Gil and Holtz Win Uncontested SA Election

By JUSTIN TROMBLY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Junior Beatriz Gil and sophomore Jamal Holtz celebrated their victory in the presidential and vice presidential election for the Students’ Association Government.

They did so knowing that their triumphant day in the SA’s presidential race was anything but typical.

The duo knew they would likely win the race — it was the first-empty field since 2013 — but were concerned turnout might be low. They also didn’t want to win only because they were unopposed.

“We still continued to meet with groups,” Holtz explained, saying the two spoke with around 30 student and other groups, which helped shape their focus.

As Gil said when asked about what the ticket wanted to accomplish as president and vice president: “It’s more like, what do the students want?”

Gil and Holtz plan to spend the rest of the semester laying the groundwork for their return in the fall. And once that comes around, one of their first goals will be to meet with a representative of every group on campus “to express their concerns and to see what they want to get out of SA,” said Holtz.

The two are particularly interested in meeting with cultural groups.

“These are the people we want to help them to actually achieve integration,” Gil said.

Much of Gil’s career as an SA senator — both she and Holtz have served two terms — has hinged on international students and their concerns, perhaps not surprisingly. She is from Spain. And she may be the first international student elected SA president. Associate Dean of Students Anne-Marie Algier and Assistant Dean of Student Life Operations Laura Ballou — SA Government’s advisers — said they couldn’t recall any elected in their 20 years at UR.

“I’m beyond proud,” Gil said, “because one of the things I’ve been working really, really hard on is to increase international student representation. I think that this is a great achievement, and I’m extremely, extremely happy about it.”

Holtz, who is black, agreed.

The Latest Chapter in Booze on Campus? A Dry Frat

By SOPHIE AROESTY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Editor’s Note: This is part two of a three-part series. The first part can be read here.

Thirty years after alcohol policies changed at UR, students are dealing with a new ethanol-inspired existential crisis. Sophomore Dan Green, president of Sigma Phi Epsilon, is leading his fraternity in a transition toward a substance-free house.

The switch isn’t a campus rule, and it wasn’t a decision made by this chapter, either. Sig Ep nationals ruled that all 215 chapters across the country must be substance-free. By 2018 all alcohol has to be confined to the rooms of brothers over the age of 21, but by 2020, no Sig Ep house can have alcohol.

Green was supportive of the change.

“I don’t see this impacting us negatively at all,” he said. “If anything, I would hope it would have a positive impact. The fact is, people in this fraternity aren’t changing, and that’s our biggest draw — who we are as a brotherhood.”

Green might be optimistic, but the initial response from brothers was less enthusiastic. Some brothers felt that partying — and booze — formed a large part of their brotherhood. But despite their initial hesitations, the Sig Ep brothers came to accept the change.

Green thinks this change will be felt across the entire fraternity quad, in time. He predicts that in five to 15 years, all fraternities will be substance free. Green explains that this change will be a response to all of the hazing incidents that have given fraternities a bad reputation, pointing to the death of a student at Penn State.

“Sig Ep now is very far ahead of the curve,” he said.

Green could even see the entire campus going dry. But Green might be overestimating how revolutionary Sig Ep’s example is to the university. Karen Zenilman, associate director of student conduct, said that the University becoming a dry campus has not been a recent suggestion.

“We have dry components to campus,” she said. “The first-year buildings are dry, again, recognizing that under-age drinking is illegal […] Our policy is reflective of New York State law [and] federal law. But we respond to violations of that policy is consistent with harm reduction.”

Harm reduction is how the University shapes all its alcohol policies. It’s an approach that public health officials have been researching for the last 40 years.

“Harm reduction can be described as a strategy directed toward individuals or groups that aims to reduce the harms associated with certain behaviors,” reads the scholarly journal linked on the Center.
Stolen Items in Goler House

APR. 7—A student reported personal items stolen from the mailroom in the Goler House.

Damaged Ceiling Tiles in Riverview

APR. 8—An individual damaged multiple ceiling tiles on the third floor of Riverview.

Stolen Wallet in Strong Auditorium

APR. 10—A visitor attending an event in Strong Auditorium reported their wallet stolen.

Students Disobey Fire Safety

APR. 11—Students were not leaving the Riverview building during a fire alarm.

Armed Robbery on Genesee Street

APR. 12—An undergraduate student was the victim of an armed robbery off campus on Genesee Street.

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

Stolen Wallet in Strong Auditorium (3)

APR. 10—A visitor attending an event in Strong Auditorium reported their wallet stolen.

Students Disobey Fire Safety (4)

APR. 11—Students were not leaving the Riverview building during a fire alarm.

