

Campus Times

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Remembering Joshua Luo

By SHWETA KOUL
PUBLISHER

“#notyourtypicalasianviolinist. Aspiring hyperpolyglot. Triple-sword swash-buckler.”

These words introduce Josh Luo’s Facebook profile, a personal mission statement. In his picture, he stands with a bright smile in front of a foggy Golden Gate bridge.

That smile, friends recalled, was something Luo always brought.

“He doesn’t really stop smiling,” sophomore Ilene Kang, the cellist in his quintet, said. “In awkward or tense situations, he also smiles.”

“I’ve looked through all of our group messages, past group emails, and he was always so enthusiastic and positive,” she added.

Whether it was Luo practicing his violin for hours, learning languages common and endangered, or fencing foil, friends and family remember his usual positive demeanor.

“He was very quiet,” sophomore Yeahyun Son said. “He kept to himself, but you could tell there was a fire within him.”

Luo, a UR sophomore, died on March 28, 2019. He was 20. The Pennsylvania State Police confirmed the cause of death as suicide.

Although quiet, his involvement on campus spoke volumes.

Joshua Zhixiang Luo was born on February 20, 1999 in Los Angeles, California, to parents Roger and Weiying Luo.

In 2001, Luo and his family moved to New Jersey. Neighbors walked by the New Jersey home, waving to two small children with bowl cuts scurrying across the lawn.

Those children were Luo and his younger sister, Valery.

One of Valery’s earliest memories of her brother was of the two sitting in buckets pretending to drive cars.

Four years later they moved again, to Media, Pennsylvania. Valery described how she and Luo often organized elaborate events there.

SEE OBIT PAGE 5

Neon Trees Wows After Wait



ELISSA MOY / UR PHOTO

Lead singer Tyler Glenn of the Neon Trees (shown above) performed with the rest of his band on UR’s annual Dandelion Day.

By WIL 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 game 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 hy-

SEE CONCERT PAGE 10

Half-Day Senior Week Ticket Sales are Improvement, Says WCSA

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 increas-

ing 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

SEE LINES PAGE 2

INSIDE
THIS CT

MORPHINE IN
HUTCH
PAGE 4 FEATURES

GENDER NEUTRAL
CLOTHING
PAGE 9 OPINIONS

RICE CREW
SHOWCASE
PAGE 11 CULTURE

THE ULTIMATE
CLUB SPORT
PAGE 12 SPORTS



WILL SEALANDER / CONTRIBUTING WRITER

AFRICA BUSINESS CONFERENCE EXPLORES CONTINENT'S 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)

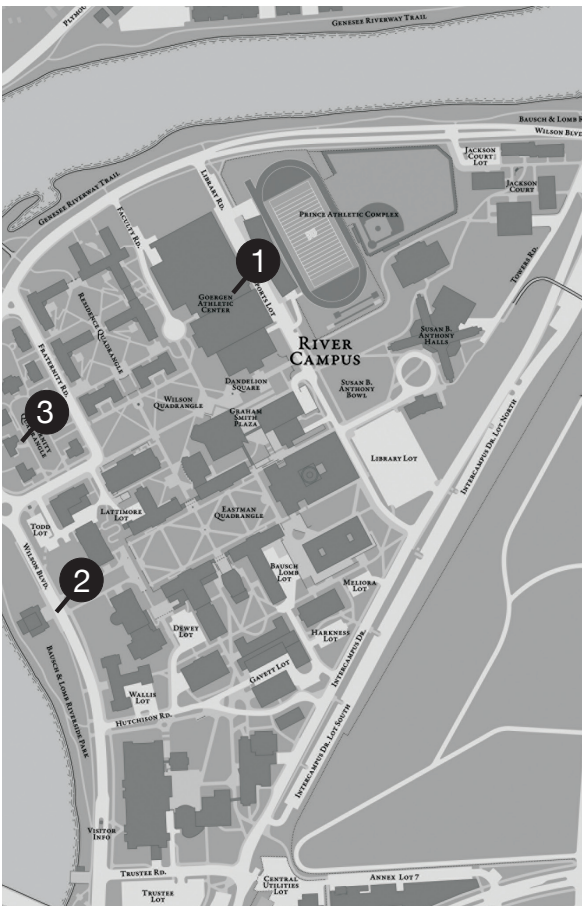
APRIL 24—A vehicle parked on Wilson Blvd was the victim of a home run during a baseball game, when the suspect ball hit it's rear window and

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.



MAP COURTESY OF UR COMMUNICATIONS

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.

COMIC CON

RUSH RHEES LIBRARY, LAM SQUARE, 11:00AM-4:00PM
River Campus Libraries invites you to UR Comic Con. At this event, there will be free items, chances to win prizes and other fun activities.

