By AYA ABDELRAHMAN CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If Rocky’s wasn’t there, what would you like to see in its place?

An ice cream shop, a taco place, or a spot for snacks and appetizers were among student attendees’ answers at a forum held by Dining Services and Wilson Commons Student Activities last Thursday about the future of Rocky’s Sub Shop and Lounge.

“We’ve noticed that Rocky’s has some sort of island of crisis,” said Laura Ballou, director of the Campus Center and assistant dean of student life operations. “We really believe that we should get students’ feedback so we could know what the next steps should be.”

The possibility of having a pub or bar on campus in Rocky’s space was also discussed.

“We have a permit to serve alcohol in the building so we can put a sub shop somewhere according to students’ needs. The plan is to make some changes in these spaces according to students’ needs. Yet, only six students attended the forum.

“I’d be interested in the sub shop, we know we’ll have to put a sub shop somewhere else on campus,” Director of Marketing of the Dining Services David Feist said. “As a programming space, Rocky’s hasn’t changed since Starbucks was opened, 10 years ago.”

Attendees gave some feedback on the services provided in both Late Night Douglass and Rocky’s.

Some concerns were raised about the ordering system in Late Night Douglass and Rocky’s.

“It would be better to possibly separate between where you order and where you pick the order,” said senior Gabrielle Dimoff, who is also an intern for Dining Services.

Some attendees said that the lines are too long in Rocky’s, which makes it less welcoming space.

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**Eye to Eye Celebrates Learning Differences**

**By ETUA AGYARE-KUMI COPY EDITOR**

In honor of “Strike out Stig-Month,” members of UR Eye to Eye celebrated their learning differences and rejected the terminology of disabilities this past Wednesday at their “Share Your Story” event.

“We want to show people that it’s okay to talk about these things,” said senior and group president Macey Ellison of the inspiration behind the story-sharing event.

Senior Stephanie Mender spoke first, sharing her story for the first time. She has an executive function disorder and confessed that she used to cheat on her elementary school math exams because “adding was pretty hard.”

As she explained her symptoms, which include trouble starting assignments, difficulty finding the right words to explain a situation, and poor short term memory, it became clear that the obstacles students with learning differences face are not unfamiliar to the average person. But they are magnified in a way that makes conventional education challenging.

That hasn’t stopped Mendez and others from accomplishing goals: She is the first in her family to attend college.

“I knew I was able to do things as well as other kids if I just had more time,” first-year Sarina Regehr, the second speaker, said.

Regehr, who is dyslexic, did not receive her diagnosis until her senior year of high school due to her high IQ and grades. Previous examiners did not consider those traits reflective of someone with a learning disability.

“I felt really alone,” Regehr said. “I didn’t know what was different.”

Junior Max Weismann studies engineering and has Tourette’s syndrome. In his story, Weismann expressed a tendency to feel overwhelmed and unable to understand his emotions.

His story also stressed the importance of allies in dealing with learning difficulties. Weismann emphasized the critical role his high school honors mathematics teacher had on her childhood. Her disorder left her unable to process phonics, which limited her ability to read and learn new vocabulary.

“Whenever I didn’t know what a word meant, I just assumed it meant nice,” Baum said, eliciting laughter from the crowd.

Ellison, who suffers from dyscalculia, dyslexia, and auditory language processing disorder shared her story last, explaining that she did not speak until she was two.

After getting a 17 on her ACT test, she revealed, she did not expect to make it to college. Now, she will graduate in the fall, after four years of being actively involved in leadership and community organizations on campus.

“Having a learning difference is challenging,” Waye said. “But it’s part of who I am and I wouldn’t change a thing.”

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

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**Engineers Get Cheesy With It**

For engineering week, students competed by seeing who could build the tallest towers out of cheese puffs and toothpicks.

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**Plans for Rocky's Discussed**

By AYA ABDELRAHMAN CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Confused and concerned — that’s how many club sports presidents reacted to SA Senate’s recent decision not to grant the Equestrian Team a funding exception for next year.

“The entire process that happened last week was disingenuous, including the voting, the abrupt end to the meeting,” said Daniel Meister, the president of the Club Sports Council, said at last Monday’s Senate meeting.

“I felt like I needed to show up today in order to have my voice heard, because I could not hear last week. I feel like the 20 of you, 17, deputy speaker, speaker, and chief justice, should be extremely disappointed in yourselves for not allowing the chance for a club that has been on campus for 26 years to attempt to create a budget to succeed.”

Over the last week, the Campus Times reached out to all student organizations under the club sports budget 41, excluding the Equestrian Team — and received responses from 14 of their presidents.

Many felt uninformed or said SA hadn’t talked to them about the funding situation. But many opposed a proposal to have SA officials to repurpose the money that would have gone to Equestrian to buy uniforms and hire an assistant for all teams.

“We feel that uniforms for our team are not as important as maintaining a diverse campus atmosphere,” senior Jescica Sowa, the club softball team president, said. “Each club that exists adds to the campus climate and exists as a chance for a club that has existed for 26 years to succeed.”

Wittig was on campus for 26 years and was extremely disappointed in your representation.

I feel like the 20 of you, 17, deputy speaker, speaker, and chief justice, should be extremely disappointed in yourselves for not allowing the chance for a club that has been on campus for 26 years to attempt to create a budget to succeed.”
STUDENTS COMBAT STIGMA AGAINST LEARNING DISABILITIES

Students gathered this past Wednesday at the “Share Your Story” event to discuss their personal stories and how they embraced them in honor of “Strike out Stig-Month.”

TODD UNION, 7 P.M. - 9 P.M.
ART EXHIBITION: BLANKET STATEMENT
HARTNETT GALLERY, 4 P.M. - 7 P.M.
Opening night reception for artist Julia Kwon's Blanket Statement. More exhibition dates will be announced throughout March.

INTERNATIONAL THEATRE PROGRAM: WE DON'T LIVE ON MARS YET
TOOLED UNION, 7 P.M. - 9 P.M.
The U of R International Theater Program will be presenting a performance that tells the History of Rochester and the challenges that students face in thinking about how refugees fit into their lives.

