



THE VANGARDEN

Lie Lacking

Chloe Zhao, OPINIONS CO-EDITOR

Under this heavenly glow
filtered through the lilac trees,
you're flush-colored like a portrait
of a classic beauty.

Must you have so much power to your name
and berate the work of nature?
Why put all gardens to shame,
simply with your stature?

Here I lie, lacking
in your presence,
and I'm struggling to save face.
So I'll whisper to the trees
that hold these purple blossoms
and hope you hear the bees
echo my buzzing admiration
that grows every lilac season.

Unfurled

Aritra Ray, MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Buried I was under a
frosted crown,
Yet here I was —
A tiny fist, unseen, un-
bound.
In the world around me,
a muted scene,
Countless shades of gray,
As verdant hues lay low
Ice crystals cling with a
fragile hold,
Soon to fade, a chapter
complete.

For it is time for a new
dawn to emerge,
A beacon of hope,
Silent at first,
Bursting soon after.
As the sun shines,
It is my time to rise.

To rise to new heights,
And face the unknown.
The world that was once a
canvas painted gray,
Now seems to me,
Like a vibrant tapestry
shining against the sky.

You see, I am the flower.
A symbol of rebirth, wild
and free.

What was the winter's
grip,
Is now a faint memory.
For it is replaced by a
bloom,
A new world that will
unfurl,
Brighter with each day
passing.
And everlasting for ages
to come.

Three flower destinations to add to your to-do list

Syra Bhatt, VANGUARD CO-EDITOR and Aarna Dharmavarapu, CONTRIBUTING WRITER



Photo: Zoe Nuland

Morven Museum & Garden is a National Historic Landmark filled with vibrant flowers, classic architecture, and an abundance of greenery that is a perfect start to the spring season. Renovated in 1999, the grounds are covered with numerous historic features, including an 18th-century horse chestnut walk and a colonial revival garden. We love the front yard, which features a row of 13 catalpa trees representing each of the original 13 states. The acres of orchards at Morven are decorated with crabapple trees, and the house features multiple flower beds of annis and commodore. Open Sunday through Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., this garden is a must-visit with your family and friends!

Among all the scenic landmarks in Princeton, the Prospect Garden at Princeton University is our personal favorite. Located right next to the Frist Campus Center and the Art Museum, the gardens are close to the heart of the campus. When the flowers bloom in the spring, the walkways of the garden are decorated with vibrant flowers and lush greenery; it's the perfect place for a serene spring stroll. Over eight thousand flowers are planted in the garden every year in May. Walking around, you may see red and blush painted geranium flowers, pom-pom-like floss flowers called ageratum, and over a dozen other alluring flower species.



Photo: Zoe Nuland



Photo: Daniel Guo

Terhune Orchards is known for its farm and grounds, which are decorated with numerous species of flowers, plants, and herbs. Although their greenhouses grow various types of flowers available for purchase, we advise you to pick your own bunch by taking a saunter through their outdoor selection. Here, visitors can craft their own bouquets, a fan-favorite being the bright pink, white, and deep magenta peonies that line the pathways and pop against the dark leafy bushes from which they grow. We also loved walking through the rows of zinnias and dahlias, whose vibrant colors made them hard to miss upon entering the orchard. Even if flower picking isn't your thing, Terhune is worth stopping by for the welcoming ambience and gorgeous photo opportunities. It's open on the weekdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on the weekends from 9a.m. to 5p.m..



