

Honorable Mentions

By DePaul Honors Students, For DePaul Honors Students



ISSUE NO. 34



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NOTES FROM THE EDITORS

Abby

Hi everyone! My name is Abby, and as I head into my third and final year as an Honorable Mentions co-editor, I am so proud to share our first issue of the 2025-26 school year. Getting to see the incredible work of our Honors students has always been one of the most rewarding parts of this position. Thank you to my wonderful co-editors Lexie and Demi, our supervisor Mary Kate, and of course, our lovely contributors! I hope everyone enjoys this issue and considers submitting their own work in future quarters!

Demi

Hi everyone! My name is Demi, the Layout Editor of Honorable Mentions. I'm so excited to share this issue! Fall is always an exciting time of the year, and it's been lovely to get to see all the new work of the freshmen and the continued work of the older students. As always, working with my amazing team has been such a great experience. This issue was really fun to work on and I'm so happy to share the incredible work everyone's done! I hope you all enjoy the issue!

Lexie

Hello readers! My name is Lexie, and I'm so excited to share this issue of Honorable Mentions with you all! This was my first issue working as a Content Editor, and I have loved working with every contributor and the other incredible members of the Honorable Mentions Team. So, I hope you enjoy this issue as much as we enjoyed creating it!

This quarter, we have chosen the theme **"The Passage of Time"** for the newsletter. This theme is explored through various articles, poems, photo essays, and more. We hope you all enjoy all the wonderful work our Honors students have put together this quarter! If you would like to contribute to future issues of Honorable Mentions, we'd love to see you at our meetings! To keep up to date with Honorable Mentions or if you have any questions on how to contribute, please email honorsprogram@gmail.com and follow our Instagram [@dpu_honors](https://www.instagram.com/dpu_honors).

Best Regards,

Abby, Demi, and Lexie
Honorable Mentions Co-editors

TIME WAITS FOR NO MAN.

BY DUA SHAHID



Interstellar takes on a very theoretical approach to time. Rather than conceptualizing time as linear, with a past, present, and future, *Interstellar* approaches time through the concept of time dilation and nonlinearity. Time is shown through a bootstrap paradox and is everywhere all at once. Despite the theoretical and fictional approach, the movie aims to stick as close to science as possible. In order to immerse ourselves in the movie, we must leave all preconceived notions of linear time behind. But that's what

I enjoy most about *Interstellar*. Even when it immerses you in such a “fictional” concept, it all feels so possible. *Interstellar* distinguishes the time difference between Earth and the solar system. The movie follows Einstein's theory of special relativity, theorizing that the higher the gravity in an area, the slower the time. Cooper and his colleagues enter a wormhole transporting them to Miller's planet, which is near a black hole. The planet's proximity to the black hole causes time to move drastically slower compared to

Earth. One hour on Miller's planet equates to seven years on Earth. Cooper spends over three hours on Miller's planet, and roughly 23 years pass on Earth.



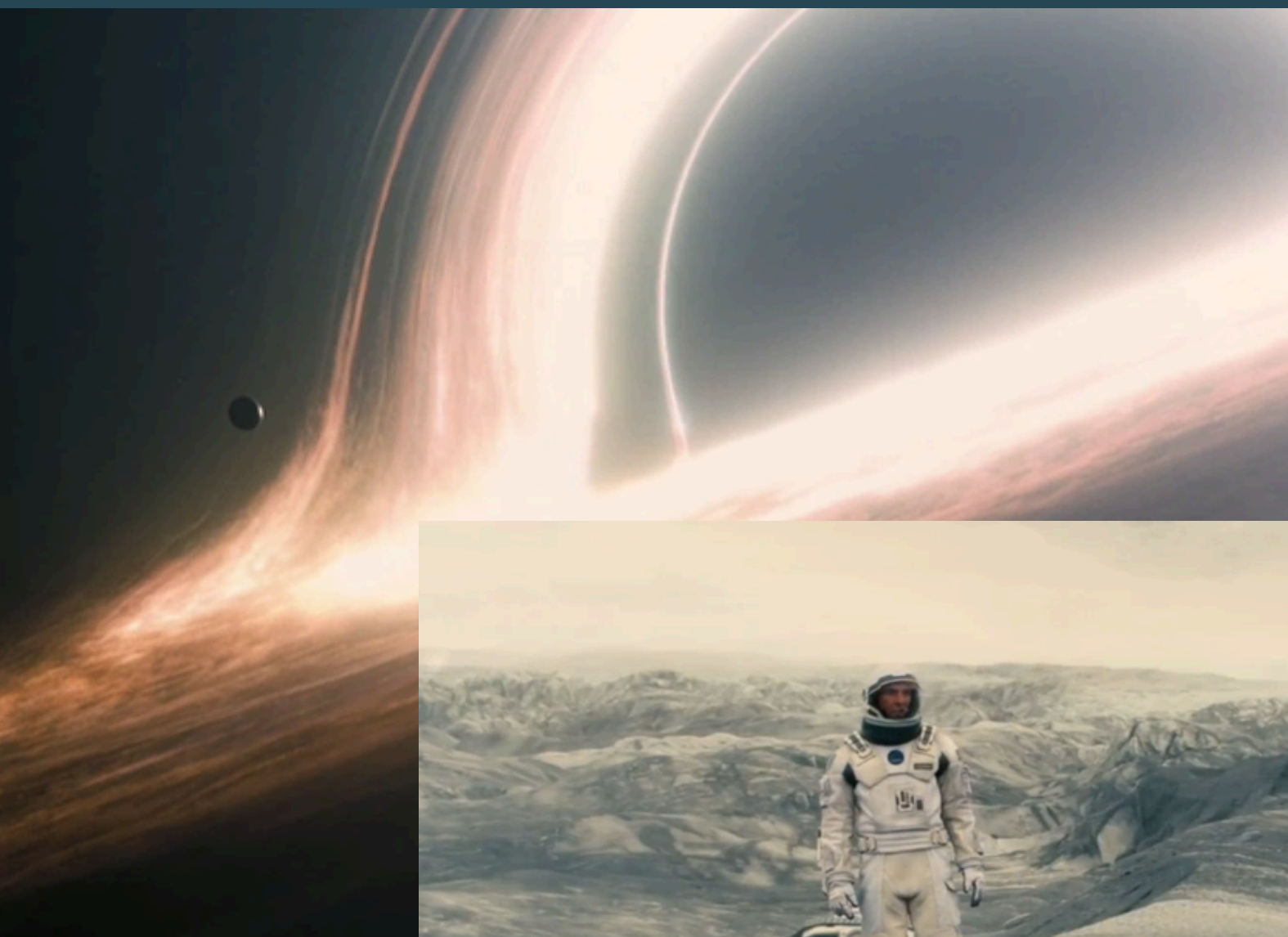
Interstellar explores time as a bootstrap paradox. Since time isn't linear, the past, present, and future are all interconnected. After Cooper decides he will go to space to allow humanity a chance to survive, his daughter receives a message from the bookcase. Murphy decodes the message, which says "stay". Cooper does not stay, and it results in him getting trapped in space for 70+ Earth years. It's later revealed that it's Cooper himself sending these signals from a 5-dimensional space called the Tesseract. In the moment, Cooper directly interacts with

himself and his daughter in the past. His actions in the future created the events in the past. Yet somehow that very interaction led him to have the same fate. There is no starting point or end to this timeline. Even though in the present, he's outside of the bookcase, the Tesseract allows him to cross the boundaries of time and space, interacting with his daughter and his past self.