CORRECTIONS

An article last issue said the Equestrian Team’s total budget, $24,500, was 22 percent of the club sports subsidy budget. More accurately, the club’s about $17,780 subsidy is that 22 percent.

Students Suggest Changes for Rocky’s at Forum

FROM PAGE 1

After SA Senate Decision, Club Sports Express Confusion

“By not agreeing with SA’s decisions to implement policies without our input [and] then try to get rid of a club when they can’t follow their implemented policies,” said Busch, who explained that her team’s frustration with the new rules helped them to understand Equestrian’s predicament. “Instead of restricting club sports, to fit into certain guidelines, the school needs to find a better way to provide the support it promised to us when they recognized all of our clubs.”

More than half of respondents expressed concerns that they were under informed or kept in the dark about the Equestrian situation.

“I didn’t know anything about this debate for a long while and wouldn’t have known anything about it had I not heard through the grapevine what was going on,” UR Kendo president and junior Melanie De Jong said.

De Jong added: “In cases like this, cases that so profoundly impact the functioning of one of our clubs, I want to be bothered. I want to hear about it somewhere, be that at Club Sports meetings, from the Student Organization Insider, or by some other means, and have the opportunity to provide feedback. I believe that steps like this would help it feel like our elected officials are working with us rather than at us or above us, as it sometimes feels like they are.”

Despite the confusion, the club sports presidents made one thing clear: They don’t believe the new SA funding guidelines for club sports should be the end-all-be-all.

“A budget cap makes sense if you’re comparing baseball, basketball, and soccer perhaps, but the Equestrian Team is something entirely different,” said one club sports president, who asked to remain anonymous.

“Horses are expensive, and there is no way for the team to function with the same level of funding that say, volleyball or badminton gets. In order to have a diverse range of sports at the U of R, we must make occasional exceptions to the budget cap, and the Equestrian Team is a perfect example,” Schildkraut is a member of the Class of 2020.

Students gathered this past Wednesday at the "Share Your Story" event to discuss their personal stories and how they embraced them in honor of "Strike out Stig-Month."

"Our goal is to create an inviting atmosphere for students to gather socially, provide exciting programs, and to incorporate desired actions in those spaces," said Feist. "We realize that there is a lot of opportunities within Rockys’.

RIVER CAMPUS LIBRARIES UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT FORUM
PUSH-PRESS LIBRARY, TRANSFROM SQUARE, 7 P.M. - 9 P.M.
The RCL will be hosting their first Undergraduate Student Forum and will be talking about study spaces while also taking in student feedback.

NATIONAL PANCAKE DAY BENEFIT
IHOP, 7 A.M. - 7 P.M.
IHOP will be giving guests a free stack of buttermilk pancakes and be asking for a donation to Golisano Children’s Hospital.

RIVER CAMPUS LIBRARIES UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT FORUM
PUSH-PRESS LIBRARY, TRANSFORM SQUARE, 7 P.M. - 9 P.M.
The RCL will be hosting their first Undergraduate Student Forum and will be talking about study spaces while also taking in student feedback.

WEDNESDAY | FEB. 28
ROSALYN ENGELMAN: BEAUTY IS EVERYWHERE
NAG, 11 A.M. - 1 P.M.
The exhibition will be featuring 5 of Engelman’s work from her 2005-04 series, "Echo Sonata".

SOCIAL GOOD CAREER EXPO
FREDERICK DOUGLAS BALLROOM, 11 A.M. - 2 P.M.
The Gwen M. Greene Center for Career Education and Connections will be helping students find internships and connections to employers.
Born in a Circus, Student Performer Juggles Classes and Passions

Sophia, who is also pursuing a major in theater, said sometimes it is difficult to balance the two. "I have to manage my time. I have to stay on top of my work," she said. "I try to set aside specific times for specific things and take care of my responsibilities before I do anything else, including juggling."

Sophia also has to manage her performance schedule, which can be challenging. "I have to figure out how much time I have to study and practice each week," she said. "I have to make sure I'm not overcommitting myself.

Despite the challenges, Sophia loves juggling. "I feel very fulfilled when I can successfully juggle live iguanas," she said. "It's a great way to connect with others and share my skills."
Lamberton Conservatory: A Home-Grown Wonderland

By Jackie Powell  
COLUMNIST

Welcome to a place where the trees follow you with their garnet-tinged leaves; where patrons to Shellville greet you like they are far from a surprise. And be careful, you don’t want to trip over a button on a mushroom.

Since its inception in 1911, the Lamberton Conservatory, found in Highland Park, has provided Rochesterians with a space to appreciate diverse flora and fauna.

“The park was originally designed with the well-being of the people in mind, some place to go and enjoy nature. And I think the conservatory was an extension of that,” said Noelle Nagel, who works for Monroe County’s Department of Parks, as a horticultural interpreter. “Most people who were around here in 1911 didn’t get to travel a lot and see some of the tropical plants.”

The exterior of the greenhouse greets visitors with a white penagon-shaped portico with two symmetrical Ionic columns and a large rusted bronze medallion. More bronze connects a bust of Alexander B. Lamberton, the park’s namesake, to the top of a Grecian overhang. The connectors are vines, which hold his memorial, a cross, a deer head and a scroll. An 1866 University of Rochester graduate, Lamberton — who, like the Lorax, spoke for the trees — welcomed his visitors with a busy mustard and stern eyes.

Lamberton is the man who brought the park system, including the Seneca Park Zoo and all of its animals, to Rochester.

The conservatory has proved popular with students.

“The park is a great place to learn and about everything that was around me,” senior Madeline Mullholand said.

Mullholand was perplexed in her temporary Wonderland. After entering the greenhouse, she was compelled by Shellville, the conservatory’s colony of 10 turtles. Their eyes were wide and their necks, embroidered with yellow blobs, were stretched.

Within their little community, the terrapin and Super Sayan turtles, along with the Russian and marguerite tortoises, enjoyed a modest feast consisting of lush broccoli stalks and red bell pepper perches. One tiny turtle appeared scammed for the pepper piece, eyeing it as if it were the reptilian Holy Grail.

