



*Me*  
*Apocalypse 2021*  
*Literary Review*

## Table of Contents

“Teddy Bear” by: Reagan Dyess.....	1
“Be Still My Heart” by: Jacob Vance.....	2
“Frail” by: Laura Reece.....	3
“When Third World Came to America” by: Edward Lynch.....	5
“A Covid Life” by: Edward Lynch.....	7
“The History of the Joe Roagan Experience” by: Jacob Vance..	9
“Disguised in Plain Sight” by: Jacob Vance.....	11
“Becoming More” by: Jacob Vance.....	13
“My Mind” by: Oriana Walker.....	16
“Covid-Inspired Essay” by: Shundarrius Randolph.....	17
“Starless Skies” by: Kylar Akira DeLoach.....	19
“My Canvas” by: Racheal Fain .....	20
“Grief” by: Kloe Scott.....	22

### About the Apocalypse Literary Review

The Apocalypse Literary Review is the literary journal produced through the Language and Literature Division in collaboration with the Graphic Design Technology Program at Meridian Community College. The journal showcases the literary talents of MCC students, area high school students, and community members. It also gives a platform for graduating graphic design students to display their interpretations of selected literary entries. All monetary awards given to winners come from the generosity of the MCC Foundation. The current editors are Dr. Samantha Lay and Joshua Maeda.

### Graphic Design Students

Marcus Barber	Laquaruz Mosley
Olivia Collins	Riana Noble
Maiya Davis	Andrew Parker
Heather Hunter	Tristian Taylor
Quanisha McMullen	Anthony White
Kolby McWilliams	

### **Editors' Note:**

When most think of the word *apocalypse*, they may think that it refers to the end of time or to the destruction of civilization, envisioning the popular zombie series *The Walking Dead* and the dystopian *Mad Max* films. 2020 brought a virus that seemed to set the stage for such a scenario. However, one of the definitions of *apocalypse*, according the *Oxford English Dictionary*, is “[a]ny revelation or disclosure.” This pandemic, along with its resulting lockdown, may have revealed to us who we truly are. Perhaps we realized how easy it is to live in fear. Perhaps we realized that work and going out were not the be-all and end-all of life. Perhaps we realized how important it is to keep in touch with loved ones. Perhaps we realized that the human spirit has the amazing capacity to adapt and, if not to conquer, at least to keep moving forward. The consolation of art, we would like to think, has played a significant role in that last one. With this issue of *Apocalypse: Literary Review*, we wanted to give space to those feelings of isolation, alienation, fear, frustration—throw in your disaffection *du jour*—produced by the worldwide upheaval caused by COVID-19. However, as any English instructor will remind you, winter symbolizes decay and death; spring symbolizes life and renewal. By allowing for a space to vent winter feelings, we hope to encourage the welcoming of spring feelings, both in art and in our lives. While not to get too ahead of ourselves (a lesson that we have all had to learn), we are considering dedicating next year’s issue to the theme of hope. For now, we hope that you will enjoy this issue.



## Teddy Bear

By: Reagan Dyess

The black corridor stares back at me  
As I stand alone on the wooden floor  
I adjust my eyes, but I can't see  
While I'm inching closer towards the door  
The oblivion is intimidating and  
I find myself cowering in fear  
I need someone to hold my hand  
I want my teddy bear near  
My teddy bear keeps me calm  
When I cannot breathe  
I clutch the bear in my palm  
When comfort is what I seek  
I feel a tear roll down my face  
As the darkness beats and screams  
I immensely ache for a quiet place  
Somewhere amongst my dreams  
As darkness fades, I become aware  
That the darkness isn't as I'd thought  
Because while I clutch my teddy bear  
The corridor begins to rot  
The dark becomes a silhouette  
Who chatters all with joy  
My teddy bear and I connect  
And I stare back at the boy.

