Many of the finalists from this year's Students’ Association (SA) 5K Challenge wish they had known they could publicize their proposals prior to the vote.

This, after the Pads and Tampons Initiative was not given SA publicity for the initiative. Only the Pads and Tampons Initiative advertised its proposal. Other proposers said they were unaware they could. "I received an email saying that it was likely going to be a final proposal at the end of last semester," said freshman Madiva Jumabava, whose proposal was for SA United—a day to celebrate campus diversity with food booths featuring foods from various countries. "But I did not get any confirmation until they posted the seven finalists. Since I was not sure about it, I could not really ask people to vote for my project until after they posted the seven finalists. Other runners-up said they were not told they were finalists until SA posted the list.

"Each and every finalist had submitted a project or what they wish to be improved on UR campus," Jumabava said. "The whole process was not publicized enough for what they say they will do. Also, the fact that they extended the voting period and just announced the winner without the statistics shows the lack of organization by the SA."

As early as Nov. 30, posters advertising the SA 5K Challenge could be seen in the tunnel system. Email evidence shows that the Pads and Tampons Initiative was not given notice of their finalist status until Dec. 12, nearly two weeks later.

One of the initiative’s arch-
STUDENTS SAMPLE ITALIAN CULTURE

Students taste Italian food at the Festival of Food, Film, and Culture last Wednesday evening. The event was sponsored by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures and the Department of Religion and Classics, and included a screening of the movie "We Have A Pope."

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

Fake ID Found in Hillside (1)
Feb. 4 — A fake ID was found in Hillside Market.

Gale Resident’s Wallet Missing (2)
Feb. 6 — A Gale resident reported their backpack as missing.

Hylan Staff Harassed Over the Phone
Feb. 7 — Staff in Hylan reported receiving numerous annoying telephone calls.

Riverview Student’s Wallet Stolen (3)
Feb. 8 — A Riverview resident reported their wallet as stolen.

Cleaning Supplies Stolen from GAC (4)
Feb. 9 — Cleaning supplies were reportedly taken from Goergen Athletic Center.

WINTER HILLSDALE UPDATE

Information provided by the Department of Public Safety.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

TUESDAY | FEBRUARY 14

MEDIevalisms AFTER DARK
ROBBINS LIBRARY, 5 PM–7 PM
Dr. Thomas Hahn will give a talk on Richard Lester’s essay, “Medievalisms After Dark: Robin and Marian.”

STUDENT DEGREE RECITAL: DOUBLE BASS
HATCH RECITAL HALL, 7 PM–8:30 PM
The Eastman School of Music will showcase the musical talents of Li Xu on the double bass.

WEDNESDAY | FEBRUARY 15

SOCIAL GOOD EXPO
DOUGLASS BALLROOM, 12 PM–4 PM
The Gwendolyn Greene Career and Internship Center presents the Social Expo, which will give students the opportunity to meet with employers from nonprofit organizations and social enterprises. Networking reception to follow.

AFRICA VIDEO SERIES
GODWIN ROOM, 5 PM–7 PM
Enjoy a screening of “Say you Maharajah” presented by the Frederick Douglass Institute for African-American Studies. Pizza and drinks will be provided.

THURSDAY | FEBRUARY 16

PAX KAFFRARIA AT ROCO
MEMORIAL ART GALLERY, ALL DAY
See the Memorial Art Gallery’s collection of Meliko Mokgosi’s Pax Kaffraria collection, which is based on the history of a fantasy nation.

STUDENT DEGREE RECITAL
HATCH RECITAL HALL, 7 PM–8:30 PM
The Eastman School of Music will showcase the musical talents of Carley Campbell, who will be singing.

FRIDAY | FEBRUARY 17

THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES
STRONG AUDITORIUM, 7 PM–9 PM
College Feminists presents its annual production of “The Vagina Monologues,” as part of the International V-Day movement. Tickets are on sale at the Common Market.

MEN’S BASKETBALL
PALLESTRA, 8 PM–10 PM
Come watch the Jackets take on the Carnegie Mellon University Tartans in basketball.

DO YOU LIKE WRITING, REPORTING, MUSIC, POLITICAL, FILM, SPORT, LITERATURE, DESIGN, DRAWING AND MORE?

JOIN THE CAMPUS TIMES.
EMAIL PUBLISHER@CAMPUSTIMES.ORG
Students and community members enjoyed free food and craft to the beat of Bob Marley’s island jams last Saturday afternoon at the annual Bob Marley Expo hosted by the Student Organization for Caribbean Awareness (SOCA).

This year’s theme of “One Love” was inspired by the country’s current socio-political climate and meant to honor the country’s current socio-political climate and meant to honor the country’s current socio-political climate and meant to honor the country’s current socio-political climate and meant to honor the country’s current socio-political climate. Freshman Vincent Escovedo, who had a lightning bolt painted on his face, raised awareness about the need for peaceful unity. His poem was written to raise awareness and spread unity on campus. “We tend to talk more about political things, we don’t talk about the bigger issue,” junior and PASApella member Niema Kapula said about the song choice. “You can connect people through music. If you post a song in an open space like this allows people to fuel our happy vibe and set aside their worries for a little bit.”

