

Soundcheck

UPCOMING SHOWS

AN INTERVIEW WITH PLEASE HER

PHOTOGRAPHY

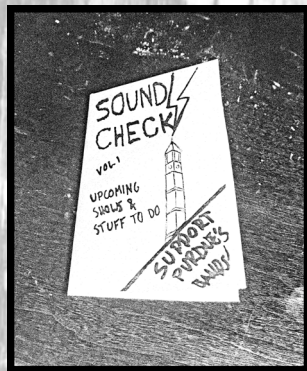
WRITING

MORE?

Issue 1 / Fall 2024



Technically, this isn't actually the first edition of Souncheck. In September, 2022, new to Purdue and it's music scene, I decided I wasn't good enough at music (and too scared) to join a band. I was still desperate to get involved in some way and ended up drawing a pocket zine full of upcoming shows. The original plan was to put the pamphlets out on the regular but with a combination of lack of motivation, getting busy with school, finally joining a band, and other time-consumers of the same variety, I pretty much forgot about it. Since Hannah of Scenes From Our Scene (a local event guide and resource of it's own) was leaving West Lafayette for Chicago and taking Scenes with her, she offered to help me get a successor off the ground. Now, with the help of everyone who contributed and supported it, Souncheck is reborn!



The true Souncheck #1 in all its freshman dorm-assembled glory.

I don't have a whole lot more direction with where to take it than I did when I made the first one, but there'll be a bit more than just upcoming shows in this version (and hopefully the future ones too, if I actually get around to making them) such as photos, interviews and other non-music related things by people in our West Lafayette music scene.

All that to say, thanks for tuning in and I hope you enjoy. - Rio

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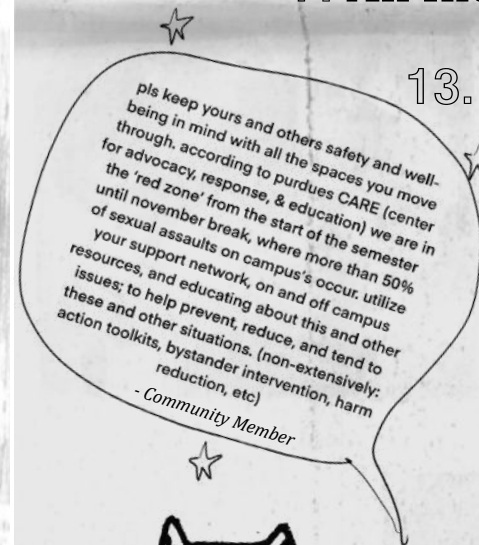


Photo by Nicole

Upcoming Events

Here it is: the whole reason Souncheck was conceived in the first place. This is all the events, musical or otherwise, that I could find coming up in and around West Lafayette. Hope to see ya there!

9/14 - Rave / Milky Way - 405 N Salisbury St. / X / X

9/14 - Cervidae, Electroflyers, 3rd St. Collective, Wood St. Alley / The Nest - 207 W Stadium Ave. / 7PM / \$5

9/15 - Sugar Pill, BMORE, Blackheart Gypsy / Slayter Hill Stage (Rain location: Fowler Hall) / 6:30PM / Free

9/15 - Spider-Man: Across the Spiderverse *Alive in Concert* / Elliot Hall / 6PM / \$26

9/17 - Milly Raccoon & The New Normal / People's Brewery / 7PM / Free

9/18 - Daniel Villarreal / Duncan Hall - 619 Ferry St. / 6PM / \$15

9/18 - Jazz Jams at The Union / Hail Purdue Stage (PMU) / 7PM / Free

9/21 - West Lafayette Global Fest / 3PM / Free

9/21 - Patina, Citrus Sol, Sunset Drip, The Lunar Diamonds / Milky Way - 405 N Salisbury St. / 7PM / \$6

9/21 - Drive, Victoria, BMORE, Syren, Seventh Cloud / The Nest - 207 W Stadium Ave. / 7PM / \$5

9/24 - Ben Ezra and Mike Reeb / People's Brewery / 6PM / Free

10/4 - Velvet, Rosé, Cats Pajamas, Shotgun Funeral / The Nest - 207 W Stadium Ave. / 7PM / \$5