Interstellar explores time in relation to grief as well. At the end of *Interstellar*, Cooper watches his daughter die of old age. It was one of the most emotional scenes for me. Cooper was so hellbent on going into space to save the future, he had to forsake his present/past.



It represents how the obsessions of the future can cause you to miss out on the present. He missed out on his daughter's entire life, her achievements, her growth, for the sake of humanity. Even in space, he grieves the time he lost with his daughter. He receives video messages from his family and witnesses them growing older. He grieves that he cannot be there with them in moments of happiness or sadness. *Interstellar* highlights the cruelty of time: regardless of you and your struggles, time will continue to pass and change life around you.



GIGI PEREZ'S AT THE BEACH, IN EVERY LIFE ALBUM REVIEW: AN EXPRESSION OF GRIEF, QUEERNESS, AND THE PASSING OF TIME

BY KATE STREEPEY

"Kiss me on the mouth and love me like a sailor, and when you get a taste, can you tell me, what's my flavor?"

This popular lyric was created by a woman named Gigi Perez, an American singer-songwriter born in New Jersey and raised in Florida. Perez's journey to critical acclaim and a top 22 spot on the Billboard Hot 100 began when she posted a video of her singing an original song on the social media platform TikTok. This video quickly gained popularity, and her name began to rise in the music industry. Soon after, she released her first studio album: *At The Beach, In Every Life*.

Following the journey of Perez's sexuality and past traumas, she navigates through difficult, unanswered questions about grief, queerness, and religion. Due to the death of her sister, Perez was forced to wrestle with ideas about Christianity and the afterlife. The tension in many of these songs reflects both the pain of



loving someone unattainable and the guilt she carries for surviving when someone so close to her has passed. One of her most famous songs from this album, "Fable," perfectly expresses the mixture of these feelings, as Perez questions, "Why does my skin start to burn?" in reference to being queer with a religious background. She emphasizes her frustration about how people in religious spaces lacked a real understanding of her: "Thoughts and prayers was all they'd do." Furthermore, she states, "When I lifted her urn, divinity said destiny can't be earned or returned." This references Perez's sister, along with the sorrow and anguish Perez felt when the divine entity from her childhood did not save her sister. Perez's messages clearly resonated with many people as trends emerged where people shared the trauma of their religious pasts or celebrated their relationships with her songs.

Not all her songs discuss her sister, however - some are about her romantic relationships and childhood. One of my favorite songs, which evokes a sense of lost time and is more generally relatable, is her song "Sugar Water." This song evokes a feeling of nostalgia as she contrasts the experiences that robbed her of her innocence with the warm, happy memories she has from a childhood with her two sisters (like jumping on a trampoline). By the end of the song, she simply says one statement repeatedly: "I want it back." Yearning for childhood innocence, feeling desperate grief, and wishing the passing of time would slow is something relatable for almost everyone. The beautiful, poetic writing that elevates each song is artistic in a way that anyone can enjoy and find meaning in it.



This album is both musically and lyrically a masterpiece, and Gigi has an incredible voice. If you haven't been convinced already, give her album a listen. You may uncover questions and emotions you didn't even know you had buried. Just be sure to prepare some tissues.



A RELATIONSHIP UNWAVERING TO TIME: BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN REVIEW

BY LUCAS HAVILAND

One of the more notable queer films in contemporary media, *Brokeback Mountain* continues to hold a compelling and tragically heartbreaking narrative that embodies a love unwavering to time. One of the core components of the narratives that tracks through this film involves the intertwining and separation that ebbs and flows between Ennis' and Jack's storylines, which puts time at the center of this. Throughout the film, the audience receives messages on

the brevity of time, the importance of capitalizing on specific moments in time, the pain of wasting time, and the way love can transcend time.

Despite his aversion to his feelings, Ennis is the main person impacted by the role time plays in the film. He progresses through life, achieving all the perceived milestones and successes that bookend what a "proper" life should entail in an attempt to force away

the emotions he has for Jack. Similarly, Jack achieves the same successes on a larger scale with more monetary implications. Being more solid in his conceptualization of self, and having the finances to support himself, Jack can act on his feelings instead of repressing them. The time period that the film is set in places an intentional backdrop to the inevitable failure of their love and relationship, allowing for a critical social commentary on what both externalized and internalized homophobia causes in individuals. Some may argue that *Brokeback Mountain* showcases the inability of queer relationships to succeed and queer individuals to be happy. I argue that it highlights the

harmfulness of homophobia and the progress society has made through the advancement of time, and that provides insight into what still needs to be improved moving toward the future.

The emotion that was infused into almost every scene in the film is palpable in the performances of the actors. Specifically, the scene that produced the iconic line “I wish I knew how to quit you,” highlights the tragic nature of the film and the unsalvageable state that their relationship reaches from a lack of action throughout time. As this emotion culminates in the final scene of the film, viewers are able to see how the film showcases a



relationship that transcends the decay of time. Even though time can corrode or chip away at the emotions, feelings, and commitments of people, the connection that Ennis and Jack have continues to hold together. Beyond the narrative elements that make the film a must-watch, the soundtrack adds to the visuals of the film. It paints a beautiful soundscape that only elevates the intimacy and tragedy of the relationship at the core of the film.

I cannot recommend *Brokeback Mountain* enough. This film is truly a must-see in queer cinema. Despite it being a tragic narrative, there are brief moments of happiness and many moments of beauty that allow the audience to latch on to the connection between the protagonists. What started as a short story has now become a notable queer film for all to watch.



