

# Campus Times

SERVING THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SINCE 1873 / [campustimes.org](http://campustimes.org)



## Students campaign for rape awareness

BY HANNA LEE  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

UR SEGway, a survivor empowerment group dedicated to bringing awareness to issues such as sexual assault and domestic violence on campus, hosted its first “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes” event in Rettner Hall this past Saturday, March 8.

Students were welcomed to attend this international campaign and learn about the resources available to them on campus.

Various speakers from UR SEGway’s planning committee introduced the cause to over 200 attendees. Participants then walked around the Fraternity Quad to show support.

Both men and women were encouraged to wear high heels to shed light on the saying, “You cannot understand someone

SEE **SEGWAY** PAGE 4



PARSA LOFTI / PHOTO EDITOR

Students walk to raise awareness about rape and sexual assault in SEGway's first “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes” event this past Sat-

## Sigma Alpha Mu faces trial

BY RACHAEL SANGUINETTI  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Sigma Alpha Mu, currently housed on the Fraternity Quadrangle, is currently facing charges of hazing. A decision will be made at a hearing on Friday, March 28. Public Safety and Communications were unable to comment because of the ongoing investigation.

According to Samuel\*, a pledging member of the frat, a few of the pledge brothers chose to drink before and after the evening’s pledging activities on the Friday prior to break. The students supposedly consumed too much alcohol over the course of the evening and passed out. Concerned students called the Medical Emergency Response Team (MERT), who responded to the scene.

\*Names left anonymous at students’ requests.

SEE **FRATERNITY** PAGE 5



COURTESY OF HOLT ARCHITECTS

The renovation of the third floor of Morey Hall this summer will include the creation of a lounge space at the main entrance that was a part of the original construction when the building was first opened.

## Trustee funds renovation of Morey Hall

BY JULIANNE MCADAMS  
NEWS EDITOR

University Trustee Ronald Rettner has created the Ronald Rettner Campus Improvement Fund to refurbish and renovate existing buildings on campus. Construction on the third floor of Morey Hall will begin this summer.

Plans include restoring the original structure of Morey Hall, which used to have a large foyer acting as a public leisure space at the main entrance. Currently, five offices stand in place of this lobby. The walls will be removed and the offices relocated to different floors as a part of construction.

Executive Director of Campus Planning Design and Construction Management Jose Fernandez said the goal for the new space is to imitate the atmosphere of the popular Welles-Brown room in Rush Rhees Library, with comfortable seating and enhanced

woodwork characterizing the space.

Overall, the entire space will be refurbished with fresh paint, contemporary light fixtures, improved ventilation systems, and air conditioning, as most rooms in Morey currently rely on opening the windows for circulation.

“The goal here is to bring it up to more contemporary standards in terms of lighting and heating and ventilation,” Fernandez said.

Fernandez said that the true value of the project lies with the opportunity Morey presents in terms of the historical integrity of UR.

“What’s really precious about Morey is that it hasn’t seen a lot of renovations, so a lot of the old character is still there and intact,” he said.

UR President Joel Seligman also noted this in a press release from UR Communications.

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## INSIDE THIS CT



### PLAIN WHITE T’S CONCERT REVIEW

Read a review of this past weekend’s Plain White T’s concert.

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Learn about one student’s study abroad experience in Athens, Greece.

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### INDIE WITH AN EDGE

Read about one freshman’s disposition to all things “indie.”

PAGE 8 HUMOR





AARON SCHAFER / PHOTO EDITOR

**MUSIC MEMORY AND HISTORY ON THE FRONTLINES OF APARTHEID**  
Speakers, including History professor at University of California Santa Barbara Mhoze Chikoweru (above) reflect on the connection between music, history, and popular culture.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

THURSDAY  
MARCH 27

**WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH FILM SERIES: MAIDENTRIP**  
THE LITTLE THEATRE, 240 EAST AVE, 7:00 - 9:00 PM  
A documentary featuring the story of Laura Dekker, the youngest person ever to sail around the world alone. The film series is open to the public. Admission is \$5. The series is supported by a grant from the New York Council for the Humanities.

**ACTIVE MINDS FILM SERIES - "HERE ONE DAY"**  
HOYT AUDITORIUM, 7:30 - 9:30 PM  
The film shares the story of a woman coping with mental illness and the impact of her suicide on her family. Panelists from UCC, NAMI, and Active Minds will lead a discussion after the screening. The film is free and open to the public.

FRIDAY  
MARCH 28

**AFRIKANZAA**  
MAY ROOM - WILSON COMMONS, 6:00 - 8:00 PM  
The event is sponsored by the Pan-African Students' Association. Tickets are \$8 for UR students and \$11 for the general public.

**PREVENT A MELTDOWN FUNDRAISER**  
COLDSTONE CREAMERY, MT. HOPE AVENUE, 2:00 - 10:00 PM  
Bring one of the flyers posted on campus to Coldstone Creamery, and Active Minds will receive a percentage of the proceeds to support their mission of fighting stigma associated with mental illness.

SATURDAY  
MARCH 29

**MELA**  
STRONG AUDITORIUM, 4:00 - 6:00 PM  
Enjoy a unique and entertaining show that highlights the cultural diversity of South Asia. The event will feature a variety of performances by student groups, including the University's own Bhangra and Raas teams.

**MELA DINNER**  
DOUGLASS DINING CENTER, 7:00 - 9:00 PM  
The annual Mela dinner will feature traditional Indian cuisine. The event is open to the public. Tickets will be available at the Common Market and at the door.

SUNDAY  
MARCH 30

**JAZZ COMBO CONCERT**  
STRONG LOWER AUDITORIUM, 7:00 - 9:00 PM  
Mark Kraszewski, director. The event is free and open to the public. Sponsored by the Department of Music.

Campus Times

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WILSON COMMONS 102  
UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER, ROCHESTER, NY 14627  
OFFICE: (585) 275-5942 / FAX: (585) 273-5303  
CAMPUSTIMES.ORG / EDITOR@CAMPUSTIMES.ORG

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF RACHAEL SANGUINETTI  
MANAGING EDITOR JONAH JENG

**NEWS EDITORS** ELISE JOHNSON  
JULIANNE MCADAMS  
**FEATURES EDITOR** JAMIE RUDD  
DANIELLE DOUGLAS  
**OPINIONS EDITOR** JASON ALTABET  
**A&E EDITORS** JUSTIN FRAUMENI  
JEFFREY HOWARD  
**SPORTS EDITOR** JOHN CHTCHEKINE

**PHOTO EDITORS** PARSA LOTFI  
AARON SCHAFER  
**PRESENTATION EDITOR** AARON SCHAFER  
**ILLUSTRATOR** ELIZABETH BESON  
**COPY EDITOR** SAAD USMANI

**BUSINESS MANAGER** CAROL ROUHANA  
**PUBLISHER** MATTHEW SHINSEKI

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WEEKEND FORECAST

COURTESY OF WEATHER.COM

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Showers Chance of precip: 60% High 54, Low 31	Rain/Snow Showers Chance of precip: 30% High 38, Low 28	Partly Cloudy Chance of precip: 20% High 42, Low 31

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

Man urinates along bike path while intoxicated

BY REI RAMOS  
STAFF WRITER

Intoxicated man solicits money and cigarettes

1. On Sunday, March 23, at 5:23pm, a Public Safety Officer observed a man walking along the bike path near the footbridge. The man was observed via security camera urinating along the bike path. Officers made contact with the unaffiliated man who was cooperative but agitated. The man admitted that he was intoxicated. Officers secured the man and checked for any weapons, finding knives on his person. Rochester Police and Rural/Metro Medical Services were called to the scene. The male was transported to Strong Emergency Department for treatment. No charges were filed.

3. On Friday, March 14, at 4:55pm, Public Safety Officers responded to Java's after receiving reports of a publicly intoxicated man outside of the shop. Staff reported that the man was soliciting passerby for money and cigarettes. The man was located, and officers observed that he had trouble standing and was slurring his speech. Rural/Metro Medical Services and Rochester Police were called to the scene. The man became combative with Rochester Police Officers and had to be pepper sprayed. The man was then taken into custody by RPD and transported to the hospital by ambulance for treatment.

Woman arrested for breaking windshield wiper

Student injured on footpath

2. On Sunday, March 23, at 7:52pm, Public Safety Officers were approached by a staff member on campus near Goergen Athletic Center. The staff member reported that a woman with no affiliation with the University had broken the windshield wiper off his car parked in the nearby area. The woman was observed by officers driving away from the area. Officers went to look for the woman in question, but she was not located. When officers returned to speak to the staff member, the woman had returned to the scene. Officers spoke to both parties and determined that there had been a dispute earlier in the day. The woman admitted to damaging the vehicle and was arrested for the damages.

4. On Sunday, Mar. 16, at 9:31pm, Public Safety Officers responded to the rear of Susan B. Anthony Hall foot path after receiving reports of an injured undergraduate. Officers found a student being treated by River Campus MERT for abrasions to his face, hands and knee. The student stated he was riding a skateboard on the path behind the residential hall when he fell. Rural/Metro Medical Services quickly responded. The student was taken to the Strong Memorial Emergency Department for treatment.

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

SA Elections

The 2014 Student Association and Class Council spring elections will be taking place on Monday, April 7 and Tuesday, April 8. For any student who is interested in running in an election, they must attend one of the election interest meetings taking place on Wednesday, March 26 from 6:00 — 7:00pm in Havens lounge, Thursday, March 27 from 6:30 — 7:30pm in Stackel lounge and Friday, March 28 at 3 to 4pm in Gowen room. Students will have from Wednesday, March 26 at 7:00pm until Saturday, March 29 at midnight to declare their candidacy. Campaigning will be held between Monday, March 31 at 12:01am and Tuesday, April 8 at 11:59pm. For more information on elections and the Student Association, please visit [sa.rochester.edu](http://sa.rochester.edu)



# Nigel Maister receives Russel and Ruth Peck Artistic Directorship

BY SAM PASSANISI  
STAFF WRITER

A new directorship in the UR Theatre Department was awarded to Artistic Director of the International Theatre Program Nigel Maister on February 28. The new award was established by alumni last month in honor of long-standing professor of English and John Hall Deane Professor of Rhetoric and Poetry Russell Peck and his wife Ruth. Maister is the first recipient of the Ruth and Russell Peck Artistic Directorship. “The choice was made in acknowledgement of the splendid work Nigel Maister has done over the years in developing the UR International Theatre Program to its current shining status,” Peck said. Currently, as the artistic director of the International Theatre Program, Maister has a wide range of jobs and responsibilities. He supervises all Theatre Department faculty and students, oversees Drama House, decides the class schedule that will be offered each semester, and designs the posters for all Theatre Program Plays. Maister also chooses which

plays will be put on at UR each semester and personally directs at least two of them. Maister is originally from South Africa but came to the U.S. to study directing at Carnegie Mellon University. “Through a series of coincidences I ended up coming to UR, first as a guest artist and then, after that went well, the following year I was hired as the Associate Director,” Maister said. Maister was promoted to Artistic Director six years later, a position he has held ever since. He will remain Artistic Director of the International Theatre Program in addition to his new position as the Russell and Ruth Peck Artistic Director. Maister said of the award, “It is, principally, an honor. I won’t have any additional duties, though I will have to live up to Professor Peck (and his wife Ruth’s) extraordinary contributions to this university and its students.” Peck is a professor of English who, in his 53-year career at UR, has taught classes in poetry, medieval studies, Shakespeare, and theatre.

He has been very involved in the Theatre Program, teaching classes in English and medieval theatre as well as being one of the founders of Drama House in 1972. In honor of these and other contributions to UR by Professor Peck and his wife Ruth, UR alumni Joseph Willett ’75 and Janice Willett ’78 recently decided to establish the Russell and Ruth Peck Artistic Directorship. Janice Willett said of the award, “Especially now, when support for the arts is under fire, it is important to recognize the importance of the liberal arts and to make sure they receive the funding they deserve.” Maister and Peck also had praise for the Theatre Program. “The Theatre Program is a really vibrant, open, and exciting part of this university,” Master said. Peck expressed similar sentiments, saying, “[Students] are missing out on some of the greatest opportunities that UR has to offer if they are not attending all current Todd productions.”

*Passanisi is a member of the class of 2017.*

# UR completes self-study

BY WILL O'BRIEN  
STAFF WRITER

UR reached a major milestone this past week in its successful review for reaccreditation. Every ten years, UR, along with many other colleges and universities, must undergo a reaccreditation process in order to maintain good standing as an institution of higher education. The completion of the University’s Middle States Self-Study, titled The Meliora Imperative, is the result of the efforts and collaboration of numerous UR faculty members that were part of the Self-Study committees. Included in the Executive Committee are UR President Joel Seligman, Provost Peter Lennie, General Secretary and Chief of Staff Lamar Murphy, Dean of the College Richard Feldman, and Associate Dean of Academic and Student Affairs at The Eastman School of Music, Donna Brink Fox. The team of faculty members conducted a comprehensive study of fourteen different performance standards, including University mission

and goals, faculty, and general education. The 161-page document was submitted for review, and the Evaluation Team will be visiting UR from May 1—3. The Middle States Commission on Higher Education oversees the accreditation process in the Middle States region – Delaware, The District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Secretary of Education has granted the Commission the ability to do so since 1919. UR was one of the first institutions to receive accreditation in 1921. This milestone is one of the final steps in the reaccreditation process. Following the visit from the Evaluation Team, they will submit a report to the Middle States Commission with regards to the self-study and the official visit. The Committees, headed by Seligman, expect to hear a response from the commission some time during the Fall 2014 semester.

*O'Brien is a member of the class of 2016.*

# Professor wins inaugural history professorship in honor of UR alumnus

BY HAYDEN FREEDMAN  
STAFF WRITER

Professor of American Cultural History Joan Rubin accepted the inaugural Dexter Perkins Professorship in History on Thursday, March 6. The purpose of the Professorship is to honor the memory of Dexter Perkins, a well-known historian and UR alumnus, and to emphasize the importance of teaching the next generation. The Professorship was funded mostly by two alumni of the University, Robert Kirkwood ’56 and Francis Grebe ’54. More than fifty other alumni also contributed. “I am deeply honored to be the inaugural incumbent of the Dexter Perkins Professorship in History,” Rubin said, “especially because the chair is named for such a distinguished member of my own discipline.” Perkins was one of the leading authorities on American history during his time as Chairman of the Department of American History for UR. He was instrumental in creating the graduate program in history and served as a City of Rochester Historian from 1936 to 1948. He was also the President of the Rochester Association for the United Nations. Perkins passed away in 1984 at age ninety-four. Rubin is a highly-respected historical scholar, specializing in Middlebrow culture. She has been with UR since 1995 and serves as Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Oxford Encyclopedia of American Cultural and Intellectual History.

She has published two books, the second of which, The Making of Middlebrow Culture, is widely read in the field of American Cultural studies. She is currently Director of Graduate Studies in the history department. Upon receiving the award, Rubin expressed deep admiration for Perkins’ work. She discussed how the field of history and the history department have changed since his time. She noted that in Perkins’ day, the department consisted entirely of men. Today, diversity is an important concern, though Rubin said that “we could do better”. Rubin also said that historians used to only focus on the most important politicians, whereas now there is an emphasis on the common citizen. Another difference she mentioned was the old assumption that objectivity could and should be attained through historical research. “We recognize [...] that objectivity is illusory,” Rubin said. “For my generation of scholars, the ideal stance of the historian is not neutral detachment, but rather the recognition of the inherently and laudably political implications of our work.” She finished her speech by recognizing the continued relevance of the American historian. “Perkins articulated a vision of the scholar that remains inspiring,” Rubin said.