10/11 - Jazz Concert / Loeb Playhouse / 7:30 / Free

10/12 - Starry Night Festival / Chauncey Village / 7PM / \$5

10/16 - Jazz Jams at The Union / Hail Purdue Stage (PMU) / 7PM / Free

10/19 - Jazz Concert / Loeb Playhouse / 7:30 / Free

10/25 - The Nest Anniversary Show: Settling the Score, Bats Outta Hell, Rosé, Concrete Chicken, Caleb Brolin, Connor McLaren / The Nest - 207 W Stadium Ave. / 7PM / \$5

This is by no means a definitive list, just the stuff I could find. I know there's a couple Milky Way shows in the works and I'm sure there's a couple of others I missed, so keep an eye out for those. In the meantime, this should keep your weekends busy -- don't go saying there's nothing to do around here



UNICORN?

By Kelton Smith

a man and his boy
trudge through the woods
the man
(an intellectual type)
takes pride in his boy's curious nature
he asks about the trees
the wind
the birds and their songs
the man answers

the boy spots a headless creature
decaying on the forest floor
maggots squirm around the wound
and the putrid stench would deter
any less curious boy

investigating further
the boy arrives at the conclusion
that the creature must be
a unicorn

the boy leads his father
to his discovery
and explains his hypothesis
the man
(an intellectual type)
with a frown and furrowed brow
leads his boy away
from the likely disease-riddled beast
he explains to his boy
that the creature could not possibly be
a unicorn
and
logically
must be a horse

the man
(an intellectual type)
deliberates on the circumstances
that caused this creature
to lose only its head
the boy
remaining silent
peers over his shoulder
at a rancid rotting reminder
of a less magical world

An Interview With: **Please Her**

Photos By Hannah: *
Photos by Carlos: #

Please Her was one of campus's most unique bands and Hannah(Scenes From Our Scene) interviewed them last year before they moved on to future endeavors. She never ended up using it so she agreed to let me put it in here. Thanks Hannah!

Connor: Guitar, Mikey: Bass, Sarah(Shultz): Vocals, Sarah(Rinker): Keys, Brian: Drums

Hannah: So, how did you guys come into existence?

Shultz: Most of us graduated high school in 2020 and were freshman here[Purdue] in 2020 and it was so depressing, there were three bands, but they couldn't play because there was a pandemic, and we all rotted in our dorms just waiting to play music and write music and perform and I went to a house show, found connor in a tree and cornered him and said "let's start a band, you play guitar, I sing, let's do it" and then we collected everyone else; I met Mikey through a mutual friend, Rinker, Brian and I were all in the same club, and we just had spider-man meme moments of "you play music? No way, I play music! And then we formed and we didn't think about band names for a long time, we focused on learning songs and our play styles and all that, and then finally we decided we wanna play fun stuff and crowd pleasers, and we don't wanna be just indie, or pop, or just one kinda thing and brian one day just came down in the basement and said "What about 'Please Her'?", and we were like-

Brian: Especially just with the genre, y'know, we were talking about what kind of music we play, it was just crowd pleasers, and I just sat on that for a while and then I was like "crowd pleasers... crowd pleasers" just in my head and then-

Shultz: Please Her... Yeah!

Brian: that's how that came about

Hannah: As you guys have grown, how's your style developed, what was it originally, what did it grow into

Brian: I don't think we really had a style at the beginning, one thing that I really love about this band is the different musical backgrounds that we all have, so it's more so, y'know, with every song we play and every song we right, there's a little bit of everyone in there. We all bring something very different and it kinda comes together in that Scorpion-core... and as time has gone on, I think we've kind of really honed in on identifying what everyone's really good at, and really harnessing that in our music.

Hannah: What is Scorpion-core?

Shultz: It's... music that pleases Her! Her is the scorpion, the scorpion is Her.



Hannah: What's everyone's main style?

Mikey: Artists I really like are like: Ween, I'm a big Grateful Dead fan, Frank Zappa. I learned most of my music stuff just from playing with my buddies in my basement in high school, so definitely, like, a lot of jam stuff.

Connor: For me it's probably more, like, funk and rock influence, so like: Jimi Hendrix, Anderson. Paak, more recently [unintelligible], more funk

Rinker: I think funk for me too, at least right now. I grew up playing classical music, which is fun; it was a good place for me to start in terms of fundamentals, but I think I grew into really enjoying funk the most in terms of, like, composition. Patrice Rushen, one of the greatest keyboard players that I've ever listened to, and she plays exclusively funk.

