

SPEAK



From the Editor

Speak Magazine was created with the vision of a magazine for the students by the students. It allows students to express their own personal insight in new ways. When introduced by Joseph Sothcott in 2018, it received incredibly positive feedback from his two issues. He described Speak Magazine as “a place where students can discuss and debate important concerns, as well as have some fun.” It seems quite clear that he excelled in his goal leading to the success of Speak, with it still continuing now.

Last Year, Jack McConnell chose to expand upon Joseph Sothcott’s idea for the Speak Magazine. This year, however, I would like to take Speak in new directions. I would like to incorporate each of the main aspects of the school in each issue, with additional topics more than welcome. I aim to fully embrace everything that makes St Peter’s College the strong and connected community that we all know that it is.

For 2020, I have some big shoes to fill, and I am more than open to the challenge which lays in front of me. One of the two main objectives of Speak, is to allow the students voices to be heard without being toned down. Often, as students, we feel that we don’t have a voice on issues that affect us. However, Speak aims to counter this thought.

Each student has their own opinion on different topics, which I would like to be heard regarding the issues they believe are important. The other main objective of Speak, is to keep the student body aware of what is happening in and around the school through the different areas of the college.

Speak is unique and different to that of most magazines as it is up to the students to display their thoughts and perspectives which they wish to be revealed. One of the main benefits of Speak is that it grants the students an opportunity to take their passion for writing one step further, by allowing their opinions and personal knowledge to be shared in a public space.

I am grateful for the chance to be able to guide Speak throughout its third year, and I hope that I can live up to the expectations and responsibilities which come with it. I only hope that I can do as good of a job as the last to leaders, to ensure that this continues for future years. Please enjoy the first 2020 edition of Speak Magazine, with hopefully more to come.

- Jacob Erceg

Album Reviews

Charli XCX

how i'm feeling now

3.5/5

Charli XCX has been pushing the boundaries of pop music consistently for the past few years. Her 2019 album, *Charli*, was a succinct and near-perfect distillation of the experimental pop genre she operates in: conventional song structure combined with abrasive, distinctly digital, and often harsh noise instrumentals. But never has she pushed the boundaries of music creation itself. This is where *how i'm feeling now* comes in: it is an entire album of eleven songs and two music videos made in the span of a month during quarantine. Her music is now not only distinctly digital and experimental in its sound, but also in its creation: Instagram Lives, FaceTime's, and Zoom calls with fans and collaborators alike define this era of Charli XCX.

Hence, it is almost unnerving how well put together this album is. XCX proves again to be a simple yet insightful lyricist, songs here discussing the intense landscape of feelings under quarantine. The balletic "forever" has such a simple, repetitive chorus, but the beauty of it is not lost by this, rather enforced by it. Through its genuine presentation this one-note type of song writing becomes something totally else: relatable. Other tracks, for instance "enemy", are lyrically simple but have a keen eye, too, depicting the uncomfortable nearness of the people you love during quarantine. Plenty of songs are also just infectiously dance-

able — "claws" has to be one of the year's best singles so far, and "anthems", a dance song about wanting to hear dance songs, is at once uplifting and bittersweet. I will not pretend like all the songs here are hits. There are a few misses, especially musically. Some of the instrumentals themselves are not as charmingly and intelligently repetitious as XCX's lyrics. "I finally understand", for example, has a babyish melodic line and a clunky drum beat behind it. Yet despite this, the album is still so sharp and so clear in my mind: a digital voice singing out into the void of isolation, cutting through the mental fogginess of being stuck indoors. That is exactly what *how i'm feeling now* is to me. It is a wonderful, relatable project, which, despite its failings (or perhaps because of them) becomes a truly captivating reflection of life under quarantine.

CHARLI XCX



Forever

Lady Gaga

Chromatica

2.5/5

Chromatica showed a lot of promise for pop superstar Lady Gaga. Posed by its music videos as some sort of futuristic, industrial hippie space party (the dancers in them are called “Kindness Punks”), the work appeared to have clear vision. Moreover, the record promised to be a return to form for Gaga – her past three records (including the popular *A Star is Born* soundtrack) strayed away from the pop sensibility she was known for. Although the singles themselves fell a little flat, an exciting energy was behind them, the concept for the album seeping through. If a little naff, *Chromatica* was set to be a clean, high-concept pop album from Lady Gaga.