Twenty-five aquatic leatherback turtles flitted around from pond to pond and even basked in the sun when graced with the opportunity.

Aside from the turtles was Chuck Norris, Norris, a lone tortoise, had been exiled to live alone without siblings or a mother. The Lamberton decided to raise the duckling and let her mother. The Lamberton decided to raise the duckling and let her go eventually, but the young mallard didn’t want to leave.

The ducks always engage with visitors and performs for anyone willing to watch and be a part of her show.

“If on a treasure hunt or just casually strolling through the greenhouse, adjacent to Shellville, and visiting the Seneca Park Zoo and all of its animals, to Rochester, we noticed that it has a sign that doesn’t make it far from a surprise. And be careful, you don’t want to trip over a button on a mushroom.

Shellville greet you like they are far from a surprise. And be careful, you don’t want to trip over a button on a mushroom.

Nagel understands the educational responsibility of the Lamberton, too. She wants members of the Rochester community to grasp the absolute necessity of plant life. The signs dotting the place are written with personality, ensuring the conservatory doesn’t disappear into nature.

“I really like first thing when I come in and there’s nobody here and the birds are running around and the ducks are quacking and the tralls are splashing around and when the suns come up and I’m out there with my hoses, watering and my dog, my flowers, just beautiful,” she said. “It’s just so good for you to be surrounded by all these living things. It’s a happy place, my happy place.”

Powell is a member of the Class of 2018.

Cedar Mediterranean Restaurant (Pita) Pockets My Dollar

CT Eats Webmaster

Cedar is a family business that opened up on Monroe Avenue, the lesser known, slightly grimer, but way more down-to-earth sibling of Park and South avenues, about a year and a half ago.

The place is in a plaza with a sign that doesn’t make it stick out much. I’m under the impression that this sign was put up to leave you with low enough expectations that’ll be met. The place looks like a pouch, and then shove in what you want and heat the whole thing up. In the case of my visit, I went with a chicken shawarma pita pocket, a sweet cubbie of roasted veggies, garlic spread, and butter-soft chicken carved off of a burning hot rotisserie of flavor.

Now, the best thing about my order was that I didn’t get a chicken pita pocket on its own. No snore. I got the chicken pocket combo, which came with a salad on the side and a well-sized drink, all just for $10. And I’m telling you, this platter was just amazing. $10 nabbed me a beautiful mix of roasted veggies, a little bit of cheese on top, my warm, doughy pita pocket, and a seltzer on the side to help bubble down this delicious Mediterranean feast.

(Note: Seltzer doesn’t count for the $10 combo. Only fountain drinks count, but the cashier was a nice guy about it for this one time.)

After wolfing down my pita pocket in about half the time that it took my friend Sean, who was selling me on this app that he started working part time for, I immediately fell into a half-awake food coma, slowly losing my grasp on the reality surrounding me. I continued talking to Sean about deep philosophical forays into topics like the division of people due to the desire for a like-minded community and how people are constantly facing the same internal troubles as history goes on, cycle after cycle. All this while the schwarma slowly settled into my stuffed belly.

Cedar is located right at 746 Monroe Avenue. If you bring about seven bucks, you can get pretty much any of the pita pockets they have as its own combo. For $10, you can nab one of the combos I mentioned before, which can be made with any of the pita pockets that they have. The place won’t pop out in your face when you pass by, but if you’re looking for a great deal, you won’t regret having a sit down for some lunch. See you all.

Novia is a member of the Class of 2018.
All Writers Should Debate

By ARYAMAN MAJUMDAR
OPINIONS EDITOR

For years, I believed that writing was the epitome of linguistic and logical expression. Writing is deliberate, controlled, improved upon before being read. This means that the articulator has ample opportunity to accurately convey their thoughts. Speech on the other hand is real-time. Speech information in its final form is at best a marginal improvement over the initial thought. Why? Because speech is temporally closer to the thought, and has therefore not undergone the refinement that exists in writing. Aside from occasional linguistic slips giving psychological insight into the speaker, speech is, by and large, further from the truth than writing is — or so I thought.

The time constraint only makes speech the inefficient form if the speaker has no great incentive to speak within the given time. Generally, in times of incredibly high strain when you have to get something done — when you truly believe that you have to do a thing as if your life depended on doing that thing — you just get the thing done. If this belief is artificially created, it still works. The prime example is sport. For good sportspersons, their sport is everything. Sportspersons transform what we see as arbitrary stimuli — goals, scores, games — into life-or-death situations. To say that these stimuli are not life-or-death is wrong. The essentiality of the situation is a mental state, and so to the sportsperson, it is life-or-death. A similar feeling for speech is simple to instill: Turn speech into a sport. Debate does this.

The type of debate I’m specifically advocating is British parliamentary debate, where you’re given 15 minutes to deliberate on a motion before speaking. Your stance on the motion is assigned by the moderator, who, forced to uphold values and logic that you don’t agree with is like being forced to play football for a team you don’t support. The mental openness that it takes to understand the logic of a side you don’t necessarily agree with, the dearth of thought needed to deconstruct the logic in time, the verbal ability needed to convert the logic into words in time, and the emotional awareness needed to master the delivery of the words in time altogether make debate a crazy form of mental acrobatics. Debate’s use of the voice, face, and body as articulators, along with its time constraint allow it to do something that writing has never done: Turn language and logic into a sport.

Writers need to learn this sport, and apply its rules to their writing. Parliamentary debate forces you to establish a logic for your claims and walk through the logic incrementally, carefully, cautiously. Lapses in logic are too common in everyday writing. And although one could argue that such lapses are more evident and thus more scrutinizable in writing owing to the fact that writing is a recorded medium, I would argue that the lack of immediate repudiation in writing, generally speaking, outweighs the higher visibility of the lapses. The lack of immediate repudiation means that there’s no drive for writers to improve their logic. This means many writers with incredible ideas don’t sound convincing to their readers and thus don’t get their points across.

