



## Hyatt Hotel an issue of contention among mayoral candidates

MITCHELL PATTERSON  
Associate News Editor

Construction of a new Hyatt Hotel on 96 E. Main St., opposite the intersection with Academy Street, is a key issue drawing interest in the city's mayoral race. The hotel is set to include a 144 rooms and 19,500 square feet of office space.

The hotel has garnered some controversy because it is currently slated to be built in place of Newark's Green Mansion, a registered historic landmark. Mayoral candidates are divided on the issue, with advocates believing the hotel will be a boon to local businesses and detractors worrying about the unprecedented size and location of this franchise hotel.

At seven stories tall, the hotel will be the tallest structure on Main Street. Abbott's Shoe Repair shop will be demolished to make way for the its construction; however, the historic Green Mansion's outer facade will be retained and incorporated into the hotel's design.

"I'm against that structure in that space," Mayoral candidate Catherine Ciferni said. "If they wanted to take the Green Mansion and make, I don't know, a 20-room bed-and-breakfast, that I would not have a problem with. The building, as its designed, in the capacity its designed, I have a problem with. I think there's

problems when it comes to development and planning."

Ciferni is a tutor at the University of Delaware's English Language Institute and a self-described "community advocate." Another contender in the mayoral race, Brandon Farzad, believes the hotel's economic potential outweighs the Green Mansion's supposed historic value.

"It is a special building but, to prevent that level of opportunity for the city because you like this building is just ridiculous," Farzad, an engineer for Northrop Grumman, said. "My mother grew up in Naples, Italy. The home that she grew up in was over 250 years old. It was not a historic landmark."

Mayoral candidate and longtime city councilmember of District two, Jerry Clifton, also supported building the new hotel.

"I voted for it," Clifton said. "I think it is an economic enhancement. I think that, the way our law is written, it was difficult to vote against it."

The Lang Development group, Newark's largest development company, initially planned for the hotel to be built approximately 82



RANDI HOMOLA/THE REVIEW

feet tall, 3 feet taller than what is allowed under Newark law. This would have required a special-use permit from the city council to exempt it from the building code, but Lang opted instead to reduce the hotel's height to meet the maximum allowed under the law.

"The hotel is exactly as tall as our land development code allows, and that's one reason we'll need to take a look at our building laws going forward," Clifton said.

Candidate Kasai Guthrie, a 21-year-old entrepreneurship student at the university, voiced his objection to the hotel's construction during the Mayoral Debates on March 24.

"I just felt like the timing of it is really off, especially with the Main Street construction," Guthrie said. "The other cons are the traffic and parking, so I think first we need to take care of the cons."

Critics, like Ciferni, also worry that the planned parking garage to be built attached to the hotel will be a problem for local traffic.

"I think that a parking garage like that is going to pose some serious challenges to transportation, traffic, maybe bus traffic, in the city," Ciferni said. "In the way it's designed, I don't see how building a large parking garage with the hotel wouldn't

interrupt the normal flow of cars or people."

Lang has stated that the parking garage will be privately managed and open to hotel guests and office workers, but also that the public would be able to park there at a rate of \$2 per hour. The cost of public parking on Main Street is currently half that.

Farzad argues that the hotel will be of particular benefit to the local restaurants on Main Street.

"I think families staying [in the hotel] are going to want to go out, you know, and explore Main Street," Farzad said. "Naturally, they're going to come across lots and lots of options for dinner, and I think that represents a huge opportunity for the restaurants around here. A lot of voters, and I've talked to literally thousands, are against the hotel initially, but once I explain that part to them, I think they're all very open-minded."

Newark mayoral elections will be held on Tuesday, April 9. Construction of the Hyatt Hotel is scheduled to begin this summer and end sometime during the fall of next year.

## College Republicans host "NRA University"

JESS JENKINS  
Senior Reporter

On March 27, the College Republicans hosted representatives of the National Rifle Association (NRA) to present "NRA University," an educational program about the history of their organization and the Second Amendment.

"The Second Amendment is a big political issue these days so we wanted to have one side of the spectrum come in and give a presentation on what the NRA is all about, given that they are such a huge figure in the gun control debate," Elijah Pardo, president of the College Republicans, said. "They also reached out to us because they

do outreach on college campuses."

The presentation began with a history of the Second Amendment in America, including the historical context in which it was created, different interpretations of the wording and previous gun-control legislation.

The presentation then went into an explanation of the history of the NRA, which was established in 1871 and claims to be the longest standing civil rights organization in the country. Officially, its three goals are firearm education, safety and training.

The Institute for Legislative Action (NRA-ILA), the NRA's primary lobbying firm, was established in 1975. It operates as a grassroots fundraiser and a lobbying agency at

the federal, state and local levels of government.

Representatives from the NRA repeatedly stressed the organization's commitment to safety, touting programs such as Eddie Eagle, a program that teaches children what to do when they encounter a gun, and their NRA training classes where their 118,000 certified instructors train more than a million participants each year.

The second half of the presentation was a question and answer session designed to teach individuals in favor of gun rights how to combat common arguments from gun control activists.

A particularly lively debate erupted over the question of universal background checks. The NRA opposes them on the grounds that they would make the loaning of guns impossible for people who are interested in testing a firearm before purchasing it.

The NRA also appealed to local

issues, saying it opposed Delaware House Bill 63, which, if passed, would mandate that all Delaware gun owners own a safe in which to store their weapons. The NRA opposes this bill, believing it would make guns harder to access in self-defense situations.

The NRA also asserts that the government should not mandate storage standards because they don't understand one's family, gun or lifestyle.

Rebekah Allan, secretary of the College Republicans, said the presentation affected her way of thinking about the Second Amendment.

"It was super interesting to me because the Second Amendment is not my main political issue so it was cool to learn different aspects of it, especially given that I grew up in a very liberal environment," Allan said. "Some of the talking points they addressed were things I grew up hearing and believing in so it's very interesting to hear an in-depth

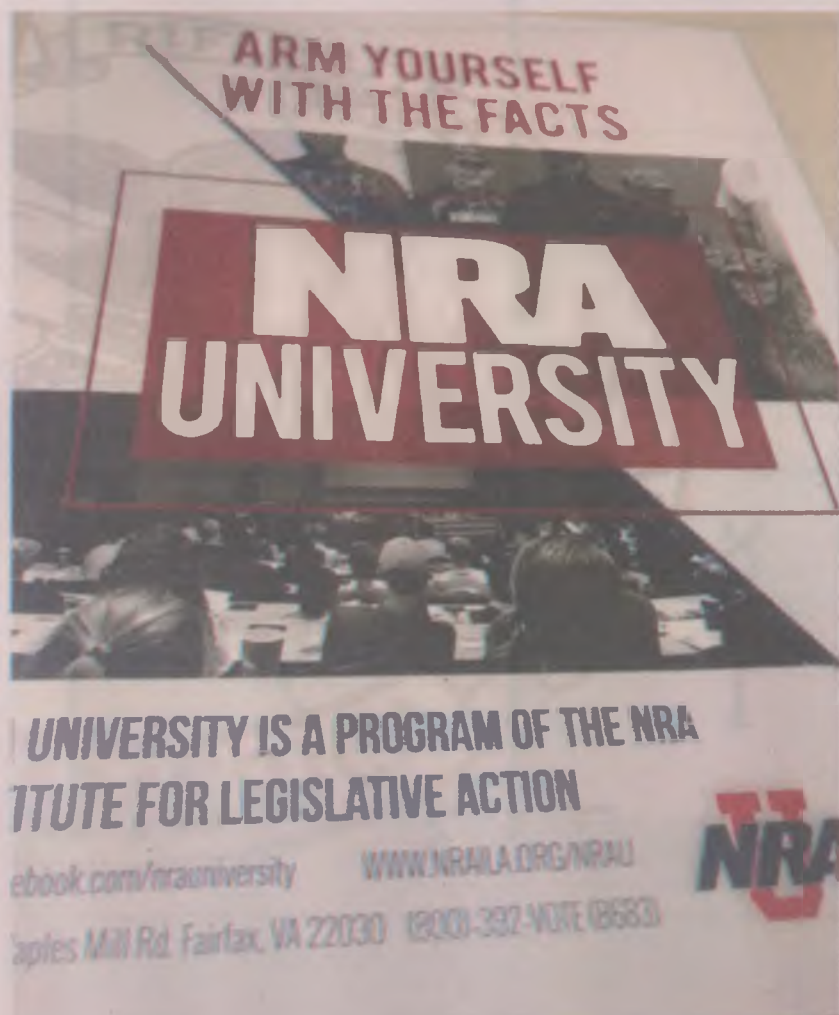
look into the legislation."

Alex Closs, the treasurer for the university's chapter of the Young Americans for Liberty, appreciated the speaker's ability to make the presentation relevant in the lives of students, and Delawareans in particular.