Perhaps these high expectations are part of what make *Chromatica* a bit of a let-down. And, well, it is not all bad – Gaga’s vocal delivery has as much agility and bravado as ever — but the music has much less charm. It retreats into typical 90s dance structures and conventional, anonymous production far too many times. A few great moments do shine through — the nonsense “Stupid Love” is a genuinely compelling dance tune, despite its lyrical vapidness, “Enigma” has a huge, swelling pre-chorus that plays into Gaga’s theatrical tendencies, and the hilarious Madonna spoof “Babylon” helps lighten the track listing — but for every hit there’s a miss. Too many tracks play into their easy listening sensibility uncritically: they do not challenge the listener in the ways great pop music can. Songs like “Replay” and

“Free Woman” offer nothing more than their surface value as a dance song, and the terribly misplaced Elton John feature on “Sine From Above” makes the track an almost laughable misstep. On many of *Chromatica*’s songs, the layers of grandiose, irony, and vision that Gaga’s earlier works had in spades are either hardly there or are masked by the instrumental composition. Of course, the album makes for a fun, boisterous listen – that much is to be expected – but still the product here is frustratingly straightforward, like taking the easy route out. It feels like I am in love with the idea of *Chromatica*... this crazy, futuristic space party, a radical insistence on love over hate (however vague that may be), though these ideas are virtually absent from the music. They are ingrained instead into the meta-narrative of the album — its music videos, artist interviews, and visual aesthetic. Gaga knows people will dance to *Chromatica* and takes that as narrative fodder. And while memories will surely be made, and love will surely be shared to this music, they will have nothing to do with the songstress herself.

- Jackson McCarthy



Four Vignettes

1

It was summer when we first met. I remember, you had taken to wearing sweaters, issuing your challenge: "Summer, do your worst". You, swaddled in wool, spent much of that summer indoors, seeking out cool reprieve. Once I came home, from some party you'd missed, to find you sitting before the open refrigerator, cooling your face as the milk curdled. It was only when Benjamin, ever the bravest, drank from the bottle, and subsequently hurried to the bathroom, that you abandoned your sweaters. Your skin was pallid, pearly-white, marked with spider-thin veins, blue tracks crossing your flesh. Later, you cut yourself, the knife slipping from the fish, and the blood was shocking. It was red, startling. I'm not sure why, but I half-expected you to bleed blue; or not at all.

I found you later, huddled in the shower, the faucet steadily dripping, surrounded by tissues, each spotted with blood. I held you then, to stop the shaking.

2

Now, I walk nightly - Toto, my excuse. For, what wife will stop you from leaving, provided you leave with some boisterous, bounding thing? He smiles, with that lazy tongue of his, and those sharp teeth, which appear harmless in his awkward mouth, and anything could be excused. Along Rose Avenue, with its broken windows, and boarded doors. Along 4th Street, stepping carefully about the drunken women. Toto, ever the gentleman, offering them a passing smile. Along Webster Road, to the diner. It's small, and rather unassuming. A place of bricks, held together with little more than grease, and southern hospitality. I never enter. I haven't talked with her, not since her sixteenth birthday, but I watch her. She sits, and writes, occasionally ordering, from that tired waitress, another mug of coffee. In her musty booth, tucked between the coffee-machine, and the bathrooms. This diner, of all places. This, with its cracked tiles, and unpleasant smells, and dripping fat, and unfriendly smiles.

This, she has chosen as her home. We stand until Toto, despite his thick fur, begins to complain. Then, we turn, and walk home.



Toto - it's a silly name: far too small, and far too dainty, for this large, slobbering creature. He ought to have been called Duke, or Chief, or Marlin - something grandiose, and baritone. A name with thunder, and weight. Not Toto. Not pretty, darling Toto, who couldn't stand to see his house whipped away, carried off by some cyclone. Not Toto, that foolish, frantic thing. But you wouldn't listen. It was Toto, and that was final. I suppose it's my own fault, putting you to bed with Baum. Nightly, I would neatly fold the sheets about you, as if by trapping you beneath blankets, I might protect you from the world, and its cyclones. You were always the sweetest child, the one whom I wanted most to protect you. Even when you were sixteen, growing increasingly sharp, as if by making yourself a blade, you might keep the world at bay. Even then, I wanted nothing more than to hold you, and keep you. Toto. A silly name. You were six, and Toto was yours: a delighted, frenzied thing, who couldn't quite contain the affection he felt so deeply. His was a love which overflowed.

