Meet the UR Student Making National Waves for Women in Baseball

By MELANIE EARLE
FEATURES EDITOR

Senior Beth Greenwood is used to hearing, “you should switch to softball.”

Greenwood, who’s been playing ball since five years old, is a catcher for UR Baseball, and recently made the USA Baseball 2021 National Team Development Program roster, a program training and working with athletes to prepare them for playing on the official USA Baseball roster.

Her goal is to make it to the top 20 for Team USA Baseball, which will allow her to compete in worldwide competitions like the baseball world cup. Greenwood started to interact and train actors for the upcoming Amazon Prime series, “A League of Their Own.” She will also be an extra in some scenes.

Greenwood went to bat again as a sophomore, making the practice roster, where she participated in lifting and practice sessions with the team. When Greenwood returned to campus for her junior year, after spending time at home practicing and improving, she officially earned a spot on the team, something she cited as uncommon for female players.

“A lot of the women on your [USA Baseball] team are either current or former Division One softball players,” she said. “To have this opportunity [at UR] is to my advantage.”

Greenwood’s involvement in baseball doesn’t stop on the field. Greenwood lent her baseball skills to help train actors for the upcoming Amazon Prime series, a spin-off of “A League of Their Own.” In addition to helping out with training, she will also be an extra in some scenes.

Inside the Health Promotion Office

By ANONYMOUS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Editor’s note: Due to their relationship to the offices mentioned in this article, the author has chosen to remain anonymous.

Campus health services disappointing students has become an unfortunate standard at UR. Holding UHS or UCC accountable is used to be a lofty ambition of mine — I thought writing articles or getting involved in some way was going to make a difference. This lofty ambition has turned into a disregard dream, because holding any University service accountable feels fruitless.

I hate that now I downgrade my own health issues, since I’m used to my Primary Care Provider [PCP] being available during every appointment.

This is our health! It matters. It deserves more than the bare minimum of pretending to care and pretending to listen that UHS attempts to dole out. If we can’t rely on our PCPs to take our health concerns seriously, we must turn to a different presence in student health: the University Health Promotion Office (HPO), a space I’ve had the opportunity to observe from the inside. HPO is not an all-encompassing solution to UHS’ flaws — they can’t handle actual injury — but it’s a start and at least a more amenable service.

‘This is our health! It matters. It deserves more than the bare minimum of pretending to care and pretending to listen that UHS attempts to dole out.’

For those who are unaware, HPO resides on the fourth floor of UHS. They conduct health programming with the greatest face-to-face contact with students outside of the dreaded, red brick building. Which is why we need them to have competent, diverse programming to compensate for UHS’ shortcomings.

However, in its current state, HPO — our last chance at competent health programming on campus — may be equally deficient. HPO addresses mental wellness, sexual health, physical activity, nutrition, alcohol and other drugs, and inclusive health. In a sense, there’s more pressure on them than UHS — they’re the face of health services, and right now they’re not living up to it.

The HPO foundational planning begins with survey results collected from UR students — the American College Health Association’s National College Health Assessment, to be exact. This survey is the baseline data used for identifying programming needs and understanding student health concerns, but here’s the kicker: This beloved survey only has a 15% response rate from our student body.

And HPO uses it as a basis for your needs — all your needs.
The Center for Health + Technology (CHeT) has been a critical component of UR Medicine, and is committed to pioneering new strategies to conduct clinical research while advancing knowledge, reach, and clinical care to improve health for thousands of individuals within the Rochester community.

CHeT’s clinical research coordinators and associates – Hinaya Dallah, Ekene Nnadi, Maryam Zafar, and Samatha Lettenberger, and junior Musonda Kikoma – all aim to advance diverse and minority populations answering the questions. “We’ve always been very interested in science, but I wanted a more public health background to drive my career forward. I focus on public health because that gives me a wider perspective on public health science,” said Lettenberger, who joined CHeT in June. Dallah, a clinical research associate, works with Dr. Gretchen Birbeck to determine how infectious diseases affect brain development in Sub-Saharan Africa. However, they did run into some barriers when creating clinical trials. “When we were enrolling participants [in Rochester-based studies], we saw that the majority of them happen to be Caucasian, but we know that neurological diseases don’t discriminate by race,” Dallah added, “If we enroll participants in clinical trials, we need to make sure that we have diverse populations [included] so that we know our findings are generalizable.”

Citing the 2020 census, statistics show that within the population of 213,528, the city is racially composed of 47.5% white, 39.8% African American, 19.2% Hispanic or Latino, and 3.1% Asian individuals. “We wanted to understand why in Rochester the research participation rate [among minorities, especially Black and Brown communities] is so low, given the fact that there is a large Black and Brown population in Rochester,” Dallah said.

Over the past year, as part of the “Research Views” project, Dallah and her team had developed an observational survey that would be as objective as possible in surveying the Rochester community’s “positive, negative, or neutral” experiences with research studies. This way, they aimed to collect demographic data, which provided them with a deeper look at the barriers and brain development in Sub-Saharan Africa. However, they did run into some barriers when creating clinical trials. “When we were enrolling participants in clinical trials, we need to make sure that our questions weren’t too complex and we sat down with different literacy organizations and reviewed our questions with them to see how understandable the survey was. To participate in the survey, you need to be over 18 years old and live in Rochester. The question or survey can be completed via phone or online, but we recently started going to events, such as blood drives and the Public Market to complete the survey with people in person,” Dallah said. “In a follow-up interview, we can go deeper and ask them more in-depth questions about their experiences with research.”