*Freedman is a member of the class of 2016.*



COURTESY OF UR COMMUNICATIONS

Provost Peter Lennie, Dean Joanna Olmsted, Francis R. Grebe ’54, Professor Joan Shelley Rubin and President Joel Seligman

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# Kiplinger rates UR as one of best college values in the Mid-Atlantic

**RAAGA KANAKAM**  
STAFF WRITER

UR was ranked eighth in Kiplinger's 30 Best College Values in the Mid-Atlantic for Private Colleges for 2014.

Kiplinger uses two basic criteria to assign a rank to a college or university: academic quality and affordability. "Quality accounts for 56.25% and cost factors account for 43.75%," reads Kiplinger's website.

For quality, the subcategories include competitiveness — which includes admission rates and

yields and test scores — graduation rates, for four-year and five-year students, and academic support, which takes into account freshman retention rates and student-faculty ratio. For affordability, Kiplinger looks at overall cost and financial aid and student debt, as well as how well colleges help students with financial support.

UR also ranked 30 overall in Best College Values for Private Universities in 2014. This is up from 36 in 2013 and 42 in 2012.

UR has maintained top positions

in other college ranking lists as well e.g. ranking 32 overall in U.S. News National College Rankings list in 2014.

The class of 2017 had an average unweighted GPA of 3.67, average SAT score of 1993, and average ACT score of 31. On the River Campus, the incoming freshmen class includes more than 1,300 students, according to the UR website. Only 36% of 14,987 applicants were accepted for this class year.

*Kanakam is a member of the class of 2017.*

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# New student loan policy promotes non-profit schools

**BY JARED SMITH**  
SENIOR STAFF

The Obama Administration is considering new policies which would target for-profit

Payments for student loans are limited to 10% of their income above the basic living allowance.

colleges and protect students from amassing unpayable amounts of debt.

Currently, the average

student debt after graduating college is \$23,000. This number is realistically higher, since roughly 1/3rd of students take no loans at all. With a number of students taking low-paying jobs or unable to find work at all, this figure can easily be overwhelming.

"Too many of the programs failed to provide proper training and do it at taxpayers' expense," Education Secretary Arne Duncan said.

The new laws would demand that programs clearly provide their participants with sufficient training and knowledge needed to find a job that will provide for them and allow them to pay off their debt. Payments for student

loans are limited to 10% of their income above the basic living allowance. This will reduce the payments, which

After 20 years of payments, if students have not yet paid off their loans, the remainder of their debt will be forgiven.

were previously set at 15% of up to one million borrowers. Additionally, after 20 years

of payments, if students have not yet paid off their loans, the remainder of their debt will be forgiven. In order to entice students into public service positions, students who enter

Currently, the average student debt after graduating college is \$23,000.

such positions will have their loans forgiven after 10 years of on-time payments.

These reforms will be sorely necessary for many future UR students as the University has recently released information

on an increase in tuition for the 2014-2015 academic year.

Tuition alone will increase 3.5 percent to \$46,150. Tuition, room and board combined will total \$59,788, dangerously close to \$60,000. This figure is a 60 percent jump from the cost 10 years ago.

According to inflation rates, if UR had pegged tuition, room, and board to inflation, the total cost would be set at \$46,000.

These regulations, facing a vicious fight from the for-profit college lobby, would not take effect until 2016.

*Smith is a member of the class of 2014.*

# SEGway leads walk to end harrassment

**SEGWAY** FROM PAGE 1  
until you put yourself in his or her shoes."

Freshman Emily Indriolo, an attendee, believes she "not only gained a better understanding of the issues" but "thoroughly enjoyed" the creative booths that were stationed around the room.

'We hosted this event to raise awareness and to provide comfort for survivors of sexual assault so they know they are not alone.'

People at the event were able to watch performances by the Midnight Ramblers and the Sibir Bellydancing Ensemble, as well as play trivia games and use a photo booth.

UR SEGway Secretary and sophomore Celine Anand said she believes the event was a success.

"The booths are the main focus point. The Gandhi Institute, University Health Services'

'Stop. Ask. Clarify.' campaign, the College Feminists, and many Greek organizations came out to support the event," Anand said. "It couldn't have been possible without the support of so many groups."

UR SEGway President and Sophomore Emily Sumner shared the same positive sentiments.

"We hosted this event to raise awareness and to provide comfort for survivors of sexual assault so they know they are not alone," Sumner said, "and I think we successfully did that."

Students can get involved in various ways, such as participating in health fairs, hosting professor panels, and participating in free hug campaigns. Sumner encourages UR students to collaborate in diminishing sexual assault and domestic violence.

"UR SEGway is so unique because we do more than just weekly discussions," Sumner said. "[We] are an activist organization. The University has great resources for survivors that not all students are aware of [...] we hope that more students will utilize those resources."

*Lee is a member of the class of 2017.*



PHOTOS BY PARSA LOFTI / PHOTO EDITOR

Students walked around the Fraternity Quad and made signs to support awareness of sexual harrassment.



# Sigma Alpha Mu defends against hazing allegations

**FRATERNITY** FROM PAGE 1

The same student reported that a few days later, pledges and brothers of the fraternity were brought in to the public safety office for questioning. He said he believed that students of the fraternity and the pledging brothers were unfairly questioned.

“He came in there and they started questioning him about the pledge process and what he had been made to do during the pledge process,” he said. “They were telling him that, ‘We have already interviewed all of your other pledge brothers. We have the right to take disciplinary action.’ They were threatening him with expulsion and suspension.”

“I think they are all unnecessarily harsh with threats and accusations,” brother of the fraternity Adam\* said. “After the interrogation, the investigator writes up his interpretation of your statements then encourages

you to sign it as your words without the option of having a lawyer present even if there is self-incriminating information in the statement.”

‘The University’s problem with hazing is that some very minor things that can be considered innocuous in other contexts can be considered hazing.’

According to Director of Center for Student Conflict Management Kyle Orton, the University does not have a policy in place for interrogation methods. “[Public Safety] uses more police-like tactics because

many of them are police or peace officers,” he said. “I can say that I don’t use those techniques. [A meeting with me] is more like a conversation. I’m not saying that their tactic is good or bad. That’s what they choose to do.”

“I stuck to the truth,” Samuel\* said. “I wouldn’t let them try to convince me [...] because I knew they did stuff like this. The problem that I have is that they are using police tactics and misleading investigatory practices that police use all the time, but the police also Mirandize and tell people they have the right to have a lawyer present. They said none of this to my pledge brothers.”

Samuel\* made it clear that he had not felt pressured to make unsafe or illegal decisions at any point in the pledging process.

“The University’s problem with fraternities is that there is such a broad definition of hazing that some very minor things that

can be considered innocuous in other contexts can be considered hazing,” he said.

The trial on Friday will be presided over by a panel selected by Orbin. “It’s odd to me that the school chooses to have their own way of handling rule and law breaking differently than

He said he believed that students of the fraternity and the pledging brothers were unfairly questioned.

the way law enforcement does,” Adam\* said. “It’s also confusing to me that on the day of a hearing, students and professors are asked to miss all classes even if they are required classes,

labs, or recitations. Instead of them working around our class schedules, we must work around theirs.”

Pledges of the fraternity make it clear that the pledging process was about team building and learning the history of the fraternity.

“I think a lot of people imagine, when they think of hazing, [...] people being forced to down entire pitchers of beer, and it doesn’t happen like that,” Samuel\* said. “It’s more of an amicable thing. People drink at frat events, it happens.”

“It’s been a really fun time,” he continued when talking about the frat pledging process. “If I were to compare the process of getting into college with the process of pledging a fraternity, I would say getting into college is infinitely harder.”

*Sanguinetti is a member of the class of 2015.*



AARON SCHAEFFER / PHOTO EDITOR

Sigma Alpha Mu is currently under investigation for hazing of their pledge class. Trials are scheduled for Friday, March 28.

## Rettner funds renovation of Morey

**RENOVATION** FROM PAGE 1

“A project such as this is especially important because it helps preserve the historical foundation of our University,” said Seligman.

The plan is to complete construction by the start of the Fall 2014 semester, but Fernandez conceded that it may run into September as they are getting to a relatively late start.

With regards to interference with student life, Fernandez said that by September most of the construction still taking place will be low-impact, namely the final painting and carpeting. The bulk of the highest-impact activities, centered mostly around the removal of walls, asbestos abatement, and ventilation installation, will be completed in June and July.

With regards to Morey’s functional relatedness to Rettner Hall and the new Digital Media Studies major, Fernandez said they do not have any plans past revitalizing the basic infrastructure of Morey Hall, but that “if Rettner [Hall] becomes more successful [...] we would grow some of those programs into Morey over time, and as we do that, we would bring that kind of technology into Morey”.

Fernandez noted Rettner’s investment in already-existing buildings. He said many investors in college campuses across the country are interested in giving gifts to new buildings, but “[Rettner] talks a lot about revitalizing neighborhoods by taking old buildings and making improvements”.

“They’re fundamentally tired buildings, and he wants to give them a fresh look,” Fernandez said. Other renovation projects have been taking place on UR’s campus recently, with the creation of Rettner Hall, the new plans for Fauver Stadium, and the refurbishing of the Fraternity Quadrangle this past summer.

Other projects in the works are the building of a new classroom and new bathrooms in Gavett Hall and refurbishing the Dewey 101 classroom.

“I believe that we’re constantly reinvesting in our buildings [...],” Fernandez said of these changes. “They need a face lift to continue to make them relevant and useful.”

*McAdams is a member of the class of 2017.*



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# OPINIONS

EDITORIAL CARTOON



EDITORIAL OBSERVER

## Everyone wins the lottery



**BY DANI DOUGLASS**  
FEATURES EDITOR

As a freshman entering the housing lottery for the first time, I have only heard the most daunting of rumors. It's been said that "it's one of the most stressful times of the year," and that "you'll be lucky if you don't lose a friend in the process".

All of this negative hype forces you to imagine the worst possible scenarios: being separated from your potential suitemates, ending up in Southside, or worst of all, being left dorm-less.

By going into any situation with a negative mindset, you are setting yourself up for misery.

The student population is growing. The Class of 2017 consists of 150 more students than the Admissions Office had initially intended, and the amount of yearly freshman applications has been steadily on the rise. This poses the potential for a severe housing crisis.

But it's not as though we're being left on the streets. The university administration is making a concerted effort to create a process that is as painless as possible.

O'Brien Hall was newly constructed in 2012 and Brooks Crossing is scheduled to be completed in time for next semester. Not only do these options increase the on campus student housing capacity, but they will also open up more "first choice" options for underclassmen students as upperclassmen, who have priority, rush to fill in the newer and more coveted buildings.

In 2013, the entire housing lottery was shifted online. This essentially eliminated the entire

system of a true "lottery". In the former system, each student would be assigned a point value according to their class year, and then based on your point value, you would be assigned a random lottery number. Then, on the day for which your lottery number was scheduled, students would attend "room draw sessions", where they would wait in line and then physically choose the room in which they would live. It was literally a hands-on experience.

But starting last year, the entire system was moved online. Now, we fill out an online contract and then wait. Weeks later, we receive our scheduled time, and then we wait some more. Finally, once the day of the "drawing" arrives, we wait for the exact two-minute interval to which we were assigned and then scramble as fast as we can to search through all of the remaining vacant rooms to make our selection.

Even though it is designed to be "instantaneous", the procedure still seems painstakingly slow. Then, maybe if we're lucky, we will end up in the right place at the right time.

Is all of this sitting, waiting, and wishing worth the stress? It is just a room.

We all try to convince ourselves that it really doesn't matter.

This is true: it isn't the physical location of the building or the room number or the color of the carpets that makes a home; it is what you do with the space.

After all, your friend is still your friend, whether or not you share a bathroom, a door, or a poster. Save the stressful energy, the drama, and the worry that is being focused on the housing lottery and re-concentrate it on something that matters more. A two-minute walk between buildings or up that extra flight of stairs may even strengthen your friendship.

*Douglass is a member of the Class of 2017.*

EDITORIAL BOARD

## Everyone should utilize the Athletic Center

Goergen Athletic Center, the gym, GAC. It's a place that can inspire as much loathing as it can drive. It's a facility that one find on nearly every college campus in the U.S. It is as universal as it is important for the students of a university, even if many don't take advantage of its benefits.

The Goergen Athletic Center should be a crucial part of every college student's life at the University. There are many clear health benefits that come from the use of a gym, and taking those few hours of your week to pump iron or run on the treadmill can have a multitude of noticeable benefits. For one, there's the obvious improvement in outside appearance. Whether one wants to show off that increased muscle mass or is improving physical appearance simply for one's own personal gain, the gym is the place to go. But beyond physical appearance, there are important health benefits to such activities as well. While one works out to a song, or a humorous podcast, they are working towards a decreased risk of heart disease and lower levels of cholesterol.

That early foray into exercise will do each participant well in the future when most Americans suffer their first heart attack.

Yet there is more to using the gym than just physical benefits. If one's feeling unusually stressed out- perhaps there is a massive paper due in a few days, or a big test tomorrow- exercise is here to help. According to Psychology Today, using the gym can be a massive reliever of stress. That's because cardio exercises release something called norepinephrine, which moderates the feeling of stress. Along those same lines, endorphins and other "happy chemicals" are released over the course of a workout. What about if you have trouble falling asleep at night? Well, by working out a few hours before lights out, you will find that sleep comes a little more easily. That's because working out raises your body's temperature, and when your temperature starts trekking back down, it brings you down from wakeful to sleepful as well.

And while these physiological reasons for mental health improvement are great, a workout also offers a fairly

unique time to reflect in today's hectic fast-paced world. Taking a moment, while running a mile, to think about one's tasks to be completed, visualizing one's future plans, or simply thinking through the various challenges one to face in the future, can be incredibly beneficial. According to Frank Niles, a Ph.D. at John Brown University, such moments of goal visualization are vital to successfully completing these personal hopes and dreams. The time at the gym presents a tremendous opportunity to experience such moments of self-reflection.

Finally, the gym is a fantastic opportunity to socialize with fellow students. Finding a weekly workout partner, or even a workout group, can help to strengthen friendships while physically strengthening one's bodies. Or, if one doesn't bring a group with them, the gym can be a place to find a new friend.

Overall, the gym is a fantastic place to physically, mentally, and socially improve. Every student at UR should take advantage of GAC.

## Explore a balanced life at UR

"What's the value of a college education?" We've heard this question countless times, often linked to statistics about salary and quality of life when teachers, college reps, and parents have made the pitch about the benefits of higher learning.

But when we consider the pros of college, perhaps we should instead ask ourselves, "What's the value of a college experience?"

Sure, earning a degree will probably make it a lot easier to get a higher paying job, particularly if you're like many UR students and medicine or engineering is your ideal profession. But our tuition, what we're paying for here, is a whole lot more than just access to professors and a diploma that "proves" we're thoroughly educated in our field.

This is a time like no other in our lives - we're surrounded by people our own age who are passionate about learning, hopeful for the future, and ready for what life throws at them. We have endless opportunities and resources at our disposal in a way

that they will never be again: the career center, University Health Services, Goergen Athletic Center, expansive libraries staffed with highly qualified librarians, hundreds of clubs and social activities meeting within 10 minutes of our residence halls, and for some of us, unlimited access to a buffet of food.

