

Campus Times

SERVING THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SINCE 1873 / campustimes.org



5K challenge funds fall short of smoothie bar

JULIA SKLAR
SENIOR STAFF

New smoothie options at Connections will be available for student patronage shortly after spring break, but this remains distinct from the possible installation of a fully functional smoothie bar elsewhere on campus. The latter is more in line with the winning idea from the Students' Association's 5K Challenge, but the funds were not sufficient to support the renovations and machinery that would be necessary to support such a pitch.

Dining Services is, however, cognizant of student support for the possibility of a full smoothie bar and is now contemplating future installations.

"[The changes at Connections] will satisfy the 5K Challenge, but that does not mean that it is the final word for smoothies on campus," Aramark Marketing Manager Kevin Aubrey said. "We are continuing to look at possible solutions for a dedicated

smoothie bar somewhere on campus, but an investment of that nature would call for a renovation that could cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. Where and when a dedicated solution like that might be introduced is yet to be determined."

SA Senator and freshman Stephen Wegman addressed the campus-wide confusion over whether the campus is receiving a full smoothie bar this semester or not.

"The idea behind getting smoothies at Connections was to implement the winning proposal before the end of the 2014 spring semester," he said. "This was not meant to replace the addition of a complete smoothie bar on campus. Smoothies were only added at Connections this spring because it was not feasible to create a dedicated smoothie bar by the end of the semester."

Although the money from the 5K Challenge isn't entirely

SEE **SMOOTHIES** PAGE 4



AARON SCHAFFER / PHOTO EDITOR

Tim Wise is a nationally-acclaimed anti-racism speaker. In his talk on Thursday, he called for a mindset of racial equality.

Creative video prompts investment in higher education and research

BY JULIANNE MCADAMS
NEWS EDITOR

A creative team at Colorado State University, on behalf of 14 organizations that support higher education and research, released a video on Thursday, Feb. 27 encouraging the Federal Government to close "Innovation Deficit." The innovation deficit is defined by the Close the Innovation Deficit website as "the widening gap between the actual level of federal government funding for research and higher education and what the investment needs to be if the United States is to remain the world's innovation leader."

UR is a member of the Association of American Universities (AAU), one of the 14 organizations that backed the creation of the video.

The video, a series of fast-paced sketches and narration explaining the "Innovation Deficit" that exists in federal investment, was created in lieu of President Obama's 2015

budget proposal on Tuesday, March 4.

Vice President for Public Affairs for the AAU Barry Toiv discussed the goals of the video.

"We hope that the video will draw additional attention to this issue and encourage those who are interested to let Congress know how important it is to provide strong funding for research and higher education," Toiv said. The overall purpose of the video was to acknowledge the topic and make it easily understandable to any audience.

The video, narrated by Executive Director of Public Affairs and Communications for CSU Mike Hooker, says, "More than half our country's economic growth in recent decades has been thanks to innovation."

It refers to the investment in research and higher education as an investment in "great minds."

SEE **INNOVATION** PAGE 4

Wise encourages open discussion of racial issues

BY RACHAEL SANGUINETTI
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Tim Wise, a nationally-acclaimed anti-racism speaker, spoke to a packed Hoyt Auditorium last Thursday, Feb. 27. He has spoken in all 50 states to students at over 800 high school and college campuses.

Dean of the College Richard Feldman spoke about the importance of anti-racism discussions at a social event prior to Wise's talk. We must "desire to be a campus in which we talk about hard issues," Feldman said. "[We need to] have the uncomfortable conversations."

Feldman then mentioned issues that arose last semester with racism on campus after a student hung a Confederate flag in the window of a house on campus. "I think [Wise's] work and influence can help us with [these] issues," Feldman said.

Director of the Intercultural Center Michelle Thompson-Taylor welcomed people to the

talk] with words of praise for Wise's work and her hopes for continuing the discussion after his presentation. "We can do something after this talk and push forward our efforts to make our campus and culture a better place," she said.

Wise has written six books including his memoir "White Like Me," a revised version of which was published in 2011. He also created a documentary with the same title explaining the issue through another medium.

"[You need] a multi-media presentation that demonstrates the realities of ongoing institutional racism and racial inequality, the reality of ongoing material and psychological white privilege, the advantages to those of us in the dominant group, is helpful," Wise said in an interview with the Huffington Post. "It does something a book can't do."

Wise prefaced his talk by saying that African Americans have said everything he has said

many times before— people just hadn't been listening. "Wisdom comes from a lot of places. Wisdom comes from a lot of folks and we have to be ready to hear it," he said.

Since this is the 25th year Wise has been traveling and giving anti-racism talks, he structured his talk around themes he has observed over time.

The first overarching theme was the way that white and black people think and talk about racism. "What I've come to understand is that very few people actually like talking about race and racism," he said. "We [white people] are deathly afraid we are going to say the wrong thing and be thought of as racist."

Another big theme was the way people are, in Wise's words, "blamed for where they are on the [economic] ladder."

"What's the one thing we have been taught. In America, anybody can make it," Wise said.

SEE **ANTI-RACISM** PAGE 4

INSIDE THIS CT



MYSTERIOUS SNOW CIRCLES UNVEILED

Find out who is behind the several "crop circles" that have been spotted across campus in recent months.

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HUMANS OF NEW YORK

Read about the photographer behind the Humans of New York Facebook posts, Brandon Stanton's presentation

PAGE 12 A&E

SWIMMING & DIVING TO NATIONALS

Members of the women's swimming and diving team are set to compete at nationals for the first time.

PAGE 16 SPORTS



AARON SCHAFFER / PHOTO EDITOR

MODERN MIDDLE EASTERN FILM CAPTIVATES AUDIENCE

The Film and Media Studies Department presented "Arab Glitch: A Film Series" in Hubbell Auditorium. Laura Marks, a professor at Simon Fraser University, discussed how digital media in Arab countries can represent errors in the physical features of media.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 27

COLLEGIUM MUSICUM

KILBOURN HALL - EASTMAN SCHOOL, 7:00 - 8:30 PM
Eastman's Collegium Musicum presents Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque instrumental and vocal music on period instruments and informed by period performance practices. The event is free and open to the public.

AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE

TODD THEATRE, 8:00 - 10:00 PM
A contemporary take on Henrik Ibsen's superb, riveting drama about the conflict between the individual's conscience and the material well-being of a community. Tickets are \$7 for UR students.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 28

EASTMAN STUDIO ORCHESTRA

KODAK HALL - EASTMAN THEATRE, 8:00 - 10:00 PM
The 70-piece Eastman Studio Orchestra performs a repertoire that incorporates jazz, classical music, music for film, contemporary pop, and world music. The event is free and open to the public.

EDUARDO PAOLOZZI'S GENERAL DYNAMIC F.U.N.

MEMORIAL ART GALLERY, ALL DAY
The works of the artist will be on display at the gallery, featuring 50 dizzying images drawn from the artist's personal collection of American magazines and comics.

SATURDAY MARCH 1

DIABETES MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

FLAUM ATRIUM - MEDICAL CENTER, 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM
UR 15th diabetes conference: "Diabetes Management—Bring in the New But Keep the Old." The event will provide updates on diabetes research and treatment options.

RPO: BERLIOZ, BEETHOVEN & BRUCKNER

KODAK HALL - EASTMAN THEATRE, 8:00 - 10:00 PM
Conductor Laureate Christopher Seaman returns to the stage at Kodak Hall for Bruckner's Sixth Symphony and Jon Kimura Parker plays Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 2.

SUNDAY MARCH 2

MUSICAL ADVENTURES: SIDE BY SIDE WITH RPO

LOWER STRONG AUDITORIUM, 3:00 - 5:00 PM
Conducted by David Harman. This concert will feature selections from the Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra as well as collaborations with the RPO.

WEEKEND FORECAST

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FRIDAY



Mostly Sunny
Chance of rain: 10%
High 43, Low 30

SATURDAY



Cloudy
Chance of precip: 10%
High 36, Low 22

SUNDAY



Cloudy
Chance of precip: 20%
High 34, Low 26

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

Man refusing to buy textbooks, returns them

BY REI RAMOS
STAFF WRITER

Aggressive solicitor picked up by RPD

1. On Thursday, Feb. 27 at 2:17 pm, staff in the Frederick Douglass Bookstore reported the theft of two books. Staff the bookstore and asked for two textbooks.

A staff member gave the man the books as he believed the man was a student. The man walked around the store for a couple of minutes and then exited the store without paying for the textbooks. Staff followed the man outside and stopped him to ask about paying for the textbooks. After refusing to pay, the man gave the two textbooks back to the staff member and left the area.

3. On Saturday, March 1, at 12:30 pm, Public Safety Officers were alerted to a man trespassing in Java's. The officers learned that the man was aggressively soliciting passerby for money. Rochester Police in the surrounding area were contacted, as the man had been previously banned from the location. Staff from Java's advised the man to leave, but the man refused. The man was taken into custody by Rochester Police and charged with trespassing.

Undergraduates trigger alarm in Rush Rhees

2. On Friday, Feb. 28, a student reported that her backpack was taken from an open lounge area in Hoeing between 6:00 pm and 9:00 pm. The student stated that she accidentally left the backpack in the lounge when she went to an event in another building. The backpack contained a laptop, headphones, and a calculator. The student checked around the building with negative results. A police report was filed for the theft.

4. On Friday, Feb. 28, at 3:32 am, Public Safety Officers responded to a triggered intrusion alarm inside Rush Rhees Library. Responding officers began to check the building and located an undergraduate student coming out of the library. The student stated that he must have fallen asleep inside and triggered the alarm on his way towards the building's exit. The student was warned about being in the library after operating hours and sent on his way.

Ramos is a member of the class of 2015. Information provided by UR Public Safety.

Campus Times

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Study by UR professor suggests prejudice in ABA ratings



COURTESY OF UR COMMUNICATIONS

BY ELISE JOHNSON
NEWS EDITOR

A recent study by Assistant Professor of Political Science Maya Sen suggests that minorities and women are consistently given lower ratings

‘I discovered that many of these judicial candidates who were being withdrawn due to low ratings were women and minorities.’

by the American Bar Association (ABA) than their white male counterparts.

The inspiration for this study resulted from current events occurring during judicial vetting processes.

“I read with great interest several articles and stories coming out in the media reporting liberals’ frustration that Obama’s candidates to the federal courts were not making it through confirmation,” said

Sen. “When I investigated further, I discovered that many of these judicial candidates who were being withdrawn due to low ratings were women and minorities.”

This observation led Sen to wonder if the pattern was significant.

Her results showed that even when taking into account similar education, work experience, preparatory work, and other markers of prestige, minorities and women were still rated lower.

Sen said there could be confounding variables that may have played a role in the results of the study.

“One possible explanation for these findings might be that there are characteristics that differ between whites/males and minorities/females that aren’t captured by quantitative data,” Sen said.

According to Sen, another explanation could be that ABA rates candidates subjectively, using words like “temperament” or “integrity.”

“In general, moving toward more objective criteria and increased transparency would help social scientists like myself understand why the ratings

awarded to women and minority candidates are lower,” Sen said.

Nominees for any position in the federal judicial system must first go through a vetting process by Congress. Because of this, many politicians rely on the ABA rating to judge nominees they hardly know. This has implications for court decisions where minorities or women are rated lower.

“Other scholarship has shown that women and minority judges tend to vote differently in certain areas of law — for example, women judges vote in a more progressive direction on sex discrimination issues, and

‘Women and minority judges tend to vote differently.’

African American judges on race discrimination issues,” Sen said. “Having fewer of these judges on the bench could potentially affect how these sorts of cases are decided.”

Johnson is a member of the class of 2016.

Professor calls for radical education reform

BY JARED SMITH
SENIOR STAFF

Professor of Education Joanne Larson recently published a new book, titled “Radical Equality in Education: Starting Over in U.S. Schooling”, detailing her dismay over the current education system in the United States.

Larson described her belief that teaching needs to become a sharing of intelligence rather than a display of information.

From Larson’s perspective, the current system starts from a fundamentally incorrect position.

“The way it currently works, we start with assumptions of inequality and intelligence, saying that teachers know stuff and students don’t know things,” Larson said. “They’re empty heads and it’s the teachers’ job to fill them. That assumption, whatever reforms you bring, as long as that assumption stays the same, they’re not going to work.”

In order to engage the students and create a more educated population, Larson believes we need to start over again with a different assumption.

The book outlines the failures of the U.S. education system and

the crisis we have reached in public education.

Rather than focusing on the scores and grades of students, Larson believes we need to engage them as critical thinkers.

“There are schools that are doing remarkable work [such as] Schools Without Walls,” Larson said. “It’s a city high school that works from a more constructivist perspective where the students have a say in the curriculum, they have design courses, and they do projects instead of exams.”

Larson described her belief that teaching needs to become a sharing of intelligence rather than a display of information. In her book, she describes the new purpose of teaching to be facilitatory.

“Things are worse than they’ve ever been in schools, so we have to start somewhere,” Larson said. “So we start with K-12 schools. We’ve been good at starting with one school and not taking it to scale [...] It should be both policy and practice at the same time.”

Larson suggests that we need to put more emphasis on the values of teachers and the education of teachers in order to improve the quality of education that students receive.

“We have a really different and highly diverse, highly racialized society that marginalizes people on multiple levels so we’re going to have to figure out how to include everybody in ways that everyone is included in multiple spaces,” Larson said.

Smith is a member of the class of 2014.

Debate Union wins Regionals at Western Connecticut State

BY SAM PASSANISI
STAFF WRITER

Four members of the UR Debate Union brought home awards from the Northeastern Universities Regionals Debating Championships at Western Connecticut State University last weekend, Feb. 22 and 23.

Freshman Sarah Hofmann and freshman Junior Joshua Sicelo Ndlovu won the title of novice regional semifinalists. Freshman Chris Perkins and freshman Miriam Kohn were named novice regional champions.

“Chris and Miriam were also in the top four novice teams in the continent at the Hart House debate tournament in Canada last semester, in addition to being novice national semifinalists several weeks ago at the Ithaca novice nationals tournament,” UR Debate Union President Nina Datlof said. Regarding the recent win, Datlof

added, “Everyone was ecstatic about the success of both teams.”

There are three different formats for collegiate debate. In the British Parliamentary format, the team prepares by writing summaries of current issues that will be used in their argument. In Policy format, the debaters amass evidence about a specific issue that will be argued at tournaments all year long.

At regionals, the format is a little different; the students use a style of debate known as World’s Universities. Director of Forensics and Debate Coach Ken Johnson explained the format, saying, “the debaters get their debate topic and their assigned side fifteen minutes before the debate begins.”

Despite this last-minute style of debating, the UR students did extremely well, even when presented with topics like diplomacy, prostitution, and academic tenure.

“Our students have to be

informed about a wide variety of domestic and international issues” Johnson said. “[They] work really hard to compete against the best and the brightest students from other universities, so it is great to see all of that work translate into success.”