WEDNESDAY| MAY 1

JUST DANCE AND DOUGHNUTS STUDY BREAK!

HAVENS LOUNGE, HAVENS LOUNGE, 4:00PM-7:00PM
It’s the last day of classes, so come celebrate with your fellow classmates. There will be games running of “Just Dance!” and free Krispy Kreme Doughnuts for those that attend.

ALGEBRA/NUMBER THEORY SEMINAR

HYLAN BUILDING, 1106A, 1:00PM-2:00PM
Yusuke Okuyama, from the Kyoto Institute of Technology, presents an equidistribution result on the “dynamics of rational functions on the projective line over non-archimedean fields.”

THURSDAY | MAY 2

ZEN MEDITATION GROUP

INTERFAITH CHAPEL, SANCTUARY, 5:30PM-7:00PM
The Zen Buddhist Group invites you to join their weekly meditation sessions. Come if you’re interested in Buddhism, and would like to learn more.

CHEMISTRY HARRISON HOWE AWARD

ROBERT B. GOERGEN HALL, SLOAN AUDITORIUM
7:30PM-8:30PM
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-3:30PM
This is an annual event which highlights the research of senior chemistry majors. Come support!

THEATER: THE CONDUCT OF LIFE

TODD THEATER, 7:00PM-8:30PM, (MAY 1-4)
Come see the play The Conduct of Life, by Maria Irene Fornes. This play involves themes of violence, power, corruption, and the nature of “human and political relationships.”

Senior Week Lines Stall

LINES FROM PAGE 1

Events Chair Julia Fraser, previous years saw tickets for the Local Brewery Tasting and Day at the Vineyard sell out quickly, and students with this in mind hurried to get there before 8 a.m., fearful of not being able to attend all the events they wanted.

“I think the problem was compounded by the fact that so many students decided to show up at the same time, but what can you do about that?” DeJong said. “We were worried the tickets would sell out, so we got there as close to the opening time as we thought would be reasonable. I assume all the other students in line were thinking the same thing.”

Most students walked away with passes to all the events they

wanted — but they also left two-to-four hours later than expected.

“[Waiting in line] was an experience, for sure,” DeJong said. “But from the sound of it, they hadn’t run out of any tickets by the end of [the first day]. I could have slept in, waited in line for a half an hour, and gotten the same thing.”

Fraser, a senior herself, said that she is sympathetic to the students who had to wait so long.

“However, we are incredibly excited for Senior Week Events and cannot wait for the Class of 2019 to attend these events,” she added.

Senior week tickets are still available (with no lines) at the Common Market, and go on sale to non-senior undergraduates in May.

Higgins is a member of the Class of 2022.

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In Biochemistry or Italian, Guerra is authentically herself

By SKYLAR SCHUTTER
STAFF WRITER

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

Whether it's languages, anthropology, or biochemistry, if Guerra has a question, she wants the answer.

"That's what research is: trying to find out the answers to basic questions that actually turn out more complicated the more you investigate," said Guerra, a 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 in prion diseases. Coincidentally, 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 of you[rself] 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 you."

She admits she didn't always feel authentically herself.

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 her-



COURTESY VALERIA GUERRA

Junior Valeria Guerra embraces her background and diverse passions, whether it be prion diseases or Italian culture.

self 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.

Capitalizing 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 "sincere wonder in the world," stop stressing about mistakes, and see the world from different perspectives.

"Messing up is part of the process ... right?" Guerra asked, adding, "[A] language makes you seep into a new world and changes your view [...] [I]t allowed me to trust myself and my own perspective, while giving me an ability to see others."

Because of this philosophy, Guerra said, she approached the problems in biochemistry "as a wonder" and does not stress about perfect scores. Rather, she allows herself room to "understand the questions and enjoy the process of truly thinking about things."

She added, "I do not know if it makes me a more well-rounded person. I can only say that it makes me who I am."

Schutter is a member of the Class of 2021.

Nothing but Sky: Decarceration Initiative Debuts Symposium

By EFUA AGYARE-KUMI
NEWS EDITOR

Evelyne Leblanc-Roberge, who teaches art and art history, believes her 33 portraits of blue-gray skies will remind people of how infinite and open the heavens are.

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."

Leblanc-Roberge exhibited her work, "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 oft-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 member Joshua Dubler said in his opening remarks.

Initiative members have also been vocal about their desire to decarcerate the UR campus, which anthropology professor Kristin Doughty says could 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. Associate professor of counseling Dena Phillips Swanson looked at the long-term effect of how school discipline methods can put children — particularly black and Latino youth — at greater risk of entering the justice system later on.

Attendees could also peruse ethnographic reports by UR students on how prisons shape life in Rochester, produced in a class co-taught by Dubler and Doughty.