In theory, we want to take advantage of all that college life has to offer. Four years go by fleetingly, and getting the most out of the tuition is certainly something to aspire to. But for many students, taking a balanced approach to college life can be challenging and for some nearly impossible.

Many of us find our niche early on. Whether it be academics, athletics, extracurriculars, or our social life, we get used to a particular routine that typically favors a specific sphere of college life. Eventually, the myriad of options that seem to overwhelm freshmen becomes more background noise than anything else.

Soon, life can become an academic roller coaster of chemistry labs, biology workshops, and papers. Or, the weekly routine can be an extracurricular juggling act of Mock Trial, College Democrats, Student Senate, and Meliora Capital. Soon, whatever the respective focus of one's routine, the daily grind can become an extreme, a rut, and very quickly something impossible.

The solution - balance. College is a plethora of options, and if we only take advantage of any single aspect, we're selling ourselves short. These are the years to mold ourselves into the people we will become, and while we have all clearly opted out of a liberal arts education, there's still something to be said about being a well-rounded person.

We have the rest of our lives to be specialized, to focus on our individual careers or personal life missions. But college is a place where it's important to explore everything, do everything, and work towards a balanced life.

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](mailto:editor@campustimes.org).



# Animal testing needs to go

**BY SIMONE ARNOLD**

The controversy surrounding animal testing has recently become a major international news story with the European Union, India, and Israel banning animal testing for cosmetics and the revelation that China has quietly been requiring cosmetic tests that poison, burn, and blind animals even though superior methods not requiring animal testing are now available. The debate in the U.S. is even more heated since legislation has just been introduced in the House that would ban testing cosmetics on animals. While the focus of these international

Experiments... included drilling holes into the heads of the primates, injecting their brains with acid...and implanting electrodes in their brain.

discussions has been primarily on consumer products like shampoo, soap, and makeup, where there seems to be a consensus that animal testing is unjust. Such dialogues raise questions about

the ethics and necessity of using animals in other spheres like scientific and medical research. Is it ever morally acceptable to subject animals to experiments, and what are the alternatives? Justin Goodman, Director of Laboratory Investigation at People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), has spent the last decade working to expose and end the abuse of animals in experiments. He got his start when he was a graduate student at the University of Connecticut and discovered that there was a laboratory on campus where monkeys were being subjected to invasive brain experiments. The experiments—similar to those currently being conducted on monkeys at U R — i n c l u d e d drilling holes into the heads of the primates, injecting their brains with acid, bolting various devices to their heads, and implanting electrodes in their brains and stainless steel coils into their eyeballs. In addition to organizing events to educate students and the community about the experiments, using the Freedom of Information Act, Goodman uncovered over 20 Animal Welfare Act violations that lead to the University being

fined \$5,000 and the return of \$65,000 worth of federal grant money. As a result of the campaign, the lab in question was shut down. At PETA, Goodman now leads a team of researchers, scientists, and attorneys that successfully work to end the use of animals in experiments, drug and chemical tests, and medical training courses around the world. Goodman, PETA, and a growing proportion of the public—more than 40 percent of all adults and more than half of college-aged adults, according to a 2013 Gallup poll—now oppose medical testing on animals. Goodman believes that

poisoning, mutilating, crippling, and otherwise harming animals in experiments for any reason is unethical because they are intelligent individuals just like us who feel pain and pleasure, have likes and dislikes, and care about one another, and it is unjustifiable to harm them in experiments just because they look different and are weaker than humans. Not only do many people feel that experimenting on animals is morally wrong, but research increasingly shows that tests on animals do not translate to humans. The FDA itself reports that 9 out of 10 experimental drugs that work in animals fail in human trials. Through undercover investigations,

protests, legal petitions, collaborations with experts, scientific research, lobbying, corporate outreach, and media campaigns, Goodman's work at PETA aims to end the use of animals in experiments and promote the use of research methods that leave animals out of the equation and have been proven to be more effective. PETA also funds and promotes the development and implementation of non-animal research methods like systems using human cells and tissues, sophisticated computer models, and lifelike human patient simulators. PETA's work with universities, government agencies, and private companies has replaced the use of millions of animals in experiments with non-animal methods that are humane, cheaper, faster, and actually applicable to humans. Justin Goodman and other animal rights advocates believe that ending experimentation on animals is not only the right thing to do for animals but will improve research to help humans, too. For more information on the ethics of animal experiments and alternatives to animal testing come listen to Justin Goodman's lecture in Gowen Room in Wilson Commons on March 27th at 4:30pm. *Arnold is a member of the class of 2016*



ALEX KURLAND / STAFF ILLUSTRATOR

# Come to oppose the Common Core

**BY TY-LUCAS KELLEY**

Bill Gates has called it a “big win for education”. Its website prominently displays the noble mission of “preparing America’s students for success”. U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan claims that it will “set loose the creativity and innovation of educators at the local level”. What am I talking about? That would be “Common Core”, the new set of U.S. guidelines for K-12 education. Introduced in 2009, Common Core provides standards for the nation’s math and English programs to meet, with the goal of raising the bar for American schools that generally lag behind their international counterparts. Even better, its designers claim that Common Core was “developed by building on the best state standards in

Schools should move in the opposite direction, encouraging teachers to take creative freedom in the way that they present topics.

the United States”. Common Core has also gained praise and support from many in high places. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, for example, has donated upwards of \$150 million to the government and educational institutions, to aid in implementing the standards.

On the surface, Common Core sounds like a natural step towards improving American education for generations to come. However, it is below the surface where things begin to sour. “I have a Ph.D., and I have no idea what is supposed to be done with this homework assignment,” one frustrated parent told the Daily Caller, referring to a Common Core-aligned worksheet his five-year-old brought home from school one day. He’s not the only one to express frustration with the standards; parents everywhere have taken to Twitter to post pictures of bizarre assignments and tests that they are struggling to understand. So for what reasons, other than the odd homework assignments, are more and more people voicing opposition to the new standards? For many, the botched implementation makes for an easy way to criticize Common Core. Some also fear the potential Common Core brings for a federal takeover of education. At the very least, this is a very powerful talking point that resonates strongly with the American people. Additionally, many parents and educators are concerned that powerful organizations such as College Board have much to gain if they can create and administer (read: charge students to take) new standardized tests for elementary, middle, and high schools. Worse yet, contrary to claims of “setting loose the creativity and innovation of educators”, Common Core encourages not creativity but simply more teaching for the

test so schools can appear to be better-performing; in reality, they are simply drilling disinterested students with definitions and equations that most will surely quickly forget. Rather, schools should move in the opposite direction, encouraging teachers to take creative freedom in the way that they present topics to their students. All of these issues are important and need to be considered before Common Core is implemented. Alas, 45 states have already committed to the new standards despite a majority of people knowing very little about them. However, there is a perplexing issue that needs to be addressed which transcends Common Core. Why, given the chance to reinvent education for the 21st century, have we instead decided to settle for more of the same? The world moves at a brisk pace. Technology has changed nearly every aspect of our lives; most of us would probably go to Google for the answers to our everyday questions before a friend, and the combination of text messaging, email, and social media have blurred the lines between work and home life. Yet, our schools have remained fixed in the past. We have clung to the same, tired liberal arts education for the past 50 years. In fact, we have arguably worse programs of study today, since subjects such as civics and

economics are no longer a fixture in most American schools. I do not bring this up as an attack on the liberal arts or traditional science and math classes; they are valuable and should remain a part of the American education. However, wouldn’t it make sense to evolve school to help students prepare for the modern workforce? I think the answer is obvious, especially when we are told so often about the successes of those in the tech industry. The internet age has enabled America’s youth to pursue big ideas with little to no money behind them. In reality, all it takes to make a million dollars in this day and age is an idea, motivation, and programming skills. Ask Larry Ellison, the modern embodiment of the rags-to-riches story that we all love to hear. Unfortunately, Ellison is an anomaly in the tech industry, because the skills needed to make it in the software world are not taught in public schools. As a result, most of today’s prominent people in tech come from relatively privileged backgrounds where they have private schooling or family members to teach them about business and programming. Many in America are not so blessed. That is why

incorporating basic computer and entrepreneurship skills into public classrooms is so crucial. Helping students become more independent through project-based learning and developing their own ideas would empower them more than any initiative or awareness campaign could ever dream to. And no, it wouldn’t be that expensive. Companies like Google, Facebook, and Microsoft have vested interests in promoting a more modern education. After all, they have to hire people, and there simply aren’t enough qualified college graduates to fill the spots that tech companies have open. For all the talk about striving to improve minority and women’s representation in the computer industry, a vast majority of tech CEOs, be it Google’s or the average college startup’s, are white males that have had the advantage of supportive families and access to outside resources to gain the skills they needed. This could be all be changed with the introduction of a more modern and modular curriculum in our public schools. Steps are being made to slowly integrate technology into classrooms, but unless it is forcefully advocated for and funded by the federal, state, and local government, as well as corporations, and is combined with a lessened focus on standardized testing, it will be a long time before American schools can truly live up to their goal of preparing students for the real world. *Kelley is a member of the class of 2017.*



LIZ BESON / STAFF ILLUSTRATOR



# HUMOR

## ‘Indie’ kid gets WRUR show

BY AARON SCHAFFER  
PHOTO EDITOR

On Thursday, March 20, UR’s on-campus radio station, WRUR, announced that they would be giving UR freshman Otto Miyazo a radio show on “The Sting”, an online radio subsidiary of WRUR. This is latest step in a series of steps that WRUR has done in order to become more ‘indie’, at least in the face of rising criticism against mainstream and Top 40 radio. According to leaked documents acquired from the station, Miyazo’s show will be exclusively and excessively streaming from Bandcamp, a popular source of music distribution for unsigned artists.

Miyazo, a freshman, stands tall at 5’3”, and his black, thick-rimmed glasses only accentuate his curves.

Miyazo describes himself as “indie with an edge”. He does not deny reading Pitchfork, a popular (mostly) indie music blog, but not for the experience. “It’s become my life,” he admits.

Miyazo, a freshman, stands tall at 5’3”, and his black, thick-rimmed glasses only accentuate his curves.

Miyazo describes a lifestyle where he goes to bed at 1:05 every night. He waits until

1:01 for Pitchfork reviews to go online, and spends just four minutes perusing the articles for buzzwords like “edgy”, “post-consumer”, and “relevant”. Then, he falls asleep, attempting to enter a state of emotional and physical purity.

On the off chance that Miyazo desires to play “obscure shit”, he has an SA-allocated budget for “cassettes, vinyl, and other forms of ‘experimental media’”. SA, which has among its loyal supporters various members of

Miyazo does not shy away from criticism. He recently tweeted, “Dude. My last.fm page has the most obscure music on the planet: Japanese proto-punk, North Korean folk, Chilean reggae. #2Indie5You”

the indie establishment (some of whom have Bandcamps themselves), is likely to increase his budget to include “sound art” and “anti-music”.

Miyazo does not shy away from criticism. “Dude. My last.fm page has the most obscure music on the planet: Japanese proto-punk, North Korean folk, Chilean reggae. #2Indie5You,” he tweeted.

Only two people retweeted him.

According to an anonymous source, Miyazo is a member of the Sweater Collective, an underground collective mostly made up of members of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

They were both South African post-consumer troubadours who were self-described (at least in their About sections) “nihilists.”

According to an anonymous source, Miyazo is a member of the Sweater Collective, an underground collective mostly made up of members of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. They reportedly talk about “all things tweed and suede.” Representatives of Sigma Phi Epsilon had no comment.

In a long series of tweets Monday night, Miyazo tried to justify himself in the face of the “mainstream machine.”

“What if we’re all just one big animal collective,” he asked. “Would that make me a panda bear?”

*Schaffer is a member of the class of 2016.*

## A reply to the man who is stranded on a boat: I found your letter

BY CHRIS HORGAN  
STAFF WRITER

Hello Herman, I just wanted to let you that I found your bottle. Thanks a lot for ripping the wrapper off the bottle so I couldn’t redeem it for five cents. Never mind that. I don’t really have too much experience being stranded in the middle of the ocean, so I suppose the best thing for me to tell you is to keep your head up. Literally, if you let it go below the surface you will die. I hate to be a pessimist, but your odds aren’t looking that good. By the way, if you are reading this, Herman, this will be quite phenomenal because I wrote a letter, put it in a bottle, and threw it into the ocean hoping that it would eventually reach you on your little raft. If it does make it to you, there should be some torn up pieces of bread in it. If not, it’s for the birds. In your letter, it said you had lost a foot. When you said this, did you mean you got shorter, or that you lost one of your two feet? Either way, I’ve included a twelve-inch tall prosthetic foot in the bottle. I

just watched “Castaway” for the first time. I thought it was amazing, but honestly I feel like the only chance a person would have for survival would be if they were in a movie. There’s just no possible way a person could survive, alone, with no one to love or to be loved by. I don’t know about them, but I think I would lose hope really quickly.

Since you haven’t been in contact with the outside world, I think it would be good if I kept you up to date. Here it goes. Recently, Justin Bieber was arrested twice in one week, proving to be a solid role model for dog feces everywhere. Some say Bieber will never clean up his act, to which Justin serenades “ne-never say never”. Why couldn’t he have been on your raft instead of you? Belgian soccer club FC Racing Boxberg successfully signed a 20-month-old boy. All they need to do is sign a phlebotomist to complete the old adage; the players will provide the sweat, the phlebotomist the blood, and the baby the tears. Selection Sunday for March Madness

basketball has left millions of Americans totally prepared to take full credit for pure guesses on their brackets. Who would’ve guessed your favorite team—seeded 13th—would advance four rounds all because of full-court buzzer beaters? A 4.4-magnitude earthquake woke up the Los Angeles area. Fortunately, there aren’t any reports of serious damage, but the people do seem to be a little shaken. Also, a Utah mother bought all of a store’s indecent clothing. I think this is ironic because thanks to her, the people who bought clothing from the store will have nothing to wear. The 76ers have lost 25 games in a row. At least they are consistent.

In conclusion, J.R.R. Tolkien once said, “not all those who wander are lost.” Sadly, you are lost Herman. I went online to see if I could find an inspirational quote for you. I couldn’t. I saw a few about “hoping for a brighter future”. Maybe the sun will come out tomorrow. Best of luck!

*Horgan is a member of the class of 2017.*

## SAT-irical Advice for the College Board

BY CHRIS HORGAN  
STAFF WRITER

I was going to write about a psychic named Dan, but then I heard him tell me not to before I even asked. Anyhow, in light of College Board announcing that new SAT tests will cut obscure vocabulary words, I have decided to make a few suggestions to really allow the SAT test to determine which students possess the most potential.

The first three hour section would consist of ten opinionated True or False questions. Such as, “English is better than science,” “Tupac is still alive,” or “Tuna is disgusting.” Next, students would have to complete a required set of writing questions. In this section, every response must be written in the form of a haiku or in iambic pentameter. It would be easy, if every person studied, this was a haiku. Part three would include questions in which none of the choices are correct, which, as recent studies suggest, increases the level of difficulty in choosing the correct answer. Also, this style of question would eliminate the possibility of a student guessing the correct answer. A food and dining section would prompt students to identify key ingredients in special cuisine, such as the garbage plate,

Next, students would be placed on a remote island with three vending machines that don’t give change in return (keep in mind that change is inevitable in life, except from vending

fondue, or bouillabaisse. The math questions would be based more on speed than accuracy. Students must answer simple arithmetic while sprinting a 40-yard dash. However, these questions would only give an estimate to how a person could deal with the academic part of college. I have suggestions to test whether applying students could survive college life outside of academics.

