DANCERS PERFORM AT CELEBRATION OF CHINESE NEW YEAR
China Night, in Strong Auditorium on Saturday, Feb. 14 featured skits, cultural dances, and student performances.

SA passes resolution for better funding of counseling services
BY ANGELA REMUS
After representatives on the Student Advisory Committee learned of lengthy waits to receive a weekly appointment schedule with the University Counseling Center (UCC), the Students Association (SA) took action and passed the “Resolution Urging the Expansion and Improvement of UCC Resources” on Feb. 9.

Class of 2016 Senator and Wellness Coordinator Melissa Holloway was involved in bringing the matter before the SA Senate.

“I was hearing from students that there was a long wait list at the counseling center,” Holloway said. “I met with Paula Reynolds at UCC and had a conversation with her to ask about the process and see where the problem might lie.”

SA President and senior Antoinette Esce also met with Director of University Health Service Dr. Ralph Manchester. They discovered that the root of the problem lay in a lack of funding: with the current level of funding, which affects staffing, only a limited number of cases can be handled. While all students are given a preliminary appointment within a week of contact with UCC, they may have to wait to schedule a regular weekly appointment.

“When the problem was brought before Senate, they created a resolution calling on University Health Service, the Office of the President, the Board of Trustees and other relevant parties “to increase funding for UCC to allow for the betterment of UR’s counseling services.”

In the upcoming weeks, members of the SA, including Esce, will reach out to administrators to ensure that they are aware of the resolution and its contents. While the resolution itself will not alter funding, it may encourage administrators and other parties to put the matter on their agendas and perhaps encourage increased funding for UCC.

“We’re hoping that the relevant parties will see the resolution as a cry for help,” Holloway said.

In the event that UCC does receive increased funding, the resolution also requests that such funding be used “to expand the hours available for appointments to better accommodate students’ academic schedules, and to increase staffing for the purpose of expanding student access to individual and group counseling sessions.”

Ultimately, the SA resolved to support expanding the resources allocated to students’ mental well-being.

“Hopefully we can increase the resources for students on campus who need this support,” Holloway said. “You don’t want to be one of those kids who are moderate priorities. Having the resources to get all students’ support when they want them will create a safe environment for all students.”

Remus is a member of the class of 2016.
Panel Discusses Poland's Transition to Democracy

A panel discussion on Feb. 16 commemorated the 25th anniversary of the transition to democracy in Poland as part of 1989: The End of the System, which also featured an exhibition in Rhaten Hall.

This Week on Campus

Thursday, February 19

Rachel Madan: Corporate Responsibility
Scheidegg Hall; Ebeners Roultry, 4:45 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.
Rachel Madon '99, sustainability officer at International Finance Corp., will discuss corporate responsibility as a career path. A reception will follow the talk.

Digital Humanities Speaker
Laura Mandell, director of the Initiative for Digital Humanities, Media and Culture at Texas A&M University, will give the talk, “Scaling Up: Search as Research.” This talk is free and open to the public.

Friday, February 20

Hip-Hop Dance Class
Spurrier Dance Studio, 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
An accomplished teacher and choreographer, Rodney Hill has taught in universities and dance studios locally, nationally and internationally. Admission is free.

Saturday, February 21

Benefit Dinner: Hope in Health
Medical Center Flaura Hall, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
GlobeMed will host its 4th annual benefit dinner to raise funds for its student-run clinics in Peru. Tickets can be bought online.

Sunday, February 22

Black History Month Family Day
Memorial Art Gallery, Noon - 5:00 p.m.
All ages are invited to celebrate Black History Month with hands-on art activities, storytelling, guided tours, music and dance performances, family tours, international cultural displays and more. The suggested donation is $5 per family.

Choral Extravaganza
Off Campus, 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
The event features a choral concert by UR's Men's Glee Club, Chamber Singers, Gospel Choir and Treblelicious at First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford, 21 Church Street. Contact UR's Department of Music at (585) 275-2828 for more information.

If you are sponsoring an event that you wish to submit for the calendar, please email news@campustimes.org with a brief summary, including: the date, time, location and cost of admission.

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A URMC research team led by professor of Environmental Medicine Dr. Irfan Rahman released a study on the hazards of e-cigarette vapors that suggests that their inhalation can lead to lung damage.

The study, published on Feb. 6 in the scientific journal PLOS ONE, shows that e-vapors can cause damage to lung cells in humans and mice, especially by dripping the flavored liquids (known as e-juices) directly onto the heating element of the e-cigarette.

“URMC is the first to yield results on the specific area of e-vapors inducing toxicity, oxidative stress, and inflammation,” Dr. Rahman said in an interview conducted through URMC Public Relations and Communications. “We were the first to discover that ‘dripping’ of e-juices onto the heating element generates free radicals and oxidative stress that leads to lung damage.”

According to the study, certain flavors of e-juices cause more stress and subsequent damage on lung tissue than others. When asked if he believed that the study would prompt regulation within the e-cigarette industry, Dr. Rahman was unsure but added that “if regulation does occur it will probably focus initially on flavorings and e-juices such as candy and cinnamon.”

Continued reassurances of safety from manufacturers, widespread belief that e-cigarettes are less harmful (particularly when compared to regular cigarettes) and a lack of regulation around e-cigarettes has led many institutions to research the long-term health effects of these devices. Johns Hopkins University previously linked the toxic chemicals generated in e-vapors to immune system problems.

The impetus for UR to conduct research in this area stemmed from a question regarding the environmental impacts of e-cigarette disposal. The toxins and metals in e-cigarette vapors and waste are a safety concern, according to Dr. Rahman, prompting an earlier study into the effects of pollution from the disposal of the devices.

Inspiration for the recent study also came from outside URMC faculty. “Two summers ago an undergraduate student working with us discovered there was no product information, government regulations or guidelines on how to recycle or dispose of the e-cig components,” Dr. Rahman said. “This student’s astute observation raised a big concern about the potential environmental hazards and the lack of research into the topic.” The e-vapor study began in 2012. According to Dr. Rahman, research will continue beyond this study “to further explore the hazardous health effects of e-cigarette vaping and secondhand exposures to children, teenagers and individuals who are susceptible to allergies and irritants.”

The study was funded by a grant awarded to RIT. Collaborators on the study include RIT’s Risa Robinson and URMC’s Chad Lerner, Scott McIntosh, Deborah J. Ossip and Alison Elder.

Ransom is a member of the class of 2017.

New shape-shifting polymer could be used in medical, robotics fields

Researchers in UR’s Department of Chemical Engineering recently developed a new type of synthetic, shape-shifting material that exhibits many improvements over existing technology. Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering Mitchell Anthamatten worked with Chemical Engineering graduate student Yuan Meng and senior Jisu Jiang to design and synthesize the new polymer, a material consisting of long, interwoven chains of molecules.

When asked about possible applications of the new polymer, Anthamatten said in an email, “Shape-memory polymers have been considered for many roles in biomedical science […] Artificial muscles must actuate in a two-way mode, and many technologies demand that materials are electrically wired for power or triggering. Our technology is based only on a thermal stimulus and would require no wiring.” Anthamatten added that the material could also have applications in robotics, where the polymers could serve as a soft interface between the robot and its surroundings.

“We’ve been studying shape-memory polymers for years now,” Anthamatten said. “More recently, we’ve been working with crystallizable shape memory polymers, whereby crystallization upon cooling is used to stabilize a temporary deformed shape.” Generally speaking, shape-shifting materials are networks of polymers connected by linking chains of molecules. The shape-shifting properties can be induced by a change in temperature or by the

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Undergraduate virtual reality project presented at Intel–Cornell Competition

Peck wins award for work with medieval texts at UR, elsewhere

HAPTECH FROM PAGE 1 into a virtual world. Unlike other gaming systems that combine the physical and virtual worlds, HapTech may be sold at a relatively cheap price. It also combines sensing and feedback processes.