The team’s leaders have big visions for the future. Perkins and Kohn, the regional champions, will be traveling to Austria this coming weekend for another tournament. Vienna will be the UR team’s first trip overseas in more than three years. Over the next few years, the team has their eye on the U.S. Universities National Championship and the World Debate Championship.

“We have some really special and talented students who are just starting out with debate,” Johnson said. “I think there are going to be many more championships coming our way in the next few years.”

Passanisi is a member of the class of 2017.



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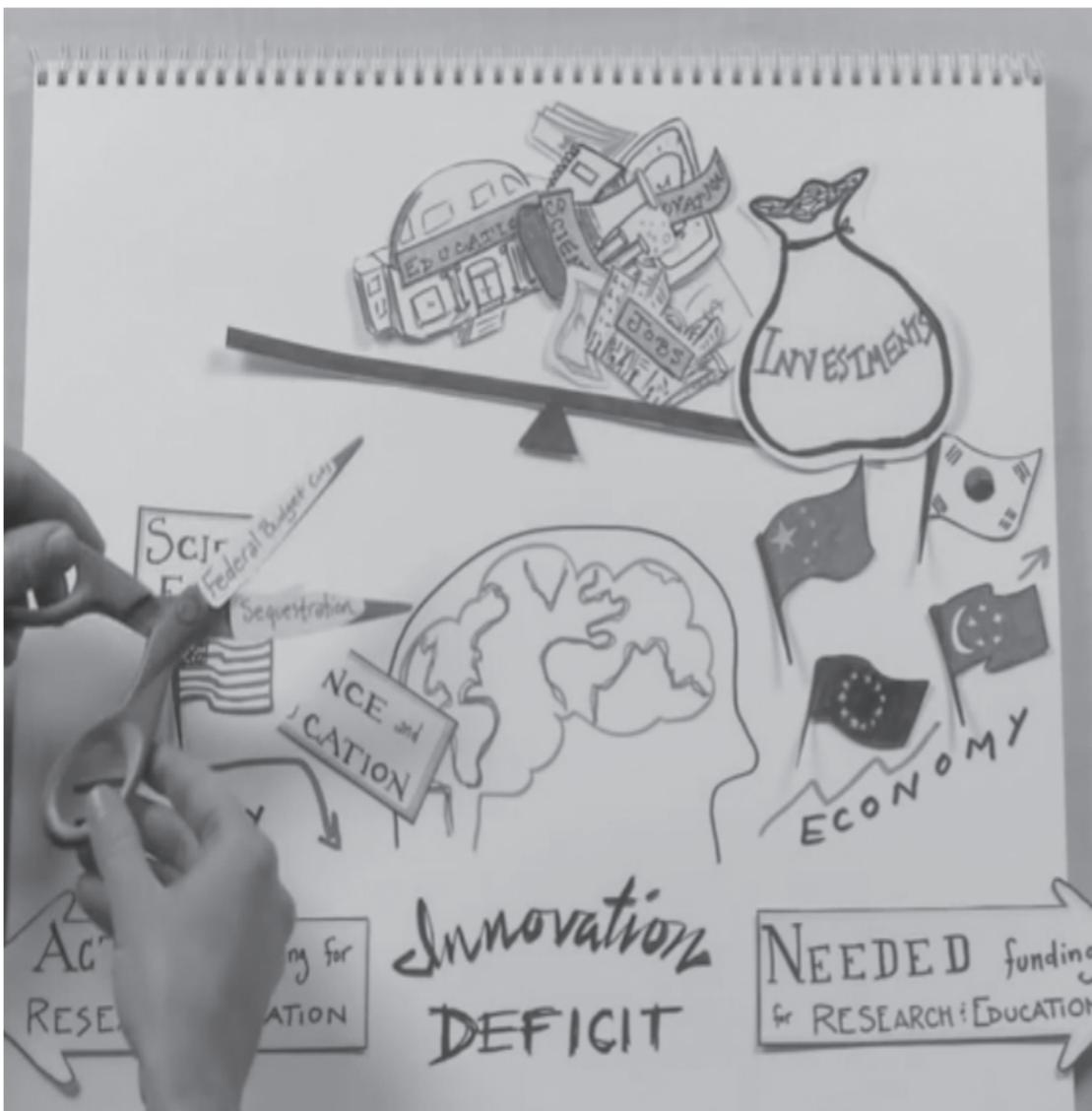
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COURTESY OF COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY AND CONVERSKETCH VIA YOUTUBE

The innovation deficit is the gap between current and needed government investment in research and higher education, according to the to Close the Innovation Deficit campaign. As the video states, "federal budget cuts [...] compounded by sequestration helped create this deficit."

UR supports closing of "Innovation Deficit"

INNOVATION FROM PAGE 1

The video concludes by prompting the viewer to think of the U.S. as a "magnet" for "great thinkers", and calls for active interaction with Congress to encourage greater investment.

Though not an active participant in the creation of the video, UR and other AAU

'The University of Rochester already participates actively in efforts to convince Congress and the Administration to invest in research and higher education.'

members and major news sources tweeted the link to spread the word.

"I often work with my AAU colleagues to lobby Congress to support federal sponsored

research through federal funding agencies such as the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation," UR President Joel Seligman said. "UR is also a member of the Science Coalition which has a similar mission."

Confirming this, Toiv said, "The University of Rochester already participates actively in efforts to convince Congress and the Administration to invest in research and higher education."

Seligman also discussed the importance of UR's policy of a diversity of curriculum in the context of innovation. Mentioning Steve Jobs' fascination with calligraphy and Albert Einstein's dedication to his violin, Seligman said, "I am convinced that some of our wisest innovators, doctors, engineers, scientists and teachers are people who were exposed to the gamut of human experience."

Toiv said of the video, "We hope folks will watch the video, have some fun, learn something, and share it with others."

McAdams is a member of the class of 2017.

New smoothies spark discussion of healthier options

SMOOTHIE FROM PAGE 1

fulfilling the original proposal, there is overlap between the changes being made at Connections and any infrastructure that would be necessary to support an independently located smoothie bar in the future.

"We used the 5K challenge funds to invest in the smoothie program on campus, but the reality is the cost for two professional Vita-Mix blenders and extra containers will almost completely deplete the 5K funds," Aubrey said. "For any future smoothie location we implement, we will need these types of blenders as well, so the 5K funds are still going to the right place."

Aubrey also cited Danforth and Douglass as possible retail locations in which a full smoothie bar could

be installed, if that idea ultimately comes to fruition. However, some students feel that other locations on campus would be more ideal.

"The whole point of this is to bring something new to campus, and a really nice thing about smoothies is that they're healthy and fast, which means centrality is key," senior Carolyn Holland said. "Connections is alright for that, but it would be more useful if we could have a combination smoothie and health shake bar in the gym. You'd have immediate access to something light, hydrating, and potentially protein-boosted immediately after working out, even when you're running to class or to catch the bus."

This sentiment is in line with student input received during a Feb.

25 Dining Committee meeting. In addition to ironing out the final details of the upcoming changes at Connections, the biggest outcomes of the meeting pertained to smoothie supplements and use of smoothies as post-workout meals.

Connections will commence using Dr. Smoothie Crushed Fruit sometime after break, with the option for a banana add-in.

According to Aubrey, students at last week's meeting expressed interest in other mix-ins, such as kale and spinach, which might be implemented in the future. Attendees were also able to sample the crushed fruit mix, but a larger scale sampling will occur in Hirst Lounge on March 21.

Sklar is a member of the class of 2014.

Anti-racism speaker comes to UR

ANTI-RACISM FROM PAGE 1

"If you don't make it, it's your fault."

Wise provided economic facts about white families versus African American families in the U.S. According to Wise, the average white family makes 20 times more than the average African American family and 18 times the average of a Latino family. He also noted that the wealthiest 500 white people make more money than 41 million African Americans in this country, and that this has nothing to do with the amount of hard work or number of hours worked in a week.

"If you are smart enough to look past [the statistics] and know it's not about merit, we can continue," Wise said.

In an interview before the

talk, Wise said he has done the most presentations in New York, California, Colorado, Washington, and Oregon. "I give speeches in the South relatively often and the Midwest fairly often," he said. "It's definitely a nationwide thing and I'm probably doing more in the south now than when I started. The south is now starting to want to talk about this stuff on campuses."

When asked what he hoped students would take away from his presentation, Wise stated that he had the same hopes that any educator has for their students:

"A deeper understanding of the subject matter and a connection between their understanding and their commitment to these issues in their own life, whether it's out there in the larger society."

"Whether it's tomorrow, whether it's five years from now," Wise said. "I try to be realistic. I don't have huge aspirations for any one speech. Very few people are ever moved from point one to point ten by one talk and one book. But if people can go from point one to point four from that talk, that's a certain degree of movement and I trust that others will maintain that process."

Wise said he hopes people can incorporate what they hear in his presentations in their everyday lives.

"Those who are often moved a little bit by what I have to say [...] can figure out a way to integrate this into their professional lives, whatever those lives end up being," he said.

Sanguinetti is a member of the class of 2015.



PARSA LOTFI / PHOTO EDITOR

The Connections smoothie blend has changed as a result of the 5K Challenge.

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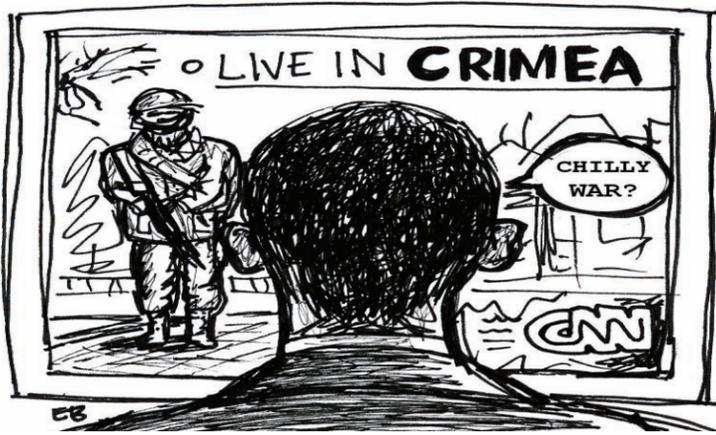
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College: Keep it in perspective



BY JONAH JENG
MANAGING EDITOR

I envy speedy writers, people who unfurl page upon page of eloquent prose faster than I can type out a paragraph. One thinks immediately of the iconic Pauline Kael, the famous movie critic who could allegedly whip together an entire review from her seat in the theater immediately following a film screening. If not to Kael's degree, this kind of speed nonetheless characterizes professional writing. We live in a world of deadlines and an accelerated sense of time. To succeed in the job market, writers need to learn how to adapt to the go-go-go mentality that, for better or for worse, keeps our society moving. Writers like Kael are real inspirations because they've adapted and excelled, forking out review after review like machines burning through the fuels of creativity.

All that said, I doubt even Kael could crank out two essays in an hour and fifteen minutes.

And yet there I was, a mere college student, trying to accomplish this very task for a midterm. The format of this exam evoked the high school in-class essay (which I wasn't fond of to begin with) except there were, yes, two pieces that had to be written. And these weren't the petty prompts that you find on the SATs. They were hefty, loaded thought-provokers that effectively synthesized half a semester's worth of material into a handful of pithy sentences; the type of questions that required you to think and plan your answers beforehand, effectively shearing five to ten minutes off the already measly amount of time you had to write both essays. Pencil in hand, desperately fumbling through my barely nascent ideas, I kept wondering how any human being could possibly complete the assignment within the allotted

time, let alone do a good job at it.

The philosophy behind the in-class essay is an admirable one. It involves training students to articulate complex ideas in a brief window of time, keeping them sharp-minded and on their toes. Think of it as mental fitness. If you constantly push yourself to grapple with sophisticated concepts swiftly and intensely, you'll soon find yourself engaging these concepts offhand, almost as a reflex, and ready to advance to loftier subjects. Moreover, the high-stress environment created by in-class essays functions as a microcosm of the workplace – both present a challenging assignment with a rapidly approaching deadline. If anything, in-class essays intensify the experience of real-world writing by providing even less time for the task to be accomplished. In this way, such essays actually help ease students into professional writing because hey, next to those in-class essays, the real world doesn't seem so bad.

But there should be a limit to this intensification. After all, we're still students, striving for those grades that, frankly, are just as if not more important to many employers as one's ability to write both quickly and well. There's a difference between honing students' critical thinking skills and overwhelming the students to the point where the quality of their work drops drastically. One essay would have done the job; two is simply too much. I'm not trying to bash my professor – on the contrary, I believe the course material is incredibly rich, and I thoroughly enjoy attending class. But how can I tap this richness in an hour and fifteen minutes with my time split between two essays, both of which are doomed to be underdeveloped if not altogether unfinished? For the sake of students' learning and out of respect for the material that is being taught, I urge all professors at UR to refrain from assigning two in-class essays for a single day's class.

Jeng is a member of the class of 2016

Bring Care Network to Eastman Campus

The CARE Network is one of the most effective tools for maintaining students' health on campus. Students can submit anonymous reports about a friend or classmate for which they have concern. According to the UR CARE network website, "Students with significant academic and mental health concerns are most often reported via the CARE network. Reports are made regularly, with an increase in reports made at the mid-term and conclusion of the semester. More and more reports are being made that assist in our ability to recognize students heading toward crisis before an official crisis occurs."

This report can help the friend or classmate get the appropriate services they need or at the very least be checked up on by a counselor. This program has the potential to save lives and keep students on track to graduation. At a large university, it's impossible to keep a look out for the well-being of every student. Since this is an extremely stressful time in our lives, many students battle with issues of depression, eating disorders, anxiety, and other possibly life-

threatening issues. Students are under extreme amounts of pressure and stress both on River Campus and at Eastman, but currently, the CARE network only covers the River Campus. Why should the CARE network not extend to all university students? Why are Eastman students not able to access the CARE network's valuable services?

Eastman is a fantastic music school, and students who were accepted to the school worked hard to be accepted and continue to work hard to remain there as a student. This requires hours of practice each day, not to mention extra homework and classes. It's easy to slip into unhealthy patterns or forget about self-care. Though the school is quite small, there are still approximately 1,000 students including undergrads, graduate students, and PhD candidates. It is impossible for the deans and faculty to keep track of everyone every hour of the day.

This is where the role of friends comes into play. People rely on their friends for homework help, music advice, and stress relief. Students see friends more often than faculty, studio professors, or any of the deans. Friends are the

first line of defense, but not all friends are comfortable reporting strange or concerning behaviors to the appropriate people. CARE, though not without its flaws, is a way for students to express their concerns. Students can share their concerns without feeling like their concern is illegitimate or not worthy of the dean's time. According to the CARE website, a report should be filed when there is concern for a student's behavior, and well-being, multiple levels of distress, self-harm, or a need for multiple campus resources.

