



*the*review

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LETTER FROM THE EDITORS



RISHA INAGANTI
Editor-in-Chief



GABY NIEVES
Executive Editor

Dear readers,
As we approach the mid-way point of the 2024 fall semester, we wanted to take a moment to express our gratitude to our committed staff for all of their hard work up until this point.

Our Review team beginning to expand as we welcome an incoming class of 35 development reporters and 5 new photographers.

It's nothing short of busy at the office and we couldn't be more proud of the direction this organization is heading in.

While it's hard for us to believe that we've already reached our third print edition of this academic year, there's still plenty more content to come out of The Review in the upcoming months.

With campus discourse at an all-time high, the football team remaining undefeated at 6-0 and a plethora of university events, there's no shortage of newsworthy occurrences.

The visuals section has been more active than ever, with photo galleries of the vast majority of games, consistent event photography and beautiful illustrations that encapsulate our writers' visions.

Plus, with all the recent movie and album releases, our Mosaic section has been producing more pop-culture content than ever.

The 2024 election year has also kept us on our toes as the Nov. 5 General Election date creeps up. Our political coverage has taken us from race roundups to sit-downs with local candidates. We can't wait to see the election coverage come together for our special edition election print.

Our drive to continue providing for-student, by-student media is stronger than ever at our newspaper, but we also want to extend our thanks to our non-student readers and the Newark community at large.

Regardless of whether this is your first time hearing of us, or you're an avid reader of The Review, it's your support that keeps our independent newspaper alive.

If it's picking up a print edition or subscribing to our newsletter, no level of support goes unnoticed.

Although it's only October, this has already been a memorable semester, and we can't wait to see what's next for The Review.

Much love,

Risha Inaganti

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What Coast Day means to the university community



MATTHEW TRUNFIO
Staff Reporter

In the wake of Hurricane Helene, the drive to protect the coasts seems more important now than ever to the attendees of Coast Day, making this year's event all the more relevant.

Coast Day is the annual flagship event held by the university's College of Earth, Ocean and Environment that showcases how the university community is working to understand marine and coastal ecosystems. The event serves to raise awareness and support for the coast, while also uplifting the minds working to protect it.

Featuring everything from live sharks to dolphin bones, thousands flooded the university's Lewes campus on Oct. 6 to catch a glimpse of all the event had to offer.

Attendees had the opportunity to hear lectures from scientists, tour university labs, learn about local coastal organizations, shop at vendors and eat at food trucks all while live music fluttered through the air.

"Coast Day is a love and celebration of our oceans, our beaches and our waves," Shannon Lyons, east coast regional director for the Surfrider Foundation, said.

Lyons, a university alumna, spent her afternoon at the event manning the booth for the Surfrider Foundation, a non-profit that focuses on keeping beaches clean, accessible and healthy.

Her organization attended the event to spread awareness about its mission, recruit new members and hopefully get enough traction to start a Surfrider chapter at the university.

"We deal with a lot of local issues here that are of great importance," Lyons said. "Having so many people come and be excited and energized about the ocean is a great opportunity to educate the public."

If attendees were curious about what it takes to be a weatherman,



AUDREY TONG/THE REVIEW

Kevin Brinson, assistant research professor of geography and spatial sciences, and his team from the Center for Environmental Monitoring and Analysis were happy to show them.

Their booth featured a collection of weather equipment that monitored live changes in atmospheric conditions and demonstrated how meteorologists stay on top of their work.

Brinson explained that the center is trying something new this year as attendees had the chance to take in-person tours of the Delaware Environmental Observing System (DEOS) Weather Station, where Brinson is the director. To Brinson, the personability and face-to-face interactions at Coast Day make the event a great opportunity for scientists and researchers to "meet people where they are at."

"What I love about this event is that we're out here trying to explain what we do in ways that hopefully the general public can understand," Brinson said. "As a Sea Grant college, we should be trying to get our information out there to let people know what we're doing and hopefully build support from our community."

On the less scientific side, the painted seashells and sea glass jewelry featured at SeaGals Gallery of Delaware, a vendor at the event,

grabbed the attention of visitors.

Sue Lemmons, a co-owner of the family-owned business, explained how SeaGals has been a long-time attendee at the event and she feels participating in Coast Day is "the right thing to do."

"I think people need to understand that protecting what we have is important for the future of everyone," Lemmons said. "Everybody needs to be involved, it's everybody's job to take care of it."

Native to Delaware, Lemmons shared how she feels a personal connection to the event as it focuses on protecting Delaware seashores, which keeps her coming back year after year.

To Lemmons, Coast Day is more than just an event. It's a chance to see the community's common interest in respecting our coastal ecosystems.

"You can look around and see, there are so many people here, and there are a lot of other places they could be today, but they chose to come here," Lemmons said. "That's what makes this event so important, everyone here realizes the value of it and wants to support it."

Bloom daily planners receives \$50,000 grant from Amazon



NYA WYNN
Co-Managing News Editor

Newark-based company, bloom daily planners, received Amazon's Force for Good award, which comes with a \$50,000 grant, at the Amazon Accelerate conference. Amazon recognized three small businesses making a powerful impact in their communities by blending philanthropy with entrepreneurship.

Founders Michelle Askin and Kaylyn DiNardo founded bloom daily planners in 2010 upon graduating from the university in order to inspire and empower others to "bloom" into the best versions of themselves.

"A planner is such a unique product where you're literally talking to your user every single day," Askin said. "And instead of just going surface level and making it aesthetic, we wanted to dig into how

we can really use them as a tool. And that's when bloom was really born."

Every bloom planner comes equipped with not only an appealing cover design, but also goal setting tools, vision boards, kindness challenges and reflection questions.

"We just started with classic daily planners back in 2010, but since then we have really just poured our hearts into making our products really intentional that have an impact on people's daily lives," DiNardo said.

Askin and DiNardo expanded their planner line to include specialty planners tailored to significant life milestones, challenges and goals. They drew inspiration from their own personal experiences to design these products, allowing them to address a wider range of user needs.

"As we got married, we created wedding planners, and as we had babies, we created pregnancy planners," DiNardo said. "We now have a chronic illness planner that was largely inspired by Michelle's husband, who has Parkinson's. We're really creating intentional products based on what's needed out there and how we can make an impact in people's lives."

As a company, bloom has donated over \$4 million in free products to organizations like the Kids In Need Foundation, under-resourced schools and homeless shelters, as well as direct financial support for various charitable organizations.

This is what made bloom daily planners an ideal candidate for Amazon's Force for Good award.

In a statement written to The Review, Natalie Angelillo, the director of seller external relations at Amazon, wrote: "The honorees are all active members of their com-

munities who contribute through their businesses, solve a community need and continue to use their Amazon businesses to enable their impactful efforts."

Angelillo highlighted the importance that Amazon places on the connection between successful entrepreneurship and community impact, a principle that bloom tries to exemplify through their philanthropic initiatives.

Bloom's product lines go toward funding different give back projects, one being their empowerment planner, which they provide thousands of for free annually to women in prison. The goal of the line is to empower them and give them a strong base to start fresh. Bloom also participates in company-wide volunteer events, making sure they contribute their volunteer efforts to causes that are close to their hearts and important to their team members.

Askin and DiNardo strive to foster community within bloom customers. Every bloom planner has an invite to a free Facebook community, so all of the planner users can come together and share how they are using their planner.

"In the group, people inspire each other, post how they're using it, share their best tips and kind of get accountability partners on their goals," Askin said. "It's a really awesome group of cheerleaders who are just like supporting each other and taking it a step further, it's not just a planner it's a community."

DiNardo emphasized one of bloom's main missions as a company is to serve others, saying this core value is behind everything that they do.

"We truly try to make products that help change lives," DiNardo said.

Students fundraise for Asheville amidst hurricane damage



**MEGHAN
FREEZE**
Staff Reporter

When university students entered their public relations campaign planning class, they were not expecting to create fundraisers helping to repair the damage from Hurricane Helene. After devastation spread across North Carolina as a result of the dangerous storm, Communications professor Steve Momorella swapped his usual lessons to help build student-run relief campaigns.

Students were divided into multiple groups, each partnering with an organization dedicated to assisting those impacted by the hurricane. Senior Anna Gleason, a political science and communications double major, leads her group titled "UD for Beloved." Her team is gathering resources for BeLoved Asheville, which donates to those most affected by Hurricane Helene.

"Our group has a donation box set up at Pearson Hall in the communications office," Gleason said. "We also have one set up at Sean's House. I am in contact with

teachers at Newark High School and hoping to get them involved as well."

Gleason's group is taking monetary donations through their Instagram. The page has direct links to Venmo and other ways students can provide relief.

"We are taking non-perishable food, diapers, baby clothes, blankets, first aid supplies, feminine hygiene products and cleaning supplies," Gleason said. "Once we have everything we will ship it to 'Beloved Asheville' so they can distribute it as needed."

The group sent their first round of donations Oct. 6 and sent another round this previous weekend. Gleason encouraged students to email her with any questions at annag@udel.edu.

Asheville, North Carolina has been drastically affected by Hurricane Helene. Shelters have reached capacity, drinkable water is hard to find and the death toll is rising. The hurricane was labeled category 4 with 140 mph winds. Many homeowners are stuck without power and damage from flooding.

Junior Bella Andres, a communications major, is a leader for her group dedicated to Homeward Bound. The organization is based in Asheville, with a main goal of supporting the homeless population through permanent housing and resources. Following the destruction of Hurricane Helene, the organization has created an Amazon Wish List of items for clients and residents.

The group is accepting donations for the items on the wishlist and said any amount is encouraged. They set up their Instagram page with links to the wish list and other sources of donation.