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 were 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 mindsets of formerly-incarcerated people to help them reintegrate to society.

"Once I began to think differently and try something different, different began to happen for me," community advocate Rochelle Curtis said.

She has previously been incar-

cerated, and now supports others affected by the criminal justice system. "You've got to be willing to flip everything 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 we had helped him get [...] he's staying in a hotel room because while he was gone [...] people stole everything out of his apartment."

For 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 don'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 necessarily 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.

MAD THAT WE HAVEN'T COVERED SOMETHING IMPORTANT?

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FEATURES

Want to See Gender Inequality at UR? Look at the Sculptures.

By SHWETA KOUL
PUBLISHER

Outside Meliora 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 CWGEA Amy Lerner said. “We have hundreds of women alumni who are super important. Where are they?”

“Once you see it, it’s hard not to notice,” the CWGEA report says.

Looking at the collection of statues near Meliora, facial features are unrecognizable due to the erosion. Eyes, noses, and mouths are lost to time.

Along with a fully intact statue near the Simon School, the collection represents branches of knowledge: industry, geography, astronomy, navigation, and commerce.

The other six female sculptures can be found at Rush Rhees. Two reside on the triangular pediment above the library’s front pillars. Inside, Athena, goddess of wisdom, stands opposite a female statue representing industry, short a finger for some time, according to UR archivist Melissa Mead. Two busts of Greek goddesses jut from above the Hawkins-Carlson and Welles-Brown room entrances.

Like the other female sculptures on campus, those in Rush Rhees have no relation to Roch-

ester or the University. 10 sculptures on campus depict men who impacted Rochester.

“The women are nameless as they are these universal attributes that are idealized and not rooted in real, physical bodies or experiences or achievements,” said Joan Saab, a professor of art history. “That’s the issue.”

But is there an issue if they are just sculptures?

Psychology professor Marie-Joelle Estrada sees multiple aspects to how the imbalanced iconography can subconsciously affect the campus community.

She explained that the four faceless statues contribute to face-ism, the idea that a face is necessary to be a person rather than a thing.

“Something as simple as a faceless, but beautiful female sculpture says a lot about what’s valued and says a lot about the source of power,” Estrada said.

She mentioned the role model effect, which focuses on how “you can’t be what you can’t see.” When groups are misrepresented, Estrada said, it reinforces negative stereotypes of not belonging.

“It’s scary to be the first one even though you are not the first one,” Estrada said.

“Especially at an institution of higher learning, you want to highlight how women have made substantial and intellectual contributions across the board,” she later added.

Four UR students also questioned the underrepresentation in a class project last semester. Junior Skye Waipa, sophomores Saffiatu Kaiwa and Salma Khai, and first-year Haris Kalač looked to informally examine the numbers of women and men iconography on campus.

The group reported a stark

difference in how plaques and portraits portrayed men and women. More often than not, the results showed, women were represented in plaques and portraits next to husbands or brothers.

After interviewing 61 students on the results, Kalač said many participants did not notice the disparities.

Additionally, the group found that other colleges, including Oxford University and Princeton University, had recently commissioned new iconography on campus to reflect their diversity.

“[At Oxford], they asked students and faculty to nominate relevant individuals or groups to be depicted in portraits,” Kalač said. “This idea could be definitely accomplished on our campus.”

But Mead said there are important historical reasons for the disparities between male and female iconography.

UR was exclusively male from 1850–1900, then became co-ed for 13 years before splitting into separate colleges for men and women.

“The college for women comes to River Campus in 1955 and leaves Prince Street Campus, which meant they could have left [iconography] there as well,” Mead said.

Moreover, those Meliora statues are headless and limbless for a reason: they’re from 1874, according to Mead.

“This is just age,” Mead said. “They came to us whole with features and hands and heads.”

The statues were new when they first filled the niches in Sibley Hall, the Prince Street campus library. When moved to their current spot in 1979, they had lost parts but were clean.

These statues were a 25th-anniversary gift from the class of 1955, the first co-ed class since 1913. Mead does not think



DANIEL CAJE / PHOTO EDITOR

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

UR will ever take them down.

Mead also addressed why some of the walls on campus are covered with portraits of just white men.

“Often times, there are designated spaces for portraits,” Mead said, like the spaces designated to the chairs of the Board of Trustees and the presidents.

“If we were going to say there should be more women in a particular space, we would have to undesignate the space,” Mead said.

But fourth-year UR medical student Antoinette Esce thinks it’s time for a change.

“Maybe that’s not what we do anymore,” Esce said of designated spaces like the Great Hall exterior. “Maybe we find a different place to efficiently honor our presidents and use that very public space to have a more representative style of portraits or art for the campus community.”