Shultz: Yeah, funk, soul, and disco, uh, just music that you can't be in a bad mood when listening to. I write music really based on rap, somehow it translates into my brain into singing, so I do like experimental hip hop a lot too.

Brian: I grew up learning a lot of classic rock, punk rock, I mean anything in the rock genre, really. I feel like that comes out a lot in my drumming. Bands like Rush, Aerosmith, y'know the list goes on for a long time, but that sort of genre.

Hannah: One of the ways you guys stand out is how you engage with the crowd, how'd that develop?

Brian: we kind of

Connor: one of our saying that we thing different.

people remember

Shultz: Yeah, I physical manifesta- of the music, and,

charge people a door fee, we gotta give them their money's worth, and we just wanted to do something fun. The religion thing was always there, like we were Please Her and then someone said "Oh, [you're] a church", and we just ran with that. As far as the cage goes, anything that pushes it was tested a little bit and then we see like "Okay, people will pray, maybe they'll go in a cage, and we mull over that for months, then finally we [do it]

Hannah: What are your main antics?

Shultz: The main ones... Every show, there will be a prayer. And then the holy water, the cage... I have a stamp of a scorpion to brand people, if they really want to show that they're a follower of Her. Corn shucking for Corn(the song). We have a money gun that shoots money that we printed, we have a bubble gun. [The band] won't let me use it anymore because I say "I have a gun" into the microphone which I guess is a little spicy... *band laughs* Probably shouldn't have said that one on campus, that's my bad. What else?



Brian: Little remote control scorpions.

Shultz: We do! We have remote control scorpions! We've [also] done a funeral, we've baptized people. That's a *big* throwback.

Hannah: *Do you have any you're workshopping?*

Brian: We've got a couple. When they'll see the light of day, who knows

Hannah: *You guys went on tour this summer, how was that? How was it playing for audiences that don't know you personally and might not know anything about you to start with?*

Brian: What I've learned is it's a lot about getting that "buy in" moment, and once you get that moment where you're playing for people who haven't heard you before, it's a lot of freedom as a musician to really, y'know, lean into it, get into the show, not that we're not before that buy in moment, but, y'know, for every show that we played on tour I think I could point out a song or two where that buy in moment happened and it just became a LOT of fun.

Shultz: Tour is really fun

Brian: It's a lot of work to be on the road for sure, some days you wake up and, y'know, you want to stay in the city for a little longer, but you've got that call time, you gotta be there... But it's totally worth it. [Tour] is just something that really enhanced my love for music.

Shultz: We made him sleep on the floor.

Hannah: *How did you guys get a tour? How do you even go about that? I know other bands would probably love to do that, but where do you start?*

Brian: Research

Shultz: It's a lot of hard work, and a lot of planning, and a lot of- like, you have to love music, 'cause if we weren't such massive nerds-

Brian: We would've dropped it.

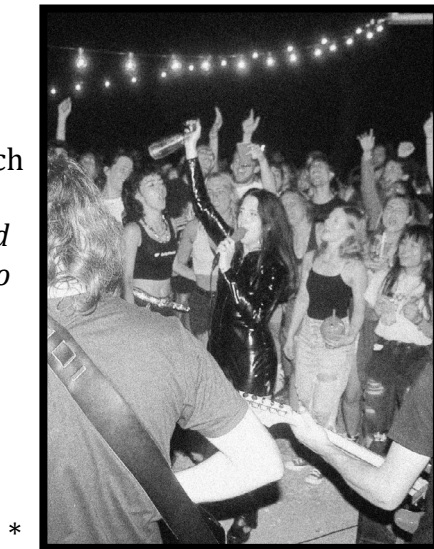
Shultz: Yeah, like, it's a lot of time and money, effort, planning.

Connor: If we didn't get along so well I feel like we probably would've killed each other on the road *band laughs*

Hannah: *If someone comes up to you and is like "Okay, my band wants to try and do a tour", what's like the A to B of it?*

Mikey: It's more like A to Z, there's a lot of steps, a lot of things you gotta figure out.

Shultz: You have to figure out cities, sleeping-



*

Shultz: Eating, car stuff- like if you're taking your own car, is it gonna make it? You have to contact venues, other bands, you have to work out contracts, often. If you're doing house shows, you have to work out money. Working out merch sales. It's a whole lotta research, a whole lotta time, before you even get to the fun telling people that you're going on tour.