"This organization is really important and people should be supporting it," Andres said. "So many people have been devastated in North Carolina, especially the homeless, and they have even less support. It shines a light on people who don't get enough attention or focus."

Another student group created a campaign called 'Hens for Hope,' fundraising for the organization Hope Mill Inc. Their Instagram page is titled hens4hope.

Senior Megan Emmerling, a communication major, is involved with the group and their fundraising.

"There is a GoFundMe where you can donate money so they can send supplies to the community through helicopters," Emmerling said. "They are flying in supplies and flying people out that desperately need help."

The GoFundMe has received over a million dollars in donations and continues to grow. Andres reflected on the importance of helping those impacted by the hurricane.

"It is important to spread the word to friends and families back home," Andres said. "We should be buying items off the wish list that are more in need. Products we should focus on are boat starters, shampoo and menstrual products. Students should share it with their families, and also with their professors, clubs and departments they are in."

Donation boxes were set up around campus last week. One location was in Pearson Hall and another box was set up outside of Sean's House. Students will

continue posting links across their Instagrams on how to get involved.

Momorella was proud of his class and the work they have contributed to helping those impacted by Hurricane Helene.

"It is inspirational for both me and the students to be able to make a difference," Momorella said. "We went from idea, to concept to implementation within two weeks. Normally, we are having students create pretend press releases for fictitious companies. This was [the] real world."

Gleason reflected on the impact of coming together as a community to help others.

"The UD community has dealt with a lot of tragedy in a short amount of time," Gleason said. "We have such a close-knit community and support system. Being able to provide that support to communities outside of our area is so rewarding. It reminds me how much I love UD and how great a student body we have."

UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES B.A. IN THEATRE STUDIES



**PATRICIA
HARDEN**
Associate Arts &
Culture Editor

On Sept. 16, the Department of Theatre and Dance added a Bachelor of Arts in theatre studies to its program roster. The major joins the already existing theatre studies minor, as well as other minors in musical theatre, healthcare theatre, theatre performance, theatre production and dance.

The reason for its return: a faculty member of the former graduate theatre program and current department chair Steve Tague.

Tague noted that the overall process took two years, but hopes and visions for expanding the community of the arts are on the horizon.

Tague was hired to teach in the graduate program in 1992, while the program lasted at the university from its move in 1989 and lasting until 2010.

"When [the graduate program] came here, it eliminated the bachelor's program, so the university hasn't had a bachelor's degree in theater for about 35 years," Tague said.

When becoming interim department chair two years ago, reviving the bachelor program was an action item. With the existing faculty and minors, it seemed obvious to Tague to have a theatre program return. While nothing was wrong with the minor programs, the courses did not balance well to theater and non-theater students.

"And they were being, in my view, wasted to some degree un-general theater courses and general theater courses to regular folks," Tague said. "Many of us [faculty] were chafing to teach what we love to people who love it."

In addition, the return of the major created an affordable avenue for students in the state of Delaware, as well as those around the tri-

state area, who want to study theater.

The process presented various concerns, however, such as providing the proper space and faculty.

"It's not like mathematics, you know, where you don't really need space," Tague said. "You've got to have space to move around in."

10 students have added the theater major, either becoming double majors or originally having the minor before upgrading to the major. A dance major is also in the works, which Tague hopes will be available next fall, with both departments residing in Hartshorn Hall.

Much is to be done and many inquiries and mysteries await in navigating the major's first year. In terms of the theatre studies minor, the coursework adds some additional courses to the major's load.

"There are a couple of courses that are required, core courses for the major that I don't think are in the minor, at least not yet," Tague said. "That's the biggest difference. That plus just the number of courses you have to take in the minor."

Strengthening relationships between the theatre department and E-52 Student Theatre and the Harrington Theatre Arts Company (HTAC) are also a factor with the major. Faculty help students with a variety of things, such as fight choreography, makeup, dialects and staging.

In a couple years or so, productions with the department may emerge, creating more theater for the university's arts community. This will also impact the donors and subscribers who come to the university to see productions of the Resident Ensemble Players (REP).

"When there was a graduate program here, [donors and subscribers] loved seeing young people progress in the arts," Tague

said. "They're the community at large that loves to watch young people grow artistically."

In addition, Tague notes the B.A. in theatre studies might be the only undergraduate theater program with a professional theater company behind it: the REP. Members of the REP are also teaching, and students may be involved in the company all four years, gaining professional experience and references working, whether that'd be assisting directing duties or having a role.

The only thing left is spreading the word, which Tague visions university administration helping with to promote the new major.

"I'm happy to help, but you tell me why we're not announcing it to the world," Tague said. "I expect to figure it out, and it'll become a bigger, more well known aspect of the university."

Newark community gathers for Oct. 7 commemoration



NYA WYNN
Co-Managing News Editor



RISHA INAGANTI
Editor-in-Chief

Last week marked one year since the Oct. 7 attacks on Israel. Since then, the Israel-Hamas war has been ongoing, with about 1,200 deaths in Israel and over 41,000 deaths in Gaza.

In memory of Hamas' attack on Israel, a commemoration was held on the North Green where students, faculty and community members came together to recap on the previous year and honor the lives lost.

"This was an opportunity not just for the UD Jewish student community, but for the whole community," Rabbi Jeremy Weisblatt, campus director at UD Hillel,

said. "It's a chance to reflect, it's a chance to mourn as a community and it's a chance to hope for peace."

The commemoration featured multiple student and community speakers, breaks for prayer and song and a candlelight vigil.

Caryl Marcus-Stape, chair of the board of directors for the Jewish Federation of Delaware, spoke at the event and highlighted the importance of unity during trying times in the Jewish community.

"We grow stronger together as one, we are gathered to remember the lives lost and to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Israel who are struggling with immeasurable grief," Marcus-Stape said during her speech.

Marcus-Stape went on to highlight that the vigil was not only to grieve for their lost loved ones, but also to honor those in captivity.

"Tonight we are here to honor those who were taken from us too soon, to advocate for immediate and unconditional release of the 101 hostages still being held in captivity and to show our unwavering support for Israel, because we stand together," Marcus-Stape said as she addressed the crowd.

The Jewish community held a vigil last year when the attack originally happened. Since then there have been numerous campus happenings hosted by various Jewish organizations, including an Israel Defense Forces member speaking at the university, talks and presentations on the history of Israel and Palestine and multiple community events.

There have also been accounts of university-deemed hate crimes against Israel and the Jewish community, including one that

took place during Holocaust Remembrance Week and one that involved throwing Israeli flags into a trash can.

When asked why this one year commemoration was held, President of Blue Hens for Israel Maya Taylor expressed the importance of the event for the community.

"It was really important for me to have this event, remember all of the lives lost and also for people to be able to share personal stories, because everybody's affected differently," Taylor said.

She went on to point out that while only a select group of people spoke at the event, every person in the audience had their own story and knew someone affected by the war.

Donna Schwartz, executive director of UD Hillel, emphasized this viewpoint, stating that it was essential to have this moment of

unity for the greater Jewish community.

"It is a moment to reflect on what this year has to commemorate the most horrific attack on the Jewish people since the Holocaust," Schawrtz said.

While the event was open to all, Vice President for Student Life José-Luis Riera spoke about how it was especially important for the university to allow students to come together and express their shared grief.

"In general our goal is to make space for this type of event for our students," Riera said. "I think the ability for people to come together and grieve and mourn, but also hope for the future is a really important process."



NIK ANNA/THE REVIEW



ETHAN GRANDIN/THE REVIEW



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ETHAN GRANDIN/THE REVIEW

arts & culture

Joycelyn Brown and the art of how Black women take care of their natural hair



TYLER JOHNSON
Staff Reporter

Joycelyn Brown, a junior fine arts and visual communication major, decided that for her undergraduate research project, she wanted to learn more about how Black women took care of their natural hair. Combining her passion for hair care and graphic design, she aims to visually communicate her project to others.

Brown began conceptualizing her project while building her portfolio for art school applications back in 2022. Her portfolio consisted of packaging pieces, which is something that she is very passionate about.

However, this past summer, she participated in the 10-week Summer Scholars program and began thinking about how to put her ideas in motion.

"There's so many paths that I could take it, and I don't think that I even know yet where I want to go," Brown said. "But I'm glad that I even got the opportunity to get off the ground and get my idea out there in the first place."

Though she is still continuing her research, Brown is trying to figure out how she can implement her project using graphic design. Some ideas she has come up with include

providing information on safe and healthy hair care practices on packaging, an app or even a website.

When creating her project, she thought about the hair products that she uses, as well as her experience and knowledge. Growing up, she was not taught how to properly take care of her hair. Despite having an older sister who did help her, Brown mostly learned how to do it on her own.

"I started watching YouTube videos of other girls' hair care that looked like me," Brown said. "So I took a lot of time for my own, personal research of, 'Okay, what is good and what's bad.'"

Whenever she goes to the store, she avoids getting a product that has a chemical called dimethicone, as it's not good for her hair. Over the years she has learned to look at the back label of hair products to check ingredients.

Brown added that while she was in middle school, she would often straighten her hair. She pointed out that this is some kind

of societal norm that is projected on Black women.

"Black women have to straighten their hair to seem corporate ready because for a while, they weren't as accepting of Black women with not even just curls, but locs, braids," Brown said. "It was seen as ghetto, unprofessional."

She also mentioned how taking care of your hair can take a lot of money and h o w

hair products can be inaccessible to Black women because of high prices on the quality products.

When conducting her research, she interviewed about 25 Black women and sent out a Google Form, asking about what products they used and if they knew what their curl type, hair density and hair porosity was.

One thing that Brown has learned from her research so far is that not everyone is knowledgeable about certain processes of hair care.