The designated space for portraits of Board of Trustees chairs is actually inaccurate.

The space does not feature a portrait of Virginia Dwyer, the only female chair of the Board of Trustees. Mead has been persistent about getting an oil painting of Dwyer hung up with the men, but these types of changes can only be

issued by the Office of the President.

dent.

Another complicating factor is finding a source of funding for new iconography.

Moving forward, Saab formed an art committee last year that is set to officially inventory campus iconography this summer.

Esce, Lerner, and Saab believe the University should find ways to protect the history that is here. Additionally, they want to honor women past and present, as well as more minorities and LGBTQ, through iconography.

For now, Lerner described a way to stand up against the lack of representation. She recently visited the National Academy of Sciences building in D.C. As she walked around, she stopped when she saw “yet another wall of white men.”

She recounted turning to an African-American colleague and asking, “Feel really at home in this space, don’t you?”

He agreed.

“I think we need a photo of the two of us standing here,” Lerner said.

Her colleague smiled and they posed.

“And so, we put our faces on the wall.”

Koul is a member of the Class of 2020.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

By AN NGUYEN
FEATURES EDITOR

Morphine.

The most famous of the alkaloids naturally occurring in the opium poppy — the potent painkiller whose synthetic derivatives include heroin, OxyContin, Vicodin, and fentanyl — was first synthesized in UR’s Hutchison Hall.

In 1952, Marshall Gates Jr., then only a lecturer for the University’s



COURTESY OF RARE BOOKS

Marshall Gates Jr. works in his laboratory in 1953.

UR’s Gates Gave Morphine its Structure

Department of Chemistry, completed the first successful total synthesis of morphine at age 35.

Jack Kampmeier, a colleague of Gates, described his complex 26-step synthesis as “a triumph of scientific imagination.” The elegant synthesis garnered Gates his election to the National Academy of Sciences, invitations to lecture, and worldwide recognition in the chemistry community. It also earned him a promotion from lecturer to professor at UR.

During World War II, chemists rushed to be the first to synthesize morphine, not in order to supplant the natural source (opium poppies) but to determine the exact structure of the molecule.

As Gates explains in his 1995 memoir “Looking Back,” competing with natural morphine product “would be well-nigh impossible” seeing as natural morphine is very easily and cheaply obtained.

The real purpose was to conclusively determine the structure of morphine, and “traditional proof of structure then was an unambiguous synthesis, which was what we had

undertaken,” wrote Gates.

His work took its starting point from another renowned chemist: Nobel Laureate Sir Robert Robinson.

In 1925, Robinson proposed a morphine structure, after degrading the molecule into recognizable, smaller compounds.

However, his proposal was only a hypothesis. Before the days of high-speed computers to process complex X-ray crystallography data and powerful spectroscopy techniques, the only surefire way to confirm a molecule’s structure was to build it from scratch.

So, Gates and his postdoctoral fellow Gilg Tschudi set out to do just that.

They were able to demonstrate that one of their synthetic compounds, containing the skeleton of the morphine molecule, was identical to a degraded form of thebaine (another naturally occurring alkaloid in opium). It was then they “knew with certainty that [they] were on the right track,” wrote Gates.

In the January 26, 1952 entry

of Gates’ lab notebook, currently held in UR’s Rare Books and Special Collections Department, Gates details the final product of the long process: “Beautiful, nearly colorless, prismatic” crystals of morphine.

This synthetic breakthrough was the starting point for his later work, which focused on finding less addictive morphine substitutes, creating hundreds more compounds and obtaining 13 patents.

His work on opiates was not his only contribution to the chemistry world: he also served as the editor-in-chief of the Journal of the American Chemical Society, the premiere scientific journal for chemistry, from 1949 to 1969. Additionally, he mentored roughly 31 Ph.D. and 12 M.S. students, and 18 postdoctoral fellows.

While chemistry was to be his life-long purpose, it was not always his favorite subject.

In high school, chemistry was not the “intellectually fascinating and stimulating subject” he later found it. For him, the “theory seemed artificial and unsatisfac-

tory” in the days before quantum mechanics was fully developed, as he described in his memoir.

Gates also proved a valued member of the faculty for undergraduates; he was awarded the Edward Peck Curtis Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in 1967, and appointed to the Charles Frederick Houghton Chair in Chemistry the following year.

In his private life, he was an avid competitive sailor and skier, even owning a sailboat named Cutty Sark. He also knew glassblowing, often making his own glassware for his laboratory.

In October 2003, Marshall Gates passed away. His 1995 memoir describes his work on the morphine synthesis as “by a considerable margin the best and most important work I’ve ever done.”

He ends with: “I have now reached my eightieth birthday and I do not suppose much of real interest will happen to me from now on. If it does, I’ll supply an addendum.”

