

Campus Times

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SHOULD PUBLIC SAFETY HAVE GUNS?



Public Safety Sergeant Thomas Andreano sits among students at a Tuesday information session about arming officers.

NIRU MURALI / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

BY JUSTIN TROMBLY
MANAGING EDITOR

BY AUREK RANSOM
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Would you feel safer on campus if Department of Public Safety (DPS) officers had guns?

For many vocal students, the answer is no.

That much has become clear in the past two weeks, as the possibility of equipping some DPS officers with firearms was met with fierce skepticism and outright opposition from dozens of students.

Student response has been significant enough to push the decision on the matter until October, if not beyond.

Much of the conversation has been framed by two issues that have enveloped the nation in recent years—high-profile police shootings of unarmed Black Americans, and gun control debates spurred by mass shootings—and specific tensions that students of color feel exist between themselves and DPS.

The consideration, which stems from a commission review of a 2011 report on DPS and comes despite no significant increase in on-campus crime, sparked student outcry at two information sessions—one for the public on Tuesday and one for student leaders on April 13—focused mostly on the firearms question.

Students Skeptical at Sessions

Both sessions saw many students in attendance loudly reject the potential of armed DPS officers—who would have as much training as New York requires of its police—with students at last Wednesday's invite-only meeting raising questions of racial discrimination

hosted both sessions, replied by pointing to DPS' record: Its officers had only used pepper gel five times in the past two-and-a-half years they've been equipped with it, and had only used a baton "maybe" once during that period—each time never on students.

"We really resolve 99.9 percent

that you guys rely so heavily on," she continued, "something is going to happen, where an innocent Black or brown body is going to be assassinated by one of your officers."

She then claimed that there have been instances of campus cops shooting students at other schools,

against racial discrimination in policing, but none replied.

The scrutiny leveled upon Fischer and other administrators that night did not let up on Tuesday, in a meeting that went almost two hours over its planned duration.

Sophomore Joey Stephens, an incoming Students' Association (SA) senator who spoke several times during that night's question-and-answer period, complained of students lacking a voice in the matter.

"All I see is what I can do to affect finances," he said to Commission Chair Holly Crawford, who is the University CFO and the Senior Vice President of Administration & Finance. "We're not satisfied with the voice you're giving us."

Stephens, a member of the Meridian Society, threatened to protest the possible decision during campus tours—his self-described "nuclear option"—and said repeatedly that he didn't know what else he could do to get Crawford and other administration to listen.

"I have been listening," Crawford responded.

Peace Officers Only

The report the commission is reviewing recommended creating a mix of sworn "peace officers"—standard DPS officers who train an additional 670 hours, as much as New York requires for police certification, minus firearm training—and non-sworn officers—

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NIRU MURALI / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Many vocal students shared their concerns about arming officers on campus at the Tuesday forum.

in police shootings and those at Tuesday's bringing up comparisons to Orwellian dystopias.

"Given the issues that Public Safety seems to have when it comes to policing the minority students on campus—because they tend to confuse us with the Rochester community and feel like we don't belong here, we don't go here—these eight hours of diversity training obviously, I feel like, aren't enough," began one student last Wednesday.

"How do you stop Public Safety from killing Black students?"

Director of Public Safety Mark Fischer, who is a non-voting advisor to the commission and co-

CONTACT THE COMMISSION CHAIR, HOLLY CRAWFORD, AT SVPCFO@UR.ROCHESTER.EDU.

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of the things that we are engaged in at a very low-level use of force," he said.

The next student to speak, another Black female, said that most police officers are not "trained well to deal with brown and Black people," and that she assumes DPS won't be the exception.

"If we're looking at the statistics

at which point Fischer responded that he was unfamiliar with any incident like that.

Some in attendance scoffed noticeably when Fischer did not address a lengthy follow-up statement from the student, instead asking the audience if there were any other questions. The student promptly left.

Fischer said in a later interview that he had not detected a question in the student's response, and that he meant no offense by not acknowledging the follow-up.

The *Campus Times* attempted to contact leaders of campus groups that have spoken out recently

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'We're Better Than THAT' Meets a Rival

JUSTIN TROMBLY
MANAGING EDITOR

It began as a class project among four seniors, each concerned that "We're Better Than THAT," the University's anti-racism campaign, wasn't doing enough.

But after two weeks of work, Darya Nicol, Robin Graziano, Miles Meth, and Shakti Rambaran launched "Racism Lives Here" on April 13, a response campaign to "We're Better Than THAT," which, since its introduction had come under fire from students as being impotent and out-of-touch.

And the seniors' effort has gained traction, racking up more than half the amount of likes as the official campaign's Facebook page.

The response campaign—which its founders believe fills educational gaps unaddressed by We're Better Than THAT—was created as part of a final project for the group's anthropology class, "The Black Body," with the goal of performing an "intervention based on the themes of the class," according to its website.

"The University's efforts appeared to be too focused on giving out t-shirts and buttons—a couple of

students have stated they were asked, 'Hey, are you racist?' to get them to take a shirt or a button to prove they weren't," Nicol, Graziano, Meth, and Rambaran said in a collective statement.

"This all translated into surface-level attempts to address individual racism with seemingly no follow-through, and it neglected to really address the structural racism that has fueled the need for protests and the drive for change," they added.

The website, which the group has publicized on social media and through posters and an interview with local media, focuses on systemic, rather than interpersonal, racism, contextualizing racism experienced on campus within a historical and sociological framework.

"Our goal is to situate racism at [the University] in a much broader context—to help demonstrate how, for many people of color, racist posts on Yik Yak cannot just be shrugged off," the site's mission statement reads. "They cut deep, as they are indicative of centuries of oppression and discrimination displaying themselves in one of countless ways. We hope exploring this website can provide a framework

for understanding how racism is much more than its most explicit manifestations."

In their statement, the quartet was clear about where they think the University's campaign falls short.

"The campaign does not feel sufficient," they said. "Having spoken with many students, staff, and employees, many people don't seem to know the overall objective of the campaign. Most people's best guess is that it's telling people, 'Hey, don't be racist,' rather than laying out a plan and way for students to learn more about how their actions may perpetuate oppression, to therefore learn to be less racist."

The group members do not, however, want to dismiss We're Better Than THAT in total. They said they respect the Kearns Center and the Office of Minority Student Affairs (OMSA), both of which are working on the campaign—their main complaint is with how much change the campaign has yet to effect.

"We've all kind of heard, 'we're working on it. Wait, it will get better,' but as we show with the timeline on the site, we've been waiting and we felt it was time to respond," they said.

As the group members will be



PHOTO VIA RACISM LIVES HERE

Note: The members of Racism Lives Here did not mark this sticker, nor take the photo. graduating soon, they've begun seeking future caretakers for their project. Maintenance of the website will be integrated into their class' future syllabus, but they hope it will eventually reach the hands of a dedicated group on campus.

Dean for Diversity Initiatives Beth Olivares and Assistant Dean and Director of OMSA Norman Burnett, asked for comment on the student response campaign, applauded the effort and said the official campaign had linked to it on social media.

"Though the site casts itself as oppositional to the campaign, we disagree: it embodies a very important dimension of what we are trying to do," they said.

The website includes both educational materials—nuanced breakdowns of racism, microaggressions, theories of privilege—and "lived experiences"—accounts from students of how they've either endured structural racism or been parties to it.

As well, the students compiled a

timeline of racialized campus events, which stretches back three years and details such incidents as the October 2013 hanging of a Confederate flag in a fraternity house dorm window and the slew of anonymous, racist posts on the app Yik Yak last March.

A photograph accompanying that list shows a much longer list of racial history at the University, written in marker on a sheet of paper spanning the length of a room.

The list is dated Nov. 20, 2015—the day the leaders of the Douglass Leadership House, Minority Student Advisory Board, Spanish and Latino Students' Association, and the Black Students' Union staged a peaceful protest in solidarity with University of Missouri students.

And at its bottom, a proclamation: "Too many years (165) of broken promises and systematic racism. U of R fails to address the needs of minority students."

Trombly is a member of the Class of 2018.

Students React to Norovirus

BY AMANDA MARQUEZ
NEWS EDITOR

The recent Norovirus outbreak, which sickened over 140 students and cost the University roughly \$30,000 a day on cleaning and supplies, has inconvenienced an already disgruntled student body as the semester comes to an end.

In an effort to prevent contamination, University Health Service (UHS) has mandated that Dining Services suspend self-serve stations, including the salad bar in Wilson Commons and the lunch buffet at the Faculty Club, leaving some students feeling that their options are limited.

"I normally use the salad bar every day, but now all the salads come packaged, so you lose the ability to customize it," sophomore Josh Veronica said.

Junior Taylor McEachon agreed with Veronica, saying, "I miss the salad bar. I don't usually like pre-packaged salads."

Alice Bandeian, another junior, said that "after practice every morning, some members of the rowing team, including myself, go and get breakfast in Douglass, but now

everything is packaged and served out by the workers, so it takes a longer time to get food and eat."

Despite the efforts made to provide students with uncontaminated food on campus, some have decided simply to not buy campus food at all.

"I definitely stopped eating food on campus and started making meals to bring for lunch," junior Stephanie Chen said.

Junior Makenzie Gabriel didn't eat anything in the Commons "for a week after the first announcement."

Additionally, UHS has instructed Dining Services to switch to plastic-wrapped utensils and napkins—another change that some students hope will not last much longer.

"The other day, I was eating [Danforth] pasta with a plastic fork, and the fork bent and the noodle fell off and stained my shirt and pants," Veronica lamented.

Regardless of students' displeasure with the precautions Dining Services has taken, they have been vigilant about staying away from those who are contaminated and compliant with UHS' hygiene suggestions.

"I've been washing my hands probably 10 times more a day than I'm used to," senior Hannah Slavin said. "I've also started doing two rounds of soap instead of just one since the CDC recommended washing for 20 seconds."

Junior Darius Colson also washed his hands more diligently.

"I bite my nails, so I was more aware about things I'd come in contact with during my daily activities on campus," Colson said. "If I touched a door, a railing, anything, I'd immediately go wash my hands."

Some student workers have also changed their routines to accommodate UHS' preventative measures.

"I work at the campus post office, so we've just been sanitizing the desk every hour," junior Shaquana Reade said. "At the height of it, most of the employees wore gloves when interacting with students."

UHS reports "continued progress" in their response to the Norovirus outbreak, and a third round of sanitization will be carried out by ServPro on April 21.

Marquez is a member of the Class of 2017.



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Campus Debates Arming Public Safety Officers

PUBLIC SAFETY FROM PAGE 1
state-licensed security guards who cannot arrest—in DPS, as well as changing its name from University Security.

Only sworn officers can be armed, and not without a minimum additional 96 hours of firearms training—a threshold, Fischer said in an interview, that DPS would “obviously” surpass.

UR has 77 non-sworn officers and 66 sworn officers, including sworn command staff. According to Fischer, all 66 sworn officers could, in theory, be armed, but he noted that any option was on the table, including arming only a fraction of that force.

DPS is the only campus agency in New York state whose sworn officers do not carry firearms.

The recommendations will be handed to University President Joel Seligman, who can reject them or pass them further, to UR’s Board of Trustees.