Additionally, people are more attracted to the design of a product and what it claims to do rather than what the actual ingredients are.

She personally explained how because she herself has low hair porosity, her hair won't absorb heavy products since it needs to open up.

Since there are many different products that Black women can use, she thinks that it is important to know the proper methods t h e y should

follow so that their hair is taken care of.

Katie Leech, an assistant professor of art and design, is Brown's project advisor. Leech has been providing her with resources and encourages Brown that even though her project started in the summer, she should take every opportunity to continue the research during the school year.

"Every year, you get time at school to think about what this means to you, you should be using it," Leech said. "Every assignment that is slightly open-ended, you should use it as a vehicle to try out a new concept or idea."

Brown has taken advantage of this suggestion, as Leech added that for one of her classes, she did a typography campaign of how loving yourself starts by loving your hair.

Brown aims to inform other Black women through her work, and she has even considered broadening her project to benefit the Black community as a whole. Even if she does not finish her research until after undergrad, Leech believes that Brown can take it to multiple avenues.

"If she is looking to get into any areas for Black culture, with hair products, she's got a whole portfolio of it," Leech said.



THE STORY OF POETICS OF SNOW



PATRICIA HARDEN
Associate Arts & Culture Editor

How often do we get the chance to contemplate a space of quiet and stillness? Painting professor and Chair of the Department of Art and Design, Natalija Mijatović, has curated an exhibition hoping to do just that.

Mijatović, who is starting her second year as department chair, has 30 years of painting experience, earning her bachelor's degree from the University of Montenegro and master's degree from the Pennsylvania Academy of

the Fine Arts.

Poetics of Snow is a continuation of Mijatović's fascination with landscape and the ability to capture memories and create thoughts of contemplation. The use of snow is a personal touch to her childhood in Yugoslavia.

"I always remember my homeland as a wintry snowed-in city after a civil war which raged while I was a child," Mijatović said. "So that particular grayness of the smoke and char mixed with snow has become part of my aesthetics."

Along with the subdued palette, Mijatović uses snow as a metaphor for the dormant stage

of life, or a cycle allowing for calm resuscitation or rebirth in the spring, revealing beauty in the cold landscape.

Mijatović's paintings are on a varying size spectrum, with some being made on canvas or linen, while others are painted on wood panels. These specifications let the audience respond to the magic of the paintings, and even the most abstract provide elements of representation.

The exhibition houses itself in the lobby of the Roselle Center for the Arts (CFA). Mijatović views the CFA as the hub that showcases the best of the arts on campus, but she believes it was lacking a visual arts

component.

"I was invited by the Associate Dean, Suzanne Burton, to reimagine the grand lobby of [CFA]," Mijatović said. "So my exhibition is the first inaugural programming for visual arts."

When audiences come for music or theatrical performances, they can now also experience the visual arts along with them. Mijatović hopes to continue the work in Puglisi Hall in CFA.

"In November, we are working with the Wind Ensemble and there will be a student exhibition with the painting students," Mijatović said.

This exhibition is part of a mission for Mijatović as department chair: promoting and advocating for the visual arts on campus and showing the community everything the art and design department has to offer. In future exhibits, she hopes to showcase works by the faculty and eventually artists in the region and internationally.

In the end, Mijatović wants to give her audience a chance to take a pause and connect with life through her paintings.

"With ample space and cushion, [the] audience can find their own refuge in them and rest from their otherwise very busy and congested day," Mijatović said.

Olympian Gabby Douglas speaks at the university



GIA JOELLA
Staff Reporter

On Oct. 3, attendees in Mitchell Hall could hear whispers from every direction while waiting for the event to begin.

"I'm so excited to see her," came one voice. "I can't believe she's going to be here. It doesn't feel real," said another. As the introduction of the speaker came closer, the excitement only grew.

The speaker in question? Three-time Olympic gold medalist in gymnastics, Gabby Douglas.

Presented by the Cultural Programming Advisory Board and Sisters on the Move, "Balancing Act with Gabby Douglas" featured an hour-and-a-half-long moderated Q&A session with Douglas. The line for entry formed long before doors opened and stretched far down The Green, eventually filling the room completely with fans of all ages.

"I did a hero project on Gabby when I was in fourth grade," Jasmyne Dyer, a freshman fashion

merchandising major, said. "This is so important, I might cry."

Douglas made history at age 16 as the first African American to win the Olympic all-around title. Since then, she became the first female reigning Olympic all-around champion to return to the World Championships and win an all-around medal since 1981, was part of the gold-winning teams at two Olympic games and published a New York Times bestselling book.

"I got goosebumps walking in here," Kylie Lipford, a freshman undecided major, said.

Lipford also mentioned that when she was younger, she was a fan of "The Gabby Douglas Story," a biopic about Douglas' journey to becoming an Olympic champion.

Douglas gave the audience an insight into this journey at the event. She began by describing her first introduction to gymnastics at three years old, when her older sister, who was also a gymnast, began teaching her tricks.

"She taught me my first cartwheel when I was three, and then by age six, I was teaching myself," Dou-

glas said during the event.

Though their mother was initially reluctant to allow Douglas to begin gymnastics, her sister eventually convinced their mom.

"I loved it," Douglas said during her talk. "I loved the craft, the artistry. I loved to challenge myself."

Staying true to the event's title, "Balancing Act," Douglas also touched on her strategies for maintaining a work-life balance and remaining resilient through trials. She explained the importance of going offline and taking time for herself, and though she admitted that she struggles with the pressure that comes with growing up in the spotlight, she takes things "one day at a time" and enjoys spending time in nature and with the animals on her farm.

According to Douglas, learning to accept failure has been one of the most important lessons she has learned over the years.

"You might have

failed at that moment in time, but you're not a failure in life," Douglas said during her presentation. "I'm still learning that, and also to never limit myself to other people's limited expectations."

Douglas also explained that having hobbies, such as skateboarding and playing the guitar, and a community to support her through these challenges has been extremely important.

"I would not be here without my support system," Douglas said while speaking at the event.

Though the room was filled with people whispering about the impact she had on their lives, Douglas stated that she never expected she could be an inspiration.

"I never thought I could inspire so many people," Douglas said at the event. "I'm still

realizing the impact I made. It's been very, very, for me, inspiring and motivating to keep going,

keep pushing."

It was clear that Douglas inspired attendees to do the same.

"I was very excited going into this event, having looked up to Gabby when I was little since I also did gymnastics," Heaven Brown, a sophomore fashion design and product innovation major, said. "It's always so interesting to see someone you look up to because you kind of put them on a pedestal, but once you meet them, you can see how human they are."

When asked about the importance of representation and her status as a role model for girls, especially for young Black girls, Douglas answered that, despite being so young when she suddenly became so famous, she is constantly making sure she puts her "best foot forward" and continues to advocate for others to work toward their dreams.

"If you give it that time, that effort, and dedicate what you need to your craft, you will 100% get there," Douglas said during her presentation. "Go for your goals and go for your dreams."



Vanylla Godzylia: The band as wild as the beast



MATTHEW TRUNZIO
Staff Reporter

Bar floors are sticky. Drinks get spilled, Red Bull cans get drunk and empty cans get thrown at people's heads. At least that was the experience for one Vanylla Godzylia fan who left a note in the tip jar after their fateful Friday night attendance to the band's show at Deer Park Tavern.

In response to these allegations, the band claims innocence and would like to clarify that they are "pacifists," and "anyone who felt attacked by Jonny via Red Bull, is sorely mistaken."

Local to Newark, the four-piece band is composed of lead singer and guitarist Jonny Dean, guitarist Alex Trunzo, bassist Bailey Polecaro and drummer Shaun Huebner.

Most rockstars have an origin story as equally metal as they are. For Vanylla Godzylia, that is not quite the case as Dean, Trunzo and Polecaro first crossed paths in high school when Dean and Trunzo took statistics together. Despite their

history, the group did not form until late 2021 and has since made its presence known throughout the campus community performing at venues such as the Secret Tunnel, Battle of the Bands and Deer Park Tavern.

The band's logo, an eye-catching imitation of Godzilla licking a vanilla ice cream cone, perfectly encapsulates their eccentric personality and wild shows full of mosh pits and headbanging. That non-conformist nature extends to the untamed ensemble's namesake, which they purposely misspelled to avoid legal retaliation from the makers of Godzilla.

"The idea for the name came from my dad," Trunzo said. "We went to this retirement party and someone called him vanilla godzilla. Apparently that was his work nickname, and I thought it would be a pretty cool band name."

Unlike the others, Dean jokingly protests the name, claiming that he thinks it's a little "goofy," and sounds way dirtier than it actually is.

While the band has gotten a

foothold in the performing world, they hope to broaden their audience with the upcoming release of their debut album.

Still searching for a name for their project, Dean and Trunzo rallied a few different ideas back and forth, the most tame of which being "Dynamite D***," while the others are a little too inappropriate to include.

Consisting of 12 tracks, Trunzo explains that the album will center around the "rock" genre but still contain a wide variety of sounds, ranging from metal to softer, acoustic "b***** songs" as Dean describes them.

"It's very diverse, just like our music tastes," Dean said.

The frontman's favorite song off the upcoming album is an acoustic song named "Virginia" in which he details a complicated relationship.

"The writing process of it was so cool because I woke up in a cold sweat in my bed at 3 a.m.," Dean said. "I'm thinking, 'I need to play guitar because I cannot sleep.' I sat there for 30 minutes and pieced

the whole song together, but I was so sick I couldn't talk at all. I still have the recording and it's just me singing, trying so hard to get the words out."

