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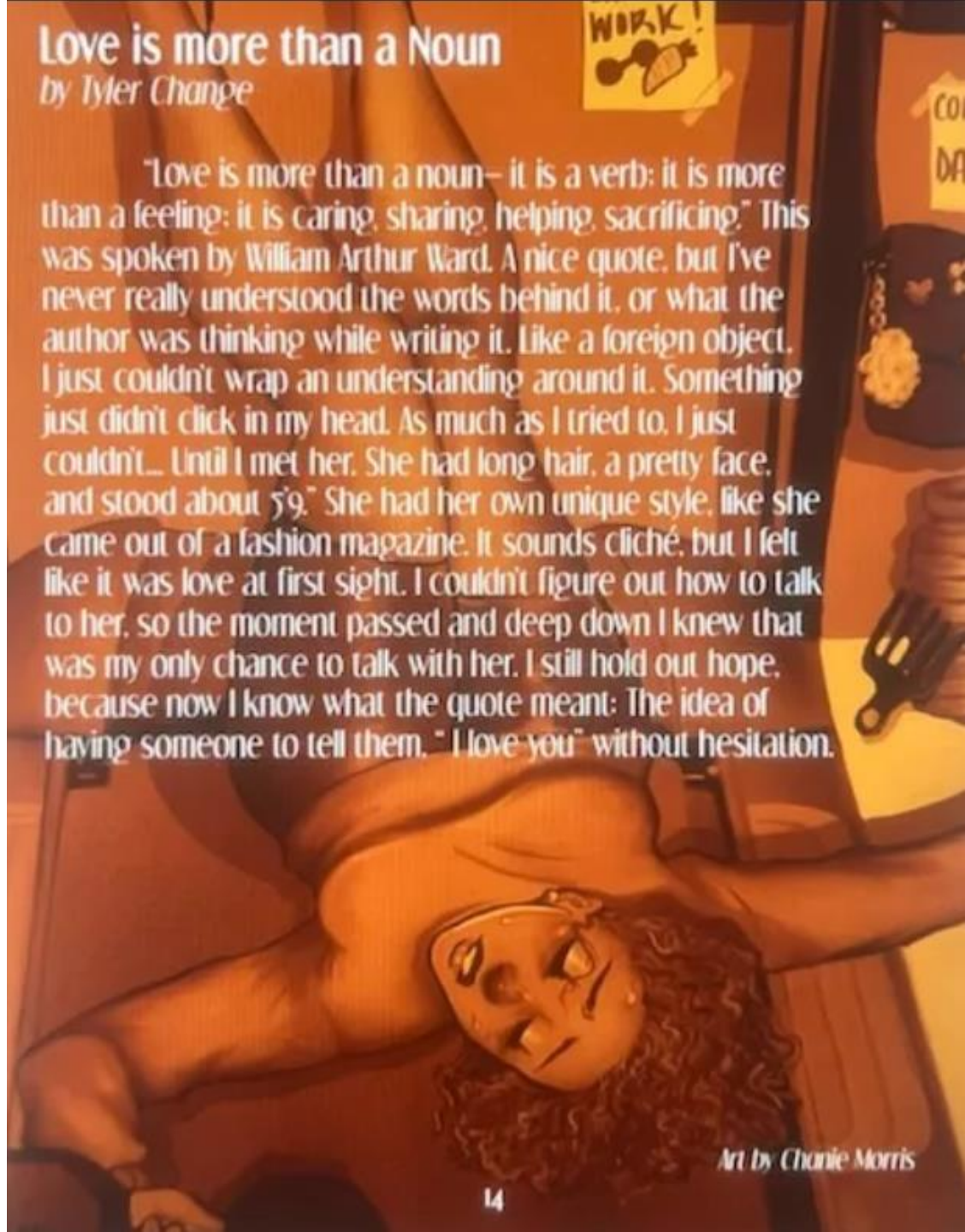
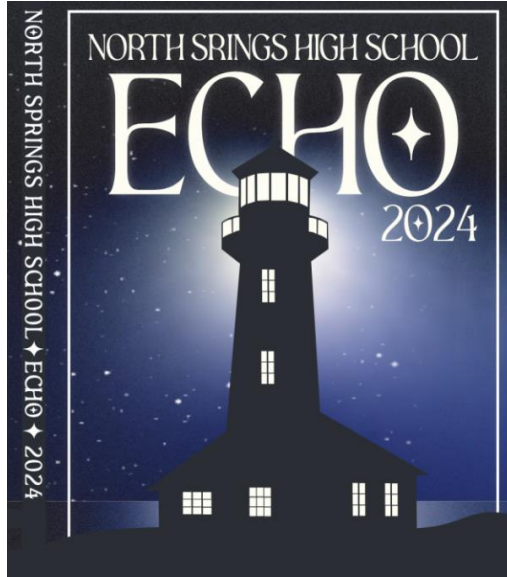
# Join the **Echo Literary Magazine / Creative Writing Class!**

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# “Meat Grinder”

AUGUST 30, 2025

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## Student Samples from Echo

I stand in a cold room. A cold, twisted room, the unfortunate room chosen to be infested with the sickness that has become the final stage of humanity.

Cords and wires encircle the room like a tourniquet, electrical signals indecipherable but their purpose all too well understood. The machine, ever hulking, ever grand, lies against the wall of the room, shoddily constructed at its very best. It shifts and heaves like a dying beast bleeding out in the nuclear snow, left for whatever pathetic creature comes to feast on its corpse. Left for the last little roach to come crawling back to it after it had crushed all the others.

## Love is more than a Noun

by Tyler Change

“Love is more than a noun— it is a verb: it is more than a feeling: it is caring, sharing, helping, sacrificing.” This was spoken by William Arthur Ward. A nice quote, but I’ve never really understood the words behind it, or what the author was thinking while writing it. Like a foreign object, I just couldn’t wrap an understanding around it. Something just didn’t click in my head. As much as I tried to, I just couldn’t... Until I met her. She had long hair, a pretty face, and stood about 5’9.” She had her own unique style, like she came out of a fashion magazine. It sounds cliché, but I felt like it was love at first sight. I couldn’t figure out how to talk to her, so the moment passed and deep down I knew that was my only chance to talk with her. I still hold out hope, because now I know what the quote meant: The idea of having someone to tell them, “I love you” without hesitation.

Art by Chanie Morris