"The speaker is very well versed in policy and had very satisfactory answers to questions regarding the NRA's stance on gun policy nationally and in the state of Delaware," Closs said. "The inclusion of Bill 63, I thought was an amazing touch to the presentation in terms of calling UD students to action with regards to a potentially destructive and invasive bill."

The NRA Representatives declined The Review's request for comment.

Those present received a free year's membership to the NRA as well as some NRA "swag," like a monogrammed baseball cap and a pen.



JESS JENKINS/THE REVIEW



PENCIL IT IN

TUESDAY, APRIL 9	WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10	THURSDAY, APRIL 11	FRIDAY, APRIL 12	SATURDAY, APRIL 13	SUNDAY, APRIL 14	MONDAY, APRIL 15
History Workshop — Jacqueline Anotonovich, 12:30 p.m., Munroe Hall 203	Edward G. Jefferson Life Sciences Lecture — Nobel Laureate Frances H. Arnold, 11 a.m., Mitchell Hall	CBST Seminar — Jennifer McManus, 1 p.m., Colburn Hall 366	NEH Regional Application Writing Workshop, 8:30 a.m., Clayton Hall 120	University of Delaware Women's Tennis vs. Morgan State, 5 p.m., 6 p.m., Newark DFH Outdoor Courts	The International Film Series, 7 p.m., Trabant Theatre	George M. WorriLOW and Distinguished Alumni Awards, 3 p.m., STAR Tower
Bringing in the Bystander, 6 p.m., Gore Hall 102	Scholar in the Library Series — Race and School Discipline: How Inequity Impacts Students, 12 p.m., Morris Library Class of 1941 Lecture Room	School of Rock, 8 p.m., Trabant Theatre	History and Jewish Studies Guest Lecture, 9:05 a.m., Memorial Hall 109	Snapshot of Africa 2019!, 7 p.m., Trabant Student Center	Kerr Lecture: Reginald DesRoches, 4 p.m., Mitchell Hall	
Chronic Pain Self-Management Education Program, 6 p.m., STAR Campus 113	Jewish Studies Spring Lecture Series, 12:20 p.m., Sharp 118	Fulbright Lecture: Phillip Ayoub, 6 p.m., Gore Hall 103	Environmental Engineering Seminar: Ali Nakhli, 1:30 p.m., Du Pont Hall 350		4-Week KORU Mindfulness Class, 5:30 p.m., Christiana Engagement Center Room B	
Entomology Club Meeting, 7 p.m., Townsend 233	kNOW MORE Book Club — "Asking For It," 4 p.m., Perkins Collins Room		International Coffee Hour, 4 p.m.,		Percussion Ensemble, 8 p.m., Amy du Pont Music Building, Loudis Recital Hall	
	Islamic Studies Program Public Talk, 5 p.m., Gore Hall 219		Trabant Concourse Filipino Student Association Presents: Culture Night 2019			

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April 9, 1976

Wiggle Your Toes  
In a Grassy Park

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# A student and two professors explain why cryptocurrency never took off

ERIC MUNSON  
Staff Reporter

Cryptocurrency used to be all the rave when Bitcoin was first introduced in 2009. Several thousand forms of cryptocurrency have been created since then, but Bitcoin was the first of this type of product. The creator of Bitcoin is an anonymous individual known only by the handle Satoshi Nakamoto.

There are many candidates for whom Nakamoto is, including Dorian Prentice Satoshi Nakamoto, a Japanese man living in California, and a Hungarian-American computer scientist named Nick Szabo.

Nathaniel Popper, a reporter for The New York Times, did his own independent research about the identity of Nakamoto. He theorized that Nakamoto is Szabo, who has frequently denied it.

Due to Nakamoto’s secrecy and a lack of physical meetings, it is unclear whether he is a real person or simply a group of computer scientists.

Cryptocurrency does not have a noticeable presence on campus. There is not much in the curriculum and are no clubs dedicated to it. This in turn creates a lack of understanding about the topic. However, many economics and finance professors are knowledgeable about the topic. These professors can educate their students and give them a basic understanding of cryptocurrency.

“Cryptocurrency is a digital asset designed to serve as a medium of exchange,” Jens Schubert, an assistant professor of economics at the university, said.

A medium of exchange is an economic concept that is meant to state the uses for money, such as that money can be exchanged for goods and services.

All banknotes issued by the Federal Reserve have the same phrase printed somewhere on them, reading “This note is legal tender for all debts, public and private.”

According to federal law, the bill must be accepted. Bitcoin, however, is not recognized as legal tender by the United States government. The Stamp Payments Act of 1862 states that no one can issue a check, note or token worth less than \$1. Since Bitcoin is often purchased in fractional increments, it may technically be illegal. So far, the government has yet to act on this.

“If I owe you \$10 and I give you a \$10 bill, you have to accept it,” Schubert said. “You can’t ask for payment in Bitcoin.”

In order to create Bitcoin, the data has to be mined, or created, through a complex series of algorithms and mathematical formulas. Mining is essentially examining data to generate new information.

Schubert said that Bitcoin

became popular for two reasons. First, it is an alternative asset, one that is not related to stocks, bonds and cash. Second, it came at a perfect time.

In 2012-13, a financial crisis struck the Mediterranean island country of Cyprus. Due to a series of financial had to freeze many of the citizens’ savings accounts.

The citizens were angered and this became a wake-up call on the international stage. Other individuals overseas became worried about suffering a similar situation to the Cypriots, in that their government may be able to control private wealth. Cryptocurrency provides an alternative asset that allows its users to still have savings stored in a server where it is free from government intervention.

Schubert explained that cryptocurrency will probably not become the wave of the future that Nakamoto designed it to be. It was supposed to be a medium of exchange, an intermediary to facilitate a sale, but it turned into a form of investment. Schubert said there would be several problems with implementing a full switch from paper banknotes to cryptocurrency.

“The main problem is that it’s decentralized,” he said.

Bitcoin is a digital currency without a centralized administrator. All the countries on Earth have some kind of centralized currency, such as the United States Dollar and the Euro. Both of these currencies are stable and controlled by the government. On the other hand, anybody can create their own cryptocurrency without restrictions.

This in turn makes the currency volatile. Bitcoin started off being tied to the United States Dollar, meaning \$1 was equal to 1 Bitcoin. However, due to its unstable nature, it peaked at around \$15,000 per Bitcoin. The current price is somewhere around

\$4,000. Users decide the value of Bitcoin by agreeing on how much it should be worth. They can always anticipate changes in the market.

Another issue with all cryptocurrency is the need to handle large quantities of raw data. Cryptocurrency works through an interconnected network of computers, but they take up a lot of traffic on the Internet. Bitcoin requires the use of massive server farms to keep itself running, leading to environmental problems.

Server farms are large areas of land on Earth needed to support all the Internet traffic. These server farms draw high amounts of electricity to run, which can overwhelm the electrical grid, worrying environmentalists.

According to Digiconimist, a blog and news site dedicated to Bitcoin, it takes 506 kilowatt hours to produce 1 Bitcoin. The estimated total consumption per day is over 143 million kilowatt hours. Only a few household appliances are a capable of generating as much power. These include boilers, old plasma televisions and heat pumps. Most kitchen appliances run from between 15-100 kilowatt hours.

Neil Blanchard, a freshman double majoring in financing and accounting, agrees with Schubert’s assessments about the negatives of using cryptocurrency. Blanchard has always been interested in investing and made quite a bit of money from Bitcoin. He said he started investing in Bitcoin during his freshman year of high school, but he has subsequently left the market. He did not disclose how much he spent on Bitcoin, nor how much he made by the end.

“The volatility of Bitcoin is what scares people away,” Blanchard said. “The main thing is to be mindful of the volatility of the market ... an average person can definitely try it

out, but they just need be careful.”

The volatility of the market was one of the factors for the 2018 cryptocurrency crash. Many lost nearly all the money they invested.

“I was fortunate to have left right before the crash,” Blanchard said.

The crash was not the only example of how risky cryptocurrency can be.

QuadrigaCX used to be one of the largest cryptocurrency exchanges in the world until its own Gerald Cotten, at the age of 30, died from Crohn’s disease.

Cotten ran QuadrigaCX from his personal computer that was encrypted with nobody, except Cotten, knowing the investors’ passwords. Even a professional cryptanalyst could not hack it, costing the company an estimated \$190 million worth of cryptocurrency.

Cryptocurrency has been controversial ever since its creation. Due to the unregulated and decentralized nature of the market, users can spend cryptocurrency on illegal goods and services.

“There’s something called the Silk Road that has since been taken down,” Thomas Bridges, another assistant professor of economics at the university, said. “It was a way for people to pay for illegal drugs with Bitcoin and have them mailed very easily.”

The Silk Road was launched in February of 2011, but the FBI and Europol, the law enforcement agency for the European Union, shut it down in 2014. The Silk Road went bankrupt in 2017.

Forbes reported that the FBI said the Silk Road’s CEO, Ross Ulbricht, had a net worth of \$28.5 million worth of Bitcoin at the time of his arrest.