Out of the four, Trunzo has taken charge of the crew's logistics, focusing on organizing shows and promoting the band. His proudest marketing tactic yet has been plastic cups of vanilla ice cream with the band's logo on the lid, that they passed out at their Deer Park shows.

As self-described introverts, going from band practice to the stage has been a challenge for some of the band members, but so far it has been a challenge worthwhile.

Trunzo has relished his opportunity to step out of his comfort zone, owning it as his "favorite part of performing."

"I'm not a super outgoing person, but once you're on stage, the whole room is looking at you," Trunzo said. "You're the center of attention."

The wild antics of the band make for a good show but Dean has

described performing as "playing a character."

"When playing a show, I'm obnoxious," Dean said. "I'm not going to be obnoxious in real life."

Trunzo started laughing before Dean retracted his statement.

"I'm a little obnoxious, depending on if I've had too much caffeine," Dean said.

With a few of the band members now in their senior year, questions of "what next?" loom over their heads. The local success was not always a part of the band's plan. For Dean and Trunzo, the end of the road is nowhere in sight, and they want to see how much farther they can take it.

"We're all having a fun time, there's no reason not to keep on going and see how much fun we can have," Dean said.

"I have a big vision for the band," Trunzo said. "I want to be the biggest act that's ever come out of Delaware. Worst case scenario: we can fall back on the ice cream cups and pass them out to people."

sports

HENS-RICHMOND GAME SYMBOLIZES DI CHANGES AHEAD



DANIEL STEENKAMER
Managing Sports Editor

One last time taking on CAA Football.

It is the prevailing theme of this FCS-playoff-ineligible season at the university. As its athletic program nears the FBS move next summer, Delaware only gets one last swing at FCS rivals like Richmond, Rhode Island and Villanova this fall.

These gridiron gatherings make the Blue Hens' final tour through the CAA more meaningful. Sure, I can point out that Delaware's Nov. 16 football fray with Campbell will be the Hens' last game against the Camels for the foreseeable future. This Senior Day game is also just Delaware's second meeting ever with Campbell.

Where there is minimal shared history like that, the series' end is far less striking.

Taking off the philosopher's hat and putting on the real one — a college student's, that is — this is like a breakup of seven years compared to one of seven days. We know which of those carries the weight.

And thus, when Delaware football opposes longtime nemesis Richmond on Oct. 19, the game will have its stakes as well as its symbolism. These are two proud football outfits going their separate ways, both away from the CAA, but to very different destinations.

As the Blue Hens contort themselves geographically to join Conference USA (CUSA) in 2025, Richmond will take its football team to the Patriot League in the same year. The FCS-level Patriot, academically at the heels of the Ivy League and rooted in the Northeast, is led by Holy Cross and Lafayette in terms of recent success.

Richmond, a football-only competitor in the CAA, was dissatisfied with the direction of CAA Football. Its discontent was similar to Delaware's qualms. The Spiders are prepared to trade this season's schedule — in which they will face Bryant, Campbell and Hampton on the road — for future slates featuring Lehigh and Colgate.

It is a strategic realignment on Richmond's part, much like Delaware's jump into the deep end with CUSA. Delaware's move is wise for its own reasons — better to be in the big-kid pond than the kiddie pool — but both

schools, Richmond and Delaware, are acting under the pressures of forces well beyond their walls.

At the highest levels of major college sports, the big boys are increasingly a threat to walk off and do their own thing. Good luck, everyone else.

The basis of "power conference" Division I athletics is being reimagined on the road to a legal settlement that impacts all of DI, an agreement that would allow the highest-income athletic departments to directly share revenue with student-athletes. While this gets the players in on the booming industry of top-tier college football and basketball with the TV and streaming dollars that power it, it shifts the window of possibilities to include a complete spin-off of power-conference FBS football.

Why care if Alabama, Georgia, Ohio State and Oregon take 30 or 60-plus of their friends to start anew? The Blue Hens and Spiders were not touching the Tide or the Ducks on the field anyway.

But the trickle-down is real. If a group of opportunistic investors circles the waters successfully and completes the total commercialization of peak college football, packaging especially SEC

and Big Ten favorites in one neat, semi-pro, made-for-TV bundle that spans the country, it takes the exclusivity of the haves and have-nots to another planet in DI.

That Delaware-at-Colorado game in 2025? The one with all the buzz? It would go extinct in such a scenario, as would the guarantee payout that the Hens stand to receive for playing at a power foe. We will set aside the hope that, at least, the little guy would be bought out of game contracts if it comes to this.

So-called guarantee games help FBS mid-majors and FCS programs fill schedules, gain some fixed income and earn some exposure, all while diversifying DI. This diversification distinguishes college football from the rest of the pigskin market, sustained by the football-crazed United States appetite that demands it.

Every now and then, you get a Northern Illinois shocking Notre Dame in South Bend. A Georgia Southern stunning Florida. A Delaware surprising Navy (multiple times).

The upsets come on a continuum of craziness, setting apart college sports in general.

College sports in Division I might

not be the provincial product that they once were, emphasizing regional rivalries and the tradition of neighborhoods with split alumni alliances. It could still be a place where, unlike the pros, David and Goliath feels authentically fitting. It could be a place where, unlike the pros, Division I really does encompass teams representing locales across the nation. You do not have to be in a metro area to have a flagship squad to rally around.

Returning to football-driven Delaware and basketball-minded Richmond: Each made a conference affiliation call on its own accord. The Blue Hens did bolt first, after all, partially setting up the Spiders to spin away as well. The Hens sacrificed one of those aforementioned rivalries.

That means that Oct. 19 really is a goodbye at Robins Stadium in Virginia. The Blue Hens and Richmond will decide who gets the last word in their series, as far as we can see.

And although both universities are smartly taking their league lineups into their own hands, lest we forget: The power programs hold the cards, making this parting of ways a Division I deck-chair reshuffling more than it is a new ship at sea.



FCS-TO-FBS TRANSITION IN FOOTBALL HAS ITS FLAWS



JJ RELLA
Staff Reporter

The university is making a major change in conference realignment, joining Conference USA (CUSA) on July 1, 2025, but this decision also comes with huge consequences.

Although this move has benefits, the university also needs to endure a confusing process in order to reach Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) status. It's a puzzling and messy process, but has factors which need to be updated in a time of ever-changing realignment.

Some aspects of the transition make sense, like the \$5,000 to \$5 million fee increase and the number of allowable scholarships for student athletes now reaching a total of 90% for all sports.

New schools to Division I FBS must give out at least 210 scholarships each year, amounting to no less than \$6 million for athletics. A major difference between Football Championship Series (FCS) and FBS schools is that FBS programs cost more to run. In order to keep up in the FBS, Delaware needs to be able to handle the new financial burdens, which include the number of scholarships and facilities improvements alongside more travel expenses.

But what doesn't make sense is the playoff ineligibility.

Delaware football started its two-year transition rule in its last season in the CAA, forcing the Blue Hens to miss the FCS playoffs, postseason in the CUSA next season and the same year's College Football Playoff (CFP). The NCAA hasn't said explicitly why this rule is in place, but it's assumed it is so these transitioning programs don't overstep current FBS programs too quickly or abuse the ability to move conferences so easily.

In a world where transferring is so accessible, any program can stack its roster with hidden gems from the portal. However, not many top talents would want to attend a school that couldn't participate in postseason play, which then sets the program behind for several years. Delaware and any school transitioning to the FBS shouldn't have to be at such a disadvantage.

It's not like Delaware can immediately become an FBS contender nationally. Although the Blue Hens can compete in CUSA, which is among the weaker conferences in the top level of Division I football, they'd be far from becoming a national threat regardless of how many transfers are snagged.

Schools in the Power Four are going to have more talent and more funding. Even if Delaware attracts

many great players between high schoolers and transfers, no effort would be up to par to reach the level needed to contend with those programs.

Despite the disadvantages presented by becoming part of an FBS conference, Delaware would have a theoretical chance to gain access to the College Football Playoff if they were eligible to make it.

The 12-team CFP has a guaranteed "Group of 5" slot reserved for the highest-ranked conference champion among lower-tier conferences. Let's say Delaware was eligible for postseason play, shockingly upsetting its nonconference opponents and running the table in CUSA next year, finishing 12-0 before winning the conference championship. The Hens would be in a golden spot to make a case as that Group of 5 candidate.

Although this is pretty far-fetched, CUSA is made up of relatively new FBS programs and, besides Liberty, no school in the conference is a safe bet to win any given matchup. Delaware could put together a great season, but because it can't play in that CUSA championship, there is no hope at the CFP.

A team that defied some of these odds is James Madison. The Dukes jumped right into the Sun

Belt Conference and dominated, finishing 8-3 and 11-1 in their first two FBS seasons—yet were still not allowed to play in a bowl game due to the two-year transition rule. But not enough schools met the six-win threshold needed to make a bowl, slotting the Dukes into the Armed Forces Bowl in 2023.

Yet James Madison still couldn't play in the Sun Belt

championship game. They were far and away the best team in the Sun Belt, but couldn't participate in the championship game where the team that replaced them lost by 26. The best teams should be representing a conference in its championship.

Delaware opted to increase its number of players on scholarship this season to 75, which makes it fair that it isn't eligible for postseason play, some say. The

Blue Hens' counterpart also moving to CUSA, Missouri State, opted to keep its scholarship count and still lost playoff eligibility. The only difference between the two is that Missouri State can be ranked in the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) poll because they remain at the standard number of FCS scholarships given out for their football team.

The NCAA should rearrange rules so worthy teams like the Hens can remain eligible for postseason play even while transitioning to the FBS.