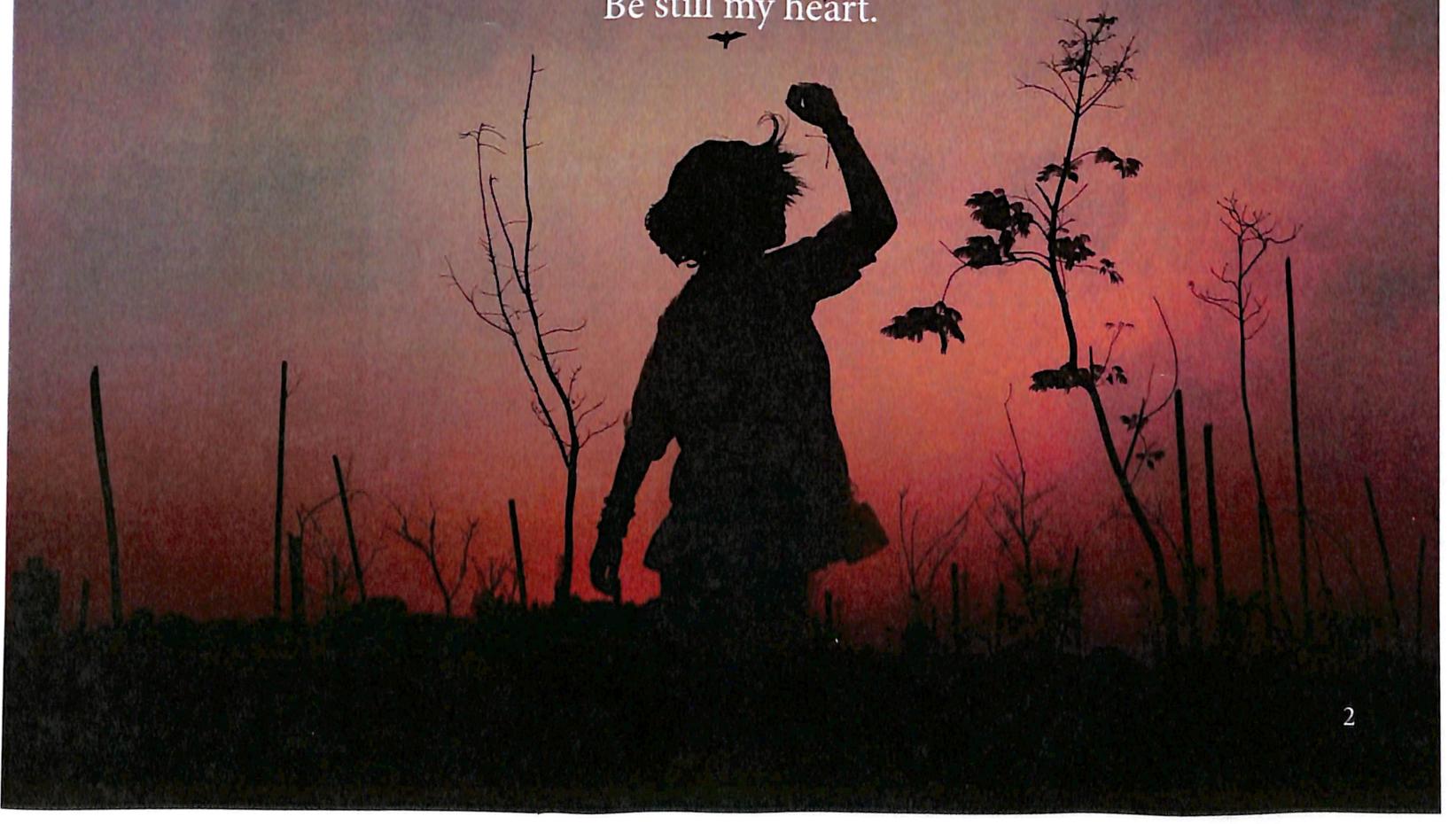
# Be Still My Heart

By: Jacob Vance

Losing track of the days  
Remembering times of the past  
Learning in a new way of isolated haze  
Simply trying to outlast.

Searching for new outlets of joy  
Forgetting to bring your mask  
Being ashamed of your odd decoy  
Absolutely dreading to even ask.

One day there will be a new uplifting excitement  
Reuniting those who had been apart  
Once more a rebirth of alignment  
Be still my heart.





## Frail

By: Laura Reece

I promptly stopped eyeing the gale  
That raged so savagely and irate.  
I never did feel this frail.

Shocked first with emotions that fail.  
I wished and wondered at my fate,  
I promptly stopped eyeing the gale.

I weighed my options on a scale  
And speculated if it is too late.  
I never did feel this frail.

I deeply mused concerning my tale  
Of my fear and my mind's state.  
I promptly stopped eyeing the gale.

My cheeks flamed and then grew pale.  
Metaphorically at the gate  
I never did feel this frail.

The strength I once had now stale  
Wiped away clean from the slate.  
I promptly stopped eyeing the gale;  
I never did feel this frail.

# WHEN THIRD WORLD CAME TO AMERICA

By: Edward Lynch

The TV's Broken  
Newspapers /// Radios Are Lying  
Pictures They're Painting Can't Be the Land of the Free  
Home of The Brave  
This Can't Happen in America ///  
Not The America I Know  
ABC /// NBC /// CBS  
Beaming Nation's Capital  
From Capitol to 1600 Pennsylvania  
These Are Third World Shots  
Called Third World // Cause Its Worlds Away  
Worlds Away /// From America's Norm  
Third World Words

American Cities /// Celebrated American Capitol  
Lay in Ruins /// Inhabitants Fleeing a Mob  
Legislators Fleeing Once Dignified Chamber  
Don't Know Where They're Going  
But They've Gotta Go to Safety

Americans Have Taken Care of Iraqi's  
Arabs /// Koreans /// Vietnamese  
Now Can't Take Care of /// Americans /// In America's Congress  
This Can't Be /// Land of The Free  
Home of The Brave  
This Is Not in My America  
This Is Third World

Day Before Yesterday Morning  
Some Were Tax Paying /// Law Abiding Citizens  
Today They're Insurrectionists  
These Are Third World Words  
These Words Describe Our Plights /// Adverse Attitudes  
Yielding to Believing in Lies



This Is a Third World Plight Third World Sight

Law Makers Hundreds Not Sure

To Whence to Flee

Many Not Sure Then Led by The Brave

To Be Safe and Secure if Only for a Moment

Night Comes, Morning Goes, Then Noon,

Another Day's Clouds a City growing Hedges

Hedges of Concrete Barriers and Chain Linked Fences.

