

Campus Times

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Education strategist Deborah Bial to speak at Commencement

BY SAM PASSANISI
NEWS EDITOR

The University has selected educational strategist Deborah Bial as the Commencement Speaker at the 165th College Commencement, which will take place on Sunday, May 17.

Bial is the founder and president of the Posse Foundation, a New York City-based organization that sends outstanding high school graduates to top universities on scholarship.

The University of Rochester partnered with the Posse Foundation last year, making a commitment to provide full scholarships for 10 freshmen annually. Fifty-one other colleges and universities are a part of the Foundation's network, graduating over 400 Posse scholars last year alone. A press release from UR Communications noted that over 2,600 students have graduated since the program's inception in 1989.

The Foundation selects small groups of 10 promising freshman

each year, focusing on public school students who show excellent motivation and talent but who might have been passed over by traditional college application processes. Each 10-student "Posse" attends one college, with the goals of campus involvement and mutual success.

Bial is a graduate of Brandeis University and Harvard University's Graduate School of Education. In 2007, she was awarded a MacArthur Genius Fellowship for her work in the field.

UR President Joel Seligman praised the choice of speaker, saying, "Deborah Bial is a change agent in United States higher education ... her development of the Posse Foundation to support highly-qualified urban students as they pursue higher education and beyond has had significant impact, both on the lives of individual students as well as on the colleges and universities they have attended."

Passanisi is a member of the class of 2017.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UR COMMUNICATIONS

Deborah Bial will give the 165th College Commencement Address.



PARSA LOTFI / PHOTO EDITOR

COMEDIAN BILL HADER ENTERTAINS IN Q&A SESSION

Comedian Bill Hader answered students' questions in a sold-out Strong Auditorium on Saturday, Jan. 31. For a review, see page 11.

UR partnership with East High School moves forward

BY ANGELA LAI
NEWS EDITOR

In one of the last steps to finalize the University of Rochester's partnership with East High School, the Rochester City School (RCSD) Board approved the budget for the money needed to implement UR's plans for East High on Thursday, Jan. 29.

The University will serve as East High's Educational Partnership Organization (EPO), meaning that UR will lead East in its efforts to improve school performance and that East High will now have its own district.

East, which had been deemed persistently failing by New York State, had been given five choices. Warner School of Education Professor Joanne Larson, who chairs the UR/East High School Collaboration's Family and Community Partnership Committee, explained, "They could close; they could phase in and phase out, which they've tried a bunch of times and it hasn't worked; they could convert to a charter; they

could be taken over by SUNY; or they could do an educational partnership organization."

RCSD President Van White reached out to Warner faculty and asked whether UR would work with East High as an EPO.

"When they asked us to do this, we did not feel that we were the right organization to do it because we don't have the apparatus—the capacity—to do that work in addition to what we do at the University," said Warner Professor Stephen Uebbing, who will act as East High's new superintendent. White persisted, however, and asked several more times for the UR's cooperation.

Larson recalled that UR President Joel Seligman "was brought in on the conversation, and it's really his decision because it's not just the Warner School," and that after numerous conversations with the New York State Education Department, Seligman agreed to the plan.

Uebbing noted that while they initially had some reservations, "We now have approval from all parties

and we're waiting for the very final approval from the State Education Department."

East High is Rochester's largest public high school with around 1600 students, and it offers a comprehensive curriculum, distinguishing it from the many smaller focus schools in the area. Attendance is low at around 80 percent. Larson, who spoke with parents, students, drop-outs and many other community members, observed "a discourse of failure and deficit."

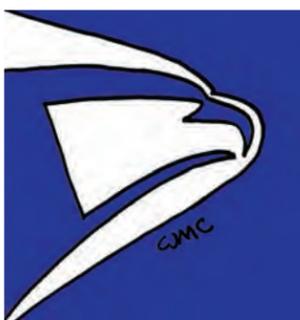
"I haven't met a parent who didn't care or a kid who wasn't amazing," she said.

To help address the school's problems, Uebbing created a leadership team based on a New York State assessment tool for deciding whether schools are failing. He formed six committees, one for each of the six tenets on the rubric, with the standard "Exceeds Expectations" as their goal.

Though Warner faculty and staff chair those six committees, Larson emphasized that "it is a full

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Spotlight on the Campus Post Office's efforts behind the scenes.

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Humor Editor Erik Chiodo faces up against snow and freezing temperatures.

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UR'S GOT TALENT

Rappers, dancers and violinists performed at Friday evening's talent show.

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CHI HUANG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

AN ARTIST USES A CHAINSAW TO CARVE AN ICE SCULPTURE

In addition to huskies, free hats, a photo station and much more, this year's Winterfest Weekend featured ice sculptures of Rush Rhees Library and Rocky the Yellowjacket.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 5

TEEN HEALTH & SUCCESS PARTNERSHIP ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

URMC FLAUM AUDITORIUM, 4 PM - 6 PM
Join UR President Joel Seligman and Board of Trustees member Danny Wegman as they speak as part of the 5-year anniversary celebration of the program. Please RSVP to Erin Bory.

PHILHARMONICS - BEETHOVEN'S FIFTH

EASTMAN KODAK HALL, 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM
The Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra will perform an all-Beethoven program spotlighting acclaimed British pianist Stephen Hough. Tickets can be purchased online at rpo.org.

FRIDAY

FEBRUARY 6

BOB MARLEY EXPO

WILSON COMMONS HIRST LOUNGE, 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM
Celebrate the legacy of Bob Marley with guest performances, food, music and karaoke. Hosted by the Student for Caribbean Awareness (SOCA). The event is open to all.

SUSAN B. ANTHONY LETTERS ACQUISITION

RUSH RHEES HAWKINS-CARLSON ROOM, 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Attend a celebration of the River Campus Libraries' recent acquisition of letters written by women's rights activist Susan B. Anthony to her "most cherished young lieutenant," Rachel Foster Avery.

SATURDAY

FEBRUARY 7

PRINTING PRESS PRESENTATION

COLLEGE TOWN BOOKSTORE, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Mitch Cohen, executive director of the Genesee Arts Center, will give a presentation and demonstration of a printing press. The event is free and open to the public.

BLACK STUDENTS' UNION STEP SHOW

STRONG AUDITORIUM, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
The 12th annual step show features groups, League of Extraordinary Steppers, Team Clash, ECC Chaos Crew!, The Wilson Pearls, Roc Steppers, Distinguished Dynasty and the SOTA Roc S.T.A.R.S.

SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 8

VISITING ARTIST - NATASHA BROFSKY

EASTMAN CIMINELLI LOUNGE, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Natasha Brofsky, professor of cello at the Juilliard School, will present a master class featuring cello students from the Eastman School of Music.

CHORAL PRISM CONCERT

EASTMAN KODAK HALL, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Come see 19 choirs perform in 90 minutes. The unique "prism" format showcases groups ranging from five to 155 voices, singing from various locations throughout the theater. Admission is free.

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.

Campus Times

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It is our policy to correct all erroneous information as quickly as possible. If you believe you have a correction, please email editor@campustimes.org.

WEEKEND FORECAST

COURTESY OF WEATHER.COM

FRIDAY



Mostly Cloudy
High 25, Low 17
Chance of snow: 20%

SATURDAY



Snow
High 26, Low 14
Chance of snow: 80%

SUNDAY



Snow
High 17, Low 15
Chance of snow: 80%

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

Students venture onto Genesee River

BY ANGELA LAI
NEWS EDITOR

1. On Jan. 31 at 11:21 p.m. and Feb. 1 at 11:39 p.m., Public Safety officers encountered two different groups of students walking on the frozen Genesee River. One group stated that they saw footprints on the ice so they believed that it was safe. The second group was sitting on the frozen river and initially refused to get off of the ice. The officers then contacted the Rochester Police Department and the Rochester Fire Department. The students then elected to get off of the river on their own. No one was injured. Students should be aware that the Genesee River may appear to be completely frozen but due to the swift water currents all year long, the ice may not be as thick as it appears. The fast undercurrent is very treacherous. Please stay off of the ice for your safety.

Burning paper sets off fire alarm

2. On Jan. 31 at 3:05 p.m., Public Safety officers responded to a report of a minor fire in Riverview Building A near the main entrance. The building's fire alarm was also triggered. An officer was on the scene within a minute of the call. The officer found that the fire had been extinguished by a passing student. The student stated he was walking down the hall with friends when they observed smoke coming from a piece of paper burning on the bulletin

board near the front entrance. The student stated he pulled down the paper and stomped out the fire. The smoke set off the fire alarm. The student stated that he did not see anyone at the bulletin board at the time of the fire. The paper was damaged and there was a minor burn mark on the bulletin board. No injuries were reported and the alarm was reset. The Rochester Fire Department and an Arson Investigator from the fire department responded. Further investigation is underway. Anyone with information regarding this should contact Public Safety at 585-275-3333 or 4info@dps.rochester.edu.

Oil catches on fire in the Pit

3. On Jan. 31 at 10:08 p.m., Public Safety officers responded to a fire alarm in the food preparation area of the Pit in Wilson Commons. Upon arrival, the officers found that the fire was extinguished. Officers were told that oil had caught on fire in a wok that was heating up. The fire suppression system for that area activated and extinguished the fire. There were no injuries and no known damage from the incident. The Rochester Fire Department responded and checked the area. The alarm was reset and there was a cleanup of the discharge from the fire suppression system.

*Lai is a member of the class of 2018.
Information provided by UR Public Safety.*

Correction:

An article in last week's issue about an event titled "Shadeism: New Name, Old Problem" incorrectly omitted Delta Phi Omega, who sponsored the event, and Rutul Amin, who hosted the event. In addition, Siri Ganti and Divya Persaud's names were misspelled.

Interested in making the headlines?
Join the *Campus Times*.

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UR astronomers discover exoplanet

BY RYAN RUBENZAHL
STAFF WRITER

A team of astronomers at the University of Rochester has discovered a strange object in the sky. By observing an unusually long eclipse of a star in the southern constellation Centaurus, they have found a planet with a ring system 200 times as large as Saturn's.

The star, J1407 (a shortened of the much longer official name 1SWASP J140747.93-394542.6), is one of hundreds of young sun-like stars that were discovered during a Ph. D research project led by Mark Pecaut at UR. The goal of the research was to examine sun-like stars around 10 to 20 million years old. This is the time period during which planetary formation is at its peak - when new solar systems are being born.

"As in a lot of things in science, we were actually studying something else when we noticed the rings," Associate Professor and astronomer Eric Mamajek, who

led the team that found the rings, said. "I had noticed in December of 2010 that the consortium SuperWASP had made their data publicly available, so I asked Mark Pecaut to cross-reference our sun-like stars through this sample."

SuperWASP uses ground-based telescopes to hunt for exoplanets by measuring the change in light from stars. If a planet orbiting a star passes between us and its star, a dip in the brightness of the star is seen. This is what SuperWASP was looking for, and Mamajek wanted to use that information to measure the rotation periods of the stars to better our understanding of the stellar evolution of young stars.

When Pecaut returned with the data, one object stood out from the rest. All but one of the graphs of the starlight matched the sinusoidal signals they expected to see from the sunspots' rotation.

The star J1407 seemed to have an abnormal pattern going on. The light curve was very messy.

SEE EXOPLANET PAGE 4

Memorial Art Gallery closes due to nearby Carnegie Building fire



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEMORIAL ART GALLERY

A MAG employee brushes soot- and ash-coated snow from pieces in the outdoor Sculpture Park.

BY AUREK RANSOM
STAFF WRITER

An early morning fire at Rochester's Carnegie Building on Tuesday, Jan. 27 prompted the closure on Wednesday of UR's Memorial Art Gallery (MAG). During its closure, the MAG ran air scrubbers to protect artwork from potential soot and smoke damage.

"The closing was purely precautionary," MAG Public Relations Specialist Meg Colombo said, "and it also insulated the public from the distracting sounds and sights of the bright green, rather noisy air scrubbers." Colombo confirmed that the MAG's preventative measures worked "well and as expected."

MAG employees are all trained to deal with a wide range of problems that could endanger the artwork housed at the University Avenue building. "The entire MAG staff, the facilities and security teams included, are focused on art conservation at all times," Colombo said.

In addition to preventative measures taken inside the MAG, outdoor sculptures were also subjected to a brief cleaning.

"The soot and ash from the fire laid down a fine coating on top of the snow in and around the Sculpture Park," Colombo said. "We felt it was prudent that we brush off the outdoor sculptures before the snow melted [...] and deposited the ash onto the art."

This is not the first time certain MAG pieces have experienced soot and smoke damage.

"Many works of art have long been exposed to the effects of soot and smoke; for example, those displayed in chapels where candles have burned for centuries," Director of the MAG Jonathan Binstock said. "Even after centuries have passed and soot and smoke stains have hardened, these surface accretions are regularly cleaned from the surfaces of works of art successfully."

"Because of the good efforts of our staff, we do not have these concerns," Binstock added, "[but]

it's worth noting that soot and smoke do not necessarily cause irreparable damage to works of art."

The MAG has no formal relationship with the Carnegie Building aside from their historical connections through the University and their proximity to one another in the Neighborhood of the Arts.

According to the UR Rare Books, Special Collections and Preservations website, the Carnegie Building was originally constructed by UR in 1910 and served as a facility primarily for engineering education with space allocated to other departments as necessary. After 1930, the space was designated as a female residence hall. The building was eventually sold by UR in the mid-1950s and is currently owned by Stern Properties.

Future plans for the Carnegie Building are unclear.

Ransom is a member of the class of 2017.

Doctor to get Susan B. Anthony Award

BY FARKHOD DAVRENOV
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Dr. Linda Chaudron, Senior Associate Dean for Diversity at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, will be honored at UR's annual Susan B. Anthony Legacy Dinner. Chaudron has been chosen to receive the Susan B. Anthony Lifetime Achievement Award, an honor bestowed on those members of the University community who inspire other women to be trailblazers and groundbreakers. Chaudron will be the 14th female recipient of the award since its inception.

Chaudron has worked at the UR School of Medicine and Dentistry for 16 years. In addition to her position as Senior Associate Dean, she is also a professor in the departments of Psychiatric Research, Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Pediatrics. Her research investigates the various aspects of depression and anxiety that sometimes accompany and follow childbirth. This work has helped identify and treat new mothers at risk of perinatal disorders that occur in the weeks before or after birth.

