Neon Trees Wows After Wait

By WILEY AIKEN
MANAGING EDITOR

They braved the cold, the rain, the mud, and a two-hour delay. By the time things finally got going, students attending the Dandelion Day performances were very, very ready.

Clearly, so was Neon Trees. From the first song to the last, lead singer Tyler Glenn strutted and spun around the stage. He never slipped on the stage like he said he probably would (“my ass is gonna break”), but he made a show of collapsing during some of his numbers. At one point, he conducted the audience in song. Later, he crowd surfed.

In short, the name of the evening was energy. Glenn came prepared. Neon Trees is a band, of course, and Glenn gave credit where it was due to his bandmates. Drummer Elaine Bradley might have been the biggest surprise of the evening, harmonizing with Glenn several times throughout, including a cover of the Human League’s “Don’t You Want Me.”

For a performer willing to give so much energy to the audience, Glenn made it clear he expected something back. A contingent responded by chanting “Everybody Talks.”

“You don’t gotta sing the one song of ours you know from Spotify,” he said, before flipping them and the rest of the crowd off as he sang “Animals.”

His semi-joking frustration with the students became something of a running gag for the show.

“This song goes out to those assholes in the corner who go to your school,” he said before beginning a song called “I Love You (But I Hate Your Friends).”

In addition to being hyped up repeatedly.

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By HAILIE HIGGINS
OPINIONS EDITOR

Seniors queued up early on Friday, April 19 for Senior Week tickets — only to spend half their day waiting in line that barely moved. With over 1,000 students in the class of 2019, long waits were to be expected, but many expressed frustration at the line’s slow pace.

“I got in line with my friend Amanda at 7:30 a.m., a half an hour before ticket sales were scheduled to begin,” senior Melanie DeJong said. “Four and a half hours later, we were still in line. I only barely made the 12:25 bus to Eastman for my viola lesson.”

Tickets went on sale for 15 different events. Some, such as yoga, have only 50 tickets for sale, whereas the Senior Ball anticipates 650 people.

The organizers of the event — 2019 Class Council and Wilson Commons Student Activities — claim this to be the most efficient year yet.

“The actual data shows that more tickets were sold in less time than in all previous years,” WSAC wrote in an email to Campus Times.

WSAC also mentioned improvements like increasing the number of cash registers from one to three, although according to students only two were used for the majority of the day. The planners also chose one time when all tickets would go on sale, in lieu of staggered ticket sales, to stop students from having to line up repeatedly.

But some tickets are more coveted than others.

According to Senior Week...
AFRICA BUSINESS CONFERENCE EXPLORES CONTINENTS POTENTIAL

The second annual business conference, April 27, empowered African entrepreneurs to own the narrative of their continent.

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

Sidelined - Athletic Center(1)
APRIL 22 — Two students reported being injured while playing basketball. They declined medical treatment.

Rear Window - Wilson Blvd (2)
APRIL 24 — A vehicle parked on Wilson Blvd was the victim of a home run during a baseball game, when the suspect ball hit it’s rear window and the victim of a home run during a baseball game.

Clawed Caper - Alpha Delta Phi (3)
APRIL 25 — Sometime between 4/23/19 at 11:00 and 4/24/19, an unknown person(s) took a case of lobster tails from the freezer.

Fire investigation - Goergen
APRIL 25 — It was reported that sparks were coming from multiple electric outlets. Rochester Fire Dept responded and the area was checked and the system reset.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

TUESDAY | APRIL 30

LET’S TALK: ESL CONVERSATION HOUR
FREDERICK DOUGLASS COMMONS 305, 5:00PM-6:00PM
Join the Language Center for ESL conversation hours. This is an informal conversation session for those who speak English as a second language.

THURSDAY | MAY 2

ZEN MEDITATION GROUP
HILTON BUILDING, 1106A, 1:00PM-2:00PM
A lecture: “Megalibraries: Discovering New Materials and Cellular Functions” will be given by Chad A. Mirkin.

FRIDAY | MAY 3

CHEMISTRY SENIOR THESIS POSTER SESSION 2019
ROBERT B. GOERGEN HALL, MUNNERLYN ATRIUM, 2:00PM-5:00PM
This is an annual event which highlights the research of senior chemistry majors. Come support!

TODAY | APRIL 29

REMEMBER TO VOTE. VOTE. VOTE.
Remember to vote, vote, vote for the candidates you believe in! The polls are open now through May 2. Make your voice heard.

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By SKYLAR SCHUTTER

Junior Valeria Guerra is no stranger to asking questions from different perspectives.

With her first languages, anthropology, or biochemistry, if Guerra has a question, she wants the answer.

“That’s what research is: trying to find out answers to basic questions that actually turn out more complicated than the more you investigate,” said Guerra.

Biochemistry major and soon-to-be Take Five Scholar.

Her research career started in a medical anthropology course, where she learned about kuru, a rare and fatal neurodegenerative disease found in people from New Guinea who practiced cannibalism of brains as a funeral rite.

Kuru is caused by the aggregation of misfolded prion proteins, which can be transmitted and may cause normal proteins to misfold, preventing proper protein function.

The topic sparked her curiosity, and eventually, one of her professors, Sina Ghaemmaghami, is the only tally, one of her professors, Sina Ghaemmaghami, is the only biochemistry professor on campus who studies these diseases.

When Guerra expressed interest, she found herself working in his lab over the summer.

Still working there, Guerra researches cellular oxidation processes, which can lead to dangerous effects in the body.

Guerra explained that sensitive types of DNA proteins, and lipids are classified as reactive oxygen species which, when oxidized, can cause important proteins to aggregate or unfold. Aggregation of these proteins can be dangerous, but the process of replacing these aggregations can cost a lot of energy.

Investigation of these processes can help scientists better understand cell evolution and modern genetic diseases.

Simple biochemical lab techniques involve purposely oxidizing proteins with hydrogen peroxide, but Guerra wanted to explore the usage of molecular oxygen, a technique rarely used in biochemistry.

