

May 2023

Danville High School's
Undertow
Student Literary
Magazine
Volume 2:
Tides of Life



Dear Reader,

My name is Benjamin Tibbles. I am a sophomore at DHS and lead layout designer for *Undertow* this year. In the past two years I have learned a lot about how to design and format a magazine. Our theme for this year's issue of *Undertow* is Tides of Life. This theme is about change in our lives, similar to how the sea changes tides. When high tide comes in, it engulfs and surrounds the beach, but at low tide, we are left with treasures that once were hidden. The time during the Covid-19 pandemic felt like a high tide. Our lives were surrounded by this force, but once things returned to normal, we were left with treasures in the things we had learned about ourselves. Of course, this theme is up to the interpretation of you, the reader, and all of the wonderful poets, artists, and writers included in this magazine. This year, we are also featuring a new section, **The Undertow Questionare**. In this section, we have shared the same questions with vastly different people within the Danville Schools community, and left them up for their own interpretation. I hope that you enjoy this year's edition of *Undertow* with our theme Tides of Life!

Ben Tibbles



Dear Reader,

This is my first year working with the literary magazine. This year, I focused mainly on our poetry submissions. Being able to see interpretations of the “Tides of Life” theme by different student authors was insightful. Not only did the submissions open our eyes to real issues within the school, and what our community means to students, but it also provided an outlet for student creativity and opinion. I find the magazine to be a great opportunity for those both in and outside of the club.

Abby Sears

Ill-Fit
Azrail Knoll
First Place Winner

I am a creature of change
Change my hair,
Change my name,
Change.
Slip into her skin
Become something more
But it's ill-fitting on me,
Hanging off my soul
Like an oversized sweater.

I am a creature of change
Change my heart,
Change my eyes,
Change.
Snakes shed their skin
When it fits them wrong
I used to think
If I dug my nails in deep enough,
That maybe I could too.

I have changed
Slipped out of my old self
Like stepping out of a dress
And now I hide my chest
And I dye my hair
And I pull my skin close
To try and make it fit a little better.

Azrail Knoll is a freshman at Danville High School.

Ode to Danville
Elijah Kinley
Second Place Winner

I see you Danville
With your kids playing at Millenium Park
And your students learning at Danville High School
From the bowling alley
To the movies.

Beneath the fresh grass in the summer
And the smokey burning leaves in the fall
And the minty snow in the winter
And the heavy mud in the spring
I smell home.

I hear the birds tweeting in the afternoon
And the crickets chirping at nighttime
And buses rumbling in the morning
I hear a town full of love.

Always full of life
Forever a beacon for my heart
A refuge for my town
You are my missing piece.

Elijah Kinley is a senior at Danville High School.

This Winter
Carmen Salvador
Third Place Winner

A snow globe sits on my kitchen table.
I'd shake it and shake it so it never stops moving.
I'm impressed at how it moves and glitters in the night.
The tree is super snowy,
Every snowflake gracefully falls down on it.
A single tree in the middle of this storm.
Hanging on to dear life with the last roots it's got.
The globe makes it look magnified.
Everything looks bigger and stronger.

When you sit it down everything goes still.
The storm slows down, and the winds quiet down.

I close my eyes and in the still of the night I whisper a prayer to God.
The wind gets harsher against my window.
My blankets feel cold against my pale skin.
I feel my heart thump against my chest and then I focus it on my hand.
I turn and look at the spot beside me,
When is anyone ever gonna lay on that side of my bed?
The winds seem to answer my question,
"Wait and don't rush it, dear, everything..... comes....when...it's...the right time."
A single tear leaves my light brown eyes.
My blankets hug me and keep me warm the whole night.
If you stop breathing for a second, you can hear the neighbor's cat meow.
You can also hear the light snoring of the dog next door.

The slight tap of the trees against my door and windows.
The wind harshly hits my roof.
The room is so dark the jacket on my rocking chair looks like someone is sitting there.
I close my eyes and stop breathing for a couple of seconds.
I can hear my siblings breathing.

My little sister on the bunk bed above mine,
I can see her chest lifting up and down at a slow rhythm.
My brother snores a little laugh, I wonder what he's dreaming about?
My other brother, the annoying one, keeps moving around his bunk bed.
He can't stay still, even when sleeping.
Children. Children.

I cover my ears and hear nothing but the rhyme of my own breathing.
Tonight's such a quiet yet noisy night.
Christmas is around the corner, I wonder what everyone else is doing at this time.
I wonder if Santa really goes around the world,
I wonder if he'll come to my house tonight.
Tomorrow is hours away, but my loneliness goes back and back in time.

Hopefully this year I get to see snow on Christmas, maybe on my birthday too.
Dear Santa, this year I wish for more wishes to come.
Help all of those kids out there who need you more than I do.

