

The Pulse

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Sexual Assault and Harassment on Campus

A Political Issue

by LIAM LI, IRPH 2018

Between the sweep of populist movements circulating the current global political climate and the emerging sexual assault and harassment allegations on campus: could there be anything in common? Yes - these seemingly two isolated phenomena do have a common core: both are essentially political problems. The lack of democratic deliberation processes that allow citizens to voice important opinions through viable channels, the general sense of nonchalance towards democratic participation, as well as the blatant ignorance of the prerequisites for fulfilling the basic citizen rights constitute a political crisis. The so-called high politics is in crisis, but so is our campus, plagued by the university's signature marketing campaign of diversity and serene co-living space.

Where to Voice Your Opinions?

It was when "Let's Talk About It" hosted by the Amnesty International Club took place last week that the issue of sexual assault for the first time caught the attention of a wider student body for an in-depth discussion. Prior to this event, the discussion of sexual assault was practically non-existent, barely enough to incur any noticeable impact. Instead, urban anecdotes circulated, by no means depicting an accurate picture.

Yet now, the many anonymous submissions and open mic discussions that surfaced during "Let's Talk About It" attest to a concerning symptom: the issue is getting worse. Increasingly more people have experienced sexual assault in one form or another. The methods used by the current institutions on campus

deliberation is the first step to bringing the problem to the forefront and the key to critical political participation.

The formation of discourse is a tool that we can use to our advantage to tackle the heteronormative definition of sexual assault that. No concrete measures have been taken to tackle these issues, there are no workshops to instruct freshmen during Orientation Week. All we offer is a glossy brochure projecting the mirage which we all mention in passing jest; the interculturally pristine and diverse student body. To construct a dialogue of concerted consciousness that bears no tolerance for sexual assault is crucial. We must be encouraged to speak through multiple channels and remain informed of what exactly is going on.

Our Difference and Indifference

The lack of opinions cannot be solely attributed to the aforementioned organizations (or lack thereof) on campus. Apart from the aforementioned institutional issues, the prevalent sentiment of apathy towards participation in public affairs widely shared by many of us is another culprit. Certainly, there are many publicly engaged individuals in both the USG and other organizations; I am acquainted with many of them. Nonetheless, this does not represent the whole spectrum of other minorities on campus

that are isolated and atomized because they have not received the appropriate information.

A large majority of our student body comes from diverse backgrounds, and the culture they come (*cont'd in page 2*)



Image credits: Regina Velasquez, IEM 2019
designated to deal with the assault cases are not effective. The EQ committee, counseling center, and the USG & its constituents serve a passive role that does not facilitate discussion of the sexual assault cases. Open discussion/

from informs the opinions they have. Some of these opinions don't fall within the popular schools of thought present on campus. If these people do not receive the opportunity to express their ideas, these groups will become marginalized. While it is important to acknowledge these differences, it is also essential to actively and vocally engage to build an open conversation to understand, inform, debate and transform (in certain cases) some of the views.

Know, Use, and Defend Your Rights

One of the most frequently discussed topics at the "Let's Talk About It" event was the fact that there are often many mechanisms and organizations one can turn to in cases of sexual assault and harassment. These range from counselling sessions to disciplinary board/student courts. While these do represent a fairly wide range of solutions, they should be challenged on the basis that the presence of alternatives does not necessarily mean these alternatives are effective in tackling the problem.

This is also a very common misconception in political science. It is indeed true that these mechanisms are in place, but alternatively, I posit this question: How many of us are actually familiar with the procedures of bringing a case to the student court, let alone the immense psychological pressure students have to go through, pressure that has often been discounted?

The university tends to treat the individuals who have been subject to sexual harassment and assault as simply victims. Although the emotional support and condolence measures are necessary in order to deal with the trauma, they ultimately rid the individuals' agency to make their own decisions. The school must replace these band-aid solutions with more informational sessions about the options, procedures, and possible results/consequences of every measure available to students. We reserve the right to be guided about how to make informed and proper choices when having to sustain such traumatic events.

Politics is not as far away as you might think. Always know, use and defend your inherent rights to engage in public affairs.