Hannah: *What was your introduction to underground music scenes? In general and Purdue's?*

Brian: In high school, I was involved in the scene in Atlanta. I was in my own band in high school so I've kinda been aware that underground scenes exist in most places, but for Purdue, y'know, with COVID and everything, it wasn't until that first show that I ran into Sara(Shultz) back in 2021.



Rinker: Before COVID though, there were a lot of, like, smaller rappers. I think there were less bands and it was more of a hip hop scene, which was cool.

Connor: For me it was pretty similar to Brian; really starting in high school, but then here the first time I went was 2021. Honestly, I think it was probably the same show. And then went to a couple more, and then "the tree show", Sarah ran up to me.

Shultz: Tree show!!!

Mikey: I didn't even know it was a thing until I started playing with these people. But yeah, I like it!

Hannah: *What do you think of the scene now? Have you seen any posi-*

*ti-

tive changes? Negative changes? Just any thoughts in general?*

Brian: It's grown a lot. Since we started - we were still kinda in that early stage, and there was maybe at that point seven?

Shultz: Three.

Brian: Three! Oh wow. And then look at today, I mean there's dozens of bands, and that's a beautiful thing, just more people knowing about it.

Mikey: And it's getting more, like, organized too. Like, there's sobers now, people are doing the zines - of course, people have always been doing the zines, but, y'know, you see more of it - and there's more photographers at the shows too, so it's just becoming more of a production.

Shultz: It's been really fun to see Purdue, of all places, bounce and grow after a pandemic. I'm excited to see where it goes.

Idk: I've had some people from out-of-town bands that have come here to play say that the crowds here are just, like... more into it and energetic so they look forward to it a lot more than some other colleges.

Hannah: *Is there anything that you think is unique to Purdue?*

Brian: The scene here is more established than I think some people think it is. There's a lot of people involved. When you go to some of these other places, you don't really see that sort of embossment. It's a really cool thing. At least for me personally, that's why I love to play here for that reason. Just 'cause... It's the home field.

Shultz: Purdue has a lot of really creative people, that, even if they don't make music, they still get involved which is great! People designing flyers, taking pictures, making zines. All of that creative work for a show in, like, some guy's basement.

Hannah: *You guys are all either graduating or graduated. There's more to music scenes than just college; what do you hope that that would be like?*

Brian: I think that the dream is that we go to Chicago-

Shultz: And dominate the world! And then sell out, [get] a mansion in Vermont with separate mansions, and then a sixth mansion that's just a music studio, and then every day at five PM, we all have to make a pilgrimage to the studio.

Brian: and there's a ball pit in that studio, that's important.

Shultz: No one can get married, only dogs, no kids, amen!



Brian: This is something that, especially as we've kept playing, is something that we have really started thinking of in a more "This is a possibility" sort of way, which is a wonderful thing.

Shultz: And I think aging out of the college music scene is important too. I think the student element is really important for the community and for the "DIY" of it all, so when it's our time, we will... we will peace out!

Hannah: *How was recording your first singles? How did you write it?*

Shultz: We locked ourselves in a cabin in the middle of January.

#

Connor: Every song's a little different, sometimes we'll just be down here playing and, cool, I like whatever song we were just playing, and just go with it. Other times it's one of us on our own comes up with something and brings it to the group and we all add our own parts.

Hannah: *Who came up with CornCornCorn? (Please Her's first single)*

Brian: It was kinda something I'd been writing for a while at that point, and we'd started talking about originals at that point. I was like: "Okay, I've got a couple things" and brought it to them. In my head when I first wrote it, it was supposed to be just, like, a jazz progression. And then we gave it that scorpioncore and now that's what it is... it's a great song!



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Shultz: The writing process that we do is so annoying if you're not in the band. The day we wrote Corn, my roommates were in that bedroom and they heard [the bassline] for about two hours. But then we left that night with Corn, ready to go, right off the bat!

Hannah: *Final question, what's your dream show?*

Brian: Ton of pyrotechnics

Connor: I'd probably say Red Rocks

Shultz: I want to put Brian in one of those 360 drum kits that spins, I think you two on strings (motioning to idk & idk). I want fire, maybe water too. I think we should all be in crazy robot religion costumes.