Seligman had originally been slated to receive the recommendations in May. But in response to a student concern, Crawford decided during Tuesday’s discussion that the commission should only finalize them during the normal academic year—not at its close or during the summer.

According to a release from outgoing SA President and Vice President Grant Dever and Melissa Holloway and their successors Vito Martino and Lance Floto, Crawford is open to holding more student forums on the question. The executive pairs also expressed interest in organizing an SA-hosted forum.

In an interview after Tuesday’s forum, Crawford said that Martino had volunteered to work with the commission over the summer.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UR COMMUNICATIONS

Holly Crawford.

School Shootings Fuel Some Views

Anna Parker, a senior, is a survivor of a high school shooting. She does not think DPS should arm officers—not on the River Campus, at least.

“I feel that arming [DPS] on the River Campus would decrease the trust the student body holds for our [DPS] Officers,” she said in an email. “I do not think the escalated race-based tension, nor the fear on the part of students of color on our campus, is worth the arming of all sworn officers on the River Campus.”

At the April 13 meeting, Parker engaged with Fischer in a series of questions and responses regarding her perceived use of mass-shooting statistics as generalizations during Fischer’s slideshow presentation.

“Our officer in the place where

it happened would not have saved a single life,” she said of the shooting she survived, asking afterward, “How do you weigh that increase in the gap of mistrust and a sense of authority and policing with the narrower chances of solving a mass shooting event?”

Fischer, in response, emphasized that he was not intending to use mass shootings as the sole impetus for arming officers.

Parker said in her email that she left that meeting upset and disappointed. But she came away from Tuesday’s meeting with an appreciation for its shift in tone, which she said focused more on staff safety.

And, while she disagrees with using guns to combat gun violence in principle, she is “not one to negate the legitimate concerns of the members of the Emergency Department of Strong Memorial Hospital, or the staff of the Memorial Art Gallery.”

I think that the needs of each area of the University should be considered independently and dealt with as separate entities, with large amounts of input from all involved parties.”

Parker added that she met with Fischer and Deputy Director of Public Safety Gerald Pickering Tuesday afternoon, and that she gained a better understanding of DPS’ perspective from that 10-minute conversation than she did from either formal meeting.

“The PowerPoint used in both presentations, although updated for the second, was still cumbersome and unfocused,” she said.

Junior Grant Gliniecki of Newtown, CT, where 20 children and six adults were killed in a school shooting in 2012, reacted similarly to the two presentations.

“Rapid intervention absolutely matters, but despite how common they are in the U.S., school shootings are rare compared to death resulting from inappropriate escalation of force by security and safety workers,” he said in an email.

Gliniecki, who said he has secondary post-traumatic stress disorder because of the Newtown massacre and that he knew some of the victims, added that “it’s disingenuous and frankly insulting to claim that arming Public Safety officers is predominantly motivated with the goal of ending a mass shooting.”

He said in a later email that he thinks the reasoning the commission presentations used regarding school shootings unfairly lumps together opposition to arming officers with opposition to a measure that could save lives.

“No one wants to argue against something that could, in theory, stop an active shooter,” he said. “This sets up anyone who feels that the solution to guns is not more guns to have to first argue why their argument isn’t permitting or allowing the hypothetical killing of their peers, rather than other problems with lethal arms that are much more relevant and likely to arise.”

He continued, “Using the very real trauma from survivors and collective memory of what is largely the result of failed gun control to suppress arguments against gun access and usage feels like a slap in the face.”

Another student opposed to arming DPS officers, junior Nico Tavella, believes a better use of resources might be investing in the Rochester community, in which crime has increased lately.

I suggested, as a public health major, the real issue at hand is violence in the Rochester community endangering students on this campus, and the most effective solution would in fact be investing in the local community and mitigating the vast levels of income inequality and violence currently in the inner city,” he said in an interview. “Instead of spending time and money arming our campus security, effectively putting another barrier between us and the Rochester community, we should be investing in healing a very damaged and divided area of people.”

He added that, “To enter the city of Rochester and ignore the issues present in local areas is Gentrification 101, and it is a root of the divide between people that we see today. This divide will be widened, not sealed, with guns.”

Some Students Support

There are some students, though, who are speaking up in support of arming DPS officers and of the University officials working with the commission.

Dominick Schumacher, a senior and an All-Campus Judicial Council associate justice, said in an interview that he believes UR would be safer with armed officers than without, despite students’ legitimate concerns.

“Aside from the benefits to the safety of the officers themselves,” he said, “firearms in the hands of capable and skilled officers have the potential to save lives in any situation where someone threatens campus safety with a weapon—whether that be a knife, gun, or something else.”

Schumacher thinks the campus community would benefit from having an armed officer able to respond almost immediately to a potential crisis, whereas city police would take crucial minutes just to arrive.

“Earlier this year,” he said, “I called DPS to address a male (I believe he was a student) walking on campus with a paintball gun. While I knew it was just a paintball gun, I was concerned that others may not recognize that and some issues may arise from it. Public Safety responded in under a minute, and that situation worked out just fine, but it made me wonder what the response would be like if it were a real gun and he had bad intentions.”

He praised DPS officers as highly trained professionals, as opposed to “the overzealous mall cops that some students purport them to be,” citing his positive interactions with them as both a Residential Advisor and a Community Advisor and adding that he believes the University has been thorough and responsible in its research about whether to arm DPS.

Sophomore Niru Murali, outgoing SA Executive Director for Student Life, echoed similar defenses of the University officials involved.

She, too, thinks DPS officers should be armed on campus, “with

the promise that they would go through extensive training [and] seminars on implicit racial biases [and] hold several open forums for students each semester to build a trusting relationship.”

I want to reiterate that we’re students, and we cannot completely know what our officers go through on a day-to-day basis,” she said in an email interview. “Does our voice matter? Absolutely, and that’s why we have the chance to get involved with these forums. But at the end of the day, we can’t put ourselves in their shoes.”

She said she agrees completely with stationing armed officers at the UR Medical Center—which she called a high-risk area—and emphasized that, through her role as Executive Director, she has been involved in all the student meetings on this issue and seen that the officials involved “have been nothing but receptive to student feedback.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Mark Fischer.

labyrinthine and said that, in past drills, external officers have taken a “trailer”—a tagalong DPS officer—to navigate the facility.

When asked if his officers have ever felt like they needed a gun, Fischer said yes, citing a patrol commander “who had a bullet narrowly miss his head” and a lieutenant who had been slashed with a boxcutter, and saying that there have been situations where a gun “could have been useful.”

“But,” he continued, “I don’t want to deceive anyone by saying that this is a common occurrence.”

Fischer said that his officers do regularly deal with armed and known criminals, including gang members—who, he said, “don’t leave their guns in the car.”

Concerns from All Sides

Both Crawford and Fischer have insisted that they are listening to students’ concerns, and add to those concerns of their own.

One presentation slide had a list of these, including “national sensitivity towards racially biased policing,” what arming officers suggests about DPS, and how that will change its officers’ interactions with the UR community.

The final concern on the list: “Officers could be involved in unjustified use of lethal force.”

In response, Fischer touted two things: the additional training that armed officers would need to complete, and a shared sense of community between students and DPS officers.

A Call to Arm

Fischer cited in both presentations several benefits of arming Public Safety officers, including more efficient responses to campus incidents, a greater sense of campus security, and a stronger deterrent effect on campus and community crime.

The greatest gains, however, appear to be in response time.

According to Fischer, the average school shooter shoots one person every 15 seconds. He said that DPS needs to think about response times accordingly—in 15-second increments.

Shorter response times are achievable, he claimed, because Public Safety officers know the community and the geography of campus better than outside forces.

The Rochester Police Department, the nearest armed force, has taken 13 minutes to respond during past active shooter drills—a significant increase from DPS’ one-minute response time. At one person every 15 seconds, the hypothetical death toll rose to 52.

And, the presenters reiterated, that’s just for the River Campus.

Both Crawford and Fischer highlighted the feelings of insecurity at the UR Medical Center, where, on a typical day, a majority of DPS officers are already stationed, and where many wounded criminals are brought for treatment.

“We’re hearing very clearly from the Medical Center: ‘We need to have this, we should have done this years ago, we are unsafe,’” Crawford said at the first presentation.

Fischer, in a later interview, described the Medical Center as

These hours come in addition to 110 hours of further training in areas including conflict management, ethics, and situational awareness.

Students at both presentations expressed their distaste for the diversity training figure, saying that it wasn’t enough.

All officers will also undergo training about implicit bias in the near future, which Fischer says will be completed this summer under an outside instructor.

Concerning the connection with the community, the presentation specifically named DPS’ efforts to connect with students through the Department’s “Adopt-a-Hall” program—a program that a small student leader panel, meeting with the commission prior to both info sessions, had praised.

“The highest obligation we have is to protect this community,” Fischer said. “We love this place as much as anyone.”

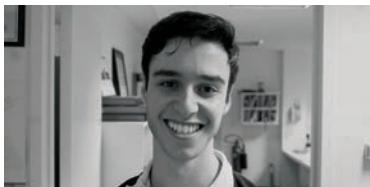
He said Tuesday that if DPS did become armed, he’d hope their guns wouldn’t be used for decades.

Trombly is a member of the Class of 2018. Ransom is a member of the Class of 2017. Publisher Angela Lai contributed reporting to this piece.

OPINIONS

EDITORIAL OBSERVER

Here's Some Advice



BY SCOTT ABRAMS
A&E EDITOR

You really don't need my advice—and that's why I'm going to give it to you.

Throughout our lives, we are taught to depend on others and to learn from their experiences. I remember my overnight here as a prospective student: the students I stayed with—including people I still know today—gave me the “insider scoop” of what went on around campus. When I left campus that weekend knowing I would be coming here the following year, I expected my freshman experience to closely mimic theirs.

In some ways, I'm sure it did. But in other important ways, they were wrong.

Unlike one of my hosts, I am not a big fan of Danforth Dining Hall. While the food is more interesting there, I tend to find it less consistent in terms of quality. I did not enjoy one of the psychology classes I signed up for after remembering how much one of my hosts enjoyed it.

This year, when I was in the all-powerful position of an experienced sophomore, I had the residents of Gilbert to dispense advice to, and I jumped at the opportunity. I coined what I liked to call RA Scott's “Tip of the Day,” in which I would take a humorous, random occurrence I had experienced that day, and explain to my residents what piece of life advice they should take away from it.

But, looking back, I tried to push and pull them in the directions that I deemed most fit for them based on my practically omniscient base of knowledge. When one of my residents pledged a fraternity that I wasn't particularly fond of, I told him so, and explained why I didn't feel that this group wasn't the right fit for him. But I was projecting—this fraternity wouldn't have been the right fit for me.

Yesterday, this resident told me that he really enjoys the group he's in, and that's when I realized something.

It doesn't matter what I think about other people's choices. As much as I claim to know an individual, who am I to say that I know the person better than he knows himself? The choices and decisions that have worked best for me might end up being the completely wrong ones for any other person.

What if my resident had done

what I had advised him to, had dropped out of pledging his fraternity? He would have probably lost out on an experience that, at least right now, has proved incredibly rewarding for him. And that wouldn't have been fair to him.