Ulbricht is currently serving two life sentences plus 40 years

for several crimes including money laundering and conspiracy.

Cryptocurrency is not a topic that is covered by most classes at the university.

Schubert and Bridges both said that covering cryptocurrency is up to the discretion of the professor. Bridges said he devotes one class to cryptocurrency, and Schubert only teaches the topic if a student asks.

Blanchard said that the general public should have some kind of education regarding cryptocurrency. Blanchard also said a cryptocurrency class would function as an interdisciplinary course if one were created.

“I can see it working in both an economics and computer science setting,” Blanchard said.

Schubert said the effect of cryptocurrency on the global and local economy is negligible. He said that the small fraction of transactions that use cryptocurrency make little difference in the economy.

Blanchard said that larger companies, particularly banks, such as JP Morgan Chase have the resources to accept cryptocurrency transactions, but Schubert said he does not know of any companies that currently use it as a valid form of payment.

Blanchard also said that smaller businesses, such as the restaurants and stores on Main Street, have no need for cryptocurrency because they have nothing to do with it.

“I don’t find Bitcoin to be a viable future for the economy,” Schubert said. “It’s been 10 years and it really hasn’t reached the mainstream yet.”



CREATIVE COMMONS

## Internship, or senior capstone?

EMMA STARK  
Staff Reporter

Students are often told that internships are the best practical learning experience available. Many programs at the university encourage students to pursue an internship instead of taking a particular three-credit course during their senior year.

“After seven semesters of regular classes, I was excited about the opportunity to change things up and explore the field that I’ve been learning about during college,” senior English major Allison Hochman said.

Many students choose the internship option over a heavy course-load, their interest fostered by the university’s numerous career fairs and internship panels before and during the semester.

“I know this experience will

help me to narrow down what I like and don’t like in terms of my future career,” Hochman said. “It’s great to be able to actually work somewhere during your last semester of college and get some real life experience rather than sitting in a classroom for the eighth semester in a row,”

Many majors, including English, require students to take a senior capstone, with the option to either enroll in a specific class or find an internship that meets the criteria.

“I went to the journalism internship panel in the fall and started networking with the employers that I met there and ended up getting an internship position at Beasley Media in Wilmington,” Hochman said. “The first six weeks of the job have taught me about what it’s like working for a media company and exposed me to

all of the kinks that need to be worked out at any given moment. Components of the projects that I’m working on are constantly changing, which means I have to get myself up to speed and still meet deadlines, something that can’t be learned in a classroom.”

Paige Dana, an English major, took a capstone class during the first semester of her senior year. Dana found herself craving an experience lacking in class and therefore decided to find an internship for credit the next semester.

“I work at Out & About Magazine in Wilmington,” Dana said. “I put together a lot of the monthly columns such as “BITES,” “FYI” and “Tuned-in.” I also put together short briefs and work on looking over stuff before it goes into final copies. Internships teach you a lot more hands on experience, I

don’t think I would have been exposed to a lot of the things I am at my internship, I wouldn’t have been published in a regular class.”

Some majors do not accept internships, and students must take the actual capstone course for credit. Catherine Cirella, a senior marketing major, is taking two capstone classes right now, one for business administration and another for marketing.

“An internship would be more beneficial than the capstone class because the capstone classes try to teach you real world skills and give you real world projects without the benefit, impact or success of interning for a company,” Cirella said. “The classes are challenging, time consuming and teach you a lot, but you can’t put it on your resume.”

Alia Zukerman, a senior

business management and marketing double major, is taking a business administration capstone course in which students participate in an online marketing simulation.

“The capstone classes offer a sense of culmination of learning over the past 4 years. It allows me to reflect on everything I have learned in a bunch of my past classes,” Zukerman said. “This required me to use information I learned within my intro level business classes, finance courses and marketing courses all together in one unified project that is actually hands on.”



## Efficiency and environmentalism drive students to Megabus

ALEXA SHINNICK  
Staff Reporter

Times Square, the Inner Harbor and the Lincoln Memorial all have something in common: their close proximity to the university.

Newark is a short trip away from a few exciting cities. This gives students the opportunity to explore the histories and attractions of New York City, Baltimore and Washington, D.C.

With trips that save time, money and fuel, Megabus' popularity among traveling students has increased.

"I know that Megabus is very popular because we received a report recently showing their ridership has increased considerably from the location on campus," Nona Barnett, the university's manager of transportation services, stated in an email.

Barnett noted that students use all the transportation methods around campus, including Megabus and the Amtrak and SEPTA trains, but Megabus' popularity is growing.

Megabus offers northbound trips to New York City and southbound buses to Baltimore and Washington D.C. from the university bus shelter in Lot 6 on Laird Campus. From those stops, passengers can continue on to other destinations, including Boston, Toronto, North Carolina and Virginia.

Everyday, two buses travel two hours and 20 minutes to Washington D.C., stopping in

Baltimore along the way. Two more buses arrive each day from the nation's capital.

Likewise, two buses travel two hours and 25 minutes to New York City daily. A pair of buses also makes the return trip everyday.

Fares to all these cities range from \$1 to almost \$30 depending on the trip, averaging about \$10 to \$15 each way.

In addition to offering frequent trips with low fares, Megabus prides itself on its environmental consciousness.

"Our buses emit the least carbon dioxide per mile when compared to other vehicles and are seven times more energy and fuel-efficient than single-occupancy automobiles," Megabus' website states. "Our buses are three times more efficient in reducing carbon dioxide output when compared to commuter rail, and six times more efficient than transit buses."

Erika Gutierrez, a senior hospitality business management major, lives in Westchester, N.Y., and has ridden Megabus to New York City to go home for breaks.

"I've taken the bus a few times because it is so much cheaper than the train," Gutierrez said. "Sometimes it comes late and there is no way to track it unless you call customer service, which can get annoying. Other than that, it's really convenient."



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# Pushed-back drawbacks: Seniors lament the Memorial Day graduations of yesteryear

RYAN RICHARDSON  
Copy Desk Chief

When the university pushed back this spring semester's academic calendar by one week, it added a week-long buffer zone between the start of winter session, on Jan. 7 this year, and New Year's Eve.

Yet, in so doing, this year's graduation date moved from Memorial Day Weekend — which already extends beyond the graduation dates of comparable universities — to June 1.

To some seniors, the prospect of an extra week of college was likely a blessing; to others, it was salt in a wound, further exacerbating an already unusually late graduation date.

In fact, the new graduation date will prevent some students from attending the ceremony altogether.

Paige Morrison, who graduated a semester early but had intended to walk at graduation, will soon be working as a Peace Corps volunteer in Mongolia. She leaves for her program on May 29, and she was unable to negotiate for a different start date.

"Upon beginning my Peace Corps service there isn't a guarantee I'll see my family or friends again before I complete my service in September 2021," Morrison said. "It's upsetting to know I'll be missing a really important and meaningful moment I could've shared with my loved ones."

If, this year's graduation

date hadn't been pushed back, Morrison would've been able to attend the ceremony before leaving for Peace Corps, which, she said, she would have done gladly.

"If the date wasn't pushed back a week, graduation could've been how I spent one of my last dates in the U.S. and that would've meant a lot to me," Morrison said.

Marissa Onesi, a senior at the university, is similarly impacted by the extended graduation date. She will be working as a Teach For America volunteer in Memphis, and her on-site training starts on June 2 — the day after graduation.

She said she'll either fly there the night of graduation or early the following morning. She was also unable to negotiate for

a later start date, as training days are vital to her work.

Onesi's situation is further complicated by the fact that her lease — like that of many off-campus seniors — ends on June 1. As such, she's dreading "the stress of moving out the day [she] graduates."

Though she is going to her convocation ceremonies, she won't attend the larger commencement ceremony, which, she said, is in part because of having to move all her belongings out of her house the same day.

While lease- and job-related issues may be exclusive to seniors, the last day of classes is May 20 and final exams end on May 30, keeping all students here much longer than their counterparts at other

universities. This will leave many students without more than a weekend's worth of rest between finals and starting summer internships or jobs.

"You just don't have any time off, which is horrible" Onesi said. "I can't think of any advantages to this."

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## EDITORIAL

## Editorial: April showers bring May flowers, and a reminder of the internship you had to turn down

Spring is upon us. The sun is shining, the grass is green (even if The Green isn't) and university students are stuck on campus for another two months.

April has officially become the university's unofficial midterm season, unlike almost all of our academic counterparts. While students at other schools are finishing up their semesters and preparing for their upcoming graduation ceremonies, we have just about reached the halfway point. Students' Instagram feeds will soon be littered with reminders of the university's absurdly late graduation date via other recent graduates' posts.

The question of why the university has chosen to push graduation so far back in the calendar, in favor of hosting a seemingly endless winter session, is glaring. There is little logic behind the decision to push the semester back so far, diminishing students' prospects for employment and overall enjoyment of the summer.

