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 to support highly-qualified urban students as they pursue higher education and beyond.

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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 her work in the field.

PASSANISI is a member of the class of 2017.

UR partnership with East High 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 District (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—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. Although Warner faculty and staff chair those six committees, Larson emphasized that “it is a full...
This Week on Campus

Thursday, February 5

Teen Health & Success Partnership Anniversary Celebration
UR: 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 ROGEL 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.

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

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.

Saturday, February 7

Black Students’ Union Step Show
STRAUDON AUDITORIUM, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Sunday, February 8

Visiting Artist - Natasha Brofsky
EASTMAN COMMUNITY 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 ROGEL HALL, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Come see 19 choirs perform in 90 minutes. The diverse program features 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.

Corrections:

An article in last week’s issue about an event titled “Shadism: New Name, Old Problem” incorrectly omitted Delta Phi Omega, who sponsored the event, and Rutul Amin, who hosted the event.

“New Name, Old Problem” incorrectly omitted Delta Phi Omega, who sponsored the event, and Rutul Amin, who hosted the event.

Further investigation is underway.

Anyone with information regarding this should contact Public Safety at 585-275-3333 or info@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.

Interested in making the headlines? Join the Campus Times.

Contact news@campustimes.org for details.
Doctor to get Susan B. Anthony Award

BY FARIBOD 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 Award ceremony on Tuesday, Jan. 27. 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 for perinatal disorders that occur in the weeks before or after birth. In addition to her scientific contributions to the field of psychiatry, Dr. Chaudron has been a tireless advocate for the rights of women and children, serving as a member of the University’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion and as a consultant to the Department of Psychiatry. She has also been a vocal supporter of the #MeToo movement, and has helped to create a safer and more inclusive environment for patients and staff at the University. Chaudron is a role model for women in medicine, inspiring others to pursue careers in health care and to strive for equity and justice in all aspects of medical practice.

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 a new technology that can gauge a user’s mood by analyzing their facial expressions. The researchers are using facial recognition techniques to analyze the way people move their faces and eyebrows, and are developing software that can interpret these movements to identify emotional states. The researchers believe that this technology could be used in a variety of applications, including healthcare and education. Their work is part of a larger project called the “Web of Emotions,” which is a collaboration between the University of Rochester and the University of Texas at Austin. The project is supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation.

Valid through May 31, 2015
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, sophomore, and senior David Markakis.

All-gender restrooms are usually single-user facilities that are used by people of any gender identity. On campus, all-gender restrooms are currently星球 Wilson Commons and O’Brien Hall, but do not exist in most residence halls or academic buildings. Other single-user facilities are distinguished from other single-user facilities by their behavior of the light curve left on,“ Mamajek said. He put the printout of the light curve on the wall next to his desk for the next few weeks before and after that it was cleverly designed to allow for the possibility of a medical careers program on Earth 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 the Eastman School of Music.

Lancon said, “We’ll run it by the East High Community. We don’t want to do something that they want to have, that they’re interested in, that gives you a placement, that teachers don’t feel overburdened.”

As for the involvement of UR students, she said, “The potential is immense. We’re creating potential in all the potential majors to have an opportunity to go there.”

It had dimmed 95 percent at its minimum brightness, and during the 56 day eclipse is observed, it was behaving very badly. One day in the weeks before and after that it was minimum brightness, and during the eclipse lasted 56 days, during which point the camera was discovered by other researchers. One evening in the weeks before and after that it was minimum brightness, and during the “They only look into 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.

EMOTIONS FROM PAGE 3

This is a 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 computer can use other physical data to diagnose mood. Luo explained that the program uses tiny color changes in the forehead to determine a user’s heart rate.

“By examining lots of measurements from the forehead and the cheeks, and then we average that to get the heart rate,” Luo said of the technique. “In practice, we can get it within plus or minus five counts.” This method was 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.

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Computer program projects user emotions

EXOPLANET FROM PAGE 3

It had dimmed 95 percent at its minimum brightness, and during the weeks before and after that it was observed, it was behaving very badly. One day in the weeks before and after that it was minimum brightness, and during the 56 day eclipse is observed, it was behaving very badly. One day in the weeks before and after that it was minimum brightness, and during the “They only look into 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.

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Passanisi is a member of the class of 2017.
EDITORIAL BOARD

Expand Friday Night Live’s vision for the arts

Week after week, the event brings out a diverse crowd of UR student community and fosters an earnest sense of community within the school—something that it truly complements in ways that most events on campus cannot. 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 platform for our arts community.