In addition to her scientific

SEE AWARD PAGE 4

Computer app interprets emotions

BY SAM PASSANISI
NEWS EDITOR

Researchers in the University of Rochester's Department of Computer Science and the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC) recently developed new technology that can gauge a user's mood by observing them through a webcam and assessing the tone of their social media output. In a recent paper titled "Tackling

Mental Health by Integrating Unobtrusive Multimodal Sensing," the researchers described how a computer can use facial recognition and data mining to interpret and predict human emotions. UR Professor of Computer Science Jiebo Luo presented the paper last week at a national conference of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence in Austin, Texas.

The methods used by Luo and

his colleagues are on the cutting edge of research into human-computer interaction and artificial intelligence. Computer vision is a major research interest in human-computer interaction; devices as commonplace as digital cameras use facial recognition techniques to locate the faces in a picture in order to optimize the exposure.

Luo's computer program locates the forehead of a user in order to track the rest of the face. Once

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UR – East

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University commitment; it's not just the Warner School. We're leading it in that sense, but there's a lot of opportunity."

For example, she observed that many East High students identified health careers as a key area of interest. She and Uebbing mentioned the possibility of a medical careers program at East High with help from UR Medicine. Other possible programs could include a business program with the Simon School or a revival of East High's music program with help from the Eastman School of Music.

Larson added, "We'll run it by the East High community. We don't want to just do stuff at them; we want to make sure it benefits them, that they're interested, that students want to participate, that teachers don't feel overburdened."

As for the involvement of UR students, she said, "the potential is incredible. I really want undergrads in all the potential majors to have an opportunity to go there."

Uebbing noted, "We're hoping for widespread student support. This is important work. We're hoping students will step up."

Lai is a member of the class of 2018.

SA Senate to work with Facilities, ResLife for all-gender restrooms

BY SAM PASSANISI
NEWS EDITOR

In a resolution passed on Monday, Feb. 2, Students' Association (SA) Senate advocated for the development of all-gender restrooms on the River Campus. The resolution was written by SA Senator and Chair of the Academics Committee Stephen Wegman, a sophomore, and senior David Markakis.

All-gender restrooms are usually single-user facilities that can be used by people of any gender identity. On campus, all-gender restrooms are currently available on the third floor of Wilson Commons and O'Brien Hall, but do not exist in most residence halls or academic buildings. All-gender restrooms are distinguished from other single-user facilities by their open, inclusive signage.

The resolution notes that "students and University affiliates of all gender identities and expressions deserve to have access to safe and inclusive restrooms,"

but that all-gender restrooms are currently "extremely limited" on campus. To remedy this, SA Senate recommended taking all-gender facilities into account prior to the construction of new buildings.

Wegman noted that a Senate resolution does not reflect any commitment by the University administration, but rather puts forward a request by the student body.

"We certainly intend to advocate for the creation of all-gender restrooms in new buildings and facilities," Wegman said. He added that most residence halls, especially Susan B. Anthony Hall and the Residence Quad, do not have any single-use restrooms.

"The most likely solution is having halls choose what gender they want their restroom to be," Wegman said. He said that academic buildings would present the biggest challenge, because it would be difficult to build new facilities or relabel existing bathrooms in those areas. Lattimore Hall, for

example, has men's and women's restrooms on alternating floors.

Wegman's co-author David Markakis said in an email, "The goal of the resolution is to help create a welcoming, inclusive, and safe environment on campus for all students." He credited his involvement with the College Feminists, as well as a UR course on LGBTQ Issues in Education, with making him aware of the need for "inclusive bathroom spaces."

The Senate has scheduled a meeting with University Facilities and Services to discuss implementation of the resolution, and Markakis said he hopes to be involved in the process. The resolution mentions future conversations with the Office of the President, the Board of Trustees and the Office of Advancement. Wegman said the Senate also planned to meet with Residential Life and Athletics to discuss bathrooms in their respective facilities.

Passanisi is a member of the class of 2017.

Chaudron awarded

AWARD FROM PAGE 3

and medical contributions, Dr. Chaudron has been a champion for inclusion and diversity. She relishes her current role as Senior Associate Dean, citing it as a "wonderful opportunity to work across the institution to develop and collaborate on educational and career development programs that contribute to a diverse and inclusive community at the University of Rochester."

"I have had great opportunities to be mentored by phenomenal men and women," Chaudron said, "I am thrilled to be able to mentor and guide others who seek to make a difference in academia, medicine and science."

The annual Legacy Dinner commemorates Anthony's successful campaign for the admission of women into the University. In 1900, with help from the Rochester community, Anthony met the demands of University trustees and raised the \$50,000 necessary for coeducation.

"I am honored, humbled and grateful to be among such amazing and accomplished women," Chaudron said. "As an alumna of the medical school, this honor is especially meaningful to me. To receive an honor that is named in recognition of Susan B. Anthony is truly something that I will always cherish."

This year's Susan B. Anthony Legacy Dinner will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday at the Staybridge Suites hotel in Rochester. The event will include a keynote address by lawyer, actress and columnist Pam Sherman. The Jane R. Plitt Scholarship, the Fannie Bigelow Scholarships, the Susan B. Anthony Prize and multiple Susan B. Anthony Scholarships will also be awarded at the event.

"It is an exciting time for women in medicine and science," Chaudron said. "It is so satisfying to see so many young women at the undergraduate and graduate levels who are pursuing careers that will not only help individuals but will answer some of the most challenging and important questions that affect our society."

Davrenov is a member of the class of 2017.

Exoplanet discovered

EXOPLANET FROM PAGE 3

It had dimmed 95 percent at its minimum brightness, and during the weeks before and after that it was behaving very badly. One day the star would be at 30 percent, then 60 percent, then 20 percent, then 0 percent (back to normal light level, without any obscuring), then to 50 percent again.

"Right away we could tell something very odd was going on," Mamajek said. He put the printout of the light curve on the wall next to his desk for the next few weeks. The eclipse's symmetry stuck out. Where it dimmed and then brightened on one side of the minimum, it brightened and then dimmed at the same spot on the other side. "It reminded me of the transit of Uranus' rings back in 1977. Uranus' rings were discovered in this same way, by watching the light curve of a star it passed in front of."

After eliminating potential errors such as background noise, the only explanation for the odd behavior of the light curve left was a gigantic ring system around a planet passing in front of the star. The eclipse lasted 56 days, meaning that the ring system was over 150 million kilometers in diameter and therefore larger than the distance from the Earth to the Sun.

Since it was the first exoplanet discovered around the star J1407, the exoplanet was given the official name J1407b. Other nicknames, including "Meliora" and "Draupnir," were thought of by the team.

Objects like J1407b are not as uncommon as one may think. Around 1 in 1,000 Jupiter-sized planets around young stars like J1407 have similarly large ring systems.

When our solar system was only

around 10 to 20 million years old, Jupiter and Saturn most likely had large ring systems surrounding them. The material in the rings coalesced over millions of years into the huge Galilean moons around Jupiter, leaving a small ring system behind. Around Saturn, the rings coalesced into small moons like Titan, Enceladus and other smaller moons, leaving a bigger ring system behind despite starting with less ring material than Jupiter.

If the material in Jupiter's moons were ground up into dust and spread out in a ring system around Jupiter, it would stretch some tens of millions of kilometers in diameter and would be practically opaque. J1407b's rings are over ten times as large as Jupiter's and have much more material.

There is, however, at least one clear gap in the rings around J1407b, indicating that a moon is forming and sweeping up the material around it as it grows larger. The moon could grow as large as the Earth in the future as it gathers more and more of the ring material. As this happens, the rings around J1407b would grow smaller.

The period of J1407b is estimated to be about ten years. Astronomers are waiting for the next pass of the planet between us and the star J1407. If another 56 day eclipse is observed, the discovery will be further confirmed, and the mass of the planet can be determined more precisely.

Planetary scientists had been hypothesizing planets with large ring systems like J1407b for decades.

"The discovery was just waiting to be made," Mamajek said.

Rubenzahl is a member of the class of 2018.

Computer program predicts user emotions

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this is established, a range of signals can be recorded, including pupil dilation, rate of blinking and facial expressions such as smiles or frowns. This data can be interpreted to accurately determine a user's mood.

Outside of facial cues, the computers can use other physical data to diagnose mood. Luo explained how the program uses tiny color changes in the forehead to determine a user's heart rate.

"We take a lot of measurements from the forehead and the cheek, and then we average that to get the heart rate," Luo said of the technique, "in practice, we can get it to within plus or minus five counts." This method for diagnosing heart rate via webcam was discovered by other researchers; however, users had to stay perfectly still. Luo and his colleagues were able to develop the technology so it could track users as they move.

The other side of Luo's program relies on data science: interpreting a user's social media posts and even keystrokes to help determine how the person is feeling.

"To do that, we actually do something that other researchers haven't done," Luo said, explaining that "they only look at the text information." He noted that social media posts are often so short, and contain so many acronyms and typos, that even the most advanced text processing algorithms have difficulty interpreting them. In their approach, Luo and his colleagues have analyzed the content of images attached to a user's posts, which can give

another dimension to analysis of sentiment.

An additional author of the paper was Dr. Vincent Silenzio, an associate professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the URMC. Luo noted that the new technology could be useful in hospitals and clinics, where patients' moods could be monitored by a camera and a computer, giving doctors better information on which patients were in need of the most urgent attention.

The researchers have plans for the technology to be released as an app for smartphones and personal computers, although Luo noted that an app would likely take one to two more years to appear on the market. A commercially available app could keep tabs on a user's moods—"a self-awareness that they normally don't have," Luo said.

Passanisi is a member of the class of 2017.



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OPINIONS

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CHRISTIAN CIERI / ILLUSTRATOR

EDITORIAL OBSERVER

Flags aren't for fun



BY SAM PASSANISI
NEWS EDITOR

Most Americans are fairly knowledgeable about their nation's flag, having been drilled through the Pledge of Allegiance daily in school and instructed in some form about "flag etiquette," the rules and guidelines that surround proper use and display of the standard. These rules are enumerated in Title IV, Chapter One of the U.S. Code. Most of this is common sense – don't let the flag touch the ground; don't fly it underneath another flag; lower it for the night, unless you have a flashlight to shine on it.

Despite being enumerated in the U.S. Code, most of these rules are not strictly enforced. Your neighbors might be unhappy about it, but you're unlikely to be arrested or disciplined if you drop a flag on the ground, drape it over the hood of your car or fly it upside down—although the latter would be unwise, akin to shouting fire in a crowded theater, since flying any flag upside down is a universal symbol of emergency. The flag code is limited in its enforcement for the same reason it isn't illegal to burn the flag in protest: freedom of speech.

However, oftentimes Flag Code violations are done not out of protest but rather out of simple carelessness. This is what leads people to buy American flag napkins for their Fourth of July parties, despite Section 8 of the Flag Code, which states, "It should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions or handkerchiefs and the like, printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for

temporary use and discard." That sentence is preceded in the code by this one: "The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever," a provision which is even more flagrantly disregarded. The flag is ubiquitous in television commercials and print ads for everything from department stores to car dealerships, and while economic support for one's country is a wonderful thing, it needn't be conflated with patriotism.

The Flag Code goes on to say that "no part of the flag should ever be used as a costume or athletic uniform." In the past, this stipulation has caused controversy over the uniforms of U.S. Olympic athletes, which are often striped and star-spangled. Personally, I should be inclined to think that we could give the athletes an exception, since they are representing the country abroad and need to be easily distinguishable during sporting events. Everyday wear, however, deserves no such special consideration. Flag-print shorts or bathing trunks are a twofold violation of the code; in sitting down, the wearer allows the flag to touch the ground. Outside of the flag patch worn on the uniforms of police, firefighters and military personnel, and the flag pin worn by politicians—both of which are specifically exempted in the code—use of the flag on clothing is well-intentioned but perhaps not judicious.

It's clear that the people buying and selling these kinds of products are not trying to make any kind of anti-American statements. But, just as you wouldn't use any national flag as a doormat, it's reasonable to think twice before using one as a throw pillow or cocktail napkin. If the flag were used less frequently for advertising and clothing, it might have more symbolic power in the minds of American citizens.

Passanisi is a member of the class of 2017.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Expand Friday Night Live's vision for the arts

Arts hold an important role in UR student culture. UR's student-run rock ensemble, No Jackets Required, puts on impressive performances on a regular basis. On-campus art exhibits of all kinds are consistently forward-thinking and thought-provoking. And through the *Campus Times*, students express insightful viewpoints on current events, pop culture and on-campus life. Overall, UR empowers students with the ability to transcend the status quo and speak their minds through the arts.

One of the most vibrant corners of UR's creative scene is its "Friday Night Live" showcase, which takes place in Starbucks on Friday nights at 10 p.m. and is organized by UR Concerts. The showcase offers student musicians the opportunity to perform for their peers in an intimate yet lively environment. Friday Night Live concerts have featured student performances ranging from acoustic singer-songwriters to experimental loop-pedal electronica to progressive rock. Friday Night Live frequently garners a packed house at Starbucks.

Week after week, the event brings out the best of the UR student community and fosters an earnest sense of community within the school—something that is truly commendable.

Currently, music reigns supreme at UR as the form of art that brings students together. Concerts are more salient than art exhibits, so it makes sense that students are more aware of an upcoming concert than an art exhibit or poetry reading. Herein lies potential for progress—the potential to build a greater bond throughout our arts community.

Friday Night Live (and UR Concerts) should collaborate with other student-run arts organizations on campus to host events which encompass a broader range of arts. These joint events could combine readings from student poets and storytellers, offering an outlet for student writers; musical performances, similar to Friday Night Live; and visual arts displays.

All of these would showcase the artistic abilities of students. Considering how much of a hub Starbucks is on River Campus, hosting these extended arts events could

open up a considerable creative outlet for student artists who are non-musicians. We encourage Friday Night Live and, to a larger extent, UR Concerts to reach out to other organizations to further expand the scope of the arts here at UR.

Sophomore Kylie Sargeant, who is in charge of booking for Friday Night Live, offered some words about how she would like to see the event expand, shedding light on another form of future development for the event: expansion outside the UR community. Sargeant recently said, "I would like to see more Eastman students performing. I have been working on getting more of them to perform here." By bringing in Eastman students, Friday Night Live could further increase its diversity. In addition, it could foster a greater sense of community and continuity between River Campus and Eastman Campus students.

Friday Night Live is a vibrant pocket of culture on campus, and by expanding its creative outlets and geographical scope, it can bring even more students together and be yet another reason why UR is "ever better."

A step in the right direction

It is an indisputable fact that all people, regardless of their gender identity, should feel safe, regardless of the environment. Given this fact, it is unsurprising that gender issues have found their way into government, including our own student government.

On Monday evening, SA Senate approved Resolution XX, titled "Resolution Urging the Development of All-Gender Restrooms."