WHAT AWAITS JACOBIANS?

by HELENA HAMDAN, IEM 2020 and AIRIN NUQI, IBA 2019

We asked the students of Jacobs what they are planning to do after graduation or for their 5th semester. Here are their answers:

1. "One year Masters in Cambridge in Translational Biomedical Research." - Sophia Junker, BCCB 2018

2. "Applying for medical schools and waiting for interviews." - Anja Idrizi, MedNat 2018

3. "Internship." - Ahmed Qaiser, IEM 2019

4. "Studying abroad in St. Petersburg." - Frederik Florenz, IRPH 2019



5. "Studying abroad at Rice University, because there aren't a lot of options for Psych majors here." - Tabea Kohrs, PSY 2019

6. "Studying abroad in Edinburgh." - Marie Lages, IRPH 2019

7. "Not having a plan, and try figure out life." - Vincent Jerosch-Herold, IRPH 2018

8. "Learn German, and then work in Germany." *gazes cluelessly into the future* - Jacob Zingeser, GEM 2018

9. "Consider getting employed... and maybe grad school after a few years." - Alexandru Glontaru, CS 2018

10. "I don't know, but I'll figure it out." - Asad Jafri, SCEM 2019

11. "Staying on campus, cause I prefer it here." - Zainab Zakaria, EES 2019

12. "I didn't find an internship that interested me, so I'm staying here." - Jonathan Conrad, IBA 2019

13. "Not what I want to do." - Ermira Salihu, IEM 2019

14. "For now, I don't know... Try different things... Gain practical experience and specialize because my studies were broad." - Mariya Kaisheva, PSY 2018

15. *In unison* "Internship... hopefully." - Anish Date & Raahem Hussain, IEM 2019

16. "It's 50/50... either World Track or Campus Track" - Zain Salman Dar, MATH 2019

17. "Grad school in Madrid, cause I've always wanted to live there and want to learn Spanish. But the program is also nice. I care about my future, I swear." - Cassidy Driskell, IRPH 2018

18. "Masters. I don't know. I don't want to think about it. It's a scary thought." - Dave Duvall, IRPH 2018

19. "My plans go as far as my thesis." - Daniel Romero, IEM 2018

20. "Grad school, cause I don't want to disappoint my parents." - Evi Zhuleku, BCCB 2018

21. "Internship in Madrid." - Lennart Meyer, CS 2019

22. "Go to grad school at University of Michigan." - Steffen Maaß, MATH 2018

23. "I would like to stay here." - "At Jacobs?" - "No, no, in Germany." - Sharath Peter, SCEM 2019

24. "Leaving." - Kylie Kelleher, ISS 2019



TECHNO REVOLUTIONARIES:

Music as an art is a felicitous form of expression. With ever growing and evolving genres, it has been used for hundreds of years to communicate all sorts of intricate ideas and emotions. An interesting thought is how the bearer of a musical work relates to their audience and which mediums they use to connect with the consumers of their intangible product. This in turn raises the question which types of things the audience derives from the artist's work. Nowhere is this correlation more remarkable than in the world of Techno music.

The Techno scene by itself is so varied and comes in so many forms that it makes one wonder how something that started out so small could have become this explosive. Born in Detroit in the early 1980's, it was first made by DJ's who were experimenting with newly emerging technologies of synthesizers by combining it with elements of RnB and Hip Hop. The new sound quickly expanded to some of the biggest cities of the U.S., but it was in Europe it garnered overwhelming popularity and made its breakthrough. The fact that a new genre of music that was only a few years old could become such a modern trend of music thousands of miles away from its birthplace is kind of surprising for some. It seemed like it had more of a role to play in European society, and

The Birth of a Movement

by YARED ASSEFA, GEM 2020

considering its way of adoption in to different communities, there is a lot to tell about the character of that society, as well as Techno in general. The most prominent scenes were in London and Berlin.

