



UKRAINIAN IMMIGRANTS SEND HOPE AND SUPPORT FROM AMERICA

ALANNA KING

Contributing Writer

Photo Courtesy of Associated Press

The Georgia branch of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) was a community for immigrants to keep their culture and traditions alive. After Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the organization has switched gears to give their full support to their home country.

"In one day, I had to learn how the world works, how volunteering works," said President of UCCA Nataliia Onyskiv. "I would never think that something like this would be the topic of my knowledge, which is sad."

The UCCA was founded in 1940 and is a national organization with local branches throughout the country. They are a formal congress of Ukrainian-Americans that focuses on education, empowerment and representation. Their mission is to unite and support the 1.5 million Ukrainians living in America. Today, the organization has turned its attention towards Russia's devastation of their home country.

Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24 and currently occupies major cities in the country. Russia has caused catastrophic damage to homes and infrastructure causing displacement of Ukrainians and the loss of their property and belongings.

"They can't even get food, water and hygiene prod-

ucts because volunteers can't get there," said Onyskiv.

The UCCA has been doing everything they can to support those in Ukraine. The organization has been raising money to send to trusted foundations in Ukraine by taking phone calls to support Ukrainians in Ukraine and hosting rallies.

"There is also social work [involved] because people are trying to get their relatives here in America, and there is not active state of refugee here in America," said Onyskiv.

However, Onyskiv can't help but feel a sense of hopelessness.

"Being physically very far away there is not much we can do," Onyskiv said. "Right now, we have centers where we collect [supplies], trucks that drive it to New Jersey and MEEST Ukraine will take those containers and ship them to Ukraine. However, it takes more time to ship something from America."

"Of course, we have rallies and the feeling of doing something and speaking out makes us feel a little bit better," continued Onyskiv. "Because the worst feeling is not being able to help."

Onyskiv has close ties with Kyiv, a city currently under Russian occupation.

"I used to live in Kyiv for six years," said Onyskiv, who immigrated to the United States in 2014. "It is my second homeland after my native city. I have

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so many friends there."

Her family resides in western Ukraine, which is not under invasion and is accepting refugees and sending aid back east.

"I don't feel good just because my family is safe," said Onyskiv. "We all share the feeling that Ukraine is our family and those children are our children."

Ukrainian residents still have internet access and cell service to keep connected with one other and their relatives in America.

"There are several group chats where we support each other and call each other," said Onyskiv.

Onyskiv pleads for an active refugee status to be established in the U.S. and that Americans keep supporting Ukrainians.

"If people come to America, open the doors, let them in," said Onyskiv. "Also pray, spread the news, and donate. The support, it means so much to know that you are on our side. It's huge."

Onyskiv credits the ongoing support from her community and her faith that keeps her hope alive.

"We believe in good, in God, that we will win. Ukrainians have been fighting for freedom for centuries. It's in our genes."

LIVING WEST



DR. MARGARET MITCHELL SHARES THE GENESIS OF HER UPCOMING HISTORICAL FICTION NOVEL

JANNETTE EMMERICK
Feature Editor

Photo Courtesy of UWG

On March 1, UWG English professor Dr. Margaret Mitchell discussed her upcoming novel in the writers series “The Other Night School” based on the life of the near forgotten turn-of-the-century supermodel.

The “Stranger than Fiction” talk gained its twhich alludes to the novel rooted in a true story ripe with murder, beauty and an insane asylum.

“The novel is about this woman who is widely seen as America’s first supermodel,” says Dr. Mitchell. “She was an artist’s model in the 20th century and born in 1891. As a teenager, she was discovered and she began modeling for artists, mostly sculptures but occasionally painters. And she became extremely famous. Her name is Audrey Munsen.”

Despite her fame, at age 40 Audrey Munsen was committed to St. Lawrence State Hospital by her own mother and lived there for 65 years. During the last years of her life, Mitchell was a young girl and her own great grandfather was the superintendent of the mental asylum.

“[The novel’s] not out yet and it’s not sold yet but the [Stranger than Fiction] talk [was] about how I settled on the idea and the genesis of the novel,” says Mitchell. “What’s fun about this particular novel is that it came out of an

interest in family history for me.”