From her perspective, any future career field will be challenging. “Since it is not going to be easy, then you might as well go into a field with the greatest understanding and take advantage of the opportunities that are placed in front of you,” Guerra said.

“You have to find a way to figure out your own method of looking at problems and learning,” Guerra added. “More perspective is always good, but at the end you need to be authentically yours. You have to really feel authentically yourself.”

During her first few years at Rochester, Guerra followed the natural sciences “tradition.” She prepared to “put humanities in her past” and focus on only pre-med courses, but soon found herself frustrated.

Guerra described feeling like an observer, unable to properly engage with the material and develop a true understanding of the concepts at hand. After taking an Italian course, Guerra began to realize why she felt misplaced in her academic fields.

“My perspective here was always meant to be a different one,” she said. “I was trying to mold myself into the tradition, but of course I was not going to ever fit ‘the mold’ because I simply cannot, due to my background.”

Originally from Northern Sonora, Mexico, Guerra has always been passionate about different cultures. She explained that learning about a culture goes beyond the language.

“Even if Spanish is your first language, knowing the actual language is knowing the culture, the language, the history,” she said.

Capitalize on Rochester’s Take Five program, Guerra will pursue her project titled “Comprehension of Italian Culture Through Diverse Components;” as well as study abroad in Italy next semester. Besides Italian, Guerra also knows Spanish, French, and, of course, English.

Her background in these languages has provided her with more than just an ability to communicate with others. She said they’ve helped her develop a “wonder in the world;” stop stressing about mistakes, and see the world from different perspectives.

Nothing but Sky: Decarceration Initiative Debuts Symposium

Evelyn Leblanc-Roberge, who works in art and art history, believes 33 prisons will remind people of how infinite and open the heavens are.

“She’s been passionate about different cultures,” said Leblanc-Roberge, who works in art and art history.

In reality, the images depict the sky above 33 prisons, jails and detention centers within a two-hour drive of Rochester, for whose inhabitants the sky has become another wall.

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Leblanc-Roberge worked on the project. “The Only Thing I Can See is the Sky,” at the decarceration symposium on Friday, where several researchers and community organizers convened to explore the pervasive and often invisible effects of mass incarceration on Rochester.

Leblanc-Roberge is a member of the Rochester Decarceration Initiative, which organized the symposium. Their mission is to study and transform Rochester’s criminal justice system.

“If Frederick Douglass were alive today, we think that [he] would be trying to take on mass incarceration and decarcerate the city of Rochester,” UR religion professor and Initiative founder Joshua Dubler said in his opening remarks.

Initiative members have also been vocal about their desire to decarcerate the UR campus, which anthropologist and former Kristin Doughty says can take many forms, such as “inviting formerly incarcerated people onto campus as students and as employees,” and, in general, “rethinking the relationship between the University and the city.”

The exhibitions approached decarceration from diverse perspectives. Assistants for and work of community organizers can help them reorient to society.

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Despite their research, the organizers acknowledged there was still much they didn’t know.

“That is where you all come in,” Dubler said. “The symposium, according to the organizers, was designed to be an opportunity for researchers to learn from the activists and organizers in Rochester.

What we really want is to hear from members of the community that are doing this work on how we can partner with them,” Dubler said.

To this end, the two panel discussions comprised entirely of community members — first to talk about supporting incarcerated persons upon release, and second to talk about building a Rochester without prisons.

The first set of panelists highlighted the importance of changing the mindset of formerly incarcerated people to help them reintegrate to society.

“One person who helped me flip things that you’re accustomed to,” she said. “At the same time, panelist Sarah Lee — who works with women in the criminal justice system — highlighted barriers that can prevent successful transition from happening, such as stringent and inflexible rules for parolees.

Sarah Fletcher from the Center for Employment Opportunity echoed Lee, citing the example of one of her program participants, who had to return to jail for four months because he arrived home 20 minutes past curfew.

“He lost his apartment,” Fletcher said. “He certainly lost any job that he had helped him get […] he’s staying in a hotel room because while he was gone … he people stole everything out of his apartment.”

Community activist Jerome Underwood, the key to eliminating these difficulties is empathy and compassion.

“We have enough data,” Underwood said. “Question is, is it [a problem for anybody? Because if you don’t mind, it doesn’t matter.”

First-year Catherine Ramsey, who choreographed the event’s dance performance, admired Underwood’s commitment to changing people.

“He was so willing to […] enlighten them of what they’ve been taught, and how wrong it is,” she said.

In her dance, Ramsey strove to do the same. She chose to dress the dancers in green to symbolize the labor of prisoners and how the rest of society benefits from that industry.

“I think a lot of people are aware of it but they don’t neces-

irily identify it as a problem,” Ramsey said.

The dance ended with an action call.

“At the end when they walk off, I wanted them to look at the audience and [convey]: ‘yes, this is the problem,’ she said. “You can fix it […] Now you have no excuse.”

Agyare-Kumi is a member of the Class of 2021.
Want to See Gender Inequality at UR? Look at the Sculptures.

Outside Melora Hall, four women stand limbless. Their white exteriors are weathered with speckles of decay. One of them is headless. There are 11 sculptures of women in public view on the River Campus. The other 15 are of men.

The men all have their limbs, and their heads remain attached.

The state of female iconography on campus, and lack of it, has elicited a call for more representation in a report released last May by the Commission on Women and Gender Equity in Academia. “People we honor seem to be more and more men, white men in particular,” co-chair of CWGEE Amy Lerner said. “We have hun-
dreds of women alumni who are super important. Where are they?”

“One of the first things the women noticed, the CWGEE report noted, looking at the collection of statues near Melora, facial fea-
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edge: industry, geography, astron
omy, contemplation. The space does not feature a

Other female statues can be found at Rush Rhees. Two

Seven of the 11 statues were new when

The statues were new when

“Something as simple as a faceless, but beautiful female sculpture says a lot about what’s valuable in our community,” Gates said.

