



'[Title of Show]' at BC!

By Anna Ervin
Co-Editor in Chief

This weekend, come out and see BC Theater's production of "[Title of Show]"! This fun show is a cast of only four people, not including the pianist. It will star Scott Douglas as Hunter, Taylor Sparrow as Jeff, Lyric Contarino as Susan, Naomi Firebaugh as Heidi, and much loved Vance Reese as Larry the Pianist.

"[Title of Show]" follows the actual authors, Hunter Bell and Jeff Bowen, as they write a musical for an upcoming festival only three weeks away. They enlist the help of their friends Susan and Heidi, and together they stumble through writer's block, jealousy and insecurity to make this musical a showstopper (maybe even good enough to win a Tony.)

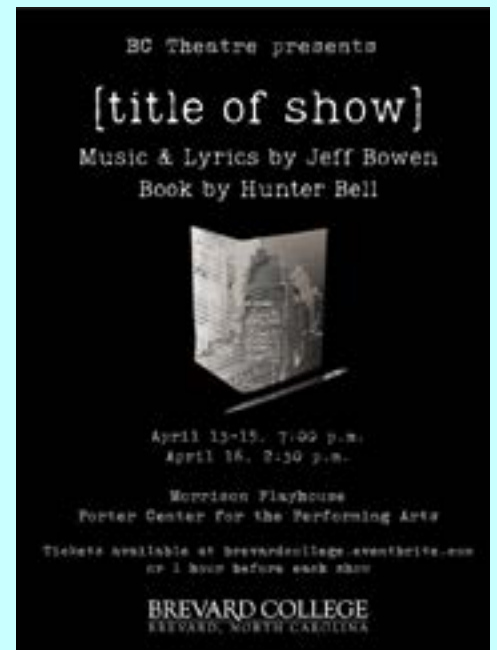
The simplistic set consists of only four chairs, a piano and is all set in the round. The audience will be immersed in the story as if they are a part of its telling.

Tickets are on sale now on the Brevard College eventbrite page, with students being charged \$10 and everyone else charged \$15. You can also buy tickets at the booth before the show starts, as long as tickets are still available.

This will be released too late for everyone to be aware of the Thursday night showing, but there are still opportunities to see it. Friday and Saturday night shows will begin at 7 p.m., with the house opening at approximately 6:30 p.m., and Sunday will hold a matinee at 2:30 p.m., with the house opening and about 2 p.m.

This musical is also our very own Scott Douglas's last performance with Brevard Theater, so come watch him light up the stage in Brevard one last time.

All performances will take place in the Blackbox theater in the porter center. We can't wait to see you there!



Criminal Justice Awards Ceremony

Outstanding Major Award in Criminal Justice-

Anthony Martino

Outstanding Leadership in Criminal Justice-

Nisa Rosales

Citizenship Award in Criminal Justice-

Damon Hewitt

Promise in the field of Criminal Justice-

Joshua Rankin

Promise in the field of Criminal Justice-

Tayla Hutchings



Photo by Stacy Workman

Professor Mike Moreschi and Anthony Martino

BC Wind Ensemble performance soon!

Brevard College's Wind Ensemble will present their final concert of the academic year on Thursday, April 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the Porter Center for the Performing Arts. The program will include compositions by Percy Grainger, John Stevens, J.S. Bach and more. The ensemble will also perform the world premiere of "...and I must go" by Andy Washburn, a composition written to reflect the composer's time cycling and hiking in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

"The students have matched my enthusiasm for new music this year," says wind ensemble director, Cole Hairston. "Andy Washburn is a North Carolina native and the Band Director at Kings Mountain High School, and his composition is an exciting meditation on the beautiful surroundings we call home. You will not want to miss the wind ensemble's premiere of this meaningful music!"

The concert is free and open to the public.

Brevard College Pi Alpha Lambda Chapter

The mission of Alpha Phi Sigma is to promote analytical thinking, rigorous scholarship, and lifelong learning; to keep abreast of the advances in scientific research; to elevate the ethical standards of the criminal justice professions; and to sustain in the public mind the benefits and necessity of education and professional training.