Davide centers attention on the opportunity to sign a pledge on what the song’s creed meant to them. Senior Ed Aguila, who came to the expo to emphasize the need for peaceful unity, felt his pledge carried a powerful message. “I put ‘one love means unity,’ Aguila said. “I feel like it is a term everyone can use to say ‘I love you.’ One love.”

Schildkraut is a member of the class of 2020.
Put “Journalist” on Your Resume

Email publisher@campustimes.org

Write, Edit, Design, Illustrate, Photograph, and Create

Join the Campus Times
At the University, resident students are allowed to keep cars on campus. Freshmen, however, are not. This is a known fact and accepted reality for first-year students. But why is it that freshmen areineligible to purchase parking permits?

Finding the answer to a seemingly simple question proved difficult. After a fruitless exchange with the Parking and Transportation Office, I was told such a decision was made by the administration.

Reaching out to the administration led to a long chain of transfers and promises of call backs.

The most reasonable explanation I have heard is that first-year students are encouraged to become accustomed to their new school and classmates. That explanation suspends the belief. It seems more likely that the administration is aware of the scarce parking available and figured it could get away with limiting the amount of students able to take up parking spots with this excuse.

And they have.

After looking into the rules and regulations of student parking, I have concluded that there is no legitimate reason that freshmen should not be allowed to apply for parking permits if there were more parking spaces available.

The current parking system is extremely limiting as it is. It costs $250 per semester for a student to purchase a parking permit. There are only four lots dedicated solely to residential students. To actually receive a permit, students are entered into a lottery because there are so few spots available to students. The lottery favors students that apply earlier and students in certain geographic locations.

With such a system in place, many sophomores are left without personal transportation, even though they are eligible to apply for permits. The small amount of parking areas dedicated to students leaves much to be desired. Students have been expressing their grief over parking for years, and the University has done little to fix the issue.

It could be, and often is, argued that the University provides plenty of alternative modes of transportation to students without cars. This is true. Students are able to make use of the provided shuttles, the city RTS buses, or Zipcar services. The shuttles that the school provides are useful and convenient. But they only go to the bare minimum of where students may want to go, like student living areas/College Town, UR properties, and various shopping centers. If a student wanted to go to an area in the city that our shuttles do not reach, they have to use the RTS bus system. It is a city bus system, so it is accompanied by all the wonders that come with public transportation.

At the end of the day though, it does get you from point A to point B. That is, for a fee. One-dollar bus fare is not unreasonable by any measure, but the fact that other colleges in the Rochester area give their students free passes for RTS buses makes it unreasonable that students at arguably the best school in the area do not have access to such a luxury.

Zipcar is a useful resource for quick trips to the store and the like, but if you plan on staying anywhere for a day-trip, hourly costs quickly pile up. Allowing more students to keep personal transportation would be less costly, less time consuming, and would give UR students a greater sense of freedom and independence.

I understand that city campuses are limited for space, and that parking spaces are not a priority. I could easily fall back on the classic student exclamation of, “We pay $65-grand a year and the school can’t afford to (insert desired amenity here)?”

There have been many ideas thrown around, and even articles in the Campus Times, about possibly increasing parking and building new lots. This is a serious issue to be considered. The University could take comprehensive steps to increase space for student parking.

If these issues were resolved, it would only be fair to allow freshman the same chance to enter the lottery as sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Daniels is a member of the Class of 2020.
Mind the Science Gap

By JOSE PEREZ

A merican academ ics are concerned about the scientific literacy of the public.

A 2015 study from the Pew Research Center and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) shows significant gaps in opinion between the general public and the scientific community on key scientific issues such as climate change, energy, food safety, and biological evolution.

Neil deGrasse Tyson, director of the Hayden Planetarium and renowned scientific communicator, summarized these concerns at a recent talk in Guilford College, North Carolina: "Americans overall are bad at science. Scared of math. Poor at physics and engineering. Resistant to evolution. This science illiteracy is a threat to the nation. The consequence of that is that you breed a generation of people who do not know what science is nor how and why it works. You have mortgaged the future financial security of your nation. Innovations in science and technology are the basis of tomorrow’s economy."

Many scientists consider this scientific illiteracy rampant in the new Trump administration, and they fear that the scientific community will lose its seat in shaping public policy, specifically on issues related to climate change and energy. Some are even considering marching on Washington D.C. on Earth Day to remind the new government about the importance of science-based policy, an unusual move from a group that has normally tried to shy away from manifesting political opinions.

