Concerns Persist Over Gun Proposal

BY ANGELA LAI
PUBLISHER

Perurbed by the prospect of arming Public Safety officers, UR students and employees voted at two recent town halls that officers with guns could heighten racial tensions and make UR feel less safe.

University President Joel Seligman held two hour-long town hall meetings on Monday afternoon, the first at the River Campus and the second at the Medical Center, to discuss and get feedback on the UR Security Commission’s recent recommendation to arm 38 sworn Department of Public Safety (DPS) officers at the Medical Center as well as the four most senior DPS officers.

University President Joel Seligman addresses the audience gathered at his town hall last Monday on arming Public Safety.

Emotions and Argument Fill Seligman’s Town Halls

BY ANGELA LAI
PUBLISHER

Guylda Richard, a third-year medical student on the President’s Commission on Race and Diversity, is “absolutely terrified” of the idea of arming guards.

“The fear that I’m expressing to you now is not unique to me,” she said at the Medical Center meeting.

She said the overwhelming response from minority students she spoke to was “I am terrified. I’m scared, this is not going to end well for me, this is not going to end well for patients who look like me.”

As junior Daniel Southwell spoke at the River Campus forum in the Interfaith Chapel, he stepped from the microphone and spread his hands to demonstrate how a University parking agent’s response from minority students that have dominated the national media in recent years.

Minority student groups unanimously voted against arming Public Safety officers with guns at Thursday night’s meeting of the Minority Student Advisory Board (MSAB), another echo of racial concerns about the proposal that has preoccupied University President Joel Seligman and vocal supporters and opponents since April.

“I think it’d be very powerful to have the presidents here, who, according to most of their constituencies, speak on behalf of their organizations,” said Delvin Moody, former Students’ Association senator and MSAB president, in reference to the vote.

“If the people present, we have a unanimous consent that the AALANA community is unanimously against guns on campus,” he said, using an acronym for African American, Latino, American, and Native American people.

Moody and others discussed plans to send Seligman a petition against the proposal via email.

Steeped in the tragic police shootings of unarmed black people that have dominated national media in recent years, students of color at the Gowen Room meeting, as they have at Seligman’s town halls and forums held last year on the issue, expressed their fears of encounters armed Department of Public Safety (DPS) officers on campus.

Particular worry was devoted to the expansion of the proposal—which currently seeks to arm.

Turnout High as Four Elected in Freshman Senate Election

BY DAVID SCHILDKRAUT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Freshmen turned out in droves last Thursday and Friday to elect four of their peers to the Students’ Association (SA) Senate.

Over 700 freshmen voted for 19 candidates, who had spent the whole week campaigning.

The 53 percent voter turnout rate far exceeds the approximately 32 percent rate from the spring SA elections, considered by SA members as one of the most successful election turnouts in recent years.

An 11-hour delay in the release of the results meant many of the candidates weren’t aware they had been elected when contacted by the Campus Times. Results were posted at 9 a.m. on Saturday.

Dan Pak, like other senators-elect, had no idea he had won.

“That’s crazy,” he said upon hearing the results. “I would like to thank the students for taking their time to vote [and] my friends at Gilbert Hall for being such a great campaign team.”

SA Senate is excited to welcome its new members.

Wambach Event Points to Bookstore Success

Hometown hero and soccer legend Abby Wambach returned to Rochester on Friday to promote her new memoir “Forward” at a ticketed book signing held at the UR Barnes and Noble bookstore.

The two-time Olympian only captivated the great Rochester community with her message, but headlined College Town’s most high profile event in its two-year history, giving managers hope that the University’s foray into business development can hold its own against Rochester’s established venues.

Patrons began lining up for the event at around 4:30 p.m., two and a half hours before the signing was slated to begin.

“At one point, the line stretched all the way past Texas de Brazil from our doors,” Steven Lawrence, the bookstore’s General Reading Manager, said.

The line was a bogeyman of hundreds of aspiring soccer players, long-time fans, and University athletes.

Young children, teens, and college students made up the majority, with many wearing either Wambach apparel or sporting their own personal soccer swag.

One group of teens had traveled over two hours to meet their role model, the person who had inspired them to keep playing and fighting for their rights.

“I like that [Wambach] is fighting for equal pay in this country. Women deserve equal pay as they won the World Cup, while the U.S. men did not,” Sara Rachon, 14, of Utica said.

Nine-year-old Marin Wood of Fairport cited Wambach as her soccer influence.

“I started playing soccer because of Abby Wambach,” she said. “From watching [her] play, I’ve learned to become a bit more aggressive and win the ball more.”

Although Wambach’s fan base is filled with young people, she said in a press conference before the signing that her new book contains “real-life stuff” and not the “shiny perfect pretty stuff” that the soccer player’s former following is accustomed to.

“For the Rochester native, it was a DUDE in April that allowed her to recognize the “secrets” regarding her alcohol abuse she was holding onto. While the original purpose of her memoir was to serve as a career stepping stone, the focus shifted to helping young people vote for the candidates to implement their plans for making a change on campus.

“That week of campaigning was hard with 18 other individuals [who] had bright ideas to create change on this campus,” Senator-elect Jamal Holtz said. “I look forward to working with all other candidates to hear their input.”

Campaigning, which began on Sunday at noon, was a high point throughout the week for many.

As soon as 12:02 p.m. on Sunday, the bookstore.

One of the four senators is looking to work with the other candidates to implement their plans for making a change on campus.

“Every year when we get freshman senators, they are some of the most wonderful people here on campus.”

The four seniors hope that the University’s two-year history, giving managers hope that the University’s foray into business development can hold its own against Rochester’s established venues.
SA Changes Ahead with Deputy Speaker, Senator Resignations

By Justin Trombly
Managing Editor

Two members of the Students’ Association (SA) Senate have resigned from their positions, adding to the list of SA leaders who have left their posts in the past year.

Junior Katherine Bakrania resigned as deputy speaker of the Senate in the opening weeks of the school year, citing the time commitment required.

“I prioritize school and work over other activities, and SA Gov, while being a really rewarding and awesome experience, is incredibly time consuming,” she said in an email.

“I no longer have the time or ability to give the position everything it needs.”

Bakrania was elected deputy speaker last semester, after classmate Anmol Almast, who had held the role for less than two weeks, resigned as well.

Senior Chiziterem Onyekwere, elected as a senator last semester, also stepped down recently, but declined to comment for this piece.

Senate is set to elect a new deputy speaker next Monday night in the Gowen Room, and Onyekwere’s seat will be filled soon by the next-highest vote-getter from the spring elections, Speaker of the Senate Lindsay Wrobel said.

That mechanism was established as precedent in an All-Campus Judicial Council case about succession between Almast and the Senate last fall.

Onyekwere’s resignation follows that of fellow senior Samantha Lienert, who left Senate in January to escape what she called a hostile work environment within the SA branch.

Trombly is a member of the Class of 2018.

New Senators Elected

Elections From Page 1 day, it was possible to see campaign teams chalking every inch of Dandelion Square. Even more popular for candidates was to personally meet voters. Several held events, from town hall meetings to movie night meet-and-greets. To get the word out further, posters were put up around campus informing potential voters of who the candidates were.

There were numerous campaign violations visible around campus, including campaigning in unauthorized locations, as determined by the SA Elections and Rules Committee. One candidate faced disqualification from the race after a member of their campaigning team violated the rules set by the SA Elections and Rules Committee.

Elections and Rules Committee Chair and junior Jake Braniecki declined to comment on campaign violations. The final two winning candidates, Kamel Awayda and Leif Johansen, ran a joint campaign.

“I’m still trying to process the results,” Awayda said after hearing the news that he had won. “I couldn’t have possibly voted for myself 213 times.”

He added, “The magnitude of the support and positive energy among all those in the voting process is what I owe my success to.”

Awayda and Johansen each had the two best results of all candidates for senator, with Awayda taking 214 votes, nearly all those in the voting process is what I owe my success to.”

Samantha Lienert, who left Senate in January to escape what she called a hostile work environment within the SA branch.

“I have accomplished the easy part,” Johansen said. “I think it’s time to get to work. You heard our message, and now we are ready to hear yours.” They go to office hours,” she said.

Sigma Nu Hosts Annual Hot Wing-Eating Contest

Students participated in Sigma Nu’s annual Hot Wing-Eating Contest this past week as a fundraiser for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

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Schildkraut is a member of the Class of 2018.
Debate Union Hosts iDebate Rwanda

BY SPENCER ROCKWELL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In the aftermath of genocide, is forgiveness more important than justice? That was the concluding question of last Monday's debate between UR Debate Union (URDU) and iDebate Rwanda, a charity that enables debate training and a platform for public debate in East Africa, whose first stop this year was in Rochester.

iDebate Rwanda spoke in opposition—proposition—or favor, in debate terms—while URDU spoke in support.

Critical thinking, introduction, and using debat- ing as a constructive medium were the main themes of the Debate Union's opening season event.

"Debate is not about being opponents or having adversity, but instead about looking critically at a topic as an opportunity to teach," iDebate Rwanda presenter Amos Furaha said.

Having come from a Rwandan background and having coached debaters from the iDebate Rwanda organization, sophomore Derrick Murekezi brought the idea of hosting this event to URDU.

"The team thought engaging in this public debate would be a fantastic forum for bringing more diversity to the Rochester campus," freshman debater Brianna Terrell said. "Specifically, we wanted to create an entertaining public event that could expose the stories, struggles, and perspectives of real-life survivors of Rwandan genocide."

As URDU's leader of opposition, Terrell began the debate by outlining the opposition's argument, laying out points of criticism for moral hierarchies.