President Kymberlie: Thacker

Vice President: Iulia Cerguta

Secretary/Treasurer: Nisa Rosales

Senior Inductees:

Savannah Blankenship

Damon Hewitt

Beth Hyatt

Serena Rodgers-Luckey

Michaela Gray

Tayla Hutchings

Anthony Martino

Hannah Stepp

Inductees:

Luis Alvarez

Luke Dodson

Jordan Ingram

Nathan Mahoney

Gabriel Burris- Next year's Vice President

Taleah Hayes

Hayley Kenney

Savannah Wilkins- Next year's President



Photo by Stacy Workman

Chapter Advisor Dr. Stacy Workman and students of Brevard College Pi Alpha Lambda Chapter



Photo by Stacy Workman

From left to right: Kymberlie Thacker, Nisa Rosales, Iulia Cerguta

Mother-son duo comes to visit

By Isaiah Collison
Managing Editor

On Tuesday, April 4 at 6:30 p.m., I attended the children's book reading in Francis Pavillion. I showed up early in order to get a good feel for what I may learn. At events like this, the learning starts even before the event does.

It started with food and drinks, but I had scarfed down dinner in my dorm in order to get to the Porter Center as quickly as I could. I cleared my schedule to stay as long as our guests, Dr. Carole Boston Weatherford and her son, Jeffery Boston Weatherford, were going to be staying.

They were originally scheduled to visit in the fall semester but COVID was being rude to Dr. Weatherford.

Ehm, I'll have you know COVID couldn't stop me from finding a reason to wait! As soon as I learned the new date, I marked it on my planner. *Quick side note: that was the day Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated so I marked it, "Today's the day."

After I had an appreciable opening conversation with Dr. Uzzie Cannon who was in attendance, the Weatherfords took the stage.

Some of the first things they did were to lead the crowd in singing hymns that enslaved African Americans used to sing. I must admit, it had been quite a while since I'd heard them, so I only hummed. And still...I felt multiple chills run down my spine. I began to think, "We're singing the same hymns from hundreds of years ago. Really, how old are these songs?"

Jeffery transitioned into talking about his upbringing. Doodling in class was the way he would politely ask his teachers, "Who's really working right now?"

His mother, who was already publishing work, noticed his talent and increased dedication to doodles that he now called art. As any attentive mother raising a child would do, Dr. Weatherford signed him up for extracurricular classes that fit his gifts. This is how Jeffery found himself in formal art classes. To say he flourished would be an understatement.

During the presentation, the audience got an in-depth look at why the books are so well put together. The power of collaboration is limitless. They laid that on top of their mother-son relationship and became unstoppable. The crowd was immersed in empowering black stories about many different heroes. Pea



Dr. Carole Boston Weatherford

Island lifeguards, Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, the Tuskegee Airmen, to name a few.

I was lucky enough to read one of the books that we have in our school library, "Freedom in Congo Square." It answered a lifelong question I'd had, wondering if slaves had even one day of rest from the brutality of American slavery. On a brighter side, I am a raw creative nonfiction/historical fiction writer with four satirical eyes on the world, and two ears that hear hilarious things on the daily. In other words, I live life like a smartass. I am proud of it, and being able to say this story inspired a portion of what I plan to do for my creative senior project. What better way to dive deep into my project than with the free game of a great scholar who did the meticulous research for me!

Can you believe I was nervous to thank Dr. Boston Weatherford? I could hear my heartbeat. So as I approached the table where she and her son were signing books, I let other people go in front of me. I was one of the last audience members to go to the table. I started talking, and I set the poster flier down. I saw it and remembered I'd folded it, wrote on it, scribbled on it, shoved it in my backpack, and even used it to sketch a crappy storyboard on. I wonder if they—they had to notice because they signed their autographs right next to them. Bad looks.



Jeffery Boston Weatherford

The event ended after I got my questions scratched off my list and my poster signed. So not only did I not leave empty-handed, but I left with a new way of thinking. I had expressed a personal thought that sung the tune of, "Oh, great and wise Weatherfords, why can't I as the writer make an audience do what I want them to do?"

Having more life and writing experience, Dr. Weatherford rattled me with her educated answer. I was left realizing I was stubborn. I'll paraphrase.

Present the facts.

For some reason though, I still struggle with accepting that I can't control an audience. Jeffery's answer made me smile on one side of my face. I'll paraphrase his response too.

The audience does whatever it wants whether that's pay attention or stay distracted!

These past few days and nights I've been pondering just how much success the pair has had with their children's books. Dr. Cannon, who had been standing there the whole time listening, helped me realize something as we walked out of the Porter Center. Their success wasn't because they believed they could control anybody or anything, they just do what they are great at!

