In response to the New Zealand shooting at a mosque on March 15, the Interfaith Chapel community held a vigil in support of the Muslim community at UR this past Friday.

Held during Jumma — or Friday afternoon prayer — the event encouraged those of any or no faith to attend, observe, and mourn those killed in Christchurch.

“Vigils started with traditional prayer, with non-Muslim visitors sitting and observing,” Ahmed Veknach, who is the advisor for the Muslim Students’ Association, led Jumma and addressed the attendees between prayers.

His sermon was delivered in English, with Arabic interspersed throughout.

“At the conclusion of prayer, President Feldman, along with representatives from several other faiths, took the podium to condemn the shooter’s actions and offer support to the Muslim community,” Veknach said.

One representative, Rabbi Asher Yaras of UR Chabad, brought up the Ten Commandments in his condolences.

“There are two tablets,” Yaras said. “The first commandment is to believe in God. The sixth commandment is not to murder. One might ask why did God choose to give tablets? Couldn’t He have just made the font a little smaller, and then fit it in to one?”

Yaras explained that commandments one and six are put next to each other because they are of equal importance. To Yaras, “Every human being is created in the image of God, and an act against a human being is an abomination. To Yaras, “Every human being is created in the image of God, and an act against a human being is an abomination. To Yaras, “Every human being is created in the image of God, and an act against a human being is an abomination. To Yaras, “Every human being is created in the image of God, and an act against a human being is an abomination. To Yaras, “Every human being is created in the image of God, and an act against a human being is an abomination.

Parolee Pleds Guilty to Sexually Assaulting Eastman Student Last Fall

By TREVOR WHITESTONE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The perpetrator of the sexual assault of an Eastman student last September admitted to the crime, the Monroe County District Attorney’s Office announced yesterday.

Parolee Michael Sheppard, 31, pleaded guilty to second-degree aggravated sexual abuse, a felony, for attacking the 20-year-old student in an Eastman annex practice room on Sept. 15, as reported by the Democrat & Chronicle.

The student will not be made to testify at the trial to prevent her from reliving the trauma.

Elisabeth Barkley, chief of the office’s Sex Crimes Bureau, said in a release.

Sheppard was on parole for first-degree identity theft, and had been in prison until April 2018, serving a sentence of over five years. In 2006, he was convicted of third-degree criminal possession of a weapon.

In response to the assault, Eastman added security measures last month, placing new swipe access points around the school.

Sheppard will be required to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life. He is scheduled to be sentenced April 12 by County Court Judge John L. DeMarco.

Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley thanked the student in a tweet for coming forward “so Sheppard can no longer hurt anyone else.”

Whitestone is a member of the Class of 2019.

Vigil Held for New Zealand

By HAILIE HIGGINS
OPINIONS EDITOR

In response to the New Zealand shooting at a mosque on March 15, the Interfaith Chapel community held a vigil in support of the Muslim community at UR this past Friday.

Held during Jumma — or Friday afternoon prayer — the event encouraged those of any or no faith to attend, observe, and mourn those killed in Christchurch.

“The vigil started with traditional prayer, with non-Muslim visitors sitting and observing,” Ahmed Veknach, who is the advisor for the Muslim Students’ Association, led Jumma and addressed the attendees between prayers.

His sermon was delivered in English, with Arabic interspersed throughout.

“At the conclusion of prayer, President Feldman, along with representatives from several other faiths, took the podium to condemn the shooter’s actions and offer support to the Muslim community,” Veknach said.

One representative, Rabbi Asher Yaras of UR Chabad, brought up the Ten Commandments in his condolences.

“There are two tablets,” Yaras said. “The first commandment is to believe in God. The sixth commandment is not to murder. One might ask why did God choose to give tablets? Couldn’t He have just made the font a little smaller, and then fit it in to one?”

Yaras explained that commandments one and six are put next to each other because they are of equal importance. To Yaras, “Every human being is created in the image of God, and an act against a human being is an abomination. To Yaras, “Every human being is created in the image of God, and an act against a human being is an abomination. To Yaras, “Every human being is created in the image of God, and an act against a human being is an abomination. To Yaras, “Every human being is created in the image of God, and an act against a human being is an abomination. To Yaras, “Every human being is created in the image of God, and an act against a human being is an abomination.

Students researching globalization and immigration last fall could find relevant works in the stacks of Rush Rhees — along with cards advertising Identity Evropa, a white nationalist group.

“Alex Kolchak — NY” took credit for putting up flyers in Brighton last fall, as well as in Maryland’s Montgomery County where Hodgman is from.

The hate group’s leaked Discord archive reveals multiple parallels between Hodgman and Kolchak, who espoused white supremacist beliefs in his messages. Interviews with people who know Hodgman, meanwhile, reveal how the former president of College Republicans shifted his views toward the far-right. Hodgman did not respond to an email request for comment sent Tuesday.

Parolee Pleds Guilty to Sexually Assaulting Eastman Student Last Fall

By TREVOR WHITESTONE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The perpetrator of the sexual assault of an Eastman student last September admitted to the crime, the Monroe County District Attorney’s Office announced yesterday.

Parolee Michael Sheppard, 31, pleaded guilty to second-degree aggravated sexual abuse, a felony, for attacking the 20-year-old student in an Eastman annex practice room on Sept. 15, as reported by the Democrat & Chronicle.

The student will not be made to testify at the trial to prevent her from reliving the trauma.

Elisabeth Barkley, chief of the office’s Sex Crimes Bureau, said in a release.

Sheppard was on parole for first-degree identity theft, and had been in prison until April 2018, serving a sentence of over five years. In 2006, he was convicted of third-degree criminal possession of a weapon.