While I have personally found it incredibly valuable to overload my schedule with a variety of extracurricular activities and classes, doing so might be the wrong decision for any other person. I would personally get extremely bored without all of my commitments, but I have residents who rarely leave our lounge and seem to be perfectly content with it.

***But, looking back,
I tried to push and
pull them in the
directions that I
deemed most fit
for them based
on my practically
omniscient base of
knowledge.***

If you're like me and want to feel involved, great. Go sign up for a bunch of clubs and try to develop your interests through that. If you're incredibly interested in your history classes and want to spend three hours a day reading up on Civil War literature, good for you.

And that's fine. I probably would have found it difficult to make good friends or feel truly integrated into the campus without working as an RA, or writing for the *Campus Times*, or singing with the YellowJackets, but someone else might find that participating in those activities restricts their ability

to succeed academically or socially. Psychology has taught me that all individuals are different and will react to stimuli present in their environment in a plethora of ways. So, while I can talk to a prospective student all I want about how much I enjoyed, say, writing for the *Campus Times*, I have no idea if that information will be of any use to you. You have to find that out for yourself.

So, if you want my advice, here it is: row crew, spend your entire weekend studying to get that 4.0, go to every party on the Frat Quad—actually, um, after looking at my RA contract, I might have to take that one back—and join five different clubs. It might take you a while to figure out what it is exactly that you want, but, when you do, you will find it so much more valuable than anything I can tell you.

*Abrams is a member of
the Class of 2018.*

EDITORIAL BOARD

Guns A-blazin'

University administration can never get it right, in the eyes of students. To our peers, it seems they can do nothing but blunder, obfuscate, or oppress.

Dissent and disagreement are crucial on college campuses. The point of a liberal arts education is to be confronted with difficult, perhaps unfamiliar ideas in a way that allows for frank, analytical discussion of those ideas. Tuesday night, however, was something else entirely.

The unwillingness to even consider that perhaps the intentions of the administration are typically in the interest of the student body is baffling, given that calls for increased transparency and student representation have been almost universally granted. While it does seem curious that no student currently serves on the Commission tasked with debating this issue, this doesn't change the fact that the Commission or representatives thereof have already had multiple meetings with student leaders.

Holly Crawford, University CFO and Senior Vice President of Administration & Commerce, as well as chairwoman of the Commission charged with reviewing the five-year Security Report, asked Students' Association (SA) Vice President Melissa Holloway to take notes in her stead throughout the discussion, a clear effort to further involve students in the process. In addition, SA president-elect Vito Martino will sit on the Commission this summer.

These people are not stupid. Many students bookended their remarks or questions with lavish praise for Public Safety officers, saying that they appreciated all the work they did and their efforts to connect with the community. Then, however, their approbation would be followed up with pointedly hostile questions that surely negate any

They are not out to bilk students out of their money, to make them feel unsafe, or to operate in secrecy in order to sneak possibly objectionable measures under their noses. Tuesday's discussion revealed a complete lack of respect for the administration's care and effort in this situation, with hostile questions hurled towards Director of Public Safety Mark Fischer and Crawford.

Many asked questions that had already been answered.

Others asked questions intending to follow up based on what they expected the response to be, only to find that the response didn't actually warrant a follow-up. That, however, did not stop many from going ahead with the follow-up.

A good portion of the questions ignored much of the good that UR has already done or has committed to doing. For example, there seemed to arise a narrative that the school hasn't done enough to engage with or invest in the surrounding community. This is patently false. UR has invested considerable funds into the city of Rochester, even going so far as to take the rehabilitation of an area high school upon themselves.

Many students bookended their remarks or questions with lavish praise for Public Safety officers, saying that they appreciated all the work they did and their efforts to connect with the community. Then, however, their approbation would be followed up with pointedly hostile questions that surely negate any

purported respect. It's akin to starting a sentence with, “No offense, but...”

To try and fit the school into a narrative of oppression in areas where it does not exist undermines what could be a relationship with the administration that works for students. The behavior on display at the discussion is indicative of an attitude of obstructiveness that rivals that of a modern GOP judicial hearing, not among a group of students who pride themselves on open-mindedness.

As far as the heart of the issue goes, we do not feel like we have heard enough from the Commission to articulate a sound solution. Specifically, we would like to see the Commission draw from the realm of nuanced proposals and present alternatives to the students. At this point, having not heard any concrete proposals, students assume that the consideration is all-or-nothing—either all peace officers become armed, or none of them do. Many students, ourselves included, feel that guns might be acceptable at the Medical Center, whose employees have actually asked for them. The case appears to be different on the River Campus. Solutions need to reflect the complexity of the situation and the need for arms in every campus locale.

But we, unlike many, but not all, of our peers, have confidence in the administration's willingness to listen. Fischer himself said that all options are on the table, and we will hold him to his word—a word as good as any.

This editorial is published with the consent of a majority of the editorial board: Aurek Ransom (Editor-in-Chief), Justin Trombly (Managing Editor), Jesse Bernstein (Opinions Editor), Angela Lai (Publisher), and Jackie Powell (Sports Editor). The Editor-in-Chief and the Editorial Board make themselves available to the UR community's ideas and concerns. Email editor@campustimes.org.

Campus Times

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FEATURES

RESEARCH ROCHESTER

Undergrad Engineer Researches Rehab

BY AUDREY GOLDFARB

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Senior Mary Bucklin got her start in research the summer before her sophomore year, studying motion analysis and advancing ankle brace technology for patients with posterior tibial tension disorder at SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse. This experience provided Bucklin with early exposure to different methods, devices, and approaches to clinical research.

"After that, I really enjoyed working with patients and being able to help them through developing better technologies and rehabilitation methods to help future patients," Bucklin said.

Coincidentally, while Bucklin was working at Upstate Medical University, her own grandmother was diagnosed with posterior tibial tension disorder and was recommended to the study Bucklin was working on. Unfortunately, she was assigned to the control group and was given the ankle brace that was predicted to be less effective than the experimental brace.

"I knew that, but couldn't say anything, so I was really upset at first," Bucklin said.

Luckily, her grandmother benefited from the study and was able to get the better brace after the trial was complete.

"She got better and didn't need to get surgery, and it was really inspiring to have such a personal connection to the research," Bucklin said. "It was great to see her go through that and I learned a lot through that project in particular about being able to interact with someone going through the process, which was really rewarding."

Part of what drove Bucklin to pursue rehabilitation research

was her involvement in Varsity Field Hockey at UR and her interest in long distance running, as well as other outdoor activities.

"Sports have always been a big part of my life," she said. "Being exposed to sports injuries definitely played a role in my enthusiasm for rehabilitation research." For Bucklin, being involved in research is a balance between being open to new experiences and pursuing things she is passionate about.

Since her sophomore year at the University, Bucklin has been working in Dr. Mark Buckley's biomedical engineering lab, studying viscoelasticity in soft biological tissues—specifically, the Achilles tendon. The lab aims to develop novel therapeutic strategies and technology to treat soft tissue damage associated with aging and disease.

Bucklin has been able to explore the mechanical properties of the Achilles tendon and surrounding muscles as well as the progression of damage through a combination of *in vivo* and *in vitro* experimentation. The lab performed mechanical tests on samples of Achilles tendon, as well as conducted studies with patients using ultrasound imaging techniques.

"It's a dual perspective on the same problem, which is really neat," Bucklin said.

Bucklin is currently studying insertional Achilles tendon apathy, which is the degeneration of the fibers of the Achilles tendon directly at its insertion into the heel bone. She is able to draw conclusions about the causes of impingement and pain through learning about the mechanical properties of the tendon.

"There are definitely gaps in the literature with respect to muscle coupling and mechani-



AUDREY GOLDFARB / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior Mary Bucklin works on insertional Achilles tendon apathy research.

cal responses of muscles, as well as muscle cells and how they relate to Achilles tendinopathy," Bucklin said. "The more you learn, the more you realize you don't know."

Ultrasound elastography techniques are used to assess the mechanical properties of tissue by applying stress and detecting tissue displacement. Bucklin uses these techniques to quantify strain in the Achilles tendon and to observe the dynamic properties of the tendon during functional activity.

Patients do a series of three squats, and researchers gather data of the displacement of the tendon over time. The patients are then given exercise protocols to complete over the course of three months, after which they are retested.

Bucklin employed this procedure in a study analyzing muscle thickness in the upper and lower leg and how that relates to Achilles tendon function. She found that there was weakness in multiple muscles of the lower leg exclusively on the side that

had Achilles tendinopathy.

This type of information guides the development of cutting-edge rehabilitation and strengthening protocols that can be immediately employed in the clinic. While these protocols have traditionally been used to treat the area in which the pain is directly experienced, a better understanding of the relationship between the lower leg muscles and the Achilles tendon may promote the standard protocol to target other areas.

Surgeons that collaborate with researchers in Buckley's lab to develop and test treatments have reported significantly less need for Achilles tendon surgery, probably as a result of patients participating in the new protocols.

"Ultimately, all biomedical research is geared towards a clinical application," Bucklin said. "I'm really interested in being on the edge of that clinical application."

Bucklin extends her academic involvement beyond research, serving as the mentoring chair

of the biomedical engineering (BME) society, actively tutoring and serving as a teaching assistant for the introductory BME 101 class, and serving as a BME peer advisor.

Although she admits there's no doubt that school can be stressful and challenging, she has never been more excited than now to continue her career as a student.

"Doing research has motivated me in the classroom because I know I'm not just learning to get an A on the test," Bucklin said, "I'm learning to actually understand the material and apply it and make an impact on the world."

Doing research has shaped Bucklin's future plans, which include completing dual graduate degrees in BME and physical therapy at Northwestern University.

"Two of the mentors I worked with had both Ph.D.s and degrees in physical therapy, which was really influential to my career choice and next step after college," she said.

The education and experience that Bucklin has had at the University has taught her how to solve problems and be resilient in a wide variety of situations, and she plans to use these tools to innovate physical therapy.

"Doing research, I've realized that I really like it, even though it's hard and frustrating at times," she said. "It's definitely not the easiest career path, but there are pros and cons to every career path, and I think that research is really beneficial in the long term."

"It's exciting, new, and innovative, and it's not something that everyone gets the chance to do."

Goldebarb is a member of the Class of 2019.

The Art of the Rejection Email

BY SAM PASSANISI
COPY EDITOR

I have my first real internship this summer, a research program in the Chemistry department here at UR. I think it'll go well, but honestly, it's a relief just to have found something. I arrived at my summer program in the grand Edisonian tradition—that is, by first discovering several other ways not to get a summer internship.

In the process of applying to summer programs, I was given a brisk refresher in the timeless art of the rejection email. They didn't really start rolling in until a few weeks ago, but roll in they did. I had applied to six summer programs and got a tidy batch of six rejection emails in reply, all of them—ahem—regretting to

inform me that due to an overwhelming number of applicants, they were unable to offer me a position in their program.

