SA Plan for Gendered Clubs Criticized

By JUSTIN TROMBLY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

SA Government wants its constitution amended so that gendered groups can remain SA-affiliated, drawing formal criticism from Pride Network and social media outcry from other members of the campus queer community.

“We recognize the harm that these gender-exclusive policies can have on members of the transgender, non-binary, and gender-variant communities, and that these students do not currently have the same access as others to the opportunities and resources that these gender-exclusive organizations provide,” reads the SA task force’s recommendation report, which was released last Thursday after it was approved that Monday by the SA Senate.

“However, we recognize that removing these groups from the Student Association would decrease the overall number of opportunities for students to be involved in co-curricular organizations and, rather than lifting barriers for marginalized groups, may foster animosity toward members of the marginalized groups adversely affected by gender-exclusive membership policies,” the report continues.

The task force, co-chaired by SA President Jordan Smith and Associate Dean of Students Anne-Marie Algier, was created to address last year’s All-Campus Judicial Council ruling that gendered, SA-affiliated groups were unconstitutional. The decision, which was supported by LGBTQ advocates on campus, brought into question whether some club sports, a capella, and Greek organizations would survive.

Here is the proposed constitutional amendment, the final version of which can only be passed by a majority vote of students participating in the upcoming SA elections:

“Organizations whose existence or activities depend upon following gender-exclusi-

ve membership policies set by an external governing body (such as a national organization or intercollegiate league) or otherwise believe that gen-

der-exclusive membership policies are warranted must have a Gender Exclusivity Waiver.”

Students React to Slaughter’s Death

By TRACY XU
NEWS EDITOR

Students who have worked for the recently-deceased Congresswoman Louise Slaughter are remembering her as a figure who, despite her towering influence, had no hesitations about bending down to help out those on the ground level.

“She would remember the smallest details about you and follow up, sometimes months later,” senior Jacob Tyson, who worked for her during one of her re-election campaigns, told the Campus Times. “She remembered from a brief conversation that my mom was in the hospital and she asked about her wellbeing months later. Congressman Slaughter appreciated people and exemplified an authenticity seldom found in Congress.”

Slaughter died in George Washington University Hospital on March 16 after suffering a concussion from a fall in her home. She was 88.

Slaughter had been a Democratic representative for the Rochester area since 1987. She was not only a strong advocate for women rights, co-authoring the Violence Against Women Act, and the only microbiologist in Congress, but also the author of the Stop Trading on Congressionnal Knowledge Act and the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act. She was known on campus for her fights to secure UR funding.

“I was woken up by a call around 10 a.m. to be told and my initial reaction was disbelief — how could somebody who has become an institution here in Rochester be gone?” Tyson said. “Then, I was met with worry. The shoes left behind by the congresswoman need to be filled, and it is going to be very difficult — how could somebody who has become an institution here in Rochester be gone?” Tyson said. “Then, I was met with worry. The shoes left behind by the congresswoman need to be filled, and it is going to be very difficult — how could somebody who has become an institution here in Rochester be gone?”

Students emphasized that her death had left an unforgetable emptiness in the community and that her legacy would be remembered for a long time to come.

“The congresswoman left an irreplaceable mark on this community, which is evident to anyone who lives in Rochester or to anyone who worked for her,” senior Tamar Prince said. “I attended her funeral and the entire Kodak Theater was packed. Two planes full of congresspeople were in attendance. The community adored the congresswoman, and it was evident in [...] Nancy Pelosi, John Lewis, and Hillary Clinton’s speeches that Rochester was her greatest love.”

Congress plans to hold a special election in which the winner will be able to serve the remainder of Slaughter’s term.

Xu is a member of the Class of 2021.

Mice in Phase Draw Resident Complaints

By SHWETA KOUL
NEWS EDITOR

Mice in Phase have disrupted students’ lives this school year, leaving them upset and frustrated with their living conditions.

“We pay so much money to go here and for housing,” said sophomore Brenna James, whose suite on the fourth floor of Munro has caught 14 mice so far. “I already have my own issues with my health and trying to stay healthy for sports, this is just so much more.”

Four of the six buildings in Phase — Munro, Kendrick, Slater, and Gale — have been affected, according to Senior Sanitarium Pete Castronovo, from the University’s Department of Environmental Health and Safety. Reports to the Campus Times by students stated that the mice have been spotted on multiple floors of those buildings.

Fifteen suits told the Campus Times that they have dealt with mice this school year, with live and dead ones found in suite rooms, bathrooms, lounges, an electrical outlet, and the electrical part of one student’s fridge.

Despite this, Castronovo said his department does not consider any of the buildings infested. He pins the apparent higher rates of mice this year to the extreme changes brought on by the coronavirus, as well as the structures around the buildings.

“It’s now a common issue, so I wish they followed up more with the people who reported mice or said something to us as a whole relating to the mice, about how they were working on it now or their future plans,” said sophomore Payton Nugent, who heard a mouse chewing on paper under her bed, has found droppings on her sock, and discovered one dead in the electrical part of a fridge in her Kendrick lounge.

“Facilities really just brought me traps, which, if it was an individual case, could’ve been fine, but it’s a pattern now, so I do think something more should be done.”

Last semester, when several suites complained about bees in Phase, an email was sent out to all residents with Environmental Health and Safety’s contact information. As of Sun-

Kids and Grown-Ups Play at Simcon

Visitors play in Feldman Ballroom at Simcon 40, the 40th annual convention run by the UR Simulation Gaming Association, last Saturday.

By DIWAS GAUTAM
PHOTO EDITOR

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LOCAL INFLUENTIAL WOMEN IN POLITICS EMPHASIZE GENDER EQUITY

Mayor Lovely Warren, the county executive, the district attorney, and a Monroe County committee chair shared their stories to students about their personal experiences in the political system as women this past Monday in Dewey.

PUBLISHER UPDATE

Student Injured at Psi U (1)

APR. 24— A student in Psi U twisted their ankle jumping down the stairs and was taken to the emergency room.

Student Attempts To Use Fake ID (2)

APR. 25— A graduate student tried to use another graduate student’s ID to gain access to the Goergen Athletic Center. The ID was confiscated by staff.