Most of the scientific community has long considered this "science gap" to be a deficit of scientific knowledge and thinking—if only people were informed enough to know and understand the science behind these issues, they would agree with the experts. Thus, an improvement in STEM education in grades K-12, as well as increased efforts in scientific communication and outreach to present these findings to the public, should be key in bridging the gap.

But several research studies over the past decade suggest that the causes of the science gap are more complex.

Let’s first go back to the Pew study; despite the gaps in opinion between the public and scientists, a significant majority of the public holds a favorable view of the scientific enterprise, with 70 percent of adults agreeing that government investments in science and technology pay off in the long run, and 80 percent of adults agreeing that science has made life easier for most people.

Furthermore, a separate Pew study conducted in 2016 also showed that scientists are still one of the most trusted professionals in America, only behind the military.

If the public still holds science and scientists in such high regard, why do so many oppose the scientific consensus on specific issues?

A 2012 study led by Yale Law School psychologist Dan Kahan tried to give us some insight in the case of climate change. Kahan’s team tested two different hypotheses that explained public apathy over climate change: the first one attributes such opinions to a deficit of scientific information and understanding, the second to opposing sets of cultural values. The researchers surveyed a nationally representative sample of 1,500 U.S. adults to test the predictions made by both hypotheses, and found that the results agreed more strongly with second explanation, opposing cultural values.

These results should be a call to action for those of us who engage in scientific communication and outreach. We have to go beyond explaining scientific information in a clear and concise fashion; we also have to do it in a way that the audience doesn’t perceive that information to be contrary to their cultural values.

We need more communicators from diverse cultural backgrounds, who can relate to specific audiences more closely and thus be perceived as credible.

Following this line of thought, I urge UR students to participate more actively in science outreach and communication, and help us bridge that science gap.

There are several opportunities on and off campus to do science outreach. The UR chapters of professional associations (e.g. OSA, SPIE, APS, ACS, APA, IEEE) often organize outreach initiatives in local schools and other community centers, and the national-level leadership of these associations arranges yearly visits to Congress to advocate for increased science funding and science-based policy. The Rochester Museum and Science Center (RMSC) is continuously in need of volunteers who can help with their current exhibits, or even help create new ones.

And of course, the (very young) student group that I lead, Students for Science Advocacy, will try to do its part promoting science policy and advocacy by hosting relevant speakers and meeting to discuss current science policy issues.

Jose Perez is pursuing a master’s degree in optics.
Dining Hall Employees Experience Varied Treatment From Students

Dining Services worker Jayquan Coley serves a student at the Kosher Comfort sandwich station in Douglass Dining Hall.

By JONATHAN RICARDO

Leslie chimes in, “Yep, this is where all the drama happens.”

Other than working the register, cashiers are often required to help set up the stations before doors open. This can be an frenzied task, especially in Douglass, where a majority of the stations are dedicated to certain diets. If an item that could contaminate the allergen-free station is accidentally brought there, for example, everything must be thrown out and the equipment properly sterilized.

With limited time before students start flowing in, this can be a major setback. Tension and drama aside, they are still a family. Leslie and Shamika have become particularly close over the years.

“Leslie is my mother away from home,” Shamika says.

In a separate interview, without knowing she had been called her mother, Leslie describes Shamika as her baby.

I mention to her what Shamika said.

“Really?” Leslie smiles coyly. “Me and that girl are just so intertwined.”

The student body makes up the largest portion of this extended family: nearly three and a half thousand pampered children without whose nourishment is taken care of by Dining Services.

All three cashiers are not convinced that students recognize how much Dining Services and its employees do for them. Dawn blankly takes this on a lingering teenage arrogance that some students have yet to grow out of.

Dawn and Shamika might let some of that overt egotism slide, but Leslie is not afraid to serve up a side of sass when necessary.

For example, the new doors put in during the renovation are designed to lock in place if pushed open all the way, something most students fail to recognize as they file in and out. The open doors create a perfect wind tunnel that blasts Leslie with frigid air.

“Hey! Close the door!” she yells. Her voice booms through the dining hall, but the wind keeps it from reaching the students who are already walking away. Leslie doesn’t give up.

“Close the door! Close the door!”

Dawn casually points out the obvious: “I don’t think they notice.”

Leslie mumbles something under her breath about how they really need to fix the damn things, and grudgingly gets up to close it.

On the rare occasion that students try to serve up a side of arrogance that some students attempt to throw at them, Leslie freezes before slowly turning around to confront the intimidating voice. She gives them a wide-eyed stare that says, “Well, pay more attention next time.” They close the door, white-knuckled and whispering short apologies without making eye contact.

While swiping into the dining hall, the engagement with employees rarely graduates from the ritualistic “hello, how are you?”

There are some exceptions, however.

Watching Leslie, Dawn, and Shamika work, it’s easy to see a spectrum of student-employee relationships: on the “exemplary” side are the Kobers, but there are a handful that could be classified as “unsatisfactory,” to tell who has made an effort to get to know them.