Brian: and we open for Primus.

Shultz: and then Ice Spice.

Shultz: I'd love to do a 24 million dollar private concert for, like, an oil baron in Dubai where phones aren't allowed and I have a diva meltdown on stage that somehow gets leaked and then we fall from grace and we're on the cover of TMZ. And then I'm shampooing my hair with blue cheese in a dumpster and then we come back on top with a documentary for VH1 that's paired with an album and then we come back up on top like nothing happened. And then mansion in Vermont.



Note from Rio: I transcribed this from an audio recording so my bad for any wrong names and all that. #

By Derek



By Nicole K.

By Carlos

T-Break In 7 Parts

By Alex

Time has bias
Time is an asshole
The problematic partygoer
The one begged to leave

Transient music
Terrainian - down
Take a trip
To the basement

“Terrible, terrible”
Time turns back around
Their friend told them
Turns out

Temper Tantrum
Torn to shreds
Twenty years experienced-
-Totally tainted

Truthfully though
Twas you
Terrifying choice
Tummy turns

To drop it all at once
The taboo “you” lore
Take my word
Table it for tomorrow

Teary eyes
Transit home to-go
Timeless
Took a wrong turn

Degrowth

By Daniel Melbert

The sun’s warm light kisses the delicate tips of the chestnut trees, now scattered sparsely across the landscape below.

The newly weaned calf–unaware of its position in this existence–watches intently; fearing not the darkness soon to come, rather anticipating the return of this warmth to the other side of the valley.

These trees have stories to tell. Stories of synergy, of peaceful symbiosis with peoples and creatures now long gone, evicted by new occupants, whose arrival spurred destruction of centuries of careful cooperation amongst the flora and fauna.

Stories of the deaths of their once mighty, hulking brethren.

These stories shan’t be shared this night, nor the next, lest the burden of beauty once lost smother its lingering glimmer in the eyes of this land’s newest member.

These stories will remain in the roots and mycelia beneath the soft verdant grass. Though one day, just as the light returns to warm the valley, the plants and peoples and creatures and critters will return, mightier than before.

These stories–long gone unheard and unknown–will be told once again; life will spring forth once more from the dormant earth below.

Untitled

By Roger D. C.

The color palette of the world was slightly ajar, the weight of the planet absent and everything sat still. He was approaching 30 and found himself in a house he had not stepped foot in for well over a decade. He sat on the floor, leaning his back against the legs of a stoic man who sat on the couch behind him, the presence of which firm, tall, and slightly threatening. Ahead of them was a corridor that led to the backyard, the door was wide open as they watched the dog of forever ago sat with her back to the sun, basking in the nostalgic warmth of times long passed.

"Dad?"

"Son."

"How are you?"

"Indifferent."

"How come?"

"This is particular"

"What is?"

"This"

"I guess so, why is this happening?"

"I don't know"

"Can I give you a hug?"

"You're a man now son. No need for hugs anymore."

He hadn't spoke to his father since he was just a boy, and despite the fact he was indeed now a man, in the newfound company that was his late father suddenly he felt eleven again.

The majestic beast perked her ears as if something caught her attention. She sat still yet ready as her exceptional coat swayed solemnly in the gentle breeze that dwelled outside.

"Can you tell me a story?"

"Why?"

"I don't know, I don't know you."

"Son. There ain't nothing in this world I could paraphrase or even relay to you in the first person that would change your life in any significant way."

"You could try"

Stories are meaningless frugal attempts to match a story in your life with the feeling in the room and most often nobody cares to listen, so I could tell you a story but the gravity of said story you could never fully internalize. Try the moment."

"I'm sorry"

"There's a hell of a lot to be sorry for on this planet, what you just asked doesn't merit apology."

"Okay"

The feeling of the house grew heavy as the suns rays danced freely through the door outside, bleeding into the walls that kept its embrace from meeting them.

The dog suddenly shot up, stood with precision whilst scanning the yard with big, shiny, dreamer eyes before landing on target. She darted away with an unparalleled level of determination, yapping at whatever insignificant creature caught her attention.

"Do you know the story of how I met your mother?"

"Yes"

"Then you'd know that to expect the chance of probability to be synonymous with the assertion of certainty that the world you come to know becomes clouded with the silly eyes of magic."

