

Campus Times

SERVING THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SINCE 1873 / campustimes.org



AARON SCHAFFER / PHOTO EDITOR

Study finds movies affect divorce rates

BY DANIELLE DOUGLAS
STAFF WRITER

A new study conducted by UR Psychology Professor Ronald Rogge found that watching films about relationships and discussing them is just as successful in reducing divorce rates as therapy workshops.

The study involved 174 engaged and newlywed couples. 80% were engaged to be married within the next year, and the remaining 20% had been married for less than six months. Rogge recruited all participants through radio, television, and flyer advertising, or at bridal shows and similar events.

They were randomly split into four groups, two of which attended preventative divorce and communication workshops, and a third which received no treatment.

The couples assigned to the fourth group were asked to watch five movies over a one-month period as a substitute for therapy workshops, and to then spend about thirty minutes discussing the relationships seen in the movie and comparing them to their own.

The progress of the couples in the four groups was charted over the span of three years.

The fourth group assigned to the movie discussion was initially created "to control for benefits that couples might get just from spending time together, focusing on their relationship and talking about their relationship," Rogge said.

According to him, he movies provided a more comfortable outlet to discuss the problems and situations that they were unhappy with in their own relationships.

"When you're watching a film, you can laugh about the areas that you might not be doing such a great job at," Rogge said. "...it won't be so stigmatizing because the character probably did it in a [...] more extreme way."

The results showed that while 24% of the couples with no treatment went through divorces by the end of the third year, only 11% of relationships in the workshop and 11% of relationships in the movie discussion groups failed.

The purpose of watching the film was not to have couples attempt to emulate the idealistic life that Hollywood portrays. In America, film and media influence our perception of the

LOVE CONTINUED PAGE 4

Rochester leaders discuss city education

Educators and leaders from the Greater Rochester area convened in the Interfaith Chapel in an attempt to reform urban education.

BY RACHAEL SANGUINETTI
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

UR hosted an educational symposium regarding the Rochester City School District (RCSD) in the Interfaith Chapel on Tuesday morning, Feb. 4.

The symposium was well-attended and encouraged conversation between educational leaders and current teachers. Many staff members and donors of UR were also in attendance.

The catch phrase of the three and a half hour discussion was "secret sauce", referring to the best way to educate children and solve the educational crisis. Each leader spoke about past successes and their plans for the future years as the district continues to reform and improve.

President Seligman began the symposium with opening remarks about the history of reform in the RCSD.

In 2005, the mayor assigned a task force led by Albert J. Simone, eighth president of Rochester Institute of Technology. Their report, titled "Call to Arms", detailed the state of the schools of RCSD and recommendations for improvement.

"In the ensuing years, too little

has changed," Seligman said.

Seligman stated that since the study, the graduation rate has only decreased. Currently, the graduation rate for RCSD is 46%, and only 10% of the students are considered ready for higher education.

Seligman called these statistics, "a crisis of fundamental consequence."

He finished his remarks by thanking the audience for coming and stating that, "Together, we can make a difference."

The newly-elected Mayor of Rochester Lovely Warren was next to take the podium.

"Even if we may not agree on how to reform, I suspect we do agree the status quo is unacceptable," she said.

She stated that the so-called "reform mayors" who have come before her have publicly said that poverty doesn't matter in regards to school reform.

"But unlike those mayors," Warren said, "I do not speak theoretically about poverty."

Her remarks began with stories of former students in the RCSD who lived below the poverty level who had beaten the odds and gone on to become successful adults. Warren said

that for some of these students, zip code determined their future.

"Was poverty a factor that these people had to overcome? Absolutely," she continued.

She then proceeded to clearly state her thoughts on education reform. "I believe in a single standard of educational quality," she said.

She also expressed her support for pre-K education for all students, commonly known as "universal pre-K".

Warren is also a strong supporter of expanding college access to students in the RCSD and fighting summer learning loss—the loss of knowledge that often occurs for students over the summer vacation.

Warren was followed by RCSD Superintendent Bolgen Vargas.

Vargas reiterated many of the goals expressed by Seligman and Warren and then stated his main goal: all children in RCSD schools will read at grade level by third grade.

According to Vargas, students who do not read at grade level in third grade are 13 times less likely to graduate high school than students who are able to read at grade level in 3rd

grade.

One of his solutions is to empower parents and ask them to take part in their children's learning. Parents are now asked to read to their children at home for at least 30 minutes a day.

"The school can do a lot, but we need the parents' help," Vargas said. "We can provide the opportunity, but we will also need the family."

The ensuing panel discussion, titled "Learning from Success", included school administrators, education researchers, and organizers of after-school and summer programs in Rochester. It was lead by Dean of Warner School, Raffaella Borasi.

The first panelist to speak was Associate Professor Kara Finnigan. She detailed the research that has been done nationally regarding urban schools. She also discussed methods that have been successful in other cities across the country.

The next two panelists to speak were Principal of Eugenio Maria De Hostos Charter School Jeffery Halsdorfer and Chief Operating Officer of Uncommon Schools of Rochester and Troy Anna Hall.

EDUCATION CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

INSIDE THIS CT



CLUB SPOTLIGHT: BOXING CLUB

A look at UR's boxing club.

PAGE 8 FEATURES

MIKE BIRBIGLIA IMPRESSES

Comedian Mike Birbiglia performed in Strong Auditorium at UR.

PAGE 12 A&E

MEN'S BASKETBALL LOSES TO WASH-U

Men's Basketball team defeated this weekend.

PAGE 16 SPORTS.



CATHERINE KONG / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

WINTERFEST WARMS UP CAMPUS.

Students warm themselves by the fire on Saturday, Feb. 1. This day was full of fun with free stuffed animals, scarves, hot chocolate, cartoon portraits, and more.

THIS WEEKEND ON CAMPUS

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 6

THE INTERSECTION OF MISOGYNY AND RACISM

12:00 - 1:00 P.M., LATTIMORE 540

A free faculty research seminar presented by Catherine Cerulli, director of the Susan B. Anthony Center for Women's Leadership.

RPO: GERSHWIN AND ELLINGTON

7:30 A.M. - 9:30 P.M., KODAK HALL - EASTMAN THEATRE

Van Cliburn silver medalist Joyce Yang performs Gershwin's beloved Concerto in F, and the RPO performs music by American master Duke Ellington.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 7

SUMMER IN ROCHESTER FAIR

11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M., HIRST LOUNGE - WILSON COMMONS

If you're thinking about staying in Rochester over the summer, stop by and learn about opportunities on campus and in the City.

CLUB ROCHESTER: TRAVEL TO THE CARIBBEAN

4:00 - 5:30 P.M., MELIORA SALON D

Enjoy free appetizers at this monthly happy hour event. Open to University students, faculty, and staff. Hosted by Study Abroad, Office of Minority Student Affairs, and Student Organization for Caribbean Awareness (SOCA).

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8

CHINA NITE

4:30 - 9:00 P.M., STRONG AUDITORIUM

Celebrate the lunar new year with a night of music, dance and a fantastic skit! Tickets are available at the Common Market. \$5 for University students.

SWING DANCE CLUB ANNUAL DANCE

8:00 - 11:00 P.M., MAY ROOM

Enjoy a night of dancing and "Swingin' in the Snow." Swing dance beginners can take a free lesson at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for students.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 9

"UNITED BY FAITH"

2:00 P.M., RIVER LEVEL - INTERFAITH CHAPEL

Congregation Beth Hamedresh-Beth Israel, the Peace Islands Institute, the Turkish Cultural Center and Temples Beth Am and Beth David host a Jewish-Muslim Dialogue Series event.

THE BEATLES ON ED SULLIVAN: A 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELERATION

2:00 P.M., STRONG AUDITORIUM

"The Smooth Talkers" and the UR Music Department will perform in a celebration concert honoring 50 years of Beatles music in America. The event is free and open to the public.

Please email calendar submissions and announcements to news@campustimes.org.

Campus Times

SERVING THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SINCE 1873

WILSON COMMONS 102
UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER, ROCHESTER, NY 14627
OFFICE: (585) 275-5942 / FAX: (585) 273-5303
CAMPUSTIMES.ORG / EDITOR@CAMPUSTIMES.ORG

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF RACHAEL SANGUINETTI
MANAGING EDITOR JONAH JENG

NEWS EDITORS ELISE JOHNSON
JULIANNE MCADAMS
FEATURES EDITOR JAMIE RUDD
OPINIONS EDITOR JASON ALTABET
A&E EDITORS JUSTIN FRAUMENI
JEFFREY HOWARD
SPORTS EDITOR JOHN CHTCHEKINE

PHOTO EDITORS PARSA LOTFI
AARON SCHAFFER
PRESENTATION EDITOR AARON SCHAFFER
ILLUSTRATOR ELIZABETH BESON
COPY EDITOR SAAD USMANI

BUSINESS MANAGER CAROL ROUHANA
PUBLISHER MATTHEW SHINSEKI

Full responsibility for material appearing in this publication rests with the Editor-in-Chief. Opinions expressed in columns, letters or comics are not necessarily the views of the editors or the University of Rochester. The *Campus Times* is printed weekly on Thursdays throughout the academic year, except around and during university holidays. All articles are free. The *Campus Times* is published on the World Wide Web at www.campustimes.org and is updated Thursdays following publication. The *Campus Times* is SA funded. All materials herein are copyright © 2014 by the *Campus Times*.

It is our policy to correct all erroneous information as quickly as possible. If you believe you have a correction, please email editor@campustimes.org.

WEEEEKEND FORECAST

COURTESY OF WEATHER.COM

FRIDAY



Partly Cloudy
Chance of snow: 10%
High 16, Low 3

SATURDAY



Mostly Cloudy
Chance of snow: 10%
High 22, Low 11

SUNDAY



Snow Shower
Chance of snow: 40%
High 25, Low 16

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

Strangers and sprinklers disrupt campus

BY REI RAMOS
STAFF WRITER

Unidentified man lurks in front of Wilson Commons

On Saturday, February 1st, at 6:44 p.m., Public Safety Officers responded to the front of Wilson Commons after receiving a report of a suspicious man. Officers arrived and spoke to the reporting undergraduate student who stated that the male had approached her and made inappropriate comments in addition to placing his arm around her. She also stated that she had a similar encounter with the same man a few days prior to this event. The man was gone when officers arrived. A short time later, a man matching the student's description was seen back in the same area on CCTV. Responding officers were able to locate the man in order to stop and talk to him. The man was identified as the same person from the earlier report. During the course of the investigation, two other undergraduates reported that the man had approached them earlier in the day and tried to engage them in conversation. The man was identified and was banned from the property. He was then escorted off of campus property and advised not to return. No charges were filed.

Sprinkler surprises Danforth

On Wednesday, Jan. 29th, at 1:21 p.m., Public Safety Officers responded to a fire alarm in Danforth Dining Center in Susan B. Anthony Hall. Upon arrival, officers found a malfunctioning sprinkler head that would not stop flowing water. Rochester Fire Department and Environmental

Health and Safety staff also responded to the alarm. The water to the sprinkler was shut down so that the system could be repaired. It is unknown at this time what caused the sprinkler head to activate. There were no injuries, but there were reports of water damage.

Man at Eastman trying to panhandle [from] organization

On Friday, Jan. 31 at 3:48 p.m., Public Safety Officers responded to the Miller Center at the Eastman School of Music after receiving reports of a man soliciting for money. Officers were able to locate the man in the lobby of the Miller Center. The man provided ID upon being approached. The man was told that he could not panhandle on university property, and was and sent on his way without incident.

Student found after hours at Eastman Theatre

On Saturday, Feb. 1, at 11:15 p.m., a Public Safety Officer located an undergraduate student inside the Eastman Theatre lobby after hours. The officer told the student that he needed to leave the building through the school's exit doors and not the theatre. The student apparently did not understand why he could not cut through the theatre. The student left the building after being informed that he needed to vacate the building prior to its scheduled closing time.

*Ramos is a member of the class of 2015.
Information provided by UR Public Safety.*

Want to leave a legacy?

Join the Campus Times.

Email editor@campustimes.org for more information.

URMC launches new brand during Super Bowl



COURTESY OF URMV VIA VIMEO

One of the ‘You Are’ featured clips, aired locally during the Super Bowl.

BY RAAGA KANAKAM
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The UR Medical Center (URMC) released its new clinical brand identity this past Sunday during a series of locally-broadcasted Super Bowl commercials.

UR Medicine refers to the direct patient care network that includes the many organizations and individuals within it.

The network includes the Strong Memorial Hospital Highland Hospital, Thompson Health, The Highlands at Brighton and The Highlands Living Center, Eastman Dental, and the UR Medical Faculty Group.

Chief Executive Director of the marketing team at URMC Karl Withers explained the change of name.

“Our network has grown, and that has led to some confusion,” Rogge said. “Patients tell us that they think of URMC as a ‘place’ rather than a network delivering care in dozens of locations throughout the region.”

Rogge noted that people viewed URMC as a location and not as a source of medical services. The marketing team felt that a fresh

look was needed on the image. “UR Medicine refers to the caliber of care [that] patients can expect [...] while not limiting us to a single location,” Rogge said.

Rogge emphasized that the people featured in the commercial were not actors, but patients and providers of “UR Medicine.”

“The creative strategy is to empathize with the real human issues, both the struggle and the triumph, that are contained in the true patient stories that we receive here,” Rogge said.