SA's resolution does exactly what it sets out to achieve: it "advocates for the reorientation of current public restroom facilities," such that all buildings used by members of the Students' Association reflect "the University's commitment to a safe, accessible society for members, regardless of gender identity or expression," and "advocates for the modification of building design standards to include a commitment to creating all-gender restroom options in all newly constructed or renovated buildings owned or managed by the University of Rochester."

We fully support the resolution. Not only does every

member of the University community have the right to feel safe and comfortable, but the University has a responsibility to provide a safe, comfortable environment for students and other members of the University community.

We are a university of people and cultures, of values and ideas. The ideals that we hold dear—including but not limited to respect, inclusion and responsibility—are reflected in SA's resolution.

Today, the University sits at a crossroads, poised in a position of tremendous opportunity—an opportunity to affect peoples' day-to-day lives in such a way that they feel safer. With this resolution, SA seems genuinely interested in bringing about such change. For this, we applaud them for standing up for students.

As it stands today, the University's nondiscrimination policy guarantees equal opportunity regardless of one's "gender identity or expression." If the University were to provide all-gender restrooms, it would go a long way in encouraging a safe environment

for transgender and nonbinary individuals.

All-gender bathrooms already exist on campus, but only in a few locations. Their sparseness is problematic, but what is more troubling is that other than SA's resolution, the University has taken no initiative to publish directives addressing the systematic creation of all-gender restrooms throughout its campus, a policy we strongly encourage the Administration to consider.

To offer a concrete goal, we would like to see at least one all-gender restroom in every academic and residential building. Residence halls should take first priority; let's work to make people feel as comfortable as they can in their homes.

SA's resolution is a welcome step toward the ultimate goal of creating a safe campus climate for all individuals, but it is only one step towards that goal. While this resolution makes progress in the arena of safety on campus, there is still much work to be done in order to make our campus tolerant of all individuals.

The above two editorials are published with the consent of a majority of the editorial board: Aaron Schaffer (Editor-in-Chief), Adam Kadir (Managing Editor), Justin Trombly (Opinions Editor) and Jeff Howard (A&E Editor). The Editor-in-Chief and the Editorial Board make themselves available to the UR community's ideas and concerns. Email editor@campustimes.org.

The 2015 budget: A mixed bag

President Obama's new budget proposal is well-intentioned in places, but mostly implausible

BY JOSH VERONICA

President Obama unveiled his latest budget proposal Monday, announcing a long list of programs and policies he'd like to see make it through the Republican-dominated Congress. The budget calls for massive federal spending in 2016, but with an ever-growing federal debt, there is a low likelihood that most of the president's proposals will be enacted.

The budget has many sound plans that could be beneficial to the country, but the high cost of the proposals makes them appear impossible. The president's party is the minority in both houses of Congress, and this budget seems to be written with the understanding that Republicans will not pass many of its pieces. It's reasonable to think that Democrats will try to use the GOP's perceived stinginess as political ammunition in the 2016 elections.

The primary theme of the budget is education. The president called for financial assistance for families to put children in daycare, a policy that could prove very helpful. Daycare can help children educationally and socially and can allow parents to work during the day, bringing in income that benefits both the parents and the child. But the exorbitant cost of these programs needs to be kept in mind.

The president's plan to make community college free for

all students in good academic standing, which he announced during the State of the Union, is included in the budget as well. While the idea of wanting higher education to be available to everyone is just, this is not the way the government should go about it.

If community college were free, the government would be paying for every student's tuition—regardless of their need. This program

makes higher education possible for everyone without people footing the bill for those who do not need tuition assistance.

Many educational programs were included in the budget. The president proposed a \$3 billion investment in high school science, technology, engineering and math education, which could work hand-in-hand with the proposed American Technical Training Fund.

hikes—something President Obama supports—cripple small business owners.

With higher education becoming more accessible than ever, President Obama wants to use the budget to get something out of America's best and brightest. It calls for increased funding for medical and environmental research, which is money well spent. The health of Americans and of our planet should always be of the utmost importance. Taxpayers will have no problem funding this, and Republicans would be wise to support this.

The proposal continues funding for the Affordable Care Act, a major expenditure that will surely continue to face opposition in Congress. It also calls for a capital gains tax hike to 28% on the upper class—a

never agree to this type of tax, but I'm sure Hillary Clinton's staff is already working on a "Republicans voted against a tax increase on millionaires" commercial.

The president also included foreign policy initiatives in his budget, which appeared strong relative to how his administration has handled foreign affairs.

The budget wants to continue to fund anti-Islamic State efforts in the Middle East shortly after the President was criticized for not showing enough support after the terrorist attacks on Charlie Hebdo.

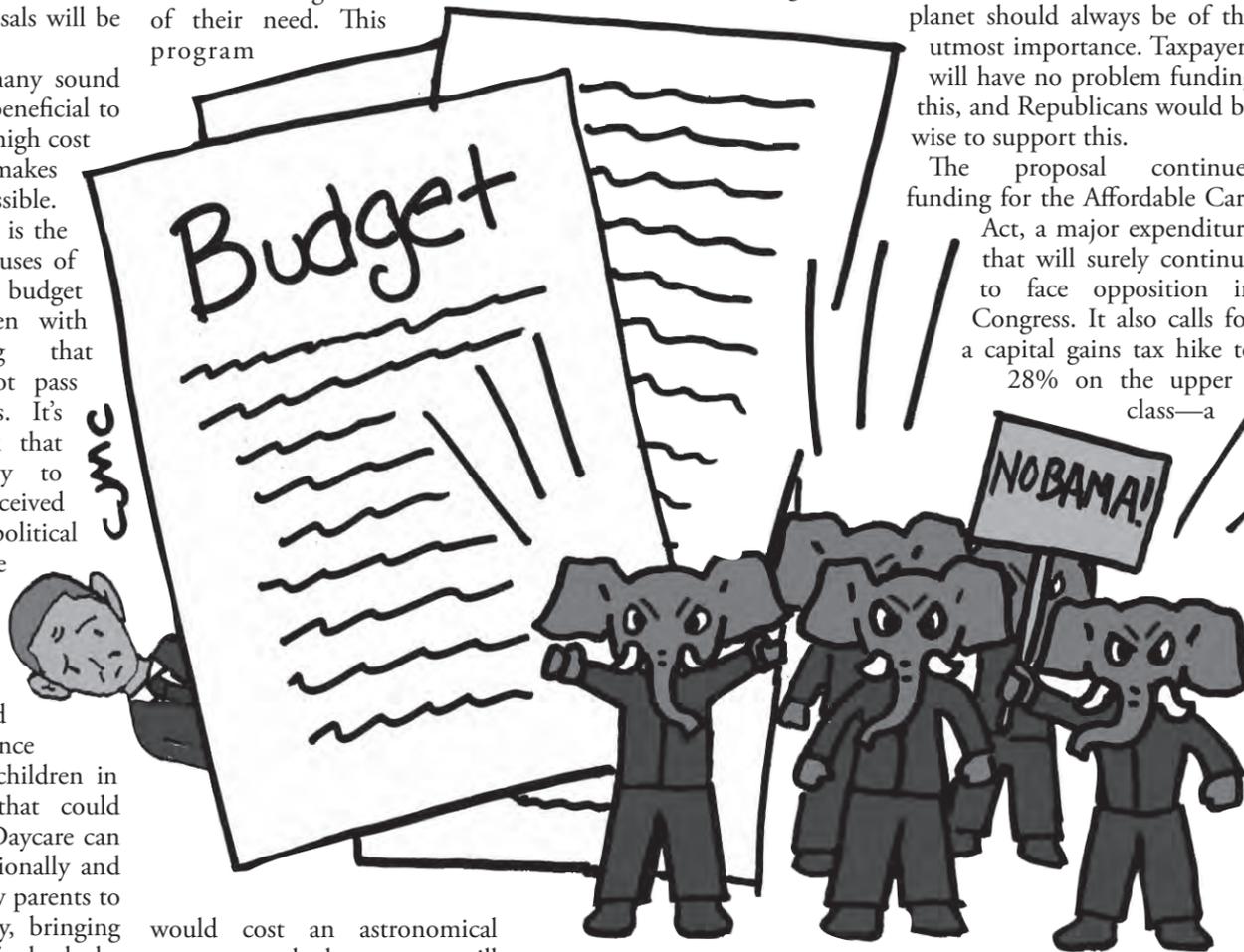
He also offers support to NATO and other European nations at odds with Russia, "including the governments most targeted by Russian pressure." In Ukraine's eyes, this support is too little, too late.

Additionally, the budget provides \$1 billion in funding for "promoting prosperity, security, and good government in Central America."

Central America is not an imminent threat to national security, and \$1 billion is a steep price for something that means relatively little to taxpayers.

President Obama's budget seems idealistic, creating programs while ignoring their price tags. It's filled with many ideas: some beneficial, some pointless, some expensive and most unrealistic. The cost of this budget, in addition to the president's lack of a congressional majority, makes this proposal rather worthless.

Veronica is a member of the class of 2018.



CHRISTIAN CIERI / STAFF ILLUSTRATOR

would cost an astronomical amount, and the money will likely not always go to those who need it. Instead, the government should increase federal grant and loan opportunity to students with the greatest need. This

President Obama also called for training programs to teach Americans how to launch and sustain new businesses, which is ironic, because minimum wage

measure that will never make it through Congress. President Obama knows Republicans will

*Dear Editor,
I have an opinion. How can I express it?
Sincerely,
Opinionated*

Dear Opinionated,
One word: *CT* Opinions...well, maybe two words.
Love,
Editor

Email opinions@campustimes.org—you won't regret it.

FEATURES

Thank a Mail Carrier Day: A look at the Campus Mail Center

BY RACHEL KAPLAN
SENIOR STAFF

The United States Postal Service (USPS) handles 40% of the world's mail, which generated \$67.3 billion in revenue in the past year.

USPS employs approximately 74,000 mail carriers who drive to neighborhoods and deliver mail on foot; approximately 7,600 deliver only on foot. In 2014, USPS reduced energy consumption by 33% from the previous year. Packaging and shipping services brought in \$12.5 billion, which was generated not only by the United States, but also by 190 international destinations.

On Wednesday, Feb. 4, post offices nationwide celebrated Thank a Mail Carrier Day, which is dedicated to appreciating the hard work of letter carriers, couriers and all others involved in the mail and packaging industry.

To celebrate, let's take a look at UR's Campus Mail Center, located in the basement of Todd Union, and learn about the ins and outs of what goes on within.

Six days a week, the Campus Mail Center is flooded with four separate deliveries of approximately 400 packages each—from USPS, UPS, FedEx and DHL, an international package delivery agent.

During September, the busiest month of the year, up to 600 packages may arrive on each delivery, and numbers expectedly plummet during the summer months.

Amy Mirabella, Supervisor of the Campus Mail Center, explains that “during September,

we have a ton of stuff coming in, from books to bigger stuff like refrigerators, futons and other dorm items.” The summers tend to be less busy because there are fewer students on campus to receive packages, although it remains moderately active, as the Mail Center service staff, graduate students, and local Rochester residents still get deliveries.

Package overload has been, and is increasingly becoming more problematic due to the lack of physical space. What used to be a simple post office has been physically expanded to make room for ceiling-high stacks of alphabetically and size-wise sorted packages, delivered to either “floor,” “rack” or “tubes,” depending on size, space and

Mail Center since his freshman year.

“As a freshman, I was a mail courier. USPS delivers all of our mail to a sorting facility on Mt. Hope [Ave.], and from there the mail is delivered to the Med Center and different buildings on campus. So, I was responsible for taking it from there and delivering it to the Mail Center.”

open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays during the academic year, manages to maximize efficiency in spite of the overload of incoming and outgoing deliveries. Outgoing deliveries, handled at one end of the Package Center, are typically less popular, and enable students to send letters, flat mail, or packages anywhere.

Incoming packages are handled at the other end of the Mail Center, while paper mail is delivered to individual student mailboxes. Commenting on the efficiency of the Mail Center, Mirabella mentioned that typically only one to two packages are lost in an entire semester, while approximately 50,000 packages are received in total.

This past year, the Center received a daily average of 422 packages, amounting to 2,109 packages a week, and mail activity seems to be increasing at a steep rate.

Between Dec. 2014 and Feb. 2015, there was a six percent increase in flat mail received, and an eleven percent increase in packages received. The biggest jump, however, was in letters received, presenting a whopping twenty-five percent increase in just one year.

Whether you make frequent trips to the Campus Mail Center or occasionally drop by, we should all stop to say thanks to our mailmen and women for helping us send and receive our letters and packages, and doing so efficiently and enthusiastically.

Kaplan is a member of the class of 2018.



Mailmen and women at the Campus Mail Center, located in the Todd Union Basement.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CAMPUS MAIL CENTER

Campus Mail Center Working Leader Peter Lootens shared that Rochester students seem to be above-average spenders in relation to college students in the rest of the country.

“Nationwide, campus mail centers deliver an average of twelve packages a year per student. However, our Campus Mail Center delivers an average of twenty,” Lootens said.

apparent manageability of the package.

To deal with the constant chaos of incoming and outgoing packages and mail, the Campus Mail Center has one part-time and five full-time employees, as well as seven student employees.

Senior Ryan Dickey, a Brain and Cognitive Science and Political Science double major, has been working at the Campus

Since sophomore year, Dickey has been working to process packages.

Package processing is the crucial foundation to correct package delivery. Once a package is delivered, it must be scanned and labeled, and an email must be sent to its recipient, informing them of the package's arrival and location.

The Campus Mail Center,

Freshmen experience their first Winterfest Weekend

BY ANGELA KLIZNAK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Winterfest Weekend began over 20 years ago with a handful of events and has grown immensely due its popularity with students. This year, the weekend included the Study Abroad Global Fair, Taste of Rochester, late night music, movies hosted by UR Cinema Group, a Super Bowl viewing party, and the Saturday Winter Wonderland Celebration in Wilson Commons.

Campus Activities Board (CAB) primary advisor Alvin Lomibao said “Winterfest brings the entire College community together to celebrate student life at Rochester...this weekend in particular celebrates winter and the start of the semester.” Just like all the other community weekends, Winterfest is an opportunity for the student population to come out and interact in a fun setting.

This weekend is especially entertaining for freshmen, since this is their first time experiencing Winterfest. Although many freshmen knew very little about

it, they learned to love it as much as the rest of the student body.

The Winter Wonderland giveaways at Wilson Commons

Freshman Ellie Johns was very excited for Winterfest, but it was hard for her to know what to expect. Though she had heard of

overwhelmed by the number of events that were happening. “I was expecting to run over quickly for some cocoa and a quick look

everything out.”