This Is a Third World Sight

Thousands On a Main Street

In an American City Hour in Hour Out

Must Cause Shock /// Anger /// Disgust

Could Only Be /// Cause Too Many Americans

Busied Themselves /// With Not Accepting

That Which Is Righteous True and Just

They Too Should Be Ashamed of Such

An Eerie Sight.

As The Unfathomable Threatens to Become the Norm.

A Norm That America Cannot /// Must Not Accept as Her Own

Cannot Let These Pictures /// These Depictions Become Routine

Routine Tends to Lull Us into Acceptance.

An Acceptance That America Must Fight

If We're to Continue to Hear Nawleans Play the Blues ///

See New York's Way Continue to Be Broad

See Mississippi Rising and Flowing

With Water Not Blood

Too Many Things Happened When Third World

Came to America.

America, America We're Better Than This



# A Covid Life

By: Edward Lynch

People Moving Here There and Yon  
 Cars Moving This Way That Way  
 Children in School Out of School  
 Playgrounds Basketball Courts and Football Fields  
 All This, Life, Life Happening Simply as Life Does  
 Doctor's Visits, Grocery Stores, Shopping Malls  
 Diabetes Hypertension Arthritis and The Flu  
 Once Concerned About These Things  
 As People Moved Here There and Yon  
 Cars Moved This Way and That  
 Children in School, on Playgrounds, on Basketball  
 Courts and Football Fields  
 All This Life, Life Happening Simply as Life Does  
 Doctor Visits Grocery Stores Shopping Malls  
 Diabetes Hypertension Arthritis and The Flu  
 Concerned About All These Things  
 Then Came Covid 19.  
 Covid-19  
 People Dying by The Tens, The Twenties, The Hundreds  
 Now the Thousands  
 Every Day, Every Hour Then Every Minute  
 Life Happening Not Simply as Life Has To  
 Simply Because We Don't Listen, Not Listening to The  
 Science  
 Not Following the Signs  
 We Won't Mask Up Wash Up and Stay In.  
 People Dying by The Thousands  
 Because We Won't Forgo a Little Bit Today to Get More  
 Tomorrow  
 To Have More Tomorrows  
 Children in School, Full Playgrounds,  
 Lively Basketball Courts and Hard Hitting Football  
 Fields  
 Doctor Visits Grocery Stores Shopping Malls  
 Have Life Happen Once Again Simply as Life Does  
 America's Bigger Even Than Covid-19  
 Mask Up Wash Up and Stay In.  
 America Let's Defeat Covid-19

# The History of The Joe Rogan Experience

By: Jacob Vance

During this pandemic of COVID 19, many people have turned to podcasts to better understand the changing world around them. Podcasts have taken the world by storm in the past twenty years. The audio recordings can be anything from simple conversations about current events, fictional story-telling, or logs about daily life. Essentially, the simplistic idea of a podcast has been around however long communication has existed. Many have tried to perfect the art of a truly great podcast. Joe Rogan is arguably the king of podcasts with his very own podcast, *The Joe Rogan Experience*.

The great and powerful Joe Rogan has managed to build quite the empire after years of hard work and dedication. However, that was not always the case. Rogan was born in Newark, New Jersey, on the evening of August 11, 1967. Katie Warren states, "Rogan had a somewhat nomadic childhood" (par. 20). During his childhood, Rogan lived

in Newark, New Jersey, San Francisco, California, Gainesville, Florida, and Boston, Massachusetts. Rogan became infatuated with martial arts around the age of thirteen (Warren, par. 22). Martial arts helped Rogan combat stress and gave him a sense of belonging in society. At the age of nineteen, Rogan went on to win the US Open Championship for taekwondo in the Lightweight division (PeoplePill, par. 4). The newfound champion attempted a career of kickboxing but decided to retire quickly due to fear of injury after three matches. The fighter concluded with two wins and one loss (PeoplePill, par. 4). Rogan then found a new love pursuing stand-up comedy in New York and Boston.



Rogan moved onto a new chapter of his life in the entertainment business. The comedian has discussed on his podcast, *The Joe Rogan Experience*, how he truly found himself when he discovered stand-up comedy. After a few years of doing stand-up comedy and working part-time jobs in the Northeast, Rogan moved to Los Angeles, California, in hopes to spark a career in acting (Warren, par. 24). According to Warren, "Rogan moved to Los Angeles in 1994 and landed his first major acting role in the Fox sitcom *Hardball*. He also starred in the NBC sitcom *Newsradio* from 1995 to 1999" (par. 25). After making a

name for himself in the world of sitcoms, Rogan used his background in martial arts to become a commentator for the new Ultimate Fighting Championship (PeoplePill, par. 11). As well as his commentating career taking off, Rogan was selected to host the popular reality TV

show *Fear Factor* in the early 2000s. These opportunities gave Rogan the platform to advance his career. While making numerous special guest appearances on TV shows, the star began to focus more on his comedy career in the latter 2000s since "concentrating on television had made him feel lazy and uninspired to work on new material for his act" (PeoplePill, par. 17). Once again, Rogan worked diligently to become successful. He managed to land many specials and gain respect as a stand-up entertainer. In 2009, Rogan felt it was time to start a family, so he fell in love with and married Jessica Ditzel. The couple has

two daughters (PeoplePill, par. 27). Around the same time as forming his new family, Rogan began what is now the most successful podcast to date, *The Joe Rogan Experience*.

