



THE  
**Aldae**  
MERCURI

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# table of con - tents



02 GJCL Directory

03 Editor's Note

04 Alone

08 Officer's Minute:  
Christine Jeong

09 Pocky

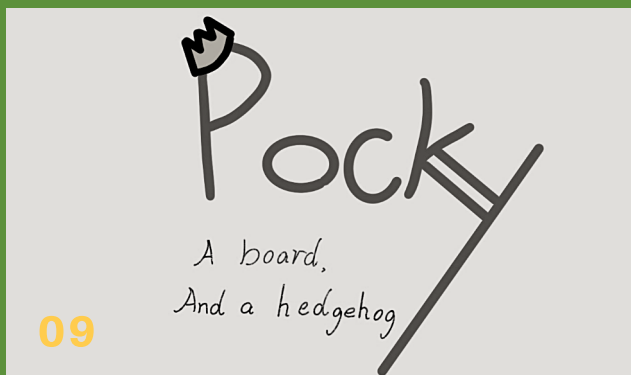
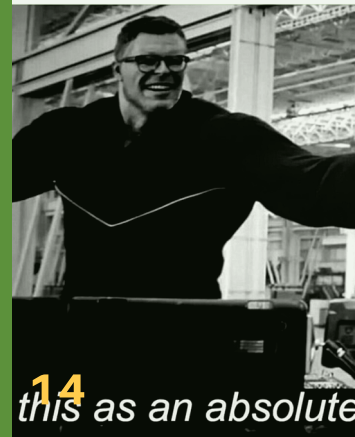
11 Photo of the Month

14 The Memeseum

16 State Highlights



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# GJCL DIRECTORY

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## ALAE MERCURII POLICY

The Alae Mercurii is the official publication of the Georgia Junior Classical League, made with the purpose of informing the readers about the past, present, and upcoming events throughout the chapters of the GJCL. The statements, comments, and opinions found in the Alae Mercurii are those of the respective author and should not be considered to reflect the policy of the GJCL, its officers, or the state committee.



# Editor's Note



**Well, this is unfortunate.**

I had a lot planned for you guys in this issue of the Alae, but of course a lot of that had to go in the bin. I've been spending most of my time at home in the kitchen, waiting for a socially acceptable time to eat more food.

But during those two-hour intervals, there's been a lot of reflecting on my end. Although it's a little hard to write about something that isn't going to happen, I can definitely talk about things going on in other states of the JCL.

In this installment of the Alae, I've partnered with numerous editors across the country to bring you the scoop on matters from other states. Also, be sure to check out the count down for the top social distancing champions of the ancient world, and a snippet about the underappreciated secretary as well.

This may be the last time I have the privilege of presenting a Pocky comic to you guys, but he'll always be in our hearts. He even got a scarf made for him by Ashely! (reference the picture above.)

Hope you enjoy.

A handwritten signature in orange ink that reads "Eric Yao".

ERIC YAO  
GJCL Editor 2019-2020

# Submit To the Alae

HERE'S HOW!

**1.** WRITE A 300-800  
WORD ARTICLE

**2.** ADD PHOTOS  
AND CAPTIONS

**3.** EMAIL IT TO

A graphic featuring a sunburst of orange lines radiating from the top. A white ribbon with a gold border is positioned across the middle, containing the email address "EDITOR@GJCL.ORG" in black capital letters.

EDITOR@GJCL.ORG



Throughout classical myth, countless  
individuals championed social  
distancing.

Here are the best of the best.

