

Campus Times

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



Diversity Survey Results Out

By **AMANDA MARQUEZ**
NEWS EDITOR

UR is connected by a common purpose, but frayed on its cultural competency, according to the results of the university-wide Diversity Engagement Survey (DES), administered last February and released on Feb. 11.

Forty-eight percent of UR faculty, staff, trainees, and students responded to the DES.

The survey measured the inclusiveness of the University's academic environment across eight factors—trust, appreciation of individual attributes, sense of belonging, access to opportunity, equitable reward and recognition, cultural competence, respect, and common purpose.

The survey results called common purpose, defined as “an individual's contribution to institutional mission and connection to vision, purpose, and mission,” the University's greatest strength.

Cultural competence, defined as “individual believes the institution has the capacity to make creative use of its diverse workforce in a way that meets business goals and enhances performance,” was deemed one of its greatest weaknesses.

There was University-wide agreement among participants that these factors are UR's biggest strengths and challenges, but perceptions varied significantly among each of the seven markers of diversity: race and ethnicity, gender, LGBT status, disability, belief system, veteran status, and generational status.

Here were some of the major perceptual differences noted among members of each marker of diversity:

- Overall, Asians and Hispanics had largely similar—and positive—perceptions as whites did about the climate surrounding diversity and inclusion. Some Asian respondents, however, wanted more support to overcome language and cultural barriers, did not want to be labeled as “international,” and wanted Asian representatives in the University's leadership.
- For Hispanics, the biggest difference was in the



YIYUN HUANG / PHOTO EDITOR

UR has an ever-growing collection of books, adding 13,145 books in 2016 alone.

‘Serendipity of Discovery’

By **JESSE BERNSTEIN**
MANAGING EDITOR

Ever heard of Mark Risjord's “Woodcutters and Witchcraft: Rationality and Interpretive Change in the Social Sciences?”

No?

What about Suguru Ishikawa's study of the efficacy of various forms of digital communication, “Improvisational Design: Continuous, Responsive Digital Communication?”

Who, you might ask, actually reads this stuff?

The answer, it turns out, might be nobody. These two books are among the 47.6 percent of books in circulation at UR (about 1.28 million—more on this later), excluding those held at the science libraries or the off-campus annex, that haven't been checked out in the last twenty years.

47.6 percent!

“That sounds like a lot,” admits Jennifer Bowen, Associate Dean for Scholarly Resource Management. “But it may be deceiving.”

Bowen oversees several key library arms—collections and acquisitions are under her purview, as is the library metadata department—and in her 28 years at the University, she's worked to better shape its ever-growing collection of books, both physical and digital. (The University added

13,145 books in 2016 alone.)

And though only 52.4 percent of the books (digital and physical) available for check-out in Rush Rhees have recorded a check-out in the last 20 years, there isn't any data for check-outs prior to 1997, when the University first implemented an online catalog that provides statistics on check-outs.

And given that new scholarship usually sees most of its activity in the first ten years after its been released, it's possible that some of those that haven't been checked out in the last twenty years may have been a hot commodity at one time. Additionally, that check-out number can't account for how many times a book has been taken off a shelf to be referenced, but never brought to the Q&I desk to be recorded as checked-out.

But even allowing for those factors, could they even account for another five percent of books? Ten, if we're generous? That raises a lot of questions. What's the utility of a collection that only gets about half used?

“Couldn't the schools money go to better use other than buying books nobody has ever even read?” asked junior Dan Levien.

That's a big question—is this a waste of money?—but the bigger question behind that, of course, is about the utility of knowledge that no

one ever accesses.

It depends on what you view as the role of libraries. Bowen, for instance, counts preservation as a major part of a library's purpose.

“Libraries really feel like there's a mission to preserve our cultural heritage,” she said.

UR belongs to a group called Eastern Academic Scholars Trust—EAST—that tries to accomplish exactly that, collaborating with other university libraries to determine how unique their collections are, and which books are duplicated across their shared system.

In addition to the preservation aspect, there's the “serendipity of discovery,” as Bowen puts it. For students stuck on a paper or humanities professors looking for research topics, the unexpected is always just sitting on a shelf somewhere, waiting to be discovered, regardless of its accessibility.

