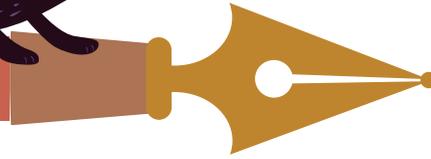




# UNDERGRADUATE ENGLISH LIT. ASSOCIATION

## NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2020 • ISSUE 6



**NOVEMBER 3RD IS  
ELECTION DAY!**

**SPEAK UP FOR WHAT  
YOU BELIEVE IN!**

**GET OUT AND VOTE!**



### WHAT'S INSIDE

Learn more about Banned Books Week !

New ~Spooky~ podcast recommendation!

More opportunities for Writers!

**MORE ON  
PG. 3**

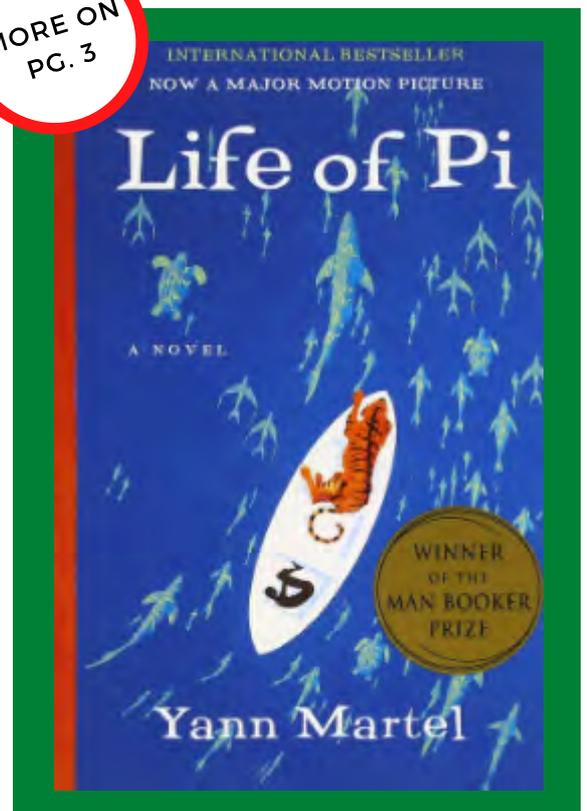
## UELA ANNOUNCEMENTS:

### CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS!

- Want to be in the next newsletter? Send us an email ([englishA@bu.edu](mailto:englishA@bu.edu)) to be featured! We're looking for:
  - Poetry, recipes, creative projects, club advertisements, book reviews, book recommendations, events, etc.

### WEAR A MASK!

- COVID-19 is still an ongoing issue in this country!
  - Wearing a mask protects not only yourself, but those around you.**



## ART SPOTLIGHT: MEDUSA

BY EMILY YODER

On October 13th, a statue of Medusa holding the head of Perseus was unveiled in New York City near the courtroom where Harvey Weinstein was convicted in March. It was sculpted in 2008 by artist Luciano Garbati. The statue, characterized by its creator as an emblem of the #MeToo movement and a symbol of justice, has been met with various backlash during the past week. Critics have noted that the statue was not originally created for the #MeToo movement, while Classicists have emphasized its discrepancies with Greek mythological tradition—Medusa was raped by Poseidon, so why is she holding Perseus’s head? Others have been critical of Garbati’s portrayal of Medusa as a classically beautiful, hairless, and alluringly nude figure when, in the original myth, she is characterized as a gruesome monster.

However, those who credit the statue praise Garbati for entering the conversation about sexual assault as a man, arguing that men need to take accountability and stand up for women. Garbati modelled the head of Perseus after his own head, perhaps out of convenience, but it can also be taken as a symbol of male self-reflection in a world where 90% of perpetrators of sexual violence toward women are men.

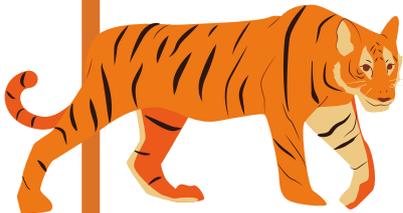


Medusa’s naked, hairless, and idealistically unrealistic appearance has been defended by Garbati as following classical sculptural tradition. Male subjects traditionally appear naked, hairless, and idealized, ranging from many ancient Greek statues to Michelangelo’s “David,” so it seems logical that a classically inspired Medusa should fit this form as well.

Overall, the most notable issue with Garbati’s work is that he did not have the #MeToo movement in mind when he sculpted it. This leads its feminist presence outside of a notable courtroom to seem at best, contrived, and at worst, an attention ploy. Mythological accuracy issues aside, the statue does follow classical sculptural tradition: Medusa’s stance, proportionality, and posture is in keeping with Greek art history. However, it was not created during or in the spirit of the #MeToo movement and that it should embody it is irreconcilable.