Despite their hard work, the team has been met with tough challenges. After receiving their project approval in January, the team needed to figure out the best way to reach a diverse population. “We try to interview people, but it’s a little hard to just go to events, because we don’t want to bother people. A lot of times, we have been handing out mini fliers so that they can do it in their own time. [The fliers] had a QR code [that linked to a survey] for them, as well as a little description. We found that this was more helpful at reaching more people so that they can enjoy their time at the [Public Market] or wherever they are, and then complete the survey on their own time,” Lettenberger added.

Dallah expressed a language barrier to be a challenge that they hope to overcome. “We also have our survey in Spanish, but the difficulty [has been] finding someone who can conduct the follow-up interview in Spanish. Something I am enjoying is that we are always learning and constantly adapting […] so we are constantly trying to think of ways to make the survey questions more accessible to people.”

Since starting the project, the team has received 165 surveys and has completed 31 follow-up interviews with willing participants. They found that oftentimes, privacy concerns, work schedule conflicts, and not knowing how to get involved in research are common barriers to minority participation in research within the Rochester community.

When asked about her motivations, Dallah expressed her determination and commitment to advancing research knowledge through human interaction. “Research is awesome; we use it to complement clinical care,” Dallah said. “The point is, if we want to keep advancing health and reducing racial disparities, we need to use research to inform the policies that we make. If we want research to be generally to a whole population, we need diverse communities to be included in the samples.”

Currently, the team is collecting completed surveys and conducting follow-up interviews. If you are 18 years or older and live in Rochester, NY, and are interested in participating, you are eligible to complete the survey by calling (585)-757-9775.}

Ahmed is a member of the class of 2022.
Mayor-Elect Malik Evans Speaks to Students
On the Importance of Local Politics

BY SANGHAMITRA SUBBA
NEWS EDITOR

Rochester’s got a new mayor in town, and he wants UR students to vote local. Almost Mayor-Elect and UR alum Malik Evans ‘02 spoke to the UR community on the importance of local politics last Thursday during a talk organized by the Committee for Political Engagement.

During his time at the University, Evans used to drive around campus among other students and change their voter zip codes to 14627 so they could make an impact in the local politics of a city that they would spend four years living in.

“You’re driving down the street and you get a pothole. You think you’re going to call Barack Obama?”

“You’re driving down the street and you get a pothole. You think you’re going to call Barack Obama? The Secretary of Education? The Secretary of Transportation? [...] The garbage is picked up [locally]. Your local school decides whether or not they’re going to need mask mandates or not. That’s local. Your local property taxes, the rules that govern whether or not clubs are going to close at two o’clock or four o’clock. Those are all local issues,” Evans said.

“So that’s why you should give a darn about what happens locally in politics and most people when they think about government, and most people when they think about every four years, right?”

After defeating two-time incumbent Lovely Warren in June and winning the Democratic primary, Evans is set to run unopposed in the general election in November and is considered to be the presumptive Mayor of Rochester. Evans returned to UR, where he graduated in 2002, to discuss the importance of local politics with his former professor and now friend Gerald Gamm, Professor of Political Science, History and Associate Department Chair, and Director of Undergraduate Studies.

Evans focused on the importance of public safety and expanding economic opportunities, sharing his plans for both during the discussion.

“[We] want to make sure that if you’re an African-American male and you call the police for help, that you don’t end up getting shot,” Evans said. He added soon after, “But on the other hand, [We] also want to make sure that if you’re a student at [UR] and you’re walking across the footbridge, that you don’t get robbed. People want accountable public safety. They want consequences for bad actors when you have police officers that don’t think that they need to follow the law and they operate under a different set of rules, and they want police officers to operate as government and not law.”

In an effort to ensure public safety, Evans and his team also aim to tackle the issue of illegal guns in the city to curb gun violence.

“[People] want consequences for bad actors when you have police officers that don’t think that they need to follow the law.”

Evans also highlighted the need to uplift Rochester’s economy as we get further away from the days of Kodak, Xerox, and Bausch and Lomb. One of the promises of his campaign was to create an environment in Rochester where local businesses would thrive and contribute to the community’s economic status.

“How can we create the conditions to help to increase homeownership [so that a mother who] wants to own a house can own that house? So that an entrepreneur that wants to start that business can do so?”

“[People] want consequences for bad actors when you have police officers that don’t think that they need to follow the law.”

Evans also discussed Innovation Square, a collaborative living space for student entrepreneurs who attend colleges like UR and RIT. The Gallina Development project transformed a former Xerox space to create an area that would act as a start-up incubator for students studying in the city. His team has also signed a contract with the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government to have students from their program join the Evans transition team for Mayor in the next coming months. An executive online program is also in the works that would connect business leaders and academics from all over the U.S. to connect with Rochester organization to address local problems and discuss innovative solutions.

A couple years ago, a 14-year-old hockey player that Evans met introduced him to the Wayne School of Hockey. The young player told him that Wayne Gretzky, World Championship hockey player, goes where the puck is going to be, not where it is.