HapTech began through UR Robotics club, and has since evolved since to become perhaps one of the most prestigious and advanced technological endeavors UR students have ever taken on. The team, advised by professor of Computer Science Randal Nelson, and led by Sinko, is currently in the process of constructing and polishing their current model, as well as looking for a media supervisor to manage their digital presence.

The project, initially a pair of gloves and a basic motion sensor television set, has expanded to include full upper body coverage, providing kinesthetic feedback to the chest and arms, as well as high-resolution service to the hands.

For the future, the HapTech team “envisions a dramatic expansion of their product line to capitalize on the current lack of competition in the virtual reality market. To hit at many potential markets as possible, this lineup will include a stripped-down version for computer users such as digital sculptors and CAD designers, an exo-skeleton model for gamers that will include impact simulation through weight shifts, and a low-impact athletic model for fitness users.”

Sinko said, “The team is very hopeful for the future of virtual reality, and looks forward to establishing HapTech’s place in this exciting and innovative marketplace.”

Kaplan is a member of the class of 2018.

Polymer changes shape with heating, cooling

From Page 3 application of stresses to the material, depending on how the polymer was designed. Most shape-memory polymers need to be “programmed” in order to work. During programming, the material is contorted into a temporary shape and then cooled to a low temperature in order to maintain that shape. When the polymer is heated, it reverts to its original shape. In the past, this has limited the application of shape-shifting materials.

Anthamatten’s polymer, on the other hand, is a “two-way shape memory polymer.” Due to its unique construction, the polymer can switch between two different shapes solely by heating or cooling, without needing manually contortion or programming.

The unique behavior of Anthamatten’s polymer is due to the way it was made: during the synthesis of the material, the researchers added crosslinks to the material to form what Anthamatten described as a “soft, rubber-like network.” They then stretched this network and added more cross-linking chains. This technique creates internal stresses in the polymer, which can then be manipulated with temperature changes to make the polymer change shape.

Anthamatten described the shape-shifting mechanism, or “programming,” that allows the formation of crystalline patterns within the material. “The forces involved in forming crystalline domains are large enough to significantly stretch the material by over 15 percent,” Anthamatten said. He explained that when the material is cooled below about 50°C, it forms crystalline structures known as lamellae. “By biasing the chain configuration, we have established the direction that the lamellae will stack into.”

In the laboratory, the researchers worked with square films of the polymer, about three inches on a side and between 100 and 300 micrometers thick. Anthamatten noted that the crystallization occurs on a very small scale, with the polymer chains packing together in nanometer-scale structures. “I would guess the behavior could be shown for length scales as small as a micrometer, but we’ve never tried anything that small,” Anthamatten said.

Anthamatten, Meng and Jiang published their research in the journal ACS Macro Letters, and plan to attend the March meeting of the American Physical Society. There, Anthamatten said, they will “share the results to the polymer physics community. Furthermore, we have submitted a grant application to the National Science Foundation to further study this phenomenon.”

Passanisi is a member of the class of 2017.

Peck said he remembers that at the time, the selection of texts with which one could teach medieval literature was severely limited. The idea for the Middle English Text Series (METS), a non-profit organization, was to make individual and inexpensive texts for all of those things easier to get. METS began publishing five volumes each year.

“Their handiwork was very generous,” Peck said. “It’s been sustained by the U.S. government, the National Endowment, for over 20 years now. We have our proposal out for one further extension that would run until 2018.”

As present, METS has published 78 volumes in print and electronically and currently has four more at the printers.

“It’s completely revolutionized the teaching of medieval literature,” Peck said. “You may have a particular slant, you may be in women’s studies or feminist literature or in the sciences in some form of critical theory, and you could put together a syllabus with texts for all of those things which you never would have been able to do otherwise,” Peck said.

Peck’s office personally oversees the editing process for each text. In receiving the award, therefore, he said he feels happy not just for himself but for the “dozens and dozens of people” involved in making METS possible, including “very involved graduate students.”

Additionally, if there were a single book in the METS that he would recommend to everyone, he suggests “Robin Hood and Other Outlaw Tales,” edited by Stephen Knight and Thomas Ohlgen.

Laia is a member of the class of 2018.

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Yak in moderation

BY ANGELA LAI
NEWS EDITOR

Yik Yak, a popular, anonymous social media application that lets users post and vote on “yaks” within a ten mile radius, allows people to share and detach themselves from their thoughts. Since downloading it last semester, I sometimes feel a faint sense of shame when I open it, whether it’s while I’m waiting in line for food at Danforth or sitting with a group of people enjoying each others’ company in dead silence and tapping away at their phones. It’s an easy and thoughtless way to pass the time.

While it makes the University community more accessible, and it’s usually filled with jokes, the “yakamma” system means popular yaks are regularly recycled, and the app’s anonymity encourages its users to harass others or air offensive thoughts without fear of backlash. This effect is so pervasive that Rochester area school districts have expressed concerns over Yik Yak’s popularity among their students.

For instance, Timothy McArdle, principal of Le Roy Junior-Senior High School, told the Democrat & Chronicle about the anti-bullying awareness campaign he recently waged against Yik Yak in response to reports from students being bullied through the app. Yak’s rules tell its users to “not bully or specifically target other yakkers,” but this is hard to regulate—McArdle and other principals in Monroe County asked students to pledge that they would delete the app entirely.

It’s true that college students are (hopefully) more mature and less inclined to misuse the app, but Yik Yak’s effects at high schools are high-light how a platform where users don’t worry about the repercussions of their posts perpetuates “the online disinhibition effect.”

Dr. John Sulier’s study by the same name describes this in its abstract: “While online, some people self-disclose or act out more frequently or intensely than they would in person.”

Rather than giving users a chance to reveal their “true selves,” the study writes that this disinhibition creates a different environment for users to interact in and that neither in-person nor online interactions reveal more of our “true” identities. Judging by some of the yaks on our area’s feed, Yik Yak creates an environment where people are more open about sexuality, drug use, bodily functions, grievances against student groups and the occasional racist or sexist thought. This crudeness can get old quickly.

On the plus side, however, Yik Yak provides a free forum that’s accessible to most UR students. Where else is it so easy and perhaps even therapeutic, to complain about the weather, our workloads, professors and other students, or to share witty comments the minutes they come to us? Even some officers in the Department of Public Safety like to check Yik Yak. So while Yik Yak’s anonymity can foster a culture and sometimes demoralizing environment, it also creates an odd sort of community. I say enjoy in moderation.

LaI is a member of the class of 2018.

When it comes to SA every minute counts

In trying to achieve a greater good, people often overlook the bigger picture and neglect to address crucial issues. Governments often engage in this type of behavior in the case of its minutes. SA is no exception. With this in mind, we would like to sincerely remind Senate of its obligation to be transparent to the student body.

Transparency is a key ingredient in any effective democracy. In order to have a government truly for the people and by the people, constituents need to know what goes on within the halls of their legislatures and behind the doors of their council’s meetings.

Individuals have the right to know how their elected representatives feel about certain issues and, critically, how they vote on them. How else would one know if his or her interests were actually being represented?

The first answer that comes to mind is simple: individuals should attend meetings of their government. Luckily, Senate has lived up to this basic tenant of transparency: its Monday nights in Wilson Commons’ Gowen Room. But who has the time or the patience to attend another option for students, yet alone the most practical.

Senate makes its meeting minutes available online for public viewing. This policy is excellent in every way—except for the fact that the most recent minutes uploaded to the website were from its Nov. 4, 2013 meeting. When you do the math, that adds up to a gap of over 15 months without publically available and accessible minutes—something that is unacceptable.