## LIFE OF PI: REVIEW



By what process can a strict vegetarian be converted into a ruthless man that lives on any animal he can get his hands on? Under what circumstances does a boy used to fear wild animals become a conqueror of such animals? Through what helplessness does a firm believer of God begin to question his lord's mercy? Martel's novel captures a vision of what these processes might be like under high-tension and worst-case scenarios. It's an artful telling of how our own experiences can change us entirely and how our recounts of those experiences might matter to ourselves and others.



## AGNI SPOTLIGHT

BY  
CATHERINE  
PEERSON

In the basement of the English department on Bay State Road, in the old offices of the now defunct Partisan Review, lie the headquarters of AGNI, a literary magazine that has published a plethora of award winning pieces and seven authors who have gone on to win Nobel prizes. Founded in 1972 by Askold Melnyczuk as an undergraduate at Antioch College, the magazine came to BU's campus when Melnyczuk later became a professor here at BU. It's been here ever since then, for over 30 years. Today, the magazine is co-edited by Sven Birkerts and William Pierce. It has expanded to include a twice-monthly online publication and a weekly blog in addition to the twice-yearly print magazine. AGNI publishes names you may not have heard of yet, but will likely hear in the future as the next generation of award winning authors.

Issue 92 is launching this month at launch events across the last three weeks of October. Last spring, AGNI managed to host a launch event for Issue 91 that virtually brought together its editors, contributors, and readers to celebrate the new issue. Almost all of the contributing writers created and posted a reading in video format, all 52 of which are still available on AGNI's website. For the launch of Issue 92, AGNI is hosting three nights of celebration and conversation with a number of notable prose writers, poets, and literary editors. The final event on October 29 will feature a discussion between literary editors Nicole Terez Dutton of Kenyon Review, Peter LaBerge of The Adroit Journal, and AGNI's Jennifer Kwon Dobbs and Mary O'Donoghue. As BU undergraduates and UELA members, you all have access to this otherwise subscribers-only event, the information for which will be emailed to you soon.

In the meantime, be sure to check out AGNI's website/blog ([agnionline.bu.edu](http://agnionline.bu.edu)), Instagram (@agnimagazine), and Twitter (@agnimagazine) to stay up to date on their publications and events.

# AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

SPOTLIGHT BY SYDNEY VILLEGAS

Since 1982, the American Library Association (ALA) has used Banned Books Week to highlight the challenges to books in libraries and schools across the country, to fight against censorship, and to promote free and open access to books and information. This year, Banned Books Week was held from September 27th to October 3rd under the theme “Censorship is a Dead End. Find Your Freedom to Read,” demonstrating the barriers censorship creates.

An analysis from the ALA showed that most books challenged in the past decade include content relating to the LGBTQ+ community. In 2019, these books made up 8 out of the 10 titles on the Ten Most Challenged Books ranking, including *Drama* by Reina Telgemeier and *George* by Alex Gino. Other commonly banned books are ones that focus on black characters and address racism and discrimination, like *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas and Toni Morrison’s *The Bluest Eye*. When books such as these are banned, it silences Black, Indigenous, people of color’s (BIPOC), and LGBTQ+ voices and eliminates the chances for students to see themselves reflected in these characters and their world. Banned Books Week is a reminder that the banning of books still happens, and a celebration that, despite these bans, books and information still remain widely available due to the work and activism of teachers, librarians, and students who challenge these bans.



Libraries and schools celebrated Banned Books Week virtually this year by hosting book reading and trivia events online. The ALA also sponsored a letter-writing campaign to the authors of banned books, encouraging readers to share what these books mean to them. For more information on Banned Books Week, visit [www.bannedbooksweek.org](http://www.bannedbooksweek.org) and visit [www.nypl.org/bannedbooks](http://www.nypl.org/bannedbooks) to take a quiz on commonly banned and challenged books.

the arts fuse

“The Arts Fuse [is] a curated, independent online arts magazine dedicated to publishing in-depth criticism, along with high quality previews, interviews, and commentaries.”  
-Bill Marx, Editor-in-Chief of The Arts Fuse

## Writers wanted!

Are you passionate about the arts? Do you enjoy writing? Write for the Arts Fuse! We are currently looking for people who want to write fascinating, contemporary works that offer a new perspective!

- Critique Art**  
that you are interested in talking about!
- Get Published**  
in a reputable arts magazine!
- Build up your resume**  
while learning about and sharing the art that is around you!

**CONTACT US**  
[billmarx@artsfuse.org](mailto:billmarx@artsfuse.org)

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[@theartsfuse](https://twitter.com/theartsfuse)  
[facebook.com/theartsfuse](https://facebook.com/theartsfuse)  
[artsfuse.org](http://artsfuse.org)

**TELESCOPE** BY LOUISE GLÜCK

There is a moment after you move your eye away  
when you forget where you are  
because you've been living, it seems,  
somewhere else, in the silence of the  
night sky.