Armed Robbery on Genesee Street (5)

APR. 12—An undergraduate student was the victim of an armed robbery off campus on Genesee Street.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

TUESDAY | APR. 16

ITALIAN CONVERSATION HOUR
FREDERICK DOUGLASS COMMONS, 305, 4:30 PM - 5:15 PM.
The Language Center will be hosting conversation hours in Italian.

WOMEN’S SOFTBALL VS. SUNY FREDONIA
PAUL’S TENNIS COURTS, 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM.
Come support Women’s Softball as it plays SUNY.

WEDNESDAY | MAR. 17

JSA DINNER AT DANFORTH
DANFORTH DINING HALL, 5 PM - 7 PM.
The Japanese Students’ Association will be hosting a Japanese-themed dinner at Danforth.

ARABIC CONVERSATION HOUR
FREDERICK DOUGLASS COMMONS, 305, 6 PM - 7 PM.
The Language Center will be hosting conversation hours in Arabic.

THURSDAY | MAR. 18

LECTURE: FRIENDSHIP AND SOCIAL ACTIVISM IN THE NINETEENTH-CENTURY AMERICA
HUSH LIBRARY, 4:15 PM.

Author Nancy A. Hewitt will be giving a lecture.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
FAUVER STADIUM, VARSITY SOFTBALL FIELD, 3 PM - 8 PM.
Come give and save lives! 366 lives saved since 2012. Donors receive a free t-shirt.

FRIDAY | MAR. 19

CONCERT: HOPEMAN CARILLON “APRIL IN PARIS”
RUSH LIBRARY, 6:45 PM - 7:45 PM.
The Department of Music will be holding a concert on the carillon.

S.E.S.E.D.: SPRING EXPLORATIONS AND EXPERIMENTAL DANCES
SPURRIER HALL, DANCE STUDIO, 8 PM - 10 PM.
The Spring Explorations and Experimental Dances includes choreography by students and faculty.
UR Mock Trial Team Heads to Nationals

By SHWETA KOUL
NEWS EDITOR
MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2018

In an impressive run, the organization is that the organization is even more of an accomplishment. Pennsylvania to propel it to out of 20 at regionals in Buf- last year, both A team and ping back in August, and for nationals at now the A team — the only team that we're here, and we're ac- country.

According to Marshall- Carter, about 700 teams sign up each year, and now there are a total of 48 teams headed to the Hen- nepin County Government Center to compete. The fictional case to be tried, released by the Ameri- can Mock Trial Association after the second round of the postseason, is “United States v. Parker Barrow,” in which Barrow is accused of helping aid the robbery of a bank they work at.

The A Team has only had a few weeks to prepare for na- tionals and has thus increased the amount of time it met to plan out the best prosecution, defense, statements, witness- es, and cross-examinations. “[Nationals] is more fun and relaxed because we know that we’re just there to do our best, and we can take some more risks and have a little more fun with it because there’s no pressure knowing that we have to move to the next round,” Brennan said.

The 48 teams competing in nationals this weekend are split into two divisions and put through four rounds. At the opening ceremony, the A team will be paired up against a random college in the first round. Based on this performance, it will compete against teams that performed similarly.

Teams can be judged by law students, attorneys, and actual judges. Members receive individual scores on a specific task in the trials. At the closing award cer- emony, individual awards will be handed out to the best attorneys and witnesses, and the winners of each division will move to a fifth round, where a national champion will be crowned.

I think, to me, that would just mean everything,” Marshall- Carter said on winning nationals. “It would mean that all the work, all the hundreds and hundreds of hours that we put in, hours of thought, just means something. It really would solidify to me that this activity, we had a really great impact on what we’re here for, especially for people to come.

Most members of UR Mock Trial actually have no inter- est in practicing law. Many members enjoy the creativity they have to make their state- ments and their witness own. Although nationals will be tough to win, the mem- bers are overjoyed with the opportunity to compete and the lasting friends they have made throughout the process and throughout the competi- tion.

Features Editor David Schildkraut contributed reporting for this piece. Koal is a member of Class of 2020.

SA ELECTIONS FROM PAGE 1
that international students are underrepresented on campus and said minority students, are, too. “Seeing those two [groups as] the two faces of student govern- ment, it sheds light to it, but it also gives students in those communities hope,” he said, ex- plaining that his and Gil’s elec- tion could inspire other students from those communities to run for SA Government.

With the passage of the widely- publicized amendment to the SA Constitution, which was also on the ballot, the pair plans to as- semble a working group next semester to start implementing the waiver process for gendered, SA-affiliated groups. They want to meet with individuals af- fected by the waivers and make sure they are represented on the working group.