“Oh hey, Daniel,” Dawn greets a regular student as he walks in. “Where’s your instrument?”

She glares at him, jokingly. “You better be practicing.” Daniel chuckles.

“Don’t worry, Dawn. I’ve been practicing lots.”

“Glad to hear it,” she says with a wide smile. “Enjoy your lunch now, dear.”

Out of the three, Dawn seems to know the most students. This might have to do with her level of experience— or maybe it’s because she’s mentioned on the University’s list of “101 Things to do Before You Graduate,” handed out to freshman at the start of the year.

The task “Make friends with Dawn, the world’s best Dining Services worker” can be found about halfway down the list.

Leslie, on the other hand, has formed an incredibly strong relationship with junior Nicolette and Julianna Kober. The twin sisters met Leslie their freshman year, and Shamika, “otherwise we as a department would lose money.”

The student ended up paying for both meals, but not for a feisty confrontation.

When Shamika tried to hand her change (about $12) back, he looked her in the eyes and said, angrily, “No, you keep it. You need it more than I do,” and stormed out of the hall.

Hearing stories like this one infuriates the Kobers.

“They are people too,” says Julianna. “They deserve to be respected. I mean, how would you even get into the dining hall if people like Miss Leslie, Shamika, or Dawn weren’t there?”

Dawn, Leslie, and Shamika would love to see all students treat them with kindness and consideration.

“We provide them with delicious meals that take into consideration their diets and allergies,” says Dawn, something she believes warrants some form of acknowledgement.

Nicolette says it could something be as simple as making eye contact.

“I think you make such a personal connection just by doing that.”

For Julianna, engaging with service workers is an opportunity to form new friendships. Students who choose not to are “missing out, and that’s their loss.”

Despite occasional unsettling incidents, Shamika says much of her interactions with students are pleasant.

“There are a lot of sweet kids at this school,” she says. “You just, you know, get a bad apple every once in awhile.”

Listro is a member of the Class of 2017.
It’s Only a Phrase, Mom

14. Where the proof on the golf course is...
17. Out of Office, abbr.
18. Time for a Brit
19. Writer of Charlotte’s Web White
21. Off-limits area
24. God of luck
26. Reason for athlete’s suspension
28. 24 hours
29. Species, in short
31. A political mess-up, for one
33. An instrument’s buzzing sound is...
37. Poet’s “before”
38. The Navy’s intel., briefly
39. Goldman Sachs on the ticker
40. PB ___ J
42. Six to Presidente Nieto
45. A penny left in a house fire is...
50. With “code,” mail routing number
51. Nuclear and solar, for example. Abbr.
52. Average grades
54. Time your flight is due in
55. First line of a news article
56. “I smell _____”

DOWN:
1. A type of bell
2. Ancient Chinese dynasty
3. “___ the Woods”
4. Philippine snack made with tofu
5. Ref. on the diamond
6. Clumsy individual
7. Consume
8. Word that isn’t “a word”
9. Debated food chemical additive
10. 2160 mile trail, in passing
13. Show without speaking
15. Billions of years
16. The Gamers Network
20. Uncle Joe’s late son
22. Deprive from ownership
23. windshield feature in cars
24. Bit’s relative
26. La ___, capital of Bolivia
27. Pairs
28. Summer bewilderment, aka...
30. Vietnamese noodle soup
31. One who hits the squares, circles, and diamonds
32. North America, abbr.
34. HP restoring berry from Pokemon games
35. Carrot’s herbal relative
36. Guarantee
41. Unit of force
43. South American empire
44. The Oracle, for one
46. Popular WilCo eatery
47. Pruitt’s charge, perhaps
48. A place to sleep
49. Latin goddess
53. Shorthand in an address

Last Week’s Answers

UR cute...
Be my valentine!

To:
From:

I would use my last guest swipe on you...
Be my valentine!

To:
From:

You are the Selig-MAN of my dreams.
Be my valentine!

To:
From:

I have more love for you than I have student loans.
Be my valentine!

To:
From:

Campus Times

Valentine’s Cards

BY DAVID SHILDKRAUT
’20
DIFFICULTY HARD

ACROSS:
1. A short note
5. Hawaiian stringed instrument
8. Frequent Reddit feature
11. Japanese flower
12. Citation format
13. Niagara’s Maid of the ___
14. Where the proof on the golf course is...
17. Out of Office, abbr.
18. Time for a Brit
19. Writer of Charlotte’s Web White
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Reefat Aziz: Debating Across Borders

BY ETHAN BIDNA
COLUMNIST

For Take Five student Syed Reefat Aziz, who goes by Reefat, debate is not just the sport he plays,—it’s the medium through which he’s embraced the world.

It is the tool he has used to affect change throughout the world, both here in Rochester and in his home country of Bangladesh.

Despite English being his second language and his admitted unfamiliarity with American subjects of debate, Reefat has defeated countless opponents and led Rochester’s Debate Union team to numerous successes.