Which is, of course, something that's bound to happen in a searchable collection of 1.28 million volumes.

As for the mythical “over 3 million volumes” refrain from some adventurous Meridians (including yours truly), if there's any truth to it, it would include the Physics, Optics, and Astronomy Library, Robbins, Koller-Collins, Carlson libraries, Rare Books and Special Collections, and the

Dandyhacks Successful in 4th Year

By **DAVID SCHILDKRAUT**
NEWS EDITOR

Students clacked away at their keyboards, munching away on bananas and chips. For over a day hours, they had been working nearly non-stop in the Frederick Douglass Building with a single goal in mind: to wow a panel of judges with their creations at the end of the weekend.

That was the scene Saturday night in the Douglass Ballroom, as teams of students from five schools and two countries worked hard to complete their Dandyhacks projects for an 8 a.m. deadline.

Dandyhacks, UR's hackathon run by the Computer Science Undergraduate Council, is now in its fourth year. In a hackathon, students form teams and spend about 36 hours developing an idea of theirs, usually through computer programming.

Senior Anis Kalleo, one of the event's organizers (another is senior Maggie Curtis, whom Kalleo praised), explained that the goal of Dandyhacks is to have “something that is the intersection of computer science and data science.”

To emphasize this, several of the sponsors present over the weekend were three big data companies: 1010 Data, FactSet, and Google. Prizes were given out to several teams for use of data.

One such winner was Algebrissimo, the brainchild of RIT juniors Stefan Aleksie and Josh Miller.

The project—which took FactSet's “Most Creative Data Visualization” award and second-place overall—was to create a program hosted on a website that allows users to perform computations with songs to discover new music that they might like. For example, a person may like a pop song but not its rap components, and so they could subtract the rap from the song to get a new song with just the features desired.

“I usually go to [hackathons] with the goal to meet people and learn new stuff,” Aleksie said. “But this time I really wanted to emphasize the

SEE **SURVEY RESULTS** PAGE 2

SEE **LIBRARY** PAGE 8

SEE **HACKATHON** PAGE 3

INSIDE
THIS CT

**STANDING WITH
STANDING ROCK**
PAGE 5 OPINION

**BANANA PRICES
ARE BANANAS**
PAGE 6 FEATURES

**SAPLINGS SITS
DOWN**
PAGE 12 A&E

**UR TENNIS:
DIII VS DI**
PAGE 16 SPORTS



YIYUN HUANG / PHOTO EDITOR

ROCHESTER UNITES FOR ICE SKATING AND FUN

Senior Michaela Chan serves hot chocolate to a student at the Brooks Landing Family and Student Ice Skating Party on Saturday. The event also featured games, food, and a small petting zoo.

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

Dryer Causes Whipple Park Fire (1)

FEBRUARY 11 — The broken belt of a dryer caused a fire in Whipple Park.

Eastman Books Missing (2)

FEBRUARY 13—An Eastman student reported four lesson books as missing.

Robbery on Foot Bridge (3)

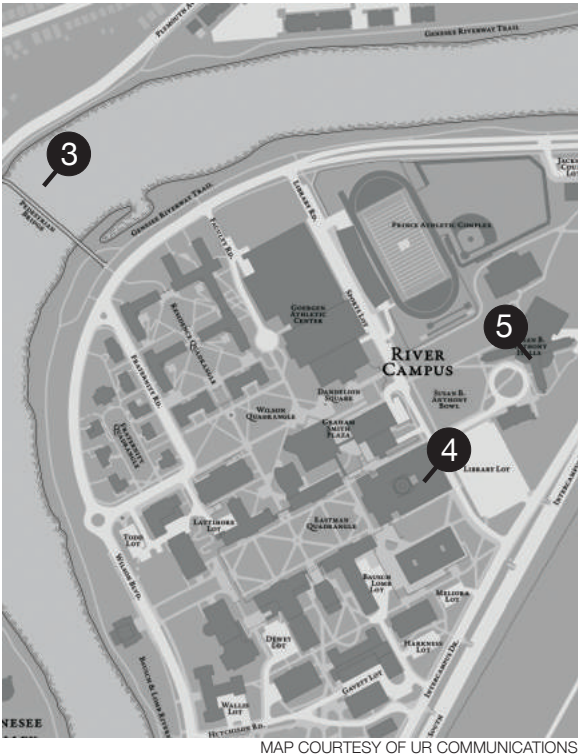
FEBRUARY 13—A graduate student was the victim of a robbery on the Pedestrian Bridge.

