

DYING METAPHORS

Zine Issue
No. 1



Index

- 1- Editor's Note**
- 2- Artist Feature**
- 3- Meet the Zinemakers**
- 4-5 Feature with Parks and Razz**
- 6- Artist Feature**
- 7- Keeping Jax's Music Scene Alive**
- 8 - Poetry Feature**
- 9- Get Involved!**
- 10- Jacksonville Food Deserts**
- 11- The Right to Exist**
- 12-13 Feature with DuvalCORE**

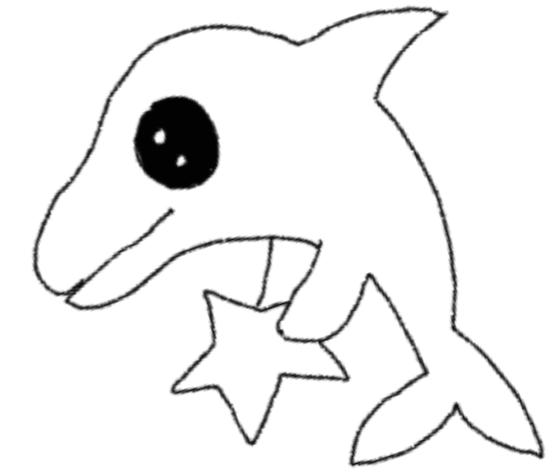


Issue No. 1

DYING METAPHORS ZINE

Front Cover by Callie Townsend, Back
cover by Kai Richter

Introducing...



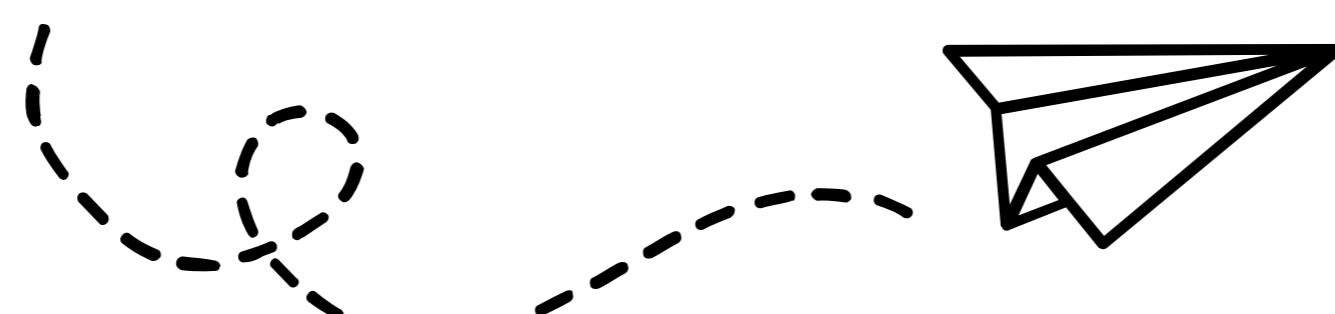
Dying Metaphors is a zine series by a bunch of kids from the greater Jacksonville area. Teenagers interested in art, music, photography, and community. This being the first issue, it feels proper to give an introduction. Our goal with this zine is largely a creative outlet for people with a love of all art, people, culture, and social change. This issue's theme is "Introducing...", as we introduce ourselves, and feature others, we want to mark our first issue as our outcoming, and declaration of self. Coming together as writers, artists, and designers we introduce ourselves to the world, simply for the sake of doing so. We hope to gain nothing from this but memories. Please enjoy our collective effort.

-Callie Townsend, Editor in Chief

CONTACT US

Shoot us an email to collab with us or submit ads, artworks, writing, photography, and more! Pssttt you should send us your doodles to add to the zine.

At dyingmetaphorszine@gmail.com and follow us on Instagram @dyingmetaphorszine. Check the website on our insta for more issues.





-Art submitted by Jaye Spencer, who also did many of our side doodles

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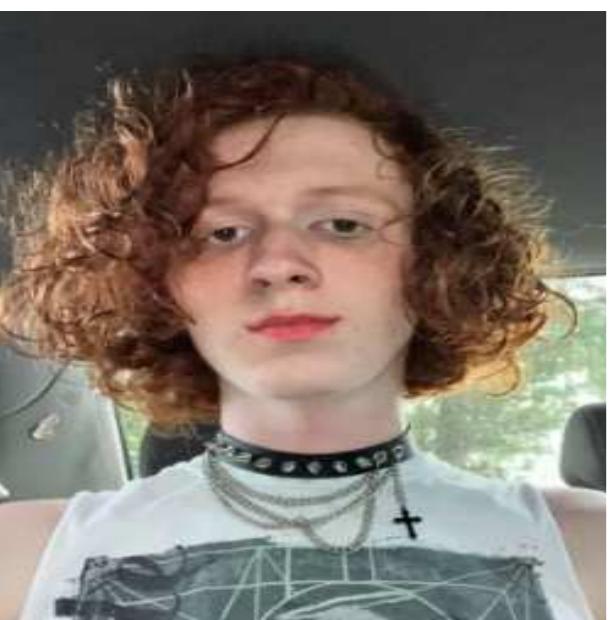
Hey I'm Callie Townsend, I'm the Editor in Chief of Dying Metaphors, responsible for putting together the issues and managing the team. I'm a writer and photographer hoping to go into journalism. This is not only building experience and connections, but an artistic outlet, and way to engage with my community. Regardless of if anyone reads this or not, I needed to do it. (@solarizephotos)