Student Taken to Hospital (3)

APR. 27— A student residing in Riverview experienced breathing issues and was taken to the hospital.

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APR. 27— A student residing in Riverview experienced breathing issues and was taken to the hospital.

Student Reported Jean Theft (4)

APR. 28— A student reported that an unknown person stole two pairs of jeans from her laundry.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

TUESDAY | APRIL 2

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.

NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK: DE-STIGMATIZING THROUGH HUMANIZING WITH CHARMAINE WHEATLEY
WILSON COMMONS, HPET LOUNGE, 12:50 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.
Charmaine Wheatley will be discussing her art campaign that helps raise awareness on health.

WEDNESDAY | APRIL 3

D’LIONS BLOOD DRIVE
SUSAN B. ANTHONY HALLS, FREL LOUNGE, 11 A.M. - 5 P.M.
The D’Lions will be hosting a spring blood drive.

UNDERGRADUATE HOUSING LOTTERY WORKSHOP
SUSAN B. ANTHONY HALLS, FREL LOUNGE, 4 P.M. - 5 P.M.
The executive director for Residential Life and Housing Services will be helping students through the housing process and answering any questions students might have.

THURSDAY | APRIL 4

PHAMILY PHED
ROBERT S. GOERGEN HALL FOR BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING AND OPTICS, 101, 8 P.M. - 10 P.M.
The event will be held to benefit Autism Up and will be held in a trivia game show style.

TOOP PRESENTS: A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM
DRAMA HOUSE, 8 P.M. - 10:30 P.M.
TOOP will be putting on a production of "A Midsummer Night’s Dream."

FRIDAY | APRIL 5

CHINESE CONVERSATION HOUR
FREDERICK DOUGLASS COMMONS, 305, 1 P.M. - 2 P.M.
The Language Center will be holding conversation hours in Chinese.

OFF BROADWAY ON CAMPUS SPRING SHOW
STRONG AUDITORIUM, UPPER AUDITORIUM, 8 P.M. - 11 P.M.
Off-Broadway on Campus will be presenting its spring musical theater program “Confessions of a College Musical Theater Group.” The event will include songs from “The Book of Mormon,” “Wicked,” and more.

Constitutional Amendment Proposed

Approved annually in order to retain recognition by the Students’ Association. Through this waiver, these groups must demonstrate that their membership policy and selection processes are integral to the mission of the organization, are openly advertised, and are non-discriminatory on all other grounds.

According to the report, the waivers would go into effect in the fall of 2019. The task force recommended that waivers be filed and reviewed annually and that they provide detailed justification for gender-exclusive policies and evidence of educational efforts and external barriers to accepting all genders.

In a statement, Pride Network said it was disappointed with the recommendation and its SA approval.

“Due to the fact that the amendment, which proposes the creation of the Gender Exclusionary Waiver, is clearly transphobic, Pride Network urges its membership and the University of Rochester community to vote against it,” the statement reads. “We instead would prefer to see the creation of a Gender Task Force, which would consist in its majority of individuals from the transgender, non-binary, and gender-variant communities. A task force consisting of these communities who are directly affected by the ruling would give voice to this marginalized community that Pride Network represents. Please join in taking a stand against this systematic transphobia.”

Several members of TINT – a social group on campus concerned with trans, intersex, non-binary, and two-spirit issues – put out a statement opposing the amendment and criticizing the task force’s methods.

“Continuing to justify the exclusion of these single-gender organizations affirms the discrimination and exclusion of the TINT community in the activities and organizations,” the statement reads. “We have a right to these opportunities under the SA Constitution. The responses also made clear that amending the SA Constitution to allow any form of gender discrimination would be a formal and informal authorization for student groups to target the TINT community.”

The students said that having only one transgender person on the task force made it unable to properly understand gender-related concerns.

“It should be self-evident that a recommendation created and controlled almost entirely by the discriminators rather than the discriminated is fatally flawed,” their statement reads.

“Likewise, a simple-majority vote to change the constitution to allow discrimination against vulnerable minority is disgustingly unethical.”

A statement given to the Campus Times by the Inter-Fraternity Council said the “waiver requirements are consistent with our principles, as IFC organizations should be manifesting their support toward the LGBTQ+ community in terms of both requirements for membership and in terms of our programming efforts.”

A representative from the Panhellenic Association did not respond to a request for comment. No club sports presidents responded for requests for comment.

Trumblly is a member of the class of 2018.

CLARIFICATION

Last week’s edition of “This Week in the Campus Times” mistakenly did not note which entries had come from editions of The Campus, a predecessor to this paper.

Like to draw, sketch, or doodle?

Illustrate for the Campus Times.

Email illustrator@campustimes.org
Academics from UR and schools across the country talked guns and violence in cultural contexts that blurred the dynamics at play. Author Charles E. Cobb, a member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee in Mississippi, argued that guns were in fact not central to the problem of gun violence. Rather, he said, violence has long been a critical part of American democracy, and “a radical reset of our thought” was needed to fix the problem. Professor Akinyele Umoja from Georgia State University built upon this theme by illustrating guns’ usefulness in protecting black people during the civil rights movement in the South. He also noted that the National Rifle Association’s has been tell- ingly silent on the issue of black gun ownership. “If you want stricter legislation on guns, a black man with a gun is the way to do it,” Akinyele joked. Professor Alexandra Filindra from University of Illinois-Chica- go co-edited this book and described her experience at length during her presentation. Analyzing NRA magazines, she argued that white attachment to guns was a result of their heavy asso- ciation with patriotism and vir- tue, a narrative influenced by NRA publications, which have only featured 10 people of color (with the exception of President Barack Obama’s multiple appearances) since 1967.

Lt. Gary Pudup, a member of New Yorkers Against Gun Violence and a conference attendee, has spent 30 years in law enforcement and owning guns. For him, the seeming intractability of gun violence can be linked back to the U.S. phe- nomenon of exceptionalism. “One of the problems with the States is we’re so isolated. We think this [problem] is unique to us and [wonder] how are we going to solve this when it’s already been solved in Australia, it’s been solved in Canada,” Pudup said. 