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HEATH LEDGER
JAKE GYLLENHAAL
ANNE HATHAWAY
MICHELLE WILLIAMS

FROM THE ACADEMY AWARD®-WINNING DIRECTOR ANG LEE
AND PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING AUTHORS ANNIE PROULX AND LARRY McMURTRY

BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN

FOCUS FEATURES AND RIVER ROAD ENTERTAINMENT PRESENT AN ANG LEE FILM HEATH LEDGER JAKE GYLLENHAAL
"BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN" LINDA CARDELLINI ANNA FARIS ANNE HATHAWAY MICHELLE WILLIAMS
AND RANDY QUAD "DAVEY KAUFMAN" CEM YILMAZ MARTY ALLEN "JULIA KATHY NELSON" GUSTAVO SANTALUCCIA
"GERALDINE PERONI" DYLAN TRENOR, JR. "JUDY BECKER" JUDY RODRIGO PINETO, JR. AND
J. SCOTT FERGUSON "WILLIAM POHLAD" LARRY McMURTRY MICHAEL COSTIGAN MICHAEL HALLSMAN
DIANA OSSANA JAMES SCHAPIRO "ANNIE PROULX" LARRY McMURTRY & DIANA OSSANA

MPAA R PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
www.brokebackmountain.com

FEATURING MUSIC FROM WILLIE NELSON, EMILY LOU HARRIS, RUFUS WAINWRIGHT, AND TEDDY THOMPSON

LOVE IS A FORCE OF NATURE

A Love Letter to Time:

about Time

By ROZZIE LINE

About Time (2013), directed by Richard Curtis, is a deceptively simple romantic dramedy that portrays time as the driving force that shapes our lives. This movie tells the story of Tim Lake (Domhnall Gleeson), who discovers on his 21st birthday that the men in his family have the ability to time travel to any point within their life spans. After he moves to London to work as a lawyer, he meets the love of his life, Mary (Rachel McAdams). Historically awkward and unlucky in love, he decides to use his newfound gift to win her over.

Domhnall Gleeson brings a fantastic, down-to-Earth element to his

portrayal of Tim Lake. Rather than the brave and tortured genius that would traditionally act as the protagonist of a time-travel film, he is dorky, insecure, and relatively average in every aspect of his life.



There is something about him that is so endearing; it's nearly impossible not to root for him in all of his

endeavours. Rachel McAdams brings warmth, charm, and emotional depth to her role as Mary. Unlike many romantic leads, she doesn't play the "Manic Pixie Dream Girl" or a love interest used primarily to move the plot along. Rather, she's fully-realized, funny, intelligent, and flawed in ways that feel real.



John Guleserian, the director of photography, also does a beautiful job interweaving the cinematography into the storyline. His use of warm colors and a dream-like shallow depth of field makes every scene feel nostalgic, as though it is a memory.

What makes *About Time* more than just a wonderful love story is how it transforms its use of time travel from a plot point into a profound reflection on the nature of time itself: its limitations, its beauty, and its inevitable passage. Initially, Tim uses

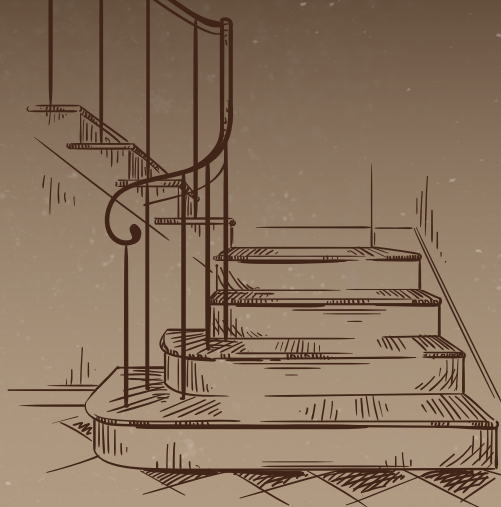
his ability to perfect the smaller moments like first dates and conversations. But as the film continues, the narrative shifts away from the fantasy of control to a deeper realization that no amount of revisiting and revising the past will spare us from the losses and changes that time brings.

Curtis reimagines the time-travel genre as something far more intimate. Rather than focusing on the grand consequences of altering history like most other movies in the genre do, *About Time* highlights the emotional consequences of not being present in our own lives. Time is not an issue to be solved, but a mystery to be embraced.



The Basement

By ANA G. GOMEZ



On Hartford Lane, in a little town in Illinois, there is a house.

It had a brick face,
and front door that opened to reveal a staircase with a
glossy wooden banister,
and a path made of steppingstones that led into the garden.

I know because I spent half of my childhood there...

The main house smelled of lemon verbena, but the
basement...

the basement smelled of sawdust and old wax candles.



I can still walk through it clearly:
the door that opened to a carpeted staircase that
branched off into two rooms.

One was my grandfather's workshop.
It still housed some of his tools, mostly untouched since
his passing. There was a little closet too, where my sister
and I held tea parties on rainy days.

The other room was a TV lounge with an old box TV,
whose glass screen clinked when tapped with a
fingernail, and sconces on the wall that were never lit.
At the back of the room, there was a writing desk, next
to it a doll house that was a replica of that house on
Hartford Lane.



That basement was a place where sisterly love blossomed, tended
to carefully by my grandmother.

I have no memory of sadness there, as if that was a place where
worry could not reach me, protected by thick cement walls.

The days there seemed endless, but I know now they were fleeting.

Time slowly crept into the house, into the basement.

Too soon, the house was sold, and my grandmother moved out,
and I never stepped foot in the basement again...

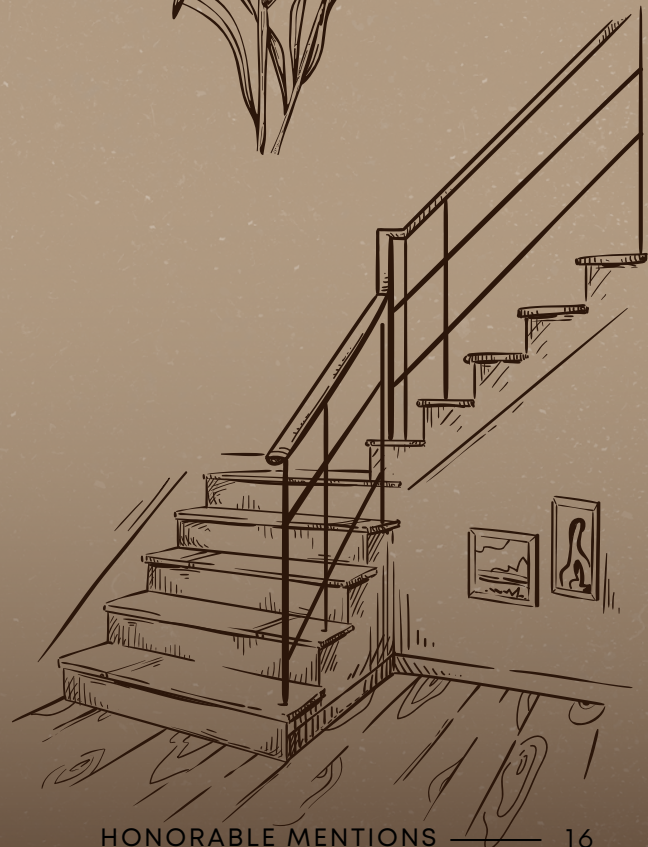
Last summer, I drove down Hartford Lane
to the brick faced house.

The garage was cluttered and the garden
unkempt, an affront to the pristine
conditions of the past.

Even while the years go by, I keep the
house and the basement frozen in time in
the recesses of my mind...

Freely descending the stairs and lying on
the cool, carpeted floor,
retreating to a place in time where the
duties of life did not exist.

