**Debaters Discuss Sex Robots**

By DAVID SCHILDKRAUT

Sex robots suck, opened junior Jacob Lowenherz. “Literally,” he said. “And they vibrate. And some are even heated.”

Lowenherz represented UR Robotics at a debate held last Sat- 

turday to prevent the Debut Uni- 

on. Two first-years, Justyna Gorka and Mike Arinarkin, joined 

Lowenherz, arguing that sexbots would harm human relationships, perpetuate gender stereotypes, and isolate people who might already feel isolated. “There, we will be this perpetua-

Lowenherz added. “That’s not a healthy mentality to have in soci-

ity, nor is it going to be good for body images because sex robots will perpetuate this ideal sex part-

” Lowenherz said. “It’s all over an unrealistic

“Sexbots suck,” opened junior Jacob Lowenherz.

**Passion Stays Strong in Afrikanza**

By WIL AIKEN

Students gushed with enthusi-

asm at crowded Feldman Ball-

room tables last Saturday for 

Afrikanza, the culminating event 

of Africa Week, organized by the 

Pan African Students’ Associa-

tion.

“Afrikanza is an event that is 

used to reinforce cultural diver-

sity in the University environ-

ment among PASA members,” said 

sophomore Kaps Chalwe, the 

group’s vice president.

The theme of the night was “Mayibu yeAfrica,” a slogan used by Nelson Mandela that roughly means “Let Africa come 

forward.”

“I really want to work with kids when I’m older, and I just think it’s a really important opportunity,” sophomore Amy Burke said.

The event was lively, as the facilitators spun the girls on a stool to demonstrate the prin-

cipal of angular momentum, eliciting giggles from the children and proud picture-taking from the parents. Bal-

loons and golden stars hung around the interior, and water bottles were labeled “rocket fuel,” in faith with the theme.

Volunteers took away mem-

orable experiences, too.

“I like seeing how much fun they’re having,” sophomore Louisa Anderson said.

The breakout sessions, de-

signed for educational amuse-

ment, featured a mechanical engineering lab that involved making a rocket with Coke and mentos, an optics lesson on why stars twinkle, a chemical engineering lesson on making solar cells with berry juice, and more.

“Right now only 20 percent of the world’s engineers are female,” said LaBine, who believes that we need a more diverse group of problem-solvers to tackle the world’s problems.

For LaBine, the event’s benefits were twofold. “We get re-inspired, and we’re like, ‘Oh yeah — this is why I’m an engineer. This is why I love it.’”

Agyare-Kumi is a member of the Class of 2021.
PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

Alarm at Rush Rhees (1)
MAR. 16—Students set off an alarm in Rush Rhees Library while inside after hours.

Unauthorized Individual at LeChase (2)
MAR. 17—An unauthorized person was found in LeChase Hall after hours and was identified and escorted out.

Fire Alarm at Riverview (3)
MAR. 20—Burnt food set off a fire alarm in Riverview Park.

Fire Alarm at Whipple Parkl (4)
MAR. 22—Burnt food set off a fire alarm in Whipple Park, E.D.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

TUESDAY | MARCH 27
ITALIAN CONVERSATION HOUR
FREDERICK DOUGLASS COMMONS, 305, 4:30 P.M. - 5:15 P.M.
The Language Center will be hosting conversation hours in Italian.

SWINGIN’ IN THE SNOW
FREDERICK DOUGLASS COMMONS, FELDMAN BALLROOM
AB, 6:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.
Hosted by the Swing Dance Club, participants are welcome to dance to music provided by the NJR Jazz Band. A lesson will be given at the beginning.

WEDNESDAY | MARCH 28
LANGUAGE FAIR
FREDERICK DOUGLASS COMMONS, FELDMAN BALLROOM
ENTRY, 12:30 P.M. - 2 P.M.
Students will be able to learn about different languages across the world at this event and meet representatives of each language.

CLASS OF 2020 RESOURCE FAIR
WILSON COMMONS, FIRST LOUNGE, 12:35 P.M. - 2:35 P.M.
The 2020 Class Council will be holding a resource fair to help sophomores transition into their junior year.

THURSDAY | MARCH 29
ARABIC CONVERSATION HOUR
FREDERICK DOUGLASS COMMONS, 305, 1 P.M. - 2 P.M.
The Language Center will be hosting conversation hours in Arabic.

HOPEMAN CARILLON CONCERT FEATURING CARILLONNEUR GEERT D’HOLLANDER
EASTMAN QUADRANGLE, 5 P.M. - 5:45 P.M.
World-renowned carillonneur Geert D’Hollandier will be playing on the Hopeman carillon bells.

FRIDAY | MARCH 30
CHINESE CONVERSATION HOUR
FREDERICK DOUGLASS COMMONS, 305, 1 P.M. - 2 P.M.
The Language Center will be hosting conversation hours in Chinese.

SIMCON 40
FREDERICK DOUGLASS COMMONS, FELDMAN BALLROOM
ENTRY, 3 P.M. - 12 A.M.
Simcon 40 is UR’s annual gaming convention where individuals can enjoy different types of games such as board games and RPGs.

Like to draw, sketch, or doodle?
Illustrate for the Campus Times.
Email illustrator@campustimes.org

SPEAKER SHARES HIS STORY OF COMING OUT TO A RELIGIOUS FAMILY

Hosted by the Paul J. Burgett Intercultural Center this past Tuesday, guest speaker Moshe Alfsher talked to students about growing up in a religious Jewish orthodox home and later, coming out of the closet during his army service.