She established the opposition's conception of justice, and argued that equality can only be regained through a reparative justice system of justice that arbitrates conflict and considers perspectives and evidence on an individualized basis.

Terrell argued that claiming forgiveness is more important than justice is counterproductive. She went on to say that while forgiveness is "one-size-fits-all," justice is specific on a case-to-case basis, thus validating the victim. It was significant for me, as one of the Rochester debaters, because it gave me the chance to empathize with a situation I might not have considered otherwise," she said. "It reminded me that nothing is an obstacle.'" Following Terrell was the deputy prime minister of iDebate Rwanda, Isabane Muhumuriza Harmonie: "Forgiveness will make the victim willing to listen, to tolerate, understand, and be a starting point to go back to living their lives. Forgiveness deals with the problems at hand, while justice covers them up."

At the conclusion of the debate, the floor was opened for audience members' perspectives.

"Debate is a universally valuable thing that empowers individuals and transcends any ethnicity, any religion, and any personal obstacle," Terrell said.

Rockwell is a member of the Class of 2020.

New Town Hall Scheduled

TOWN HALL FROM PAGE 1

car followed him and his friend as they drove on campus.

"This bias that might be unconscious is very much active," he said in an emotional speech. DPS patrol sergeant Edison Sawyer, speaking later at the chapel, said that as an officer who "will gladly lay down my life so that you can go home," he doesn't "feel safe.

"So when we start talking about what safety means or do or don't bring," he added, "don't forget about the view or the feeling of those willing to put their lives on the line for each and every one of you."

Seligman cited incidents which had exacerbated that fear in recent years among Public Safety officers—last winter's kidnapping and brutalization of two UR seniors and the August mugging of an undergraduate by a 12-year-old with a gun.

Assistant Professor of Religion Josh Dubler saw the recommendation as an extension of the "folk wisdom" that good guys with guns will tend to be bad guys with guns.

Addressing the DPS officers present, he raised his voice: "You guys bear a burden, I understand, to not let us have this lack of ability to bear the burden. You're grown, ups, and you're trained, and you recognize the importance.

Attendees also criticized the evidence behind the Commission's recommendation. They felt that correspondence between the UR and other universities were insubstantial, and that there was a lack of data showing that arming officers would increase safety.

"Fortunately similar research universities in the country has some armed officers. Virtually every comparable academic health care center," Seligman said in turn. UR is the only member of the Association of American Universities, a group of prominent research institutions in the U.S. and Canada, with an unarmed sworn department. Only one of the 60 U.S. schools in the association has only non-sworn officers.

He acknowledged that other institutions may have based their decisions on local anecdotes or convictions, though he cited the University of Pennsylvania as an example in which reduced violence followed an increase of security forces, including armed forces. Much of his reasoning in support for the move dealt with pleas from Medical Center employees.

"I have to deal with a different kind of data that's very powerful," he said. "I have an emergency department right now who is pleased—pleading—we feel unsafe. How long are you going to take to adjust this?"

Michael Kamali, the UR Medical Center Chair of Emergency Medicine, said that he ultimately supported arming Public Safety. But if he could have "wish come true," society would have to "look at guns as a societal iss and think about what is going on.

DPS officers feel part of the Rochester community, Director of Public Safety Mark Fisher said, and the department does not tolerate racial or cultural microaggressions.

It has received five allegations of racially motivated behavior in the past three years, four of which stemmed from a miscommunication.

The Commission's report recommends 28 hours of bias and diversity training with refreshers courses every six months, as well as additional background checks and psychological evaluations for officers.

Some, like Southwell, have questioned whether this would be enough.

Seas at the Interfaith Chapel, which held the first town hall meeting from 3-4 p.m. were sparsely filled at a time overlapping with classes. Students criticized the timing, and attendees felt that both town hall meetings had been poorly advertised.

Though Seligman had originally planned to hold three town hall meetings on campus each at the River Campus, Medical Center, and Eastman School of Music— he has scheduled a fourth at the River Campus on Monday, Sept. 19, 6-7 p.m. in the Hawkins Carlson Room of Rush Rhees Library.

"I hate guns. I hate violence," Seligman said at both town halls. He wished that the issue did not need to be discussed.

He will only make a decision about the recommendation after another town hall on Monday, a meeting with the Faculty Senate, another town hall on Monday, a meeting with the University's management team, and again encouraged students to email their thoughts to him at president@rochester.edu by Sept. 23. He insisted that he would read every email personally.

As for concerns that arming Medical Center officers would make it too easy for Public Safety officers on the River Campus, Seligman said that there is no hidden agenda.

"No one should get the sense that this is the camel's nose in the tent."
Making Mind Out of Matter

If you had absolutely no interest in chemistry or improving your creative writing, why would you study it? We challenge ourselves most and work hardest in the things that thrill us and thus become some of the best at them. You may have a predisposition to succeed in one discipline, but that doesn’t mean you can’t excel in another. To suggest that you must be naturally skilled in a subject in order to succeed in it disregards the fact that each field has earned through hours of dedicated work by scholars. And even further, it disregards the hard work and research done everyday by students and professors here at the University.

The story sometimes goes that the humanities are easier because there are thousands of right answers, and you are seldom wrong. In STEM, there is only one correct answer, making it harder to attain perfection. There’s a contrary story, however; that STEM clerks are cold and close-minded, whereas the humanities are welcoming and creative. Both of these lines of thought are limiting. To say one field is “easy” and one is “hard” distracts from the nuances between different subjects and also discounts the work people put into choosing them. We may spend hours hunched over our engineering problem sets, but the history major next to me in the library spends just as long hunched over her readings and essays.

Our thinking is not limited to the left brain or the right brain—no two brains rely on logic or creativity to solve problems; we use both. Our ideas are not written in binary code with 1s and 0s. The human sciences are far from being a black and white world. Our thinking is more complex—stop for students rushing through our veins. These both say the same thing in different ways.

Is one way of thinking wrong? Is one right? My mother, a former physicist here at the University, was firm in the lessons she taught me. “Don’t lose your science,” she would tell me. “Draw, paint, write, but whatever you do, don’t lose your science. Women always lose their science.”

Yet every time I say that I am majoring in Mechanical Engineering, eyebrows raise and the reaction is usually along the lines of, “I could never do that, I’m not a science person.” Of course, it goes both ways. For every English or humanities major who claims, “I’m just not good at math,” there’s an engineer who bemoans, “I’m terrible at writing.”

These comments are familiar language, but what seems like an everlasting tug-of-war between the humanities and the hard sciences. But they also suggest a deeper and more complex truth. This is where our society seems to be increasingly prevalent: that either you’re a “science” person, or you’re not. This idea, that one side of your brain dominates the other, implies your way of thinking is, not only untrue, but it perpetuates the idea that the humanities and the sciences are mutually exclusive disciplines, that you can only do one.

Learn from Lam Square

University President Joel Seligman should be commended for his decision to hold another town hall forum on the River Campus to hear student feedback on the proposed arm of Public Safety officers.

This proposal, which in various forms has procreated throughout since April, is the most pressing issue facing the UR community.

It deserves more than just one, poorly publicized forum on campus, scheduled at a time when many students were in class—this can, after all, be a life-or-death decision regardless of how it goes. Still, word about this additional town hall didn’t seem to have reached way up here. Seligman sent one email to the student body on Wednesday about the event, and a notice also appeared in a UR Weekly on Sunday. Perhaps students bear some fault here for not paying enough attention to their emails, but the University could have done more to promote such an important event.

This editorial was published with the consent of a majority of the editorial board: Aurek Ransom (Editor-in-Chief), Justin Trombly (Managing Editor), Sam Passanisi (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.
Guns on campus will make violence more likely, not less

When we send officers to do their jobs unarmed, we disregard their safety

I am writing on behalf of the 130 Public Safety Officers I represent as the President of the University of Rochester Public Safety Officers Association. Our profession is an inherently dangerous one and we provide the service of a fully sworn agency while acting as citizens who mean to protect ourselves and our community.

As part of our duties, officers face harassment and violence and must be appropriately prepared to respond quickly and effectively in an emergency situation.

The University is our home; we know the people, the buildings, and the intimate workings of the community that we serve.

The Department of Public Safety’s mission statement is to “protect people at the University.” Currently we are equipped to do this. Our officers are the only sworn campus officers in the entire emergency service who are not currently armed.

Our officers should not be sent out on patrol in the hopes that they will not be attacked. We are in a life-threatening situation, as reality has shown us the threat of violence is constant and inevitable.

We feel a duty to appropriately prepare our officers and provide them the necessary confidence and tools so that they may protect not only their lives, but also the lives of our community members.

I am writing to you because an armed response would be needed on campus, an armed officer would be the answer. The question becomes: Do you have a response from the Rochester Police Officers who could be miles away and don’t have the intimate knowledge of the University, or do you want the fastest, most efficient response possible, from your Department of Public Safety Officers? Your UR DPS officers, who patrol the campus daily and have a very intimate knowledge of the people, buildings, culture and layout of this University, are the first and best choice.

The University of Rochester is a highly visible entity and we have not been without incident over the past few years. The University values and embraces an open campus (River Campus Medical Center, Eastman School of Music, Memorial Art Gallery, Strong Ties, methadone program, etc.), and hosts hundreds of events throughout the entire year. However, we must not overlook the significant responsibility this comes with.

Students and staff have been the victims of armed robberies on multiple occasions. A UR employee was recently assaulted with a box cutter, which resulted in hospitalization. The patrol commander had a bullet narrowly miss his head when someone fired a gun in the building a number of years ago. Numerous other incidents have happened over the past few years that have been forgotten.

The emergency department has been a Level 1 Trauma Center in this area of the state.