Instead of normal questions, I think it would be important to present students with different situations to see how they react. For example, family board games. The board game part of the test would require students to play the game of “Sorry!” with fellow test-takers without sounding sarcastic. No one is ever sorry for kicking someone off the game board. A game like The Settlers of Catan would help determine the level of patience a person has, since being peaceful with friends is an important skill needed for college. If the students don’t break out in an all-out verbal fight, then they will have successfully passed the section.

If a student is an aspiring doctor, then they can opt out of medical school depending on their performance in the game “Operation.”

Next, students would be placed on a remote island with three vending

The first student to bring the pogo ball into the house loses, and subsequently fails the entire section. A point is deducted for every knee scraped and bone broken. Temptation will also be included in this part.

machines that don’t give change in return (keep in mind that change is inevitable in life, except from vending machines). They would stocked with a limited amount of ramen noodles, a microwave, and a sheet of tin foil. If a week passes and the tin foil has not found its way into the microwave, then you can call these students “readily prepared for college.”

The longest section involves students staying inside for two months without sunlight. If the individual makes it through this two-month period without any sunlight, then they are prepared to either attend a university in the Northeast or audition for the role of an earthworm in the new National Geographic documentary.

Discipline will be measured through a series of difficult tasks. The first task gives all of the students

The final part of the test is an essay, in which the question asks “What does YOLO mean to you?”

Pogo Balls from the ‘80s. The first student to bring the pogo ball into the house loses, and subsequently fails the entire section. A point is deducted for every knee scraped and bone broken. Temptation will also be included in this part. As students attempt to fill out an important document, a laptop with the latest BuzzFeed article will be placed in front of them.

The final part of the test is an essay, in which the question asks “What does YOLO mean to you?” It is an important factor that should not be underestimated. Are you an, “I am not going to do my homework, YOLO” type of person, or are you an, “I am going to talk to my professor about research opportunities, YOLO” kind of person?

*Horgan is a member of the class of 2017.*



# M. Night: accidental master of meta?

BY CASEY GOULD  
SENIOR STAFF

To celebrate the 15th anniversary of *M. Night Shyamalan's Oscar nomination for Best Director*, and to demonstrate just how far the filmmaker has fallen from grace, I present the following review of 2013's *"After Earth."*

It's easy to dismiss "After Earth" as the latest flop in the downward spiral that is director M. Night Shyamalan's once-promising career. In what is ostensibly a coming-of-age story, Will and Jaden Smith respectively play legendary general Cypher Raige and his less talented son Kitai, who dreams of becoming a ranger like his dad. Their estranged relationship is tested after the two are shipwrecked on Earth, a millennium after catastrophic events have forced humanity to find a new home.

Indeed, at face value, "After Earth" is largely derivative,

Indeed, at face value, "After Earth" is largely derivative, generously borrowing generic conventions from other (read: better) sci-fi flicks.

generously borrowing generic conventions from other (read: better) sci-fi flicks. Yet such an examination fails to acknowledge that "After Earth" more importantly marks a dramatic departure from Shyamalan's film oeuvre. Unlike the synchronic modernity characteristic of its predecessors, "After Earth" establishes a distinctly self-referential, meta style that demands it be appreciated as diachronically

postmodern.

Shyamalan's casting choice of real-life father and son, for instance, blurs the line between story and storyteller; actor Will Smith, who served as a producer for "After Earth," also produced his co-star, literally. This disintegration of narrative and authorship functions beyond the film's diegesis, however, addressing also the underlying ontology of digital cinema as an artistic vehicle. As literary critic Fredric Jameson outlined, the self-referential aesthetic reflects a singular modernity wherein the viewer becomes acutely aware of the film's intrinsic artifice. In this case, Cypher and Kitai's heavy reliance on digital video technologies to communicate with each other, albeit futuristic, signifies a sort of digital realism. Using these devices as a visual trope, Shyamalan thus establishes an indexical relationship between film and filmmaker.

Cypher [to Kitai]: Recognize your power. This will be your creation.

According to Jameson, the chaotic bricolage of the film—that is, the deconstruction of dialogue, as seen in the line above wherein Cypher explains to Kitai the consequences of "throwing a rock at a wild monkey"—is thus recreated with little regard to context, continuity, and other conventions of good cinema.

In this way, the film is not simply a cautionary tale about globality, urban sprawl, and their environmental implications. "After Earth" as postmodernism transcends allegory and provides a biting metacommentary or nonallegory about Shyamalan himself. Consider the scene where Kitai questions his father's orders to abort the mission. "What was your mistake?" Kitai asks into his jumpsuit's built-in

camera. "Trusting me? Depending on me, thinking I could do this?" Intended to mimic Cypher's perspective via the ship's video feed, the shot appears to momentarily break the fourth wall, with Kitai seemingly addressing both his father and the viewer. This simultaneity juxtaposes Kitai's desire to gain his father's approval with Shyamalan's own attempt to salvage his tarnished reputation as a director.

The scene's remarkable self-referentiality later resurfaces when Kitai wakes up from a self-induced coma.

Kitai: Hey ...  
Cypher: Hey ...  
Kitai: That sucked.  
Cypher: That is correct.

Rooted in the tradition of postmodernism, not only are the characters' story functions mutable, but their non-diegetic purports seem plasmatic as well. Shyamalan is represented here by neither Kitai nor Cypher, whose shared sentiment that "that sucked" instead reflects the film's poor reception amongst critics. Similarly, the aforementioned coma foreshadows the viewing experience of "After Earth"—a tedious, drawn-out ordeal that can also cause a loss of consciousness.

Moments like these testify to Shyamalan's undeniable, if unintentional, mastery of meta. Though unlikely, it's possible that Shyamalan is himself unaware of "After Earth" as postmodernism. Early in the film, Cypher tells his wife that after the mission to Iphitos is completed, "I'm announcing my retirement." A postmodern reading of this line is both telling and prophetic: perhaps Shyamalan should do likewise.

Gould is a member of the class of 2014.

# Meaty Monday: an interview

BY BEN MITCHELL  
STAFF WRITER

One of Rochester's greatest treasures is its hot dogs. They come in many forms such as white hots, red hots, garbage plates, and many dog breeds at Dog Town, and are considered a cornerstone of Rochester cuisine. As a budding college journalist, I went on vacation in search of food and adventure. I travelled down south and was met with many different styles of hot dogs, such as alligator sausages, and decided to treat myself to one oft-overlooked dog.

I sat down with Florence Pan, the owner of a prominent dog restaurant. Pan is a simple southern chef who prides herself on her cooking, specifically her hot dogs. She is a true expert at handling meat, ever since she first picked it up at a young age.

When did you first notice your growing passion for wieners?

My momma taught me how to treat a sausage right. She always taught me that the key to a tasty wiener is firmly molding it in your hand, keeping it rigid before cutting off the tip of the wrapper. I always enjoyed squeezing out new wieners with my ma, so it was a simple step to want to make a living out of it. I began cooking professionally when I partnered with a local convenience store selling my wieners in the back. I didn't make a lot of money at first but got enough tips to stay in business. All sorts of people would come for a wiener in the rear, they loved it. It was so successful I moved on to expand my business and am now the proud owner of the restaurant you sit in today, Flo P. Wieners, a full store front with both sit-down service in the front, and takeout in the rear.

What made your wiener so different from everyone else's?

The secret is my original recipe's secret sauce, a creamy yet salty blend of flavors that will make your mouth water. Another big difference is in the preparation; most people tend to grill their dogs, but I prefer to bake them. It tends to keep them softer and juicier. On top of that, my expanded wiener restaurant includes all-new menu options that titillate the senses.

What new options are on your menu?

From the micro wiener to the blackened foot-long wiener, I have them in all shapes and sizes. If it's too dry, we got plenty of ketchup and mustard to moisten up my wieners. I have a whole selection of condiments you can slip on my wieners, from rib sauce to red hot, we've got everything your wiener could want. I even have a dessert wiener topped with fudge and nuts. No matter what your preference, a Flo P. wiener will rub you the right way.

Why are wieners so special to you?

It brings me tears of joy when people bite my wieners. I just can't wait for them to shove 'em down their throat, 'cause I know they're gonna want to swallow every last bit of my wiener. At Flo P. Wieners everything is handmade to a T. Every wiener is heated to perfection; I never take them out prematurely. It gets busy though with the constant influx of patrons. There's always a bun in the oven here, because it's so important to me that I get every part of the job right so your experience doesn't end in disappointment. What's a wiener if it isn't right smack in the middle of a good ol' set of buns?

Where do you see yourself going in the future?

I want to expand the business, there're a lotta untouched wiener markets out there, and I believe that everyone should get a taste of my wieners.

# Making fun of the news

BY CHRIS HORGAN  
STAFF WRITER

1. A family in North Dakota found, raised, then released two bunnies into the wild after finding them parentless in their backyard.

"We'll take it from here," said a hawk and two foxes.

2. Three rogue elephants in St. Louis reportedly damaged a car after escaping from a circus.

I suggest that they assemble a team of highly trained mice to keep these beasts in check.

3. 14 cocaine-filled condoms were intercepted on the way to the Vatican.

My message to the busted condom dealers—no matter how you interpret it, even a little crack in a condom won't end well.

4. Two Massachusetts firefighters sang Frozen's hit song, "Let it Go" to calm a girl stuck in an elevator.

This approach proved less effective while trying to save a twenty-year-

old holding on to a rope on the side of a cliff.

5. New York City recently opened up their first cupcake vending machine.

Yet another invention helping heart surgeons everywhere be



LIZ BESON / ILLUSTRATOR

prosperous.

6. An Ohio firefighter proposed to his sweetheart during a staged

school fire drill.

After being asked "Will you marry me?," the woman replied, "Shh, no talking, we're in a fire drill."

7. A radio station in Canada angered its listeners after burning \$5,000 dollars in cash.

This is also known as buying season tickets for the Philadelphia 76ers basketball team.

8. A woman with the same name as famous pilot Amelia Earhart has intentions of flying a plane around the world.

If at first you don't succeed, just wait a century until someone with the same name as you tries again.

9. A Floridian claims to have had \$2,000 dollars in goldfish stolen.

I don't have too many details for this, but the whole thing sounds kind of fishy.

Horgan is a member of the class of 2017.

# UR student nonchalantly places order at The Pit while wearing earbuds

BY AARON SCHAFER  
PHOTO EDITOR

On Monday, UR Freshman Joe Smith left food service workers and students in awe as he coolly ordered a Greek chicken pita from the Common Grill. Sources say Smith's impressive command of the social situation stemmed from the fact that he was listening to music through his earbuds while placing his order.

"He just exuded confidence and social awareness," reports an anonymous Pit worker, "and he wasn't cagey at all when I had to ask him for the third time if he wanted tzatziki sauce."

Smith has left UR musing over what he could have been listening to when he placed the order. "It was probably something really

cutting edge, like The Strokes or Jet. Joe listens to obscure music like that," said Smith's friend Andrew Webster, who was sending a snapchat before Smith commanded the food court's attention. "Who knows, really. It all happened so fast before he took off, like a majestic bird of flight."

Webster reports that as Smith made his way toward the cashier to swipe his declining, he didn't have to awkwardly sidestep his way around anyone. Webster adds, "Those earbuds really gave him the air of control. He was just so cognizant of his surroundings."

Insider sources indicate that Smith could make his next appearance at The Pit wearing over-the-ear headphones.

Schaffer is a member of the class of 2016.



# FEATURES

## Airplane disasters bring legislative change

BY ANGELA KLUZNIAK  
STAFF WRITER

Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, which took off on March 8 from Beijing Capital International Airport, has now been missing for over two weeks. To our current knowledge, the plane went down with its 227 passengers somewhere in the southern Indian Ocean, killing everyone onboard. Although none of the information is certain, this theory seems to be the most plausible out of the many that have been proposed over the last two weeks.

Even so, the plane has yet to be recovered.

This brings up a major question: how does the airplane industry ensure that it doesn't lose track of a 112-ton airplane and hundreds of people ever again? It is not an easy question to answer, but one thing is certain: changes will and must be made.

Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 has people worrying about the safety of planes. Nearly everyone flies, including UR students who come from all over and travel home quite frequently. Each and every passenger wants to know that he or she will be safe throughout the duration of his or her travels.

The airplane industry wants to quell these fears for its personal benefit and for the benefit of all of its users; it is looking to make any improvements necessary. This is not the first time that a plane tragedy has forced legislative and safety changes. The following three airplane accidents are key turning points in the implementation of instrumental changes.

### 1. TWA Flight 800

**What Happened:** The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Accident Report said that the airplane exploded in midair and fell into the water outside of New York City only minutes after takeoff on July 17, 1996. It caused the death of everyone onboard.

**"TWA Flight 800 in-flight breakup was initiated by a fuel/air explosion in the center wing fuel tank,"** the NTSB reported. Sparking wires that ignited the fuel tanks were deemed the most probable cause of an explosion.

**Results:** The report recommended that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) examine the design of the fuel tanks. Later, a design for new planes was created that greatly reduced the likelihood that the fuel tanks would catch fire and explode.

### 2. Air Canada Flight 797

**What Happened:** In the middle of a flight headed from Dallas to Montreal with a scheduled layover in Toronto, the cabin crew discovered that a

SEE DISASTERS PAGE 13

## Foreign Focus: Athens, Greece

*An exploration of study abroad experiences*

BY RAAGA KANAKAM  
STAFF WRITER

Athens, Greece. As one of the world's oldest cities and the largest in Greece, Athens is filled with beautiful temple, historical sites, picturesque beaches and streets full of shops. It's a worthwhile and fulfilling study abroad destination because of all that it has to offer any student, domestic or international.

Senior Morgan Ward studied abroad in Athens in



COURTESY OF MORGAN WARD

The Byzantine Middle Age Castle.

the fall semester of 2012 as a participant in the College Year in Athens (CYA) program.

The program offers classes in various disciplines, ranging from Art & Archaeology to Environmental Studies, Ethnography to History. Students also have the opportunity to study Literature, Philosophy, Political Science and International Relations, Religion, and Foreign Languages which include Ancient Greek, Latin and Modern Greek.

Ward chose to take four classes in history and religion.

History of the Byzantine

Empire was a course that encompassed the entire span of the Byzantine Empire with a focus on Ottoman Conquest.

Religion and Myth in Ancient Greece, which talked about different festivals and encompassed the religious sphere of ancient life, also brought students on various field trips to ancient sanctuaries and other historical sites.

The Middle Eastern Affairs class, Ward's favorite course that she took while in Athens examined the time period from the Abbasid caliphate to the present, highlighting important historical events.

"[Middle Eastern Affairs] was [...] my favorite class because I felt like I had a much better understanding of the Middle East and it really opened my eyes," Ward said. "From religious conflicts to water wars, this class had something



COURTESY OF MORGAN WARD

The healing sanctuary of Asclepius in Epidaurus.

to say on all of it."

Her fourth class was Comparative Religion, which examined three Abrahamic religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

The courses were very hands-on. For example, throughout Comparative Religion, her class took trips to a few monasteries

and churches as well. "[...]It was a really intimate level of learning," Ward said.

In addition to her schoolwork, Ward went on two weeklong trips with her CYA group.