I’ve been guilty of such lapses myself. Debate has made me more aware of them, and I think it can do the same for all writers. So, to all writers: Stop writing for a week, and start speaking instead.

Majumdar is a member of the Class of 2019.

Pre-Spring Break Cheers and Jeers

CHEERS to service dogs on campus.
JEERS to loud people in the ever-echoing Retiinner.
CHEERS to the pajama-themed party on the Frat Quad last Saturday.
JEERS to people who press the handicap door button and then stand in front of the door waiting for it to slowly open in an empty hallway.
CHEERS to the Riverview and Brooks Hall Council giving out free tickets to the excellent “Black Panther.”
JEERS to the new chicken tenders in the Pit. We want the old ones back.
CHEERS to not having to shave your legs thanks to the bitter Rochester winter.
JEERS to people who walk in pairs on the spiral staircase in Wilson Commons. Especially those who stop midway.
CHEERS to the Sriracha cupcakes in Danforth.
JEERS to the questionable inclusion of bacon in many UR soups.
CHEERS to the recent “Shrek Forever After” viewing in Rocky’s.
JEERS to the recent “Shrek Forever After” viewing in Rocky’s.
CHEERS to former Dean Feldman becoming University President Feldman this coming week.
JEERS to the Douglass Public Lounge fireplace never being lit.
CHEERS to spring being so close.
JEERS to dreary rain and heavy snow in late February.

This editorial is published with the consent of a majority of the Editorial Board: Justin Trombly (Editor-in-Chief), Sarah Weise (Managing Editor), Aryaman Majumdar (Opinions Editor), and Ben Schmitz (Publisher). The editor-in-chief and the Editorial Board make themselves available to the UR community’s ideas and concerns. Email editor@campustimes.org.

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WILSON COMMONS 102A
UNIVERSITY OF ROCHELLE, ROCHELLE, NY 14627
OFFICE: (585) 275-5942 / FAX: (585) 273-5303
campustimes.org / editor@campustimes.org

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: JUSTIN TROMBLY
MANAGING EDITOR: SARAH WEISE

NEWS EDITORS
SHREYA KOUL
TRACY XIU

FEATURES EDITORS
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JESSE HESS

PUBLISHER: BEN SCHMITZ
BUSINESS MANAGER: NICOLE ARSENEAU

CAmpUstimes.org / editor@CAmpUstimes.org

CHEERS

 cs sputniks, seagulls, and bright pink flowers.

CHEERS

FEARS

CHEERS

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CAMPUS TIMES

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Don’t Forget About The Lost Dreams of Syria

By AYA ABDELRAHMAN

I n an effort to preserve my mental wellbeing, I once made a decision to stop watching videos related to the massacres in Syria. I selfishly wanted to protect myself from the horrors of the conflict.

Many such videos of the deadly conflict are accompanied by graphic content warnings. Unlike the people experiencing these horrid scenes, we as viewers have the luxury of scrolling away. Yes, the world is unfair.

There is no better euphemism to say that people are unjustly dying. Around 500 civilians were killed this past week alone, during the bombardment of the Syrian city of Ghouta. According to BBC News, the victims included 121 children.

A death toll of 500 means that 500 dreams were crushed and 500 hopes for better lives were smashed forever. How many of these victims were parents who wanted to live until the day they saw their kids achieve greatness? And how many of these parents saw their own children die? What horrors did the children endure before reaching eternal peace?

The death toll is not just a number. Among the 121 children, those who were younger than 7 hadn’t ever seen peace because they were born after the conflict began in 2011. Those who were older had seen the relative stability of pre-conflict Syria and had to undergo the transition into war.

How did we come to the point where we see news with huge death tolls on our Facebook or Twitter feeds and just keep scrolling down?

Imagine the scariest moment of your life being prolonged for an unknown period of time. Imagine what we think of a “normal death” becoming a luxury. This is the reality for the Syrian people, and we shouldn’t turn a blind eye to it. The least we can do is share their stories. Everything counts — even the helpless “thoughts and prayers” post matters.

The least I can do is write this article. I believe in the butterfly effect. I believe that even the smallest actions, like a post on Facebook, may motivate someone to change their career and possibly become someone who can help Syria. As silly as this may sound, it was this idea that gave me motivation to write this article. I believe that my article could have a bigger impact of some sort.

Like UNICEF, which issued a blank statement on Syria saying that it had run out of words, I am speechless. This was a personal attempt to manifest my feelings of helplessness, anger, and sadness over the lack of reactions to the recent horrific massacre in Ghouta.

I know that we are only human and that we are programmed to get used to events as they recur. But we should always remind ourselves of what is beyond numbers, any numbers — people. Behind each number is the destruction of the hopes and dreams of thousands of people.

Abdelrahman is a member of the Class of 2020.
Russia Hosts Alternate Olympics to Protest Ban

By MICAH GREENBERG
SPORTS EDITOR

When the International Olympic Committee announced a ban on Russia at the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics, nobody was more upset than Russian President Vladimir Putin. Late that night, Putin assembled his cabinet at the Kremlin, an act allegedly accomplished by having a bear roar on a special radio frequency.

Every member of Putin’s cabinet was in his office in a matter of seconds. They all sprint there out of fear, because Putin has repeatedly said that the last one there would be a rotten egg, and nobody likes a rotten egg.

At the meeting, many options were discussed.

“I didn’t dope at past Olympics,” Putin said. “What if I compete in all of these events?”

But when they checked with the Olympic Committee, Putin’s cabinet learned that all Russian government officials were banned from attending. The Russian president then threw a tantrum, saying that he wanted his mommy and that the Olympic Committee wasn’t sharing.

But then a young official proposed his own plan.

“Mr. Putin, we could just host our own Olympics,” he said timidly.

As if it was listening to Harry Styles’ “Sign of the Times,” Putin instantly halted his outburst and smiled.

And so Putin got to work. After calling some of his deputies, he designated Sochi as the site of his Alternate Winter Olympics. Sochi seemed like a good place for the Olympics, because the Olympic Committee chose the resort city for the 2014 Olympics, although Putin paid the host selectors a lot to make that happen for tricks.