Reefat’s story began in Dhaka, Bangladesh, where he grew up with his family.

“In Bangladesh,” Reefat explained, “there are a number of different school systems, including a national school system, which teaches education in line with the UN’s “Education for All” standards.

“Since I went to a national school, I learned English in kindergarten,” Reefat said. It was also in these national schools where he found his love for debate.

“I first discovered debate in the 7th grade, and have been doing it ever since.”

Growing up, Reefat dreamed of studying in America. “As kids in Bangladesh, the only American schools we’d ever heard of were Harvard and MIT.”

But as he neared graduation, he attended an admissions event hosted by the University of Rochester. It was there that Reefat met Dean of Admissions Jonathan Burdick and learned about UR’s open curriculum, a major factor attracting him to the school.

Eventually, despite his parent’s initial reluctance to send him so far from home, they agreed, and soon he was on his way to Rochester.

Reefat described his first semester at UR as a “cultural shock,” but he soon embraced and joined what he called the “vibrant international student community” at UR. He also credited his assimilation to graduate students from Bangladesh, who helped him learn how to bridge American and Bangladeshi culture.

For Reefat, the largest cultural adjustment he found was in debate.

Though he had debated in Bangladesh before, American debate was an entirely new struggle.

“I think in Bengali,” he said, “and so when I debated, I had to translate to and from Bengali to English.”

Not only did that American debate is quite different from international debate, in that it focuses heavily on American history.

“I had to learn U.S. culture to be able to compete in these debates,” he said.

The adjustment for him didn’t take long, though. As he studied in Rochester, Reefat grew at a debater. Eventually, he became president of the team. Though the team is more focused on competition now, Reefat took time to expand the club’s campus programming. He worked with others to grow their “Public Debate” program, collaborating with other clubs on campus to host public debate on pertinent topics.

Now in his fifth year, having completed his Biomedical Engineering major and his Legal Studies minor, debate and American culture are second nature to Reefat.

In fact, Reefat has taken the table, using his Key Scholar project and his mastery of debate, to help both his new community of Rochester and his home back in Bangladesh.

The first part of his Key Project is a collaboration with East High, the local Rochester high school that the University has collaborated with, where he has started a debate program.

“Debate teaches such important skills, but it is often seen as a rich, suburban thing,” he said.

Before graduation, he hopes to introduce a permanent debate class at East High, and is currently teaching local teachers to assume his role once he leaves.

For the second part of his Take Five, Reefat is working with a Madrassa (religious) school back in Bangladesh to leverage debate in ways that can help empower female students, through a program he first developed in high school called Leaping Boundaries.

As he explained, the Madrassas are “outdated and out of touch with the international world,” explaining that they “won’t teach some modern concepts,” and also suffer from a shortage of teachers.

To this end, Reefat and others have begun a program where they trade teaching with the Madrassas in that change for the Madrassas allowing them to teach the UN educational system. In this iteration, they supplement the Learning Boundaries program with debate, sending teaching videos to students in Bangladesh on best debate practices, and reviewing videos of their debate performances.

“We taught students of all genders, and we teach the curriculum that will actually help them get the jobs. It helps these students learn how to present themselves, and learn how to speak good English,” he said. For the female students, it helps them grow and break free of the cycle of dependency.

With his fifth year coming to a close, Reefat is not sure what comes next. He is considering expanding the business he began, where he and others developed a more efficient procedure for neurological surgeons to treat “nerve block.” He may also stay in Rochester to expand the program.

Regardless, he looks back fondly at his time in here. He admitted there were some things he could have done differently, including applying more critical thinking to his career choice early on and being more critical with himself about how much work he could handle.

Nevertheless, he wants students to remember: “This is literally going to be the best years of your life. Make it yours.”

Bidna and Holloway are both Take Five Scholars.

Reefat Aziz: Debating Across Borders

BY MELESA HOLLOWAY
COLUMNIST

UR DREAMers is an organization that educates the campus about the diverse population of undocumented students on campus.

UR DREAMers has an inclusive environment for undocumented students.

Burday Torres, a member of the group, expressed her frustration with some of the things President Donald Trump has done since taking office.

“#ToImmigrantsWithLove was created a year ago as kids in Bangladesh, the only American schools we’d ever heard of were Harvard and MIT.”

But things have changed since I went to a national school.

Growing up, Reefat described his first semester at UR as a “cultural shock,” but he soon embraced and joined what he called the “vibrant international student community” at UR. He also credited his assimilation to graduate students from Bangladesh, who helped him learn how to bridge American and Bangladeshi culture.

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The adjustment for him didn’t take long, though. As he studied in Rochester, Reefat grew at a debater. Eventually, he became president of the team. Though the team is more focused on competition now, Reefat took time to expand the club’s campus programming. He worked with others to grow their “Public Debate” program, collaborating with other clubs on campus to host public debate on pertinent topics.