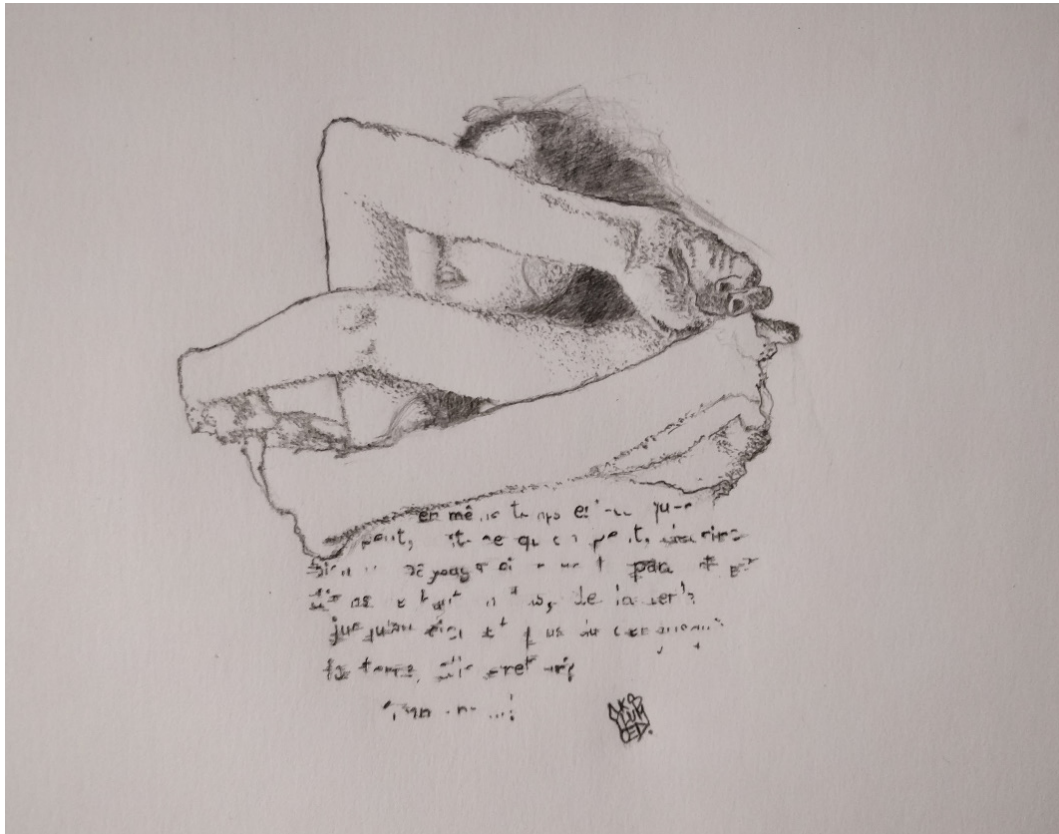
Both cities gave it a cultural orientation. London was a huge city with a humongous urban population. The new hypnotic sound of Techno appealed to Londoners in the sense that it had a breeze of new technology and futuristic tune which seemed exciting; never before heard heavily synthesized sounds gave way to the spread of astute artistic movements. And hence the first visible scene was born in Europe, with festivals that lasted all night till dawn being organized. As restrictions to night life existed concerning how long festivals and other venues would be allowed to stay open, the movement went underground-partly due to the need to avoid regulation by law enforcement, and partly as a preferred character trait that would be the symbol for years to come. Berlin was a different story. On the eve of the end of the

Cold War, a strong alternative culture had already been established. With the introduction of Techno by the late 1980's, Berlin gained a new and culture-savvy way of expressionism. After the fall of the wall formerly Communist ruled East Berliners had their freedom of movement returned after decades of oppression. Not only that, but there was great excitement in the air at the time with the restoration of individual freedom and liberal ideals- the reformation of a city if you will. People from the East were discovering a lot of abandoned places and squatting there. New, exclusive neighborhoods were established where alternative culture could flourish. But the most notable factor that separated Berlin's experience with Techno from others was the preceding history of the city. It was a perfect fit for its post war personality, one which promoted minimalistic and hedonistic ways of life. The underground movement's new nightlife style wasn't merely a fiesta for entertainment, but also a new face of artistic articulation rooted in personal freedom. Indeed, Berlin's Techno history has been referred to as one of the most important ways of uniting the two sides of the city.