The advertisement used a local production company and ad agency, as well as actual patients treated through this system.

The advertisement consists of different taglines with statements that allude to the patients in the audience, such as “You are overcoming heart disease” and “You are fighting back after cancer.”

The “You Are” concept came from Creative Director Jim Lahue. The goal was to reach out to the audience while providing a mnemonic device that sticks to them.

Kanakam is a member of the class of 2017.

Dining Services hosts annual Iron Chef Challenge

BY WILL O'BRIEN
STAFF WRITER

This past Friday, Jan. 31, Dining Services held their annual Iron Chef Challenge in Danforth Dining Center. The Iron Chef Challenge developed out of the University Chef Challenge that was started by former District Chef Mary Locke and the staff of Hoeing and Crosby Halls in 2003.

In an effort to “keep evolving,” Marketing Manager Kevin Aubrey decided to put an “interesting spin” on this year’s event by adding aspects of the popular television show “Iron Chef” to the competition.

The two key new elements of this year’s competition were the introduction of a judging panel and a secret ingredient.

Danforth Food Service Director Bob Fox, who competed with Aubrey as a team last year, described the introduction of the “secret ingredient” as part of Dining Services’ efforts to increase locally sourced food options.

Dining Services worked with ThreeSquare Kitchen, an organization that helps pair local farms with partners to sell their products. The secret ingredient was New York grown potatoes from Greater Tater in Wayland, NY and Old Ridge Farm in Williamson, NY.

The introduction of a secret panel of judges this year added an extra element of excitement for the competitors.

The Panel included Dean of Students Matt Burns, Director of the Center for Student Conflict Management (CSCM) Kyle Orton, Assistant Director of CSCM Karen duerr-Clark, and the Assistant Director for Freshman Housing Christine Nye.

Burns emceed the event.



COURTESY OF UR DINING VIA FACEBOOK

Team Mayo celebrates their victory in the 11th annual Iron Chef Challenge. This is Ted Gawens’ (upper right) fifth consecutive win.

The competition also had a “People’s Choice Award” where students were able to vote for their favorite dish.

This year’s competition included four teams. Each team was made up of chefs, supervisors, and two Aramark managers. These teams were also assisted by Danforth staff workers.

Team Erikita, made up of Starbucks Manager Benita Aparo and Danforth Chef Manager Erik MacDavis, handmade the dough and the filling for their Italian themed dish – sausage stuffed Pierogis.

Team Salt&Pepa, including

Dining Services Receiving Manager Dustin Peterson and Starbucks Supervisor Cait Arliss, made their own unique creation. They named their grilled chicken and roasted vegetable dish Chicken Savory and paired it with potatoes in two ways, sautéed and mashed.

Team Money, led by Eastman School of Music Chef Manager Devin Smith with Aramark Office Manager Lori Tomasso created a potato and herb Galettes, a French pastry topped with bacon and goat cheese.

Team Mayo included Assistant Food Service Director Ted Gawens and Catering Assistant Banquet

Manager Bianca Castagnaro. They served baked egg Frittatas with bacon, scallions, and cheese. Gawens has won the competition for the last four years, winning last year’s event with Castagnaro.

After much tasting and deliberation, the students and the judges made their decisions. The winners of the People’s Choice Award in Battle Potato was Team Mayo, led by Gawens and Castagnaro.

After his fifth consecutive win, Gawens pointed to the strategy of “cooking for students, having fun with students, and creating a good atmosphere” as the key to

his success.

Team Salt & Pepa, featuring Peterson and Arliss, won the Judge’s hearts and stomachs as their Chicken Savory brought them home the biggest prize of the day.

When asked about their experience, Peterson said their success was “thanks to Antoinette[Fuller],” their assistant for the competition. In hopes of bringing home both trophies, Arliss said, “Next year we will set aside more time to interact with the students.”

O'Brien is a member of the class of 2016.

Symposium creates optimism among education leaders



AARON SCHAFER / PHOTO EDITOR

President Seligman, Dean Borasi, and Superintendent Vargas look on as Mayor Warren makes her remarks.

EDUCATION FROM PAGE 1

Both of these leaders spoke about the way their schools had exceeded state standards and predicted test scores given to them based on the number of free/reduced lunch students in their schools. They emphasized the importance of professional development for teachers to improve methods of instruction.

Two panelists who represented

The program is designed to decrease the summer learning loss and to engage students in their education; 90% of the students... go on to graduate high school

current reforms in RCSD were Director of Extended Learning and Intervention for RCSD Caterina Leone-Mannino and Principal of Charles Carroll School No. 46 T'Hani Pantoja.

They presented both positive aspects of the schools as well as ongoing challenges.

Another member of the panel was Chief Operating Officer for the Greater Rochester Summer Learning Association (SummerLEAP) Conger Gabel.

SummerLEAP is offered to select students that also qualify for free or reduced lunch; it offers educational summer programming to students who would not otherwise be able to afford it.

Vargas announced his long-term goal for SummerLEAP: to have their participant level at 1000 children in the summer of 2016. This summer, they are expecting 730 students.

The program is designed to decrease summer learning loss and to engage students in their education; 90% of the students

who participate in this program go on to graduate from high school and 75% of them go on to higher education.

Gabel said it is not just about the education they receive while at camp but also the environment and support given to them by the camp staff.

"[While at camp], children are safe and they know it," Gabel said. "And their parents know it. They know they are loved. They know they are cared about."

President of Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection Augustin Melendez was the final member of the panel. The Hillside Work-Scholarship works with students in after-school programs to prepare them for careers after high school.

After all of the panelists spoke, the floor was opens for questions.

These included the value of college versus vocational school, addressing the importance of race in school, and the safety of students while they are at school.

The panelists received little time to debate and discuss these questions, and their answers had to remain brief.

The conference closed with statements from Warren, Borasi, Vargas, and Seligman. All made closing remarks of thanks to the UR for hosting and thanking the community members for attending.

"I come out of this with a clear sense of hope," Borasi said. "The results we heard show that urban schools can indeed succeed academically."

After the conference, Seligman said via email that he was happy with the success of the conference and that another would be held in the spring semester of 2015 to reevaluate and track progress.

"This is the first effort of its sort by the University," Seligman said. "There will be others. But we needed to start with topics that suggested that, as difficult as these challenges are, there is also a basis for optimism."

Sanguinetti is a member of the class of 2015.

Discussion of movies lead to lower divorce rates among couples

LOVE FROM PAGE 1

"perfect relationship," according to a 2003 study.

"I think that there's a stereotype, or a conventional kind of love, that the media is trying to portray and trying to get across," Digital Media Studies student Max Nadler '17 said. "It is just based on the types of morals that we create and the media tries to portray for us."

"Aside from whatever messages the scriptwriters are inadvertently sharing with us, we can use these movies as a way to talk about what our own relationships in our own lives are doing, how they're functioning,

and what we want them to be,"

His findings can be applied to strengthening families and calming disputes between parents and children

Rogge explained.

The movie-discussion tactic was so effective because it forced couples to spend time

together, provoked discussion about touchy issues, and allowed each partner to look at his or her own behavior in an relaxed, non-threatening environment.

Rogge said he believed that his findings can be applied to strengthening families and calming disputes between parents and children.

Rogge's research has been featured on Good Morning America, the Today Show and in the Democratic and Chronicle along with 900 other newspapers.

Douglas is a member of the class of 2016.



FOOD • DRINK • SPORTS • FUN
thedistillery.com

1142 Mt. Hope Avenue 271-4105
300 Paddy Creek Circle 621-1620
3010 Winton Road South 339-3010
10 Square Drive 924-2337



08042009111

\$5.00 OFF

Receive \$5.00 OFF your guest check with a minimum purchase of \$20.00*

*Present to your server when ordering. No cash value.

Dine-in only. Tax & gratuity not included.

Not valid with half-price promos, other discounts or on split checks.

Maximum \$5.00 discount per table/party/visit.

Valid through June 30, 2014

THE STRENGTH TO HEAL
and stand by those who stand up for me.

Here's your chance to be a part of a team that shares your commitment to teamwork and making a difference. Become an Army physician and receive up to \$250,000 towards qualifying medical school loans. What's more, you'll have access to the most advanced training, treatments and technology.

For More information visit healthcare.goarmy.com/residents

© 2010. Paid for by the United States Army. All rights reserved.

U.S. ARMY
ARMY STRONG.®

OPINIONS

EDITORIAL CARTOON



LIZ BESON / ILLUSTRATOR

EDITORIAL OBSERVER

Zero stars out of five



BY JEFF HOWARD
A&E EDITOR

Charles Darwin once said, “It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is most adaptable to change.”

I try to take Darwin’s words to heart, what with him publishing one of the most important texts in human history. Yes, even with my limited knowledge of science I (sort of) understand that evolution is a process colossally larger in scale than my short life. Regardless, since learning about Darwin in high school, I’ve silently played a game where I see how well I can adapt to the trivial changes that rock my small world – a Facebook redesign, a change in management at a restaurant I have a sentimental attachment to – as if my resilience to these trifles is a sort of evolutionary fitness workout routine.

It wasn’t until the second semester of my freshman year that I hit a wall in my little game, and it was when Starbucks revamped its pastry line up. I shouldn’t have been so surprised when the day finally came, as Starbucks had been advertising the change months in advance. But despite the signs, I never thought that the coffee corporation with a beautifully cryptic mermaid logo and pseudo-sophisticated facade that made me feel so cool and hip would ever let me down.

Well, Starbucks has let me down, and now the jig is up. The company outsourced its pastry line up to a bakery called “La Boulange”, which Starbucks seems to assume I’ve heard of but haven’t. Allow me to express my frustration in the change with the tact of a fifth grader in his persuasive writing essay, because I can’t go about this in any other way:

First of all, most of the baked goods look visually unappealing and I refuse to believe that their taste or quality will be deceptively good. Yes, I used the future tense

because other than a morning bun, which had enough sugar to qualify as rock candy, I have no intention of trying the other new concoctions. The cakes look shriveled and sad, the muffins have not so much a robust top as a gentle curve, and the savory squares look way too questionable for me to ever want to go down that route.

Secondly, the pastry display itself disappoints from an aesthetic standpoint. Because of the small size of the baked goods, the display is sparse and empty, but not in a cool, minimalistic way, like the Yeezus album cover or a Mondrian. No, the vast and open display only highlights how lacking the desserts have become as the miniscule coffee cakes cower against the harsh pink light from the display paper.

This brings me to my next point, which is that the desserts are no doubt lacking because I am paying the same \$2.45 for less pastry. Sadly, Starbucks hopped aboard the Tapas train, whose motto is, “Why pay more for more food when you can pay more for less food?”

But really, I can’t deal with “La Boulange” because I feel like Starbucks is using it to insult my intelligence. With the new pastry lineup, Starbucks has been throwing around my favorite culinary buzzword: “Artisanal”. Sorry, but I’m not going to blindly believe that your tomato and cheese squares were painstakingly crafted by some sort of wise shoe cobbler from the streets of Venice. I also couldn’t help but notice the way they tote their chocolate as “single-source”. I can only imagine they want me to believe that the chocolate came from one place and therefore must be high quality. Well, can’t you get your chocolate from one really bad source?

Starbucks may be no more than a Dunkin Donuts with fancy clothes, but at least I have the right to pretend I’m enjoying some sort of distinguished coffee experience. Starbucks sank too low with “La Boulange”, and with this I can’t enjoy the blissful ignorance I used to know. I guess some changes will take a little longer to get over.

Howard is a member of the class of 2017.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Pay Attention To The State of Our Union

Last Tuesday, President Obama spoke to the nation in his yearly State of the Union address, a term which I suspect most people are familiar with. A more pressing question would be, did you watch it?

According to the Washington Post, you wouldn’t be alone if you said you didn’t. Only 33.3 million Americans, out of a nation of hundreds of millions, reported watching the speech. Now, that statistic alone isn’t very important. The State of the Union, after all, has become less about understanding the current “state” of our country and more a way for the president to advocate for his own policy objectives. Instead, the important question is how much you actually know about the state of the union, not the speech, but the state of the nation.

We sometimes forget it, but there is more to the world than just our humble campus. Outside the city of Rochester, or the entirety of New York State, there is an entire nation of people. How many people know about the winter storm currently battering the Northeast, even cancelling a few classes at the University (shocking I know)?

I imagine that most would say yes, yet how many know that California is currently in the grip of a devastating drought that has the U.S. Drought Monitor designating two thirds of the state as experiencing extreme or exceptional drought conditions? It’s a drought that has forced the government to ban people from most non-essential water use activities that we might take for granted, like washing a car, or mowing a lawn. It’s even brought the reservoir water levels down to 60 percent of their normal February levels, sparking fears about what will happen when the dry summer season hits the state.

What about what happened in Virginia? If you’re scratching your head right now, I’ll bring you up to speed. On Jan, Freedom Industries, a coal-cleaning company, spilled chemicals into the West Virginian water supply which forced a warning to under no circumstances go on drinking, bathing in, or doing laundry with the local water. Schools closed when teachers and students began to exhibit sickly symptoms from exposure to the odor wafting from the spill. At times, even the National Guard was called in to assist

local officials in containment and relief efforts. The ban, which affected nearly 300,000 Americans, was only recently lifted by the state government, finally assuring constituents that the water is again safe to use. This entire story, as with California’s own water crisis, has gone almost entirely unnoticed on campus.

