

# Inklings

Volume IX - 2023-2024





cold  
By: Justin Tran ('25)

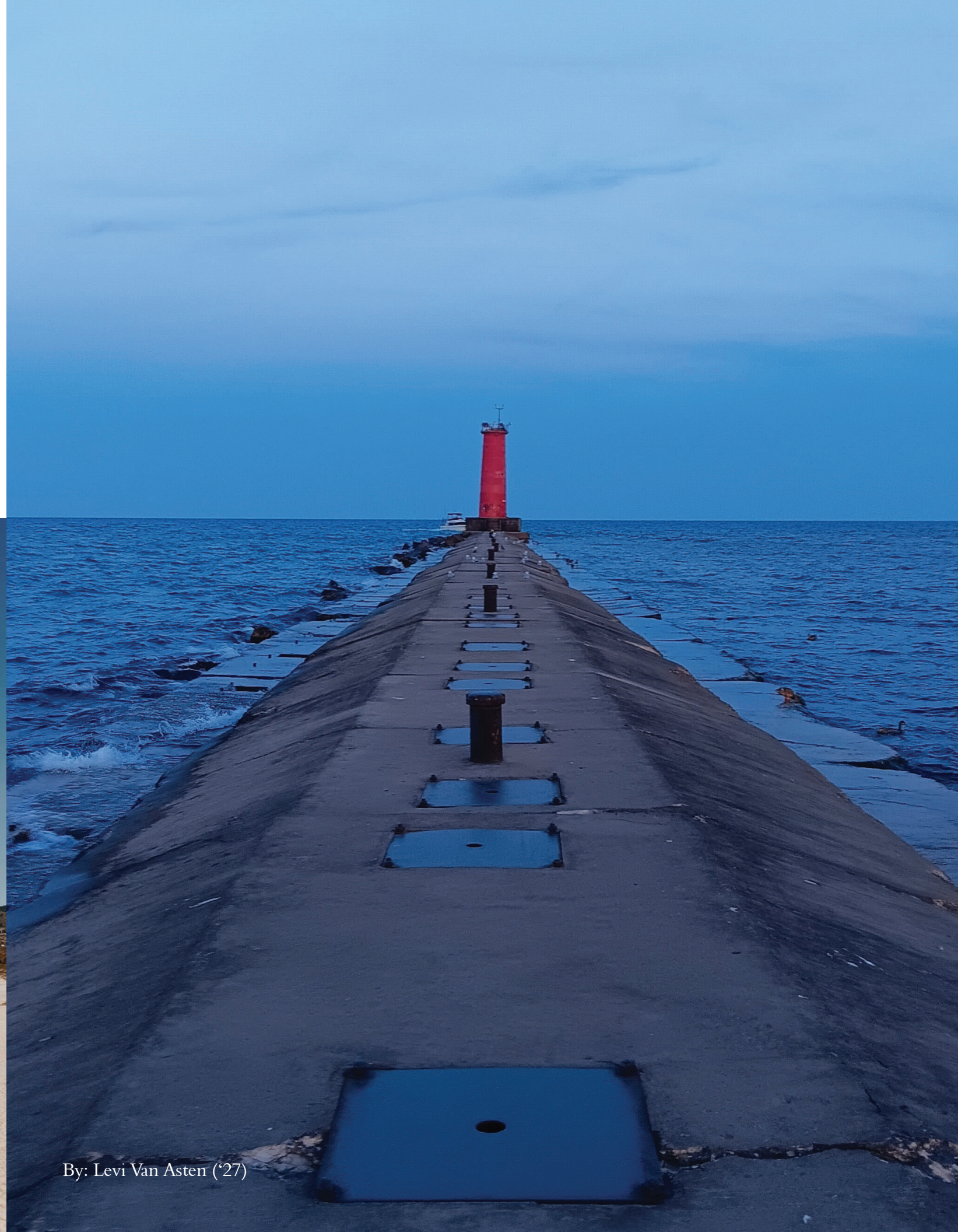
cold  
freezing  
icy - cold

loneliness sets in  
heartache blankets the soul  
tears flow, turn into ice frost

"it's too cold for angels to fly"



By: Tyler Le ('24)



By: Levi Van Asten ('27)