A place I'll likely never return to, but will
always hold the heart of my childhood.



picking

TIME SLIPPING THROUGH YOUR FINGERS LIKE SHELLS IN A SEABANK

BY EMMA LORENS



WITH THE PASSING OF TIME, OPPORTUNITIES PASS PEOPLE BY WITHOUT ANNOUNCING THEMSELVES. IN THIS PIECE TITLED “PICKING,” I HELD THE IDEA OF TIME PASSING HUMANS BY THROUGH THE TOPIC OF LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT. IN MY OWN SENSE OF CULTURE AND ETHNICITY, I IDENTIFY AS POLISH AMERICAN. WITHIN POLISH STORIES, STORKS (BOCIANY) ARE EVER PRESENT. HOWEVER, BRANCHING PAST CULTURAL BOUNDS, WHEN LEARNING ANY LANGUAGE, THE GENERAL CONSENSUS SEEMS TO BE THAT “THE EARLIER THE BETTER.” HOWEVER, WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE LANGUAGE OF YOUR FAMILY IS NOT IMPLEMENTED AT A YOUNG AGE?

WHEN THE MIND IS MALLEABLE AND THE HOPES OF LIFE ARE STILL IN FRONT OF YOU, FAR AHEAD, NOT YET PAST YOU ON THE STREAM?

HOW MUCH TIME OR CURRENTS CAN PASS WHEN YOU CAN NO LONGER REACH DOWN INTO THE DEPTHS AND REACH FOR THE FISH YOU CRAVE? TIME MIGHT HAVE EATEN SUPPER FIRST.

YOU'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME

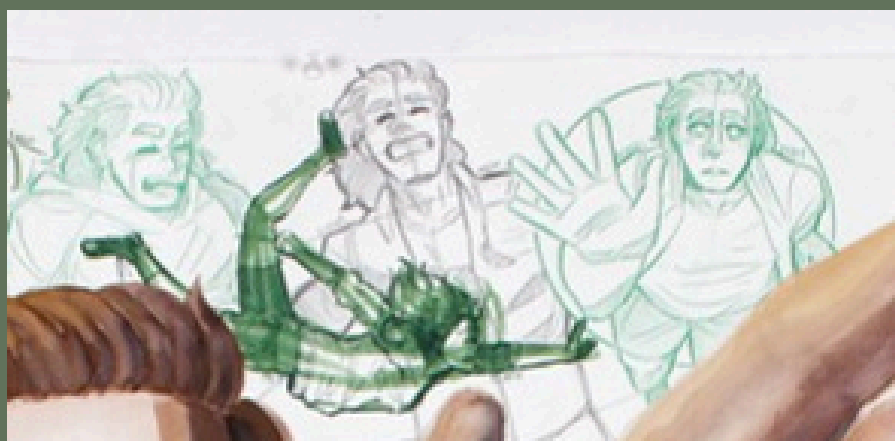
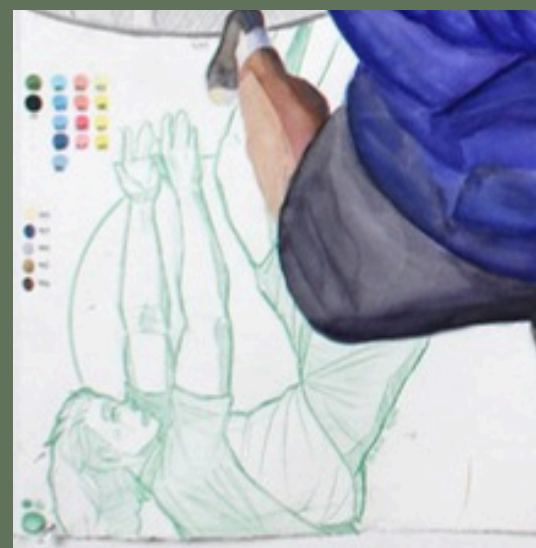
BY MARS PESCADOR



Mars Pescador, *You're Running Out of Time*, 2024, mixed media on drawing paper, 30" x 40".

You're Running Out of Time is a demonstration of my art process, and the composition resembles my rigorous sketchbook practices. This is a time-based drawing. I gave myself unlimited time to draw the largest, central subject, and it took around eight hours in the end. Then, around the figure, I drew the same character with time limits that progressively got shorter in five-minute

increments, starting with 30 minutes and ending with one minute. I drew one to three figures per given time limit. It is arranged in a counterclockwise direction, like how a clock or timer counts backwards. This feeling of running out of time also reflects the balance I try to manage between my school, work, and personal life. Deadlines can pile up, one after another, and it feels like I am constantly having to catch up. A moment of respite can be difficult to find. I chose gestures and expressions of running or reaching towards something almost unattainable, falling, and looking backwards to symbolize that helplessness of just trying to get by. Even the expressions depicted during the shorter time limits were palpable. There were some incomplete drawings, and there were some that did not meet my standards. This piece is a testament to how ephemeral, inevitable, and uncertain things are. Sometimes it is easier to accept what has happened, and reflect and grow from that. We learn to value time and not let it control or impede our lives.



Eternity

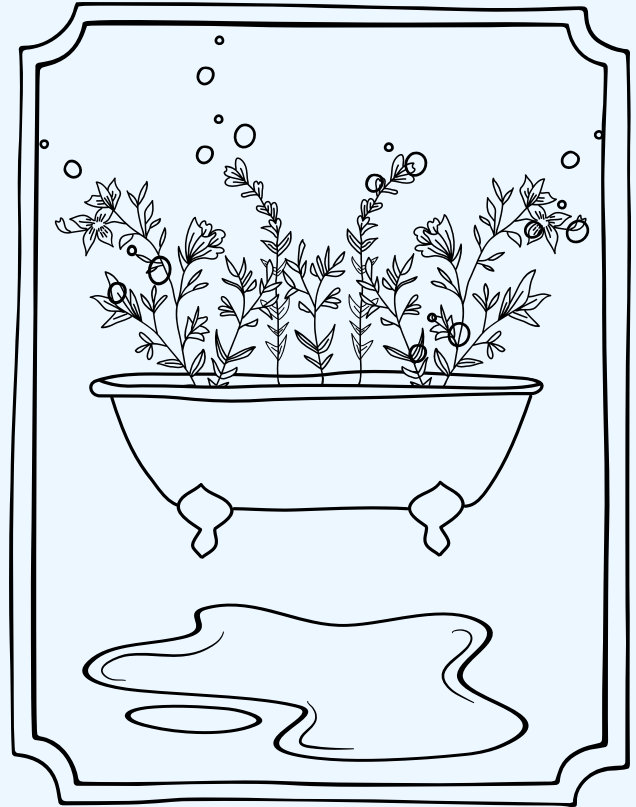
BY LANA SARKISIANI

For trillions of years,
billions of stardust beings in my body
have been bequeathing their narratives to
one another; billions of souls
have been playing pretend with light
inside concrete blocks, attired in tree
houses. Yet here I am,
peeking through the curtain-free tiny glass
to the outside, searching not for mouths,
ears, or eyes,
but for the rocky body hundreds of miles
away, which, albeit mute, deaf, and blind,
makes me feel
understood, heard, and seen like nobody –
it does not glow on my presence
when I am underneath light-phobic tears;
it does not don the thinking corona
when I am atop an awakening volcano;
and it does not shroud itself in its own
funeral when I
grieve the cells that have abandoned my
home.