A late graduation date is bad news for anyone interested in applying to jobs or internships — which means it's bad news for basically every member of the student body. This issue forces students to give up time during the semester to devote to summer applications, as opposed to students who graduate in April and have the luxury of applying once their semester is nearly over. Many internship positions start on June 3, or June 9 at the very latest, leaving, at best, a week for students or post-graduates to move off campus, get settled elsewhere and begin their positions. Others begin earlier, forcing students to either refuse opportunities or juggle classes and a job.

A single week to unwind at home may be the best case scenario. Employers might not be willing to alter start dates based on a graduation — thus forcing some students to skip the ceremony altogether.

This year, winter session began a week later than usual. This decision ultimately resulted in the semester ending at least a week later to the benefit of very few, as winter session is overpriced, with many students preferring to enroll in local community college courses over the summer in order to receive credit. The late date, however, complicates enrollment in such classes. Many summer classes begin well before university students even start finishing up their semester. While winter session remains a viable option for some, others would prefer that the students who can afford to participate don't receive unnecessary scheduling prioritization.

There's also the problem of lost time that should be devoted to self-care. Sure, students no longer have the stress of a full course load weighing them down during the summer; however, jumping immediately from finals into an internship or job places unnecessary and avoidable stresses on an individual. Students have little to no time to breathe in between what could have been an especially difficult semester and the beginning of a demanding internship or full-time position — a careless oversight on behalf of those who chose to host graduation so late in the season.

CONGRATS ON GRADUATING,  
UH WHATCHU GOT THERE?

ALL OF MY WORLDLY  
POSSESSIONS.



## Opinion: Who can we trust, Canada Goose or animal activists?

Isn't it our choice to decide if we should purchase a product? Isn't it our choice to decide what we wear on our bodies? The recent controversy on the use of animals for the Canada Goose company has been strengthening, however the real controversy is the truth being hidden from us.

It's common to see animal rights activists going after companies who put animals in harm to make profit. However, Canada Goose is getting the most attention out of any other brand because of their use in fur. The negative attention Canada Goose has received started with its high prices, which caught the eye of animal activists. Both animal activists and Canada Goose stand by their arguments, although there are some details they just seem to leave out.

The largest animal rights organization, PETA, has over 6.5 million members and supporters. Their recent attempt in exposing the Canada Goose company has gained attention from people all over the world. PETA has recently launched a "Canada Douche" campaign in efforts "to let people know that friends don't let friends dress like douches."

Yes, this makes a statement. But this isn't the right way to get their point across. A large organization like PETA putting out campaigns to make fun of a company is childish. We should be seeing campaigns to prevent animal cruelty in a mature

way to make change.

A recent statement has been released saying, "A Canada Goose down supplier revealed that it's all just PR doublespeak." But where's the evidence? Are they just saying this so we can stand with them? In today's world, major companies such as fast-food chains, including McDonald's, and makeup companies, such as Revlon, include the use of animals. There's no telling how they're treated.

PETA has only released one video of a coyote being shot, with no evidence that this specific coyote was being used for a Canada Goose product. Also, keep in mind, this video shows no sign of the coyote suffering in any way. On the contrary, the video shows a direct shot in the head, which is the most humane way to euthanize animals. This is mandated by the Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards. But of course, we haven't seen PETA release a statement that includes any of this information.

The key thing to notice is that PETA and other animal-activist organizations' claims cannot be trusted, due to the fact that they refuse to look for a more human way to capture and kill animals. They oppose any use of animals, even for food and vital medical research. What they're leaving out is that these organizations would have us not consume any meat products at all, and only allow us to wear synthetic materials, most of which comes from

non-renewable resources, which is just anti-ecological. Once again, we don't see them telling us this side of their movement to "better" the world.

What PETA puts on the internet is what they want us to think. According to Canada Goose, these statements are completely false. Videos on the use of animals will always be negative to get the attention of the people to make change. However, there are hundreds of factories and farms around the world that harvest these animals. What we see in one video, doesn't mean that is what we'll see in every factory and farm. We'll never know.

In the media, we always hear the bad and not the good. Did you know that Canada Goose joined forces with Polar Bears International in 2007, and launched the PBI Collection (PBI)? All profits went to PBI to support the conservation of polar bear habitats. But why would PBI work with a company who supposedly harms animals?

Well, stated by PBI, "PBI is a conservation organization, not an animal rights organization. That means our focus is on conserving populations of polar bears, rather than on individual animals. We want to ensure that polar bears live on into the future, despite the threat of climate change." Canada Goose knew what they were signing up for.

Other major brands such as Burberry, Versace, Gucci and many more have stopped using real fur

because of this exact problem. Could this be a way for Canada Goose to cover up the truth behind what they're doing? In 2009, they created two inaugural Canada Goose Resource Centres to provide free materials for sewers who handmade jackets and clothing for their families and community. Was this also a way to support their company because of the controversy they were expecting?

This tradition of using wolf fur and geese feathers is to provide the best source of protection against the cold, and to ensure the customer is getting what they paid for. With a large company that has a lot of eyes on them, it's hard to believe that they would put out a statement that may not be entirely true because of the risk of a lawsuit. But this is exactly what they want us to think. They don't want their customers to question their brand. No company wants that because of the influence it will have on buying their product.

Canada Goose claims, they believe all animals are entitled to humane treatment in life and death. Stated by the company, they "are deeply committed to the ethical sourcing and responsible use of all animal materials in our products." According to them, Canada Goose does not condone any willful mistreatment, or acts to cause animal to undergo any suffering. Can we believe all of this? It's obvious companies will never admit, especially in this case, the

truth about how these animals are treated. Any companies main goal is to make money. In order to make money, they'll do whatever it takes.

Whether you stand with Canada Goose or stand with animals activist organizations, we have to understand that we're basing our opinions and views on what they're telling us and what they want us to think. With this story, we must read in between the lines to get the truth.

*Brianna Paul is a student at the university. Brianna can be reached at [bripaul@udel.edu](mailto:bripaul@udel.edu).*



# Caleb's Corner: The hopelessness of political narrative



CALEB OWENS  
Editor in Chief

Every election cycle, journalists, like a bunch of hungry fish flailing for bait, try desperately to make sense of the nonsensical ugliness that is politics. The bigger and badder the politics get, the more urgent this need becomes. It's rooted in an enduring lust for narrative, good or bad, and an unfaltering belief that we can and ought to condense a political system of over 300 million into something coherent that falls under 800 words.

The result is a fateful, dangerous reductionism that gradually loses its grounding in anything real, quickly regressing into blind value judgements generated from a desk. Take the following New York Times excerpt, for instance, selected mostly arbitrarily after a quick skim of recent news:

"Mr. Sanders's unflinching position is a reminder to voters that he is unabashedly left-wing and unlikely to worry about working within the confines of the existing system anytime soon. It also reflects a schism within the Democratic Party over the best way to recapture power in Washington: Should Democrats

project big, bold policy ideas that could fundamentally alter the political structure but face long odds in a hyperpartisan Congress? Or should they present incremental measures that are more likely to appeal to the center and could succeed sooner?"

This is not what I would call value-free and factual. To me, this reads more like commentary than the news it's masquerading as. That is, I detect virtually no reporting in this expendable chunk of verbiage. For instance, according to whom is there a "schism within the Democratic Party"? Who exactly is being reminded? Did they even need any reminding?

According to whom does the Party's fate rest in these two options? Who and what the hell is "the center"?

I would like some sources.

Moreover, it's unclear to me why such terms as "unabashedly" and "confines of the existing system" belong in a so-called reported piece. If this were an essay for a 100-level political science class, then ok. But it's not. It is further unclear to me how TWO rhetorical questions made it through the editorial process in a so-called reported piece, something that is by definition intended to tell readers information, not frame false rhetorical choices that purport to reflect reality.

But then I think about what's beneath all of this and so many other articles. Recall the narrative lust, the desire to convert politics into a blood-pumping, ever-unfolding narrative. Bernie Sanders is just another character in this ongoing story, and thus it feels appropriate to write an article not rooted in Sanders' actual policy, not in his personal motivations and history, but against the rest of the cast, his every act an utterance to be interpreted as a plot development. This article had value insofar as it took a minute, hardly

new insight into Sanders' healthcare stance and pitted it against his election antagonists, those fellow Democrats who are putting the party over policy.

The entire article, like nearly all others about politics, published in the New York Times or elsewhere, rests on a set of blind assumptions — their only vaguely empirical rooting in ever-unreliable, ever-fluctuating polling data — about the entire psyche of a nation. Once certain notions, certain narrative options, get into circulation, they depart from reality, swirling around the media world unquestioned.

Think, for instance, of the other general characters, such as the "white, blue-collar Midwestern voter," or the "suburban woman." Think then about their apparent role in the narrative, based on the latest wrong poll claiming that "white Midwestern voters" will be "pivotal in determining the next election."