The same form-letter language is used in rejection emails across all disciplines, almost as if it had been copied and pasted from some master document. Rejec-

All a rejection email has to do is let you down gently.

tion emails from colleges, internships, and even entry-level job applications share so much in common that it's hard not to imagine a faded, dog-eared memo, typed up sometime in the 1980s, articulating the One True Template for Rejection Emails. A copy of this imaginary document, the grandaddy of all form

letters, exists in every admissions office, HR department, and talent agency in the country.

But that's probably not the case. The striking standardization of rejection notices is probably just an example of convergent evolution. You don't need to be original or charming with a rejection email, and you don't need to hold the recipient's attention, so the language can be cheaply cobbled together, borrowing heavily from the rejection letters of other organizations. Whereas an acceptance letter has to butter you up with compliments and details about the organization, all a rejection email has to do is let you down gently.

There's a very mechanical aspect to the process of applying for summer internships or even summer fast-food jobs. A ma-

jority of jobs and programs have their applications online—even if you walk into a store and ask for an application, you're just as likely to be rebuffed with the admonition that the application is online. For each of the six programs I applied to this summer, never once did I correspond with another human. After filling out a form, attaching a resume, and casting it into the darkness, the rejection email doesn't actually come with too sharp a sting. You might hardly feel as though you'd applied at all.

The rejection emails I received when I did correspond with actual humans, on the other hand, were a vastly different experience. After finishing my applications to programs at other schools, I began sending emails to UR professors, asking for lab work or letters

of recommendation. I still didn't have a fantastic success rate, but the professors who replied in the negative did so with thoughtful responses, explaining why they couldn't hire a summer undergrad (not just "we've received a record number of applicants"). Best of all, they were quick to reply (at least as far as professors go—I didn't expect any replies within the first day or two, especially since I sent my exploratory emails on a Friday evening).

After all, the worst part of a rejection email is waiting for it. That might be the single most important tip for those who are stuck with the unpleasant job of sending rejection emails to hopeful, starry-eyed students—just disappoint them quickly.

Passanisi is a member of the Class of 2017.

PUZZLE

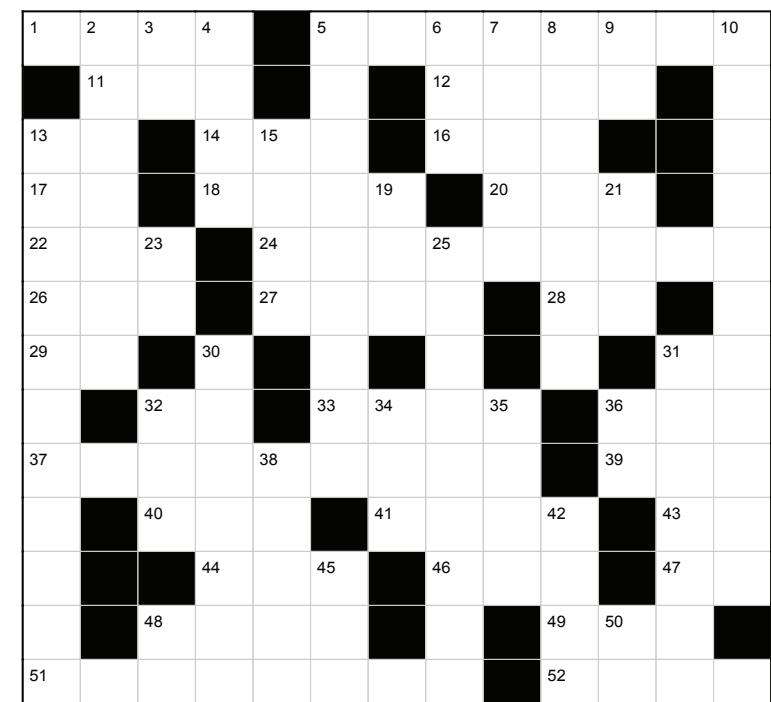
Crossword Puzzle

BY SAM PASSANISI '17

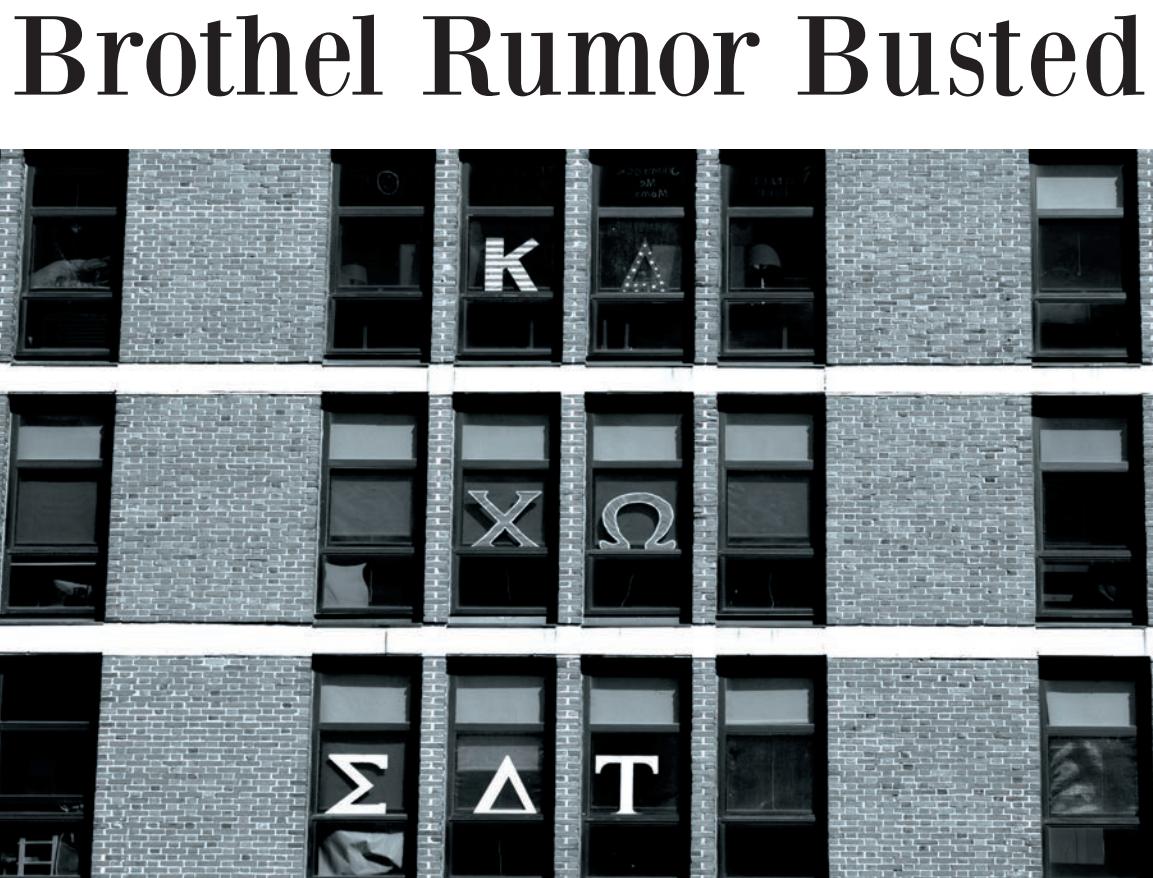
DIFFICULTY HARD

ACROSS:

- October birthstone
- He would do anything for love ... but he won't do that
- Island setting of Marine Corps War Memorial
- Car talker, and a Wes Anderson staple
- Old school, for short
- Basic boot
- Viva these Vegas
- Unix "list" command
- Swedish automaker
- Target of Snowden's ire
- Zipper manufacturer
- Elastic-powered projectile weapon
- Mine in Italy
- Cartoon creation of another Walt
- Text- or graphics-based, it's a way to talk to your machine
- Afterthought when corresponding
- Bernie's home turf, for short
- Acidity measure
- High wind
- Keanu vs. the machines
- Starburst
- T. Turner's network
- Devo, some biologists' specialty
- Young woman
- Vermis Mysteriis, per Lovecraft
- Elizabeth's air power
- Haxxor's "really"
- Operating system, for short
- The Kinks wrote her a song
- Unpopular clothing among PETA members,



CAMPUS ODDITY



LEAH NASON / PHOTO EDITOR

Greek letters rest in the windows of sorority floors in Towers housing.

BY SHAE RHINEHART

FEATURES EDITOR

- As a member of a UR sorority, your housing is relegated to special-interest floors in upperclassmen housing.
- Forget the columns and lawns of the buildings on the Fraternity Quad—if you're in Phase, maybe you can hang your letters on metal-barred balconies. Make your way over to Towers, and you can have an elevator instead. That's not to say there's anything wrong with sorority housing on campus, but it's certainly different than what's provided at other schools across the country, and many students do not know why.

Some students chalk up the reasons to rumors of obscure brothel laws.

"Rumor has it, a past president stated that we can't have houses because 'it could cause a brothel,'" freshman Jade Miller said. "But it's unclear whether that's actually true or not."

Indeed, the brothel rumor is a popular one.

"I heard that New York state has an old law that goes something along the lines of 'five or more women living in a house together is considered a brothel,'" sophomore Anyah Wright said. "Which is silly, seeing as the South revoked that long ago."

Mina Morkous, sophomore, doesn't think it's true, though. "New York state doesn't say anything about that law—it's the state of Pennsylvania," he said.

He's partly right, as there is no mention of this in New York zoning laws—but there's also no mention of it in Pennsylvania. The brothel rumor is a modern-day myth that stretches across state lines to other institutions, where sororities also live exclusively on residence floors instead of owning houses.

"The reason why sororities cannot have houses is because they follow strict guidelines

from the National Panhellenic Conference," Morkous explained.

According to John DiSarro, Director of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs, when UR moved to the River Campus, it identified a section of land where fraternities could build houses. All of those houses were built before any sororities were recognized at the University.

DiSarro explained that, in the fall of 2014, the Panhellenic Association "approved a

If a new chapter arrives on campus and is unable to find a space to house their mem-

"Rumor has it, a past president stated that we can't have houses because 'it could cause a brothel.'"

bers, current chapters are not obligated to give up their residences. Additionally, if a chapter loses their current residence due to extenuating circumstances, such as University disciplinary action or an inability to fill the floor with enough members, all chapters do not have to give up their housing.

So the brothel myth has been busted, and who needs the manicured lawns and Corinthian columns, anyway? For sororities, it's all about equality—if one chapter cannot have a house, no one can.

Rhinehart is a member of the Class of 2018.

Last Week's Answers



campus oddities

new bylaw that would prevent any chapter from residing in an official house" unless every chapter could concurrently do so. As stated in the bylaw, "this understanding is created out of courtesy to promote fairness and good spirit in the Panhellenic community."

Not all sororities receive equal housing, however.