The "Art" of Growing Up

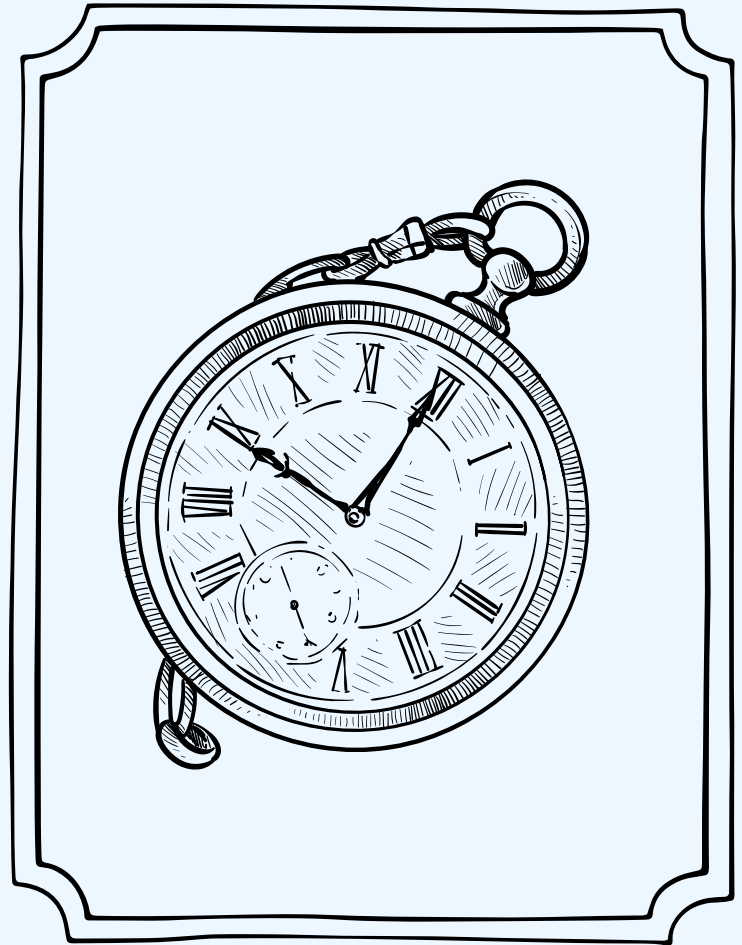
By STEPHANIE HALL

I waded loudly in the bathtub, water splashing all over the floor and on the walls. My head was slightly chilled by the frigid air juxtaposed with toasty water. The soap mustaches that I made time and time again slowly disappeared from my lips. Minutes later, my mother wrapped a freshly dried towel around me and swiftly carried me to bed.



Tucking me tightly into bed, she said to me "Sleep tight, sweetie," and I loudly cried "No, mommy!" I wanted to spend more time awake going on new journeys. I loved being aware; the conscious time that I spent learning all the things that this beautiful world had to offer made me look forward to waking.

Now as I wake, time seems to move unbearably fast. An uncontrollable fear that seems to fester at all times. I feel that all I do is waste and waste the little time that I am afforded. As a child, there were many things that I wanted to be. I felt as if I knew everything. And now, I'm lucky if I know what to eat for breakfast. I can no longer dream about the future as I believe everything is so uncertain. I cannot wonder when: only what if.



That's the funny thing about growing up. When you're young, you cannot wait to be old. You dream about your high school graduation, your spouse, your children. But as you grow, you realize that those dreams are not what they seem. Waking now seems like the recurring nightmare sleeping once was.

I am no longer sure of what I am supposed to know. Everything is confusing. There are times when I wish that I could go back to wishing and wanting, when I was begging my mother to let me stay awake. To when I could delay growing up just a little bit longer.

A TIME WEATHERED PLACE

BY ANNABELLE BURNS

A woman stirred in her slumber. The curtains had been hastily drawn shut, and the late morning sun struggled to peek through the bedroom window. A soft white quilt cradled her with a tenderness that felt foolish. Her eyes fluttered open. She could no longer force herself to stay asleep, but she could not yet bring herself to rise.

Hearing a presence from down the hallway, she tensed in her dormant position and turned her head so he could not see that she was awake. He lingered briefly, longingly. She then felt the dull, ugly ache of shame and sorrow in her stomach as she listened to the deafening echo of his dejected footsteps.

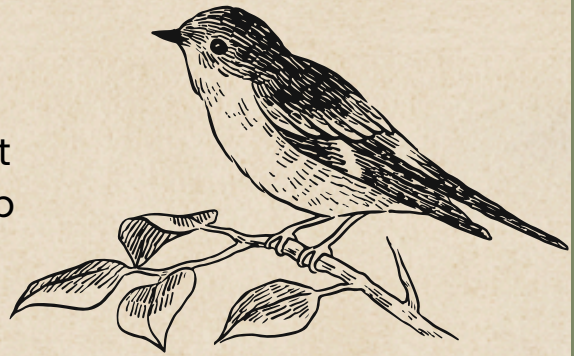
The afternoon fell, and she finally rose. She pulled on her wool coat and muttered a listless “Good morning,” before slipping out of the house and into the brisk outdoors.

Behind the home was a large gambrel-style barn with a tattered exterior and a poorly shingled roof. It hadn’t been visited in some time. She noticed how faded the wood was; its former red vibrancy had worn to a drab gray, leaving sparse and weary streaks of pigment. She listened to a woodpecker drilling somewhere in a faraway tree and tried to find a rhythm in his rapping as she strode promptly toward the barn.

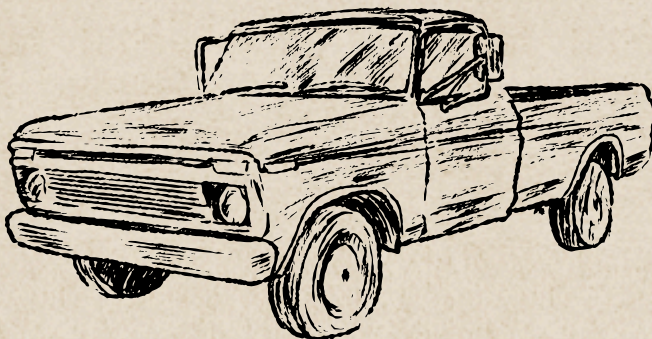


When she reached the towering, long-standing structure, she stopped. Weeds had overgrown the perimeter; some had even clung to the wood and began growing up the side. The wild shrubbery scratched at her ankles, but she did nothing to soothe the itch. After a moment of hesitation, she reached up to grasp the edge of the cumbersome sliding door that led to the inside of the barn.