Mitchell never interacted or knew of Munsen when she was a child and the focus on the forgotten supermodel was only discovered through the process of extracting her memories and researching asylums.

“Every now and again, my dad would drive us around [the asylum] and he would tell us stories,” says Mitchell. “He had actually lived there as a child. That idea always seemed to me, even as a kid, like something I had to write about someday.”

Mitchell initially approached the story thinking about a story centered on her grandmother who would have been living in a mansion on the same grounds as an asylum. However, as she researched the St. Lawrence State Hospital and other asylums, she was drawn to the dramatic and somewhat tragic life and career of Audrey Munsen.

The model and actress dropped out of the societal spotlight several times in her career, only being rediscovered once when a doctor in her old apartment building in New York ended up murdering his wife and had obsessed himself over Munsen during her stay in the apartment. He even possessed a photo of her which connected her to the murder even though she was in Canada at the time of the inves-

tigation. In that time, she received sensationalized publicity before fading into obscurity afterwards.

During her time of fame, she was also an actress in four silent films and best known for appearing nude in a non-pornographic film. She was also a model in high demand who posed for the 1915 Panama–Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco. She has since been immortalized in over twelve statues in New York and many other places, including Piedmont Park’s “Triumph of Peace” in Atlanta.

“Audrey thought of herself as an artist,” says Mitchell. “There are still sculptures of her all over because it was the era of civic art, but her name isn’t on them anywhere. The name of the artist is. You might even see the name of the person who commissioned it but the name of the model isn’t anywhere to be found.”

As a historical narrative, the task of writing and crafting a fictional interpretation of Audrey Munsen’s life seemed a frightening challenge for Mitchell. Now she has completed the novel’s draft and moves on to getting it published.

The release and title of Mitchell’s novel is still to be determined. Until then, readers can check out her first published novel “Pretty Is” under the name Maggie Mitchell.

THE

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LIVING WEST



THE COLLEGE
PARK
SKYHAWKS
HOST
UWG DAY

TAYLOR BLESSETT
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Photo: Taylor Blessett, *The West Georgian*

In honor of UWG Day, the College Park Skyhawks honor their new partnership with UWG in a team match-off with the North Carolina Greensboro Swarm, G-League Basketball Team on March 6 at the Arena in College Park.

April Wood, Executive Director for Student Involvement and Inclusion, partnered with UWG to pre-purchase tickets for students that choose to go. Students that wished to attend could enjoy the game, food, free UWG t-shirts and entertainment.

“The Institution has purchased tickets for students to attend the basketball game and to partake in pregame and postgame activities that students can participate in,” says Woods.

“Students get to participate in meet and greets with the players of the College Park Skyhawks and have their pictures taken as well.

“This event had a lot to do with getting our students involved with different communities that surround Carrollton,” continued Wood. “We offer sports management degrees and are currently working on offering our masters sports management degree as well and we want our students to understand the importance of communication and business so we thought this event would be a great way to mix sports with business.”

Students can network with professionals and gain hands-on learning experience on the business side

of sports. This event highlights the importance of involving students with events surrounding Carrollton and how important it is that students are provided with resources outside of UWG and into their community. This event encourages students to take opportunities outside what may be their comfort zones and tap into different communities.

“The whole point of everything that we are doing is to allow our students to get out and get into the things that are happening in our communities,” says Wood. “We have to start thinking about how to get students to connect with more professionals, businesses and organizations because sports is a very important business.”

LIVING WEST

CRITICAL RACE THEORY BAN KNOCKS ON THE UNIVERSITY'S DOOR

ALEX AMOS
Contributing Writer

Members of the UWG Faculty Senate discussed the new State Senate Bill 377 and its potential repercussions at the organization's February 18 meeting.

Faculty Senate members shared their concerns about prohibitions of Senate Bill 377, regarding the teaching of what is arguably defined by the writers of the bill as critical race theory (CRT), which would limit in-class discussions of race-related issues that could conceivably upset or provoke feelings of guilt and discomfort among students. Faculty Senators further expressed the concern that the state of Georgia might withhold university funding if instructors continued to address these issues in class if the bill is passed.