Students flock out for the free seasonal items and the excuse to relax and spend time with their friends. Sophomore Zoya Ramzan says that her favorite part of Winterfest this year was “spending quality time with friends, drinking hot chocolate and waiting in the flipbook picture line.”

Winterfest kicks off Spirit Week, taking place this week on campus.

In addition to the giveaways, CAB brought in Bill Hader in for a Q&A session. Bill Hader is a comedian who worked on “Saturday Night Live” for eight years. The show was a great opportunity to meet Hader and ask him questions.

Winterfest was led by Rachel Levene, CAB's Winterfest Weekend Chair. Levene said that putting the event together “was a lot of work, but seeing everything [fall into place] and seeing the student body [enjoy] it made it all worth it...I couldn't be happier with the way it went.”

Kluzniak is a member of the class of 2017.



Winterfest Festivities include the beloved huskies that visit every year.

CHI HUANG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

are arguably the most widely attended event—a signature part of the Winterfest Weekend since 2007, according to Lomibao. This year, Winter Wonderland included a Build-A-Bear station, picture flipbooks, hot chocolate, ice sculptures, picture whiteboards and a Rochester hat giveaway.

the event and knew it was taking place, she did not know all that it entailed.

When asked what her favorite part of the weekend was, Johns responded that she “absolutely loved the huskies that [were] brought to campus.”

Freshman Lydia Goff was

at the ice sculptures, but there was a lot more to do than I expected,” she noted, further explaining, “It is sometimes really hard to participate in what is going on...I'd never complain about the free cocoa, cookies and hat, but I'll have to get there earlier next year to make sure I get to try

Foreign Focus: Rabat, Morocco



Connaughton in a clothing shop in an old medina in Fes, trying on traditional clothing.



Connaughton riding a camel in the Sahara Desert.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LAUREN CONNAUGHTON

BY HANNAH GREENWALD
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Morocco is a beautiful country filled with many different cultures, religions and languages. It sits in the Maghreb region of North Africa and is enchanted by mystery and tradition.

With culture from its bustling souqs (open-air markets) and its energizing atmosphere from its mountains and sea, it is evident that Morocco is an important and interesting place to visit. Many ethnicities and cultures have entered and left Morocco, leaving it with all sorts of arts, literature, cuisine and architecture to fill up the country.

In senior Lauren Connaughton's Fall 2014 semester, she had the amazing opportunity to study abroad in Morocco and experience the plethora of cultures that exists there.

"I chose to study abroad on a whim last year. I submitted the proposal weeks late and wasn't sure if anything would work out...I hadn't had much interest in going the fall of senior year, but decided that I would regret not going," she said.

In the end, Connaughton went to Morocco through the Institute for the International Education of Students' (IES Abroad) Morocco program and

is very happy she chose it.

IES Abroad provides classes or internships through the Université Mohammed V, located in Rabat, as well as housing—either homestay or dorm residence—and field trips, with the goal of giving its students the most authentic study abroad experience.

Through the IES Abroad program, Connaughton had the opportunity to live at a host family's house and be completely immersed in Moroccan culture. She had flexibility in choosing her class schedule because she had no required classes to take for her music major.

Connaughton took four classes while abroad, including an Arabic class, a class on Islam, a North African literature class and a gender studies class with a specific focus on Morocco.

Noting that her favorite class was the class on Islam, Connaughton explained that she also found it to be the most interesting.

A regular week of hers included classes that ran from Monday to Thursday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Friday. "I was only in class until 6 on Thursdays, though. Every other day I was out by noon," she said.

All of her professors and the administrators in the program

were Moroccan, which allowed her to learn directly from those native to the area and even allowed her to practice her French. She got to meet new people, both Moroccan and American.

When Connaughton wasn't taking classes or spending time with her host family, she was traveling both inside Morocco and around Europe.

"The program took us on many field trips and many bigger trips as well...The coolest [trip] was a three day trip to the Sahara [that] included 10 hours of driving each way, stopping in small traditional villages, live Moroccan music, amazing scenery, unforgettable camel rides through the dunes and an amazing overnight in a small oasis a few kilometers into the desert," she said.

However, Connaughton's favorite city was Fes, the traditional capital of Morocco, followed by Asila.

Asila is a beach town in the north near the strait of Gibraltar.

"Asila was the most beautiful beach I have ever been to," she reminisced.

Connaughton also had the opportunity to travel throughout Europe during her studies in Morocco. She visited Portugal, England, Italy, Belgium, France and the Netherlands.

"I went a week early and did a backpack trip through Eastern Europe, from Budapest, to Austria, to Hungary, to Spain and to the Czech Republic." Overall, her favorites cities were Prague and Amsterdam.

Living with a host family allowed Connaughton to learn a great deal about Moroccan culture.

Whether it was with her own host family or one of the other Moroccan families that she met along the way, she said that "getting to know the Moroccan families was a highlight of [her] trip" and that "they were extremely hospitable and friendly...I think I learned the most about Morocco from them."

Being immersed in the culture allowed her to see Morocco through the eyes of people who aren't tourists.

She noted some traditional activities that she took part in.

"Every Friday is couscous day," she said, "Fridays are the religious day in Islam, and they eat couscous. There are a few different versions [prepared], but my favorite was topped with caramelized onions, raisins, almonds and vegetables. They put some kind of meat in it too. So scrumptious."

She was also able to see and experience some of the possible flaws that the country has.

She claimed that she would

love to go back and visit Morocco, but not live there because "there [are] a lot of problems for women there in terms of sexual harassment and gender equality."

Connaughton also felt that living with a host family made her lose a little bit of independence.

"Here [on campus] you are responsible for just yourself. You feed yourself. You don't have to report to anybody. [In Morocco], you had to report to the host family about your schedule. 'I am going to be home for dinner, or I am not going to be home for dinner' etc. You had to plan ahead. So it was almost like being in high school again, dealing with your parents."

In addition, she also found that the Moroccan culture is a lot more conservative and sensitive about things that Americans are not so sensitive about. This includes drinking and other similar actions because of religious restrictions.

Overall, Connaughton had an amazing experience being immersed into a different culture, taking non-UR classes and traveling around Europe.

Connaughton advises everyone to "definitely study abroad for at least three months or one semester."

Greenwald is a member of the class of 2017.

UR OPINION

BY TANIMA PODDAR & PARSALOTFI
FEATURES EDITOR & PHOTO EDITOR

"IF YOU COULD CONVERT ALL THE SNOW INTO SOMETHING ELSE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?"



ISAIAH EVANS '16

"A-pluses"



GINA BOLANOS '18

"Pizza"



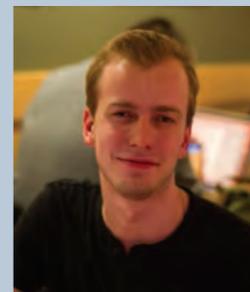
RAHUL MANAY '17

"Money"



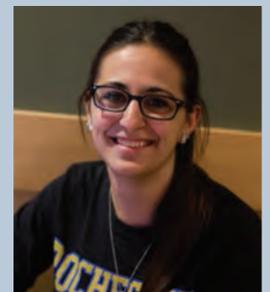
NAINA JAIN '15

"Fall leaves"



VALEV LAUBE '18

"Sunshine"



LILY KAMALYAN '15

"Candy and chocolates"

Jodi Says: An alternate prescription for depression

JODI ARMSTRONG
STAFF WRITER

Depression is huge. Not only are depression rates within the country – within the world – ridiculously high, but also, according to the American College Health Association’s National College Health Assessment, 30 percent of college students said that they felt “so depressed that it was difficult to function” at some point within the past year.

So, it’s an understatement to suggest that depression is worth thinking about.

Before I continue with a completely self-indulgent discussion on my two favorite things to talk about – sex and depression – let me just say that University Health Service has wonderful resources for those of us struggling with depression. And professional help, or even just advice, is worth seeking.

And now, onward! So, sex and

depression – they aren’t friends. In fact they seem like natural enemies. It’s a quest just to get them in the same room.

Depression is partly chemical. It can lower your libido, and it can simply make sex less enjoyable. And that can interfere (who am I kidding – that will interfere!) with relationships, as if the depression itself isn’t enough of a challenge.

But, in a simpler world, sex could be really helpful in the battle against depression. Sex is a feel-good drug. It feels good in the moment of course, but the residual endorphin rush lasts longer.

And the positive feelings—especially the confidence can last for days. What can build your self-esteem more than consent that says, “I want you!”? Not to mention that there’s a study reporting that semen has natural antidepressant qualities. (Anyone want to take a bet on who motivated that study?)

Additionally, when you’re depressed, it can be hard to really connect, even with someone you’re dating. It’s hard to feel understood, so it’s hard to feel close to someone.

“Sex & the CT”

LET SEX & THE CT HELP YOU THROUGH YOUR MOST AWKWARD SEXUAL YEARS.

Sex can be a really helpful tool for maintaining your intimacy in a time when you need it most.

Sex is powerful. And when you’re depressed, you need all the help you can get.

Depression itself and the antidepressants often used as treatment can make it hard to want sex, though.

It can be helpful to remind yourself of all the potential positive results of sex.

Reminding yourself that it will give you a physical good feeling, that it will give you a chemical good feeling, that it might build your confidence and that it will give you a venue to be intimate with your partner are all powerful things.

That said, be careful. Sex is not a treatment. In fact, treatment is just that – only treatment.

Sex is a positive thing to cherish in your life, and romantic intimacy is something to be kindled during hard times. But it’s never something to force yourself into.

And it’s never something to guilt yourself over. As much as I preach sex as a positive thing in my writing, it is not essential.

And not wanting sex, especially when you’re sick, is common, expected, not your fault and not wrong. If sex can be a helpful tool for you after discussing it with your partner, then wonderful!

But, the bottom line is that your depression will always be more important than sex, and getting it treated is the most important thing.

Armstrong is a member of the class of 2016.

UR Tech: Password perils

LUCIAN COPELAND
STAFF WRITER

Well, the numbers are in. The winner of this year’s most popular computer password is the incredibly secure and unguessable combination 123456.

I wish I was kidding. I’m not.

Everyone’s favorite six numbers are followed closely by “password,” “qwerty” and “1234678.” Slightly less popular favorites include “baseball” (no. 8) “letmein” (13) and relative newcomer “batman” (24).

Truly a secure bastion against the online legions.

The list paints an uncomfortable picture for many. While Americans do seem to be getting more concerned about cybersecurity, even going so far as to supplant “national security” in online searches, they remain very, very bad at implementing it. Needless to say, it has online security companies in a bit of a panic, especially banking and investment companies, which rely heavily on their members keeping their own accounts secure.

The rise of mobile finance has driven the number of users depending on their online accounts to an all time high, bringing in a flood of risk as new and inexperienced users begin to make accounts, storing their life savings in accounts protected only by a simple 8 character text box. And, even when these firms implement harsher password requirements, such as necessitating combinations of words and numbers, for example, users still inevitably find ways to be idiots.

CEO of SplashData Morgan Slain says “Seeing passwords like ‘adobe123’ and ‘photoshop’ on this list offers a good reminder not to base your password on the name of the website or application you are accessing.” Sports, interests and birthdates are also poor choices, though they tend to be user-specific enough that they don’t make the top ten lists.

Unfortunately, when confronted with requirements

for their passwords, even more advanced users tend to follow certain trends that make their combinations easier to guess.

Passwords with substituted words and trailing symbols may seem more airtight than an unmodified version, but the truth is that they remain quite easy for sophisticated hackers to break; p4ssw0rd’ and ba5eba11*** aren’t worth much when confronted with a high-turnover cracker program, which can churn through billions or even hundreds of billions of



ILLUSTRATOR MICHAELA CHAN

passwords every second.

Advanced crackers use a branching system known as a Markov Chain to move from one likely password to another, so starting with a dictionary word (say, peanut) and then corrupting it in a predictable way (Peanut1) may only take a fraction of a second more to guess than the 13245 codes listed above.

What’s even more unfortunate is that these exact sorts of word corruptions are actively encouraged by the sign-in processes of many a website.

Most login portals still recommend the standard combination of 8 characters with caps and symbols, and may even have little bars raising from “poor” to “strong” as the requirements are met, giving users a false sense of safety as they “133t-ify” their wording.

To counter the onslaught of lousy security practices, many companies have instead recommended the use of “passphrases,” combinations of short words with spaces which are relatively easy to remember and can be nearly impossible for a

cracker program to guess. But with the common 16-character limit on password length, it can be hard to fit together enough words together to be useful.

And even then, only improbable sentences will work: “where art thou romeo” or “call me ishmael” can be referred to in online text databases and will still be susceptible to brute-force methods.

To have a truly secure password, it’s best to have a random combination of words that elicit a memorable story but are not drawn from any real text or reference. According to Web N-Gram Services, the phrase “frog work flat,” perhaps constructed from a memory of hitting a frog on the drive to work, has a web recurrence of 1 in one quintillion odds, pretty good for stopping even a determined hacker.

But then, of course, you have to keep from falling for phishing sites mimicking your bank address. And avoiding sharing your password across all the sites you use. And not inadvertently installing a keylogger with that Chrome extension. And refraining from keeping it written in sharpie on a Post-it note left on your desk.

It’s a tall order. Nobody really wants to spend that much time and effort to thwart hackers. But, your final advantage is that hackers don’t really like spending time and effort, either.

Applied security researcher at Qualcomm Marcus Jakobsson says “If they’re going to spend 200 hours to break into your bank account and they find you have \$500, it’s not worth the expense.” As long as you stay away from the “easy mode” pool of passwords, keep them unique for your important personal sites and check the web address before logging into strange YouTube links, you should be set.

Oh, and avoid being a millionaire, a selfie-prone female celebrity or a Sony employee. That’ll help too.

Copeland is a member of the class of 2015.