In response to the assault, Eastman added security measures last month, placing new swipe access points around the school.

Sheppard will be required to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life. He is scheduled to be sentenced April 12 by County Court Judge John L. DeMarco.

Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley thanked the student in a tweet for coming forward “so Sheppard can no longer hurt anyone else.”

Whitestone is a member of the Class of 2019.
Professor Topolski Asks Whether Art Can Be Research

By AUDREY GOLDFARE
COLUMNIST

As an art professor at a research institution, Allen Topolski is encouraged to embrace a research-like approach to art. “What we do is equated to research, so we’re expected to have shows and museums and galleries,” Topolski said. “Our studios equate to labs.”

For Topolski, art doesn’t fit within the current definition of research. When he finds himself trying to accommodate the research culture of UR, he questions whether it might compromise his work. “I’m always tempted to make an equation, but the equation itself shouldn’t be necessary,” Topolski said. “If making is a version of research, […] it’s problematic. I want a broader understanding of what [research] is.”

A key difference between art and traditional research is reproducibility. An experiment should yield the same results in the hands of different scientists, but art is unique to the creator.

“So often my assignments are inspired by another artist’s work and the way that artist thinks,” Topolski said. “I’m always shocked that students come up with a different solution. The solutions are endless.”

Still, some aspects of Topolski’s process resemble research. Pursuing a completely original project is an exercise in troubleshooting, even when creating a sculpture. “It’s always about the problem-solving,” he said. “The solutions are accrued as you go along.”

There’s no protocol for what Topolski does in the studio. But, much like new research, an artist’s questions and answers may change as a piece develops. When working on a project, Topolski stays in tune with his surroundings to plan his next move. “Because I’m so process-based, I have to spend time in my studio and get caught up in my objects, and the space, and the things they carry with them to get prompted,” he said. “I shouldn’t just grab the first scissors in the drawer.”

A finished product brings together elements accumulated throughout the creative process. Though there may not be just one right answer, every decision is weighted with significance and contributes to the message of the piece. “It’s a visual communication,” Topolski said. “When students say ‘it can mean whatever you want it to mean,’ that’s bullshit.”

Topolski’s work explores memory, nostalgia, and the space between. “One is intellectual and one is emotional,” Topolski said. “They’re different sides to the same coin.”

In high school, Topolski spent time with his grandmother at Alzheimers. He relinquished strict control over his own reality to accommodate hers. “Her space and time weren’t any less real to her than mine was to me.”

This drove him to create physical representations of memory and nostalgia. “I’m not into art being about magic or catharsis, although I find it necessary to make things as my own version of catharsis,” he said.

Topolski balances the poignancy of his work with its common relatability. “I think we have a visual vocabulary,” Topolski said. “There are common words and there are rare ones, and I try to employ the common ones. It makes room for everyone else. There’s a common understanding.”

Topolski believes art is driven by the same curiosity motivating most research. “It’s about trying to find our place in this room and in the universe,” he said. “Our best students are the ones who question why they’re doing this in the first place.”

Topolski sees art, like research, as open-ended, but said it doesn’t hinge on the concept of accuracy. He added, “While research traditionally aims to be quantitative, the value of art does not depend upon a clean and reproducible final product.”

“It’s about process,” Topolski said. “The end isn’t necessarily singular or attainable.”

Goldfarb is a member of the Class of 2019.

New Zealand Vigil

Vigil FROM PAGE 1

“Muslims know about Jesus, Muslims know about Moses, and the stories we have share a lot in common — it’s hard sometimes to see beyond our story,” Abdelhakim said. “Let’s actually think that maybe the truth is bigger than all of us. Maybe it’s bigger than religions. Maybe all of us have parts of the truth, and we are just sharing some pieces of a more complete picture.”

Partially as a response to the shooting, the Muslim Students’ Association is holding Islam Awareness week with events from April 9-12 showing Islam and Muslim culture in an effort to foster understanding.

Higgins is a member of the Class of 2022.

"Muslims know about Jesus, Muslims know about Moses, and the stories we have share a lot in common — it’s hard sometimes to see beyond our story," Abdelhakim said. “Let’s actually think that maybe the truth is bigger than all of us. Maybe it’s bigger than religions. Maybe all of us have parts of the truth, and we are just sharing some pieces of a more complete picture.”

Partially as a response to the shooting, the Muslim Students’ Association is holding Islam Awareness week with events from April 9-12 showing Islam and Muslim culture in an effort to foster understanding.

Higgins is a member of the Class of 2022.
Screw Up Nights Goes Presidential
By DALER BEISENBAYEV

The party was a success. Hodgman’s old club, College Republicans, decided to let us know he did not align with the Democratic Party anymore. The president said he would never serve that term. Hodgman never served that term.

Hodgman, a member of the U.S. Army ROTC program, made media appearances over the previous four semesters, the day Hodgman’s policy citation was announced. College Republicans published a statement disavowing their former leader, who had been得罪ed by Hodgman. Hodgman was “arrested.” College Democrats and Republicans had what Hodgman was looking for, while white supremacy groups like Identity Evropa did. Hodgman had said that now is the best time to be a white supremacist in nearly a century. “If you’re a young kid,” he said, “and were looking for something to look at, for looking for some friendship, some community, why not?”

Some ethnic groups join gangs, some join alt-right organizations—but I think they’re all suffering from that same sense of disconnectedness,” Hudso...
As the bleak Rochester winter is finally making way for sunnier skies and the days are getting longer, it is now time to tackle on the fourth meal of the day: the late-night snack. And what better place for a midnight munch than Rochester’s very own 24-hour Jay’s Diner?