*That's it. It's really that simple...
I need more wisdom.*

Everywhere Corrigan

By Isaiah Collison
Managing Editor

Last week on April 6, astounding American writer, podcaster and television interview show host Kelly Corrigan came to Brevard College to deliver this year's McDowell Lecture in the Porter Center. As part of her visit, she met with students and faculty in a more intimate class event answering questions and asking a few herself.

If you look her up on Google, Wikipedia makes her sound bland as it has no added adjectives. If you want to know who the real Kelly Corrigan is, you listen to her talk about herself.

She opened with a brief overview of her life, including her education at the University of Richmond. She actually wanted to attend the University of Virginia, but "they didn't want me as badly as I wanted then," she said. Years later, when giving a speech there, she said she got her revenge: "I made them pay."

At Richmond, she studied screenwriting and playwriting, then after graduating, she got involved in many volunteer programs and nonprofit organizations. In 1992, she worked as a nanny where she did not use electricity to dry her clothes. She was canned from that job, but luckily she kept a journal over the duration, which she would return to later when her writing career began to take off.

Since she was visiting the Fiction Writing class taught by Dr. Adam Mills, a class I have the pleasure of being in, Corrigan brought up the topic of "Shitty First Drafts," an essay by one of her favorite writers, Anne Lamott, and asked if he teaches on that. A full room laughed at the comment and the fact Dr. Mills knew exactly why she brought that up. They both, Dr. Mills in previous classes and Corrigan at the event, recommended just getting words out of our heads and onto a page, and not worry about what it looks like yet. The first step is to put the notes and observations onto the page.

Corrigan then moved into a darker topic, her battle with cancer. She and her father developed cancer at the same time, so they were in chemotherapy together—not the ideal way to bond with a parent, but she is resilient. She jotted down everything that happened to her and her father along the journey they were able to walk together. This turned into the first thing she wanted to publish.

Corrigan took the self-publishing route. First, it was just a book she wanted in only her hands. It was printed, the one copy with a cover, but

her writing is contagious. A couple people got their hands on it, then more. Then more. Not only was she cancer-free two years later, but she had her first book published, the second time being the release to the public.

To say it succeeded is a joke. Her book, "The Middle Place," passed Tony Dungy's book on the New York Times bestseller list, she said. Yeah, just a Hall of Fame NFL coach. Don't recognize the name Tony Dungy? How about President Obama? He wrote a book. Yes indeed. But the country flocked towards what was more relatable. A father-daughter relationship surviving cancer in text. Even after we've all passed away, their love for each other will survive. Kelly Corrigan does have a large presence in a room but her writing creates tsunamis.

This led to her signing a two-book deal with Random House. The only problem was she had no idea what to write next. With all that time, an explosion was imminent. She wrote "Lift," a letter to her kids, "Glitter and Glue," a reflection on her time in Australia, "Tell Me More," and "Hello World," a children's book. She wasn't even done. Amazingly, she went and did a podcast with Brian Stevenson. Corrigan doesn't run out of words!

Many times in class Dr. Mills had told us to save the date she'd be coming into class. "Who is Kelly Corrigan?" I asked my brain. Hmm.

Well, I guess I'll find-

"Screenwriting" and I was hooked. Yes, I found screenwriting and was hooked, but when Kelly Corrigan mentioned it I was hooked all over again. I was sitting not in the back row but off to the side. The kind of side you have to lean to get a good look at the guest from. I said "Huh, screenwriting?" I needed to get a good look at this Kelly Corrigan character. See if she really knows what she says she knows. I'll paraphrase what she knows. "Don't show anyone work you don't respect the opinion of."

She went around the room and individually asked each of us what our aspirations were. I say individually because she didn't just ask us to blurt out plans. She pointed at us. I felt charged. Guilty. Corrigan is the type of person you want to answer because she has great advice to give. It's just sitting around her back pocket. When she got to me, I told her my goal was animation screenwriting. Not as beautifully, I had to clear my throat a few times in order for it not to sound like a joke. "Have you heard of Save the Cat?" I nodded my head. Silently, I said, "Oh this Kelly Corrigan knows her sh**."

The J. R. McDowell Speaker Series is sponsored by the Transylvania County Library Foundation. The speaker series is designed to present a wide array of viewpoints on challenging and thought-provoking topics.