On Christmas Eve in 2009, Joe Rogan and Brian Redman produced a free weekly podcast on the website Ustream (PeoplePill, par. 22). The two comedians simply recorded themselves conversing and joking about current events in the early days. The podcast was not actually titled *The Joe Rogan Experience* until August 2010. Redman continued to edit and produce episodes until late 2013 when he decided to step away from the podcast. Jamie Vernon stepped in as chief editor producer and is currently still in that position today. *The Joe Rogan Experience* has had over 1500 episodes, and Rogan has interviewed over eight hundred guests since its debut. Any character imaginable has made an appearance on the podcast. Movie stars, scientists, comedians, doctors, politicians, athletes, drug enthusiasts, and many more personalities have been a part of *The Joe Rogan Experience*. Rogan is known for his excellent interviewing skills. Chris Jones describes the host as “the embodiment of all that is good and noble in modern man: a self-made martial artist and professional freak show who’s occasionally funny, occasionally angry, spends his free time in a float tank, and proudly dabbles in hallucinogens and psychedelics” (par. 1). In the past eleven years, *The Joe Rogan Experience* has grown substantially staking its claim for the most successful podcast of all time. Rogan has

just recently signed a deal with the company Spotify worth over one hundred million dollars. This deal will make his podcast exclusive to Spotify starting in December 2020. Rogan revolutionized the world of podcasting. He has been an inspiration to many aspiring to become successful in the field of podcasting. Rogan revolutionized the world of podcasting. He has been an inspiration to many aspiring to become successful in the field of podcasting. Joe Rogan's story is a story of hard work and dedication. His journey is a grand example of the saying “rags to riches.” He managed to work his way up from near nothing to become

a world-renowned star. Years of hard work and dedication have paid off for the influencer. *The Joe Rogan Experience* will forever hold its place in podcast history.

#### Works Cited

Jones, Chris. “Joe Rogan.” *Esquire*, vol. 151, no. 5, May 2009, p. 63. EBSCOhost, <https://bit.ly/34fj3QA>. PeoplePill. “About Joe Rogan: American Martial Artist, Podcaster, Sports Commentator and Comedian (1967-): Biography, Filmography, Discography, Facts, Career, Wiki, Life.” PeoplePill. Web, <https://bit.ly/34bVcPL>. Warren, Katie. “How Comedian and UFC Commentator Joe Rogan Became the World’s Highest-paid Podcaster.” *Business Insider*, 21 Sept. 2020, <https://bit.ly/3upbuQ0>