Nationwide, 88 officers have been killed in the line of duty since Jan. 1, 2016, and 40 of these officers were killed by gunfire. This is a 43 percent increase from 2015. This is the reality of the world that our officers serve and protect us in. We cannot pretend that we are living in a bubble.

On a daily basis, our officers encounter and counter many times arrest violent felons who have a history of armed robberies, domestic violence, and other violent offenses.

It must be understood that we are encountering and at times countering people who intend to do us and the people of our community harm. Many of these people carry knives and guns. When one of our officers attempts to take those same people into custody and the person respond with violence we know that they are not going to be taken to jail, it can become a volatile and dangerous situation for the officer.

Unless we can protect ourselves, we cannot protect the community.

The safety of students, officers, nurses, doctors, staff, patients and visitors should be the number one priority of this University, and I believe it is. However, we need to make sure we are following the best practices to do so.

Our safety should never be dependent on the kindness of others who wish to victimize our community. We are people with wives, husbands, sons, daughters, fathers, and mothers, and we deserve to be properly equipped to defend ourselves, if need be, so we can go home at the end of our shifts to our families, who care so much about us. We also need all the tools necessary to fulfill our mission of providing public safety to the Rochester community and public safety to the members of the University community that we so proudly serve.

Notwithstanding, Thomas H. Andreano, President, University of Rochester Public Safety Officers Association

Armed officers would address a crisis at Strong

Dear Editor,

As an emergency physician, I have seen firsthand the carnage caused by guns in our community and across the country. In Rochester, these events seem to have an almost daily occurrence and to tell a mother that her child has died due to an accident is brutally difficult. Having to tell a mother that her child was shot by one of the 300 million guns in our society. The only reasonable solution seems to be eliminating our society.

However, with the violence I see and the violent individuals that make up our society, I don’t feel that the arming of our Department of Public Safety Officers is necessary, and I support physical therapy that I recognize there may not be statistical significance in improving our safety in the emergency department of our armed officers, and I consider the risk of having guns in our environment, but I am also realistic. We live in a violent society that seems to have rampant disregard for another.

Our staff has been verbally and physically assaulted, and I hope that there may be no statistical significance in improving our safety in the emergency department of our armed officers, and I consider the risk of having guns in our environment, but I am also realistic. We live in a violent society that seems to have rampant disregard for another.

Our Department of Public Safety Officers have worked in our department for some time and are in the crosshairs of that crisis.

We feel that the arming of our Department of Public Safety Officers is necessary, and I support the philosophy that there may be no statistical significance in improving our safety in the emergency department of our armed officers, and I consider the risk of having guns in our environment, but I am also realistic. We live in a violent society that seems to have rampant disregard for another.

I hope that one day soon our society can adequately address the serious gun issues we face and reduce the associated gun violence, leading to no need for armed officers in our hospitals, as well as for some of our school and workplace environments. The solutions are right in front of us. But for now we have a crisis, and the emergency department of our armed officers is right in the crosshairs of that crisis.

Michael Kamali, MD

Dr. Kamali is the Chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Strong Memorial Hospital.
Guns may increase violence on campus, and racial biases are not being considered

BY YOENIA KROKOFFA

It’s been over two years since Mike Brown was murdered. Almost two years since Tyre King’s last breaths. The police utilized weapons but they were not armed officers. They were in the hearts of communities of color, steadfastly refused to do anything to protect Medical Center staff or students feel safe. With the Black Lives Matter movement combating police brutality, arming campus officers would undermine the efforts made by students and activists by dismissing their legitimate anxieties. Before making any measure, the University must address several questions. Will officers use their weapons on students? And if so, will that be why they want to arm them? What I think we need to do, however, is something we learn in all four years of college: looking for something to be common sense. Why do you feel safe with armed campus police? Could it be because you feel like they are on your side? That their guns would be used on other people to protect themselves?

Consider why others don’t want Public Safety to be armed. Maybe, in the same way that officers are on your side, others feel that officers are a threat to them. But there’s a genuine fear that those same officers will increase each year. Parents are afraid to send their children to school. People of color are afraid of persistent, armed racism. Colleges are beginning to consider arming their campus security officers. This is where the University finds itself today. University administration is coming to the end of a discussion on whether they will arm Department of Public Safety (DPS) officers. University President Joel Seligman recently released a report on their recommendations, and he said it was best left up to the next meeting of the College Diversity Roundtable. The Roundtable will recommend arming some officers on the Medical Center campus, and having a few unarmed officers that patrol both campuses.

Sentiment among students has not changed since the first mention of this discussion; many students are overwhelmingly opposed to any armed officers on our campus. Seligman, when Yik Yak was being used to make anonymous complaints of racial bias, steadfastly refused to block Yik Yak from university servers. Instead, he recommended opening a door that would lead to graver consequences. My question for him is: If blocking Yik Yak meets Pandora’s Box of censorship, doesn’t arming campus officers open a similar issue of gun violence? If we bring guns within this campus in one form, does that not follow the president’s sentiment that it would lead to more issues? Guns DO NOT make people any safer.

The discussion seems to recognize that violence is increasing across this country. But there appears to be a gap in logic, where people say “yes, there’s increasing violence and I don’t feel safe,” but then in the next breath they say “let’s arm our officers.”

Now, maybe these people feel safer with armed Public Safety officers, and if so, then I can understand why they would want to arm them. But there appears to be a gap in logic, where people say “yes, there’s increasing violence and I don’t feel safe,” but then in the next breath they say “let’s arm our officers.”

The administration cites a problem with the number of mass shootings. Parents are not worsen, the quality of life. No Public Safety officer has ever been severely harmed by a student or an outsider. Force has been used 15 times since 2014, and not one of these cases required a lethal weapon. Whether some of the 15 people would have been dead if Public Safety had been armed is a concern we don’t need to contemplate until now.

In the current climate regarding police force, guns do not make people any safer. With the Black Lives Matter movement combating police brutality, arming campus officers would undermine the efforts made by students and activists by dismissing their legitimate anxieties. Before making any measure, the University must address several questions. Will officers use their weapons on students? And if so, will that be why they want to arm them? What I think we need to do, however, is something we learn in all four years of college: looking for something to be common sense. Why do you feel safe with armed campus police? Could it be because you feel like they are on your side? That their guns would be

Tavella is a member of the Class of 2017.
FEATURES

Sex & CT

Get the ‘Yes’

By Simi Grewal
Contributing Writer

In some situations, consent is straightforward. In others, it can be murby. Let the Campus Times break it down for you.

What is consent?

Consent means saying yes to any sexual behavior including kissing, touching, oral or penetrative sex. It must be informed, freely given, and mutual.

Who can consent?

People over the age of 18 who share this with one another and are not incapacitated due to alcohol and drugs, haven’t been coerced emotionally or physically, aren’t unconscious or asleep, or aren’t mentally disabled can give consent.

What is affirmative consent?

In three words: Yes means yes. UR, like many colleges around the nation, is an affirmative consent school. Affirmative consent requires that both partners give permission to engage in any sexual acts.

What about “no means no”?

“no means no” is what a lot of us have been taught growing up. While true, it can be easily misconstrued. It gives the upper hand to the person that initiates sex because, under this guideline, they can assume consent until their partner says no, which could be difficult if one partner is incapacitated, including fear. This lacks any discussion of or insight into what the non-initiating partner wants.

How do I get affirmative consent?

You ask! This is where the art of consent comes in. If the person says yes, keep going? “May I take your clothing can deceptively sug- gest what they want doesn’t ruin their partner says no, which could be difficult if one partner is incapacitated, including fear. This lacks any discussion of or insight into what the non-initiating partner wants.

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Sex & CT

Shocking Yourself into Gear

By Aaron Lim
Contributing Writer

As the sun peeks its head over the horizon, a sprinter, lean and statueque, stands in preparation for the morning’s workout. But before beginning her routine, she puts on a pair of over-ear head- phones, which emit a low hum. The hum is to off a round of transcranial Direct- Current Stimulation (tDCS).

Put simply, she is shocking her brain to improve her training.

A new device that implements tDCS has found its way out of a San Francisco startup headed by Daniel Chao and Brett Wingeier. They call their newest gadget Halo Sport and have already sold out of pre-orders.

Halo Sport looks and functions like a pair of regular over-ear headphones, but it can be used to send small electric currents to specific parts of the brain. Chao has a master’s degree in neuroscience and a medical degree from Stan- ford University, while Wingeier has a Ph.D. in biomedical engi- neering. Chao does the science and Wingeier does the tech, and together, they are trying to stretch the capabilities of the modern athlete.

The science behind Halo Sport is well understood. Two elec- trodes (an anode and a cathode) are placed on the scalp and a small electric current is used to induce the firing of certain neurons. The more times these neurons fire, the stronger their neural pathways will become. Ultimately, our brains get better at remembering how to do a particular movement. But using tDCS to improve placement makes it perfect for a headphone band.

Although many are skeptical of the results of studies involv- ing tDCS, Chao and Wingeier proudly report that their test shows increase in the speed of clipping a button and pressing a key on a keyboard. Of course, here is a big difference between clicking buttons and swimming or playing baseball. This is why Chao and Wingeier also tested Halo Sport on skiers and snow- boarders. A lot of training by clicking buttons and pressing keys is not needed in those cases, practitioners used up- wards of 8000 volts (mA) of electric current. Halo Sport only uses a measly 2 mA. It is no more dangerous than touch- ing a potato battery.

So, if you are interested in try- ing Halo Sport, the first com- mercial models are expected to be available in October, with a retail price $749. The device can pair with any smartphone and is controlled completely with an app. You can adjust the amount of time you are receiving tDCS as well as its intensity, making it a very customizable product.