The woman in question was an origami artist. “And so, we put our faces on the wall.”

Koul is a member of the Class of 2020.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The worn-down women outside Melora show the disparity in iconography at UR.

UR will ever take them down.

As Gates explains in his 1995
diary entry, he had

He ends with: “I have now

Outside Melora Hall, four women stand limbless. Their white exteriors are weathered with speckles of decay. One of them is headless. There are 11 sculptures of women in public view on the River Campus. The other 15 are of men.

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Josh Luo was Quiet, but his Multifaceted Impact is Not

Joshua Luo, a UR sophomore who passed away recently, was known for his cheery disposition and bright smile.

“Whenever I would scream at him, he would turn it louder purposefully.”

He began playing the violin in grade school. The siblings went on violin summer camps together. During Chinese New Year, they performed for their Chinese school.

But Luo and his sister did not always get along. Valerie described herself as an annoying little sister to an often quiet, subdued brother.

“It was mostly a love-hate relationship, but all the love came from him and all the hate came from me,” she said.

A year later, in the New Jersey home, Valerie said, “sums up our relationship.” It’s of Luo hugging Valerie, while she screams in anger.

Every now and then, Luo would annoy her back.

“Hey’d always blast classical music,” Valerie said, adding, “[W]henever I would scream at him, he would turn it louder purposefully.”

Valerie said they fought a lot, but it always ended in laughter.

Luo graduated from Strath Haven High School in 2017 and headed to UR. His friends and sister said he went there for Eastman.

“I could tell he was really passionate about violin because every time I came to Spurrier practice rooms, I immediately thought, ‘Am I going to see Josh here?’” said senior Natalie Hyungh, who fenced foil with Luo for two years.

Violin teacher Letitia Jap remembered working with Luo on his bow hold and pushing him to explore his emotions and creativity.

“The very first piece we worked on for months was Bach concerto, the E major one,” Jap said.

“He chose that one [...] I thought it would be a good idea. So after two months, but he just kept going at it.”

Besides taking lessons, playing in a quartet and symphony orchestra, Luo was involved in many groups and their e-Bounds. He was secretary of Hong Kong Students Association, vice president of Tai Chi Club, and a member of UR Fencing Club as well as Korean American Student’s Association.

Luo was also an Eco-Rep his first year. He never complained when volunteering. Son recalled.

“He would just peel off layers wherever ever he went.”

Sometimes Luo was in his own world, according to Kang.

“Josh, which Korean are you taking next semester?” she had once asked.

He had responded, “Oh, I’m taking the Silver Line.”

Sophomore Selina Xu, vice president of HKSA, recalled how reliable love was with the club.

“I couldn’t even imagine people being that fast in responding to messages,” Xu said.

Luo did not initially notice when Luo’s replies grew scarce. After reflecting, she realized the messages Luo shared with her were “less positive” with “less words.”

“The week of March 3, Kang said. Luo was having a hard time. Jap said he did not show up to his lesson, which was unusual for the previous 1.5 years.”

“Two weeks later, Son saw Luo the day before he took a leave of absence. He told her courses were challenging and that “things had been really rough.”

Son explained Luo was debating about eventually returning to UR or transferring to somewhere close to home.

“He did seem really down, but I thought it was because he had to go home, and he had to tell me about it,” Son said.

“I should’ve done more, like given him a hug,” she added.

Luo went back to Rose Valley and went missing the next day. State Police found his body less than a week later. His friends and family were left in shock.

“That never really showed us the hard side,” Kang said. “He never really let anything out.”

A funeral was held in Rose Valley on April 5 with a memorial the following day. A remembrance event was held on April 12 at the Interfaith Chapel.

Sophomore Dan Emerson, a friend who worked out and shot hoops with Luo, plans to remember him through “the little activities that we did together.”

“Those are activities that might not seem memorable but are actually really remarkable,” Emerson said.

Emerson said he and Luo often went on bike rides to downtown Rochester. On one occasion, they stopped at Nick Tahoe’s and ordered their first garbage plates. Spontaneously, Luo got them orange juice, “Tahoe’s and get a garbage plate, I drink orange juice,” Emerson said.

“Now every time I go to Nick Tahoe’s and get a garbage plate, I drink orange juice.”

“Because of him.”

Koul is a member of the Class of 2020.

Josh Luo from page 1

Chocolate is the Star at Hedonist Artisan Chocolates

Hedonist Artisan Chocolates, located in South Wedge, is open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. (daily)

Hedonist Artisan Chocolates usually features savory food. I wanted to end the year on a sweeter note. Hopefully, this review of Hedonist Artisan Chocolates will be the first installment in a series highlighting local places to fulfill your various sweet-treat needs.

For Dylan, my CT Eats sideskick, this is a dessert-loving abomination, I decided to take Shamgun (another CT Eats veteran) along to pick our own 10-piece box of assorted chocolates.

That way, we could pick five flavors and get two of each and try them together.

The perfect place to begin is with the salted caramel. As common as this trendy flavor is, this truffle was anything but. The caramel was thick and luscious, and I loved the use of chunky salt crystals to add sharpness and texture. Since this was the first Hedonist chocolate I tried, the truffle itself caught my attention. It was buttery and decadent — a far cry from anything pre-packaged.

On to another classic combo: the raspberry dark chocolate. This truffle exemplified Hedonist’s true appeal: how the chocolate itself was always the star. The floravings of each truffle were almost accessories to the heavenly chocolate.

In this case, the bright flavor of freeze-dried raspberry perfectly accented the dark chocolate’s bittersweet notes.

For our third familiar flavor pairing, we selected the macadamia nut white chocolate truffle. While I enjoy white chocolate macadamia nut products, I often find that it becomes cloying. But this white chocolate was in a different league, not overly-sweet in the slightest. And much like the other truffles, it was rich, buttery, and creamy. Plus, the macadamia nuts were large enough to allow both crunchy bites and smooth bites of pure chocolate.