As they prepared to leave the Ruth-Merrill Center the night of their election, though, things were simpler. “I’m excited,” Holtz said as the two hugged. “Me too,” said Gil.

Trombly is a member of the Class of 2018.
At Roll’n Yen, Try Tasty Thai Ice Cream — Chopped Fresh

This week on CT Eats, I’ve decided to talk about a place I stumbled across in South Wedge after devouring sandwich at Harry G’s with our editor-in-chief. With a full belly of turkey BLT, I was walking down South Avenue, commanding the streets with the intimidation factor of my newly-engorged gut, when out of the corner of my eye I saw a sign that piqued my curiosity. “Rolling Ice Cream,” written in friendly pink lettering, drawn out in the shape of a spiral. I’d never seen it before, and yet it had apparently been there since last year. Weird, but to be fair, there’s always shops popping in and out of the town at times I’d never expect them to.

To fulfill my curiosity and to satisfy my general hunger I decided to stroll in with the full support of our editor, Justin, who backed me up in a hushed tone. (It was both frightening and calming, like a mother’s voice.)

Inside the shop, we were bombarded by colors, a chalkboard menu, and some staff hard at work making what turned out to be Thai ice cream. For those of you not in the know, Thai ice cream is a style of the dessert where its being frozen up, letting you turn it into a blend of flavors and textures, fit to your preferences.

The ordering process at Roll’n goes like this: You pick a base ice cream flavor, choosing from vanilla, chocolate, green tea, or coconut, and then topped with peanut flakes, whipped cream, and chocolate drizzle. Green tea ice cream has become a sort of default favorite flavor for me now due to my Osaka binges, and Roll’n Yen seems to have gotten their flavor down pretty well. I’m glad to say that my bowl of ice cream was absolutely delicious and creamy as hell, leaving a cool impression on my taste buds. Roll’n Yen is a family-run business. Justin and I met the owner — he was the guy rolling up our ice cream. He seemed like a good guy trying to do his best to make some great ice cream, and he chatted to us while we were waiting on our orders, so I can’t help but give him a thumbs-up for that one and recommend that people here on campus stop by and give his shop a visit, especially if they’ve never had Thai ice cream before.

There’s a lot of variety in the options there, it can be reached by taking the Orange Line, and it’s open every day of the week except Monday, starting at 12 p.m. each day and closing at 10 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 9 p.m. on Sunday.

You’ll probably spend about seven to 10 bucks depending on whether you choose a small or large ice cream size, and once you factor in your topping choices (with extra mix-ins at 50 cents each for candies and a dollar each for fruit, then extra toppings at 50 cents each). If you show your student ID though, you can get a dollar off, so be sure to cash in on that deal though and get more toppings. Hopefully, whenever Mother Nature stops being so mad at us for electing Donald Trump as president, we can finally enjoy some Thai ice cream to celebrate the coming warm weather. Till then, see you all next week. I’m going back for more, even if it is a bit nippy out.

Roll’n Yen brings Thai ice cream to Rochester’s South Wedge neighborhood. The eatery gives you the option of a wide variety of ice cream and topping combinations.
Don’t Force Creativity

By SAMANTHA MAYNES
PRESENTATION EDITOR

For the past decade, there has been an emphasis on making the arts in public and private schools. Music, art, dance, drama have all been vastly diminished in importance, starved from funding because literacy and mathematics have been considered more important. Ever since we “90s kids were in elementary school, we’ve been taught to prioritize math and memorize periodic tables. And to prioritize math and memory over anything that gets educated out passion, innovation, and creativity. A type of imagination evokes like, or even giving social ground, drawing a picture of making up games on the playground or express imagination. Children in elementary school have an unbelievable capacity for imagination: making up games on the playground, drawing a picture of what the North Pole looks like, or even giving social lives to stuffed animals. This type of imagination evokes passion, innovation, and creativity that gets educated out. It’s the ability on demand in class. It’s the ability to understand how to live up to what others believe creativity should be.

I ask the students and faculty at the University: Is this how we want to measure creativity? My definition of creativity is the ability to have unfroded, valuable original ideas that connect different perspectives. When creativity is forced, would you still consider it creativity? When you’re given the task of being creative, how hard is that task to you? It’s kind of like when someone asks you to tell a joke on command. How funny is that joke really going to be? Most would just resort to a crappy dad joke, or maybe something corny that has to do with oranges and bananas.