He bit you, while playing one day in the yard. And you, without anaesthetic, had to watch as the doctor, with those rubber gloves, stapled shut your arm.

It must've been early, the birds not yet crying, the house not yet awake. I had woken in the night, the rattling of the freight-trains shaking me awake. In the kitchen, I found her. She was sitting there, eating cereal from the box, bathed in the glow of the refrigerator's light. I can't remember what exactly she said. I can't remember if she even spoke. But, seeing her there, with this crown of crumbs, and her empty carton, I understood. In less than thirty minutes, we were driving. South. I thought that I would take her, just south of the city, to the house where she grew up. I thought that, maybe, seeing that her crayon scribbles still adorned the walls, and her box of coins was still secreted away beneath the floorboards, she might be soothed. We drove. The night was hot, and neon lights blurred on the horizon. Then, she turned to me, and pressing a finger to her lips, she stood. Then, she leant out the window. She was upright, her fingers tangled in her hair, and she was smiling. This smile, which I don't think I'd seen in years. She was dancing, this close to falling from the car, to some song playing on the radio. I couldn't follow the tune, but she sang along, screaming the lyrics into the dark. She shouted the chorus, spitting at the passing cars, trying desperately to catch the eyes of their drivers. She seemed furious, and elated; and much more besides. I was terrified. I left her, at that childhood home of hers, and drove away.

- Cameron Gregan

A Return to Sport

To a majority of people within New Zealand sport is somewhat like a way of life. Growing up watching and playing sport I feel the same way. So, when we went into lockdown, and sport disappeared off of the face of the earth, many people did not know what to do. Personally, I began to watch old games and highlights of players and games to satisfy my desire for sport. This also allowed me to look back on the skills players use and how I could adopt those into my games when I would return. One thing for certain is that you really take things for granted, and you never really know how much you need something until you cannot have it. For me, at least I knew I was not alone. None of the major leagues or competitions for any sport around the world were active and so many people began to indulge in the very few codes and competitions still active. An example of this was Belarusian Football. The idea of sport being temporarily cancelled was a big shock to the entire world as nothing like this had ever happened before and no one knew what was going to happen, or when sport would return. No one knew what the future of sport would look like and many teams and clubs began to fear their own futures.

There was a huge sigh of relief when New Zealand was told sport would return, as it meant people could return to a norm during a time when things were uncertain. For New Zealand, we improved and progressed much faster than anticipated and crowds were even able to attend sports. The enthusiasm behind sport was clearly evident in the first round Super Rugby Aotearoa with Eden Park having a sold-out crowd. The Blues vs. Hurricanes match was the one of the first live Rugby match in over three months and the game the night before, Highlanders vs. Chiefs was certainly a spectacular sight. The two games filled the void that many people had as a result of the loss of sport. These games served as a lifeline to many Rugby fans both in New Zealand and around the world. Super Rugby Aotearoa looks like it will be met with large success as it will be filled with a whole season of derby games between the New Zealand teams. The derby game tend to be the most interesting and some of the best to watch, as it is the best in New Zealand competing with and against each other. These games are also often regarded as some of the most difficult games.



Both games were filled with their own drama, with the Chiefs losing in the final minutes as a result of the coach's son, playing for the opposing Highlanders, stealing the game away in the dying minutes. The Hurricanes vs. Blues games also showed the return of Beauden Barrett to first class rugby since the 2019 Rugby World Cup, as well as fellow All Black, Ardie Savea returning from knee surgery. The real drama was that this was Beauden Barrett's first game against his old team after switching allegiances in 2019. Barrett was bested by former teammate Dane Coles early in the game who scored after a failed try saving tackle by Barrett, however, it was Barrett who had the last laugh coming away with the win. Round 1 of Super Rugby Aotearoa gave fans a glimpse of what the season ahead is going to look like with, physicality and skill ever so present. This coming season looks as if it is going to be one of the best competitions so far with no one having a distinct advantage over the other. There will be many upsets, underdogs, and comebacks, but that is what rugby is all about.