“Our challenge for Rochester, for me as mayor, and for all of you who currently sit in the project place is we have to continue. We have to figure out where the puck is going to be locally [and how we can get there]. Is it going to be green technology? Maybe. I think so. I would think about that. Is it going to be information technology? Health science? What is it going to be? Data from big data? What’s going to be the thing that will help Rochester go to the next level and put it on the map?” Evans said.

“What’s going to be the thing that will help Rochester go to the next level and put it on the map?”

“That is what we want to do in the Evans administration — to get people to think broadly and go to where the puck is going to be.”

Subba is a member of the class of 2024.
UR Student Startup Hopes to Use Biotech to Improve Client’s Athletic Performance

By Sanghambita Sobha
NEWS EDITOR

UR student Roy Krishnan didn’t feel the searing pain of his arm popping as he pitched for college recruiters during one of the most important baseball showcases of his athletic career. A highly ranked pitcher high school, Krishnan, a junior at the time, wanted to show his top choice Dartmouth College that he deserved a spot on their team. But after throwing 86 miles an hour in the first inning, he was suddenly hitting 76 miles an hour in the second. It was only when the adrenaline subsided that he realized that he had dislocated his arm.

“Maybe I just got tired. I couldn’t feel anything. I went home the next day, I woke up and my arm hurt so badly, and I was like, ‘Oh my God, this is going to be a problem.’” And then I went to the doctor and they’re like, “You have a torn UCL,” Krishnan said. “And then all of a sudden, Dartmouth wasn’t an option for me anymore.”

Krishnan spent the next 18 months recovering from Tommy John surgery and trying to decide what his next move would be. But during the rehabilitation process, as an athlete interested in the pre-med track, he felt frustrated by the lack of answers his doctors were giving him regarding what treatment was being used and why.

“It was only when the adrenaline subsided that he realized that he had dislocated his arm.”

“A lot of the time, the doctor, physiotherapist, or something would say, ‘We’re going to do this.’ And I said, ‘Why?’ And sometimes there was no answer,” Krishnan said. “And it’s just like, that’s the way we’ve always done things. And I think that’s the most dangerous quote of all time — the way we’ve always done things.”

In an effort to understand why certain treatments were used for sports injuries and to support his own rehabilitation process, Krishnan ended up creating his own business: Liquid Sportslab, formerly known as Liquid Biomechanics. In November 2019, Krishnan started Liquid Sportslab, a biomechanics company based in Silicon Valley, as a way to provide his own rehabilitation process as a primary test subject for the company.

When Krishnan returned to UR the following semester, he was walking in the Stacks when he saw someone reading his research paper. He couldn’t believe that another student (Maura McCartney ’19) was actually reading a paper he wrote that had around 300 views. McCartney then became a catalyst for his career as she introduced him to her superiors at ARCCA incorporated, a Pennsylvania-based engineering and biomechanics research firm.

“I just wanted to be able to have that ownership because there’s also a couple of things I didn’t love doing, but I had to do because we were controlled by this giant company,” Krishnan said. “So I didn’t like doing things a certain way; I didn’t like being as informal with my employees as I like. I didn’t like feeling uncomfortable in certain situations because they felt like they couldn’t pass the social hierarchy. That is business, I don’t like that kind of stuff, and maybe I’m naive and too young to understand that kind of stuff, which is [...] all everyone else says about me anyway.”

After his stint at ARCCA, Krishnan was hired by Reboot Motion, a sports biomechanics company based in Silicon Valley, as a Biomechanics and Software Consultant where he worked on baseball biomechanics.

“I’ve been working for them for for, I think, four months and we’re building out these crazy pipelines to help MLB teams,” Krishnan said. “If you’ve ever seen the movie “Moneyball,” it’s literally: a guy uses statistical analysis to win baseball games instead of spending a lot of money on a big player. He goes and finds [...] the best value players.”

But Krishnan still didn’t own any of the things that he was producing. He was helping startups and large companies create cutting-edge biotechnology to pioneer a new school of athletic progress and none of it was his. This is my third company,” Krishnan said. “This is the third company that I’m working for, that I am doing stuff that I don’t own. I don’t own the [intellectual property] on anything I built. And that sucks. And so I was like let me just do it myself. And whatever happens happens, I know I’ll be a lot happier owning my own stuff.”

It was only at the end of September 2020 that he officially started Liquid Sportslab. He didn’t have a bachelor’s degree, access to $1.8 million, or MLB players right off the bat, but he did have several years of experience with biomechanics field.

‘As founder and CEO, he is involved in almost every aspect of the company from fundraising to the back-end technology projects where he works closely with clients.’

And while he spent those three years getting his own startup off the ground, Krishnan also juggled STEM courses, being the president of Psi Upsilon, research internships, TA positions, and being a pitcher on the UR Varsity Baseball team.

“It was all at the same time and it was a lot. And honestly, I couldn’t manage it. I thought I could, and [...] was president for two terms. Most of this was during COVID-19. And I just cut back. I compartmentalize my time really, really well. But I also [...] finally admitted to myself, maybe 10 months into doing all 10 of those things, that I couldn’t do all of those things to the best of my ability. I thought I could. But with only two classes left to formally finish his time at UR, Krishnan is focused on Liquid Sportslab. As founder and CEO, he is involved in almost every aspect of the company from fundraising to the back-end technology projects where he works closely with clients.