Laptop Charger Stolen from Gleason (4)

FEBRUARY 16—A student’s laptop charger was stolen from Gleason Library.

Cell Phone Stolen from Sue. B. (5)

FEBRUARY 16—A student’s cell phone was stolen from Susan B. Anthony Hall.



Information provided by the Department of Public Safety.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

TUESDAY | FEBRUARY 21

SAGE ART CENTER: “THE LAND(ING)”
SAGE ART CENTER, 9 A.M.-5 P.M.
“The Land(ing)” exhibit will feature sculptures expressing political and landscape interpretations of history and myths.

FACULTY ARTIST SERIES: VIOLA
KILBOURN HALL, 8 P.M.-10 P.M.
The Eastman School of Music will showcase the musical talents of George Taylor on the viola.

WEDNESDAY | FEBRUARY 22

STUDENT DEGREE RECITAL: OBOE
HATCH RECITAL HALL, 7:00 P.M.-8:30 P.M.
The Eastman School of Music will showcase the musical talents of Jung Choi on the oboe.

STUDENT DEGREE RECITAL: VOICE
KILBOURN HALL, 7:00 P.M.-8:30 P.M.
The Eastman School of Music will showcase the musical talents of Nathaniel McEwen, who will be singing.

THURSDAY | FEBRUARY 23

VIOLIN FOLK MUSIC
OFF CAMPUS, 12:15 P.M.-12:45 P.M.
Listen to Wendy Toh and Xi Chen play the music of Gould and Janáček on the violin and piano, respectively.

MEET THE ARTIST: MELEKO MOKGOSI
MEMORIAL ART GALLERY, 7 P.M.-8 P.M.
Come and join in the public discussion between Jonathan Binstock and artist Meleko Mokgosi, whose collection Pax Kaffraria is on display at MAG.

FRIDAY | FEBRUARY 24

FILM SCREENING: DISGRACE
GOWEN ROOM, 5 P.M.-7 P.M.
Join the Frederick Douglass Institute for its screening of “Disgrace.” Pizza and drinks will be served.

UR NIGHT AT AMERKS HOCKEY
BLUE CROSS ARENA, 6:00 P.M.-9:45 P.M.
Come out and support the game against Syracuse while also enjoying performances from talented students from UR and Eastman School of Music. Buses will loop from ITS from 5:45 p.m.

Community Split in Survey Results

SURVEY RESULTS FROM PAGE 1

equitable reward and recognition factor, defined as “individuals feeling that the organization has ‘equitable compensation practices and nonfinancial incentives.’” Unlike Hispanic faculty and staff, Hispanic students had less favorable opinions about the campus climate.

- For all 22 survey questions, black respondents consistently showed lower levels of agreement compared with whites, regardless of their position within the University. Cultural competence, trust, and respect were among the largest areas of difference.

- Men and women thought similarly about the climate’s overall sense of inclusiveness, but for questions that asked specifically about position and trust, women’s opinions deviated. There were significant differences between transgender or gender-nonconforming individuals and cisgender respondents, but their responses were included in the analysis of the LGBT marker of diversity.

- LGBT individuals were less likely than cisgender or heterosexual respondents to answer in the affirmative on the survey questions. Trust, respect, and cultural competence were among the largest areas of difference. Additionally, most mentioned that the definition of diversity needs to go beyond race.

- Respondents who identified as having a disability had a significantly less favorable perception of the University’s inclusiveness than those without disabilities. In their extended response, one respondent wrote, “Those with disabilities are perhaps the

largest marginalized group, this seems unconscionable to me.” Equitable reward, trust, and cultural competence were among the largest areas of difference.