The 2020 Class Council will be holding a resource fair this Thursday, about different languages across the world at this event and meet representatives of each language.

The Language Center will be hosting conversation hours in Italian.

The well-attended debate drew people from beyond UR.

As far as the topic goes, it is personally the thought of robots permeating this much into real life is saddening, depressing on a metaphysical level," RIT first-year Prianti Nasir said. “But besides that, I can also see why, and I see the inevitability of them. As much as we debate, I don’t think there’s much to do. I think they’re going to be marketed into life. I’m sad about it, but there’s nothing to do about it.”

Several of the judges concurred with Nasir that sex robots were already becoming part of society, and one, Professor Ehsan Hoque, who teaches computer science and electrical engineering, said that it was time to look to where the technology would go in the future.

“I think sex robots are here to stay,” said Hoque. “We can regulate it, but it’s coming. So the real question is, how [...] do you design it so it’s good for humanity?”

Schildkrout is a member of the Class of 2020.
Douglass and Wilson Commons Go Dark for Earth Hour

By Sibweta Koule

Douglass and Wilson Commons went dark from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. on March 29, 2018, in honor of Earth Hour, a multinational movement to raise awareness about light pollution and climate change.

The event was put together by the Astronomy Club in hopes of gathering a larger lighting system throughout campus that is more environmentally conscious. It also aimed to inform students of the dangers of climate change and the need for sustainability now.

"Generally, you don’t know how you don’t really need all of these lights until we actually turn them off," said Tri Nguyen, the club’s vice president. "We’re trying to make it a tradition every year."

A talk at the event by Professor Lee Murray highlighted how stud ents could do their part.

"Unfortunately, we’re in for an unavoidable addition of change even if we try to curb all emissions today," Murray said. "Collective action is important and a move toward a future that we as individuals can do. The two biggest on an individual action can be reducing beef intake and flying fewer miles."

After the talk, students were given an option to sign a pledge to lead a more sustainable life-style and to make an effort to be more environmentally friendly with energy. 

While After Hours performed, co-sponsoring clubs set up information booths about other environmental concerns. Some of these included the Society of Undergraduate Public Health Students, which discussed the health side of environmental risk factors. GreenSpace told student about how urban city lights form a glow around a city that can affect animals. Baby turtles often mistakenly glow for the moon and end up dying as they travel toward the city instead of the ocean.

Outside of Wilson Commons, the Astronomy Club set up telescopes so students could star gaze. There was a telescope pointed at the moon and another toward a star belt.

"This hour was actually started initially by amateur astronomers because of light pollution and how it dulls out the night sky," sophomore Steven Spiewak, the Astronomy Club’s publicist, said. "You can’t really see the stars or anything. So, with turning off nonessential lights, not only does it help with energy sustainability and in the long-term climate change, but it gives you a better perspective on our personal universe."

Many attendees enjoyed the event and agreed it was informative. Some said it motivated them to take action.

"It’s important to bring awareness of issues to light pollution and I think this year was really great because there was a speaker who talked about climate change and all of these other environmental issues," co-president of Grassroots and senior Gabrielle Scul lard said. "Earth Hour is in international movement to turn off the lights from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. on a particular day. But, it’s bigger than just light pollution and energy conservation. It’s thinking about how our actions and everyday things that we don’t think about affect everything."

The Astronomy Club hopes to continue to top the ante every year by turning off more non-essential and ornamental lights off across campus. While it is hard to turn off all of the lights because of safety reasons, the group’s main goal for future years is to get the lights on the dome of Rush Rhees to shut off during Earth Hour.

"You can tie it to Paris, where they turn off the spotlights on the Eiffel Tower for this hour. That’s a huge symbol for France and their national pride," Spiewak said. "We feel like the dome of Rush Rhees is a symbol for the University of Rochester. If we get those lights turned off, it will send a powerful message from the entire university community."

Koule is a member of the Class of 2020.
I’ve covered an Indian food place out here in Rochester already, but a new place came to my attention recently, purely due to its novelty. The place is called Naantastic, and it’s this new fast-food Indian place that popped up right next to the SmashBurger in Henrietta.

My suitemates had gone to the restaurant a few weeks ago and told me that it sold Fat Tire beer on tap, which, when you consider that beer and fast food are two of my favorite vices in the world, had me interested. Also, the idea of both a potential heart attack and potential heartburn from spicy food sounded like a riveting Friday evening for me.

The place has its look and vibe nailed down, though I’m not exactly sure what it’s supposed to be. Their logo work is clean, and their store has nice seats, tables, and lighting. There’s a black motorcycle adorned with its logo attached to a passenger side cart... for some reason. The music playing in the background sounds Bollywood-esque (there’s definitely a better name for this genre of music, sorry I don’t know what it is). The restaurant has a predominately red-and-black color scheme going on. Naantastic’s branding and venue is sleek and neat, but I don’t really know how it all ties into Indian food.

I’m going to be honest here, if I didn’t know it was an Indian food place, I probably could tell people from the books of it that it could be any type of restaurant: a milk-shake joint, a barbeque shop, a beer house. This is a small canal, but it has nothing to do with the food, so I should probably shut my mouth and get on with it.