As she heaved it open, some of the overrun vines tore and lifted from the ground. Dust carried and a dank-smelling odor shrouded her. While the floor was dirt, mounds of hay covering the ground made it difficult to distinguish. The beams holding up the structure sagged with age, and much like the bedroom, sunlight struggled to pierce through the decaying roof.



She could no longer hear the woodpecker, but a bird, nestled in the pillars, chirped brightly. Listening intently to the melodious tone, she took a careful step over the threshold. The withered, rusted tools and machinery woefully reminded her of a time filled with hopes of cultivating their land. She shifted her focus and approached the forest green pickup truck sitting quietly in the front corner. Pensively, she brought her hand to the driver's side window. She wiped away the thick layer of dust and peeked inside: it was the same as it had been the last time it was driven. Brushing her hand off on her coat, she turned to scan the barn's interior, taking in the dust-coated and hay-buried relics scattered about the barn. An industrial broom was propped up on the wall before her. With a shuddering breath, she grabbed its handle and began to sweep.



IT ALL COMES BACK

BY KYLEE HARRELL

Nothing but the light of the freezer illuminates my face as I scoop two ice cubes to drop into my bowl of Top Ramen. We agreed to only turn the lights on if absolutely necessary. Rent is already hard to make for a lot of us; we can't risk running up the electric. I carried the ice cube trick over from my childhood. Even though the water was still practically boiling, my mom didn't have the time to keep up with two kids complaining that they were hungry right now, so we ate watered down noodles and chomped what was remaining of the ice when we were done.



My roommates come in and out without explanation. I never know when they might be home. Everyone is caught up with work, or school, or pursuing creative endeavors. Right now, I am all alone. I have the space to reflect on the strange, nostalgic feeling I've been experiencing nearly every moment of every day since I've moved into the apartment. I remember the small flat my mother shared with three women, a baby, and my sister and me. As a child, I couldn't understand why my mother and these women who took care of me were never home at predictable times. Some came home well into the night, waking us up with leftovers from their work, just as my roommate brings fresh bread every evening. Some left before the sun rose, giving us a kiss on the forehead as they left while we were only waking up, just as I watch my roommates leave for class before me on my days off.

I am not too much younger than my parents were when I was born. I've heard stories of being the baby at the house party that their friends would play with, which sounded egregious to me when I was in high school. Just a few months ago, I met my school friend's two-month-old.

As my parents got older, furthered their careers, they were able to lead more "normal" lives, and I almost forgot what my early years looked like. Recently, I've found myself digging up old memories as a means of adapting to young adult life. I remember my twelfth birthday, my birthday present being a trip to McDonald's, and I figure I may have to do the same for my roommates. I remember begging my mother for a t-shirt from Walmart - But it's only five dollars! - and recall last month when I forfeited grabbing a \$3 water so I could afford to take the bus home.

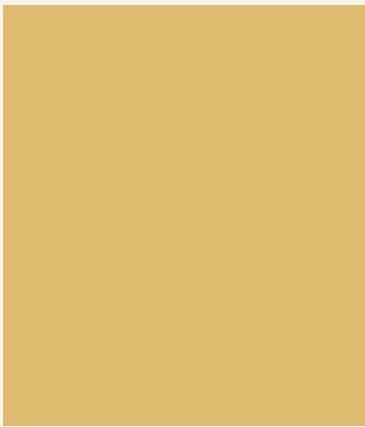
I am only just figuring out how to take care of myself, and I cannot fathom having two other lives to account for. For now, I crunch ice cubes from my bowl and thank God that my parents laid the map for me.



STORIES FROM THE SIDEWALK

By CAMERON DROZDZ



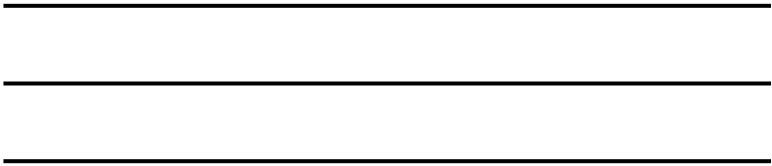


BY ANDREAS HOKE

AT HOME

*No matter where or how we live, we are
all a part of Chicago and each other.*





TOP 5 MOVIES

ABOUT



TIME

BY ELLIOT DEBUSK

1) Back to the Future (1985)

A timeless classic set in both 1985 and 1955, *Back to the Future* is the ultimate time machine movie. It's nostalgic for many of us, with familiar characters and a soundtrack that can be put on repeat. Marty McFly's shenanigans as he travels back in time to save Doc Brown make this regarded as one of the best movies ever made, and I couldn't agree more. It has certainly earned its spot as one of the most popular movies of all time and is definitely worth the rewatch.

2) Memento (2000)

This captivating thriller jumps around through time, and constantly keeps the audience guessing by ignoring chronological order. We follow the main character, Leonard Shelby, who is on a mission to avenge his wife while he battles memory loss. I watched this movie for the first time recently, and it challenged my ability to pay attention to the smaller details while keeping track of the timeline, much like Leonard himself. If you want a movie that keeps you thinking for a while after you've watched it, *Memento* is the movie for you.

3) Donnie Darko (2001)

Donnie Darko is a movie that sets itself a timer. The main character, Donnie, learns from a demonic rabbit named Frank that in 28 days, the world will end. The movie leaves the viewer constantly questioning Donnie's perspective, unable to piece together the reality of whether the world will end in 28 days or not. With a shocking ending that leaves the movie up for interpretation, *Donnie Darko* is a wonderfully done movie that addresses the fleetingness of time.

4) Meet the Robinsons (2007)

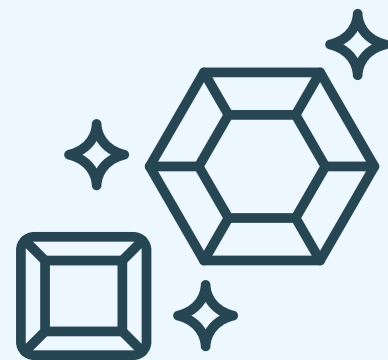
In *Meet the Robinsons*, the main character, Lewis, travels thirty years into the future with his son and meets his family. This movie was my childhood and one of my first exposures to time travel. Now, I'm able to fondly look back on the kooky family with singing frogs and the villain with an evil bowler hat. The lovable characters and strange dynamics, paired with the colorful futuristic setting, make this movie an incredibly fun watch.

5) Before I Fall (2017)

Before I Fall was a soul-crushing movie to watch with a devastating ending. The protagonist, Samantha Kingston, gets stuck in a time loop on Valentine's Day where she quickly learns that the mistakes she makes are keeping her in the loop. As she tries to free herself from living the same day over and over, she learns to appreciate the life she's been given. While this movie is extremely sad, its relatable characters and impressive continuity make it worth watching.

LONGSTANDING LOCAL *Gems*

By COLLEEN KARSTEN



Mark Twain once wrote that “Chicago is a novelty.” It’s a city that’s always shifting, so much so that even locals struggle to keep up. Still, a few spots that have managed to stay timeless. **Here are my Top Five:**

STRANGE CARGO



This store sells a lot more than just T-shirts, offering a wide range of blind boxes, accessories, knickknacks, and so much more. Since its start in 1983, Strange Cargo has been a local staple known for its custom printing and love of all things weird. Whether you’re in the market for some Sonny Angels or a Wendy Williams prayer candle, you’re sure to find something unique.