Though hiring another staff member to manage the CARE network at Eastman is costly, the benefit from this cost will be worth it. If it means the difference between life and death for a struggling student, it will be worth every penny. Now that the CARE network is working, functioning, and making a difference for the River Campus, it is time to cover the entire university and expand CARE to Eastman campus. Access to this service will strengthen the community and help students have an ever better experience at the University.

Respect both students and staff at UR

It's 6 a.m. and a thick serving of snow has covered the UR campus, rendering a variety of surfaces around campus a soft, pure white. Yet, as happens often on our campus, that layer of snow is subsequently and efficiently swept away. Rarely is a thought ever spared for those members of the UR staff who faithfully and frequently push away this potential hazard, salt the walkways and roads on campus, and finally melt away until the next snow hits. There are many such members of our campus community, but we must be careful not to forget their contributions, or take them for granted.

One exceedingly common sight in a dorm building is bathrooms littered with a variety of refuse, whether paper towels strewn around on the floor, in the sink and atop other surfaces; toilet paper littering the inside of the stalls; or even empty shampoo containers left to collect dust once their purpose has been

fulfilled. Yet, the students of the campus community seem to ignore the fact that this trash have to be cleaned up by someone, if not fellow students then the workers who come to the bathrooms as a part of their work routine. Toilets, showers, and sinks all offer examples of how students may ignore those that have to deal with their actions (and trash).

Food service offers another example of how students can work to be more respectful to those members of the campus community who don't attend its classes. When ordering a Meliora Burger or grabbing a Pesto Chicken Sandwich, students should be as respectful as they can to these fellow members of our community. Please and thank yous, or even a glance up from one's cell phone are steps in the right direction for on-campus respect. It is imperative that we work to make all who come to our campus, day in and day out, feel like part of the community. All too

often, when we are caught up in our own work and lives, we find it easy to ignore the often unacknowledged workers that make our campus ever better.

But the disrespect we may sometimes show, unintentionally or otherwise, is not confined to these few examples. The Stacks can be found littered with trash, food, and even books that students have failed to return to their proper place on the shelves, or even to a library cart. Even the lounges can be a casualty of disrespect when students end their late-night escapades and decide to leave the lounges in a worse condition than they found them. Kitchens, too, can offer the same display of casual indifference to the workers that maintain our fine campus. So next time, when ordering at Danforth, cooking in the kitchen, or just hanging out in the lounge; think for a moment about whether your actions contribute to respect on campus, or detract from it.

The above two editorials are published with the consent of a majority of the editorial board: Rachael Sanguinetti (Editor-in-Chief), Jonah Jeng (Managing Editor), Jason Altabet (Opinions Editor), Jamie Rudd (Features Editor), and Julianne McAdams (News Editor). The Editor-in-Chief and the Editorial Board make themselves available to the UR community's ideas and concerns. Email editor@campustimes.org.

Students sound off on Ukraine

We don't want war

BY ILYA DYSKIN

I cannot stand the media coverage offered by both the Western and Russian, my own country's, news sources. On one hand, the western news has completely demonized Russia and shown obvious favoritism to the temporary government in Ukraine, while official news sources in Russia blame the West for the coup d'état in Kiev. It's simply impossible to find middle-ground coverage. The West portrays it as a full-scale invasion to destabilize Ukraine. Russian state media says that the troops will only be used to protect Russian speaking people and citizens living in Ukraine. Nobody even mentions the real reason behind Russia's determination to pacify Ukraine – Sevastopol.

Russian foreign policy has always been dominated by the idea of finding a warm water port to raise trading and military presence in the region. Sevastopol became that warm port for us. This city on the southern tip of the Crimean peninsula became the stronghold of its Black Sea fleet. Thousands of Russian soldiers have paid with their lives to take the Crimean peninsula and finally reach the sea, something that had been a dream of the Russian czars for hundreds of years. During WWII, it took Wehrmacht almost an entire year to capture Sevastopol as it became one of the main strongholds of the Red Army. After a bloodbath, the Soviets retreated but were able to recapture Sevastopol two years later, determined never to give it up again.

Now try to imagine the thoughts of the citizens of Sevastopol and Crimea when Khrushchev announced a transfer of the Crimea region from Russian to Ukrainian jurisdiction. During the time of the Soviet Union, both Ukraine and Russia were part of the Union, and although Crimea became de jure Ukrainian territory, de facto it was still Russian. Most of Crimea's people were ethnic Russians who moved to this region at one point or another. They did not know the Ukrainian language, along with most of Southeastern Ukraine, and did not consider themselves a part of the Ukrainian state.

Everything changed after the collapse of the Union. Now, these ethnic Russians found themselves citizens of another sovereign nation, Ukraine; a country whose culture and language were foreign. There was nobody to come and protect their rights to speak Russian and to potentially join Russia again. At the time, Russia was a very weak country torn apart by the nationalist groups, a collapsed economy, and inept leadership. We weren't in a position to defend the rights of our compatriots anywhere. Nobody came to help out those Russians who were being murdered en masse in Chechnya, Kazakhstan, and so on. Helping Russians in Crimea was the least of our worries.

Times have changed. Russian foreign policy toward Ukraine lacked any kind of political initiative and far-thinking, which led to the election of corrupt president Viktor Yanukovich whose only advantage was being pro-Russia. His actions

concerning the European Union Treaty Association and his brutal retaliation against activists led to widespread protests in the central and western regions of the country. Although the liberal opposition was the main power behind the initial protests, the civil unrest in Ukraine led to the emergence of radical nationalist groups.

On February 21st, Yanukovich signed an agreement with the protesters in Maidan, which gave them most of the changes they were asking for, with the president staying in power until elections later this year. Unfortunately, not without the radicals' influence, the protesters made Yanukovich flee from Kiev and formed their own government.

It immediately started passing rather anti-Russian laws (the government reverted the law giving Russian a regional language status, virtually forcing most of the southeastern Ukrainians to learn a new language). Russia would most likely have left Ukraine alone if everything ended at just that. However, the new government started talking about cancelling the agreement granting Russia a portion of Sevastopol as a place for the Russian Black Sea Fleet headquarters (remember, it's been stationed there for more than two hundred years). This was potentially the main reason for the Russian government to start escalating the conflict in Crimea between the pro-Russian and pro-Ukrainian population, causing a Crimean referendum which will determine whether the people of the region want to stay a part of Ukraine, form a sovereign nation, join Russia, or allow Putin to send the army into Ukraine.

In Russia, we have a famous saying, "Do the Russians want a war?" Not surprisingly, we never do. Nobody in the Russian chain of command wants to sign a decree sending the troops to Ukrainian soil. Doing so would be economic suicide for Russia, which is already suffering continuous stagnation, and would launch a massive wave of anti-Russian insurgency, forever ruining already strained relations between our two countries. So far, the threat of bringing the troops to protect the rights of Russian-speaking minorities has been a way for the Russian government to send Kiev a message that it will stop at nothing when it comes to protecting its own interests. Even Western sanctions mean nothing if Russia loses Sevastopol which to this day still holds a tremendous strategic value. Now, we may only hope that this conflict doesn't escalate to an open confrontation that might end the fragile balance we have today.

Dyskin is a member of the class of 2017.

U.S. should embrace moderation

BY ZACHARY TAYLOR

Last November, the West watched in disappointment as the President of Ukraine, Victor Yanukovich, suspended EU negotiations. Disappointment turned to hope as this became the catalyst for mass protests against the president's corrupt regime. Hope turned to disgust when Yanukovich's party in Parliament illegally gave him dictatorial powers, which was used



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to suppress dissent.

Disgust turned to horror when Yanukovich began massacring protesters; horror became hope again when protesters in Kiev braved sniper fire to stand firm against Yanukovich, who finally fled when his former allies abandoned him.

Unfortunately, the world was shocked last week when irregular Russian forces moved into Crimea, a strategically important region in Southern Ukraine, and Russia's parliament rubber-stamped plans to invade the country. Crimea

is home to an ethnic Russian majority and a key Russian naval base in Sevastopol. Putin, despite official recognition of Ukraine's sovereignty over Crimea in multiple treaties, justified the invasion on the supposed threat to Russian civilians from Ukrainian neo-Nazi groups, a threat that has at the time of this article's writing failed to materialize. Russia has a knack for using ethnic Russian populations as a pretext for invading former USSR members, but this invasion is undoubtedly due to Yanukovich's status as a Russian crony and the pro-EU alignment of Ukraine's new government. Putin and other Russian hawks see Ukrainian politics as a zero-sum game, believing that Ukrainian integration with Western Europe can only hurt Russia. A raw nationalism underlies these power politics; many Russians see Ukraine and Sevastopol (which thousands of Russian soldiers died defending) as historic Russia. Nonetheless, Putin must have realized that there was no immediate threat to Sevastopol, and that his preemptive action would increase anti-Russian sentiment in the rest of Ukraine. A total conquest of Ukraine by Russia would not be worth the cost. The logical conclusion is that Putin plans to use his troops and the threat of an escalating conflict to coerce Ukraine.

Ukraine's government is still provisional, and Putin probably believes he can negotiate a deal putting Yanukovich back in power, or at least giving pro-Russian parties more weight. The United States and the rest of NATO have quite a few reasons to oppose Russian encroachment. Russia actively opposes U.S. interests in the Middle East, has attacked American

allies (such as Georgia) in the recent past, and would be emboldened by success in Ukraine. The EU has been expanding eastward—to the long-term benefit of all parties involved, popular disgruntlement notwithstanding—and will benefit if Ukraine harnesses its shale gas to break free from Gazprom (unlikely under a pro-Russian government.)

The U.S. has had a long-standing interest in reducing the number of nuclear states in the world. In 1994, the U.S., Russia, and several other states negotiated the transfer of Ukraine's nukes to Russia in exchange for security guarantees. Although the U.S. is not obligated to defend Ukraine from aggression through means outside the UN Security Council (where Russia has a veto), it is important for American credibility and long-term nonproliferation objectives to make a good-faith effort to help Ukraine.

The U.S. cannot (and should not) credibly threaten a military response to Russia, but that does not mean the U.S. is powerless. Ukrainian and Russian markets took major hits in response to the crises, and U.S. and EU leaders are already discussing sanctions against Russia. Even with sanctions, Russia's economy may still be more stable than Ukraine's, so the U.S. and EU should take measures to bolster Ukraine, such as promising to buy currency, or offering the country interest-free loans. NATO can retaliate by strengthening its presence in Poland and non-occupied Ukraine, and could consider, or threaten to admit Georgia. There's a large middle ground between recklessness and appeasement, and the U.S. should seize that ground.

Taylor is a member of the class of 2015.

Don't be a bystander on Ukraine

BY JAN PYTALSKI

In times of great political upheaval, there is nothing more dangerous than the passive acceptance of crimes committed on an international scale. While to many Americans the internal turmoil taking place in Ukraine may seem distant and obscure, it is crucial to understand that Russia's military involvement in the affairs of an independent country may directly affect the entire world. Remaining in denial is dangerous. If left unchecked, the imperial aspirations of Russia can only grow and its methods escalate.

The intertwined histories of the Eastern European countries are far too complex to be explained here, but the historical precedence proves that such destabilization of a highly developed region with a multitude of interests can lead to grave consequences. Russian intervention (as well as the argument that its nationals are being threatened) is an excuse that echoes ones that the whole world heard throughout the 1930s. The Nazi invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939 was justified by the alleged "attack" on a German radio station right outside the Polish border. Hitler's takeover of the Czechoslovakian so-called Sudetenland was justified

by the will to protect the allegedly persecuted German nationals living there. Make no mistake: the minute shots are fired, the conflict will become global and there will be no country in the Northern hemisphere without a stake in it.

But how exactly is the conflict in Ukraine directly connected to the comfortable reality of the U.S.? First, the U.S. is one of the signatories of the 1994 Budapest Memorandum that guarantees the security of the territorial integrity of Ukraine, in exchange for its nuclear arsenal. As a signatory, the U.S. has an obligation to act in defense of said territorial integrity.

Another link between the United States and the situation in Ukraine is its responsibilities as de facto leader of the NATO alliance. Ukraine borders Poland, which means that an open military conflict in Ukraine poses a direct threat to it, other Baltic States (see Moldova) and, by extension, to the security of the alliance. All members of the NATO alliance have the responsibility to act in response to such a threat. The U.S., as the most powerful and capable member of the alliance, would have to assume a leadership role in a possible standoff. There is only so much time to

avoid landing boots on the ground.

The current situation in Ukraine is changing too fast to predict what will happen next. It is absolutely crucial to take action and firmly manifest to Russia that the core values of the West are, and will be, protected and pursued at all costs. The EU has proven to be a complete disappointment, almost as dysfunctional in this regard as the UN. The prolonged talks over possible sanctions wastes precious time. While the leaders of Europe talk, there are refugee camps already being established in Ukraine. I encourage everyone to devote some time to catch up on the history and geopolitical significance of this region. I suggest reading some of the analyses in the New York Times, the BBC, or any other major Western media outlet. Finally, I encourage you to take active part in exerting pressure on your elected officials to take definitive action to resolve the conflict before it becomes more than just a headline in your everyday reality. What the West seems to be forgetting and what the Ukrainians bravely face every day is the fact that freedom can never be taken for granted.

Pytalski is pursuing a Masters of Arts in Literary Translation.

FEATURES

Websites help students organize studying

BY RAAGA KANAKAM
STAFF WRITER

Two heads are better than one, and when studying for exams, this statement is especially true. In fact, peer learning is positively correlated with success in the classroom.

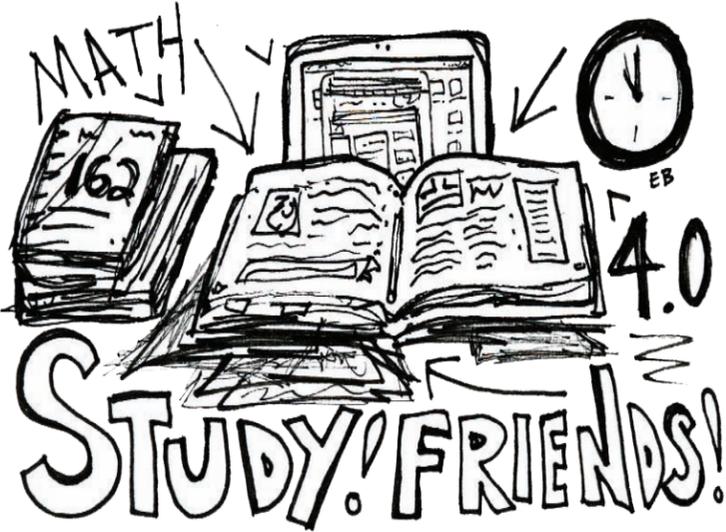
Often, students might find it difficult to connect with others in their classes for the purpose of creating study groups. Two online services, Cooplearn and Finals With Friends, exist purely for the purpose of matching students up into groups to meet up and

class. The classes link the course directly to the room.

Students can then upload assignments, notes, books and past exams, as well as ask side questions and set up meeting points.