The fact is, we are a campus in a bubble. It’s not a bubble that has been forced upon us, but one that we have imposed on ourselves. In our rush from class to Model UN, or from working at the common connection to the frat quad, we put ourselves in an information bubble. It may be hard, but we must work to pop that bubble and make an effort to stay in tune with the struggles and joys of the rest of the country, because there are shared joys to be had. Whether it be joining together to watch the Super Bowl or, even better, cheering on the USA team as they go skiing, sledding, and snowboarding in Sochi, Russia. There are plenty of ways to link yourself with the rest of the nation, to burst through that bubble, but in order to do so, you must make the effort and burst through.

Change Grab and Go For The Better

In theory, Grab and Go is a great idea – provider of speedy meals for unlimited, swipes, and declining users alike and the solution to brief lunchtimes and long lines at the dining halls. In reality, however, this dining option is far from perfect and has a long way to go in order to be cost-effective for students, eco-friendly, and healthy.

Someone with the 150 pass plan – 800 declining dollars and 150 meal swipes – will often find themselves frequenting Grab and Go during the latter half of the semester, needing to make use of their swipes after burning through too much declining early on. Many identify the downfalls of Grab and Go but continue to use it out of necessity during the time between midday classes – opting to use a surplus of meal swipes rather than spending that sacred declining on better options. The downfalls are obvious to most who use the service, but because unlimited users get it for “free” and other users value it for its speedy nature, these flaws often

go ignored.

For one, the wastefulness of Grab and Go is a bitter pill to swallow. When one walks in, they are instantly confronted with a myriad of different wasteful products. Cans of soda, plastic water bottles, little baggies for the cookies, even the bags that Grab and Go shoves its drinks, sandwiches, and bags of cookies into. All of this leads to hundreds upon hundreds of bags and cans to find their way into the garbage system.

Instead of this destructive combo of landfill supplying products, let’s take a different path. Reusable bags are one solution and something a variety of different places have already experimented with to great success. For the drinks, consider allowing people to fill up reusable containers with their swipe instead of being forced to take a can or nothing.

Another issue stems from being forced into either taking a fruit or bag of chips, but having no such alternative for the cookie. The lack of healthy

options at the Grab and Go is a clear problem. Even with the small salads they offer, my only other option is to take a single small apple and a bottle of water. The grab a cookie or nothing mentality forces a choice between being hungry a few hours later or breaking a commitment to healthy eating. Instead, Grab and Go should allow a two out of three rule stand so one can take two pieces of fruit. The option to take a bag of chips and a piece of fruit would even be an improvement over the current system, however, the current offering of chips leaves much to be desired on the health front. A baked chip options, or maybe even a selection of carrots and other vegetables, would be a great addition to the service.

Overall, Grab and Go as a service is great and offers a valuable option to the members of the student body, but changes should be made to bring it to a higher standard of eco-friendliness and healthiness for the entire student body.

The above two editorials are published with the consent of a majority of the editorial board: Rachel Sanquineti (Editor-in-Chief), Jonah Jeng (Managing Editor), Jason Altabet (Opinions Editor), Jamie Rudd (Features Editor), and Julliane McAdams (News Editor). The Editor-in-Chief and the Editorial Board make themselves available to the UR community’s ideas and concerns. Email editor@campustimes.org.

Building Climate Solutions

BY RANDALL CURREN

It was in the summer of 1988, in the midst of epic heat and drought, that James Hansen, of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, brought awareness of human-made climate change to a national audience with his widely reported congressional testimony. “Climate disruption is real, we’re causing it, and it’s happening now,” he said. A quarter of a century later, 98% of the world’s climatologists agree. It is a message that has been reiterated by speakers from all along the political spectrum and around the world, most recently at the climate solutions conference hosted by the National Council for Science and the Environment in Washington, D.C. January 28-30th.

Hansen’s lecture was probably the most eagerly anticipated, and he received a standing ovation more for the fearlessness of his scientific leadership than for the talk itself. Climate researchers have been slow to acknowledge the conservatism of their projections – they have a fear of overestimating the sensitivity of the climate system to rising atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases. Year after year, the data on the speed of climate change, glacier melting, sea level rise, and positive feedbacks demonstrate that Earth’s climate system is being destabilized much faster than the consensus projections produced by the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) and is being endorsed by sponsoring governments, including our own. So Hansen, a self-described small-government political conservative, is celebrated because he has been fearlessly out ahead of his peers in recognizing what is now beyond any scientifically meaningful dispute. Climate change is real. We’re causing it. It’s happening now, and it’s moving fast.

This basic message was reinforced very effectively in

on the basis of models of thermal capture by atmospheric greenhouse gases. Alley hosted the recent PBS miniseries, “Earth: The Operators’ Manual”, and he put on quite a show debunking myths, explaining why the present trajectory of emissions will be extremely costly, but also expressing optimism that we can fix this.

There were a couple of references at this conference to the massively funded industry of denial and obfuscation, modeled on the tobacco industry’s methods for keeping doubt about the dangers of tobacco alive as long as possible. The role of the fossil fuel industry in bankrolling denial is well documented, and the sharply contrasting position of large insurers is also well documented. Industries whose business models depend on accurately projecting risk and climate-related losses and governments and that must similarly anticipate and prepare for disasters have no choice but to rely on the scientific consensus. The industry and government representatives at this conference explained how they are doing just that.

Tony Slater, First Assistant Secretary of the Australian Government’s Water Reform Division, explained how the nationalization and refinement of Australia’s water management system has enabled his country to endure an 80% decline in water availability and keep 80% of its farmers afloat. In a country where summer temperatures are now reaching 125 to 129 degrees and melting water bottles, this was an encouraging success story. Jennifer Jurado, Director of the Broward County, Florida, Natural Resources Planning & Management Division, gave a very strong presentation about flooding and water availability problems in south Florida and the threat to groundwater posed by sea level rise. In an era in which so much decision-making seems to be focused on short-term quarterly profits or the next election cycle, it was encouraging to learn that Jurado and the south Florida water district are basing their 50 year water management planning on scientifically respectable projections of a 9 to 14 foot rise in ocean levels (The last time atmospheric carbon dioxide levels were as high as they are now, the oceans were 30 meters higher, but it would take more than 50 years for a change of that magnitude to play itself out).

The other speakers I found most compelling had similarly encouraging stories of mitigation and adaptation efforts. Diana Ürge-Vorsatz, Director of the Center for Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Policy at the Central European University, described the “tremendous behavior change in Europe,” where one-third of the residents of Vienna commute by bicycle and new buildings are designed for nearly zero emissions. John

Gummer, Lord Deben, Chair of the UK Climate Change Committee, gave a sparkling standup lecture without notes on the role of his committee of economists and climatologists in setting the annual carbon budgets that are moving the UK toward 40% carbon reductions by 2030. “Why would you insure your home against less than a 1% chance of fire, but not insure your civilization against a 95% chance of climate catastrophe?” he quipped. A conservative, he insisted that climate action is “central to the battle for humanity” and “social justice is at the heart.” According to him, “we can only solve global problems with global solutions,” and that requires cooperation. He advised the scientists to “Be cheerful about it! ... We are lucky to live at a turning point in history, and I am happy to play my part in it.”

It was easy to come away from this conference with



LIZ BESON / ILLUSTRATOR

the impression that the US is remarkably polarized with regard to climate policy by current world standards, but Robert Inglis, a former Member of Congress from South Carolina and current Executive Director of the Energy and Enterprise Initiative at George Mason University, had some useful advice on how to overcome this polarization. Begin by showing respect for the divergent world views of those you need to bring together, he advised. He and Hansen both suggested paths to a universal carbon tax that opponents of big government could accept, and he offered the inspiring story of the Georgia Green Tea Coalition. Who would have thought the (Green) Sierra Club could persuade the Georgia Tea Party to join them and win a vote to let Georgia homeowners install solar panels and be paid by Georgia Power for the electricity they don’t use?

A lot of progress toward climate change mitigation and adaptation comes with co-benefits, and this conference reinforced my view that participating in that progress offers ways to feel more in control of the circumstances of one’s own life

Curren is the professor and chair of the department of philosophy at the University of Rochester.

See Past The Smoke

BY SAM LAWYER

Every time my cousin gets into my car, he pulls out the spit cup he always brings with him, grabs his dip, and spews out these blackish, foul-smelling globs. I can’t decide whether the best part is when he leaves it in my car or when he spills it. Coming from Massachusetts Maritime Academy, where there is a smoke-free policy, he and every single one of his friends there have found their love of chewing tobacco. Despite arguable reasons for colleges to implement smoke-free campus policies that you’ve probably all heard about, there is an abundance of compelling, legitimate arguments against creating such policies. Two main reasons to not implement smoke-free policies include the rise in use of other tobacco products and the pushing of students off-campus into unsafe areas.

If just half of the students who smoke want to go off campus for a nightly cigarette, over 600 students every night will end up wandering across the river.

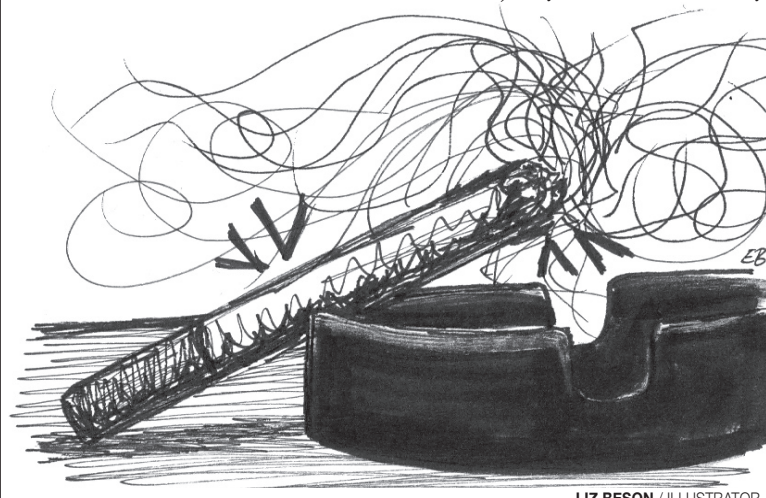
Students who are addicted to nicotine will find other nicotine products to replace the cigarettes they crave. The most common nicotine product other than cigarettes is dip: finely ground moist tobacco. To “dip”, users stick a lump of tobacco in their lower lip. This gets the nicotine into their system while causing excessive salivation, which makes the user sick if they swallow it. Imagine all the groups of smokers you’ve seen outside on campus, and replace them with the tasteful visual of a group of people repetitively spitting black, tar-like, odorous wads of dip. Or maybe, since it’s so cold, students would just dip while in class. Imagine that: a spit-cup on their desk reeking of bad breath and tobacco. Or, think of

insist that, instead of just stepping outside, students would need to leave campus in order to smoke. Not only would this decrease the amount of students who hang out on campus and decrease the general feeling of community because of a less-populated campus, but it would also decrease the safety of students.

So, it’s a bit before midnight, and before falling asleep, students on the Res Quad decide to walk across the river because it’s the closest place to go to smoke. Need I mention that off-campus areas are not always the most agreeable, especially in the middle of the night? As a student body, we already get enough emails about our peers running into terrible situations in some of the worse areas off-campus. Studies have shown that about 25% of college students smoke cigarettes. At the UR, with a 5,000 student undergraduate body, if just half of the students who smoke want to go off campus for a nightly smoke, over 600 students every night will end up wandering across the river. The implementation of a smoke-free campus would push students into surrounding areas, and something that is frankly both unsafe and unnecessary.

These are just two of the many reasons for not implementing smoke-free policies. More include costliness, the unenforceable nature of such policies, and a blatant disrespect for individual rights. But when it all comes down to it, I wouldn’t want to fight policies that genuinely promote the wants of our student body. The downfall of public forums is that they solely draw out the people who are passionate and extreme about either opposing viewpoint. If the school is really serious about implementing smoke-free policies, it should construct a short, mandatory survey to accurately gauge what the entirety of our student body wants. The survey should be able to distinguish between those who are nonsmokers and those who are nonsmokers who want a smoke-free campus.

If a majority of the student body



LIZ BESON / ILLUSTRATOR

walking up the George Eastman quad, admiring the beautiful, view of our campus, and then you look down to see you’ve stepped in one of many pools of black, chunky, rancid saliva. As pleasant as that sounds, I’d rather catch a whiff of smoke from a passerby than have their saliva and partially ingested tobacco on my sneakers.

Smoke-free policies would

wants a smoke-free campus, then I would agree it’s the right decision for our school to make. There just needs to be a wider understanding that a smoke-free campus has an abundance of drawbacks for not just smokers but for the campus community as a whole.

Lawyer is a member of the class of 2017.

FEATURES

Student reflects on Ukraine protests

BY BENNETT NIDENBERG
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

My family has hosted many international students over the years for both school-year and summer stays. Two of these students were from Ukraine. One of them came to spend the summer with my family after recently losing both of his parents and deciding to embrace his Jewish heritage by traveling to the US. His name is Roman.

He stayed with my family in the summer of 2011, and I had the wonderful opportunity to visit him over this past winter break. It was an incredible experience. I was able to see some amazing places and explore one of the most eco-conscious cities in the world.