Located on the seventh floor of the State Street Macy’s, the Walnut Room offers a gorgeous dining experience that’s perfect for the holidays. Since 1907, this restaurant has been known for its attention to detail and stands as the first and longest-running restaurant in a department store. Reservations fill up quickly, so be sure to book your table while you can!

THE WALNUT ROOM

WOLFY’S



With its giant fork-and-hot-dog sign out front, this legendary spot has been around for over 50 years! From cheeseburgers to gyros, Wolfy’s serves up a lot more than just hot dogs on their extensive menu. Next time you’re craving a Chicago classic, skip Portillos and give Wolfy’s a try!

Though Chicago features countless sushi restaurants, none compare to the freshness of Lawrence Fish Market. This iconic takeout spot has been offering affordable sushi to Chicagoans since it opened its doors in 1980. Recently, it opened a second location in Chinatown featuring an expanded menu curated by head chef, Takashi Iida, as well as a full dining room. Whether you're grabbing takeout or dining in, you're guaranteed sushi that's as fresh as it gets.

LAWRENCE FISH MARKET



RECKLESS RECORDS

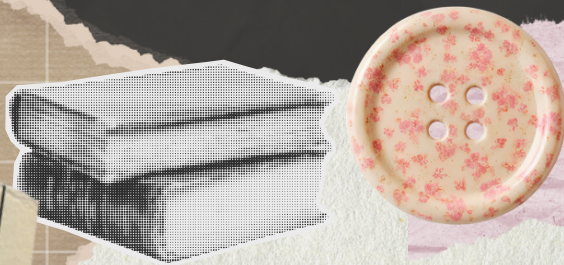
Originally from London, Reckless Records has been a staple for music-loving Chicagoans for over 30 years. With three locations across the city, this record store is the ultimate spot for fans of any genre or format. If record collecting isn't your style, the store also features an impressive selection of DVDs and posters.



THRIFTING

Through TIME

BY FERN RUTLIN

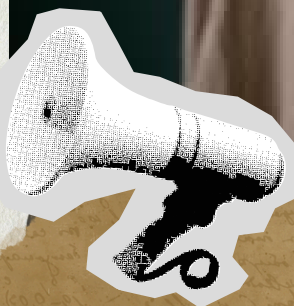


Secondhand shopping is nothing new. The original bartering system of acquiring goods is where the modern idea of “thrifting” comes from today. The fun of finding some worth from other people’s used items is a truth of our society. At every point in our history, there have been people that offer items they no longer need to people that may want them. This style of shopping can be anything from just giving things out on the street, donating to yard sales, or donating to relatively distinguished vintage and consignment shops. Formal shops that sell donated items have their origins in the 19th century in the US and Europe to try and combat poverty by providing these secondhand items for the lowest price they can go for.



Times of widespread economic hardships like the Great Depression have been the periods where thrifting was at its most popular. Stigmatized in times of plenty, yet lifesaving in times of scarcity, secondhand stores always had their place. The popularity of thrifting that we know of today comes from the 1960s and 70s, a known highpoint in its acceptance. This was caused by the rise of countercultures like the Hippie, Punk, and Bohemian styles, a time where thrift stores were known for unique, affordable vintage pieces that didn't come from popular main brands. This popularity continued into the 80s and 90s where vintage fashion became a statement in itself. This gave rise to the highly curated and organized vintage stores that we know today.

Also driven by an increasing concern for the environment in the late 20th century, the popularity of buying secondhand items grew into what we know of it today. With this newfound popularity are organizations and companies that focus on redirecting these secondhand items from landfills and getting more customers to buy these goods. In the recent popularity of thrifting, also perpetuated by social media influencers, we are seeing an unparalleled trend of reselling and buying secondhand as never seen before. Where will this trend of thrifting lead us next?



The history of thrifting is still ongoing, with new vintage stores and personal resellers emerging daily. Coinciding with the missions of organizations like Chicago Fair Trade and other likeminded, waste minimizing groups, I believe the comfort and acceptance of buying secondhand clothing can significantly lessen the waste we produce as a society.

CHICAGO
**FAIR
TRADE**

If you would like to learn more about fashion related topics that talk about fashion in relation to other topics, then you should read my DePaul Honors Blog column called Stylish! I will be talking about styling when put into the different contexts of which we live, including the consideration of our environment when we think about buying clothes and the faults of the fashion industry.



THE PERSONAL ECONOMICS OF AGING

✧ BY SYDNEY BROOKS ✧

THE FEELING OF THE CHANGING ECONOMY IS SOMETHING THAT FEW PEOPLE ARE UNAWARE OF.

When older generations bring up how they used to buy a burger for \$0.50, I can't help but laugh, because in this economy, that isn't feasible. This laughter also follows with a bit of uneasiness. The economy reflects choices made today, and how those turn into tomorrow's consequences.

For some college students, finances are put on the back burner until they graduate. For others, they work while in school trying their hardest to balance a life where they won't



graduate with a striking amount of debt. With tuition inflation, the rising cost of living, and student debts, college students should look towards the future economy. The median student loan borrower with outstanding debt owed around \$25,000 in 2023. This isn't looking at anyone who has a postgraduate

degree, which students are told to consider when wanting financial stability in the future.

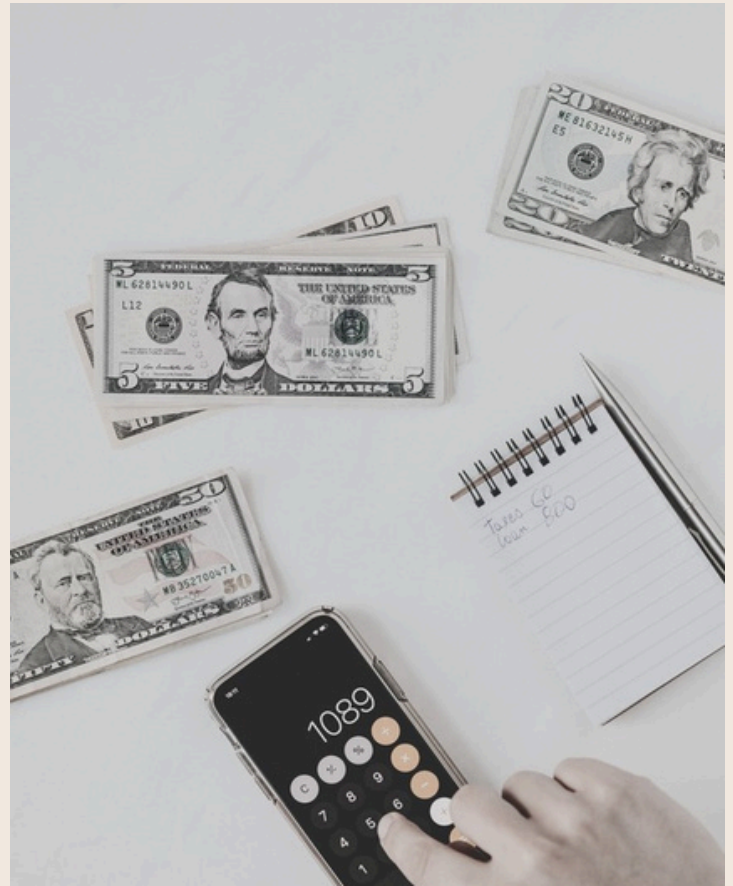
Imagine our generation 20 to 30 years from now. Any delayed savings, student loans not paid off, and slower wealth accumulation will be affecting retirement, housing, and economic mobility. The average inflation rate from 1926 till 2024 was around 3%. One thing students need to be aware of is savings erosion, which simply states that cash loses real value over time. Another thing to take into consideration is pension impacts, which can cause, without a cost-of-living adjustment, pension incomes to buy less overtime. The time value of money is how every financial decision compounds over time. This isn't just a formula, but it's the quiet. Every dollar we borrow today for our education, expands with interest, and every dollar we don't invest shrinks in potential to grow.