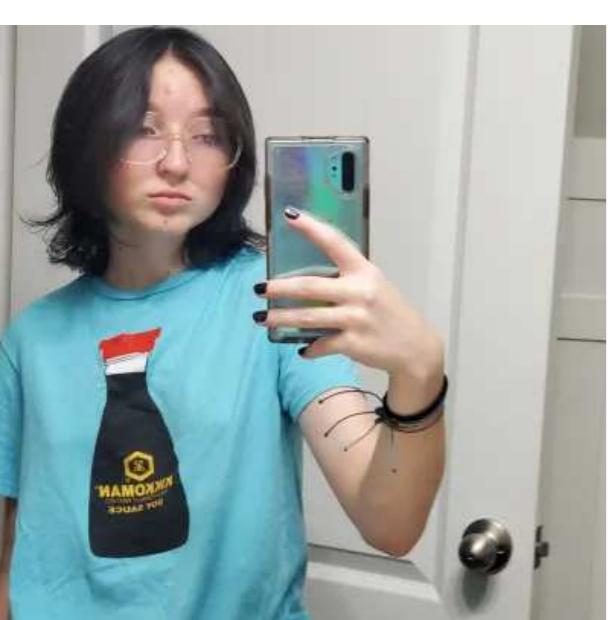
Hey guys! My name is Kai and I'm the social media manager, design editor, as well as the collaborations manager, meaning I run the Instagram with Cal and Gwen as well as communicate with all creators and businesses. In addition I do my best to make sure our design is perfect. You may also see some of my works featured in the Zine from time to time, so keep an eye out ;) (@st4t1c.photoz)



Hi, my name is Milo. I am currently an illustrator and designer for the zine, although you'll likely see my name in other places in the future.



Hi, I'm Isaac George, copy editor for Dying Metaphors, I contribute some of our articles. I'm an activist based in Jacksonville, working to support direct action, sustainable community infrastructure, and counter-recruitment. I hope to expand community awareness of the conditions that affect them and issue a call to action to create change in Jacksonville.



Hi, my name is Gwen. I am a part of the social media managing bit! I help with managing the social media accounts, writing articles, and coming up with general ideas for the zine! I wanted to join this project because I think this magazine would be something good for the Jax community :) I love graphic design and giving advice so this opportunity is exciting to me.



Hi, I'm Ellie! I'm the Zines secretary, which means I handle all the records and a ton of the info as well as just being there for the team where I fit. You may also occasionally see my name on poetry, articles, or art pieces :)



Parks, and, Razz

By Callie Townsend

The name Parks and Razz is not an unfamiliar name in the Jacksonville music scene. After almost seven years of making music together, Josh Parks and Lauren Wessling have made themselves a fan favorite among local concert goers as the dynamic duo of Parks and Razz. Introducing them loud and proud as "Josh Pretty Boy Parks" and "Lauren, Razz Wessling" these two have been determined to make it big for years.

Unfortunately being a familiar face has its drawbacks, the bands has recently seen a decline in show turnout in the past few months. During Dying Metaphor's exclusive interview with Parks and Razz, Josh explains, "We're in a weird position. We don't have a lot of music out, so the only reason people really come to see us is because of our live shows and we're at the point now where we've just played Jacksonville so much, it's only going to hurt us more than it's going to help us... I feel like once we get more music out and we're playing more out of town, that's just going to help."

Luckily, new and old fans alike won't have to wait long for recorded music by Parks and Razz. Set to release ten of their songs, two each as five singles. The first one coming up, "001", is set to release August 25th and it includes titles formerly known as Sweet Thang and Orange Teeth as "I Guess I Picked the Wrong Week to Stop Sniffing Glue" and "We're Gonna Need a Bigger Boat." The band explained that these titles have little bearing to the meaning of the song, rather an attempt to rejuvenate old songs they have been playing for a while now. Sweet Thang explores the concept of a song from the point of view of a cheating significant other talking to their "side-piece." When asked about the meaning Lauren describes the song as, "it's very- for a lack of a better word- it's ironically douchey. Because if you really read the lyrics its about cheating on somebody...Above all Parks and Razz stands, well cheating is bad." Josh continued, "If you really listen to the lyrics like "don't tell my baby, I want you." Like don't tell my main chick that my side piece is better... Me and Lauren have never cheated on somebody so like we don't really know but it was a cool concept to kind of sit there and write about." According to Lauren, "We just write the music you know."