Homing spring, Hedonist had an exciting display of floral combinations. I was completely overpowered by the dandelion wine, a combination I haven’t seen offered any nation I haven’t seen offered any. But it always ended in laughter.

“In this case, the bright flavor of freeze-dried raspberry perfectly accented the dark chocolate’s bittersweet notes.”

The very first piece we worked on for months was Bach concerto, the E major one,” Jap said.

“Hey’d always blast classical music,” Valerie said, adding, “[W]henever I would scream at him, he would turn it louder purposefully.”

Valerie said they fought a lot, but it always ended in laughter.

Luo graduated from Strath Haven High School in 2017 and headed to UR. His friends and sister said he went there for Eastman.

“I could tell he was really passionate about violin because every time I came to Spurrier practice rooms, I immediately thought, ‘Am I going to see Josh here?’” said senior Natalie Hyungh, who fenced foil with Luo for two years.

Violin teacher Letitia Jap remembered working with Luo on his bow hold and pushing him to explore his emotions and creativity.

“The very first piece we worked on for months was Bach concerto, the E major one,” Jap said.

“He chose that one [...] I thought it would be a good idea. So after two months, but he just kept going at it.”

Besides taking lessons, playing in a quartet and symphony orchestra, Luo was involved in many groups and their e-Bounds. He was secretary of Hong Kong Students Association, vice president of Tai Chi Club, and a member of UR Fencing Club as well as Korean American Student’s Association.

Luo was also an Eco-Rep his first year. He never complained when volunteering. Son recalled.

“He would just peel off layers wherever ever he went.”

Sometimes Luo was in his own world, according to Kang.

“Josh, which Korean are you taking next semester?” she had once asked.

He had responded, “Oh, I’m taking the Silver Line.”

Sophomore Selina Xu, vice president of HKSA, recalled how reliable love was with the club.

“I couldn’t even imagine people being that fast in responding to messages,” Xu said.

Luo did not initially notice when Luo’s replies grew scarce. After reflecting, she realized the messages Luo shared with her were “less positive” with “less words.”

“The week of March 3, Kang said. Luo was having a hard time. Jap said he did not show up to his lesson, which was unusual for the previous 1.5 years.”

“Two weeks later, Son saw Luo the day before he took a leave of absence. He told her courses were challenging and that “things had been really rough.”

Son explained Luo was debating about eventually returning to UR or transferring to somewhere close to home.

“He did seem really down, but I thought it was because he had to go home, and he had to tell me about it,” Son said.

“I should’ve done more, like given him a hug,” she added.

Luo went back to Rose Valley and went missing the next day. State Police found his body less than a week later. His friends and family were left in shock.

“That never really showed us the hard side,” Kang said. “He never really let anything out.”

A funeral was held in Rose Valley on April 5 with a memorial the following day. A remembrance event was held on April 12 at the Interfaith Chapel.

Sophomore Dan Emerson, a friend who worked out and shot hoops with Luo, plans to remember him through “the little activities that we did together.”

“Those are activities that might not seem memorable but are actually really remarkable,” Emerson said.

Emerson said he and Luo often went on bike rides to downtown Rochester. On one occasion, they stopped at Nick Tahoe’s and ordered their first garbage plates. Spontaneously, Luo got them orange juice, “Tahoe’s and get a garbage plate, I drink orange juice,” Emerson said.

“Now every time I go to Nick Tahoe’s and get a garbage plate, I drink orange juice.”

“Because of him.”

Koul is a member of the Class of 2020.
Congratulations to the Winners of the 2018-2019 University of Rochester Rockies Student Life Awards

Andrea R. Bowers
Award for Athletic Leadership

Srirhari Chari
Logan R. Haven Award for Outstanding Contributions to Residential Life

Annie Chen
Award for First Year Leadership

Shingirai Dhoro
The Communal Principles Award

Tara Eagan
Michael Lowenstein Memorial Award

Nicholas Fosti
Percy Dutton Prize

Genesis Galindo
Award for Campus Contributions

Beatriz Gil Gonzalez
Seth H. & Harriet S. Terry Prize

Benton Gordon
Linda Muise Award for Outstanding Contribution to Student Life

Jamal Holte
Rab Rouzier Award for Excellence in Student Government Leadership

Waliyab Johnson
Eli and Mildred Sokol Prize

Mahima Joshi
Simeon Cheatham Award

Samuel Kumar
Presidential Award for Community Service

Julia Norwood
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Samy Raudales Pineda
Delno Sisson Prize

Seyvion Scott
Gwen M. Greene First Generation Senior Award

William Jacob Schnert
Award for Outstanding Fraternity and Sorority Leadership

Andrew Thaxton
Andrew Fried Prize

Blaire Tessa Vande Creek
Award for Campus Contributions

Asian-American Alliance — Let’s Get Political & Conversation with Puneet Krishnappa and Kevin Xu
Award for Excellence in Creative Co-Sponsorship

American Society of Mechanical Engineers — Pumpkin Launch
Award for Excellence in Programming

ROC Players
Outstanding Student Organization Award
HUMOR
By JOHN PINTO
HUMOR EDITOR

Choose Your Own Adventure: D-Day!
MONDAY, APRIL 29, 2019

START: You wake up to a glorious, balmy Rochester spring day (only one nor’easter scheduled to tear through this afternoon)! What do you do first?

Drink, of course. Gotta start early for D-Day! Hell yeah! (proceed to A)

A2: During the transition from downward to upward-facing dog, your buddy Xander slides you a scrap of tin foil. Inside is either a tiny blotter of LSD or the corner of a Forever stamp of Mr. Incredible. What do you do?

Lick it (proceed to B1) or Slide it on back (proceed to A3)

A3: Xander takes back Schrödinger’s Acid and gives you a dirty look. Still, can’t give in to peer pressure, right?