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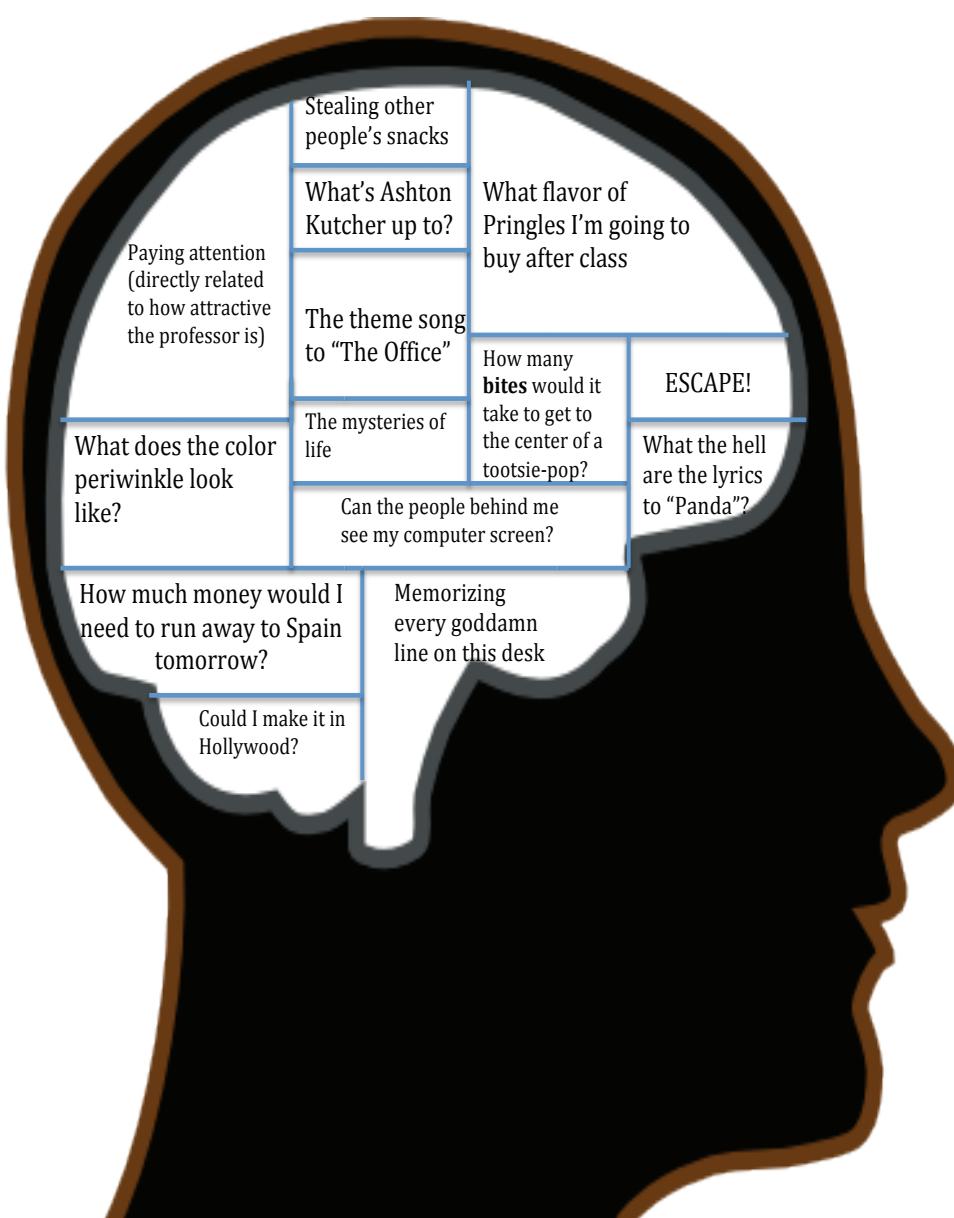
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HUMOR

What I'm Thinking About During Class



SCOTT MISTLER-FERGUSON / HUMOR EDITOR

No More Free Dougie

BY NATE KUHRT
HUMOR EDITOR

With crime running rampant (maybe?) and student safety being school's number one priority, I guess you could make some sort of argument to provide guns for Public Safety. I mean, I feel like the majority of our student body would beg to differ, but they are probably wrong. Activities that cross the line will be stopped, and I have written a list of the questionable behaviors that will change when Public Safety has weapons.

Correcting students' behavior will prepare students for the real world. Isn't that what college is all about? Meliora.

Going on roofs. At night, it may be hard to distinguish between drunk students and secret agents infiltrating the campus. This will be stopped.

Breaking into Douglass Dining Hall. I originally thought that the new method of having

only one entrance and someone manning the door at all times was sufficient, but the prospect of getting shot will add a much higher cost to trying to get free

ther. Illegal substances. It is W A R on drugs.

Loitering. No more sitting on the quad on sunny days. This will keep people moving. Littering. I'd remember to throw out my trash.

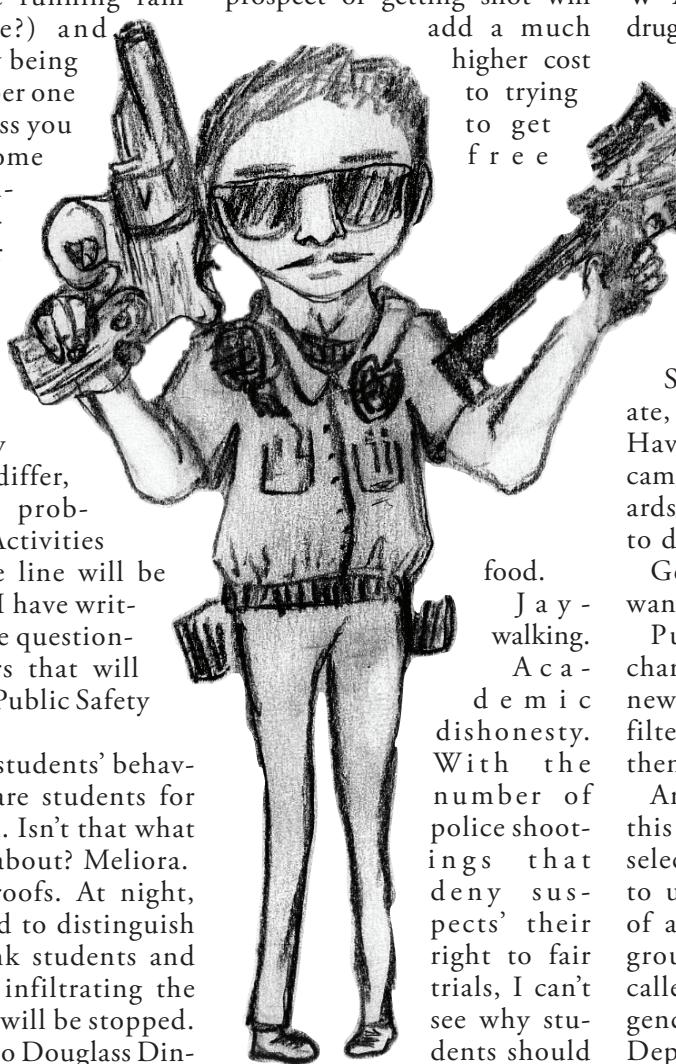
Stealing the Discover, Create, Learn, and Heal signs. Having students trek around campus with potential fire hazards is dangerous, and we need to do something about that.

Getting Norovirus. I just want that one to be over.

Publishing politically-charged articles in a school news outlet. The man already filters us, might as well give them more power.

An additional idea to solve this issue is to commission a select force with the power to use guns. I even thought of a potential name for this group that should only be called upon in case of emergency—the Rochester Police Department.

Kuhrt is a member of the Class of 2017.



MORGAN MEHRING / ILLUSTRATION STAFF

Poking Fun at the News

BY CHRIS HORGAN
SENIOR STAFF

1. While playing in a game, English soccer player Callum Camps was notified by the PA announcer that his car lights were on. Camps said he didn't turn his lights off—because he couldn't use his hands.

2. A brawl broke out between an Easter bunny and shoppers at a Jersey City mall. A man is accusing the Easter Bunny of dropping his child, while the Easter bunny is basing his defense on the fact that he doesn't exist.

3. Jedi experts have created a real life Star Wars Jedi training school in order to teach kids the way of The Force. The school's academics have been called into question based on overall low SAT scores, which wasn't a surprise, after it was revealed that English was taught by Yoda.

4. While out on surveillance, a U.S. Navy plane spotted the word "HELP" spelled out on the ground by a group of stranded men. Fortunately, the three individuals were rescued and safely removed from the Trump rally.

5. Ben and Jerry's co-founders were arrested last Monday at the Capitol while protesting for action on climate change, racial justice, workers' rights,

health care, peace, safe food and water, immigration reform, and improvements in education. Meanwhile, in other news, Kylie Jenner wore a t-shirt with her face on it.

6. A Florida woman has been diagnosed with a condition in which she is allergic to herself. Doctors confirmed the condition after observing her sneeze in a room by herself.

7. A survey found that roughly half of drivers convicted of hit-and-runs didn't know it was illegal. "Heck, I didn't even know you're supposed to drive with your eyes open," one convict said.

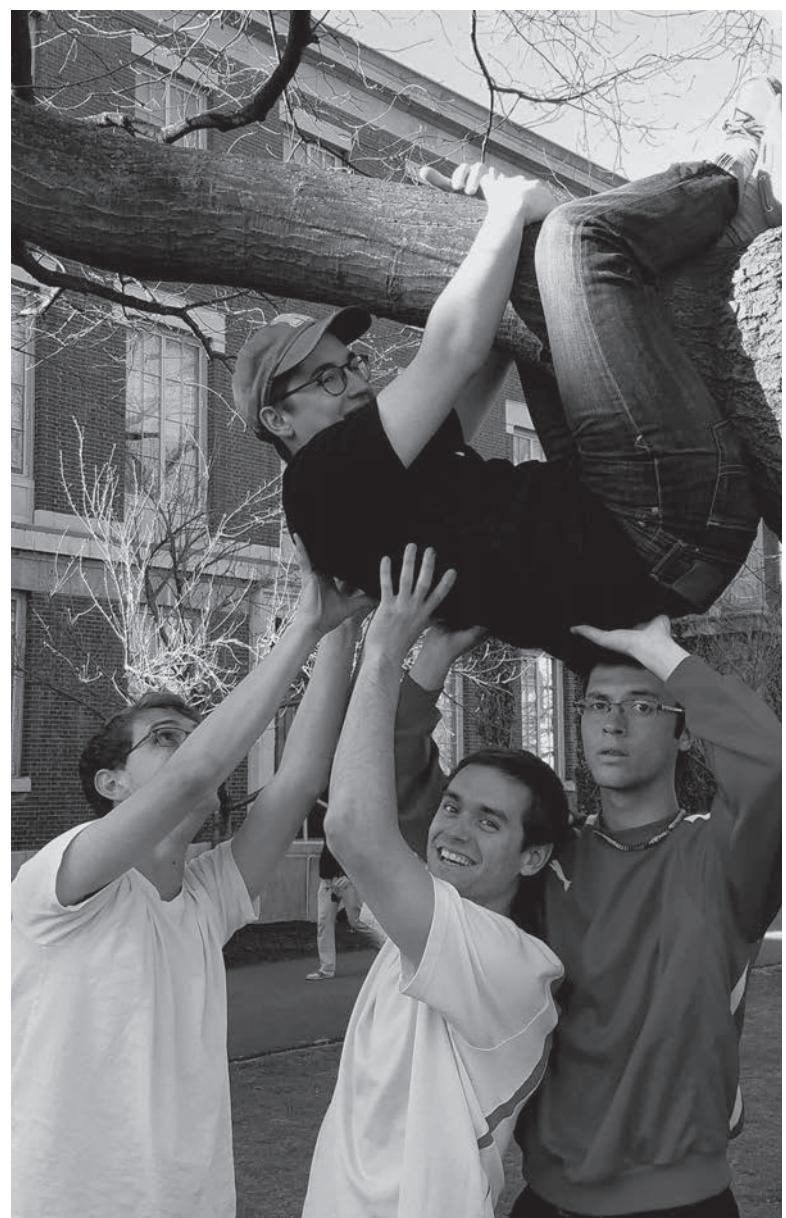
8. A man claiming to be from the future was arrested for stealing food from Arby's. Officials have publicly called him as liar on the grounds that no one would want to eat at Arby's.