However, when the Olympic Committee found out about Putin’s plan, they called Putin and thanked him for the cash, but we hold the copyright for all of the international snowboarding of all of these sports.”

Putin was mad.

“If there’s one thing I don’t mess with,” Putin told his cabinet, “it’s intellectual property law.”

But that same timid cabinet secretary spoke up, saying that they could come up with their own Olympic events. Putin was pleased with this official’s creativity, but already had 10 more ideas to tail him and bug his house.

So Putin began to come up with new Winter Olympic events. He started with the most obvious event, Snow Dropping, where competitors would be dropped out of a helicopter into a snowy field, and whoever landed furthest into the snow could win a gold medal. Since dropping prisoners from helicopters into snowy Siberian fields is a Russian pastime, this event was met with praise in the cabinet room.

Meanwhile, the Russians were fast at work coming up with new Olympic events. They replaced curling with downhill curling, in which the stones need to go through the entire luge track before any sweeping. They also added Zamboni driving as a class of events, some of which were for speed, some for skill.

However, as news of the inclusion of Zamboni driving spread, American Zamboni drivers that they could join. Putin decided that Americans could compete on behalf of: Athletes From America.”

More new events were invented as well. Snowball fighting was set to be one of the most popular events. Bear riding was a favorite among Russian patriots. Upside down skeleton was a creative workaround for sliding sports, where the athlete would slide down on their stomach while carrying a sled on their back.

Putin reached out to many of the countries not competing in the Winter Olympics, including Afghanistan, Afganistan, Cuba, and Zimbabwe, all of which sent athletes only to the Alternate Olympics.

The Alternate Olympics have been a success so far, rivaling the real Olympics in television ratings while maintaining a much lower budget.

Greenberg is a member of the Class of 2021.

Microsoft Announces New Product: The Zune

By JOHN PINTO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Microsoft entered the nascent MP3 player market Friday morning by announcing the Zune, a portable media player designed to compete with longstanding industry titan Apple. The device was unveiled at the end of a news conference at Microsoft headquarters.

The Zune will have many of the features now standard in the MP3 player market, such as a click wheel (touchscreen models are hinted as the goal for a potential second generation release later this year) and both music and video playback capabilities.

The Zune will also have customizable themes and desktop backgrounds that Microsoft Chief Marketing Executive Humbert Slothrop said customers would be “really excited about.”

Also announced were plans for sharing content between Microsoft devices, such as the Xbox 360. For instance, users will be able to play shared songs up to three times per day, before being redirected to the Zune Marketplace, Microsoft’s official online music and video store.

There are no current plans for the Zune to be compatible with Spotify, Soundcloud, Bandcamp, or any other music streaming service. The Zune will also not have internet or cellular access.

Larger than an iPod and colored an earthy light brown, the Zune drew both subdued cheers and stiffled jeers upon its unveiling. Billy Palmer, a tech journalist for Extreme Microsoft Hacks Magazine, called the design “inspired, a perfect blend of earthy tones and New Age electronic artistry.” In contrast, another journalist, speaking anonymously, claimed the Zune most resembled “a robot.”

The Zune’s considerable size and heft was another issue brought up during the unveiling. Master of Ceremonies Jorge Bolton seemed to have some difficulty fitting the entire device in his pocket while toutting the Zune’s portability, at one point joking that it “seemed [his] pants [had] shrunk a bit in the washing.”

The Zune is marketed as having a 30 GB hard drive, with additional flash drive storage models having up to 4 GB of storage. An 8 GB storage model is in the works for what Microsoft is calling “dedicated users.” Current Apple products that the Zune will be competing with, such as the iPhone X or iPod Touch, range in storage from 32 to 256 GB.

UR students will be able to get in on the Zune’s rollout by registering with Microsoft to become “Zune Masters.”

For the first ten events, the Zune will be competing with several Apple products that the company entered the MP3 player market Friday morning by announcing the Zune, a portable media player designed to compete with longstanding industry titan Apple. The device was unveiled at the end of a news conference at Microsoft headquarters.

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The Zune’s considerable size and heft was another issue brought up during the unveiling. Master of Ceremonies Jorge Bolton seemed to have some difficulty fitting the entire device in his pocket while toutting the Zune’s portability, at one point joking that it “seemed [his] pants [had] shrunk a bit in the washing.”

The Zune is marketed as having a 30 GB hard drive, with additional flash drive storage models having up to 4 GB of storage. An 8 GB storage model is in the works for what Microsoft is calling “dedicated users.” Current Apple products that the Zune will be competing with, such as the iPhone X or iPod Touch, range in storage from 32 to 256 GB.

But that same timid cabinet secretary spoke up, saying that they could come up with their own Olympic events. Putin was pleased with this official’s creativity, but already had 10 more ideas to tail him and bug his house.

So Putin began to come up with new Winter Olympic events. He started with the most obvious event, Snow Dropping, where competitors would be dropped out of a helicopter into a snowy field, and whoever landed furthest into the snow could win a gold medal. Since dropping prisoners from helicopters into snowy Siberian fields is a Russian pastime, this event was met with praise in the cabinet room.

Meanwhile, the Russians were fast at work coming up with new Olympic events. They replaced curling with downhill curling, in which the stones need to go through the entire luge track before any sweeping. They also added Zamboni driving as a class of events, some of which were for speed, some for skill.

However, as news of the inclusion of Zamboni driving spread, American Zamboni drivers that they could join. Putin decided that Americans could compete on behalf of: Athletes From America.”

More new events were invented as well. Snowball fighting was set to be one of the most popular events. Bear riding was a favorite among Russian patriots. Upside down skeleton was a creative workaround for sliding sports, where the athlete would slide down on their stomach while carrying a sled on their back.

Putin reached out to many of the countries not competing in the Winter Olympics, including Afghanistan, Afganistan, Cuba, and Zimbabwe, all of which sent athletes only to the Alternate Olympics.

The Alternate Olympics have been a success so far, rivaling the real Olympics in television ratings while maintaining a much lower budget.

Greenberg is a member of the Class of 2021.

