

WRITERS BLOC

GLENVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
V17 N5 / 1 NOVEMBER 2025

HAPPY NOVEMBER

Please note some deadlines: The *Trillium* is now seeking submissions of prose and poetry through November 30, and *Trillium* Art Show entries will be accepted through December 5. Special thanks to our student contributors. Keep those mini essays coming! Language & Lit is now on Facebook and Instagram. Check us out: @gsu_languageandlit



SEND WRITERS BLOC SUBMISSIONS TO

melissa.gish@glenville.edu

Views expressed in the *Writers Bloc* are not necessarily the views of GSU.

CONTACT FACULTY AT

www.glenville.edu/departments/language-literature

HELP! NAME OUR MASCOT

Pictured here is a magnificent creature of legend, taxidermy, and questionable anatomical origins. That's right, folks: we have an "assquatch."

For the uninitiated, an assquatch is a rare specimen of folk art taxidermy crafted from the rear end of a deer. We owe this rather ridiculous addition to our department suite to the generous (and fearless) Assistant Professor Mike Vozniak.

According to Rob Biracree, whose shop, Black Bears on Bath Salts, crafts assquatches among other things, "Taxidermists, as a rule, hate to see parts of an animal go to waste. The front halves of deer are in high demand, but the junk in their trunks would routinely go to the dump if there wasn't a creative outlet for them."

Our department's furry, little guy (or gal—we aren't sure) sports a fabulous pair of Pioneer-blue glasses (lovingly provided by our student office workers), proving that this cryptid bleeds school spirit from every fur follicle.

Since its arrival, the creature has become a beloved fixture, silently observing our daily struggles with program revision, curriculum development, and panicked students dealing with malfunctioning laptops five minutes before class.

As motionless as our assquatch remains all day, we suspect our little buddy leads a secret life after hours. Our student office workers have reported finding the stapler and pencil cup mysteriously rearranged on the front desk. Coffee mugs migrate between offices. Books reshelve themselves in reverse alphabetical order. And our Department Chair, Dr. Amanda Chapman, swears the copy machine now works *better* than it did before. This is clearly the work of some sort of supernatural intervention—and we don't mean Sis Linn (she only throws furniture around).

There's just one problem, though. Our beloved mascot remains nameless. We just can't keep calling it "the assquatch." Such treatment will surely lead it to an identity crisis.

Help us choose an official name!

Should we go classic? Literary? Punny? Give us your ideas by the deadline of **Monday, November 10**.

Please send your ideas in an email to the Assquatch Trainer: **Michael.Vozniak@glenville.edu**



MASK BEHIND THE MADNESS

Contributed by David Jarrett, Field Forensics (CRJU) Major

In the blog post "Lord Byron: Mad, Bad, and Dangerous to Know" by Anne Rooney, she explores the reputation of the poet Lord Byron and questions whether his terrible image shines over his level of writing skills. Rooney starts by revisiting the famous description of Lord Byron: "mad, bad, and dangerous to know." This saying followed him for a very long time. What stands out the most in Rooney's writings is how the public's fascination with Byron's wild behavior often changed the reality of who he was as a writer and person.

While Lord Byron's extensive reputation might make it seem like he was untouchable, Rooney's perspective makes you confront the truth about how fame can consume the very person it has made famous. Rooney observes, "Byron became a performance, the mask of a man everyone wanted to watch, but no one could truly see." This line shows how Byron's identity was split between who he was, and the legend people created. The quote also reminds us how easily image and art can blur in a culture that thrives on chaos.

I understand Rooney's point because we live in a similar time period that focuses on performance. Social media encourages people to make up false identities rather than reveal who they really are. Like Lord Byron, many figures become trapped in the person they pretend to be. Considering how the world is with social media and public image, Rooney's portrayal makes Lord Byron feel almost modern. The only difference is that social standing in today's world is based on likes, follows, and shares.

Read the blog post here:

<https://awfullybigblogadventure.blogspot.com/2024/02/lord-byron-mad-bad-and-dangerous-to-know.html>

YOUNG PEOPLE NEED LEADERS

Contributed by Barris Felton, Business Major

In his article "Older Generations Continue to Surrender Moral Authority to the Most Naive, Narcissistic, Impulsive, and Dishonest Age Group," Rob Henderson writes about how older adults today are afraid to act like grown-ups. The article mentions Bill Maher's podcast Club Random, where Dr. Drew Pinsky said, "Now college administrators refuse to be the adult because they remember when they were in college and were demonstrating against their college administrators, and they don't want to be like them." I think this is a big problem. If no one wants to lead or set rules, how can younger people grow and learn?

This article reminded me of something I've seen at school and online. Sometimes kids act out because they want attention, but other times, it's because they want someone to stop them. It's like they are saying, "Will anyone care enough to guide me?" I agree with Henderson when he says, "Young people act out to see what they can get away with. They want to test boundaries." Kids need limits and rules even if they say they don't.

It was also interesting to read about how older people are usually more honest, kind, and fair. Henderson says studies show young adults lie more, commit more crimes, and are more selfish than older adults. That surprised me, but it also made sense. I've noticed that adults I look up to like coaches or teachers usually think about others more than kids my age do. I think adults should stop trying to be "cool" and start being the leaders young people need.

Read the article here: <https://www.robkhenderson.com/p/older-generations-continue-to-surrender>

The Trillium Submissions!

The Trillium, GSU's literary and arts journal is open for submissions for the 2026 issue! All GSU students, staff, faculty, alumni, and community members are invited to submit poetry, fiction, song lyrics, and other forms of creative expression. Submissions should be sent as an attachment to Trillium@Glenville.edu. Written submissions should be attached as a single .doc or .rtf file.