Before I went to Ukraine, I had not paid much attention to political issues besides a few articles about the status of the

SEE **PROTEST** PAGE 9

The housing hunt: The ins and outs of securing housing on and off campus

BY KATE COWIE-HASKELL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As students begin to settle into the spring semester and adjust to new schedules, there is a nagging question that begins to worm its way into the campus consciousness: Who will I live with next year,



COURTESY OF ROCHESTER STUDENT HOUSING
One of Rochester Student Housing's options for students.

and where? For some, the answer to that question may come in the form of a housing lease. For many others, it means facing the dreaded housing lottery. Regardless of

your living plans for next year, it is important to consider all options, make backup plans, and get started... now.

If you're a student who prefers the convenience of living on campus, the housing lottery is an inevitable part of the process. The lottery

has been used for years by the University, but is now only in its second year online.

According to Executive Director of Residential Life and Housing Services Laurel Contomanolis, the system had a very smooth rollout last year and will be used with very few modifications this year. "Whenever you do something new, there are going to be people who like it and people who don't like it, but it really worked out exactly the way we expected it to," Contomanolis said.

Some current sophomores, however, would not describe the process as smooth. Each year, a certain number of students (usually rising sophomores) find that their housing options are extremely limited when their lottery time is up. These students are usually put on a waiting list to be assigned housing by Residential Life over the summer.

Sarah Jensen, a current sophomore, was one of the students to be put on this list last year. "My roommate and I were planning on getting a

suite in Towers with four of our friends," Jensen explained. "But none of us had good lottery times, so when it was our turn, we realized that there were no more suites available



COURTESY OF UR RESIDENTIAL LIFE

New residence hall, Brooks Crossing

anywhere, even in Southside."

Jensen and her roommate added their names to a growing list of displaced sophomores and were informed in July that they would be living in a suite in Towers with four other unknown girls. Although she received her first housing preference, Jensen remains apprehensive about the lottery

SEE **HOUSING** PAGE 8

Astoria: Rochester's Greek cuisine, a review

BY NICHOLAS MAVRELIS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

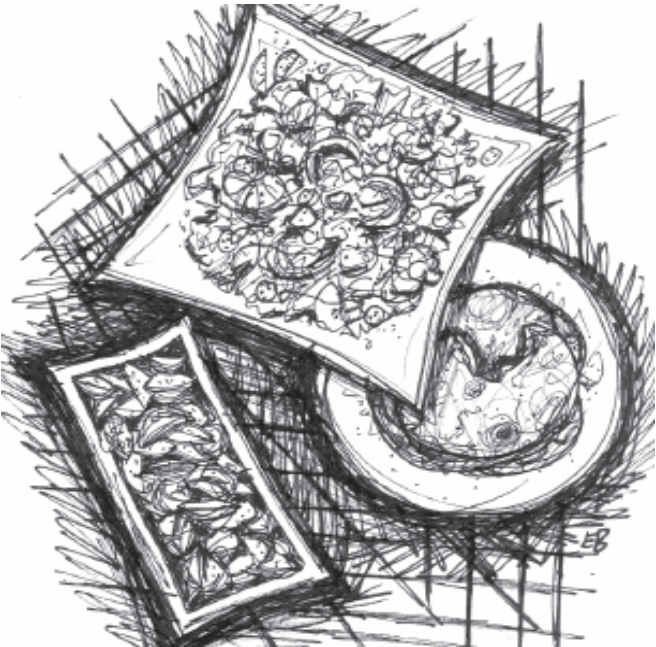
Astoria. No, not Astoria, NY – an area right outside of Manhattan that is largely populated by Greeks – but Astoria, the restaurant on Monroe Avenue, just a few short miles away from the University.

As a Greek guy from Astoria, NY, I can tell you that the food at this place is as Greek as it gets, especially for a restaurant that is close to the River Campus. The menu largely consists of Greek food with an American twist that even non-Greeks will enjoy.

I ordered a Greek salad, which was fairly priced. As for sides, I ordered Greek lemon potatoes and pita bread. The Greek salad? Delicious.

Usually, at least in my experience, Greek restaurants cheap-out on the feta cheese. Not this place. The amount of feta, and good feta at that, was more than generous. It's definitely worth the \$10 for the restaurant's large portions, each of which can easily last you for two meals.

The pita bread and lemon potatoes? Also great. The pita bread, which I believe is whole wheat, was grilled to perfection. The portion? Definitely more than one



LIZ BESON / ILLUSTRATOR

person should eat. Worth the \$2.

The lemon potatoes? While not as tasty as either the pita bread or salad, they reminded me of authentic Greek cuisine. Sure, they could have been cooked slightly more, but the delicious lemon flavor and oils made the potatoes burst with flavor. Again, worth the money.

For \$15, you can get an excellent and authentic Greek dinner. This little gem definitely surprised me, but with a name like Astoria, I'm not surprised.

Mavrelis is a member of the class of 2017.

UR OPINION

BY JAMIE RUDD & PARSA LOTFI
FEATURES EDITOR & PHOTO EDITOR

“DESCRIBE FACEBOOK IN THREE WORDS.”



SARAH JOSEPH '14
“All the feels.”



JACOB REID '16
“Place for friends.”



JENI STOLLOW '14
“The ultimate procrastinator.”



ANDREW SPITZBERG '14
“Addicting, addicting, addicting.”



KYLIE SARGEANT '17
“Addictive, time-consuming, fun.”



MICHAEL MILLER '16
“Total time sap.”

Boxing Club: An alternative method for staying in shape

BY HAYDEN FREEMAN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Last time you walked into Goergen Athletic Center, you likely found the sporting landscape to be homogenous: unquestionably, basketball rules the courts. Those aspiring to try something new and different will have to search beyond their first glance. This was William Bade two years ago when he wandered into the Boxing Club’s initial meeting.

“I got involved in the boxing club fairly randomly,” says Bade. “I had tried to start a club freshman year and it fell through last minute, but I knew the process.” After attending a general interest meeting, Bade was intrigued by the passion of prospective president Miles Meth and, as a Senator, offered his services to help make the club a reality.

Boxing, rated by ESPN as the most physically demanding sport of all, reached its heyday in the second half of the 20th century. Name-brand professional fighters like Muhammad Ali and Mike Tyson ruled the headlines and films like “Raging Bull” and the “Rocky” series dramatized the sport and added to its appeal.

Although television ratings indicate the sport is not as popular as it once was, fighters like Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather Jr. have invigorated the fan community. Viewers enjoy the physicality and power



AARON SCHAFER / PHOTO EDITOR

Members of the Boxing Club practice in Goergen Athletic Center on Wednesday, Feb. 5.

that the sport emphasizes.

But for the club at UR, boxing is more about getting in shape and learning technique than knocking out opponents. “Our focus is really to just have fun and give the student body a chance to explore the world of boxing to whatever extent they wish to,” Bade says. “It offers a great workout and really enriches our members with self-confidence.” While the competitive side of boxing is not emphasized, the skills learned could still come in handy for self-defense if the situation should arise.

Now a senior and business manager, Bade speaks about the

future of Boxing Club. Despite some recent struggles with administration, members are optimistic that the club is on the rise. They put on their inaugural “fight night” last semester, a showcase of the skills of some of UR’s top boxers. One instantly notable observation is that there is a diverse array of talent. Many members are black belts and have been boxing for four years or more. However, the majority are just getting involved with the sport.

The club would like to provide a more comprehensive scope of workouts, tailored so that each member may find a practice

suited to their skill level. Meth and the rest of the club are looking into adding two weekly off-campus workouts, one for beginners and one for advanced members.

Beginners can learn basic technique and receive all the positive effects of vigorous physical activity, while more experienced fighters can practice sparring and learn new moves and tricks. The club is also applying for funding from the school to provide equipment for the athletic center, which would increase the possibilities during practices and overall awareness of the sport on campus.

There are not many activities that reflect the spontaneity of college life better than learning an obscure sport. “It just shows how great this school is that we have the opportunity to enrich the lives of students by exposing them to a... non-‘mainstream’ sport,” Bade says. This community founded around boxing is both physically and mentally enriching.

For the body, it provides an exercise routine described as “incredibly intense,” working out virtually every muscle as well as helping to develop a strong core. Like any well-organized club, it also provides a supportive and positive environment for students, building bonds which can last well beyond graduation.

For me, the most impressive aspect of the club is its continued focus on ideals and self-improvement rather than the angry competition that might be expected from a group practicing such a violent activity.

Boxing Club meets twice a week on campus in the Goergen Athletic Center’s Multi-Activity Center (the “mirror room”) on Mondays and Wednesdays at 7:30 PM, open to the public (even if you are not part of the club). They also have an off-campus workout every other Saturday for the more serious fighters, where they work with professional trainers from the area.

Freedman is a member of the class of 2016.

Lodging options available to students

FROM HOUSING PAGE 7

system. “I’m less worried about it this year since we will be juniors — but we will definitely make backup plans.” Jensen’s story

of that happens because there will be more people that apply than were counted on, and sometimes it happens because people who are not sure if they’re studying

housing is high again this year, there is fresh relief: the newest dorm building, known as “Brooks Crossing,” is scheduled to open on Aug. 1. This building, open to juniors and seniors, will include ten floors of residential housing offering one to four bedroom apartments, each equipped with a full kitchen, living room, and individual bathrooms. There are plans to rent the bottom floor to a restaurant.

Brooks Crossing will provide an option for upperclassmen that is conveniently located between on-campus and off-campus living, and may shorten the list of students left without living arrangements after the lottery.

For other students, the independence and inexpensiveness promised by off-campus housing are too great to resist. There are a variety of resources available to these students looking to start the housing search. Residential Life works closely with off-campus housing providers to ensure that secure and affordable housing is available to students—in fact, they will be hosting an Off-Campus Housing Fair on Feb. 18, during which students will have to opportunity to learn about off-campus options and speak with landlords.

One such landlord is Scott Beck, a man who has become known

to many Rochester students as the owner of Rochester Student Housing, one of the main off-campus housing providers specializing in properties in the Brook’s Landing area.

Beck began his company five years ago with an initial purchase of one house that he began renting out to students. Now, he rents twenty-five houses to approximately eighty students on a yearly basis. All of his properties are within three or four blocks from the footbridge and are usually recently renovated two to four bedroom properties that he rents out for \$400-500 per

bedroom per month, a fraction of the on-campus living cost.

Many students recognize this is a good deal, so if you’re looking into off-campus housing, the sooner you act the better. According to Beck, “The best properties go first. If you wait until April, a lot of the spaces will be rented out for next year.”

This seems to be the general advice for planning housing arrangements. No matter where you plan on living, it is best to start early, know your information, and have a backup plan.

Cowie-Haskell is a member of the class of 2016.



COURTESY OF ROCHESTER STUDENT HOUSING

Interior view of a housing option available through Rochester Student Housing.

reflects that of many students last year who felt that there was an unusually limited amount of space for them.

While many people interpreted last year’s housing shortages as an upward trend or a “failure” of the lottery system, Contomanolis emphasizes that the numbers of unassigned students remaining after last year’s lottery was not a unique event. “Probably for the last twenty years, there have been people unassigned after the room selection process,” she said. “A lot

abroad hedge a bet and put their name down for a room. We spend a lot of the summer going through that.”

In the case of last year, there was an unexpected number of rising seniors who desired to live on campus their final year, up to 70% from the usual 62%. This put added pressure on the lower lottery numbers, but it is not a pressure that Contomanolis expects to persist or intensify.

However, in the event that senior demand for on-campus



COURTESY OF ANGELA KLIZNIAK

Rochester Student Housing offers a variety of houses for students to rent.

Free language learning software rivals Rosetta Stone

BY LUCIAN COPELAND
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

While walking through a major airport about three years ago, I made the mistake of stopping at one of the bright yellow Rosetta Stone booths for directions. I asked them where to find the Ben & Jerry's, already debating the ways that a fudge sundae would ease the soul crushingly boring seven hour layover I was enduring. They cheerfully replied that now was really the best time in my life to start learning a new language, and that Rosetta is an investment in the future.

I didn't understand how that would ease my layover – I was just looking for ice cream.

They explained that this technique was proven, and

to never buy what appeared to be the software equivalent of a lamprey.

But they must have been more persuasive than I thought, as I ended up purchasing a copy of their French edition a couple months later. It wasn't entirely unsuccessful either – I still joke to my friends that I learned the same amount of French in four weeks on my computer that I did in three years of Chinese classes.

Since then, I've sworn by software rather than coursework, even though I've stuck with it to about the same extent that most people remember to floss. Software learning isn't for everyone – it takes a degree of dedication and patience, and the "sale" price of \$500+ of the Rosetta Stone products

company for online and mobile language learning, has especially caught my interest. Paying the equivalent to your rent on what

learning process, although the selection of languages is a bit sparse – the only current offerings are French, Spanish,

is an enticing prospect, as is recruiting them to spread the "15 Most Adorable Cat Gifts Of The Year" to all corners of the globe.

It's hard not to question if the real goal here is teaching the language or translating enough material that the teaching becomes unnecessary – the web is a homogenizing force, and having every language be interchangeable with English might have poor implications for countries trying to retain their cultural and language heritage.