Microsoft entered the nascent MP3 player market Friday morning by announcing the Zune, a portable media player designed to compete with longstanding industry titan Apple. The device was unveiled at the end of a news conference at Microsoft headquarters.

The Zune will have many of the features now standard in the MP3 player market, such as a click wheel (touchscreen models are hinted as the goal for a potential second generation release later this year) and both music and video playback capabilities.

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UR students will be able to get in on the Zune’s rollout by registering with Microsoft to become “Zune Masters,” ambassadors for the Zune who will be charged with marketing it to their fellow students, as well as running Zune-centric on-campus events. Free Zunes have been promised as payment, along with additional Microsoft merchandise.

When asked why now was the time for Microsoft to step forward into uncharted territory, Slothrop was quoted as saying, “What we’ve been hearing from our customers is, ‘We love how interconnected all Apple devices are. The sharing features, the compatible hardware, even the consistent aesthetic choices. We can’t really ever conceive switching to an entirely different service for our media consumption needs.’ That’s all well and good, a singular and unified solution, but what’s a market without a little competition?”

Microsoft Design Executive Don Incandenza was more to the point: “we’re going to add a little spice to our customers’ lives,” he said, “and hopefully our shareholders’ as well.”

Apple declined comment on all aspects of the Zune’s release, and no announcement...
Tyler, the Creator fucks with Whole Foods.

"It really don't care," Tyler's fellow bandmate said during his tour appearance with Vince Staples at the Main Street Armory last Wednesday.

Tyler had only found out about Wegmans that day, but what set him apart from other artists is his hometown homages into their performances — it was honest, and extensively, he went on about our beloved store.

"They sell sushi in there, they bake bread next door — oh my God, bitch. Whole Foods is trash to me," he said.

Tyler is a neon yellow getup, spazzed on stage like a caffeine-addled toddler. The black bulletproof vest—clad Vince spent stretches locked in a thousand-yard stare or lingering around the side of the stage, seemingly bored but effortlessly cool.

Tyler's set featured greenery, sun-;ary-night lights, and a massive, halved tree, its knots branded leaning against its stump to create a ramp and platform. Vince was backed only by a wall of square screens, which spun and flipped, filmed elaborate strobe patterns, and together blasted glitched-out video clips and elemental montages.

Tyler exploded, Vince withdrew, and neither was bound by expectation.

The irony of course was that both artists care, a lot. It showed in their albums last year — the basis for their joint tour — and in their sets. "Hitchcock of my modern day / Where the fuck is my VMA? / Where the fuck is my Grammy?" Vince flowed in his early performance of "Homage," off 2017's "Big Fish Theory."

During many of the industrial—electronic "Big Fish" songs he ran through that night, he'd simmer in sound before launching into breath—less verses. With intense spurts, he'd accent paranoic lyrics — "Pray the police don't come blow me down / cause of my complex / Everybody think they know me now / Cause I'm chicken-checkin' on the opener 'Bagbak.'"

Sometimes the systemic racism and choking fame and allure—ing materialism he often dissected had seemed too heavy for Vince to bear (see his audio suicide on 2016's "Prima Donna" EP), and he conveyed that well by mixing in a few subdued but powerful performances.

"Sometimes people disappear / Thought that was my biggest fear / I should have protected you," he murmured during his performance of "Alyssa's Interlude," barely moving from one spot as purple waves churned on the screens behind him.

Tyler started his set atop his tree with "Where This Flower Bloomed" off last year's "Flower Boy" (get the theme?), ready to excitement. "Tell these black kids they could drop the f-bomb, rip off their flat-brim hat to reveal scruffy blue, shit, I'll do it too," he rapped, "I ain't doin' fine, lost my mother / Ain't Got Time." Before the latter, he asked people to put their phones away — "I'm right here, look at me, I'm right here" — and shake their asses. Afterward, he threw his pelvis across the stage while repeating, with a higher and higher pitch, "Rochester, that was fucking hot."

On the whole, Tyler and Vince are a near—perfect pair for a tour. With Vince, you get sparse, industrial whip lash. With Tyler, a colorful mania that feeds, and feeds off fans.

At the end of his swansong, "See You Again," Tyler pointed his mic to the crowd and cupped his ear, listening as scores sang out, "I don't know if I'ma see you again," before rolling into bow and leaving stage.

Unspoken was: "I hope I do."

Trombly is a member of the Class of 2018.

Four Groups Shine at Strong Concert

By Will Aiken

Four different groups played last Friday evening in the Wind Symphony, Brass Choir, and Jazz Ensemble concert in Strong Auditorium, all of them conducted by director William Tiberio.

In general, I space out a lot, but instrumental music makes me really meditative. I like the sort of music offered up by the Wind Symphony, Brass Choir, and Jazz Ensemble because it lets my mind go places freely. It's the same reason that I like to sit through the credits in a movie theater, just listening to the soundtrack. There's a clarity to my thought that I don't really get anywhere else.

As soon as the Brass Choir began, I experienced an epiphany that I love tuning. In this case, tuning is when all of the instruments will be playing specific notes to make sure everyone's in the right key; nothing's screwy with any of the instruments, etcetera. For me, tuning is like an instrument. It's about knowing how to read music, how to play the music. It's a combination of these things that makes it a more profound experience.

The Brass choirs also gave good, showy performances. The soloists in all cases were wildly skillful. It was towards the end of the Tuesday ensemble's performance that I realized how much I love trumpets. There's something so lonely about them. Even in a group, they feel solitary. It's sad but hopeful in a way that I can't fully describe.

The Thursday ensemble's joy—ous, multilayered, upbeat rendition of "Blackbird" was one of the high—lights of the evening. The number featured (of course) a blasting, fun trumpet section as well as an enjoyably puffy bass appearance.

Wind Symphony immediately reminded me of how much I love watching those old movies with overtures at the beginning, when they played a song called "Go," by Samuel Hazo, that ranged from sinister to triumphant. Perhaps the highlight of the whole evening was a fascinating song performed by Wind Symphony that used voice, pencil tapping, and one footstomp, "Homecoming" by Alex Shapiro. It was here that something first occurred to me. Maybe more than anything, I like the atmosphere of live instrumental music. In most other live performance arts, somebody is talking, addressing you, interacting with you. With instrumental it's really just you, the musician, and the music. In a week, a school, world so hectic, it's nice to enjoy, for too hours, such a simple relationship.