“We found that the studyrooms actually help decrease stress as the students are aware...that they have a support group to lean on always,” Eid said.

Juniors Kevin Smith and Brad Kettleman both used Cooplearn for their English class, and agreed that it was extremely useful.



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discuss assignments. Both have their own unique goals, and are available for free to every student.

Cooplearn:

(www.cooplearn.com)

Cooplearn, founded by Bassil Eid of Ottawa University, came about when Eid realized that he enjoyed studying and learned a lot more when collaborating with his fellow students.

Eid’s first ideas for Cooplearn were formed when he was studying for his masters degree, and decided to collaborate with other students in his classes after spending the first semester doing the work alone.

“I found that the masters students really bonded together and did assignments and studied for exams always in a communal and collaborative manner,” he said. “This type of academic fellowship really allowed me to sit down and learn the actual material being taught...I realized that school should not be a lonely venture and that there had to be some way to constantly be in contact with your classmates to get the work done.”

After joining the program, students are placed in studyrooms, which are structured environments that correspond with the students’

The members of their studyroom posted assignments and exams and helped each other to the work.

“It was great because we did [all of our work] from our [rooms] and didn’t actually have to meet up physically,” Smith said. “It just provides that environment to connect with friends and go through school with them, not just socially but also academically.”

The most used subjects are English, Business and Philosophy, but Cooplearn offers programs in many other subjects including Economics, Math, Science, Computer Science, Languages, Physics, and many more.

Finals With Friends:

(www.finalswithfriends.com)

Finals With Friends (FWF) was started by UR junior Bram Adams in a similar effort to connect students with classmates looking for cooperative study opportunities.

“It actually came to mind while I was studying for Math 162 in ITS and was completely unaware for an hour that the people literally two tables down from me were studying the same thing” he said. “It’s intended to allow students who are already at say ITS with

SEE WEBSITES PAGE 9

Confessions of an ITS Employee

BY JAMIE RUDD
FEATURES EDITOR

BY DANI DOUGLAS
FEATURES EDITOR

Ever wondered what it’s like to work at ITS? Freshman and Help Desk Assistant Ilya Dyskin shares his experience.

What are your basic duties as an ITS employee?

As an ITS employee, my duties usually consist of sitting at the desk, helping people with minor computer problems, mostly fixing issues with WiFi, and filling the paperwork for them when the computers have to be taken for further work.

When is your scheduled work time?

This semester, I actually work a night owl shift from 12am to 8am on Thursdays.

Why did you decide to work at ITS?

All my life, I was generally interested in computers, and being able to help others with their computer related issues, and getting paid for it at the same time, seemed like a perfect job for me.

What is the hardest problem that you have had to solve?

Probably when an elderly Pakistani couple came in with a very old laptop that would refuse to connect to our WiFi network. To make matters worse, that particular model

leave later because my shift was over, but from what I have gathered, we took this laptop in and somebody on the computer fixing team managed to make it work (which I still find amazing).

Oh yeah, the laptop’s language was originally set to Arabic which made it really “fun” for us trying to do any basic operations with it.

If you had to describe your job in three words, how would you describe it?

People. Computers. Desk.

Describe your interactions with your co-workers.

We are a very friendly bunch who are always ready to help each other whenever somebody encounters a problem he doesn’t know how to solve, and we always share a few good laughs over the comic situation occurring at the desk (and they happen all the time!).

What are your three favorite memories of your work experience?

Let’s see... The first one was probably the orientation where I got to know the inner workings of ITS, got to know a lot of great people for the first time and was fed food non-stop from 10am until 6pm.

The second one would be the first person who came in for help. I still remember the genuine feeling of happiness and awesomeness of being able



PARSA LOTFI / PHOTO EDITOR

ITS employee, freshman Ilya Dyskin.

What advice would you give to future ITS employees?

Guys and gals, don’t ever be afraid of people who come for your help. Most of them are students just like you. Have a little conversation with them while you’re trying to fix their issues; you may even befriend them later (that happened to me actually!).

Also, don’t be afraid of the current ITS workers; we may seem a bit weird and intimidating at first, but we



PARSA LOTFI / PHOTO EDITOR

Dyskin has worked as a Help Desk Assistant at ITS since September.

was not released for the global market, so we couldn’t find anything about it on the web, its battery was shot, therefore we had to constantly keep it connected to the power source, and the Ethernet port was not accepting our cables for some strange reason.

The entire ITS staff present at the time had gathered around that computer trying to figure something out for a good half an hour. I had to

to help out a fellow student.

And the last, but not the least, is my first night shift this semester where I befriended my coworker, Kevin Gerami, who lives a floor above me, is a Computer Science and Economics double major just like me, and is generally a great guy. We were amazed that we’ve not met each other before since we’ve had most of our classes together both semesters.

really want to know you as a person and help you out with anything you need both in and outside of your work. Both my lab and workshop TA’s were working together with me last semester, and they helped me a lot outside of the class. And we also became great friends.

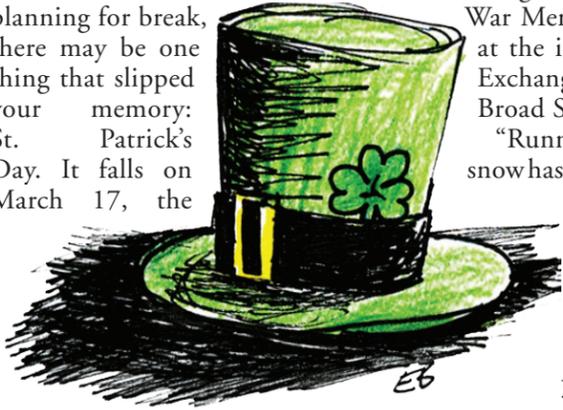
Rudd is a member of the class of 2017.

Douglas is a member of the class of 2017.

How to spend your St. Patrick's Day

BY RAAGA KANAKAM
STAFF WRITER

This week has been a long one, and spring break is clearly on all of our minds. While constantly worrying about midterms and planning for break, there may be one thing that slipped your memory: St. Patrick's Day. It falls on March 17, the



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Monday that classes resume, and although we may all be dreading the return to schoolwork, it's no excuse not to celebrate!

The city of Rochester has events scheduled throughout St. Patrick's Day Weekend, so if you're stuck here during the cold and snowy break, make sure to check them out!

St. Patrick's Day Parade:

The annual St. Patrick's Parade will be celebrating its 37th anniversary as a Rochester tradition on Saturday, March 15. The parade will begin at 12:30pm at East Avenue and Alexander Street (the Orange Line will take you right there!), and will continue down East, continuing on to Main Street, and eventually ending at Plymouth Avenue.

Volunteers are needed to organize the lineup, carry sponsor banners, and help with the Family Celtic Faire held at the downtown Radisson Hotel. Students can also enter to be in the parade with a float for any group or organization.

Even if you're not interested in participating in the parade, it is still a great place to go and

have fun with friends. Visit www.rochesterparade.com for more details.

Johnny's 16th Runnin' Of The Green:

This annual five mile run, taking place on Saturday, March 15, begins 9:30am at the War Memorial located at the intersection of Exchange Street and Broad Street.

"Running in the snow has its own special qualities – [the] softness [...] the white landscape... can make you feel like a kid again," author Claire Kowalchik wrote of the run in her book, "The Complete Book of Running for Women."

Reduced registration fees will be available for anyone that signs up before March 11, but any and all racers will still be accepted on race day.

(Race Day Tip: After your run, head right over to East and Alexander

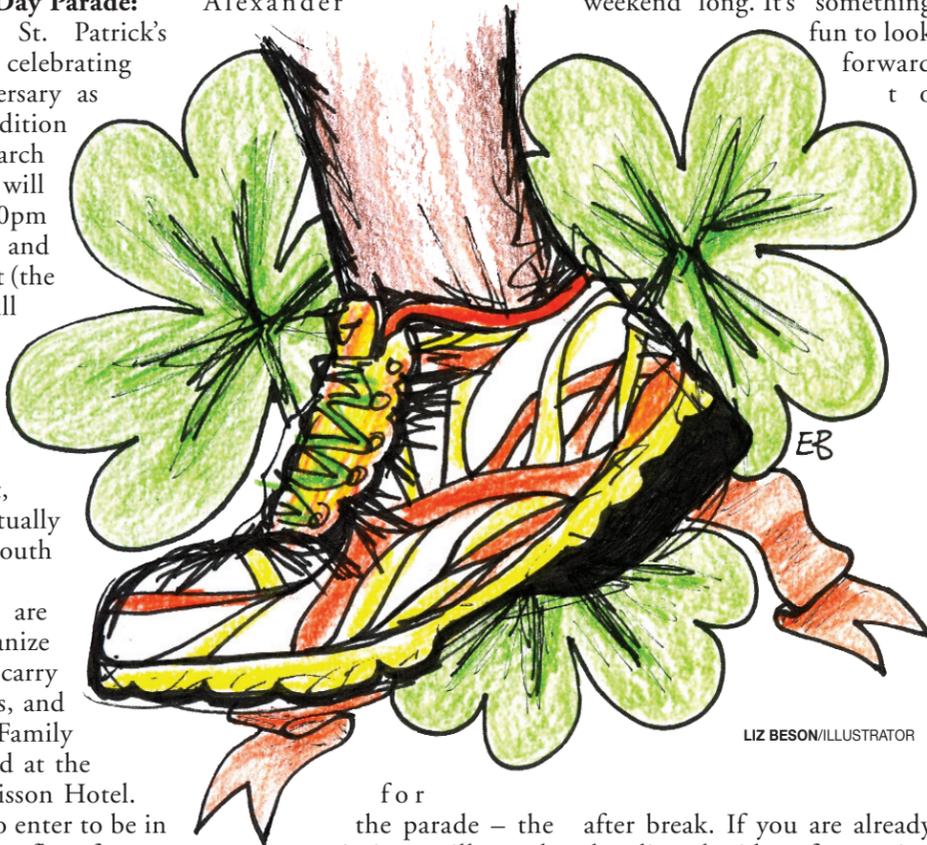
Celtic Family Faire:

After a long day of running and enjoying the parade, it's nice to relax and enjoy some casual entertainment. The Celtic Family Faire, another long-standing Rochester tradition, will last from 11am-4:30pm at The Radisson Riverside (120 E. Main St.).

Featuring various live entertainment including Irish musicians, dancers, and storytelling, the Faire is a fun way to experience Irish culture. Best of all, this event is completely free!

Finally, on the long awaited St. Patrick's Day, pubs across Rochester, including Johnny's, will be hosting live entertainment throughout the evening. If none of these celebrations are your cup of tea (or pint of beer), additional events are sure to be occurring across the city on the holiday and throughout the weekend. Be sure to venture downtown and explore all of the possible options: go out and have fun!

Don't forget to don your green and enjoy the fun all weekend long. It's something fun to look forward to



LIZ BESON/ILLUSTRATOR

for the parade – the timing will work out perfectly!) Visit www.jonnysrog.eventbrite.com to register and for further information.

after break. If you are already dreading the idea of returning to classes, remember there are only six weeks until summer!

Kanakam is a member of the class of 2017.

Ask Chris: Lovers, partners, and pairs, oh my

BY CHRIS HORGAN
STAFF WRITER



Editor's Note: Professor Estrada was not feeling well this week, so one of our staff decided to step in and share his own words of wisdom.

Dear Chris, How do I insistently ask a girl out on a date?

– Nervous Michael

First, ask the girl if she is interested in getting dinner with you. If she replies "no," simply reply by saying "Oh, do you prefer breakfast?" If that doesn't work, ask her to marry you.

"Sex & the CT"

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

Now, some may say this is a little ambitious. Actually, I think anyone with common sense would say it is too ambitious, so I take that back. Make sure the third thing you say to your potential partner is not a marriage proposal.

It is important to never be negative about your abilities to ask someone out on a date. At the very least, be positive that you do not have a chance

of going out on a date with this person. When you initiate the conversation, crack some jokes. Also, crack some eggs – the girl is a breakfast person, remember?

Most importantly, be confident in yourself. She might not fall in love with you immediately, but that isn't necessarily a bad thing. Remember how "Romeo and Juliet" ended?

It is also important to start some small talk. For example, try asking her which college she attends. If her response is UR, then this is a major plus. If her response is RIT, just quickly make sure that you are in fact speaking to a girl.

She might not fall in love with you immediately, but that isn't necessarily a bad thing

Next, ask her what she intends on majoring in. If it's in the sciences, be smooth and tell her that the two of you should work on your chemistry. We go to a science school, so you want a girl like Google: one that has everything you are searching for.

Try to find out in advance if the girl already has a boyfriend. If she does, then this severely reduces your chances of her accepting your date request.

Lastly, Michael, if she isn't interested, take this as a hint that she may not want to go on a date with you. Don't get down on yourself – there are a ton of nice and intelligent girls here at UR, so ice won't be the only thing you are falling for.

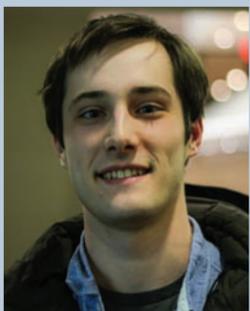
Here in the winter wonderland of Rochester, you might not think you are a snowman until the right gal makes your heart melt.

Horgan is a member of the class of 2017.

UR OPINION

BY DANI DOUGLAS & PARSIA LOTFI
FEATURES EDITOR & PHOTO EDITOR

"WHO SHOULD HOST THE OSCARS NEXT YEAR?"



JOSH STERN '17
"James Franco."



SARA ALI '16
"Chris Brown."



RORY-STEFAN AFFOON '15
"Michael Cera."



ANNA PARKER '16
"Neil Patrick Harris."



DANNY MENSEL '16
"Hugh Jackman."



EMILY KRAFT '17
"Louis C.K."



Senior Alex Venuti and brother sophomore Jack Venuti have been making snow circles since their early childhood days and have brought their art to UR.



COURTESY OF JULIANNE MCADAMS

Walking in circles: Brothers catch attention of student body

BY JULIANNE MCADAMS
NEWS EDITOR

Dragging my right leg beside me in a large circle in the snow and wobbling back and forth like a penguin, my lungs clenched in the cold air I was panting in. My fingers, ears, and thighs felt like frozen Laffy Taffy, and I wondered if my hot chocolate, buried in the knee-deep snow several feet away, was no longer hot.

"You need crops for crop circles," said senior and Applied Mathematics major Alex Venuti as he and his younger brother, sophomore and Biochemical Engineering major Jack Venuti, trudged along behind me, looking similarly incapable of kinesthetic motion.

Alex's statement was in reference to the faulty comparison made by some UR students of his and his brother's snowy productions to "crop circles." Alex and Jack Venuti have attracted the public eye with the several large-scale circular patterns which can be seen scattered across open snow – covered fields and hills around campus.

These patterns, befuddling to the campus population, appear sometimes as large as twenty feet across. They can most often be described as spirals, although according to the Venutis, concentric circles are also an option.