We acknowledge that the problem of Senate minutes not being systematically uploaded is a very specific one, and we don’t want to blame one particular individual. But, it is inexusable for an organization in Senate’s position to disregard its duty to the people who give it power in the first place. In doing so, Senate is hurting not only the student body, but also itself. Minutes effectively represent all members of Senate, and therefore all Senate members have a stake in wanting to see their publication.

It’s worth noting that Senate’s Communications & Public Relations Committee is working on mitigating the problem by revamping the website to include the archiving and uploading of minutes. The project is expected to be completed by the end of the month. Though this is certainly a step forward in making the process of accessing this important information more streamlined, it should not excite the fact that minutes will not be uploaded to the website within a one week period. UR community for another few weeks on top of the past 15 months. All members of Senate are accountable to their constituents—the student body. It goes without saying that students should know what happens at Senate meetings. Minutes are the easiest way for students to get that information, and they should be easy to find, not shrouded behind cloaks of bureaucracy or hidden within a stack of old books. We appreciate that Senate’s Communications & Public Relations Committee is working to make it easier to view the archive. But, in our opinion, the real issue here is even more basic than the issue of uploading minutes: the past 15 months are simply unavailable.

It’s also important to recognize the responsibility of the student body in this situation. Students need to take an active role in their government and should be more open about reporting the minutes and keeping their representatives in check. If that was the case, perhaps this issue would have been picked up immediately, rather than months later.

Since last Thursday, two separate accidents have occurred involving UR shuttle buses—one this past Friday and one this past weekend. This is more frequent or intense than they would in person.”

While it’s worth noting that he said that this incidence was exceptional, the lack of communication between all parties involved is problematic. With the bus stalls, many students were left waiting for shuttles that never came, and students were left in the cold as they waited for shuttles to be redirected to their locations.

Admirably, Director Kierig admitted that he had little knowledge of whether and how these incidents were unfortunate, what was more troubling was the fact that, during this week’s Senate meeting, Director of Parking and Transportation Services Hugh Kierig admitted that he had little knowledge of whether and how the shuttles’ night accident had happened.

On the plus side, however, Yik Yak provides a free forum that’s accessible to most UR students. Where else is it so easy and perhaps even therapeutic, to complain about the weather, our workloads, professors and other students, or to share witty comments the minutes they come to us? Even some officers in the Department of Public Safety like to check Yik Yak.

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Driving for safety

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Senate makes its meeting minutes available online for public viewing. This policy is excellent in every way—except for the fact that the most recent minutes uploaded to the website were from its Nov. 4, 2013 meeting. When you do the math, that adds up to a gap of over 15 months without publically available and accessible minutes—something that is unacceptable.

We acknowledge that the problem of Senate minutes not being systematically uploaded is a very specific one, and we don’t want to blame one particular individual. But, it is inexusable for an organization in Senate’s position to disregard its duty to the people who give it power in the first place. In doing so, Senate is hurting not only the student body, but also itself. Minutes effectively represent all members of Senate, and therefore all Senate members have a stake in wanting to see their publication.

It’s worth noting that Senate’s Communications & Public Relations Committee is working on mitigating the problem by revamping the website to include the archiving and uploading of minutes. The project is expected to be completed by the end of the month. Though this is certainly a step forward in making the process of accessing this important information more streamlined, it should not excite the fact that minutes will not be uploaded to the website within a one week period. UR community for another few weeks on top of the past 15 months. All members of Senate are accountable to their constituents—the student body. It goes without saying that students should know what happens at Senate meetings. Minutes are the easiest way for students to get that information, and they should be easy to find, not shrouded behind cloaks of bureaucracy or hidden within a stack of old books. We appreciate that Senate’s Communications & Public Relations Committee is working to make it easier to view the archive. But, in our opinion, the real issue here is even more basic than the issue of uploading minutes: the past 15 months are simply unavailable.

It’s also important to recognize the responsibility of the student body in this situation. Students need to take an active role in their government and should be more open about reporting the minutes and keeping their representatives in check. If that was the case, perhaps this issue would have been picked up immediately, rather than months later.

Since last Thursday, two separate accidents have occurred involving UR shuttle buses—one this past Friday and one this past weekend. This is more frequent or intense than they would in person.”

While it’s worth noting that he said that this incidence was exceptional, the lack of communication between all parties involved is problematic. With the bus stalls, many students were left waiting for shuttles that never came, and students were left in the cold as they waited for shuttles to be redirected to their locations.

Admirably, Director Kierig admitted that he had little knowledge of whether and how the shuttle’s night accident had happened.

On the plus side, however, Yik Yak provides a free forum that’s accessible to most UR students. Where else is it so easy and perhaps even therapeutic, to complain about the weather, our workloads, professors and other students, or to share witty comments the minutes they come to us? Even some officers in the Department of Public Safety like to check Yik Yak.

So while Yik Yak’s anonymity can foster a culture and sometimes demoralizing environment, it also creates an odd sort of community. I say enjoy in moderation.

LaI is a member of the class of 2018.

Driving for safety

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LaI is a member of the class of 2018.
United States should stand its ground on GMOs

BY ZACHARY TAYLOR

Arguably, the most underreported story in the media these days is the ongoing negotiations over the proposed United States-European Union Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). This massive trade deal would increase U.S. and EU cross-border trade to roughly $20 billion a year—a $100 billion annual windfall for the United States, compounding. Politically, the deal is interesting because the primary trade barriers between the U.S. and EU are not tariffs but redundant regulations. Companies that want to participate in both markets have to grapple with two regulatory systems, which could be streamlined (much as the EU has done between European countries).

The TTIP trade policy puts people to sleep, the issue of biotechnology regulation has struck an emotional chord, and it has garnered the attention of the European far left. Publics on both sides of the Atlantic have long been divided on the relationship with genetically modified food. For example, one recent poll showed 82% of Americans believe genetically modified foods are safe, while 80% of Americans also believe labeling of food containing DNA—i.e., all plants, animals, bacteria and fungi!—is a political decision that the EU’s scientific bodies now oppose. (One could argue that European consumers have different preferences, but for reasons I lack the space to address them here, but most of these, especially the “Monsanto randomly sues farmers for trace contamination” myth.)

Moreover, anti-GM hysteria has spread from the developed world to the developing world, in an ironic and tragic form of left-wing neo-imperialism. A. All of these companies have offered to waive license fees for golden rice, which contains GM technology. Surely the Gates Foundation, have recommended value of Vitamin A. It is important that socially conscious and scientifically literate Americans and Europeans work together to promote the development of GM crops, despite the fact that they are giving improved in 2005 and could have saved thousands of lives by now. (A bowl of Golden Rice costs only 20 cents, which is much more than the recommended value of Vitamin A.) Its introduction has been delayed by Western activists who have fought its approval and even destroyed test crops.

Until genetically modified foods gain greater acceptance in the countries where they were first developed, it will be impossible to stop the export of lethal ignorance.
Engineers Without Borders travel to Don Juan for first assessment trip

BY RACHEL KAPLAN
SENIOR STAFF

Engineers Without Borders is a worldwide collection of millions of people around the world. The program aims to build a relationship between what students learn in lectures and how to apply those skills to improve communities around the world that perhaps do not have the capabilities or resources to do so. Beyond engineering, the program teaches students to manage their budget, deposit checks and decide on the appropriate allocation of materials and plan for fundraising.

Through money management and engineering planning, students are taught to work as a cohesive unit in order to design and build sustainable systems. Since 2009, UR’s Engineers Without Borders team has been working relentlessly on multiple projects to improve the lives of 2.5 million people around the world. Engineers Without Borders, that allows members of a specific Engineers Without Borders chapter to assess the economic, social and environmental risk factors in a community. Using these factors, they decide what type of sustainable design to implement in order to solve these problems. These programs must be approved by the national Engineers Without Borders board, and entail a five-year commitment to a specific community. From Jan 3–12, the Rochester chapter ventured to Escuela Taller Santa Maria Josefa Rossello, a school in the town of Don Juan, located in the Monte Plata Province of the Dominican Republic, in order to solve a crisis of water sanitation. The school is a public institution of over 400 students, ranging from pre-K to 8th grade.