Friday Night Live (and UR Concerts) should not be confused with other student-run arts organizations on campus to host events which encompass a larger range of the 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 space 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 Kyle Sargent, who is in charge of booking for Friday Night Live, offered some words about how she would like to see the event expand, shining light on another form of future development for the event: expansion outside the campus. Sargent recently said, “I would like to see more Eastman students involved in organizing, rather than bands being worked 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 connectivity and continuity between River Campus and Eastman Campus students. Fine arts Night 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. In the Fall of 2014, it is unsurprising that gender issues have found their way into government, including our own student government. It is on Monday evening, SA Senate approved Resolution XX, titled “Resolution Eliging the Development of All-Gender Restrooms.”

SA’s resolution does exactly what it sets out to achieve; it advocates for the renegotiation 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 new constructed or renovated buildings or campus facilities, including those managed by the University of Rochester.”

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 safe. 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 for persons of any gender identification or expression. If the University were to provide all-gender restrooms, it would go a long way in encouraging a safer 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 allgender restroom facilities in 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. As students, we need to encourage our administrations to take further steps toward the creation of a safer campus climate for 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). This Editorial Board makes themselves available to the UR community’s ideas and concerns. Email editor@campustimes.org.

EDITORIAL CARTOON

Let’s thank those with 9 AM classes that ploughed the walkways for us on Monday during their perilous journeys to class.

CHRISTIAN GEMU ILLUSTRATOR

Flags aren’t for fun

Most Americans are fairly knowledgeable about their nation’s flag, having been drilled through the Pledge of Allegiance daily in school and inculcated 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 XX, of 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 or fly it upside down–although the latter violation of the code; in sitting down, the wearer allows the flag to touch the ground. Outside of the class of 2017.

Editorial Observer

or handkerchiefs and the like, July parties, despite Section 8 leads people to buy American simple carelessness. This is what out of protest but rather out of Code violations are done not protest: freedom of speech. It isn’t illegal to burn the flag in it needn’t be conflated with controversy over the uniforms of U.S. Olympic athletes, which are often stripped and star-spangled. Personally, I should be inclined to think that we could give the starlets 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.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2015 / OPINIONS

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 inculcated 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 code is not enforced: 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 or fly it upside down—although the latter would be unrivaled, akin to shouting fire in a crowded theater, since flying any flag upside down is a universal symbol of emergency. The flag code is limiting 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 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 we are economic support for one country’s one 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 stripped and star-spangled. Personally, I should be inclined to think that we could give the starlets 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.
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 day care, a policy that could prove very helpful. Day care can help children educationally 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 college community 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.

The 2015 budget: A mixed bag

The 2015 budget is education-focused. The president called for an increase in college grants and loans. This measure that will never make it through Congress. President Obama knows Republicans will 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.

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 unrealistic, 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 2015.

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

BY RACHEL KAPLAN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

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 weight of the item.

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.

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, open 9 a.m. to 3 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 items received, presenting a whopping twenty-five percent increase in just one year.

While 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.

Freshmen experience their first Winterfest Weekend

BY ANGELA KLZNIAK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Winterfest Weekend began over 20 years ago as a way to interact in a fun setting. It has grown immensely due to 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 were 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.

Freshman Ellis Johns was very excited for Winterfest, but it was hard for her to know what to expect. Though she had heard of 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 overwhelmed by the number of events that were happening. “I was expecting to run over quickly for some cocoa and a quick look 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 hot chocolate, but I’ll have to get there earlier next year to make sure I get to try everything out.”

Students look for out for the free seasonal items and the excuse to relax and spend time with their friends. Sophomore Zoya Ramazan 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. This year 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 that people loving attending for 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.
Connaughton in a clothing shop in an old medina in Fes, trying on traditional clothing.

Connaughton riding a camel in the Sahara Desert.

**FOREIGN FOCUS: RABAT, MOROCCO**

BY HANNAH GREENWALD

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 register 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 was 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, which was taught in French, 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.
Dread is a simple-to-use, yet powerful password manager. It has really helped me in keeping my passwords in order. I would recommend it to anyone who needs to manage multiple passwords. Thank you for creating such a wonderful tool!
Dear Chris: Help!

BY ERIK CHIADO  HUMOR EDITOR

Recently, I made the wise decision to sign up for the 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 we would be wearing our Pelle’s snow shovels and that polar bears dive into Lake Ontario. If people were participating instead of polar bears, why wouldn’t they acquire a celebrity endorsement. The reason which is actually more of a problem with Facilities. By the time everyone in my suite has taken a shower, this one-week notice is nowhere to be found. 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 humans pull a human on a sled. It should become a tradition to give a human Iditarod race across the campus as a means to the university. It sounds like an edgy and angry 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 was evidence that I was walking around naked after stopping. I’ve noticed the first time. I am confused about how some of the things work here. I spent the entirety of my UConn 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!