LARISSA VERONICA HEATHER THE REVIEW

Pete Rose, baseball's controversial king, dies at 83



WILL CAPUANO
Staff Reporter

Pete Rose, Major League Baseball's all-time hits leader, died of heart disease on Sept. 30, his agent Ryan Fiterman confirmed to TMZ. He was 83.

Nicknamed "Charlie Hustle" for his hard-nosed style of play, Rose was selected to 17 All-Star games, received the 1973 National League MVP award and won three World Series titles — two back-to-back with the Cincinnati Reds in 1975 and 1976 and another with the Philadelphia Phillies in 1980.

Rose spent the majority of his career with his hometown Reds, where he was a key part of Cincinnati's "Big Red Machine" dynasty that dominated baseball in the mid-seventies. He led off a lineup packed with Hall of Fame players including Johnny Bench,

Tony Perez and Joe Morgan and became a fan-favorite for his gritty style of play.

After the Reds faded from contention, Rose signed a then-record \$3.2 million contract with the Phillies in 1979. Rose proved to be the missing piece for a Phillies team that had captured three straight division titles from 1976-78 but also wilted in the playoffs each time. With Rose aboard, the Phillies finally got over the hump in 1980, defeating the Kansas City Royals to capture the franchise's first-ever World Series title.

After leaving the Phillies following the team's loss in the 1983 World Series, Rose spent a season with the Montreal Expos before returning to the Reds as player-manager. On Sept. 8, 1985 during a game against the San Diego Padres at Cincinnati's Riverfront Stadium, Rose passed his childhood hero, the great Ty Cobb, as baseball's all-time hits leader. The crowd

cheered as Rose spoke to President Ronald Reagan postgame.

"Your reputation and legacy are secure," the president said to Rose before the roaring crowd of 47,000 people. "It will be a long time before anyone is standing in the spot you're in now."

On March 20, 1989, MLB commissioner Peter Ueberroth announced that his office was conducting an inquiry into "serious allegations" about Rose, who was by then retired from the field and acting as the Reds' manager.

The truth soon came out: Pete Rose, baseball's all-time hit king and one of the best players to ever set foot on the diamond, was betting on baseball. Like the 1919 "Black Sox" who threw the World Series, Rose was put on the permanently ineligible list, banished from the game for life and barred from the Hall of Fame. Rose's fall was steep, the depth

of his disgrace as dizzying as the peak of his stardom. He served five months in prison for tax charges in 1990 and eventually admitted to gambling on the game in the 2000s.

He spent the rest of his life campaigning for reinstatement, becoming a fixture at card shows and meet-and-greets on the Vegas strip. Rose's many flaws were plain and he was open about them, confronting his critics head-on in a 2019 memoir and on any platform that would have him.

In his final years, he achieved a measure of rehabilitation, being inducted into the Cincinnati Reds' team Hall of Fame in 2016. Major League Baseball, whose official sponsors include FanDuel, MGM and DraftKings Sportsbook, declined to reinstate him. In 2022, Pete Rose returned to Philadelphia for the first time since his banishment from the sport. With special permission

from MLB, he was in attendance for the Phillies' COVID-delayed 40th anniversary celebration for the 1980 World Series-winning team. In a way, it was a microcosm of Rose's life and career.

Off the field, he sparred with a reporter who questioned him about allegations of an inappropriate relationship with an underage girl in the 1970s, an accusation that had kept him off the Phillies Wall of Fame in 2017. He then repeatedly used profanity on the air with Phillies broadcasters Tom McCarthy and John Kruk, creating a palpable air of tension.

When Rose finally did take the field, hobbling out of the Phillies dugout wearing his old jersey to join his surviving teammates — now all in their 70s and 80s — gathered on the first base line at Citizens Bank Park, the sellout crowd's thunderous cheers for Charlie Hustle drowned out the few scattered boos.

MOVIE REVIEW: "BEETLEJUICE BEETLEJUICE"



SHAYNA DEMICK
Co-Managing Mo-
saic Editor

Betelgeuse, Betelgeuse ... Okay fine, I won't say it a third time.

If you're familiar with this mantra, then you may have seen the 1988 film "Beetlejuice." For those who haven't, "Beetlejuice" is about a deceased couple named Adam and Barbara, whose spirits are forced to live in their house in Winter River, Connecticut. Soon after this couple passes, the Deetz family moves into the house. The family upheaves Adam and Barbara's afterlives, with the teenage daughter, Lydia Deetz (Winona Ryder), having the ability to see and interact with them.

In response to the Deetz's arrival, the couple decides to try and scare them off with the help of Betelgeuse (Michael Keaton), a grimey looking, sadistic ghost from the afterlife - also known as the Neitherworld. But, once summoned, Betelgeuse is very difficult to send away, and ultimately tries to marry Lydia Deetz so he can stay in the mortal world. "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice" takes place in the Deetz's mortal

lives, years after their successful banishment of Betelgeuse.

In this film, Lydia no longer lives in Adam and Barbara's house, and is a very successful host of a ghost hunting show. People inform her of their allegedly haunted houses and she assesses them and presents her findings in front of a live audience. Her life becomes about what used to torment her: the ability to see ghosts. She ends up dating her manager, because her life is so intertwined with her work. In capitalizing on her unique ability, she ruins her relationship with her teenage daughter, Astrid (Jenna Ortega) and her husband, who passed away in a boating accident.

While Astrid is away at boarding school and not in contact with Lydia, her grandfather, Charles Deetz (Jeffrey Jones), passes away. Charles' wife, Delia (Catherine O'Hara), and Lydia then make Astrid return with them to the house in Winter River to prepare for the funeral.

This setup is very slow, and the premise feels out of touch with the original film. Lydia's husband being dead feels very random, as well as Astrid having a bad relationship with Lydia because of this. While a source of tension

is necessary, I think the tension between the family and Betelgeuse would've been a sufficient foundation for the storyline.

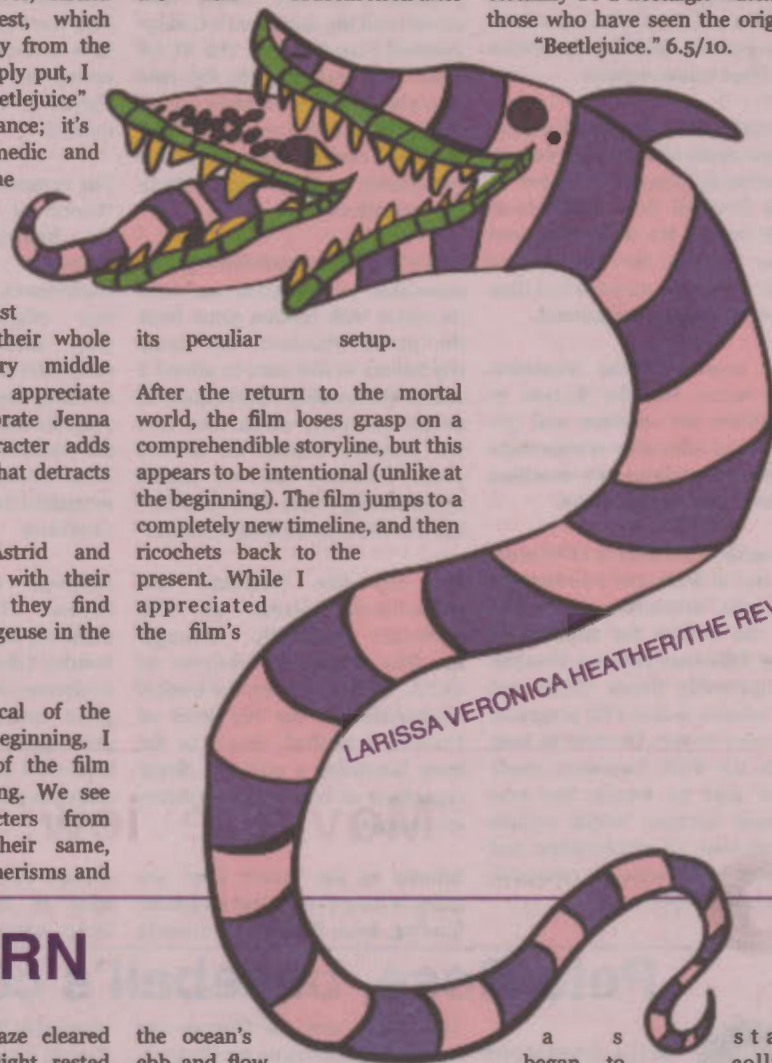
While in Winter River, Astrid finds a love interest, which completely takes away from the story of the film. Simply put, I don't associate the "Beetlejuice" enterprise with romance; it's supposed to be comedic and disturbing, and the romance plotline is neither of these things. Additionally, the actor who plays Astrid's love interest isn't believable and their whole dynamic seems very middle school-ish. While I appreciate the effort to incorporate Jenna Ortega, Astrid's character adds very little and somewhat detracts from the story.

Eventually, both Astrid and Lydia have conflicts with their love interests, and they find themselves with Betelgeuse in the Neitherworld.

While I was skeptical of the film's story at the beginning, I found this portion of the film to be very entertaining. We see the original characters from "Beetlejuice," with their same, amusingly gross mannerisms and

appearances (honorably mention to Betelgeuse's right-hand man, Bob). We also see the return of the dangerous Sandworm. Everything here is very nostalgic and helps the film redeem itself after

regrounding, I don't like that it ever lost its footing, even if it was intentional. Overall, the film was hilarious and ridiculous in all of the best ways. It would certainly be a nostalgic watch for those who have seen the original "Beetlejuice." 6.5/10.



LARISSA VERONICA HEATHER/THE REVIEW

PERSONAL ESSAY: REBORN



KEL MARQUEZ
Staff Writer

The warm sunlight peaks through the shade. My eyes open gently as I squint at the brightness and hear gentle chirping from outside. With my right hand, I skim the surface of my left arm and trace my name onto my soft skin.