Photo by John Padgett

Kelly Corrigan happily meets with students.

Tutor Talk part two

By Isaiah Collison
Managing Editor

Last week we highlighted a few ELC tutors. Well, we're back again with more information on a couple of them who wanted to do 1 on 1 interviews with me. This is an example that we tutors go above and beyond in the ELC. Wink wink.

Lena Hatter



1. Explain why your major fits you.

I am a Health Science major and hope to go into the medical field.

2. Why did you become a tutor?

I became a tutor because some science classes can be extremely challenging and I wanted to be able to help my peers with the material.

3. Why did you come to Brevard?

I came to Brevard to play Women's soccer and I just fell in love with the area.

4. What are some short and long term goals of yours?

Short term goals, I would like to get through senior year with good grades most importantly, and I also would like to step into some higher leadership positions that I have looked forward to since freshman year. Long term goals, get into medical school and start a new chapter of my life!

5. What are your summer plans?

This summer I will be working for MAHEC as an intern.

6. Any life dreams/Bucket list?

My life dreams include becoming a doctor, starting a family, traveling around the world.

Sophia Ogawa



1. Explain why your major fits you.

I'm a psychology and health science double major, but my psychology major probably fits me perfectly. Especially in terms of development and specifically childhood development. At SAFE I work a lot with younger kids, and I noticed that I'm always trying to figure them out (what makes them tick, why they act a certain way, what brings them joy, or what helps them calm down.) I use a lot of what I learn in classes to help me help out the clients I work with, and I've definitely noticed it's something that I love doing.

2. Why did you become a tutor?

I mostly became a tutor because I was recommended by one of my teachers. Coming into college I absolutely hated writing because I always thought it was something I wasn't good at. Then my freshman year I took English with Jessie Tucker, and honestly she made me fall in love with writing. Just the way she taught her class really encouraged me a lot, and I ended up finding out that I'm pretty good at proofreading papers too. I also found that I really like being a writing tutor specifically because I can read so many different peoples experiences while also helping them out at the same time.

3. Why did you come to Brevard?

I came to Brevard because this was the first school my dad came to when he moved to America from Japan. All throughout middle school and highschool, I wanted to follow in his footsteps.

Continued on next page

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When it came time to apply for schools I took a tour at Brevard and immediately felt welcomed.

4. What are some short and long term goals of yours?

Short term, I want to keep up everything I'm doing now. I want to finish school, graduate, and hopefully keep a lot of what I learned in and out of class. Long term, I hope to do some form of trauma therapy for children and adolescents.

5. What are your summer plans?

My summer plans are kind of lame. I work full-time at SAFE, so I intend to stay in Brevard and work over the summer.

6. Any life dreams/Bucket list?

After I graduate, I hope to go back home to Japan to visit my grandma and show her everything I've accomplished. I made a promise to her that I would work hard so that she could see me graduate college. And after not seeing her for over four years, I dream of one day being able to spend some time with her again.

Sarah Hajkowski



1. Explain why your major fits you.

I major in English, concentrated in Creative Writing, and Theatre. This is the right fit for me because I love literature, especially theatre and I enjoy a busy day-to-day that includes writing and creating with others. I hope to work in theatres post-undergrad and possibly seek my Master's one day in order to teach at the college level.

2. Why did you become a tutor?

I became a tutor because I enjoy both the content of what I've learned and collaborating with my peers. It is my goal to help individuals who come for tutoring feel more confident and empowered in their work, whether that's writing an essay, giving a presentation, etc.

3. Why did you come to Brevard?

I came to Brevard because it felt personable and welcoming especially given its size. I love connecting with new people (especially those passionate about learning) and quickly found many ways to be a part of the community. In addition, the physical environment in and around Brevard is restorative. I get solace and joy from being outdoors.

4. What are some short and long term goals of yours?

I hope to settle in Asheville, NC by myself post-undergrad, and get to know the Western NC Theatre scene. I also aim to publish my creative works in poetry and drama, possibly more than once. As stated, I'd also love to earn my Master's degree in Playwriting or similar, and teach at the collegiate level.

5. What are your summer plans?

This summer I will begin work with the Magnetic Theatre based in Asheville, NC as a dramaturg for one of their fall productions. I'll also be finding my feet with other ways to work and learn. And somewhere in there, I'll rest and write too. Last summer I tried to start a play-reading and devise group with some theatre buddies—I might give that another go.