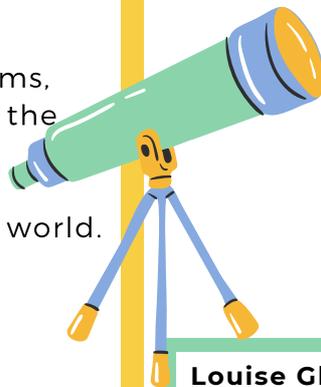
You've stopped being here in the world.  
You're in a different place,  
a place where human life has no  
meaning.

You're not a creature in a body.  
You exist as the stars exist,  
participating in their stillness, their  
immensity.

Then you're in the world again.  
At night, on a cold hill,  
taking the telescope apart.

You realize afterward  
not that the image is false  
but the relation is false.

You see again how far away  
each thing is from every other thing.



SONG OF THE MONTH:

**Louise Glück** was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on October 8. She is the first poet to be awarded since Tomas Tranströmer in 2011. Her authenticity is highlighted throughout her work, along with her relatability to complex emotions. For these reasons, "Telescope" is a favorite among her fans.



**MOULIN ROUGE : REVIEW**

BY NOBEL SHUT CHAN

Moulin Rouge! is a 2001 Academy Award-winning movie musical directed by Baz Luhrmann that tells the tale of a whirlwind romance between Christian, a penniless writer, and Satine, a courtesan. Bursting with stunning visuals, frenetic humor, and dazzling song sequences, Moulin Rouge! is an entertaining rollercoaster ride with a hefty amount of emotion. Satine, played by Nicole Kidman, is the highlight of the film. His journey to self-discovery is surprisingly poignant. Other characters in the film are also impeccably cast, from the endearing Ewan McGregor as Christian to the hilarious Jim Broadbent as Moulin Rouge owner Harold Zidler. The film also abounds with creative reinterpretations of songs such as "The Show Must Go On," "Your Song," and the best song sequence in the movie, a mash-up of "Roxanne" and tango titled "El Tango de Roxanne." Of course, this film is not flawless – the opening moves at break-neck speed, much too fast to be fully comprehended, and the conclusion is lackluster compared to the exceptional climax. But if you get used to the film's relentless pace, you'll be in for a breathtaking, unforgettable experience.





## PODCAST OF THE MONTH



It is never too late to settle into October with a spooky podcast! Cult Liter is a True Crime podcast hosted by Spencer Henry, a California native with a knack for what he calls “macabrehistory, true crime, and all things bizarre.” This broadcast covers the famous cases from Jack the Ripper to the less-reputable case of JonBenét Ramsey, as well as some obscure cases that Liter has only dared to look into. Fans say they “can’t stop listening”, and it is “such an addictive podcast”! Stream it now to anywhere you can listen to podcasts.



## Salem During a Pandemic

BY SEAN YOUNG

When choosing to go to Boston for college, it’s nearly a given that you will visit this small, historic town at least once. Salem is a popular destination for both in-state and out-of-state tourists during October-- especially for those searching for those classic Halloween festivities and spooky vibes.

Despite people being encouraged to stay home and limit travel this year, the need for a normal Halloween experience has attracted more than the usual number of tourists. As I was waiting in line to enter a gift shop that was already at full capacity, one security guard informed me that this unusually large amount of people has been a staple “all month.” The uptick in visitors is one of the many adjustments that the numerous gift shops, restaurants, cafes, and museums in Salem have had to arrange to accommodate crowds during a pandemic. Other adjustments include ones that BU students are already familiar with: the requirement of masks at all times, different doors for entrance and exit, online purchases for all museum tickets, and a limited amount of tickets sold to minimize capacities. If you’re still planning on visiting this magical destination for Halloween - be wary of crowds, wear a mask at all times, bring hand sanitizer, and make sure to get tested as soon as you come back!

Hello BU English Majors and Minors,

The Beacon is Boston University's first-ever student publication that showcases the university's talented student writers

Now sponsored by the English Department, The Beacon is back and seeking submissions for its spring edition. Poetry, short fiction, and essays are welcome and should be sent to

[thebeaconbu@gmail.com](mailto:thebeaconbu@gmail.com)

The deadline for submissions is **March 1st**. There are no specific restrictions regarding submission length.

Students are encouraged to submit multiple pieces. Feel free to email us with questions

☐ View past editions and learn more at

<https://thebeaconbu.com/>

If you are interested in working as a student editor, please email either Liz McGrath ([lmcgrath@bu.edu](mailto:lmcgrath@bu.edu)) or Roy Wang ([royw@bu.edu](mailto:royw@bu.edu)) for more information.

Best,  
The Beacon Staff

## SIGN OUR LETTER!

UELA has taken a stand against racism within English academic instruction at BU!

For too long, exclusionary practices have kept the subject tied to white, male, Eurocentric ideals while ignoring the rich diversity literature has to offer.

Go to @BU.UELA on Instagram to learn more and sign our letter in support of this cause!

Its time to speak up and demand an updated curriculum for all!

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