(This, of course, is not to contribute to any of the preposterous "fake news" conspiracies, but rather to criticize a style of political reporting that prevails across all media, left or right, and how it more often than not gets too carried away.)

My main claim is that there is no possible way to capture national American politics in a neat, narrative fashion without making things up, and that most all political journalism is basically flawed. Not just flawed, but noxious, dangerous for the country and bad for journalism. Once these scripts get in circulation, they get picked up by everybody else, not only destroying any capacity for originality in general political conversation but deluding us into believing that this work of fiction depicts something real.

With this, I have personal experience. Take, for instance, this excerpt written by a young and naive journalist, told to emulate the tactics of our gatekeepers:

"Although not without their moments of excitement — and outright oddities — the races concluded as predicted. Carper —

who will be entering his fourth, and likely final, term in the Senate — cemented his status as an indomitable force in Delaware politics with a decisive win over Rob Arlett, his Republican opponent."

Who was I to speak for the entirety of Delaware, proclaiming, with a presumed veracity, that the race had moments of "excitement" and "outright oddities"? Who was I to use the word "indomitable" and "decisive" to describe Tom Carper and his victory. This reads less like politics and more like a boxing match.

But by most standards, this is a pretty good graf, just like the New York Times graf, and this is a bad, bad thing. It's a product of the narrative lust that keeps us chasing political activity like a bunch of panting dogs, and there is no foreseeable end. Nothing has proven its ability to self-perpetuate (and turn profit), to keeping readers wanting more, desiring new plot developments, new twists, new fancy words, better than political journalism.

(This would be an excellent point to bring up the reporting disaster that was the Mueller report, but that's already been beaten to death, and is largely being considered the exception to the rule. I hope it is now obvious that it is no such exception.)

So, what do I think journalists should do when covering politics? Not much more than direct quotation. Journalists, and the rest of the country, need to embrace the radical idea that politics can only be sane and civil when it's boring. That there is no way to "craft a narrative" about national politics with any factual integrity, and that, so long as we continue to swirl around in this self-indulgent fantasy — the story we want our political life to be — we will be totally screwed.

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Movie Review: “Us” terrifies and confuses

CAM A. JOHNSON  
Senior Reporter

Jordan Peele shows that he is the king of horror in his latest film “Us,” the second installment of his emerging horror career. “Us” is a thought-provoking, mind-bending film that terrifies its audience with underlying themes about present-day America — and humankind.

This movie is not a movie about race in the way that his freshman film “Get Out” explored race and racism. This movie is more about the “haves” and the “have-nots,” the evil of mankind and how “we, people” or specifically “us” can be our own worst enemies.

Additionally, “Us” illustrates that evil can masquerade as good and that selfishness can destroy everyone around simply because we feel entitled to do as we wish. Moreover, it deals with society’s tendency to ignore problems and situations that we don’t understand while being oblivious to other people’s situations.

The film calls to mind the homeless, the mentally ill and the displaced in America who, through no fault of their own, are marginalized and ignored in the richest and most powerful country in the world.

The film is visually appealing and starts with the backstory of one of the central characters, Adelaide Wilson, portrayed by Lupita Nyong’o. Adelaide is a little girl with uninterested and self-absorbed parents who aren’t intentionally neglectful but just busy being angry with one another. She wanders away at a carnival and suffers a traumatic experience that requires therapy and highlights the struggles she encounters during her healing process.

Simultaneously, the “Hands Across America” anti-hunger and homeless campaign is underway, calling attention to the horrendous plight of hunger and homelessness in 1986, problems that are still relevant in the present day. Peele then jumps to present day, where an adult Adelaide is traveling via car with her husband Gabe (Winston Duke), and two kids Zora (Shahadi Wright Joseph) and Jason (Evan Alex) to their family beach home in Santa Cruz, California. The story picks up here and never slows down.

The movie shows the close, loving relationship of the Wilsons and relates that they enjoy all the benefits of success. The family is successful, but not overtly rich,

as opposed to their Caucasian friends. The Wilsons children appear to be content enough and it is very obvious that Adelaide has kept her children pretty close to her — in stark contrast to her own parents. The Tylers and their children — the twins — in contrast are cold, sarcastic and filthy rich, as evidenced by their opulent home.

This movie clearly displays the rewards of being one of the privileged, the connected. It illustrates that riches and all its trappings do not translate to happiness. The little things, like cruising around with your loved ones enroute to the beach, are what make you rich.

Adelaide and her family are in for a wild ride, one that is an homage to horror greats of the past. The movie displays all the doom of Hitchcock, the intensity of Craven and great film-framing more reminiscent of a seasoned filmmaker. Adelaide’s panic, anxiety and attempt to understand her feelings of impending doom are comically deflected by her not-so-funny husband Gabe.

Her panic sets the tone for the chaos that ensues once the doppelgängers, the characters’ exact carbon copies, appear from

outside, and invade their home and lives.

However, “Us” is not a home-invasion movie. It is a horror movie that bends the genre. Often in horror films, the protagonists have to guess terror. In “Us,” Red, Adelaide’s doppelganger, tells Adelaide exactly what she wants and why she wants it. Red wants Adelaide’s life — plain and simple. Adelaide has lived a life of sunshine, with a prince of a husband and beautiful children, while Red has lived with a monster and two horrible children.

“Us” is essentially the quintessential horror film because the villains are doppelgängers, almost carbon copies of the people they terrorize. Peele makes the central characters afraid of themselves. How many of us fear what we are capable of doing?

Peele seems to be telling us that we will never be safe as long as we refuse to see that the people we are fighting are just like us. They look, act and think like us. He illustrates this when Red is asked who “they are” and she answers, “We’re Americans.” Through themes of duality and religious references such as Jeremiah 11:11, Peele teaches

and preaches that evil and wrongdoing have a reckoning.

During the final minutes of the film, Adelaide has a flashback and the audience is left shaken to their core. This twist will be talked about for months to come.

For horror fans this movie does not disappoint: There is murder and gore, but there is also comedy and social commentary. Peele’s flinching look at society’s ills should give the viewer great pause. “Us” shows what happens when people are neglectful and fail to pay attention to the important things in their lives, what happens when people “live lies” or “drink their own Kool-Aid,” by pretending to be what others perceive them to be and by forgetting that the disadvantaged and downtrodden may be plotting and scheming to avenge their circumstances and “rise up” against their oppressors, no matter the cost.

Evil is not always so cut and dry and those appearing to be “good” may be inherently evil.





# “Hi This is Flume” shows Flume experimenting like he never has before

**EVAN TRIDONE**  
Staff Reporter

The opening track for Flume's new album starts with a whirlwind of his voice saying the same phrase over and over again: “Hi, this is Flume.” This 30-second head-spinner serves as a perfect introduction for the Australian producer's third commercial record.

From start to finish, the tracks on “Hi This Is Flume” flow together seamlessly, with each track sounding like a continuation of the last. Unlike

his last record, “Skin,” his latest album relies heavily on experimental production and new electronic sounds. Spanning 38 minutes with 17 songs, the new mixtape is an unrelenting barrage of electronic music from start to finish.

Tracks like “Ecdysis” showcase the trust Flume has in his own ability. He takes chances with the production, letting the brash synthesizers wave in and out of the song. The pockets left by the departure of the harsh electronics are filled by pleasant riffs and ideas conducted

beautifully.

The features on this mixtape don't disappoint either. Rappers JPEGMafia and HWLS have great presence on the songs they contribute to. The track “How to Build A Relationship” features Baltimore rapper JPEGMafia, with the rapper and producer each leaving their mark on the listener. The track is one of the best on the tape, and one of the best Flume has made in a while.

After a few introductory tracks, Flume gets into the new concepts he teases the listener with in the front part of the

album. Songs like “Wormhole” or “71m3” show Flume taking chances like he never has before. He continually takes the listener on a roller-coaster ride, with high- and low-energy segments flowing together like water.

Flume takes a lot of risks on “Hi This Is Flume,” and not all of them pay off. There are moments when the synthesizers, bass and drums mellow out to give the listener a break of sorts, and Flume doesn't fill those gaps with an attention-grabbing melody as he does in other places on this mixtape.

This is especially true on “Upgrade,” which has a quick electronic melody scattered through the track, but ultimately builds to nothing, and is a big letdown. There are moments like this elsewhere on “Hi This is Flume,” but otherwise, the Australian producer enamors the listener unlike any of his contemporaries.



## Review — Mike Judge Presents: Tales From The Tour Bus season two

**ALANA DUKE**  
Senior Reporter

“The following is about real people and real events,” the disclaimer for Mike Judge's animated show “Mike Judge Presents: Tales from the Tour Bus” states. “However, due to the passage of time, and, in some cases, indulgence in both controlled and illicit substances, details of some tales are a bit hazy.”