"I thought you said stories were meaningless."

They sat for a while, never gazing away from the land beyond. The dog was shooting in circles around the yard, running without the ability to perceive why. She was practically glowing as she frolicked at the second chance of life, seemingly without the burden of gravity.

"Did you ever love me?"

"What"

"Do you love me?"

"You're my flesh and blood."

"That doesn't answer the question"

"Love is just a word, nobody can feel the same way about another human being, anybody who claims to has no definitive way to back it."

Another long while passed. The dog now sat upright at the far end of the yard, staring intently at the two. She tilted her head calling into question the decision to stay and share words rather than cradle the freedom of the world she inhabit. Her tail flopped like a tired whip, her piercing eyes longing for the simplicity of companionship yet distain for the complexity of the moment.

"I didn't talk much with my father."

"Oh"

"I resented him for reasons I never truly understood myself, and I couldn't bear the thought that I could possibly be the one devoid of logic. So I hardly spoke to him."

"Why are you telling me this?"

"Because you had to find your own way as I had to find mine, which was unfair of me to do. I hate myself for the same reasons I hated him."

"You just said that was for no reason"

"Sometimes no reason is reason enough. Perhaps the only reasonable people on this planet are those who cannot be reasoned with"

"I don't know what that means"

As the weight of the world began to return, a fury of audible distress erupted from the backyard. Both stared blankly down the corridor as the courage of the sun was shielded by the cowardice of the clouds, coating the elegant sky in a haze of gray and a light mist of fog. The flowing green grass morphed into dirt before their eyes. The singing flowers began to shrivel and turn a dark brown. The dog lay on her back, withered and dead.

Time determined this fate long ago, nothing could be done as the fragments of the past began to shift toward the reality of the present.

"I'm sorry I wasn't there son, and I'm sorry I'm not here anymore."

"It's okay"

He rose from that dream with the fog of minds lifted. He knew if there truly was a heaven, he was just there.