Crossword

BY JOSEPH LINDEN ‘17
DIFFICULTY MEDIUM

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13			14				
15				16			17				
18				19							
		20	21				22		23	24	25
26	27					28			29		
30						31	32	33			
34					35	36					
37			38	39		40					
			41		42				43	44	45
46	47	48						49			
50					51			52			
53					54			55			

Across

- 1 Rush Rhees is an ___ of this campus
- 5 Pilgrimage
- 8 Cavity with crystal lining
- 12 Spend less money
- 13 Group of lawyers
- 14 Modern Rapier
- 15 With 41 across, the this school’s colors
- 16 Scottish feline
- 18 Every
- 19 Coat
- 20 Iranian village
- 22 Cloth used to carry corporal
- 26 Relating to music or sculptures
- 29 “I’m ___-“ indicates that they are not
- 30 More justified
- 31 Wading birds
- 34 “A long, long time ___”
- 35 French poster
- 37 Dressing or Farmstead
- 40 Roman locations
- 41 With 19 across, this university’s mascot
- 43 Taste a drink
- 46 Athletic shoe
- 49 ___ Classique, a Canadian record label
- 50 Crazy, or a song by Shakira
- 51 Stripped buzzer
- 52 Laser ___
- 53 Pun about eggs?
- 54 Jr. rank of commissioned officer

Down

- 1 Pamphylia alias
- 2 “___ me maybe”
- 3 Process that causes periods
- 4 “We are the knights who say ___”
- 5 Cuban contradanza
- 6 Ancients’ calculator
- 7 Take your Scottish time

8 Maker of luxury British phones

- 9 Atop, poetic
- 10 3rd. ___ phone e.g.
- 11 State of being for a male
- 17 Reynolds who won back-to-back American Comedy Awards and sang 49 Down
- 19 Austen who wrote Pride and Prejudice
- 21 What you call a knight
- 23 This school’s location
- 24 DJ ___, host of a TV channel by his name
- 25 Puts food in mouth
- 26 In the distance
- 27 Beauty in India
- 28 Phenylpropenes from saffras
- 32 Sight
- 33 ___1 is associated with albinism
- 36 Gothic fantasy romance novel being made into a movie
- 38 Flower clusters, e.g.
- 39 NYC Gas company as abbreviated on NYSE
- 42 Ear ___
- 44 Islamic worship leader
- 45 Monthly journal about numbers
- 46 ___-wood
- 47 Watercloset
- 48 “eew”
- 49 ___ Daba Honeymoon

LAST WEEK’S ANSWER:

P	I	A	H	A	D	C	A	E	C	A
E	L	L	E	D	H	I	N	T	E	R
A	L	F	O	R	J	A	S	A	N	D
A	B	S	O	R	B	T	A	E	L	
D	E	L	E	I	N	T	E	R		
O	F	F	N	A	T	I	O	N	A	L
S	T	A	D	E	A	S	A	N	A	
E	S	S	A	Y	I	S	T	P	O	I
L	E	O	N	E	Y	E	A	R		
H	A	M	E	N	E	C	T	A	R	
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L	I	G	H	T	K	I	P	E	O	N
M	O	S	S	Y	S	E	E	S	O	D

HUMOR

Dear Chris: Help!



BY CHRIS HORGAN
HUMOR EDITOR

Dear Chris: There's a really pretty girl, but she's a freshman, and I'm a second semester senior.

-Thanks, Romantic

Chris: I think what you need is a little more time. Try walking underneath the clock tower. I'm sure if you come off as a nice guy she'll give you a chance. Go ahead and ask her on a date!

Dear Chris: I have no idea what to do academically. I enrolled in some political science courses because I could see myself in the House of Representatives, or even being president someday. But, I don't quite understand the structure of the class; we don't do much. Lastly, my friend insists that I take a sign language course with him, but I don't know what to expect from it.

-Yours truly, Clueless

Chris: I think sitting around and doing nothing is an authentic experience that will prepare you for a position in Congress. So, stay in those classes. I wouldn't advise you to try and become president, though. After all, that could be a very stressful job. Go ahead and take the sign language class, and

practice thoroughly. You don't know how good you are at sign language until you have to use it to order pizza over the phone.

Dear Chris: I am a freshman at the University of Rochester and I am confused about how some of the things work here. I spent the entirety of my Uros and Declining on food during the first week because I didn't realize that I have the Unlimited meal plan. I don't want to eat at dining halls every day. Surely, there must be something I can do to fix this.

-From, Penniless

Chris: This usually goes a little under the radar, but Danforth is consistently ranked as one of the best dining halls in Sue B. As for your financial situation, I'm afraid you have lost all of your Declining and Uros. But there are some ways you can make money on campus. Go to every concert at Eastman and try to take advantage of the rule in which students can get \$10 tickets. You can purchase your ticket-front row seats are preferable—and then scalp it for at least \$90. You can also find ways to save money at school. For example, if you want to save money at the Pit, just put four bags of chips and some lettuce in a plastic container and go through the line as if it were a salad. They price salads by weight, so you'll spend no more than a couple of quarters.

Dear Chris: I am a freshman girl, and there is this guy, a senior, who keeps looking at me. I think he is going to ask me out or something. What should I say if he does?

-With gratitude, Cheerful

Chris: This guy sounds like a total freak. I would try to stay away from him as much as possible and if he comes off as a really kind, genuine and innocent guy who really just wants to meet you, it must be an act.

Horgan is a member of the class of 2017.

Taking the plunge

BY ERIK CHIDO
HUMOR EDITOR

Recently, I made the wise decision to sign up for the annual Polar Plunge, in which participants take a dip in Lake Ontario's frigid winter waters. Fairly straightforward, right? Wrong. I had a few expectations prior to signing up for this event. I thought that we would be able to witness polar bears dive into Lake Ontario. If people were participating instead of polar bears, why wouldn't they call it the "People Plunge?" Despite this alternative name for the event sounding like an edgy and angsty pop group, it definitely suits the event better than the original, less accurate name. Now that I'm aware of my impending doom, I have gone through several counter measures to make sure that I don't die on

Sunday when I take the plunge.

This includes walking around in shorts and no shirt outside; if you look at the last issue of the paper, there is evidence of this. I plan on stopping because I've noticed Public Safety following me around. Either they are afraid that I will eventually pass out from the shock of the cold, or they honestly feel like I pose a threat. Keep in mind that I'm 125 pounds, soaking wet and am barely tall enough to ride on rollercoasters, so one of those options is probably more likely. I've only taken cold showers for a week, which is actually more of a problem with Facilities. By the time everyone in my suite has taken a shower, this leaves me with only cold water. I just use the Polar Plunge as justification for this sad reality. By putting my classes aside, I've gained hours of free time (two to be exact) that I

put towards preparing my body for this event.

Sometimes though, I go to extremes. By looking up documentaries on Polar Bears and their abilities to withstand the long, severe winter conditions at the North Pole, I've gained valuable knowledge on coping with colder temperatures. Unfortunately, most of the information that I've accrued by watching these documentaries has become worthless because there is one major difference that distinguishes me from the polar bears: I'm not a polar bear. Trust me, at first I was in denial, but after sitting on this reality for a bit, I've come to terms with it. This Sunday, whether I'm ready or not, I'm going to take the plunge.

Chido is a member of the class of 2017.

A few UR advertisement ideas

BY CHRIS HORGAN
HUMOR EDITOR

Marketing is important, and I see a couple of opportunities for the University to create some entertaining advertisements.

In one such advertisement, a bunch of the school's important figures are in a meeting, but the meeting is delayed because the school's mascot is missing from the table. The commercial then turns to Rocky the Yellowjacket hovering over a spilled Pepsi on the sidewalk in front of Rush Rhees. This works in other ways as well because both UR and Pepsi are being advertised; everybody wins.

The next commercial features UR President Joel Seligman at his desk. He is filling out paperwork but is soon flustered by a bee floating

around his head. He hears a knock on the door, but doesn't glance at the individual by the door until he brutally kills the bee that was flying around his head. He picks his face up to and sees Rocky, who then gives Seligman a blank stare and leaves the room.

One tactic businesses use to market their product is to acquire a celebrity endorsement. I think the best fit for the school is Lance Armstrong. The reason I say this is because I couldn't think of any individual who better exemplifies the school's motto, "Ever Better," more than Lance Armstrong. The guy never lets the truth get to him, or get out of him.

Lastly, the school should host a human Iditarod race across campus. In other words, instead of having dogs pull humans,

humans pull a human on a sled. It should become a tradition at the school and should be treated as seriously as an Olympic events. Winners get their name engraved on the back of the George Eastman statue and are featured on the front page of the CT. A mandate will then make it required for every student to attend the race.

To strengthen the school's image, the University should provide pamphlets for every student to give to their friends back home. Within the packet is one of those "find the differences in the picture" games but one photo is of the RIT logo and the other is the UR logo. This way, the school can emphasize that UR exists and it is not synonymous with RIT.

Horgan is a member of the class of 2017.

Plowing forward: A new UR perspective on a classic complaint

BY KEVIN MCCLELLAND
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The University of Rochester is no stranger to bad weather. Year after year, it has tried to deal with everyday snowstorms by using pounds of salt and large snow plows. Yet, despite all of the school's efforts, many students are still frequently injured by patches of ice and blinding snow.

The 2011 storm was so monstrous that the University was forced to release a special edition of the Weekly Buzz to instruct students how to safely cross the perilous campus en route to their classes. The article offered life-saving advice such as "take smaller steps" and "consider bringing a snow shovel." While this comforted many of the undergraduates, an insignificant majority was angered, claiming that the school should have cancelled classes and not expected the students to somehow purchase a shovel.

Today, almost four years later, the University has finally decided to

address these concerns by releasing a UR brand of snow shovel. Designed by the school's own fifth-year senior and mechanical engineering and philosophy double major Doug Pelle, the spade boasts a royal-blue shaft leading to a dandelion-yellow shovel head engraved with a giant "UR" in the middle.

The tool has a unique handle design which allows for better back alignment while plowing, relieving stress put on the lower vertebra and tail bone. Instead of requiring a standing position like commonplace shovels, this revolutionary design instead has the user push while on his or her knees.

Pelle states that "having experienced the 2011 snowstorm my freshman year, I heard many of the complaints offered by my peers. I knew that if they could only get their hands on a good-quality shovel, my shovel, then the whining would stop. Apparently, the University agreed."

Rich Billig, a spokesman for the University of Rochester,

claims that he is in love with this shovel. He states, "We have received literally hundreds of complaints that our plowing has been insufficient. So we decided that, if students think the job is so easy, why not just let them do it? With a simple, one-time fee added to their tuition, undergraduates will receive their own labeled shovels when they are given their school IDs."

Billig plans to require each student to own and maintain one of Pelle's Snow-Away® shovels with the possibility of a fine—or even expulsion—for those caught misusing or losing theirs. This new requirement has allowed the school to place more responsibility for grounds maintenance onto the students.

"The University is currently planning to almost completely stop salting walkways," Billig said. "The system is a win-win for both the school and its students. Students get to control the plowing and the University is able to save money. We are

planning to reduce our current maintenance staff by up to half of what it is now, and we couldn't be happier."

While this system may seem perfect, some students have yet to endorse it, arguing that the school should even increase salting. Salt enthusiast Grace Isisulu '17 claims that the school isn't doing enough to protect its students. "All last spring, I had to walk around with an arm brace because I slipped on a patch of ice and landed on one of those stupid 'Stop Winter Falls, Walk Like a Penguin' signs."

Billig stands by his decision nevertheless, stating, "I believe that we need to come together and put these petty issues aside in order to be part of something greater than ourselves. As we speak, the University is compelling environmentally directed clubs to support us in reducing the amount of salt that flows into the soil and Genesee. Sports teams are being rewarded to change their morning practices to plowing the academic quad. The UR

community is strong, and, if we work together, we can direct the money wasted on making the roads safe toward a good cause. Using the money saved, we will finally be able to begin our plan to almost double alumni donation requests."

Putting the economic and environmental benefits of this project aside, Pelle believes that the Snow-Away® can have an even more important impact on the campus spirit, saying, "I completely understand how all current students must be feeling with regard to the current weather: powerless. I have spent a year and a half on this senior project because I know that it will help students feel like they're part of something bigger. My hope is that, while the students are crouched down, plowing the walkways clean every morning, they will see that giant "U" and "R" and know that they're part of a family that cares about them."

McClelland is a member of the class of 2015.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Hader brings insider television knowledge to UR

BY JULIANNE MCADAMS
SENIOR STAFF

Actor, writer and comedian Bill Hader, most famous for his time on “Saturday Night Live” (SNL), came to Strong Auditorium on Saturday night to participate in a Q&A as the Winterfest Weekend comedian. Organized by Campus Activities Board (CAB), the event was largely advertised as featuring the “Winterfest Comedian Bill Hader.” Although this did not draw attention to the fact that the performance was not, in fact, a standup show, Hader’s meager presence was nonetheless nothing short of hilarious.

The night featured selfies with audience members, drowned plants, an uncomfortable administrator, an ongoing correspondence with actress Kristen Wiig (with whom Hader was casually texting the entire show, because they are best friends), and general life advice for those of us who are a little more than afraid of the vast enigma surrounding our futures.

Before Hader came on stage, the crowd was primed with clips of his past performances in “SNL,” “Superbad,” “Adventureland,” and his recent movie, “The Skeleton Twins,” among others. Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Jonathan Burdick began by asking Hader what he has been up to recently, to which Hader replied matter-of-factly, “Nothing.” Throughout most



PARSA LOTFI / PHOTO EDITOR

Dean Burdick interviewed Bill Hader during the Q&A event on Saturday, Jan. 31 at Strong Auditorium.

of the night, in fact, Hader downplayed his success, stating that he and most of the comedians and writers he has worked with never have any idea what they’re doing.

One of the most entertaining aspects of Hader’s performance was his interaction with his “props,” turning what would have been a casual, perhaps comedic information session about Hader’s experience in the entertainment world into a full-fledged improv show, much to the chagrin of the awkwardly-situated Dean Burdick. The randomness alone of some of the things he did was enough to

get the whole room cracking up.

Between the two armchairs in which Burdick and Hader were sitting stood a table which held a small potted house plant and two water bottles. While Burdick was speaking and trying to carry along the interview (and clearly wary of time, considering his interruptions of Hader’s tangential responses to continue with more questions), Hader picked up his water and poured a little bit of it into the plant. “This may be the last plant in Rochester,” he said, clearly in his element. Moments later, Hader again ignored Burdick’s questioning

and began pouring the water into the plant again, this time emptying the entire bottle. Burdick looked unamused and very concerned for the well-being of the furniture as Hader tipped the table to release a waterfall onto the floor.

Once Hader was finished essentially playing with Burdick, the audience formed into two lines in front of either side of the stage to ask their own questions. He was incredibly open about answering questions and interacting with the audience, and he even took pictures with the people who were bold enough to ask. At one

point, people started to sit back down from one of the lines, and he insisted people come back up, saying that it was cold outside and he had nowhere better to be. In the first five minutes, Hader frequently addressed a girl in the front row as “Number One Fan.” He made the large auditorium space feel like the audience was all just sitting around drinking coffee.