"It feels like this bill is automatically designed to put us on the defensive," said Dan Williams, Faculty Senate Chair. "If it were my class that received a complaint and the university lost a substantial amount of funding, I would feel a little uneasy myself, and I am probably not the only one."

"They are basically saying that we can't take the facts and interpret them in a way that conflicts with their desired picture of what America is and what American history should be," said Dr. Elaine Mackinnon, another Faculty Senator. "We've got to plead with our president to

take a stand for academic freedom against the politicization of teaching."

Numerous others also took the floor to present their dislike for the bill, including Dr. Robert Kilpatrick, Program Coordinator of International Languages & Cultures and Professor of French. Kilpatrick discussed his fears for the university's administration.

"I share the concern about the lack of a more forceful repudiation of this assault on academic freedom on the part of our administrators," said Kilpatrick. "I think that we are in a very vulnerable position right now, and this is as much as I've ever seen a time where they need to stand up for us."

Senate Bill 377 will challenge curricula and research studies for some faculty members. Some Faculty Senate members at the meeting further asserted that the bill should be seen as unconstitutional and stated that they plan to continue fighting the bill in upcoming meetings and hearings.

"My research is founded in critical race theory, so this bill coming in would prohibit me from continuing this type of research in my children's literature class," said Dr. Bethany Scullin, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Literacy and Special Education. "I am just thinking about if I need a new line of research now."

Scullin is not the only one worried about the ultimate welfare of research and education throughout the education system.

"The APA has a very formal statement that suggests that we

need to educate people on [CRT]," said Dr. Kathleen Skott-Myhre, Professor of Psychology and Head of the Psychology M.A. Graduate Studies Program. "The discipline of psychology alone has labels that point directly to critical race theory."

"I consider myself a critical psychologist, and that is based in critical race theory. So I am essentially being shut down and silenced in anything that I attempt to teach," Skott-Myhre continued. "I can only imagine that all the way across the university, there are disciplines that suggest that we need to educate our young people on these things that have in fact oppressed people of color."

Faculty members are drafting a letter to UWG administrators about the bill's dangers if it is passed.

"There is a great deal of value in communicating with the unified voices of the senate officially to the [UWG] president saying that these are some thoughts of the university faculty and we would like the president to be aware of these things as he speaks to state legislators," said Williams. "In the end, we don't get to interpret the bill as the final arbiters, and it's the USG."

The next stop for Senate Bill 377 is a meeting of the Senate Rules Committee, where members plan to discuss the proposed legislation. After the Senate rules Committee meeting, the bill may continue on to the Georgia State Senate for a possible vote. The West Georgian will continue its coverage of Senate Bill 377 in upcoming issues.

MULTICULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM HOSTS 38TH ANNUAL ACADEMIC AWARDS CEREMONY

BRITTANY MERSFELDER
News Editor

Diversity is a focus UWG has had for many decades. UWG has created the Multicultural Achievement Program (MAP). UWG's Multicultural Achievement Program is hosting its 38th Annual Academic Awards Ceremony on March 30 to help celebrate diverse student success.

The MAP program uses a tool to select each student throughout the student database for the awards.

"[The awards program] is for all of our students that are identified as minority students," said Graduate Assistant Toni-Cynthia Reeves. "These are students who have a 3.7 GPA or higher."

There will be a speaker at the event who will be passing out awards and congratulating students who won awards.

"His name is Mike," said Reeves. "We call him Mike on The Bike. He's known to be encouraging to our students."

Free food will also be available to those who attend the event. Seniors and Juniors are the only two classifications who were invited to attend the in-person event. The awards ceremony will be online for Freshmen and Sophomores.

"We pulled [each award winner] from a database," said Reeves. "We look through all of our students who identify as a minority student and we just look through their grades."

The MAP offers aid to minority students from the beginning of their college careers until graduation.



Image Courtesy of MAP

"As a freshman student, you're able to choose if you want to become a mentee," said Reeves. "You'll be paired up with a mentor. Within this program, you will be in a course called 'What do you know about multicultural achievement?' Within that first full semester, you and your mentor will continue to meet to make sure you are doing okay with your first year here."

