Brickland – from which they had been evacuated – there is no possibility of testing other Poison Era buildings for the eternal poison. But, to quote the chairman, have no fear! If it was any danger, we would certainly have been informed of such posthaste.

Their Holiness and the Eleven Deans thank you in advance for your submission to the plan. But for those blasphemers whose hearts are hardened with heresy, take heed: you will be interdigitated⁶ with wet benches.

1. obeisance
(oh-bey-suhns) *noun*
a gesture expressing deferential respect, such as a bow or curtsy.

2. expound
(ik-spound) *verb*
present and explain (a theory or idea) systematically and in detail.

3. fenestration
(fen-uh-strey-shuhn) *noun*
the design and disposition of windows and other exterior openings of a building.

4. tripartite
(trahy-pahr-tahyt) *adj*
shared by or involving three parties.

5. vainglorious
(veyn-glawr-ee-uhs) *adj*
excessively proud of oneself or one's achievements; overly vain.

6. interdigitate
(in-ter-dij-i-teyt) *verb*
(of two or more things) interlock like the fingers of two clasped hands.

Definitions from Oxford Languages.



Construction takes place outside of D.H. Hill Library on Feb. 17. NC State broke ground for the new Integrative Sciences Building on Sept. 8, 2023.



The side of D.H. Hill Library is being worked on on Feb. 17. The Brickyard has seen major demolition in preparation for the construction of the new Integrative Sciences Building.



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Water Bottle Personality Quiz

By Jackson Webb, Illustrated by Autumn Tate, Designed by Briana Vreuls

We all gotta drink water, so why not make it about you? Whether you are a die-hard Nalgeneist or a fan of the retro canteen, take our water bottle personality quiz and find out the best way to sip in style!



Plastic Water Bottle

You keep it simple and down to earth. Life to you is like an arrow: straightforward and based only on what is ahead of you. Why worry about some silly things like metal, style and the increasing march of micro and macro plastics into every facet of life when you have chemistry class in an hour?

Famous plastic water bottles:

Harrison Ford, George Washington, Queen Elizabeth II, Simon (from Alvin and the Chipmunks)



Gallon Water Jug

Okay, we know you swim. That doesn't mean you have to carry your pool around with you. In all fairness, you've been training a lot now that regionals are coming up, so I'm not mad. I just wish I had your forearm strength.

Famous Gallon Water Jugs:

Michael Phelps, Alexander the Great, Meryl Streep, Dave (from Alvin and the Chipmunks)



Fishtank

You love a novelty, and I don't blame you for knowing that variety is the spice of life! All those fun little colors and shapes floating in there seem so wonderful. Nevermind that you have to drag your water bottle around in a wagon behind you, you got a light up crazy straw!

Famous Fishtanks:

William Shakespeare, Catherine O'Hara, Dolly Parton, Theodore (from Alvin and the Chipmunks)



Gourd

You're so cottagecore it hurts. Why have some stupid corporate mass-produced water bottle when you could have a beautiful husk that you freshly picked this morning to store the graceful morning dewdrops. I envy your commitment to your aesthetic.

Famous Gourds:

John Muir, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Jane Goodall, Eleanor (from Alvin and the Chipmunks)



Nalgene

An absolute individual. While you probably bought the Nalgene for its nigh-unbreakability, you fell in love with it for its endless personalization options. Your concept of self is strong, even if you won't shut up about that one band in Asheville that sold you the sticker from their van out back. *You* probably wouldn't know them though.

Famous Nalgenes:

Timothee Chalamet, Ben Franklin, Cleopatra, Jeanette (from Alvin and the Chipmunks)



Chalice

You are bold, always wanting to make life the greatest party it can be! You've never had any problem about being the center of attention. In fact, you adore it. Every inch of you is bespoke, so why let your portable thirst-quencher be any different?

Famous Chalice:

Henry VIII, Marie Antoinette, Siegfried and Roy, Alvin (from Alvin and the Chipmunks)



Hydroflask

You are an absolute team player! All your friends love you, and your commitment to coordination makes everyone else frankly jealous. Seriously, how do y'all coordinate styles for every day of the week when I can't find a time to go play mini golf with my friends? My mini golf coupon is about to expire!

Famous Hydroflasks:

Franklin D. Roosevelt, Tom Brady, Taylor Swift, Brittany (from Alvin and the Chipmunks)



Canteen

You crave adventure! While people around you may not totally understand your unique sense of style, that has never stopped you from following your dreams! Your parents wish your dreams were closer to being a doctor or a lawyer and not a Civil War reenactor, but what do they know? They've never tasted the sweetness of a liquid warmed in a leather pouch!

Famous Canteens:

Teddy Roosevelt, Steve Irwin, Marie Curie, Dale (Chip and Dale)

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