# alone



by Eric Yao



# Diogenes

## *A famous philosopher of Cynicism*

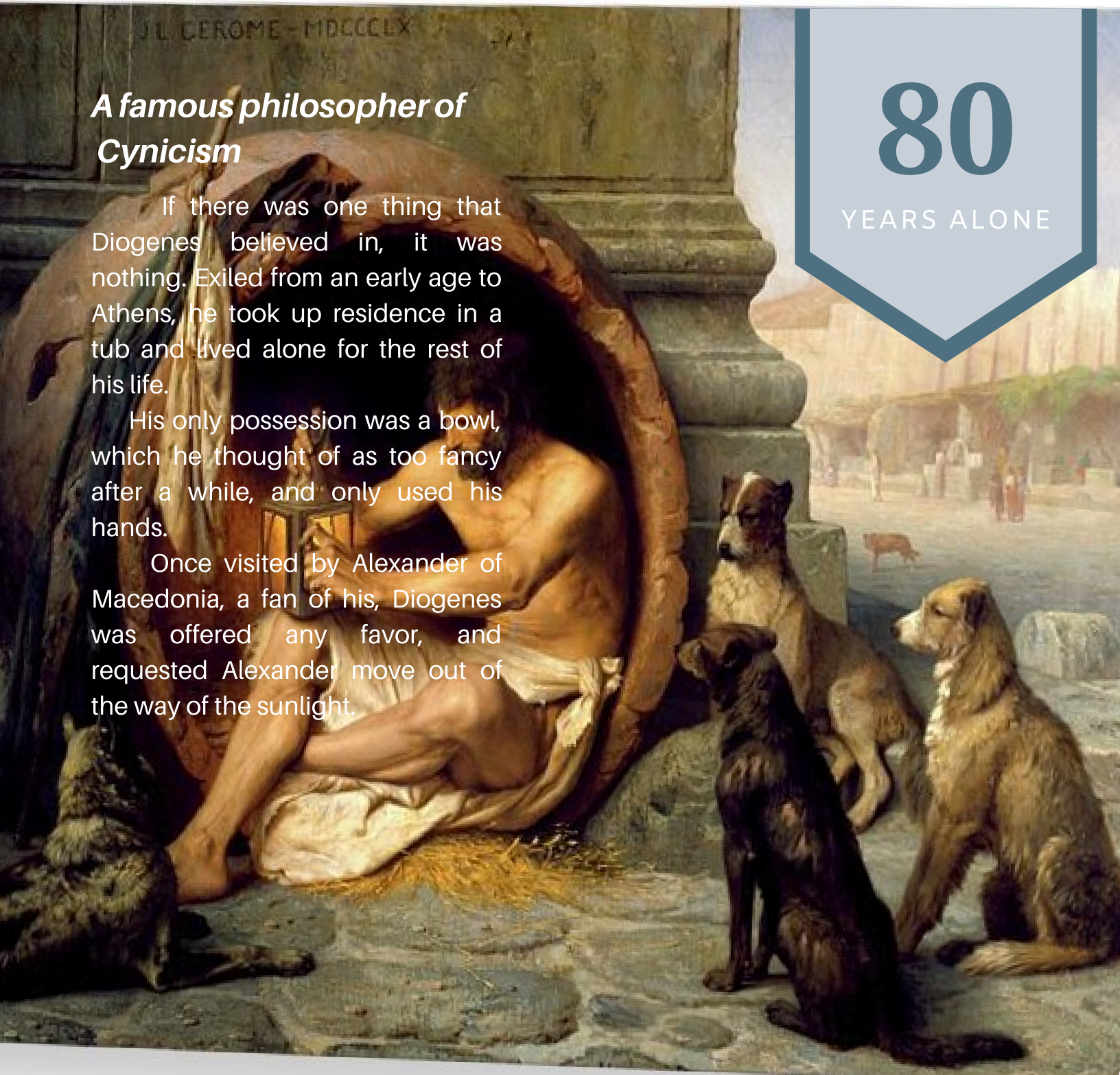
If there was one thing that Diogenes believed in, it was nothing. Exiled from an early age to Athens, he took up residence in a tub and lived alone for the rest of his life.

His only possession was a bowl, which he thought of as too fancy after a while, and only used his hands.

Once visited by Alexander of Macedonia, a fan of his, Diogenes was offered any favor, and requested Alexander move out of the way of the sunlight.