NEW

SIDE A
LOOKS LIKE I PICKED THE WRONG
WEEK TO STOP SNIFFING GLUE
SIDE B
WE'RE GONNA NEED
A BIGGER BOAT



"We've been pondering about that shit for real" -Josh Parks

Side B

In contrast, the single's Side B, "We're Gonna Need a Bigger Boat," formerly known as Orange Teeth, is written about Josh and Lauren's experience with drugs. The opening line, "That drug was the love of my life," displays the shiny, romantic aspect of drug use an abuser is often taken with.

"It's weird being our age in music and not drinking and that not being something that's a part of our artistic identity or process. I struggle a lot with that. I feel like you'll hear a lot about sober musicians and they'll either be like 'Oh yeah they got sober so now their music like sucks,' or like 'We're a straightedge Christian band', like we're not any of those things. We don't do drugs now and we don't really fit in like with anyone our age. I don't really feel like I fit in with sober people, but I definitely don't necessarily fit in with people who do drugs a lot or drink or stuff like that. We're not a straightedge band or anything but there is definitely a bunch of subject matter about being you and we write a lot about we struggle with having a young person's identity" -Josh Parks

Substance abuse and similar topics define their emotional yet fun songs, with which they deliver an electric performance. This dazzling stage presence and powerful voice of Lauren Wessling, it's easy to see how they have become local favorites. The vulnerability in their music reflecting past experience, mental health, and more are not new themes to Josh and Lauren. In fact, they have been expressing these complicated themes lyrically for years.

Before Parks and Razz was called Parks and Razz, they went by Night Beach. Josh continues, "So two of the songs we play live are actually old Night Beach songs, Vomp and Grim Peeper. We actually got picked up by this Korean food blog and we were getting like millions of plays on Soundcloud, have not seen a dime." Night Beach's Soundcloud is no longer available for streaming. However, both of Lauren and Josh's teenage Soundcloud's are still published and have tracks titled, "eat. my. shorts" and "Indie Queen" giving us a glimpse into baby Parks and Razz and their young talent. Their love for music pushing them forward as a successful band, as they hope to one day make a full time living as artists. Part of these efforts are expanding their show range to include venues outside of Jacksonville, and when asked about a potential tour Josh remarked, "Right now, we're looking to do something like that in the Spring but until then, we're just trying to get out of town as much as possible." Hopeful fans will have that and new releases to look forward too as they watch these two young artists come into their own.



All photos courtesy of
Callie Townsend
(@solarizephotos)
unless noted
otherwise



Parks and Razz's Spotify Code



This piece was submitted by Ray Richter

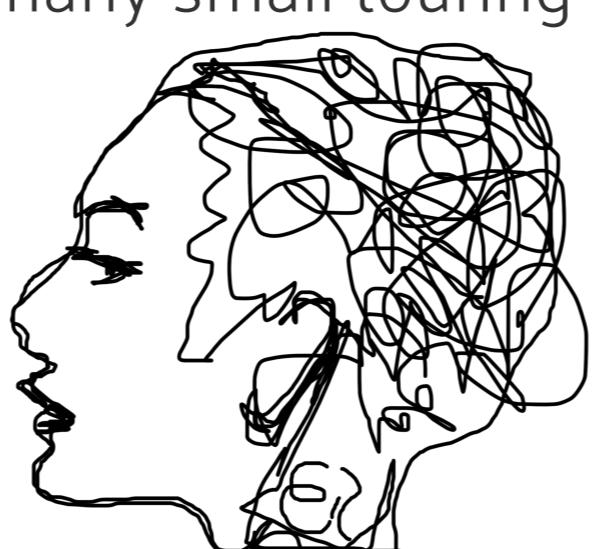
Keeping Jax's Music Scene Alive

By Callie Townsend

Maintaining a culture of art and music has been essential to society for millennia. DIY scenes and a thriving art community are often indicative of how prosperous a community is, but regardless of adverse living conditions, a poor economy, and various other factors it will continue to persist as human expression is an essential facet of every community. Of course, the aforementioned factors make keeping the scene alive harder in new ways constantly.

Small music venues, often the heart of the scene, have a particularly hard time staying open. Running a music venue has one of the smallest profit margins of any event space with very high start up investment costs. In the age of mega-stars such as Taylor Swift selling out huge stadiums, small music venues often have a hard time competing. This is no exception in Jacksonville, for local musicians' venues are a scarce resource with only a very limited number in the city. In 2022, the small venue Archetype closed due to operating costs. Their Instagram page announced November 3, 2022, of their closure citing costs as a large contributor. Their caption explained, "With the state of the economy, local artists are struggling to continue to take projects seriously, local promoters are unable to lose any more money, and concert attendees are struggling to purchase tickets in support of the array of shows that Jacksonville deserves to have." Following Archetype, the 1904 Music hall announced their closure on Instagram July 7, 2023 for similar reasons. They said, "Rising operating costs have made the business model of opening only for ticketed events unsustainable," in their caption.