The only question left to ans- wer is: Is brain hacking cheating? Lim is a member of the Class of 2017.

Beta Theta Bubble Soccer

By Caitlin Davie
Contributing Writer

Students rushed around, kicked a soccer ball, and tried to score on tiny nets on the Wilson Quadr this past Tues- day. hinter up not in shinpads and cleats, but in bubbles.

They were bumbling their way through the game as part of its Beta Pi rush event, the first of its in- augural year as a fraternity. The game consists of two teams playing soccer while en- cased in large, plastic bubbles that create a barrier around the player’s head and upper body. This allows for boisterous tack- ling. Both spectators and mem- bers of the fraternity seemed to enjoy the game, which Chao and Wingeier’s original creation came from the chapter’s group chat, had the members excited to try something new.

Besides finding food and a venue, they had to find a pro- vider of the equipment. The Beta Pi’s source of company was actually in Boston, so the provider drove seven hours in order to set up the event, and when it was finished, he drove another seven hours to get back to Massachusetts.

While this was all part of Rush Week, there were larger goals in mind for this event than to recruit new members. A lot of fraternity rush events keep it insular to their organi- zation, but we really wanted to open it up so anyone can come. Gilbert, President of Beta Theta Pi, said, “We want- ed people to get to know us.” Gilbert, a senior, thought the event was a success.

“The bubble soccer was a lot of fun. We got to know people, and it got a lot of energy,” he said. “I just think it’s great that we were able to do much excitement.”

Davie is a member of the Class of 2019.
Keep UR Summer Alive

BY RAAGA KANAKAM  
COPY EDITOR

As we enter the third week of school, it may feel like the days of soaking up the sun and enjoying the outdoors are over while you stress over all your deadlines and commitments. Don’t fret! Though it might feel like your work is multiplying by the minute, there is still some sun left to get your mind off of school for a bit.

Take some time to explore these options so you don’t miss the last few rays of sun before we dive into the winter months.

*Note: These are all within a 30-minute and bike ride of the University of Rochester. Any distances are approximate.*

**Letchworth State Park**

Located 35 miles south of Rochester, Letchworth State Park holds an abundance of opportunities—hiking, rafting, camping. Hiking trails around the park range from a half a mile to 20, varying from easy to moderate difficulty. White-water rafting on the Genesee River is available to experienced white-water paddlers. You can even go hot air ballooning over the park until mid October, with each ride lasting 45 to 60 minutes.

“Take some time to explore these options so you don’t miss the last few rays of sun before we dive into the winter months,” sophomore Collette Krey said. “It ain’t no Jersey shore, it’s a nice place to go to get away,” junior Dominick Sarappa said. “It’s a good place if you like to go to the beach and relax with the water, it is a great way to have a chill day with your friends.”

If that’s not your thing, though, Hamlin Beach offers plenty more for you to enjoy. There are six miles of hiking and biking trails to use for some outdoor exercise and fun, as well as salmon and trout fishing. “Worried about how you’ll get there? Just rent a Zipcar for a couple hours or become friends with someone who has a car,” Sarappa said. “It ain’t no Jersey shore, but it’ll do.”

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**Picnics**

Genesee Valley Park is home to eight picnic shelters and is located right across the street from the University entrance by Elmwood. Grab sandwiches, waters, and fruits (or just order some Dinosaur Bar-B-Que), and toss a frisbee around while listening to music. Of course, there are plenty of spots around campus, too, such as the Eastman and Wilson Quads or Jackson Court and the surrounding grass.

“Make your cookies one _____ at a time,” junior Siena Krey said. “It’s a nice place to go to get away,” junior Dominick Sarappa said. “It’s a good place if you like to go to the beach and relax with the water, it is a great way to have a chill day with your friends.”

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**Biking**

Biking is another great way to get outside on a sunny day, but with the added benefit of allowing you to shop or sightsee as well. Biking is another great way to get outside on a sunny day. Take some time to explore these options so you don’t miss the last few rays of sun before we dive into the winter months.

**Puzzles**

**Crossword Puzzle**

BY SAM PASSANISI  17

**ACROSS:**

 1.  The King of American horror
 2.  ...amo, as a lover might say
 4.  “Big and tall,” a little less fancied
 5.  America’s premier science guy
 6.  Friend of the (and taxpayer’s) bank
 7.  Traditional antagonist of business, one might say
 8.  Water fountain, or this, to water, it is a great way to have a chill day with your friends.
 9.  Kind of stick you might find at a rave or festival
 11.  Source of revenue for websites, newspapers, etc.
 12.  Make your cookies one _____ at a time
 13.  Chill out worrying about all the chaos.
 14.  Love, a lover might say
 15.  E.g. Pepsi, Sprite, etc.
 16.  Picnics
 17.  Girl’s name that is pronounced like your work is multiplying by the minute, there is still some sun left to get your mind off of school for a bit.
 18.  grainsy, unappetizing, if you like to shop or sightsee as well.
 19.  Grainy, unappetizing, if you like to shop or sightsee as well.
 20.  Happy Halloween, a famous surf spot
 21.  Friendly term of address
 22.  Famous grouch
 23.  It’s connected to the knee
 24.  You're looking swell,
 25.  Behind, in a nautical sense
 26.  “You're looking swell,” a famous movie character
 27.  Rating of academic success
 28.  Famous grouch
 29.  It’s connected to the knee
 30.  Friendly term of address
 31.  Big _____, a famous surf spot
 32.  You wouldn’t download a book
 33.  Private friend of the (and taxpayer’s) bank
 34.  You wouldn’t download a book
 35.  Could be a pen or a lighter
dandy, or perhaps this.
 36.  Diner waitress’ term of address
 37.  Source of revenue for websites, newspapers, etc.
 38.  Independence Day essential
day, whichever comes first. Consider how bicycle-friendly the city is, it is easy to get wherever you need to go on two wheels.

**DOWN:**

 1.  Honor among these?
 2.  Source of revenue for websites, newspapers, etc.
 4.  “Big and tall,” a little less fancied
 5.  America’s premier science guy
 6.  No refrigerator needed, in this house
 7.  You wouldn’t download a book—unless you were engaged in this
 8.  Kind of stick you might find at a rave or festival
 9.  It’s connected to the knee
 11.  Source of revenue for websites, newspapers, etc.
 12.  Make your cookies one _____ at a time
 13.  Chill out worrying about all the chaos.
 14.  Love, a lover might say
 15.  E.g. Pepsi, Sprite, etc.
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dandy, or perhaps this.
 36.  Diner waitress’ term of address
 37.  Source of revenue for websites, newspapers, etc.
Security Commission Recommends Arming Seligman

BY SAM PASSANISI
OPINIONS EDITOR

A recent email from the office of University President Joel Seligman has revealed that in addition to recommending some Public Safety officers be equipped with firearms to ensure safety on campus, admin- istrators have also decided to recom- mend arming Seligman himself.

"Let’s face it, a few cops with guns can only do so much for us," trustee Jimmy Winters commented. "They might be able to keep the peace in the face of ordinary threats. What about a 60-foot atomic lizard rising from the waters of the Genessee, or a fleet of hostile aliens descending on campus? That’s why we need a 12- foot tall Mecha-Seligman equipped with dual shoulder-mounted missile launchers and arm cannons."

A hand-picked team of mechani- cal engineering grad students was tasked with making the necessary upgrades to Seligman, transforming him from a mild mannered college administrator into an implacable cyborg enforcer.

This isn’t the first time the Uni- versity has upgraded one of its presidents. In 1926, Benjamin Rush Rhees had a miniature fusion reactor implanted in his chest to enable him to single-handedly construct the li- brary that bears his name. While not a president, per se, George Eastman also underwent surgery in the early 20th century to equip him with a self-contained cryogenic preservation system. After donating huge sums of his fortune to the University, Eastman stationed himself between Morey and Lattimore Halls and converted his organic matter into a frozen effigy of adamantium, where he remains to this day in a dead-but-dreaming state, waiting to awaken and reap the souls of all who betrayed him in life.

"That is exactly the type of threat I’m talking about," Winters stressed. "When the Azarhio Boody cultists finally succeed in raising Eastman from his slumber of aeons, who’s gonna stop him? Nor some cop with a pea-shooter. I’m putting my money on Seligmanator and his bristling array of weaponry."

When asked for a comment, Seligman professed that he is "totally friggin’ stoked." about his new cybernetic capabilities.

Seligman’s new capabilities will be demonstrated for the University community during Me! Weekend, when he plans to vaporize the statue of George-Eastman with a pair of energy beams projected from his eyes. Then, Seligman said, he’ll probably activate his afterburners and perform a couple of sick barrel rolls in the sky over Wilson Quad.

"We’re hoping this will really cut down on underage drink- ing on campus," he added with a wry smirk.

Pancakes is a member of the Class of 2017.

Queen Elsa’s Retribution

BY DAVID SCHILDKRAUT
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Citing the failure that was the last Rochester winter, Ice Queen Elsa has promised to set things right this time around.

"Last year, an amazing opportunity presented itself to me," Elsa said. "Taking that opportunity ended up being quite a distraction from my role in society. This year, I’m going to do it right."

After a thorough investigation, the Campus Times found that Elsa has been working at Disney World since July 2014. She was working part-time, and winter was not offered as a full-time position, so Elsa went on strike.

Promises of an actual winter have the University community h i g h t y spir- its. "Two years ago, I was miserable because of the horrible weather," Professor of Mechanical Engineering Ludwig Lou Billet said as he pulled out a file labeled "Snow-Day Projects." "But after last year’s winter flop, I really missed the earlier doom and gloom. I figure now that we’re looking at an incredible amount of snow, I have time to implement my childhood plans."

