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Dear stuff owners,

In the world of writing, we're taught to avoid using the word "stuff." We're pretty sure you've heard it from your literature teachers too. (We prematurely apologize to the entire English Department. The word shows up 14 more times in this letter alone.) So it was especially out of the ordinary to see Balmeo's eyes light up at the idea of having an issue about stuff.

After all, stuff is ambiguous, it doesn't really mean anything. Stuff gets into your shoes if you run around on a turf field too much. Your closet is full of stuff. You have stuff to do tonight. Stuff is paradoxical because it is both everything and nothing at all.

As our special report staff explored the

different parts of stuff this month, we both thought a great deal about the stuff that matters to us too. Not only the piles of stuff in A111, which range from ordinary newspapers, to ridiculous paraphernalia like football helmets and over a thousand forks, but the stuff that makes us who we are.

So we put that stuff to good use. We searched around the classroom, we looked under our beds and we emptied our pockets looking for the stuff that defines us.

We found lots of it. From Russian stacking Matryoshka dolls to Barbies, our stuff came in all shapes and sizes from all over the world. Each one also tells a story.

Whether it's the reindeer antlers we used

to signal when a copy editor is available or a wooden elephant gifted by a generous student, all of these things were much more than just things.

Despite living in a world where so much of our lives happen in the immaterial online world, we are still unified by the objects that we possess.

Take a minute and look around. Everything you see has its own unique and intricate history. What's the story behind your backpack? Your wallet? Your umbrella?

Was it a gift? (Page 28) A part of a collection? (Page 30) Or perhaps even something you took from school grounds? (Page 29)

So maybe it wasn't that out of the ordinary



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to see our adviser intrigued by our proposal for this issue. After all, we're a staff of 48 journalists and as journalists, we're supposed to search for stories. And we all know better than to claim that there isn't anything newsworthy happening when we open up our pitch form and see no new submissions.

Because we all know that there is always stuff going on. Every person, place, thing, sight, smell and sound has a story to tell. Sure, the literary sin is one of the most unclear words in the English language.

But that's why we chose it.



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LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

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Some images in this publication were taken from the stock photography website sxc.hu.

Mission Statement

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