I was given the profound privilege of joining the brothers in the creation of one of their

circular masterpieces, specifically the one that can be spotted from Sage Art Center or outside of Susan B. Anthony Dining Hall, partially on a slant in the ground. The Venuti brothers agreed that forming the circle on a slant was best because it accentuated the imagery of the spiral.

After picking a spot with a large amount of open space and no footprints, the three of us got to work. Looking about himself, Jack observed, "It's quite snowy out."

The process begins, once the proper spot has been chosen, by side-stepping toward the intended center of the circle. (The boys and I chose to create a spiral). By stepping in each preceding foot print, one allows for his or her path leading up to the creation to be hidden by the impending pattern.

Once the intended center is reached, the brothers kindly directed me to plant my left foot, and walk around in a small circle, dragging my right foot next to me. Then, I placed my left foot in the newly-created circle, and used my right foot once more to go around again. The Venuti brothers followed suit, placing their feet in my already-created spirals, and we began the process.

The Venutis first made the circles in the sand on a beach in Connecticut during their younger and more innocent days. "Digging holes and making circles in the sand..." Alex said.

"Yeah... good times," Jack added, looking nostalgically off into the distance.

Alex revisited this practice in sixth grade on a soccer field during recess.

"In the middle of the winter what are you gonna do on a soccer field when it's covered in snow?" he asked.

Exploring the social benefits of walking repeatedly in circles, Alex said his classmates used to join the effort.

The brothers agreed that other than these occasional excursions, the circles were never a part of their average routine. Alex allegedly made a few connecting circles behind Sue B. his freshman year, but he said no one noticed. It wasn't until reading period last semester that the Venutis gained recognition for their special talent.

On Dec. 12, someone posted a photo on Reddit of the younger Venuti creating a giant spiral on the UR baseball field. The post by TurnTwo read, "Defeated by finals week, this kid was on the baseball field at 2:30am making crop circles."

Some notable comments read: "How do you know he's defeated? How do you know this ISN'T his final? Crop Circles 295." –5Alive

"I remember the first time I ate mushrooms, too." –willis203

"Gotta do something to burn off the rest of that Adderal."

–ishouldprobablybedoing somethingmoreproductive

The picture also appeared on Tumblr, with the post reading, "Dude, it's going to be alright."

Jack explained that on that particular night, he had gone on a run at midnight on the track, and around 1am he noticed the temptation of the giant, untouched baseball field. He said he didn't expect anyone to see him, and the circle would be gone by morning anyway.

But before nature removed the giant not-crop circle, someone took a picture from a window and shared Jack's efforts with the World Wide Web.

Jack described another instance. "I was just gonna go to Hillside and get like, I don't know, a bottle of juice or something," he said. He said he then noticed how nice the snow was and proceeded to create about thirteen more "designs."

Aside from the construction, what interests people most about the several circles formed by these anonymous artists is their motivation.

The Venutis have somewhat differing views on this. Alex said when people ask him, he likes to come up with new and interesting answers.

"It's about messing with people," Alex said, laughing. Some of his choice responses to the question, "Why?" thus far have been, "To find the right question," and "Introspection will lead you to the answer."

Jack is more about losing himself in the moment and

clearing his head. He responded to questions on Reddit, "I like to do it because it's quite relaxing and fun. And it looks nice, too. Sometimes when you see a big untouched snowfield, you just can't resist!" Later, he told me, "It's a good way to take a break from life for a while, you know?"

The Venuti boys have experience with other athletic activity, besides recreational circling. They are both members of the UR Quidditch team.

Alex shared an anecdote about his first time playing, freshman year. He was the snitch, and someone tackled him into the track. "Snitches get stitches," added Jack. Alex showed me the small, somehow familiar scar on his forehead from the incident.

According to the Venutis, all but one of the designs, as far as they knew are their doing. One, however, was made post-midnight by "Kyle", who walked by during my interview with the Venutis. They excitedly called over the mysterious Kyle, who was in a hurry. Once he walked away, I was informed that they do not actually know Kyle, but found him one night circling the baseball field.

The interview over, Jack nonchalantly climbed a few trees, and then plopped himself onto his back in some knee-deep snow and sighed, "College is a great place."

McAdams is a member of the class of 2017.

Finals with Friends & Cooplearn

WEBSITES FROM PAGE 7

a group of four to find two more people painlessly and vice versa."

FWF allows students to set up study groups for a class that they are in as well as find out about other preexisting groups on campus. To set up a group, students simply register the class they're in, the number of people in their group, the time they're studying and any additional information, such as identification info or study goals. A student can easily locate other study groups simply by using the course number.

Creating and finding groups is easy every step of the way, and is a valuable resource for finding people, others who are working on similar tasks.

"It was [...] important to me to get it out there and let



LIZ BESON / ILLUSTRATOR

students know that it's a tool available for them if they want to use it," Adams said.

An anonymous freshman student decided to use this program on a Saturday afternoon to see if anyone else near her was working on WebWork for Math 162. She

was pleased by how easy-to-use the interface was. Though no one showed up, she said that she would definitely use it again, and maybe as it becomes more popular, more groups would be posted and found.

Which program is right

for you?:

To answer that question, it would really depend on what you're looking for. The two websites have different goals but are not mutually exclusive. Cooplearn is designed for studying throughout the semester thanks to the use of

"studyrooms" to connect with others.

The purpose of FWF, on the other hand, is for arranging study groups at a specific time during the day for any given class: it's an application meant for the short term. Though you may become friends with your new "study buddies" and arrange meetings with the same people multiple times, the purpose of FWF is to simply make the process of making and meeting with study groups easier.

Don't feel as though you are restricted to one program: feel free to use one, the other, or even both. They're very easy to set up and use and have incredible value to students looking for a new avenue of help.

Kanakam is a member of the class of 2017.

UR Tech: Google's global domination

BY LUCIAN COPELAND
STAFF WRITER

The Comcast-TWC merger is fast approaching, and with it comes a collective groan from every cable user in America.

The two massive TV and internet conglomerates have regularly been considered among the most hated companies worldwide, perhaps with good reason – their all-inclusive monopoly over cable installment has allowed them to jack up prices and lower service with impunity, trampling any smaller upstarts that could intrude on their territory.

In this dark hour, news outlets are already anticipating upcoming fights between the indomitable new mega corporation and the last holdout of low cost, high speed service: Google Fiber, with a promise to put free, high speed internet at every doorstep in the country, one neighborhood at a time.

Wait, hold up. Isn't Google a monopoly too? An equally massive and all-encompassing monopoly, among the richest brands in the world, poised to annex yet another sector of the tech industry into their already extensive list of assets? Why are they getting off so easy in this new PR war?

With the right angle, it wouldn't be very hard to characterize Google as an equivalent to science fiction megacorporations like Robocop's Omnicorp or the Soylent company, playing off

the tech giant's personalized data collection and recent acquisitions of military robotics firms for overblown cinematic effect. But it isn't a very frequent depiction style for the technology giant, even in this age of sensationalist news reporting and anti-

reporters alike, who gleefully publish story after story about their latest push into self-driving cars, cloud networking, or asteroid mining.

Why does Google have it so easy? A good PR team, to be sure. In fact, one could argue that Google's entire company is

The company goes to great lengths to make sure they're at the forefront of everyone's minds when they think about the future. Asteroid mining? SpaceX, partially founded and funded by Google. Self-driving cars? Google. Lifelike interactive robots? Google.

your dad about repairing your garage door. Maybe having a benevolent robot overseer isn't so bad after all.

This level of ease in managing their public image must be appealing to other companies, but it's unclear whether anyone can manage it but Google. People have a hard time complaining about services that are free, and given how much the company has spread across tech services, for every service you do end up paying for, there are a dozen for which you don't.

Thus, while other companies get berated endlessly for failed launches or ill-supported products, it seems that Google can do no wrong by its consumer base, even with their own fair share of product blunders.

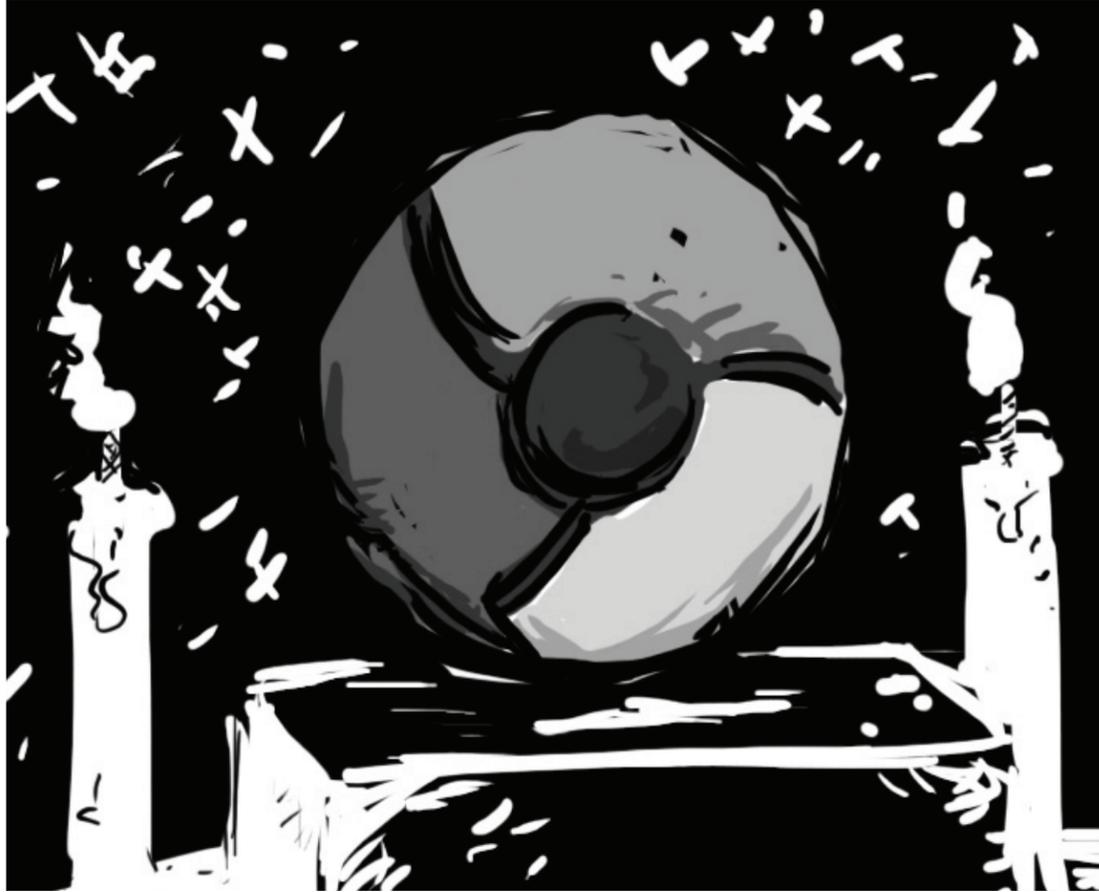
Google's informal corporate slogan is still "don't be evil", but it's possible to wonder how much strain there is behind the scenes to keep that image intact.

Is it hard to make such a huge company seem so benevolent and harmless? Is there some secret cavern of endless rows of PR teams, toiling to keep the company on everyone's bright side? Or are they really just the crowd of lovable geeks they purport to be?

In any case, I'm divided on what it would be like if they did enact a global coup – taking over the world's industry like the corporate staples of science fiction. A population subjugated to Google ads and hovering drones, toiling to create the next iteration of the Browsing Algorithm.

But hey, at least we'd get free internet.

Copeland is a member of the class of 2015.



ALEX KURLAND / ILLUSTRATOR

monopoly sentiment.

In contrast to the almost universal hatred of other monopolistic companies like Comcast, TWC, or even Microsoft, Google seems universally loved by users and

good PR—a massive mechanism for promoting their public image as a benevolent crowd of tech nerds who want nothing more than to give everybody free high speed robots as well as a robot dog.

Cloud computing and the "internet of things"? Google, Google, Google.

Topping off their eccentric innovation is their near-total transparency – sure, they're recording your every email for automated personalized marketing, but they told you about it, right? And now you've got ads for all the hardware parts you need just as you were getting in touch with

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HUMOR

Poll finds more students wear CT than read CT

BY AARON SCHAFFER
PHOTO EDITOR

An internal *Campus Times* poll conducted campus-wide has revealed “startling” information about the changing nature of news in the 21st century.

According to the poll, the majority of the wearership of *CT* issues comes from the sororities and fraternities on campus. According to anonymous sources, members of an unnamed sorority enjoy “getting crafty and dressing up, with their outfits consisting merely of the brittle, ink laden paper of the *CT*.”

The large circulation of

Campus Times, roughly estimated to be four million pages per semester, is having a mixed impact on underground fashion.

Creativity is blossoming. However, *Campus Times* issues are increasingly becoming a part of underage drinking on campus, with students not only wearing issues but



LIZ BESON / ILLUSTRATOR

also incorporating them into their drinking games. One such game is “Shots of Seligman,” in which every time Joel Seligman is quoted in the paper, you must take a shot of alcohol.

Referencing the Humor Section, the *Campus Times* Editor-in-Chief noted, “This page is meant to cover up your cleavage—or not.”

UR President Joel Seligman was not available for comment.

Schaffer is a member of the class of 2016.

Starbucks to add ‘ambient’ lighting

BY AARON SCHAFFER
PHOTO EDITOR

Sunday morning, UR’s Starbucks representative, Ven T. Verona, announced that Starbucks would be removing the lights found in their Wilson Commons location to “embrace an ethos that is spreading across America.” Starbucks is of course referring to the outbreak of so-called “boutique coffee shops” known for their “adorably” small servings and dimly lit, homey cafes.

This policy change on the part of Starbucks is part of the broader revolution within the coffee industry since the early 2000’s. Most notably, the 1999 WTO Protests in Seattle, Washington (home to Starbucks corporate headquarters) is believed

to have stemmed from the blatantly ultra-consumerist tendencies of Starbucks and other coffee shops, rather than the WTO and a “new era of globalization” as is widely believed by academics. According to critics, these tendencies are demonstrated through the internal facades of Starbucks and other consumerist entities.

Recently, Starbucks has received minor flak for policies that include the introduction of what critics call “tiny” pastry serving sizes (as of press time, the author of this article was able to eat a blueberry muffin in one bite).

Verona allegedly visited Eastview Mall in Victor, NY, where he perused Abercrombie and Hollister’s architectural and lighting styles. “I feel like I’m one with the world,” he

said. “The principles of feng shui will always be with me in my mind, heart, and soul.”

Verona also hinted that he may strike a deal with Abercrombie or Hollister in an attempt to bring the “luscious, hypnotic, and overwhelming” perfume into Wilson Commons. It is still unclear as to whether the perfume will comply with United Nations chemical weapons standards. However, there is speculation that Starbucks will be introducing a new blend of Syrian “incense...[not] unlike the chemical weapons it passed over to the UN”.