Facilities has begun its own preparations for the coming winter, as well.

"In preparation for the ex- pected blizzards, Facilities and Services has purchased an extra 1,000 tons of salt and hired over 20 new employees," Associate Vice President for University Facilities and Services Bruce Bashower said. "Things might get a little crowded and messy, but we are working with [Uni- versity President Joel] Seligman to ensure that this year, there are still no snow days and the profes- sors can get to cam- pus."

De- spite the threats of students h a v i n g to at- tend class this winter, Speaker of the Senate Lindsay Wrobel and Students’ Asso- ciation (SA) President Vito Martino announced at last Monday’s Senate meetings a joint SA initiative to expand Winter- fest. Plans include ex- t e n d i n g Winter- fest to en- d e v o l p a n entire week, holding a prayer service to Elsa at the Interfaith Chapel, and a Public Safety-sponsored “Public-Safety Snow-Officer- Building Contest.” They encour- age all interested in the event to attend a Skype general interest meeting on Friday, which will be automatically played on every electronic device connected to the University Wi-Fi.

Wrobel is a member of the Class of 2017.

Broken Records

BY NATE KUHRT
SPECIAL EDITOR

With his alarm blasting, head ringing, and heart sinking, senior Erik Franklin dragged himself out of bed. He had slept the night before at bars with all of his 21-and-up friends, because he is now over 21, and had forgotten to consider the repercussions of his actions. Choos- ing to ignore the common decision reached by most of his peers, Erik was determined to continue his perfect attendance for the semester.

After a whopping two-and-a-half weeks, he has yet to miss a course, and according to Franklin, "does not plan on missing one until at least fall break," when he actually will go down in history as only the fourth senior to achieve the feat. When asked if he has any tips to tiring students, he said, "Sleep. And I mean whenever you can."

Franklin’s fellow biology classmate and senior Simple Anithum commented on Franklin’s determination, “I have yet to see a fellow student so focused on the goals at hand. It’s incredible. He makes it to class, then sleeps. He knows every minute counts when making it to and recovering from a 9 a.m.”

With all of the attention Franklin has garnered, he has offered meet- and-greets (at the cost of some De- clining) in between his busy senior schedule. He is available anytime Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Sat- urday, and Sunday. He also can be found most of the day in ITS or in the back of his classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays, either asleep or looking for full-time jobs.

When asked if he considers him- self a role model, Franklin responded, "I am not the senior the school wants, I am the senior the school needs. The one taking his studies seriously all the way into that Take Five year."

Kuht is a member of the Class of 2017.
A Comprehensive Ranking of the World’s Greatest Soups

BY SEAN CORCRAN CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With autumn quickly approaching, it is only apropos to shift our focus onto soup. Soup, of course, is the most versatile of the non-solid foods, being artisinally crafted into a plethora of tantalizing concoctions. It’s often hard to pick which soup to have. Many factors into play such as the weather, your mood, and the source. For our purposes, we will look at the nuances and subtleties. For our purposes, we will look at the nuances and subtleties.

Chicken noodle soup: Ah, yes, the grand poobah of soups. Just throw together your entire vegetable garden with some chicken to get this masterfully versatile broth. Did you know there are more chickens on planet Earth than people? Chicken noodle soup is probably the most versatile meal, so it’s no surprise it surfaces on the soup power rankings. It’s imperative to use the breast of chicken, rather than the leg, as it will more readily absorb the broth and melt on the palate. Pair this with a nice slice of sourdough bread, and be on your way.

Beef stew: You may find yourself saying, “What’s the difference, other than the type of meat?” Well, the stew differentiates itself from a noodle broth with its thicker consistency, the use of biscuits or dumplings rather than noodles, and the use of heavier vegetables. This soup falls to second place, if only for the difficulty of preparation. It is really hard to make a great beef stew, and stews definitely find their niche in particular types of weather. What’s more, show me someone who isn’t getting a second date. Be sure to add colorful vegetables and spices for a well-rounded stew, which should be put on a medium-high to hot-simmer for approximately 45 minutes and then cooled before serving.

New England clam chowder: The staple of the northeast. A mighty fine, creamy soup with a touch of spice to go along with a rich consistency. It’s critical to keep this soup at a warm, medium-warm temperature. I’ll tell you what—this could be considered an umbrella. French onion soup seems to have a loyal following that lurks in the shadows, only to come forth when French onion soup takes tideline. Sure, the croutons in the mashed potatoes are a nice combination, but where does it stand out? It’s totally for all clothing, or for an apprehension about combining soup with the type of thick mozzarella, this option is underappreciated by lovers of soup-eaters worldwide.

Honoroble mention: Gar- the soup made with or to eat. Pair with a Corona and time for a crisp lunchtime deli. Corcran is a member of the Class of 2018.

BY BRIAN LEONARD CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Dear Brian,

How do I know whether I should pass/fail a class?

-Margery Kempe

Hello reader, and welcome to the inaugural edition of Bad Advice from Brian. Here, I’ll be taking reader-submitted questions and trying to respond to them as best as I know how. Let’s start with the question at hand: when should I use the pass/fail option on a class? Well, in order to understand the complexities of this many things could go right at once, according to the leg-end, after this, Belize turned to leave the bathroom and slipped on Dax’s splatzy-water, falling on her rumpus plumplum. If we take the scissors at their word, it is at this moment that the president cries out “fail!” to Vecorak’s un-fortune. Here, Dax has his “eureka!” moment—there should be a pass/fail option for our classes! Wow, what a history les- son. It’s stuff like this that gets me incredibly enraged.

Let’s move on though, to how the pass/fail system actually works, huh? Well, it’s pretty simple. Let’s say you’re in the second month of your first semester of organic chemistry. Things are going well; you’re keeping up with the labs, and you did well on the first test. For all of the hardships you should be a shoo-in for a B+, coming grade time. That is, until you are visited by Grumbo the Coupon Elf, who enlightens you with the ability to produce stupendous deals out of your fingers tips. Pity onto us you should invite me, with special guest McGarrett’s wife, Belize, who would sell his ceremonial morning butter- bath and reading National Re-view.” Now, there’s no concrete evidence of this, but legend has it that Railfarmer’s wife, Belize, came into their bathroom that morning and asked Dax if he was interested in having a Greek yogurt for breakfast, to which he quickly replied “pass!” and indicated that, once again, he’d be going with Go-Gurt instead. I know it’s hard to believe so many things could go right at once, according to the leg-end, after this, Belize turned to

BY SCOTT MISTLER-FERGUSON HUMOR EDITOR

Yaktivity

up with a girl so he could share his umbrella. Keep do- ing you kid (3 replies)

1. Hope is that guy. The lawyer stopping himself from a lie. The mother rushing to her child’s cry. The drive who lessens another pass him by.

2. He’s started a wave With an act not brave But humble and sweet as a finger wave

3. I always cry at a happy ending

So why is this one Neatly arranged? Maybe I’ve an idea That leaves me bending Towards a hope that these acts Are unforced and unending.

1274 Why Did I Do That?: a nov- el by me, with special guest appearances by several alco- hol beverages (4 replies)

1. Let the world know that your drinking is your Vice. It will never change for what else could entice The way a cool beer and burning head feel? Both are will suffice.

2. The mistakes you make will only be worthwhile If you make them less or not for a while.

3. Telling me about your life while telling so little Is a gift given to you by ano- nymity so unreat and brittle.

4. If you don’t tell everyone that you drink Do you even get intoxicated to the brink

Ofretching into a toilet bowl or a sink?

1. T uth is, we’re all missing someone and hoping that they miss us too (2 replies)

2. T ruth is, you’re opening up to the world while being amongst us.

Before projecting pain and pity on us you should learn to trust.

2. Everyone upset just might be them.

Everyone downvote is a rose broken at the stem.

Mistler-Ferguson is a member of the Class of 2018.

Bad Advice from Brian

BY SCOTT MISTLER-FERGUSON HUMOR EDITOR

6064 To the douche on the date night who tipped 80 and wrote fuck you on your tab: your date thinks you’re a tool and I hope you step on a Lego and don’t get laid (2 replies)

1. To this douche I say Good and evil don’t act in a tricky way

They’re both dogs keening at you For attention saying “do as I do” Either can convince you of a greater truth But the one that wins is the one you feed

2. He wants money to burn and his soul he would sell But he really burns cash to practice burning in hell.

4172 HUGUE TURN ON: When people smell good and are hot Some are spicy. Wrapped in tinfoil. Are actually burritos. (1 reply)

Lust and love are louder than screaming. Sometimes the simpler in- dulgences have more meaning.

3981 Just saw a guy run to catch Beecham’s fish and beyond.

500 Split pea soup: This soup was a must, as the peas must be- come one with the broth. A barn bomb adds that smoothness you simply cannot replicate with other soups. Throw in a touch of dill and even some light parsley for aes- thetic excellence.

French onion soup: I’ll tell you what—this could be consid- ered an umbrella. French onion soup seems to have a loyal follow- ing that lurks in the shadows, only to come forth when French onion soup takes rideline. Sure, the croutons in the mashed potatoes are a nice combination, but where does it stand out? It’s totally for all clothing, or for an apprehen- sion about combining soup with the type of thick mozzarella, this option is underappreciated by lovers of soup-eaters worldwide.

Honoroble mention: Gar- po, the soup made with or to eat. Pair with a Corona and time for a crisp lunchtime deli. Corcran is a member of the Class of 2018.

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Garth Fagan Fringe Fest Performance is Universally Moving

BY ISABEL DRUKKER
A&E EDITOR

I am what the dance world would term a beginner. You could call the friends I brought with me unfamiliar.