Now in his fifth year, having completed his Biomedical Engineering major and his Legal Studies minor, debate and American culture are second nature to Reefat.

In fact, Reefat has taken the table, using his Key Scholar project and his mastery of debate, to help both his new community of Rochester and his home back in Bangladesh.

The first part of his Key Project is a collaboration with East High, the local Rochester high school that the University has collaborated with, where he has started a debate program.

“Debate teaches such important skills, but it is often seen as a rich, suburban thing,” he said.

Before graduation, he hopes to introduce a permanent debate class at East High, and is currently teaching local teachers to assume his role once he leaves.

For the second part of his Take Five, Reefat is working with a Madrassa (religious) school back in Bangladesh to leverage debate in ways that can help empower female students, through a program he first developed in high school called Leaping Boundaries.

As he explained, the Madrassas are “outdated and out of touch with the international world,” explaining that they “won’t teach some modern concepts,” and also suffer from a shortage of teachers.

To this end, Reefat and others have begun a program where they trade teaching with the Madrassas in that change for the Madrassas allowing them to teach the UN educational system. In this iteration, they supplement the Learning Boundaries program with debate, sending teaching videos to students in Bangladesh on best debate practices, and reviewing videos of their debate performances.

“We taught students of all genders, and we teach the curriculum that will actually help them get the jobs. It helps these students learn how to present themselves, and learn how to speak good English,” he said. For the female students, it helps them grow and break free of the cycle of dependency.

With his fifth year coming to a close, Reefat is not sure what comes next. He is considering expanding the business he began, where he and others developed a more efficient procedure for neurological surgeons to treat “nerve block.” He may also stay in Rochester to expand the program.

Regardless, he looks back fondly at his time in here. He admitted there were some things he could have done differently, including applying more critical thinking to his career choice early on and being more critical with himself about how much work he could handle.

Nevertheless, he wants students to remember: “This is literally going to be the best years of your life. Make it yours.”

Bidna and Holloway are both Take Five Scholars.
By ERIC FRANKLIN
HUMOR EDITOR

"If you support Trump, un-friend me."

"Swipe in the direction of your political views."

"Don’t you dare add me on Yo unless you support the emancipation of all whales in captivity.

Tired of seeing these posts on all your social media ac-counts? It’s increasingly difficult and physically exhausting of having to click “remove friend” every time you learn someone on Facebook has the audacity to disagree with you?

Well, let me introduce you to the hottest new social media platform—Echo!

Echo gives you all of your favorite features of your traditional social networking sites—followers, poke, facial recognition, sponsored video content—without any of those old-fashioned hassles like having to add your own friends.

People used to make friends based on trivial details like “growing up together,” “geographic proximity,” or “shared interests,” but Echo makes all of that easier.

With Echo, you create a profile with your basic demographic info and all your detailed political views, and it matches you with whoever most agrees with you. Your friends are now a “Chamber,” which will only include posts from people who share in your most specific opinions.

Traditional social media was great at connecting nearby acquaintances into a semblance of friendship, but these days those kinds of relationships can’t survive the increasingly stringent ideolog-ical filters through which all of our daily experiences must now pass.

So rather than get to know people for who they are or attempt to make real human contact, let our algorithms make sure that every rant posted and article shared are in exact accordance with your existing worldview.

Of course, diversity is important, so we do allow friends with as low as 90 per-cent agreement with you, but if you ever dislike any of their posts they will be automati-cally banned from your feed for life.

Imagine your ideal Facebook new feed. Is it populated with birthers, #PizzaGate, and millionaire duck call manufacturers?

Organic, gluten-free vegans with foot fetishes?

Tacky and nostalgic people sharing middle school viral videos?

No problems—we have all of that and more. Even the apolitical can use Echo. If you like just an innocent meme connoisseur caught in the crossfire between your crazy HuffPost- and Breitbart-posting friends?

With one click you can set your profile to “100 percent cat memes,” and enjoy sweet, uncontroversial feline eupho-ria.

You may argue, “But, good sir, I already police my news feeds with as much religious zeal as the racist bigots whom I’m trying so hard to remove from my life? I’ve already constructed my perfect ideological bubble!"

This may be true, but imagine a site where you could achieve the same effect with-out having to spend the time to scrutinize every casual acquaintance’s opinions. Or without the awkwardness of having to tell dear Chuck, who’s just a little too passionate about the legaliza-tion of prostitution.

Everyone knows it is a fundamental human right to ignore anything that upsets you or even engenders mild discomfort, but even by purging your social media of dis-senting views involves hav-ing to actually dare to expose yourself to discomfort! Echo steps in as middle-ground between you and un-pleasantness, freeing up your time to post more rants about Crooked Hillary or Cheating Tom Brady.