Aiken is a member of the Class of 2021.
"Vogue Through the Ages" was a mind-blowing culture demonstration and a confidence-inspiring show I had the privilege of attending this past Saturday night. Though most would have varying plans on a Saturday night, I found mine filled with fascinating people, an intimate view into a dance movement that has been around for over 20 years, and an amazing self-esteem boost.

“Voguing” is a style of dance that developed from 1960s Harlem Ballroom. It was established in the 1980s but achieved its mainstream status when it was featured in Madonna’s “Vogue” music video in the 1990s. The style has gained extreme momentum since then and has become a global phenomenon. Though it developed from Harlem Ballroom, it was also inspired by the poses in Vogue magazine (from which it derived its name) and ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics. Dance is one of my favorite art forms, mostly due to its extreme variety and ability to send a message through physical expression rather than words. Yes, there is ballet and tap and all of the basic dance forms that are universally known and appreciated worldwide, but it is the forms that are developed for the purpose of a movement that are the most extraordinary. I had never heard of voguing before going to this show, but now that I have seen and enjoyed it in the way it was meant to be viewed and enjoyed, I cannot believe that more people haven’t found it.

This show specifically featured Rochester natives and those from the neighboring Rochester community. The performers had intimate knowledge of the style and had all the love for it and confidence in the world to showcase it to the audience. They presented us to a form of vogue fem, named for the exaggerated feminine movements presented in the style, called “catwalk” or “runway.” There was a large catwalk in the center of the room that was used by almost every performer. During their walk, they would make it to the large and open floor area and perform what is called “floorwork” and “spins and dips.” Floorwork is when the performer uses the floor to roll, twist, or in any other way capture the attention of the viewer, where as spins and sips is a very well-planned turn and drop to the floor that perfectly matches the beats in the music and is the most showy and shocking attribute of voguing.

I thought the show was phenomenal. No matter who you are or what you like, this dance form felt to me like a celebration. As I sat there, mesmerized by each dancers’ hands moving, I realized just how much was being said with one body part. I felt the history, the culture, and the passion of a movement all in one room. I think what I felt most was pride in their confidence. I genuinely couldn’t help but smile watching each of them show off and strut their stuff. I got the message, and that’s what dance is all about.

Aydag is a member of the Class of 2021.
Phantom Thread

I knew this movie would be great when the dreamy score by Alexandre Desplat began as we dove into a water-filled room. The visuals are the main attraction of the film. The production design, unique cinematography, and visual effects make the film so mesmerizing. Eliza (Sally Hawkins) made me desperate as she struggles without a voice.

The creature (Doug Jones) expresses emotions despite being buried in makeup and costume. All the characters are complex and interesting. Most of them, including the villains of the film, share similar traits and motifs, which I find fascinating. It’s a beautiful romantic tale. It’s a great piece of art. I highly recommend seeing it in a theater while you can.

Chomsang is a member of the Class of 2018.

Call Me By Your Name

I’ve witnessed many movie romances, and none have approach this movie to Timothée Chalamet and Armie Hammer play off each other to an outstanding degree. I fell in love with their love and wanted to fall in love again. The tension makes you wait and leaves you itching to see their first romantic moment. This build makes their relationship feel earned, whereas many romance movies feel forced. The soundtrack is perfect, and Sufjan Stevens’ two soundtrack songs blend in seamlessly, as the story unravels. The cinematography of Italian landscapes is excellent, the performances are great, and I can’t recommend this movie enough. Few movies leave me feeling this way, and I can’t wait to experience it again.

Powell is a member of the Class of 2018.

Get Out

I left “Get Out” feeling overwhelmed by everything the film threw at me, and it was great. I experienced so many emotions during the film. I laughed, I was in shock, I was terrified. One of my favorite things about the film was how accurately it touched upon the social commentary of the current events in our society. The script was so original and masterfully crafted. I highly recommend seeing this film in a theater or at home with friends. The collective experience you’ll get from this film is something you don’t want to miss. I also guarantee that this film will stick with you for a very long time.

Chomsang is a member of the Class of 2018.

Darkest Hour

While “The Post” could serve as a prequel for Alan Pakula’s “All the President’s Men,” this is the story of the woman missing in the original action: publisher and owner of the Washington Post Katherine Graham (Meryl Streep). “If we don’t publish, we will lose, the country will lose,” Ben Bradlee (Tom Hanks) says to Graham, in a line that not only refers to publishing the Pentagon Papers, but also symbolizes Graham’s battle with the patriarchal structures aiming to hold her down. Spielberg urges us to learn from Graham, her resolute approach and decision making. It’s up to her successors to challenge this system that continues to diminish the press and the necessity for female leadership.

Powell is a member of the Class of 2018.

Lady Bird

Greta Gerwig’s “Lady Bird” is about many things — class, mother-daughter relationships, the formative nature of one’s hometown — but, like fellow Best Picture nominee “Call Me By Your Name,” this film most fruitfully examines the existential crisis that comes with growing up.

“Ladybird” follows the senior year of Christine (Saoirse Ronan, incomparable) who deals with her struggle by adorning herself with the “given name” of “Lady Bird.” (“It’s given to me, by me.”)

While writer-director Gerwig says that “Lady Bird” is not autobiographical, Lady Bird and Gerwig share enough similarities — both were adorning Academic Catholic schools in the early-2000s and enrolled in liberal arts colleges in NYC — to plausibly view the film as a reckoning with her teenage years.

Lady Bird’s lack of perspective — especially when it comes to the endless arguments with her mother (Laurie Metcalf), who works double shifts to keep the family afloat — is matched only by the empathy Gerwig has realized for each of her characters; compassion one imagines Lady Bird herself will develop in time.

As we see her protagonist grow and develop, Gerwig’s distance from her teenage avatar allows her to clarify the film’s central question: Lady Bird’s “Who am I going to become Gerwig? Why am I who I am today?”