9. Utah has become the first state to declare porn a health hazard. When asked what they thought about the law, state officials said, "You can't beat it."

10. Yesterday was April 20, commonly known as National Marijuana Day, a day in which people from around the world celebrate the consumption of cannabis—or, as college students call it, Wednesday.

Horgan is a member of the Class of 2017.

The Humor Family Practices Trust



DANIEL ALIBER / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Zero Gravity: Jugglers Go to Space in Spring Show



The Strong Jugglers perform at their Spring Show, "Space Balls and Clubs," in the May Room on Saturday, April 16.



YIYUN HUANGW / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

BY ANGELA REMUS
SENIOR STAFF

Pink clubs spun through the air and a unicyclist rode by the presidents of the Strong Jugglers, seniors Julia Spriggen and Julia Cowan, as they waited to be interviewed after their annual spring show on April 16.

Talking about the show, Spriggen was just as animated as she had been on stage just three days prior, serving as the narrator of the sci-fi-themed "Space Balls and Clubs."

The show is no small production. The club rehearsed for around six hours every day for the 13 days leading up to the performance, often staying in Wilson Commons until as late as 1 a.m.

"The idea is that you really commit to putting the show together," Spriggen explained. "There's this high energy going into it... But maybe, by day five, you just plummet."

Cowan jumped in: "[The high] comes back for maybe the last five days before the performance."

The 22 performers wrote and performed in 11 different acts, showcasing tricks that involved clubs, rings, balls, a diablo (perhaps best characterized to a non-juggler as something like flying yo-yo), poi (lit-up balls spun at the end of long strings), unicycles, and interludes of puns and acting to move the plot forward.

The story revolved around a lost freshman, doing his best to make it back to campus in time for the D-Day concert featuring

"Rappy McRappDogg." On his journey, he encounters a host of other characters, ranging from the doctor "Whom M.D.," a play on "Doctor Who," to Yoda.

"Jugglers could sit for hours and watch cool patterns," senior member of the Strong Jugglers Will O'Brien said. "But we make a storyline to keep other people entertained."

Beyond the witty and pun-filled narrative, however, is clear talent and the evident payoff of weeks of practice.

Jugglers showcased intricate, moving patterns with upwards of a dozen rings. Six performers rode literal circles around the stage on unicycles, Spriggen pumping her fist enthusiastically when they all rode offstage after a successful bow—accomplished with hands held while still mounted.

One senior pair jugged eight clubs. Another duet featured a "club snatching" routine made even more complicated with the addition of a huge rubber ball, called a "globe." At some points, nearly all 22 performers were on stage; at other points, only one or two had the spotlight.

To the average eye, it all looks impressive. But even the inexperienced attendee notices when a club drops.

"We try to create this illusion that either the drop didn't happen or that it was supposed to," Spriggen laughed.

They have certain rules: You keep moving your hands as though you're still juggling, you can restart if things really go wrong, you stay in performance mode regardless of what happens, and you only get three tries before you call off a

pattern.

Unlike many other juggling shows, which Spriggen and Cowan characterized as being more solo-focused, the Strong Jugglers' show was almost entirely collaborative. Practicing the routines with the people you'll be performing with is part of what makes so much pre-show rehearsal time necessary. But it's also a bonding experience.

"The moment I feel closest to everyone is right after the show," Spriggen said.

For the jugglers and the audience, the show was more than just "Space Balls and Clubs"—it was a truly unique, well-rehearsed, and funny showcase of the Strong Jugglers' talents.

Remus is a member of the Class of 2016.

Matt and Kim Bring Energy to D-Day Concert

BY GRACIE PETERS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

BY SAM PASSANISI
SENIOR STAFF

They were loud, they were energetic, and they were "all up in the crowd."

This year, UR Concerts selected indie/pop music duo Matt and Kim as the headlining act of the annual Dandelion Day concert. A band described as "active for 10 years but never having received mainstream success," Matt and Kim were a questionable choice for the biggest day of the year at UR. Even so, the grassy area behind Goergen was packed, shoes were covered in sticky mud, people crowdsurfed and climbed on strangers' shoulders, and Norovirus was

the overwhelming theme of the show.

Kim was a rock star with fantastic arm muscles, no doubt built up by years of ferocious drumming. Matt was a loquacious frontman with a nasal voice and a shock of blond hair. Quite a bit of sexual inter... ahem, discourse went on between the pair during the course of the show. After openers Apollo, a UR student and DJ, and Super Defense, a rock band from Syracuse, Matt and Kim took the stage, Matt introduced Kim as his "partner in crime and partner in doing it." Shortly after, Kim stood up on the drum set to mime simultaneous vomiting and diarrhea, in a well-received sketch on the symptoms of Norovirus infection.

The Norovirus, as we've already noted, was the

overwhelming theme of the show—it was that one piece of information that the touring band knows about their host city. ("Hello, Burlington—how's that maple syrup? Hello, Rochester—how's that Norovirus?") Well, Rochester should be glad it's eclipsed the garbage plate as the defining feature of the region.

The Norovirus, as we've already noted, was the overwhelming theme of the show.

Matt and Kim's show was nothing if not high-energy. During one of their songs, the twosome encouraged Norovirus survivors to crowd-surf (and, later on, petite friends, too). They shot

confetti from the stage, which was fun but oddly distracting. They also threw balloons into the crowd for audience members to blow up and then pop. (Nevermind the fact that those balloons constitute a world-class vector for the spread of Norovirus. Post-D-Day Norovirus was a given, anyway.)

As the show went on, Kim twerked, stood on the drum set, and channeled Beyoncé with her awesome dancing skills, all while Matt narrated. In-between their original songs, they played snippets of songs by other artists: trap music by the likes of Desiigner, the opening guitar riff of Van Halen's "Jump," and more. Arguably, these interludes were the best parts of the show, because these songs were actually well-known and

recognizable.

The duo finished off the show with their most famous song, "Daylight," and then returned onstage for an encore. Not to sell them short, Matt and Kim were terrific entertainers. They knew exactly how to vibe with the crowd, and they consistently kept the show fun and entertaining. Overall, it was definitely a show worth remembering (although many concertgoers surely will not).

Peters is a member of the Class of 2018.

Passanisi is a member of the Class of 2017.

SEE PHOTOS FROM THE
DANDELION DAY
MATT AND KIM CONCERT
ON PAGE 13

CT RECOMMENDS ‘WEIRD LITTLE BIRTHDAY’

BY AARON SCHAFFER
SENIOR STAFF

In the music video for “Weird Little Birthday,” the title track of their debut album, the British slacker-rock band Happyness decorated a man’s face and neck with cake frosting. It is unclear if the man is a member of the three-piece band. He is holding a birthday candle in his mouth, and in the nine-minute-long video, we watch as someone off-camera attempts to light it. The video is weird, unexpected, and thrillingly banal, and in the nine minutes that elapse, there’s a sense that we have witnessed something special. The music video is a microcosm for what the band stands for—and what to expect on “Weird Little Birthday.”

Throughout the album, Happyness juxtaposes weird, witty lyricism—for example, on “Montreal Rock Band Somewhere,” they sing, “I’m wearing Win Butler’s hair / There’s a scalpel singer of a Montreal rock band somewhere / And he’s alright”—with organized, albeit free and relatively sparse, slacker rock instrumentation. The lyrics on the album are expansive, touching upon everything from buying a new refrigerator in “Refrigerate Her,” to sharing a birthday with Jesus in “Baby Jesus (Jelly Boy).” Many of the album’s songs are ambiguously sung, opening the door to possible double meanings.

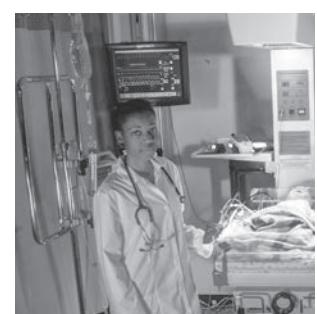
Throughout the album, the vocalists sing about topics both unnervingly simple and intimate. For example, on “Baby, Jesus (Jelly Boy),” they juxtapose the feeling of having been born on Christmas Day to singing melancholically that “we used to race shopping trolleys / around the supermarket / And I’d pay a pound / As a deposit.” On their own, the lyrics can be perceived as boring and futile. But, paired with the instrumentation, the band turns into a group of master storytellers.

This is Happyness’s modus operandi. They capture the feeling of growing up, of simultaneously remembering the past and anticipating the future.

As a whole, “Weird Little Birthday” is enigmatically youthful—and, to an extent, transitory. For example, in “It’s On You,” the narrator reflects upon the spontaneous experiences he had when younger; however, he concludes, “I can’t get away / What makes you think that I’d want to anyway? / I just want John Coltrane’s retirement plan / Take me far away where I can be a mouse not a man.” Many of the lyrics on the album are, similarly, frustratingly vague and random-sounding, cobbled-together semblances of varied influences. But they are—at the very least—insightful, a lucid dream of memories past.

On “Weird Little Birthday,” Happyness gets past the trap of pretension that so often follows other indie bands. They are equal parts Yo La Tengo and Pavement in sound and scope, successful as a group of youngsters observing what other people don’t—all in a comfortable mix of intimate rock and witty prose.

Schaffer is a member of the Class of 2016.



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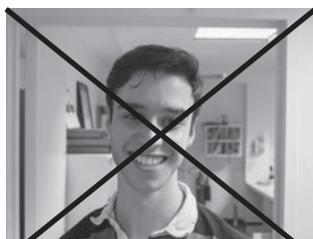
Matt and Kim perform at the annual outdoor concert on Dandelion Day.



MARCELINA MARTYNEK / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

An artist takes part in an exhibit at Art Awake, which ran throughout the day on April 16 at the Metropolitan.

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'CHANNEL SURFING'

The Many Colors of 'Autumn Asphodel'



BY JEFF HOWARD
COLUMNIST

This is not an easy "Channel Surfing" to write. The reason for this is the complexity of the person behind the channel. However, I am writing this because this person has bestowed upon me positive wisdom, and I think she can do the same for others.

Autumn Asphodel is a trans woman who suffers from Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID), a disorder in which a person has multiple personalities. She was the victim of severe abuse during her childhood, and this is, along with her experience as a transgender individual and someone with DID, a topic she discusses in-depth in her videos. This is not all, though. Autumn also discusses a range of other psychological disorders, such as schizophrenia and personality disorders, in addition to spirituality and LGBTQ matters.

