

Hey, Purple Side! What's it gonna be?

Even though this particular Purple Victory will look a lot different than the years that have passed and been forgotten with the rest, current Purple Leaders Breyanna Hamblin and Lavaun Thompson have assured us that the same Purple spirit is alive and well.

"I think sometimes, it's very hard to change your focus, because we're so used to being like, 'go, go, go,'" Hamblin said. "Of course, our focus is always on family, but at the end of the day, we want to win. This year, that's not the main focus. It's about putting your talents out there for the love of the game, instead of gearing towards an overall win."

For Hamblin and Thompson, leading a side in the midst of uncertainty has been quite a challenge.

"It's been changing every week," Thompson said. "But it's really been about being flexible, versatile, and rolling with the punches. College Night has brought us together, and we shifted the focus from the competition and started thinking about what needs to be said in this moment, what can we create together in this moment in time. What can we do that stands for us in this moment."

In order for this year's College Night to happen, Hamblin and Thompson needed Gold Leaders Abby Jo Askins and Jonathan Everhart to make up the other half.

"With everything being virtual, it's been hard to make connections because of the pandemic," Hamblin said. "This year was definitely about breaking down the walls and being able to see how each side operates. We've been able to get to know each other on a deeper level. Because sometimes we have this preconceived notion on what a Gold is, what a Purple is. We pick our sides for a reason, but this year has helped us understand each other better and work with each other, instead of against each other."

By Kalyn Wolfe

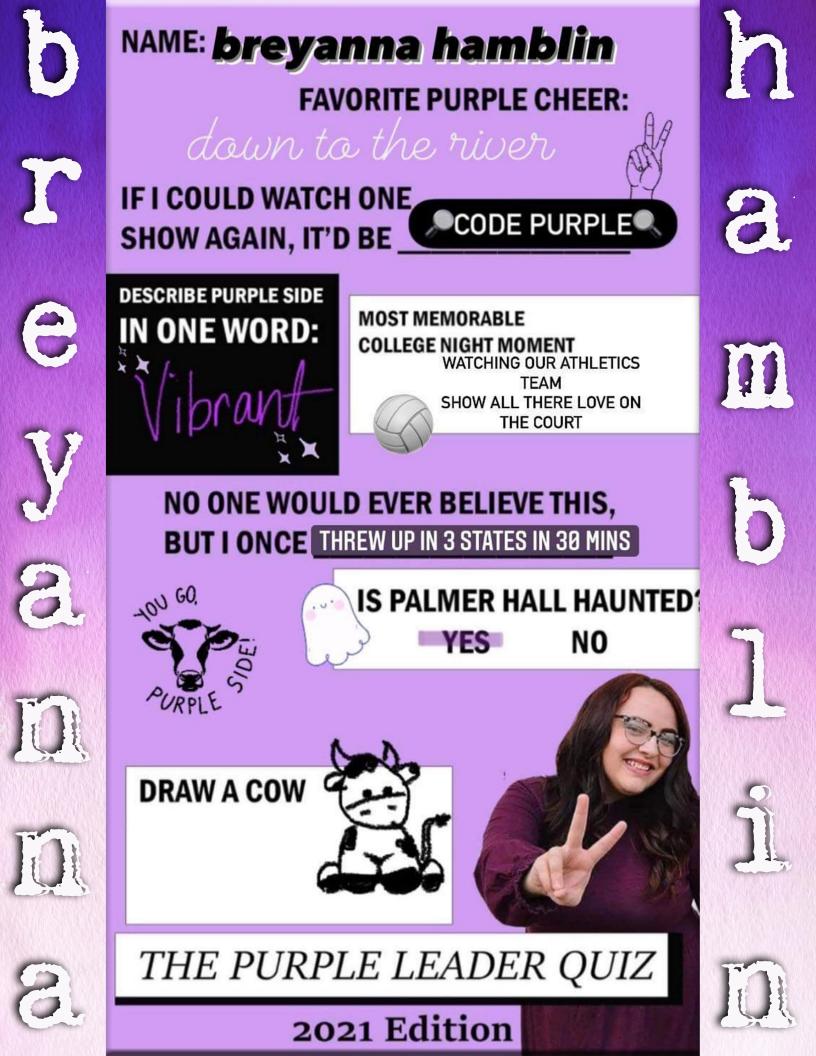
That overarching theme of teamwork is also present within Hamblin and Thompson, as they both feel like they balance each other out.