But he thinks there’s a growing aura of hope that cannot be ig- nored. “Every time we have one of these mass shootings I’ve sat back and thought, ‘Yeah, people will talk about this for a while and then it’s newsworthy any way.’ But your generation, this means something different to you, and […] if we’re not at the tipping point, we’re very close to it.”

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

"An object is never just an ob- ject, it’s always loaded,“ said Joanna Stasik of the second floor suite who has dealt with five mice in his room. "It’s a cultural problem that you cannot pre- vent your students from bringing them to your dorm — the arming of Pub- lic Safety officers, an issue that is clear during a community conversation around guns in Rochester would have been ex-." -

THIS WEEK IN THE CAMPUS TIMES

Students Dealing With Mice in Phase Upset at UR

PHASE FROM PAGE 1

As of Sunday, an email had not been sent out to residents about the multiple mice complaints through- out Phase.

A concern Castronovo brought up is that many students do not con- tact the EH&S Pest Control Unit through Facilities — when they see a mouse. Out of the students who shared their stories, a few had not called Facilities.

Residents may not know to call EH&S Pest Control Unit, although the RAs and Res Life staff as well and the student residents in the suite have them living in their oat- meal — they nibbled through their food bins. They’ve found mouse droppings in the food. Facilities doesn’t help solve all. They give mouse trap here and there. They don’t even tell everybody who’s living where the mouse traps are. I almost stepped on one."

Residents living in James’ suite — the one that has caught 14 mice — have been in close contact with Facilities and Environmental Health and Safety since Septem- ber, but had been experiencing problems as late as March 5. Even after Environmental Health and Safety filled holes in their room, they caught more mice. James and her suitemates were also frustrated with Facilities’ failure to inform them about how many mice the department had caught on its own. It was not until the students told them they had caught a few mice that Facilities informed them a custodian had disposed of three more without their knowledge.

Recently, James woke up to find an adult mouse dead in a trap next to her. The stench was “horrible.” She called Facilities and asked them to remove it. The worker asked her if she could do it her- self. When she refused, he said she would have to wait until tomorrow afternoon for them to come.

“We’ve paid for our own traps because we don’t think [the ones provided] are working, and we’ve caught most of them with ours,” James said. “I should never have to clean out my own trap — that’s disgusting, they have diseases. I know if this was happening to them, they would not put up with it. They’re just not treating us like we are people. It’s annoying and frustrating.”

“People have been so patient and I do feel taken advantage of for my age. I feel so offended.” Castronovo plans to work with Resident Life, James’ suite, and other residents in Phase to mini- mize the problem and find ways to prevent it from happening.

Students, Facilities, and EHS need to be a united team to keep pests under control,” Castronovo said.

As for residents, many want an acknowledgment and plan for the future of Phase. “These things do happen,” said sophomore Bianca Hall, who found a dead mouse in her room on the third floor of Gale. “When I need to see from Resident Life is them sending an email to us ad- dressing it, so we don’t feel like it’s them just ignoring us and let- ting this continue. People respond more to you acknowledging a nat- ural problem that you cannot pre- vent. They need to make it known that they know.”

Koul is a member of the Class of 2020.

The Social Life of Guns was a two-day interdisciplinary research symposium where speakers discussed the meaning of guns.

"Move," which details the tragedy of activist Tam Little’s documentary film "Move," was clear during a community meeting at Rochester. Klofas from RIT found that a community theme continued — for every instance of violence, there is a story of also or reset by the student. We need to know when a trap catches a mouse every time.”-

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By EFUA AGYARE-KUMI
COPY EDITOR

Monke.jpg

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Osaka, Where Infinite Sushi Rolls out Onto Your Table

By LUIS NOVA
WEBMASTER

There’s a little sushi shop that’s been around for who-knows-how-long in the nearby town of Chili and it’s called Osaka Sushi. I don’t remember exactly when I stumbled upon it, but some friends of mine took me there back toward the beginning of my junior year, and I’ve been going ever since. Around the beginning of the fall semester of 2017, they opened up a second shop in Henrietta under the same name. The place looks, feels, and serves the same way that the old Chili place did, so now I have an excuse to enlighten you all about it. Let’s talk about sushi for a bit.

The gimmick behind Osaka is that it’s an all-you-can-eat buffet. That means that you pay a flat fee for being there, and you order as much of anything on their menu, at any point, as you want. Yup, for real, no strings attached. You pay your seat price, and then you can get whatever you want.

There’s a lot to pick from at Osaka. For starters, there’s a pretty great variety of sushi rolls (Philadelphia rolls, dragon rolls, spicy tuna rolls, California rolls, crispy rolls, mango rolls), hand rolls (sushi in seaweed cones), sashimi, small noodle plates, dumplings, cooked-meat skewers, and tons of individual sushi pieces (salmon, crab, shrimp, barbecue eel, egg, squid, mackerel, and white tuna, to name a few). You can even get ice cream at the end of your meal, with a choice of vanilla, chocolate, green tea, or red bean.

Osaka is a bit of a monthly routine for me and my friend group. Whenever I go, I get a very strategically picked set of plates, one that helps me get what I want while not getting too full too fast. I start with a bowl of chicken udon noodles, a Philadelphia roll, five chicken skewers, five beef skewers, and an avocado dragon roll. After digging into those, I then get an assortment of individual sushi pieces, usually three salmon pieces, three white tuna, three barbecue eel, two squid, and one shrimp. If I’m still hungry after that, I’ll try to get some fried gyoza with shrimp tempura on the side to split with friends. At the end of my whole meal, I like to top off my experience with a bowl of ice cream, served with one scoop vanilla, one scoop green tea, and one scoop red bean.

I say that this is my routine, but the truth about Osaka is that if you bring even just three people to go, your table is bound to get a platter of sushi so big you’re going to have to eat some of your friends’ sushi just to finish up the order. And you’re going to want to finish what you can, since there’s a dollar charge for each piece of sushi left uneaten when it comes time for the tab.

I’ve gone to Osaka in a group of eight before and left the place having eaten three times as much sushi as I initially planned on. It’s a fun place to eat, and the food is pretty good for the prices they’re asking for, especially the chicken udon.