Creativity is a powerful force, yet forced creativity has the power to kill creativity. Creativity makes us diverse individuals. Forced creativity makes us try to live up to what others believe creativity should be. This inherently contradicts the essence of creativity: if creativity is supposed to make us all unique, why is my system forcing us all into being creative in a specific way? Why is someone grading one’s creativity? When was the last time you were creative without the fear of losing points? Is this the proper system that we facilitate bright minds to contribute new, original ideas into the workforce, into new research to tie different studies together? Is such a system truly driving UR students to be “ever better”? Maynes is a member of the Class of 2019.
Congratulations TO THE WINNERS OF THE

2017-2018 UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER ROCKYS STUDENT LIFE AWARDS

Olusotobi Abubakare
Michael Lowenstein Memorial Award

Ewin Joseph
Award for Freshman Leadership

Siddhant Ahluwalia
Transfer Student Award

Morgan Mackay
Award for Campus Contributions

Jacob Braniewski
Rob Rouzer Award for Excellence in Student Government Leadership

Jacqueline Meyer
Percy Dutton Prize

Pech Chhun
Award for Campus Contributions

Kara Miller
Linda Muise Award for Outstanding Contribution to Student Life

Danniella Cook
Logan R. Hazen Award for Outstanding Contributions to Residential Life

Bienfait Mungenza
Delno Sisson Prize

Laura Cowie-Haskell
Simeon Cheatham Award

Alexander Pavlinic
Andrew Fried Prize

Caryl English
Award for Outstanding Fraternity and Sorority Leadership

Miles Perry
Eli and Mildred Sokol Prize

Aleem Griffiths
Seth H. & Harriet S. Terry Prize

Paul Steve
Award for Athletic Leadership

Orin Troyer
Gwen M. Greene First Generation Senior Award

Zhongyi Zuo
The Communal Principles Award

Society of Physics Students – Spooky Science Day Award for Excellence in Creative Co-Sponsorship

Beats of Africa – Pan-African Students’ Association Award for Excellence in Programming

Student Programming Board (SPB) Outstanding Student Organization Award
Beloved Local Bar Buckles Beneath Burden of Bankruptcy

By ERIC FRANKLIN
HUMOR EDITOR

A Rochester-area staple announced Friday that it will be shutting down at the end of the calendar year, following several years of significant losses and increasing competition in the city. That’s right, time has finally spelled the end for the beloved blue-collar bar 15 Beers on the Erie Canal. Located along the storied canal itself, for years the bar has catered to weary laborers and overworked students alike, bringing them together as brethren to commemorate the region’s bygone era of bustling canal-based commerce, cocooned on by copious quantities of Genesee Cream Ale. But the bar’s longtime strength — its proximity to the mighty canal — has become a weakness as the University has developed more of the real estate around itself and new bars have cropped up like College Town and the East and Alexander neighborhood. The owner of the bar, Lawrence Leary, has actually owned the land on which the bar is built for over 50 years, much longer than the bar has been there. Always a lover of the history of the area and especially the canal, he tried a number of different business models through the years, always with the goal of bringing people to appreciate the waterway and have some fun while doing it.

His first idea was a petting zoo based on the local wildlife that early colonists and later canal-builders interacted with. The result — 15 Deers on the Erie Canal — was underwhelming and only lasted a year or two.

Wanting to capitalize on the scenic location of his property, Leary next opened up his property for weddings, with an onsite wedding cake shop to cut costs. That business — 15 Tiers on the Erie Canal — is actually cited by some as a fore-runner of today’s “Cake Boss.” But Leary’s incarnation of the specialty wedding cake business came too early to benefit from the cash cow that is reality television. It folded within five years.

Tired of the variability of customers, especially with the changing seasons, Leary decided to get into a more stable business and started his own private practice in proctology, which actually did quite well, lasting for nearly 10 years. However, like the others, that business — 15 Bears on the Erie Canal — was shut down after it was discovered that Mr. Leary had, in fact, never attended medical school.

Looking for another steady, yearlong stream of customers and noticing that many people who had been married on his property were having kids, Leary next ventured to set up a youth organization emphasizing outdoor skills and developing leadership skills. Fifteen Peers on the Erie Canal only lasted four years, but hearing the peers’ parents argue on the sidelines of the meetings gave Leary his next business idea.

The marriage counseling business that came next had a rough start, faltering in its first year or two as Leary discovered that a marriage on the rocks was an entirely different problem than a boat that run itself aground on a shallow, rocky canal-bottom. However, 15 Tears on the Erie Canal made a turnaround, becoming Leary’s most successful venture since the proctology practice. All he had to do was start arbitrarily prescribing various pills in what has been cited by some as a forerunner to today’s “opioid crisis.” That business lasted for over 12 years before it was shut down after it became apparent that Leary had still not attended medical school.

