

SIGNAL
/ NOISE

A zine about finding beauty
in the spaces between.

ISSUE #7 Summer 2026

HANDMADE

\$3 or trade

1

FROM THE EDITOR

This issue started with a broken cassette deck I found at a yard sale in Burlington. The seller said it hadn't played a tape since 1997. I took it apart on my kitchen table and found a hand-written note tucked inside the casing — "Side A: rain. Side B: waiting." That note became the North Star for everything you're about to read.

Inside: poems, repair manuals for the soul, a playlist for insomniacs, and one very opinionated essay about why we should all write more letters.

— Mira Okonkwo, July 2026

2

STATIC

The radio hums between stations
a frequency no one broadcasts on.
I keep it there — that gray noise —
because silence feels too final.

My mother used to say
every frequency carries a ghost:
old songs, old voices, old weather
still traveling outward from 1984.

I turn the dial with my eyes closed.
Somewhere between 98.7 and nothing
I can almost hear her humming
along to a song I've never known.

— Samir Khalil

3

ON REPAIR

There is a particular kind of attention required to fix something broken. It is not the attention of creation — that wild, generative rush. It is the attention of listening. You must ask the object what it needs, and then you must wait for an answer.

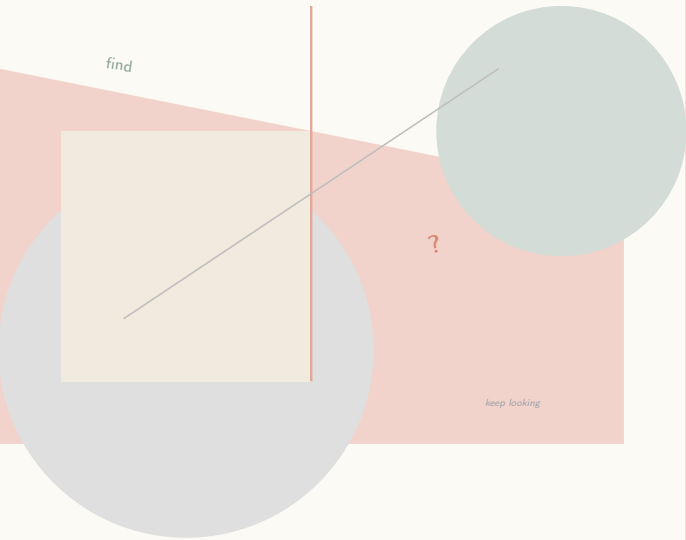
My grandfather repaired clocks in a shop no wider than a hall-way. He said every broken thing tells you exactly what's wrong — you just have to learn its language. A slow tick means one thing. Silence means another. A clock that runs fast is afraid of some-thing.

"We fix things not to make them new, but to make
them ours."

— Elena Vasquez

4

CUT & PASTE



Collage is the art of noticing what belongs together. Cut. Arrange. Glue. Repeat until something true emerges. Send us your cut-paper compositions for Issue #8.

5

THINGS WE LOVED

Read *Several Short Sentences About Writing* – Verlyn Klinkenborg

Listen *Promises* – Floating Points & Pharoah Sanders

Watch *Perfect Days* – dir. Wim Wenders

Visit The Museum of Everyday Life, Glover, Vermont

Make Sourdough starter. Name it. Feed it. Write about it.

SUBMIT TO ISSUE #8

Theme: **INTERVALS**. Poetry, prose, collage, comics, photography, found text, manifestos. 500 words max. Deadline: October 15, 2026. Email: submit@signalnoise.zin

6

OVERHEARD ON THE 6 TRAIN

Stranger A (holding a potted fern): "Do you think plants get lonely?"

Stranger B (without looking up from their book): "Only the ones in offices."

A: "That's most of them, then."

B: "That's the tragedy."

Three stops of silence. The fern swayed gently with the motion of the train, as if nodding. As if it agreed. As if it had been waiting for someone to finally ask.

Submitted by an anonymous commuter

7

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THIS ISSUE

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+ readers like you

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Made with a photocopier and a dream.

8