Also, they have a fish tank at both the Chili and Henrietta locations near the entrances of the restaurants, which I find morbidly hilarious, considering it’s a sushi place. Those poor guys are watching their brethren get eaten. I wonder if fish can shed tears in water...

At Osaka, there are different prices for lunch ($13.95) and dinner ($22.95), but that’s about all you pay, aside from tips at the end.

The only real difference between the lunch and dinner menu is that the dinner menu has nearly all the same menu items available. You can Uber there for about $10, but if you hop on the Green Line, with a bit of walking, you can get there for free. I recommend finding a friend with a car to get to this one though, as you’ll be so full after eating there that walking might be the last thing you want to do.

Nova is a member of the class of 2018.
How Racism Lives Among Us

That question bothered me for months. I did not know what to do. So I started sharing my story with my friends to see if they had encountered similar problems.

To my fortune, many of them did. My friend from Bosnia grew up in America. When he goes back to Bosnia, he often gets criticized for the way he dresses and acts.

“Every time I go back to Bosnia, people tell me to be close to treat me differently or they’ll make little remarks about how ‘American’ I’ve become and how much less of a Bosnian I am,” he said to me.

My other friend is Asian and Spanish. She also has experienced racism and a clash of cultures.

“I experienced what you went through from both sides of my family. I don’t look fully white and I don’t look Asian,” she said. “For the longest time, I felt like I couldn’t identify as Asian-American because I don’t physically represent what the ‘stereotypical’ Asian person looks like.”

After telling it out with my friends, I learned and accepted that I am both Indian and American, no more of one and no less of one. Dressing the part in no way defines who I am.

I have also learned that racism is still thriving today, and it is individuals like me who keep it alive by not shutting it down. After the incident during Orientation, I encountered another racist incident on campus a few weeks later. But I did not speak up.

A few African-American students asked my math professor to switch to a darker marker so they could see what he was writing. A Caucasian student whispered to his friend in front of me that it would not matter whether they could see — they would fail the exam anyways. Again, I said nothing.

Moreover, a friend recently shared with me an incident where his Caucasian friend was emotional at a UR play and another student made fun of his reaction due to his “white privilege.”

Any race can be racist towards another, whether it’s within one’s culture or not. It is our decision to speak up against such behavior that can make a difference.

I wanted to share my story today to help people learn from my mistakes. The next time you find yourself in a similar situation, speak up. I know I will.

Koul is a member of the Class of 2020.

Make Sure to Vote on SA’s Gendered Club Proposal

On March 29, SA President Jordan Smith informed the student body through an email of the pending recommendations of the Task Force on Gender-Specific Student Organizations. Since then, the recommendations have provoked impassioned responses from many students and groups. It is the discussion on this issue, and others, such as February’s ruling on the finances of the club Equestrian Team, that drives us to discuss SA’s impressive role as a voice for members in the governing of student life.

We won’t detail the complete recommendations here — because the full document is readily available in the email from Smith and in the Campus Times’ news story — but the reaction has primarily been in response to a proposed waiver process, through which organizations that “depend upon following gender-exclusive membership policies set by an external governing body” could be excused from last spring’s SACC ruling that barred SA from affiliating with gendered groups.

The introduction of the waiver would require amendment to the SA Constitution. Few students are involved in the SA political process, but this waiver, if approved, should drive many more students to take a closer look and participate.

Any SA constitutional amendment requires majority support from students voting. For or against, only by voting can you truly make tangible democratic changes. Perhaps voting may seem fruitless on a national level, but in a school with only about 6,000 undergrads, and remarkably low turnout rates for SA elections, your vote can be more powerful.

And on an issue that could affect so many members of our campus community — those involved in club sports, in a cappella groups, in Greek life, and members of the queer community who feel discriminated against — students should take the time to both inform themselves on the question and to answer it on their ballot.

The apathy of most students toward SA comes from the fact that it feels like the government doesn’t often have a direct impact on our lives. And often that may be true. But SA has vastly more influence in some matters than we might anticipate.

Recent events have demonstrated this fact more than anything. SA’s vote on Equestrian Club sports, in a cappella groups, in Greek life, and members of the queer community who feel discriminated against — students should take the time to both inform themselves on the question and to answer it on their ballot.

The apathy of most students toward SA comes from the fact that it feels like the government doesn’t often have a direct impact on our lives. And often that may be true. But SA has vastly more influence in some matters than we might anticipate.

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Address: Make Sure to Vote on SA’s Gendered Club Proposal

We hope you enjoyed this editorial! We’d love to hear from you. If you think we did a good job, please consider donating to the Campus Times through the link in the email. For any other feedback, email me at OPINIONS@CAMPUSTIMES.ORG.

This editorial was published with the consent of a majority of the Editorial Board: Justin Trombly (Editor-in-Chief), Sarah Weise (Managing Editor), Efua Agyare-Kumi (Visuals Editor), Diwakar Gautam (Copy Editor), and Ben Schmitz (Publisher). The editor-in-chief and the Editorial Board make themselves available to the UR community’s ideas and concerns. Email editor@campustimes.org.
We Should Have Dealt With Russia Sooner

By MALIKA ZAKARINA

In a perfect world, people learn from the mistakes of the past. In a perfect world, people create, they do not destroy. In a perfect world, there is no constant menace, fear, and animosity between people. Unfortunately, our world is far from perfect.

Communism and the Cold War between the Eastern bloc and the Western bloc were said to have come to an end in 1991. The costs and consequences of the Cold War were hugely detrimental for both United States and the Soviet Union. By spying, accumulating unnecessary military, and spreading hatred, both countries just wasted their time, energy, and natural resources — resources that could have been invested into peace settlements in the East and West. Both countries were fighting imagined enemies, living in fear for more than 50 years. They weakened not only their economies but also the lives of their people.

By 2018, everybody should have moved on. But as I said, people are unable to learn from their mistakes. It seems that the Russian regime is still based on threatening and oppressing its people and people outside of its country. They are still living with a nationalistic and xenophobic frame of mind. Instead of collaborating and negotiating peacefully, the Russian government prefers taking an aggressive position and fighting with the rest of the world.