Hader provided the audience with personal anecdotes for just about every question asked, which was one of the most worthwhile parts about the show. He gave an inside scoop to the behind-the-scenes world of SNL and different celebrity personalities. He talked about jokes people would play on each other during the live show, like writing the wrong thing on a cue card to get each other to break character, and he explained the process of pitching SNL skits and the weekly production of the show. He also told a story about Robert Downey Jr. on the set of “Tropic Thunder.” Asking the cast to look at “this thing” he’d been working on, Downey Jr. then proceeded to show them the “Iron Man” trailer.

All of the stories, plus the fact that he sent a selfie of himself with the audience to Kristen Wiig creating the feeling that we could relate to him, and let’s be honest, who wouldn’t want to spend a night hanging out with Bill Hader?

McAdams is a member of the class of 2017.

Celebrating talent, UR style

BY JEFF HOWARD
A&E EDITOR

On Friday, Jan. 30th, the Lower RA Staff of Susan B. Anthony Halls held its annual talent show, “UR’s Got Talent!” The show featured several student music performances, all of which received input from UR faculty and staff judges. This year, the judges were Dean of Students Matthew Burns, UR Brass Choir Director Josef Hanson and UR food service worker, “Diva of Danforth,” Dawn Hosier. The judges rapport with the performers made for an entertaining night, and the range of impressive performances kept one phrase ringing true for the entire event: UR has got talent.

Standout performers included Magnifique Nsengimana ‘18 and sophomore Jeffrey Kanyama ‘17 who went under the pseudonyms DJ Studd and Makaveli, respectively. The two rappers put on a fiery and confident hip-hop performance which echoed the sounds of DJ Khaled and other 2000’s gangsta rappers. In addition, Alexandria Brown ‘18 played acoustic guitar and sang



AARON RAYMOND / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jackie Capita ‘18 performs a tender ballad at “UR’s Got Talent!”

an original song, “Running,” accompanied by Thomas Andolsek ‘18 on percussion. The two put on an earnest, catchy and captivating performance. In another bit, James Yarberry ‘18 played violin along to a backing track of Nirvana’s “Smells Like Teen Spirit”, which Judge Dawn described as cinematic

and thrilling (Burns was less impressed – he wasn’t sure if the performance was even real, what with Yarberry playing along with his “little computer”).

In “UR’s Got Talent” tradition, the judges were stars as much as the performers. As usual, Burns played his role as the panel’s grump (in

response to Alexandria Brown’s performance of “Running,” he said the song would have listeners, “running, running, running away”). Hanson offered valuable constructive criticism to performers on how they could improve their stage presence and showmanship and had a warm attitude. Still, the MVP

of the night was Hosier, whose feedback was earnest, loving and infectious. In response to student-run rock group NJR’s performance of “You’re so Vain,” Dawn commented that she wanted to take the band on an American tour—but only through warm states like California.

In between performances, the event’s emcees kept the show rolling. Emcee Ben Hall ‘17 put on a freestyle piano and vocal piece about frogs which was highly entertaining. In addition, Cole Oppedisano ‘16 and Dan Chess ‘16 did a whimsical bit of improv involving vegan dinosaurs and cheese falling from the sky. In every moment of the night, jokes and creativity were abundant.

No talent show is complete without (a) winner(s) though, and this year’s were Alexandria and Thomas, whose authenticity had the audience mesmerized. Still, the entire event, from its ambitious performances to its creative judges and emcees, proved that UR’s student body is a force to be reckoned with.

Howard is a member of the class of 2017.

Katy Perry: rise of a bubblegum princess

BY JEFF HOWARD
A&E EDITOR

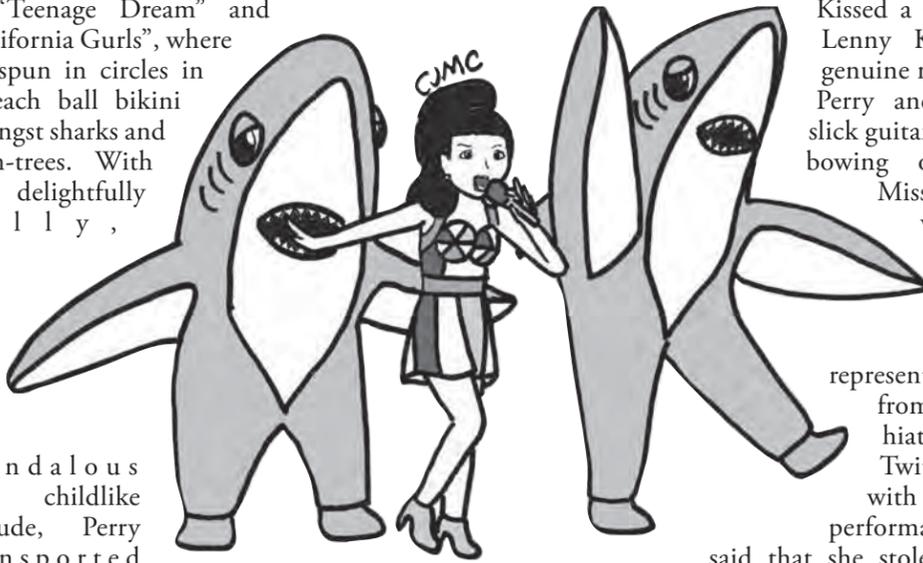
“Super Bowl are you ready to ROAR!” shouted Katy Perry as she stood atop a gargantuan mechanical lion at the 49th annual Super Bowl. Glowing in a glitter-flame dress and whipping a golden rope, the pop superstar emanated command, intrigue and a little bit of whimsy.

From her opening number, “Roar,” Perry’s performance elevated pop to new levels of sugary goodness. Part of this is because, in all its technicolor glory, Perry’s performance was human—she never hid the fact that she was pumped to play the Super Bowl. Warming the audience with smiles, but focusing on a mission to entertain and transcend, Perry’s presence shone with the aura of a true bubblegum princess. Take her performance

of “Teenage Dream” and “California Gurls”, where she spun in circles in a beach ball bikini amongst sharks and palm-trees. With her delightfully silly,

scandalous and childlike attitude, Perry transported viewers to a high-

fructose paradise. Other times, Perry’s show was aesthetically awesome. During her performance of “Dark Horse,” Perry weaved throughout a crew of neon dancers dressed as chess pieces. The choreography during this number was taut,



CHRISTIAN CIERI / STAFF ILLUSTRATOR

and the dancer’s outfits were beautifully jagged, icy and futuristic.

The performance’s special guests were memorable as well. During a rock rendition of “I

Kissed a Girl”, guest Lenny Kravitz had genuine rapport with Perry and played a slick guitar solo before bowing out. Guest Missy Elliot, whose spot on the halftime show

represented a return from a 15-year hiatus, had the Twitter abuzz with her fiery performance. Some

said that she stole the show. Still, Perry fit into the rap mold well, projecting a vibe that was a fierce and a little sassy.

The highlight of the Super Bowl halftime show was its closer, “Firework,” which was simultaneously minimalist and over-the-top. During the song, Katy Perry ascended into

the night sky on nothing but a metal platform with a star on top. Her grace brought to

With her delightfully silly, scandalous and childlike attitude, Perry transported viewers to a high-fructose paradise.

mind Glinda the Good Witch of the East from “The Wizard of Oz.” Shining brilliantly in her starry dress and surrounded by fireworks, Perry’s victory lap was at once absurd and sincere, playful and cathartic. Call it music; call it performance art. It doesn’t matter: on Feb. 1, Katy Perry proved herself to be a true neon goddess.

Howard is a member of the class of 2017.

Super Bowl commercials get heavy

BY SAAD USMANI
A&E EDITOR

I’m not sure what to think of the Super Bowl, whether it was the Seahawks’ fantastic catch followed by a quick interception by the Patriots guaranteeing a win, or the eerily sappy and dark commercials that were played in between each play. There was a dashing renewal of inspiring advertisements, but the dearth of actually humorous spots cast a shadow on the otherwise entertaining game.

There were a few spot-on hilarious commercials that aired, with my favorite probably being the “Clash of Clans” commercial in which Liam Neeson plays off his “Taken” character attempting to seek revenge from his online rivals in the game app. It perfectly balanced the self-aware aspect

of the game. For viewers who grew up with the arcade game, it was certainly a memorable experience. For viewers who just love great commercials, this had to be one of the best from last night. Some other nostalgia-based commercials were the Snickers’ Brady Bunch/Danny Trejo/Steve Buscemi mashup and BMW’s commercial that compared the mysterious enigma surrounding the Internet back in the 90s to its new i3 electric car. The commercial was very clever in the way it attempted to compare the two technologies, though it did come off as very tacky at the very end when twerking was mentioned. We also saw some new movie trailers for the year, including ones for “Jurassic World,” “Pitch Perfect 2,” “Furious 7,” and “Terminator: Genisys.” “Jurassic World” was

vicious-looking velociraptors. However, “Furious 7,” took the cake with lots of cars racing, cars chasing, cars dropping out of airplanes with parachutes and cars jumping through skyscrapers. Yes, I’m still going to go see it.

Most of the movie commercials were good for what they were, but there was a noticeable dearth of many other high-profile movies coming out this year, including “The Avengers: Age of Ultron,” “Star Wars: The Force Awakens,” and “Fantastic Four.”

Out of all the commercials, Nationwide’s really got everyone’s attention of everyone. What seemed to be another inspirational commercial featured a child who proclaimed that he can’t ride a bike, fly, get cooties, or get married. It’s curious at this

point, but the punchline hits (and it surely hits hard) when the child says “I couldn’t grow up, because I died in an accident.” Boom. Watching it with my friends, everyone asked the same question: “Wait, what just happened?”

The commercial went on to show shots of an overflowing bath tub,

a television that has fallen over, and some chemical sprays in a cupboard. I understand the sentiment that the commercial was going for, but it did so in such a cruel way that most people just were not expecting. It was done in such a hard-hitting way that it completely

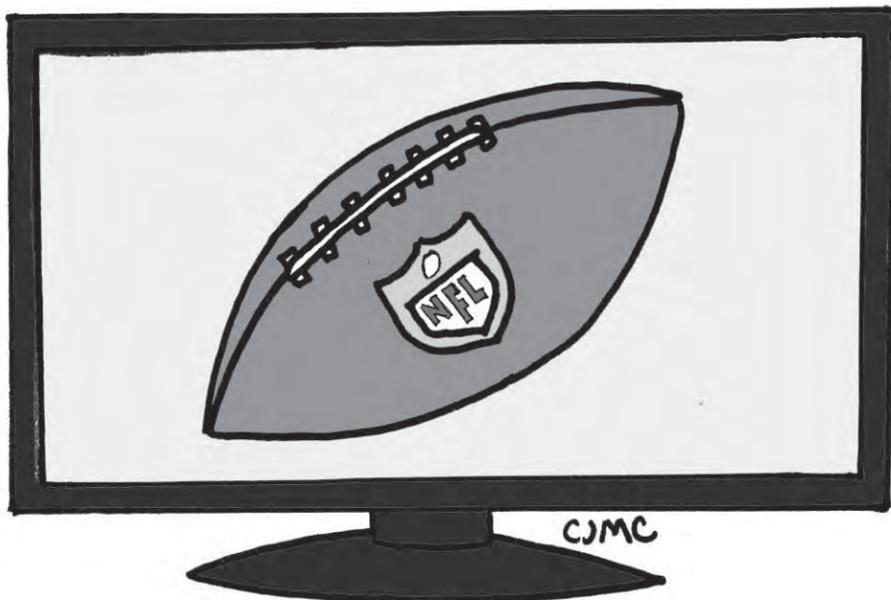
lost its justification for doing so. People watch the Super Bowl commercials to have a good time, not to feel emotionally disturbed or guilty. Considering Nationwide makes money off of this, it’s even more awkward.

Nationwide was the darkest commercial of the night, but there were other ones that were much more inspiring. Coca-Cola’s commercial about Internet hate comments was one of my favorites of the night. It addressed the problem of online hate speech and replacing hate with love and self-appreciation. It’s an even more important issue considering the amount of hate speech that dwells on Facebook, Twitter and Yik Yak. The “Like a Girl” commercial attempted to stop the notion that doing something “like a girl” held a negative connotation. It was a

feel-good commercial and really struck the chords with equality movements and social media.

The commercials that played on Super Bowl night showed a new trend with commercials that has been emerging. With the amount of money paid to host a commercial for that night – this year it was approximately \$4.5 million for every 30 seconds – companies want to spend more money on meaningful commercials that audiences will connect to. Sure, there will still be comedic ones, but in the coming years, there will be fewer of them. We’ll see more of the commercials that will resonate with you once everything’s done and over. Nevertheless, let’s just hope that we don’t see one like Nationwide’s anytime soon.

Usmani is a member of the class of 2017.



CHRISTIAN CIERI / STAFF ILLUSTRATOR

and the serious persona of Liam Neeson’s character in “Taken.” Another advertisement that was extremely impressive and nostalgic was the Budweiser “Pac-Man” commercial, in which a guy was randomly chosen to be Pac-Man and compete in a real-life version

arguably the most exciting one of the bunch in terms of action and spectacle. We saw some pterodactyls picking up some tourists, some new shots of the half-T-Rex, half-velociraptor, hybrid dinosaur, and more of Andy Dwyer/Star-Lord/Chris Pratt befriending some

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Eastwood's 'American Sniper' propagandizes true-life

BY JONAH JENG
SENIOR STAFF

Most biographical war films don't outwardly identify as "action movies" because the pairing of the two genres sounds inherently unethical. Real-world combat involves real lives, after all, and to suggest that they be terminated in the service of an adrenaline rush is to appear callous, if not downright inhumane. "American Sniper," Clint Eastwood's recent biopic on the most lethal sniper in U.S. military history, seems to be an exception in the making. Before his death, Kyle had 160 confirmed kills in his decade-long career as a Navy SEAL. That statistic, plus the film's badass title, plus the fact that Bradley Cooper packed 40 pounds for the role and would have fit right in among the Expendables, makes the implicit claim that, if any war biopic were to be an action movie and get away with it, "American Sniper" would be the one.

And so it is, unequivocally and aggressively, an action movie. The film's trailer suggests equal screen time between home and the frontlines – that as much time would be devoted to psychological warfare as its military counterpart – but reality reveals the hushed machismo of the film's title to be less ironic than we'd thought. For two hours and fourteen minutes, we follow Kyle through four tours of duty, each of which presents new challenges to overcome. Much of the film has an episodic rhythm, sending Kyle on mission after mission like a character in a videogame. There are shootouts, standoffs and stretches of agonizing suspense. After a while, Kyle is no longer just a soldier but a gung-ho gunslinger at war

Much of the film has an episodic rhythm, sending Kyle on mission after mission like a character in a videogame.

with a faceless mass of villainous Arabs led by a Final Boss master sniper, whom Kyle confronts in a climactic showdown.