I stumbled upon Autumn when I looked up "multiple personality disorder" on YouTube, hoping to find some interesting examples of people who suffered from the disorder. In the video of Autumn's which I found, titled "Meet My Alters / Personalities | Dissociative Identity Disorder," Autumn presented the viewer with each of her personalities. Autumn's personalities did not appear radically different from one

another in the manner of some other people with DID, but watching the video made me think about my own personality, and personality as a whole, in a new light. It was especially fascinating to me the way Autumn's various psychological urges were compartmentalized in each of her alters, as opposed to existing in one personality. It made me think of personality as just a fraction of who I am—a filter through which I express my needs and desires, the limitations of which I go throughout most days unaware of. Watching one of Autumn's personalities act "at peace" with conflict and the next one utterly troubled by it made me think of my own (and presumably others') complex nature, as someone who might be composed at the surface yet haunted on the inside. It is as if Autumn possesses the ability to become the various facets of her subconscious, facets which are buried much deeper in most people and therefore are harder to access.

Autumn also made me think of the "self-help" genre differently. I have always been fascinated by yet cynically detached from self help books. I like to read them when I go to Barnes & Noble, and I always used to look at them with a bit of pity and disdain.

"Everyone's looking for an answer. Too bad these people haven't realized that there is no answer," is what I would think to myself as I scanned one of these books. However, watching Autumn's videos on motivation, internet addiction, and even "things coming to you when the time is right," made me change my attitude on self-help in general.

In her videos, Autumn offers a lot of valuable wisdom on focusing oneself, separating from negative thoughts and keeping from being distracted. I was especially struck by her video on Internet addiction, where she pointed out how, with the Internet, people are so prone to getting distracted and use it as an escape from the reality around them. It made me think about how, in this particular era and the eras to come, it is more crucial than ever before to have the ability to arm oneself from distraction. Autumn's unique perspective and personalities give me the sense that her wisdom is desperately needed in the cultural landscape of this time, where we are bombarded by so much information that we don't have time to assess whether it is relevant or not.

If you step back and approach Autumn's videos with an open mind, you will find a lot of treasures—you don't even have to agree with everything she says. Autumn's rare perspective allows her to articulate aspects of human psychology with a striking amount of clarity and focus. If anything, Autumn is a testament to psychology and spirituality, as disciplines, having a great deal of untapped potential in healing the world and initiating progress on all levels.

It is very easy to approach someone like Autumn with an attitude of ignorance, confusion, and scorn. However, I really think that if people open their minds and hearts to what she is saying, and put it into balance with their own perspective, we can all save the world.

Howard is a member of the Class of 2017.

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NBA Season Ends with Historic Games

BY MAX KINDER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The last day of 2015-2016 NBA regular season was a memorable one. Fans in Los Angeles and all over the world said goodbye to Kobe Bryant, who played his final game in the NBA, while fans in Oakland witnessed the Warriors make history.

Both games were on at the same time, and basketball fans were forced to make a decision. Did you choose to say goodbye to an icon who has been the face of basketball for the last 20 years? Or did you choose to watch a team that has been shattering records all season, becoming the winningest regular-season team of all time?

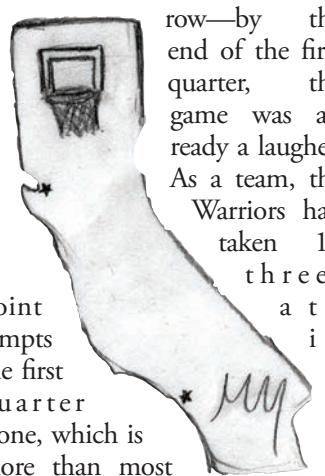
Either way, you would not have been disappointed.

If you chose to watch Bryant and the Lakers, you were treated to a spectacle. The game itself had little meaning since both the Lakers and Grizzlies were out of playoff contention, and yet, the atmosphere in the arena was that of a championship game. Celebrities lined the courtside seats and there was not an empty seat in the house. To add to the sentimental value of the night, the game was preceded by a video montage of current and former basketball players saying goodbye and explaining what Bryant's career meant to them.

If the record-smashing Warriors were more worth watching, the atmosphere was similar. It was less about the game and more about celebrating the accomplishment that Golden State was about to achieve. The Warriors were look-

ing to break two records; One for the most wins in a season, 72 wins set by the Chicago Bulls during the 1995-96 season, and the other, Stephen Curry looking to further his own record for three-pointers in season by surpassing the 400 mark.

From the opening tip, the game plan for the Golden State was pretty obvious—get Curry the ball. After he missed his first three-pointer of the game, the Davidson-bred Curry came back and



point tempts the first quarter alone, which is more than most teams take all game. With the game already secured by the end of the first quarter, fans were now waiting for Curry to hit 400.

The Lakers had a similar game plan: get Bryant the ball. The night was all about the 18-time NBA All-Star, and his teammates made sure of that. Many thought Bryant would only play half of the game, but he shocked everyone not only with how long he played, but how well he played. Bryant, whose career is lined with awards and championships, has been criticized at times for taking too many shots, but on this night,

there was no limit.

Many analysts before the game joked that Bryant's career high for shots taken in a game was 47, and that he should aim for 50. Perhaps Bryant heard them, because that is just what he did. After getting off to a slow start and missing his first five shots, Bryant settled in and began scoring like the vintage Kobe that we have running through highlight reels in our heads. By the end of the game, Bryant scored 60 points—the most ever in a player's final game. Even more fitting, with his team down late, Bryant hit the key shots to pull his team ahead and edge out the win.

For Curry, his shining moment came in the third quarter when he hit his four-hundredth three-pointer of the season. He would hit two more after that and go on to score 46 points, which was 30 more than the next-highest scorer on his team. His new total now stands at 402, blowing away his previous mark of 286. But his individual accomplishment did not take away from his team setting the record for most wins in a season—a feat that even Steve Kerr, head coach of the Warriors and member of the '95-'96 Bulls, thought would never be attained, and yet the Warriors made it look so seamless.

Seventy-three is the number that now stands. But, records are meant to be broken. While we watched one of the greatest individuals to ever play the game walk away, we witnessed what will one day be argued as the greatest team to ever play step into the spotlight.

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From the Athlete's Perspective: Ben Shapiro

BY BEN SHAPIRO
SENIOR STAFF

Nobody here cares about sports. You've probably heard someone on this campus say that before. In fact, you may have even said it yourself. (In that case, though, why are you reading the sports section?)

But as my career as a UR student athlete winds down, I'm here to declare that, yes, some of us actually do care about our school's athletics.

I'd be speaking in hyperbole to declare that "nobody" cares about sports at UR, but, that being said, there is a lack of enthusiasm for athletic activity on this campus. With this in mind, I'm fairly certain that the impact college sports can have on students here is highly overlooked.

It's common to hear graduating seniors say that they couldn't imagine college without being on a sports team, and, as my own graduation nears, I'm absolutely feeling this way. Pretty much everything I've done in the past four years has been influenced by being on the varsity tennis team. My class schedule, my friends, how I spend my free time—even my eating and sleeping habits—all have been shaped in some way by my sport. When something influences your daily life so much, it is hard to imagine what it'd be like if it wasn't there.

So, as I play my final matches, the emotions involved are mixed.

Will I miss being a college athlete? You bet. But at the same time, I'm supremely grateful that I've gotten to participate in something so special. It's easy to lose sight of how great us college athletes have it, especially at the

Division III level. We get highly qualified coaches, terrific training facilities, knowledgeable athletic trainers, and a supportive administration, all at our disposal as we practice and play the sports we love. We even get to travel around the entire country, competing against other athletes.

The best part of this deal? All we have to do in return is do what we love. Sure, it's not always fun waking up early for practice or working out after a long day of classes, but, when it comes down to it, Division III college athletics is essentially school-sponsored fun.

I'll readily admit UR is not a big-time sports school. But that

"Division III college athletics is essentially school-sponsored fun."

doesn't mean sports don't matter here.

In fact, when I look back on my four years here at UR, most of my memories aren't going to be from studying for a test or taking notes in a lecture hall. Maybe they should be, but I presume that I'm far from alone in acknowledging that, when all is said and done, I'll look back on UR and think of days in the gym or time on the court interacting with teammates and coaches. I also don't think I'll be alone in feeling no regret about it. Maybe I missed having a more typical college experience, but after four years of playing college tennis, I feel incredibly lucky to have gotten to play here, and I wouldn't trade these experiences for the world.

Shapiro is a member of the Class of 2016.

UR T&F Sets Records and Looks Toward ECACs

TRACK FROM PAGE 16
tered across the distance, jumping, and sprinting events.

On the first night of competition, freshmen Ben Martell and Forrest Hangen performed solidly in the 3k steeplechase and the 5Kk, both securing spots in the ECAC meet.

For the jumpers, seniors Bouabar Diallo and Jon Kuberka posted strong long jumps, while senior Pat Rice leaped 4.50 meters in the pole vault, which resulted in a sixth-place finish.

The second day of action also saw two relays qualify for the postseason championships. The 4-by-100-meter team of freshman Thomas Chant, senior Jeff Hrebenach, sophomore Fiying Oluyinka, and Rice finished ninth in 43.24 seconds, while the 4-by-800-meter relay team of junior Chris Cook, freshman Chris Dalke, sophomore Corey Peruffo, and senior Jeremy Hassett crossed the finish line at 7:58.72, good for sixth.

Hassett qualified individually in the 800-meter, where he ran 1:54.64. Junior Wilfred Wallis and Dalke also performed well in the event.

On the sprints side, Hrebenach led the way with a blistering 22.17 200-meter dash. Herbenach, Chant, Oluyinka, Frank Dettore-Schenkelberg also competed in the 100-meter dash.

Long sprints saw PRs from sophomores Savon Amos (No. 37) and Sean Corcoran (No. 51) in the 400-meter dash, with Amos winning the second heat in a time of 51.17 seconds.

The hurdles squad saw strong performances from senior RJ Morrow and freshman Griffin Cunningham in the 110-meter. In the 400-meter hurdles, junior Nate Kuhrt and sophomore Scott Mistler-Ferguson finished No. 32 and No. 34, respectively, in a competitive field.

To round out the day, the men's 4-by-400-meter relay team of Mistler-Ferguson, Kuhrt, Amos, and Corcoran finished in 3:25.86, placing thirteenth.

Next Saturday, April 23, URTF looks to build on their momentum as they host a home meet at Fauver stadium starting at 10 a.m.

Chiodo is a member of the Class of 2017.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Wechsler Contributes to Success in as Many Ways as Possible

BY JACKIE POWELL
SPORTS EDITOR

UR Softball (URS) achieved its four-hundredth All-Time victory on Tuesday afternoon, as they swept Fredonia in a double-header. Leading up to the historic win for the Jackets, junior pitcher and third basewoman Eleni Wechsler achieved three wins last week along with going a combined 4-6 at the plate against Clarkson on April 17. Wechsler has struck out 73 batters this season along with maintaining an ERA of 2.58.

When did you know that softball would become your sport? What was your earliest memory of the game?