On March 4, former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia were found on a bench after being poisoned with nerve agent. The British government accused Russia of the act. This incident reminds me of the poisoning of Alexander Litvinenko, a British defector, by radioactive polonium in the London hotel in 2006. Promptly after the scandal, NATO member countries expelled more than 140 Russian diplomats. As stated by the secretary of NATO, the coalition’s further steps follow a “dual track” approach, which means “defense” and “dialogue.” NATO allies are willing to show that there are “costs and consequences” for reckless actions by the Russian government.

This is one of the most forceful and unrelenting moves NATO has ever made in regard to Russia’s heedless behavior. In light of current and previous events, given the amount of involvement Russia has had, my only question is this: Why now? Why did NATO wait so long? I think expelling Russian diplomats from NATO is definitely the right move, but not only as retaliation against the poisoning of a spy and his daughter on British soil.

I strongly believe that using a nerve agent in someone else’s territory is a disgraceful act. But even aside from Skripal’s case, there has been much more to talk about.

Let’s be honest here: There has been a lot. An illegal annexation of Crimea, the Ukrainian crisis, the restless war. What about the time when the Malaysian airplane was shot for no reason by Russian forces, ending more than 250 lives? In response, the Russian government accuses Ukrainian military, as the airplane was shot in Ukrainian airspace. What did NATO do, besides showing its “concerns”? Alarmed by the annexation, NATO just sent fighter aircrafts and ships to Eastern Europe for extra security.

And what about the ongoing cyber-attacks, hacking, propaganda, and surveillance imposed on other countries by Russian intelligence? For example, there was a time when Estonian banking, media, and websites were blocked, so that officials could not communicate, and channels could not broadcast their news. The incident happened right after the disagreement between the Russian and Estonian governments, and the address from which those cyberattacks were coming was determined to be Russian. I used to believe that the incident was just a bogus story, but now I am assured that the Russian cyber-warfare is true.

Cases like this involving the Russian government are endless. Again, I strongly believe that expulsion of Russian diplomats from NATO was the right move. But then I ask myself, what if the nerve agent was used not in the British territory, but somewhere else? What if somebody was poisoned, let’s say, in Syria or Afghanistan? I am curious: Would NATO even notice that it was used there? Perhaps if such highly coordinated and vigorous actions by NATO and world community were taken earlier, a lot could have been prevented.

But again, it is not a perfect world. People seem to care about stuff only when it affects themselves. Nevertheless, I hope that someday people will start learning from their mistakes, and nations will become less aggressive towards each other legislation and nuanced reporting.

Zakarina is a member of the Class of 2021
Saturday night, 2:30 a.m. — not usually a time of the week one associates with the overly pious. But this weekend’s Saturday night was more than just another night for devout Catholics around the world — it was Sunday morning.

Though many Catholics, dressed in their best, attended Easter Sunday, only the most faithful show up at midnight for the Vigil Mass. It is arguably the most important and holiest mass of the most important and holiest day of the Catholic liturgical year. It’s also one of the longest masses of the year as well, as it is when adults who are converting to Catholicism and new arrivals to the Sacraments of Initiation and become full members of the Catholic Church.

But one such mass caused controversy this past weekend in a small community a few hours south of Rochester.

It had been over two hours since the start of Mass in the town of Susqua and the congregation was bored with the sermon. The parish priest, Father Ashton, was visiting family for the holiday, so this most important of masses would be presided over by another priest from a few towns over.

While no one had any particular quirks with this Father Ashton, everyone was a little uneasy about the idea of a stranger conducting their Easter Vigil Mass.

However, throughout the mass, Father Ashton impressed the congregation. He was well-spoken, with a kind smile, and not a bad singer to boot. (There are a few parts of Mass that the priest has to sing, and let’s just say that those were not Father Lee’s forte.)

In particular, they were impressed by his homily — inspirational and uplifting, he spoke about the selflessness of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross and the miracle of the Resurrection and the promise of everlasting life. Though these are common themes in Easter homilies, the eloquence and passion of Father Ashton’s words provoked profound reverence in the most seasoned churchgoers.

By the time the majestic pipe organ belted out the first jubilant chords of the closing hymn, the congregation’s fears about Father Ashton had vanished.

Some, in fact, were already commenting that he might be better than Father Lee. Then the camera crew came out.

“Cut the music, cut the music!” yelled “Father” Ashton, as he took off his robes and peeled off a fake mustache. He turned out to be Ashton Kutcher.

“April Fool’s”! he yelled, as teens with iPhone cameras swarmed around the church, capturing the confused looks of the congregation. “There’s no God and the only thing awaiting you after death is the everlasting void!”

As the churchgoers looked around in confusion and the teens documented it, Kutcher delivered his signature line: “You just got Punc’d.”

“Punc’d,” apparently, is a Tumblr page maintained by Mr. Kutcher and a handful of dedicated fans of the long-canceled MTV prank show “Punk’d,” which Mr. Kutcher hosted. For their April Fool’s special, they decided to project their nihilistic fear of death onto a wholesome community of faith.

Realizing what was going on, angry congregants quickly surrounded Kutcher. One of them wrestled him to the ground, and the local sheriff, a member of the parish, arrested him for fraud and impersonation of a clergyman.

As he was being taken away, Kutcher yelled, “Arrest me if you want, but Sue will still have to wait until next year’s Easter Vigil to get initiated into the Church! Hahahah Punc’d!”

Mr. Kutcher has been released on bail, pending a court date related to the fraud charges.

Reactions in Susqua and guaquito outside of the Catholic community were mixed, with most expressing outrage over Mr. Kutcher’s antics.

Not all reactions were negative, however. Some people, such as local shop owner Jim Proctor, showed a begrudging respect for the prank.

“Sure, maybe it wasn’t in the best taste,” Proctor said. “But you have to admit it’s one hell of a joke.”

Franklin is a Take Five Scholar.
CULTURE

ROC Players Elevate ‘Spring Awakening’

By WIL AIKEN CULTURE EDITOR

The May Room in Wilson Com- mons is an interesting place to stage a musical because it doesn’t seem built for it. It’s small (comparing to something like Strong), and its stage is an el- evated parlor room, also small, with curtains. But necessity is the mother of invention, as the ROC Players proved in the fine moments of their production of Duncan Sheik and Steven Sater’s 2006 musical “Spring Awakening” on Friday.