# 80

YEARS ALONE





# Polyphemus

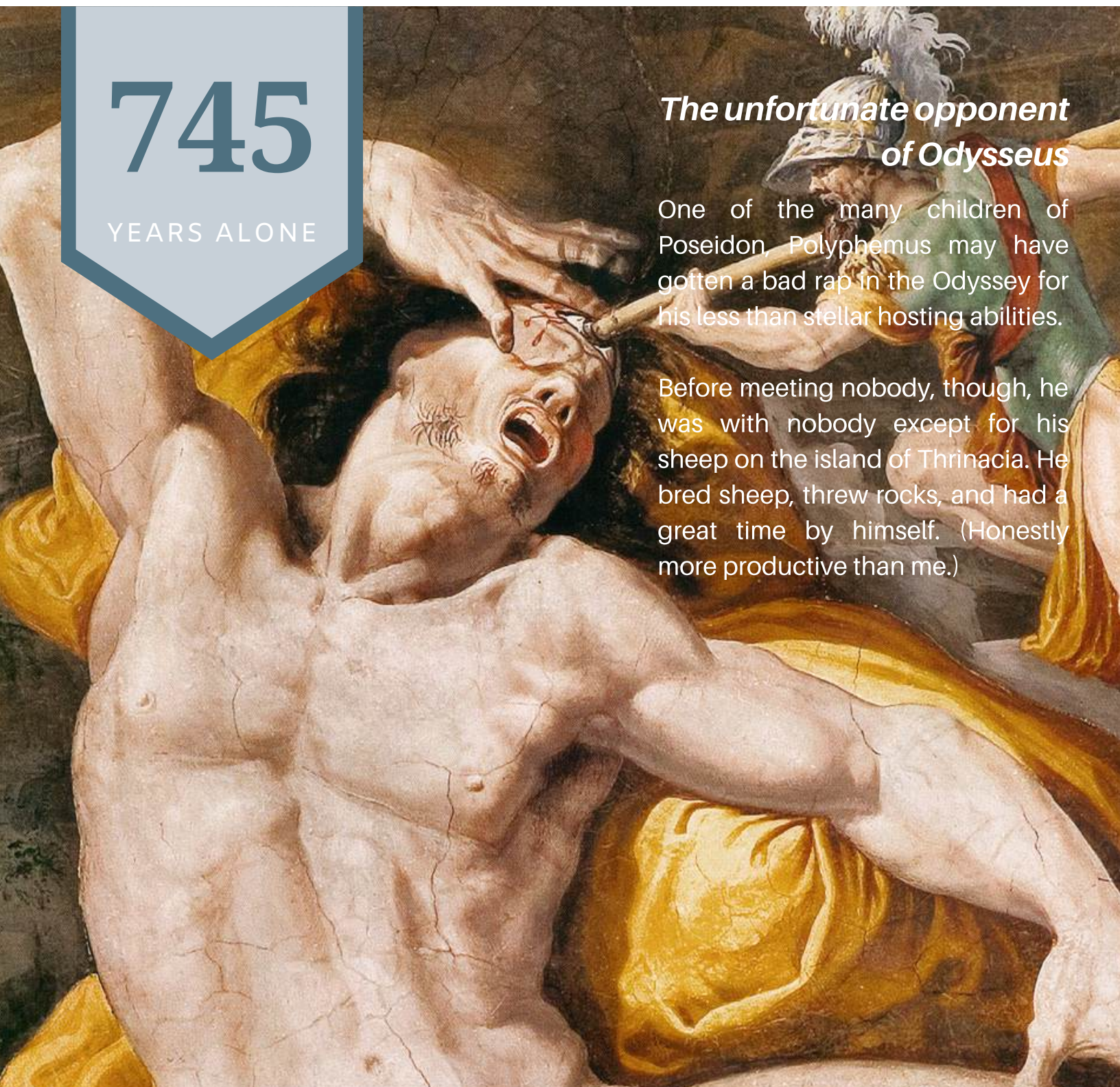
# 745

YEARS ALONE

## *The unfortunate opponent of Odysseus*

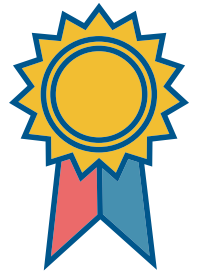
One of the many children of Poseidon, Polyphemus may have gotten a bad rap in the *Odyssey* for his less than stellar hosting abilities.

Before meeting nobody, though, he was with nobody except for his sheep on the island of Thrinacia. He bred sheep, threw rocks, and had a great time by himself. (Honestly more productive than me.)