But if none of that bothers you, and you'd like to keep your rent jar full and your health bill devoid of business-card syphilis, the program is still good, still free, and is getting better all the time. I'd encourage you to check it out if you'd like to see how it works for yourself, or if you're simply interested in being



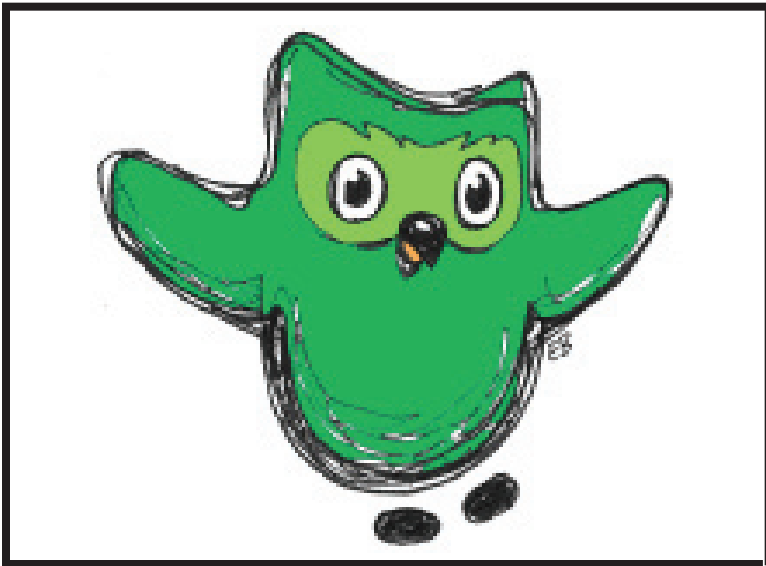
is essentially a simple point and click, picture-puzzle game sucks, and I'd always wondered when some clever upstart or open source project would assemble itself to take down the big leagues.

Duolingo seems to be that program – it's completely free, basing its business model around the idea that students, in the process of taking their lessons, will translate articles for real companies who pay the Duolingo for the service.

Buzzfeed seems convinced – they've recently signed a multi-million dollar contract with the app (which sounds a bit ambiguous to me... do we really need the "5 Vines That Will Make You LOL" in every language?). But if it becomes genuinely successful, I'm sure we'll see others join as well.

The advantage is that Duolingo certainly looks like a paid program, with a clean interface and an intuitive

Italian, German and Portuguese. And though they've recently unveiled an "incubator" that crowdsources the creation of new



LIZ BESON / ILLUSTRATOR



that it could be mine for a price comparable to my international airline fare. Sensing that the conversation wasn't going anywhere, I issued a hasty apology and departed to question the sunglasses booth, flicking business cards out of my various orifices and vowing

is still about as appealing as a discount colonoscopy. But these days, there are so many free alternatives to Rosetta that there isn't an excuse not to at least try software, especially if your only alternative is a multi-thousand dollar college course.

Duolingo, a small startup

language courses, these mostly teach English, rather than new courses for English-speakers. I'd guess that to millions of Asian and European students who want to learn English, Duolingo

part of this translation business as it evolves. I, for one, will be interested to see how it goes.

Copeland is a member of the class of 2015.

Peaceful protest against oppressive regime

PROTEST FROM PAGE 7

protests. For those that don't know, Ukraine has dealt with political strife since World War I, with citizens fighting against a corrupt government that has kept Ukraine under constant and oppressive surveillance.

It was not until 1991 that Ukraine was able to declare independence with the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Despite this newfound independence, Ukraine found itself with corrupt politicians creeping into power, most recently with President Viktor Yanukovich.

But I didn't want to focus my time on this; it seemed inappropriate to visit an old friend and then become politically involved. However, Roman's girlfriend is a heavy participant in the student side of this movement, and I was thus shown Independence Square, the center of the protester's demonstrations.

I had been a part of several protests of my own in Chicago including peace rallies, but nothing could have prepared me for what I saw in Ukraine.

Each main street that led to the square had a barricade made of scrap wood, steel barrels, barbed wire, and leftover snow from the recent blizzard. Behind these barricades, hundreds of tents had been set-up for different purposes: soup kitchens, and housing for street members, political members, and regular citizens alike.

As I walked around, I noticed a large tree-like object; I realized that this was supposed to be their Christmas

tree. But instead of lights and ornaments, it was covered from top-to-bottom with political posters supporting Euromaiden – the name of their protest movement.

Everywhere we walked, there were men, women, teens, elderly couples, and parents with their children in strollers walking the square, listening to a speaker on a stage who was shouting Ukrainian slogans, chanting demands, and giving out soup and bread to anyone

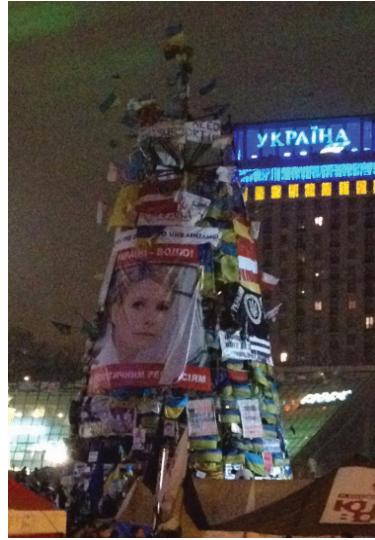
in need of food.

Since Nov. 4 of last year, these protests have been going non-stop; thousands of people have stood and pledged themselves as supporters of joining the European Union and removing their president.

Since Euromaiden began, Roman, his sister, and his girlfriend have remained in the tumultuous city and are even renovating their apartment. But what I found most shocking was that everyone – including Roman – truly believed that these peaceful protests were the answer. And what are these people demanding? To remain an independent country and join the EU instead of being acknowledged as part of Russia.

In the last two weeks, Euromaiden reached a climax. On Jan. 16, President Viktor Yanukovich signed new laws that ultimately prevented any further protests. In response, opposition leaders held a rally on Jan. 19 that led to gruesome and violent riots.

Many photos of these riots depict protestors with makeshift



COURTESY OF BENNETT NIDENBERG
The Euromaiden "Christmas Tree."

Molotov cocktails and hand weapons defending themselves against military personnel.

But in addition, one can see priests attempting to pacify the military and turn them away.

Even with the military in their faces, Ukrainian citizens truly believe that non-violence is the better solution. I can only hope that such methods bring success.

Nidenberg is a member of the class of 2016.



COURTESY OF BENNETT NIDENBERG

Independence Square filled with several hundred tents in Kiev, Ukraine.

Ask Estrada: Hookups, relationships, and orgasms

BY MARIE-JOELLE ESTRADA
COLUMNIST



I don't enjoy having sex at all. It is a tiring experience for me and I have never been able to achieve orgasm. However, I enjoy masturbating and it is more relaxing to me. I am not sure what to make of this. (I am a male).

Based on the fact that you enjoy masturbating, it seems as if there aren't any physical issues preventing you from the big finish – rather the key factor seems to be the partner. I'm curious how the activities you're engaging in together compare to your solo experiences. Could it be that you're uncomfortable telling or showing a partner what you really enjoy? If you and your partner are engaging in activities you enjoy, my next guess is that your lack of orgasm is due to worry about your performance.

This phenomenon is commonly known as the spectator effect, where people step outside their bodies mentally and criticize what activities "should" be happening or how bodies "should" look. Sadly, the standards being used for these criticisms are often unrealistic and created by the media. People can't help but be disappointed

Try to remember that sex isn't script-perfect and that the ultimate goal is for both people to have a good time.

when comparing real experiences to scripted soulmates having simultaneous orgasms or scream-filled sessions that last hours.

If you're heterosexual, this factor can increase the pressure since the gender-typed script for a man is to be the initiator of sexual activities and sex is over when the man has an orgasm. In trying to stave off an orgasm to help their partner achieve one, men try to distract themselves in many ways – I hear baseball stats are a popular go-to – but that also means they aren't focusing on the experience.

Finally, you could be unable to have an orgasm because certain sexual positions are physically exhausting. For example, the traditional missionary position (man on top laying down) is essentially repeated abdominal

crunches while supporting your body weight on your arms in a half plank pose.

Given these possible explanations, I have a few suggestions to make partnered sex more enjoyable.

First, communicate what you enjoy to your partner and get feedback on what you're doing. That should help reduce worry about your partner's fun while also ensuring that you're enjoying what's happening.

If you're too shy to have a conversation, non-verbal feedback can be a great start (moans are universal for "that feels good" and silence for anything that's not enjoyed).

Second, try to remember that sex isn't script-perfect and that the

suggesting that orgasms that cause female ejaculation feel any better than the rest, but if you or the person you're with is able to achieve them, there isn't any reason to hold back.

Estrada is a visiting assistant professor in the Department of Clinical & Social Psychology.

To submit an anonymous question, visit sex-thect.tumblr.com/ask.

"Sex & the CT"

LET SEX & THE CT HELP YOU
THROUGH YOUR MOST
AWKWARD SEXUAL YEARS.

ultimate goal is for both people to have a good time. Orgasms are a wonderful side effect of that good time, but focusing only on them can ruin the overall experience and ironically make them harder to achieve.

In line with this reasoning, remember too that there is a learning curve both in terms of technique and understanding your partner's body. Finally, please ignore traditional scripts about what men/women should or shouldn't do. There's no reason why sexual activity can't continue after a man's orgasm or why you can't switch up the initiator roles. Finally, if you think that this may boil down to physical fatigue, you can either spend more time on your ab workout or feel free to use this as an excuse to experiment with new positions.

Can you reach an orgasm vaginally without squirting?

Absolutely. In fact, vaginal orgasms without squirting are the rule, not the exception. Although squirting is now the buzz word in orgasms, in reality only a minority of women can achieve them, and even then not always regularly.

Research suggests that this type of orgasm is typically due to stimulation of the Grafenberg spot (aka "G spot" or "clitoral cluster"), a bump on the inside frontal wall of the vagina that feels like a nose. Firm pressure on this area for some women can induce an orgasm and sometimes the expulsion of small amount of fluid from the urethra. This ejaculate fluid appears to originate in the larger para-urethral glands known as Skene's Glands.

Although some people suggest that the fluid that these glands produce is urine, analysis suggests that in fact its a clear alkaline solution that is much closer in composition to male prostate fluid.

Note, however, that since Skene's glands only produce a small amount of liquid; any large amount of "gushing" ejaculate seen in videos and magazines is most likely urine. Importantly, there isn't any research

Want to Join the Campus Times?

Email
**editor@campus
times.org**

Start Your Career in Accounting.



The D'Amore-McKim MS in Accounting/MBA for non-accounting majors:

- Earn two degrees in just 15 months.
- Complete a 3-month paid residency at a leading accounting firm.
- History of 100% job placement.



SUCCESS ACADEMY

CAN YOU BRING IT?

TEAMWORK PASSION DEDICATION HUMOR
COMMITMENT OWNERSHIP EXCELLENCE

Make more than a difference. Make your mark.

Join Success Academy Charter School's talent team to learn about our vision of a world class education for all students. With 22 schools serving grades K-8 and high school opening in 2014, we seek individuals eager to impact education for children across New York City.

Learn more and apply at **SuccessCareers.org**

Transforming education – for good.

SPRING CAREER FAIR

Wednesday,
February 12th
1pm - 4pm
May Room/Bridge Lounge
201 Wilson Commons

UR officially too punny; JoelCoin created

BY AARON SCHAFER
PHOTO EDITOR
PRESENTATION EDITOR

An internal review, headed by University President Joel Seligman, has determined that the number of puns used by the Admssions Department, Department of Study Abroad, and Student Association far exceed the number classified as “appropriate.”

“The internal review, which was headed by myself and various members of the Board of Trustees, designates certain ‘pun zones,’” he said.

URos has been transformed into a digitally fluctuating cryptocurrency, similar to Bitcoin, Dogecoin, and (the now dead) Coinye. The currency will be named JoelCoin and will fluctuate based on the number of puns that circulate both digitally and on the River Campus. Eastman, on the other hand (at least according to Seligman),

is too much of a liability to be included.

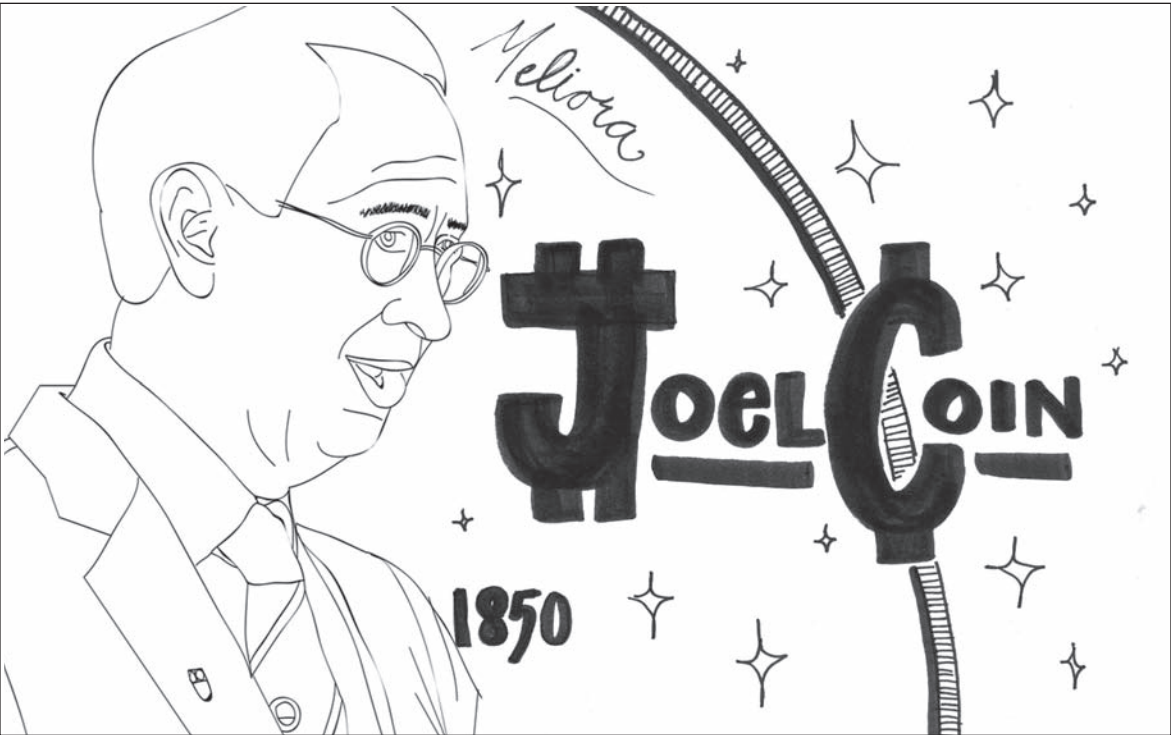
“Eastman, to be candid, does not deserve inclusion here. Their gross violations, mostly in naming their various theaters *theatURs*, and their unwillingness to rename them means that the ‘music school’ will no longer be a thing.”