I've been alive for two years.

When I was younger, I used to dream of these mornings. Tucked in and imaginative, I'd write this fairytale within my mind. Every night, my dreams felt real.

The sequence of the story was always the same; the sleepy haze would seep into me and I'd fall through reality. The gravitational pull of the sun, moon and Earth rocked me back and forth. With their gentle hands, they'd pull me

deeper in and further out until, safely, I washed upon the shore.

Above me, the sky was still. Brush strokes made out the shapes of shooting stars, but unlike the night sky, they didn't light the ground beneath me. I'd looked to my side, where the water was shy of touching my

body, and noticed how the ocean glimmered. The sea's reflection animated the stars; the darkness breathed. She lit up the atmosphere. I crawled further into the shore and kneeled against the wet sand to absorb her

beauty. When the haze cleared from my eyes, my sight rested below me and I saw myself for the first time.

My focus remained on her forever until her silhouette turned into light. It was like staring into the blinding sun; I could only stare for so long. Then, I'd wake up with tears streaming down my cheeks from her glow. Her image was engraved in my mind.

Two years ago, I fell asleep expecting her return. I waited for

the ocean's ebb and flow that tugged at my body. The haze washed over me and I fell forward and backward. The light shined through, but when I opened my eyes, I couldn't see the paint strokes that

made the sky. The sequence wasn't the same.

When I woke up, my body had a faint glow. It was a natural phenomenon. Stars passed through me, reflecting streaks of light off my skin. Projecting a meteor shower onto my bedroom ceiling, I was like the ocean bringing art to life. The glow became brighter

as stars began to collide, collapsing into my core. I was transforming into the center of the universe.

Light poured through my veins, pulsating at every crevice of my body. At this point, I wasn't glowing - I was radiating. I was the most human I'd ever been in my entire life and I'd never been so alive. With my fingertips, I skimmed the surface of my left arm, tracing my name onto my new skin. I could see her clearly now; I just hadn't known she was always there.

My dreams were never fantasies; two years ago I was reborn. My dreams were never fantasies; two years ago I was reborn.



LARISSA VERONICA HEATHER/THE REVIEW

Personal essay: Rediscovering my love for Halloween as an adult



ALIYAH JACKSON
Staff Writer

Growing up, Halloween was one of my favorite holidays. When the leaves changed color, the weather chilled and Disney Channel started airing their “Monstober” specials, my younger self would count down the days until I could put on my costume and go trick-or-treating. My sister and I always ended Halloween night with a heap of candy on our living room floor that took us weeks to get through.

Around seventh grade, I started to feel like I was outgrowing the Halloween festivities. My teachers would ask, “Anyone have any plans for Halloween? Are you guys going trick-or-treating?” and I’d sit there sullenly. I felt too old to go trick-or-treating, but too young to participate in any of the plans my then-high-school-aged sister might’ve had. So, what was I supposed to do?

Afterward, many Halloween nights passed where I stayed in my room, reminiscing on my cherished childhood memories and trying to celebrate in whatever way I could. However, nothing felt quite the same as those cool evenings I spent collecting candy dressed as whatever thing I was obsessed with that year. I feared this marked the end of my love for Halloween.

That was until two years ago, when I started college. My freshman year marked my first Halloween season in adulthood and I knew I wanted to use my newly found freedom to rekindle my love for the holiday. Although it wouldn’t be the same as my childhood, I realized I was now in an environment with an abundance of new people and ways to celebrate. Since then, I’ve been committed to bringing the magic back to the Halloween season.

One of my favorite ways to celebrate has been revisiting some of my favorite spooky movies from when I was a kid. Whether it’s Disney’s “Halloweentown”

franchise or the “Mostly Ghostly” movies inspired by R.L. Stine’s famous book series, I treasure the rush of nostalgia I receive after returning to these movies years later. I’ve since made it a tradition to watch at least one old Halloween movie every year and although it’s a simple celebration, it brings me lots of joy.

The best things to compliment a spooky movie are spooky decorations. My family never decorated much for Halloween, but I fondly remember walking down the streets of my neighborhood and seeing all of the different houses with lights, pumpkins, projectors, blow-up decorations and animatronics.

Decorating my dorm has brought back a lot of the excitement I had in my childhood. Even though I’m not obsessing over what costume I’m going to wear for trick-or-treating anymore, I now get to roam the aisles of different stores,

looking for the perfect decor to bring the Halloween spirit into my space.

Lastly, I’ve realized that there’s no shame in dressing up for your own enjoyment. Being an adult doesn’t mean that you have to eliminate all aspects of your inner child. The Newark Halloween Parade has been a wonderful way for me to reconnect with that part of myself these past few years. Since I’m in the university’s marching band, I get the pleasure of dressing up every year and participating in the parade. It’s quickly become one of my favorite parts of the marching band season and I always look forward to my section’s costume choice.

In a nutshell, Halloween can often feel like it’s no longer for you once you hit a certain age. However, it doesn’t have to mark the end of your love for the holiday. I’m a firm believer that anyone can discover new ways to bring the spark back to such an amusing and thrilling holiday.

This Halloween season, I implore you to cater to your inner child and bask in the Halloween spirit whether that’s through your favorite scary movie, spooky decorations or simply indulging in a bucket of candy.

Boo!

Movie review: “The Substance”



ALEX LAVINSON
Co-Managing
Mosaic Editor

Colorful, distinct, satirical, provocative, bloody and disgusting are all words that can be used to describe Coralie Fargeat’s wacky and deliberately sickening body-horror, “The Substance” (2024).

The film follows Elisabeth Sparkle (Demi Moore), an aging celebrity fitness guru, as she discovers a black market drug that promises to restore her to a younger and superior version of herself, Sue (Margaret Qualley). However, the drug comes with a specific set of rules that, if broken, have the potential to result in life-altering side effects. When Sparkle begins to disregard these regulations, things take a turn for the worse.

What starts as a visually refreshing yet relatively simple commentary on unhealthy obsessions with age and beauty, slowly spirals into a brutal, uncomfortable and necessary takedown of corporate misogyny. The film comments

on the societal pressures placed upon women to both look and act a certain way, the world’s long-standing fixation with defining women by their physical appearances and the ridiculously short lease women are given in the entertainment industry, especially when compared to men.

The latter of which can even be seen in the career of the film’s lead, Moore, who has seen a sharp decline in mainstream opportunities since the turn of the century, despite being one of the most profitable actresses throughout the 1990s. It’s only fitting that her return to the spotlight comes in the form of a film like this: one that is unapologetically devoted to her and the many similarly mistreated women in “showbiz.”

The film also acknowledges the significant toll that corporate misogyny has on the way women see themselves.

Sparkle’s self-loathing behavior is a consistently present aspect of her character that stems from her interactions with others throughout the film, women included. Even when faced with opportunities to rebound, her insecurities and shame are thrust into the foreground, distancing herself further and further from her true self.

“The Substance” is bold, unforgiving and unafraid to address its thematic contentions head on. The film satirizes its male characters, painting almost all of them as either

immature, greedy or creepy, and over-sexualizes its female characters – albeit, in ways that might be seen as excessive – observing the fact that their bodies are continuously valued over their personalities, skills and accomplishments.

Whether it’s casting directors making disgusting and insensitive comments about a young woman’s facial features or Harvey (Dennis Quaid), a fitness program producer, telling Sue “pretty girls should always smile,” the film makes it obvious what it’s trying to project – so obvious that it can only be seen as a calculated choice.

It’s overly explicit, even to the point where it’s exhausting, but never to the point where its exhaustion is counteractive. Instead, the film weaponizes the fatigue it imposes on audiences by feeding into it with its slowly escalating body horror and anxiety-inducing cinematography.

The film also leans into its levity on countless occasions, poking fun at its story’s absurdity and

grounding itself in a world that feels more accommodating to its ridiculous nature. As a result, there is hardly a moment that feels out of place or inordinately inane.

The result is a film that concludes itself with a final act that refuses to end. For better and for worse, the last act goes on forever, becoming bloodier and nastier with each passing second. The film even buckles under its own weight at marginal intervals, only for it to get back up and continue wreaking havoc.

However, what this film lacks in restraint it makes up for in just about everything else. It’s fun, engaging and consistently rewarding, never getting too attached to a specific phase or idea. While I’d consider it difficult to recommend to anyone who isn’t freakishly comfortable with gore and dreadful imagery, it’s undeniably a one-of-a-kind filmgoing experience that will likely rank among my favorites of the year. 8/10.



LILLY CONLAN/THE REVIEW

Halloween costumes for you and your friends



KELLY HALL
Staff Writer

It is the time of year when friend groups in college say they are going to get a head start on planning for Halloween, only to realize a week before Oct. 31 that no idea was decided on and nothing has been ordered.

Do not worry! If you and your friend group are still in need of a group costume, you have come to the right place! Feel free to use any idea from this list and adapt it in a way that makes your friend group feel their best on the spookiest day of the year!

12. "Inside Out 2" Emotions

If your group is looking for easy, colorful costumes for Halloween, the "Inside Out 2" characters would be perfect. The movie recently came out in theaters on June 14, and the cartoon characters' outfits are instantly recognizable. This is a group costume that can be as intricate or simple as you want it to be.

11. "Love Island"

With the popularity that "Love Island" has gained this year, we are bound to see a lot of couples costumes based off the reality show. But why not gather all of your friends to make up the whole cast? Maybe you will even meet other people dressed like the contestants on the show and form a connection with them. Who knows?