That last sentence describes the first of many reasons why "American Sniper" is only half of what it promises to be: the film's an actioner all right, but it gets away with very little. For starters, there's the movie's alarmingly one-sided representation of the Iraq War. One would think that, after films like "Battle of Algiers" and Eastwood's own "Flags of our Fathers" / "Letters from Iwo Jima" double feature, Hollywood would have been more receptive to the truth that humanity exists on both sides of any war. It's true that war movies typically focus on one side of the conflict, whether to streamline the narrative or evoke the existential limitations of an individual soldier's perspective; to identify us with the marooned

soldiers in "Black Hawk Down" is to necessarily make us afraid of the Somali militants.

That kind of insularity is unavoidable. But the type of perspective "American Sniper" imposes is downright propagandistic – it doesn't simply elevate Kyle to mythic status but turns the Iraqis into offensive cartoons designed to elicit our hate. There is a gruesome scene involving a power drill-wielding terrorist that, while it may be based on real events (I have my doubts), is appallingly manipulative. The violence is so outlandishly brutal and is drawn out for so long that we are forced to withhold our sympathy from the Iraqis, especially since the film presents us with not a single sympathetic Iraqi character. Then there is the enemy sniper, whose existence reduces the conflict of the war into a glaring good/evil dichotomy, and yes, he is dressed in all black. We root for Kyle not because we want to, but because we have no other choice.

And maybe this is all the better for the film's pro-American sentiments because, had we been given more autonomy as viewers, we might have chosen otherwise. Kyle, while not lacking in

There is a gruesome scene involving a power drill-wielding terrorist that, while may be based on real events, is appallingly manipulative.

charisma and charm, makes a disarming hero because he is portrayed as being so singularly patriotic that everything – his family, his life beyond the war – falls by the wayside. When footage of the 9/11 terrorist attacks plays on the Kyles' living room TV set, the focal point is not the terrorist

act but Kyle's face – rock-hard impassive save for the barely contained tremor that exposes not compassionate rage but the ardor of a man possessed by a psychotic nationalism. When asked by a psychiatrist whether he thinks about those he's killed, he says he is haunted more by

The type of perspective "American Sniper" imposes is downright propagandistic – it doesn't simply elevate Kyle to mythic status but turns Arabs into offensive cartoons.

the people he couldn't save, and we believe him. What his statement indicates could be, on the one hand, true compassion for his brothers in arms, but it also suggests a disregard for the other, equally human lives he's taken. Nationalism is not the same as selective empathy or even bloodlust, but taken to an extreme, the former can descend into the latter.

In these character-revealing moments, "American Sniper" seems poised to be a different, greater film – a uniquely unflattering portrait of patriotism-gone-wrong with enough tact not to reduce its subject to an anti-American lampoon. Unfortunately, the film goes for neither character study nor satire. Despite scenes that give a glimpse into the depths of Kyle's person, whether it be his PTSD or his all-American hoorah, the movie ultimately trades them all in for plot – mission after mission, bad guy after bad guy. By the time the film's closing documentary footage salutes the passing of an American soldier, all sense of complexity has disappeared,

replaced instead by the uneasy feeling that a potentially rich film had been sacrificed in the name of jingoistic hagiography.

You may argue that "American Sniper" shouldn't be receiving this much flak for its staunchly unilateral approach to representing the war because, heck, Hollywood's been making "Yeah America!" action movies for decades, and the "enemies" at the time have always been conveniently cast as the villains. You may cite "Die Hard" (John McClane vs. the Russians in the wake of the Cold War), the newest "Rambo" film (Stallone arbitrarily chooses the Burmese on which to project our nation's fear of Third World dictatorships), and the slew of post-9/11 action movies that pit A-list actors against Arab Terrorist caricatures. Even though the argument that "my crime is okay because I wasn't the first to commit it" is really no argument at all, there is some merit to the suggestion that "American Sniper" shouldn't be blamed for a problem that is larger than

Bradley Cooper has never given a more powerful performance (except maybe in Silver Linings Playbook).

the scope of just one movie.

With all that in mind, I still felt Eastwood's film to be especially off-putting because it's a biopic. Not only that, but it's a biopic about someone who recently passed away and whose life involved people, places, and events still urgently relevant to our world today. What is most disconcerting is the fact that the film knows this and still tries to take the action-movie route. Sprinkled throughout the film are moments of moral crisis which indicate that Eastwood

understood his story to be about someone who was flesh and blood; in the very opening sequence, an armed, Arab child approaches an American tank, and it is Kyle's trigger who will decide the fate of both. But these moments are few and isolated. Before long, I got the queasy

Unfortunately, the film goes for neither character study nor satire.

feeling that the film threw them in simply as tokens of moral struggle to appease critics looking to bash the movie for exploiting true-life war for the purposes of action-packed entertainment. All these moments could have happened in real life, but the way the film fails to use them to advance either narrative or character development suggests that they exist simply to convince dissenters that Eastwood is respecting the three-dimensionality of the real Chris Kyle. In reality, the critics are probably right.

It's a shame, because the film had a lot going for it. Bradley Cooper has never given a more powerful performance (except maybe in "Silver Linings Playbook"), and the opening sequence is dazzling – the vice-like tension generated by silence and narrative delay feels straight out of "The Hurt Locker," and the scene culminates with an astonishing jump cut that captures the masterpiece "American Sniper" could have been. But it is impossible to think in terms of "could-haves" when a movie deals so completely with present-day circumstances. And once we've set our sights on the social and political context within which the film places itself, we realize that Eastwood has completely missed the mark.

Jeng is a member of the class of 2016.

UR Dances Student Kickoff Concert

February 5, 2015 8pm, Spurrier Dance Studio

inspireJAM

February 6, 2015, May Room, Wilson Commons
Bboy/Bgirl Battle 8pm

Doug Elkins Choreography, Etc.

February 8, 2015, 3pm, Spurrier Dance Studio

inspire February 5-10, 2015
DANCE Festival
University of Rochester's Celebration of Dance and Community

30 Master Classes taught by renowned guest artists and UR Program of Dance and Movement faculty sharing dance and movement from cultures all over the world.



Tickets on sale at the Common Market

All-Inclusive Festival Pass

\$18 through Feb. 5

\$25 starting Feb. 6 (sold at the door)

Registration for workshops is necessary upon arrival or at the Kick-Off, Feb. 5 7pm-9:30pm

Events are first come, first served

For more information or a full schedule, contact the Program of Dance and Movement at (585) 275-5150 or visit www.rochester.edu/college/dance/events

Snubs and Subs: NBA All-Star Rosters

BY JESSE BERNSTEIN
STAFF WRITER

We're living in quite the era of NBA basketball. There haven't been this many big, marketable stars in this many cities since the '80s, a time that some still consider the heyday of the league.

As far as All-Star games, this is both good and bad. On one hand, it's great to see different players getting their due every year, and the large talent pool means that there aren't any flash-in-the-pan-type players sneaking on the roster that'll have you saying, "He made an All-Star team?" in three years (ahem, Jamaal Magloire).

However, the sheer volume of deserving candidates means that we get gems like this Damian Lillard Instagram post: "I just want to thank the coaches who feel I wasn't good enough, the fans that didn't think I was good enough, and Adam Silver also for not thinking I was good enough." Yes, worthy players miss the cut, and it often becomes a bigger story than the actual roster. That is both extremely annoying and something that happens almost every year.

For example: when someone deemed "undeserving" makes the team, you get one group of writers turning up their noses and saying, "This is why we shouldn't let any old casual fan vote." I presume that afterwards they go to Barnes & Noble and passive-aggressively scoff at people buying James Patterson novels, but that's yet to be confirmed. Then another group counters that the All-Star Game is nothing but a showcase of the players that the people want to see most, so the actual quality of who makes the team in the end is irrelevant. That would make sense if players' Hall of Fame cases weren't constantly judged on, oh, how many All-Star games they made throughout their careers. If you get cheated one year because someone else got the equivalent of a lifetime achievement award, you'd be justifiably pissed!

So, rather than get involved in either of those arguments, let's do what sports fans have been doing since the Greeks were wrestling naked—argue about the minutiae of ultimately meaningless awards.

Eastern Conference Starters:

Kyle Lowry, PG, Toronto Raptors
John Wall, PG, Washington Wizards
LeBron James, SF, Cleveland Cavaliers
Carmelo Anthony, SF, New York Knicks
Pau Gasol, PF, Chicago Bulls
Bench:
Jimmy Butler, SF, Chicago Bulls

Kyrie Irving, PG, Cleveland Cavaliers
Paul Millsap, PF, Atlanta Hawks
Al Horford, C, Atlanta Hawks
Jeff Teague, PG, Atlanta Hawks
Chris Bosh, PF, Miami Heat
Dwyane Wade, SG, Miami Heat

It says a little something about the state of the Eastern Conference that fewer than half of the teams in the conference are represented here. Top to bottom, though, this is a pretty strong crew, but there are definitely some legitimate questions.

Dwyane Wade has played just 35 games this year, logging just 32 minutes per contest. He's scoring 21 PPG on 49% shooting for a sub-.500 team, which is nice, and probably worthy of a spot on the team most years. The problem is that Kyle Korver, who would be the fourth (absolutely deserving) Hawk on this team, is having one of the greatest shooting seasons in the history of the sport. His

Sacramento Kings
Chris Paul, PG, Los Angeles Clippers
Tim Duncan, C, San Antonio Spurs
Kevin Durant, SF, Oklahoma City Thunder
LaMarcus Aldridge, PF, Portland Trailblazers
Russell Westbrook, PG, Oklahoma City Thunder

First of all—it should be noted that Kobe, who is injured, is being replaced by the Kings' DeMarcus Cousins. However, on the original roster, Cousins was left off.

Now—assuming that the roster above had stayed with Kobe in the starting lineup and DeMarcus watching from home for the actual game, we'd be looking at three pretty grievous snubs here.

Cousins has been an absolute monster this year, averaging 23.6 PPG and 12.6 RPG in an age where very few guys are able to put up those sorts of numbers. His PER of 24.9 is extremely impressive, and while he could certainly cut down on the turnovers and ball-watching, he's been nothing short of an All-Star this year. His exclusion from this team is a consequence of Tim Duncan's selection. I'm as big a Duncan fan as anyone, but there's no way he deserved to make the team over Cousins.

He's been his old wily self, directing on offense and defense, but he hasn't affected games at the level of Cousins.

Duncan has played nine more games, which may have figured into his selection, but this was a miscue.

Then there's our friend Damian Lillard. Dangerous Dame has been an integral part of Portland's defensive resurgence this year, while continuing to make Portland's potent offense flow. They're currently the four seed in the gladiator ring that is the Western conference, and, for the first time in a long time, it seems like they could make real damage.

Now, how is it that Kevin Durant, who's played just 22 games this year, has made it in over Lillard, who's played every single one of his team's games this season?

While Durant has certainly played better than Lillard, the Thunder have been mediocre at best, even in the games he has appeared in. Lillard's contributions to a winning team have been, overall, much more impressive than Durant's admittedly great game-to-game play.

Lastly, Mike Conley, Jr. needs to make an All-Star team or Mark Stein is going to have aneurysm. The Grizzlies' point guard counting stats won't blow anyone away, but his percentages have been stellar, and his maturation as a leader has the Grizzlies as the two seed in the West. His defense has been spectacular, as usual, and this should've been the year for him. Kobe was elected on reputation alone, but in a perfect world, his spot would belong to Conley.

Bernstein is a member of the class of 2018.

Patriots steal Super Bowl XLIX victory

BY MAX EBER
SPORTS EDITOR

BY NATE KUHRT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

What a game it turned out to be! This year's Super Bowl was expected to be a classic east vs. west battle, but nobody could have predicted the edge-of-your-seat thrill that this game dished out. Both the Seahawks and Patriots have been incredibly successful in the recent era. If the Pats are well-known for cheating, they're even better known for winning. New England has established a clear-cut dynasty and including 2015, have appeared in a whopping five Super Bowls since 2004. The Seahawks, though not having much hype or fanbase until recently, have become a recent playoff regular. Their status as a powerhouse in the NFC comes hand in hand with their Super Bowl victory last year.

There was much excitement buzzing after the fashion in which each team won their respective conference championships. The Seahawks pulled out an unbelievable last-minute comeback to reach overtime, complete with a recovered onside kick and scoring the tying points as the clock ran down. They stole the overtime win from Green Bay to secure a return ticket to the biggest stage on Earth.

The Patriots obliterated their opponents, the Indianapolis Colts. Analysts predicted a Patriot victory, but they speculated Andy Luck and Co. might put up more of a fight. After a definitive victory, the Pats found themselves as the main topic on Sports Center, not for the crushing win, but for the scandal that accompanied. We've all heard about far too much about "DeflateGate." The story of 11 out of 12 under-inflated Patriots footballs followed New England all the way from the

conference championship to Super Bowl weekend.

After two long



CHRISTIAN CIERI / ILLUSTRATOR

weeks of Marshawn Lynch ducking the media, the big game began. It started with a very quick, scoreless first quarter. Although both teams are specifically known for their great offenses and star quarterbacks, the Pats and Seahawks were living up to the saying, "Defense wins championships." Both teams defenses were ranked in the top 10 in the NFL this season, and it showed.

In the second quarter, the Pats took the first lead of the game with a touchdown pass from Brady to

Brandon LaFell. They couldn't enjoy the lead for very long, for the Seattle quickly responded to even the scoreboard. This left the Pats with an even two minutes on the clock. As New England was the most efficient team in the league at scoring with two minutes or less, it isn't all that surprising that they marched down the field for six. What is more shocking is that Seahawks were able to utilize the 31 seconds that the Pats left them. Both the Seahawks and Patriots were incredibly efficient moving down the field, averaging over 5.5 yards per play in the half.

After all the sharks were put away and Katy Perry landed, the second half began. The third quarter did not play out the same as the first half. Rather than continuing to go score for score, the Seahawks jumped out to a 10 point lead following a field goal and a Russell Wilson touchdown. At this point, it seemed that the Seahawks may run away with it just as they had done last year against the Broncos. Brady, however, had other intentions. The Patriots strung together a series of drives with astounding accuracy. They scored two unanswered touchdowns giving them a four-point lead with two minutes remaining in the game.

The Seahawks had the opportunity to win the game, but they needed a touchdown. In one of the craziest catches since David Tyree's helmet catch, the Seahawks were granted a miracle. Seattle wide receiver Jermaine Kearse bobbled a deep bomb downfield, the ball bounced off his legs and bounced back into the air, where Kearse was able to gain possession. This incredibly lucky turn of events managed to land them on the Patriots one-yard-line with less than a minute to go.

