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Personal

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Personal

I think we'd all agree: first impressions are crucial. Judgments are made, stereotypes are placed, and assumptions about a person are written as fact. It's how we operate. But what about what lies beyond a first impression? From the time we started kindergarten, we were told to "never judge a man unless you've learned to walk in his shoes". So when did that all change?

In this segment of *The Mall*, first-year students are able to share their voices without any distractions. There are no judgments based on what shoes they might own, or stereotypes assigned on how they look, or assumptions about their personality concluded on their manner of expression. There are only their words, their stories, their talent.

Whether its mastering the ability to invoke empathy, as seen in the creative piece "Problem Dog," or sharing their triumph over pain, as seen in the inspiring "Chicken Nuggets," students use the wide array of lessons and techniques taught in their First Year Seminar courses to hone in on their true selves and own who they are.

We've decided to highlight these specific essays for a multitude of reasons, including their relatability, ability to evoke emotion, and outstanding talent in storytelling. Each piece within the following section has something unique to offer, and we hope they move you in the same way they moved us.

If you think Butler is a one-note campus, we beg to differ. The *Personal* section begins now.

Sincerely,
Karrington Tabor, Editor