“Spring Awakening,” which could conceivably be renamed “Screw You, Mom,” is about teenagers in late 19th century Germany discovering sexual- ity and the conflicts that arise between their parents and teachers. Caught in the middle of things are intelligent, rebel Melchior (senior Justin Mal- dion), the curious Wendla (junior Maddy Gar- tenberg), the ballistic in my head going, ‘That’s not so what happened,’ and I

20 Years of Games at Simcon

By WIL AIKEN CULTURE EDITOR

Last weekend marked the 40th annual Simcon, the UR Simulation Gaming Association’s convention of board games and more.

Senior Stephen Watson, the asso- ciation’s Simcon chair, explained that the term “simulation gaming” is really just “a catch-all way to distin- guish yourself from video games and other things.”

The convention, which ran from Friday afternoon to Sunday evening, featured a game creator panel discussion, vendors, and role-play- ing game sessions — that means a full story arc in a three-to-five hour sitting, according to Watson. The panel discussion featured four different game creators: Jeff Hirtzel-Church, owner of Kinsoul Studios, Dan Hundycz from 1984.0 Games Inc. and Kevin Colagio, of Games Over Coffee. All were there to “playtest” their games. Playtesting is the process of having convention attendees play a game and give feedback to the cre- ators.

The panelists were asked how they would come up with their ideas.

“We first game just popped up in conversation. We had played a bunch of games, and we were like, ‘Why don’t we make a game?’” Danul said. And then we kinda laughed, but then we were actually like, ‘No, really. We could. People do it. ’”

Another touching sequence was a love-making scene done with two ac- tors onstage, which made all of the rest of the audience laugh. Putting actors where the audience is always has been a massive pet peeve of mine, but, for whatever reason, I found it stunningly beautiful in this play’s context. The sex in this play was not wildly forced or unintentionally funny (as staged sex almost always is), but emotion- ally genuine and beautiful. Staged sex is like a lot of max salad. It’s really easy to do, but when done badly there’s nothing worse. Some- how, director junior Rachel Cooms and the Players managed to pull it off.

The stage was somewhat limiting, but choreographer junior Charlotte Pillow worked well with what’s given. This is particularly true in the show’s fourth song, “The Birch of Living,” which involved about nine actors with stools. The lighting de- sign, by senior Emily Ivey and first- year Michael Wizorek, and set de- sign, by sophomore Victoria Bobber, worked together wonderfully, chang- ing scenery by casting new shadows.

The lighting was most stunning in the song “The Guilty Ones,” where an overhead light seemed to travel around the cast. The light thrrobbed on one actor once and then moved to the next, and the next, and the next. It was a mesmerizing accomplishment to a moving song.

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Aiken is a member of the Class of 2021.

‘The Party at the Place at the Time’

By ASHLEY BARDHAN ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

In the post-Snowden era, the omnipresence of digital surveil- lance is a constant, menacing threat. That’s why I went to Al- pha Delta Phi this weekend for its annual “The Party at the Place at the Time.”

Let’s start with concept. I guess “The Party at the Place at the Time” is funny in a benevolent Caucasian neighbor named Con- nor sort of way, so I would give that a seven out of 10.

I went with Manasvi, Aus- tin, and Dan. On the way there, Manasvi and I discussed how Trump was the lesser of two evils, because we’re woke. Aus- tin was just ready to have a good time, and Dan likes The 1975.

Now that the scene is set, we can get into the experience. We joined the clumpy line of people congregated outside the house, like cattle awaiting slaughter. Soon, the man granted us entry, and into The Place we went. As I walked through the door, I was blasted with the scent Viktor & Rolf Spicebomb, sweat, and postmenstrual woman. I was the postmenstrual woman.

And then — bodies, bodies ev- erywhere, as we descended the stairs into the basement where early-2000s kids hung out and played Dungeons & Dragons, the so-called Fountains of Wayne’s seminal 2003 release “Sticky’s Mom” lurked, eager to enter our ear holes and make out.

We made our way through the dancefloor like a cat desecrating a salmon carcass, and eventually we found a sliver of space avail- able by the DJ. The room was im- pressively packed, so attendance was about a nine.

As I moved my size-eight 2013 Adidas Gazelles across the floor, I noticed something spectacular. The floor wasn’t even sticky. This moment of purity allowed me a brief, but special, experi- ence of hope. Perhaps I wouldn’t need to self-induce a hystere- tomy after all.

They played a mashup of Oa- th’s “Lean On” and Edward Sanez’s “Lean On,” and although it was the worst thing I’ve ever heard, I think atmosphere was solely by the DJ’s score to a rounded eighteen. Great job. Please use my eyeballs for soup.

Bardhan is a member of the Class of 2020.
Indulgence is Unapologetically Badass

I have only two words to describe the “Growing up in Hip Hop” Indulgence spring show this past Saturday: holy crap.

For those who are unaware, Indulgence is a hip-hop dance group on campus run by the Black Students’ Union. I remember seeing them perform in the diversity showcase during Orientation and in After Hours’ fall show, but I was not prepared for how blown away I would be by an entire hour and a half of pure Indulgence.

The show was split into themed parts, with solo interludes by Indulgence members, and three guest performances including Ma’frisah, Xclusive Step Team, and Evolution. I thought the layout was well thought out for costume changes, theme changes, and keeping the audience on its toes. The videos and mini skits that began each segment also helped give you a bird’s-eye view into the personalities of the members as well as the feel of the group in general.

Part of Indulgence’s mission is to not only expose people to the enjoyment of the dance genre but also to hip-hop music. Let me just say: I hate almost all hip-hop music. It is difficult for me to find music in this genre that I enjoy, and though they used many songs I have never heard as well as music I already deemed I didn’t like, I fell in love with every single song because of the performance they added to it.

Nearly every member was responsible for the choreography of at least one song and I was incredibly impressed. Hip-hop is one of the more difficult genres in not only skill set but also in the diversity of movement. Every dancer brought their own feeling, flavor, and passion to each piece, and if I’m being completely honest, with the feel of the dancers and the audience, you couldn’t help but want to jump up there and join them.