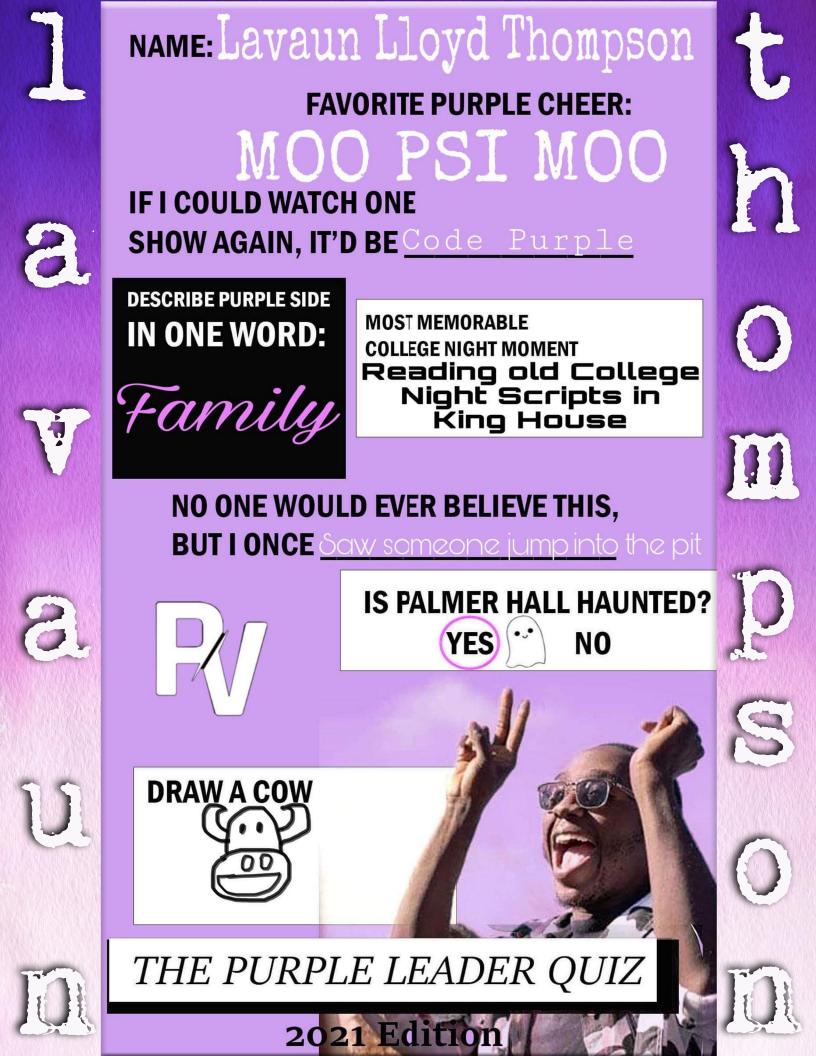
"I feel like where I fall short, Brey is really good," Thompson said. "And where Brey falls short, I'm really good. We've really learned to work off of each other. We've learned that from the Gold Leaders as well. I feel like that's the point about being Leader. It's really not about yourself. The side chose you because they felt like you were the best in that moment to lead the side to the next victory."

With the victory out of play, and the focus being on the experience itself, Hamblin and Thompson have a message for the Vintage Purples and Old Golds who will be watching the production from home.

"When we started this, there was some backlash that it's all gonna be so different," Thompson said. "But College Night in its form is always adaptive and always changing. College Night continues to change. It isn't the same as it was in 1919 and if it stayed the same, it would just be stagnant and there'd be nothing new."

Hamblin adds, "When alumni are watching the show, we just want them to know that they are putting their hearts on the line and doing something that's out of their comfort zone. They wanted to be part of something that has never been done before. This year has not been perfect, but it's been about love, and coming together as a university."









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COLLEGE NIGHT VIRTUAL EVENTS

FRIDAY MARCH 12

- 5:30pm UMNAA Distinguished Alumnus & Award Recognition Reception
- 7:30pm Junior Board presents College Night Trivia with Dr. Jeff Walker
- 8:30pm Young Alumni Reunion and College Night Dance Party with Zach Banks

SATURDAY MARCH 13

<u>Noon</u> UMNAA Homecoming Recognition & Annual Business Meeting

5pm-Vintage Purples Alumni Club6:30pmReunion & Game Night

7:00pm College Night Production

For Full Schedule go to:

montevallo.edu/alumni/alumni-events/homecoming





with our voices raised on high, and the magic of our singing casts a spell...POOF! Yes, the magic of our singing, to the Side we love so well. You can hear us in the morning and the night. We will serenade our leaders, for we took the sacred yow. Then we'll pass and be forgotten with the rest. We're loyal purples, who love our side. **PURPLE PRIDE!** We will explain why we feel this way. **PURPLE PRIDE!** Purple pepsters sing with glee! Show your blood is royalty! Lord, have mercy and it will be, VICTORY! What's It Gonna Be? A PV!

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