During her first trip to Crete, the group hiked the Samaria Gorge, toured Peloponnesus, and visited Olympia, Delphi, and various ancient ruins such as Malia, Gournia, and Konosos.

In addition, she visited Santorini and visited many sites on the Island, including Akrotiri, or "the Bronze age Pompeii," with some of her classmates. While in the Peloponnesian mountains, she was fortunate enough to go rock climbing and explored ruins left by Philip II of Macedon.

Ward was lucky to spend a lot of time exploring Athens as well.

SEE GREECE PAGE 12



COURTESY OF MORGAN WARD

Ward visited the Fortress of Palamidi while in Peloponnesia.

## Osteria Rocco, Italian Cuisine: A Review

BY NICHOLAS MAVRELIS  
STAFF WRITER

On Monroe Avenue, there lies a small, quaint, and classic Italian restaurant: Osteria Rocco. I walked in on a Tuesday night, and, to my dismay, found out that I needed a reservation. On a Tuesday night!

So before my next visit, I made the reservation two weeks in advance, and here's what I have to say: the service is great, the restaurant's décor and atmosphere are appropriate, and the food is incredibly tasty, but unfortunately not that modestly priced.

When my friend and I sat down, a waiter immediately greeted us with a pretty convincing Italian accent, providing us the specials of the day, which sounded yummy. Of course, when I asked him where he was from, he told me Buffalo, NY. Regardless, we ordered the ricotta fatta in casa (ricotta on charred bread with olive oil), the lasagne alla pizzaiola (lasagna with three cheeses), and the brasato al valpolicella (braised beef with cabbage and roasted potatoes).

The ricotta fatta in casa was delicious – not only were the ricotta and bread homemade, but the luscious contrast in texture between the two added to the

of complexity to the dish, and the tomato sauce was surprisingly sweet.

Lastly, the brasato al valpolicella was good but not the best. The beef was well-



ALEX KURLAND / ILLUSTRATOR

boldness of the dish.

The lasagne alla pizzaiola was probably one of the best lasagna dishes I have ever had. Not only was everything in the dish homemade, but the three cheeses each added a new level

cooked, the cabbage was satisfactory, and the roasted potatoes were very good. However, I felt that the beef could have been better seasoned.

Overall, the meal was very good and would even have been

reasonably priced if it were located elsewhere. The bill, not including tip, came to about \$55 for two people. Coming from NYC, I consider this price, for the quality of the food, the service, and the décor, to be reasonable. However, Rochester is not NYC.

I was pretty surprised that everything about the restaurant was generally very good to excellent, but I was equally surprised that the bill came to \$55.

Despite the relatively high prices, this place is great for a date because of the service and the atmosphere. The seats are positioned close to each other at roughly ninety-degree angles with a table in between, which creates a more romantic atmosphere. In addition, the dim candles and the faint Italian music make you feel that you are secluded from everyone else in the restaurant.

I would recommend this restaurant if you want to have a fancy date, or if you are craving delicious Italian food and have some cash to spare.

*Mavrelis is a member of the class of 2017.*



CLUB SPOTLIGHT

# Students Helping Honduras: Making an impact locally and abroad

**BY JAMIE RUDD**  
FEATURES EDITOR

I make my way down to the first floor of Wilson Commons with junior Vanessa Cedarbaum. We approach a table where freshman Ellen Kim and junior Caroline Cheung sit, selling cupcakes to raise funds for their next service trip.

All three girls – along with 16 other UR students – spent their spring break in the village of Pánchame, Honduras, building a middle school for children who currently only have access to elementary education. They are members of UR’s Students Helping Honduras (SHH), one of the many college and high school chapters of the national non-profit organization founded by then college student Shin Fuliya in 2007.

Today, these members have agreed to share their experiences in SHH, a new club that’s gained much attention for its unique mission and activities.

After participating in her high school’s chapter of SHH, Cedarbaum founded UR’s program – gaining SA recognition last February – with the help of fellow junior Maria Salas. An international student from Mexico, Salas was also interested

and we go to Honduras on annual service trips, and also a local component where we do local community service in the Rochester community,” Cedarbaum explains.

SHH members travel to public schools 33 and 12 five times a week to tutor children in bilingual

speakers. While a good portion of SHH members have some background in Spanish, “a lot of members don’t really speak it at all – you don’t need it to tutor with us or go to Honduras,” Cedarbaum assures me.

In addition to tutoring, SHH plans to make their spring break

things like that,” Cedarbaum tells me. “Some of our most active members were getting \$400 towards their trip fees.”

While in Honduras, SHH volunteers stay in either SHH lodging or local hotels and spend their days at construction sites building schools from the ground up. “We were working on building classrooms...” Kim explains. “This involved literally moving cinder blocks, making cement with shovels, digging dirt out of certain areas... It’s definitely a lot of work especially in 90 degree weather, but it’s a lot of fun because you get to work with the Honduran workers,”

Cheung, who attended both SHH’s service trip last summer and the recent spring break trip, reflects on her two experiences. “It was the first place that I felt that passion and purpose were put together.... your passion had a purpose and your purpose built more passion,” she recounts. “When I went back two weeks ago, it hit me then that it just gets stronger... I think a lot of times in

Junior member Shanna Cleveland has joined us to weigh in with her views on SHH. “You rarely get to see where your money is going,” she tells me. “We’re sitting here selling cupcakes and it’s hard to visualize – why am I sitting here at this table?” She looks over to where Kim and Cheung sit, gesturing at their table. “We’ve been building a school that cupcakes have funded,” she exclaims. “One cupcake at a time,” she laughs.

“A lot of people just write checks to organizations and they don’t really know where it’s going,” Cleveland continues, explaining how cool it is to be part of club where you get to see where your money is actually going. “It makes us come back and be a lot more excited to sell cupcakes and get all our friends to sell cupcakes and then go back to Honduras again.”

In regards to the club’s future, Cedarbaum hopes for growth. “I just want more people to have that experience and have that opportunity to become so



COURTESY OF ISABELLE CHU

Junior Vanessa Cedarbaum and freshman Sam Passanisi play with local children.

classrooms. These classes combine kids whose first language was English, gaining exposure to Spanish at a young age, with kids whose first language was Spanish and are working on their English skills.

“The classes are taught more in Spanish and their homework is in Spanish but a lot of the kids

service trips an annual event. Starting last year, members have also traveled to Honduras for a summer leadership summit and additional volunteering. The group fundraises throughout the school year to pay for their SHH trip fees that makes their work possible.

“It’s a \$650 fee and \$250 of that goes to things for you [food and lodging] and the other \$400 is to basically keep SHH running... we can go down and work on a school but we can only do that if there are supplies,” Cedarbaum explains, noting that a large portion of their money goes toward building supplies. “It helps us get there, but then it’s doing good as well.”

To raise money this year, SHH has done a variety of events including a benefit dinner, Pictures with Santa, the “Aca-Olympics”, and of course, cupcake sales. All together, the group has raised approximately \$2,200 from fundraisers, receiving an additional \$1,500 bonus from the national SHH organization for requiring new members and bus tickets to NYC – where the group caught a direct flight to Honduras – paid for by the University.

Members get a certain amount of their trip fees covered based on their hours. “We keep track of how much time they spend tabling and



COURTESY OF ISABELLE CHU

UR’s chapter of SHH sent 19 students to Pánchame, Honduras over spring break.

life you get used to things and they become normal but something like this doesn’t.”

Cheung also noted how impressed she is with the organization’s efficiency. “They have all the logistics down way ahead of time so once [the schools are] up, people are in it and it’s actually being used for its purpose,” she tells me. During the winter trips, the SHH worksites get help from 200-300 volunteers a week, allowing them to build schools very quickly.

passionate about something,” she tells me. “We already expanded the SHH idea by including tutoring and there are definitely places it can go from there too... any new organization has a lot of freedom, but when you have people that are so excited about it, that’s when things can actually happen.”

For more information on the Students Helping Honduras organization and their story, visit <http://ceciskids.org>.

*Rudd is a member of the class of 2017.*



COURTESY OF ISABELLE CHU

Freshman Giovanna Braganza and junior Shanna Cleveland work on a support beam, in helping the local Hispanic community.

“Our version of SHH is kind of a combination of this normal Students Helping Honduras chapter where we fundraise

are primarily English speakers,” Cedarbaum tells me. SHH volunteers primarily help with reading and writing, skills that can be challenging even for kids who grew up as fluent Spanish

## UR OPINION

**BY DANI DOUGLAS & PARSA LOTFI**  
FEATURES EDITOR & PHOTO EDITOR

### “THIS PAST WEEK, TWITTER WAS BANNED IN TURKEY. WHICH SOCIAL NETWORK WOULD YOU BAN?”



MARISSA MARTIN '17

“Tumblr.”



LINDSEY BROWN '15

“Tinder.”



SCOTT TRUFAN '17

“Reddit.”



JOE THIBODEAU '15

“Vine.”



JULIA ROSS '16

“Myspace.”



CHRIS OSTWALD '17

“Facebook.”



# Ask Estrada: Hookups, relationships, and great expectations

BY MARIE-JOELLE ESTRADA  
COLUMNIST



My boyfriend's penis is only 2.5 inches long. I'm used to longer penises than this, but I love him so much I don't want him to know he's so small. Is there any way I can fix this and make my sex life more pleasurable?

I'm not sure whether the "2.5 inches long" refers to an erect or flaccid (non-erect) penis. Most research suggests that the average length of a non-erect penis is 3.5 inches and the average length of an erect penis is approximately 6 inches. Penises can also vary a lot in terms of how much they change when erect; that is, some increase very little in size when erect ("showers") whereas some increase a lot ("growers"). That being said, if you're referring to a man who is 2.5 inches erect, this does qualify as a micro-penis, a

condition that the BBC estimates affects 1 in 200 men.

In terms of physical sensations however, the most sensitive aspects of the women's equipment tend to be the clitoris, which is often missed during penile penetration, and the first inch or so of the vaginal canal. For this reason, many women argue that girth (width) of a man's member may be more important than the length.

Our sexual scripts are very much centered around a man's penis so it's not surprising that many men and women put a lot of importance on its size and make it the focus of sex (e.g. sex begins with penile penetration and ends with the man's orgasm). In reality, intercourse shouldn't be the be-all and end-all, especially

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since it rarely results in an orgasm for a woman.

Truthfully, the majority of sexual satisfaction you experience has little to do with your boyfriend's size, but rather how he chooses to be attentive to your needs. Many other factors such as adequate foreplay and sensitive clitoral stimulation will go a long way to increase your arousal and result in much more satisfying sex. Ian Kerner's book "She

comes first" offers some great game plans in terms of reworking your sexual script, for example suggesting that activities that were previously considered "foreplay" be reframed as "coreplay" – i.e. occupying a central role.

Many times, concerns about size are also confounded with skills, but given the choice, most women would prefer a man with a smaller penis who had good skills in the bedroom to a well-endowed man who knew or cared little about how to please his partners. In fact, I've heard colloquially that some women prefer a man with a small penis because it helps foster creativity and a variety of appreciated skills. Sadly, some men who are well-endowed have the mistaken notion that the equipment they have is all they need.

My friend told a girl on campus that I masturbate to her Facebook pictures. I thought she'd be turned on by that but she confronted me about it and told me to stop, but I don't want to. Can I get in trouble?

Fantasies are by nature personal, and whatever thoughts you choose to have when masturbating are entirely your own to explore and enjoy in your mind. This is why when you inadvertently make them public by sharing with a less than trustworthy source, it can backfire and create an awkward situation.

Although I'm sure you thought you were paying this girl a high compliment, it can come off as

invasive, especially if the two of you haven't been romantically attached. Think about how you'd feel if you knew that another

I'd suggest that you stop sharing your fantasies with anyone other than a sexual partner who is interested and asking questions about them.

person that you never thought of in a sexual context – the bus driver, the person who serves you lunch in the Pit – was pleasuring him/herself to your pictures? Essentially, it forces you to think about a sexual context with a person that you hadn't freely chosen, which understandably can be uncomfortable and possibly scary. For this reason, I'd suggest that you stop sharing your fantasies with anyone other than a sexual partner who is interested and asking questions about them.

Truthfully, I'm guessing fantasizing and masturbating to any public photographs is very common, although most people probably don't share this with the target out of embarrassment. Really though, given all the other different options out there, I'd suggest simply finding a new and exciting target to fantasize about privately instead.

Estrada is a visiting assistant professor in the Department of Clinical & Social Psychology.

To submit an anonymous question, visit [sex-thect.tumblr.com/ask](http://sex-thect.tumblr.com/ask).

# Student immersed in Athenian culture

GREECE FROM PAGE 10

"I made friends with some students there and it was cool to get a perspective of the riots and things going on in the country from someone my age," she said. "I also went to a few protests myself, to observe." She, along with a few other students, took part in a peace demonstration organized by EGAM (European Grassroots Antiracist Movement, "a french-based activist group").

"It was an amazing experience as people from all over the EU came in support of the movement."

She also volunteered at the Athens Classic Marathon.

She still keeps in touch with the people she met there and plans to use these connections to go back to Greece and teach English.



ALEX KURLAND / ILLUSTRATOR

"Study Abroad was an amazing experience and I would encourage anyone and everyone to at least look into it," she says. "It's an experience of a lifetime, and you learn so much about yourself and the world around you when you are taken out of your comfort zone."

Kanakam is a member of the class of 2017.

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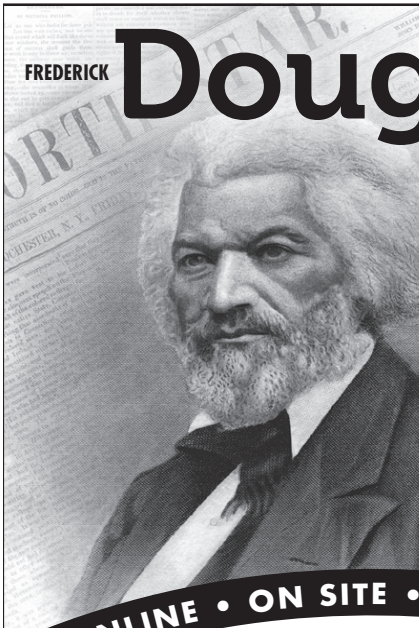
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## Douglass at dawn

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# UR Tech: The future of virtual reality

BY LUCIAN COPELAND  
STAFF WRITER

About a week ago, one of my cohorts in a virtual reality (VR) project called me aside in the lab to show me a special piece of equipment that had just arrived for our project. After a dramatic pause, I opened the door to our workshop area and was greeted by the simple, angular, black headset of an Oculus Rift lying on my workstation table.

At this point, I am told, I made a noise comparable to “several district’s worth of dog kennels being simultaneously electrocuted”, and the rest of my team had to be submitted for inner ear reconstruction.

Hyperbole aside, getting a chance to work with an Oculus is pretty exciting. Seeing the device in the news or on YouTube does the product a disservice – the experience is not one that can be represented properly in the third person.

From the moment you put it on, the Rift is a very personal product – the environment you perceive, delivered via two screens for the offset 3D effect to each eye, is not one that you can share with the people around you.

Instead, they have to wait patiently for their turn to get back in on the action, smiling wryly as you blunder around in your own little reverie. The experience of suddenly entering an entirely new virtual space just by putting on a headset is disorienting, so you will

stumble.

Every user that put on our Rift made at least one attempt to balance themselves on a virtual object that only they could see, flailing their arms wildly amid the ensuing laughter before several amused

paced motion is the norm and persistent nausea from a gaming session would be predictably unwelcome.