Nguyen is a member of the Class of 2022.

Josh Luo was Quiet, but his Multifaceted Impact is Not

LUO FROM PAGE 1

“When the 2008 election was happening, [...] we set up our own little voting booth in our house,” Valery said. “All the neighborhood kids came, and we forced them to vote. It was a whole formal process. We had ballots printed out and name tags for who the coordinator was.”

They also organized an exploration group to investigate the whole neighborhood. They brought food and “survival tools.” After their journeys into the unknown, they wrote down observations, printing and dating them.

Valery said she thought her brother’s interest in nature and the environment stemmed from those adventures.

In 2010, the family moved to their current home in Rose Valley, Pennsylvania.

Luo took an interest in fencing after learning his sixth grade health teacher was a world-class fencer. Luo went to fencing every week, but enlisted Valery for extra practice. They fenced with colorful pool noodles and bought buzzers to indicate a hit.

During middle school, Luo held a fencing tournament for the neighborhood kids in his basement. The siblings used newspaper strips and tape to mark the playing area.

Language was another frontier for Luo.

In middle school, Valery said, Luo had a teacher who spoke Arabic, which would be Luo’s first linguistic endeavor.

Spanish, French, Chinese, Cantonese, Korean, Portuguese, Creole, and some disappearing African languages followed. He was not fluent in most of them, but he strove to be.

“I remember at home he would speak to me in different languages, and if I didn’t reply back in the language he was speaking, I wouldn’t get what I wanted,” Valery said.

He re-gifted her the same Christmas present every year: a Korean textbook.



COURTESY OF VALERY LUO

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

But Luo’s first love was music. He began playing the violin in grade school. The siblings went to violin summer camps together. During Chinese New Year, they performed for their Chinese school.

But Luo and his sister did not always get along. Valery 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 picture taken in their New Jersey home, Valery said, “sums up our relationship.” It’s of Luo hugging Valery, while she screams in anger.

Every now and then, Luo would annoy her back.

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

Valery 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 pas-

sionate about violin because every time I came to Spurrier practice rooms, I immediately thought, ‘Am I going to see Josh here?’” said senior Natalie Huynh, 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 he would get sick of it after two months, but he just kept going at it.”

Besides taking lessons, plus playing in a quintet and symphony orchestra, Luo was involved in many groups and their e-boards. 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 Students’ Association. Luo was also an Eco-Rep his first year. He never complained when volunteering, Son recalled.

He never decided on a major, but Luo was interested in international relations, public health, environ-

mental health, and environmental science. He often shared posts on Facebook or watched YouTube videos about the environment.

His friends described Luo as having a low voice instantly recognizable for its rumble. His speech was soft and deliberate.

He was empathetic, sweet, and reserved around his friends and teachers. But he also had his quirks.

“He always wore a lot of layers,” Kang said, laughing about a time Luo wore three hoodies. “He would just peel off layers whenever 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 hwe was with the club.

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

Kang 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 punctual Luo.

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 rwough.”

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.

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

“These 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 ride, they stopped at Nick Tahoe’s and ordered their first garbage plates. Spontaneously, Luo got them orange juice to wash it down.

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

Koul is a member of the Class of 2020.

CT EATS

Chocolate is the Star at Hedonist Artisan Chocolates



By OLIVIA BANC
COLUMNIST

CT Eats usually features savory food, but 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.

Since Ryan, my CT Eats sidekick, is a dessert-hating abomination, I decided to take Shagun (another CT Eats veteran) along. We put together 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 chocolate 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 flavorings of each truffle were almost accessories to that wonderful fresh 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.

Honoring spring, Hedonist had an exciting display of floral chocolates. I was most intrigued by the dandelion wine, a combination I haven’t seen offered anywhere else. Surprisingly, it had a nutty taste — the dandelion, I’m assuming — since the only other taste was the wine. Definitely unexpected, yet wholly enjoyed. And it helped, of course, that this truffle was shaped like an adorable little butterfly.

My favorite of the day was another floral find: the rosebud truffle. I was truly shocked by this one. The creamy filling inside was milk-chocolate brown



OLIVIA BANC / COLUMNIST

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

but had a prominent rose flavor. As sensational as that rose flavor was, it still only served to enhance the chocolate instead of overpowering it.

I was pleasantly surprised and impressed by all the unique flavor combinations Hedonist Artisan Chocolates had to offer, and even the common combos were

top-tier. Still, as fantastic as the fun flavors were, they perfectly balanced with the real star of Hedonist: luscious, luxurious fresh chocolate. If you’re really looking to impress someone, trade that grocery store box of chocolates for the real deal at Hedonist.

Banc is a member of the Class of 2021.