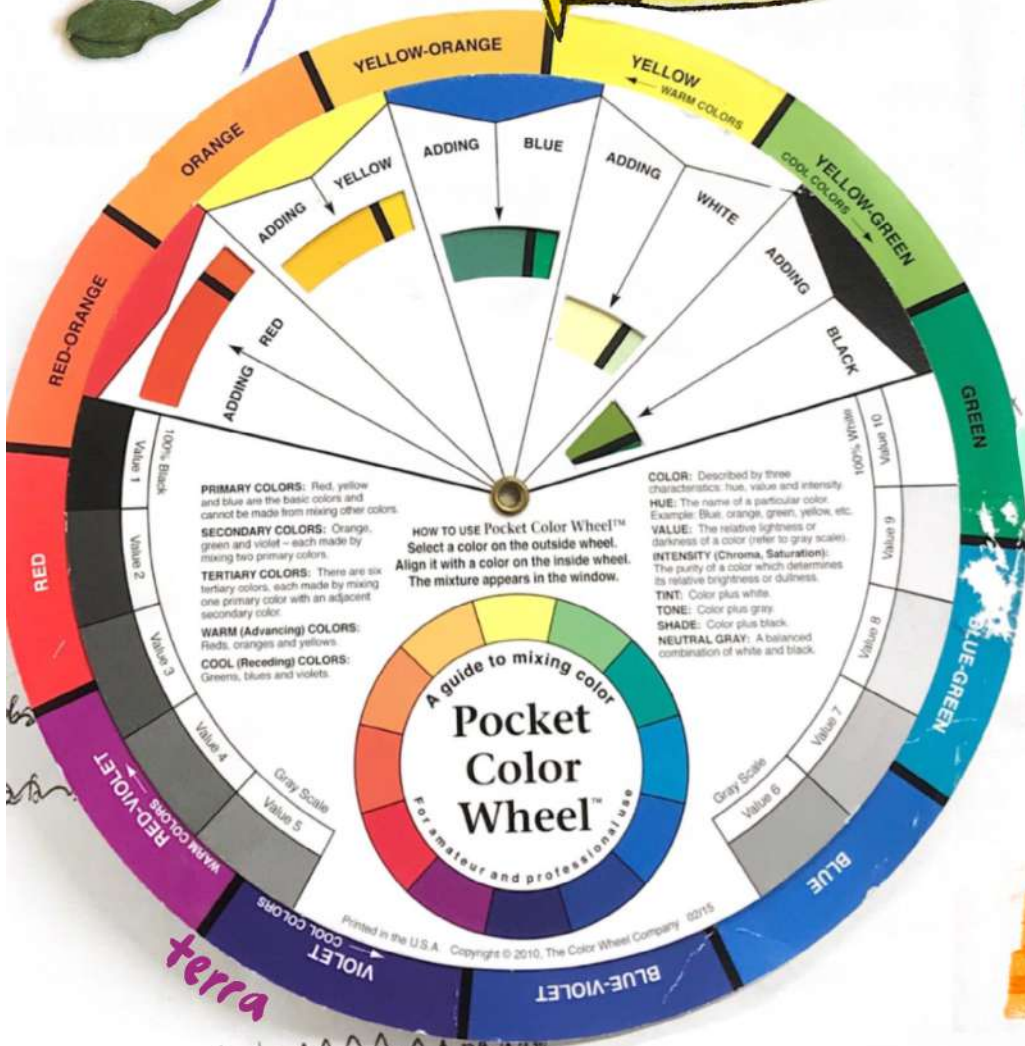
read the room PT 1

greater lafayette, like with most cities, has a long and varied history with skating, as well as many other subcultures and DIY/alternative activities. if you weren't aware, we currently have no skate park, with faith east churches shut down 2 yrs ago, due to safety concerns plus a lack of accessibility. recently multiple local news stations have been keeping up with the topic, as a consistent, broad push is being demanded by residents and students for a local skate park. with 5 pop up skate events so far from 2023 to now, Simpsonsksates has been helping to link these demands together, with support from intergenerational locals and various businesses and artists, the fundraisers, petitions, conversations with local parks/recreation, and gatherings, have gained progress—the city of lafayette has 5 yr plans with a skate park confirmed, designed by hunger skate parks of bloomington, in. we could see this potentially 2 yrs from now, but planning and funds are still being hashed out. with this lacking resource and third space, skaters take to random and scouted corners, stairs, strips of smooth pavement or tile, and potholed street ways, for recreation and as a form of commuting. with the new lafayette park somewhere down the line, faith east church rebuilding (recently confirmed budget and zoning plans on laf side as well), and still a lack of structure — what could west lafayette and purdue do to help fill this gap? i think way fucking more.