# Calypso



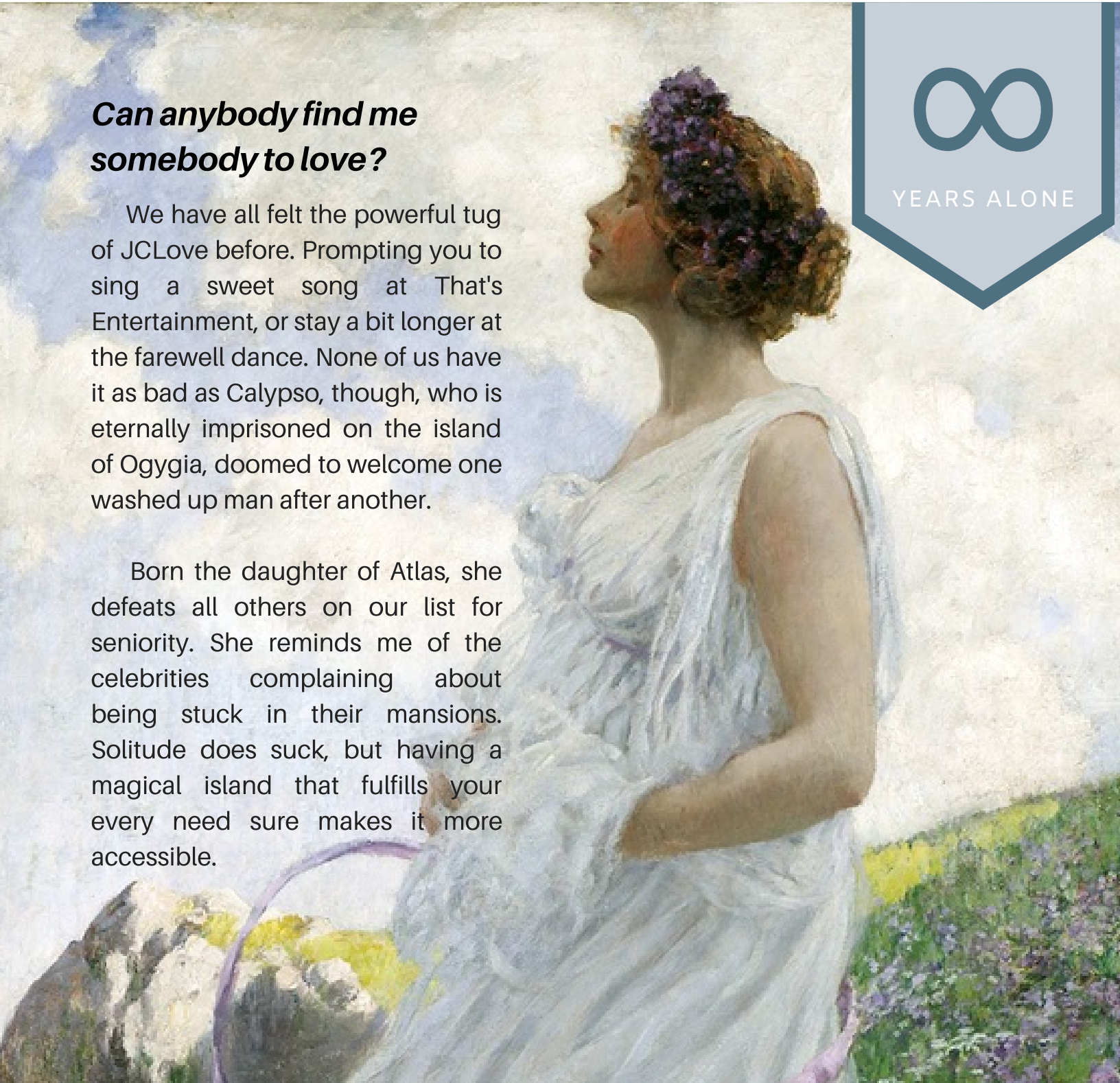
## *Can anybody find me somebody to love?*

We have all felt the powerful tug of JCLove before. Prompting you to sing a sweet song at That's Entertainment, or stay a bit longer at the farewell dance. None of us have it as bad as Calypso, though, who is eternally imprisoned on the island of Ogygia, doomed to welcome one washed up man after another.

Born the daughter of Atlas, she defeats all others on our list for seniority. She reminds me of the celebrities complaining about being stuck in their mansions. Solitude does suck, but having a magical island that fulfills your every need sure makes it more accessible.



YEARS ALONE



# Officer's Minute

*She writes the minutes, but what does that really mean? Sit down and chat with Christine Jeong!*



## THE PLAYBACK

Alrighty Christine, you ready for the interview?

**Christine:** *\*hiding her bubble tea\** Oh! You're here already. Sure let's go ahead!

Sounds good, so you've been getting some great feedback on your newsletters, everyone seems to love them.

**\*Yawns\*** Aw thanks, I do my best. It's really important that the GJCL knows what's going on.

Very true, although we all love you and appreciate the hard work you do, we have one ques-Christine?

**\*Jerks upright, almost falling asleep\*** ugh sorry, I got up at 11 today, what were you saying?

I was just asking what are the minutes for.

