

**IN THE RICE BOX**

**Who's Got Talent?**

**OLIVIA CHEUNG**  
Editor in Chief

Tick. Tock. My eyes frantically scan the room, desperate for a source of motivation and a break from my laptop screen. On it was the same question that I had spent half an hour staring at, baffled by its simplicity yet its clear implications. Talk about a special talent. Singing? Only if badly belting along to Kelly Clarkson's "Breakaway" counts. Dancing? My legs naturally tangle themselves. Playing an instrument? ... Yeah, I'm talentless.

However, I prove to be a master when it comes to summarizing seven seasons' worth of a television show, memorizing dozens of quotes and easing a suffocating atmosphere. Since I was little, I was accustomed to associating talent with singing, acting and dancing—something of commercial value. What I failed to realize was that everyone is talented in their own ways. I can memorize the nooks and crannies of a location after visiting it only once. She can cook ramen perfectly at 2 a.m. He's a human encyclopedia who can recite hours of science documentaries. These are all talents, despite what society has conditioned us into believing.

Our talents aren't defined by what economical purposes they can serve. Our talents reflect our identities and our interests, and those are plenty more important than what they're worth to others. We are all talented individuals who need to stop de-luding ourselves otherwise.

## Kicking the Bucket List in Favor of Ordinary Moments

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Opinions Editor

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, a bucket list is defined as "a list of things that one has not done before but wants to do before dying." No one wants to live a mediocre life, and the bucket list serves to help us on our journey to live lives that we can be proud of. However, in this lifelong search for extraordinary moments, we tend to overlook the ordinary experiences of our everyday lives, which are by no means any less important.

A study conducted by researchers at Dartmouth College and the University of Pennsylvania concluded that "ordinary moments that make up everyday life tend to be overlooked when the future seems boundless; however, these ordinary experiences increasingly contribute to happiness as people come to realize their days are numbered." In other words, young people associated happiness with extraordinary moments, while the older ones thought of ordinary moments as more self-defining.

It is rather depressing when our happiness is quantified by the number of extraordinary things we do before we die, considering the countless number of or-



inary moments we experience, which contribute to the quality of our lives much more than a few isolated "big" events do. Who is to say that climbing Mount Kilimanjaro is any more noteworthy than having a memorable conversation with your best friend? Is skydiving really any more impressive than diving into that

one particularly difficult problem on last night's homework and successfully solving it?

Checking off the list of "self-defining" experiences is incredibly gratifying, but it is more important to recognize and appreciate the value of any experience, regardless of the importance we assign to them. Besides, what defines an "extraordinary" moment from an "ordinary" one anyway? It is all relative, and maybe it is our perception of our own lives that is skewed. Although it may appear that we are not making

a significant difference by just doing "normal" things, perhaps that one small act of kindness we do for someone else is one that will make a difference in their life.

This phenomenon is best summed up in the classic 1946 film "It's a Wonderful Life." Protagonist George Bailey does not see the value of his life due to his

failure to accomplish anything on his bucket list (college, traveling the world, etc.) but given the opportunity to reflect on his life and on all the tremendous differences he made through seemingly small acts of kindness, he is forced to conclude that his life is worthwhile. Although we may never be given the opportunity that he had to see the differences we make, we should realize that solely focusing on a bucket list could lead us to overlook other events that may be more memorable or significant later on in life.

Bucket lists put our lives into perspective by reminding us that we are going to die, whether it be tomorrow or 80 years from now. In doing so, it impresses upon us the idea that we need to fill our remaining days with "meaningful" events. However, it is important to dissociate the fulfillment of a bucket list with the only means to achieve happiness and purpose. These can be found in any given moment, no matter how insignificant that moment may appear to be.

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## SHOULD DRUG DEALERS BE HELD RESPONSIBLE WHEN THEIR CLIENTS OVERDOSE?



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In this economy, we find that people often turn to illicit activities to make a living. While it may be hard to earn money nowadays, destroying the livelihoods of others is not an honest living.

On Feb. 2, actor Philip Seymour Hoffman died of a heroin overdose in New York. The dealers who are suspected to have given him the drugs were taken into custody. They will be charged with the possession and distribution of the drug, but as of this moment will not be held directly responsible for his death.

In 2010, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention recorded a total of 38,289 deaths by overdose in the United States. Not all of those deaths were due to illegal drugs, but for those that were, how many dealers were charged for the death of their client? None.

While they cannot be charged with manslaughter, the suspected, if proven guilty, may be able to fall under the rule of felony murder. Felony murder is when a murder is committed during the commitment of a felony or attempted felony and is charged as second degree murder in the state of New York, according to the 2006 New York Code.

The dealers were not out to kill, but they knew of the possibility and are responsible when that possibility becomes reality. Hoffman knew about that possibility just as the dealers did, but that does not mean they are not also responsible. If the dealers in New York are found guilty for the death of Hoffman by felony murder or otherwise, the ruling could change laws all over the country, allowing dealers everywhere to be held accountable. These people do more than just sell drugs, they sell substances that destroy lives.

### MOOR VS. MOOR



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While people reminisced about actor Philip Seymour Hoffman's outstanding acting craft, the tragedy also attracted people's attention to the reason for his death, overdose, which brought up a controversial topic that questioned the responsibility of drug dealers when their clients die due to overdose.

No matter what kind of health problems the clients faced later on, it is reasonable for police to arrest the drug dealers because the trade itself is illegal. However, the accusation should be nothing other than illicit drug trade.

Hoffman, compared to the drug dealers who just supplied the heroin, was the only person who could take charge of his life and he chose to place himself in a dangerous situation. Hoffman realized the severe consequences he would be facing when he bought the narcotics, yet he still chose to inject 10 bags of heroin daily, according to the Telegraph. Thus, he alone ended his own life and the drug dealers should not be held responsible for his death.

One of the opposing arguments suggested that the sellers should be charged with murder because they provided the harmful substances that destroyed lives. However, homicide is defined in several grades and they all share one basic requirement—intent to cause death. Obviously, it is unlikely that most drug dealers would sincerely hope that a customer dies using their product, as in their position, it means losing business. Instead of considering the consequences of their dealing, the dealers may only have cared about profiting from the drug sale, which makes this evil trade the reason why they should be penalized.

## CARTOONS