“‘My favorite thing in the world is that the announcers will be like, when did he get this new pitch? I would be like [...] that’s us. We’re doing that.’”

The company sends sensors to its clients, currently three MLB teams, that pick up athletes’ movements and send the data to their office in Rochester. At times, clients will fly out to their office in upstate New York, where the team uses an infrared camera to monitor athletic performance of the clients. Essentially, the team gathers the data, processes it through their algorithm, and sends back the report to the team, who then analyzes the data and creates a plan to improve performance. They apply the principles of math, physics, computer science, biomechanics, and sports to help baseball players reach their peak performance.

“We’ve spent a lot of time this year working with pitchers and MLB that like increasing spin rates,” Krishnan said. “So making a ball using physics to make balls move in different ways that’s been really cool, especially when you see your clients on TV. And my favorite thing in the world is that the announcers will be like, when did he get this new pitch? I would be like […] that’s us. We’re doing that.”

Krishnan is currently working with an athlete who is coming back from Tommy John surgery and as some body who went through the same rehab process, he understands the challenges. “It’s just, I didn’t make it back. [...] I tried my best, but I wasn’t [...] as good as the other player,” Krishnan said.

“But now, we have an opportunity to help a lot of people who are coming back from Tommy John surgery to like, change the rhetoric in a lot of ways. And I think we’re slowly doing it.”

Sanghambita Sobha is a member of the Class of 2024.
“Sites and Non-Sites” An Exhibit of Glacial Proportions

BY MAHNOOR RAZA  STAFF WRITER

An architect, a painter, and a sculptor all walk into Hartnett Gallery. One wonders how they consolidated their creative skills, only to discover that they are all the same person: Chicago-based artist, Brian Petrone.

Petrone’s new exhibit, “Sites and Non-Sites,” is Hartnett Gallery’s first professional exhibition of the semester and features a multimedial fusion that takes on an almost timeless quality. It superimposes maps on top of paintings, wood on top of canvas, and the past on top of the present. The exhibit opened last Thursday after a brief talk in Morey Hall with Petrone, faculty, and students.

The collection is titled after the writings of prominent land artist Robert Smithson, which define “non-site” as a metaphorical representation of a physical place (or “site”) that is relocated to a museum or gallery. Petrone explained at the talk how his work employs skills and techniques usually associated with sculpture, painting, and sculpting, respectively. He also talked about how his time at architecture firms helped him learn to bend the one-size-fitting rules of architecture; in “forming mass, sculpting space, and manipulating light,” he’s discovered how to let seemingly different disciplines complement each other. In the process, he has gained an agency that allows him to create freely.

Petrone opened his talk by introducing the audience to this installation: a model of the glacier that once stretched over Rochester.

Of the pieces on display, Petrone’s— and my— personal favorite is “Urban Experiment 01,” which depicts his fascination with the idea that cities are like living organisms, constantly growing and evolving. The piece, which to me is reminiscent of Robert Smithson’s “Polaroid” (1968), is constructed of chipboard, plywood, and basswood. Expanding over the centuries, glaciers carved and eroded uninhibited crystalline growth engineered in a lab, it somehow looks both like a city and an organic entity under a microscope.

While this and other works line the walls, if you walk into Hartnett Gallery this month, the first thing you’ll find is the massive white structure in the middle of the room. Petrone opened his talk by introducing what is in fact an installation: a model of the glacier that once stretched over Rochester. Walking the audience through the history of the land, he discussed its evolution from a particularly attractive hunting trail to the city we know (and perhaps even love), and how the pressure that this two-mile thick sheet exerted on the Earth has shaped the landscape over millennia.

This specific installation represents how “the natural rhythms of the earth, although slow and sometimes not obvious, impact how we live today,” according to Petrone. His interest in the relationship between the natural forces of the Earth and the lives of its inhabitants is also closely connected to his fascination with glaciers. Petrone thinks that the climate crisis is “something we must face up to,” for which artists have a uniquely powerful platform to raise awareness. Thus, the glacier, which might look lofty but relatively non-descript at first glance, in fact represents what we stand to lose in the face of global warming.

Petrone cited the earth art movement of the ’60s and ’70s as a major influence on his work. The movement focused on exploring our relationship with the environment, rejecting the commodification of art, and reconnecting with the artistic drive behind ancient structures such as the European and African henges and the Nazca Lines in Peru. Among many other great works, Petrone mentioned Alain Sonfist’s “Time Landscape”—an “oasis” of a pre-colonial forest in the middle of New York City— as another example of earth art that has the potential to redefine how we think about our relationship with the planet.

While Petrone aspires to someday create environmental sculptures of a similar scale, his public sculpture for Dubuque, Iowa’s “Art on the River” program comes pretty close. Titled “Resiliency Flows,” the installation consisted of 12 thousand bamboo poles of varying heights to create a scale model of the Mississippi. Petrone said he wanted the sculpture to symbolize the importance of individual actions that might lead to “greater consequences downstream.” If viewed from an ecological perspective, the installation can be interpreted as a commentary on the negative impacts that actions upstream might have on fragile river systems. However, for the artist, the work also represents a lesson that he feels we must learn from the pandemic: the importance of collective action for the greater good.