**Snore?** Oh no was I snoring oh I'm so sorry.

**\*Sighs\*** No you're fine, but can you tell me a bit more about the minutes that you write and what they're for?

**The minutes.** They're nothing, I just carefully record every detail that happens in a meeting so I can read them aloud. Then get them voted down during General assembly at State Con. **\*droops\***

Do you, uh do you want to talk about it?

**Why do I have to work so hard if people are just gonna ignore it? Do you know how fast y'all talk? I never even learned how to type in elementary school. I still use two fingers. I also have to describe Anita making Tiktoks and-  
\*breaks into tears\***

**\*Gently pats her shoulder\*** Listen, we never knew that they mattered so much to you. Once this article goes out, I'm sure no one will ever boo the minutes ever again.

**\*sniffs\*** Really?

Yeah, I promise.

## THE BREAKDOWN

No one booed the minutes at state convention this year.

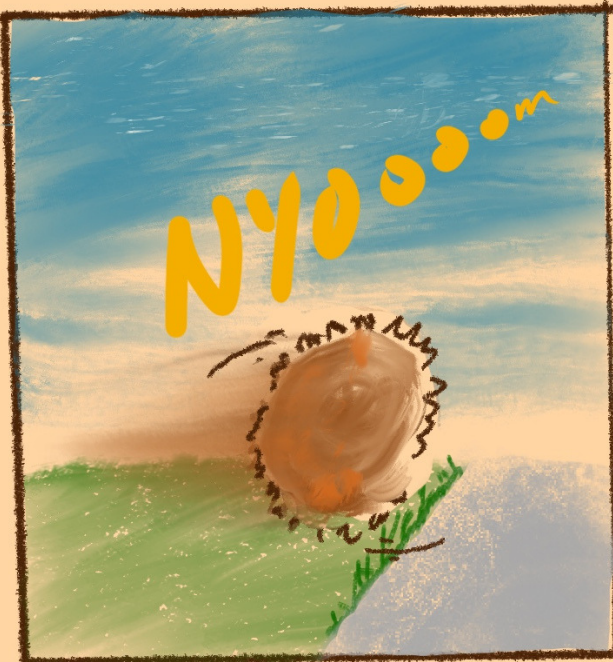


Photograph by Helen Liu

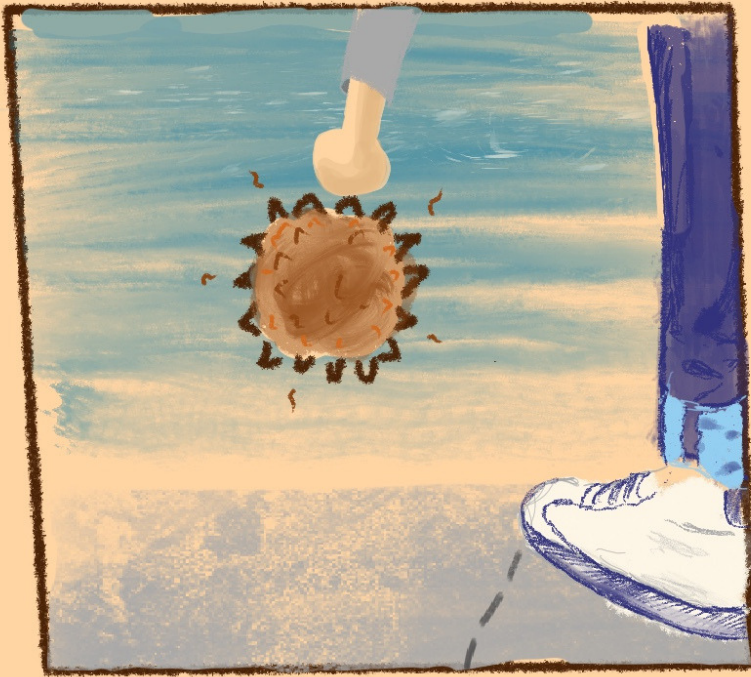


# Pocky

A board,  
And a hedgehog







Oh, you got  
it on wrong



Pat  
Pat





# Photo of the Month



*Woohoo!*

## Erin Mulkey

**BROOKWOOD HIGH SCHOOL**

JCLers enjoy a troubling round of Twister at our January meeting, fun is the name of the game!