Dear Chris: There’s 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’m 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 UB 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!

Dear Chris: There’s a really pretty girl that I’m thinking about asking her on a date!

With gratitude, Cheerful

BY KEVIN MCCLEAN  CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The University of Rochester is no stranger to bad weather. Year after year, it has tried to deal with ever-increasing snowstorms by using pounds of salt and large snowplows. 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 academic quad. The article offered life-saving tips on avoiding “hanging onto 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, sees Rocky, who then gives Seligman a blank stare and leaves the room.

One tacit business use is to market their product is to acquire a celebrity endorsement. I think the best fit for the school would be Lance Armstrong. The guy never lets the truth get to him, or get out of him. Lastly, the school should host a Polar Plunge on campus. In other words, instead of having dogs pull humans through the frigid winter waters. Fairlyworth the effort because I’ve seen Rocky, who then gives Seligman a blank stare and leaves the room.

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Hader brings insider television knowledge to UR

BY JU LIANNE MEADAMS

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 mere 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,” “Propahd,” “Adventureland,” and his recent movie, “The Skeleton Adventureland,” and jokes about the weekly production of the cast to look at “this thing” he’d been working on, Downey Jr. then proceeded to show clips from his 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 abound.

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

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

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

Celebrating talent, UR style

BY JEFF HOWARD

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 performances included Magnifique Nsengimana ‘18 and Nakia Capita ‘18, who went under the pseudonyms DJ Studd and Makavelli, respectively. The two rappers put on a fiery and ambient hip-hop performance which echoed the sounds of DJ Khaled and other 2000’s gangsta rappers. In addition, Alexander Brown ‘18 played acoustic guitar and sang an original song, “Running,” accompanied by Thomas Andoleck ‘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 beautiful.

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 NIR’s performance of “You’re so Vain,” Dawn commented that she wanted to hang out at Kristen Wiig’s 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 abound.

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

Hader and Burns are members of the class of 2017.
Katy Perry: rise of a bubblegum princess

BY JEFF HOWARD
A&E EDITOR

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 Seabucks’ fantastic catch followed by a quick interception by the Patriots or 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 humorous commercials that aired, with my favorite probably being the “Clash of Clans” commercial in which Liam Neeson’s 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 Tregi/Steve Buscemi mashup and BMW’s commercial that compared the mysterious enigma surrounding the Internet back in the 90s to its new 3 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. 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 commercial hits (and it surely hits hard) when the child says “I couldn’t grow up, because I died in an accident.”

Watching it with my friends, everyone asked the same question: “Wait, what just happened?” The commercial went on to show shots of an overflowing bathtub, 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 crude 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, it’s just hope that we don’t see one like Nationwide’s anytime soon.

Usmani is a member of the class of 2017.
Eastwood’s ‘American Sniper’ propagandizes true-life

BY JONAH JENG 

Most biographical war films seem to naturally identify as “action movies” because the pairing of the two genres sounds inherently unrealistic. Real war involving real lives, after all, and to suggest that they be terminated in the second act is too much to bear, to appear callous, if not downright inhumane. “American Sniper,” Clint Eastwood’s recent biopic on the actual life story of one of U.S. military history, seems to be an exception in the making. Before his death, Kyle had 160 confirmed kills. For two decades, he was a gung-ho gunslinger at war. After mission like a character in a videogame, with a faceless mass of villainous Arabs led by a Final Boss mastermind, Kyle is no longer just a soldier but a mythic status and narrative delay feels straight ch(EXIT: TWA) out of “The Hurt Locker,” 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 subtler than what was fresh 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 feeling that the film threw them in simply as tokens of moral struggle to appeal critics looking to bash the movie for exploiting true-life war for the purposes of action-packed entertainment. All these moments could have been powered in real life, but the way the film fails to use them to advance either narrative or character development captures the sameness to which the film seems poised to be a different, greater film – a uniquely poignant, film – a uniquely poignant, unflattering portrait of the war into a glaring good/evil dichotomy, and yes, he is contained tremor that exposes not compassionate rage but the anger of a man possessed by a psychological nationalism. When asked by a psychiatrist whether he thinks about those he’s killed, he says he is haunted more by the people he couldn’t save, and we believe him. What his statement indicates could be, on the one hand, a call 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 portrayal of patriotism-gone-wrong enough tact not to reduce its subject to an anti-American lampoon. Unfortunately, the film goes far too far in its study or satire. Despite scenes that give a glimpse into the depths of Kyle’s person, whether it be his PTSD or his all-American hoohah, the movie ultimately trades them all 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 powerful 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 evil. Even though the argument that “my crime is okay because I wasn’t the first to commit it” is redolent enough, at all, there is some merit to the suggestion that “American Sniper” shouldn’t be blamed for a problem that is larger than the frame of 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. 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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 evil. Even though the argument that “my crime is okay because I wasn’t the first to commit it” is redolent enough, at all, there is some merit to the suggestion that “American Sniper” shouldn’t be blamed for a problem that is larger than the frame of 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 subtler than what was fresh 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 feeling that the film threw them in simply as tokens of moral struggle to appeal critics looking to bash the movie for exploiting true-life war for the purposes of action-packed entertainment. All these moments could have been powered in real life, but the way the film fails to use them to advance either narrative or character development captures the sameness to which the film seems poised to be a different, greater film – a uniquely poignant, unflattering portrait of the war into a glaring good/evil dichotomy, and yes, he is contained tremor that exposes not compassionate rage but the anger of a man possessed by a psychological nationalism. When asked by a psychiatrist whether he thinks about those he’s killed, he says he is haunted more by the people he couldn’t save, and we believe him. What his statement indicates could be, on the one hand, a call 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 portrayal of patriotism-
Snubs and Subs: NBA All-Star Rosters