"We are proud of our students," continued Reeves. "We want them to continue doing the best they can on campus. We're here for [our students]."

OPINION



OPINION:
LATEST UPDATE
ON THE WAR IN
UKRAINE

BRITTANY MERSFELDER

News Editor

Photo Courtesy of Associated Press

On Feb. 24, Russia began its invasion into Ukraine. At the time of publication on March 10, Ukraine has continuing its fight against Russia.

President Vladimir Zelenskyy has begun fighting among his citizens, leaving no man left behind. Zelenskyy was asked by United States President Joe Biden if he would like to be taken to a safe place where he could go unharmed. Zelenskyy responded to this message saying he “needed ammo, not a ride”

Russia has stated its reason for invading Ukraine is to recreate the Soviet Union. Vladimir Putin, the President of Russia, is having his country be hit by many sanctions. On March 8, the United States dropped a sanction on Russia’s oil, one of the primary sources of oil for the United states. This has led gas prices to continue to increase around the U.S. with the average price of gas being \$4.33 per gallon ac-

cording to GasBuddy.com.

On top of sanctions being placed on Russia, many companies are pulling their businesses out of Russia or simply stopping their business activities temporarily. Companies such as McDonald’s, Starbucks and Shell have temporarily suspended their operations in Russia according to CBS news.

There are citizens who are joining the fight using Russian equipment according to @aaronparnas6 on Tiktok. Aaron Parnas has family overseas in Ukraine and are providing him with updates as they are aware of them. Many citizens have been stealing Russian tanks, weapons and much more as they become available from the fallen soldiers. Zelenskyy recently passed a law stating that those who have taken Russian war equipment will not be taxed on the equipment. Zelenskyy also passed a law that states any citizen who kills Russian soldiers will not be on

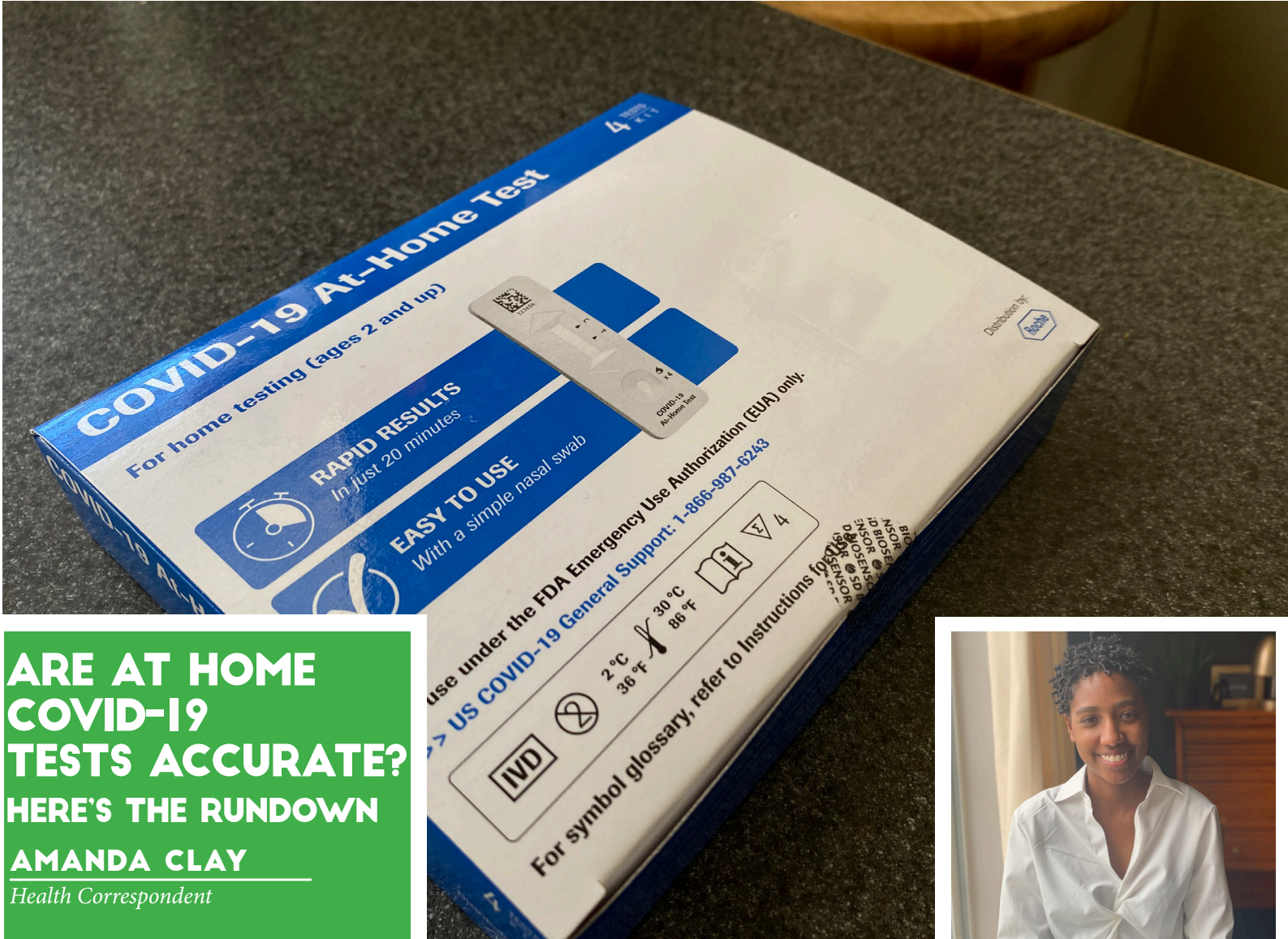
trial for the murder as it was done in the act of war.