The food is served in an assembly-line ordering process, just like Chipotle, but Indian. The place has kind of a weird setup, where the entrance to the line comes from the right, and the ordering process flows toward the left until the customer hits the cashier. The options are also pretty much a carbon copy of Chipotle’s options, but with Indian food staples as the content instead of Mexican ones. That means you’ve got an option of choosing between naan tacos, a food bowl, or a naan wrap, filled with a protein base of lamb, chicken, cheese, or beans.

For the naan, you can choose either garlic naan bread or regular naan bread. You then get to throw either a sweet or a spicy curry sauce on top of your protein. (Spice options consist of sweet mah-kani, sweet masala, spicy vin-daloo, or spicy karma.)

Moving down the line, you can throw in some veggies, like tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, sweet corn, and red cabbage. Then, right before getting to the cashier, you can add a finishing sauce on top — you’ve got the choice of mango tango, chilli garlic, cilantro mint, cucumber raita, and sweet tamarind.

You’ve also got the option of getting one of Naantastic’s many varied sides, which include veggie samosa, Punjabi chips, Punjabi mac and cheese, and fish pakora. The drink options are plentiful at Naantastic. It knows how to appease a sugar tooth, offering mango lassi, orange juice, and Mexican Coke. (Holy shit.) On top of that, the restaurant also offers wine and four different beers on tap.

The beer is filled up in a really unconventional way. Naantastic is partnering with this beer supply company (whose name I can’t remember) that provides a beer-filling system where, using cups with magnets on the bottom, you can fill a cup of beer from the bottom and then pass it off super fast to a customer. This was easily the coolest thing I’ve ever seen in the last few months and, thus, had me losing my shit. I ordered a Fat Tire from the cashier using this thing, and it blew my mind. The beer was good too, but c’mon, it’s Fat Tire, that’s to be expected.

So, here’s where I tell you what I thought of my meal. I’m sad to say, but it wasn’t that great. It was good, but it was lacking in a lot of the things that make Indian food for me. I got a bowl filled with chicken, rice, makhani sauce, onion, red cabbage, peppers, mint sauce, and some garlic naan on the side. It was alright, definitely for a fast food place, but Naantastic’s claim of being the “Best Indian Food Experience in Rochester” is a massive oversell.

The biggest thing that Naantastic lacks is a distinctive flavor. My bowl felt like a giant hodgepodge of things with no particular flavor beyond spices and meat. This is going to come with the nature of a fast food place, but it feels a little odd at the prices they’re charging and the claims they’re making. Honestly, the meats aren’t marinated in the sauce or anything, so it all just kind of feels very messy, which, like I said, matches the fast food goals, but feels wrong for the type of food. I might sound a bit picky here, but I can’t help but feel like this beer house. This is a small shake joint, a barbeque shop, a milk-and-sugar place out of business anytime soon.

You can walk to Naantastic in 10 minutes from the Green Line stop in front of Wegmans. Be prepared to bring at least anywhere between $15 and $20 if you’re planning on eating a meal, as you’re gonna want more than just a main dish. (I recommend at least a main dish, a side, and a drink.) And don’t forget to pile up on the contents of your main dish, because any extra travel that your money can make will be necessary here.

Naantastic, if at least for the experience. The idea is novel, but the food won’t kick any of Rochester’s big Indian food places out of business anytime soon.

By LUIS NOVA

What could be cooler than this Naantastic motorcycle?

I still think people should try Naantastic, if at least for the experience.

The options are also pretty much a carbon copy of Chipotle’s options, but with Indian food staples.

Maybe if I had one of the sides, the food might’ve blown me away (this is a fusion place after all), but for the price, I’m still having a bit of a hard time recommending the food. I spent a total of thirty bucks on both bowls that I paid for, along with the beer I got, and a veggie samosa that I ordered on the side to take home to my suitemate. Even at that hefty sum, the food didn’t fill me up as much as Tandoor’s would’ve for an even lower price (especially on buffet day). It’s really funny too, since everyone else I’ve talked to about it seems to like the food. Unpopular opinions, I guess.

Saving graces though, and this is a big one, the mango lassi is absolutely delicious and creamy. Plus number two, their website is incredibly well done and makes me want to get better at web design.

With all that said, I still think people should try Naantastic, if at least for the experience. The idea is novel, but the food won’t kick any of Rochester’s big Indian food places out of business anytime soon.

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Traveling alone was one of the more difficult things I’ve done in my life - but I don’t think I’ve ever felt so alive.

tropical sun, relaxing in bed, or putting on my boots for a day of hiking in the Adirondacks — even though that’s where all my friends were doing. I’m not one to follow the pack, so to speak.

Last week, I went on a solo journey. This trip wasn’t entirely spontaneous. I don’t throw that much caution to the wind. But when my original Spring Break plans with friends fell through, I decided not to cancel my plane tickets and instead embark on a solo journey.

At times it was scary, at times it was frustrating, and at times it was definitely lonely. But it was also one of the best gifts I’ve ever given myself. It’s satisfying now to know that I can be alone for a whole week, and that I can travel safely from country to country. In fact, I think the biggest disaster that befell me was that I accidentally ordered the applestrudel with vanilla sauce rather than without, which was an additional three euros.

What I’ve learned about vacations is that you need to be okay with opening your wallet. Go to a nice restaurant. Pay the barista what you want. If they think I wanted a croissant because I didn’t understand it through their accents. During the mass, I lost track of where were and was wiping my nose right when the woman in front of me turned to shake my hand as a sign of peace. I couldn’t pro- nounce “breather” correctly so the barista thought I wanted a brownie.