# Photo of the Month



*Congrats!*

## Leonardo Hinnant

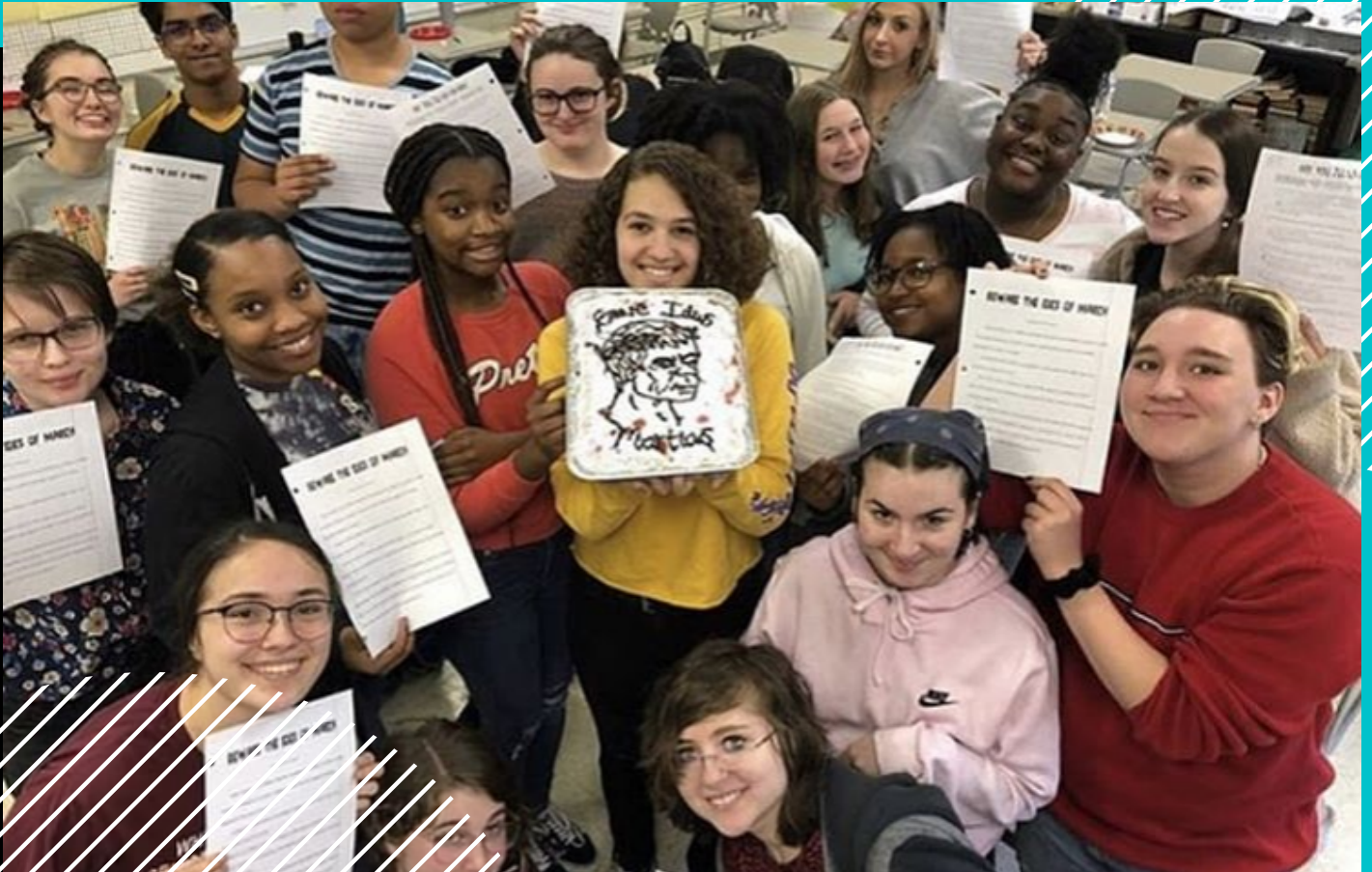
**DEKALB SCHOOL OF THE ARTS**

During the month of February, our chapter decided to do an activity to celebrate Black History Month. We wanted to show our appreciation for POC (people of color) who have furthered the study of Classics. We thought this was important as often the study of Classics is white-washed. We wanted to truly appreciate the efforts of Black Americans and how much they have contributed to our studies.



MARCH

# Photo of the Month



## Caroline Riley

*Yay yay!*

**DEKALB SCHOOL OF THE ARTS**

During the Ides of March, our Latin club celebrated with a Julius Caesar cake and a fun "Are You Julius Caesar?" quiz! In the photos, the students are holding the yummy cake and the quizzes.