Ma’frisah is a dance group that combines traditional and modern moves to promote West African culture. Though they only could perform a few songs, I thought it was a wonderful addition to the show. You could really feel the culture in the passion they put into their performance. Xclusive Step Team is the only non Greek affiliated step team on campus that does a phenomenal job at exposing campus to a dance style that literally shakes you to your core. Their performance was powerful, loud, and rhythmic, and it was evident they love what they do. Evolution is an off-campus group comprised of kids from the Rochester area who are a part of a program to keep children involved in productive activities. Anyone you ask will say that these kids were a definite highlight of the night; you could tell they were having a blast and the audience went nuts with support for their killer moves and their contagious attitudes.

I must admit I was worried for a second or two that there wouldn’t be a large showing of people, considering it was held in Strong Auditorium at 8 p.m. on a Saturday. I was wrong. They sold out with one of the most invested, supportive, and entertaining crowds I have had the pleasure of being a part of. Most often, you sit as an audience member and silently enjoy what is being presented to you, whether it be singing, dancing, acting, or all of the above; however, there is a time or two when you become a part of an atmosphere that is so full of love, admiration, and adoration for everything the performance stands for that there is not a silent human to be found. This was my favorite part about the show in general, and it also made me realize that without an environment like that, the show would’ve been much different.

This show not only gave me a newfound appreciation for hip-hop culture in general but also was an amazing display of diversity and culture on campus.

Aydag is a member of the Class of 2021.

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By LOUKIA AYDAG
CULTURE EDITOR

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GABE ISAACSON / PHOTO EDITOR
Members of Indulgence perform in their spring show “Growing Up in Hip Hop.”

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IT'S PERFORMANCE SEASON...
WRITE ABOUT IT HERE ON THE CAMPUS TIMES

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Crossword

by Micah Greenberg

ACROSS
1. “A long, long time ___ ...” 16. Bird in the Outback
2. Boat propulsion tool 18. A long period of time
4. Mathematical dessert 22. Finals week feeling, perhaps
5. Working tool 24. It can be first
6. It’s gained by reading 25. Rack item
7. Surcharges 26. Come together
8. It makes a man 27. Teacher’s follower?
9. Something that may take 28. Grab
10. “Yo ___ ...” 29. It’s gained by reading
11. Salad type 30. It does “not like green
12. Something that may take 31. Strong workers?
13. Mathematical dessert 32. Difficult “pill” to swallow
14. Working tool 33. It may result in free throws
15. One may be in a volcano 34. Meliora Weekend event
19. Mining product 35. Early giant in internet
21. Longest-serving POTUS 36. Drum locale
23. Bright flower 37. Clever
25. Stanley ____ 38. Poem “to Joy”
27. Teacher’s follower? 40. To improve writing
28. Grab 41. What plants do
29. It’s gained by reading 42. See 29 Across
31. Place where you don’t 42-Across
32. It makes a man 42. See 29 Across
33. It may result in free throws 43. Frazier opponent in Ma- ...
34.  Meliora Weekend event 44. British bathroom
35. Early giant in internet 45. Quick take
36. Drum locale 46. Debt acknowledgement
37. Clever 47. Car type
38. Poem “to Joy” 48. Small amt. of time
40. To improve writing 50. Speck
41. What plants do 51. Sunburn soother
42. See 29 Across 52. Aah companion
43. Frazier opponent in Ma- nila 53. Aucun
44. Quick take 54. Like Batman and Robin
45. Quick take 55. Tom’s species
46. Debt acknowledgement 56. Tom’s species
47. Car type 57. Stanley ___
48. Small amt. of time 58. Tom’s species
49. Baseball stat. 59. Stanley ___
50. Speck 60. Tom’s species

DOWN
1. Common sports injury 4. “___ sesame”
2. Indian state with Portu- 5. “___ sesame”
4. “___ sesame” 7. It may result in free throws
5. It comes ahead of “fire” 8. Indoor rowing machine,
6. It may result in free throws 9. Long, predatory fish
7. It may result in free throws 10. Long, predatory fish
8. Indoor rowing machine, 11. Salad type
9. Long, predatory fish 12. Something that may take
10. Long, predatory fish 13. Something that may take
11. Salad type 14. Something that may take
12. Something that may take 15. Something that may take
13. Something that may take 16. Bird in the Outback
14. Something that may take 17. Teacher’s follower?
15. Something that may take 18. A long period of time
16. Bird in the Outback 19. Mining product
18. A long period of time 21. Longest-serving POTUS
19. Mining product 22. Finals week feeling, perhaps
20. Sunday night org. 23. Bright flower
22. Finals week feeling, perhaps 25. Rack item
24. Commit arson: set ____ 27. Teacher’s follower?
25. Rack item 28. Grab
26. Come together 29. It’s gained by reading
27. Teacher’s follower? 30. It does “not like green
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34. Meliora Weekend event 37. Clever
35. Early giant in internet 38. Poem “to Joy”
36. Drum locale 39. Teenage commonality
37. Clever 40. To improve writing
38. Poem “to Joy” 41. What plants do
39. Teenage commonality 42. See 29 Across
40. To improve writing 43. Frazier opponent in Ma- ...
**An Evolving Pastime**

According to Heathcott and Scout Media reporter Taylor Ward, these players are paid below minimum wage for about half the year. The outcome of the Senate’s recent spending bill will prevent players from collecting overtime for the first time since they were minimum wage. Minor LEAGUEs have come under fire for lobbying Congress in order to make these propositions a reality. Minor League players shouldn’t have to scrape by to have a shot at their American Dream.

While some players are speaking out on economic inequality, other players are now opening up about their own internal battles. Special Assistant to the Commissioner, Marjama’s decision to speak openly continues a nation-wide conversation about athletes and their mental health. “Just because you’re a Major League Baseball player, that doesn’t mean you’re immune to everything,” he said. The catcher’s voice is one of the only athletes aspiring baseball players need, as concentrating on the needs of youth has been a recent consideration of MLB. It was encouraging to learn that, at the end of January, MLB and the U.S. Conference of Mayors renewed its partnership in support of “Play Ball,” the league’s youth-empowerment initiative. Amid the current climate when national movements are led by the younger generation, MLB understands that the sustainability of the sport lies in the education and care for the youth.