10. The Berry Besties

Although this group costume is not co-ed, if you have a great friend group of girls, the Strawberry Shortcake characters would be an adorable group costume. A great plus about this costume is that the group's designs and outfits have changed over the years, so you have a lot of different costume choices to choose from!

9. Mystery Inc. from the "Scooby-Doo" franchise

Even though the Scooby-Doo group is a super popular Halloween costume already, when it is done right, it looks incredible. If you are worried about doing this costume, but have a friend group of

six people, another outfit addition could be the Mystery Machine. Its colorful design would make for an amazing costume!

8. The Chipmunks and the Chipettes

A pro of this costume is that it is super versatile. If you have a group of three girls, you could all be the Chipettes or the Chipmunks. If you want to add three others to the mix, they could be the other three members! It is a super fun costume and you could even incorporate props like microphones or chipmunk ears.

7. American Girl Dolls

Barbie was a popular costume last year, so why not make another doll costume popular in 2024? This one may be a bit more complicated to gather all of the parts for, but by the end, you and your friends can look like a bunch of American Girls from different decades!

6. Beanie Babies

How about a Halloween costume that your parents will love? Beanie Babies were a fan favorite in the 90s, with their fun colors and designs, and a costume with that same concept would definitely be a crowd pleaser and conversation starter. There are also so many cute characters to choose from. Plus, bonus points if you carry around the Beanie Baby that you are dressing up as!

5. Girl Scouts

If your friend group wants an easy and last-minute costume to put together, look no further! Plus, if you were a Girl Scout and have an old sash, you could incorporate that into the outfit as well. If you want more of a challenge, you could even spin the costume idea and actually dress as the Girl Scout Cookies!

4. "Charlie Brown" Characters

Back in high school, some of my teachers would show us "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" (1966) and "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving" (1973) to lead us into the fall season. I loved when people made costumes out of the main characters in the film, and I adored it even more when they did

it in groups. If you have a dog that looks like Snoopy, this costume is a must.

3. Party Animals

This is one of the easiest costumes on the list to put together, but who would not want an easy costume to throw together that is also adorable? Grab your friends, pick your favorite animal, buy some party hats and you are set for the holiday!

2. Little Debbie and her treats

Were Cosmic Brownies or Oatmeal Creme Pies one of your favorite treats as a kid? If so, have you and your friends considered dressing up as Little Debbie and her treats for Halloween? The only downside is having to decide what treat to be!

1. "Twisters" Characters

The popularity of the new "Twisters" movie that came out this year creates a great excuse for you and your friends to dress up in country outfits reminiscent of the ones in the film. You may get mistaken for cowboys, but just tell people you are "tornado wranglers."

I hope you and your friend group have more of an idea as to what to dress up as now, and make sure to plan early for better results. Happy Halloween!



Satire: Alternatives to partying



GABY NIEVES
Executive Editor

With Halloween just around the corner, you're probably thinking about how to best celebrate the holiday with your friends. The most obvious answer may be to dress up, walk yourselves over to Main Street and drink (responsibly). Maybe come up with a couple different costumes (or don't) and "Voila!" Your plans for the entirety of Halloweekend are set.

But, maybe you don't like drinking or partying, or maybe you've sworn off alcohol "ever since that one night." Maybe you don't like crowded spaces or don't care for the loud noise. Whatever the reason might be, it can feel difficult to celebrate Halloween with your college peers when you're not the biggest partygoer.

Luckily for you, I've come up with some alternatives that are guaranteed to save your Halloweekend (and which are, arguably, more fun than going out anyway):

1. Bust ghosts. Duh. New York City will thank you for it.

2. Rent a van, adopt a dog and solve local mysteries with your friends. You might just end the night saying: "Professor!? What do you mean you would've gotten away with it if it wasn't for us meddling kids!?"

3. If the forecast is projecting showers, you can grab your yellow raincoat, make a paper boat and play with it in the street gutter – it'll be just like it's floating down a river! Just watch out for storm drains. If your boat falls in one of those, I don't recommend reaching into it to get it out. Trust me.

4. Say your crush's name three times and see what happens. (Side note: If their name isn't Betelgeuse, chances are that nothing will happen. You might want to avoid doing this one in public; you'll just embarrass yourself.)

5. Suggest to your grandmother

that she fly in from out of town for the weekend. Don't be surprised, however, when she flies in on a broomstick and explains that she's actually a witch (and so are you) and takes you to a place that rhymes with Jalloweentown.

6. Figure out what the deal is with the old man who lives in the creepy, old (monstrous, if you will) house across the street from yours. Why is he so protective over his house and lawn? With the old man's recent hospitalization (which you definitely didn't cause), it's your chance to finally get to the bottom of things. You might also uncover why the heck he sounds so much like Steve Buscemi.

Or, lastly, you can go trick or treating – which I've never done, since I was raised as a Jehovah's Witness (a fact which definitely doesn't make all of my Halloween advice above null and void). Happy spooky season!



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ROBERT POST
YALE UNIVERSITY

Robert Post is Sterling Professor of Law at Yale Law School. He specializes in constitutional law, with a particular emphasis on the First Amendment. His books include *Citizens Divided: A Constitutional Theory of Campaign Finance Reform* (2018), *Democracy, Expertise, and Academic Freedom* (2012), *For the Common Good: Principles of American Academic Freedom* (with Matthew M. Finkin, 2009), and *Prejudicial Appearance: The Logic of American Antidiscrimination Law* (2001).



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opinion



LARISSA VERONICA HEATHER/ THE REVIEW

Editorial: The university's response to crises is lacking

Despite being less than halfway through the fall semester, the university community has been hit with a significant influx of UD Alerts reporting instances of crime, violence and other emergencies. Two of the said alerts have been in response to student deaths. These events are not new on campus, but based on the lack of detail and resources given in the university's response it might seem that the university is not used to handling tragic events occurring on campus.

The locations reported in UD Alerts are often extremely nondescript and offer up only the general vicinity of where the event occurred, which can lead to unnecessary anxiety for students who live in those areas and don't know if the crime reported directly affects their safety.

Typically, when UD Alerts are released reporting events on campus, little context is given. While it is widely understood that in some cases the lack of detail is for the sake of confidentiality, the vagueness can sometimes cause more harm than good.

Of course it is imperative to protect the identity of victims in some

on-campus emergencies, but in situations that could be potentially dangerous for other students, it is crucial that everyone is given all of the available information.

In some cases, correspondence from the university is not sent out until days after a crisis, leaving students and families desperate for information, and ultimately forcing them to look to other sources.

Oftentimes, news outlets have published names and details of on-campus crises prior to a university press release, meaning students discover an event externally before hearing from their university leaders. In these situations, getting the information to students and campus community members should be the priority over getting the information to outside news sources.

Unfortunately, in some situations this lack of communication leads to the spread of misinformation and rumors, effectively worsening panic around issues that are already stressful and, in extreme cases, traumatic. After these impactful events, social media platforms are abuzz, group chats are lively and phone lines are busy.

It is the responsibility of the university to mitigate false narratives and unwarranted concerns by increasing timely transparency with students in moments of heightened fear and panic.

And in the case that emails regarding tragic events are sent out to the university community, they are formatted in the same way as the weekly emails detailing special events and activities at the university, masking the true importance of their content. Plus, their vague and uninformative subject lines mean that students are more likely to delete them before even reading them. Vital emails in response to crises on campus should be marked as such so that students know where to get the information they need.

In the limited situations where UD Alerts or university statements are released to students in a timely manner, the resources provided for students during times of heartache and trauma are seriously lacking or non-apparent. Instead they are reminded to "stay vigilant," effectively placing responsibility entirely on students, when in reality it is the university's responsibility

to ensure that students remain safe and supported on campus.

The mental health resources seldom offered for students after an on-campus crisis are also not as convenient, comprehensive or accessible as they are advertised to be. For example, following a student's death in George Read Hall last month, therapy drop-in hours for the building's residents only occurred for two hours during a busy time of day when most students have class.

Other resources such as Warner Hall's drop-in mental health hours are not open 24/7, making it difficult to be seen by a mental health professional during times of crisis. TimelyCare, a resource heavily advertised by the university, is also not as accessible to students due to its highly un navigable interface and the fact that it requires users to fill out an extensive health history survey before they can even view the mental health resources. This can lead students to feel isolated and alone, and as though support is too difficult to obtain while dealing with mental health struggles.

Instead of seeking support from their university, many

students turn to Sean's House, a local mental health and suicide prevention resource in Newark that is open 24/7. Many students have found it to be a valuable mental health resource, but it is not advertised in university correspondence, meaning that students may not be aware that the resource exists nor that it can, at times, be more helpful than the university promoted resources.

Overall, confidentiality for those involved in on-campus crises and the university's reputation are important, but they do not take precedence over ensuring a safe environment for the general campus community. Students have the right to receive transparent information from the university as well as adequate mental health resources in times of tragedy. We are paying to attend the university, so our safety and wellbeing must be taken into account whenever an emergency occurs on campus.

The Review's editorials are written to reflect the majority opinion of The Review staff. This editorial was written by Beth Wojciechowski, the managing arts & culture editor. She may be reached at bethwoj@udel.edu.

STUDYING ABROAD IS HARD, BUT IT SHOULD BE



ALEX KEATING
Opinion Columnist

I always knew I wanted to study abroad as part of my college experience. I just never could've imagined how integral of a part it would be.

Having the opportunity to go abroad multiple times through the World Scholars program is a big reason why I ended up at this university. Going to Greece as a wide-eyed, first-semester freshman also happened to be my first time leaving the country, and I was so excited that the gravity of the situation didn't hit me until after I landed.