Right! (proceed to A4) or Well, on second thought... (proceed to B1)

A4: Wait, are you a DARE kid?

Yes, ‘til I die! (proceed to B2) or Yes, but like, ironically (proceed to A5)

A5: Ah, so you’re one of those kids whose personality is mostly just weed and t-shirts with cartoon aliens on them, very cool. I bet your room has a totally normal number of crystals in it.

Yeah, maybe, and on second thought give me Xander’s acid (proceed to B1) or Are we done with yoga now or what? (proceed to B2)

B1: Your tongue feels a little stickier than usual and everything tastes like glue — so it goes. What now?

Drinking time! (proceed to B2) or Explore the various family-friendly aspects of morality allows you to start drinking (proceed to B3)

B2: It’s now INSERT TIME OF DAY YOUR FLEXIBLE SENSE OF MORALITY ALLOWS YOU TO START DRINKING. Where do you go?

Darty in some frat’s filthy drive-way, so we can bother the area residents and simultaneously uphold a paranoid misconception of the 19th Ward and PLEX founded in classism and racism (proceed to B3) or Sneak alcohol into a place on campus where there is usually not alcohol (proceed to B6)

B3: You’re here and it’s exactly like all the Snapchat stories. Are you happy?

I’d be happier if I was committing property damage against some poor random family’s house (proceed to B6) or Making fun of people for trying to let off steam doesn’t make you morally superior, it just makes you an asshole (proceed to B4)

B4: Shit, you’re right. Sorry. The end

B5: It’s now 10 minutes later and you’ve seen everything. Now what?

Drinking time! (proceed to B2) or Why can’t I just do this over and over until I get tired? (proceed to C1)

B6: Woah, epic prank bro.

It’s not a prank; it’s alcoholism and I’m feeling a little sluggish all of a sudden (proceed to C1) or I know, I’m invincible! (proceed to B7)

B7: Whoops, looks like Xander’s acid wasn’t a dud after all. Through a convoluted chemical reaction that my English degree doesn’t require me to understand or prove, the LSD reacts with the alcohol and you explode in a comic and bloody fashion (you still die if you didn’t take Xander’s acid, but years later and because of heart disease or an auto accident). The end

C1: It is suddenly four in the afternoon and you are asleep. You miss the whole rest of the day and your friends all make fun of you for being both insane and boring at the same time. The end

Pinto is a member of the Class of 2020

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HUMOR EDITOR
By JOHN PINTO

HUMOR

PROTECTION IN A PILL
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*When taken every day as prescribed, PrEP reduces the risk of getting HIV up to 99% in HIV-negative individuals.
My overwhelming dislike for Peeps

By OLIVIA ALGER CULTURE EDITOR

There is a brief list of things I love: the crunch of a salt and vinegar chip, Bananaarama, creepy old movies like “Rosemary’s Baby,” and long car rides. Here is an even briefer list of things I hate: horses (like the animal) and Peeps (like the abominable candy creature). Since Easter last Sunday, I’ve been reflecting on the reasons why these monstrosities are the sort of things that frighten me, yet have arrived at no conclusion.

Let’s start with the packaging. Regardless of their shape, Peeps seem to strain against the plastic wrapping only to unleash their wrath upon my kitchen table.*

More things I love — elevator music, picking up tufts of grass and putting them in the lap of the person next to me, and blue raspberry Dum Dums. It isn’t the taste or the texture that turns me away from Peeps, but the entity of the treat as a whole — the treat as a whole — the plastic wrapping only to unleash their wrath upon my kitchen table.

Their eyes are also starting. Those beady black specks taunt me and their dark gazes linger, be them chicks or crows. Their eyes are also starting. Those beady black specks taunt me and their dark gazes linger.

their shape, Peeps seem to strain against the plastic wrapping only to unleash their wrath upon my kitchen table.

Their eyes are also starting. Those beady black specks taunt me and their dark gazes linger.

leaves and greenery and many weedlike flowers (more things I love), but all of this reminds me of the passing of time. Suddenly it’s warm again, and things are coming to an end. I keep my window open so my dorm room smells like the aftermath of rain and purifies everything that built up this winter. And boy, was this a winter (freshman year, many, little daisies, people I don’t know wearing sandals, worms on the sidewalk — all of these things signal the turning over of a new time and hit me with a moving sense of emotion.

My point is that maybe Peeps cause me such despair because they remind me of this residual sadness I can’t describe. Or maybe I don’t like them because they’re just unnatural. Sticky confections sugar and a gooey marshmallow middle? Who wants all of that residue stuck to their fingers?

Regardless of my fear’s mysterious origin, my dislike for Peeps run deeply alongside my melancholy grief for spring. Whoever you are, I wish you well with your seasonal gripes. Stay away from those critters.

Ager is a member of the Class of 2022.

**D-Day: 2019’s Fyre Festival?

By SING-YIK CHAN CULTURE OBSERVER

Bright and early at 8 a.m. on Dandelion Day, UR’s Student Programming Board posted a list of expectations for students on their Facebook page — keep your ID on you, no visible intoxication. If only we could have known what we’d expect from them — a rollercoaster ride of changing event times and an inability to deal with inclement weather that led to setback after setback.

If only we could have known what to expect from a D-Day disaster.

Their eyes are also starting. Those beady black specks taunt me and their dark gazes linger.

Refunds are a lengthy process that neither the students nor the University want to go through, so it held off on voucher sales until absolutely certain. As a result of the changes in time, though, many students were inexperienced. Classes conflicted with times to buy food tickets. The time change did help decrease congestion, but only slightly.

Refunds are a lengthy process that neither the students nor the University want to go through, so it held off on voucher sales until absolutely certain. As a result of the changes in time, though, many students were inexperienced. Classes conflicted with times to buy food tickets. The time change did help decrease congestion, but only slightly.