In significant debt as a result of heavy fines for impersonating a doctor (twice), Leary decided to get into the high-risk, high-reward entertainment industry in an attempt to claw his way out of debt. His first attempt in that field was an insult comedy club, 15 Jeers on the Erie Canal, which performed poorly and closed after two years. It was during that time, however, that Leary started converting his property to a haunted house every October, the beginning of the successful 15 Fears on the Erie Canal which has lasted to the present day and has become a longstanding tradition for many in the Rochester area.

It was after 15 Fears on the Erie Canal that Leary finally hit on what would be his most successful business ever — 15 Beers on the Erie Canal. The bar became famous for giving free beer to the winners of its weekly canal-based trivia nights and karaoke nights. But the bar began to go downhill in late 2016, when it was revealed that Leary voted for James Monroe in the election.

Leary had always voted for James Monroe, the President in 1817 when the Erie Canal’s construction began, but in this era of increased partisan polarization supporters of both Hill-ary Clinton and Donald Trump viewed him as a traitor and organized separate boycotts of his bar. Along with the increased competition from College Town, it was too much.

In a last ditch attempt to save the bar, Leary tried to diversify, starting a weekly LGBT night — well, you can guess the name — and starting a booze cruise that stopped at over a dozen ports along the canal. But alas, not even 15 Piers on the Erie Canal was enough to save the bar, and it will be closing down after this year’s annual 15 Fears on the Erie Canal. It will have been Leary’s longest-lasting business, having survived for a decade and a half. Franklin is a Take Five Scholar.
CULTURE

By WIL Aiken
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Yellowjackets perform in their Disney themed Spring Show in Strong.

The theme wasn’t reserved only for the songs. The night was interspersed with the Disney-esque story of junior Shurik Za-vriyev, the prince of Gilbert Hall, who goes on a quest to find his true love — a mysterious boy who forgets his yellow blazer.

Prince Shurik searches far and wide for his true love, junior Gap-iulan “Cubby” Sivasithamparam, whose name he doesn’t know because “it’s too hard to spell.” Za-vriyev and Sivasithamparam, as well as classmate James Fos-burgh (who played Sivasitham-param’s evil step-brother), car-ried the show on their shoulders, each soloing in so many songs it was hard to keep track.

Fosburgh’s version of “Be-fore He Cheats” turned a Kelly Clarkson ballad into a hardcore cappella bop. Za-vriyev had the audience in stitches as he acted out the parts of both Timon and Pumbaa from “The Lion King” in “Hakuna Matata,” as did Sivasithamparam playing the demigod Maui in “You’re Welcome” from “Moana,” both as a part of the group’s Disney medley.

The first act also contained classics like “Bare Necessities” from “The Jungle Book,” “How Far I’ll Go” from “Moana,” “Love is an Open Door” from “Frozen,” and closed with “The Circle of Life” from “The Lion King, in which they invited PASApella, UR’s pan-african cappella group, to the stage.

Speaking of PASApella, the two numbers they performed, both in the South African language of Xhosa, were beautifully blended, rich in vocals and harmony. The solos of first-year Ndondwa Mi-joya and Jenna Raslan knocked the socks off of everyone in the audience.

In stark contrast to the first act, the second contained only one Disney song — “When You Wish Upon A Star” from “Pinocchio” — but was no less impressive or enjoyable.

The group performed the set that led it to place third at the ICCA quarterfinals last month, “Start a Fire,” from “La La Land,” and Michael Jackson and Justin Timberlake’s “Love Never Felt So Good” got the audience grooving. Fosburgh joined senior Scott Abrams in a duet of “Happy” by Ed Sheeran mashed up with “Stay With Me” by Sam Smith that was moving and heartfelt, and the set closed out with a rendition of Michael Bublé’s “Cry Me a River,” solaced by Kevin Spooner, in a stunning performance that brought the house down. Learn-ing that Spooner is just a first-year points to a hopeful future for this group.

Sadly, the YellowJackets had to say goodbye to Abrams, the group’s sole senior, who performed a sweet, earnest version of Tracy Chapman’s “Fast Car.” The group closed with its iconic num-ber, “Waving Flag” by K’Naan, before bringing alumni up to the stage to do one last song together.

The YellowJackets are clearly performers, as is evident to anyone who has seen them onstage, last Saturday or ever. Not just because they are amazing sing-ers, but because of their ability to keep an audience attentive and engaged, whether that’s with their vocals, their humor, or just their all-around stage presence. Watch-ing them is infectious — it makes you wish you were up onstage with them.

Fordham is a member of the Class of 2021.

Barbs and Fairies Fly in TOOP’s ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’

By WIL Aiken
CULTURE EDITOR

If you had told me a week ago that before the week was over I would be rick-rolled via Shakespeare, I would have told you to seek medical atten-tion.