I can say with confidence, however, that we all enjoyed the fusion of contemporary, ballet, and Afro-Caribbean dance in the Garth Fagan Dance Studio’s Fringe Fest performance.

Fagan, the Tony Award-winning choreographer wearing a long-sleeve plaid shirt and leather vest with jeans and sneakers, introduced his “vooicons” alongside his beloved baby brother for a small performance at his own studio in downtown Rochester.

“They’re going to dance so beautifully,” Fagan said in his opening speech.

“They didn’t disappoint.

In a crescendo, the Afro-Caribbean influence slowly overtook the performance. It began, though, with a heavily ballet-influenced piece. The dancers stretched, plied, and slowly trooved their legs into arabesques all over their individual times, while their formations and style still gave them an illusion of synchrony. Only the slow, modern music and rhythm paired with a flexed—not pointed—foot hinted that something was going to change.

By the last piece, the dancers on stage were all smiling brightly in traditional Caribbean music played in the background. Not only were feet flexed, but hips swum through the stage, straight arms pointed up, and flat palms reached upwards. Fagan’s brother and another dancer moved their limbs through a mock game of limbo.

Fagan is an award-winning choreographer, known for his groundbreaking fusion of dance genres as well as for his choreography for the 1998 Tony-Awarded Best Musical, “The Lion King,” for which Fagan also won a Tony for Best Choreography.

Let this indicate Fagan’s ability to touch even those who are miles away from the dance world.

During a duet in “No Evidence of Failure,” choreographed by Fagan, there was audible laughter throughout the audience. The two dancers touched one another’s hair, teased each other with kisses, and felt one another throughout the dance. This flirtation and mutual love ends with the simple act of hand-holding, touching the audience more than any other performance. When the dancing and applause had ended, an elderly couple sitting in front of me shared a single kiss.

Fagan declared himself “madly in love” with this work, and it wasn’t hard to decipher why.

The second piece, “A Moderate Cessation,” was choreographed by Norwood Pennewell and similarly provoked the audience. The number was set to grandiose chamber music, juxtaposing the small ensemble of dancers. In the duet, the couple danced in a contemporary and ballet-influenced style, featuring a couple who spun, flipped, and stretched into a constant embrace, but never manages to look at one another face-to-face.

This juxtaposition of liveliness and solitude is found often throughout Fagan’s choreography. The last piece, though cheery in sound and appearance, was danced to a voiceover read by Fagan describing the death of a man as his lover kisses him for the last time.

“He died full of life,” Fagan said, as the two dancers representing the couple folded into a cheek-to-cheek hug and the remaining performers moved in a lively circle around them.

The selection at this Fringe Fest event was the raw, almost成本less version of what will be performed at the Nazareth Performing Arts Center from Nov. 30 through Dec. 3.

If you know what it is to feel the pleasures and toils of relationships or loneliness, if you know what it is to be a person in want of life’s joys, you will enjoy Fagan’s piece.

Even if you don’t quite understand it.

Drukker is a member of the Class of 2017.

Student DJ’s Craft Sates Campus Desire for EDM

BY BEN SCHMITZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The student-produced music scene here at UR is rather unique.

Due to the vibrant jazz scene in the City of Rochester and at the Eastman School of Music, funk and fusion bands are abundant. Stereotypical college rock bands and pro-ducers are nowhere to be found.

There are, however, the occasion-al outliers, trying to make waves in this scene by doing something different. Sophomore DJ and producer Henry Pierce is one of these students.

Working under the name Apol-lo, Pierce produces electronic dance music (EDM), specializing in various styles of “melodic dubstep.”

“I just make whatever is in my head,” he said. “Whatever idea I have, sound design-wise or writing-wise, is what I go with.”

Music production is nothing new to Pierce. He initially ventured into the craft as a freshman in high school, citing a rather unexpected source of initial inspiration in the form of a TV advertisement for breakfast cereal.

“A Weetabix commercial came on and had a Mord Fustang song in it by the name of ‘A New World,’” Pierce said. “I heard it and got obsessed instantly.”

After a period of learning the ropes independently, Pierce took to the DJ booth.

“I went to an open mic thing in New York,” Pierce said. “Somebody by the name of Mark Martinez, who was, at that point, the resident DJ and booking manager for Basement Saturdays at Webster Hall, heard me and took me under his wing to teach me his craft when it came to DJ-ing.”

Pierce cites Webster Hall, specifically their Basement Saturdays series, as a sort of home base for him. He considers it an integral part of his artistic foundation.

“Basement Saturdays was a very important part of me growing up and gave me a lot of really nice insight because I got to meet big artists or see them play,” he said. “I got to stand in the booth behind them and watch how they mixed and how they read the crowd, and network with them after the show.”

Looking forward, Pierce would like to amplify his profile on campus. He has only performed once at UR as of now, opening for Matt and Kim at last spring’s Dandilion Day concert.

Pierce is confident, though, that there is a strong demand for his talent here.

“There’s not a very big scene on this campus for people who like this kind of music,” Pierce said. “And I know for a fact there are plenty of people on this campus who do like this kind of music.”

The nature of the party culture on our campus is not the most conducive to DJ performances. Pierce noted that “people want to hear what’s on their iPod” at fraternity parties, “which is fine.”

Pierce expressed that for a DJ scene to be more prominent, events more tailored to the purpose may need to be planned.

In the coming months, Pierce will be releasing a new track with Bad Catholics (dual music group with Tyler Buck and Luck Crouch), as well as a remix of a track by Get-ter. Pierce said he will be performing on campus throughout the fall, hopefully expanding UR’s student music scene in the process.

Schmitz is a member of the Class of 2019.
Expanded UR Bhangra Team Swings into New Semester

BY MUHAMMAD HADI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Anyone who has spent a week or two on campus can safely assure any foreign readers of the popularity of Bhangra, the Southeast Asian dance. Synonymous with the pride of Punjab, it started out on campus in 1998 with an aim to represent the vibrant and unparalleled Punjabi way of life some 7,000 miles west of its birthplace.

As the club expands, so does its leadership.

"Most people join the team with no prior Bhangra experience, many with no dance experience at all," seniors Rebecca Ho Van Dyke, Nikhil Khurana, and Brian Chang, captains of the Bhangra team, said in an email. "This is why our captains and our e-board are committed to investing a lot of time in our new dancers."

With leadership so dedicated to their art, it's no wonder that the group dominates its community. To their art, it's no wonder that they are committed to investing a lot of time in their new dancers. "A big focus these past couple years has been 'sustainability,' and above all else we want to enact policies that drive engagement and help our team compete at this high level for future years," they added.

The 2016-2017 UR Bhangra team poses in front of Rush Rhees.

Student Fringe Performance ‘Here I Lie’ Connects Culture, Community

BY SREYOSHI SUR
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The eagle head above the entrance to Writers & Books prepared the audience for the touching, multidisciplinary performance, "Here I Lie," on the opening night of the Fringe Festival. A young woman sitting with a somber expression, clad completely in white in front of a white screen, created the melancholy mood required for this piece.

After receiving the small pamphlet containing the translations of the songs, I realized that parts of the performance would be in Spanish, since this stage performance is based on the work of Argentinean poet Alfonsina Storni.

"I think it is a moving piece; it is really difficult to portray such a complex character," Eastman dual degree senior and vocalist for the performance, Michele Current, said I have never lost a loved one, so it was a struggle to find that character.

She is doing her dual degree in brain and cognitive sciences at UR and the Vocal and Opera program at Eastman. One of the reasons she was chosen by the director was her Latina roots. The concept for this production came to Castillo last spring.

"I was fascinated by Storni’s poems while growing up, but the context of presentation has overshadowed her beautiful poems," Castillo, who graduated from a public school in Spain, said. Storni was a modern poet and staunch feminist. Her poems reflected love, loss, and redolence.

"Most recently, we expanded our executive board and enacted new positions to better cater to a growing and dynamic team," the captains said. "We elected a third captain, a cultural chair, and expanded efforts to reach out to our newer members.

"A big focus these past couple years has been sustainability, and above all else we want to enact policies that drive engagement and help our team compete at this high level for future years," they added.

No doubt the recent alterations in the management of the team have helped UR Bhangra achieve their goal. But the e-board can’t take all the credit. After going through a grueling three-step callback process, only the most Punjabi of them all make it onto the team. Practicing for almost 10 hours a week, they beat upon their craft day after day, perfecting move after move. And their efforts do indeed pay off.

The UR Bhangra team ranked first at the Dancers for Difference competition at the University of Connecticut, as well as the Taste of India competition in Norfolk, VA last semester. They have also successfully qualified for several prestigious competitions elsewhere in the U.S. and in Canada.

Lack of sustainable funding has been a recurring issue for the team, according to its captains.

"Essentially, due to our exclusive nature, we aren't given direct funding or a budget," the captains said. "When competitions arise, we must apply for supplemental funding and can only apply twice per year, despite our growing number of competitions per year."

Despite these difficulties, the captains look ahead earnestly.

"Money is always a challenge, but we are optimistic that we’ll be able to work with the administration to continue to grow," Hadi is a member of the Class of 2019.
Know something we don’t?

Review your new favorite movies, albums, shows, or bands for the Arts & Entertainment section of the Campus Times!

Email us: a-e@campustimes.org

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Al Qadiri Ahead of Her Time

BY JEFF HOWARD
COLUMNIST

Fatima Al Qadiri is an electronic music composer from Kuwait. Her music is characterized by brooding horn synthesizers, crystalline steel pan sounds, and brittle plucked strings. For an electronic music composer, her sound stands out in her genre for featuring less of the percussive textures that many producers use these days and instead for having a curious sense of atonality. However, the purpose of this article is to discuss another underrated aspect of her art—her music videos.