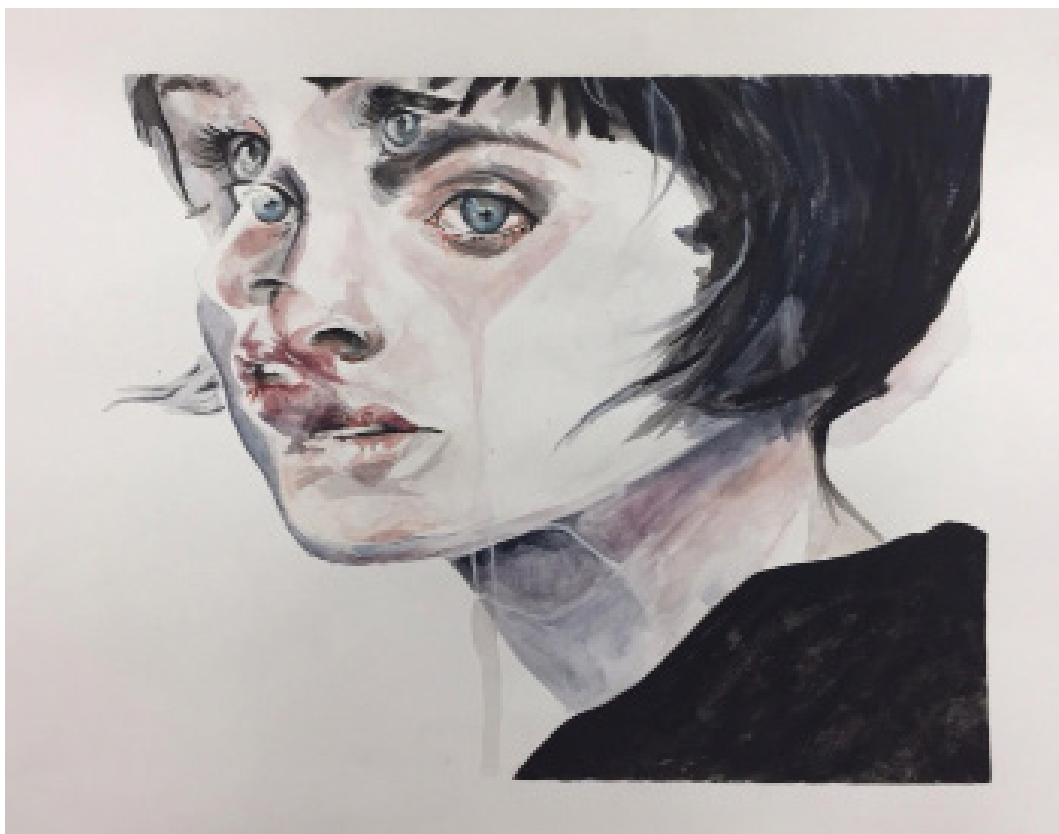
The subculture is also visible elsewhere. In the Georgian capital Tbilisi, there is an emerging following of the music where it is used as an instrument of social change. Driven mainly by young people, it offers a newly furnished aesthetic based on past experiences of the region, similar to Berlin. The same things can be observed in Riga, Latvia, as well as other major cities. What they all share in common is certain types of historical situations and all of them being urban areas, which provides fertile ground for the growth of alternative art. One thing's for sure: Techno brought about a marked movement in different parts of the world, and it still continues to thrive today, albeit having different forms of expression.



Girls, Faces, Bodies.



ADITYA DANDEKAR *^tre*
CS 2019 Pencil, 14.8 x 21 cm



REGINA VELAZQUEZ *Undecided*
IEM 2019 Water Colour, 70 x 50 cm

DO YOU HEAR THE STUDENTS WRITE?

*Reinterpretation of Les Misérables`
"Do you hear the people sing?"
It is recommended you first listen to the
original.*

PARODY
by **DANIEL PRELIPCEAN,**
PHYSICS 2018

Do you hear the students write?
Writing the exams of their lifetime?
It is the opera of the people
Who will not be slaves again!