Over 3,000 Americans have volunteered to aid Ukraine in their fight. These Americans are among 16,000 others from various countries who are coming to Ukraine’s side in their time of need.

In what seems like a desperation to save face, China has begun providing aid to Ukraine according to The Wall Street Journal. China has been closer to Russia in recent years, leading many theorists to believe they are only doing so to show solidarity with Ukraine even though their intentions are not just.

At this moment, Ukraine seems to be winning their fight in the war. Russian tanks are being bombed by Ukrainian planes, exploding on their grounds. Many citizens are taking back their cities and are fighting these fascists. The state of this war is changing every minute of every day. Ukraine may come out the winner after all.

SHE BLINDED ME WITH SCIENCE: HEALTHCARE UNDER THE LENS



ARE AT HOME COVID-19 TESTS ACCURATE? HERE'S THE RUNDOWN
AMANDA CLAY
Health Correspondent

COVID-19 home antigen tests surged in popularity during the omicron surge, quickly becoming sold out in nearly every store and pharmacy nationwide. Following the hysteria, The White House subsequently announced a mass distribution of COVID-19 antigen tests to American households across the country.

COVID-19 antigen home tests are convenient due to their ease of use and quick result - but their statistical accuracy has been questioned, particularly with the omicron variant. Dr. Eric Heine, Medical Director of Health Services at the University of West Georgia, says that false negatives are more common in rapid home antigen tests in comparison to polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests.

“They [home tests] can be less sensitive than the gold-standard PCR tests because the antigen tests rely on enough of the viral particles being in the sample to be detected,” said Dr. Heine. “It is more common to get false negatives early or late in the course of the illness, since those are times when there are fewer viral particles in the nose.”

This is not a reason to discount home testing, however. Dr. Heine says that these false positives happen relatively infrequently, and there are many advantages to home antigen tests. This includes wide availability, the convenience of not having to see a provider, cost effectiveness and the speed of the test result.

The timing of the test in relation during the disease progression (very early or very late during the infective process) often affects accuracy with antigen tests. If using a home antigen test, it is important to know at what point during the course of infection to test in order to receive an accurate reading.

“False positives are possible and can be related to performing the test incorrectly, cross contamination of samples, or a faulty batch from the manufacturer, to name a few reasons,” said Dr. Heine. “Also, even if a test is fairly specific, if the general prevalence of an illness is low in the population you are testing, you will have a higher percentage of false positives. During a COVID surge, however, the prevalence is high, and thus (as a

percentage of tests), there are far fewer false positives.”