Qadiri has some of the most visually stimulating and enchanting music videos I’ve ever seen. The music video for the song “Vatican Vibes” is quintessential Fatima. The best way I would describe Fatima’s characteristic aesthetic is early 2010s CNN news network visuals mixed with pharmaceutical industry advertisement vibes. On “Vatican Vibes,” the clinical visuals cut like a knife, and the images of red blood cells would make viewers squeamish if they weren’t so beautiful. Mixed with the Caribbean bell textures and dystopian synthesizers, the visuals pair with electronic music in a manner that creates a sense of suspense and exhilaration. It’s reminiscent of the thrill of entering a mid-2000s movie theater for the first time as a kid, and feeling frightened yet enticed by the visuals for the arcade game “Gauntlet Legends,” which stood in the lobby among other racing and zombie-shooter themed games.

Other videos on Qadiri’s channel straddle the line between frightening and divine by mixing psychedelia and erotica. The music video for D-Medley features iTunes visualizer-style graphics, which, halfway through, become the background for female dancers who appear as though they are trapped in a pop-up advertisement for an adult website. The dancers and the psychedelic visuals juxtapose in a way that makes the viewer appreciate the realness of the mid-to-late 2000s general aesthetic.

It also brings to light a certain grotesqueness in the way women are objectified in the 21st century, something that can be hard to see in the same light that one would when viewing, say, a clearly sexist and dated advertisement from the 1950s that features a woman in the kitchen. In this sense, Qadiri’s music videos have an artfully political edge to them without coming off as having an “agenda.” The art speaks for itself very sophisticatedly.

Fatima’s music videos on her YouTube channel are four to six years old. However, I would venture to say they are very ahead of their time. If you like the vaporwave aesthetic, which is becoming more and more trendy each day, check out Qadiri’s music videos. They may be half a decade old, but they still appear beyond modern.

Howard is a member of the Class of 2017.
The Most Volatile Relationship in Sports

By Sean Corcoran
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

By now, it’s no secret that there is palpable animosity between the NFL’s players and its commissioner, Roger Goodell. Whether it’s James Harrison calling Goodell a “jerk,” or Michael Bennett calling him an “asshole,” clearly there is an “Us vs. Them” mentality in America’s most popular sport. To the outside observer, it’s apparent that there are two key issues driving this tension: player safety and player discipline.

Goodell, who is technically an employee of the NFL Franchise owners, has received widespread criticism throughout his tenure. This animosity stems from the 2011 Collective Bargaining Agreement between the NFL and its players, which lasts until 2021. As with every professional sports league, this agreement creates clear and concise language that governs the relationships between players, personnel, owners, and the league office.

While the players and the NFL Players Association (NFLPA) were elated to finally get their fair share of league revenues (a 50-50 split), there was massive oversight on their part in this agreement. The accord allowed Roger Goodell to be the judge, jury, and executioner. Whether on or off the field, Goodell’s influence was widespread and widely viewed as overbearing.

An example of this was 2014 Deflategate Saga in which Goodell levied a four-game suspension on Tom Brady for allegedly using underinflated footballs in rainy weather to gain a competitive advantage. On top of Brady’s suspension, the team was issued a $1 million fine and lost a first-round draft pick. Conversely, Ray Rice, who was caught on tape punching his then-fiancée, now-wife Janae to the ground, rendering her unconscious, was suspended for just two games. Does it seem at all rational that Brady was suspended twice as long as Ray Rice? Not at all.

Swiftly, Goodell implemented a harsher set of penalties when it came to domestic violence misconduct, which starts the player suspension at six games as long as Ray Rice? Not at all. Swiftly, Goodell implemented a harsher set of penalties when it came to domestic violence misconduct, which starts the player suspension at six games after the first offense. This might be the first good decision Goodell has made when it comes to player discipline in his 10-year tenure.

These types of decisions caused the league significant ire in the loss of sponsorships and negative media coverage. On the topic of bad optics for the league, player safety is a polarizing topic the NFL can’t seem to shake. Back in 2013, retired player were awarded a sum of $763 million in injury settlement. After contentious mediation, it came out that the NFL concealed information regarding the severity of head injuries, often rushing players back to the field. On the same topic, current research has shown a convincing correlation between head-to-head hits and the occurrence of Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE); a sobering statistic.

Hundreds of former players battle addiction, depression, and debilitating injuries. Over 30 percent of former players were listed as plaintiffs on the initial lawsuit. The NFL currently does not cover medical costs for former players. With the recent announcement of an additional $100 million donation to the research of head injuries and brain disease, it is hard not to view this as a PR stunt from Goodell. He claims that this is going to be an “immediate game changer” to player safety, but if you were to ask an NFL player current or former, they would be skeptical that any change is coming in the near future.

It’s not hard to see why Harrison and Bennett have the opinions they do. It is imperative for Goodell in the future to achieve a balance between honoring the wishes of team ownership while working with the NFLPA to ensure substantial concussion legislation and protocol. Corcoran is a member of the Class of 2018.

Rochester native Abby Wambach returned home on Friday to sign copies of her new memoir, “Forward.”

Wambach’s Discussion of Her ‘Truth’ Leads to Bookstore Success

WAMBACH FROM PAGE 1

people who are struggling with similar addictions.

“In the recovery world, secrets are the kiss of death,” Wambach said. “For me, I had to tell my truth. I had to tell it open, honestly, and unashamed, and I think I’ve done that with this book.”

To provide her young fans with some relatively age-appropriate insight, Harper Collins, the memoir’s publisher, released a young readers’ edition. But, when asked about her shifting optics from the parents of these young readers, Wambach responded without regrets and apologies.

“I’m not out here to be a role model; I’m out here to be myself,” the World Cup champion said. “If you choose to follow me and choose to want to be with me in my corner and have your kid follow in some of the footsteps that I may walk, that’s great, but I’m not out here trying to get fans. I want fans to see who I really am unapologetically. I’m not hiding anything now. I think people want real. I would rather be honest and loved than hidden and ashamed.”

Her fans appreciate and admire Wambach’s candor and understand her imperfections. Rochester native and former Irondequoit resident Robert Bens, a longtime fan of the soccer star, values not only her honesty, but her integrity.

“She’s always honest very humble while being a good spokesperson who doesn’t let criticism get to her,” she said.

Wambach’s ultimate goal is to aid society to help strip itself of the labels she’s been previously assigned.

Her visit invigorated the Rochester literary scene. “This event helps college town in general, not just [us],” Lawrence said. “This event helps college town in general, not just [us].”

For example, a lot of different people are going to Insomnia, he said. For example, a lot of different people are going to Insomnia, he said.

Her visit inspired the University’s College Town project, which has taken a hit in the last year as some businesses packed their bags and left.

“In our around two years being here, this is our biggest event yet,” Lawrence said. “This event helps college town in general, not just [us].”

Francine McAndrew, the bookstore’s event manager, concurred. “This shows that we can handle a big event,” she said.

“Rochester is not the place people normally come to on book tours,” Wambach said at the event. “But I’m here because Rochester has been such a valuable part of my career. There’s no better way to come and celebrate with the people that helped me grow up, helped me learn about myself.”

Powell was a part of the Class of 2018.
Most of the time, the idea that I am part of a fantastic team is a big motivating factor at any point in the race. The knowledge that my teammates are out there working as hard, if not harder, than I am is an empowering feeling during a race. This is another reason why I feel that our team chemistry is going to provide a big boost to our performance this season. Another way that I find the energy to keep pushing during a race is a phrase that my high school coach said occasionally: “The faster you run, the sooner you’re done.” Although it’s a fairly obvious statement, the prospect of being done with a race is a great motivator for me, especially in the final mile or two of the race. Bonus motivation if I know about free food after the finish line.

What other sports have you participated in?

For my first two years of high school, I participated in rowing (position: left bench), Nordic skiing, and tennis. Successes in Nordic skiing prompted me to join cross country and track as cross-training for Nordic season for my last two years of high school.

What do you love about running?

It’s a complicated relationship. The social component of it is definitely a major reason why I do it. The camaraderie that stems from the team’s shared suffering during workouts and races creates some of the closest bonds between teammates. Although it is difficult, I think the challenge of it also plays a part in what I enjoy about running so much.

When did you decide to compete in college?

The spring of my senior year of high school. Before this point, I only really had a shot at a collegiate athletics career in Nordic skiing. However, since my heart was set on [UR], I didn’t really have the option to continue skiing. Luckily, I made some huge improvements the 800m during outdoor track. It was at this point that I decided to compete in college.

What is the best piece of advice you have ever received?

“Push yourself.” It’s about the expectation is always there for any team member to step up and lead in whatever situation might arise.

How do you feel that you can be a leader despite being a freshman?

Absolutely. Even as a freshman, I was never made to feel inferior to even our most experienced teammates. I think that I speak for all of my fellow freshmen in describing and praising this unique team atmosphere. Although we do have captains, the expectation is always there for any team member to step up and lead in whatever situation might arise.

How do you feel you’ve grown as an athlete over the last few years?

In just the past four years I think I’ve grown tremendously as an athlete. My transition to doing cross country and track during my junior high school was a big change, but one that I am ultimately glad that I made. This summer also was a big change for me, as I transitioned to more running-oriented training as opposed to the training for Nordic skiing I had done for the last two summers. Being on the cross-country team here also is a big opportunity to further grow as an athlete. It’s an opportunity I’m honored to have, especially with being on such a great team.

Would you rather run a marathon handcuffed to Martha Stewart, or bear-crawl a 5k?

Hands-down a marathon with Martha Stewart. I’m sure she’d have some great ideas for decorating a dorm room, not to mention some great recipes. Although running while handcuffed to another person for 26.2 miles would be extremely painful, I couldn’t imagine doing a 5k bear crawl.

