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Someone Wants To Read Your Depressing Poetry: A Guide to Davidson's Literary Magazines

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23 If there's one thing Davidson is definitely not lacking, it's literary magazines. With three already established and another on the way to debut this spring, opportunities for students to get their work published are plentiful. Of course, with all of these options is the daunting decision of which to be a part of, which is why students from each magazine team helped to shed some light on what sets each of them apart.

Abby Morris '24, editor-in-chief of Exit 30, discusses the versatility of the magazine. "We do poetry, prose, and art. And that's any kind of art, so photography, paintings, drawings..." she explains, adding that, "We're the only themeless magazine on campus...It's open for students to literally submit anything they want." Exit 30 publishes twice a semester with the process of assembling taking about a month. They collect submissions, meet as a review board, and send out copy editors to discuss suggestions with artists who sent in their work. Last year, Exit 30 tried something new by including an art editor to help with the aesthetics of the publication. "Usually the magazine is led by someone more English oriented... to have someone who knows more about [the art] side of things is nice," Morris says. She also mentions the balancing act that's necessary to produce a well-rounded issue. The Exit 30 team doesn't necessarily want to cut specific pieces, but they occasionally have to make the hard decisions so as not to let an issue lean too hard on one medium. "We wouldn't want to publish an issue that's all poetry, for example," Morris points out. "But it's also really dependent on what's getting submitted for that round. Normally we have a

pretty even split." For those looking to join an editing team, the opportunity Exit 30 provides to look at peers' work and have a say in what gets put out is indispensable. "Plus, maybe I'm biased, but I think we have fun," Morris includes.

Libertas is another student-run literary magazine that's working towards publishing their first issue of the year. While still open to all mediums of work, Libertas is more specific about what they're trying to get printed. "Libertas is themed," magazine secretary Cate Goodin '26 says. "Mythology is the theme for the first one this year... so when people submit their work it applies to that." The whole team gets a say in the issue's theme. After compiling a brain dump of ideas, they go through a ranking process and anonymously vote on their favorites. Previous themes include Pandora's box, patchwork, and windows, all of which offer room for the artist's interpretation. Right now, Libertas is preparing for their first issue by assembling different editing groups. The first submission deadline has passed, but Goodin encourages anyone who wants to get their work out there to submit for the next cycle. Goodin mentions that the best part about submitting is getting the opportunity to show the Davidson community something that would've otherwise just been turned into a professor or relegated to your notes app.

The last established literary magazine that Davidson has is Hobart Park. It's pretty sleepy in the fall as they only publish once a year during the second semester, but it's the perfect place to go if you want to submit a piece that's on the longer side, like a short story. Many students submit things they've been working on throughout the year and, like the other two publications, Hobart Park takes any form of art.



Playdate with Hobart Park at Nummit. Photo by Cate Goodin

Exit 30, Libertas, and Hobart Park have been established magazines for a while now, but something completely new coming this year is a music literary magazine founded by sophomore Amira McCormick called Side B. She's still in the early stages of discussing budgets and creating a team, but Davidson students should expect an issue twice every semester starting sometime this year. McCormick was inspired to start this new publication by Davidson's deep musical history, complete with bands that have come through the school and acapella groups. It seemed only natural to her to give people a chance to talk about it all. "Pretty much anything music related can be published," she explains. "Reviews, just music news, interviews... I really want to interview whoever's going to perform at Frolics." Students can submit reviews of their favorite

albums, opinion pieces on what's going on in the music industry, and everything in between. "I really want it to be open," McCormick says. "It's just a way for people to talk about something that they love."

The one thing each of these magazines has in common is their shared goal of giving Davidson students an outlet to express themselves. So send in your poems, drawings, photos, and anything else you can think of. They want it all.

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