Give them a Christmas they won't forget.
That's my first wish this Christmas.
Make everyone's wishes come true, leave mine for last.

Merry Christmas Santa, and everyone out there who doesn't have anyone right now.
Just close your eyes and listen to the winds, and maybe snow.

Make a wish and let God do the rest.
Poems are long but so are the meanings in them.
And good-night :)

Carmen Salvador is a sophomore at Danville High School.

“Heart Doctor”

Petra Phillips

Put your heart in the recycling bin before you go
I hate to tear it apart and leave your ashes falling like
snow

Your trash is someone’s buried treasure
Not far left to go.

Just dig it up and pull it out
Dust it off and stretch it out
Clean and prime and polish
Your restoration comes through the tarnish.

Though it’s worth twice the price
It’s pure like crystal
Like perfection, yes, viceless
Like gold, it’s so, so priceless.

Love is like your atonement
And only with that you can buy
A love like the doves have
Never leave, but free to fly
So relentless, no pretending
Just toss your broken to me.

Any time you can pass by.

Petra Phillips is a sophomore at Danville High School.

A Willow Like Me
Petra Phillips

You carry me when I'm tired
To where my limbs are swaying in the breeze
Like a willow tree, a willow tree in the wind.

Born from a flower child
Dewdrops on fresh winter green
How the light cast shadow of a girl whose hair is thick like string.
I watch her dance in the winds
her spirit is much like me,
Hidden in the woods is a willow like me.

I walk barefoot on the moss
Who's either thick, or short, soft
I stare down a mountains cliff
It's heavens earthly loft.
I can admire all that God's done
While I lie on a bed of grass,
Bathing in the sun.

Born from a flower child
Dewdrops on fresh winter green
How the light cast shadow of a girl whose hair is thick like string.
I watch her dance in the winds
her spirit is much like me,
Hidden in the woods is a willow like me

I believe in fairies and giants walking in the woods,
Keeping chaos at bay, casting innocence and good.
If you feel like someones watching
They're amused by your peace
I sit in their arms when I climb trees.

Why sleep when the Sun's awake?
Why ignore the lonely moon?
Why waste a moment of time in nature
When it's the animals you amuse?
Don't you hear the birds laughing?
Can't you hear the fawns leap?
There are worms and bugs and rodents
Dancing underneath your feet.
The fungi speaks to their kin and the trees
Watch the life cycle on in moments like these.

Born from a flower child
Dewdrops on fresh winter green
How the light cast shadow of a girl whose hair is thick like string.
I watch her dance in the winds
her spirit is much like me,
Hidden in the woods is a willow like me

Petra Phillips is a sophomore at Danville High School.

Haunted House

Azrail Knoll

she haunts me
icy cold fingers trailing down my spine
it's bittersweet,
thinking of the girl
(i killed)
i used to be

i gutted her
from the inside out
(i left her behind...
didn't i?)
but
every now and then
i wish
she had gotten a chance
to live

i miss
that little girl
sometimes,
when my bones itch
and my flesh stings
but i think
i am better
for having left her behind

Azrail Knoll is a freshman at Danville High School

Changeling Azrail Knoll

my ancestors tell stories
of fae and púca and tuatha de danann
the quicksilver creatures
of legend and myth
that lure you away,
that steal you away,
that sing to you in the dark.
my ancestors tell stories
of the rules that keep you safe,
the natural laws
that these beings must follow.
but the one story
they never tell
is what to do
if you
are one of them.

i am not who they say i am,
her name fits me wrong.
i think
she's where i'm supposed to be
for i am a changeling
in a human world

Azrail Knoll is a freshman at Danville High School



Dear Reader,

My name is Bella Sepahban, and I am the Art Director of Undertow. While there are many things that I have enjoyed as Art Director, my favorite amongst them would probably be mentoring my assistant, Rylan Montgomery, so he can take over as Art Director when I graduate. I've also loved being able to interview and discuss the artwork that students have submitted for our magazine. Undertow has always been a place where students can let out their inner thoughts and feelings, so I am excited to see what its future holds for new students that come in.