I couldn't stop crying. Like, in a public café in front of the rest of my cohort and people from the Greek school I was studying at, all because I was overwhelmed with thoughts of being home. My mom told me that if I was still miserable after two weeks, she'd fly me back. Safe to say that those were not the moments that made it onto social media during that semester.

Deep down I knew there was no way I'd ever let myself leave. This had been a dream of mine for too long. But I'm still proud of myself for sticking it out because in those first few days, I really didn't see a way out of those feelings.

It also made me think that my second time abroad would be a piece of cake.

So far, my time in the Czech Republic has not been the smooth transition I envisioned. Everything that I thought would go one way has managed to go the other. Even though I'm settled now, I've felt far from the seasoned professional everyone said I would be this time around.

But ... isn't that the point? Why would I be here at all if I knew what to expect, or if it was something that I had already experienced?

A few weeks ago one of my professors spoke about "expanding your mind."

While said in the context of our discussion about free speech and academia, I found it to be

very applicable to my life at the moment.

This isn't supposed to be a perfect journey. I'm allowed to miss my parents, my friends and the familiarity of college life in Newark.

But I'm here to learn more about the world outside of those settings and relationships and to (hopefully) take back things that actually improve them. I'm here to try new things, make mistakes and challenge myself and my beliefs.

Both times I've gone abroad, there's been a random moment where everything finally clicks. In Athens, it was the first time I accidentally referred to our apartment as "home" and realized that I actually meant it. In Prague, it was during a walk to class the other day when I thought, "I could see myself living here full-time sometime down the road."

I am completely guilty of posting incessantly about whatever city I'm in - it's hard to not want to share when you're in such a different and exciting environment. But

just know that for every highlight you're seeing, there's a million little in-between moments, both good and bad, that aren't being featured.

So this is my reminder, to myself and others, that it's ok to feel all the

feelings. Life isn't linear, no matter where you are in the world.

Alex Keating is an opinion columnist at *The Review*. Her opinions are her own and do not represent the majority opinion of *The Review* staff. She may be reached at keating@udel.edu.



BEATRICE AQUAVIA / THE REVIEW

THE RUSH OF HOUSING IS HARMFUL FOR STUDENTS



CAYLA MUTCHNICK
Opinion Columnist

As we have now reached the middle of the semester, we are fairly well adjusted but also struggling through the dreaded period of midterms. However, that's not the only stressor. It's a crucial period for finding housing for the following year. We better get started ... that is, if any housing is even left!

When I was a freshman here at the university, I quickly learned that if I wanted to live off-campus, I had to search for options right away. In fact, two friends of mine ended up signing a lease together seven days after coming to college.

This is not only stressful, but very risky. The first week of college is all about meeting new people. How are you supposed to know which friendships will last for a full year and which friendships will fade after the first month?

I got very lucky and found a group of girls that I couldn't be happier living with. Everything is going smoothly and we've been friends for over a year. However,

this definitely isn't the case for everyone.

Roommate issues are more common than people would think. People have varying lifestyles and different personalities that cause conflict. Plus, when living off-campus, there aren't any resident assistants who can attempt to fix internal problems among roommates. You have to deal with it yourself. Welcome to being an adult.

When navigating this difficult process, I decided to sign a lease through Lang Development Group, which meant I had until October to find people and a property I wanted. However, since this development group is one of the most popular among students on campus, it comes down to the luck of the draw to secure a place.

I'm very happy with my lease and decided to re-sign, which eliminated the stress of finding off-campus housing for the second year in a row.

I do not believe that students should have to worry about housing this early in the semester.

However, this is the reality we live in, so a way that many ease into the process is through Facebook groups. I'm personally in many groups where people post looking for roommates and extra housing sublets.

I have friends who this has helped because it allows students who don't know who they want to live with to find others who are also searching. But once again, it's a risk. You don't know the living habits of those you choose to live with so early in the year.

The stress that students go through during this time is completely valid. Looking back, I applaud my freshman year self for finding a place to live and a great group of girls whom I can share that space with, without

knowing what would happen. I took a risk and it worked. Others aren't so lucky.

At the end of the day, students should not have to find off-campus housing so early in the year. It's unfair on a student's mental well-being and is a game of chance that can either be the best part of their year, or a curse they have to deal with for two full semesters.

I believe we should find a way to slow down this process. It's up to us to secure our future properties, so it should be up to us to have a lengthy search process.

Cayla Mutchnick is a reporter at *The Review*. Her opinions are her own and do not represent the majority opinion of *The Review* staff. She may be reached at caylamut@udel.edu.

BEATRICE AQUAVIA / THE REVIEW



OCTOBER HOROSCOPES

ARIES

You love being the best, but unfortunately you're going to be far from it this Halloween. No matter how creative you think you're being with your costume, somebody is going to top your idea. You probably shouldn't even dress up. With the internet nowadays, it's impossible to be original, so don't even bother. You have some big assignments due the next week anyway, so maybe pass on this one. Plus, there's always next year - just use your time planning for then instead.

LEO

We all know that you're foaming at the mouth over Halloween, Leo. It's okay, we are too. We suggest that you make this year your biggest Halloween yet. Yeah, Halloween is on a Thursday, but that's boring, and certainly won't be enough time to get you the attention you crave. Why not start celebrating on Wednesday? No, too tame. The Sunday before.

SCORPIO

It's your time to shine. Since your birthday is near spooky season, you have no excuse to forgo a celebration. A Halloween at this school is already crazy enough; add a birthday to that and you've got the ultimate movie. Why would you turn down an opportunity to advance the plot? Whether you're going for a risqué or gag costume, you better be committing to it. If we see you throwing on some cat ears or a bed sheet, we'll be very disappointed. Live while you're young, because you're about to be very, very old.

GEMINI

Planning is so boring, right? That's why we think this Halloween, you shouldn't plan a thing. Don't make plans with your friends and don't plan your costumes. If you get invited to a party, you should honestly just delete the invite. You should only end up at a party because fate sent you, not because you decided to go. Making decisions is embarrassing. And for the costumes, we don't even want them crossing your mind. If you can't conjure a costume out of thin air right before a party, that's a skill issue.

TAURUS

We know how much you love compliments and think you're better than everyone else. Well, this Halloween, we're sure you'll want everyone to compliment your costume. You obviously have the best costume, even though you totally stole the idea off Instagram (but we won't tell). We foresee you walking into parties and fake coughing, but you're an awful actor, despite taking elementary school theater classes (embarrassing!). Everyone's simply going to ask if you're okay, then turn back around without acknowledging your beauty. At least they acknowledged you!

CAPRICORN

No, Capricorn, your costume does not have to be perfect. No one is going to notice if the character you're dressed as had a shirt that's one shade darker than yours. No one is going to care that the one piece of your costume that you ordered from Amazon on Oct. 30 didn't arrive on time to complete your look. Get out of your own head and hit the town for crying out loud! Each minute that you spend worrying is a minute that Halloween is going on without you! We don't know about you, but we'd rather go out with a 95% accurate costume than be crippled by the fear of missing out. Blegh.

AQUARIUS

You're the ultimate party thrower, so this Halloween, you need to throw the best party you've ever thrown. You weren't given your creativity to not use it! Get a binder, start a Google Drive and check out every single party planning book from the library. It doesn't matter what you have going on in your classes, because what's going to matter more in the real world: being a good employee or throwing the best office parties? Exactly. Get that credit card and show the banks that you don't care about spending \$500 you don't have on balloons. This party is your destiny.

PISCES

We hope you've saved up your funds for Halloween because your costume is about to absolutely demolish your bank account. Balling on a budget is simply not an option for you. You've planned a costume that requires an Amazon haul, a trip to Michaels, DSW and, for some reason, Ace Hardware? We have no idea what you're building in that silly little mind of yours, but we know your costume is going to be real strange. People are about to give you a lot of looks, but if you make a trip to the city, they'll love you. Newark just doesn't understand your creative vision, but that's not your problem.

SAGITTARIUS

Sagittarius, it's time to use your charm to craft the Halloween of champions. An adventure unlike any you've ever experienced before awaits you, you just have to use that silver tongue of yours. We foresee new friends, partying with new friends, afterparty with new friends, after-after party with new friends ... You get the idea. Basically, if Halloween were a movie, you'd be the main character. Of course, you knew that already, but that means you actually have to go out there and create some plot. Don't let us down; your inevitably insane stories will be the only thing getting us to class.

CANCER

The M.O. this Halloween is selfishness, diva. You've spent all year being the helper, the shoulder to cry on, swallowing back "I told you so's" when your friends went back to their ratty exes. No more - put yourself first! Have to pick between a class and a party? Set some boundaries for once, Cancer; tell those professors you've got a conflict you can't miss! Sure, the conflict is standing around in a costume you threw together the night before, but remember: Do not ask for permission, only for forgiveness.

VIRGO

Virgo, poor baby. All these parties going on and you're just trying to study! Well, we say close that laptop, girl! Expeditiously! Bad grades are temporary, but missing Halloween is forever. Think about it this way; you can retake classes until you're 80 with bad knees (note: this hypothetical doesn't factor in tuition costs). However, you can't go to Halloween "dages" when you're 80 with bad knees, right? Well, okay, you can, and you'd certainly blow up on whatever the Sidechat equivalent will be in 2084, but you really shouldn't.

LIBRA

Libra, this is your moment. All that creative energy that's being squandered in breadth courses and STEM classes is dying to be channeled into that costume idea you've had for years now. Release your inhibitions and channel the unhinged. This is the one weekend of the year you get to release your freak and have it matched on a cataclysmic scale. Don't you dare waste this potentially historic opportunity on some Spirit Halloween prepackaged costume. We won't be mad, just very, very disappointed.

SHAYNA DEMICK
Co-Managing Mosaic Editor

YVES ALLEN III
Staff Writer