- Over 50 percent of participants expressed that they were Christians, and 39 percent identified as pertaining to one of eight other belief systems, most identifying themselves as “Non-religious.” Common purpose and respect were the two largest areas of mutual agreement among all belief systems.
- Of the 365 individuals who identified as veterans, perceptions varied significantly among faculty and staff and students, especially regarding the access to opportunity factor. Most notably, veteran faculty perceived the campus climate more favorably than non-veteran faculty.
- In general, millennials had more favorable perceptions about access to opportunity. Baby boomer faculty and staff ranked equitable reward lower than millennial faculty and staff, and respondents were concerned with an apparent lack of respect for and inclusion of “older workers.”

To address the findings of the DES, the University plans on implementing “centrally based programming and policy changes,” some of which include learning about unconscious bias through training sessions, further engaging faculty in community outreach programs such as the “It’s on Us” campaign to discourage sexual assault, and increasing awareness of the University’s “policy 106,” which is in place to help faculty, staff, and students address issues related to harassment and discrimination.

Marquez is a member of the Class of 2017.

CORRECTIONS

An illustration in the Feb. 6 issue for the article “Bad Advice Brian: How Do I Lose Weight?” incorrectly listed the author as Morgan Mehring, a former staff illustrator. The author is actually Melanie DeJong, a member of the Class of 2019.

An article in the Feb. 13 issue titled “5K Challenge Reveals SA Mishaps” misspelled freshman Madina Jumabaeva’s first name as “Madiva.” It has been corrected online.

An article in the Feb. 13 issue titled “Tradition and Talent Intermingle at UR China Nite” incorrectly reported that University President Joel Seligman was in attendance and spoke to the crowd. The online version of the story has corrected this.

The author of the Feb. 13 crossword puzzle was misspelled. The author was David Schildkraut, not David Shildkraut.

WANT IMMEDIATE CAMPUS

UPDATES AND ARTICLES?

LIKE THE
CAMPUS TIMES
ON FACEBOOK

Mock Trial Wins Big at Regionals

By JESSE BERNSTEIN
MANAGING EDITOR

It’s a civil case, and the stakes are high. A magazine is being sued by a recently fired writer, whose claims of age discrimination could have the company on the hook for liability and damages.

The catch, of course, is that it’s all made up.

But for the members of UR Mock Trial, who advanced past the regional round at Buffalo State last weekend, the details of the case have governed their lives since last August, when the American Mock Trial Association (AMTA), which oversees all collegiate mock trial, released the case file.

Both the Rochester A and B teams will compete at the Opening Round Championship Series (ORCS) in Lancaster, Pa., from

Should they finish in the top six, they’ll be invited to nationals.

Mar. 17 to 19. Should they finish in the top six, they’ll be invited to nationals, held at UCLA.

At Buffalo State, freshman Jonathan Rhodes, junior Zachary Marshall, and sophomore Deisy Abarca Espíritu were all individually recognized for their work at the tournament.

For Abarca Espíritu, who “stumbled upon” mock trial after never competing in high school and now captains the B team, her team’s success was the culmination of months of hard work.

“We showed up with really high expectations,” she said,

proudly noting her team’s 7–1 record over the four-trial weekend.

(At each tournament, there are “judges,” sometimes actual judges, other times lawyers and professors, who alternately preside over the case or score each team based on presentation, strength of argument, and more; for this competition, there were two ballots per trial).

Squaring off against St. Bonaventure University, Syracuse University, Columbia University, and University of Buffalo, the B team received one of the seven bids given out among the thirty teams that competed.

Abarca Espíritu, like many of those in Mock Trial, has no interest in a legal career (she majors in Biology and Economics), but was drawn to the team by a desire to improve her ability to clearly and concisely express her opinion. Beyond that, she’s found a close group of friends.

“All my housemates are in Mock Trial,” she said. They’re united by the intellectual side of the group, “but of course, we like to win.”

For Matt Hoffner, a sophomore on the B team, testifying in front of the competing teams and the judge used to be nerve-racking, but it’s now become almost relaxing.

It’s “much more than half the battle,” he said, when it comes to finding success on the stand.

The other part, Hoffner said, is performance, speaking with “vigor and fervor.”

“You’re playing a character,” he said, “and performance is a huge aspect.”

“Mock trial’s not about being right, it’s about looking good in a suit,” he joked.