In today's world, so many people tell you what you should do to be financially free. There are many resources that it's impossible to

examine all of them. This can be a blessing and a curse, it's no surprise that it's important for people to understand the impact of financial choices by learning from the previous generations. Every generation faces a different economy but understanding how interest rates, investments, and taking out loans, can affect you in 20 to 30 years; especially in ways you weren't thinking about. It's vital to understand that though many have student loans, there are ways to prevent interest from compounding making your loans impossible to pay off. Understanding economics of aging can give you perspective on how time can reveal the true impact of choices we make today.



Our grandparents saved coins in jars and spent pennies on everyday items. This seems like a dream to the generations today, but we also get to order our coffee through an app. The tools have changed, but the principles haven't. When thinking about your personal feelings toward the economy and your personal financial decisions, it is good to remember that time rewards patience and that even though it may feel like you are behind, we are all living in the same economy.



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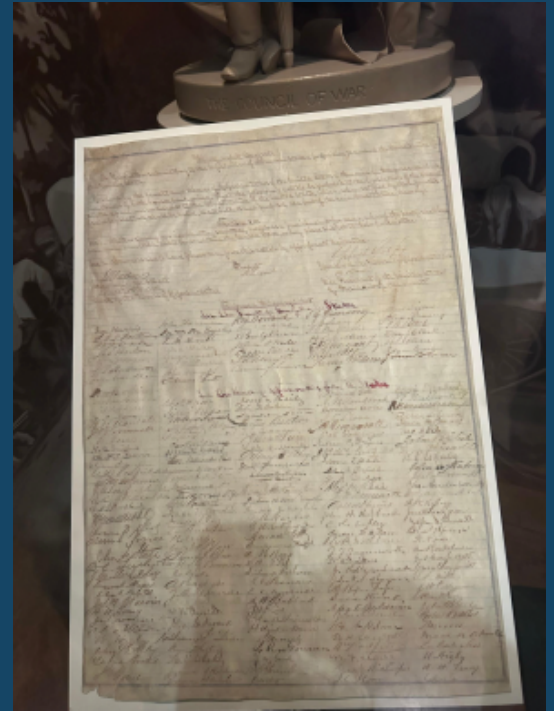
BECOMING LINCOLN PARK

By SIMONE GRACZYK

Just under two miles from DePaul, the Chicago History Museum sits at the edge of Lincoln Park. From the outside, it looks unassuming, but once you step inside it's like crossing into another world. With hundreds of different artifacts and many exhibits, it's easy to get lost, but eventually you'll find Abraham Lincoln. Not the man himself, but the memory of him. His story connects the museum's rooms to the streets just beyond its doors.



For more than a century, the museum has acted as Chicago's collective memory, and Lincoln has always been at its center. Inside, small details make the past feel tangible. There is a replica of the bed where he died, a campaigning axe (symbolism of his hardworking character), a pocket watch he was once gifted, document replications, and faded photographs that remind you how real the past was. However, Lincoln's presence there isn't just about looking back in time. It's about how Chicago still sees parts of itself through him. His image is used to talk about freedom, unity, and resilience. After his assassination, a neighborhood was renamed, and what was then Lake Park became Lincoln Park, turning grief into remembrance.

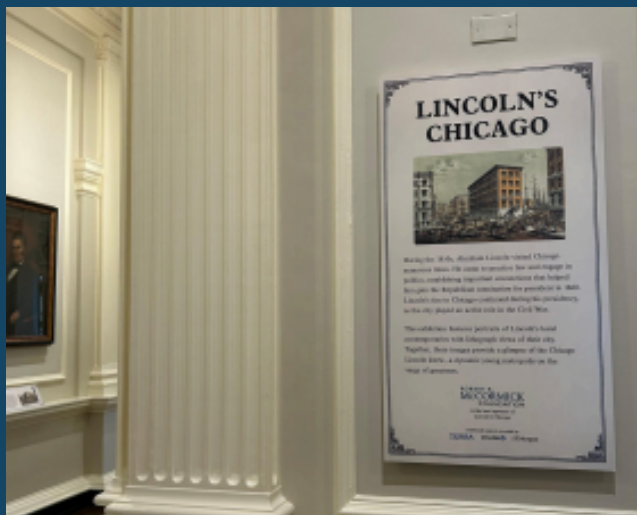


Lincoln's story and Chicago's have always been intertwined. Before he became president, Lincoln visited Chicago several times to argue legal cases, give speeches, and build political support. In 1856, he spoke at the Tremont House downtown, laying out the ideals that would later define his presidency: opposition to slavery, belief in democracy, and faith in progress. Chicago, then a fast-growing city, was a place where those ideas took root. The city later became a hub for Union support during the Civil War and a site of mourning after his death. His body even passed through Chicago on its funeral train in 1865, where thousands gathered to pay their respects.

Outside the museum, the neighborhood tells its own story. Long before it became a park, the land was a cemetery. By the mid-1800s, it was so crowded that it became a public health concern. Most of the graves were moved north, though not all. Some were lost to the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, and others still lie unmarked. When the fire finally died out and the city began to rebuild, the land was transformed again, this time into a public park.

From there, Lincoln Park kept changing. German immigrants started farming cabbage, earning it the nickname “Cabbage Patch.” Later, its residents grew into a mix of families, students, and newcomers. The museum and the neighborhood mirror each other: one holds on to Chicago’s past, the other lives it in real time.

Standing on the museum steps, you can see that connection clearly. A little further down, the bronze Standing Lincoln statue looks out over the park’s tree-lined paths, once burial grounds, now alive with joggers, families, and tourists. Chicago remembers Lincoln not just through what sits behind glass, but through the spaces, ideas, and people that keep reshaping Lincoln Park, the neighborhood he continues to inspire.



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