Traveling alone pops the bubble. I was uncomfortable every time I tried to order my morn- ing coffee and when I went to church on Sunday. The mass was entirely in another lan- guage. If they think I wanted a croissant because I didn’t understand it through their accents. During the mass, I lost track of where we were and was wiping my nose right when the woman in front of me turned to shake my hand as a sign of peace. I couldn’t pro- nounce “breather” correctly so the barista thought I wanted a brownie.

Traveling alone was one of the more difficult things I’ve done in my life - but I don’t think I’ve ever felt so alive.

Seigne is a member of the Class of 2019.

Thank You, Louise Slaughter

Trailblazing Congresswoman Louise Slaughter, whose funeral service was attended by nearly 2,000 people this Friday at Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre, contributed significantly to UR in her 31-year tenure as representative. To honor her memory, we’d like to reflect on the ways her contributions to Upstate New York enriched both our campus and the Rochester community.

Slaughter pushed for education across the 25th Congressional District, which includes all of Monroe County and it surrounding areas. Within Rochester, she secured $6.9 million for the Head Start program that provides childcare and early education to our city’s youth. She also helped revolutionize the way local schools receive funding by sponsoring the “All Children Are Equal Act,” which accounts for the poverty rates within a given school district as opposed to just popula- tion. The Rochester City School System, for context, is one of the poorest districts in New York, with a graduation rate of only 51.9 percent, although the percentage has been steadily increasing in the past decade. This growth, in part, thanks to the efforts of politicians like Slaughter.

UR also benefited greatly from Slaughter’s dedication to improved education. In 2015, she helped secure a $7.5 million funding cut from the budget for the Laboratory for Laser Ener- gized Chemical Processes, which preserved the lab’s world-class status. In the three years previous to this, she secured $200 million for the lab for general operations, staffing, and research. Another Slaughter-backed project saw $339,000 given to UR Professor Chunlei Guo to research the military applications of lasers. Guo’s research centered around etching water-resistant patterns into military grade-metals using the lab’s lasers.

Slaughter was also vocal about more heated educational issues. In the past few years, she pushed for a Title IX bill called the “Patsy Mink Gender Equity in Education Act.” The purpose of this bill was to provide all schools with the proper resources for a fully opera- tion Title IX office. In order to do this, Slaughter proposed an Office of Gender Equity be added to the U.S. Department of Education sub-agency collection.

Slaughter embraced the Roch- ester community with a warm openness. The more than 2,000 gathered at her funeral service shared their intimate memories of the congresswoman.

In her final days, she was char- acteristically fighting to reverse a proposed defunding of the laser lab. On March 2, just two weeks before her death, she wrote a letter to Lisa Gordon-Hagerty, adminis- trator of the National Nuclear Security Administration. In the letter, Slaughter described the benefits of the lab and invited Gor- don-Hagerty to see these benefits herself. We owe it to her memory to recognize her unwavering sup- port of progress, for upstate New York, for Rochester, and for UR, right up until her final days.
I n economics, there’s a concept called oppor-

The Republicans had a large majority in the House, with 238–

through the rewards of one path, you forgo the potential ben-

them. The Republicans could’ve con-

If Clinton then lost re-election, likely for someone as unpopular as her, running for a fourth democratic term, the consequences would be devastating for the left. With 60 Senate votes, the Republicans could do things they can only dream of now.

If Clinton then lost re-election, likely for someone as unpopular as her running for a fourth democratic term, the consequences would be devastating for the left. With 60 Senate votes, the Republicans could do things they can only dream of now.

For the opportunity cost of

If the Republicans won three more Senate seats, far short of a major-

So far, whichever party was in power, there’s been a referendum on a president who has become far less popu-

President Trump seems bad now, but what the Republicans could have done without him would have been much worse, and what the Democrats can do once he’s gone will be much better than if they’d won in 2016.

These incidents with Facebook are alarming, but they are part of the inevitable growing pains as our society moves toward interconnectedness as a result of social media.

The result of Facebook’s denial is the past few months’ PR night-

We shouldn’t give up on social media, become insular, and back away from the future. Any new technology has growing pains and, unfortunately, people will try to exploit any new technology that is important. We’re in an inevitable stage of learning and fine tuning. Demanding regulation and responsibility is part of this process.

Yamashita is a member of the Class of 2019
Due to the cold weather, Rochester inhabitants are forced inside and undergo 76 percent fewer social interactions than people anywhere else in the country. This may be detrimental to your ability to be a normal human. The goal of this student handbook, “How To Be Normal,” is to teach you to be a more successful, beautiful, and happier person, regardless of the fact that Rochester students turn into underground mole-people from November to April.

Chapter 1: Being Normal Around Campus

Campus has many long, narrow, straight pathways. Take, for example, the bridge to Phase, or the tunnel connecting Wilson Commons to Rush Rhees. It’s frighteningly common to see someone you know passing in the opposite direction. In this situation, try following this script:

“Hi, how are you doing?”
“Good, how are you?”
“Good!”