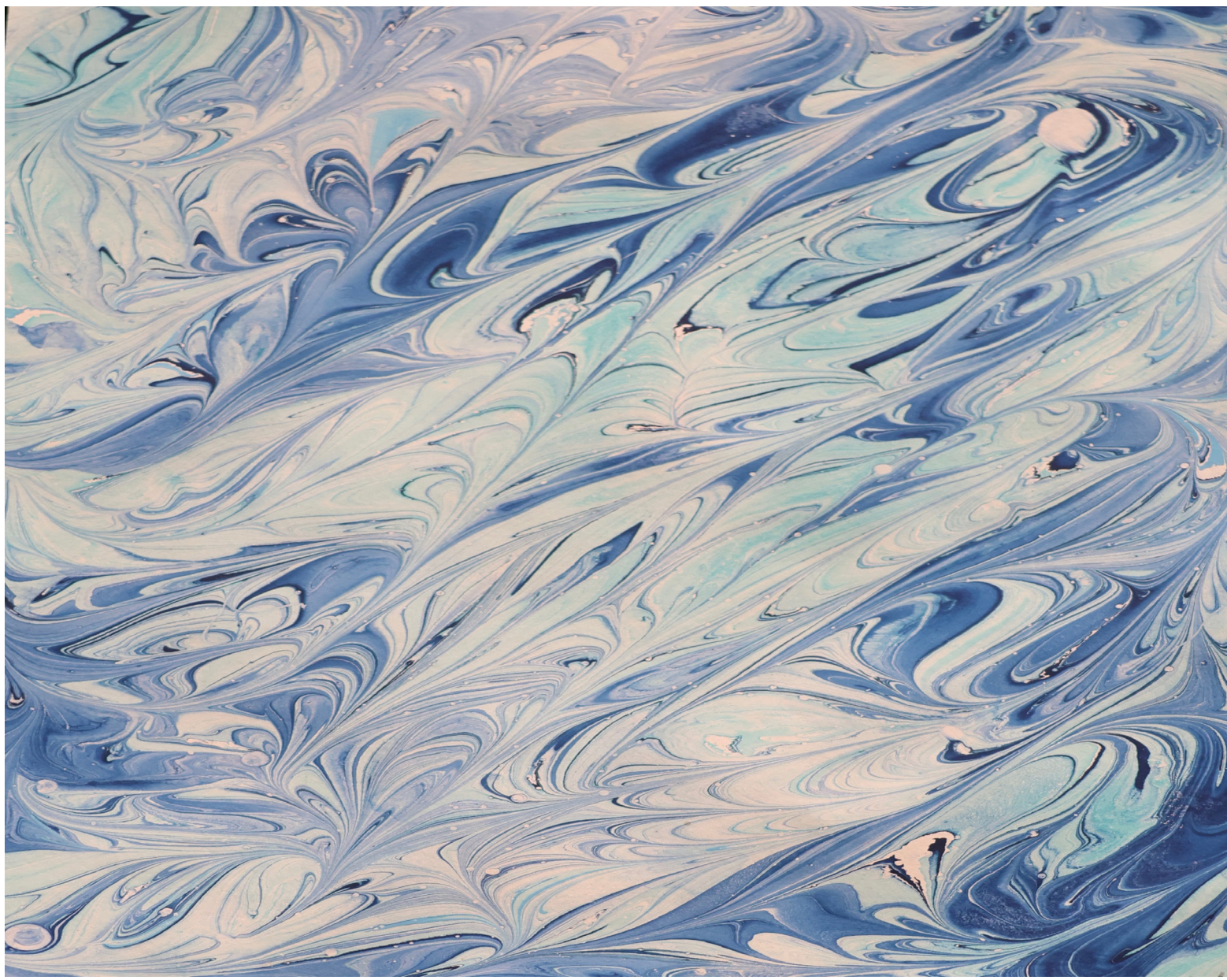
Bella Sepahban

Hello Reader,

My name is Rylan Montgomery. I am a sophomore at DHS, and I work in the art section for *Undertow*. I look at all the art submissions and assist in judging and taking photos of them. My favorite part of being in *Undertow* is getting to talk to different artists about their work. Next year I will be the Art Director for *Undertow*.

Rylan Montgomery





Aysia Paige
Freshman
Beach Waves



Tori Whisenant
Junior
Second Place
Swirl

Azariah Ford
Sophomore
Third Place
Below the Shadows





Rylan Montgomery
Sophomore
Danville Painting



Abigail Sears
Sophomore
Untitled

Lillian Combs
Freshman
Untitled



Jaxsin Clontz
Senior
Sea Artwork





Bekah Penman
Sophomore
Untitled



Makayla Mackenzie
Senior
Music Underwater

Salem Glackin
Sophomore
Under the Sea



Heather Butcher
Senior
Underwater





Rylan Montgomery
Sophomore
Photo Series, No. 1



Rylan Montgomery
Sophomore
Photo Series, No. 2

Rylan Montgomery
Sophomore
Photo Series, No. 3



Rylan Montgomery
Sophomore
Photo Series, No. 4



Dear Reader,

I am the nonfiction editor of the Undertow literary magazine. I'm a junior at Danville High School and a member of the concert and marching bands. The nonfiction section of Undertow includes reviews, interviews, and features the addition of the Undertow Questionnaire. The Undertow student editorial board selected students and staff members to fill out the questionnaire. This year, two students and two staff members filled out the Undertow Questionnaire.