Jay’s has been reviewed by CT in the past, so what I’m bringing to you is not a review, but an exploration of what to select when you find yourself in a Jay’s booth at God-knows-when in the morning.

It’s a great thing I brought Rosie, one of my favorite CT Eats companions, because while we both agreed that the root beer float was a midnight must-have, I hate root beer. When asked for three adjectives, Rosie offered up “creamy,” “cold,” and “float.” I then asked where the float would fall on a scale from “Bangerz” to “Jay’s Diner” and she declared it perfect for the dark-room Kept, nonsensical late night snacks.

There is a reprinted section of a James Baldwin essay, an article ominously titled “Bush And Abortion” (George H.W. Bush had just been elected President), and a promotion for an Alpha Phi Alpha party, with a step show and a five-dollar price of admission. “Grapevine” was far from the more dominant form of communication, when the printed page was a staple of publications populated the newsstand, which had tons of chocolate throughout and a wonderful texture. The inside was cakely and fluffy with a soft chew. Plus, the edge of these pancakes was delightfully crispy. Even though that means tons of fat was used for cooking, it does make for a delicious crispy, so I’ll call it a guilty late-night snack.

Next, we cleansed that 2 a.m. palate with a plate of lasagna. The best aspect was the tomato sauce, delightfully sweet with a bit of tang. The pasta, on the other hand, got lost in the sauce. It was mushy and overdone. The meat, though crying for seasoning, was still hearty. This was flanked by a thick hunk of garlic bread, a welcome surprise.

My one gripe with the lasagna was the oil spill around the base of the plate. An oily plate is a huge turn-off. I’d rather not see the mistakes I am forcing into my body when I’m living it up late-night style, thank you very much.

Overall, late-night Jay’s did exactly what I wanted. I got a fairly cheap, nonsensical meal of decent quality at an odd hour of the night. If you’re looking for a quick, cheap meal with lots of options for delicious, wild, sleep-deprived choices, then Jay’s Diner is the place for you.

Banc is a member of the Class of 2021.
Finding my Way with Google Earth

By KEVIN SHAUGHNESSY

When I started high school, I played around in Google Earth. When you’re starting to leave childhood behind and are terminally unsure of yourself, exploring the world from a safe distance is empowering and comforting. Google Earth was colorful, expansive, and, as models of buildings became more widespread, occasionally even three-dimensional. This was a sun that moved in real-time and a spectacularly unwieldy flight simulator. I spent hours seeing what it was like to get the plane going straight down, how close to the ground I could pull out of the dive. My parents, bless them, said nothing.

The world outside kept turning, and eventually I caught up to it. I started running and was suddenly good at something socially valued. In a matter of weeks, I was fit, confident, and aware of a physical world beyond my house and school. Each route conquered, each loop to and from my starting point, gave me a new piece of the world,🍺.

Google stopped updating Google Earth regularly, and it became buggy and weirdly unpleasant to look at. I didn’t care—I’d stopped using it. I was in and of the real world now.

For the most part, at least. There was one run where I saw a white Prius with some sort of scaffolding affixed to its roof—the Google Street View car. By now Street View was only a shell of what Google Earth, as the major geographic service the company provided. While I didn’t use Street View nearly as much as I had Earth, I still found the basic idea—a constantly updated, 360-degree, first-person POI map of everywhere a terrifyingly powerful and almost certainly evil corporation has been able to get its cars—revolutionary. I stopped running and waved.

The car got closer. I waved and waved and waved until suddenly I realized that my Google Street View account was actually just a Prius with a white bike fastened to the top. The driver, looking more than a little confused, waved back.

I graduated, came to Rochester, lost my way, and stopped running. It turned out that the real world was full of smarter people, faster people, kinder people, all of whom were already reaching goals. I didn’t even know I was supposed to be aiming for. My academic standing became what one would call “precarious,” my body rejected the stress of training and tore itself up, and I spent the summer washing dishes and listening to my boss talk about how Trump would save everyone from every evil.

In the Hero’s Journey, this is what’s known as “the abyss.”

And every time it’s ever come out of his mouth is “More ranch—I’ll tell you when.”

These aren’t tools for conquering the world, but for dreaming it.

whelmed by how little of the world I seemed ready for, I hungered for it. I started reading—big, perorific books with endnotes and themes I didn’t understand, but less pretentious things, too. I read Jon Bois’ online novella ‘11776’, wherein a trio of sentient satellites look down on a world where no one has aged in 15,000 years and everybody plays football on a trans-continental scale, and was amazed to find that the major- ity of his illustrations and graphics were ripped straight from Google Earth. There was art to be made out of something I’d thought of as a childish security blanket. I started writing, and I haven’t stopped yet.

Thinking about Google Earth got me thinking about my own interaction with the faux Street View car. I’d waved because I wanted to be documented as aware, of where I was and of who was viewing me. I wanted to be documented as having complete control of my self. That’s a kind of power that is dangerous and ultimately unattainable. Dictators get drunk off that power. It’s also the opposite of what Street View and Google Earth represent. These aren’t tools for conquering the world, but for dreaming it. Before I was ready to join the real world, I could watch it from afar.

I’m doing better now, in school and in life. When I find myself thinking about what I want to achieve and dreaming the thought of falling short, I go on to Street View. I find the address of whatever grad school I want to attend or the office of whatever literary magazine I want to write for, and remind myself that at the end of the day it’s just a building full of normal people, and that the door can be open for me, too.