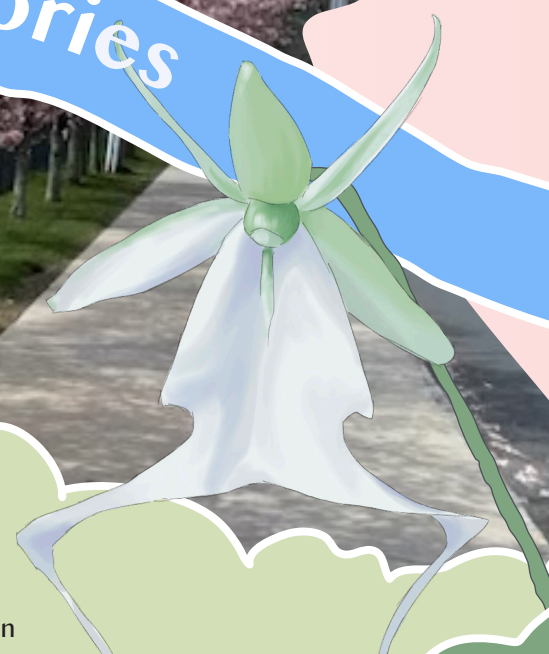
Endangered flowers and their stories

Asya Morozov, SPORTS CO-EDITOR
Joanna Hou, CONTRIBUTING WRITER



Despite its name and enticing smell, the chocolate cosmos is not a dessert. Originating in Mexico, the chocolate cosmos' unusual smell comes from the vanillin it produces, the same compound present in cocoa. This flower is rather particular about its environment and requires temperatures above 50 degrees Fahrenheit, at least six hours of direct sunlight per day, and slightly acidic soil to thrive. Because of overharvesting and loss of its natural habitat, the chocolate cosmos is considered endangered in Mexico and was thought to be extinct in the wild for decades until a self-pollinating chocolate cosmos was propagated in New Zealand around 1990. Despite its scarcity in nature, the chocolate cosmos is relatively easy to cultivate within controlled habitats, given proper care and growing conditions.

With its white petals and the way it seems to float in midair, the ghost orchid lives up to its name. This flower is found in Cuba, the West Indies, and Florida, but its population is dwindling as climate change and human damage alter its habitats. According to NatureServe, the current conservation status of the ghost orchid is "critically imperiled," meaning it is at a very high risk of becoming extinct. The ghost orchid has also been overexploited for its unique appearance; unlike most flowers, it has no leaves. The ghost orchid is also an epiphyte, meaning its roots hang onto tree branches or trunks instead of growing from the soil. Only ten percent of ghost orchids bloom for a few weeks in summer and even fewer are pollinated. Conservation efforts are being made to protect the ghost orchid from extinction, which is more and more likely as climate change, habitat loss, and human harvesting of the flower continues.



The Southeast Asian Rafflesia is another flower at risk for extinction; however, it is very different from the others. Rafflesia, also known as the corpse flower, is no delicate plant, but rather a massive parasite that emits a putrid stench to attract flies, its primary pollinators. There are currently 42 identified species of rafflesia, 60 percent of which are considered endangered. As a rainforest plant, rafflesia is most threatened by habitat loss due to lumber cutting and poaching, as its buds are taken for medicinal purpose. Since rafflesia plants cannot be grown in captivity, their conservation is a challenge. In 2023 a team of researchers in the science journal Plants, People, Planet advised that the only way to save the rafflesia is through habitat conservation. If we do not intervene, it will soon be too late for these flowers and other rainforest species.

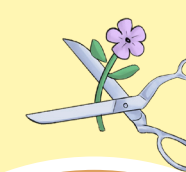


Flowers are symbols of love and death. Crowns represent power and status. What about crowns made out of flowers? These crowns made out of foliage and flowers represent a multitude of virtues and are part of traditions and celebrations around the world. In ancient Rome and ancient Greece, gods and goddesses wore flowers and plants symbolizing respect and honor. In many European countries, May Day is a festival celebrated on May 1 to mark the beginning of summer. The celebration originated from the Roman festival of honoring Flora, the goddess of flowers, spring, and vegetation, and during their celebrations children often pick out flowers to create crowns. In Ukraine specifically there is a kind of flower crown known as a "vinok," a traditional headpiece for young girls and unmarried women, and in Mexico, many sport flower crowns during Dia De Los Muertos.

DIY Flower Crown

Vanessa He, CONTRIBUTING WRITER

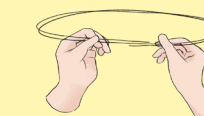
1) Cut flower stems so they each measure one and a half inches.



6) Finished! You can wear it once finished or store it in the fridge.



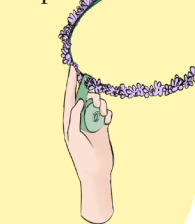
2) Measure the circumference of your head, then cut wire twice the length of it. Create two loops of wire that wrap around your head nicely.



Supplies

- Floral wire, twine, or string (preferably floral wire for sturdiness)
- Floral tape or masking tape
- Scissors
- Measuring tape
- Large or small flowers (preferably fresh flowers that can hold out of water)

5) Cover any excess wire with floral tape.



4) Continue placing the flowers on the wire as desired.



3) Attach the flowers by wrapping floral tape around the stems and the wire tightly.



Graphics: Katherine Chen