When the writing of your hand
Echoes the answers of the profs
There is a life about to start
When tomorrow comes!

Will you join in our group work?
Who will be strong and stand with me?
Somewhere beyond the finals
Is there a world you long to see?
Then join in the fight
That will give you the right to be free!

Will you give up on sleep, alas!
So that our future may advance
Some will fail and some will pass
Will you stand up and take your chance?

The blood of the martyrs
Will water the examination halls!



Image credits: Christian Preissner, BCCB 2019

Don't compare chapters

POEM by
TEMIRLAN ULUGBEK
UULU, CS 2018

Just because someone is higher,
Doesn't mean that you are low.
Just because he's outrunning,
Doesn't mean that you are slow.

Just because someone can do,
Doesn't mean you should as well.
Just because he is better,
Doesn't mean your place is hell.

Just because you can compare,
Doesn't mean that you are right.
Everyone since the beginning,
Has only his own fight.

Call for Submissions!

With the coming waves of change in the political atmosphere, the Newspaper has been compelled to follow. With a new template and a new name, we welcome you to join us in carving the bedrock of our university.

The sections we have in mind are:

- i) Jacobian's Call: The witty articles shining light upon Jacobs students life
- ii) The Backbone: Interviews with people on campus
- iii) Outside the Bubble: Articles that are not necessarily campus related
- iv) Art Section: Any art related contributions: poems, short-stories, etc.
- v) Late Schönebecker: Upcoming and past events, advertisements.

And two upcoming sections:

- i) Faculty Voice: Contributions from Faculty, our academic parents.
- ii) Alumni Chapter: The stories of our pioneers: received from Alumni Board, Career Services or individual Alumni.

Best Wishes,
The Editorial Board
s.park@jacobs-university.de

A Call to the Scientific Spirit Inside You

by USHASHI BASU, BCCB 2020

We're all familiar with the concept of a Poetry Slam – a competition where poets read and recite original work to a large audience. But when one thinks about it, the core idea of a Poetry Slam can be applied to any subject or field one can possibly think of. With that in mind, the S.T.E.M. (Science, Tech, Engineering, Math) societies on campus planned and organised the first ever S.T.E.M. Slam on campus.

Generally called a Science Slam wherein scientists present their own scientific research in front of a non-expert audience who then judges the presentation, the organizers decided it would be more fun and wholesome if all kinds of science and technology related talks were included. Hence, a S.T.E.M. Slam.

The event was held on the 4th of May – so that the force would be with us – and aimed to bring out the curiosity and spirit of inquiry amongst every individual. The most exciting part was that participants didn't have to be an S.T.E.M. major to take part! It was a call to everyone – IRPH to IEM, Psychology to Computer Science – to talk about anything science, technology, engineering and mathematics oriented they found interesting. If anything, the purpose of S.T.E.M. Slam was to encourage the scientist in all of us.

The process of the event is very simple. Participants had to go up on stage and present something they were passionate about within the field of S.T.E.M. in any way they wanted. Whether it be interactively, with the help of a poster or a presentation, or in a form of a rap, the talk had to lie in a specific time frame of 10 minutes. The intensity of applause of the audience determined the winner, and Star Wars merchandise was the prize!

The evening began with a special opening message from Olle Bergman, science communicator at Crastina and owner of Bergmans Bokstaver, based in Eskilstuna, Sweden. He was also one of the speakers of the Jacobs University TEDx event, held in March 2018. A variety of topics were witnessed at the event, each one extremely enthralling. From learning about analyzing coffee from human excrement to getting an insight in how viruses worked to bitcoin and blockchain technology, every talk had the audience's undivided attention. The talks given by Aiman (Phy'19) and Daniel (Phy'18), who spoke about spherical cows in vacuum and Quantum Mechanics in love, respectively, were engaging and especially loved. Daniel emerged as the winner – he received the loudest applause from the audience – and was closely followed by Aiman.