“In their meetings on Tuesdays at 8:00 p.m. to try to tackle the next step for the program and for our member development, including planning workshops and events, documenting and planning the current step of the project and securing funds for our endeavors,” according to President and current Vice President, new Christian Freitas, former President and current Vice President. Beyond engineering, the program teaches students to manage their budget, deposit checks and decide on the appropriate allocation of materials and plan for fundraising. Through money management and engineering planning, students are taught to work as a cohesive unit in order to design and build sustainable systems.

UR’s group passes with others working on the project.

PHOTO COURTESY OF UR ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS

Guest athletes play during halftime at women’s basketball game

BY MICHAEL GULSTON
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This past Spirit Week, UR came out on top with electrifying victories against NYU from both the Men and Women’s Basketball teams. Their victories were inspired by their supporters, covered in face paint and spirit merchandise. During halftime of the Women’s game, free t-shirts were flung into the crowd while a group of girls came onto the court to play. These girls are members of a fourth grade team from Penfield Youth Basketball. This youth league based in Penfield, a suburb of Rochester, aims to develop the skills of youth in the local town by conducting clinics, training sessions and competitive league games. The teams consist of girls ranging from third grade to fifth grade. UR Women’s Basketball Head Coach Jim Scheible was excited to have these girls working with the University team. "Our team did a clinic at the Eastside YMCA on Jan. 4 and they were in attendance," Scheible said. "They wanted to come see the team play after we conducted the clinic. Several of them also come to the [UR] camp in the summer." What does their appearance mean to the UR campus community? For one, they brought their spirit and passion for the game of basketball to our campus for a short period of time. Small gestures like this can create an ongoing network with the Penfield community and the University of Rochester Athletic Department, according to Scheible. Coach Scheible commented, "We are excited to have local kids at games as they bring a lot of energy and support. In addition, it is fun for our players to get out into the community to promote UR and our team. These are some pretty good players for their age and you never know if they might want to play at UR someday."

All told, who would’ve imagined that a fifteen-minute appearance could have such an impact on our campus spirit? Moving forward, the UR Women’s basketball team hopes to continue to make an impact on the Rochester community by supporting youth programs to help develop young girls into athletes and to foster a community that encourages them to stay physically active.

Gulston is a member of the class of 2016.
UR Tech: The power of squee

BY LUCIAN COPELAND
STAFF WRITER

Google’s smart car looks a bit like a marshmallow. It’s round, fluffy and aggressively uncerebral. The lights in the front and back look like slightly crossed eyes, giving the whole car an air of comic bookyness, despite the deeply complex hardware and algorithms that dictate its motion and steering.

But despite being perhaps a bit embarrassing to climb into, the poofy-cute look might be one of the best tools for keeping you safe on the road—a look that sparks charm and pacify other drivers as they navigate around the slow speeds and sluggish reaction times of the smartcar.

As it turns out, the more adorable the vehicle, the less it gets in accidents with other drivers. This leveraging of our penchant for the cute and lifelike within everyday technology is hardly new.

Humans anthropomorphize practically everything they can project a face onto—even images as simple as an electrical socket have been proven to elicit positive reactions from viewers.

But use of the power of squee in robotics is relatively new, and has serious implications for how the future of human-computer interaction can play out.

On the one hand, it makes the use of pervasive robotics much easier to pitch to the consumer public. Nobody wants a Terminator vacuuming their house after they’ve left for work, but a puppy-sized Roomba making happy chirping noises and clumsily bumping around is a much easier sell.

And when considered for more advanced applications, using the power of cute when designing a human-driven system can overcome some significant psychological hurdles. Simple additions such as rounded physical shapes, pervasive use of faces, voice responses and spontaneous actions are all ways to make a machine seem lifelike, and in doing so, change our expectations and behaviors while using it.

Anthropomorphized robots are easier to trust, harder to get frustrated at and more inclined to be regarded well in hindsight. When put through a simulation of crashing in a self-driving car, users were more likely to rate their experience positively when the experience was narrated by a robotic voice rather than when they were driven silently, even though both groups experienced the same virtual accident.

Relating with the user can help too. IT researchers have discovered that if a piece of software self-deprecates on occasion, or takes the user’s side, it can assist in offsetting user anger at software bugs or technical failures.

When Clippy the Microsoft Office Assistant is programmed to politely remind you to submit an error report, users can’t stand him; but when researchers programmed the same icon to chew his own company out a bit (“Let’s tell Microsoft how bad their help system is!”), user reactions soared.

Spontaneity is surprisingly critical to these interactions—it’s only when we feel we can’t fully expect what a robot or program is going to do next that our brains start to respond as if it is a real person. But making robots seem human can come with risks as well.

Giving a machine too wide a breadth of social options can end up being frustrating, as users can begin to expect more humanity than it’s capable of, and become frustrated by its inevitable limitations. Over-empathizing with an unthinking system can cause real problems with replacements and repairs as well, since users often end up keeping anthropomorphized tech long after it becomes broken or obsolete out of sentiment alone.

Like it or not, we can build real bonds with our lifelike little robots, and the idea of tossing one for a new model could be heartbreaking for some users—not exactly the attitude a company wants when trying to launch their new product line. It’s a philosophy that requires restraint, leveraging just enough affection that you can reap the positive benefits, but leaving enough emotional breathing room for the user to feel comfortable tossling an old system.

So, while the dawn of cute robots might not sound all that threatening or unpleasant, at least try to at least understand what you’re getting into. A system’s babylike features and chirping voice might be good for improving your mood, but keep your sympathy in check—no matter how cute and cuddly, it’s still just lights and clockwork underneath.

Copeland is a member of the class of 2015.

EBW travels to Don Juan

ENGINEERS FROM PAGE 7
official organizations, Engineers Without Borders further interviewed and administered surveys to faculty and students of the school.
While in the Dominican Republic, the Engineers Without Borders students traveled to Don Juan for a life-changing ten days.

Gaesser and the Marcellus Rotary Club Representative Jim Gascon to discuss future fundraising plans, program design and budgeting. Junior Emily Kwan, a member since her freshman year, former Secretary, Vice President, Publicity Coordinator and current President, discuss her hopes for the future of Engineers Without Borders.

“Having seen many facets of this organization, one of the visions I have as President is to instill the belief that all we do well is important to UR Engineers Without Borders,” Kwan commented.

“Whether a member is designing a flyer for an upcoming event, researching possible grants or filling out official program documents, that member should feel ownership and pride in what we are doing as a whole organization.”

Kapan is a member of the class of 2018.
Jodi Says: Blown away with pleasure

The first step to giving a good blowjob is to desire to please your penis-possessing partner. I can’t emphasize this idea enough. There are plenty of mistaken reasons to give head.

For many, oral sex seems like the natural precursor to vaginal sex. Oral sex uses an orifice of your body that wasn’t built for putting dicks in, making it all the more intimate. More importantly, and unlike many other sexual acts, it’s one directional. In order to enjoy it, you have to enjoy giving pleasure. Do it to delight your partner, not because you expect to or you expect yourself to, but because you want to give him a special treat. Wanting it is the first step.

Deciding you want to give someone head, however important, doesn’t really come with a sudden understanding of how to approach a penis with your mouth. When going down on someone, it’s helpful to think of their genitals as a toy. Not a toy to be used, thrown and actively protecting your throat by keeping the back of your tongue to your teeth. From here, there are a few things to keep in mind.