Regardless of their shape, Peeps aren’t easy to herd, but by communicating about complications and time changes. Drunk students aren’t easy to herd, but by letting the masses know what’s happening, the challenges of the day could have been mitigated. A plan where things could be moved and held indoors would be nice. Space out events through different buildings to reduce the ridiculous congestion that Wilco experienced.

But UR and SPB can’t be blamed for everything. The final nail in the coffin that was D-Day was hammered in by Glenn himself: “Go Tigers!”

This editorial is published with the consent of the majority of a the Editorial Board: Trevor Whitestone (Editor-in-Chief), Wil Aiken (Managing Editor), Hallie Higgins (Opinions Editor), Sakhile Nshangase (Opinions Editor), Ehus Agure-Kume (News Editor), and Shweta Koul (Publisher). The editor-in-chief and the Editorial Board make themselves available to the UR community’s ideas and concerns. Email editor@campustimes.org.

**Don’t like our opinions?

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My overwhelming dislike for Peeps with spring. As beautiful as this time of year is, every time April and May around I get overwhelmed with seasonal sadness. Do n’t get me wrong, I adore everything about the treat as a whole — the plastic wrapping only to unleash their wrath upon my kitchen table.

What was going on, wet shoes, and a developing cold. Boo s and “let us in” chants were audible. The rain forecast was com mon knowledge a week ago. Accommodations could have been made to move the concert indoors, as UR’s Student Programming Board did with its Lupe Fiasco concert. Ensuring the safety of the performers is another reason to have the concert indoors. Even with the delayed start time, Neon Trees lead singer Tyler Glenn said mid-performance that because the stage was wet, “I’m going to slip on this stage […] My ass is going to break.”

Earlier, some students performing on the smaller stage didn’t get to perform due to the weather. Those who did perform had at least a captive audience, what with the students stuck in the interminable line. While not entirely the University’s or the food truck’s fault, an additional vendor selling the same hot commodity could have drastically reduced line times.

That didn’t happen. The weather made performing unsafe, so sound check got pushed back until 1 p.m. on Friday.

Then at 9:37 a.m. on Friday, the time was changed again, to 11:30 a.m. D-Day committee chair and senior Suvirna Karwanyun explained that the temporal indecisiveness was because food trucks couldn’t operate in the rain, so UR was hesitant to sell vouchers.

UR can’t control the weather, but it can control back-up plans. It can control how much it communicates about complications and time changes. Drunk students aren’t easy to herd, but by letting the masses know what’s happening, the challenges of the day could have been mitigated. A plan where things could be moved and held indoors would be nice. Space out events through different buildings to reduce the ridiculous congestion that Wilco experienced. But UR and SPB can’t be blamed for everything. The final nail in the coffin that was D-Day was hammered in by Glenn himself: “Go Tigers!”

It is our policy to correct all erroneous information as quickly as possible. If you believe you have a correction, please email editor@campustimes.org.

*The free windbreaker giveaway was also a mess. It wasn’t supposed to start until 5 p.m., yet it was over by 4:54 p.m. There was no communication from UR about this early giveaway. Their decision does make sense, as people were in line as early as 2:45, and the over flow of people was a fire hazard. Even so, effective communication could have prevented students from hopping in at the end of a line that wasn’t going anywhere. The largest D-Day disaster also took the longest to rectify. At 3:40 p.m. the Programming Board posted that concert doors for Neon Trees would open at 6:30 p.m. As hundreds of disgruntled, cold undergrads on this campus could tell you, that didn’t happen. The weather made performing unsafe, so sound check got pushed back until 7 p.m.

Despite a Facebook post explaining the setback, students were too busy taking pictures of empty stands in their festival-ready summer outfits to notice. Many waited for an extra hour and a half, in addition to the long they waited to get their vouchers. Even people was a fire hazard. Even so, effective communication could have prevented students from hopping in at the end of a line that wasn’t going anywhere. The largest D-Day disaster also took the longest to rectify. At 3:40 p.m. the Programming Board posted that concert doors for Neon Trees would open at 6:30 p.m. As hundreds of disgruntled, cold undergrads on this campus could tell you, that didn’t happen. The weather made performing unsafe, so sound check got pushed back until 7 p.m.

Despite a Facebook post explaining the setback, students were too busy taking pictures of empty stands in their festival-ready summer outfits to notice. Many waited for an extra hour and a half, in addition to the hours they waited to get their place in line. — with no clue what was going on, wet shoes, and a developing cold. Boos and “let us in” chants were audible. The rain forecast was common knowledge a week ago. Accommodations could have been made to move the concert indoors, as UR’s Student Programming Board did with its Lupe Fiasco concert. Ensuring the safety of the performers is another reason to have the concert indoors. Even with the delayed start time, Neon Trees lead singer Tyler Glenn said mid-performance that because the stage was wet, “I’m going to slip on this stage [...] My ass is going to break.”

Earlier, some students performing on the smaller stage didn’t get to perform due to the weather. Those who did perform had at least a captive audience, what with the students stuck in the interminable line. While not entirely the University’s or the food truck’s fault, an additional vendor selling the same hot commodity could have drastically reduced line times.

UR can’t control the weather, but it can control back-up plans. It can control how much it communicates about complications and time changes. Drunk students aren’t easy to herd, but by letting the masses know what’s happening, the challenges of the day could have been mitigated. A plan where things could be moved and held indoors would be nice. Space out events through different buildings to reduce the ridiculous congestion that Wilco experienced. But UR and SPB can’t be blamed for everything. The final nail in the coffin that was D-Day was hammered in by Glenn himself: “Go Tigers!”
‘Gender-Neutral’ Doesn’t Mean ‘Gay’

By RACHEL TSE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

S
ome people have questioned my gender identity and sexual orientation because of the way I dress. I wear quite a bunch of men’s clothing—shirts, sweaters, and a coat.

The first time that I bought men’s clothing was with my dad, browsing around the men’s section at a GAP store. I picked up the first thing that caught my eyes, a men’s blue checkered coat.