Goldfarb is a member of the Class of 2019.

Freshman Leo Orsini Emerges as Leader for URMXC

Leo Orsini joined the Cross Country team this fall after competing as a multi-sport athlete in high school. He proved himself to be a top competitor early in the season, finishing first for the Yellowjackets at the Cardinal Early Season Cross Country Invitational at St. John Fisher College. On Saturday, URMXC placed 14th out of 29 teams at the Yellowjacket Invitational. They will compete at the Harry Anderson Invitational at Roberts Wesleyan on Sept. 24.

How is the season going?

I think that our season is off to a great start. Our success in workouts for these first few weeks is definitely a positive indication of what we are capable of this season. Moreover, our team’s chemistry, which has developed profoundly even among newcomers, promises to be a powerful motivating force in pushing all of us to be our best. As for my season, I’m very pleased with my results from our time trial and the 6k Saint John Fisher Invitational. Although I didn’t feel like my cross-training for Nordic season was outstanding, some big improvements for the Invitational were outstanding, I’m very pleased with my results from our time trial and the 6k Saint John Fisher Invitational. From our time trial and the 6k Saint John Fisher Invitational.

What motivates you to keep going mid-race?

The camaraderie that stems from the team’s shared suffering during workouts and races creates some of the closest bonds between teammates. Although it is difficult, I think the challenge of it also plays a part in what I enjoy about running so much.

What is the best piece of advice you have ever received?

“Push yourself.” It’s about doing a 5k? hands-down a marathon with Martha Stewart. I’m sure she’d have some great ideas for decorating a dorm room, not to mention some great recipes. Although running while handcuffed to another person for 26.2 miles would be extremely painful, I couldn’t imagine doing a 5k bear crawl.

Goldfarb is a member of the Class of 2019.

This week’s schedule:

SEP. 20
MEN’S SOCCER VS ST. JOHN FISHER COLLEGE—7 P.M.
WOMEN’S SOCCER VS BURLINGTON STATE—7 P.M.
WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL VS SKIDMORE COLLEGE—7 P.M.
SEP. 21
MEN’S SOCCER VS Houghton College—7 P.M.
WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL VS CLARKSON UNIVERSITY—7 P.M.
SEP. 22
WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL VS. WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY—7 P.M.
SEP. 24
WOMEN’S TENNIS REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS IN GENEVA, NY—8:30 A.M.
MEN’S AND WOMEN’S CROSS COUNTRY AT ROBERTS WELSEYAN COLLEGE—10:30 A.M.
FOOTBALL AT UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY—2 P.M.
FIELD HOCKEY AT UNION COLLEGE—3 P.M.
MEN’S SOCCER VS RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE—5 P.M.

Last week’s highlights:

WOMEN’S SOCCER VS ITHACA
Paige Glester scored both of Rochester’s goals to tie with Ithaca, the #18 team in the nation, 2–2. Freshman goalkeeper Gwen Haffenden had seven saves.

MEN’S SOCCER VS. RIT
The Men’s Soccer team defeated RIT with an overtime penalty kick after an 86-minute lightning delay in the first half and a 15-minute delay at the end of the second half when the lights blew out. The goal was scored by Bryce Ikeda. UR remains undefeated at 5–0.

FOOTBALL AT ALFRED STATE COLLEGE
Scoring back-to-back touchdowns orchestrated by junior quarterback Daniel Bronson, the ‘Jackets earned their first win of the season on Saturday against Alfred State College.

PALESTRA HONORED BY BASKETBALL HOOP HALL
Rochester’s Louis A. Alexander Palestra was named by Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame as one of the top 125 basketball arenas in the country. The Basketball Hall of Fame’s Instagram account described the Palestra as “a EJH venue with an A1 atmosphere.”
Stat Analysis Predicts Winning Season for Field Hockey

BY TREvor WHITESTONE  CONTRIBUTING WRITER

UR Field Hockey (URFH) continued their flawless start on Thursday with a 3-0 victory against Brockport (1-1). The Yellowjackets (7-0) throttled their opponent to the tune of a 25-3 shot advantage, as well as an 18-0 edge on shots-on-goal. Sophomore Nancy Bansbach, senior Callie Fisher, and freshman Amanda Guido, assisted by senior Sayaka Abe, junior Samantha Dow, and Fisher, respectively. The team is performing at a high level despite losing a number of key seniors from the previous season.

The team is performing at a high level despite losing a number of key seniors from the previous season.

goals allowed per game, largely thanks to junior goalkeeper Kiran Sundaram, who is ranked eighth individually in the country for that category. The offense has kept pace with this performance, ranking 23 nationally in assists per game. Abe has lead the way, ranking 20 individually. The team’s two-way dominance also makes itself apparent by the team’s differential of a full two goals per game, a 10.1 margin in shots per game, and a 28 percent relative advantage in shooting percentage. This is despite the team playing a 57-1 strength of schedule so far, in contrast with the 431 mark they have to deal with in remaining games. All of these stats paint a vivid picture of the Yellowjacket’s excellence, but one number in particular is appropriate to describe their success.

This number is pythagorean expectation, which is a formula created by baseball sabermetrician pioneer Bill James. Originally, the formula was (runs scored2)/ (runs scored2+runs allowed2). If runs are changed to goals for translation to field hockey, the relation almost fits. The caveat, however, is that this formula does not translate directly to other sports. The exponent depends on the game and league. For example, 13.91 is used in the NBA, and 2.37 is used in the NFL. No such standard has been used for field hockey.

Using data from UR Field Hockey going to back 2003 in order to test out the exponent that best fits, the final adjusted formula came (goals scored1.1+goals allowed1.1). Note that it would have been more accurate to collect data from every team to reduce noise and possible bias from the team’s style of play.)

This year’s team, by that standard, should have been expected to win 79.4 percent of their games so far, as opposed to their perfect start. However, a team exceeding this expectation is probably benefiting from a mixture of statistical luck and an unusually strong ability to win close games.

UR Field Hockey has improved year-by-year with a strong trend. If projections from Massey Ratings prove accurate, that trend will increase this year.

It’s worth mentioning that these projections are blind to the as-yet-unscheduled playoff games, which would be against stronger opponents. This would, however, do little to dampen the trend. The Jackets improved their record to 7-0 on Saturday, defeating Oneonta 3-1 with goals by Fisher and freshmen Maya Haisig and Guido. Assists came from Fisher and Abe. The numbers are ultimately clear: the Jackets are on a trajectory to the upper echelon, and they’re showing no signs of slowing. URFH will attempt to solidify these projections and extend their streak next Saturday at Union.

Whitesone is a member of the Class of 2019.

Roc Rower Faces Gender Bias in Azerbaijan

BY MADDIE GRAHAM  CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Rowing is a demanding sport. Between the practices at dawn and the constant injuries, even sophomore Saralinda Schell admits, “If you ask anyone on crew why they love it, they don’t really know. We just do.”

Growing up, Schell and her family were never big on sports. Though she did have a stint with swimming, the Kentucky resident never found rowing to be accessible until she came to UR. The Genesee River provided a platform for Schell to pursue rowing, following in the footsteps of her grandparents, who also rowed.

As it turns out, she loved the sport and the camaraderie that came with the all-female team. So, when Schell found out that she was going to Azerbaijan the summer after her freshman year, there was an opportunity for her to row. Unfortunately, it was a lot more difficult than she anticipated.

After completing an exchange program in Turkey as a high school sophomore, Schell looked forward to returning to the country; she could continue improving her understanding of the Turkish language and culture. Plans quickly changed as Schell found out she would be sent to Azerbaijan in light of safety concerns looming in Turkey. She stayed there for two months with a host family, and attended classes solely taught in Azerbaijani.

The experiences Schell gained outside of the classroom were perhaps the most important in understanding her role as a woman and specifically, as an athlete. Given its recent transition from a socialist government to a democracy, many Azerbaijani people hold conservative values, especially with regard to women.

Schell couldn’t ignore the culturally-accepted habit of men staring at women. This tradition was present even at the local gym, where Schell emphasized how uncomfortable it was to be watched as she exercised.

“Most of the men were on the weightlifting side of the gym while women were on the treadmill,” Schell said.

There’s a taboo surrounding weightlifting women and stairmaster men. Whether the lack of women in weightlifting areas is a result of accepted gym norms or societal standards for leaner female bodies remains to be seen. Whatever the case may be, Schell pointed out how gendered gyms exist across many borders.

Though Schell was successful in finding a gym close to her school, many of them didn’t have indoor rowing machines that she could use to practice. Rowing is not a popular sport in Azerbaijan.

“Even if there was a rowing team I could practice with, it would be all men and I wouldn’t be allowed to practice with them,” the sophomore said.

Indeed, there is a national Azerbaijani rowing team for men—but not for women. When trying to find teams to row with, Schell was often asked why she would want to row or exercise in the first place. Exercising is not a huge part of the Azerbaijani culture, and is only beginning to catch on with younger, more affluent men.

Not only due to accepted gender norms, but in large part due to the weather, exercise outside is especially rare. In fact, the entire time she was there, Schell only saw one person running. Unsurprisingly, that person was male.

Staying fit doesn’t only have to do with exercising, but also with eating right. As an athlete, Schell understands the importance of getting her daily dose of fruits and vegetables—a more difficult task in Azerbaijan.

“The food in Azerbaijan is similar to German food. They use lots of meat and oil in cooking, so it’s nice to be back at school with healthier options,” Schell said.

Back to eating healthy and rowing, Schell is starting off her sophomore year on a high note. Graham is a member of the Class of 2018.