People call it a “blow job,” but don’t actually blow it. People also call it “sucking dick,” but you don’t really want to do that either. A little suction will help to keep some control, and that’s totally fine, but the action should be more like holding it in your mouth than pulling it. One more big “don’t”: no biting!

Hopefully, you could have figured that you shouldn’t just chomp down on it (Cue universal cringe from the penis-possessing population). But, more than just that, you should be aware of your teeth and actively protecting your penis-friend from their wrath.

If you aren’t used to this yet, it can be helpful to wrap your lips around it in your mouth like a lollipop. Take it one step at a time.

The idea of simply stuffing your mouth with cock is of course intimidating, so don’t treat it that way. Build up to it by kissing it all around, first at the base, then up the shaft then the head. In time, you’ll put it in your mouth. From here, there are a few things to keep in mind.

Slow. You don’t have to immediately plop it in your mouth like a lollipop. Take it one step at a time.

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When giving head, it can be helpful to wrap your lips around it in your mouth like a lollipop. Take it one step at a time.

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Rhythm will help too, especially if you align your breathing with your actions. If you still struggle, try protecting your throat by keeping the back of your tongue pressed up against the roof of your mouth. It’ll limit your range of motion, but it’s better than Helicopter.

One last thing: practice makes perfect.

If you have any questions for me or have an idea for an article, you can message me anonymously at sex-thing.tumblr.com/ask.

Armstrong is a member of the class of 2016.
BY CARLY GORDON
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This past weekend, 80 undergraduate, business and law students from across Europe and the United States attended the European Student Conference (ESC) at Yale University.

Among them was junior Kate Tepper, a dual-degree senior studying International Relations as well as Voice at the Eastman School of Music.

Tepper was selected to attend the conference from among hundreds of applicants.

“I was super honored, because there were five applicants for every available spot,” she said.

The conference, held at the Yale School of Management, was entirely student-run. Workshops, guest speakers and collaborative projects allowed participants to engage with political and economic issues facing the European Union (EU).

“There hasn’t been a conference with this particular focus before,” ESC Logistics Director Alex Co., an undergraduate at Yale, said. “The idea was born out of discussions about the future of the E.U. and the role that we as students can play in shaping that.”

ESC President and Yale senior Igor Mitschka told the Yale Daily News, “The impact of the conference lies in the fact that students around the United States of America... will start a debate on their campuses about which kind of Europe they would like to live in, and which kind of Europe they would like to contribute to.”

Tepper said that “A lot of the reason I am so engaged in European politics is because of my opera training, and studying French, German and Italian. That’s why I’m so interested in those cultures.”

According to Tepper, “It was interesting because I was the only person there from a conservatory. I live in the music world 24/7, and this gave me a chance to step out of it a little bit, and be in my other academic realm.”

Tepper was part of the Transatlantic Relations workshop.

The other workshops covered a range of EU policy issues, including borders, democracy, economy and identity. Students in each workshop worked together to compose policy papers, which were presented at three workshop sessions and two plenary sessions.

“In the Transatlantic Relations workshop, we concentrated on the upcoming Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), which is a trade partnership between the U.S. and EU that is going to make trade between the two much easier and much cheaper,” Tepper explained.

Tepper was assigned a theme on which to focus the policy paper, which she wrote in collaboration with a Stanford University senior and a student at Columbia Law entitled “Harmonizing Standards and Regulations of the TTIP.”

The paper will be published alongside other papers from the conference in a forthcoming academic journal.

Tepper said, “In our policy paper, we had to make observations about the current state of regulation, and then come up with our own policy proposals for the EU to execute, or in this case, for negotiations between the U.S. and the EU.”

“Work on the policy paper began well before the conference, with Skype sessions allowing the team to brainstorm and coordinate. I ended up actually getting really close to the two people that I wrote my policy paper with, because we had to cooperate a lot before the conference and then during it.” Tepper noted. “Sharing ideas was really great and productive.”

The team then presented their paper to the Transatlantic Relations workshop, receiving feedback from Ignacio Garcia Bercero, Director General for Trade of the European Commission and the chief negotiator for the impending partnership on which the paper was focused.

Bercero was one of many illustrious guests at the ESC. The conference hosted a number of EU policy leaders, including Pascal Lamy, former Director General of the World Trade Organization; David O’Sullivan, Ambassador of the EU to the United States; and Karel Schwarzenberg, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic.

Tony Blair, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, provided a video message to conference participants.

Tepper drew inspiration from the speakers.

“David O’Sullivan said to us that diplomatic success is more about the process and opening up networks than it is about landmarks or single successes. I loved that,” she said.

The conference was an eye-opening experience for Tepper, encouraging her to explore possibilities for her future.

“It definitely made me think a lot harder about the idea of getting a master’s in public policy or global affairs,” she said. “I loved engaging with other people to come up with policy visions, and it felt like something I could actually be good at.

Though her background as a music student made her stand out from her peers, Tepper enjoyed the rigorous environment of the conference.

“With all these Ivy Leaguers and people in law school, I felt really special to be around them” she said. “I was around a lot of people who are in law school or business school, and I loved the way they thought about things.”

Throughout the conference, Tepper befriended other students, from Yale and other U.S. universities to those from places like Austria, Germany, Russia and Sweden alike.

“It made friends a lot more easily than I thought I would– people who could in the future be my colleagues, or people who I look up to in the world of foreign politics,” she said.

The conference culminated with plans surrounding an emerging student-run think-tank, European Horizons, which aims to foster discourse in the United States of America on the future of a united Europe, according to the ESC website.

By connecting students, scholars, young professionals and EU policy leaders, the think-tank will organize an annual conference and maintain a network of forward-thinking members from universities across the United States.

Conference participants were encouraged to return to their home universities and establish their own European Horizons chapters. “I’ll try and make a chapter of the think-tank at U of R,” Tepper said. “So if you’re interested in European politics, watch out.”

With the founding of the new student-led think-tank, the work that was done before and during the conference does not have to stop,” Co. added. “In many ways, I see the conference as a symbolic mediator and bridge,” he said.

“I hope to see this dialogue continue in the future, both through the think-tank and the future of the conference.”

Gordon is a member of the class of 2015.
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2015

Let's play on words

BY CHRIS HORGAN
HUMOR EDITOR

1. Every now and then, I stop and become concerned that my brain is missing, but then I realize that it’s all in my head.

2. Right before his nap, my golden retriever eats his favorite pair of argyle socks but won’t admit it.

3. A picture paints a thousand words, so all you need to reach 1,000 word requirement for your big pitch is one picture.

4. My friend Mike told me that he found the greatest french fry on the planet. It would be best to take that with a grain of salt.

5. I went out into the ocean with some friends, but our ship capsized, and we were left stranded swimming in the middle of the ocean. Yet, we found ourselves all in the same boat.

6. I had to do laundry so badly it was as if the washing was screaming my name. So I put a sock in it.

7. My pal is a walking dictionary, but he wouldn’t let this define him.

8. You drive me crazy, but you will always be my sunshine, which is why I can’t look at you for more than three seconds.

9. Never play a game of “She loves me, she loves me not” with a four-leaf clover.

10. Cannibals are what they eat.

11. I went to bed freezing, wishing it was the middle of summer.

12. I’d love to marry my kidneys, although I can’t even wrap my head around the fact that it would become warm.

13. When I learned that Rochester was covered in a blanket, I was happy until I realized it was of snow.

14. I’d love to marry my kidneys, although I can’t even wrap my head around the fact that it would become warm.

15. Pride cometh before the winter.

16. Bringing attention to a生产基地 is a great way to increase awareness.

For Punxsutawney Phil, we can proclaim, “filthy muggles,” after he’s out of money for the next six weeks.

Hormon is a member of the class of 2017.

