

Dear Readers,

Once we had a team assembled, ready to carry forward a new year of SPACE, we realized that though we inherited an excellent foundation, we had neither the skills nor experience to capitalize on it. But, as we discovered, starting without any skill placed us on a journey not unlike the one our readers will experience.

Phrasing the theme, "What are you asking at the end of the world?" turned out to be our first great hurdle. What began as banter amongst the team shifted into an anxious conversation that landed us on our question. Immediately, we realized this inquiry served as both the basis for our next issue and risked becoming a magnet for pseudo-profound submissions. Our theme, with an inherent basis in philosophical (or literal) doomsday, challenged us to escape the expected doldrums of pretentious soapbox standing.

So, we challenged writers to consider what may never matter outside of themselves, yet put it on the page regardless. Turns out, our writers' creativity surpassed our wildest expectations. These submissions, each an answer to our question, ranged from responses to us to more abstract explorations of inquiry burdened by entropy. But the one thing these pieces all had in common was that they contained fragments of our writers' passions, the thoughts that would never survive if the world ended tomorrow, yet still matter today.

Our second challenge was cultivating our writers' answers to our question. With each submission, our goal was to create visuals that echoed both the answer and the emotions it conveyed. We wanted each answer to be not only a reading experience but also a visual one. Thanks to Sloane Bachman that goal was accomplished. Through her talented graphic design skills we were able to visually actualize each answer, a process that required our own inquiry through trial and error until we had sufficiently created a visual counterpart for each answer.

Before you now is a collection of answers, all exploring what they will ask as the world ends and why. We hope that each of these pieces matters to you as if it were yours and tests you as they did us. Don't be afraid to embark on the journey each writer has scripted. While reading, we challenge you to imagine a reality where entropy has erased inquiry, a world where these pieces do not exist.

Sincerely,

*Your Executive Editors: Jack Armstrong
and Annalyn Justice*

*SPACE - A Student Journal for Public
Audiences*



Annalyn Justice is a Junior at the University of Alabama majoring in English with minors in Creative Writing and Southern Studies. This is her second semester being a part of Space; she served on the acquisitions and promotions team then stepped up to the role of Executive Editor. She also writes on the opinions desk at The Crimson White and volunteers with Reading Allies.



Jack Armstong served as Executive Editor for SPACE in Fall 2025. Along with his role at SPACE, Jack served as Prose Liaison for the Red Rook Press, Secretary of the Honors College Assembly, and Secretary of UA's chapter of Sigma Tau Delta. In May, Jack will graduate from UA with Honors and begin his MA in American Studies at the Capstone.