Softball has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. As soon as I was able to stand on my own, my parents had me in front of a tee, bat in hand. I remember being outside for hours at a time hitting whiffle after whiffle off that tee. I started tee ball when I was four years old and haven't stopped playing since. I never really felt the need to pick up another sport because softball was always the sport that had occupied so much of my time, and was something I was passionate about from an early age.

Who has inspired you the most throughout your softball career, and why?

My parents have always been my main source of inspiration throughout my career. They both thoroughly enjoy sports and never stopped encouraging me to work harder and be better—not only in softball, but in all aspects of life. They have been my biggest supporters and have sacrificed so much of their own time and energy to make sure I could pursue my interests, and I will never be able to thank them enough for that.

URS has won five straight games after beginning the season 4-8. What has changed, and how has the team adapted to the adversity it was handed?

We knew that we were going to be playing the toughest games of our season early on and went into our UAA tournament knowing it would be our time to prove ourselves. We may not have had the best record in Florida, but we learned a lot about both our strengths and weakness as a team and we spent the following weeks building upon where we were weak. We are a completely different team now, compared to the team we were at the beginning of the season, and I



PHOTO COURTESY OF UR ATHLETICS

Junior Eleni Wechsler hurls the ball with her eyes on her target.

couldn't be more proud of the strides we have made. We are finally playing as a team, and I think a lot of the stress we were putting on each other to perform has finally subsided and we are just enjoying the sport.

In Sunday's double header against Clarkson, you went 4-6 and even pitched one of those games. How does it feel to be a hitting pitcher and "beat" typical stigmas given to players in your position?

I've always prided myself on being a well-rounded player. Pitching hasn't always been my primary position, but hitting has always been my favorite part of the game. Hitting also came very naturally to me, so I never really felt the stigma associated with non-hitting pitchers. I'm just happy to contribute to

my team's success in as many aspects as possible.

In light of Sarah Hudek being the first female to achieve a win in college baseball, what do you think of Pittsburgh Pirates Skipper Clint Hurdle saying that he "believes firmly there is going to be a day where there is a female player in the big leagues?" Also, what do you hope for women within your sport and even potentially in MLB?

There is no doubt in my mind that women could compete in the big leagues. I guess the main obstacle for women, in that sense, is how very different baseball and softball are. The structure of the game is similar, but there are so many aspects that are played in such different ways between the two sports. It would

be a tough transition from a softball career to a baseball career, but I think a talented enough athlete could achieve it. Softball has grown so much as a sport in the past 20 years, and I can only see it getting more and more popular, coinciding with the standards of play getting higher and higher.

Would you rather race around the bases against Jacoby Ellsbury or compete in a sing-off against Jennie Finch?

That's definitely a tough question because I'm not even seemingly fast and I also have a sub-par singing voice. Forced to make the choice, I would definitely choose the sing-off, though—embellishing with my "stellar" dance moves, of course.

Powell is a member of the Class of 2018.

STANDINGS

LIBERTY LEAGUE BASEBALL

SCHOOL	CONF	ALL
Union	9-3	14-6
RIT	7-5	13-12
Rochester	7-5	13-12
Clarkson	7-5	11-13
RPI	9-7	10-19

LIBERTY LEAGUE SOFTBALL

SCHOOL	CONF	ALL
RPI	5-1	20-6
Rochester	6-2	17-19
RIT	4-4	11-13
St. Lawrence	3-5	10-16
Clarkson	2-4	17-9

LAST WEEK'S SCORES

FRIDAY, APRIL 15

WLAX vs. Union College – L 6-12

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

WROW at Kerr Cup – A Team 1st, B Team 4th
WTEN vs. New York University – L 2-7
MTEN vs New York University – W 6-3
WLAX vs. William Smith College – L 4-10

SUNDAY, APRIL 17

BB vs. Union College (DH) – W 3-2, W 7-4
SB vs. Clarkson University (DH) – W 9-0, W 4-3

TUESDAY, APRIL 19

SB vs. Fredonia State (DH) – W 8-0, W 3-0
BB at Medaille College – W 18-6

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20

SB at The College at Brockport (DH) – L 1-4, L 6-9

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, APRIL 21

MTEN vs University of Chicago (QF) – 9:00 A.M.

FRIDAY, APRIL 22

WTEN vs Carnegie Mellon University (QF) – 9:00 A.M.
MTEN vs UAA Tennis 2nd Round – 2:00 P.M.

WLAX at Bard College – 4:00 P.M.

WROW at Liberty League Championships – 4:00 P.M.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

MTEN vs Uaa Tennis 3rd Round – 9:00 A.M.
BB at Bard College (DH) – 1:00 P.M., 3:30 P.M.
SB at RIT (DH) – 1:00 P.M., 3:00 P.M.
WLAX at Vassar College – 2:00 P.M.
WTEN vs UAA Tennis 2nd Round – 2:00 P.M.
MTRACK & WTRACK vs UR Spring Invitational – 10:00 A.M.
MGOLF vs Liberty League Spring Championship Day 1 – 12:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, APRIL 24

WTEN vs UAA Tennis 3rd Round – 9:00 A.M.
MGOLF vs Liberty League Spring Championship Day 2 – 12:00 A.M.
SB at SUNY Cortland (DH) – 1:00 P.M., 3:00 P.M.
BB at Bard College (DH) – 12:00 P.M., 2:30 P.M.

TUESDAY, APRIL 26

SB vs. Buffalo State (DH) – 3:00 P.M., 5:00 P.M.
BB at The College at Brockport – 4:00 P.M.

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SPORTS

UR Women's Crew Named Boat of the Week

BY AUDREY GOLDFARB
SPORTS STAFF

UR Women's Rowing (URWR) finished their regular season strong with a victory at the Kerr Cup Regatta in Philadelphia on Sunday. The First Varsity 8+ (person boat) and Second Varsity 8+ both qualified for the DIII Varsity 8+ Grand Final. As a result of their performance, the First Varsity 8+ boat was named the Liberty League Women's Boat of the Week.

In the finals, UR's First and Second Varsity faced off against Mid-Atlantic First Varsity crews from Franklin & Marshall, Bryn Mawr, and Mary Washington, as well as Franklin & Marshall's Second Varsity crew. UR 1V 8+ finished at 6:53.49, beating F&M's 1V by a five-minute margin. The team also entered a Varsity 4, which fought back from a large deficit in the finals to finish in third place.

The First Varsity 8 was comprised of coxswain and junior Crystal Hoffman, senior Bella Clemente, junior Alice Bandeian, sophomore Gianna Macri, senior Clare McMahon, sophomore Julie Profeta, junior Morgan Miller, sophomore Rebecca Fuchs, and sophomore Sarabeth Rambold.

While the Second Varsity 8 included coxswain and freshman Laura Castelein freshmen Claudia Weaver, Colleen Stone, Lauryn Fluellen, Colleen Dunlea, Gillian Schwartz, and Josephine Foong; and sophomores Vada Coe and

Stephanie Taylor.

"We went to this regatta with confidence in ourselves to make it out of heats and be competitive in the Grand Finals," Clemente said. "All of our boats have put in incredible time and effort, and it was exciting to finally see all of our hard work pay off."

After overcoming several obstacles to start the season, including injuries, changes to the lineups, and weather problems, the Yellowjackets also faced the challenge of strengthening their mental toughness.

"I think one weakness we've had to deal with is getting nervous and frantic when facing tougher competition and difficult conditions, which I think really impacted our performance when we raced Ithaca and RIT at the start of the season," Macri said. The sophomore emphasized that the team has centered its recent work around "focusing on [ourselves]" and recognized the need to "stay calm" in order to "be really competitive."

The 'Jackets' collective team dynamic plays a key role in overcoming these issues.

"I have never been with a more motivating and supportive network, and I don't think I could find a better group of people to workout with," Clemente said.

In accordance with Clemente, Bandeian recalls that rowing is a sport dependent on team chemistry, and it is the most rewarding when "you click together as a



PHOTO COURTESY OF UR WOMEN'S ROWING

URWR prepares to climb into their boat in order to begin their race at the Kerr Cup held in Philadelphia.

boat."

On the water, these women

“My team reminds me to never give up, because mental weakness is where you loose the most.”

find that their success is not only through their team's harmony, but is reliant upon the altruistic acts from each member. Although the sport is more physically in-

tense than most are accustomed to, Foong pushes the discomfort aside for her teammates. "[You] remember that you are pushing for not just you, but for the other seven people plus a coxswain in the boat," Foong said.

The team will take their reliance to compete in the Liberty League championship next Friday. It is clear that Clemente will not only be motivated by the closing of her career, but that it will be her teammates feeding her with grit.

"My team reminds me to never

give up, because mental weakness is where you lose the most," she said.

Bandeian, in particular, hopes that URWR rises to the occasion and finds a way to "beat [our] fastest 2k time."

"This has really been a defining season for UR rowing," Bandeian said. "The team has become even closer and stronger throughout this season, and I can't wait to see what is next."

Goldfarb is a member of the Class of 2019.

TAG DAY

COMING MONDAY

4.25.16

#URTAGDAY

Track Sets Records at Classic

BY ERIK CHIODO
COPY EDITOR

UR Track and Field (URTF) traveled to Lewisburg, PA, last weekend to compete at the Bucknell Bison Outdoor Classic. Bucknell had a lot on their plate, as talent from all over the Northeast came to compete at the invitation-al.

The team performed well across the board in the distance, sprinting, throwing, and jumping events. Both the Men's and Women's Teams competed in ideal weather conditions for the first time this season.

The highlight of the meet for UR was the women's 4-by-100-meter relay—comprised of junior Brittany Schutrum, senior Emily VanDenburgh, senior Cameron Edwards, and Take Five Scholar Yvette Igbokwe—who, together, broke the school record by nearly half a second.

The strong performance by the Women's Team resulted in 15 ECAC (Eastern College Athletic Conference) qualifying standards. Senior Katie Knox (3k Steeplechase), senior Victoria Stepanova (5k), junior Sam Kitchen (1500), senior Anya Joynt (10k), and junior Audrey McCarthy (10k) all posted ECAC marks during the first day of competition. Knox and Stepanova also broke UR school re-

cords in their respective events.

On the second day of competition, the women posted strong sprinting, throwing, and relay performances. After breaking the 4-by-100-meter record, Edwards ran the 400-meter hurdles in a time of 1:03.00, while freshman Alice Freese ran a personal record (PR) of 1:07.12. In the 100-meter hurdles, Edwards and freshman Kylie Bartlett ran 15.64 and 15.68 respectively, qualifying for the postseason.

Ogbokwe set a new personal best in the 200-meter, finishing seventh, with a time of 25.27. She also ended seventh in the 100-meter dash.

In the throwing events, junior Megan Forney and senior Amanda Hall set personal bests. Hall PR'd in the shot put, while Forney set a new personal best in the hammer throw. Capping off a strong performance in the field events, VanDenburgh qualified for ECACs with a long jump of 5.43 meters, which landed her in fifteenth place.

In their last event, the women's 4-by-800-meter relay of Knox, Kitchen, Freese, and Stepanova ran an ECAC qualifying time of 9:30.29, a season best for UR.

With a slew of great performances on the women's side, the men's team had their work cut for them. The men's team ended the meet with eight ECAC qualifiers, scat-

SEE TRACK PAGE 14