## Disguised in Plain Sight

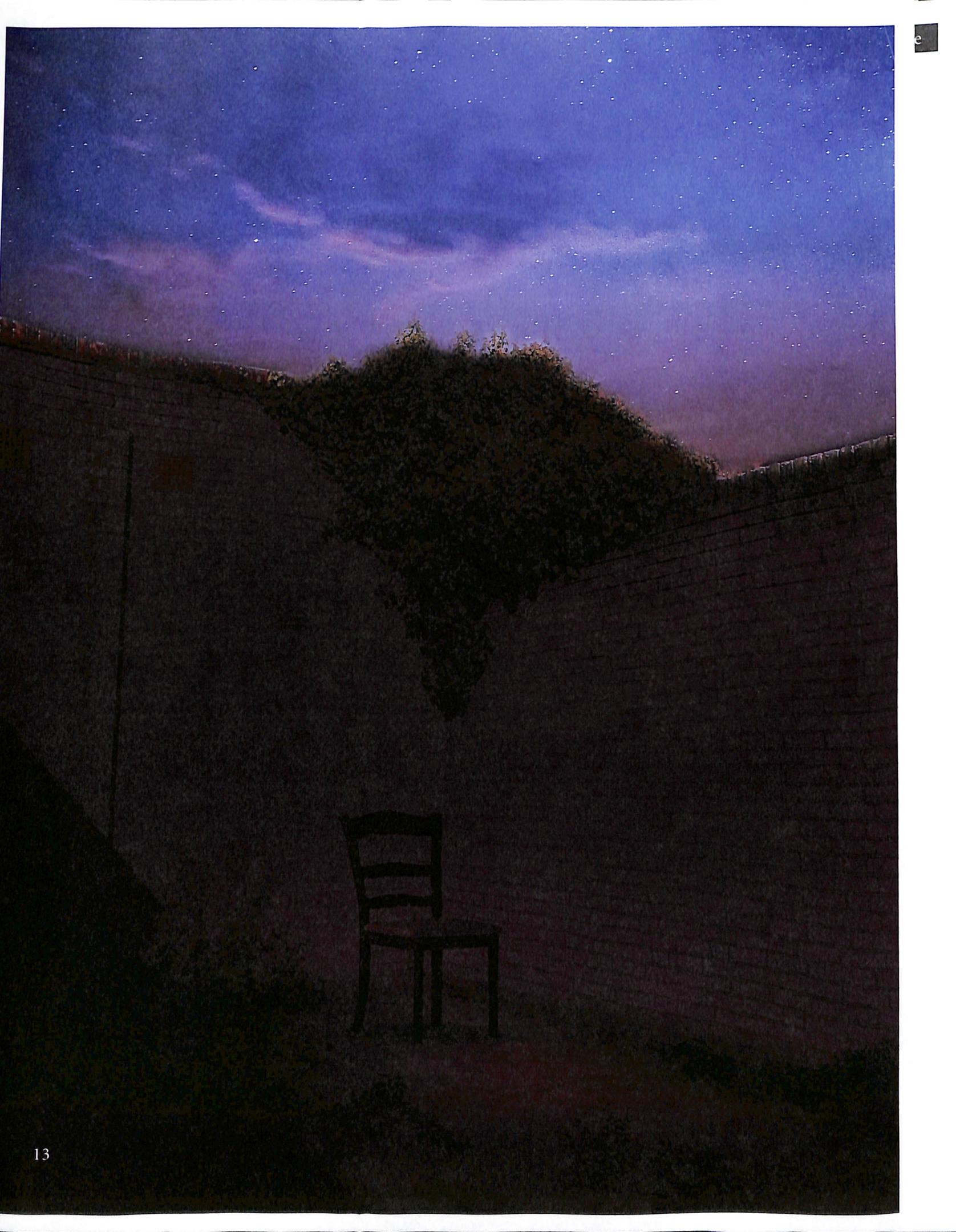
By: Jacob Vance

Worldwide shutdown  
Feeling as if it were Russian spies  
Wanting to get out of town  
Who are you to be disguised in plain sight?

Sending love to frontline workers  
Wishing those well overseas  
Staying covered up for the lurkers  
Taking a virtual trip to Nashville, Tennessee.

Remembering those who have past  
Going through old photo albums  
Trying not to get lost in sorrow and just  
avast  
Coping with becoming numb

Better days are up ahead  
Revisiting old friends on a screen  
Finally getting out of the everyday dread  
Such a beautiful scene



# Becoming More

## By: Jacob Vance

It was March of 2020. Wes was returning from his spring break trip from Orange Beach. As a senior, his high school career was winding down, and he was eager to begin his victory lap in his classes. His favorite restaurant dining rooms were open. The only time Wes had ever heard of anyone wearing a mask was a surgeon during a procedure. Life was pretty normal.

Out of nowhere, he had received news of an extended week of spring break. Wes was ecstatic, considering he would have another week to kick back and relax with the boys. The boys filled their time with basketball, fishing, and NCAA College Football 14 on XBOX. Life was good. Ignorant of what was on the news, Wes and his friends just went on with life. The boys took life day by day. Eventually, Wes became curious as to what was going on. After watching the news in pure terror, the boy realized that he would never return to high school and that life would be very different for a long time. The pandemic was just beginning to take off in the states. Wes was worried for days to come. As a careless senior in high school, life came at him fast. Irresponsibly, the gang of boys continued to live their best lives, spending nearly every day together. In

the back of his mind, Wes knew the possible repercussions. He still lived it up anyways. The majority of Wes's happiness began to be resourced from his friends. He was truly at his most happy hanging out with his friends. He slowly realized this and began to try and focus on himself. Wes decided it was time to improve himself and have multiple sources of happiness in his life.

Spring was coming to an end, and summer was right around the corner. Wes began to try and improve himself. Wes was a football player throughout high school, and he loved every second. Being an ex-football player, he was familiar with lifting weights and conditioning. Using his prior knowledge, Wes picked up running in hopes of one day running a half-marathon. The boy believed that running was helping him with not only his physical health but also his mental health. He felt happy while he was running. Little was Wes's knowledge that he was not eating right for the amount he was running. Wes would run from three to seven miles every day on a poor diet. He realized he was losing weight and becoming the lightest weight he had been in a very long time. Though what he thought was healthy, it proved wrong. The poor diet and losing weight began to take a toll on Wes's psyche.

Anxiety began to weigh down on the young man. He had never had problems with anxiety or stress and was mainly a happy teenager. Wes began to fight new battles when trying to improve his self-esteem. Eventually, Wes decided to stop running and decided to it was time to try something new.

Coming upon midsummer, Wes took up building and painting. He spent hours in the woodshop working on projects. He built countless birdhouses, decorative wooden boxes, and small trinkets. He used tools and machines he had never used before. It was great therapy for his mind. He began to feel at peace while building new things. Wes also took up painting to fill his time. Painting opened another outlet of creativity that he had not known before. Seeing a finished piece of art gave Wes a sense of accomplishment. After all the painting and wooden projects Wes had finished, the new school year was soon to arise. Wes would be attending his local community college in the fall. Once again, stress and anxiety rocked his world. Scrambling to find new coping mechanisms for the revived stress, Wes looked into getting in the gym. He had a past with lifting weight when he was a football player. He enjoyed lifting, but he just felt as if that lifestyle was not for him. The young man began to eat right and lift weights vigorously. This might have very been

the answer to Wes's frustration with his happiness. Wes loved lifting weights and seeing his body grow as a result of it. He hated being a skinny and lanky boy. He started to grow stronger physically as well as mentally. Wes thought he had it all figured out.