NAOMI*

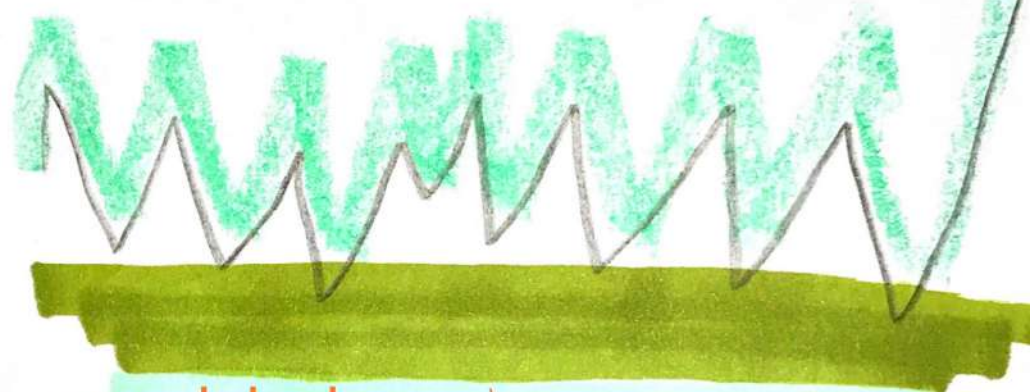
SUBCULTURE





COLOR TEST

TEST COLOR

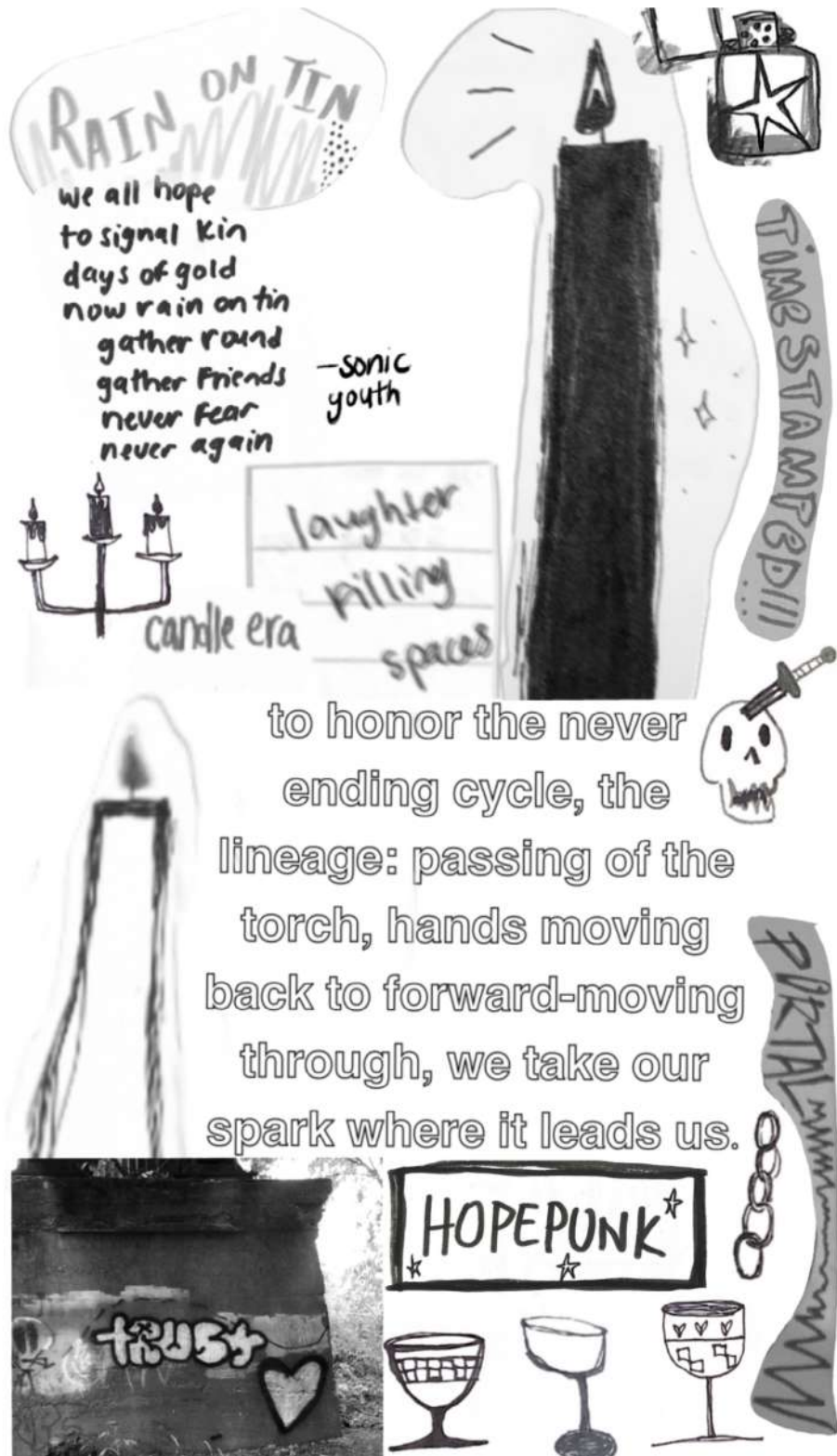


sound check noun

TALKING STICK

can you hear us?





to honor the never ending cycle, the lineage: passing of the torch, hands moving back to forward-moving through, we take our spark where it leads us.

What is Chilling? By Strube

Merriam-Webster is not a chiller and thus cannot be depended upon to define chilling. Those chilliest among us :0 could offer insight into this conundrum but alas most are too busy chilling. Those in the HVAC industry refer to air conditioning units as chiller systems. The 19XR Water-Cooled Rotary Hermetic Centrifugal Chiller offers new found levels of chilling efficiency. This wonder of modern chilling pales in comparison to the legend of the chiller. The chiller was a man witnessed by Rio, Deven and Isaac at a party in Venice. Girls from all around went to the couch the chiller was chilling on, vying for his affection. Alas it was forlorn for all the chiller wanted to do was chill. True chill has been sought by many and achieved by few, yet is nonetheless available to all.

Contributed to by:

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Rio
Roger
Strube
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