Matthew Gover

Music Review

Rylan Montgomery

Album: *Flower Boy* by Tyler the Creator



Flower Boy is one of Tyler the Creator's best albums. It has a chilled out vibe that's present throughout all 14 songs in the album. The songs have a catchy, uplifting beat combined with relatable lyrics and also features some other great artists, such as Frank Ocean and Rex Orange County. *Flower Boy* is a great album to listen to and I would recommend it to anyone.

Rylan Montgomery is a sophomore at Danville High School

The Undertow Questionnaire

Silvia Cimorelli is a foreign exchange student from Italy, and a senior at Danville High School.

Who do you love?

The people I will always love the most are, of course, my family. Even if we are miles away from each other, it is like they are always near me, and I can always count on them.

Where do you feel most at peace?

Usually I feel the most peaceful when I'm surrounded by nature, like when I'm at the mountain or on holiday in general. So when I don't have the anxiety that the school in particular brings me, in fact these months that I've spent here far from my Italian lifestyle have been peaceful and relaxing for me.

What is your passion?

Probably traveling, experiencing new cultures and new lifestyles.

What sound brings you joy?

My music, I spend half of my day with my earbuds on and my music playing in the background, it can help make even the most boring or annoying things to do more enjoyable.

What do you find delicious?

Desserts, chocolate in particular, is my biggest weakness, I can't resist it!

What has been your biggest obstacle?

Probably the whole exchange year experience, I've always dream about it but then when it got real, when I received my host family and flight for an unknown place in Kentucky I finally had that bit of awareness and fear of the fact that I was making a leap into the void I will be forever grateful though that I didn't let those feelings get between me and my dream and this turn out to be the experience of a lifetime.

Where is the tide in your life?

The tide in my life has always been that of every teenager, but now that I'm at the other side of the world I have to face difficulties that I never faced before, like language and communication in the first place and I had to overcome the fact that my parents are not here to solve any problem that come in my life.

The Undertow Questionnaire

James Sallee is a senior at Danville High School.

Who do you love?

My fiance, nephews, and mom.

Where do you feel most at peace?

Home.

What is your passion?

To be a welder and MMA fighter.

What breaks your heart?

Not having a father.

What sound brings you joy?

Guitar.

What do you find delicious?

Food.

What has been your biggest obstacle?

Fighting depression and anxiety.

Where is the tide in your life?

The person I was last year but I put him down.

The Undertow Questionnaire

Nicky King is a Guidance Counsellor at Toliver Intermediate.

Who do you love?

First and foremost, I love Jesus. I love my family, friends, coworkers, and students.

Where do you feel most at peace?

I feel most at peace when I am at home with my husband and kids.

What is your passion?

Children are my passion, specifically Danville students!

What breaks your heart?

My heart breaks when I see others who are hurting. It also breaks my heart when I can't fix the things that are hurting others.

What sound brings you joy?

Laughter brings me joy. I love to laugh and I love to make others laugh.

What do you find delicious?

My extended family is full of wonderful cooks. Anything they fix is always delicious.

What has been your biggest obstacle?

I have been my own biggest obstacle. I sometimes doubt myself and my abilities. It's easy to compare ourselves to others and fill our heads with a lot of negative self-talk.

Where is the tide in your life?

Tides can be high and tides can be low. As I reflect over my life, I can say that I've had many high and low tides. Marriage, children, my relationship with Christ, successes of former students along with the loss of loved ones, challenges of being a school counselor, and sometimes just life in general have provided both high and low tides. Honestly, I'm not sure where the tide is in my life right now. Life can create busyness that doesn't always allow you to see or celebrate those high tides. I'm guilty of that and I don't recommend it. It is important to see and know both your high and low tides. You learn and grow from both.

The Undertow Questionnaire

Jeff Gulle is a social studies teacher at John W. Bate Middle School.

Who do you love?

My family.

Where do you feel most at peace?

In a quiet room at home.

What is your passion?

Making what I teach about interesting and engaging.

What breaks your heart?

Blatant, deliberate, unnecessary cruelty.

What sound brings you joy?

Good (in my opinion) music, my family's voices, a cat's purr.

What do you find delicious?

Fresh fruit and vanilla ice cream.

What has been your biggest obstacle?

Expecting perfection from myself.

Where is the tide in your life?

On a shelf in the laundry room, along with the fabric softener!

Thank you for reading Volume 2: Tides of Life.

We are always on the lookout for students to join our student editorial team. And if you just love to create, please consider submitting to Volume 3.

Ms. Sepahban and the student editors of
Undertow