6. Any life dreams/Bucket list?

I want to build a family and have a child or children in a place with some green space to grow in. I dream of mastering German and traveling to Germany (maybe living there too!) I'd love to produce my new plays over time and possibly find niches where this can happen semi-regularly. I could travel to New York City and try to become a part of the theatre and arts culture there. It's important to me that I stay humble and keep my integrity and work ethic, wherever I go.

THE CLARION

SENIOR STAFF

Editor in Chief . . . Anna Ervin
 Caroline Hoy
 Managing Editor . . . Isaiah Collison
 Copy Editor Isaiah Collison
 Campus News
 Arts & Life
 Opinion
 Layout & Design . . Anna Ervin
 Caroline Hoy
 Faculty Advisor . . . John B. Padgett

STAFF WRITERS

Aaron Butts Oreo Ellis
 Brady Penn Savannah Anderson

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All correspondence should be mailed to:
The Clarion, Brevard College, One Brevard
 College Drive, Brevard, NC 28712, or send
 E-mail to clarion@brevard.edu
clarion.brevard.edu

✉ **Letters Policy:** The Clarion welcomes letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit letters for length or content. We do not publish letters whose authorship cannot be verified.

Movie Review: The Super Mario Bros.

By Aaron Butts
Staff Writer

I just recently had the absolute privilege of getting to watch what is currently the highest grossing film of 2023 so far, “The Super Mario Bros. Movie.” It’s only been out for a little over a week now and has already surpassed \$377 Million globally. And to be completely honest, I get the hype. Going into it, I wasn’t quite sure what to expect here. Maybe it was going to be treated like a classic Super Mario Bros video game? Or somehow Mario and Luigi are living in the real world? Well, the answer was yes, and yes! It was highly entertaining from start to finish. Personally, I see this as a movie for the whole family to enjoy. What makes this film unique in my opinion is that everyone knows who The Mario Brothers are, so it doesn’t only appeal to just children. Or just to gamers. Nintendo has made The Mario Brothers such a cultural icon that they are as popular or maybe even more popular than “Star Wars” or anything to do with the “Marvel Cinematic Universe”

for example.

I was never against Chris Pratt voicing Mario although thousands of people were quite upset about it. I’m here to tell you that it totally works, and please don’t let that cloud your judgment before seeing the movie. As a matter of fact the casting for this movie couldn’t have been any better. We get Charlie Day as Luigi, Seth Rogen as Donkey Kong, Keegan-Michael Key as Toad, and Jack Black who stole the show as Bowser. Just wait until you hear Bowser’s hit single, “Peaches.”

This was a fun one to watch, I would recommend it to anyone. If you need something to do, or are on the fence about seeing “The Super Mario Bros. Movie,” trust me, it’s worth every coin. 5/5 stars.



Senioritis vs Burnout

By Caroline Hoy
Co-Editor in Chief

Senioritis

noun

a supposed affliction of students in their final year of high school or college, characterized by a decline in motivation or performance

Burnout

noun

the state of being extremely tired or ill, either physically or mentally, because you have worked too hard

Many times senioritis is mixed in with burnout, and the two words are used interchangeably. But there is a difference between the two.

When someone says they have senioritis, they have checked out and just don’t care anymore. Which as sad as this sounds, it can happen to the best of us. Despite no one wanting to catch

senioritis, it is very contagious. Many of the best can catch it.

Burnout is where someone is so physically tired they begin getting ill from working. Many students will work for hours a day without stopping to eat or drink. Some of these people may express that they have burnout, but some will suffer without anyone knowing.

Why am I telling you about this? I want my audience to check in with themselves and others. The best way for someone to deal with burnout is having a lifeline. So if you think someone is making themselves ill, reach out; give them a hand.

I never assume what someone is going through, and recommend you don’t either. Someone may be the most outgoing person you know. But burnout is invisible and can happen to anyone, even teachers. So please

never assume and check in. Burnout can get a lot of people, let’s help those with burnout.

It's okay to
take a break

Let's take care of
our mental health



Weekly Horoscopes!

By Anna Ervin
Co-Editor in Chief

Aries, go out and meet some new people this week. Now is not the time to sit around, hibernating in your room. Touch some grass, take a deep breath, and go.

Taurus, you're getting distracted from your big goals. It's okay to look in all different directions, but focus on one thing at a time.

Gemini, look at what you are doing. Time and money are important; create a plan now before you create more problems.