In the fitting room, I looked at myself in the mirror. All I saw was me in a blue checkered coat. I didn’t feel any less feminine. I liked it. I came out of the fitting room, and my dad smiled and said that it looked nice on me. I ended up getting the coat and another men’s sweater.

As we left the store, I asked my dad what he thought about me wearing men’s clothing.

“It doesn’t make you who you are, it’s the other way around,” he told me. “As long as you know who you are deep down, clothing is just a part of you.”

I was lucky enough to be born into a liberal, not-your-typical-Asian family, with parents who are supportive and forward-thinking about non-mainstream cultures and identities. Even though we’ve lived in the U.S. for under five years, our values and ideals have always been associated more with Western ideologies than our more traditional Eastern background.

My dad was right. My style of dressing is an expression of my internal identity to the outside world. It is a statement of mine, one that is, and should only be, owned and entitled by me.

When people see a girl alone in the men’s section, they think she’s either shopping for her boyfriend, or she’s a lesbian. When they see my gender-neutral outfits, it’s most likely the latter.

Why is something as arbitrary as clothing a way of profiling gender identity or sexual orientation?

It’s as if your only two options are to be like everybody else and wear clothes that don’t present you the way you want to be seen, or stand out at the cost of facing assumptions from others about your identity. The question shouldn’t be “Is self-expression worth being subject to other people’s judgments?” Rather, it should be “Do their opinions even matter?”

For those who don’t conform to the mainstream or the majority culture like me, whether it be through their race, gender identity, sexual orientation, or religion, it seems inevitable to feel pressured to conform, and in the process cause people to misunderstand and invalidate you.

We focus too much on drawing a line between right and wrong, and neglect the fact that it’s not always black-and-white. Why does there have to be a clear line between the men’s and women’s clothing sections? When can the gap between assumption and understanding be merged? How can we transcend the limitations of judgements?

Can we completely eliminate people’s presumptions? I doubt it. Making assumptions and judgements has become almost intuitive, to the point that oftentimes we don’t even realize we’re doing it. And recognizing other people’s differences doesn’t necessarily mean holding prejudice, as they can be useful to fill in the gaps in our knowledge about another person.

Instead of using assumptions as a vehicle for judging someone, we should acknowledge the limitations of our assumptions. These limitations — if we let them — can help us look at the differences between ourselves and strangers in a respectful, appreciative way.

Tse is a member of the Class of 2022.
Todd’s ‘The Conduct of Life’ Depicts Abuse and Power

By OLIVIA ALGER
CULTURE EDITOR

Todd Union’s final production this semester, “The Conduct of Life” from Cuban-American playwright Maria Irene Fornés, opened last Thursday to a rapt audience.

The play has been met with controversy and criticism since Fornés first published it in 1985, but was also wildly successful and won a prestigious Obie Award — given to productions premiering off Broadway — that same year. Set in a Latin American country in present day, the one-act drama depicts the story of Orlando and his wife Leticia — from the street into their apartment. Orlando is episodic and major events and context are not shown,” he said.

Much of the play’s events occur off stage. In an early scene, Orlando drags twelve-year-old Nena — played by junior Fan Xia — from the street into his living room before raping her. In another, Orlando and his friend Alejo — first-year Benjamin Weinberg — rush onstage in a heated argument about Orlando’s torturing of a dead civilian.

Such scenes are carried by the intensity of the characters’ desires and the portrayal of complex relationships. At the dinner table in one scene, Orlando and his wife Leticia — senior Samantha Richardson — are arguing over the value of education. Leticia is ten years older than Orlando but initially comes across as sweetly ignorant. Lines like, “I want to conduct each day of my life in the best possible way” pair her idealism against Orlando’s despondency. As the show goes on, however, Leticia’s trust for Orlando and their war-torn world gets whittled down. By the final few scenes, Richard- son screams her lines in frustration.

Even their housekeeper Olimpia (first-year Daimarelys Lara) undergoes a subtle transformation. She is comic relief for much of the play with hilarious banter about her household routine, until the action heats up and she stands dumb-founded in the dining room as Orlando paces around Leticia and beats her.

“Finding the rhythm of the piece was difficult and, for the actors, understanding the arc of characters and their motivations was sometimes a challenge,” Maister said of the characters’ sensitive duality. “I was initially concerned that it would be very difficult to work with young actors on this material, but they were so committed and so mature in their approach [...]. They understood how and why the violence occurred and how the sexual violence and intimacy was integral to the storytelling.”

The content warning in the program cued audience members to the nonstop brutality of the show. Repeated rape scenes between Orlando and Nena were shown until Leticia found out from hearing Nena’s screams across the stage. Maister was concerned about the play’s “sensationalistic rumor” and its effect on the student body.

“Although we were creating something realistic, intense, and violent-looking, we tried to be respectful and safe (physically and emotionally) in everything we did which made it all proceed very smoothly,” he said.

The five actors were met with a standing ovation.

“I was astounded by the depth of understanding that the audience displayed and the maturity and insight of their questions,” Maister said adding that an audience member had found the honest depictions of violence “healing.” “The Conduct of Life” runs until May 4, and this coming Wednesday is free for students.

Alger is a member of the class of 2022.
“Sarazanmai”: Beneath the Surface

By YUMENG CHEN

“Sarazanmai,” a newly released anime, has quickly gained popularity for its exploration of human suffering, told through powerful fighting scenes and unique symbolism.

The anime centers around kappas — a Japanese folklore figure resembling a toddler-size frog with a plate on its head. After they break a golden statue, which members had to repeat word for word, the audience gave thunderous applause.

Perhaps most indicative of the show’s feel was the cheering, some members even bringing signs to hold up for friends in the show. They laughed with laughter during the videos and gave thunderous applause between dances. Both members of the crew backstage and audience sang and chanted with many of the songs, giving the show a fun concert atmosphere.

Karabetsos is a member of the Class of 2022.