There’s no word yet on whether these changes will be extended to the Pit (or if they already have).

Schaffer is a member of the class of 2016.

Objective study finds that UR Concerts has worst musical taste on campus

BY AARON SCHAFFER
PHOTO EDITOR

An objective study released by the Office of the Dean of Students asserts that UR Concerts, the student organization whose role is to bring musical performers to campus, has the worst taste of any funded group by the UR Student Association. The study’s objectivity was authenticated by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs Tuesday morning. UR Public Safety has also put their support behind the study.

The study comes on the heels of UR Concerts’ decision to bring Busta Rhymes and the Plain White T’s to the University in consecutive school years. The Plain White T’s are most well-known for their appearance on the popularly syndicated Nickelodeon television show “iCarly”. The group’s performance will

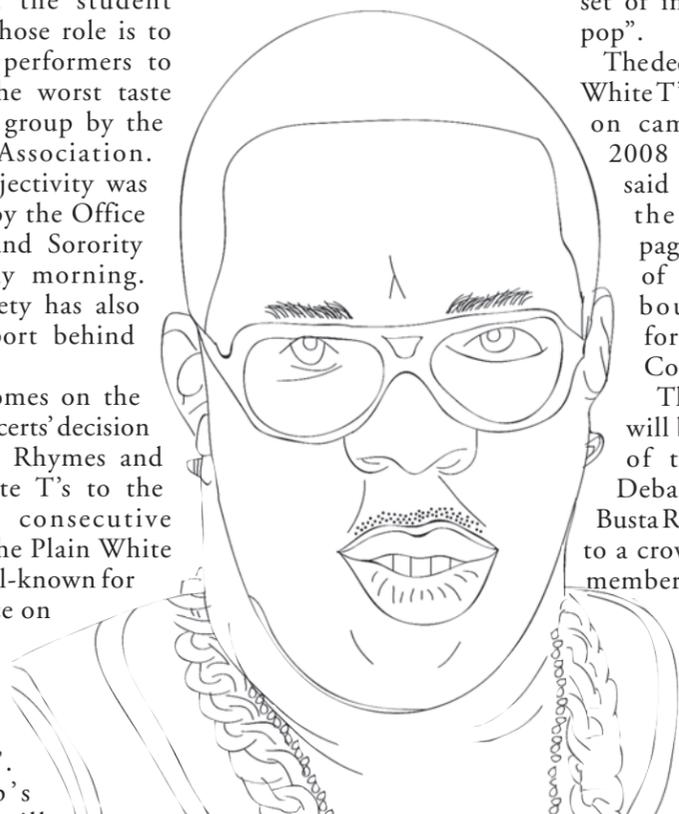
likely be the closest link between many UR students and iCarly. However, that does not seem like a valid enough reason for students to show up.

“I want to get closer to iCarly, at least on an intellectual and psychological level,” said freshman Frank Hinson. “But I’m not sure that I can do it if that means sitting through a set of incredibly mainstream pop”.

The decision to bring the Plain White T’s was widely criticized on campus. “They are so 2008 #HeyThereDelilah,” said one UR student on the event’s Facebook page. Nevertheless, tens of people have already bought their tickets for the concert at the Common Market.

The expected attendance will be a step up from that of the “Busta Rhymes Debacle of 2013,” in which Busta Rhymes came to campus to a crowd consisting only of members of UR Concerts.

Schaffer is a member of the class of 2016.



AARON SCHAFFER / PHOTO EDITOR

‘Rochester Goggles’, innovating education

BY BEN MITCHELL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When I came to the UR as a freshman, I was presented with the theory of “Rochester Goggles”, a concept which spawned from the lack of attractive students at the University. The theory states that once a student has been at the school long enough, they adorn their own figurative pair of Rochester Goggles and begin to see students as more attractive.

Standard threes become RG fives, sixes become RG nines, and so on. Even the most hideous of people will be at least an RG four when seen through the goggles.

While this theory seemed quite ludicrous at first, the longer I stayed at Rochester, the more I began to realize the truth behind this phenomenon.

This year’s incoming freshman class was given an all time low rating of “G” (God Awful) by a panel of students from nearby colleges.

Tom Smith, the leading Uxpert on the panel, noted that over five students were blinded during the ranking process due to the horrific bone structure of the students.

When I arrived on campus, however, I was not met with nausea and disgust but ecstasy and delight at the wondrous sight that was the class of 2017. Thus, I decided to investigate the theory further, as there had to be a reason behind it.

Rochester Goggles should be praised as an accomplishment in modern science and human development. The goggle theory does not represent a change in the eye of the beholder, but rather the realization of a new system that far surpasses the initially flawed ranking system of attractiveness.

In grade school you are taught to get every question correct in order to get an A—to achieve perfection. However, as we are taught when we enter Calculus I as freshmen, grades need to be curved. One cannot simply expect somebody to actually learn everything taught in a class or get all the questions right.

Let’s face it, the reel world is tuff & we just can’t all be Inestynes. At UR, you are taught that being an A student is just about being slightly better than average. This is a common theme throughout courses at the University, as the school prides itself in producing top scholars, shown by the staggeringly high number of straight-A alumni.

Is the Rochester Goggle phenomenon not just a realization of the bell curve of attraction?

Clearly, a ten cannot just be reserved for the celebrities and models of the world—in such a world, everyone ought to be ranked a one for their comparative ugliness. The goggle theory allows us to see beauty for what it truly is: a way for us to feel better about ourselves by giving everyone a higher number. One cannot simply expect somebody to actually be beautiful at Rochester.

Let’s face it—the real world is, like, super ugly and we can’t all

be Enrique Iglesias. Even if you’re already an overachiever on the overall scale, you’ll still be ranked well. As a standard ten, you’ll get bumped to an RG twelve. No matter what your standard score, you’ll be better off with the new scale (I’m now an RG two!).

This groundbreaking development is critical to success in the real world and is the real value behind a college degree. Like my dad used to say, “You don’t need to be perfect when drawing your blueprints, as long as the building stands up in the end.”

Rochester Goggles embody what all adults have to eventually realize; they’re not getting any prettier, but they don’t have to be. So why stop with just Rochester? By implementing Goggle Earth, everyone in the entire world can begin viewing each other as more attractive.

There are also a surprising number of applications for this new research that stretch far beyond beauty. I believe this is the key behind the newest Goggle technology, Goggle Glass.

The Goggle Glass is a pair of glasses which takes video feeds of everything you see and makes them look better.

Anything and everything can be changed. Rochester skies become bright and sunny, Danforth looks like a gourmet restaurant, and even Douglass food appears edible. There are applications in many areas of the Goggle revolution that can help to improve every aspect of your life. With Goggle Calendar, every day becomes a holiday, you’ll never need to go to work again, and you can spend all of your time celebrating! Goggle Maps will have you in a tropical paradise in no time! One of the more innovative areas, Goggle Mail, allows you to turn spam messages into fun chain mail to send to your coworkers; to transform your contacts into celebrities; and to give your sent mail that extra bit of pizzazz you’ve always wanted. Even Gootube can turn boring home movies into Oscar-worthy blockbusters. The possibilities are endless.

As the technology continues to improve, Goggle (as the enterprise that will improve every aspect of your life is now being called) plans to harness the true potential of the theory with Goggle Satellite, a device with the ability to improve humans by beaming better physical traits or personalities onto them from outer space. No longer will you have to worry about being a boring or unattractive person, Goggle Satellite will fix your flaws. Everyone will evolve into a new level of ever-better beings.

With the power of Goggle, you no longer need to accept that it is impossible to fulfill all of goals or achieve perfection. By making everything in your life seem better, it will be as if your life has achieved an all new level of greatness, allowing you to reach all new heights of satisfaction and happiness in life that you never thought were attainable.

Mitchell is a member of the class of 2014/Take 5.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Humans of New York creator comes to UR

BY RACHAEL SANGUINETTI
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Brandon Stanton is, according to Time magazine, one of the most successful people under the age of 30. His blog has millions of views every day, yet most people wouldn't recognize him if he walked passed them on the street. He meets hundreds of strangers every year and finds out intimate details about their lives.

"Humans of New York" (HONY) was, in its early stages, a blog that no one knew about. Stanton's creation was something he started on a whim. After being fired as a bond broker, he moved to New York to take photos with his brand new camera, which he was just learning how to use. Stanton visited UR last Friday for a talk and to demonstrate his interview skills on UR students.

When asked before his arrival in Rochester what he was planning on covering in his talk, Stanton wrote, "I'm going to cover the process behind creating and sustaining Humans of New York, including what I've learned about interviewing strangers on the street. I'll tell a few jokes. Then I'll most likely reveal major secrets of the universe and hand over the keys to boundless intellectual success. Then I'll take questions."

On Friday night, Stanton didn't have to say a word to win over the crowd. All of the people in the audience had seen the blog and at least a third were obsessed

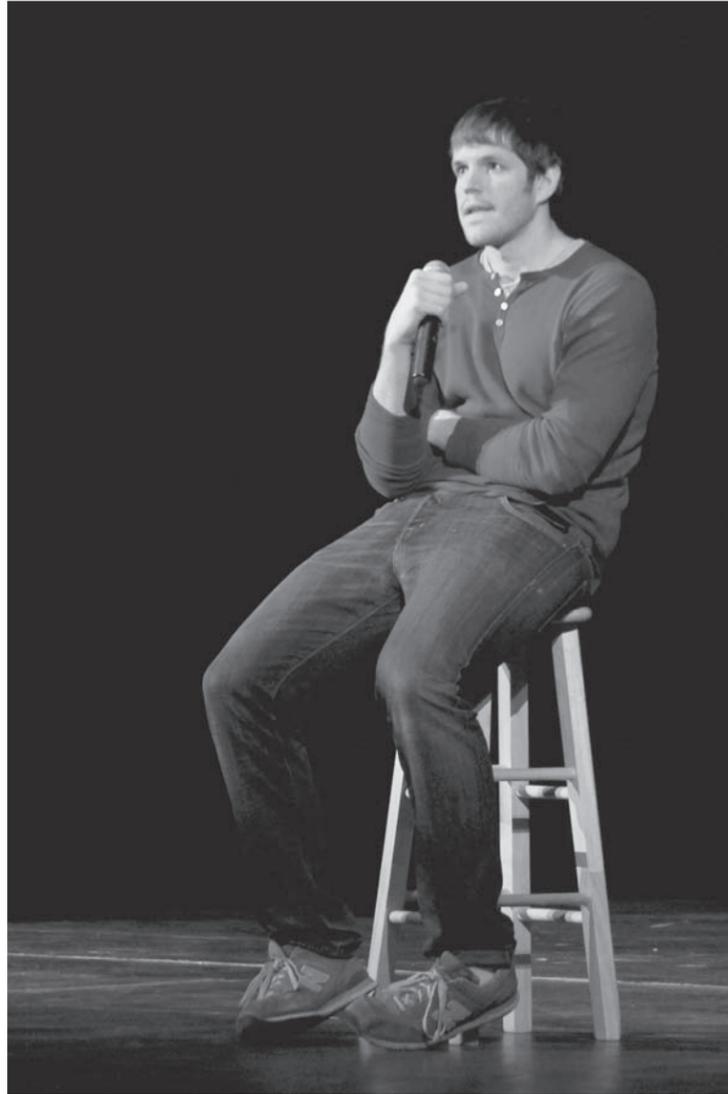
with it. When Stanton asked for volunteers, high-pitched screams erupted from possible interviewees.

Stanton came off as a very real, down to earth guy. Dressed in casual clothing, he plodded on stage and took a seat on the stool like any normal human of New York. After a few jokes about Rochester's terrible weather, he started talking about his blog. But it wasn't long before Stanton stopped, took a good look at the crowd, and said, "I am really nervous right now."

To relieve some of his nerves,

All the people in the crowd had seen the blog and at least a third were obsessed with it. When Stanton asked for volunteers, high pitched screams erupted from possible interviewees.

he brought students on stage to demonstrate how he manages to draw great captions out of random strangers on the street. The conversations that ensued were interesting but probably not worthy of the HONY blog. That being said, the newly wed couple he brought on stage was adorable and entertaining. Hearing about their twerking practice had the



Parsa Lotfi / Photo Editor

Brandon Stanton, creator of the Humans of New York Facebook page, presented in Strong Auditorium on Thursday Feb.27.

audience and Stanton in stitches.

After the students left the stage and Stanton was feeling a little more relaxed, he began

to talk about his process as a photographer. There is a certain way, in his opinion, to approach a stranger so they don't run away.

They have to be alone. They must be approached from the front and in a non-confrontational way. And not everyone agrees to let him take a picture. But with three and a half years of experience now under his belt, he's definitely gotten better at it. He estimates he has approached over ten thousand people on the streets of New York. That's enough education for anybody.

Stanton said he doesn't go into an interview looking for an opinion or a statement but rather a story. "It's less about how I can take a great photo and more how I can get a great story," he said. But let's be real, his photos are pretty fantastic.

Stanton finished his talk by offering a little advice to the future artists of the audience. For someone so young, he had some decent, non-cliche advice. Some of his tips included reading biographies and getting out into the world, not sitting at home waiting for the big idea to hit. He also encouraged people to not rate themselves based on the number of fans they have or likes they get on Facebook. Base your level of satisfaction on something you can control such as continuing to create great art and tell stories.

In the grand scheme of artists, Stanton is a pretty normal guy who just happens to have a huge blog, a book on the New York Times Best Sellers List, and another book coming out soon.

Sanguinetti is a member of the class of 2015.

Enemy of the People: Powerful, disturbing, brutally honest

BY SAAD USMANI
COPY EDITOR

"The strongest man in the world is one who stands most alone."

Can we simply marvel at the truth of this line? This utterance speaks to me, and it should speak to you. It is a line that touches the deepest sections of my heart, and I was guided to that previously unknown place by UR International Theater Program's new production of Henrik Ibsen's "An Enemy of the People", now playing in Todd Union.

Where do I begin? I could start with the actual story, but I'll sacrifice those honors to speak about the significance of the play itself. It is a play about the ostracizing of an individual who seeks to impose his just theories of truth and justice on the demeaning society around him. It is also about questioning whether or not the opinions of the minority have power over the majority. Heading towards contemporary issues, it can also be about the overwhelming power the government has over its people (think NSA and sustainability controversies). The mere fact that I cannot point to



Courtesy of Nigel Maister

Ian Von Fange (left) and Zoe Netter (right) in "Enemy of the People".

one significant theme should suggest the impression the play had over me – a powerful one.