But I nevertheless found myself in such a situation last Friday eve-ning in Goergen Hall, watching The Opposite Of People’s production of William Shakespeare’s “A Midsum-mer Night’s Dream,” directed by se-nior Andria Rabenold.

The performance, in the second and final weekend of its run, wasn’t supposed to be in a Goergen lecture hall. TOOP’s plan had been to per-form it on the grass in front of Su-san B. Anthony Hall, but the weather was crappy, so there we were. It was somewhat uncomfortable sitting in an audience as well-lit and visible as the stage. It took some of the safety of being an audience member away. On the other hand, TOOP was able to show off an impressive ability to adapt. The group used sliding black-boards and whiteboards to establish setting in a clever, minimalist way. If the change affected the perfor-mances at all, I certainly couldn’t tell. And thank God for that. The scenes of romance played like com-bat. Watching the twisting and re-purposing of words into weaponry felt akin to viewing a Jackie Chan movie: I know how it’s going to end, but I want to know how he’ll weaponize his surroundings (or, in Shakespeare’s case, the dictionary) in the battle. Rabenold — who also (gasp) edited Shakespeare’s script for this production — and the cast did well with this aspect of the play. In this version of “Midsummer,” the romance was not a union but an eternal spurting match in the ring of life. Sparks of love and fury flew in scenes between Demetrius (depicted with drollish arrogance by senior Manan Hora) and Helenus, whose lovesickness and understandable paranoia was portrayed with feroc-i ty and relish by junior Rosie Fla-nagan. Flanagan’s Helenus also had a tremendously fun back-and-forth height-invalt scene with poor Hermia (junior Matalin Collins), who finds herself an object of hatred from her forbidden beau Lysander, lovely portrayed by senior Ben Frazer.

I must admit I got confused at one point. Soon-to-wed couple Theseus and Hippolyta are played by sopho-more Shagoon Bose and first-year Olivia Banc, respectively. They also, respectively, play Oberon and Tita-nia, the fairy king and queen. During the show, I had no idea that Theseus and Hippolyta were different charac-ters than Oberon and Titania. That said, I didn’t know I was confused until the end of the show, so it’s okay. The dynamics between both couples are similar enough that it didn’t mat-ter whether I knew they were sepa-rate. It still functioned perfectly well, and Banc, in a high-maintenance portrayal of Titania, ably performed in a funny sequence of events in which she falls in love with Bottom (junior Andrew Peck, who commit-ted the rickrolling), who has the head of a donkey. (One of several surreal bits of costuming by sophomore Ruki Prathivadi-Bhayankaram and first-year Rebecca Sarin. I also must note the hilarity of the actors play-ing, well, a troupe of actors who put on a ridiculous tragedy at the end of the show, with much of the humor derived from junior Reid Wilson’s deadpan performance as an actor who has to play a play — it makes you wish you were up onstage with them.

But the driving energy in this production came from sophomore Andrew Durham’s hysterical perfor-mance as Puck, a clever yet some-how dopey sprite. Durham played Puck with an insane mix of dynamic physicality, absolute intensity, and occasional deadpan. It was Dur-ham’s ability to balance impeccable comedic timing and energy with honest character portrayal that drove the show home.

Aiken is a member of the Class of 2021.
BPG is ‘Unafraid’ to Dance to New Heights

By LOUKIA AYDAG
CULTURE EDITOR

Ballet Performance Group performed its spring showcase “Unafraid” this past Friday. Though the group’s true mission, included in its name, is to keep classical ballet alive on campus, its members are more than willing to venture into various genres of dance, something that continued in “Unafraid.”

Some of the women performed classical ballet pieces to music by Aram Khachaturian from the “Masquerade Suite.” Watching these pieces made me appreciate keeping ballet alive on campus especially since I used to perform classical ballet pieces myself. Other dancers tackled different genres — jazz, lyrical, and tap — which were all presented wonderfully in this show. “I Got Rhythm,” choreographed by sophomore Jessica Robbins, made me fall in love with tap all over again. Tap is a fun and synchronized form of dance that, when done right, puts a smile on your face and makes you want to get up and dance with its performers; that piece, along with “Runaway Baby,” choreographed by junior Hannah Tompkins, did exactly that.Another nontraditional piece that captured the audience was “Express,” choreographed by senior Abbi Bruce, which was as sassy and striking as you would wish a jazz routine to be.