Abrams is a member of the Class of 2018.

Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri

“Three Billboards” has been called racist for its lack of black representation and (some say) forgiveness of a racist police officer. While those are real issues in cinema as a whole, that interpretation is simplistic and ignores the commentary the film makes about racism and America. The Ebbing police have a lot to answer for: apathy, brutality, and racism. McDonagh doesn’t simply forgive the police. He shows these police officers to the rest of the town, presenting it as a reflection of America itself. This isn’t a film about empowering black people or bridging any divides, explicitly, but I would argue that, subtly and through narrative, it is.

Aroesty is a member of the Class of 2018.

The Shape of Water

Joe Wright’s “Darkest Hour” relies upon a stunning performance by Gary Oldman as Winston Churchill. The commentary that makes the film so relevant is its portrayal of political cowardice in the midst of global gloom. While Anthony McCarten’s script jabs at Theresa May’s call for “strong and stable” leadership in the trials of Brexit, there are nods to the current political discourse in the United States. By portraying Britain rallying at its darkest time, the film asks the question: Have we looked in the mirror lately and thought about how history repeats itself? If this is our future, Churchill’s journey shows us just what it takes to make it through.

Powell is a member of the Class of 2018.
A shoutout. A gold medal over Canada. A piece of sweet, sweet revenge. And a 20-year old named Maddie Rooney, who users of Wikipedia named our “actual” Secretary of Defense. At last, U.S. women’s hock- ey players are gold medalists. While the gold medal game against Team Canada was arguably the most memorable moment of Pyeongchang 2018, there was something the world missed or didn’t have time to sit down and process amid these winter games.

On Feb. 10, a day after the games commenced, the United States Soccer Federation held its election, voting in its next president. Kathy Carter, a former president of Soccer Unit- ed Marketing, a partner of the Major League Soccer and the federation, emerged as a clear favorite. But after three rounds of voting, it was former federa- tion vice president and Goldman Sachs investment banker Carlos Cordeiro who will take a crack at the federation’s laundry list of conundrums moving forward.

Personally, I backed Carter. Her experience in marketing would have been an invaluable asset to alter the optics of soc- cer in America, and she openly prioritizes fighting to eliminate the gender pay gap. But in ad- dition to the lofty goals of the federation, farming soccer talent might be the issue worthy of the most consideration.

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Growing up, I never found soccer that compelling. Sign- ing up for AYSO as a six year old didn’t leave me attached; the running back and forth didn’t compliment my childhood asthma.

But while I might not love the game unconditionally, the sport has a significance in the world. First of all, some of the most prolific female athletes played soccer: Mia Hamm, Abby Wam- bach and Marta. (And if you don’t know who Marta Vieja da Silva is, you should.) Sec- ond, when we discuss sports that unite people across borders and state lines, soccer (or in some countries, football) is that sport.

So why is American soccer generally pushed to the side? While most women’s teams are used to it, why did the sports teams generally pushed to the side? While most women’s teams are used to it, why did the sports teams have a real soccer ball or a ball of rags, they’re playing. In the U.S. you don’t get the chance to see that everything is so privatized,” she said.

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By MICAH GREENBERG
SPORTS EDITOR

Junior guard Jacob Wittig has been a key player this season for the Men’s Basketball team, averaging more than 30 minutes and 11 points per game. He was named UAA Men’s Basketball Player of the Week and took overall First Team All-Academic District honors.

How did you get interested in basketball?

Sports in general have always been a big part of my family. My parents got me involved in a lot of sports when I was young and basketball has always been one of my favorites. There are videos of me playing on a toy hoop when I was only a few years old and even since I have loved playing.

What do you enjoy most about basketball at UR?

One of my favorite things about U of R basketball is my teammates. It is really unique to have teammates from all over the country who have different experiences and stories. They are also great people and with a similar drive for success on and off the court. I can truly say my teammates have made my college experience exponentially better. We spend a lot of time together, but I always enjoy being around them.

How have you grown as an athlete over the course of your collegiate career?

Over the past three years I have been better prepared to handle the size of the players and the speed of the game. I’ve improved a little physically, but I feel that I have grown a lot mentally. Offensively, I have improved at reading defenses and making the correct decision on the defensive end. I have gained better knowledge of why we do what we do and how to execute on both ends of the floor. I also feel that each year I have developed more confidence which has helped me contribute more to the team.

How does it feel to be named UAA Men’s Player of the Week?

It is definitely a great honor and nice to be recognized, but this is more than an individual award. My coaches were very important in helping us gain an advantage with the scouting report, as well as helping to instill confidence in me. My teammates were also a huge piece of this — making plays and trusting in me to do the same.

What is the most challenging part of being a varsity athlete?

The most challenging part of being a varsity athlete is the time commitment and management. Our season goes for about five months, and we are lifting or playing even when we aren't in season. When we are in season, we practice six days a week and some nights we are there for three hours. We also have many weekends where we are out of town from Thursdays to Sunday. It can be very hard to put in as much time into your school work as you want, due to the time commitment to basketball. It is very important to try to stay head and manage your time as well as you can.

How does your coach help the team succeed?

Our coaches are extremely influential in the success of our team. They put in countless hours watching film, preparing for practice, putting together lifts, and so much more. During individual workouts and at practice they really help develop our individual games and make us better players. We are always prepared for games because of their scouting reports and knowledge of the game.

Do you have any rituals before or during matches?

It usually depends on what time of day it is, but if it is a night game I will always have a turkey sub for my pre-game meal. I usually get dressed and taped at certain times before the game. I am not too superstitious, but I do like to keep to a routine.

Who is your favorite professional athlete, and why?

Russell Wilson. I love the way he plays the game and competes with such passion, especially for being undersized. He also is a great leader for his team and highly respected by his teammates.

If you could only wear one type of shoes for the rest of your life, what kind would you choose?

I would probably have to go with my grey Nike Roshe shoes because they are really comfortable and can go with a lot of things.

Greenberg is a member of the Class of 2021.