"An Enemy of the People" is not a new play. Adapted in several different productions and films over the years to a wide range of effects, this play managed to find its own place in director Alexandra Kuechler

Caffall's unique version. Though the original play was written in the 19th century, the Caffall's rendition updated the start to an oftentimes quirky yet surreal 70's setting. Bright lights blasted the beautiful set (you haven't seen Todd like this in years), perfectly complementing the style of that era. The first act certainly played

to the stereotypes and "expected" moments from the '70s – achieving the feel of a sitcom. This was used for comedic effect, but post-intermission saw the tension and conflict rising to new heights. The stakes were now higher – it was not about spreading truth anymore. It was about an ideal even stronger, an

ideal of revolution and war.

This revolutionary aspect of the drama was charismatically portrayed through our protagonist, Dr. Thomas Stockmann (sophomore Steven Winkelman), and it was played with an incredible amount of power and determination. Winkelman drove the whole show through an outstanding portrayal of our hopeful hero who succumbs to the moral oppositions that drove him towards justice in the first place. We are inspired by him, but we ask ourselves at the end of the play: To what cost does justice and truth deserve to be the beacons of light we so strongly believe in? Through the actions of Winkelman's character and the equally outstanding supporting cast that included senior Giulia Perucchio, freshman Mario Gambino, junior Zoe Netter, freshman Ian Von Fange, senior Lydia Jimenez, freshman Alberto Carillo Casas and others, we aren't sure what the answer is. To be able to answer that question is to break some molds that society itself is defined by – and we're reluctant to do that.

SEE SOCIETY PAGE 14

The Vagina Monologues speaks the truth

BY LAUREN PEREZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"Please stand if you are or know someone who is a victim of sexual assault or domestic violence. Please stand if you are going to do something to foster positive change in our community."

These requests, asked at the end of the show by co-director Lisle Coleman, refocus the audience's attention to the real reason for the incredible performance they had just witnessed. Here at UR, "The Vagina Monologues" is an annual fundraiser put on by Women's Caucus. All of the profits from ticket and merchandise sales go to supporting Safe Journey and V-Day. Safe Journey is an organization that helps victims of all types of abuse, with no cost to the victims, while V-Day is a global activist movement dedicated to fighting violence against women and girls all over the world. In fact, this year the performance was able to garner over \$2000 in fundraising.

Judging by the number of people who stood when Lisle asked these questions, violence and abuse against women is no small scale problem, but it is a cause that many are willing to fight for. It is a global issue that

requires much more awareness and support, and The Vagina Monologues is an excellent avenue to raise money and spread that awareness. Originally written in 1996 by Eve Ensler, "The Vagina Monologues" is a play made up of short episodes, each discussing vaginas through different stories and from different perspectives. Ensler based the play off of 200 interviews she held with all sorts of women, asking them about sex, relationships, and, of course, their vaginas. At the time, and even today, simply the word vagina seemed taboo. It was seen as vulgar, unpleasant, and even unacceptable. Ensler originally sought to celebrate vaginas and femininity with her work, to take the negative connotation of vaginas. However, in 1998, Ensler decided to change her groundbreaking piece into a movement to stop violence against women.

With monologues concerning issues like rape and genital mutilation, the play has inevitably received criticism. However, this has not deterred the play's popularity or progress. Each year, a new monologue is added in order to address current issues that continue to affect women around the world. Now

performed all over the country, "The Vagina Monologues" indeed serves to spread awareness of the horrors of violence against women.

Directed by Lisle Coleman and Zena Levan, "The Vagina Monologues" was performed by 25 incredibly talented young women from UR. Each girl delivered her monologue with appropriate zeal and emotion, each reaching the audience effectively. The monologues ranged from light-hearted to intense, narrative to poetic. Although each monologue was powerful and significant in their own ways, three stood out considerably, judging by the cheers they received. Firstly, "My Angry Vagina" expressed, obviously, how "angry" vaginas are due to the injustices they suffer like tampons, douches, and those horrible "cold duck lips" that OB/GYNs use. Delivered with anger and cleverness, the monologue made us laugh through the humorous anecdotes and blunt, honest language. But it also called attention to the seriousness of the cruelty vaginas undergo when they're supposed to be taken care of. This seriousness takes a more solemn tone with another monologue, "My Vagina

Was My Village," one that brilliantly juxtaposed one girl's view of her vagina, as a bright and happy place or feeling, with another girl's. This second girl represented the Bosnian women who were abused and raped as a tactic of war. The two girls took turns talking about their vaginas, all the while the rape victim's story grew darker and more painful. Having laughed at most of the previous monologues, the audience was silent, taking in the reality of the pain and suffering that abuse causes.

Each girl delivered her monologue with appropriate zeal and emotion, each reaching the audience effectively.

Despite this graphic and solemn monologue, most of "The Vagina Monologues" pieces were light-hearted and celebrated women and their vaginas. The most memorable piece of the night was undoubtedly "The Woman Who Loved to Make Vagina's Happy." This monologue came from a woman who had previously

been a lawyer, but had realized her true passion lies in making women moan. The second to last performance, this monologue was the peak of the play, literally climaxing with a demonstration of all sorts of moans, ending with "the triple orgasm." With the audience rolling around and howling with laughter, this monologue definitely succeeded in getting girls to embrace their vaginas and sexuality and to make light of a word that is so often looked down upon.

In fact, every monologue seemed to have provoked new thoughts and views for many people in the audience. This show has been so successful likely because it reaches so many different people – young and old, straight and gay – and through such a wide variety of topics, that its messages are bound to affect someone.

The Vagina Monologues may not have been a conventional play or performance, but it was indeed thought provoking. Not only was the play itself worthwhile, but so is the cause it represents. The abuse of women and girls is an issue that cannot be ignored.

Perez is a member of the class of 2016.

KOPPS bring primal futurism to Bug Jar

BY JEFF HOWARD
A&E EDITOR

Tempo: 130 bpm

Key: A minor

Harmony: i VI VII i

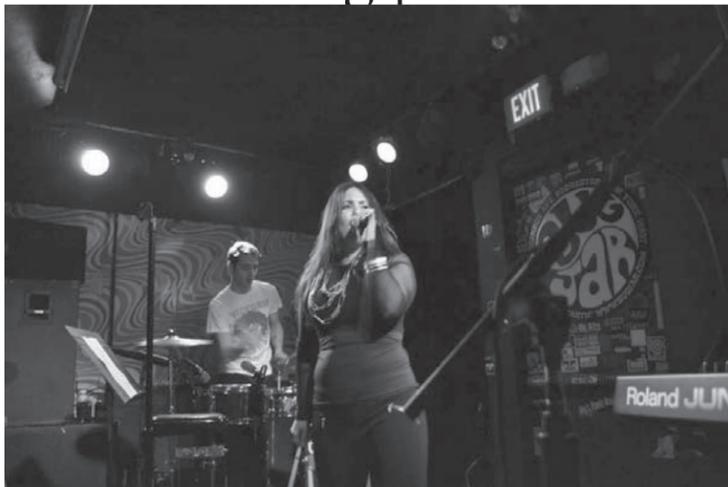
Synth: Sawtooth

(Insert pentatonic phrase that accents offbeats against a quarter note TR-808 bass drum)

Quantize: 1/16 note

Meet the 21st century erotic musical molecule. Born out of pop music's shift from organic to synthetic, this two-bar motif bounces like an eight-year old off his ADHD meds, shines like a Pepto-Bismol sunset, and speaks with the simple elation of an AIM smiley face emoticon.

While words can critique, articulate, and redefine the truth,



Courtesy of Missy Scheinberg

Drummer Paul Brenner and lead singer Patricia Patron of KOPPS performing at the Bug Jar on Sat, Mar. 1.

music spiritually captures today's hypersexualized pop culture like nothing else. This is why pop ghostwriters like Max Martin are so successful. The formula is simple: find a Katy Perry, book her studio time, intertwine her in the well-established framework of modern commercial pop,

and broadcast the song within a system that frames sex as the only important yet most forbidden thing life has to offer. One, two, three... cue double standards.

Fortunately, unlike double standards, music is an inherently good thing. That's why KOPPS, a Rochester-based dance-pop

outfit, wears sexualized pop tropes with the ironic pride of a kid in a "Three Wolves and a Moon" T-Shirt and makes it work. No, scratch that. KOPPS seizes the forbidden fruit from pop music, declares it rightfully theirs, and magnifies it into something menacingly epic, sickeningly beautiful, and viciously groovy. Welcome to porno for the apocalypse – welcome to KOPPS.

Okay, it sounds a little dramatic – still, the full effect doesn't sink in until you see the band live. KOPPS performed this past Saturday, at Rochester's Bug Jar music venue, the type of spot that, what it lacks in restroom cleanliness, it makes up for in character. The Bug Jar shines through its punk rock ethos and, curiously enough, this makes it the ideal spot for KOPPS to perform. Just take a look at the four-piece band's minimalistic instrumentation

on stage: a drum kit lacking even a drum throne, an electric bass, a simple synth keyboard, and a basic electro pad used

KOPPS seizes the forbidden fruit from pop music, declares it rightfully theirs, and magnifies it into something menacingly epic, sickeningly beautiful, and viciously groovy.

by the band's female vocalist. Indeed, KOPPS approaches electronic musical instruments with the same apathy for frills that traditional punk rock bands have for their guitars and guitar pedals.

SEE DANCING PAGE 14

CT RECOMMENDS

LEMURIA

BY JUSTIN FRAUMENI
A&E EDITOR



Scholars once proposed that a long-lost sunken continent in the Indian Ocean known as Lemuria was responsible for unexplainable fossil distribution patterns in India and Madagascar. In the era of modern plate tectonics, the theory has been long debunked, and the other Lemuria, the Buffalo, NY punk trio, remain similarly undiscovered. Lemuria seem perfectly comfortable in the underground scene – they've been around since 2004 filling up bars, art galleries, and coffee houses with their brand of sensitive aggression. Sonically, the group embodies the characteristics of a classic punk act while throwing typical punk song structure and confrontational lyrical themes out the window. While the band's complex time signatures and unorthodox chord changes can be quite jarring at first, their juxtaposition with lead vocalist Sheena Ozella's dainty vocals and sugar-pop hooks make for an interesting listen. On 2013's release "The Distance is So Big", Ozella sings of disappointment over a soundtrack of dissonant guitars and churning polyrhythms: "tired of tragedies being trumped / tired of romance being sung / tired of the past being hung, like a cinder block around my neck covering my heart up." If you're looking for experimentally-minded punk without the bombast of today's reverb-drowned indie scene, Lemuria could be your style.

Fraumeni is a member of the class of 2017.

NJR proves it's hardcore with School of Rock concert

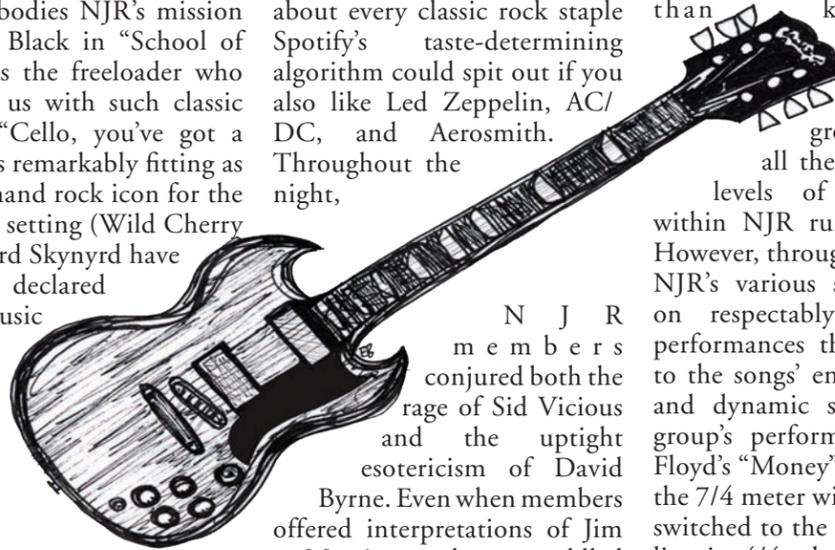
BY JEFF HOWARD
A&E EDITOR

On Friday, Feb. 28, the student-run rock music ensemble “No Jackets Required” held its “School of Rock” themed concert at Wilson Commons. NJR plays an important function here at UR. If it weren’t for the group, the school’s musical landscape would be one of extremes—sure, you can learn to rip through every function of the altered dominant scale at Eastman, but those seeking a lower pressure musical environment might not find solace in UR’s hyper-sacharine a capella culture. NJR, with each goofy concert theme it devises, brings the people’s music to the people. Whether this comes in the form of a “One Hit Wonders” tribute or a celebration of “American Legends” (yes, the band played “Free Bird” at this one), NJR is the voice for the

legitimization of block chords and 4/4 rock beats. I can get behind that.

Understandably, no one quite embodies NJR’s mission like Jack Black in “School of Rock”. As the freeloader who endowed us with such classic lines as “Cello, you’ve got a bass,” he’s remarkably fitting as a secondhand rock icon for the collegiate setting (Wild Cherry and Lynyrd Skynyrd have yet to be declared by the music

department as non-frivolous subjects for academic analysis—time will change that.) Thus, NJR’s “School of Rock” show just made sense.



At the School of Rock concert, NJR group members paid homage to classic rock. In fact, performances covered just about every classic rock staple Spotify’s taste-determining algorithm could spit out if you also like Led Zeppelin, AC/DC, and Aerosmith. Throughout the night,

NJR members conjured both the rage of Sid Vicious and the uptight esotericism of David Byrne. Even when members offered interpretations of Jim Morrison that straddled the boundary between the Lizard King and a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, celebrating the legacy of rock music’s icons offered a vibrant and lively

means for UR students to bond through tunes ingrained in our musical memory. In a nutshell: way more kick-ass than karaoke.

As would be expected from a group open to all the student body, levels of musicianship within NJR run a spectrum. However, through and through NJR’s various sub-bands put on respectably tight cover performances that did justice to the songs’ energy, structure and dynamic shifts. On the group’s performance of Pink Floyd’s “Money”, NJR handled the 7/4 meter with aplomb and switched to the chromatic bass line in 4/4 when appropriate. Props. Even on the group’s cover of the Talking Heads’ “Psycho Killer”, NJR tackled the bridge’s key change despite the likelihood that an A minor

vamp would have pleased the crowd amply. In short, the bands displayed an impressive attention to detail, considering the effort that goes into organizing a group as large in scale as NJR.

NJR’s “School of Rock” performance highlighted the student group doing what it does best: offering a creative musical outlet for students and showcasing the University’s impressive hidden talent. The “School of Rock” theme aptly suited the group’s affinity for driving power chords, pummeling bass lines, and tom-heavy sixteenth-note drum fills. While Eastman jazzers may scoff at the face of rock n’ roll, NJR makes a case for its power to bring people together. In the words of AC/DC, “For those about to rock, we salute you.”

Howard is a member of the class of 2017.