Judge, a screenwriter and animator famous for such works as “Beavis and Butt-Head” and “Office Space,” illuminated viewers about the underrated and misunderstood world of country music in the first season of “Tales from the Tour Bus,” which aired in 2017. The series explores the careers of musicians like George Jones, Tammy Wynette and Waylon Jennings by interviewing producers, band members and the artists themselves about their wildest stories from the road. Clever, concise splicing of interview clips with unobstructive commentary comes to life in each episode through animation.

The show's second season, which aired this past winter, delves into another underappreciated genre of American music: funk.

The first episode of the series, “George Clinton,” picks up where the first season left off. For fans of rock history, the episode is the perfect combination of comedic anecdotes and information about Clinton and his various musical acts, including Parliament, Funkadelic, The Brides of Funkenstein and more.

For example, Tom Vickers, Parliament's “Minister of Information,” whatever that means, tells a story about how Clinton took out as many loans as possible to build a giant spaceship from which he would descend to the stage during live shows, a scene straight out of “This Is Spinal Tap.” Vickers points out that the timely release of “Star Wars” after this galaxy-inspired tour was a major factor in Clinton's subsequent worldwide fame.

Other informative punchlines hit one after another in the episode, creating perfect pacing. Once, Clinton, tweaking from cocaine withdrawal, got confused in the studio when his producer was rewinding a tape. To save face, he freestyled words over the sonic mess, producing one of his greatest hits, “Atomic Dog.”

Lines that Clinton delivers through his animated counterpoint — like, “At a certain

point, LSD stopped working for everybody... So I started doing crack” — rekindle the same brand of comic timing that had viewers laughing out loud in season one. At the same time, Clinton's immense influence on music, like the resurgence of funk influence in '90s hip-hop, does not go unmentioned.

Unfortunately, watching the following episodes compares to watching “Scarface” for the first time. One expects greatness, but it's too long, nothing happens and there are a lot of drugs and guns for no reason.

The show explores Rick James, a fascinating funk icon, through a meandering two episodes that develop a trite, distracted, fall-from-grace character arc with few punchlines. Episodes about Bootsy Collins or Morris Day and The Time, who are influential though lesser known artists, promise insight, but reveal disappointingly little about their subjects. Instead, they focus on James Brown, the artists' mentor.

In addition to this coverage, Judge devotes two more episodes to Brown. At this point, Judge seems to have forgotten the name of his show entirely. Far from the slapstick rock 'n' roll chronicles of the show's first season, the “James Brown”

episodes wander through a sobering documentary with too much biographical information, not enough music and almost no jokes at all. The replacement of lighthearted comedy with dry, serious content renders the animation absolutely discordant.

After watching effectively four episodes about James Brown's controlling personality, the final episode, “Betty Davis,” saves the series.

Davis, a brilliant though ultimately unsuccessful funk singer, cultivated a distinctive energy with her huge attitude, unabashed lyrics and exceedingly cool personal style. Though she had the makings of a star, Davis was too far ahead of her time to achieve success, instead encountering resistance to her dominant sexual presence. At the time, critics wrote her off because she had once been married to Miles Davis, or they lumped her in with controversial Blaxploitation figures. She eventually disappeared from the public eye after suffering nervous breakdowns.

Following with most of the other episodes in this season, “Betty Davis” delivers no jokes, but it does a service to the viewer by spotlighting a forgotten icon who deserves recognition for her talent and nerve.

Perhaps the overarching

problem with season two lies in the fact that Judge has taken the show too seriously as a vehicle for rock education after the positive response to season one. By packing intense amounts of biographical information into each episode at the expense of comedy, he betrays his passion for the subject, but also suffocates the viewer.

Despite the general sluggishness of most of this season, “George Clinton” and “Betty Davis” do stand out as solid episodes that fans of rock history will not want to miss. As Clinton says in the former episode, “Hey man, the funk is its own reward.”



## To all the Webkinz I loved before: A eulogy

**BIANCA THIRUCHITTAMPALAM**  
Column Editor

Before I had Netflix and before I had friends, I had one thing that was always there for me: my Webkinz. Propped up on a shelf next to my bed, there were three of them in all — a pink pony named Shine, a hippo named Roberta and a springer spaniel who must have not been all that important to me because now, nearly a decade later, his name escapes me.

Each of my Webkinz were practically an investment, which made them all the more important to me. Back in the murky, strange days of 2009 — a weird year where I wore so many Silly Bandz that I got sent to the nurse for cutting off my circulation, and I shopped exclusively at Justice — Webkinz were an expensive commodity. For my birthdays and for Christmas, I incessantly annoyed my parents, grandparents, cousins and friends into forking

over \$25 for a new virtual pet to add to my collection.

As a fairly apathetic, irresponsible kid who couldn't even be trusted to keep fish as pets, having Webkinz introduced a new kind of responsibility that I had never before experienced. It was exciting; for once, I, a 9-year-old girl, was experiencing the level of responsibility that I associated with someone nearly quadruple my age.

I fed my Webkinz, I clothed them, I won them stacks and stacks on KinzCash while playing Bananza and Polar Plunge. I decorated all of their rooms in the princess theme (of course). I cooked absurd meals in the small "kitchen" that was in my pets' rooms. My Webkinz had more friends online than I had in real life (it was actually a pretty easy feat to accomplish) and they hung out regularly. I even threw parties using the party packs; today, all the parties I have been to at the ripe age of 19 pale in comparison to

these Webkinz parties. (It was truly a wild time).

I — dare I say it — unconditionally loved my Webkinz.

Eventually, the years went by and I got off of Webkinz and onto other bullshit. Middle school came and went, high school came and went, my Webkinz came into my life and left. One ended up in Goodwill, one ended up in the garbage, another in the depths of my basement. As I hung out with an eternally rotating list of people throughout high school and college, cycled through so many emotions and went through the lows and highs that often accompany being a dramatic, impulsive teenager, it began to occur to me that the most stability I had ever experienced in my life was Webkinz.

Every day after school, I had logged on at 4 p.m. without fail. I took care of them: feeding them, clothing them and playing games with them. Now, in a constant

state of erratic instability with a desire to never do the same thing twice, I found myself craving the familiar current of owning my Webkinz.

It was partially a joke and partially a strange, nostalgic desire to recreate the stability of my youth, but a few weeks shy of being 19, I purchased my first Webkinz in nearly a decade.

Things were different this time. Instead of the usual excitement that had accompanied purchasing a Webkinz, it was an ironic, almost sad action: My sister and I went to a department store, found one wedged in the back of a shelf and I bought it for \$5. He was a black poodle; I named him Boolenciaga. (I thought I was being clever).

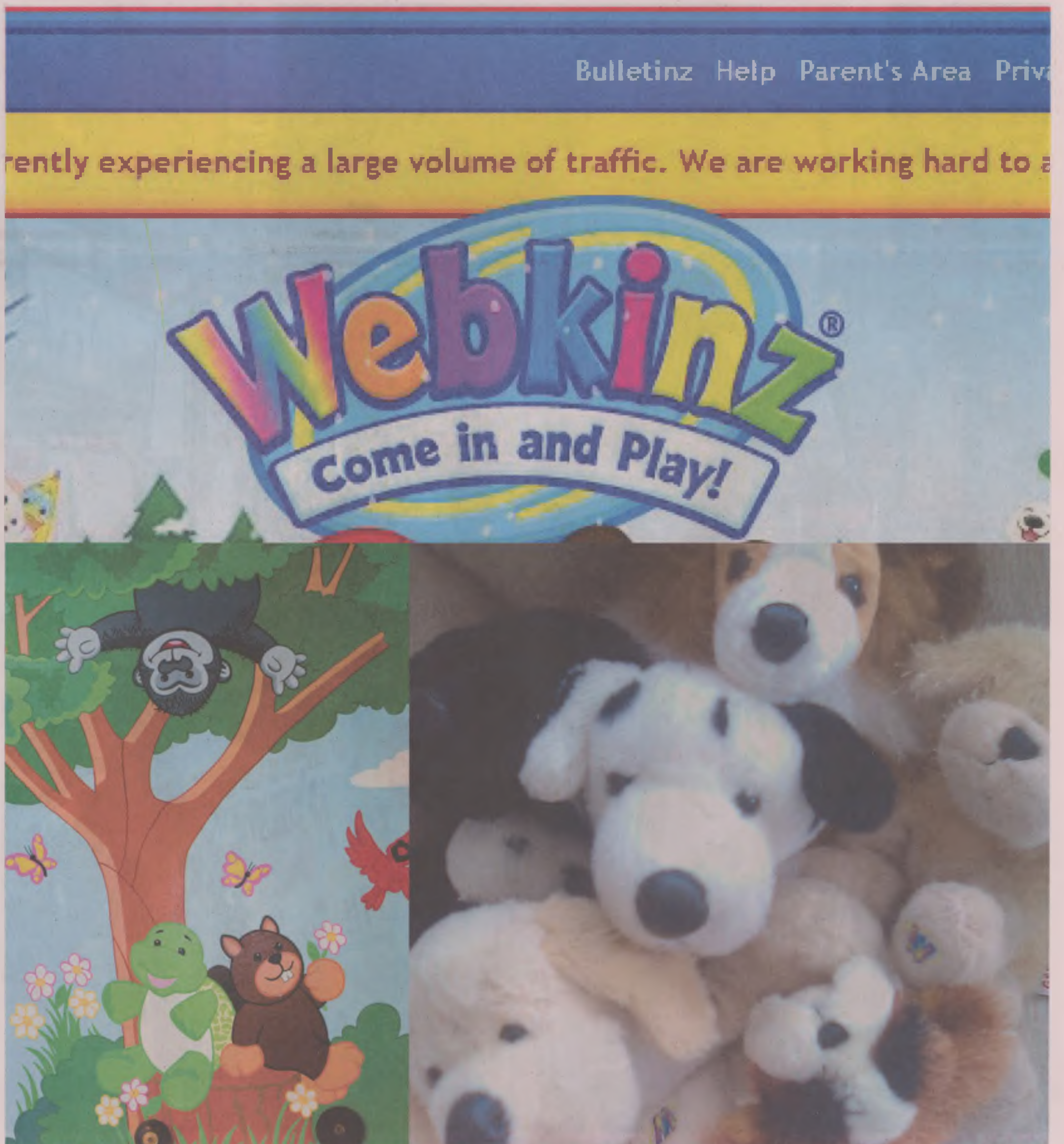
When I logged on for the first time, I was surprised to see that almost everything had changed. Many of the games I had loved and played for endless hours as a kid were now exclusive and for deluxe members only. (In other

