Letters from the Editors

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Letters from the Editors

Dear reader,

Welcome to the 2023 edition of Exile! Of the three editions I’ve worked on, this one is by far my favorite—and you’ll soon find out why.

The COVID-19 pandemic hit Exile hard, along with numerous other campus organizations. Over the past three years, I’ve had the privilege of watching Exile rise from the ashes with the help of our amazing editorial team. This year, we received hundreds of pages of submissions: around double what we received last year! As a result, we were able to curate a specific reading experience that tells a story through the organization of the magazine itself. We spent a lot of time creating sections and spreads throughout Exile and hope you enjoy reading through them!

I want to thank our editorial team for all their work sorting through our incredible number of submissions. I also want to thank my fellow editors in chief. Kee, thank you for jumping headfirst into your position so passionately and energetically this year. Cassidy, I don’t know what I’d do without your editing brilliance or your WhatToDU wizardry. Will, it’s been such a pleasure working with you in Exile and otherwise. I’ll miss having you at Exile but can’t wait to see what you’ll do in the future.

Kt

Dearest reader,

Thank you for picking up your copy of Exile 2023 and taking the time to listen to our truths.

In a world where disseminated “truths” are often hegemonically curated, be it through social media algorithms or bestsellers’ lists, our personal stories are often overshadowed. Arbiters who know little of our identities and experiences decide which of our truths are worth telling.

Even publications like ours are not exempt from this harsh role of juror. But we strive to use our positionality as publishers within the Denison campus to actively seek out creators in this community, providing a platform to amplify their voices and give importance to their truths.

In that vein, I would like to thank my fellow Editors-In-Chief: with Kt’s inspiring energy and drive, Cassidy’s spirited dedication, and Will’s admirable wit and support, I feel safe and brave enough, as a Pinay editor, to express my truth. I hope Exile does the same for our contributors.

Our contributors do not hold back in their truth-telling. They courageously grapple with and express their stories and truths. Family history. Pieces of identity left behind or clung to. Nightmares. Parts of self kept hidden, now brought to light. And many more.

The title of our cover art is “Always Running,” created by Caroline Lopez. Exile will be always running towards a more diverse and inclusive representation of Denisonians’ truths. We are grateful you are joining us in this pursuit of truth-telling through your role as a reader, a witness, an ally.

Kee
Friends,

Exile 2023 starts with “The Cicada Lullaby” and ends with “Extractions.” Something we as editors noticed while selecting this year’s pieces is that our community is not afraid to get weird. Our contributors have created pieces that are corporeal, that question reality, that connect with nature. We are still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, and Denisonians are writing about how nature can work with us or work against us. From the bugs in the trees to the teeth in our mouths, Exile contributors write about it all.

I believe that literature sates us, sustains us. I would like to point to “Essays about Azolla” by William Barnes. “Was I not born to eat?” Putting together this magazine was not an easy feat, but looking at the finished product, I feel like we have collected all of the correct ingredients for a very satisfying - and strange - meal. Thank you to the editorial team for helping us pick the best of the best, KT for your leadership, Will for your wisdom (miss you already), and Kee for your enthusiasm. Thank you Dr. Grandbois for helping me with the behind-the-scenes administration while also trusting us to let creativity reign. Thank you Riley and Lily for your endless support even after graduating. And thank you, reader, for delving into this with all of us.

Cassidy

Fate is inexorable!

What a line. Originating from the Anglo-Saxon poem “The Wanderer” and inspiring the poems of Ezra Pound—from which this publication draws its name—that line describes so much of my time here at Denison. In full it reads “I have tread the path of exile. Fate is inexorable”, it carries you where it may, towards home, away from it. Though one may live for a short time in a sort of exile, some wind will always rise in your sails and guide you—be it back towards home, or to some place far in the unknown. Within the rising tide of fate, exile is just one permanent stop. So it’s here where I must leave Exile, guided by some unfathomable current we call fate to some new land, wherever that may be.

I would like to thank those whom I have met in my brief exile. Riley, Lily, all those editors in chief who came before me, thank you for your guidance and for allowing me to join your fold. KT, you are a visionary. Perhaps the greatest crime of Exile is that we’ll never be able to publish your work. Keep on writing, and I can’t wait to see you published in some magazine. Cassidy, thank you for taking care of all the administrative parts of Exile so that I don’t have to do anything other than reading and having opinions. Kee, we’ve told you this many times before, but you are a canva wizard. You bring a passion and an exuberance into our meager ranks that keeps us going. I am happy to leave Exile in your hands. All my poetry editors, thank you for all the work you put in, you are the real super stars of this publication.

Thank you for walking the path of exile with me, fate is inexorable and I must move on.

Will