Seligman points specifically to the decision of Eastman administrators to name their buildings ‘KilboURne Hall’, ‘HowURd Hansen Hall’, and the ‘MillUR CentUR’, in solidarity with other protestors.

UR BlueCrew, which recently changed its name to UR2Blue, has challenged the findings on the basis of free speech.

“We are UR’s future lawyers. We know what is true. This is ever cURrupt,” one member said.

SecURity has also challenged the ruling. A spokesman said



AARON SCHAFER / PHOTO EDITOR
LIZ BESON / ILLUSTRATOR

in an email, “We are not amused. They will take action outside what they call the ‘IntURfaith Chapel’, and have threatened the ‘UnivURsity

with the presence of ‘peace officURs’.

Seligman fundamentally believes that more integration of UR’s colors could be used

to replace the puns. “Yellow light/blue light will the first to change.”

Schaffer is a member of the class of 2016.

How to fend off the Rochesterian cold

BY CHRIS HORGAN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Guess what? It’s winter! Winter is a very cold time of year for people at UR. I could go into detail about why it’s so cold, but I’ll just assume that you agree it’s cold. For those of you who are new to Rochester, you’re probably wondering what you can do to prepare for the absolutely freezing weather.

After asking around campus, I was able to cut down the

process to three simple steps to stay warm.

Step 1: Go to Hillside and buy as much food and water as your friends desire.

Step 2: Pack all of this into your car.

Step 3: Drive to Miami.

I’m gonna guess that you won’t follow this advice, but that isn’t my fault. There are however, more sensible ways to stay warm. The first one is my favorite. Make some hot cocoa, but don’t drink it. Just pour it all over yourself. What good does drinking it do?

Sure, it warms your stomach, but as you’re hiking from Gilbert Hall to Danforth you aren’t going to be complaining about how cold your stomach is. You never hear the following conversation:

Student 1: “Hey guys, do you want to get some food from Danforth?”

Student 2: “Nah dude, I’ll freeze my stomach off.”

Student 3: “Man, grow some rochest-hair.”

Now that a chocolate shower has warmed you up, it’s important to have the right pair of shoes.

Slush basically covers the campus — we might as well rename the library Slush Rhees. If you haven’t stepped in slush here in Rochester, then either you can fly, or you’re not in Rochester. Don’t plan on ever wearing a nice pair of shoes outside during the winter. Walking through the slush with your brand new pair of shoes that you just couldn’t wait to display is like taking your shoes off life support with no chance to heal or, in this case, heel. And slush is slippery. Very slippery. As one of my friends

put it, “everyone hates slush, but I actually like sliding in it because it’s fun and it makes me feel like Michael Jackson.”

However, unlike Michael Jackson, I would advise you to wear a glove on both hands. Don’t forget to also wear a hat and a scarf. Frostbite hurts a little bit more than if Jack Frost were to nip at your nose. And if you are ever looking for something cool to do on campus, just go outside.

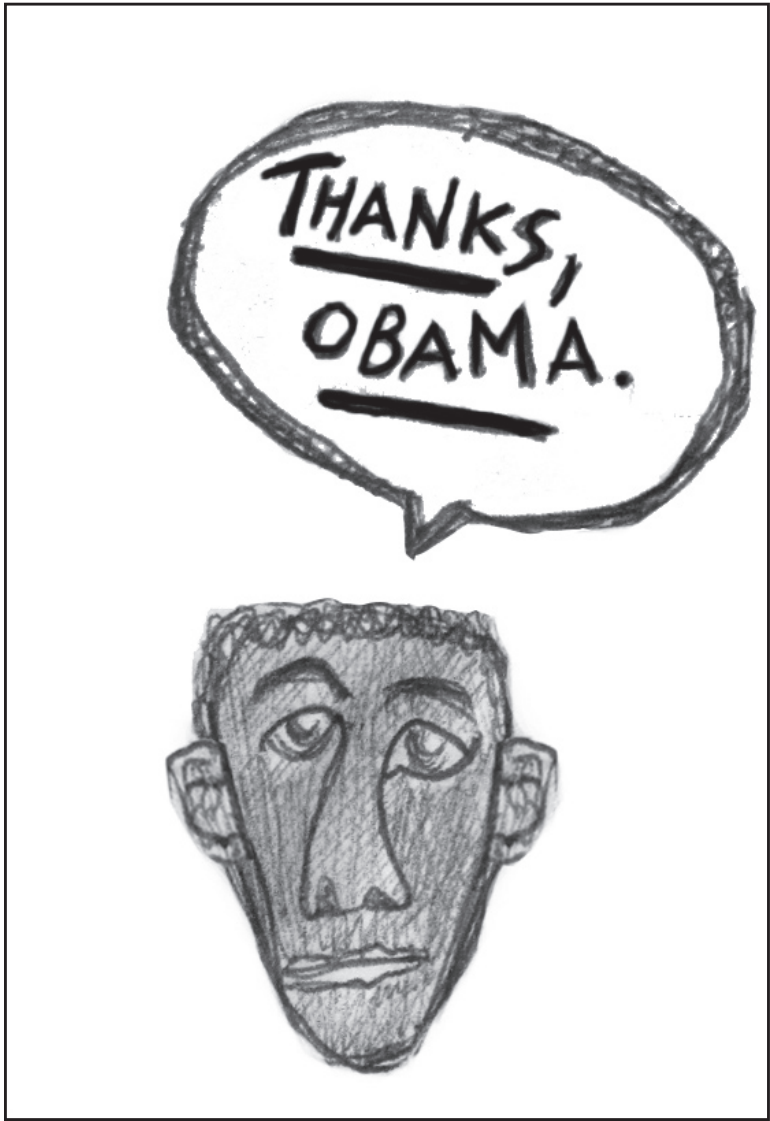
Horgan is a member of the class of 2017.

Sue B. Doge



AARON SCHAFER / PHOTO EDITOR

Thanks, Obama



AARON SCHAFER / PHOTO EDITOR

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Birbiglia brings storytelling stand-up to Rochester



PARSA LOTFI / PHOTO EDITOR

Mike Birbiglia, sponsored by Campus Activities board, performed in Strong Auditorium Saturday night, Feb. 1

BY JUSTIN FRAUMENI
A&E EDITOR

It's easy to tell that Mike Birbiglia is a comedian.

From the second he took the stage in Strong Auditorium last weekend, it was clear that Birbiglia embodied the classic awkward but confident “funny

guy” stereotype. He looks like everyone’s favorite aloof uncle; you can tell he hasn’t quite got his life together, but you love him nonetheless.

Currently on his 23-city “Thank God for Jokes” tour, Birbiglia is riding a wave of success following his 2012 independent comedy “Sleepwalk with Me.”

Although his Rochester date only sold enough tickets to almost fill the lower sections of Strong, Birbiglia delighted those in attendance with his uniquely intelligent brand of comedy.

Thankfully, Birbiglia’s jokes were far from the current stand-up standard. Throughout his routine, he parodied everything from his less-than-perfect relationship with his wife to his sleepwalking disorder with a keen sense of wit and self-deprecation. It was evident that Birbiglia was comfortable being laughed at just as often as he was laughed with.

Birbiglia was comfortable being laughed at just as often as he was laughed with.

Birbiglia’s joke delivery style is lethargic in the best sense; he manages to walk the fine line between sounding bored and sounding intoxicated. Even when his punch lines were less than laugh-out-loud funny, it was still easy to crack up over his slow and calculated demeanor.

He explained his reasoning for avoiding explicit language in his routines but avoided the often uncomfortable uptightness of

He manages to walk the fine line between sounding bored and sounding intoxicated.

other “clean” comedians by not completely censoring his act. His vulgar slips and occasional perversion made him not only seem relaxed but incredibly relatable as well. Birbiglia knows he’s not perfect, but he’s fine with that and was more than willing to share his imperfections with others. Birbiglia also steered clear of jokes veering on the controversial, which offered a refreshing break from sexist, racist, and over-the-top sexual subject matter that plague stand-up comedy acts nowadays.

He went on to joke about his most infamous ethical disasters: dropping the f-bomb while on tour with the Muppets, offending a Catholic college while performing in a gym next to a “30 foot crucifix”, and causing yet another David O. Russell meltdown at the 2012 Gotham Independent Film Awards.

Although Birbiglia’s brand
SEE **BIRBIGLIA** PAGE 14

Talent show brings smiles and tears, claps and jeers

BY JEFF HOWARD
A&E EDITOR

On Friday, Jan. 31, the Susan B. Anthony Lower R.A. Staff hosted “UR’s Got Talent” at the May Room in Wilson Commons. Leave it to UR, the school that unashamedly exploits every opportunity to turn the letters “UR” into a pun, to showcase the talents of its students in a mock-reality show format. Like a cheesy pun, getting the most out of the night depended on giving yourself up to the dopiness – a feat that’s not so hard for the audience member as it is for the performer. As students put on smoky jazz interpretations of Bill Withers and neo-classical guitar shred fests, they were pitted against Dean Burns who made it his job to take on the role of Simon Cowell; Professor Estrada, who played the forgiving Paula Abdul; and Orientation Coordinator Matt Spielman, cast as the always-neutral Randy Jackson. What happens when you mix vulnerable student performances with goofy antics from the school’s most distinguished figures? As it turns out, you get a show that’s a lot of fun once you embrace the awkwardness of it all.

Silliness aside, UR’s Got



AARON SCHAFER / PHOTO EDITOR

Members of the Paul Robaszewski Quartet, Alana Burrows, Jahnavi Iyer, and Reid Zuckerman accept their awards.

Talent featured impressive talent from the UR student body. Some of the most memorable performances included freshman Reid Zuckerman’s solo guitar cover of Paul Gilbert’s “Curse of the Castle Dragon” along with senior singer-songwriter Ethan Lipkind’s folk original “Come

What May”.

Of course, in a way, the judges were the central performers of the night. Dean Burns took the role of Simon Cowell to uncomfortable heights with his blunt comments, which included likening a student’s performance to “stepping on a cat’s tail.”

On the other hand, Professor Estrada counterbalanced Burns’ harshness with her endearingly imaginative means of describing music in layman’s terms (after one performance, Estrada called the singer’s low notes “velvety”.) While the style of judging may have been jarring to audience

members and performers anticipating a night of deep emotional expression, the judges ultimately helped in letting performers laugh just a little bit, and that’s never a bad thing.

Still, perhaps the most memorable performance was that of sophomore Minsoo Lee. Forced to perform after losing a bet, Lee’s performance of Beyonce’s “Single Ladies” was complete with sloppy guitar strumming and groans of agony as he realized just how much of the song was left before the final chorus. It was a stellar rendition, as Lee unpretentiously embraced the mediocrity of the moment. In a cruel but all-too-perfect twist, Dean Burns gave the performance a glowing review, leaving the audience with the message of the night: it never hurts to laugh at yourself.

For a school that loves bad puns, superhero themed orientations and pretty much all things cheesy, “UR’s Got Talent” offered an entertaining means for UR students to enjoy the talents of their fellow classmates. There might have been some cringing along the way as Burns doled out one brutal comment after another, but hey, sometimes a little uncomfortable isn’t such a bad thing.

Howard is a member of the class of 2017.

Light show leaves mixed feelings



COURTESY OF RMSC VIA YOUTUBE

The Radiohead light show will be returning to the Strausenberg Planetarium on Saturdays in April.

BY JEFF HOWARD
A&E EDITOR

On Saturday, Jan. 25, Rochester’s Strausenberg Planetarium held a Radiohead light show.

The phrase “Radiohead light show” is sure to evoke two starkly different reactions. For most people, a Radiohead light show promises an audiovisual journey of epic proportions. This makes perfect sense, as there’s no reason why the union of bright lights and loud music should make anything but a wholly positive impact on the community.

Of course, with a Radiohead light show come Radiohead fans, an overly cerebral bunch with an innate resistance to anything inherently fun, even when it stares them directly in the face. As one of these individuals, I attempt with this review to strike some sort of compromise between the Radiohead fan’s perspective and the point of view of every other normal, healthy person on the planet.