The producers of “Sarazanmai” deliberately blend the surreal with the real, though these seemingly invincible boundaries created by the surfaces of different dimensions all suddenly become invalid and fall apart as the plot unfolds.

The visuals of “Sarazanmai” are a constant exploration of a philosophical surface — both in a metaphorical sense and a literal sense of the construction of a space.

The fighting scenes are also captivating because they only occur in an isolated, fantastic world. This blurs the audience’s perception of where the physical stops and the imaginary begins. Rather than being brutal and bloody, the fight scenes are illustrated as a combination of musical performance and a visual rhythm full of emotion and energy. Taking place under a dark, detached environment, the fight scenes eliminate any context through the complete isolation of the background of the scene.

The visuals of “Sarazanmai” are a contrast exploration of a philosophical surface — both in a metaphorical sense and a literal sense of the construction of space. If we look closely at many scenes or objects that flash by are presented in a photorealistic way. The gun in Kuji’s cardbox, for example, is a literal sense of the construction of a space.

The ED (ending music video), moreover, is a base camp for the fusion of 2D and 3D models. In the ED, the anime carefully juxtaposes drawn anime characters against the backdrop of photographs taken in actual Japanese streets. This intentional collapse of individual dimensions melds 2D and 3D spatio-temporal concepts together, endowing the 2D animated characters with blood and flesh and, more importantly, depth and weight. This allows compatibility between the realistic 3D environments and the fictive elements.

Overall, the producers of “Sarazanmai” deliberately blend the surreal with the real, though these seemingly invincible boundaries created by the surfaces of different dimensions all suddenly become invalid and fall apart as the plot unfolds.

Rice Crew’s Idolic Showcase

By KATIE KARABETSO

STAFF WRITER

Rice Crew was a bit late to start presenting their annual showcase, “IDL Room,” to a fairly large crowd in May Court on Thursday. The tardiness didn’t faze the audience one bit, considering the cheers throughout the entire first number, a cover of “IDL Room” by BTS.

The group performed to over two-dozen songs, including hits like Ariana Grande’s “7 Rings,” Justin Bieber’s “Boyfriend,” Rihanna’s “Rude Boy,” and Black Pink’s “Kill This Love.” Rice Crew’s distinct style shined through with each number, as fast-paced, powerful dance moves ensuring there was never a dull moment.

Rice Crew’s variety dance show was no typical dance recital. Not only were the numbers themselves high-energy, they came in waves, making for a very captivating performance with very little down time.

In between those waves, time for costume changes was filled with other entertainment. The first was an introduction video displaying clips from various K-pop performances and groups, which excited the audience further.

The next wave was followed by a video titled “Whisper Challenge,” where members played a game similar to telephone, but instead of whispering a phrase to the next person, all members were wearing loud headphones. The video had fantastic editing, temporarily turning a dance show into a comedy gold with sound effects and meme references.

Another comedic video featured three members of the Yellowjackets. Alongside Rice Crew, they played games in which members had to repeat a phrase in higher or lower pitches as well as a “versus battle,” where both groups tried to out-dance and out-sing each other. Once again, the editing heightened the experience, adding sound effects and XP bars. After the Yellowjackets won the battle, the entire group performed two songs before a brief intermission.

Following intermission, a video titled “Who Is?” was screened, where the night’s two emcees, juniors and dancers Kenji Muthal and Helen Shung, ran around a rehearsal asking members questions like “Which Rice Crew member is most likely to skip rehearsal to get Starbucks?”

Later, five audience members were selected and played a game titled Grill Idol where they had to recall the facts from the video to win prizes.

The last wave of dancing was preceded by the video, “2x Dance,” where members randomly selected three dances to perform while the song was played at double speed. Impressively, the dancers mostly kept up.

The show certainly went out with an exciting number called “Bing Bang Bang.” After the last number, there was a heartfelt goodbye to senior dancers who were each awarded a small bouquet of flowers.

Perhaps most indicative of the show’s feel was the audience. In addition to the cheering, some members even bringing signs to hold up for friends in the show. They laughed with laughter during the videos and gave thunderous applause between dances. Both members of the crew backstage and audience sang and chanted with many of the songs, giving the show a fun concert atmosphere.

Karabetsos is a member of the Class of 2022.

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**SPORTS**

By CESAR GARCIA

**SPORTS EDITOR**

NFL stars getting into legal trouble is nothing new, but the stature of a career takes against the player has no consistency as seen by the latest addition to this group: Tyreek Hill.

The Kansas City Chiefs star receiver, Hill is one of the most explosive and fun to watch players in the NFL. Known for being arguably the league’s fastest player, Hill draws attention from teams and fans alike. But Hill has not always been seen in such high graces.

In 2014, when attending Oklahoma State University, Hill was arrested for the assault of his fiancé, Crystal Esparil. Footage surfaced showing Hill repeatedly punching, choking, and throwing her. Hill pleaded guilty to domestic assault and battery by strangulation and was sentenced to three years of probation.

And now, Hill is back in the news, currently suspended indefinitely from Chiefs team activities due to reports that he abused his three-year-old son. An audio clip was aired on a Kansas City television station that suggests Hill may have broken his son’s arm.

**An Uphill Battle for Tyreek Hill**

In a country moving closer and closer to the legalization of marijuana, why are players being severely punished for substance violation but not for assault or abuse?

One reason could be the business culture. Hill is a major money-maker for the industry of the NFL and it would not benefit them to suspend or ban him. His former teammate, Kareem Hunt, led the league in rushing yards his rookie year before a video surfaced of him kicking a woman in a hotel. Hunt was put on the Commissioner’s Exempt List and was ultimately suspended for eight games.

The weight of Hunt’s and Bryan’s crimes is not reflected by the punishment assigned by the NFL. The long-term situation with Hill is yet to be determined, but if history repeats itself, Hill will remain a star in the NFL and all of these legal troubles may soon be forgotten.

Garcia is a member of the Class of 2022.