“However, for the artist, the work also represents a lesson that he feels we must learn from the pandemic: the importance of collective action for the greater good.”

Petrone’s work, which is rooted in the present but is inextricably connected to what once was, expands Sonfist’s thesis to not only memorialize the past but be a constant conversation with it. “Sites and Non-Sites” encourages audiences to reflect on the way we perceive and interact with the land we live on and off of, and thus pay closer attention to its growth, death, and rebirth. Petrone’s figurative excavation of specific sites to uncover their history and beauty of the land is almost archaeological, and speaks to the pressure art can exert on the physical and abstract; spaces it exists in.

Petrone’s new exhibit, “Sites and Non-Sites,” is on display in the Hartnett Gallery until Oct. 23.

Raza is a member of the class of 2024.

Daria” is Better than Daria Would Give It Credit For

BY COREY MILLER-WILLIAMS  MANAGING EDITOR

“Beavis and Butthead” resonated so strongly with ’90s audiences because it was disgusting yet surprisingly intelligent satire. But behind the scenes of the insipid duo, one breakout character was prepared to break through the barriers of the original show into her own, uniquely pessimistic spin-off.

Enter Daria, of “Daria” fame. Originally a side character from “Beavis and Butthead,” her snide commentary and apparent lack of interest in being liked was so hilarious, it made her a fan favorite. And while “Daria” initially took on a more off-satirical comedy pieces, it evolved into a show giving itself more space to ponder exactly what it’s trying to say.

While “Daria” initially followed the “Beavis and Butthead” formula of one-off satirical comedic pieces, it soon developed its own voice.

“Daria” centers on Daria and her family, made up of her overworked overachieving mom, Helen; bumbling incompetent dad, Jake; and shallow approval-seeking younger sister, Quinn. Daria also interacts with several classmates and teachers, though the only person she can truly call her “friend” is Jane, a confident artist with a similar isolationist outlook to Daria’s. Most episodes make fun of or examine a cultural issue—specifically, ‘90s consumerist teenage culture. And... that’s it.

Or so it seems.

At first, that’s all there is to it. The pattern goes: Daria gets forced into a situation where she has to interact with people who aren’t Jane and makes snarky comments about the situation. It’s a really simple and problematic of some aspect she has a problem with.

Hilarity ensues.

Cue end credits

But toward the end of season one, “Daria” and Daria become self-aware. Daria’s carefully-constructed set of morals falls apart too easily, and her efforts to rebuild them end up being cruel and petty. Daria realizes she had not put effort into her appearance really elevate Daria. She’s an average student in high school, or is it just a snazzy way of dealing with the same insecurities the popular kids try and hide?

By season three, Daria can state openly that she doesn’t want to be the “cool girl.” She just doesn’t have another way to be, since she’s observant and bad at bullshitting people. Her policy of brutal honesty and adherence to her moral standards make her lose out on important opportunities, but her real beauty is in her ocularity at worst. And while throughout the show, Daria understands her place in society and the lack of “normality” as she calls it, she does envy how (seemingly) easily people like her sister Quinn can fit in and look normal in their school environment. By the end of season four, she’s prepared to dramatically abandon her mom’s and her best friend—all for a guy. Season one Daria would never do.

If the most satisfying moments of “Daria” happen when Daria forgets what she’s supposed to be forgiving others happen when the show itself forgets what it’s about. The resolution to the show’s “Daria”-Dad relationship is a pullout of a cumulative frustration; the season four TV-film finale is remarkably anticlimactic, because it doesn’t really deal with what made Daria do the hard thing she did. Why was this guy so important? Isn’t she in high school? Why would she want the potential to be something amazing gets washed away, with Daria and Jane’s relationship only salvaged in the last 10 minutes of the season by Jane’s super-human powers of forgiveness: Daria learns nothing, even though this situation was the perfect opportunity for her to reflect on whether her morals are really worth it.

Despite the harsh words I may have spoken of it, I love “Daria” with all my heart. It’s been my favorite show since I was 13, and it will likely continue to be so for the foreseeable future. It takes the tired counter-culture, revenge-of-the-nerds themes of the original show and gives them a new life and time and reflects on them, polishing them up into something shiny and new. Daria might not be the black sheep you’re revascularizing an appallingly surface-level product, but just this once, I think “Daria” can be forgiven.

Miller-Williams is a member of the Class of 2023.
Happy Mid-October, everyone! As Halloween approaches, and since it’s my favorite holiday by far, I’ve been watching Halloween movies since the start of the month. Bittersweetly, it’s also the last Halloween I will spend as a college student, and I’ve been reflecting on the years of childhood and adolescence that have brought me to this point. To unionize these two thoughts, I’d like to write a list of Halloween movies for your inner child — movies that I adored as a child, movies that I wish I would’ve seen as a proper witch in the eyes of the townspeople.