Sports' return has had a large impact on New Zealand, and it has allowed people to return to a somewhat normal lifestyle, like before lockdown. It is providing people with a sense of fulfilment in a way and it has led to the progression in sport around the country, with club and school sport now back up and running. Many more sports around the world are now too beginning to resume allowing people to have their need for sport satisfied. Super Rugby Aotearoa has proved a success in New Zealand and hopefully the same can be said about the resumption of sport around the world. Although the future of sport around the world is not certain, there does seem to be light at the end of the tunnel, and this light is now serving as hope for the world to return to normal.

- Jacob Erceg

Adjusting to Change

The announcement of a six-week isolation period was necessary in eliminating COVID-19. There was an excitement of being able to have time off school, but the novelty wore off quick as boredom and the need to see friends grew. This global pandemic was new to everyone and we were swiftly moved into a lockdown.

I was sitting in the library reading the news, then there was the announcement of level three. The change to a virtual classroom was a new experience but it did not hinder our learning. As the prefect team, we have to goal of increasing connectivity within our school and we were not going to let lockdown change that. The other head prefects and I came together to discuss ways we could remain connected with our school. We came up with the idea of using social media, we created a St Peter's lockdown page to remain connected with our SPC whānau during the isolation period, we were 'apart but not alone'.

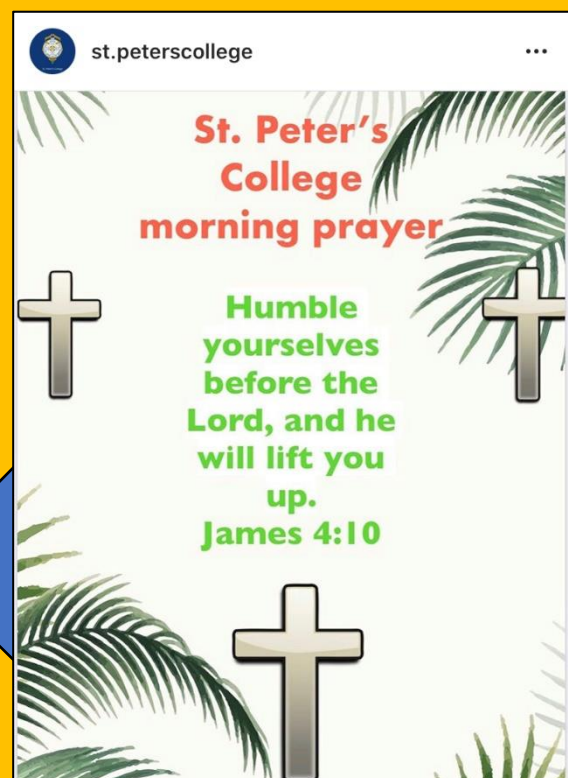
Our plan was to maintain a routine and had a plan to provide some entertainment. We kept the daily tradition of a morning prayer so that the students could wake up to the post and remember their routine. Harry created a posting plan, I was working on quizzes, questions, and house completion activities. Cameron reminded everyone the importance on having a healthy mental wellbeing and suggested music and podcast to listen to. Luke maintained the daily routine of a morning prayer and Harry gave us general health advice and workout plans

to remain physically active during lockdown.

We were not sure if this page would be successful but over time our followers grew and interactions with community increased. The Instagram page allowed us to communicate to the community and let us remain involved with our school. There was obvious challenges, at times we struggled to come up with ideas to provide some entertainment and challenges, but we pushed through with an engaging audience through the isolation period.

The prefect team was not going to let Covid-19 affect us, we came back to school with the intent to continue our consistent path and complete our initiatives. We are confident that this year we can be successful in completing our goal of connectivity further.

- Joseph Lee



THE BREAKFAST INITIATIVE

7:45am - 8:30am

Hall

Term 3: Mondays & Thursdays

Come and join us in the hall

For a gold coin donation, you can get

1x Bowl of cereal

1x Piece of toast

1x Cup of milo