While music venues come and go, keeping an eye on these closures is important because smaller venues are what keeps independent, rising artists, bands, and labels alive and growing. Not only do they support the local arts district but also the music industry at large, acting as stepping stones for artists to gain a following and experience before they may be ready to sell out Taylor Swift mega stadiums. COVID-19 damaged the music industry and shut down local shows, concerts, and festivals almost completely and with the digital age allowing everything to be live streamed there's less incentive as well as opportunities for fans to purchase tickets. Florida currently has the highest inflation rate of all the states and rising living costs making it harder for small artists and concert goers. The good news is live music in Jacksonville has been alive for decades and will continue to do so. Dying Metaphors is currently keeping an eye on The Salt Factory, a new music venue soon to open to the public in the Murray Hill area. In the meantime, Dying Metaphors asks our readers to support small venues as much as possible. Some favorites include, the B&Sun Art Gallery, The Walrus, Raindogs, and Island Tropics, but there are so many more. Remember next time you wait hours for your Taylor Swift tickets how many small touring bands the cost of one ticket would feed.



Last by Ava Rae Clark

signed by hands with dying fingers.
sensations trickling away,
the tips graze the paper,
no regrets-none today.

afterward,
those same hands bathe in their filth.
swim in the sweat,
i breathe in the spit,
it's contaminated.
consuming all i have;

must i fight this battle with the little I have left?

the patience i have is thinning...

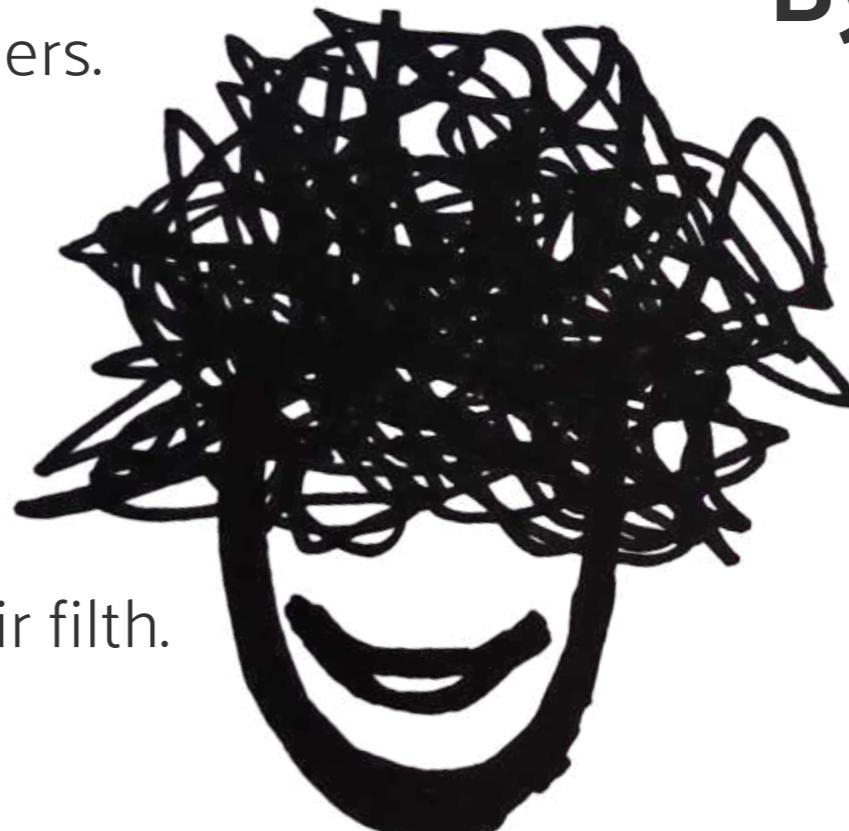
i don't want to be.

but there was another side i was too blind to see;
i do want to feel;
i just can't bare to feel the things i've felt

i want
to want
to be.

these hands will come alive;
they will hold
feed
and touch.
these aching feet with dance,
my watering mouth will eat,
my tired legs will run,
and my silent mouth will preach,
our decaying spirit will sing.

this was going to be my last poem.
then i realized-
what will be made of me
if I give in to my disease;