The next step is to avert your gaze as you pass on to your respective destinations. The socially proficient person will time this interaction perfectly. The exchange will be completed by the time you pass the other person. However, if you are a socially incompetent person, you may make eye contact or recognize someone out of your peripheral vision much earlier than the time it takes to complete the script. Rather than yell over a distance, or stray from the script and attempt a full conversation, there are several safe options you can take to avoid this uncomfortable situation. Feel free to rely on the following strategies:

1. Pretend you don’t see them until the last moment because you are too busy looking at the peeling paint in the tunnels and contemplating how much lead poise...
The Chronicles of Picolas: The Hooker, the Cage, and the Pyramid

By ERIC FRANKLIN

Editor's Note: This article is part of a series on this reporter’s quest to find the One True Picolas Cage. At last reporting, our trio — the en-pickled Nic Cage, Linda the Libertarian protagonist, and myself — were in an abandoned barn, hiding from the police while waiting for Nic Cage's nutritionist, Nikki Kayj. That was the last I saw of her, as it was 4:00 a.m., when my bedraggled nutritionist completed the three-hour journey from her warm and cozy bed to our random barn in the middle of Nevada.

"Nic, you're..." she said, pausing her unfilching expression showing that the several years she has spent working for Nic Cage have trained her to expect the unexpected — sodium intake appears to be up," she said, changing tack when she found herself unsure of how to make small talk with a six-foot-tall pickle.

"I suppose you’ve noticed my condition then," Pic replied, as if anyone could fail to notice his "condition." "That’s why I’ve called you here."

Still too groggy to deal with him quite yet, Ms. Kayj turned to Linda for an explanation. After we recounted Pic's story and how we'd been employed by Nic Cage, she nodded — half in understanding and half in resignation — and turned to Pic.

"Mr. Cage, I answered without question all of the odd, pickle-related questions you’ve been sending me for the past several months, but now that I see the extent of your situation I should really tell you that do not have a medical degree and I’m frankly alarmed that you were able to get all those carrier pigeons to..."

"Nicotelle, please," Pic implored. He didn’t know if Nikki was short for Nicocette but he thought it conveyed the sincerity he was aiming for.

"All of that scientific nonsense was just a pretext to get you here," Pic said, his voice tender and pure. "You see, in all those months I spent in that cage, I got to thinking,... he went on, shifting his gaze until he was staring into the middle distance.

"I thought, ‘This is just like that famous role I played where I was transformed into an ugly green monster and only true love’s kiss could break the curse.’"

Though Pic did not move, he shut his eyes tightly and comforted his face in concentration, as if he were trying to contact someone telepathically. But whatever he was doing, he wasn’t responding to any stimuli from the barn. With Linda out foraging for something to eat, this gave me a chance to talk to Nikki alone. "So, um, Nikki..." I wasn’t sure where to start. "Is all of this...?"

"Is it all some drug-induced night terror or final season of Lost–esque theory that you only have finite time to..."

"Yeah, he just found out about it like six months ago and he thinks it's going to get worse."

"Oh, yeah, the movie thing," Stephanie said with a chuckle. "Has he told you about the internet?"

"Well, to be honest with you, I have..."

"But his favorite thing to do is search movie he was actually in and yet that time he thought he was in "Freaky Friday" vs. this movie,..."

"I should have thought of it when he thought he was going to die."

"I nearly vomited. I would have..."

"We’ve been over this before, Mr. Cage," Ms. Kayj interjected, "even if that made any sense at all, you weren’t either of the frogs in ‘Prince of Persia' nor were you Fiona from ‘Shrek.'"

"None of that matters anymore. Nic Cage is a cagey breed, he’s had his..."

"Dear Nicolette, my newfound immortality means I need no longer concern myself with nutrition..."

"Am I the only one here who is surprised how often he tries to pull this stunt," she marveled to Linda and me. "Mr. Cage, I find myself obligated to remind you of Chapter 5, Section 0, Paragraph 9 of my contract. ‘Neither party to this agreement shall pursue, initiate, or otherwise discuss a potential romantic relationship with the other party.’"

"Oh Nikki, always playing hard-to-get," Pic said, to another eye roll from Nikki. "Well, as long as you’re here, what can you tell me about pickles? Why would someone do this?"

"Well, I have no idea why anyone would do this in particular," she said, wondering for the thousandth time with whom Nic Cage consorts on a daily basis, "but pickling in general has been used for millennia to preserve foods from..."

"Wait, Pic said, "I’m preserving... in ‘keep alive’?"

"No, actually, not at all. Like that, she said, giving him a stern look, giving him some of her own form of his own movies.

This was the first time I had heard a sensible thought in several days, and as rationality returned to me, the absolute insanity of our current predicament hit me like a sack of bricks. All of my questions came pouring out faster than I knew I could ask them.

"How is this man real? Does he find himself in elaborate police circumstances? Do you think he’s actually a pickle?"

"I have no idea what you’re talking about, he said, ending the brief Era of Terrifying Monologues. He hung his head and she broke out into a smile. "But you know you’ll always be my Lord of War.""

Turning to Stephanie, Pic said, "Dear Nicolette, my newfound immortality means I need no longer concern myself with nutrition. It is with sadness in my heart that I must dismiss you from my service."

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"I have no idea what you’re talking about, he said, ending the brief Era of Terrifying Monologues. He hung his head and she broke out into a smile. "But you know you’ll always be my Lord of War.""

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Ramblers and Trebellelous Compete in ICCA Semifinals

By MALIKA ZAKARINA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Midnight Ramblers won an ICCA semifinal on Thursday due to a musical and a cappella percussion, while Trebellelous was left with nothing, at the 2018 International Championships of Collegiate Artists. A Cappella Central Semifinal last Saturday.