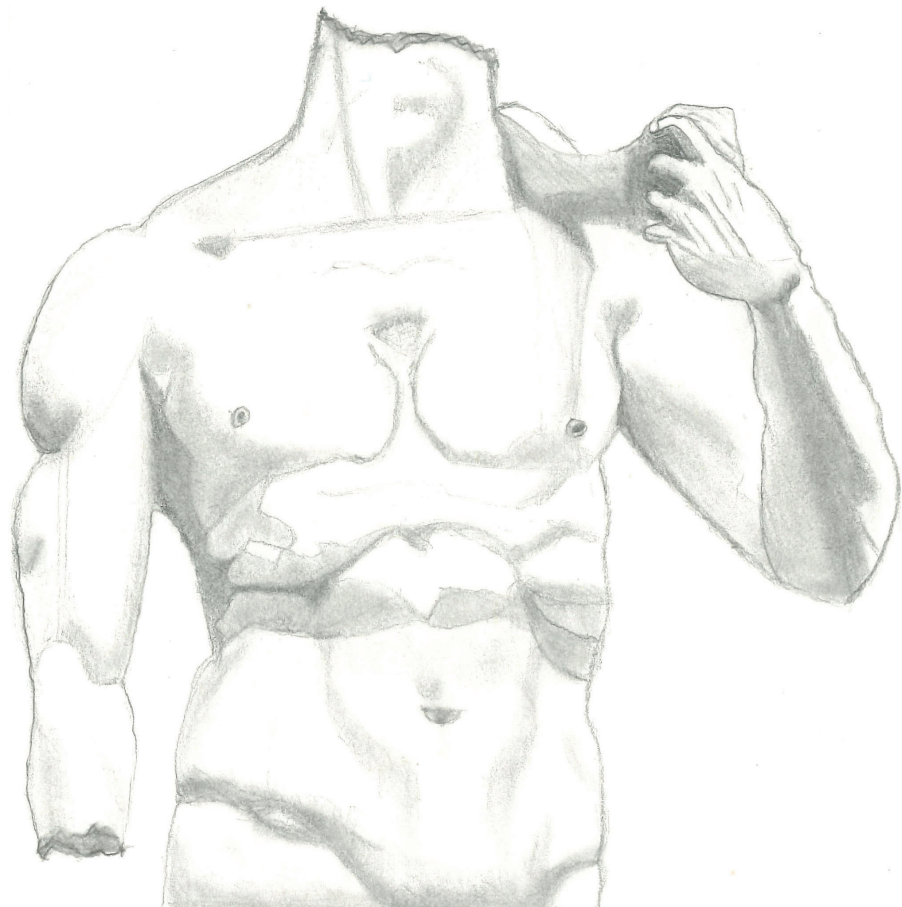


By: Jonah Lim ('26)



"Perseus"  
By: Lawrence Gonzalez ('25)

ΑcTΔ Non VETbΔ



"Discipline"  
By: Lawrence Gonzalez ('25)





By: Levi Van Asten (\*27)

shaping in the form of hearts  
facing down the under--world  
looking like a drooping tear drop  
but in the pinky color of love  
or even as white as a snowdrop  
a unique feature with gorgeousness  
waking up when spring is nearly gone  
shine up when summer waves at the world  
Dicentra stealing attention, all focus on Her  
By: Justin Tran (\*25) though She thought She could find love  
in the shadow of spotlights She hides  
She feels lonely with sorrowful pain  
hoping once again She will heal  
broken and bleeding in Her heart

“Thinking”  
By: Tony Nguyen (\*25)







By: Andrew Nguyen ('24)

By: Andrew Nguyen ('24)



cherry pit  
By: Jonathan Prado ('24)

cherry pit  
cherries grow in the vineyard  
ripe red morsels dangling  
ready to be crushed  
gnawed, and chewed.

it's tart  
that grim visage  
that first bite  
sinking into the flesh

it's sweet  
you realize the aftertaste  
long after its gone  
it wasn't as you thought  
is it ever?

beneath the flesh  
im tart  
with a  
sweet side of cyanide.





By: Tyler Le ('24)



By: Tyler Le ('24)









By: Jae-Seoung Hong ('25)

A Coming-of-Age Story  
By: Mark Tran ('26)

A relationship is something that can be built over a long time but it's easy to break just by a word, and friendship is a typical example. Throughout my whole life, I've made friends. However, Bao may be the only friend that makes me feel nostalgic and regretful.

Since we first met in 6th grade, he'd given me an impression of positive energy. Although we studied in the same class, I would ignore him. When it came to 7th grade, I started to play basketball, and I invited my best friend to come with me. However, at the time, Bao knew and wanted to attend the club too. I felt annoyed with his presence as we weren't best friends. I met him and asked, "Why did you come without my offer?"

He sighed and said, "I want to come to the club too! Why not?" I was so annoyed but I just had to deal with it. At that time, I didn't care how harmful my words were to Bao, which I would regret later.

Because of Covid-19, we attended our 8th grade online during the first semester. When the situation became better, we were allowed to go back to school, and I recognized almost all of my classmates except for Bao. He looked like he'd lost weight and his skin was pale. I heard that he had a disease that made him stay in the hospital. I felt nothing and didn't believe that news. However, I went home and started to message him to ask whether he was ok.

Time flies, and it was nearly a year since Bao had attended school. I still occasionally messaged him and thought that his health was better. But life is not as beautiful as a dream.

Winter came and brought a different reality for my friend. I felt a little worried and chatted with him to make him happier, but he didn't respond. Everything

changed when it came to that day.

It was a stunning day with a cold breeze, and I came to class with a positive feeling as usual. But the atmosphere in the classroom seemed to be different: some of my best friends seemed to be sad and panicked. I asked what had happened, and they looked at me and hesitantly said, "Bao, our lovely friend, has just..." I immediately understood. I couldn't believe my ears. He had passed away. I tried to convince myself that there must be something wrong, as if it was a joke, but it wasn't funny at all. All that day, I couldn't study, and neither did my friends. Our teacher explained that because of the harsh wind, Bao couldn't breathe; he had died of lung cancer.