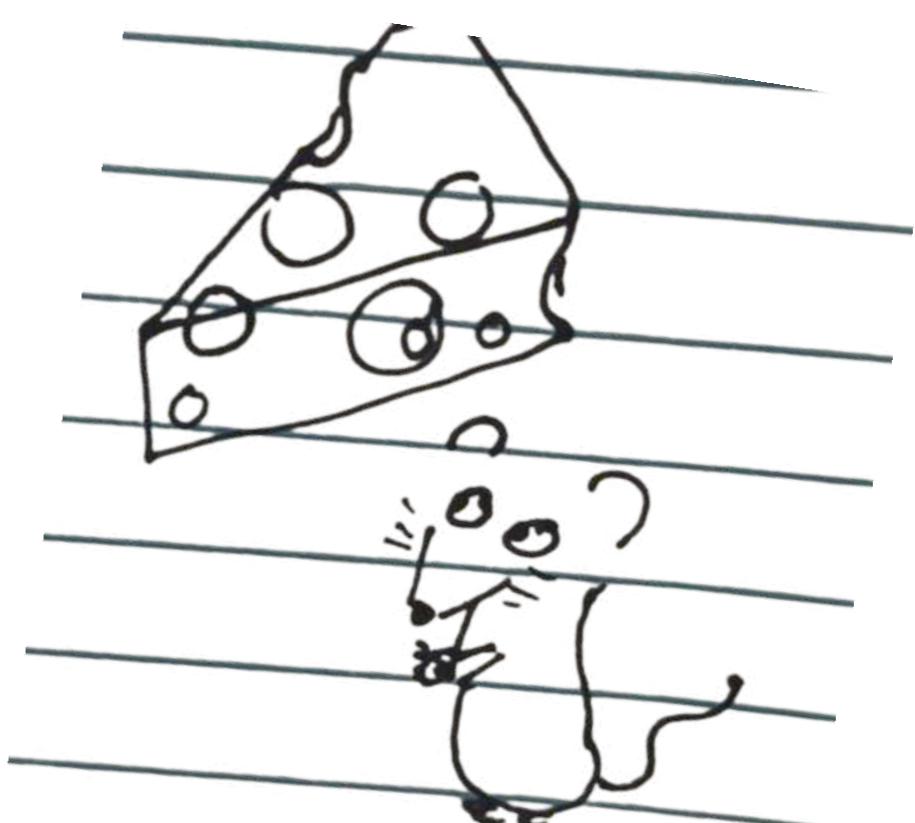


By Ellie Dorr-Laughter

Sunlight off the back porch
let's breathe.

New morning,
New beginning,
New day,
Sleeping through the trees.

New flora,
New fauna,
New friends.
New beginnings
Refreshing old ends.
Reborn, "what a feeling."



By Kai Richter

with every new opportunity
come new challenges
new faces
unity
you have to take your
chances
and run your races
if you don't
you'll never make it
to new places



Get Involved!

By Kai Richter

There are forms of government all around us, however not as many people get involved as they should. Government isn't just national or in your city, but instead in your school system and workplace as well. Everyone needs to take each and every opportunity they get to get involved in governments around them, on all levels. The easiest, and arguably most important, way to get involved in government and politics is to vote. There are elections everywhere: Nationally, within schools (Parent Student Association and Students Government Association), within community boards (like Homeowners Associations), unions, and more. The voter turnout for Sandalwood Highschool in the 2023-2024 class officer elections were comparable to that of the national election in 2020, about 26%. Most people are involved in their political climates on any level how they should be. All one has to do to do the bare minimum is make an informed vote when asked to. Voting occurs more than just for elections but also for decisions on rules, bills, events, themes, and more depending on the association you are involved in. It is also important to get informed before you vote. To educate yourself you must attend meetings, listen to speakers, and read information. Of course, there are other ways to get informed as well. It is important to know and understand what is going on in the world around you, before you decide to vote and contribute to it.

Getting involved in the political systems around you can also allow you to voice your opinions on subjects that matter most to you. To do this one would go to meetings for whatever political climate they would like to join. Once the first step is completed, one must then speak up and state what they believe. After they state what they believe, they then attempt to gain a following and go from there depending on the situation. They may even decide to run for office if they want to create extreme change. In politics, there is strength in numbers. So, the more people involved, the more likely change is to occur. Everyone has the freedom of speech and the rights to use it, so use it. Speak up and create change where you see fit. Students and teenagers can still stay informed with their national, state, and city politics, even if they can't vote. Actually, I encourage them to do so. One day you will be able to vote, and you don't want to go into that blindly so you want to start getting informed now. On top of just being informed to vote, it is also important to stay informed to stay safe, especially if you are that of a minority group. You should take the initiative to get involved so that you can help control the way in which you live and the environment around you. Like I mentioned previously, there are many forms of government around us. If you are under the age of 18, you cannot legally vote in national, state, or city wide elections, but that shouldn't stop you from getting involved somewhere. The easiest place for minors to get involved and create change is their school's Student Government Association. There are typically no requirements to join and you help make decisions for almost everything in the school. From homecoming and prom to games, trips, fundraisers, activities and more. All one must do is attend the meetings and voice their opinions. If they get super involved they can even run for office for the upcoming school year. Each grade level has five class officers in which represent the grade. A president, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Historian. If you want to represent your grade level, run. Sometimes students want to create change in their school but don't know how, if that sounds like you, join your schools Student Government Association.