Cancer, the world has taught you some harsh lessons. Use those lessons to work towards positive change; knowing now is better than never having known at all.

Leo, you are trying to move too fast. Life is

not a race. Things come when they come, and that is okay. Have some patience.

Virgo, remember to cherish the people that support you. Those are your people! Don't take the relationships for granted.

Libra, you've got a lot of big ideas, but you may be feeling stifled right now. Take a deep breath, and find what makes you happy again. You are growing, and you will not feel like you're in a self-contained box forever.

Scorpio, your negative mentality is holding you back. You are so close to a break. Don't let the anger you feel destroy what you have; instead, use it to make positive changes.

Sagittarius, the lines between friendship

and romance may feel blurred this week. Take a look at what you really want and have a conversation about it.

Capricorn, how has your need for control affected those around you? Take a step back and leave room for others. It may improve your relationships.

Aquarius, things are still, but this stillness is not always a bad thing. Use this time to reconnect with what you enjoy.

Pisces, you are ready to take the next steps as far as your career is concerned. You have made a plan, now you just need to go for it.

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2023

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2023 Campus Academic Honors and Awards Ceremonies Schedule

Criminal Justice Awards Ceremony - Monday, April 10

6:00-8:00 PM | Francis Pavilion, Porter Center

Emergency Management and Health & Human Performance Awards Ceremony - Thursday, April 13

5:30-8:00 PM | Francis Pavilion, Porter Center

Science & Math Awards Ceremony - Monday, April 17

4:30-5:30 PM | MG 125

Project Presentations and Reception - Tuesday, April 18

5:00 PM | Jones Library

Student Leadership Awards Ceremony - Tuesday, April 18

6:30 PM | Amphitheater, Porter Center

Humanities Awards Ceremony - Wednesday, April 19

2:00-3:30 PM | MG 125

Fine Arts Honors and Awards Ceremony - Wednesday, April 19

4:00 PM | Music Honors Recital | Scott Concert Hall, Porter Center

5:00 PM | Awards and Reception | Spiers Gallery, Sims Hall

Psychology Awards Ceremony - Wednesday, April 19

6:30-8:30 PM | Amphitheater, Porter Center

(Rain location: Scott Commons)

BESPY (Athletic Awards Ceremony) - Thursday, April 20

7:30-9:30 PM | Boshamer Gym

Business & Organizational Leadership Awards Ceremony - Monday, April 24

5:30-8:30 PM | Francis Pavilion, Porter Center

Physical Education & Recreation Celebration - Tuesday, April 25, 2023

6:30-8:00 PM | WLEE Barn, Room 200

Teacher Education Celebration - Wednesday, April 26, 2023

5:00-6:30 PM | Francis Pavilion, Porter Center

Wilderness Leadership & Experiential Education Celebration - Thursday, April 27

6:00-8:00 PM | WLEE Barn

Active Retirement

By Isaiah Collison

Managing Editor

Please note this is a narrative article written as a responsive to last week's "What Brevard's JV team..."

African-American males can only be athletes. I can only be an athlete.

African-American males can only be athletes. I can only be an athlete.

I picked up football around the age of 6 when my mother realized how much good energy I had. She tossed me out of the house, and right into a football uniform. Soon, my father joined me in the field. Momma decided he should coach me and not her. One of the earliest things I remember telling my father after we began watching football together was, "Dad, I wanna go to the NFL."

Imagine me telling myself the first statements even once a year for the fourteen seasons I played football. That's called brainwashing, and it wasn't active because I never said those things. I was allowing my brain to be washed every Saturday and Sunday, so I never needed to say it. Luckily, Yahweh saw fit to give me able-bodied and right-minded parents; two of them. I am forever grateful to the three of them for loving me. But their love was protective, and they wouldn't let me be a fool.

What do you wanna do in school, Isaiah? *Ball.* What else? *Pff. Go to the league.* And after? *There is no 'after.' I'll coach til I die.*

Why would I even consider *after* if I can ball forever interrupted? Forever interrupted. I should tell you brothas, that is not a thing. I know you watch LeBron and Brady.

I wanted to be DeAndre Hopkins. But I'm not. Pro wideouts inspire me but I'm not them. The days I wanted to be Hop came to an end.

