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Trevor Noah Left His Meliora Weekend Crowd Feeling ‘Ever Better’



Trevor Noah, pictured during his Meliora Weekend routine. COURTESY OF MATT WITTMAYER

BY ELIANA THOMPSON
ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

Trevor Noah took the stage at Eastman Theatre’s Kodak Hall Sept. 27 and delivered a 90-minute stand-up comedy routine that touched on American healthcare, MRI machines that resemble microwaves, and what he characterized as the “Eff around and find out” attitude of the federal government.

His routine had the 2,300 people at Eastman Theatre’s Kodak Hall laughing throughout.

“My favorite joke of the night was when he did an

impression of the MRI just because it was so ridiculously accurate,” senior Maggie Beer said. “I had tears coming out of my eyes.”

It was the second time the former host of Comedy Central’s “The Daily Show” headlined Meliora Weekend, where he last performed in 2016.

The anticipation surrounding the event, however, left some fans disappointed. Tickets this time around went for \$15 apiece for students and ranged from \$30 to \$45 for non-students. They were issued in two waves — both of which sold out within 48

hours — according to the Office of Alumni Relations and Constituent Engagement, which organized the event. More than 800 people joined the waitlist.

“I found it a little bit ironic that for somebody who has been advertised as headlining the event, the chances of somebody getting to see the ‘headliner’ were actually pretty small,” said first-year Gaurav Barve, a fan who was unable to get a ticket.

Wil Sylvince, an actor, screenwriter, and stand-up comedian, opened for Noah. Sylvince’s set took the audience through his life from growing up with Haitian parents to majoring in electro-mechanical engineering in college.

Noah, who took the stage with a cast on his arm, entered to rapturous applause from the audience that did not abate until he walked off.

The 41-year-old Noah has been an A-List celebrity since rising to prominence as the successor to Jon Stewart as host of “The Daily Show” in 2015, where he remained until 2022. Since leaving his perch at “The Daily Show,”

he has hosted five successive Grammy Awards, and has continued touring as a stand-up comedian while running his podcast, “What Now? with Trevor Noah.”

He opened his set at Kodak Hall with some light-hearted teasing of the sign language interpreter, a bit that paralleled a moment from his previous Meliora Weekend appearance, then launched into a series of quips about his experience with American healthcare, noting the injury to his arm.

“I didn’t know you could get hurt playing pickleball,” Noah said.

He talked about the MRI he had following his injury, describing the machine as a “human microwave” with the “voice of God, but God doesn’t like you.”

Noah then joked about the expense of American healthcare, and how despite the cost of his cast, it was all worth it to get patted down and “intimate” with a Transportation Security Administration agent.

He acknowledged his “Rochester friends” and the city’s rich history, particularly

surrounding Kodak and the novelty of disposable cameras.

“You will never get better than what Kodak came out with,” Noah said. “It meant something.”

Noah finished off his set with an impression of President Donald Trump that weaved in puns about protecting public toilets and an imaginary alien invasion. He described the United States as the only “first world country with third world problems.”

‘Many people were smiling, laughing, and recounting Noah’s skits.’

As the crowd exited Eastman, many people were smiling, laughing, and recounting Noah’s skits.

“It was a great show and I’m so glad I got the chance to go,” first-year Phoebe Hamblett said. “I think he was the best comedian I’ve seen.”

Thompson is a member of the Class of 2029.

New Engineering Honor Society Joins Campus

BY TEDDY ALMOND
PHOTO EDITOR

Joining the ranks of academic honor societies Phi Beta Kappa and Tau Beta Pi, the Nu Rho chapter of Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Eta Kappa Nu (HKN) is coming to the University’s campus.

After more than a year of planning, a group of 13 students were inducted into Nu Rho during a ceremony Sept. 20.

The chapter is hosted by the University’s Department of Electrical Engineering, with professor Ming-Lun Lee serving as the group’s faculty advisor. The society is currently open to students studying Electrical and Computer Engineering, Audio and Music Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, Computer Science, Data Science, Optics and Optical Engineering, and Mathematics. However there is a

clear emphasis on Electrical Engineering scholarship.

In order to charter a chapter of HKN on a campus, the national organization requires a minimum of eight students.

‘The Nu Rho chapter of Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Eta Kappa Nu (HKN) is coming to the University’s campus.’

“Anything smaller than [eight], we’re worried that there’s not going to be enough momentum to keep [the chapter] going,” Sean Bentley, president of Eta Kappa Nu, said. Bentley traveled from Long Island for Saturday’s event.

As of now, in order to join you must be an undergraduate, graduate student, or faculty at the University, have

a minimum GPA of 3.7 (for students), and be involved in a qualifying major. The chapter’s founding president, senior Kyle Perlman, wants to change that.

“Currently we would be inviting about 300 students next semester, but I want to lower the GPA threshold and make the following application process much more intensive and competitive,” he said. “We are probably hoping for classes of around 20 people each time.”

Perlman explained that there are advantages to having such a selective application process.

“I want to keep numbers very low so that the name has a lot of weight to it,” he said. “So when we go to industry professionals requesting lab tours or networking events, they know they’ll be working with the best students possible.”

Perlman, who is also in Tau



Members of Eta Kappa Nu celebrating the new chapter’s opening at UR. TEDDY ALMOND / PHOTO EDITOR

Beta Pi, said that he wants HKN to differ from other honor societies on campus by offering more events and activities. He also hopes to set up a mentoring system, which he says is non-existent in the Hajim School for Engineering.

“It would be cool to have

one-on-one mentoring where we pair up upperclassmen with underclassmen from outside of the society who are in Hajim.”

While this society will be based on involvement, not all new inductees see it that way.

Junior Aidan Lieberman, SEE **SOCIETY** PAGE 2

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