Pinto is a member of the Class of 2021.
Timing Matters, College Republicans

By WARISH ZAMAN ORKO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

My parents fear for my life. The recent terrorist attack in New Zealand, where at least 50 Muslims were killed while praying, has shaken them and the global community at large. The Muslim community is in shock and overcome with waves of grief, as I’ve seen with my own eyes. This is a time for communal healing, mourning, love and support. I found the Solidarity Vigil at the Interfaith Chapel to be helpful in my personal grieving process and I’m grateful such a supportive community exists at our university.

Not all groups responded to this tragedy as respectfully. “Religious Extremism in the Middle East: Meet a Muslim w/ AMYA,” an event organized by the College Republicans, had zero self-awareness or understanding and should have been delayed. 270 petitioners agreed that the event should have been canceled. While this event was planned in advance and the timing was unfortunate, going ahead with it when so many in the campus community found it offensive and actively hurtful is highly insensitive to Muslim suffering, and directly harms the feeling of communities on campus.

If the intention of the College Republicans really was to be an ally to the Muslim community and fight Islamophobia, they would have listened to all Muslims, not retreat behind one Muslim organization off-campus that they happen to agree with. It’s perfectly understandable that the diverse Muslim community would have different responses to a traumatic event. In the presence of differing preferences, picking a particular side while ignoring the rest is not allyship by any definition. The most important action an ally can do is to listen and be respectful of the community.

Ignoring 270 requests explicitly saying that this event is harmful to them is not being an ally. Telling a community how to grieve is not being an ally. None of this demonstrates good faith by the College Republicans.

The terrorist attack in New Zealand was due to white supremacy ideology, a form of extremism. The terrorist targeted people at their place of worship due to his vile beliefs about Muslims. Responding to this tragedy by hosting an event with a panel featuring Elan Journo — a right-wing author accused of dehumanizing Palestinians — trivializes their suffering and denies their massacre. It doesn’t take an investigative journalist to make the logical connections, only basic empathy.

In the aftermath of a terrorist attack by a far-right extremist who dehumanizes Muslims, an event with a title featuring his main complaint (“Religious Extremism in the Middle East”) and a panelist that does not see Muslim lives as equal to others is morally abhorrent to say the least.

The University must remain a welcoming and safe environment for people of all faiths and backgrounds. If protecting that requires us to de-platform an Islamophobic author, or canceling an event due to sensitive timing, we must not shy away from our commitments.

Zaman is a member of the Class of 2021.
SHARE YOUR VOICE

orientation
race / ethnicity
gender

SHAPe YOUR SCHOOL

spiritual affiliation
friendships
national origin

political affiliation
ability / disability status
mental health
veteran / military status

socioeconomic class
support systems
class year

age

Check your inbox on Monday, March 25.

Students who successfully complete the survey will have the opportunity to receive a Meliora hat, Communal Principles shirt, or a voucher from Dining Services, goodies from River Campus Libraries, swag from Eastman School of Music, and much more!

Questions? Contact bic@rochester.edu. For a full listing of our tabling locations, check: rochester.edu/college/roundtable/ccsurvey.html.

Your responses will help shape the University of Rochester. With your insight, we’re able to assess our campus climate and implement the change necessary to create an environment in which all students can be successful.
Nyle DiMarco never once wished he could hear.

Ever since 2014, DiMarco has been active in the public sphere and is best known for being the first deaf winner of two famous competitive reality shows: “America’s Next Top Model” and “Dancing with the Stars.”

But instead of his good looks and talent in modeling and dancing, DiMarco prefers to be recognized by his more important role as a Deaf activist.

“I embody my Deaf identity, I cherish who I am, I cherish my culture, and my language[s], American Sign Language and English, making me bilingual.”

DiMarco’s visit to UR this Saturday brought members of the Deaf Community around the Rochester region together. For a city with one of the largest Deaf communities in the nation, his speech was momentous.

“I’m going to make sure that I represent myself as a confident ambassador for Deaf people. Through an interpreter and several ASL signers, he shared his experiences, struggles, and ambitions.

“I embody my Deaf identity, I cherish who I am, I cherish my culture, and my language[s], American Sign Language and English, making me bilingual.”

DiMarco benefited by focusing on a variety of things in the recruitment process. For them it’s not about expertise — DiMarco had no dance experience when he joined Indulgence in his freshman year.

“Everybody brings their own spin,” she continued. “Everybody sees themselves represented in our group.”

The “Mean Girls” theme was developed through video clips showing members of different dance groups on campus, like Xclusive and Bhangra, making snarky comments about Indulgence members.

Between these videos were the dance performances, which transitioned quickly from one to the next, outfit changes and all. The chatter never fell below an excited buzz, and rose to a cacophony as needed to support the performers.

“The audience was amazing,” Obiya said. “The biggest relief was knowing people still showed out and did everything in their power to give us love and their energy.”

IndulgenceUnderdogs Come Out On Top

After practicing 18 hours in a week and staying up till 2 a.m. to perfect formations the night before, the day of Indulgence’s spring show had arrived.

The costumes, lighting, and guest performers were ready. Indulgence — even if its dancers didn’t feel like it — was ready.

The show’s theme was the movie “Mean Girls.” The team would embody the rise against the perils of cliques and bullies. But hours before the show’s start, sophomore Jerrod Prince Diaby, choreographer and captain, received an email and found themselves facing perils of their own.

“Your worst fear is something happening on the day of the show,” Obiya said last but, “the worst thing we could have expected was losing the entire venue.”

The email explained that the building had structural issues that needed to be addressed, and until they were, the venue could not be used for performances.

“The biggest challenge we faced was deciding what to do,” DiMarco said.

The dancers worried about whether to cancel the show or change the venue. Their new location, they were told, would be determined by whatever Event and Classroom Management could set up for them. They would have to redo their formations and lighting directions to suit the new space. They would no longer have an erected stage.