Poking fun at the news

BY CHRIS HORGAN
HUMOR EDITOR

1. The Utah House of Representatives has voted to restore the use of execution by firing squad.

2. An Ohio man pleaded guilty to selling fake urine for aspiring executioners.

3. An Australian woman won the 100-meter race.

4. My friend Mike told me that he’s been having some trouble with his teeth.

5. I went to bed freezing, wishing it was the middle of summer.

6. Former Knicks guard JR Smith participated in the NBA’s first fashion show in New York this past weekend.

7. A gun found inside of a book was donated to a Maine Goodwill store.

8. Police in New Hampshire have issued an arrest warrant for Puxxutawney Phil for not predicting the “mountainous” amounts of snow.

9. An angry owl in an Oregon parking lot attacked its fourth victim.

10. Witnesses claimed that the owl proclaims “filthy muggles,” after the unexpected attack.

Hormon is a member of the class of 2017.

Winter parking: UR’s commitment to student fitness

BY KARAN ARUL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

They say that Rochester has two seasons: winter and construction. And the second season of the University of Rochester parking system definitely had winter on their minds. Although the parking lots were created for students to park their cars, they also have a health-conscious motive. Winter parking was designed to help students become fit through intense workout sessions. Think about the far-off patrol Lot—ice-covered sidewalks, and mounds of snow covering your cars. These facts are summed up in one purpose: a commitment to fitness. Why else would there be no indoor parking options?

1. The students skip Leg Day.

2. Right before his nap, my golden retriever ate my favorite pair of argyle socks but won’t admit it.

3. An Australian woman won the 100-meter race.

4. My friend Mike told me that he’s been having some trouble with his teeth.

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CT scratch and sniff

Scratch the image and see if your nose can detect the aroma.

BY SAM PASSANISI

Ocetop would be no fun at a parties because they’d win every game of Twister. Volcanoes would be able to keep their tricks going at any moment they could blow. Elephants would be able to pick up a good book because they know a lot about trunk space. Sloths would take forever to text back.

Years and years will go by before we are able to effortlessly communicate with animals.

On the bright side, though, some scientists have created a computer program that can almost translate what a dog is thinking. Until scientists are able to create a computer program that can only speculate what animals’ or nature’s first words to humans would be.

Hormon is a member of the class of 2017.

If nature could interact with humans

BY CHRIS HORGAN
HUMOR EDITOR

Certainly, if trees could talk, you would never be able to win an argument against them because they would only speak truth and reason. Ground. All around the world, the sky would look down upon us but would have enough compassion to give us some occasional snow days. Rain would rub in our face that it gets to sky dive every day. Lakes would probably be that unique, breaking your heart feeling good, that people go to go for a swim.

Yellow snow would do its best to make things as good as a white Christmas. Yetis would tell their children stories of strange mythological creatures who worked in building and spent their free time staring at boxes

displaying other Mythological creatures working in buildings. Oranges, if juiced, would be able to keep their tricks going at any moment they could blow. Elephants would be able to pick up a good book because they know a lot about trunk space. Sloths would take forever to text back.

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Oscar Predictions: Everything you should know

Best Director
Will Win: Richard Linklater, “Boyhood”
Should Win: Selma

This all comes down to “Boyhood” vs. “Birdman.” Will the Academy go for the former, the critics’ favorite, or the latter, a favorite of the industry? “Boyhood” won the Golden Globe and BAFTA Awards, but “Birdman” won the Producers Guild, Screen Actors Guild, and Directors Awards, suggesting widespread support.

I’m going to go with “Birdman,” but this is the closest of the major races.

Best Supporting Actor
Will Win: Eddie Redmayne, “The Theory of Everything”

Rarely does a movie in the ‘dramedy’ genre actually fit into that dubious category—but “Udon” does. It’s funny, campy at times, and a little bit nonsensical, like when the movie stops in its tracks halfway through and launches into a bizarre, ten-minute tangent in which Kusakke is reimagined as a Power Ranger-type superhero named “Captain Udon.” On the drammatic side the film is powerful and poignant. One of the reasons Kusakke’s father won’t talk to him is because his mother died while he was away in New York City.

This is mentioned offhand in the beginning of the film, in between two slapstick gags, but it doesn’t feel strained or insincere, because that’s how life really works. The tragic and the comic exist side by side, and the characters of “Udon” are a little more real because they know that.

So, if you check out “Udon,” make the effort to suspend your disbelief. Pretend, for a moment, that there could be a nation-wide craze over noodle soup, and you will realize that there there actually could be a nation-wide craze over noodle soup. There have been stranger fads. There have also been weirder comedies and sadder tragedies than “Udon,” but the movie holds its ground and the audience’s attention with believable, three-dimensional characters and just the right amount of humor.

If you missed the first two installments of the Film, Food, and Culture series, don’t worry—you can still catch up. On Friday, Feb. 20, stop by the Gowen Room at 6:00pm for some delicious French dinner and a screening of the 2012 film “Haute Cuisine: Les saveurs du Palais.” On Friday, Feb. 27, the series will conclude with a Brazilian/Portuguese-themed event.

Passanisi is a member of the class of 2017.
OSCARS FROM PAGE 12, nominee, to win. There was a time when Rosamund Pike looked like a challenger, but, with Gone Girl’s snub, a snub in nominations, that ship has sailed. Too bad, as Pike’s given one of the most complex performances I’ve ever seen: easily the best of the year.


Best Supporting Actress: Nominees: Patricia Arquette, “Boyhood,” Laura Dern, “Wild,” Keira Knightley, “The Imitation Game”; Maggie Smith, “The Theory of Everything.” Emma Stone, “Birdman” or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance); Meryl Streep, “Into the Woods.” Will Win: Patricia Arquette, “Boyhood.” Should Win: Emma Stone, “Birdman” or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance).” Another win that’s as much for a career as it is for a performance, Patricia has been as exciting a year in “Boyhood” (well, her last scene in “Boyhood,” at least), as she was when she won an Oscar trophy mantle, Emma Stone has so many great moments in “Birdman,” though.


“Ill Be Your Pilot Tonight: ‘Better Call Saul’”

BY SAM GBILDOB STAFF WRITER

It starts where it left off in the pilot episode of “Better Call Saul” on AMC. In the end, Saul Goodman was arrested. In fact, it’s the Cinnabon that Saul Goodman imagined he’d be managing in the weekends of “Breaking Bad.” Behind the counter is the sad, drone-like face of Mike Ehrmantraut (now Gene, according to his plastic nametag), kneading the gooey dough for which Cinnabon has built its empire upon. The scene plays out in a dreary black and white that contrasts the searing brightness of “Breaking Bad.”

For those of you who haven’t been indoctrinated to the spinoff series that stands as a key area.

“One of the class of 2017”

“Young Yang: That’s possibly true. I only picked it up last year.

“Better Call Saul” will be an exceptional series because, for all the tributes it pays to its source material, it can still watch this show with fresh eyes having never seen “Breaking Bad.” Sure, it will sit among series that it feels familiar face now and then, but the story progresses where “Breaking Bad” knows. Mike Ehrmantraut is or not. It is tough living up to the success of such a power show. It’s a new territory when the spinoff series stands out as a confident, comedic, contemporary powerhouse. ‘Birdman’ is a member of the class of 2015.

JJH: Nice. I noticed that you guys heavily drew from a jazz soul vibe in the show. Sounds like it could be an exciting. But because I knew theory and everything now, communicating with teachers is very efficient and I’ve been moving fast as a beginner.

“If you ask me, I feel like the rhythm of progressive rock Asian...I like the rhythmic levers. Also, the texture of playing but lefting up certain things. I play the piano. But, first and soul vibe at the show, I really feel like music does to society, how it was studied in music class, nothing. Classes here do counter is the sad, drone-like music. I really feel like music can do that to communicating with teachers is very efficient and I’ve been moving fast as a beginner.