words, you had to pay for them.) The rooms were completely changed, and there was little that you could do without paying actual money. Treading around the games and the attractions was like wandering through an ancient, decrepit ruin: The former glory of Webkinz World had crumbled.

Will I ever feel the stability that Webkinz world gave 9-year-old me? I honestly don't know. All I know is that I miss this relic from my past, this experience that I will never be able to recreate — a feature that makes it all the more valuable.

And so, I guess, this is a thank-you note to Webkinz, for stability and a sense of purpose and some good, unabashed and completely pure fun. But it's also a eulogy — a eulogy to a feeling and a place and a time that I'll never get back.

A eulogy — to all the Webkinz I loved before.





# A treatise on the value of study abroad: What is “good”?

**MATTHEW ANDERSON**  
Study Abroad Columnist

What makes a “good” study abroad?

Is there a formula? Do I multiply the number of new vocabulary words I’ve learned in Chinese by the amount of postable Instagram pics? Perhaps there’s some sort of logarithm involving how adventurous you were with your food choices, or a linear relationship between the number of European countries you visited and the ever-so-fleeting bang-for-your-buck coefficient.

My pondering does little to answer my question, unfortunately. If anything, it reminds me why I didn’t make it past pre-calculus.

But why all this pondering anyways? Isn’t it enough that I enjoyed it myself?

I guess I feel a bit guilty. Recently, having developed an interest in a career in study abroad, I’ve been listening to a lot of podcasts about recent developments in the field.

One thing I hear a lot about is how study-abroad administrators can motivate students to stay within the host country, especially for programs in Europe. The trope of the student galavanting (“backpacking”) around Europe every weekend, intoxicating themselves in a new city they can’t pronounce is something many see as detrimental to the study-abroad experience. They worry that being away so often weakens their connection to their host city.

I’m not here to argue, by any means. Rationally, I totally understand and share their concerns.

I was never the type to travel every single weekend even while I was in Europe, and in Asia it’s a lot more complicated. The flights are longer and more expensive — mine to Tokyo was 12 hours, including layovers — and in China, if you only stay for four months, you have to arrange (in other words, pay for) special permission to enter and leave the country.

You would think with all these restrictions and the advice of study-abroad professionals, I would be taking much more advantage of my study-abroad location. Visiting nearby cities, taking in the sights of the local area, experiencing all that my host community, Sichuan province, has to offer.

That hasn’t really been the case.

Instead of choosing to go on a field-study trip to Guizhou to see minority group villages, an indubitably valuable way to get to know the complexities of China’s ethnic makeup, I chose to go to Tokyo.

Instead of choosing to stay in Chengdu for the Tomb Sweeping Festival holiday, surely a great way to experience local culture, I decided to book a flight to Taiwan.

I used to feel really guilty. During my stay here in Chengdu, I’ve really only seen this city and a couple of small towns on the outskirts. Local highlights, like Chongqing, a bustling city with famous works of graffiti, or even

Yunnan province, a neighboring area known for its beautiful scenery, have failed to attract my interest.

Once I landed in Tokyo, my guilt faded away. Not only was I enjoying myself wholeheartedly, taking in the sights of the urban mecca I had always dreamed of visiting, but I also learned a lot.

I was able to talk to Japanese locals about their country’s relationship with China. This revealed that diplomatically, Japan is certainly strengthening their ties to China, but personally, some Japanese may view Chinese growth as threatening, perhaps giving some insight to the Japanese alt-right movement.

I could see how Japan’s capital had many more foreigners, particularly Americans, than Chengdu. This definitely made me think: Is this simply due to the difference in size and influence between the two cities, or does the different way the West perceives Japan versus China also have something to do with it?

I learned a few Japanese words from people I met, and even was able to read some signs due to the relationship between Japanese kanji and Chinese characters. After reflecting on some tenser questions, it was nice to think about the cultural ties between the two countries, despite what tensions may exist today.

Some might say I lost the opportunity to go deeper within my host culture, but I would say that my comparisons strengthened my understanding of my host culture and even of Asia as a whole.

Given the political and cultural tensions between China and Taiwan, I’d say my trip there next month will be equally as eye-opening.

And hopefully just as kawaii.





# The pros and cons of traveling alone

ELLIE CANNING  
Study Abroad Columnist

Traveling alone is a hallmark of study-abroad experiences. You could fly to your destination alone, take public transport solo or even go on a walk by yourself. College itself is an exercise of being by yourself, perhaps for the first time. In both traditional college and study-abroad situations, you chose to change your environment. I chose to adapt to three different places during my undergraduate career, and it has taught me a lot about myself.

One of the most enjoyable parts of college culture is freedom of choice — classes, meals and favorite spots to get coffee are now your responsibility. Freedom is thrilling because you can choose exactly what you are interested in. The exact same idea applies to travel or study abroad — if you're flying solo, the choice is all yours for how to structure

your day. The beauty of this is that you pursue exactly what you are interested in, rather than sacrificing your interest for the convenience or opinion of a group. For me, this means cloistering myself in a big art museum for as long as I please. (How I structure my alone time will vary widely from everyone else.)

A new environment poses specific challenges that you'll iron out upon meeting them, and slowly they fade into your memory. Getting lost is a huge fear of mine — I plotted my exact routes to each of my classes first semester because I was determined to not ask for help, which is a silly thing to get stuck on. Knowing where you are allows you to move through space with confidence, but it takes stepping out nervously a few or several times to acclimate yourself to the new area. I spent my first few days in The Hague walking around the block, then one block radius further, until I knew where I was going. Retracing your

steps is like trying to memorize something — it takes repeat exposure to understand.

Problem-solving occurs everywhere, but it won't happen if you are too timid to approach the problem. Figuring out a map, or an airport or a subway system may be anxiety-inducing, but assess what needs to be done in the situation to get you from point A to point B, and follow through as best you know how. Be prepared to make mistakes but be resolute in your choices — I have confidently boarded a tram going in the wrong direction, and messed up train-ticket purchases. However, now I double check the tram map every time, and now I know how to contact the Dutch train service in case I make more errors.

There is a social stigma to being by yourself. Humans often have a pack mentality, and we perceive a person on their own as different, odd or even pitiable. I struggle sometimes with my self-perception while

alone in a crowded place, because I think those intrusive thoughts that others are noticing my aloneness. There is no shame in sharing time with yourself, as being an introvert and attending college has taught me. The perceived awkwardness is fictitious. Life in the future may require solo work or travel, so build courage early.