Would people still come? Indulgence decided the show would go on. The dancers would perform and trust the rest to follow.

Their new venue, Feldman Ballroom, seats a maximum of 300. Attendees filled all 300 chairs and kept coming, finding seats on the floor and standing room in the back. Sophomore and show host Andre Hodges thanked everyone. “Thank God y’all are still here, give it up for your selves,” he said, drawing applause, cheers, and whoops. On that note, the show began.

“Everybody brings something.” Obiya said. “Everyone brings their own thing.”

Indulgence fosters this type of diversity by focusing on a variety of things in the recruitment process. For them it’s not about expertise — DiMarco had no dance experience when he joined Indulgence in his freshman year.

“We look for energy, willingness to learn, and people who have a passion for dance,” Obiya said. “Everybody brings something.”

Agyare-Kumi is a member of the Class of 2021.

Questions?

607.962.9151 ♦ admissions@corning-cc.edu

Catch Up or Speed Up @ SUNY CCC

There are at least 7 great reasons to take a class at SUNY Corning Community College this summer.

Choose from online or on-site. Shorten your time (and cost) to graduation. Earn enough credits to keep your scholarships. Really focus ... take just one course at a time. Good habits are hard to form & easy to break. Keep studying! Rack up credits for a minor. Nail down that elusive course.
By WIL AILEN
MANAGING EDITOR

‘Bright Star’ is Syrupy Sweet, Hard to Resist

By OLIVIA ALGER
CULTURE EDITOR

From Buzzfeed to Broadway lighting, the first ever ToddX brought an array of alumni from the entertainment industry to Todd Union in a rapid-fire 24-hour show-case of discussions, workshops, and presentations.

Organized by Nigel Maister, Assistant Director of the UR International Theater Program, ToddX kicked off with a panel discussion featuring five of the speakers. All attendees were past students of Maister, who’s worked in the International Theater Program for 23 years. “There’s a real cross section of people we invited back,” Maister said. “I wanted to get people from different eras of the theater program [...] I wanted a cultural diversity, a diversity of men and women, a diversity of what they were doing.”

Jeff Englander ’10, a chemical engineering graduate who now works as a lighting designer for Broadway shows, led a workshop on automated moving lights. He made the switch from STEM to the arts his junior year at UR, when he visited various engineering firms as a part of a required course and realized that he was more interested in the dream prospects of a career in theater. “Maybe I should be the guy building the scenery instead of the guy in the windowless office upstairs,” he said. “Those cubicles looked miserable.”

Maister emphasized the relationship between STEM and the arts when planning ToddX. “Something the University recognizes, and recognizes with incredible pressing attention, is that the ‘A’ in STEM is missing — the arts,” he said. “Students who have experience in the arts and the humanities fare better and have greater chances of success than students who do not.”

Actors Lifi Femi ’02 and Andrew Polec ’12 brought younger voices with their panel, “The Young Actor’s Life.” Polec, who just finished playing the lead role in a London company production of “Bat Out of Hell” (a musical by Meat Loaf), talked about his experiences in the acting world and what he’s learned from various roles. Femi, who’s working in L.A. on a Netflix original called “Ratched” (a prequel to “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest”) about Ken Kesey’s character Nurse Ratched, talked about the representation of women of color in media. “People have trouble trusting that,” she said. “I’ve passed on stuff that’s insulting and racist, but you’re always negotiating your career with these people and being an artist isn’t any easier.”

The discussions were filled with anecdotes about awkward brushes with fame. Wardrobe supervisor Alex Roscini ’11 has seen many television personalities in the nude, and once accidentally punched Seth Meyers in the throat while fixing his tie backstage. Todd The-ater typically puts on three shows per semester, and ToddX was organized to replace this spring’s first production. “Cardston,” one of Shakespeare’s lost plays, was originally supposed to be produced by Malaysian director Ed Iskander, but had to be cancelled because the director was denied his visa. The speakers also touched on the groundbreaking narratives performed at ToddX, relating to each other with stories of six-hour long productions filled with nudity and crass language. “Theater offers something deeply humanistic in its approach to the world,” Maister said. “Show up, do the work, and be open.”

‘Bright Star’ is Syrupy Sweet, Hard to Resist

By SING CHAN
CULTURE EDITOR

Maddy Wary seems like your average college student, aside from having her own IMDb page and having acted alongside Ben Affleck.

A first-year at UR, Wary recently starred in Netflix film “Triple Frontier” with Affleck, Pedro Pascal, and Oscar Isaac. The movie was directed by the Oscar-nominated J.C. Chandor and was filmed mainly in Hawaii, where Wary lives. “Triple Frontier” is an action thriller that follows a group of former Special Operations agents as they plan a heist on a Colombian drug lord. Affleck plays Tom “Redfly” Davis, the chief of the agents, and Wary plays his daughter, Tess Davis.

Wary described her character to the Campus Times as “an average teenager,” except that she’s “really sneaky” [...] she always acts about adult matters (about adults matters) like a cool 15-year-old, but then you also know that she knows everything that is going on with her par- ents.”

Tess recognizes the struggles of Affleck’s character as he tries to adjust from the life of a secret agent to a more normal one. Wary said viewed her on-screen dad as a negligent but generally good dad.

She first auditioned in her junior year of high school, not expecting to get part at all, especially after the movie ran into financial problems. But a year later, she received a call asking her for a second audition and jumped at the opportunity, even though she was hospitalized. “My sickness was possi- bly a blessing in disguise — she described being so sick that she didn’t feel nervous. For Wary, the role was a natural one, and she likes to imagine Tess as “being [as] close to [her] self as possible.”