By Jesse Bernstein

We’re living in quite the era of NBA All-Star snubs. The lists aren’t this big, but notable 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 player getting their due every year, and the large talent pool means that there are 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, Javale Magloire). However, the sheer volume of deserving candidates means that we get gems like this Dallas Mavericks 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, the media that also for not thinking I was good enough.”

Yes, worthy players miss the cut, and it often becomes a bigger story than the actual game. That’s an extremely annoying and something that happens almost every year.

true shooting percentage of .743 leads the league, basically unheard of for a volume 5-point shooter. He can’t consistently make his own shot or play defense. Korver’s very presence on the court bends defenses in ways that allow everyone else to get open shots. What he’s done for a Hawks team that’s been the best in the league this year is absolutely fantastic, and is more than enough to warrant him a spot over Wade. Besides that, Nikola Vucevic (19.4 PPG, 11.4 RPG) might have a gripe with Chris Bosh grabbing a frontcourt spot over him, but his team’s record shows that he has appeared in. Lillard’s contributions to a winning team have been incredibly more impressive than Durant’s admittedly great game-to-game performance.

While Durant has certainly played better than Lillard, the Thunder are a sub-.500 team, which is nice, and while the team has had 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 self, directing on offense and defense, but also has excelled at games at the level of Cousins.

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

Then there’s our friend Damian Lillard. Dangerous Dane has been an integral part of Portland’s defensive resurgence this year, continuing to make Portland one of the best defensive teams in the league. They’re currently the fourth seed in the gladiator ring that is the Western Conference, and the Wolves made a big statement when they built a double-digit lead at one point in the game, but they needed a touchdown. In the last offensive play the Seahawks attempted a 49-yard field goal, which was missed, and a Russell Wilson touchdown. 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 in the Super Bowl. Line with less than a minute to go.

It was second down and a short yardage against a three-touchdown, Patriot fans couldn’t look at the victory visibly slpolved away. Rather than run the ball with the clock ticking down, the Seahawks continued to put on a clinic on short yardage situations, the Seahawks attempted what will be considered one of the most unselfish Super Bowl plays of all time.

Who is to blame for the loss? Most likely, Pete Carroll’s play call, but at this point we can only wonder. After all the sharks were put back on the water, the big game didn’t take a step forward, starting with a very quick, scoreless first quarter. Although both teams are specifically known for their year-offences and star-quarterbacks, the Patriots had the better defense. The Patriots were incredibly efficient against the Seahawks, but their defense could not hold the record his first career interception away and Katy Perry landed, the Seahawks were granted a miracle.

Johnson, 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 moment as a diver? Why?
I would have to say that the 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 was 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. My 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 was 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.

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 the Guvera 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 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

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 who 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.
**FROM THE ATHLETE’S PERSPECTIVE**

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 programs are well-versed in challenges. But, after looking at the results from their most recent games, 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.**

**UR Women’s Basketball: Down to the wire**

By Emily Lewis

Contributing Writer

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**DOWN TO THE WIRE**

**A big win.** “We play for each other. That’s the bottom line,” senior guard Kelsey Hurley, the Jackets’ leading scorer, said of what happened on Sunday. “What happened on Sunday.”

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 fell 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.”

**Djokovic, Williams thrive Down Under**

By Ben Shapiro

Senior Staff

The Australian Open came to a thrilling conclusion 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 pair of Simon Bolelli and Fabio Fognini came through the draw to unexpectedly win the 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 through to win the 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.

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Djokovic, Williams thrive Down Under

“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 Kilamanjaro, everyone was talking about Niagara Falls...it’s really a global thing.”

Even with the commercial aid, the fear 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 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.