Over time, Wes began to feel somewhat empty and guilty. He felt that lifting weights and hanging out with his friends was not making him happy anymore. Wes then became active in the Baptist Student Union and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Wes had always gone to church, but there were times where he did not feel a true connection. He was a Christian, and he tried his best to be morally sound. After joining BSU and FCA, he felt his life become renewed. After almost a year of struggling with happiness, he felt a light shine in his heart. It was a true connection. The light of Jesus Christ became evident in his life and truly made a difference. Wes was finally becoming more.

## ***My Mind***

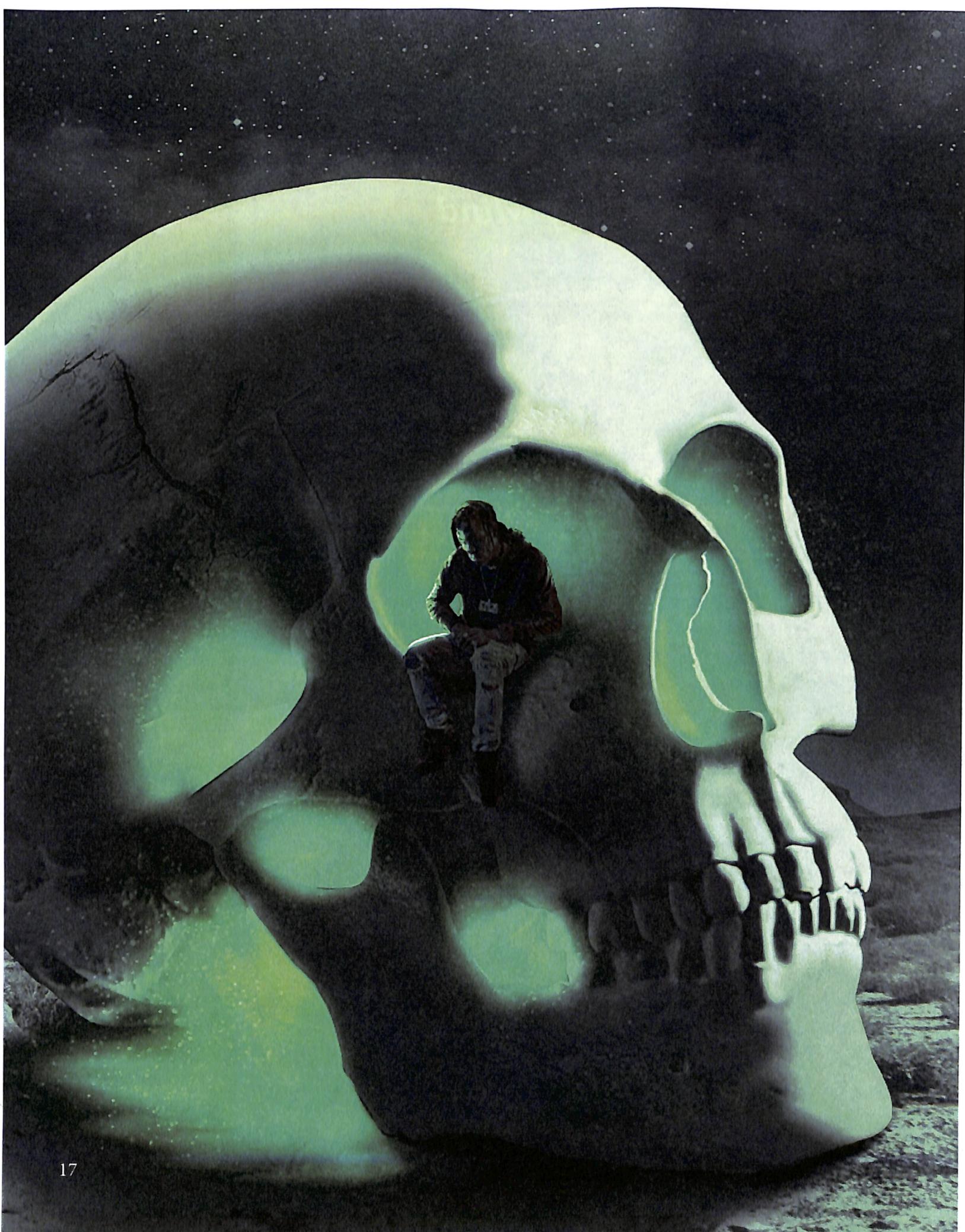
By : Oriona walker

I try to hold it near  
But it seems reality is slipping to the rear  
I feel like I can't maintain  
It seems like I can't deal with life's aches and pains  
Am I God, no,  
But I wanted to be able handle life better though  
I see my fear is near, I might not have it all up here

I feel like...I'm going to end up in a place where the sun  
don't shine & the wind don't blow  
I feel like...I'm going to be in a place where the grass don't  
grow & the flowers don't bloom  
I feel like...I'm going to end up in a place where the moon doesn't  
glow & the stars don't glisten  
SARS-CoV-2 has done too much and gone too far

I just can't hold it  
I feel like I'm losing...my mind





# Covid-Inspired Essay

By: Shundarrius Randolph

In this current era of the world, many people have suffered from the effects of COVID-19. This new disease has hit us like the black plague. It has taken so many loved ones from us and has truly made America erupt into a panic. Plus, with Donald Trump, our soon to be former president, things have gotten not better. COVID-19 has torn apart many families by taking members over the thin line between life and death.

