

The Local Lie features an eight-page color insert of AHS student art, including this painting by Rachel Simmons.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



The Local



SUBMITTED IMAGE

The cover illustration for *The Local Lie* is by AHS sophomore Claire Albright.

LIE

Jack McCarty / PERSONAL FAULTS

An excerpt from The Local Lie

In terms of geology, I fashion myself to be a fault line. Fault line is a specific and strange enough title, and one could argue that I chose it for the sake of being unique, but there is logic to it.

Fault lines are an overlooked piece of Earth's makeup. They lay dormant for periods, up to thousands of years, and often begin to fade from recent memory. Then, without warning, a slight trip or heavy pressure build up will cause it to become active, allowing it to cause devastating amounts of damage to much more than just the surrounding area.

It's in this way that I relate. I myself have always had trouble with work ethic. I'll go long periods avoiding, putting off, or otherwise not completing my responsibilities. Even as I write to compare myself to a fault, I am reluctant to put work into it. However, also like a fault line, my apparent level of activity is not proportional to my capabilities at all. In a short period of time, I can complete a rather impressive amount of tasks of varying difficulty. The stress of the situation pushes me to suddenly put forth a high amount of energy.

So as it's been said, to compare myself to a fault line isn't completely unreasonable. I may be generally inactive, but I'm always present, always capable, and always a threat.

Astoria High School students publish their own literary review

By MATT LOVE

The idea of titling the 2015-16 Astoria High School literary review originated from a standup brainstorm session with the book's five editors and their advisor, me.

We had spent the better part of three weeks in both sections of my high school Creative Writing class trying to reach consensus on a name, but nothing emerged — until one of the editors threw out the phrase “the local lie.” From there, sophomores Angel Harrison, Trinity Hennessee, Lidija Sovulj, Dylan Hauser-Schalk and senior Tekla Daniel started riffing on the theme. Within seconds, we had our name, and the editors were off and running. By the time the review went to press, the editors put in a herculean task of reading and evaluating

over 700 submissions of writing and art and narrowing down the final contents to 185.

“It was stressful but definitely got me ready for life after high school. It taught me the importance of deadlines and how to work with other people,” said Daniel.

“If there's one thing AHS students want, it is to be heard,” said Hennessee. “Everyone who is in the review not only has a chance to show off their tremendous talent, but also has a unique voice of their own that gets to be heard.”

Every place has its local lies — the received wisdoms and rehearsed fictions that often dominate the history and culture of that place. These local lies can be silly, hilarious, cryptic, moot, expedient or extremely dangerous. They run the gamut of human delusions and deceptions.

Some people are comfortable with the lies or completely oblivious to them, but others, typically the youth of that place, recognize them and often rebel. The questions are: Should these lies be confronted, and if so,

by what means? Writers, artists and musicians naturally gravitate toward confronting them with their work.

Questioning some of the local lies does take place in this literary review, but that's hardly the full story. There are wonderful moments of pure bliss, contemplation and sheer fictional fantasy in the pages of *The Local Lie*. To get the whole story of what's going on in the minds of the writers and artists on campus, I suggest you support the creative youth of Astoria and read the entire book. The truth of who they are just might emanate from their words.

The review consists of memoirs,

LAUNCH PARTY

6 p.m. Wednesday, June 8

Coffee Girl

100 39th St., No. 2, Astoria

Free admission

Books cost \$10

vignettes, essays, poems, short stories, rants, meditations and streams of consciousness. Many of the pieces were inspired by field trips to local places such as the Astoria-Megler Bridge and Tapiola Park.

At 250 pages, *The Local Lie* is the largest review of my teaching career and certainly contains the most eclectic range of writing and finest art of any review I've published with students. The book also features an eight-page color art insert ably coordinated by AHS art teacher Mickey Cereghino. Sophomore Claire Albright provided the arresting cover illustration.

A host of partners came forward to fund the review with an astonishing amount of generosity. We received grants from CommuniCare, Clatsop County Cultural Coalition and the Astoria Schools Foundation. Over 30 local people and several businesses, including my publishing company, Nestucca Spit Press, donated monies and in-kind support. One Astorian who loves poetry and tirelessly volunteers to better her town, Doris Brenan,

contributed \$700. The students themselves raised a couple hundred bucks by filling several flower vases with spare change and bills.

The Local Lie is available at multiple retail outlets around Astoria, including Godfather's Books and CoCommercial. The library has a copy to check out as well. The review is also available through the Nestucca Spit Press website at nestuccaspitpress.com (the support AHS literary review tab). All proceeds from book sales will go toward funding next year's review.

I invite everyone with an interest in supporting Astoria High School's creative writers to attend the launch for the book at Coffee Girl in Pier 39 in Astoria. The date is 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 8. The event will feature readings from the book and musical performances from members of the creative writing classes. Books cost \$10. Admission is free but we'll readily accept donations at the launch to keep the writing and publishing going for next year.