But not everything was so easy for the new actress. Wary detailed her struggles during a particular scene, where she says “I miss you” to Affleck’s character. “I kept on getting nervous about that because I could so easily make that so cringe,” she said. “I was frustrated because I could not get myself into the complexity that Tess would feel at that time.”

Many of her scenes take place in the backseat of a car with headphones on, and to calm her nerves and further get into the teenage perspective, Wary would sometimes listen to music over the headphones.

The glamor of the film was also unexpected, especially the red carpet premiere and private screening. Wary wasn’t aware that there was a red carpet until she got there, so she walked it in a $1700 romper she bought from Macy’s the day before.

Now that the Hollywood glam has faded into the distance, Wary has adapted to life at UR, where she plans to double major in brain and cognitive sciences and math- ematics. Wary says acting is “not [her] focus right now” and plans to “keep acting stuff separate from school.” At UR, she is involved in the tennis program and works at the Barnes and Noble Cafe in College Town. She plans to start a club next year to bring the Hawaiian “island vibe” to the Rochester winter. Even though she doesn’t plan on actively pursuing her acting career right now, the opportu- nity was one she won’t forget anytime soon. It was a “cool experience to learn from [Affleck] of how [...] focused he is in his character,” Wary said. “You could tell he’s a professional and knew what he was doing.”

Chang is a member of the class of 2020.

Nigel Maister, Lifi Femi, and Andrew Polec during their ToddX panel.

The musical — by Steve Martin and Ed Brill — follows two stories set one in the 1940s, and one in the 1930s. In the 1940s, young Billy Cane (first-year Jack Bell) tries to get himself published in a North Carolina literary journal, as a young bookstore worker Margo (stel- lar senior Maddy Guttman) paces in his. In his quest for publication, Billy must get past a sharp and shrewd editor, Alice Murphy (graduate student Sara De Franco).

In the 1920s, Alice — 23 years young, well after she got married to Brany Ray Dobsin (Senior Will Cunningham), the Mayor’s son, and much melodrama ensues. The melodrama is, of course, melod- rama, and is only held together by the performances and music. The acting worked smoothly enough in the dialogue scenes, but the performers soared in the musical sequences.

Take an early scene, where Billy’s fa- ther (senior James Fosburgh) tells him that his mother died while he was away. The non-musical part, where Billy asks for his mother while his father tries to fig- ure out how to tell him, was fine, but fa- miliar enough that it didn’t hit viscerally. But moments later, when Fosburgh sang “She’s Gone,” supported by moun- tainолос, and a two-piece live or- chestra, it had a new emotional sting. The part-bluegrass-bray-part-Broad- way-velvet vamping style, mastered by the performers here, is enormously emo- tive. “Don’t Take Him!” might be the best single piece of dialogue in the show, a reaction of excellent acting, singing, and instru- mentation can make convincing drama out of what could easily be wavy in shak- ier hands. In this number, junior Casey Brennan — as the mayor — plays a fine mustache twirler, and De Franco is mem- orable as the small-acter whose despera- tion reveals a powerful sincerity.

But this is a musical, so there is fun and games to accompany the woe. Some of the literary winks are self-congratula- tory. But first-year Richard Nesler and, in particular, soprano Elena Robson are very funny as two of Alice’s barter- ing underlings at the literary journal. Robson leads the play’s funniest — and most fun — number, “Another Round,” a raumbulous an- nouncement of anti- toxication featuring the play’s best cho- rography. This production, like all ROC Players productions, has to do a lot with the confines of the May Room, so there were times early in the play that found the blocking and choreography a bit stag- nant. As the play went on, those elements became more and more dynamic, and by “Another Round,” it was at full bloom. (Senior Charlotte Pillow and first-years Julia Bergel and Kathryn Berger deserve a shout out for their choreography.) By the end, the smaller stage and minimal- ist set (by sophomore Delilah Przybyla) were endearing and appropriately funny.

So yes, you may notice that you’re watching a simplified, face-value version of America. If you let go of your desire for quirky specifics (as i did), you might see this as a thing just as valuable as the many scenes that were times early in the play that found the blocking and choreography a bit stagnant. As the play went on, those elements became more and more dynamic, and by “Another Round,” it was at full bloom. (Senior Charlotte Pillow and first-years Julia Bergel and Kathryn Berger deserve a shout out for their choreography.) By the end, the smaller stage and minimal- ist set (by sophomore Delilah Przybyla) were endearing and appropriately funny.

But moments later, when Fosburgh sang “She’s Gone,” supported by moun- tainолос, and a two-piece live or- chestra, it had a new emotional sting. The part-bluegrass-bray-part-Broad- way-velvet vamping style, mastered by the performers here, is enormously emo- tive. “Don’t Take Him!” might be the best single piece of dialogue in the show, a reaction of excellent acting, singing, and instru- mentation can make convincing drama out of what could easily be wavy in shak- ier hands. In this number, junior Casey Brennan — as the mayor — plays a fine mustache twirler, and De Franco is mem- orable as the small-acter whose despera- tion reveals a powerful sincerity.

But this is a musical, so there is fun and games to accompany the woe. Some of the literal winks are self-congratula- tory. But first-year Richard Nesler and, in particular, soprano Elena Robson are very funny as two of Alice’s barter- ing underlings at the literary journal. Robson leads the play’s funniest — and most fun — number, “Another Round,” a raumbulous an- nouncement of anti- toxication featuring the play’s best cho- rography. This production, like all ROC Players productions, has to do a lot with the confines of the May Room, so there were times early in the play that found the blocking and choreography a bit stag- nant. As the play went on, those elements became more and more dynamic, and by “Another Round,” it was at full bloom. (Senior Charlotte Pillow and first-years Julia Bergel and Kathryn Berger deserve a shout out for their choreography.) By the end, the smaller stage and minimal- ist set (by sophomore Delilah Przybyla) were endearing and appropriately funny.