Enemy of The People: What it really means to be alone in the world

FROM SOCIETY PAGE 12

Other than the deep thematic messages that came with this play, the directorial choices created lasting impressions. In the transition from Act one to Act two, the cast performed this ‘70s dance routine (which in itself was genius), but all the while Von Fange’s character Hovstad smoked a cigarette with a mischievous grin that portended something wicked to come. It was the smallest detail of foreshadowing, allowing us to take away something unexpected. In contrast, a large dramatic moment in the fourth act transformed the mood of the play from cautious to hostile. Papers flew everywhere, and a sense of anarchy and chaos encompasses the stage as furniture flew and the metaphorical image of water sprayed across the stage. It was shocking and horrifying

(Enemy of the People) is a play about the ostracizing of an individual who seeks to impose his just moral theories of truth and justice on the demeaning society around him.

to watch, but the audience loved it—I loved it.

Shortly after, rocks and pebbles started being to be thrown one by one out of the “baths” from which they came. It was not the solids themselves that we particularly cared about, it was the soft and peaceful clinking sound

they made that effectively contrasted with the sound of chaos in the scene before it. They symbolized the aftermath of being rejected and thrown out of society and the small stepping stones that we must learn to throw after. Trust

A sense of anarchy and chaos encompasses the stage as furniture flies and the metaphorical image of water sprays across the stage.

me, this all makes sense in the context of the play.

It was these small (and big) moments, accompanied by the memorable soundtrack, that gave emotional power to the story. And in the final moments, I sat in awe when the characters that I thought I knew symbolically destroyed themselves for what they were fighting for. Leaving the audience chair and going back into the cold Rochester reality, I began to shiver. It wasn’t the low temperatures that unleashed my chills though. It was the scary realization that I might be sacrificing some of my own truths for a justification that I know is a lie. Good theater simply asks those questions, but great theater answers them. And, frankly, “An Enemy of the People” answers.

“An Enemy of the People” is playing at Todd Union every night through Saturday, March 8th at 8:00 PM. Tickets can be purchased at the Common Market and at the Box Office.

Usmani is a member of the class of 2017.

KOPPS bring tight, punchy grooves

FROM DANCING PAGE 13

KOPPS’ set was a concise and hard-hitting shot of electro-dance-pop-punk (we’ve already established that the band straddles the fence between several different musical genres—label them what you will). Onstage banter was kept to a minimum, in this case not a bad thing. From the moment the band started, they made their intentions clear: get the crowd dancing. KOPPS accomplished just that with tight musicianship, raucous energy, a colorful sonic palette, and an impressive knack

for exploiting space in music. The band’s use of synthetic pads combined with real instruments made for a musical texture that, while reminiscent of the ‘80s, set foot in a sonic frontier that felt distinctively fresh. Throughout the set, KOPPS echoed sounds from both the past and present. The band’s tense, uptight polyrhythms touched on “1999”-era Prince, while the sparse synth basslines felt reminiscent of a new Rubblebucket track. Still, by channeling these presumed influences in a context that erred daringly close to humanized

Britney Spears-style eroticism, KOPPS formed their own sound, and they did it with tact.

The KOPPS set was over all too soon. However, the band will be returning to the Bug Jar on April 26, with the group Well Worn Boot. For a musical experience that’s all at once primal, rakishly futuristic, playful, and sinister, be sure to check out KOPPS. For more information on the band, visit www.KOPPS.xxx.

Howard is a member of the class of 2017.

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Nate Vernon - Men's Basketball



COURTESY OF UR ATHLETICS

BY JOHN CHTCHEKINE
SPORTS EDITOR

1) What's your major?

My major here at the University of Rochester is Financial Economics.

2) Why did you choose UR?

I chose the University of Rochester for its great blend of academics and athletics, some that very few other schools offer.

3) When did you start playing basketball?

I've been playing basketball for as long as I can remember.

4) Why basketball?

Well, I come from North

Carolina and basketball is essentially a part of everyone's DNA there, everyone plays or watches.

5) Do you have a mentor who has helped you get where you are?

My dad would definitely have to be my biggest mentor. He always supported me and helped when I asked but never forced anything upon me.

6) What is the best advice a coach has given you?

The best advice that any coach has given me was to buy into the team concept.

7) What has been your favorite basketball moment this season?

This season's favorite moment in my eyes was to be able to finish my career off

with a win on Senior day.

8) What has been your favorite basketball moment at UR?

My favorite moment thus far at the University of Rochester was beating Brandeis to get the NCAA Division III #1 ranking.

9) What advice do you have for incoming players?

My advice for any incoming players is to really treasure and enjoy every opportunity you get to play.

Chtchekine is a member of the class of 2016.

LAST WEEK'S SCORES

Scoreboard

- Men's Squash at CSA Individual Nationals – Day 2 – Complete
- Men's Squash at CSA Individual Nationals – Day 3 – Complete
 - Women's Basketball vs Emory University W – 84–72
 - Women's Lacrosse vs Medaille College W – 19–2
 - Men's Basketball vs Emory University W – 97–83
- Women's Swimming and Diving at NCAA Diving Regional Qualifier – Complete
 - Women's Track and Field vs NYSCTC Indoor Championships – 3rd of 12

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

- Men's Track and Field – ECAC Division III Indoor Championships – 11:00 AM – Boston, MA
- Women's Track and Field – ECAC Division III Indoor Championships – 11:00 AM – Boston, MA

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

- Men's Track and Field – ECAC Division III Indoor Championships – 10 AM – Boston, MA
- Women's Track and Field – ECAC Division III Indoor Championships – 10 AM – Boston, MA
 - Softball vs Manhattanville College – 1:00 PM – Clermont, FL
 - Softball vs Heidelberg University – 3:00 PM – Clermont, FL

FROM THE PRESSBOX

Pelicans Full of Potential despite rocky season

BY MAX EBER
STAFF WRITER

The recently renamed New Orleans Pelicans aren't the talk of the league or the subject of much analysis recently, as their 23-37 record doesn't leave a significant amount of room for optimism. If they were in the Eastern Conference, this team would be a few games out from the eighth seed and a playoff berth, but due to the drastic imbalance of talent currently in the league, the Pelicans are stuck 12 and a half games out of the Western Conference playoff picture.

So why am I bothering to write an article concerning this seemingly unimportant team? Simply because the potential of this young and talented team. Not this season, necessarily, but one, two, three years down the road, this reinvigorated New Orleans basketball team has the opportunity to be serious contenders in the league. I cannot seem to shake the word "potential" when thinking about the Pelicans, as it sums up their situation perfectly. Anthony Davis, commonly known as "The Brow", due to his hard-to-miss monobrow, is a stud, plain and simple. Playing his second season out of Kentucky, this 20 year old has the opportunity to possibly become one of the best power forwards in the NBA. And although the team is starting to form around him, similar to how the Timberwolves form around Kevin Love, the supporting players are not to be overlooked. Jrue Holiday,

although currently out for the season due to surgery for a stress fracture, came from Philadelphia to bring energy, speed, passing, and shooting to the young Pelicans organization. At only 23 years old, he too has much room to grow and mature into his role in this club.

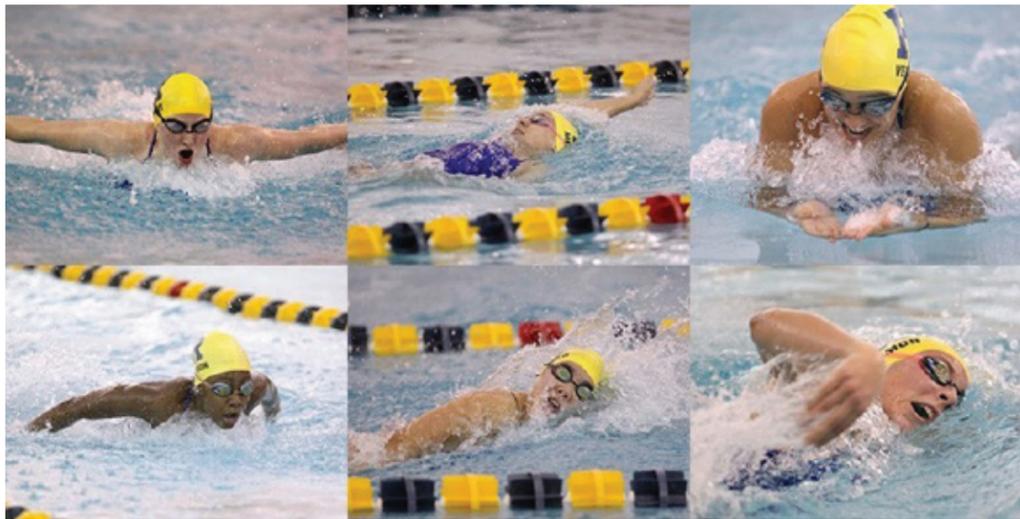
To round out the backcourt, he has star shooting guard Eric Gordon. Although Gordon doesn't draw as much attention as other guards in the league, he is right up there with them in terms of talent. A shooting presence along with a high basketball IQ makes Gordon a great support for Holiday to learn the skills he needs to improve. The organization has also acquired Tyreke Evans from the Sacramento Kings. Evans has not played up to his potential as of yet, but I wholly believe that he has the talent to become a big name in the league. His numbers have decreased every season, but I accredit that to his decreased minutes on the court, not his lack of effort or execution. With a young group of guys around him, I'd wager that he will step up his game and become a key playmaker on the Pelicans. The team is definitely lacking at the center position and doesn't have the depth required to truly match up with the powerhouse teams of the league, but with a few smart trades and draft picks, it is not unreasonable to see this team becoming a real threat in the near future.

Eber is a member of the class of 2017.

SPORTS

Women's Swimming & Diving sends seven to Nationals

BY JOHN CHTCHEKINE
SPORTS EDITOR



COURTESY OF UR ATHLETICS-

Swimmer's Karen Meess, Lauren Bailey, Alex Veech, Khamai Simpson, Vicky Luan, and Alex Veech

Women's Swimming & Diving has continued its already record-breaking season by sending seven girls to next month's NCAA Division III National Championships in Indianapolis. The swimmers that have qualified include freshmen Emily Simon, Khamai Simpson, Alex Veech and Danielle Neu, sophomore Vicky Luan, junior Lauren Bailey, and senior Karen Meess. It is the first time any of the seven swimmers have competed at Nationals, and the first time the UR has been represented at the Nationals since the 2006-2007 season. This year's swimmers are looking to overhaul the UR's best ever performance of 8th place achieved by the Swimming and Diving team in the 1993-94 season. This year's swimmers will come up against a couple of the familiar faces from the UAA such as

Emory, the University of Chicago, and Case Western University.

Campus Times had the pleasure of catching up with a couple of the swimmers to see what made this season so successful for them. A major factor that was brought up in our discussion, was the ability of the coaching staff to

recruit freshmen capable of filling the remaining spots in the freestyle and medley relays. Freshmen Emily Simon, Khamai Simpson and Alex Veech were the last pieces of the puzzle that the swim team had been trying to solve for the last couple of seasons. Junior

Lauren Bailey, who's had an astounding season thus far, breaking records left and right, has also attributed her personal and team's success to the increase in workload that she and her team took on over the summer. Revised diet and workout plans led to

major turnarounds in the team's fortunes this season.

The girls have taken their qualification for the NCAA Nationals in stride and are taking their preparation as seriously as they can. With college students around the nation getting ready to head to tropical climates and party their tails off, the girls have decided to stick together and train. Their schedule for spring break will consist of daily workouts, team bonding activities, and going out on outings with their coaching staff.

The general consensus among the swimmers is that confidence is at an all-time high and that their coaches are doing what it takes to prepare them for a very successful showing at the NCAA Nationals.

On behalf of myself and the *Campus Times* staff, I'd like to wish the qualified swimmers the best of luck at Nationals!

Chtchekine is a member of the class of 2016.

Draft tracker: Offensive Guard prospects



COURTESY OF TIM BRADBURY

Offensive Guard Xavier Su'a Filo is one of the top prospects in this year's draft.

BY ADAM ONDO
SENIOR STAFF

Offensive Guard Prospects

UCLA prospect Xavier Su'a-Filo is the number one guard in this year's draft. Mississippi State guard Gabe Jackson is a close second. At a distant third sits Stanford's David Yankey. This may come as a shock to those who have been looking at rankings on CBS sports and NFL.com, but game

film coupled with combine performances led me to drop Yankey and promote Jackson.

Su'a-Filo impressed everyone when he ran a 5.04 second 40-yard dash at the combine last month, but that should not have come as a surprise to anyone who has seen his leg muscles. The way he propels himself toward defenders off the line, gets downfield to set up blocks on run plays, and anchors

himself like a rock on pass plays are all evidence of his skill and lower body strength. Furthermore, he keeps his center of gravity low and has a good lean as he charges down the field. Teams may as well just give him the ball and eliminate running backs completely. Su'a-Filo could work on engaging defenders and not letting fast defensive linemen blow past him. I'm

not saying that happens often, but it is one area in which he could improve. His upper body strength isn't the best, either, but that can be corrected easily enough. He is my clear number one choice at guard. San Diego is likely the first team that will take a guard, so Su'a-Filo shouldn't have a problem relocating for his new job.

The 6'4", 337 pound Jackson clocked in as the slowest guard invited to the combine, but he managed the third best bench press results at the combine among guards, with 30 reps. His strength is what I want to focus on. When one watches tapes of Jackson, words like "strong," "thick," and "heavy" immediately come to mind. He has good footwork and awareness, and is hard to disengage from due to his amazing upper body strength. Let me put it this way – while the rest of Mississippi State's offensive line is being driven backwards, Jackson can be seen driving his man 10 yards downfield. He is an immovable force on pass plays and an unstoppable force on run plays. The Browns have the fourth and 26th overall picks and need a guard... and Jackson should be available when the 26th pick rolls around.

Yankey is a bulldozer that a running back can get behind and just follow for at least good five yards. He knows how to set up running lanes, making up to four blocks on a single play. He has also played at both tackle and guard, which is a plus. I

must say his pass blocking, though good, needs some improvement. Despite giving up a mere 16 sacks per season over the past years, he can be overpowered too easily and needs to plant better. He also needs to be more physical and able to manhandle opponents, engaging them instead of just bumping into them. Yankey is not the widest, the strongest, or the fastest, but he is a solid pick overall. Since the Minnesota Vikings need a run blocker, I wouldn't be surprised if they selected Yankey in the second round with the 40th overall pick.

In summary, Su'a-Filo will go to the San Diego Chargers, who are feeling the loss of guard Louis Vasquez to their rival, the Denver Broncos. Since the Cleveland Browns understand that New Orleans and New England could both use a new guard, they will use their first round pick to preempt them and take Gabe Jackson in order to replace current guard Shawn Lauvao. Lauvao's ankle injury and mediocre performance has made him a liability, so he will most likely not be tendered a new contract, with the Browns instead choosing to invest in their offensive line. With Su'a-Filo and Jackson gone, other teams will probably pass on Yankey until the Vikings take him early in the second round to replace struggling veteran Charlie Johnson. The Giants will likely take Yankey with their second pick if the Vikings pass on him.

Ondo is a member of the class of 2014.