It can be said that the event was a success, noted Chantal Bohn, vice-president of the BCCB society and organiser and host of the S.T.E.M. Slam. "It was a good start for introducing this tradition at Jacobs; hopefully we will be able to make it bigger and better in the coming years." Here's to an inspiring night shared with every S.T.E.M. enthusiast, and to many more in the future!

The Jacobs University Historical Society

by SAMANTHA GAMEZ, IRPH 2018

Established in 2017, the Jacobs University Historical Society (JUHS) has made its mission clear: to bring students together through history. To foster this connection, JUHS has hosted five different "Wine & Whine" events. At a "Wine & Whine Night", students come together to drink wine, eat cheese and discuss hot button issues. Each night has a theme, which gives everyone the opportunity to bring in unique perspectives tied to the present and past.

This past Friday, April 27th, was one of the most passionate discussion nights yet. The theme "Colonialism: My Civilization is Better than Yours" brought out a big crowd in the Nordmetall MMR. Students immediately started an excited debate about whether or not colonialism exists today and if so, how. This brought out a lot of different opinions; some felt it did, some felt it did but it doesn't matter. It didn't take long for the conversation to go to a big question: was there any benefit to colonialism? The conversation lasted for two hours. In those hours, three bottles of wine were gone, four beer glasses were empty and everyone was stuffed with two different types of cheese. JUHS will be hosting its Cappuccino Convos during the week for some politics talk and another Wine & Whine event in two weeks!



J-Cappella Sounds

by **CRYSTAL MELE,**
PHYSICS 2020

Among the many clubs of Jacobs University, be they active or not, a small number of students are devoted to the choir of the university. Founded by former students 10 years ago, the choir is one of the oldest clubs on campus. The choir members practice every week at the Interfaith House under the guidance of Rucsandra Popescu, the instructor of the choir. They go by the name J-Cappella, and you might have seen this name around campus in the many posters they have put up for their events. The range of the music the choir sings varies from classical choral, musicals, pop, jazz, and film music, which is usually selected by the instructor. The instructor, Rucsandra has made sure that every voice in the choir finds something that they can sing effortlessly, but also something that challenges them and helps them gain more experience.

When it comes to musical events, J-Cappella has always been present on the stage. For the academic year of 2017 - 2018, the choir has made its debut in Piano to Forte, being one of the highlights of event. Further on, in the Fall semester, the choir lent itself to the public once again with the 10 year anniversary concert, and the winter concert. The latter one was held out of campus at the church in Grohn. What is very interest-

ing is that most of the performances organized by the choir are attended by a large audience. The majority of this audience consists of people who are not students from Jacobs, which means that this choir has a reputation outside the campus borders. Still, the number of students who also join the events of the choir is not small and they are never missing.

On a personal account, I am not part of the choir, however I have been to one of their rehearsal sessions. One Monday evening, I decided to attend their practice simply because I was curious to know more about how the practice sessions went. I received a friendly welcome by the instructor and silently sat down on one of the benches in the Interfaith house, and was ready to listen. They first started with warm ups, and it was quite interesting to see the choir members jumping from high to low notes, doing breathing exercises, stretching and moving around. For a while it seemed as if they were a sports team, preparing for the next session of hard practice. That was until they started singing. Their voices took over the Interfaith House, and considering the

great acoustics of the surroundings, their singing was only enhanced. The practice went on for around two hours, and it was an interesting experience seeing all the choir members and their reactions towards different songs, their expressions showing amusement, interest, and excitedness, and all the while I was also taking note of the interactions between the choir members and their instructor. The J-Cappella seemed like a small community, with everyone having their responsibilities and role, and with everyone still coming together to form a single unit.

Hard work, and weeks of intensive practice led up to J-Cappella's next event, the spring concert on the 6th of May. The choir members were surely excited about the performance. The concert was held in the Conference Hall, and many people attended the performance. Considering that finals are right around the corner, and that summer is nearing, this concert was the perfect way to celebrate spring as a prelude to the summer days that are approaching.

The event proved to be successful and people were excited to have attended, and the choir is sure to be happy to grace the stage for many more events in the future.