‘Hocus Pocus.’ It goes without saying that this may be the greatest children’s movie ever. Years before I watched Sarah Jessica Parker strut down the streets of Manhattan as Carrie Bradshaw, I knew her as the silly, dim-witted witch of the Salem coven accidentally brought to life by a teenager, Hocus Pocus. It goes without saying that this may be the greatest children’s movie ever. Years before I watched Sarah Jessica Parker strut down the streets of Manhattan as Carrie Bradshaw, I knew her as the silly, dim-witted witch of the Salem coven accidentally brought to life by a teenager, Max, trying to impress a girl on Halloween night. In order to ensure that the Salem witches don’t become immortal and ravage their town forever, Max and his little sister Dani must work a book of spells and a wickedly smart black cat to save the day. As always, the kind-hearted soul of a young girl prevails. Still, this movie is full of tension and iconic Halloween tropes, like teen- age romance, witches around a bubbling cauldron, and a graveyard after dark. What more could you ask for?

‘Corpse Bride.’ Oh, how my little heart beats for Corpse Bride. The illustrous voices of Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter in two awkwardly proportioned, deathly pale Tim Burton claymation characters. The horrifyingly dry world of the living compared to the boisterous, hilarious underworld of the dead. The little maggot that lives in the corpse bride’s eyelash and offers her words of wisdom. There is little else to desire. For those of you who don’t know, the movie is about an ill-fated man who accidentally proposes to a corpse and then has to convince his new bride to live with him in the afterlife. The movie is a result of the two of them exploring the plot together a year before his death — the focus of Mendelsohn’s 2017 book, Odyssey: A Father, a Son, and an Epic.

In adding to speaking to students about the ways in which ‘The Odyssey’ can be reframed and read as a story about fathers and sons, Mendelsohn also talked to a larger audience about how the epic can illuminate issues such as migration, national identity, borders, and xenophobia. Mendelsohn started his lecture marking an occurrence of a symbolic human sacrifice, nearly two decades after my own personal odyssey, his relocation from England to the United States. He stressed that we should reframe the “first boundary we’re faced with” — the “biggest boundary we’re faced with” — to the boundaries of others. Mendelsohn also talked to a larger audience about how the epic can illuminate issues such as migration, national identity, borders, and xenophobia. Mendelsohn started his lecture marking an occurrence of a symbolic human sacrifice, nearly two decades after my own personal odyssey, his relocation from England to the United States. He stressed that we should reframe the “first boundary we’re faced with” — the “biggest boundary we’re faced with” — to the boundaries of others.

In introducing the topic of the film ‘The Odyssey’, Mendelsohn offered to meet a small group of under- graduate students, many of whom were either Meliora Scholars or HRIG Scholars. The students had the opportu- nity to engage in an in-depth discussion with him about his writing process, storytelling, and shifting interpretations of classical texts. They also discussed in detail how his relation- ship with both his father and the movie has evolved. Perhaps the result of the two of them exploring the plot together a year before his death — the focus of Mendelsohn’s 2017 book, Odyssey: A Father, a Son, and an Epic.

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Meliora: Shouldn’t Be Toxic

Last week, the College of Arts, Sciences, and Engineering announced an update to the current course overload policy. Starting in fall of 2022, there is a hard 24-credit cap on overloading. While some students may find this beneficial, the administration’s primary concern is the impact on students’ experience. When facets of yourself come into play, it takes. You’re welcome to join me.

The LGBTQ+ community, which makes up a significant portion of the student body, is an important piece of this puzzle. One of the main concerns highlighted in the College’s announcement is the need for a clear and defined policy. In many cases, students are worried about you. We need that extra encouragement to give ourselves a break to focus on the things we love — our clubs, our hobbies — which might have been pushed to the wayside as toxic Meliora culture made us “out and proud.”

Some friends of mine joke that I suffer from “compulsory homosexuality” as a result of being consistently told that I’m subconsciously, point blank. I think it’s important to feel comfortable in who you are, but labels aren’t a requirement to prove to anyone (or to yourself) that you are important and valid. So, I’m waving the white flag amongst a sea of rainbow flag, I’d like to surrender and just focus on love, no matter what form it takes. You’re welcome to join me.

Koh is a member of the class of 2024.
The Model Minority Myth: A Double-Edged Sword

By ALLISON TAY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I found it funny when people automatically assume that because I'm Asian, I'm good at math, play piano or violin, or study hard. I mean, I am good at math. I do play the violin. I did play piano, at least for a couple years. My school wasn't terrible but it wasn't superb either, and I've had my fair share of challenges. All my assignments last minute like everybody else. I'm a minority, but perhaps as a result of some of these stereotypes, employers don't see my skin color as "one of the troublesome ones" they should avoid. Store owners don't follow me around the shop because I don't fit the image they have in mind of a shopper. And what's wrong with enjoying brightly colored makeup and buying clothes that make you feel good. I like weird makeup and don't embrace the pastel pink part of my personality. I've begun to realize the one-upmanship and face-claiming we tend to fall into discount the fact that we are all distinct individuals who have shared the same experiences. Our time and energy, if we truly want to rid society of toxic masculinity, is better spent honestly and truthfully standing between groups of women rather than pitting ourselves against one another.

In the last year or so, I've watched the pendulum start to swing the other way. There's been a recent celebration of bimbo culture, men embracing feminine fashion, and the revival of hyper-feminine Y2K style, to name a few examples. Of course, that doesn't mean that the stereotype of Asian women hasn't been perpetuated, but this never justifies why I don't see my skin color as "one of the troublesome ones" they should avoid. Store owners don't follow me around the shop because I don't fit the image they have in mind of a shopper.