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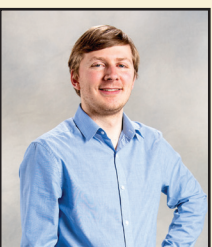
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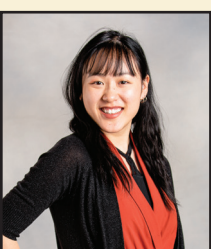
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Outstanding Student Organization Award

HUMOR

Choose Your Own Adventure: D-Day!

By JOHN PINTO
HUMOR EDITOR

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! D-Day! Hell yeah! (proceed to C1) or **Yoga by the river, to limber**

up my central nervous system before its big day (proceed to A2)
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 C1) 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**

the University has set up around campus! (proceed to B5)
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 driveway, 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: Wow, 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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OPINIONS

EDITORIAL OBSERVER

My overwhelming dislike for Peeps



By OLIVIA ALGER
CULTURE EDITOR

Here is a brief list of things I love: the crunch of a salt and vinegar chip, Bananarama, 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 monstrous little marshmallows 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 mere idea of a Peep — that shocks me to my core. 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.

Their eyes are also startling. Those beady black specks taunt me and their dark gazes linger, be them chicks or bunnies or whatever other springtime animal the Peeps company decides to destroy. There’s another reason why Peeps have my disapproval — they’ve ruined the season for me. I already have my personal qualms

with spring. As beautiful as this time of year is, every time April and May roll around I get overwhelmed with seasonal sadness. Don’t get me wrong, I adore everything about

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

leaves and greenery and tiny 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, man). 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

Maybe Peeps cause me such despair because they remind me of this residual sadness I can’t describe.

describe. Or maybe I don’t like them because they’re just unnatural. Sticky confectioners 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.

Alger is a member of the Class of 2022.

EDITORIAL BOARD

D-Day: 2019’s Fyre Festival?

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 to expect from them — a rollercoaster ride of changing event times and an inability to deal with inclement weather

If only we could have known what to expect from them — a rollercoaster ride of changing event times and an inability to deal with inclement weather that led to setback after setback.

that led to setback after setback.

Food vouchers originally were supposed to go on sale Thursday, until it was announced at 10:51 a.m. — nine minutes before vouchers were supposed to go on sale — that vouchers would not be available 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 Svarina Karwanyun explained that the temporal indecisiveness was because food trucks couldn’t operate in the rain, so UR was hesitant to sell vouchers.

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 inconvenienced. Classes conflicted with times to buy food tickets. The time change did help decrease congestion, but only because not everyone knew about the new time in the first place, which probably explained the shorter lines.

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 overflow 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 each other in their festival-ready summer outfits to notice. Many waited for an extra hour and a half — in addition to however long 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 Nazareth College 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 at least had a captive audience, what with the students stuck in the interminable poutine 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 events out 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 a majority of the Editorial Board: Trevor Whitestone (Editor-in-Chief), Wil Aiken (Managing Editor), Hailie Higgins (Opinions Editor), Sakhile Ntshangase (Opinions Editor), Efua Agyare-Kumi (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.

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‘Gender-Neutral’ Doesn’t Mean ‘Gay’

By RACHEL TSE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Some 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. It fit me. 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.