It was second down and a single yard to the game-winning touchdown, Patriot fans couldn't look as the victory visibly slipped away. Rather than run the ball with arguably the most effective running back on short yardage situations, the Seahawks attempted what will be considered one of the most controversial play calls for this season. They chose to pass the ball and not give it to Beast Mode, Marshawn Lynch. Wilson's pass was intercepted by rookie safety Malcolm Butler to save the Super Bowl for the Pats. He picked a huge moment to record his first career interception when he saved New England from a seemingly definitive loss.

Who is to blame for the loss? Most likely, Pete Carroll's play call, but at this point we can only speculate. While it is easy to look back at the last offensive play the Seahawks called and criticize it, it really was not that far out of the ordinary. Of the Seahawks' red zone TDs for the season, 43% have come off of passing plays. But, one would think with three full downs, Lynch would have been able to power through for the win.

Eber is a member of the class of 2017.

Kuhrt is a member of the class of 2017.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Danielle Neu - Women's Diving

BY MAX EBER
SPORTS EDITOR

1. How did you first get into diving?

My mom was the swimming and diving coach at our high school and would bring me along to all of her meets and practices. Diving always interested me, so I decided to try it when a club team began practicing at our pool.

2. How do you combat the fear of mistakes in such a precise sport?

I try not to worry too much about the possibility of making a mistake on a dive. Mistakes are inevitable and will probably happen to everyone at some point in the meet. I think it's more important to recover and get mentally back into the meet after making a mistake so it doesn't affect the entire meet.

3. What is your proudest

COURTESY OF UR ATHLETICS

Danielle Neu holds her form as she plummets toward the water in this past

moment as a diver? Why? qualifying for the National Meet last year at zones was a

pretty proud moment for me as a diver. It was something I didn't really expect to happen, and it was exciting to be given the opportunity to compete with really good divers from all over.

4. How did it feel to break your personal record and set a pool mark this past weekend?

Because of the subjectivity of the sport, high scores at meets do not always line up with personal best performances. I was excited to break those records this weekend, because even though the meet was somewhat high scoring, I was happy with the way I dove and I was glad that my scores reflected that. It is also reassuring to know that my dives are getting better, and my scores are going up from where they were last year, as well as earlier this year.

5. How do you mentally**prepare yourself before a dive?**

Before every dive, I go through the mechanics of the dive on deck and try to visualize it. I always aim to block out negative thoughts about things that could go wrong right before I go.

6. Who do you look up to most? Why?

I look up to the two older divers on our team a lot. They really helped me adjust to college and being a part of the swimming and diving team here. They are also both super supportive and make practice more enjoyable every day.

7. Would you rather cook dinner for Che Guevara or Lady Gaga?

I would rather cook dinner for Lady Gaga. I would have to put a lot of work into it... I hear she likes her meat raw. Raw raw raw raw raw.

Eber is a member of the class of 2017.

LAST WEEK'S SCORES

FRIDAY, JAN. 30

- Women's Basketball vs New York University L 66-80
- Men's Basketball vs New York University W 64-60

SATURDAY, JAN. 31

- Men's Squash vs Franklin and Marshall College L 4-5

SUNDAY, FEB. 1

- Men's Basketball vs Brandeis University W 78-50
- Women's Basketball vs Brandeis University W 62-61

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, FEB. 6

- Women's Basketball vs New York University - 6:00 PM*
- Men's Basketball vs New York University - 8:00 PM*

SATURDAY, FEB. 7

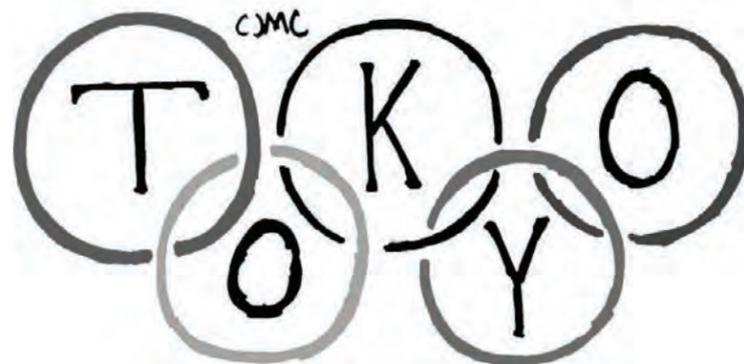
- Women's Track and Field at Ithaca College Invite - 11:30 AM - Ithaca, NY
- Men's Track and Field at Ithaca College Invite - 11:30 AM - Ithaca, NY

SUNDAY, FEB. 8

- Men's Basketball vs Brandeis University - 12:00 PM*
- Women's Basketball vs Brandeis University - 2:00 PM*

*DENOTES HOME GAME

The 2020 Olympic Games



CHRISTIAN CIERI / ILLUSTRATOR

BY RUAIRI CONWAY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo have sparked a great sense of patriotic pride in a country that has taken hit after hit in recent years.

Still recovering from the 2011 tsunami and dealing with worrying economic stagnation, Tokyo won its bid to hold the Summer Games a little over a year ago. Currently, Japan is what is known as a "matured" economy, never falling but never improving; in an economic limbo that has given it a rather jaded image which will be difficult to shake. The Tokyo 2020 games will mostly be funded by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, which has accumulated \$4 billion in reserve funds.

This is a worryingly miniscule figure when stacked against the likes of Beijing, which spent \$50 billion on reinventing the city for the 2008 games, and London, who spent \$18 billion for 2012. This is not the most promising way to start.

Japan beat out Istanbul and Madrid in the final round of voting to earn their second opportunity to host the games. The last time Tokyo hosted the Summer Olympics was back in 1964, after the dust of World War II had settled. It was a fabulous occasion. The opening ceremony was seen as a turning point from which Japan ushered itself into a new era.

One of the most symbolic

images taken from that day was of Yoshinori Sakai: dubbed the "Atomic Bomb Boy," the 19-year-old student-athlete from Hiroshima carried the Olympic torch up the stadium steps to light the cauldron having been born just hours after the "Little Boy" bomb decimated the city. But a new millennium means new problems: with an aging population and massive scars from the tragic earthquake and ensuing tsunami, including ongoing radiation leaks at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station, can Japan host a reinvigorating Olympics 56 years after the previous ceremony?

Early estimates show that the country could benefit from the approximated 3 trillion Yen (\$30 billion) and more than 150,000 jobs created.

"The outlook has not been so bright for the Japanese, and this will be something bright, something Japan will look forward to," said Tsuyoshi Ueno, senior economist at NLI Research Institute in Tokyo, shortly after the International Olympic Committee President, Jacques Rogge, made the announcement from Buenos Aires.

When it comes to international events such as the Olympics and FIFA World Cup, it's hard to gauge the balance of cost and benefit, but the Japanese are optimistic and looking forward to a challenging and exciting path ahead.

Conway is a member of the class of 2017.

SPORTS

FROM THE ATHLETE'S PERSPECTIVE

UR Women's Basketball: Down to the wire

BY EMILY LEWIS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The UR Women's Basketball team is looking forward to a big weekend at home as they take on the New York University Violets and Brandeis University Judges. Both teams will present their share of challenges. But, after looking at the results from their most recent game, it seems that the Jackets thrive under these circumstances.

Taking on challenges and overcoming them as a unit is something in which this team takes great pride.



ALI KOMAR / SENIOR STAFF

"Winning games by 20 or 30 points can be fun... but when we come together and pull out a win against a good team, it is exhilarating," senior sensation Ally Zywicki remarked. If that's the case, the Jackets certainly had a blast this past Sunday with their big win over Brandeis.

The game was a 50/50 battle all the way down to the final seconds, but the Jackets came together and pulled away with a big win. "We play for each other. That's the bottom line", sophomore Sarah Kaminsky said.

What separated the Jackets from their opponent was their ability to dig deep and assert themselves as

a force when things weren't going their way. As Zywicki put it, "When a game gets tough, the team that's going to win is the one that can come together through adversity."

The Jackets defeated Brandeis 62-61 in a thrilling game that boiled down to a free throw made by star freshman center Alexandra Leslie with 24 seconds to go in regulation. Leslie sealed the deal with this foul shot along with 16 points and seven rebounds, while a number of other players stepped up throughout the game.

Brynn Lauer contributed 14 points, including four triples; junior forward Emily Lewis had nine points; and sophomore guard Sarah Kaminsky had seven, including a major three-pointer in the final minutes of the game.

Throughout the entire game, the team wide display of defensive grit was outstanding. Brandeis fought for all forty minutes, but the Jackets prevailed.

"Coach always tells us that they're not going to lose it, you need to beat them." Lewis continued. "That's exactly what happened on Sunday."

This speaks to the level of prestige in the competitive University Athletic Association that the Yellowjackets participate in, but the competition is what makes it all worth it. According to junior guard Kelsey Hurley, the Jackets "love the competition. It's a huge motivator every day in practice". If the Jackets continue at this rate, the future for these talented young women will look promising.

Lewis is a member of the class of 2016.

Climber summits a frozen Niagara Falls

BY DANI DOUGLAS
SPORTS EDITOR

Before last week, Will Gadd had never visited Niagara Falls. Within an hour, he had scaled a 150-foot frozen section of Niagara's Horseshoe Falls along with co-climber and alpine guide Sarah Hueniken. Such a feat had never before been accomplished in history.

With a nearly constant flow of six billion cubic feet of water per second, Niagara Falls rarely freezes over, making last week the perfect opportunity for an adventure previously unheard of. Preparations had taken eight months, from training to permitting to staffing, and, although the climb was short, Gadd described every moment as "unbelievable."

Gadd, 47, is a professional climber from Alberta, Canada. He was dubbed National Geographic's 2014/2015 "Adventurer of the Year," and has been ice climbing, rock climbing, kayaking and paragliding for over 30 years all over the world, beginning his career at age 16



PHOTO COURTESY OF RED BULL

Gadd digs into the frozen falls.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RED BULL

Gadd made the 150-foot ascent from the base of Niagara Falls in just one hour.

in the Canadian Rockies and returning from an ice climbing expedition at the top of Mount Kilimanjaro only a month ago.

"By the time I started climbing Niagara Falls, I had [already] spent so much time thinking about how not to die doing it that I was just focused on the climbing and where I was, making sure that each time I threw the ice pick it was absolutely solid and good," Gadd said. "It was awesome, I was standing halfway up Niagara Falls, and it really doesn't get any cooler than that."

Normally, any attempt to climb the Falls is considered illegal. Gadd, a Red Bull Athlete, was able to receive funding and publicity with the help of the company in addition to access to a U.S. Parks Service permit giving legal permission to make the ascent of the Falls.

"Niagara is by far one of the coolest, most iconic waterfalls in the world," Gadd said. "When I was at Kilimanjaro, everyone was talking about 'Niagara Falls'...it's really a global thing."

Even with the commercial aid, his feat was by no means

inspired by the company – Gadd's desire to summit the frozen falls was entirely his own.

"This was just straight 'I would love to climb Niagara Falls,'" he said. "I don't get paid anything extra in my contract, this is just the coolest waterfall in the world and Red Bull just helps make it possible. It freezes just enough to climb it, and I had just thought 'game on, I'd love to do that.'"

Even though climbing is an extremely individual activity and Gadd does not feel that publicity takes away from the experience. Having a film crew present allows him to show his adventures to the world.

Gadd's passion for the sport is not purely a result of the physical adrenaline rush he experiences.

"It's a great way to see the geography of the world," he said. "All these sports are a really great way to get out and pay respect to nature, but also to really feel it... That's what I want to do with the rest of my life: go and document the places in the world that are disappearing very quickly."

Douglas is a member of the class of 2017.

Djokovic, Williams thrive Down Under

BY BEN SHAPIRO
SENIOR STAFF

The Australian Open came to a close on Sunday when top-ranked Novak Djokovic captured his fifth title in the land Down Under, beating Andy Murray in four sets in the men's singles final. Also victorious was world number-one Serena Williams, who beat Maria Sharapova for the sixteenth straight time to claim her 19th grand slam singles title.

In men's doubles, the unheralded duo of Simone Bolelli and Fabio Fognini came through the draw to unexpectedly win their first Grand Slam title. Legends Martina Hingis and Leander Paes, both of whom have been playing professionally for over two decades, added another trophy to their collections by claiming the mixed doubles title. The women's doubles result was a shocker, with first-time partners Lucie Safarova and Bethanie Mattek-Sands coming out of nowhere to win the event.

Mattek-Sands' triumph is particularly notable because

of her Rochester connection. The win makes her the first Rochesterian—Rochester, Minn., but who's counting?—to win a Grand Slam title.

While the winners all deserve recognition for their accomplishments, perhaps the most important storyline to come out of the event was Andy Murray's outspoken defense of women's tennis and the overall role of females in the sport.

Murray is unique in that his journey to the upper ranks of professional tennis has been heavily influenced by women. Murray's mother coached him as he grew up, and she continues to frequently travel with him to tournaments.

Last year, Murray shocked the tennis world when he took the unprecedented step of hiring former Australian Open and Wimbledon champion Amelie Mauresmo to serve as his coach. The decision to hire a woman was met with a heavy dose of skepticism and criticism, with many players, coaches and tennis journalists doubting

whether a woman could help Murray succeed in men's tennis.

While Murray mostly let his tennis do the talking last week to prove the doubters wrong, he also commented on his decision, "A lot of people criticized me working with her, and I think so far this week we've shown that women can be very good coaches."

To understand how progressive Murray's statements truly are, it's important to understand that male players more commonly speak dismissively and negatively of the women's game. Consider what one of his competitors, Australian Marinko Matosevic, said last year when asked if he could ever work with a female coach: "For me, I couldn't do it since I don't think that highly of the women's game. It's all equal rights these days: Got to be politically correct. So, yeah, someone's got to give it a go. It won't be me."

Murray also noted the success of nineteen-year-old American Madison Keys, a rising star

who had her breakthrough tournament in Australia, reaching the semifinals. "Madison Keys... had her best tournament and is coached by [former world number one] Lindsay Davenport," Murray remarked. "I see no reason why it can't keep moving forward like that in the future."

Although Andy Murray's performance in the final against Djokovic was somewhat disappointing, losing his last nine games, his tournament was overall an indisputable success. He silenced those who doubted whether he could still

seriously contend for grand slams, and perhaps more importantly, he proved that the

flak he took for hiring a female coach was entirely unwarranted.

In a broader sense, however, Murray used his influence on court, in the press room and on social media—he tweeted #MoreWomenInSport during the tournament—for women's equality, a noble cause that deserves nothing but praise.

Shapiro is a member of the class of 2016.



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