Similar to what exists in the United States, institutions from within baseball have been challenged to respect the status quo and evolve. But, traditionalists will always find something to argue against. If that means opposing safer games with league wide protective netting or believing there’s an appropriate way to address baseball’s pace of play, the game will always face challenges moderating.

Akin to anything in this country, we must remember that pursuing change comes with perseverance and patience. “Just because it has been this way since the start of the game does not mean it has to continue and doesn’t mean it doesn’t work,” Heathcott tweeted.

The diamond and its accompanying stadiums are places where young people thrive, laugh, cheer, but also must disagree. As we look toward the 2018 season, we must recognize the impact the landscape on and off the field for America’s oldest sport. When it’s all said and done, baseball is more than just a fun game; it’s a symbol of our annual revival. But the re-awakening of the greatest symbol of our annual revival. But the re-awakening of the greatest

**The Games Are Not the Draw**

By MICHAEL GREENBERG

Sports Editor

For years, I have said that my favorite day of the year on the sports calendar is the first day of the NFL Draft. I have always been drawn to stories behind the draft, the dueling philosophies of drafting the best player available and drafting for need, the shocking trades.

I have also always loved the frenzy that comes at the onset of free agency. When free agency starts, teams engage in two important bidding wars for the services of star players, which can completely change the balance of power in the league.

I am starting to think that may be the offseason is better than the regular season. The offseason is like at one time when Marjama’s decision to speak openly continues a nation-wide conversation about athletes and their mental health. “Just because you’re a Major League Baseball player, that doesn’t mean you’re immune to everything,” he said. The catcher’s voice is one of the only athletes aspiring baseball players need, as concentrating on the needs of youth has been a recent consideration of MLB. It was encouraging to learn that, at the end of January, MLB and the U.S. Conference of Mayors renewed its partnership in support of “Play Ball,” the league’s youth-empowerment initiative. Amid the current climate when national movements are led by the younger generation, MLB understands that the sustainability of the sport lies in the education and care for the youth.

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SPORTS

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

For Fujimaki, College Tennis is a Team Sport

By MICAH GREENBERG
SPORTS EDITOR

Junior Masaru Fujimaki has played for Men’s Tennis all of his three years at UR. He is a team captain and usually plays in the number-one spot in both singles and doubles competition. Last year, he reached the third round of the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Northeast Regional Singles Championship. This year, he currently has a 7–8 record in singles play.

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

Over the course of my collegiate career, I really felt like I have improved as a tennis player. I came as a freshman and played the top spots, which gave me great opportunities to compete with other top players in the nation. Coaching and my teammates gave me support both on and off the courts and helped me technically and mentally. The biggest moment so far in my career happened when [my] coach chose me as a captain last fall. Being a captain really changed my mindset as a player and increased my responsibility as well. I became more disciplined as a player and also focused on improving the team as a whole and for the future tennis program for UR.

What is the dynamic between you and your teammates?

It is very interesting since every year some players graduate and also a few players join the team. And our team is very international, with players from China, Malaysia, Taiwan, Norway, India, and Japan (myself). I really enjoy being on this team and spending time with them anywhere.

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

Definitely my parents. They are the ones that let me play this sport and supported me for my 14-year career. They traveled anywhere for my junior tournaments to support me. Without them, I couldn’t make it this far in this sport, and every accomplishment belongs to them as well. My friends in professional tours also gave me motivation, and they gave me advice about tennis. My coach is very helpful and very positive about me accomplishing achievements in collegiate tennis.

Who is your favorite professional athlete, and why?

My favorite professional athlete is Roger Federer. To me, he is flawless, and he is a legend in this sport. I actually don’t know how can I describe him better than just saying that he is the best tennis player in this world and no one can reach his level again.

If you could have an unlimited supply of one thing for the rest of your life, what would you choose?

I really like eating chocolates, but I couldn’t eat them that much during season so I would like to have an unlimited supply of various chocolates. I will eat them after I retire!

Greenberg is a member of the Class of 2021.

PHOTO COURTESY OF UR ATHLETICS

Men’s Lacrosse Falls to St. Lawrence and Ithaca

By NICK DAVIS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Women’s Lacrosse fell to Ithaca College last Wednesday, 9–19, and then lost an 8–9 nailbiter to St. Lawrence University on Saturday.

The Ithaca Bombers were the 17th ranked team in the country entering play Wednesday, and it looked like they could take a tumble after a tight 6–6 first half.

At one point, the ‘Jackets were up 4–2 against the favorites from Ithaca. But the second half proved too much for the ‘Jackets. Ithaca outscored Rochester 13–3 across the second half of play.

Senior Brigid Regan led the way in scoring for UR, with three goals. Seniors Madeline Mulholm and Madeline Levy both added two goals for the ‘Jackets. Levy also had an assist on the day. Sophomore midfielder Janisom Seabury had two assists to go with her one goal and also led the team in draw controls.

First-year midfielder Kendra Jones added a goal for the ‘Jackets, and junior goalie Conley Ernst ended the day with eight saves.

The ‘Jackets were back in action on Saturday as they hosted St. Lawrence University for another Liberty League matchup. St. Lawrence jumped out to a quick start as Seabury put the home team up 1–0. St. Lawrence had seven first-half goals and led 7–3 at halftime. When the second half rolled around, the ‘Jackets started clicking. They outscored their opponents 5–2 in the second half, losing a tough game at home. Levy led the ‘Jackets in scoring Saturday with three goals. Seabury added another goal to bring her total to two on the day.

First-year midfielder Mary Panepentro and sophomores Maggie McKenna and Jenna Macri all added a goal each as well.

It was another close game that felt like Rochester could come out on top in. The team has lost four games by two goals or less in the beginning of the season but is playing competitively against all opponents. The team knows this too.

“Regardless of our record, we have played well in our games and want to keep our heads up,” Levy said.

Davis is a member of the Class of 2020.