# The Memeseum

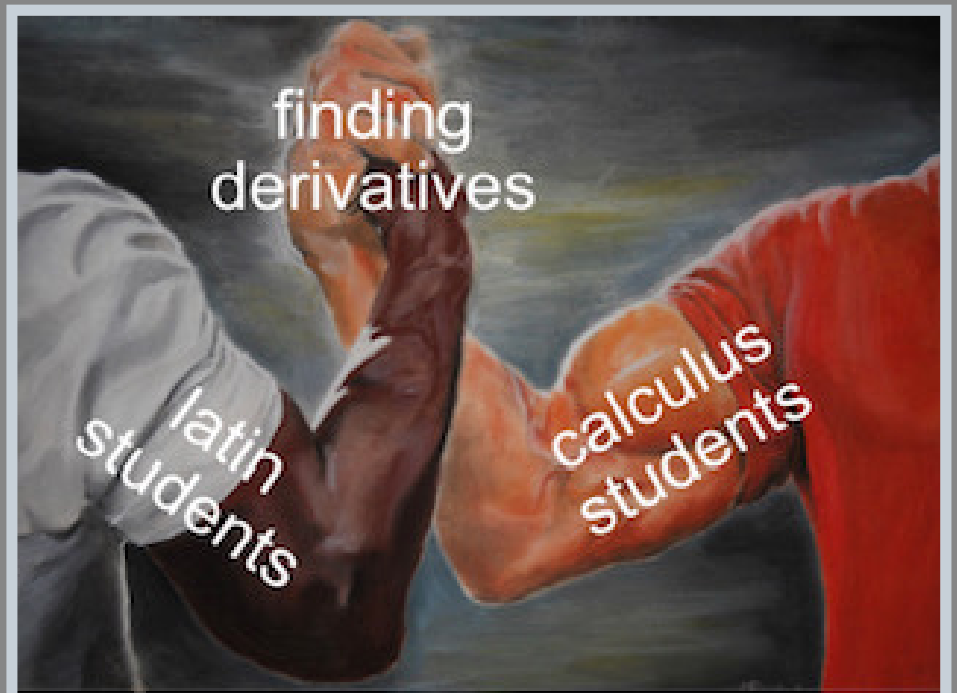
COLORIZED  
CIRCA 182 BC

These are some of my favorite submissions from the past couple of months.



**Megan Chang**  
**Walton HS**

**Nick**  
**Heinoger**  
**Walton HS**







**Polyphemus**

**Odysseus under  
a sheep**

**Melissa Leng**  
**Northview HS**

When tens of thousands of your men died and you've wasted a whole decade sieging a dumb city but in the end you get a hot chick.



*I see this as an absolute win!*

**Aric  
Ting  
Walton  
HS**

APRIL

2020

Wow!

GOOD  
TIMES

State

enjoy  
every  
moment.

highlights

EHEU!

you guys  
Rock!

editor@gjcl.org





# From Indiana: Disease in Ancient Rome

## WORDS BY

Aidan Gregg

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When you think of the fall of Rome the first thing that comes to mind might be barbarian invasions, Odoacer deposing Romulus Augustulus, or a series of terrible emperors, but what you might not think of is diseases like malaria and tuberculosis. However, these diseases were fairly common, and even deadlier outbreaks like the Plague of Cyprian devastated the empire.

Though malaria is still an incredibly deadly disease, evidence suggests that it was even worse in Ancient Rome. The surrounding marshes of many Roman cities provided an optimal habitat for mosquitoes to breed and the high population density of those cities made it easy for the disease

to spread. Malaria was a prominent killer in ancient Rome and some historians believe that it killed the emperors Titus and Nerva.

Additionally, malaria is thought to have been the cause of death for Alaric, the Visigoth king, who died suddenly after sacking Rome. This disease persisted through much of Rome's history and may have significantly weakened its strength towards the end of the empire.