Most people believe that voting is not important however, it is one of, if not the most important responsibilities a U.S citizen, or member of any organization, has. People tend to believe that one person can not make a single difference and that they alone can not help so it does not matter if they vote. Those people are wrong. Voters vote for what they believe is best for the organization based on the options provided. This decision can have major effects on one's future. With voting majority rules, meaning one vote can make the difference in who or what wins an election. If one does not vote, they do not voice their opinion or have any choice in their future. In conclusion, you need to get involved in your surrounding government systems. It is not only your civic duty and responsibility but also a right that was fought for for many years for many people. Now that we have it, we must take advantage of. You must get involved and make your voice heard if you want to have any control over your future and if you want to know what is going on in the world. One person can make a huge difference. You can make a huge difference.



Hellscaping, Jacksonville Food Desert

By Isaac George

It is an undeniable truth that capitalism creates a world in which those who own live in splendor while those who work fight each other brutally for scraps. However, in the context of food deserts, these scraps manifest literally. Understanding how we fight food insecurity in Jacksonville can shed light on how we fight capitalism as a whole. Food deserts are large regions where fresh food is not available within an accessible distance, having profound deleterious effects on education, health, and financial well-being for those within food deserts. Food deserts run rampant in the economically diverse and geographically vast Duval County because a region that is not profitable to feed must starve under our current economic system.



Understanding Food Deserts

A food desert is an area with limited or no access to large grocery stores or other food suppliers, preventing residents from accessing fresh food without traveling prohibitive distances. This scarcity of food not only drives up its cost (1), but forces inhabitants to rely on food that is not healthy or sustainable, harming health, education, and as a result, financial outcomes for those in underserved communities (2). People in food deserts have seven times the risk of a stroke before age 45, twice the risk of type two diabetes, and quadruple the risk of kidney failure.

This nonetheless does not answer an important question, “Why? Why are large swathes of our city left to starve. Why are families left to rot, left more dead moms and dads, more sick kids, struggling in school because they can’t afford a healthy breakfast?”. Simply because an economic system in which the only factor driving business is profit will only seek to serve those who cannot only foot the bill of survival but do so in only the most profitable way. Those who live in areas less profitable to feed are left to die, get sick, and watch their children wither away without proper access to food. This is the product of the endless drive of capitalism, this is the grand American freedom we were promised, more dead moms and dads, more sick kids.

Embracing Community Aid: The Socialist Solution

In the face of such systemic brutality, community organization is a powerful antidote. Rather than relying on the whims of market forces to rescue us, a collective approach to community aid offers our only real solution. Food drives, potlucks, farmers markets, or even something as simple as making dinner for neighbors and loved ones when you have the chance, not only reduce food insecurity but bring the community together in remarkable ways. Not only is this the only real shield against the systemic brutality of capitalism, but it is also an inherent rejection of the forces that hold you and your loved ones hostage, a warm declaration, “No! The love in my community is stronger than the gears that wish to crush us!”.

Food Deserts and Capitalism: A Unified Battle

As established, food insecurity is a direct result of capitalism, and it can only be fought through community organization to serve those in need, in a way that our current system is fundamentally unable or unwilling to do. This is a form of dual power, a socialist theory asserting that the best way to fight against an oppressive system is to simply build one by the people, that acts for the people. We can map efforts to fight food insecurity into fights against other forms of systemic brutality. Potlucks can just as easily be general strikes, financial aid networks, community housing, and health services, community infrastructure the city fails to provide, or anything else we need to thrive.



1: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/agec.12444>

2: <https://foodrevolution.org/blog/food-deserts-food-oasis-healthy-food-access/>