But motion sickness from the latest FPS (first person shooter) may not be such an issue for the Rift’s unexpected new

Zuckerberg said in a public statement. “Imagine enjoying a courtside seat at a game, studying in a classroom of students and teachers all over the world or consulting with a doctor face-to-face — just by putting on goggles in your

disorientation and sickness that come with mismatches between real and virtual motion.

Rather than being just another means of getting online and blowing up aliens, VR could be the way you visit your family or check-in with your boss on a sick day, successful in ways that teleconferencing and video chat cannot be.

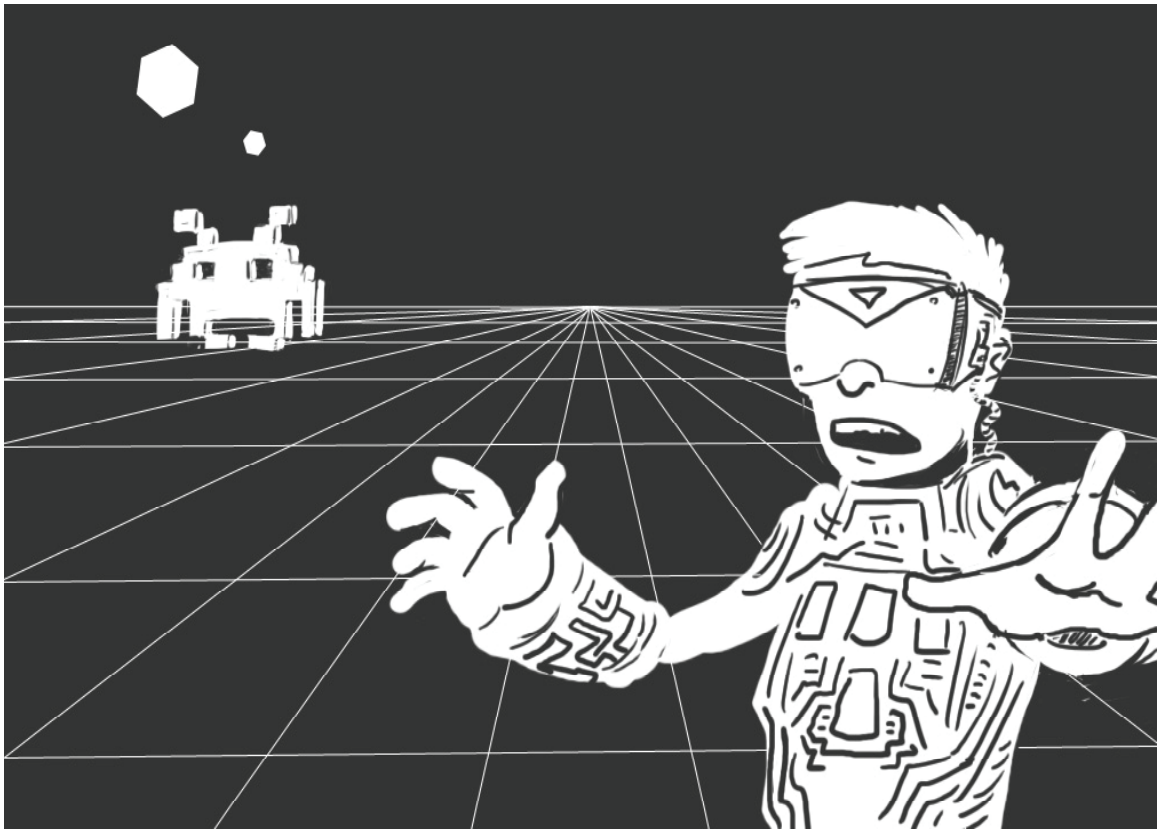
Not everyone is happy about the change, and the purchase brought some developers to drop support of the platform on hearing of the reduced focus on gaming. But luckily for those who might doubt Facebook’s motives, the market is rapidly expanding.

Sony has recently announced the Project Morpheus headset as a direct competitor to the Rift, and accessories and innovations for VR continue to expand.

It’s possible that virtual reality may become the next motion control for gaming, universally distributed to every household with a console. But VR is one of the first gaming technologies that has the potential to be more than a toy – virtual spaces not just for entertainment, but for social and business environments as well.

Hopefully we’ll have the common sense to keep ourselves reined in, lest our streets and offices be filled with blind zombies in goofy headsets, wildly flapping their arms in a game only they can see.

*Copeland is a member of the Class of 2015.*



ALEX KURLAND / ILLUSTRATOR

helpers rushed in to rebalance them. Unfortunately, another universal but less desired effect of using the Rift is that of motion sickness – every single one of us got nauseatingly sick for about half an hour after putting it on.

This disorientation could make the device a hard sell to its intended audience in the gaming market, where fast-

owner: Facebook. The social media giant announced the two billion dollar purchase of the VR company this Tuesday, voicing their hopes that virtual reality will usher in a new era of interactive communication between people across the globe.

“We’re going to make Oculus a platform for many other experiences [than gaming],”

home.”

It’s a sensible move by a company seeking to establish themselves as a universal means of communication. Virtual reality is the perfect way to share a private or public virtual space with someone across the globe, and the absence of the physical demands of gaming could avoid the feelings of



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## Aviation incidents

SEE DISASTERS PAGE 10

fire had started in one of the airplane’s lavatories.

The plane then began to descend for an emergency landing in Cincinnati, Ohio. By the time the plane reached the runway, firefighters were already waiting on the runway, ready to extinguish the fire.

According to the NTSB, half the people onboard the plane were able to escape before the cabin “burst into flames” only ninety seconds after landing.

Results: The flammable materials on board were what made it easy for the fire to travel the length of the plane and reduce it to a skeleton. As a consequence, regulations were created that required signs prohibiting smoking, automatic fire extinguishers, and smoke detectors to be installed on all planes.

### 3. United Airlines Flight 718

What Happened: On the morning of June 30, 1956, United Airlines Flight 718 and TWA Flight 2 both took off out of L.A. International Airport, only three minutes apart from one another. UA Flight 718 was headed for Chicago, while TWA Flight 2 was Kansas City

bound.

At about 10:30 am, the planes intersected each other’s paths above the Grand Canyon as TWA Flight 2’s propeller ripped through UA Flight 718’s fuselage and rear cabin. Neither plane was expecting to cross paths.

Unfortunately, no one survived the crash.

Results: This accident led to the Air Traffic Control system being revamped so that pilots would have a better idea of where other planes were around them. It also led to the creation of the FAA. They are responsible for ensuring airplane travel safety.

Without these notable changes, we would still be flying home for summer break in “fatigued”, ready-to-explode, flammable, blind death traps.

It is unfortunate that the most influential cause of aviation safety improvement is through disasters and loss of life. The tragedy of Malaysian Airlines Flight 370 will undoubtedly motivate change and improvement in the way planes are tracked and how the black box system works, but it can never bring back the people who were lost on the flight.

*Kluxniak is a member of the Class of 2017.*



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Plain White T's exceed campus expectations

BY TRACE MADDUX  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If Facebook feeds and snippets of overheard conversation are accurate sources, then it's safe to say that campus was less than brimming with excitement over last week's Plain White T's concert. Even without a rabid fan-base, the lack of enthusiasm seemed somewhat underwhelming in light of the fact that Grammy-nominees would soon be playing in the same place many students eat lunch.

The concert was held in Douglass dining hall where, past a surprising amount of security, a full stage was erected for the occasion, complete with those cool lights that change colors. Opening for the "T's" was Rhode Island singer-songwriter Will Evans, joined by one of our own Yellow Jackets – freshman Jeff Howard – in a fantastically engaging performance which all but stole the thunder from the main attraction. The duo performed several of Evans' own pieces, as well as a few terrific covers, including a well-received rendition of Lorde's "Royals", before bowing out.

Following the opening act and after a torturously long break during which the author repeatedly debated whether or not he had time to pee, the main event commenced.

Much to the shock and vexation of at least one audience



The Plain White T's played Douglass Dining center on Friday, March 21.

Parsa Lotfi / Photo Editor

member, the Plain White T's did not in fact wear plain white tees. The band more than compensated for this fashion oversight, however – and certainly exceeded the lukewarm expectations of the campus community – by putting on a darn good show.

Led by the energetic and somewhat elfin lead singer, Tom Higgenson, the group dominated the stage for about an hour. Along with several fun, impromptu

audience interactions – at one point, a student handed Tom a guitar pick, which he immediately declared to be magical. Later, guitarist Tim Lopez gave a shoutout to an Instagram follower and, after a brief audience panic that the show had ended prematurely, Tom returned for some "private time" with the audience – the concert consisted mostly of the group's lesser-known songs ("the Giving Tree", "Body Parts") but rounded

off the night well with favorites like, "Hey There Delilah", "1234", and "Should've Gone to Bed."

It's a well-known fact that many bands sound better on the iPod than they ever will live. Autotune and professional recording studios can leave us feeling cheated after finally hearing an artist in person. At Friday's concert, however, there was certainly no disappointment – every song was spot-on and just as good as could be hoped. Moreover,

the response from the crowd was overwhelmingly positive.

Although an exact number of tickets sold was not immediately available from UR Concerts, Douglass was, if not packed to bursting, certainly well-filled for what amounted to an exciting and enjoyable Friday night that exemplified the many exciting events open to UR students.

*Maddox is a member of the class of 2017.*

## EMERGENCY USA concert highlights urgent cause

BY MEGAN KIBLER  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When reaching out to people in need, music is a timeless, powerful way to express the benefits of caring for others. The UR Chapter of EMERGENCY USA held their first annual concert in hopes of not only raising funds for their cause but also increasing awareness of their organization. They also provided a night of fun

An overwhelming 90 percent of the victims are civilians, and one in three are children.

entertainment for the audience, featuring performances from the Yellow Jackets and Vocal Point to a dance routine from UR Bhangra. It resulted in an eclectic mix of high-energy performances, all who had volunteered to showcase their talents for the cause.

EMERGENCY USA is an organization that focuses on raising funds to support the establishment of international hospitals to aid victims of war.

An overwhelming 90 percent of the victims are civilians, and one in three are children. EMERGENCY operates clinics in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Iraq, Sudan, and various other countries. They provide medical care to patients free of charge and since their establishment in 1994 have given treatment to 16 million people. The proceeds collected at Rochester directly fund the construction and maintenance of these medical clinics. Specifically, the proceeds from the concert will help fund orthopedic nails, or binding for casts, in the Sierra Leone and Afghanistan clinics. Daria Nicol, President of the UR chapter of the organization,

noted that "EMERGENCY is funded 70% by private donors like us". Therefore, public awareness of the group is crucial for its continued success.

Although EMERGENCY's cause is a serious one, Nicol

emphasizes that it is "still a fun group on campus". As a result, the concert accomplished a reasonable balance of being informative yet entertaining. The Yellowjackets got the crowd on their feet with a fun rendition of "Wavin' Flag/Wakka Wakka" in contrast to Vocal Point's stirring rendition of "Barton Hollow". Off Broadway on Campus also performed a scene. The show additionally featured solo performances from Thomas Varner and Andy Brink. Varner's acoustic and vocal set featured two original songs, which he chose specifically for the venue, aiming for "upbeat songs about change and progress". He noted that "it is always satisfying to raise money for something that will do the world a bit of good, and

it is incredible to accomplish that just by playing music". The night concluded with an energetic dance routine from UR Bhangra. Brian Chang, a member of the group,

EMERGENCY operates clinics in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Iraq, Sudan and various other countries.

expressed "Dancing for charity is something that we as a team and as individual dancers, are committed to doing, so we just try to serve whenever we can."

Overall, the concert was successful in expressing EMERGENCY's mission.

If you're interested in contributing to this cause, donations can be given to the Rochester chapter or online at [www.emergencyusa.org](http://www.emergencyusa.org). If you desire to join the group or want to find out more information, meetings are held on Tuesdays at 6 in Dewey 2-110.

*Kibler is a member of the class of 2017.*



Liz Benson / Illustrator



# X Ambassadors: taking from the past, looking to the future

BY JEFF HOWARD  
A&E EDITOR

Somewhere along its development, the pop-industrial-complex bred the notion that music's quality positively correlates to the amount of styles it incorporates. Rubbish. It's not that genre-mixing is a bad practice – it's just that all too frequently, people assign the “eclectic” label to an album that channels trap-beat-inducing debauchery on one track and piano drenched heartbreak on the next. This is how commercial pop stars sell albums: appeal to the basic emotions of the lowest common denominator, even if their coexistence yields the feelings equivalent of a Frankenstein.

The X Ambassadors, an Ithaca-based alt rock collective, combine country stomp, hip-hop swagger, stadium-sized rock euphoria and piano-arpeggio-backed melancholy all in one song – but it's magnificent. The band, through its high-level musicianship and inventive approach to songwriting, captures nuggets of authenticity from the modern pop world and fuses them into something captivating, cohesive, and original. Turns out, embracing pop styles really can be eclectic. I had the pleasure of speaking with the X Ambassador's front man, guitarist, and saxophonist Sam Harris, where we discussed the musical influences, production, and what it means to start all over again.

**JH:** Let's talk about your new EP, “The Reason EP”, which came out this year. There was a country vibe to it, but it also had elements of trap music, indie-pop. It was pretty interesting.

**SH:** I'm glad you noticed the country influence; I don't think many people pick up on that.

**JH:** Yeah, well even in the lyrics and themes, it was rooted in the everyday grind, which has a country thing to it. From your point of view, what musical influences do you and the band take from this EP?

**SH:** You know, it's funny – a lot of the influences that we draw upon are contemporary influences. A lot of those are hip-hop based. In terms of the production, we're really big on a lot of the hip-hop producers like Just Blaze, No I.D., and guys like that. Those are the dudes we look up to, like J. Dilla. The trouble is, we're a rock band. We have always tried to incorporate elements of hip-hop into our music without becoming like Linkin' Park. That's always been a big thing, getting the groove right and the vibe right and having it be a little weird. In terms of songwriting, I grew up listening to a lot of classic songwriters and a lot of soul and R&B. I love Lauryn Hill, I love Bruce Springsteen – a lot of the songwriters that touch through the bullshit. I love that kind of style. I really wanted to make sure that I was getting the point across with all of these songs. I think Bruce Springsteen's a big

influence on this EP. But with Sam Cooke and Marvin Gaye there's just this simple kind

of these songs, I want to try to get the point across to everyone and to really connect with a live



Liz Beson / Illustration

of songwriting that I'm most attracted to right now.

**JH:** I felt that – your songs felt very urgent. Now, I know you guys have done tour dates with Imagine Dragons and Panic! at the Disco. Those are both pretty poppy bands – Imagine Dragons is definitely on the more commercial end of indie-pop. How was it to play with those guys?

We have always tried to incorporate elements of hip-hop into our music without becoming like Linkin' Park.

**SH:** It's great. They're both incredible bands. Imagine Dragons in particular have been a big help for us in our careers and they're good friends of ours. Dan Reynolds, the lead singer, actually executive produced both of our EP's. He's got a great ear and he's really helped us out a lot. You know, we all love pop music. We grew up in Ithaca, New York, upstate, near Rochester – when we were growing up, we weren't exposed to a lot of the cool indie music that was going on in New York, Chicago, Philly, and California. We heard what was on the radio, and my favorite rock bands were alternative rock bands like the Red Hot Chili Peppers and Coldplay. That was what I listened to for the most part. So that's still kind of ingrained in us. As years have gone on I've been exposed to tons of great indie musicians and songwriters like James Murphy and the dude from The National. With

audience. Again, we grew up in a small town and the music that we made is inherently striving to be bigger – to break free from its tiny world. So the pop thing has always attracted us. That said, we really love the fact that we have started to create this sound that's really unique but yet poppy at the same time. That's what we strive towards: something that's different. If we're looking at what everybody else is doing – which we try not to do, we try to keep our heads down and focus on what we're doing – but if we are looking at what everybody else is doing in the music world, we try to do somewhat of the opposite, or take what they're doing and make it our own.