Loneliness and homesickness are one of the most acknowledged factors of college. You will encounter them at some point in life. They are unpredictable and hard to prepare for, and I've been stuck in a rut with them in both Delaware and the Netherlands. Pushing it away or smothering the feeling with hyperactivity are two ways I have coped. However, sometimes you have to let it in, as with all emotion. After letting emotional waves occur, as they ebb in and out, I remind myself how hard I worked to send myself on study abroad and that this is the place I want to be right

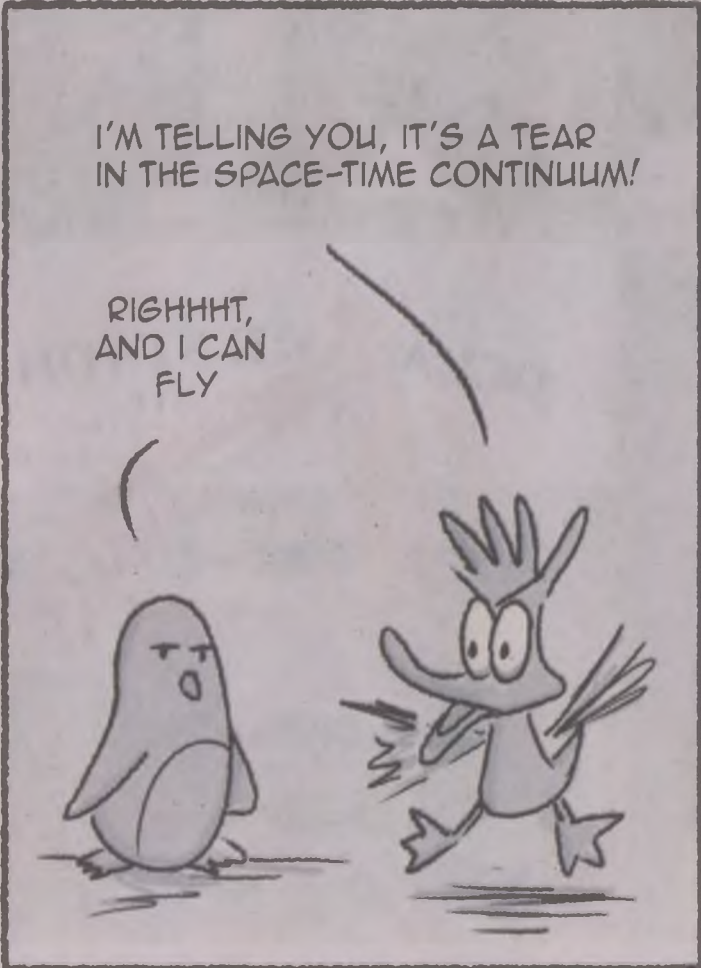
now. Perhaps this is a paper-thin solution, but it propels you forward to the glorious, adventurous moments.

"Traveling" is a substitute for many verbs that could appear before the adjective "alone." It could be buying textbooks for your first college class, or driving by yourself for the first time, having a conversation in a different language unaided. Sometimes doing something alone is a stamp of pride that you and only you carried it out. There exists the positive outcome of personal pride for achieving something yourself. Travel can be an act of pride. Being a college student can be an act of pride. You yourself are the only one who can walk your path in a fulfilling manner. You will be surrounded by others along the way, but the courage and the fortitude for your plans is your alone.



Join the Chicken Scratch Team!

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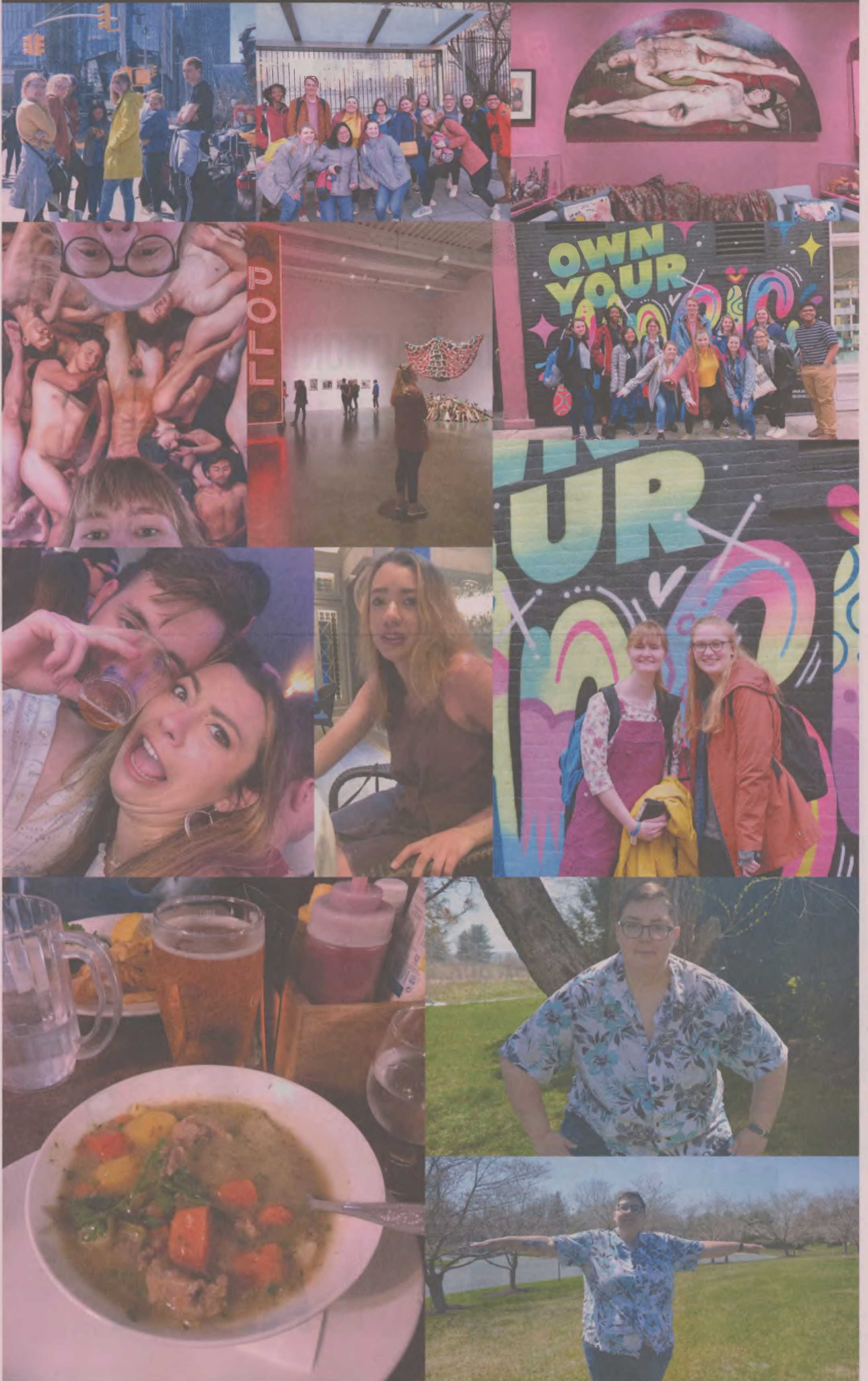




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HAPPY SPRING, FROM THE REVIEW

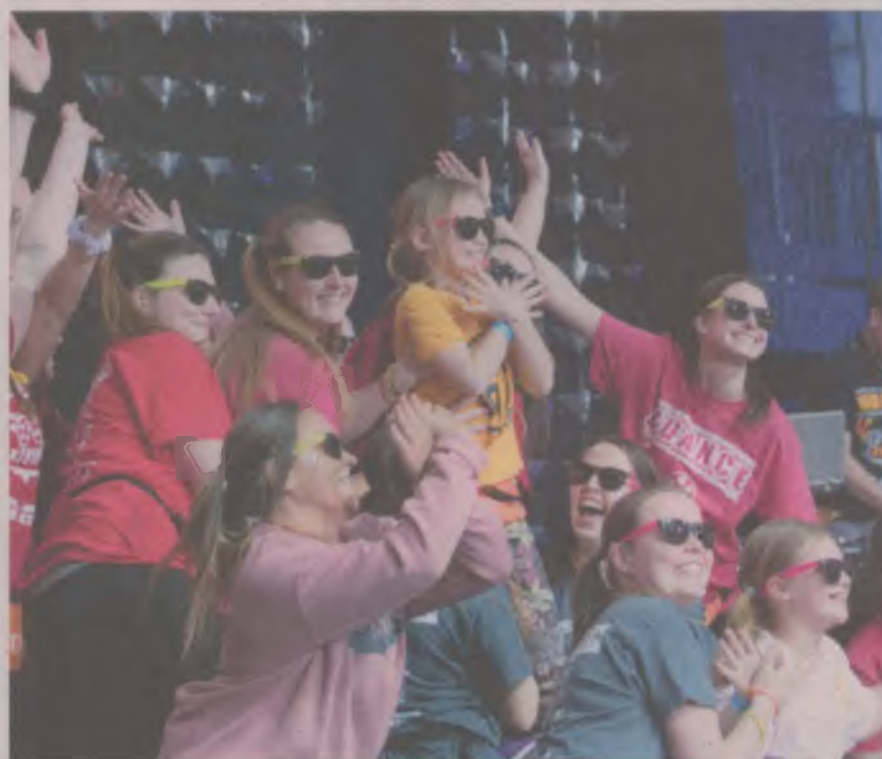






## LIGHTS, CAMERA, TAKE ACTION!

The Andrew McDonough B+ Foundation and the B+ Heroes thank Kiera Meighan, Maddie Mahoney, Adam Cantley, the UDance Executive Board and all the UD students who danced, cheered, and raised **\$2,252,081.70** to help B+ fight childhood cancer!



# UDANCE

A yellow ribbon logo, symbolizing childhood cancer awareness, positioned below the word 'UDANCE'.