I broke down in tears and stayed in my bedroom for the whole day. I sat in my room and read the messages we had shared. I was emotional as I realized my last message with him was one week before his death. I regretted not letting him play basketball with me. My parents worried a lot and felt sorry for my friend too. But on the following day, I still had to go to school while feeling bad. My homeroom teacher informed us of Bao's funeral, and she hoped we could manage time to see him for the last time.

Finally, that moment came. My classmates and I went to his funeral. I told myself not to cry but all my feelings just broke out when I came into his house and saw Bao "sleeping" peacefully in the coffin. My tears came out like streams of feelings. My feelings were chaos, and I didn't know what to do except cry. I started to reminisce about the good memories I had with Bao. I remembered playing football, singing, experiencing funny lessons, and playing pranks with him happily. But now, they became the past. I suddenly remembered how well he treated me. Whenever we played football, I was always the only one who was

ignored and was the last one to be chosen. However, Bao always invited me into his team no matter how bad my skill was. I wanted to say to Bao, "Thanks for caring for me. And sor...ry...sorry for every trouble I caused you, sorry for making you feel sad."

When we went outside, I came to one of my best friends, Huyen, as she cried a lot. She started to tell me a story, "You know, Khoa, Bao tried a lot to overcome this cancer. He used to tell me that he hoped one day he could become one of the members of our best friend group. He tried to approach us. I wish I had done something kind for him..." I broke down into tears and started to blame myself for not realizing that. I wished I had recognized how much he wanted to become my best friend and how well he treated me.

The next day we came to class, and my teacher encouraged us, "Bao was a great person. He had suffered from this disease for a long time. We have to feel relieved as he finally can be freed from hurt and pain. We also have to try our best to continue our lives and live for him. Keep him in your heart..." My friends and I felt some relief and understood our purposes. We wanted to live with the positive energy as Bao did in his life.

Whenever I feel hesitant or spondent, I remember how I have come so far. Now, I'm sitting here with many aims that have been achieved and reminisce about Bao. I recognize how much trouble I have overcome and how mature I have grown day by day after my friend left. I can do most everything myself, and I try new things that I used to hesitate about. Bao, now I'm writing this and reminiscing about you. I just wanna say, "Thank you for making me understand the purpose of life! Thank you for everything! Thank you for being an unforgettable memory in my life! I'm glad to be your best friend forever..."





By: Tyler Le ('24)



By: Tyler Le ('24)



## ¡SALUD A MIS COMPAS!

By: Xavier Saucedo ('24)

### ¡SALUD!

Salud a mis compas por el tiempo que pasamos juntos.  
Hay muchas memorias que voy a recordar toda la vida,  
memorias buenas, malas, locas, tristes, todas.  
Pero esta es la razón por la cual estoy triste,  
tenemos muchas memorias y quisiera tener más,  
pero sé que nuestro tiempo es limitado,  
que no podemos estar siempre juntos,  
pero nuestras memorias van a vivir por siempre,  
y voy a apreciarlas hasta el día en que me muera.  
Nunca tuve hermanos biológicos,  
pero Dios escuchó mis oraciones,  
el Señor me dio a ustedes, mis compas,  
los mejores hermanos que podría haber deseado.  
Sé que algún día tendremos que separarnos,  
pero también sé que ustedes van a vivir siempre en mi corazón.  
Gracias mis compas por todo.

## CHEERS TO MY FRIENDS

By: Xavier Saucedo ('24)

### CHEERS!

Cheers to my friends for the time we spent together.  
There are so many memories I will remember for my whole life,  
Good, bad, crazy, sad, I will remember them all.  
But that is the reason I'm sad,  
We have all these memories together and I want to make more,  
But I know our time together is limited,  
That we can't be together forever,  
But our memories will live forever,  
And I will appreciate them until the day I die.  
I never had biological brothers,  
But God heard my prayers,  
The Lord gave me you guys, my friends,  
The best brothers I could have ever wanted.  
I know one day we will have to part ways,  
But I also know that you all will live in my heart forever.  
Thank you, my friends, for everything.

By: Jae-Seoung Hong ('25)





"Illusion"  
By: Mark Tran ('26) and Will  
Nguyen ('25)

Trust in God  
By: Andrew Nguyen ('24)

Jesus told you not to worry  
he said to trust him in your journey  
Focus on him, not the worldly  
Keep your anxiety buried

So don't worry if she breaks up  
for whatever reason she makes up  
Because if she fails, it wasn't love  
Cause love don't fail, brother wake up

God said worrying is useless  
Anxiety always loses  
It sucks away your juices  
Obey Jesus, don't be Judas.

So don't worry what people think  
about your clothes or if you stink  
Move on after a blink  
I'll give you time to let that sink

It doesn't matter what side you pick  
So don't worry about your future  
But I'm not saying to be a loser  
You're safer in God's hands than your plans  
Always trust the ruler



"The Beauty of the Earth"  
By: Alan Gonzalez ('26)





By: Alan Pham ('24)



By: Levi Van Asten ('27)





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2023-2024

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