**JH:** I definitely felt that with what I listened to. It's tough to bridge that gap between

If we are looking at what everybody else is doing in the music world, we try to do somewhat of the opposite, or take what they're doing and make it our own.

ambition and accessibility, but I definitely noticed that you guys took from a lot of popular music elements, like, as I said before, the trap music vibe. Also, the production on what I listened to was spacious, clear, and colorful – I thought it was really awesome.

**SH:** Thank you. Yeah, we take a lot of pride in our production. Essentially all of this EP was done on the road. We didn't do

any of it in the studio – it was all done in hotel rooms, laptops in our rehearsal space, on tour backstage. It's cool how it all came together. It turned out to be pretty exciting.

**JH:** You talk about using pop music to expand from a smaller world. I was reading on your website that your new EP touches upon themes of moving on and new beginnings. I also watched a music video of “Unconsolable” off of “Love Songs Drug Songs”. It seems like you guys are really rooted in everyday life and moving beyond it. Did that come from personal experience?

**SH:** Yeah. Again, growing up in a small town had a huge impact on me as a songwriter. In terms of the theme of the EP, the EP is really a narrative. It's actually a story from start to finish of this guy looking back on his life. You go back in time with him, starting with “Free and Lonely”, and he's looking back at his time as a free person in the world with no responsibilities, but he had to settle down. Life is not what he expected it to be. And then, with “The Business”, we go back and we see him at a point when he's finally deciding to give up his dreams and move on and do something different, and how that's okay. It's not actually bad, that's why the song is celebratory. And then we go back further, to “Giants”, where he's a teenager and the world is still full of possibilities. When I was a kid, growing up in Ithaca, I would dream of being able to pursue a career as a musician. The world seemed so full of possibilities, and it was exciting and dangerous and scary. And then it goes back even further, to “Unsteady”, where the guy is a kid and his parents are divorced, and we see his parents are having a similar midlife crisis as he's having at the beginning. So the story in “Free and Lonely” kind of comes full circle like that. It came from a place of wanting to write about things I knew my friends were going through. I always really strive to write about everyday things that we all go through and that sometimes aren't the most glamorous things to talk about or sometime they're uncomfortable to talk about, but that makes them all the more important. For instance, with a lot of people I went to school with who wanted to be actors, directors, musicians, artists or dancers, life kind of happens. I'm 25 now, so I've been out of college for about four years, and a lot of my friends have been out of college for that amount of time or longer, and they're realizing that they're dreams aren't going to come true and they're going to have to figure out something else to do. Life kind of happens. It's a little bit of a scary thing, but it's kind of not that bad, and that's what I wanted to get across with these songs. These are things that people go through too. Again, we listen to a lot of hip-hop, and a big part of it is starting with nothing and building an empire, a really empowering

thing to hear. A lot of people in the world go for these dreams and don't succeed for one reason or another, and it's not because they didn't try hard enough. It's not because they didn't put the time in. There's an X-factor that exists. There's a luck factor. We all know tons of talented people who just never got a break. I wanted them to feel empowered too. I wanted to write something for them – for my friends.

**JH:** That's cool – I like how this is like a concept EP.

**SH:** Yeah, it's totally a concept EP. I want people to know that there are other people out there who are going through similar hard times. So are we. This whole music industry is so unpredictable these days; we just chose to dive headfirst into it. I think a big part of why I decided to write about this stuff is that I'm scared of failing too. I was thinking to myself, “Wow, we just signed a major label, we're really going to start and try to push this band. This is really happening right now – what if it all goes wrong?” That was a big thing that was on my mind when I was writing this whole EP. Again, I chose to write about it – I sort of chose to and it sort of happened. “The Business” was the first one that really came about. I just had that hook, “I'm gonna give up the business”. Its about giving up the record industry, the “what if”. What if I had to do that? What if I chose to walk away from it? Or, what if it just didn't work out and I was forced to walk away from it? It grew from there, and because this was a thing I felt uncomfortable talking about – failure – it was all the more important that I wrote about it. It's the reason why “Unsteady” came about. I never saw my parents' divorce as anything worth writing about and not coming off as whiny or too emo. No matter what the situation is, it's always a difficult thing, for all parties involved, to go through. I wanted to write about it.

**JH:** You guys are playing at Rochester's “Bug Jar” on April 8. Are you guys looking forward to playing there?

**SH:** Yeah, we're looking forward to playing in upstate New York. That's our home turf – building a fan base up there, we're really excited about it.

**JH:** Is there anything you guys want to include before we finish?

**SH:** The tour goes from the beginning of April until the 20. Buy your tickets now because it's selling out pretty quickly. Come out to the Rochester show, it's going to be a lot of fun. Pick up the new EP, it's on iTunes and Spotify. Follow us on Twitter, @xambassadors is the handle on both Facebook and Twitter – or Facebook.com/XAmbassadors. Keep spreading the good word.

X Ambassadors will be playing at Rochester's “Bug Jar” on April 8. For more information on the band and its tour dates visit [www.xambassadors.com](http://www.xambassadors.com).

*Howard is a member of the class of 2017.*



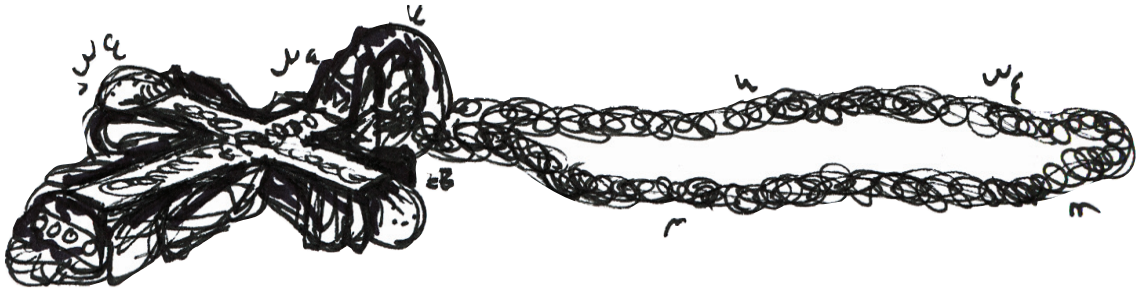
# Local Artist Spotlight: Ahzay - ‘The Routine: A Long Story Short’

BY JUSTIN FRAUMENI  
A&E EDITOR

UR is not known for its rappers. Research, yes. Rappers, no. It’s probably safe to say that we’re not alone. Despite some notable exceptions (Kanye West, J. Cole, Lil Wayne), hip-hop has never really been a product of academia and rarely embraces it as typical subject matter. UR’s own Ahzay, on the other hand, is not the typical rapper, and his debut release “The Routine: A Long Story Short” is not the typical rap album.

There are no hookers, no gun violence, and no hardcore drug peddling. “The Routine” stays true to its title: it’s evident from the onset that this is an honest album about the collegiate weekly grind, and this isn’t a rapper trying to be someone he’s not. “The Routine” is a concept album, not about the cycle of violence in the slums, but about the

ultra-relatable study-party-regret cycle of the average undergrad. Ahzay manages to strike a balance on “The Routine” by tying fun, party-rap singles like “uLike” and “Show Me” in with a serious overarching album theme:



Liz Beson / **Illustrator**

regrets about overindulgence. This is the same delicate combo Kendrick Lamar nailed on “Good Kid, M.A.A.D. City”, and the unnamed character we follow on “Routine” faces a similar reality to Kendrick’s: throughout all the partying and debauchery, there remains a gravitation

towards religion; he is forced to face the hypocrisy of being a “Sunday Christian” firsthand. The fact that “The Routine” was produced by a plethora of individuals aids it in avoiding what might plague many homegrown

Kanye in particular—which is all the more impressive when you discover that “The Routine” was recorded predominantly in dorm rooms around UR. The album is a genuine celebration of campus talent, and features so many

should be all too familiar for the average UR student. Notably, he draws parallels between the female physique and polynomials (“More curves than a calc class”) and on “All Nighter,” probably one of the only rap songs ever recorded about studying, he name drops Webwork of all things.

At the end of the fourteen-track romp, Ahzay offers his gratitude; while confirming our suspicions; we’ve been immersed in a true-to-life college experience: “For all of you who were able to make it through, I thank you, because you lived my life for sixty minutes.”

“The Routine” can be streamed at [www.Ahzay.com](http://www.Ahzay.com). Check out Ahzay live at Boulder Coffee on April 11th, and on May 23rd at the California brew Haus at 7:00 pm.

*Fraumeni is a member of the class of 2017.*

# Foster the People showcase songwriting expertise on ‘Supermodel’

BY JEFF HOWARD  
A&E EDITOR

Like big-brand sodas of the “real cane sugar” variety, Foster the People radiates authenticity to the everyman who already finds cosmic delight in the most accessible cultural products. In 2011, the band’s debut single “Pumped Up Kicks” caught mainstream attention with its cutesy swagger and mildly socially conscious edge. Times have changed since 2011, and as the bearers of pedestrian ambition, Foster the People faces a more scrupulous cultural climate in 2014 with the release of its sophomore LP, “Supermodel”. As we enter the mid 2010’s, the blogosphere empowers the people with an unprecedentedly diverse musical palette at its fingertips, elevating the express-your-individuality rat race to new levels of hyper-zeal. If Rolling Stone magazine’s dismissal of “Supermodel” as “halfhearted” is any indication, lite hipster fodder just doesn’t cut it with the masses like it used to. It’s a crying

shame because, for what it is, “Supermodel” is quite excellent. It’s not like on “Supermodel” Foster the People radically deviates from the formula that made “Pumped up Kicks” such a success. The album’s opening track, “Are You What You Want to Be?” sparkles with the kind of watery guitar stabs and upbeat vocal sensibilities that so many music reviewers tag with the infamous “sun-drenched” descriptor. But as Foster the People celebrates self-empowerment over a chorus of “na na na na / na na na na na”, the band demonstrates a capacity for refreshingly exquisite pop songwriting, even when the track’s emotions are so

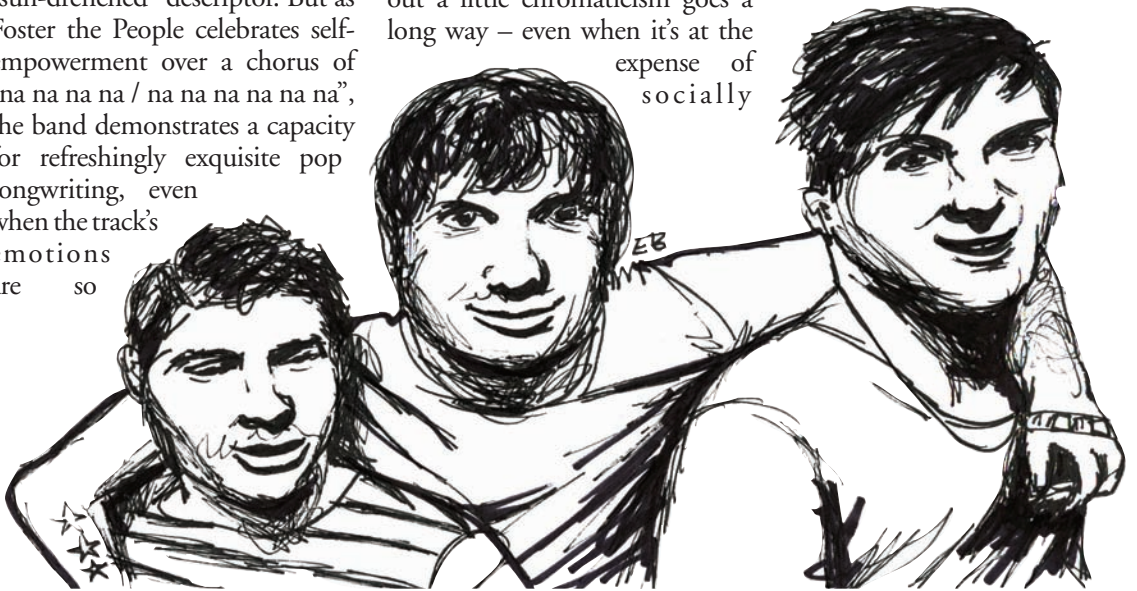
unashamedly insipid. On “Are You What You Want to Be?” the vocal hook shines with an ornate complexity that channels “Surf’s Up”-era Beach Boys. Impressive. Add to that the track “Nevermind”, which through its labyrinthine use of mode mixture conjures derivative hipster ethos in a way that’s more harmonically titillating than the entirety of Lorde’s “Pure Heroine”. Turns out a little chromaticism goes a long way – even when it’s at the expense of socially

conscious bite. The list goes on. As Foster the People executes what’s essentially a set of songs best suited for Converse sneaker commercials, they do so with the tact of learned, seasoned songwriters. Throughout “Supermodel”, polyrhythms between the bass and vocals create an intricate sonic weave. Instrumentation is arranged in such a way that none of the

frequencies clash. Distinct harmonic and dynamic shifts highlight verses from choruses, and many of the track’s bridges go down chordal avenues that are spine-tingling even after several listens. While on “Supermodel” Foster the People’s music very much retains the commercial varnish of its debut album, the band reflects an unorthodox appreciation for the elements of fine composition that even alternative music’s heavy-hitters like Arcade Fire and Daft Punk overlook (listen to “Reflektor” again and notice how the low frequencies clash on “It’s Never Over”. Farty.)

While Foster the People’s debut was playful but forgettable, on its sophomore LP the band affords as much room for showcasing its songwriting prowess as it does for its fun-loving spirit. As a result, Foster the People presents listeners with an album that, while still flourishing at backyard pool parties, warrants more than a couple of personal listens as well.

*Howard is a member of the class of 2017.*



Liz Beson / **Illustrator**

Britney Spears’ “Femme Fatale” plays something like this:

<html><a href= “Cyber\$exXx-dreamz.html” alt=”nept00n-strip-club-fantasy”> CLIKK HERE 4 MAD LuZZ!!11! </a> <img src= “starburst-kiss.gif” alt= “lazr-girlz”> <style>{color: erotik-bubble-gum; display: #getKrUNKd;}</style><///htmlLOL>

Everything about “Femme Fatale” warrants the “hyper-” prefix – the lyrics are hyper-moronic, the vocals hyper-processed, the music a hyper-insult to the listener’s intelligence. This is what makes the album so brilliant – it absurdly exaggerates everything that makes pop music profane, and in doing so turns modern pabulum into an art piece of Michaelangelo-sized proportions.

Admittedly, “Femme Fatale”’s charm lies entirely in its production, which surely can be credited to an exhaustive list of engineers, producers, songwriters, co-songwriters and co-co-songwriters. Yes, Britney had minimal hand in the album’s creative direction, but good music is good music even if its goodness comes from a faceless, omnipotent cloud of high-level executives.