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‘Student artists speak’

BY JEFF HOWARD
A&E EDITOR

It’s really exciting (to learn harp) because it’s like I’m a kindergarten kid all over again.

YY: I see my difference and see how it’s unique, how it gives me confidence because there’s thousands of years of wisdom that I grew up with. The food, the architecture, the philosophy. Everything makes me access ideas a different way. Languages make certain ideas more accessible, I believe.

Classes here made me see what music does to society, how it has progressed in response to politics, art, literature, etc. I really feel like I can get a sense of the world by studying music deeply.

JH: Sounds like you stay true to your roots. And absolutely, it’s amazing how different ideas and mindsets are conveyed through different languages.

YY: If I give my roots up, I’m lefty in the air!

JH: That’s all on my end. Anything you want to add?

YY: Nope. Thank you for the opportunity.

Howard is a member of the class of 2017.

‘Year Walk:’

dark mythology redux

BY NICOLAS BROWN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“Year Walk” (Simogo, 2013) is one of those games that completely passed me by on its release. When a friend recommended it to me early this year, I assumed it to be relatively new, and only later did I discover just how late I was to the party. It’s precisely because I only recently discovered “Year Walk” that I’ve chosen to write about it, as I’m sure there are many people who, just like me, entirely missed this fantastic game.

If I had to narrow this game down to a few common genres, I would call it a puzzle-based horror game. But, that doesn’t do the game much justice. Really, it’s an exploratory, puzzle-based adventure into dark (and sometimes horrifying) Swedish folklore. The gameplay involves walking through a snowy landscape and solving puzzles. What drives the action, though, is the folkloric foundation of the game. The player’s character has embarked on a mysterious occult ritual known as a “year walk,” which involves, among other things, carrying out a solitary night walk on New Year’s Eve in order to remind us why so much horror fiction originates from folklore and myth. I highly recommend this game to any players interested in the origins of horror, in game narrative, or in interesting visual style. As of now, the game can be picked up for between $4 and $6 on iOS (that’s right, this is a mobile game) and Steam (both PC and Mac).

Brown is a member of the class of 2015.

RECOMMENDS

BLADEE - ‘GLUEE’

BY JEFF HOWARD
A&E EDITOR

“GLUEE,” the debut mixtape from Bladee, a member of the Swedish rap/electronic music collective Gravity Boys, is a tough pill to swallow. The mixtape’s opening track, “deletee,” is a 3-minute long laced-out autotune casselette where Bladee moans, “Gucci losers on my eyes / Bank account match my clothing size.” Much of “GLUEE” is moaning—that’s the point. Part of the mixtape’s allure is in its otherworldly presence, which comes across both musically and lyrically.

On “GLUEE,” Bladee is light-years away from reality, existing within a matrix of ice, clothing brands and internet culture—a world where his heartbreak is expressed through eternally frozen apathy. While it’s not entirely consistent, “GLUEE’s” highlights make the mixtape one of the most futuristic, original and intriguing musical recordings I’ve ever heard.

Admittedly, “GLUEE’s” front half contains its strongest material. On “Bay,” one of the best, if not the best track on the album, reverberated-out 808 snares and woodblocks create a cold, dystopian and claustrophobic setting—this is what music from the year 2199 sounds like. “Pulling up in electric cars / Sailor moon, falling stars / All I see is my avatar,” spin guest rapper Eco2k on the track, sounding like a straight-up humanoid with layers of autotune and vocal processing. Another highlight is in the track “Spellbound,” a melancholy electro ballad which is more of a tortured ode to capitalism than to a human lover. It’s hard to tell whether Bladee is trapped or empowered by money, rapping “Snowboard on my MasterCard / I shine like a star / Coast guard, surfin’ Hollister / I’m in money world.” The track has a beautiful chord progression and some seriously poetic lyrics, making it one of the most chilling moments on the album.

While “GLUEE’s” back half is more of a hit-or-miss affair (the aimless “Freeze” could have been scrapped), it ends on a strong note with “Unreal,” the most human and vulnerable moment on the mixtape, yet also the hardest to understand Bladee on, with its layers of reverb and delay.

Like the comedown from a massive high, “Unreal” is a return to cold, hard, confusing reality, and it hurts. Bladee’s vocal delivery on the track is righteously tortured, bringing to mind John Frusciante while still feeling entirely original. Hopefully “Unreal” is a sign of authenticity to come on Bladee’s upcoming follow-up mixtape, slated to come out this year.

Howard is a member of the class of 2017.

FREAKY PASH! FRIAY! GOOD!

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Swim team competes in UAA championship

Men's Squash looks to playoffs

LAST WEEK'S SCORES
FRIDAY, FEB. 13
• Men's Squash vs University of Western Ontario W 9-0
• Women's Basketball vs University of Chicago L 68-76
• Men's Basketball vs University of Chicago L 63-72
SATURDAY, FEB. 14
• Men's Tennis vs Rochester Institute of Technology W 9-0
SUNDAY, FEB. 15
• Women's Tennis vs Colgate University L 1-8
• Men's Basketball vs Washington University in St. Louis L 87-94
• Women's Basketball vs Washington University in St. Louis W 76-75
• Men's Tennis vs Colgate University L 2-7

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE
FRIDAY, FEB. 20
• Men's Squash vs Harvard University (Quarterfinals) - Hartford, CT - 5:30 P.M.
• Women's Basketball vs Carnegie Mellon University - 6:00 P.M.*
• Men's Basketball vs Carnegie Mellon University - 8:00 P.M.*
• Men's Swimming and Diving at University of Chicago Midwest Invitational - Chicago, IL - 7:00 P.M.
• Women's Swimming and Diving at University of Chicago Midwest Invitational - Chicago, IL - 7:00 P.M.
SATURDAY, FEB. 21
• Men's Track and Field vs College at Brockport - Brockport, NY - 10:00 A.M.
• Men's Track and Field vs College at Brockport - Brockport, NY - 10:00 A.M.
• Women's Tennis vs Ithaca College - 10:00 A.M.*
• Men's Diving at Kenyon College Invitational - Gambier, OH - 1:30 P.M.
• Women's Diving at Kenyon College Invitational - Gambier, OH - 1:30 P.M.
• Men’s Tennis vs Ithaca College - 2:00 P.M.*
• Men’s Squash vs CSA Potter Cup (Second Round) - Hartford, CT - 2:30 P.M.
• Men's Swimming and Diving at University of Chicago Midwest Invitational - Chicago, IL - 12:00 P.M.
• Women's Swimming and Diving at University of Chicago Midwest Invitational - Chicago, IL - 12:00 P.M.
SUNDAY, FEB. 22
• Men's Basketball vs Case Western Reserve - 12:00 P.M.*
• Men's Squash vs CSA Potter Cup (Third Round) - Hartford, CT - 1:30 P.M.
• Women's Basketball vs Case Western Reserve - 2:00 P.M.*

*DENOTES HOME GAME

Meng Xiaomin reaches to backhand the ball during Saturday’s match.

By Emily Lewis
Staff Writer

With the four-day-long UAA championship events taking place in Adatia, it has been an exciting week for the Rochester Swimming and Diving Team. The Yellowjackets performed extremely well, earning one NCAA qualifying score as well as breaking a school record. Overall, the Women’s team ended the weekend placed sixth out of eight teams, while Emory, the host of the championships, finished first. All-American senior Lauren Bailey excelled in the 200-yard butterfly, coming in seventh with a time of 2:05:56.

Additionally, the Rochester Women broke the school record in the 400-yard freestyle. With contributions from Bailey, junior Vicky Luan and sophomores Khaiam Simpson and Emily Simon, the women earned a fifth place finish in the 400-freestyle.