So yes, you may notice that you’re watching a simplified, face-value version of America. If you let go of your desire for quirky specifics (as i did), you might see this as a thing just as valuable as the many scenes that were times early in the play that found the blocking and choreography a bit stagnant. As the play went on, those elements became more and more dynamic, and by “Another Round,” it was at full bloom. (Senior Charlotte Pillow and first-years Julia Bergel and Kathryn Berger deserve a shout out for their choreography.) By the end, the smaller stage and minimal- ist set (by sophomore Delilah Przybyla) were endearing and appropriately funny.
The Humanities
Fun Zone

By JOHN PINTO
HUMOR EDITOR

Hi! I major in the Humanities (English Creative Writing, to be exact) and objectively have a more interesting and vibrant life than you! Probably more sex, too!

But as much as I love my courses, department, and bits of actual free time, there are times when I feel overlooked by the University at large. In an effort to combat this, I’ve curated this little section to be a playground for my fellow Humanities majors. Enjoy, and remember: STEM people don’t know how to read! Everything here is just for you!

Pinto is a member of the Class of 2020.

The Number Corner

As per University academic policy, we have included some cross-disciplinary material. Please look at this big number and feel enlightened.

The Social Sciences Corner

As per University academic policy, we have also included some cross-disciplinary material from the Social Sciences. Please read about and/or visit the country of the week, which is: Peru.

Free Time Quiz

Can you find the five mistakes in this famous work of literature? Bonus points if you can find the mistake in the accompanying illustration!

“Man is the only creature that consumes without producing. (And by ‘Man,’ I mean ‘Capital.’) He does not give milk, he does not lay eggs, he is too weak to pull the plough, he cannot run fast enough to catch rabbits. (The milk and eggs and shit are all products made by labor. Are you getting this? Am I not being clear enough?) Yet he is lord of all the animals. (Also, Stalin’s pretty fucked up, amiright?) He sets them to work, he gives back to them the bare minimum that will prevent them from starving (the worst kid in your philosophy class will somehow cite this book as an advocate for capitalism), and the rest he keeps for himself. (I wanted to call it “Russia Farm,” but my publisher wouldn’t let me.)” – George Orwell, “Animal Farm”

Find All the Mistakes: Literature Edition

Can you find the five mistakes in this famous work of literature? Bonus points if you can find the mistake in the accompanying illustration!

“Man is the only creature that consumes without producing. (And by ‘Man,’ I mean ‘Capital.’) He does not give milk, he does not lay eggs, he is too weak to pull the plough, he cannot run fast enough to catch rabbits. (The milk and eggs and shit are all products made by labor. Are you getting this? Am I not being clear enough?) Yet he is lord of all the animals. (Also, Stalin’s pretty fucked up, amiright?) He sets them to work, he gives back to them the bare minimum that will prevent them from starving (the worst kid in your philosophy class will somehow cite this book as an advocate for capitalism), and the rest he keeps for himself. (I wanted to call it “Russia Farm,” but my publisher wouldn’t let me.)” – George Orwell, “Animal Farm”

Drawing Section

Follow the prompts and draw the faces of people responding to you telling them that you’re majoring in the Humanities!

“‘Oh! So, uh, what do you think you’ll do with that? Maybe marketing? I’ve got a sister-in-law that works in the city, do you want her number? Here, take her card.’”

“‘I wish I could just draw pictures for my major! No, I haven’t gone to Calc lecture in two months. Yes, of course my parents will keep paying tuition. I just wish you could major in being an influencer, y’know? By the way, have you heard about Blue Apron?’”

“‘Wow, have fun being a barista! I still get very mad online about the four female Ghoulsbusters’ and am very intelligent.’”
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

For Ethington, Friendships Outweigh Dominance

By MICAH GREENBERG

Senior guard Lena Ethington led Women's Basketball to minutes, points, and steals. Though the team ended with a 10–15 record this season, Ethington reflected on the challenges the team has faced and her experience as a player.

How did you feel about this season in comparison to past seasons? I think it definitely could have gone better, but from the standpoint of the fact that a third of the team was first-years this year, we had a lot of growth, which was definitely good. In comparison to last season, [where we graduated four starters], I graduated six seniors [this season].

For a team with so much turnover in the roster? Some of it is going to be expected. Our team was really close.

How did you feel about your performance this season? I could have done better, but it was hard because we graduated so many key players. It was hard because we did a lot last year, so I had a bigger role on the team, and I may have could have done a better job embracing it, but I did what I could.

How did you improve over the course of the season? When you have more responsibility given to you, you’re going to improve somehow, as long as you acknowledge that it’s there.

Now that the season is over, how are things different in terms of time? I don’t know what to do with my extra time. It is really nice, but I’m just not used to having Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays free. It is nice for getting schoolwork done, because I just finish everything by five and then go to sleep. I think it might be easier during the season because you’re always in a time crunch. You say “I actually have to do it now.” It’s easier and harder now because I used to do things on time because I knew I had to. The back-up-against-the-wall idea is easier to work with than what I have now.

How do you think the team is going to do next year? I think they’re going to be fine. We graduated six key people last year. We weren’t necessarily as good this year, but the team was fine, and we’re only graduating two of us this year. Honestly, the team is going to be better next year than it was this year just because everyone is going to have time to adjust.