As an interlude to the performance, BPG invited third- and fourth-graders from Rochester City School District School 23 on stage, who put on an impressive and adorable performance that wowed the audience. Choreographed by junior Alana McGovern, the children’s performance to “Brave” was a wonderful interlude within the show. Also choreographed by McGovern, “Rise Up” was one of my favorite pieces due to its lyrical portrayal of the song and all the struggles experienced with it. As almost a side-note, I also found the outfits chosen for the performances memorable — they did a decent job of furthering the mood of each piece. The lighting and backgrounds heightened each piece and drew you into another world. Staggering from group dances to solos, from songs with heavy and sad messages to upbeat and happy messages, the show was a rollercoaster of emotion and talent.

One thing in all these enjoyable pieces had in common was an appreciation for dance. The love put into the choreography and the love for dance in general shown by every dancer was evident in this large showcase. It is difficult to find a group of people that are all at the same level of dance skill, and that this group put on a show that embraced its members’ varying levels of experience was remarkable and inspiring. Aydag is a member of the Class of 2021.
Smith Brings Pride and Poetry to X Agenda

By LOUKIA AUDA
CULTURE EDITOR

Pride Network hosted its second-annual X Agenda this past Saturday with guest speaker and poet Danez Smith.

The event lasted about an hour and half, beginning with an open mic for any member of Pride or the spoken word group No Disclaimers to perform.

For the remainder of the time, Smith spoke, recited, and answered questions in an inspirational and informal manner. “You can’t have bravado and feelings at the same time,” Smith said in response to a question, highlighting the elimination of ego when sharing poetry. He also tried to explain what he feels being a poet means: “If you can’t say, ‘I feel X,’ you can show it through images.”


Pride Network had purchased a number of each of these works and gave them to the attendees of the event, who also had the opportunity to get them signed at its end.

Danez mostly recited from “Don’t Call Us Dead,” his most recent work.

“You can’t have bravado and feelings at the same time,” highlighting the elimination of ego when sharing poetry. He also tried to explain what he feels being a poet means: “If you can’t say, ‘I feel X,’ you can show it through images.”


With all the classic comedy shows of my childhood gone (I’m talking “Parks and Recreation,” “The Office,” Community,” “Drake & Josh” and “Friends”), I have been on the lookout for new comedies to catch my eye.

For me, a comedy has to be smart with minimal cringe, present likeable characters, and preferably include a couple to ship. (Ship, reader, means to root for two characters on a show to get together and be a couple.) The show also must be available on Netflix or Hulu, for logistical reasons.

Smith is a member of both the Dark Noise Collective and a podcast by the Poetry Foundation of Post-Know ledge. He is also the recipient of the Lambda Literary Award for Gay Poetry and the Kate Tufts Discovery Award.

During the open mic portion, the poems recited covered African-American feminism versus white feminism, Icarus, past hauntings, life after sexual assault, identity as an individual especially after sexual assault, to being transgender. The final poem worked as an extension to the biblical seven days of creation — days eight through 11 showed how the wonderfulness of the world would be stripped away with the violence and war of today.


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In my vast searches for my new go-comedies I’ve come across three shows that have those things. They’re all relatively new. You’ve probably heard of these comedies, but I’d like to give you a good reason to actually invest in watching them.

First off is “Brooklyn Nine-Nine.” (We’ll call it “B99” from now on.) “B99” airs on Fox and first came to the scene in 2013. It’s about a New York City police precinct, featuring the gang-ho and slightly immature detective Jake Peralta (played by Andy Samberg) and a cast of other fantastic characters. My personal favorite is Gina Linetti (played by Chelsea Peretti), a sharp, self-confident woman whoDespite being a role model for women around the world, Linetti is known for her bluntness and unapologetic nature. She is also a part of an all-star cast, including Kristen Bell and Ted Danson. It’s about a woman named Eleanor (Bell) who ends up in heaven (called the Good Place). But she isn’t actually supposed to be there — she’s there due to a clerical error and is currently the awful person. The show is centered around her trying to fit into this new world filled with goody-goodies. This show’s premise is great and makes for some unique humour. It also deals with questions of morality, what makes us good, and if people can truly change their nature.

My final show is “Superstore.” It also airs on NBC. It started in 2015 and is a workplace comedy about the employees of a Walmart-esque store. Their dealings with the scrounge that is corporate America and all that comes with it (low income and lack of adequate health insurance) is hilarious. The characters are zany but all have real depth to them. Out of the three shows I’ve listed to date, I think “Superstore” is the most slept-on, despite its hilarity. It also contains a wonderful ship (HannahAndAmy4eva).

Whenever you get a break in your hectic life, reader, take a look at these shows. If you tell me you didn’t laugh, I won’t believe you.

Pandaraboyina is a member of the Class of 2020.
EVERYBODY TALKS

THE PRIVILEGE OF TITLE IX

BY JACKIE POWELL

This week I came to a conclusion - the God for Title IX.