However, the government has taken many measures to make sure the virus spread has been limited to a minimal. Some of way are limiting number of people are allowed in stores; everyone has to wear a mask, and entire cities have been put on lock down. Sadly, people have taken advantage of these new set of rules as they are placed on society. In my opinion, the efforts we are taking are meaningless. At the end of the

day, people are going to do what they want.

People have been violating the rules when it comes to preventing COVID-19. We have numerous times not worn masks, gone out in public while sick, and touched things without sanitizing or washing our hands. In America, people do not take the virus as seriously. During the pandemic, people have gathered to protest, only making the number of people infected skyrocket. During 2021, talk about the virus has died down, but the effects it left on society still remain. As they are coming out with a vaccine for it, most people are choosing not to take it. I am one of those people. I believe it is something extra located inside the vaccine and refuse to insert it into my body. Yet everyone has their own mind. At this time in our lives, do what you feel is best.



# Starless Skies

By: Kylar Akira DeLoach

I whisper to the skies again

Upon a starless night.

However, shall my voice be heard

Throughout this hopeless plight?

My aching heart unfolds a wish-

I wish for something more:

I only ask for light to come,

To shine down on our core.

The stars, however, forever cruel

Forsake me yet again- This abyss, this cave, our home lies

Filled with darkness and sin.

My only guiding light is faith-

We travel through this drought-

Of laughter, parties, so much more

We're forced to live without

Maybe in a distant future

We'll turn these lows to highs.

