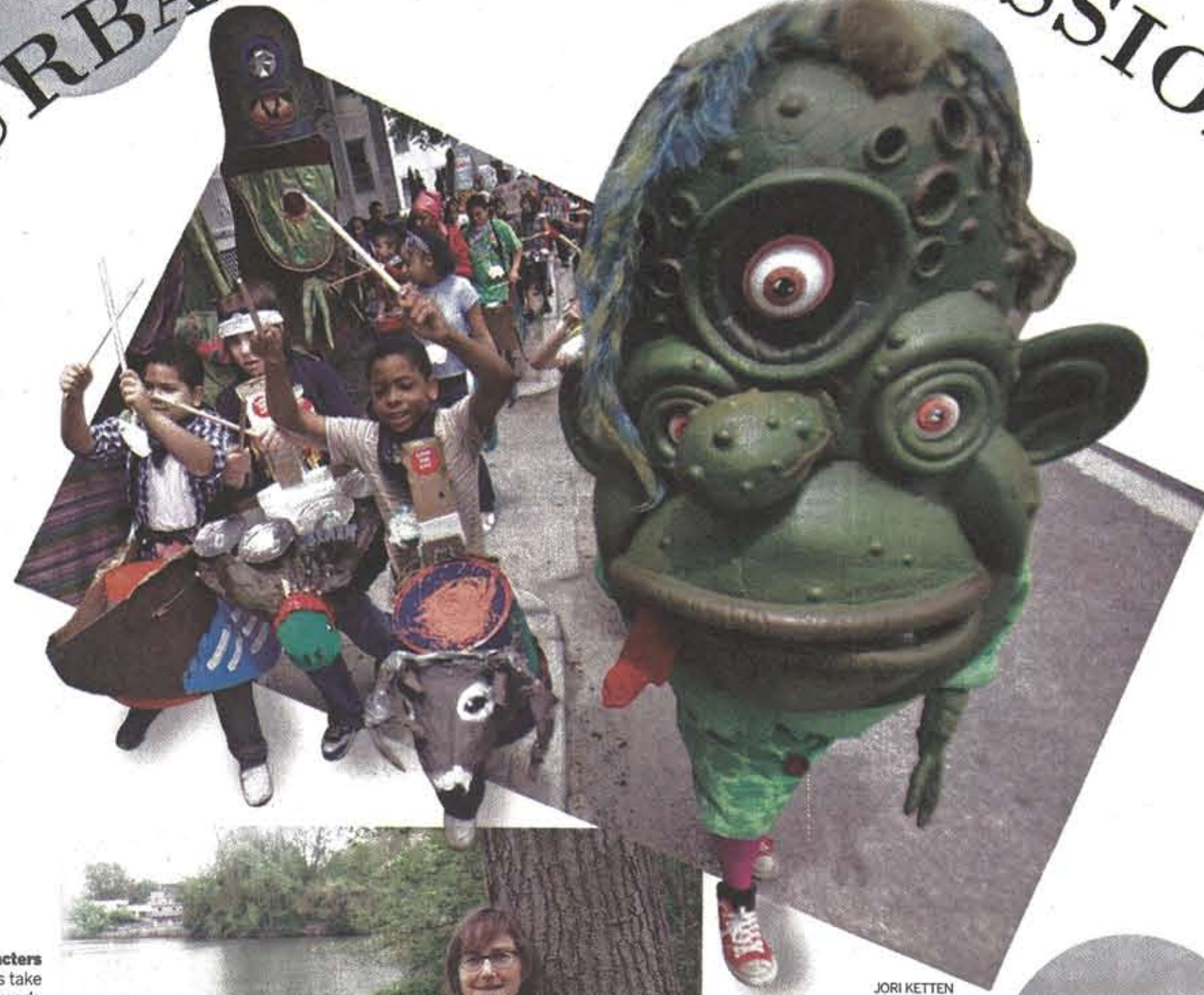


Go!

URBAN POND PROCESSION



Big Nazo characters and drummers take part in last year's Urban Pond Procession. At right is Providence artist Holly Ewald, the creator of the event, now in its sixth year.



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / SANDOR BODO

JORI KETTEN

Hundreds expected at annual celebration that educates about Mashapaug Pond
Page C7

OUTDOORS

Celebratory parade around the pond

By TOM MEADE
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PROVIDENCE — The Urban Pond Procession is a people's parade with purpose. The sixth annual event — with musicians, giant puppets and activities — is scheduled to start Saturday, June 1, at 10 a.m. at Dr. Jorge Alvarez High School and goes two-thirds of the way around the pond, ending at J.T. Owens Park on Niantic Avenue.

Providence artist Holly Ewald started the Urban Pond Procession with residents of the city's Reservoir Triangle as part of an educational effort. They were trying to dissuade newly arrived Asian immigrants from swimming or eating the fish in Mashapaug Pond, a beautiful but toxic lake on the border with Cranston.

The 100-acre Mashapaug is the jewel in a chain of urban ponds, beginning with Tongue and Spectacle ponds in Cranston and ending at the waters of Roger Williams Park and the Pawtuxet River.

Mashapaug Pond had also been home to Gorham Manufacturing, which discharged waste into the water. City residents dumped abandoned cars and other junk into



"Mashapaug Neighbors — Stories from Beyond the Pond" is an audio cell-phone tour with stops around the pond.

Mashapaug, too, and it became known as "Junkyard Pond."

Ewald collaborated with elementary school students on designing a water-sensitive playground. A graphics class at Alvarez High created warning signs for anglers. She worked with an oral history class at Brown University to create "Mashapaug Neighbors — Stories from Beyond the Pond," an audio cell-phone tour with stops around the pond. It features people who live around the pond.

When she began, Ewald recalled, "I went to public meetings [about the pond] and I was really surprised that there weren't more people from the community involved. I wondered



DON NGUON

The Nathan Bishop Middle School's Build UPP the Beat band plays with the Extraordinary Rendition Band at the 2011 event.

about how to get more people engaged. ... So I thought we can make signs and walk through everybody's backyard and raise a ruckus."

And the Urban Pond Procession was born. More than 200 people are expected to participate in Saturday's event. (The rain date is Sunday, June 2.)

Participants will include children, representatives of the Narragansett Indian Tribe, artists, environmental groups, musicians, performers, neighbors and governmental officials.

There will be duck boat tours, and the Mashapaug Monster, a floating sculpture, on the pond.

The procession will include music by the What Cheer? Brigade and young musicians from Vartan Gregorian Elementary School, along with Big Nazo Puppets. Food will be sold at J.T. Owens Park after the procession.

Parking will be available at the park, and shuttle buses to the procession's start will begin running at 9:15 a.m. All activities are free and open to everyone.

More information is available at urbanpondprocession.org.

tmeade@providencejournal.com
(401) 277-7340
On Twitter @TomMeade2



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / SANDOR BODO

Providence artist Holly Ewald started the Urban Pond Procession to educate about Mashapaug Pond, seen behind her.

RISD MUSEUM

Artist/Rebel/Dandy Men of Fashion

NOW OPEN

"Must-See Fashion Exhibition of 2013" — *Artinfo*

"... your 2013 summer pilgrimage." — *GQ*



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / SANDOR BODO

This floating sculpture was created by students at Sophia Academy and was part of last year's procession.