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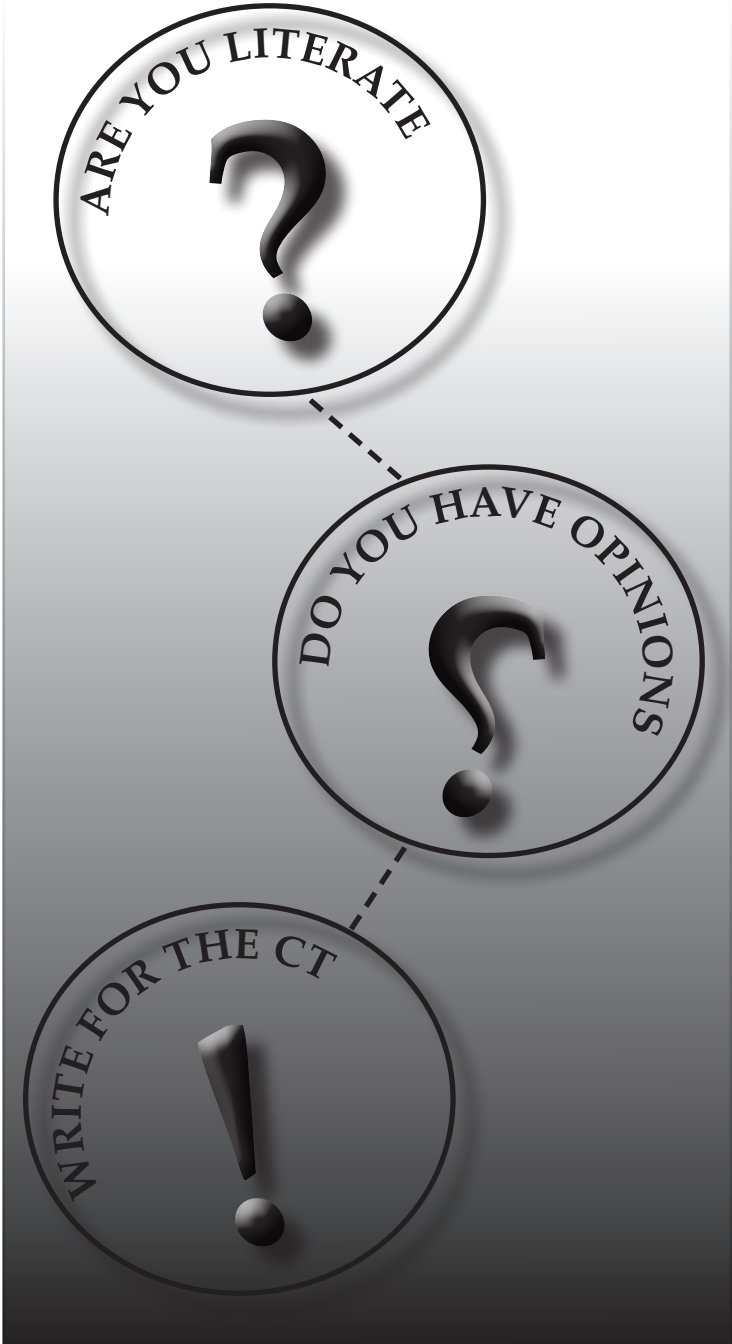
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CULTURE

Armed with Down-to-Earth Energy, Neon Trees Keeps the Rain off D-day’s Parade



ELISSA MOY / UR PHOTO

Despite rainy weather, the student crowd stayed engaged.



ELISSA MOY / UR PHOTO

Njomza, the opening act, also got personal.

CONCERT FROM PAGE 1

-peractive and sassy, and sometimes incorrect — like when he yelled “Go Tigers!” — Glenn was down-to-earth and personal.

“I know there are cooler acts out there, but they’re really expensive,” he joked.

He also spoke of his history dealing with his identity as a gay man. After asking the audience’s age (19 seemed to be the general consensus), he transitioned into the next song by saying, “So, when I was 19, I was still a straight person.”

The song, Glenn explained, was something he wrote for his then-girlfriend, but he was really thinking of a guy. He concluded the story optimistically: “It’s 2019; we all like what we like, right?”

If the vibe of Neon Trees was hyperactive but personal, the vibe of the opener, Njomza, was more, well, vibey. The relaxed — and relaxing — style may have been a bit inappropriate for a D-Day audience who’d been waiting for two hours, but she won many over with her impressive vocals and a very enthused hype man dressed in an orange jump-

suit. Though the tone was very different, Njomza did get personal like Glenn. She dedicated one performance to the late Mac Miller (she was the first to sign his label). By the end, many students were into it, waving their phone lights around during the last song.

Things started off rocky with the delay and the mud, and students needed the performers to deliver. By turns lax, lively, funny, and casual, they did.

Shweta Koul contributed reporting.

Aiken is a member of the class of 2022.



ELISSA MOY / UR PHOTO

Tyler Glenn of Neon Trees.

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, an abusive military officer who lashes out against the other four cast members with sexually and physically violent outbreaks. In the first fifteen minutes, Orlando, played by junior Martynas Snarskis, walked around stage dictat-

ing self-deprecating thoughts before masturbating with his back to the audience.

Artistic Director of the UR International Theater Program Nigel Maister touched on the difficulty of producing this show at a university level.

“The play is challenging material, not only because its content contains significant violence, but also because it 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, Richardson 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 dumbfounded 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 questioning,” 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
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“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, the three main characters — middle schoolers Kazuki Yasaka, Toi Kuji, and Enta Jinai — release the kappa prince, Keppi, who turns them into kappas. Living among kappas, Yasaka, Kuji, and Jinai enter a world between life and death. They witness the coming and going of the culprit of all human agony, misery, and desires: a demon who is formed by people’s grievances and misfortunes. With the progression of each episode, through fighting against each demon, the protagonists uncover the much bigger secrets behind humanity and themselves.

At first glance, “Sarazanmai” is a rather bizarre anime because of some trivial elements without a strong chain-of-events plot. However, with every new episode, the connection between each element steadily surfaces, building a solid base for the plotlines and philosophical explorations to come.