The event, hosted by the University at Buffalo Buffalo Center for the Arts, featured 10 a cappella groups from UR, SUNY Potsdam, University of Pittsburgh, University of Waterloo, RIT, and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Five judges scored the semifinalists according to their tone, pitch, arrangement, and choreography. The two highest-ranked groups, SUNY Potsdam and the University of Waterloo’s co-educational group, the Potsdam Pitches and In Full Color, will move on to the final rounds of the competition, hosted at the Beacon Theatre in New York City on April 21.

The order of the performances was determined by a random draw and announced from the stage before it began. Each group used its own unique methods to intrigue the audience.

The Water Boys from the University of Waterloo, for instance, introduced themselves by cautioning the audience to “put on your seat belts, get your trays in place, and prepare for takeoff, before diving deep into the watery trenches of supernatural a cappella music.”

“We wanted to tell a story of different people with internal vices and struggles,” said junior Jay Shim, a beatboxer and music director for Trebellelous.

“We wanted to tell a story of different people with internal vices and struggles,” said junior Jay Shim, a beatboxer and music director for Trebellelous.

“Without a character about to be smashed with an anvil,” the next play, “Deadbeat,” was written and directed by senior Marc Laurissini, made the first one look like a friggin’ living room drama. In it, One and Two, played by first-year Henry Lasley and one, respectively, are having a conversation over dinner. Also, they’re in colored, full-body skin suits and part of a glitchy computer program. Plus almost all of the props are colored boxes of different sizes. I have actually never seen anything like this. So props to these folks for making my jaw hang open like a cartoon character about to be smashed with an anvil.

The next play, “Deadbeat,” was written and directed by sophomore Noah Hammes and co-directed by sophomore Noah Hammersham (in collaboration with first-year Daniel Jerzey), was an absolute tonal shift. This was a musical drama about a depressed, selfish, anxious, commitment-phobe, teenage musician Michael (first-year Alex Chaise), and his frustrating relationship with his best friend Jared (Kauffman), in the long-term aftermath of his brother Matt’s (sophomore Ben Frazer) death. The music was touching and the performances stellar in this piece.

“My favorite aspect of this Hamlet’s script is that every character is a victim. Michael and Patricia (Mueller) are victims of losing a brother and son. Jared’s girlfriend Jess (first-year Madeleine Fordham) is a victim of Michael’s projections and her boyfriend’s showy douchiness. Michael’s girlfriend Victoria (sophomore Savannah Byron) is a victim of Michael’s neglect. This level of human understanding in the writing combined with the use of music made this a remarkable emotional experience.

The next and final play, “The Ground Is Slp,” was an emotional gut-punch-split-in-the-face written and directed by sophomore Emily Tworek. This is a piece about a guilt-ridden mother (brutally portrayed by Ph.D. candidate Nicole Sadiansian) and her grief-stricken husband (a convincingly pained Frazer) who bury their miscarried child. Tworek offers no answer about death, grief, or guilt, but instead casts us into the questions with these two characters.

Whether they were silly, ghistically touching, or wrenching, these plays were confident, risky, brave pieces of theater.

Lasley and Oliver performing in Compassion_Test.exe in the One Act Play Festival in Todd Union.

Trebellelous may not have placed, but Shim is still passionate about his group’s work. Rehearsals are excessive and oftentimes at night, because you have to focus on every detail. You just have to budget your time,” said senior Justin Maldonado. The Ramblers’ general manager and second tenor, who sang a solo in “Miss Jackson” by the Panic! at the Disco. Maldonado added: “We needed temps songs to feature our beatboxer Keegan Stricker, who beatboxes house music — really cool stuff.” Performed at the competition, the heart-beating and trumpet sounds in “Pray” by Sam Smith and “Redbone” by Childish Gambino were reproduced by senior Stricker. Stricker’s hard work paid off, earning the Ramblers their award.

The victory, the Potsdam Pitches, emerged earning a total of 408 points. Catching the audience’s eyes by dressing up like their favorite Disney characters, they performed Snap’s 1990 song “I’ve Got The Power.” Second place and 350 points were awarded to “In Full Color,” whose performance mixed choreography with storytelling.

“It is not a typical a cappella, and I love it,” audience member Janice Ashes said.

Eight Beat Measure, an all-male a cappella group from RIT, lost 37 points, taking third place in the competition. Eight Beat Measure originally began as a men octet with a name the RIT Singers. They have since changed their name to the Eight Beat Measure and expanded their repertoire, playing diverse genres, such as folk, R&B, rock and hip-hop.

Trebellelous may not have placed, but Shim is still passionate about his group’s work. “It is like putting together a puzzle and trying to figure out a whole picture with puzzle pieces.”

Zakarina is a member of the Class of 2021.
Blackbird Babes Gives Feminism a New Voice

By JACKIE POWELL
COLUMNIST

With the sudden hiatus and potential disband of the all-female pop group Fifth Harmony, America is looking for another group to communicate narratives of female camaraderie and excellence.

Blackbird Babes, a UR-spawned group, while musically more attune to the pop-rock sisterhood of HAIM than bubblegum of Harmony, definitely brought the focus of womanhood to the forefront during last week’s Women’s History Month-themed edition of Friday Night Live.

They performed mostly covers of the work of female artists along with a sprinkling of songs by male artists, whose songs were chosen for how well they fit the voices and musical preferences of the ‘Babes.

The two-hour set featured the soothing harmonies, vocal percussion, and the musicianship of seniors Ava Sauer and Rachel Himmelman, juniors Sarah Maldonado and Siena Facciolli, and first-years Zophia Dudizzle and Hannah Serring.

