

ASL culture thrives in Rochester

BY LIZ BESON
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

At first, the American Sign Language (ASL) offices seem empty. After a few minutes, Senior Lecturer Guillaume Chastel turns the corner and notices a visitor. He waves hello, then quickly goes to find an interpreter. Through his interpreter, he says, "So I can be fluent in my language, and you can be fluent in yours for clear communication."

Rochester has the second largest deaf community in the U.S., so the presence of ASL on campus is more pronounced here than at other universities across the country.

"We'll actually be talking about this same topic today in one of my classes," Chastel signed as his interpreter spoke with a slight delay.

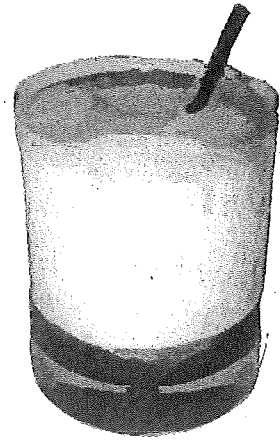
"One community exists in the ASL program here on campus," Chastel said. "A lot of hearing people in stores know how to help deaf people," which shows how ASL is a common language used in this area.

Those who work in the ASL department are more than welcoming to anyone wanting to feed their curiosity of the language, as those who know the language are enthusiastic to teach others and spread their passion for it.

"Deaf people don't consider themselves disabled, they consider themselves as an ethnic group," Chastel said. "Learning ASL offers a richness of understanding a different people group than your own."

Chastel suggested even stopping by the ASL offices in Lattimore just to observe the silent communication that goes on every day.

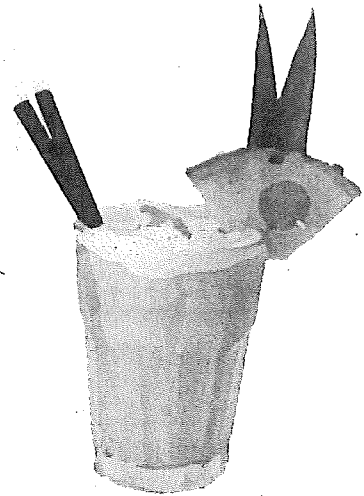
Much different than how most basic language classes start, all ASL



White Russian

2 parts vodka, like Grey Goose	2 parts
1 part Kahlua coffee liqueur	2 parts
1 part cream	1 part

1. Pour the vodka and Kahlua into a glass with ice.	1. Pour
2. Stir well.	cockta
	2. Gar
	strawb



Sex on the Beach

1 part sweet cream	1 part c
1 part coconut cream	1 part a
2 parts pineapple juice	
1 part vodka	

1 part light rum	1. Pour
1 part Blue Curacao liqueur	or tumb
	2. Stir g

1. Mix ingredients in highball glass.
2. Top with Blue Curacao.

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Much different than how most basic language classes start, all ASL classes, even the very first course, are taught completely in silence.

"Basic courses start by bringing in an interpreter and go through the syllabus. Then we use gesture, mime, and facial expression after that," Chastel said. Students leave English at the door, use the language and gesture to build into ASL, then some [teachers] begin to focus on ASL vocabulary. It just depends on who's teaching the class."

Every Monday and Thursday evening is silent coffee right outside of Starbucks in Wilson Commons. The first half hour allows for talking, then the following hour is filled with completely silent communication. Participation in an ASL class, or even knowing the basic ASL alphabet, is not required for anyone to come and join the ASL Club. Many people have had their interest in ASL triggered by coming to silent coffee

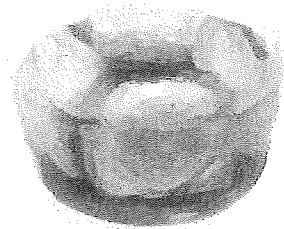
SEE SIGN PAGE 10



Sex on the Beach

- 1 part sweet cream
- 1 part coconut cream
- 2 parts pineapple juice
- 1 part vodka
- 1 part light rum
- 1 part Blue Curacao liqueur

1. Mix ingredients in highball glass.
2. Top with Blue Curacao.
3. Garnish with a pineapple wedge.



French Connection

- 1 part cognac, like Courvoisier
 - 2 parts amaretto, like Disaronno
1. Pour ingredients into a snifter or tumbler filled with ice.
 2. Stir gently.

- 2 parts
- 2 parts
- 1 part
- 1 part
- 1 part
- 1. Mix
- over ice
- 2. Garnish with a wedge.

Eight upgrades for your

BY CASEY GOULD
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As a college student, one often wrestles with the difficult decision making warrant different drinks. Moreover, different people have a wide range of tastes that align. That said, it does not suffice to buy a handle of vodka or a 6-pack of beer. As such, the process of choosing and concocting a cocktail is a challenge.