Two years ago I found myself on a D3 campus strictly for football. From Arizona, I flew my black ass all the way to bumbutt, PA to ball. And like many of you, I did the least amount of research possible. On purpose! I had tunnel vision, fellas! I didn't care how bad anything was, how much snow or rain fell, I figured running around the field would solve all my problems, *forever interrupted.*

I was sold a similar dream as some of you. Mine was on a phone call. The greatest move that coach made was getting me to fly from Arizona to PA on this hook: "I can promise you eight catches a game." Heaven. That's all I needed to hear. I was on a flight. Not one to visit since visits were not in-person, but to move in.

My freshman year was COVID's favorite

year, 2020. To fight the global pandemic we wore thin, cloth masks under our helmets. I'll say it. That was dumb. More colorful and scientific words could describe how idiotic of a decision it was to keep playing during a world crisis, but I was eighteen. And COVID didn't have a lick on teens. We were invincible.

Then some of the students started to get it. And quickly my teammates did too.

My life headed in a new direction. In the corner of my peripheral was a blinking red rectangle. "Reality" Reality was calling to deliver a check. Slowly but surely, I became disinterested in football and more immersed in that reality check. "If I die out on the gridiron, I needed to leave a legacy bigger than being a route runner." I couldn't get the thought of dying just a football player out of my head. "Forget school, just ball" was still my motto, but football wasn't hitting the same. The hits hurt worse when you're losing. The kids I played with weren't ballers, the weather sucked really bad, I felt sorry for myself for being there. Writing became therapeutic once I did it with dedication.

There I was. Still with NFL dreams but facing reality. The nearest grocery store had small-town junk food, and the cafe was teetering on not being edible. I played the season off of microwave food, bread and peanut butter. My sophomore year, my first season of actual college football, was the sorriest season of football I'd ever witnessed and been a part of in my entire life. Who's fault was it that the coach was an opportunist? Don't chill on me, I took the bait. I felt like a sucker.

I came here with my pride damaged, which actually hurt worse than a bruised mcl. I walked back on the gridiron with fools who thought their [lackluster] summer offseason training would lead to their "year to tear up the city."

Four days into camp, I retired. I've not been in cleats in months. I couldn't pretend I was in the clique anymore. But preferential treatment doesn't go away. I remember not all players are held to the same standards. I've watched goofs fail the conditioning test and play week one. I remember some failed their exams and still play. We can't control our luck.

Author Note: *If you keep reading, it's your fault. You don't have to do it to yourself.*

I should tell you a lot of you are sorry, if you care to know. I wasn't the most athletic, but I was coachable, I could catch, and I learned how to quit complaining. Now that I'm old, I can

watch from Jones lobby and identify why you play the way you play. I've heard complaints and excuses there too. Your season was mid because I have a perfect view of who goes to the field and who doesn't. Some of you say you want to go to the next level, but the marketable skills they require you lack because you have no technique, nor any recent accomplishments.

Sometimes I go to the gym where I find an astonishing number of aspiring next-level athletes nowhere to be found. I can always find football players smoking weed though. Keep in mind the D3 football schedule is about a day and a half up in D1.

I'm not your judge. I'm a nerd. I thought weed would give me a creative boost in writing until I failed to read a book on Saturn, and looked in the mirror. Reality was calling again. "Zay. How can a scholar use a fried brain?" Hmm. I couldn't come up with an answer, and I didn't make any excuses. For my own future, I tossed it in the dumpster. I had to work smarter.

Not everything is the coaches fault. Why you're not getting ahead is your responsibility to find the answer to. Get it through your head how many of you they have to deal with the emotions of. "Coach don't like me." is a copout. Football doesn't have to be your destiny! For the rest of your life you can carry the confidence you learned on the field.

In high school I once said, "If I don't make the league, this extra training will have been all for nothing." I was wrong like a brush without hair. The lessons I learned from football made me the adult I am right now. It formed my mindset that each day is a perfect opportunity to work harder than yesterday. Don't view tough situations as one big who can I point my finger at. View it as an opportunity pull yourself out of the gutter.

I never would have thought I'd be writing for a college newspaper. Long ago I would've looked around crazily if God had said it was in his plans for me. Now I proofread all of our articles.

My competitive fire isn't gone. I asked Caroline Hoy and Anna Ervin how many articles they've published, so I can beat em. I don't care they've been on staff for four years!! I picked up writing for The Clarion when I realized how much good writing energy I had.

Sometimes a dream is just to put you on track to reach your destiny.