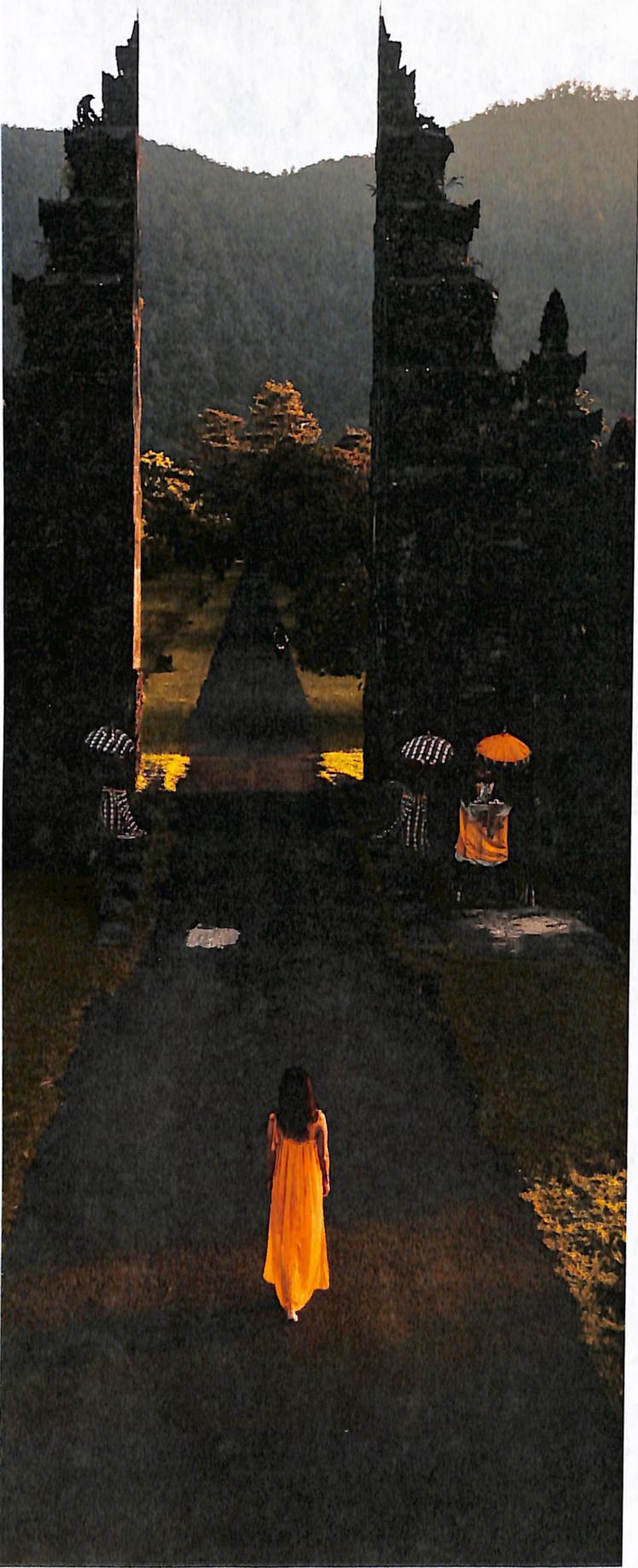
But presently we'll just persist

To rid these starless skies

## My Canvas

By: Racheal Fain

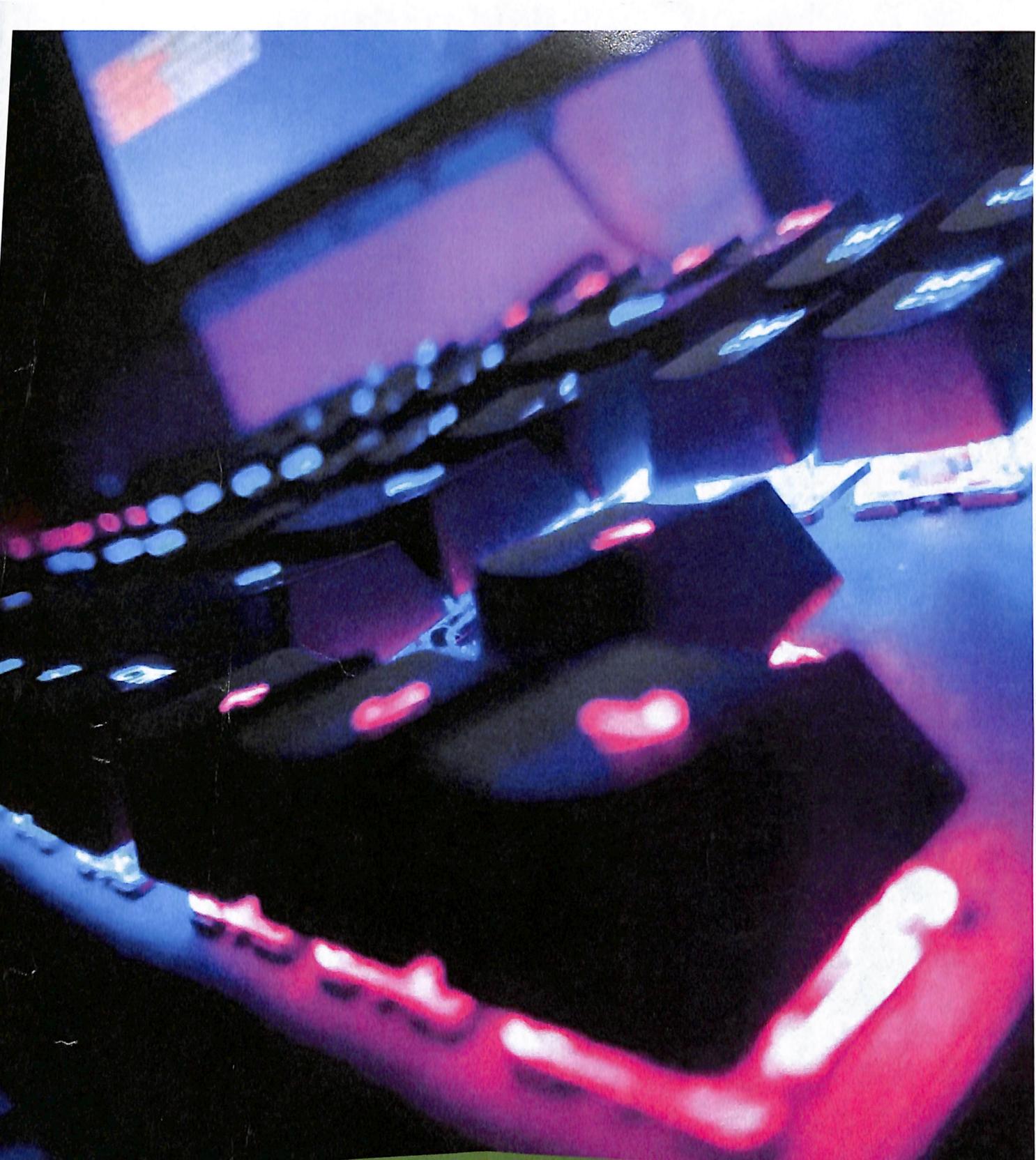
Some people see my art as disturbing,  
But I see it as beautiful.  
Each line that I make  
Leaves a crimson trail.  
My tool of choice  
Is but a simple blade.  
My only canvas available  
Is the one I call myself.



## Grief

By: Kloe Scott

I've never seen,  
A dimmer scene,  
Than heart removed from heart.  
I've never seen,  
Two closer beings,  
From misery torn apart.  
You left me swiftly,  
So very quickly,  
With no time to say goodbye,  
But with such grace,  
I have embraced,  
The burning need to cry.  
It seems we two,  
From my point of view,  
Are buried too far away.  
If it were up to me,  
We wouldn't be,  
And head to chest we'd lay.  
If I could fly,  
Beyond the sky,  
To your heavenly home,  
I'd take your hand,  
And thered I'd stand,  
And never be alone



---

# MERIDIAN

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

---