One might then worry that making more sophisticated drinks will be a hassle. But don't worry, for there are copious drinks both simple and complex. Most importantly, they'll leave your guests thinking you're a pro.

Many of the drinks listed above require few additional ingredients. College students are poor and lazy, so keep it simple.

So whether you're hosting a pregame, mixer, or strictly black-tie event, these drinks will be a hit.

Could is a member of the

UHS promotes good living to students as well as the faculty, while Well-U works specifically with faculty and staff. However, upon realizing the similarities of their mission, Well-U and UHS decided to combine many of their programs to create the UR

Attraction in Wilson Commons.
According to Gary Jones, another Well-U employee, "We are fortunate enough to have a great partnership with [Blanchard Chi-ropractic]."

Johnson is a member of the class of 2016.

de similes guys that... douchebag. I was not disappointed. My favorite tagline was, "Scoring tries and spreading thighs." Charming. However, in between all of the frogs I encountered, there were a few promising matches as well. For

random guy?
Alright, so clearly if it has over two million active users and 100 million daily profile ratings, it must be doing something right.
The biggest perk? We don't

just want to try it out (or if it's a Saturday night and you're looking for a new drinking game), but keep in mind that the Tinder flame won't last for long.

Gao is a member of the class of 2014.

Rochester fosters rich, immersive ASL community

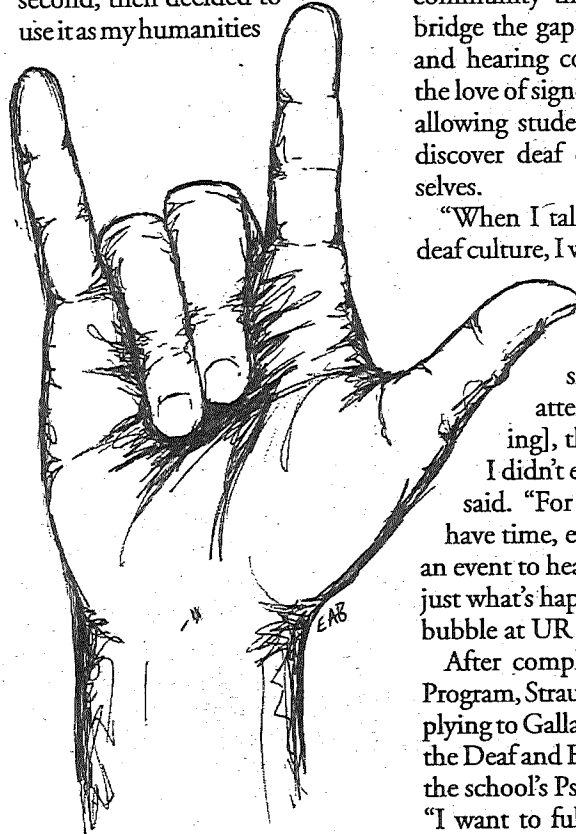
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and learning basic signs, such as how to sign their name and say "nice to meet you." Many have then continued to expand their vocabulary and signing abilities by coming back every week.

"Not only does it come with the features of language learning," ASL Club President Daniel Zuckersaid. "But it allows for one to express themselves in a way that is more beautiful and intimate than simple words. If there's even a slight interest in the language, there's no harm to be done by taking 101 or even just coming to silent coffee to interact with students who can teach you the basics. In fact, many students start out their ASL career by coming to silent coffee and falling in love with ASL."

KEY Scholar Marisa Straub, who majored in ASL and Psychology, can vouch for the love of the language everyone who can sign possesses. Originally a psychology and sociology double major, Straub's plans quickly changed after taking just the basic ASL class.

"I was not interested in ASL before college, so majoring in ASL is just a coincidence," Straub said. "I took my first class, then my second, then decided to use it as my humanities



LIZ BESON / STAFF ILLUSTRATOR

cluster, then it became a minor, and now it's my major."

As a KEY Scholar, Straub has started a program in the Rochester community that she hopes will bridge the gap between the deaf and hearing community, spread the love of signed language, while allowing students on campus to discover deaf culture for themselves.

"When I talk to people about deaf culture, I want them to know more about it. You have to tap people on their shoulder to get their attention [while signing], things like that that I didn't even know," Straub said. "For people who don't have time, even just coming to an event to hear about more than just what's happening here in our bubble at UR is a possibility."

After completion of the KEY Program, Straub is planning on applying to Gallaudet University for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for the school's Psychology program. "I want to fully immerse myself in the language and become more

fluent, because you still have to think in English right now."


Contrary to popular belief, ASL is not a direct translation from English. Not every word is signed, and the grammatical structure of the language is different from that of the English language.

Also, ASL is not a world-wide language. For example, French

Sign Language is also taught at the University by Chastel, who is from France.


"For those interested in taking ASL, I say do it," Zucker said. "I started studying ASL when I was 15. After my first lesson, I never looked back."

Beson is a member of the class of 2017.



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