As a means of entertaining,

the one-hour set of songs and lights was precisely the all-encompassing experience it should have been. As the seats tilted back and the melancholy guitar chords to “Street Spirit (Fade Out)” began, reality melted. The contrast of the soft, ambient lighting in the background against the sharp, cutting designs in the foreground made for a stimulating visual experience. The track list, which drew from Radiohead’s entire catalog, did a respectable job of capturing Radiohead’s multifaceted sound without sacrificing flow. The planetarium itself was modern and clean. The sound system provided ample bass frequencies but wasn’t too muddy, too harsh or too loud.

Now, any true Radiohead fan knows that “Street Spirit” is about accepting man’s futility under the inevitable wrath of the devil – whether or not lasers should accompany such despair is open for interpretation. In general though, the bright lights offered a depiction of Radiohead that never quite did justice to the music’s depth.

Take the cartoonish sad-face that mouthed the infamous chorus to “Creep”, which felt more like a misguided caricature of the song than anything else. Admittedly, with the exception of “Creep”, the majority of the lights were innocuous designs and shapes. Still, the clarity and definition of the lasers failed to capture Radiohead’s angular and jagged sound.

Light shows, by nature, are necessary but cheap thrills, spectacles designed to remove the paying customer from reality. Radiohead, on the other hand, is about looking reality straight in the eye and acknowledging its terrifying presence. In this sense, Radiohead and laser light shows aren’t meant to coexist, and this is through no fault of Radiohead or the Strassenburgh Planetarium. Perhaps Thom Yorke’s line from the song “Reckoner”, included in the show, can put the contradiction to rest: “You are not to blame for bittersweet distractors.”

Howard is a member of the class of 2017.

In Memorium: Phillip Seymour Hoffman

BY JONAH JENG
MANAGING EDITOR

From drag queen to spy villain, rock critic to Catholic priest, Phillip Seymour Hoffman has been it all.

On Sunday, Feb. 2, the world observed the passing of one of this generation’s greatest actors, a performer whose style is hard to peg down because it was constantly in flux, adapting to every role that came his way. These roles were a dark, diverse bunch, rife with hamartia and roiling insecurity. Throw all of Hoffman’s characters together in one room and you’d have a cross between a circus and a therapy session, a place where raging masculinity collides against effeminate poise and libido locks horns with wounded pride. Indeed, Hoffman’s resume doubles as a rogue’s gallery of humanity’s bleakest, but his eagle-eyed tenacity allowed the actor to lift his characters up out of the sewers into the rafters.

Three roles immediately come to mind, if not for being Hoffman’s best performances (though they may very well be) then as proof of his immense talent and versatility: writer Truman Capote in the biopic “Capote”, for which Hoffman nabbed an Oscar; the estranged playwright in Charlie Kaufman’s “Synecdoche, New York”; and the vicious older brother in Sidney Lumet’s lesser known but devastating “Before the Devil Knows You’re Dead”. Each role cannot be more different than the next, and yet each is so believable – no, irrefutable – that we cannot help but be mesmerized.

For most actors, appropriating

Capote’s fluty voice would have sounded peculiar if not downright silly, but Hoffman speaks with such deliberateness that we are immediately sold. The entire performance is a feat of immaculate control and attention to detail. From dainty fingers dangling a cigarette to a dignified, almost stilted laugh, Hoffman sustains every inch of the character through the film’s two-hour runtime and never slips once. The role of Andy, on the other hand, required the exact opposite. In place of the openly gay writer’s delicate mannerisms, this Hoffman explodes with raw virility. It’s a performance steeped in vice and violent emotion, and the actor enters the abyss without

Throw all of Hoffman’s characters together in one room and you’d have a cross between a circus and a therapy session, a place where raging masculinity collides against effeminate poise.

hesitation. Hoffman, unafraid of the sleazy, devours the role with a staunch fearlessness matched today only by the likes of Christian Bale and Michael Fassbender.

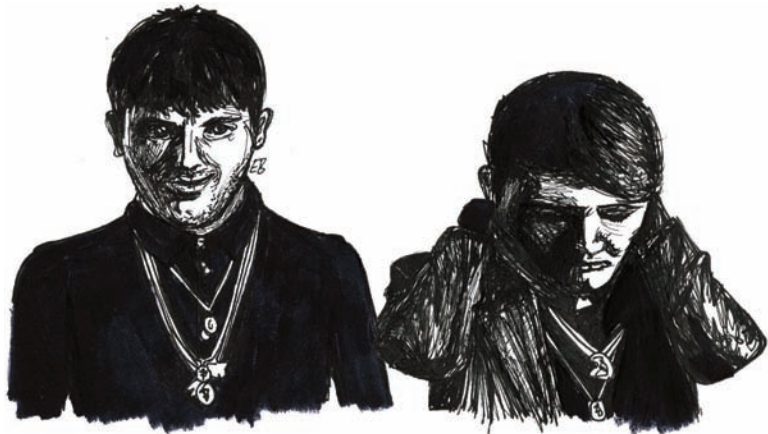
Then there’s his performance as “Synecdoche, New York”’s Caden Cotard, a less extreme but no less virtuosic feat of acting. Whereas the first two characters try through their behavior to uphold a certain image – the hip, liberal pundit

FROM **HOFFMAN** PAGE 14

Lovelifife lack substance on “Feel” EP

BY JEFF HOWARD
A&E EDITOR

You’ve got to hand it to Lovelifife – at least they held no secrets by naming their latest EP “Feel”. Through the course of four songs, Lovelifife prove that they’re masters of the unfocused, emotionally vague melodrama that made Imagine Dragons and The Weeknd so successful. While the aforementioned bands hone in on a specific style of music to inject with their brand of emotional high fructose corn syrup, Lovelifife take a free-for-all approach to ensure maximum endorphin release. With just a pinch of Chester Bennington signature whine, a hearty shot of reverb, four-on-the-floor electro beats that command dancing and such poignant lyrics as “Life is a simple thing”, Lovelifife provides for listeners a sort of high octane,



LIZ BESON / ILLUSTRATOR

goosebump-inducing Monster energy drink.

Of course, even snooty college music reviewers have energy drinks. That’s why on “Feel”, Lovelifife deliver moments of promise and authenticity. The opening track, “Your New Beloved”, features Bon Iver-style vocoder harmonies over a quietly churning beat, as if to warm the album up for the sentimental maelstrom to

come. Despite being one of the less explosive and the only vocally manipulated song on the EP, it’s patient and inventive enough to feel genuine. In fact, the song’s hook (“Every time I think of you / Hoping you’re just someone new / Don’t make me lose my mind”) captures the intoxicating if maddening allure of new love; a theme that doesn’t exactly explore new depths of truth but is tangible

enough to get emotionally invested in. I’ll take it.

Sadly, as “Feel” progresses it never quite manages to reach the level of sincerity found on “Your New Beloved”. On “Every Minute”, the 808 beat, squealing guitars and expansive synths set a backdrop that suggests something nocturnal and exotic. Perhaps you’d think the song is about a mysterious apparition or a metropolis on Venus. Unfortunately, the façade comes crashing down when the band’s singer delivers a disinterested chorus that carries on the assumption that listeners will be moved by anything sounding remotely close to a Linkin Park vocal.

Other tracks, like the closer “Everybody Wants to Be Someone Else”, substitute reverb for genuine emotion. The track, with its cascading synths and stadium-sized

snare hits, sets the tone for the universal theme that will tie the EP and resonate with everyone. Lovelifife chose to capitalize on exactly what the song’s title implies: Everybody wants to be someone else. As is the problem with all too many bands, the mantra loses its depth once you listen past the reverb. Nice try, Lovelifife.

If iTunes endorsement of Lovelifife as “Single of the Week” material is any indication, Lovelifife should seep its way into mainstream awareness as the year progresses. They’ve got just the right mix of generalized emotions and implied depth to strike a chord with the public. Ultimately though, while there are gems on here, there’s just too much gloss and not enough substance to deliver anything truly worthwhile.

Howard is a member of the class of 2017.

CT
RECOMMENDS

THE SUBURBS
BY ARCADE FIRE

BY JEFF HOWARD
A&E EDITOR



On “The Suburbs”, Arcade Fire explores the human struggle that exists within a world confined by white picket fences. The band beautifully balances punk rawness with sophisticated songwriting and arrangement, providing a depiction of the everyman in which he is kicking and screaming in confusion and terror, but ultimately knows what’s wrong with the world. The sounds of Bruce Springsteen and the Beatles, two of Arcade Fire’s most identifiable influences, converge on “The Suburbs” in a way that ultimately defines the band’s unique sound. This is Arcade Fire’s essence: combining blue-collar grit with philosophical headiness.

It’s a misconception that with sophistication comes the acceptance that life is ultimately negative in nature. “The Suburbs” manages to access some of the deepest levels of despair known to man while ultimately finding a way to make it into something beautiful. On what’s perhaps the album’s most memorable moment, “Sprawl II (Mountains Beyond Mountains)”, the band celebrates humanity’s destructive tendencies over a glossy disco beat. “We will never get away from the sprawl”, singer Regine Chassange muses, as if looking at the world from a bird’s eye view and laughing at neighborhoods that resemble cancerous growths. The world’s a crazy place – all we can do is dance the confusion away.

Even those who haven’t listened to “The Suburbs” probably know that it won Album of the Year in 2011. It was a beautiful moment when the award was announced and Win Butler and his band stormed the stage in a fit of adrenaline and childlike excitement. Really, the Grammy win was proof of Arcade Fire’s message playing itself out in front of the entire country. The Grammys, an institution that celebrates popular music, is perhaps just another form of suburban sprawl. Yet, within these confines, Arcade Fire was given the opportunity to play their music. As Win said on the song “Wasted Hours”, we deal with the limits of our world and ultimately turn this into “a life that we can live.”

Howard is a member of
the class of 2017.

Mike Birbiglia brings his
brand of self-deprecating
humor to UR

FROM **BIRBIGLIA** PAGE 12
of humor might be clean, it is by no means soft. One of the highlights of his act came when he lampooned the hypocrisy in modern Christianity, pointing out that had Jesus been alive today, he’d favor government handouts and be considered a Jewish socialist, the “least popular modern demographic, especially among Christians.”

Birbiglia’s act was so cohesive that he sometimes seemed too funny to be real. There’s

If only drawn in
caricature, he could
easily be the next
Homer Simpson or Fred
Flintstone.

a certain cartoonish aspect to his personality that would seemingly make him a perfect fit for the role of a self-deprecating animated star; a feeling that, if drawn in caricature, he

could easily be the next Homer Simpson or Fred Flintstone.

He expressed disdain towards those who are constantly nagging to hear jokes, citing a recent scenario in which his comic legitimacy was questioned because he behaved less than hilariously at a party. Little did those people know, he explained that in time, they were to be the subjects of his skits. “You’re the joke... later,” he remarked.

Before he put down the mic for the night, Birbiglia gave a shout out to his loyal Rochester fans by taking one final request. His last act was a classic, one of the first videos to come up when Birbiglie is searched on YouTube. “What I should have said... was nothing,” he began, giving the audience his priceless smirk. Since Birbiglia is an up-and-coming comedian, not everyone in the crowd knew the end of the joke. But regardless of their knowledge of the act, he sent the crowd home into the cold night feeling satisfied.

Fraumeni is a member of the
class of 2017.

In memory of Phillip Seymour Hoffman

FROM **MASTER** PAGE 13
in “Capote” and the aggressive alpha male in “Before the Devil Knows You’re Dead” – Caden is introduced as a man who doesn’t know how to define himself.

Trying to fathom his existence by constructing a stage play about his life, Caden becomes a point of identification for us – like him, we often try in vain to be the artists of our own lives. Appropriately, Hoffman pitches his performance somewhere between modest and messy, capturing the plight of another poor soul grappling with the mundane tragedies of everyday living. We are meant to recognize ourselves in Caden, but Hoffman never slips into archetype – he maintains the character’s idiosyncrasies, and by doing so, makes him feel more real.

We are meant to
recognize ourselves in
Caden, but Hoffman
never slips into
archetype

And that’s what Hoffman will be remembered for. He brought characters to life then broke them before our eyes, working with their strengths and weaknesses so intimately that the result was nothing less than real, viscerally real. Even in his supporting roles, Hoffman never compromised

quality. He reminded us that, even despite having less screen time, these characters shouldn’t be any less credible than their counterparts in the limelight. Just look at Lester Bangs in “Almost Famous”, Brandt from “The Big Lebowski”, and even Owen Davian from “Mission Impossible III”. Even blockbuster baddies are granted gravitas once incarnated by Hoffman. Here was a man that cared about the art of acting and acting well, and about

salvaging humanity from the broken pieces of people’s lives. Through his movies, he rescued us from the complacency of cheap entertainment and easy ways out, shedding light on the human condition at its edgiest, craziest, and most alive.

To a masterful actor, gone too soon but forever treasured: rest in peace. Thanks for showing us what great acting looks like.

Jeng is a member of
the class of 2016.

Bordeaux
unisex salon

If your hair isn't becoming to you, *you should be coming to us!*

585.244.6360
1340 Mt. Hope Ave.
(Opposite future College Town)

Visit us at bordeauxsalon.com

RED DISCOUNT

Rochester Student Housing

We are currently renting for the 2014-15 school year. We have the closest 2, 3, 4, & 5 bedroom properties to campus.