And the best part about Echo is its efficiency at find-ing your moral compadres wherever they may be. Most social media sites require you to meet someone in real life or at least virtually, learn each other’s names, and try to get to know each other up. Think of how many potential identical ideologues may be out there whom you may never meet in real life. Instead of having to go through the tedious process of engaging people in real life, adding them online, and then culling the infidels, Echo al- lows you to sort by opinion first, so you never have to waste time getting to know anyone who isn’t worth your time.

Once you enter your custom Echo Chamber, you’ll never want to turn back—just ask one of the over 500,000 peo-ple who have already joined.

“I used to spend hours and hours angrily arguing with my so-called ‘friends’ on Face-book,” said Justine Trom-bone, long-time user and well known genius.

“I now spend my time angrily ranting with sympathetic friends. It’s made my life so much better.”

So if you love to hear your-self talk, join us, and you’ll never have to hear anyone else’s voice again.

Franklin is a member of the Class of 2017.
Tradition and Talent Intermingle at UR China Nite

By MUHAMMED HADI CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Chinese Students Association welcomed the new year with bold music, dance, and togetherness at its annual celebratory China Nite, a diverse three-hour display of traditional performances.

“I started thinking and planning for China Nite approximately two weeks before winter break,” sophomore and event coordinator Zihan Li said. “The general formation of the event has not changed, yet we try to make the performances more various and more representative every year.”

The night kicked off with the majority of upper Strong Auditorium filled with guests sipping the bubble tea offered, to the sound of No Jackets Required as the opening act, playing “Young Turks” by Rod Stewart and “Sweet Child O’Mine” by Guns N’ Roses.

Awards to the stage was passed onto several other performances, both in English and Chinese. UR’s K-pop group Rice Crew, the Chinese Music Ensemble of Rochester, and the Rochester Tai Chi Chuan Center all contributed their time onstage to honor Chinese history and tradition.

Several raffle drawings were held throughout the night. Prizes included several coupons and vouchers, a pair of Mira water bottles, and a polaroid camera.

University President Seligman was present and acknowledged how CSA was doing a great job in promoting diversity and unity among the University community, a fact that was echoed by the winner of the musical chair contest.

“You don’t need to speak Chinese. The song represents the idea that no matter where the students are, they always share the same culture.”

China Nite, originally designed for international students to celebrate traditional festivals, has become one of the CSA’s main annual performances.

“The aim of China Nite is to provide a platform for people with talents or passion to showcase themselves. We...learn about the different cultures here.”

“Haili is a member of the Class of 2019.”

However, the novel was only partially completed. Baldwin’s literary voice is not easily matched, yet Peck manages to amplify the power of Baldwin’s writing.

It took some time for young Baldwin to realize that by cheering for the hero—the white man—he was unknowingly rooting against himself.

Rutagarama is a member of the Class of 2018.

By NAOMI RUTAGARAMA CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As the audience listens to the narration, various images and clips play on the screen: the violence against black protesters at the Greensboro sit-in, angry white crowds shouting slurs and toting anti-black signs, Black Lives Matter protesters facing the brutality of police officers. These images force the audience to come face-to-face with the ongoing oppression suffered by generations of African-Americans at the hands of whites.

The Rochester Tai Chi Chuan Center worked with UR to bring China Nite together.

By NAOMI RUTAGARAMA CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Rutagarama is a member of the Class of 2018.
"Z: The Beginning of Everything" has been flooding news-feeds with silent ads sporting titillating quotes from the show, based on the life of Zelda Fitzgerald and her famously rocky marriage to literary giant F. Scott Fitzgerald. "How shall we celebrate, on the rocks or on the bed?" The trailers themselves imply the show is fast-paced and glamorous. It couldn’t be more misleading.

The series is based on "Z: A Novel of Zelda Fitzgerald" by Domee Skinner. It begins slowly in Montgomery, Alabama, and then trudges onto New York, where the newly married Fitzgerald couple faces obstacles: Zelda’s clothes are weird, Scott lies about money, Zelda wants to be in a movie, Scott lies about finishing college, and most of all, someone had too much to drink.

Unlike in the trailers, Zelda is wearing ruffled frocks, and her attraction to Fitzgerald couldn’t be more passive. Throughout the season, her character moves back and forth between rebellious southern belle and uptight husband-sitter. When faced with unresolved conflict, Zelda, not once, but twice, undresses as a husband-sitter. When faced with the season’s failures comes from illustrating how Zelda’s brilliance is limited by her desire to help her husband. Time after time he uses her words in his work, and when he feels like his success is not matching his talent, she comforts him.

"I will never let you fail," she tells him at one point, not realizing that their marriage has already failed them both. This could be a simple case of the show not matching expectation. After all, in reality the Fitzgeralds did have more arguments than they had money, and Zelda did have a painfully southern accent. But the trailers’ illustration of glamour and excess brought in a demographic that is more interested in reality, so the story feels like it’s lacking.

Overall, "Z: The Beginning of Everything" has the sad and sour taste of a lost opportunity.