What is your biggest accomplishment this season? My best friend, when I was eight, said that she was going to go to a basketball camp, and she took me with her. She then made me join a team at a rec center. Then she quit, but I didn’t stop. If you could be any TV character, who would you choose? Tina from “Bob’s Burgers.”

Greenberg is a member of the Class of 2022.
Baseball Continues Hot Stretch Against RIT, Extending Streak to Five

By CESAR GARCIA
SPORTS EDITOR

UR Baseball beat rival Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in a doubleheader on a chilly March Sunday. The game, originally scheduled for a Saturday at 1 p.m., had to be shifted to the next day in order to accommodate the weather.

The ‘Jackets entered the game with confidence after sweeping Elmira College in a three game series. This was not reflective of the season as a whole, with the team having a record of 4–5. The team has attempted to make Towers Field, its home stadium, a fortress by staying undefeated at home.

In the first game, UR started strong and ended stronger. In the first inning, sophomore outfielder Steve Pickering singled to left field, allowing for senior infielder Jack Herman to score. Shortly after, first-year infielder Jacob Matraz singled past the shortstop, resulting in a score by senior catcher Aiden Finch. The next three innings provided no runs as the score was held to 2–0. In the fourth inning, runs started coming through once more. The ‘Jackets scored in the fourth and fifth inning while the Tigers responded with a run of their own in the fifth. The sixth inning provided the most entertainment to the fans as the runs came alive for the ‘Jackets.

The fireworks began when Herman homered to left center field, bringing in another two runs for the ‘Jackets. Immediately after, Finch hit a solo homer to left field. To top it off, sophomore infielder Drew Bankovich hit a two-run double to center field to bring the score to 9–1. RIT was able to grab one back in the seventh inning bringing the final score to 9–2.

Senior pitcher Jack Denzer pitched all seven innings allowing only four hits with seven strikeouts. “[Our bats were alive and our defense was as solid as it gets],” first-year infielder Harper Sy said.

With four wins in a row under their belt, the ‘Jackets moved on to the second half of the doubleheader. Unlike the first game, it was a slow start for both teams. It was not until the third inning that both teams started to heat up. The ‘Jackets put up four runs and the Tigers put up two, resulting in a score of 6–3 after three innings. In both the fourth and fifth inning, UR and RIT put up three runs each, including a three-run homer from Finch. Besides a couple runs in the seventh inning, the game was fairly quiet from then on out, ending in a 14–10 win by the ‘Jackets. Aiden Finch finished extremely strong with a total of seven RBIs across the two games, including six in the final one.

Bring Back the Scholarship in Sports Scholarships

By MICAH GREENBERG
SPORTS EDITOR

Two weeks ago, scandal engulfed several colleges when the U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts announced charges against 50 people. The allegations stem from schemes in which an admissions counselor helped prospective students buy their way into college, specifically by bribing SAT proctors to inflate test scores or enrolling students as athletes, even when they had never played that sport. In some cases, the real faces of students were photoshopped onto a picture of an athlete, creating the fraudulent appearance that the student was a skilled athlete in their own right. Others never played a particular sport, but were admitted on the basis that they were a worthy athlete after bribing coaches.

Clearly, there needs to be more oversight of the recruitment process. Coaches taking bribes is quite bad, but it’s also difficult to detect. It should be far easier to notice when those enrolled as student-athletes do not actually intend to ever play the sport.

It is important to remember that the colleges involved in the scandal, including Yale, California, Wake Forest, UCLA, and Stanford, are all Division I institutions. Schools in Division I have the ability to grant several full scholarships to student-athletes for their athletic abilities. For many of the schools playing at such a high level, the entire athletic department is funded by ticket sales.

Because successful Division I teams, especially in popular televised sports like football and basketball, draw lots of attention to universities, athletic success also theoretically increases the prestige of a school, and in turn brings in more donations. For all of these reasons, Division I coaches essentially act as admissions counselors by recruiting athletes to fill spots on their team’s roster, with little oversight from admissions department.

Even though the UR is a Division I school, don’t think that we are immune to shady tricks aimed at gaining admission into the school. In 2017, a student’s admission was revoked during orientation after the revelation that she lied about being homeschooled. Though this was not a case of criminal fraud or wealthy parents bribing their children into the school, it shows how difficult it can be to detect deception.

Obviously, the college admissions scandal is not limited to sports. But as the March Madness tournaments begin, it is difficult to forget past college sports scandals in comparison to this one. Some high-profile professional athletes had other students take standardized tests on their behalf in order to meet minimum requirements to get into school. In other scandals, colleges enrolled student-athletes in fake classes so that they could spend their time practicing.

There is a big difference between those scandals and the new bribery and fraud scandal. In the new scandal, the fraud was used to get fully unqualified people into college while not playing the sport. The past scandals that have embroiled schools from North Carolina to Memphis were aimed at accepting people who were less qualified academically but extremely athletically skilled.

On the one hand, paying college athletes would allow them to be appropriately compensated for the prestige they bring for new colleges, and paying student-athletes would force schools to weigh athletic skill against academic potential. On the other hand, some argue that schools should no longer offer such extensive scholarships for a wide variety of sports.

It is unclear what will actually change for Division I student athletes as a result of this scandal. But the time has come for schools to reconsider how they recruit athletes.

Greenberg is a member of the Class of 2022.

Submit your show to the FRINGE DAY

Be a part of NY’s largest multidisciplinary performing arts festival.

Rolling admissions close April 15

ROCHESTERFRINGE.COM

Questions? Ask UR Fringe Coordinator Missy Fohl Smith at m.p.smith@rochester.edu