The inception of their alias is rooted in their association with UR co-ed a cappella group Trebellious. While not all are currently members, they are all connected by the Beatles classic, “Blackbird,” which is the alma mater song of Trebellious.

It was surprising to learn that the newly formed ‘Babes decided to make their debut the Friday night before many of them would take the stage at the KCAC Central Semifinal at the University at Buffalo the following week.

According to Hammelman, their rendition of Sara Bareilles’ “Kaleidoscope Heart” was responsible for the formation of the group. This rendition calls for a five-part harmony, and adding more women to Sauer and Hammelman’s original set would add some much-needed rest before the competition.

Soft yet sophisticated melodies were important for the five piece, as you could almost close your eyes during any of the selections and hear a unified and sometimes homogenized tone, which might result from the group’s heavy a cappella background.

The set was curated heavily by Sauer, who appeared on most of the selections. She began duetting with Facciolli — who is making a name for herself in the Rochester singer-songwriter circuit — and caught my eye early with a well-written hook in her original song “Miserly.”

It was easy to see that Sauer’s choices revealed the brightest portions of her vocal range. Her fluttery vibrato shined, especially in her adaptation of Sam Smith’s “Latch.”

In a move away from the soft, coffee-house sound, Facciolli and Sauer were joined by Maldonado, the designated vocal percussionist, to perform Erma Franklin’s “Piece of My Heart.” During the duet, Facciolli’s vocal choices were reminiscent of Janis Joplin’s cover of the 1967 classic. Maldonado’s vocal percussion added a layer that I’d like to see in Facciolli’s original songs in the future.

Hammelman later joined the set on the keys with an improvisational version of the well-known folk song “Black is the Color of My True Love’s Hair.” The arrangement had intrigue and worked well with the harmonies tossed in from Sering and Sauer. The singers referred to it as “fringy,” but with more fine tuning, it could become a standout in future engagements.

Stepping aside from the keys, Himmelman智能化 alongside Maldonado and Sauer in Andy Michaelson’s “Die Alone.” With a smooth but faint acoustic guitar strumming from Sauer, Hammelman’s alto blend paired with Maldonado’s percussion and added a cohesion and allure that is missed in the original.

Hammelman and Sauer, as two seniors among the graduate, appropriately performed “For Good” from Wicked. Vocality wasn’t the most memorable performance, but its emotion and aura made the duet compelling and successful. The message of “For Good” served as a central theme for the set. These female vocalists have all grown musically and beyond, and they clearly own it to each other.

As they sang Bareilles and Maldonado’s “Winter Song,” they asked their audience, “Is love alive?” I think the Blackbird Babes answered this question not only in their set, but in their clear adoration for each other.

Powell is a member of the Class of 2018.

NOT VANILLA
The Sounds of Cinema
By YVENNA PANDARABOYINA
COLUMNIST

When I was younger, I did not know much about the “Star Wars” franchise. However, I have seen any of the movies, and so I didn’t know the characters, the epic moments, or even what “I am your father” meant.

The storyline of the original “Star Wars” was that thousand piece of movie score — Darth Vader’s theme, “The Imperial March” (DUN-DUN-DUN, DUH DUH-DUN, DUH DUH-DUN). John Williams is the brilliant composer behind that music, and because it is a masterpiece piece as at once, you are reminded of Darth Vader himself, stomping into a room, scaring the living bejeezus out of everyone.

A movie score is meant to accompany the visuals in a film, whether that’s reflecting the emotion of the scene, introducing and coloring the personality of a new character, or helping the director evoke a certain mood in the viewers (like getting them amp’d up). A lot of a movie score is that when it’s operating at its best, it perfectly embodies the film.

For example, with the “Harry Potter” movies (one of my favorites), Williams in the beginning, Alexandre Desplat took over from Williams and added more女性 to the soundtrack. If you like the slow builds, “Drink Up Me Hearties Yo” from “Pirates of the Caribbean” is a great example of a slow-burner. He starts from a basic, evocative tonal place and slowly adds elements that elevate the mood and lead up to a startling crescendo that is immensely satisfying. His scores have a strong, easy-to-eat rhythm, and he relies more on what already exists as a theme, but instead goes for a surround-sound aesthetic. His music seems to slowly wrap around and envelop you.

Zimmer was the composer that got me into scores, so he holds a special place in my heart. I highly recommend listening to the “Interstellar” soundtrack if you like the slow builds, “Drink Up Me Hearties Yo” from “Pirates of the Caribbean” (which is my favorite score). But my absolute favorite of his work is in the “Dark Knight” franchise. Zimmer’s significance is perfectly represented in the piece “Why Do We Fall?” from “The Dark Knight Rises.”

I’d be remiss if I didn’t mention people from television, like Rachel Dwyer, who composed music for “Game of Thrones” and “Westworld.” He’s the one responsible for that insanely catchy opening sequence to “Game of Thrones.” If you can’t get that theme out of your head I suggest listening to “Winter Is Here” because it is a much gentler, sweeter evocation of the main theme. I also want to mention Agnes Obel, whom I stumbled upon after listening to her piece “September Song,” which recurs often in the first season of “Big Little Lies.” And finally, Joe Hisaishi’s Ghibli films like “Spirited Away.”