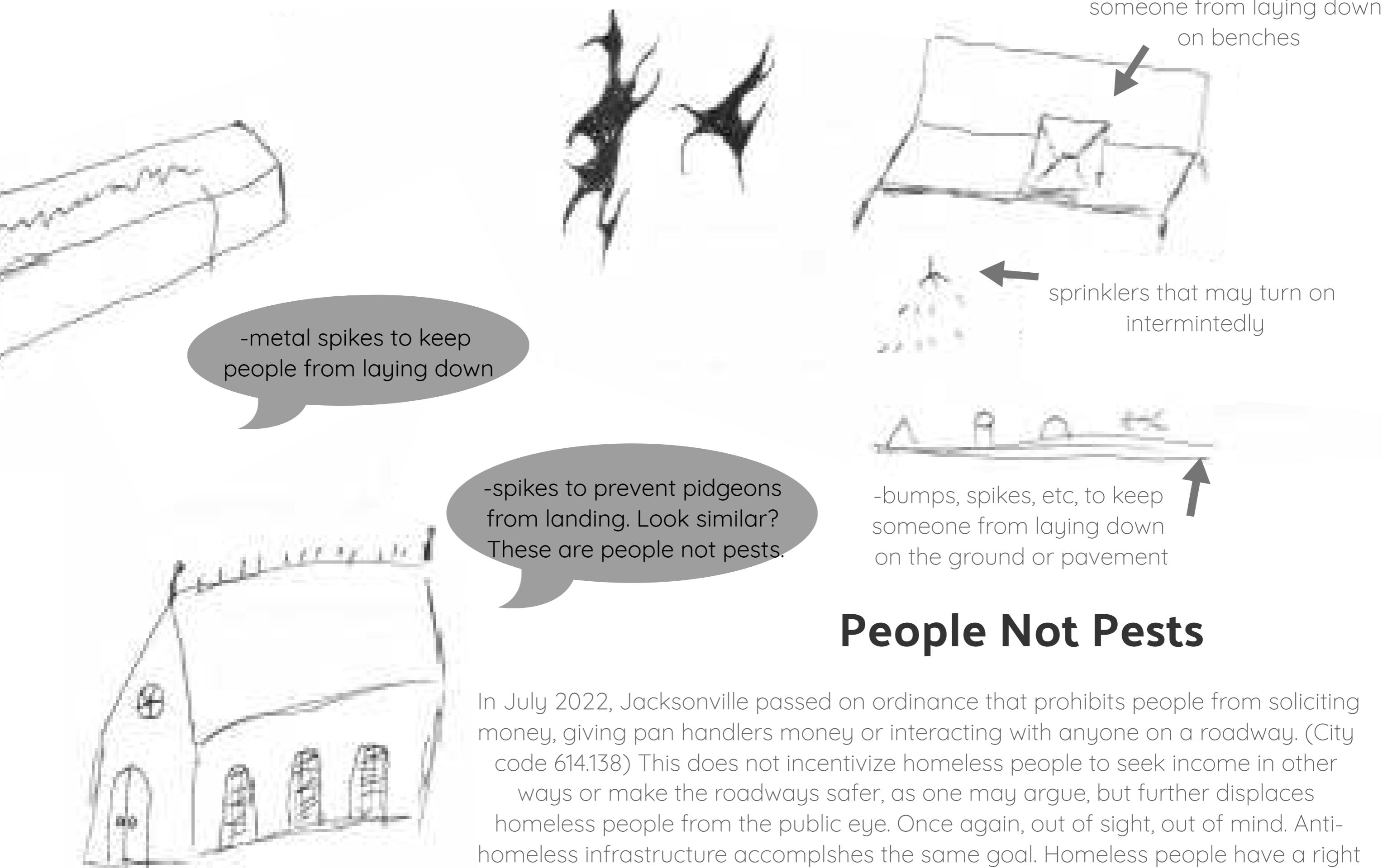
The Right to Exist

Anti-Homeless Infrastructure by

Callie Townsend

Anti-homeless architecture is an all too familiar sight in urban cities with high homeless populations, like Jacksonville. In areas like downtown where more homeless people live, it is not uncommon to see these structures when you begin to look. These obtrusive structures may often look unassuming but their purpose is to push away or keep homeless people away. Out of sight, out of mind. They accomplish their mission by making spaces in a city unusable for essentials, such as sleeping.

Examples:



People Not Pests

In July 2022, Jacksonville passed on ordinance that prohibits people from soliciting money, giving pan handlers money or interacting with anyone on a roadway. (City code 614.138) This does not incentivize homeless people to seek income in other ways or make the roadways safer, as one may argue, but further displaces homeless people from the public eye. Once again, out of sight, out of mind. Anti-homeless infrastructure accomplishes the same goal. Homeless people have a right to exist in public places, so please contact your local representatives and local legislators and press them to pass local laws that prohibit this kind of architecture. Now we do not condone the destruction of public property or private property, but we ask our fellow working class people to ask themselves, "What does peaceful protest really look like?" Remember that no matter how much distance we may put ourselves from homeless people, that their situation is a few bad months away from any other working class man. Remember you could easily be in their positions and ask yourself what you can do to help them now. Would you want dry and warm places to sleep?

FEATURED

THIS STATE IS RACIST



UNDERSTANDING THE NEW AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY STANDARDS ADOPTED BY THE FLORIDA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

1

Duval Teachers Fight Back

By Callie Townsend

Living under DeSantis' Florida is hard for teachers as well as students. The rules and regulations imposed by politicians with no teaching or historical experience, often require teachers to violate their ethical duties, and teach students in ways that conflict with their morals. Duval County Schools in particular, is not extremely fond of teacher activism, as backlash from parents is often more than the district is willing to deal with. Being students during this time can be exhausting, and often feels like hope is lost, so it is amazing to see our teachers stand behind us.

Duval Coalition of Rank & File Educators (DuvalCORE) is a group of public school educators fighting for justice in our school communities.. They are currently asking the district to reject the racist standards recently passed (see pictures for their infographics.)