Two recent readings caught my eye, and they both included prominent figures in U.S. women's basketball.

Cheryl Reeve penned a poignant essay in The Player's Tribune detailing her experience as a girl with a passion for sports who became (and remains) the current coach of the WNBA's Minnesota Lynx. She referenced 1996 as a magical year for women in sports. The women who competed in that summer's Atlanta Olympic Games were among the first to grow up under Title IX.

"People were saying the Summer of '96 forever changed the way Americans saw women's sports," she wrote.

The New Yorker profiled Becky Hammon, the first full-time female to coach in NBA history. Currently, she is serving as an assistant coach for Gregg Popovich's San Antonio Spurs.

Within the past year, journalist Louisa Thomas brought attention to Hammon's decision to play for the Russian Federation in Beijing's 2008 Olympics after she was passed over by Team USA. While Lisa Leslie and the team's head coach, Anne Donovan, believed Hammon was a traitor, her Russian Federation team lost handily to the Americans.

In Atlanta, Beijing, Pyeongchang, and the Women's Soccer World Cup, American women were dominant. Many argued they were more dominant than their male counterparts in respective competitions.

But upon beginning this fascinating journey into analyzing women in sport a couple years ago, a peer of mine put an idea in my head. He quoted to me that the reason Americans saw women's sports, "This was a traitor, her Russian Federation team lost handily to the Americans."

"An obvious albatross in the way of this progress is the power of cultural norms and legislation in authoritarian and repressive regimes." While Saudi Arabia sent four women to Rio, the government currently denies women and girls not only participation in tournaments and state-organized leagues but also attendance at male sporting events.

Could the Olympic Committee entertain sanctions against nations such as Saudi Arabia that clearly do not uphold all of the principles of the committee and its goals? Now here's the good news. Apparently, the United States has been linking itself to these types of initiatives. Since 2012, a partnership between the U.S. State Department, ESPNW, and the University of Pennsylvania spurned the Global Sports Mentoring Program. The program sends ambassadors to work with global communities such as in Egypt, India, Kenya, and beyond, encouraging the participation of women and girls in sport.

And beyond the obvious parity, this type of work is valuable. Back in 2005, a UN report entitled Women, Gender Equality and Sport found that allowing women to engage in sports in any capacity has extreme physical and mental health benefits. (Duh!)

Astrid Aafjes, the director of Women Win, a non-profit dedicated to empowering girls around the world through sports, addressed the privilege Title IX has guaranteed the United States. "Title IX provides evidence of the positive effect of rights-based programming upon a population whose rights had been denied," she wrote. "Funding drives equity."

And so I say once again, thank God for Title IX. "Everybody Talks" is a radio show on WRUR's The Sting that highlights women's involvement in sports and the social issues that surround athletics. You can listen to it every Friday from 1-2 p.m. on thestation.org.

Powell is a member of the Class of 2018.
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

By MICAH GREENBERG

Senior Owen Gabbey has been a key player for Men’s Baseball this year, playing first base, third base, and catcher. Additionally, he made his first pitching appearance two weeks ago, when his four scoreless innings helped the ‘Jackets come back to defeat St. Lawrence.

How did you get interested in baseball?

I think I remember sitting down and watching a Yankees game on TV with my dad at 2, so basically my whole life I’ve been around the game.

What do you enjoy most about baseball at UR?

I think the team atmosphere is the best I’ve ever been around. No matter what we’re doing, we do it as a team, which has been awesome.

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

I’ve gotten way more disciplined over my time here. I think I’ve learned the game way more and have become a more well-rounded player as a result.

What has been the highlight of your baseball career at UR?

Going on a 17-game win streak my freshman year was really cool because it felt like everyone was clicking at the same time, a hard thing in a team sport.

How do you balance academics and athletics?

I think learning how to stay organized is key. Knowing which hours you have to dedicate to which activities and staying to that strict schedule. That and energy drinks.

Who has had the greatest impact on your playing career and why?

I’d say my dad for sure. I probably couldn’t find anybody else who’d go hit me an hour’s worth of ground balls in the middle of the street whenever I wanted to.

What could it be to pitch in a game for the first time and do well?

It was fun pitching in a real game and, even more than that, pitching in a spot where I was able to help our team come back. I’ve pitched a lot elsewhere in my career, so I knew what I needed to do, just fun to be able to go out and execute.

Who is your favorite professional athlete, and why?

I’m a big James Harden fan because I like his approach to the game and personality.

If you could be any movie character, who would you choose to be and why?

Nicholas Cage from “National Treasure.” He ends up with a fortune of buried treasure, and he’s still Nicholas Cage.

Greenberg is a member of the Class of 2021.