Becky Galasso: ’15 strikes toward a double record-setting performance.

Who do you look up to most? Why?
• I probably look up to Claire Crowther the most. She was the previous UR record holder in the 500m, a great athlete, a wonderful captain, and a selfless person. Even after 2 years, I still miss running with her every week.

How did it feel to break two records at a single meet?
I don’t think it has sunk in yet. I’m still trying to wrap my head around that 500m time… I’m just glad I had enough strength left to make my teammates’ efforts worthwhile and help them break our previous 4x400 record from that meet last year.

If you were able to swim the top 500 meter runner in Division III, how do you think you would perform?
I honestly cannot believe I’ve gotten to this point. It’s taken a lot of hard work, but I never thought I would get anywhere near this. No matter how hard I worked, I was good but not anything special in high school, then at UR, a knee injury prevented me from running (or even really walking) all freshman year. After surgery, I wasn’t even sure I would be able to run again. I came back sophomore year, and was suddenly faster than I had thought possible, and I’ve gotten stronger and faster every year since. That knee injury gave me the motivation to keep going. I also don’t think it has sunk in yet. I’m just trying to enjoy myself and make the most of my last year of competitive running.

Since the 500 isn’t an event in the NCAA Championship meet, I guess it’s time to see if I can make Nationals in the 400 now!

6. Do you have any rituals prior to running?
I don’t do a dance like Michelle Jennke or anything. I always try to eat pasta the night before a meet. Other than that, I just try to run like I’m not running the race, do a normal warm-up and focus on getting out fast.

7. Would you rather roast marshmallows with Dr. Seuss or Harry Houdini?
Definitely Dr. Seuss. His books were some of my favorites growing up. Eiber is a member of the class of 2017.

Becky Galasso - Track and Field

By Max Eber
Staff Writer

I’ve always done sports, but I honestly started running because my older brother enjoyed it, so I figured it might be fun. I soon fell in love with track and field.

2. What has been your proudest moment in the sport?
I’m still trying to wrap my head around that 500m time… I’m just glad I had enough strength left to make my teammates’ efforts worthwhile and help them break our previous 4x400 record from that meet last year.

Senior James Frauen also qualified for UAs, finishing in tenth place in the 200 yard breaststroke. As a result of these stellar performances, both Frauen and Zemering received Liberty League honors including Rookie of the Week.

The Yellowjackets look to continue their success in the upcoming NCAA tournament. Le is a member of the class of 2016.
**SPORTS FROM THE ATHLETE’S PERSPECTIVE**

**UR athletes give back to Rochester community**

**BY BEN SHAPIRO  SENIOR STAFF**

As varsity athletes at the University of Rochester, we often find that we lose sight of exactly what we represent when we compete. Beyond ourselves and our teammates, we are also playing for the UR community as a whole. The connection between varsity athletics and the rest of UR is not always felt as a close bond, which is why we cherish any opportunity to give back to the community and form a stronger bond with the rest of campus.

With this in mind, on Friday, Feb. 13, the Men’s and Women’s Varsity Tennis teams, joined by the Women’s Varsity Lacrosse team, took part in Strong Memorial Hospital’s Drive for Miracles Radithon for the second consecutive year.

With 100.5 The Drive and News 100.3 broadcasting the event live from the hospital, radio hosts encouraged their listeners to donate to Golisano Children’s Hospital by calling the donation hotline, where we were waiting at the phones ready to answer. By the end of the two day event, the stations had raised almost $250,000. Many of the athletes were also given the chance to engage in conversation live over the airwaves with the hosts, a unique and fun experience for us that hopefully was amusing for listeners as well. While there was certainly no shortage of playful banter between the hosts and athletes—including a last second search for some Valentine’s Day dates—we also had the chance to explain in our own words exactly why we were participating in such an event.

“This is one of the best hospitals anywhere,” senior Men’s Tennis captain Julian Danko said. “And it’s great to be able to help out.”

Echoing Danko’s sentiments, sophomore Matt Golub told WHAM 1180 host Bob Lonsberry that the team is glad to give back to the local community, especially for a cause as special as the Golisano Children’s Hospital.

The fundraiser was only the beginning of a busy weekend for Men’s Tennis, as we took on cross-town rival RIT the next day to begin our spring season with a 9–0 win, before falling to Division 1 Colgate University 7–2 on Sunday. Despite the mixed results on court, any weekend where we can help raise almost a quarter of a million dollars for a children’s hospital in our own community is an undisputed success.

Shapiro is a member of the class of 2016.

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**NBA award frontrunners at the mid-season**

**BY JESSE BERNSTEIN  STAFF WRITER**

It’s hard to believe, but we’re about to enter the home stretch of the NBA season, and awards-wise, there’s a lot left up in the air. It’s now time to pretend that I was “just kidding” about my early season predictions and make some new ones.

**Sixth Man of the Year: Isiah Thomas, PG, Phoenix Suns**

This past off-season, the diminutive former Sacramento starter found himself traded to a team with two of the most exciting young point guards in the league, Goran Dragic and Eric Bledsoe. Thomas seemed to be the odd man out, but that’s only because he’s proved himself to be a central tool for the Chicago Bulls.

Coach of the Year: Mike Budenholzer, Atlanta Hawks

He has been said a thousand times already, but that’s only because it’s true: what Mike Budenholzer has managed to do in Atlanta is a modern basketball miracle.

Defensive Player of the Year: Tony Allen, SG, Memphis Grizzlies

There are a host of players who could lay claim to this award. Draymond Green, Anthony Davis, Tim Duncan and DeAndre Jordan have all put together dominating seasons on the defensive side of the ball, and it wouldn’t be an egregious mistake if any of them were rewarded for their successes. However, Allen has played the number one defense in the league in Memphis, bringing his particular brand of insanity every second of every night he’s on the floor. Trick-or-Treat Tony has been doing this for years now, and it’s time for him to officially recognized.

Rookie of the Year: Andrew Wiggins, SG, Minnesota Timberwolves

No rookie has shown the improvement and flashes of brilliance that Wiggins has. He has gotten better with each passing game and is the only rookie averaging above 10 points per game.

His defense, though a little frenetic at times, has been pretty much as advertised, and he’s displayed a strong shooting game. If he could eliminate some of the tougher shots that are customarily taken by rookies, he could really become a real threat by this time next year.

Most Valuable Player: James Harden, SG, Houston Rockets

In my mind, besides Harden, there’s really only one other possible candidate. He plays for Golden State, and his name’s Stephen Curry. Let’s play a little game: pick the MVP out of these two stars.

Player A: 27.4 ppg/5.7 rpg/6.8 apg, .455/.383/.870, 27.3 PER

Player B: 26.0 ppg/4.7 rpg/7.7 apg, .481/.399/.900, 27.4 PER

You can’t right? Player A is Harden, and player B is Curry. Both are having absolutely otherworldly seasons, and each has a legitimate claim to the MVP title. When you consider that Curry plays for the best team in the NBA this year, you might even be inclined to give him the award. But let’s take a second to compare the teams that each player leads.

Curry’s cast includes All-Star starter Klay Thompson, DPOY candidate Draymond Green, Andrew Bogut, super-sub Marreese Speights, Harrison Barnes, Andre Iguodala and Shaun Livingston. Meanwhile, Harden has played largely without his best teammate – a hobbled Dwight Howard – spending the majority of his time on the floor with Josh Smith, Donatas Motiejunas, Trevor Ariza and Joey Dorsey. Ilboth Curry and Harden went down with injuries today, whose team would be in better shape? Golden State might even still make the playoffs without Curry, whereas Houston would be lottery-bound without Harden’s Herculean effort. For that reason, this year’s MVP has been James Harden.

Bernstein is a member of the class of 2018.