Although these assumptions may seem beneficial or even flattering, these academic stereotypes serve as a double-edged sword. As a result, people may grow more interested, whereas the latter examples reveal themselves to be much more problematic. I myself had never quite actively contemplated the racial privilege the myth grants me personally. I realized that my academic and extracurricular achievements fit almost-perfectly to my skin color. As the application process gets underway, I felt superficial and hollow. As the application process neared, I even began to view myself like the typical cookie-cutter Asian-American student: hardworking, pliable and obedient —"they're all the same, anyway!" — and worried I wasn't doing enough to stand out against the stereotype.

Reflecting on my own experiences, I'd like to explicitly clarify that my point of view on playing the violin and initiative to play piano were my own decisions and not dictated by my Asian parents. Unfortunately, I feel the need to conscientiously state this whenever I tell someone new about my hobbies. This is the first time I've really thought about what my model minority myth's racist effects on the every-day have been. I think the truth is that my perspective and choices that happen to align with Asian stereotypes have not been, and will not be, free from cultural pressure, but this never justifies why I have to constantly prove that I'm not just what everyone assumes an Asian-American to be — that I'm more than just a model minority

The desire to fit in within my racial community and maintain a comfortable place in a brown body means adopting the habit of requiring a constant wariness in rebutting stereotypes, or a forced compromise of some aspects of my own racial identity to stand out against my peers. As we exercise and reinforce privilege until it's ingrained into us, we can only hope this means the culture of social media is moving in a direction that doesn't devalue the contributions of people, including women, and doesn't encourage others to point and say "well, at least I'm not like her.

Breining is a member of the class of 2025.
Were you more stressed over the fall break because you didn’t know what to do with yourself with no homework to do? Did the lack of responsibility feel entirely foreign and leave you a little confused on what the hell to do with all your extra time? Did your boredom make your fall break totally unenjoyable?

If you answered yes to any of those questions, you are in the majority (100%) of all students at UR! Don’t worry: you’re not alone. As we all know, the special breed of student known as the Yellowjacket is entirely unable to function without the crushing (yet comforting) weight of a 50-hour-work-week.

“We simply kidnap your family, friends, or significant other and torture them while you work to simulate the real life stress you might be facing at school.”

Unfortunately, not being alone can’t actually fix this problem like it can for your dating life. But a new addition to College Town’s list of businesses just might have the solution. Break From School Breaks is a startup that will assign you stressful and fulfilling work to keep you busy over your school breaks! This way, you can feel normal, and take a break from that awful mental relaxation you may be experiencing. We know how hard breaks can be for students, whether it be the dreaded time between semesters where boredom reigns supreme, or those horrid 2-3 day breaks that seem to fall right when your consistent stress levels are highest — we can be there for you to keep your anxiety flowing, your blood pumping, and your Meliota toxic.

Our approach is simple. When you have a break coming up, we’ll assign you some extra work to keep your stress levels as high as they normally are. You might be asking yourself how this can possibly work if there are no grades on the line. Well, we have a solution for that, too.

When you subscribe to Break From School Breaks, we ask you a series of questions to determine what is most important in your life. Do you love your family or significant other? What about your beloved dog, or even your car? Whatever it is that means the most to you, we will figure it out, and we will take it from you. What’s better motivation to turn in that 20-page paper we only gave you a 4-day break to complete than the threat of never seeing your family again?

We simply kidnap your family, friends, or significant other and torture them while you work to simulate the real life stress you might be facing at school. Don’t worry, we won’t actually hurt them as long as you get your assignments in on time! As a bonus, you can always use us as a reference to confirm that resume boost you snuck in: “Works well under pressure.”

We know most students will do anything to escape the mind-numbing tortures of a stress-free break, so take your opportunity to keep that stress up and sign up for Break From School Breaks today! Terms and conditions may apply. We are not responsible for any stress related health effects.
No More Dirty Pockets: Hot Refrigerator™ is Coming to Campus

By Max Levy
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Students of UR, we’ve all been there. You’ve got Pitburgers in your pockets, you trip on a rock, and boom, you’ve got pickles and mayo all over your Adidas track suit. Your friends call you “Burger Boy” for the next three years all because you wanted to keep some extra hamburgers warm for later.

We’ve all been there!! But what if I told you there was a better way to keep your tasty meals warm for longer? From the minds behind the Invisible Toaster™, comes: the Hot Refrigerator™!! Got leftover lasagna from lunch time? Just throw that bad boy in the Hot Refrigerator™, and watch as your tasty meal maintains its temperature indefinitely!!

Got another lasagna that needs heating? What are you, Garfield? Just kidding; the Hot Refrigerator™ doesn’t ask those kinds of questions! Instead, the Hot Refrigerator™ will ask you questions of mental acuity, in order to keep you sharp and on your toes! That’s right, every time you put an item in the Hot Refrigerator™, a bear trap-like claw will ensnare your arm, and the voice-activated lock can only be released by answering one of many various trivia questions regarding the rise and fall of the Russian tsars.

The folks over at HQ called me crazy for installing the Dynamic Intelligence Claw System (D.I.C.K.S), but I’m here to tell you, Garfield? Just kidding, the Hot Refrigerator™ doesn’t ask those kinds of questions!’