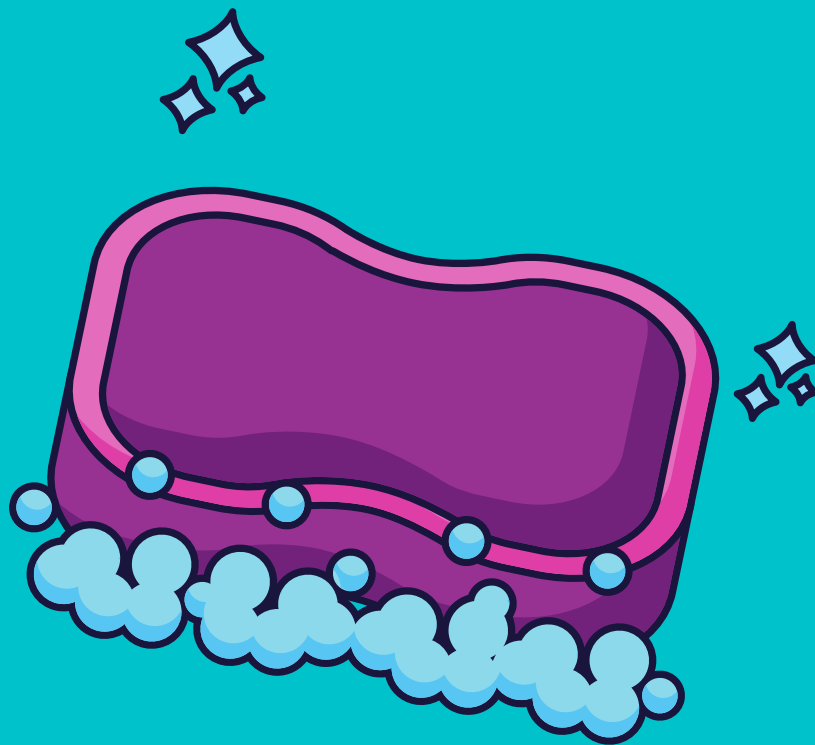
The Antonine Plague began during the reign of Marcus Aurelius Antoninus and Lucius Verus was brought to the empire by troops returning from Mesopotamia.

This plague, thought to be caused by smallpox or measles, was incredibly deadly and according to Cassius Dio, caused up to 2,000 deaths every day with a mortality rate of 25%. It is even speculated that the plague killed Lucius Verus, the co-emperor of Marcus Aurelius. Additionally, the Antonine plague decimated parts of the Roman army. It isn't surprising that after the reign of Marcus Aurelius, we can begin to see cracks forming in Roman civilization which ultimately led to the fall of Rome.

Even worse than the Antonine Plague was the Plague of Cyprian. Though it was similar to the Antonine Plague, it was even more deadly and at its height supposedly killed 5,000 people a day in Rome. It was an incredibly

infectious and widespread disease and is said to have started in Africa and spread as far as Caledonia. Saint Cyprian, for whom the plague was named, documented symptoms including fever, loss of motor control, and dysentery among its victims. Furthermore, the disease spread incredibly fast from skin to skin contact, and due to the enormous population density of Rome, the disease was especially devastating (they didn't know about social distancing).

Even though disease isn't typically considered a catalyst for the downfall of the Roman Empire, it played a major role in the downfall of Rome. So please, stay inside, wash your hands, and do your Latin homework.







# From Tennessee: Musicals Inspired by Classics

WORDS BY

Ann Wilson

As we all know, classics tend to be at the root of many things in modern society. It has influenced our art, music, film, television, and now our musicals. At this point in the stay at home orders, you may feel as if you've watched everything on Netflix. However, cast recordings for musicals can be your best friends in these otherwise somewhat dismal times. So please sit back, relax, and enjoy my recommendations of musicals: classics edition.

## XANADU

Xanadu, based on the 1980 movie of the same name, is a beautiful tale of perseverance. It also happens to be heavily influenced by classics, specifically Greek mythology. Clio, muse of history, along with her sister muses, dons roller skates and legwarmers and journeys down to earth. What happens next is a wild ride but it involves disco and love. Now, the musical does leave out the muses Polyhymnia and Urania, but the significant amounts of roller skating that occur do make up for it (mostly anyway). If you're looking for a fun and wacky musical, then this is certainly for you.



## A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM

This is a hilarious musical comedy written by Sondheim. I must give an advisory that it is not the most appropriate of musicals so please listen at your own discretion. Questionable content aside, this musical is jammed full of Latin references with some of the characters being named Senex, Domina, and Hysterium. Set in ancient Rome, the musical chronicles the wacky lives of a Roman household. It is inspired heavily by some of Plautus's plays, so Plautus fans, this is for you.



## HADESTOWN

This musical is a personal favorite of mine. It's a retelling of the timeless myth of Orpheus and Eurydice. Many of your favorite deities are here, including Persephone, Hades, Hermes, and the Fates. It's a beautiful folk musical with haunting lyrics and a talented cast. HADESTOWN brings a new, more modern twist on the story that we all know and love. If you've ever wondered what the story would be like if Eurydice had more of a voice, this is for you.