If you, reader, really like movies or really like music, I recommend looking into movie score. Start with movies you love — you’ll find that you already know the music. I recommend listening to this fantastic genre and see for yourself that makes you smile. I think Giacchino’s best score to date is “Married Life” from Pixar’s “Up.” And yes, it’s the song that plays during the dialogue-less opening where you see Carl and Ellie’s history unravel before your eyes ultimately heartbreaking — marriage. If you, reader, listen to “Married Life” and email Giacchino to send you an email. Actually, since you probably don’t have a heart, I’m a little scared so let’s just not communi-

Pandaraboyina is a member of the Class of 2020.
African Culture Celebrated During Afrikanza

AFRIKANZA FROM PAGE 1

“Would you regard brain drain as a form of resource extraction?”

Throughout the discussion, Hangula interjected to moderate and give relevant statistics. Almost immediately in the discussion the definition of brain drain was questioned.

“Before you call it ‘brain drain’ you should ask what would happen if they didn’t come here,” one student said, adding, “It’s only ‘brain drain’ if we don’t go back home.”

Throughout the discussion, issues of colonialism, privilege, and corruption were debated. The event was sparsely attended, 15 people at maximum, but there were never any gaps or pauses.

“When if there weren’t so many people, there was so much passion,” Chalwe said after the event.

Days later at Afrikanza, a play written by Chalwe was performed, dealing with the same issue. Audience members yelled, laughed, applauded, and snapped throughout the performance. Particularly audible were the responses to the main character’s overbearing mother, as well as to lines like, “Always in our business. What are you, a journalist?”

Thursday’s event was a short film screening accompanied by another discussion, this one led by Sasha Eloi-Evans, an academic programming coordinator for the Office of Minority Students Affairs. The film, “Watu Wote,” was a tense drama based on a true event from 2015, when a bus from Nairobi was attacked by Al-Shabab militants intent on murdering the Christian passengers. The Muslim passengers protected and defended the Christian passengers. The story is told through the perspective of a Christian woman who holds the death of her family at the hands of Al-Shabaab against all Muslims.

The following discussion featured many personal stories. One student described his fear when a place his father frequented was bombed. A Tanzanian Muslim student told of how his mother tried to suppress his relationship with religion out of fear that he might be radicalized.

In reaction to the film’s portrayal of an initially-Islamophobic character, one student asked how people affected by extremism could get rid of their anger.

Another responded: “When you’re emotionally involved in it, you kind of understand where that [Islamophobic] anger comes from.”

A student closed the discussion by expressing his appreciation: “It’s really nice to be in an environment like this where we feel safe talking about religion and all of our differences.”

The next event, the Rochester African Business Conference in Schlegel Hall, was on the same day as Afrikanza, which also included a business element. Afrikanza’s keynote speaker was Brian Asingia, founder and chairman of WeDreamAfrica, an online service that distributes films, music, series, and other forms of storytelling media from around the world. Asingia’s speech detailed the story of his company’s inception as well as the goals that the company is currently working toward.

Afrikanza was bookended by performances from PASApella, M’afrisah, and Axum (all subcommittees of PASA). PASApella, the student-run African a capella group, opened with “Circle of Life” as the goals that the company is currently working toward. Schlegel Hall, was on the same issue. Audience members recorded on their phones. Next was Axum, the student East African dance group. The final group before Asingia’s talk was M’afrisah, UR’s modern and traditional African dance group, which made showy use of colored lighting, as the audience applauded and shouted their support.

Also included were two fashion shows with student models wearing outfits such as an orange patterned dress and headscarf.

Before the performance of the play, a poem, “Ode To My Mother Tongue,” was read by its author, Anesu Mafuka, an international student from Wheaton College. The poem dealt with the issue of keeping one’s mother language after coming to the U.S.

M’afrisah closed the evening with a final performance, which ended with a dancer jumping into a split in the center of the stage. The audience roared, their appreciation relentless until the end of the four-hour night.

Powell is a member of the Class of 2018.
When the third month strikes each year, sports fans rush to fill out their brackets. According to the NCAA, 60 to 100 million brackets are filled out each year. The American Gaming Association reported in 2017 that presidential candidates have never received as many votes as the amount of brackets filled out by basketball fans. We know, March is mad.

In a room of Campus Times editors, I asked out of those who filled out brackets for the 2018 tournament if they had placed their bets on the women’s teams. All turned away my question, let out a satisfying shout. Don’t get me wrong, I was far from elated, but their answer did not surprise me.

My point was proven. Most people don’t touch the women’s brackets. In the same way, I have some reasoning that causes this to be due to a lack of interest. In women’s basketball, the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association and the NCAA, 60 to 100 million brackets are filled each year. When Was the Last Time You Filled out a Women’s Bracket?

The key to the success of the ‘Jackets was their strong rebounding.

The ‘Jackets widened their lead to as much as 10 points, but the Tigers won a 13-4 run, putting them within one point of the ‘Jackets with just over a minute left. However, the Tigers were forced to foul to stop the ‘Jackets from taking time off the clock, and the ‘Jackets won, 59–55.

With significant senior contributors leaving, the team will rely on head coach Jim Scheible to make a smooth transition to next season.

Second Team All-East region by D3Hoops.com. Her strong performance against RIT and Amherst earned her the final University Athletic Association Player of the Week Award for this season of women’s basketball. Junior Guard Lena Ethington put up good numbers against both teams. Against RIT, Ethington scored 10 points and pulled in eight rebounds.

Women’s Basketball Falls In Elite Eight After Besting RIT

by Jackie Powell

When Was the Last Time You Filled out a Women’s Bracket?

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