Submissions should **also** include a biographical note.

The deadline is on November 30th, 2025, at midnight.

Contact Jonathan.Minton@Glenville.edu or Trillium@Glenville.edu for more information!



Notes on the Art of Poetry

I could never have dreamt that there were such goings-on
in the world between the covers of books,
such sandstorms and ice blasts of words,
such staggering peace, such enormous laughter,
such and so many blinding bright lights,
splashing all over the pages
in a million bits and pieces
all of which were words, words, words,
and each of which were alive forever
in its own delight and glory and oddity and light.

— Dylan Thomas

REEL LIFE

Contributed by Karma Towner, Criminal Justice Major

We may share the world, all born to our mothers and needing food, water, air, and shelter to survive, but we are not the same. Every person has lived their own unique life. This is a thought I share with author Mark Galarrita in his short story, "There are Three Children Jumping Over a Can Outside a Bodega."

Social media has taken over a lot of our lives, mine included. Sometimes we seem to forget there is more to life than what we see on a screen. There is real life, a real world, and real problems. In Galarrita's story we follow a man (a content creator) who exploits others to gain popularity online. This man "wants to devour the word, feel it dance around his tongue, savoring the experience so he can feel something: rage, pity, empathy. Anything . . . His followers demand it" (Galarrita). His own perfect life doesn't have the authenticity he and his viewers crave. In his mind, he is harming no one, but he is instead "helping" them by showing real life, the real world, and the real problems people face.

This short story is about much more than just monsters and social media. It is about how easily we are consumed by this idea of authenticity. Being filmed in the street with no prior permission may seem mostly harmless, but it takes away our humanity. Instead of being people, we are characters on a screen meant for amusement. Our lives should not be boiled down to entertainment, used to make a viewer feel better because other people have it worse. So, while we are scrolling, we should remember that every Facebook reel has a human being behind it with a life that deserves respect, not exploitation.

Read the story here: <https://www.nightmare-magazine.com/fiction/there-are-three-children-jumping-over-a-can-outside-a-bodega/>

EVERY CREATURE DESERVES KINDNESS

Contributed by Elizabeth Oldaker, BA-Undeclared

I just read a section of the book *The Age of Deer: Trouble and Kinship with Our Wild Neighbors* by Erika Howsare (Catapult, 2024), and I believe this text has made me realize how empathetic I am toward living things, especially animals. The book really focuses on the connection between humans and deer, for better and for worse. There is a line from the book that really made me stop and think about life. The passage states, "The deer are dead; the children are many. Humans are subtracting animals and adding themselves; beings that wear fur or bark are cut down by those in cotton" (Howsare 59). Growing up in West Virginia I have been around deer hunting all my life and seen the way people use it as a means of survival and really rely on hunting season, but I have also seen people who use it as a sport or game. The difference between these scenarios is immense and it all has to do with the response to the bloodshed. When people hunt to survive, they have a sense of gratitude and a kind of respect for the animals and the bounty that comes from them. When people hunt for sport, they have a kind of arrogance and disrespect, for them it is all about the kill. They hunt for a deer with large antlers that they can hang on their wall and brag to their friends about. This type of arrogant and conceited behavior is what makes me really feel sick and disgusted. Every time I see a dead animal it makes me feel uneasy. A wave of sadness always comes over me. To see something so beautiful and innocent be killed is something that should make everyone feel uneasy.

Borrow the book from WV Deli here:

<https://wvdeli.overdrive.com/wvdeli-glennville/content/media/9736179>

Borrow the audiobook from WV Deli here:

<https://wvdeli.overdrive.com/wvdeli-glennville/content/media/10281594>

WEIRD QUESTION *of the* WEEK

In celebration of National Fossil Day (a little late; it's the third Wednesday in October), we asked, "What's your favorite dinosaur?"

Darcy Pickel - Wildlife Management (NRMT) Major

"Dilophosaurus. I love how they use their magnificent frill to give the illusion of being larger than their actual size."

Alex Rogerson - Biology Major

"My favorite dinosaur is the stegosaurus because it was believed to have a small brain, and the only reason it was able to survive was that it hunted things less intelligent than itself, like berries and other fruits. It could survive only because it was alert and just smart enough to know when to run away."

Mike Vozniak - Assistant Professor of English

"Spinosaurus. It has changed form so many times as new fossils were uncovered. It's just a really bizarre dinosaur that's unlike any other."

Journie Curtis - BA-Undeclared

"T-Rex."

Amanda Chapman - Associate Professor of English

"Compsognathus; I grew up with the idea that dinosaurs were all huge and terrifying and was delighted to learn about this little chicken-y guy."

Larry Baker - Professor of Physical Science

"Chickens are considered living dinosaurs. They evolved directly from a group of dinosaurs named theropods. While they are not the same as Tyrannosaurus Rex that are now extinct, they are direct descendants of the same lineage who survived the mass extinction. This lineage is evident in fossil records (Geology Rocks at GSU). I like mine fried the best but also enjoy my favorite dinosaurs grilled or roasted. You caught me right before lunch time. Sounds like it's time for a dinosaur sandwich!"

Scott O'Neil

Assistant Professor of English

"Earl Sinclair [of Disney's 1991-94 series, *Dinosaurs*]."

Alyssa Hall

Field Forensics (CRJU) Major

"T-Rex because it's super big and has tiny arms, and it's funny to watch it try to grab stuff."

Jennifer Wenner

Senior Lecturer of Communications

"Fred Walborn."