Giving hope to students that all adults are not behind DeSantis' Florida is vital right now. Duval CORE commends students for pushing back against these harmful new standards. "We're saddened that young people keep having to clean up other generation's

mistakes, but many people in this community are on your side–through and through. Keep up the good fight." Many may not understand the risks that these employees are undertaking by publicly critiquing DCPS. In 2021, veteran teacher of 13 years, Amy

Donofrio, was removed from teaching duties after displaying a flag stating, "Black Lives Matter." This case was resolved with a contract stating she would be unable to remain or ever be employed again by DCPS. This sets the dangerous precedent that the district can take away the career of teachers attempting to protect minorities. As of talking to DuvalCORE, they have bravely since picketed outside the district buildings. We hope there will be amends to the way Florida and DCPS fails minority students and it's teachers. Teachers hold our children education in their hands, the wrong education can easily become systemic indoctrination

without teachers protecting the quality of education our students receive.



APRIL 2022: RON DESANTIS SIGNS THE INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM ACT, ALSO KNOWN AS THE ~~STOP WOKE ACT~~, BANNING INSTRUCTION THAT COULD MAKE SOMEONE FEEL GUILT OR PSYCHOLOGICAL ANGUISH BECAUSE OF THEIR RACE.



JULY 2023: THE FLORIDA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVES NEW K-12 AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY STANDARDS.



THESE STANDARDS ARE MEANT TO BE IN PLACE FOR THE UPCOMING 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR.



2

The original standard was written by people who know nothing about history, the edits were made by public school teachers.



3

"ACTS OF VIOLENCE PERPETRATED AGAINST AND BY AFRICAN AMERICANS"

HIGH SCHOOL STANDARD AA.3.6

DESCRIBE THE EMERGENCE, GROWTH, DESTRUCTION AND REBUILDING OF BLACK COMMUNITIES DURING RECONSTRUCTION AND

Reconstruction brought thriving black communities, which led to white rage, which led to Jim Crow laws.

BEYOND, WITH THE CLARIFICATION: INSTRUCTION INCLUDES ACTS OF VIOLENCE PERPETRATED AGAINST ~~AND BY AFRICAN AMERICANS BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO 1906~~

Attempting to compare the violence perpetrated by White Americans to the self-preservation efforts of African Americans is a pathetic way to alleviate white guilt. This has no place in curriculum that currently has so little nuance. Nice try, though.

~~ATLANTA RACE RIOT, 1919 WASHINGTON, D.C.~~

~~RACE RIOT, 1920 OCOEE MASSACRE, 1921~~

~~TULSA MASSACRE AND THE 1923 ROSEWOOD~~



The original standard was written by people who likely make more money than the teachers left to edit their mess.

"SLAVES DEVELOPED SKILLS WHICH, IN SOME INSTANCES, COULD BE APPLIED FOR THEIR PERSONAL BENEFIT."

MIDDLE SCHOOL STANDARD AA.2.3

EXAMINE THE VARIOUS DUTIES AND TRADES ~~ENSLAVED PEOPLE~~ PERFORMED BY ~~SLAVES~~ (E.G., AGRICULTURAL WORK, PAINTING, CARPENTRY, TAILORING, DOMESTIC SERVICE, BLACKSMITHING, [AND] TRANSPORTATION). WITH THE CLARIFICATION: ~~ENSLAVED PEOPLE ALREADY POSSESSED~~ INSTRUCTION INCLUDES HOW ~~SLAVES DEVELOPED~~ ~~ALL~~ ~~WOULD BE~~ SKILLS WHICH, IN ~~SOME~~ INSTANCES, ~~COULD BE~~ Inhumanely exploited ~~THE~~ ~~APPLIED FOR THEIR PERSONAL BENEFIT~~, OF EUROPEAN COLONIZERS THAT DID NOT POSSESS ANY PRACTICAL SKILLS.

The original standard was written by people who know nothing about history, the edits were made by public school teachers.

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

Teachers

Andrew Star, President of the Florida Education Association(FEA), explains how teachers are caught between a rock and a hard place. Star expressed that "Teachers in Florida have a code of ethics they must follow, that code of ethics includes teaching the standards, and it includes being honest and ethical in all dealings."

"If you teach standards that you do not believe are ethical and honest in their dealings, are you then violating the code of ethics? And if you don't teach those standards that way, are you then violating the code of ethics?" he added.

Students

Students, as usual, will be the greatest victims of these cruel standards. They will be on the receiving end of false and harmful information.

African American students will be forced to hear lessons that wrongfully tarnish their people's history and belittle the oppression their people have endured since the start of chattel slavery in this nation. Our students deserve protections from these shameful attempts at indoctrination.

Everyone Else

All People who wish to live in a better world should be outraged by these racist state education standards, our greatest hope for a better world lies in the education of our school children. Rational people understand the importance of a full and honest history, and rational people also understand that enslaved people did not benefit from the cruelties of slavery. It is the role of everyday people to stand up and fight back against these attacks on our educational system. The power of the people is always stronger than the people in power.

4

5

farewell...
i will always love you



you hate

i hate
modern
culture



I WISH