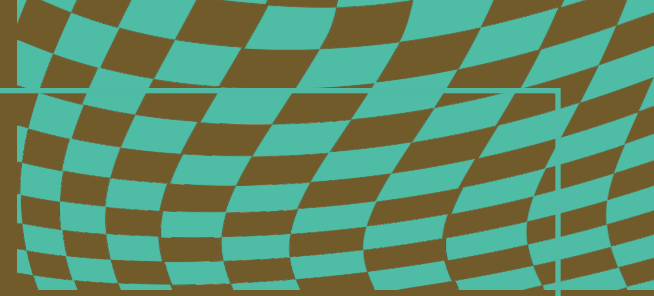


letter from the editor
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Since I began my first draft of my first article for *The Yard*, the words of former *Washington Post* President and Publisher Philip Graham have consistently rung in my head. Though not the first to say it, Graham is often credited for noting that, “Journalism is the first rough draft of history.” From reporting on racially harmful Halloween costumes in 2018, to investigating thesevere downsize of CisternYard Media’s office facilities in 2019, to interviewing survivors of systematized sexual violence in 2020, I have been consistently shown the sheer necessity for critical and accurate journalism, especially on the collegiate campus level—the need to capture these histories before they are slipped under the rug.

As the detriments of COVID, a tumultuous sociopolitical climate in the U.S. and, now, the conflict between Russia and Ukraine have amassed into a generally calamitous news cycle, Graham’s assertion becomes even more critical for all corners of news media. As Editor-in-Chief in these circumstances, I have sought to provide a space for students at the College to voice their nuanced perspectives on all of the collateral issues to these larger and psychologically taxing paradigms that we are collectively experiencing. In the same breath, however, I have additionally emphasized the need to look underneath those issues that inundate our news and social media feeds with decreasingly auspicious updates on the human condition. That is not to say that I’ve discouraged coverage of crucial news, but instead have looked to highlight all of the ways that CofC students and Charlestonians have remained resilient in the face of it.

With all of those considerations at heart, it only felt right to deem this issue the ‘Little Things Issue.’ For this magazine, we’ve highlighted the fascinating background of a new English professor on campus who began teaching to fill in the holes of representation that left her feeling alienated in school. We’ve also included submissions of students’ tattoos, only offering a mere preview of the artfulness and complexity of our student body. From discussions about Charlestonian activism by an upcoming mayoral candidate to discussions about climate change from a professional in the literary industry, we have used this issue as a way to show just how crucial each individual, in all of their uniqueness, is to the grander narrative at the College of Charleston, and how each story has a hand in history, no matter how little it may seem.

Though this is my final letter as the Editor-in-Chief of CisternYard News, I hope that I have at least helped solidify the groundwork of this publication that not only necessitates, but relies wholly upon the telling of stories that are uncomfortable and disruptive, because those stories help mold a sliver of history. I hope that I have helped at least one other person see that telling stories isn’t only helpful for the sake of catharsis, but for the sake of establishing human connections on the basis of shared experience. More than anything, I hope all of you never stop telling your stories and that you see the inarguable value that your narratives have in the whole of human history.

It is often said that you don’t get a choice in what happens to you, but you do have the choice of deciding what you will do with your experiences. Thanks to everyone I’ve worked with at CisternYard, I’ve found that being able to share those experiences is critical to gather control over one’s own narrative.

Thank you for helping me share your stories for all of this time.

Sincerely,

Katie Hopewell
Editor-in-Chief '22

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