When used correctly, antigen tests are very effective at determining the presence of an infection. If you develop symptoms of an infection and decide to test on the first day you become symptomatic, it may not be a bad idea to retest a day or two later.

“I usually caution my patients that if they test on the first day of symptoms and the test is negative, to retest the next day to make sure,” said Dr. Heine.

“If you initially test positive, then getting a subsequent negative test does not prove you are no longer contagious, but that the amount of virus is probably less. However, it is also true that you could still test positive and no longer be contagious. That is why the CDC uses time-based criteria to determine when isolation ends.”

No matter whether you use at home antigen tests or PCR tests, the important thing is to get tested if you are experiencing symptoms. UWG Health Services provides tests, COVID-19 vaccinations, and booster shots to all students, faculty, and staff.

ENTERTAINMENT



“THE PROMISED NEVERLAND” FINALLY COMES TO AN END

ALEX AMOS

Contributing Writer

Image Courtesy of Netflix

After an adventurous and terrifying journey, “The Promised Neverland” has finally come to an end after two successful seasons. The show was originally a series of 20 manga books created by mysterious writer Kaiu Shirai, whose identity is unknown to the public. Shirai is also famous for writing Kaiu Shirai x Posuka Demizu Short Stories. The Promised Neverland was developed and released in January of 2019. Since its release on Netflix, the show has received critical acclaim from fans worldwide.

Critics also enjoyed the show, giving it a whopping rating of 100% on Rotten Tomatoes. Despite having high ratings the show managed to stir up controversy with its abrupt ending and lack of pacing.

The show’s plot begins with a family of 38 children living with their mother, Isabella, in a foster home. Every day, the children go to a classroom to take IQ tests administered by Isabella. Out of all the children, three stand out because of their excellent test scores. The three children, Emma, Norman and Ray, become the main characters of a gruesome nightmare. Though everything seems to be perfect from first glance, more is revealed about the children’s living conditions.

The children are not allowed to go beyond a certain point outside the house’s lo-

cation, guarded by a small metal fence. The children have also never seen any adults other than their mother. The true horror of the story begins when Isabella announces that Conny, one of the youngest children, is being transferred to a new home beyond the gate. After Conny leaves, Norman and Emma notice that she left behind her prized stuffed animal. In the hopes of returning it, Norman and Emma take off to catch up to Conny.

However, instead of finding a happy little girl, Norman and Emma are greeted with a lifeless body on the back of a truck with strange demon-like monsters and Isabella beside it. From then on, the story only is filled with twists and turns. The children find themselves stuck in a world of demons who only desire to eat their brains once they have developed. The children’s only hope is to escape from their home.

The character development in the show is taken to another level as each character is equipped with their own robust traits and personality. Isabella’s character is one of the most complex developments over the course of the show. Though her initial role was to foster the children for harvest the audience is eventually shown a softer side to Isabella’s character. Isabella never wanted to see her children die and this is later shown through her helping the children escape the de-

mons at the end of season two.

Norman’s character growth was also particularly interesting. In the first season Norman is sent away to another facility to be tortured and tested on because of his perfect test scores. His personality shifts from soft-hearted and kind to vengeful and murderous while he is in the laboratory. He eventually escapes the facility with a mission to massacre the demon race but undergoes a change of heart because of Emma’s yearning for peace. Norman’s emotional intelligence underwent massive growth that fans did not expect.

“The Promised Neverland” ends on a high note with Emma saving all of the children by taking them to the human world and creating a new peace agreement with the demons. There was controversy over the anime’s ending in comparison to the manga. Fans were displeased with the anime ending because of its minimal effort to remain true to its source material. In the manga’s ending Emma loses her memories to the ruler of all demons in exchange for the new peace agreement. Emma’s memories are of equal value to the safety of the humans.

Though many fans complained about the anime’s ending, other fans took a liking to the light-hearted end they had been waiting for. Either way, “The Promised Neverland” gave its fans a chilling and adventurous ride.