- ✓ Within 2 blocks of the Footbridge
- ✓ Competitively priced at a fraction of the cost of on-campus living
- ✓ Water, trash, lawn/snow included
- ✓ Recently renovated
- ✓ Off-street parking
- ✓ Fully furnished
- ✓ Free laundry



Call Scott at 585-500-9525
Email Scott@rochstudenthousing.com
Check us out at www.rochstudenthousing.com

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Sam Borst-Smith - Men’s Basketball

BY JOHN CHTCHEKINE
SPORTS EDITOR

What are you majoring in?
I’m majoring in English.

Why did you come to UR?
I came to the UR for the great academic and athletic opportunities.

What is your favorite part about playing Basketball?
My favorite part about playing

basketball is playing in front of big crowds.

What is your favorite memory with the Basketball team?
My favorite memory with the basketball team is practicing at Duke, Davidson, and North Carolina.

Who has been your best mentor as a player?
My best mentors are both of my older brothers.

Do you have any pre-game traditions or rituals?
My pre-game ritual is listening to music, stretching, and praying.

What is the hardest part of being on the Basketball team?
The hardest part of being on the Basketball team is time management.

What advice would you give to high school basketball

players looking to compete in college?
To prepare themselves for the increase of play and overall talent.

What are your goals for the rest of the season?
To finish conference play and any potential tournament games as strong as we can.

Chtchekine is a member of the class of 2016.

LAST WEEK’S SCORES

FRIDAY, JAN. 31

Women’s Track & Field at The College at Brockport Invitational - Day 2 Complete

SATURDAY, FEB. 1

Women’s Track & Field at The College at Brockport Invitational - Day 2 Complete

Men’s Track & Field at The College at Brockport Invitational - Day 2 Complete

SUNDAY, FEB. 2

- Women’s Basketball vs. University of Chicago L 85-88
- Men’s Basketball vs. University of Chicago W 66-56
- Men’s Squash vs. Franklin and Marshall College L 3-6

THIS WEEK’S SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, FEB. 7

- Women’s Track & Field - Boston University - Valentine Invitational - 2:30 PM - Boston, MA
- Women’s Basketball - Washington University in St. Louis - 7:00 PM - St. Louis, MO
- Men’s Basketball - Washington University in St. Louis - 9:00 PM - St. Louis, MO

SATURDAY, FEB. 8

- Men’s Track and Field - Golden Eagle Invitational - 10:00 AM - Brockport, NY
- Women’s Track and Field - Golden Eagle Invitational - 10:00 AM - Brockport, NY
- Men’s Track and Field - Boston University - Valentine Invitational - 10:30 AM - Boston, MA

SUNDAY, FEB. 9

- Men’s Basketball - University of Chicago - 1:00 PM – Chicago, IL
- Women’s Basketball - University of Chicago - 3:00 PM – Chicago, IL

*DENOTES HOME GAME

NFL Cheating

BY ADAM ONDO
SENIOR STAFF

Jonathan Clegg and Kevin Clark of the Wall Street Journal have written two articles over the past few weeks commenting on the alleged dirty tactics of the Seattle Seahawks and the Denver Broncos. The authors allege that Seattle’s defense commits numerous pass interference penalties that are not called, and that Denver’s offense gets away with using illegal pick plays in which receivers are sent on a route with the intention of colliding with another receiver’s defender. Though some may see this as gaining an unfair advantage, I see it as risks paying off. This is because I refuse to believe that committing fouls is a dirty thing to do so long as the penalties associated with breaking the rules are equal for both sides.

In the case of football, attempts to cheat, or gain an advantage by breaking the rules, are merely gambles by players and coaches that payoff sometimes and not others. For example, when a defensive back sees that he’s about to get burned and notices that the receiver has a shot at getting a touchdown, he may “accidentally” get his feet tripped up with the receiver’s feet. This way, instead of drawing a flag for interference, the tripping may be labeled as incidental contact. This may seem cheap, but both teams are allowed to do it and, theoretically, have the same chances of getting called for it. In another example, a defensive back may have a bad angle on the ball while covering a receiver in the end zone. Instead of allowing six points, he may hold on to the receiver’s arm. The receiver knows he may get away with it but will most likely be called. However, he figures that an NFL caliber receiver will probably catch the ball and score six points, so accepting a ball-on-the-one-yard-line penalty is still preferable. In other words, when committing a foul, all a player is doing is taking a calculated risk, and this risk can be taken by both teams.

In the above paragraph, I mentioned that we were working under the assumption that the rules were being enforced equally. This assumption is not always realistic, but referees are usually not “bought off” like people often claim they are and the disparity usually is not too great. Replay helps ensure this. While on the topic of officials, it should be noted that the likelihood

of getting away with a penalty in the NFL is actually quite high for both teams. This is because the following two unspoken rules do not favor one team over the other. The first “rule” is that referees are more afraid to make wrong calls than they are missing a call, as the NFL’s referee grading system punishes them more harshly for it. Their chances of officiating more important games decreases and their chances of being assigned fewer games increases. Referees are also hesitant to call pass interference on every play because the game becomes less fun when you see flags every single play; Seahawks cornerback Richard Sherman understands this and uses it to his advantage.

After being accused of cheating via pick plays, Denver’s offensive coordinator, Adam Gase, responded by saying, “Everybody runs different forms of them.” This may sound childish – like saying “but everyone else is cheating, too” – but he has a point. Everyone has a fair shot at gaining the advantage; therefore, any advantage gained is not unfair, but the result of better calculated risks being taken. The thought process associated with committing penalties is very similar to that associated with going for fourth down conversions. The costs and benefits of punting versus going for it on fourth down can be statistically determined using averages for punt distance, field goal range, field goal percentages, etc. so the payouts can be predicted. Most coaches don’t go for it as much as they should, and they are losing out on some benefits that coaches that go for it have. This is not unfair, though, as all the coaches have the option of going for it; it’s just that many are loss and risk averse and so will settle for a punt.

Over the past 12 seasons, nine teams have committed 20 or more pass interference penalties in a season; none of them had a losing record, and the most recent one just won the Super Bowl. Furthermore, if the Broncos were flagged for all of their pick plays, 183 of their yards and two of their touchdowns would have been nullified – that is an entire game’s stat line that they earned off of gambling with pick plays. With this in mind, it may be safe to say that taking more risks with regards to penalties, as long as they are well-calculated risks, is a good idea.

Ondo is a member of the class of 2014.

SPORTS

Men’s Basketball endures tough loss to Wash U.

BY ROBERT HARDING
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

UR started off on wobbly legs during this week’s matchup against Washington University in St Louis. With missed passes and dodgy defense, it appeared as though we would be in for a long game. It only took minutes, though, for UR to find its groove. Tearing down the field and draining basket after basket, our YellowJackets exhibited an impressive display of teamwork. In particular, our players dominated from downtown. Field goals galore, UR found themselves the leaders at halftime. The players returned after a thrilling faculty/staff halftime game (students



RUAIRI CONWAY / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore Kyle Reardon makes his way up the court.

won 2-0), and it became clear the game would come down to the wire. Looking strong, Wash U made up the first-half deficit and took the lead early only to have it reclaimed by the YellowJackets. The teams battled

back and forth, one team never trailing more than a few points behind the other. With less than a minute on the clock, Washington held the lead by a single point. A few tactical fouls by UR allowed Wash U to attain



RUAIRI CONWAY / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior Nate Vernon takes a shot during Rochester’s loss to Wash U.

another 2 points on the free throw line. Final seconds falling off the clock, the YellowJackets charged down the court, eyes on the equalizer. A pass and then a shot soared through the air; a great shot, but just inches too

long. The ball bounced clear, the buzzer sounded, and UR realized a heartbreaking loss of 76-79. Even despite the defeat, the game was thoroughly entertaining.
Harding is a member of the class of 2016.

Super Bowl XLVIII Seahawks & Broncos Bust

BY MAX EBER
STAFF WRITER

The hype and anticipation leading up to Super Bowl XLVIII seemed to far outweigh the game itself. The expected clash between the Denver Broncos against the Seattle Seahawks, respectively the best offense and defense in the league, came up as a relative bust. The young and energetic Seahawks team controlled the game from the first play and the Broncos could never get a handle on it. The overthrown snap on the first play of the Broncos’ drive, which led to a Seahawk safety, foreshadowed the next few painful hours for the Colorado football team. Peyton Manning, the starting quarterback for the Broncos, was coming off of a record breaking year for both his personal stats and the team as a whole. The Broncos’ 606 points and 76 season touchdowns beat the previous records held by the 2007 New England Patriots. Individually, Peyton’s 55 touchdowns and 5,477 yards

both set league records. Their incredible season led them forcefully to the Superbowl, but they were unable to finish the job. The rival Seahawks created a significant amount of noise this season but met with ridicule along the way as well. Constantly criticized for “bandwagoning”, the Seahawks’ fan base, who call themselves the “12th man”, did not back down, supporting their team every step of the way. The Seahawks are a team known for their defensive talent with names like Richard Sherman and Earl Thomas putting up incredible numbers on the season. Second-year quarterback Russell Wilson received less positive attention, with announcers often calling him more of a game manager than impact player. They

professionally, making the record number of viewers forget that the Broncos were the team with the best offense in the league. The Seahawks’ defense put on a show as usual, recording interceptions and forced fumbles all throughout the game, sweeping the metaphorical leg of the Broncos and never allowing them a chance to get back into the game. Some controversy arose after the game when Peyton Manning was allegedly heard asking Seattle head coach, Pete Carroll, when he was going to pay up. Although the report did spur some further inquiries, I believe the game was not rigged but simply a poor showing by the Broncos and a great game by the Seahawks. The initial reporting of the supposed rigging was on a semi-faux news network, and therefore the report is unreliable and not to be wholly believed. Overall, the blowout game was not thrilling for (non-Seahawk) football fans but still recorded record numbers of views and a record amount of bets. Viewing in New York skyrocketed, most likely due to the hosting of the Super Bowl in Metlife Stadium. This means the Super Bowl will most likely return to the Jets/Giants home field sometime down the road. Overall, Peyton and his Broncos came up short, letting Wilson, Lynch, Sherman, and all the other Seahawks win their first ring. That said, both teams will be very strong contenders next season with the Seahawks looking to hold their title and the Broncos counting the days until they can prove themselves after this embarrassing loss.
Eber is a member of the class of 2017.

[The Broncos’ incredible season led them forcefully to the Superbowl, but they were unable to finish the job. The rival Seahawks created a significant amount of noise this season, but had ridicule along the way as well.

frequently accredited talented running back Marshawn “Beast Mode” Lynch with carrying the offensive weight. But on Super Bowl Sunday, Wilson stepped up and completed 18 of 25 attempts for 206 yards and two touchdowns. He ran his offense

MT3 for MVP

BY MAX EBER
STAFF WRITER

In the NBA, it is relatively easy to talk about Kevin Durant’s 12 game, 30+ point streak or Paul George’s 360 windmill dunk, but for this article, I am going to focus on a player who I feel might not receive nearly enough credit for the amount of work he does and the impact he has. With so many big-name players like Deron Williams, Paul Pierce, Kevin Garnett, or Joe Johnson filling up the roster of the Brooklyn Nets, viewers might not notice the significant impact that certain bench players may have. The Nets had a somewhat rocky start to the season after much anticipation in the off season. This was due to the massive trade deal between the Nets and the Boston Celtics where Pierce, Garnett, and Jason Terry came to Brooklyn in exchange for several future first round draft picks. With an entire all-star lineup, there were very high expectations for the veteran team. The challenging beginning of the season can be easily attributed to the new group of players with a brand new coach, Jason Kidd. This past month was a drastic turnaround for the Nets with a January record of 10-2 with both losses at the hands of the Toronto Raptors. With star center Brook Lopez out for the remainder of the season, it was up to the bench players to step up and fill the hole. This was done by a variety of players, such as Shaun Livingston, Andrei Kirilenko, and arguably most of all, Mirza Teletovic. It is somewhat uncommon to hear home crowds chant MVP for a second year bench player, but MT3 has done wonders for this team. His shooting percentages have

been sensational — he has drained countless three pointers in his 19.4 minutes per game. Although turning some heads after setting his career high in points with a 34 point showing against Dallas (with an astounding 24 points coming in just the second quarter), he has not quite gotten the recognition in the league I believe he deserves. Coach Jason Kidd commented on Teletovic’s work ethic saying, “He just doesn’t show up on game day shooting. He’s been working extremely hard at this game,” and Brooklyn fans know it. When he comes in the game, it’s not only his shooting ability that is beneficial to the team but the energy and intensity he brings along with him. Fighting for loose balls and 50/50 rebounds, he plays scrappy ball to prove he deserves the time on the court. His minute averages reflect his excellent performance, as they’ve averaged out at about 20 minutes per game in the past month or so. Nets fans know that they have not only star players in the starting lineup but a gold mine in the 28-year-old Yugoslavian sensation. It is easy to see who the big name players are: — the Johnsons, the Kobes, and the Durants — but what is hard for teams is acquiring bench players who impact the game as significantly as Teletovic does. I think Brooklyn is an extremely talented ball club, but without a gifted and energetic bench, they don’t have the depth to go late into the season or even postseason. With players like Mirza Teletovic, they have a fighting chance at contending this season, and if not, then definitely next season with a healthy Brook Lopez. But in my honest opinion, from the countless games I’ve watched (Nets being my favorite team), I stand by the chants, “MT3 for MVP!”
Eber is a member of the class of 2017.