Image credits: Sabin Bhandari, CS 2018

ADDRESSING THE INNER HEADBANGER – MAY 26TH

by VLAD NICOLESCU,
BCCB 2018

Is this the real life? Well it clearly isn't fantasy – Jacobs Rocks is back after two years of silence.

If you just heard Freddie Mercury complete the lyrics, if your head tends to perform a swinging motion while hearing Thunderstruck, then this event is for you. If your fingers magically know a hundred different air guitar solos, if you've ever worn a Metallica t-shirt that's not from Zara or H&M, if you've ever argued that Tool is the cream of musical complexity, you're not alone.

Fellow rockers, low-key headbangers, ex-metalheads, we are everywhere. Our hair might not be chest-length like it was back in the day, our clothes not as not-black, our dance moves now evolved to more than one move, but we can all agree that once you feel it, you can never un-feel it. Like when you learn the lyrics for Fear of the Dark, you cannot unlearn a culture that runs so deep.

Society may push you to conform and in the end that's all right. Everybody adapts – Hetfield cut his hair, denim and leather are long gone from Mustaine's wardrobe, Ozzy is sober. The spirit however survives, and we have fuel for that fire.

If you're a third year, you know what I'm talking about – Jacobs Rocks, an event where campus bands get to play full sets in the Music Lab, with provided beer and concert atmosphere. The event is going to take place on Saturday night, May 26th, marking it a memorable party to begin wrapping up the academic year. After the performances are over, the Psychedelic Party will take place in the same location, until breakfast.



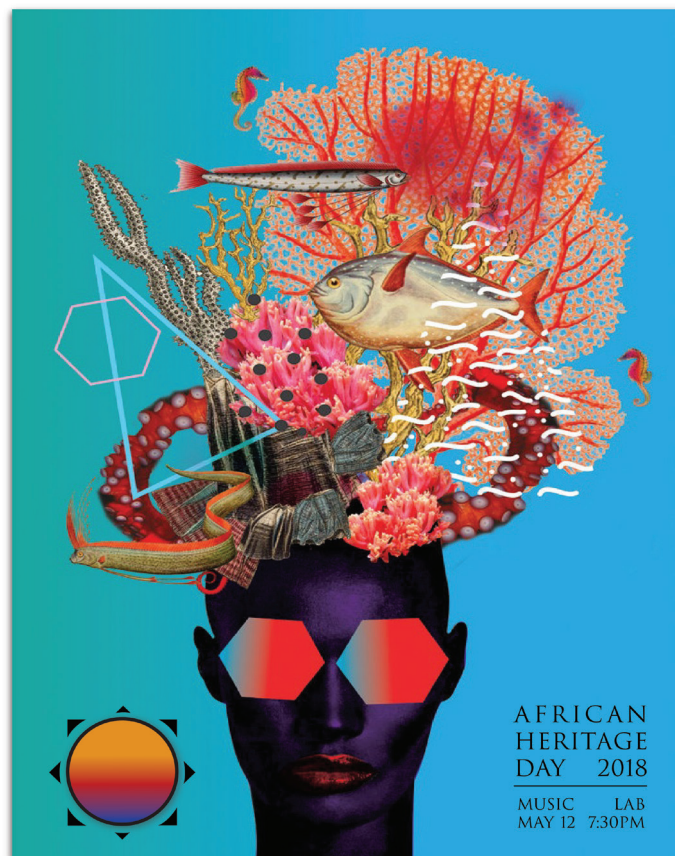
AFRICAN HERITAGE DAY - MAY 12TH

by NIBWENE MWAKIBINGA,
IRPH 2020

On 12 May at 19:00, African Heritage Society welcomes you to African Heritage Day. With generous support from the Undergraduate Student Government, African Heritage Day will feature music, dances, presentations, poems, art, and most importantly, food from different cultures around Africa.

After the event an afterparty from 23:00 to 03:00 will be held, with the theme of Afrofuturism. "Afrofuturism" is a philosophy of cultural aesthetic, philosophy of science, and philosophy of history that explores the developing intersection of African/African Diaspora culture with technology. Wear lots of colors and anything related to technology!

Look out for eye-grabbing posters around campus, and feel free to invite your friends and family!



Artwork by Victoria Topping