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 rhapsody full of emotion and vigor. 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 constant exploration of a philosophical surface — both in a metaphorical sense and a literal sense of the construction of a space. If we look closely, many scenes or objects that flash by are presented in a photorealistic way. The gun in Kuji’s cardbox, for example, only appears for a total of two seconds in the entire episode

2, and yet it is depicted so realistically that I could feel its texture and the tangible feeling of confronting one in real life.

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 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



SING CHAN / CULTURE EDITOR

“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. On top of that, the fanciful visuals in “Sarazanmai” are a feast for the eyes interwoven with craziness, imagination, and fantasies.

Chen is a member of the Class of 2020.

Rice Crew’s Idolic Showcase

By KATIE KARABETSOS
STAFF WRITER

Rice Crew was a bit late to start presenting their annual showcase, “IDOL ROOM,” to a fairly large crowd in May Room on Thursday. The tardiness didn’t faze the audience one bit, considering the cheers throughout the first number: a cover of “IDOL” 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 comedy gold with sound effects and



KATIE KARABETSOS / STAFF WRITER

Rice Crew dances during their spring showcase.

mime 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 Mulhal 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 “Bang 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 roared 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

The Ultimate Fun and Competitive Club Sport

By MICAH GREENBERG
SPORTS EDITOR

This weekend, Men’s Club Ultimate Frisbee traveled to Oneonta to compete in the USA Ultimate Division III Metro East Regional Tournament. A strong showing in inclement weather at this weekend’s games could allow the team to qualify for the national Division III tournament.

Ultimate is a team sport that was invented by students in the ‘60s. The game is based upon players passing a disc to teammates in an attempt to catch it in the opposing team’s endzone to score points. Players are not allowed to take steps when in possession of the disc, but can pivot similar to a basketball player who has already dribbled.

One of the most well-known aspects of the sport is the general lack of referees. Instead, Ultimate depends upon players who support fairness and sportsmanship, known as the “spirit of the game.” So, players are allowed to call their own fouls. The sport is played by millions worldwide and is being considered as a possible Summer Olympics event for the 2024 games.

The team, nicknamed the Piggies, has seen some success. Three of the past four years, the Piggies have made it to pre-quarters at regionals, and they could add onto that streak this year. In the fall of 2016, the team won a tournament for the



PHOTO COURTESY OF PIGGIES ULTIMATE

Sophomore Christian Tolfa is among those competing at Regionals for Men’s Club Ultimate

first time at the Yale’s Coffee Cup. At 6–8, the team ranked 191st of 333 entering the weekend.

The team’s competitiveness does not mean that prior experience playing the sport is necessary to join.

“I started playing competitively in college, but I had been exposed to the sport through

casual games at summer camp and was interested in playing in a more serious [and] focused way,” said junior Sam Hirschhorn, the club’s president. Several other members began playing in college.

According to Hirschhorn, the team practices for two hours at least twice a week, though members also are encouraged to

throw outside of practice. Practices consist of drills, scrimmages, conditioning, and more.

Though the team is competitive, the main focus is to make sure that its members have fun. “Careful to never take ourselves too seriously, our on field demeanor embodies our fun first attitude,” the description on the club’s website says.

“My favorite thing about the club is our community,” Hirschhorn said. “Although we take our games seriously, we don’t take ourselves too seriously. We frequently spend time with the women’s team, the Rochester EZs, and like to goof around as a larger group.”

Greenberg is a member of the Class of 2021.

An Uphill Battle for Tyreek Hill

By CESAR GARCIA
SPORTS EDITOR

NFL stars getting into legal trouble is nothing new, but the stance the league 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 fiancée, Crystal Espinal. 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.

Hill eventually found his way to the University of West Alabama, where he had a solid career. His history resurfaced when he entered the NFL Draft after, despite his ability, he was not invited to the NFL Combine due to his criminal record. When he was drafted, as expected, the Kansas City Chiefs received similar backlash.

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.

The clip is a conversation between Hill and Espinal, now his wife. The conversation has both parties accusing the other of beating their child. Espinal tells Hill that their son “is terrified of you” only to be met with the response of “You need to be terrified of me, too.” This clip surfaced only days after prosecutors could not determine who had harmed the child and decided to drop the charges.

Despite his history and severity of his crimes, Hill is currently just being kept out of team activities, facing no punishment from the league itself. This is odd due to the league’s normal hard stance against players’ criminal actions. New England Patriots wide receiver Josh Gordon has battled with

the NFL after violating the illegal substance policy by smoking marijuana. Another player, former Oakland Raiders wide receiver Martavis Bryant, is

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?

currently suspended indefinitely by the NFL for the same issue.

In a country moving closer and closer to the legalization of marijuana, why are players

are 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 Bryant’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.

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