The Great Organic Chemistry Lab Show: “Lab Off”

By Sophia Samantaroy
CONTRIBUTING WRITER


Lab off has begun. So put on your lab coat and don your goggles. It’s go time.

Glassware is collected and dumped onto benches. Lines have formed in front of the fume hoods for chemicals. Students peer over their manuals. TAs float around, haggled by students asking them how to do the entire lab.

The stress is high, the stakes are high. And I forgot to weigh my glassware. Again.

I’ve always compared chemistry labs to the technical challenges in the reality TV show, “The Great British Baking Show.” The directions are vague, the mistakes are many. “Do a suction filtration.” “Bake.”

“The stress is high, the stakes are high. And I forgot to weigh my glassware. Again.”

Peering anxiously at my melting point apparatus, waiting for a miniscule amount of white powder to boil, I imagine I’m staring at an oven, willing my sourdough to rise in the idyllic British countryside. Lab coats, aprons, same difference really.

The precision needed to perform chemical experiments or bake edible foodstuffs, the patience required to wait for things to boil or cook, the dazed feeling after doing a lab for three hours or baking in the tent. Technical challenges are meant to test the limits of an amateur baker’s skills through the making of baked goods with a pared down recipe. In reality, it makes for good TV. To any of you who have taken a chemistry lab, this concept might sound familiar. The waiting, the stress, and the surprising collaboration. (This isn’t “Cutthroat Kitchen.”) There is always an element of uncertainty. Which glassware do I use? 100ml? 250ml? How much flour? Is the solution supposed to be yellow? Why did Paul Hollywood spit out my biscuit sandwich??

But labs can be fun when you mostly know what you’re doing; there are moments of exhilaration (“wow, that filtration actually worked!”), mild concern (“isn’t this gas poisonous?”) and collaboration (“can I use your IR spectrum? I accidentally threw my compound out...?”). Labs challenge your multitasking skills, test your patience, and would make an amazing British reality TV show.

Samantaroy is a member of the Class of 2024.
Greenwood Dreams of Joining USA Women’s Baseball Team

By MELANIE EARLE FEATURES EDITOR

“I probably won’t be in very much, but you might see me at bat or something like that,” Greenwood said. “It’s cool to be a part of helping tell this story. Being a part of the actual history that’s happening today in real time. So it’s cool to kind of appear on both sides.”

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Greenwood has met and talked with notable figures in baseball such as Justine Siegal, one of the first women to coach for a MLB team, Veronica Alvarez, a coach for USA Baseball who is currently working with the Oakland A’s, and Kim Ng, the first woman to serve as a general manager in the MLB. Greenwood mentioned a memorable experience at a 2019 USA Baseball training session where Ng was hanging out at the batting cages.

“[Ng’s] taking time, just to talk to us and she wants to know, ‘what is my story?’” Greenwood said. “It was cool because she treated everyone like anybody else.”

“[Ng’s] taking time, just to talk to us and she wants to know, ‘what is my story?’”

Despite her youthful outlook, Greenwood knows she won’t play forever. “Let me say, from the beginning, baseball has always been kind of like a huge part of my life,” Greenwood explained. “But I think there was a point where it kind of changed, where it was about a lot more than just baseball.” Greenwood also travels across the country, connecting with other women in baseball, and trades her stories and experiences with them. At one of the first camps she went to, 30 girls attended, which was a significant experience for her. Before that point, she had not seen many girls play baseball. Now, Greenwood is excited to see a first-year UR student try to walk on to the UR Baseball team.

“As a little kid, I had dreamed that maybe [girls playing baseball] could be a thing, but it’s really hard to be something when you don’t really get to see it,” Greenwood said. “I know that there’s little kids that I’m having that impact on, and they’re having these moments of ‘oh my gosh, if she’s doing it, why can’t I?’”

“It’s been cool to have this kind of full circle moment. I think I’m having lasting impacts and completely changing these kids’ lives for the better and showing them that they can pursue their dreams and passions. And I mean, that’s outside of baseball, too, even if they don’t end up sticking with baseball. It’s helped them just in life, just realizing that it’s okay to go after what you want to do.”

Earle is a member of the class of 2023.
“This Month in Photos” is a column dedicated to documenting daily life on campus each month. You can submit your photos to photo@campustimes.org with the subject line “This Month in Photos.”

Students gather at the First Lounge on following news that the flags will not be returned.

COURTESY OF BANKRUPT PHOTOGRAPHER

Organizers encouraged demonstrators to bring flags that represented themselves and peers.

COURTESY OF BANKRUPT PHOTOGRAPHER

Students gathered on Eastman Quad to protest the ongoing employment of Jaeger.

COURTESY OF BANKRUPT PHOTOGRAPHER

Rush Rhees Library as viewed from Wilson Commons.

ETHAN BUSCH/PUBLISHER

Protestors meet outside URMC on October 11th, amid ongoing anti-vaccine mandate protests.

HENRY LITSKEY/PHOTO EDITOR

The protestors have been meeting outside the entrance to the hospital weekly since August.

HENRY LITSKEY/PHOTO EDITOR

Protestors earlier in the Public Market on October 16th.

SARAH WOODAMS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Light enters the upper stacks in Rush Rhees library, a popular study and workspace on campus.

ETHAN BUSCH/PUBLISHER

Rochestarians fill the Public Market on October 9th.