Drukker is a member of the Class of 2013.
Oscars Predictions Read ‘La La Land’ Triumph

By SCOTT ABRAMS
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

On Feb. 26, the Academy Awards could go one of two ways: either “La La Land,” the film of the moment, is going to sweep and potentially tie or break the record for most Oscar wins, or the Academy will spread the love, leaving the film with a mere six or seven wins. Or maybe something in between. Who knows?


Will and Should Win: “La La Land”

Should’ve Been Nominated: “Jackie”

Anything besides “La La Land” would be a huge shock at this point. Next question.

Best Director:


Will and Should Win: Damien Chazelle, “La La Land”

Should’ve Been Nominated: Tom Ford, “Nocturnal Animals”

Chazelle should easily break the record for youngest director winner.

Best Actor:


Should Win: Casey Affleck, “Manchester by the Sea”

Should’ve Been Nominated: Jake Gyllenhaal, “Nocturnal Animals”

This is one of the toughest categories of the night. Affleck has won everything but the Screen Actors Guild Award, but the SAG winner has gone on to win the Oscar for over a decade, so I’m going to go with Washington.

Best Actress:


Will Win: Emma Stone, “La La Land”

Should’ve Been Nominated: Amy Adams, “Arrival”

Sorry, Amy Adams. The new Leonardo DiCaprio was inexplicably left without a nomination for her incredible performance in “Arrival.” But also my apologies to Natalie Portman whose dynamic performance in “Jackie” will lose out to the “La La Land” juggernaut despite the fact that it might go down as one of the all-time great screen performances.

Best Supporting Actor:


Will Win: Mahershala Ali, “Moonlight”

Should Win: Lucas Hedges, “Manchester by the Sea”

Should’ve Been Nominated: Hugh Grant, “Florence Foster Jenkins”

Ali will probably take it, but I wonder if vote splitting between him and BAFTA-winner Patel might open a spot for Bridges to win his second trophy.

Best Supporting Actress:


Will Win: Viola Davis, “Fences”

Should’ve Been Nominated: Gugu Mbatha-Raw, “Miss Sloane”

Williams does heartbreak with only ten minutes of screen time in “Manchester by the Sea,” but Davis is undeniable (and should’ve won for “The Help” five years ago).

Best Original Screenplay:


Will Win: Michael H. Weber and Tarell Alvin McCraney, “Moonlight”

Should Win: Eric Heisserer, “Arrival”

Jenkins and McCraney will easily win here, but the film didn’t belong in this category, as the academy only views it as an adapted work. It was based on an unproduced play.

A Abrams is a member of the Class of 2018.

CT RECOMMENDS

SHAKEY GRAVES

BY BEN SCHMITZ

A&E EDITOR

Alejandro Rose-Garcia never intended to make a living as a musician. Getting his first brush of fame acting in “Spy Kids 3D” and the “Friday Night Lights” TV show, no one would have expected Rose-Garcia to be touring nationally and playing festivals as Shakey Graves a decade later.

Shakey Graves first started getting attention with his debut album “Roll the Bones” in 2011, which he self-released as a pay-what-you-want project on Bandcamp. His early signature sound of backwoods folk-blues, complete with self-harmonized vocals and percussive ham-boning all resting atop a warm bed of lo-fi recording and tape hiss, captivated listeners far and wide, quickly making “Roll the Bones” one of the most popular albums on Bandcamp.

After this initial release, Shakey’s sound evolved toward a grittier, biting style. There are many incredible live performances available on YouTube where he can be seen bringing a new vigor to the songs of “Roll the Bones,” complete with self-harmonized vocals and percussive ham-boning all resting atop a warm bed of lo-fi recording and tape hiss, captivated listeners far and wide, quickly making “Roll the Bones” one of the most popular albums on Bandcamp.

When comparing “Roll the Bones” and “And The War Came,” one might feel that Shakey has lost a little bit of what made him unique. “And The War Came” still shines, but it perhaps shines a little too bright for those who fell in love with Shakey’s early dust-covered sound.

Luckily, Shakey’s discography has an incredible swath of hard to find releases that offer a treasure trove of weird and wonderfully diverse material for devout fans to sink their teeth into. Every year on Feb. 9 (decreed Shakey Graves Day by the mayor of Austin), fans are treated to new releases of rarities, demos, and live recordings. These releases and all prior Shakey Graves Day releases are only officially available for download on Feb. 9 through 11 every year, making them a bit hard to find online for new fans. Fortunately, they can be found on Reddit and other fan communities all year long. These releases contain some of his best and most experimental songs, including sentimental crooner “Chintown” on the SG Day II EP “Story of My Life” and the borderline vaporewave track “If I Was Yours” from this year’s release “The Man from Taured,” to name a very limited few.

Few texts highlight the flexibility and consistent ability to amaze with their songwriting as Shakey Graves. Digging in and exploring his discography is a rewarding and eye opening journey that everyone should try.

Schmitz is a member of the Class of 2019.