Texturally, “Femme Fatale” pops, bounces, and rumbles. On the track “How I Roll”, minimalist 808 beats, OutKast-esque blips and beeps, computerized vocals, and neon synths mesh into a neo-primal, interplanetary ritual for the gods that somehow complements the lyric, “I got nine lives like a kitty cat.”

Literally every track on the album is a party for the synapses. The synthesizers you can touch, taste, and see. It’s just really, really fun to listen to – trust me.

## CT RECOMMENDS

### BRITNEY SPEARS - “FEMME FATALE”

BY JEFF HOWARD  
A&E EDITOR





# ‘Kid Tiger’ mixes a laid-back attitude with roaring musicianship

BY RACHAEL SANGUINETTI  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Even though “Kid Tiger”, the sophomore album from Daniel Ellsworth and the Great Lakes came out on March 4, I would bet that a lot of Rochester hasn’t bought it yet, though anyone who does not have this album as part of their playlist is definitely missing out. This up-and-coming indie-rock band has something that seems to fit the Rochester music scene: it’s laid-back but focused instrumentally, with quality vocals and lyrics that require multiple listens to fully appreciate. The first song on the new album was one of my favorites. The piano solo at the beginning caught me off guard but was a smooth way to introduce the



Daniel Ellsworth and the Great Lakes, looking suave on the cover of their sophomore album “Kid Tiger”.

This up and coming indie-rock band has something in it that seems to fit with the Rochester music scene: it’s laid back but focused instrumentally with quality vocals and lyrics that require multiple listens through.

song. The drums come in a few measures later with a beat that perfectly fits the theme that the piano introduced. Coupled with beautiful, soft lead vocals and great harmonies from the backup vocals, what’s not to love?

The rest of the album follows suit, presenting song after song that exhibits smooth harmonies and great lyrics. “Little Light”, which is tenth on the album, shows off their musicianship, beginning with tight harmonies then moving on to mixed meters of five-then-six that are further energized by the song’s changing tempos. Too many popular artists today cannot even handle 5/4 time, let alone switching to six and back again. Hearing this rhythmic virtuosity on their album got to the core of what makes the band great; it’s a group that comprises talented people who can make great music, plain and simple. It’s clear to me that band members Daniel, Timon,

Marshall, and Joel really know what they are doing when it comes to composition and their There are too many popular artists that could not handle 5/4 time, not to mention switching to 6 and back again.

instruments; Daniel Ellsworth and the Great Lakes isn’t your run-of-the-mill band based in someone’s garage, not to say good music has never come out of a garage or been written by a self-taught musician. But it came as no surprise that all four members have music

degrees from respected music schools: Belmont, Berklee, and Ohio State. Luckily, all were in Nashville at the same time and, through mutual friends, came together. The group’s success with their first album, “Civilized Man”, was enough to gain them recognition; they topped Amazon’s mp3 album sales chart and were named one of the “15 Bands to Watch in 2014” by Esquire magazine. This didn’t come without hard work and touring night after night to get their name out. According to the band, their first album was definitely a group effort but a somewhat less cohesive one. Daniel had written some of the songs before the band had formed

so it was, in Joel’s words, “a little bit more of a mixed bag”. “We love the first record,” Joel said in a recent interview. “But we’re super excited about this one just because it’s much more a collaborative effort as far as variety goes.” I got to chat with the band as they drove towards Chicago in their van earlier in the month. They seemed like a down-to-earth bunch that love making music together and are humbled by their fans and success thus far. When asked about their writing songs as a team vs. writing alone, the consensus was writing as a team is far better. “It’s great writing with three other guys that are just as into it and committed as everyone else,” Joel said. Press releases compare the group to Passion Pit, Cold War Kids, and Walk the Moon. When asked what makes them different from these groups, Daniel had an honest answer. “We never think about [other] groups when we’re writing,” he said. “We just try and think about...[trying] to make something that we would listen to. If people compare us to other bands that are good, it’s always a compliment.” This album – which was inspired by drawings of animals, good mustaches, moderately priced whiskey, and doughnuts, according to their Facebook page – is worth every cent of the \$12 it costs to buy it from their online store. That’s a cheap bottle of whiskey or two-dozen donuts. Sanguinetti is a member of the class of 2015.

## TOP TEN DEBUT ALBUMS

BY JEFF HOWARD  
A&E EDITOR

- 10 GET SCRAPED - DEADMAU5
- 9 ST. ELSEWHERE - GNARLS BARKLEY
- 8 JAMES BLAKE - JAMES BLAKE
- 7 MOON SAFARI - AIR
- 6 HOMEWORK - DAFT PUNK
- 5 REASONABLE DOUBT - JAY-Z
- 4 THE MILK-EYED MENDER - JOANNA NEWSOM
- 3 CROSS - JUSTICE
- 2 THE COLLEGE DROPOUT - KANYE WEST
- 1 LED ZEPPELIN I - LED ZEPPELIN

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Mara Karpp - Women's Lacrosse

BY JOHN CHTCHEKINE  
SPORTS EDITOR



COURTESY OF UR ATHLETICS

**What is your major?**  
I'm a Health, Behavior, and Society major.

**Why did you come to UR?**  
My dad went here so it was always on my radar. I always knew I wanted to play lacrosse in college but still have an active life on campus. UR offered that as well as a challenging academic environment.

**What/who got you to start playing lacrosse?**  
Long Island, where I'm from, is considered a hotbed for lacrosse. My older brother played and I always copied everything he did so naturally, when I was old enough to, I started.

**Do you have any pre-game**

**rituals or superstitions?**  
I have the same person braid my hair for every game and I wear the same headband on gamedays.

**How is collegiate lacrosse different from high school?**  
The level of play is much different. In high school, you would normally see a team with one or two star players, but at the collegiate level, you have multiple players who make meaningful contributions to every game. It makes play much more competitive.

**What's the best piece of advice a coach has ever given you?**  
It was more of a lesson than a piece of advice, but in high school, whenever we dropped a ball we had to run to the

pole at the opposite end of the field. It was a little harsh, but it taught us that we are held accountable for all of our actions on the field and how important it is to make smart decisions with the ball.

**In your game against Smith College, you scored a career best of four goals and five assists. What was going through your head after the game?**

It was the first time our team had gone 2-0 in a long time, so we were all pretty ecstatic. I wasn't focused on my personal accolades, I was just glad that I could contribute in a positive way. It was great to finish up our spring break trip with a win!

**What are your goals for the**

**remainder of the season?**  
Focus on one game at a time. Success isn't going to come overnight, and we know that we're in it for the long haul. We are a growing program and are looking forward to continuing our progress in the coming months.

*Chitckekine is a member of the class of 2016.*

LAST WEEK'S SCORES

Scoreboard

- Women's Lacrosse vs. SUNY Geneseo-L 2-10
- Baseball vs. St. Lawrence University-L 3-4
- Baseball vs. St. Lawrence University-W 3-0
- Women's Lacrosse vs. Nazareth College-W 7-6
- Women's Swimming and Diving NCAA Division III Championships-Day 4
- Baseball vs St. Lawrence University-L 6-7

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Thursday, March 27

- Men's Tennis vs. Nazareth College-4:00 PM
- Softball vs. St. John Fisher College-5:00 PM

Friday, March 28

- Men's Track and Field-North Carolina State Raleigh Relays10:00 AM-Raleigh, NC
- Women's Track and Field-North Carolina State Raleigh Relays10:00 AM-Raleigh, NC
  - Baseball vs. Medaille College-4:30 PM

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

- Women's Rowing vs. St. John Fisher/St. Lawrence-8:00 AM
- Men's Track and Field-North Carolina State Raleigh Relays-10:00 AM
- Women's Track and Field-North Carolina State Raleigh Relays-10:00 AM
  - Men's Golf-McDaniel College Spring Invitational-12:00 PM
  - Baseball-Rochester Institute of Technology-1:00 PM
- Women's Lacrosse vs. Rochester Institute of Technology-2:00 PM
  - Baseball-Rochester Institute of Technology-3:30 PM

FROM THE PRESSBOX

The Toronto Raptors:  
Rise of Ruse?

BY MAX EBER  
STAFF WRITER

The Toronto Raptors currently hold the third seed in the Eastern Conference, which may sound impressive, but what does it mean in reality? At 37 wins and 29 losses, they lead their division and are top three in the conference but would not even make the playoffs in the west. The drastic imbalance in team quality between the two conferences is no secret, but regardless, the Raptors have secured their place in the Eastern playoff picture. Does this mean that they truly have a chance at making any sort of run though? It seems unlikely, especially with their inability to beat teams that should be easier victories. Recently they've had losses dealt by

whether the Raptors can hold up in a seven game series. It is hard to judge the actual quality of the team, as they do have a variety of quality players but cannot seem to win consistently against big matchups. DeMar DeRozan, Terrence Ross, Kyle Lowry, John Salmons, and others, amount to more than enough raw talent to comprise an extremely talented ball team, but it's a matter of fitting the pieces together that can truly make the machine work to perfection. Toronto fans haven't had much to cheer about over the past few years as the team went through major rebuilding, but the cycle is coming around and the team now has an extremely young group of players who may be able to carry the team into serious contending. Whether



The Raptors have had a rise in fortunes lately.

the Brooklyn Nets, the Washington Wizards, and the Atlanta Hawks, all teams that sit below them in the conference standings. This is not to say that they cannot beat these teams, as they have beaten all of them earlier in the season, but it is a slight concern as to

that is going to happen this year is hard to say; my guess would be they do not yet have enough to truly compete with the talent of the East, let alone the West. But with that said, I do think Toronto, with young talent and a highly energetic fan base, have many exciting and successful years in their near future.

*Eber is a member of the class of 2017.*



# SPORTS

## Women’s Lacrosse Impresses With Season Thus Far

BY JOHN CHTCHEKINE  
SPORTS EDITOR

Women’s Lacrosse has started their season strong by winning every game thus far with the exception of a disappointing loss versus #9 ranked Geneseo. They started their season in early March with a game at Fauver Stadium against Medaille College of Buffalo, NY. The Yellowjackets were already up eight goals by the 15 minute mark of the first half and finished the game by routing their opponents with a 19-2 scoreline. It was an all round team effort as ten different Yellowjackets got on the score sheet with four recording hat tricks. The Yellowjackets season slowed down with a game postponement against 18th ranked Ithaca College, but resumed its normal pace after spring break with an impressive outing against



#7 Jamie Wallisch receives a pass in Rochester’s loss versus Geneseo.

Smith College in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. Despite lacking the home advantage they had against Medaille, Rochester still managed to score a couple of goals, 17 to be exact. The game ended with another impressive score line of 17-5. Mara Karpp,

Campus Times’ Athlete Of the Week, scored four and had five assists. The Yellowjackets proceeded to another two outstanding wins, one against Elmira College, which ended with a 14-4 scoreline, and the other one against Nazareth



#11 Brittany Garrison cradles the ball versus Elmira.

College with the closest scoreline so far 7-6. The Yellowjackets fell to their latest opponents, Geneseo, to give them an incredible winning percentage of .800 and a 4-1 overall record. *Chtchekine is a member of the class of 2016.*



PHOTOS COURTESY OF UR ATHLETICS-

#14 Mara Karpp in Rochester’s win over Nazareth.

## Draft tracker: Defensive Tackle prospects



Pittsburgh Defensive Lineman Aaron Donald in action against Syracuse.

COURTESY OF COWBOYSBLOG.DALLASNEWS.COM

BY ADAM ONDO  
SENIOR STAFF

### Defensive Tackle Prospects

There are more than a dozen defensive tackles worth taking before the fourth round of the draft, but only three are worth a first-round pick. Before we get started, I’m going to explain why Notre Dame’s Louis Nix III is not worth a first-round pick. It all boils down to his lack of consistency. He is slow

and plays sloppy. So, that’s why I’m disagreeing with most other analysts when it comes to Nix. The best defensive tackle in the draft has to be Pittsburgh’s Aaron Donald. He amazed everyone at the combine when he, a 285 lbs. lineman, ran a 4.68 second 40-yard dash. He also managed 35 reps on the bench, which was the second best for defensive tackles. His vertical of 32 inches was the third best.

His 66 tackles for a loss, 29.5 sacks, and six forced fumbles attest to his ability to wrap up targets or lay them out with hard hits. He works blockers with his hands and extends his arms well, while at the same time using his hips and feet to perform spin moves. This is why he is good at shooting gaps and will be a superb pass rusher in the NFL. His vertical and arm span is also useful for batting down

passes; he racked up 11 pass deflections in college. He does need a little more mass, as he can’t overpower strong blockers or get past double teams. He is a great athlete, though, and his potential is enormous even if his frame isn’t. The second best defensive tackle is Florida State’s Timmy Jernigan. His 5.06 second 40 time and 27 reps are respectable, but watching his tape really underscores how athletic he is. He is a very powerful tackler, especially if he has time to pick up steam. Seriously, I feel bad for any running backs coming his way. He demonstrates good use of hands and hips to get past blockers, exploding off the line with swim moves. He is fast and gets at the quarterback, disrupting play after play. His stats, which reflect only 8.5 sacks in college, are not a true testament to his potential. One issue is his size, as he can be taken out of the game if a large blocker is assigned to him. He is also not the best in pursuit on run plays. MCL and meniscus tears have led to durability concerns among some scouts, but I think using a first round pick on Jernigan is a gamble worth taking. Minnesota’s Ra’Shede Hageman is the only other defensive tackle that should go by the end of the first round. Hageman’s 35.5 inch vertical was the best of any defensive tackle at the NFL combine and he usually has his hands up on pass plays, allowing him to disrupt passes and pick the ball, as evidenced by his 10 passes defended and one interception

in college. He is also fast, with a 5.05 40 time and strong with 32 reps on the bench, which were the third most of any defensive tackle. He uses his speed and strength to charge into blockers, pushing them all the back into the quarterback. He causes quite a few holding penalties just by using his 6’6” 310 lbs. body. He is, however, bad at reading blocking schemes and looks like a bull trying to get at a matador on some plays. He is not the most agile player and will need to work on using his hands and hips more effectively. He is also not very good at disengaging and going up against skilled offensive linemen. Anyone who watches his sacks and forced fumbles will realize how vicious of a tackler he is, and in my opinion that makes up for some of his shortcomings in my opinion. The Giants should take Donald with the 12th overall pick, since he is a natural leader with good character and could be moved to defensive end, thus replacing veteran Justin Tuck, who just signed with the Oakland Raiders. The Pittsburgh Steelers may take him if the Giants pass. The Dallas Cowboys are projected to claim Jernigan, which makes sense seeing as they let veteran pass rusher DeMarcus Ware sign with the Denver Broncos last week. I think either New England or Denver will take Hageman, because both of those teams prefer using picks on players who are talented, even if they don’t necessarily fill a position of need. *Ondo is a member of the class of 2014.*



# Commemorating Jane Possee

BY JOHN CHTCHEKINE  
SPORTS EDITOR

This past Saturday, March 22, female athletes, alumni, and administrators all gathered to commemorate someone who has contributed an incredible amount of effort and commitment to the UR's Women's athletics program.

Jane Possee, the current administrator of the Goergen Athletic Center, was originally hired by UR to coach the Women's Field Hockey

and Basketball teams. After the passage of Title IX, she expanded her impact by starting the Women's Lacrosse team and helped bring all three teams to the competitive Division III level.

In honor of her contributions to Women's athletics, UR established an endowment in Possee's name in order to fund miscellaneous expenses of the women's athletics program and to extend opportunities offered to female athletes at UR.

*Chtchekine is a member of the class of 2016.*