Rochelle Sun, a junior who dreams of working in civil rights litigation, agrees in principle, at least; she noted that she’d been docked points for being overly aggressive in her cross-examination.

(Sun notes that it seems to be

women who’re most often castigated for this, something she attributes to cultural attitudes about women speaking forcefully; she also recalled instances when other women on the team lost points for poorly applied

‘Mock trial’s not about being right, it’s about looking good in a suit.’

nail polish).

Sun enjoys Mock Trial because it’s helped her learn “how to support [her] own arguments,” but she’s motivated to choose law as a profession by a desire to help others—she sees public defense in her future. For now, she serves as an A team attorney for her “insane, crazy cult-like organization.”

Finishing up his fourth year in Mock Trial, Jason Altabet, a senior and president of the club, has seen the organization improve every year.

“We were far weaker four years ago,” he said, with about 30 members broken up into three teams. Now, they’re pushing 50, with four full teams.

Though his time in Mock Trial is coming to a close, Altabet is still invested in the future of the organization—he’s intrigued by the possibility of competing at Nationals, but he sees this year as another chance to add to Mock Trial’s ranks.

When it comes to advertising, Altabet says this: “If you ever see someone walking around campus mumbling ‘Your Honor’ with a wacky accent, you probably just passed a member of the Mock Trial team.”

Bernstein is a member of the Class of 2018.

Dandyhacks Spurs Innovation

HACKATHON FROM PAGE 1

before.”

Not all projects were purely web-based. UR senior Adam Rosenstein and juniors Dominic Giambra and Unni Kurumbail spent the weekend developing an iPhone app to provide a quick preliminary stroke diagnosis. The project, which took third prize, was an idea suggested by UR Medical Center neurosurgeon Yan Li.

“Nowadays, with the way technology is changing, we have the ability to take [...] medical information with us,” Giambra said. “With a stroke, where time is of the essence, it is important to get that first, early assessment without going to a doctor.”

The trio, which is participating in its first hackathon, is hoping to deploy their app through Strong Memorial Hospital.

Hardware also permeated the competition, with everything from chairs to virtual reality headsets being integrated into projects.

UR junior Josh Churchin won first prize at last year’s Dandyhacks with a virtual reality (VR) maze game, and this year hoped that his next virtual reality project, a multiplayer online racing game using the Oculus Rift and Nintendo Wii motion sensor, would bring the same luck.

Churchin expressed his team’s motivation to make a VR as them “wanting to be able to control something and put it online so other people can do it.”

For the second year in a

row, Dandyhacks was a Major League Hacking–sanctioned hackathon. This is also the second year the competition has attracted a foreign audience, with a team from Brock University in St. Catherines, Ontario.

Juniors Tyler Cowan and Mitchell Clark—who attended last year’s hackathon—were joined by junior Jordan Maslen. This year their goal was to create a music-to-image program that would generate an abstract image on the screen based on the waveform of the music playing.

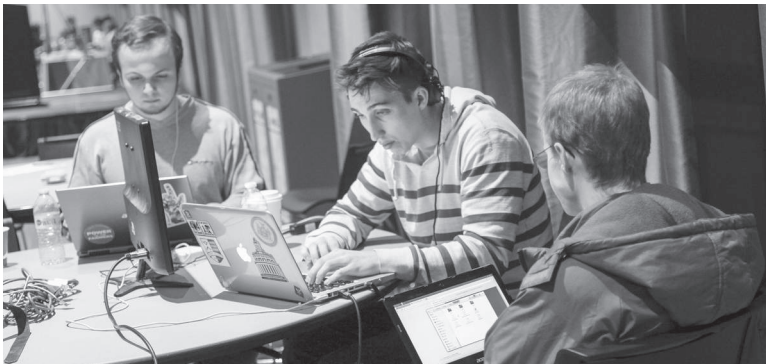
While excited to be back at Dandyhacks, Cowan admitted that they “weren’t sure if this was happening or not, since we didn’t receive any email confirmation after we registered.”

Dandyhacks is already beginning planning for next year, with the hope that the event could be held during fall semester to give employers earlier exposure to the participants. Kalleo noted that they are always trying to improve the competition for all those involved.

Senior Hassler Thurston, a past Dandyhacks organizer who this year joined as a participant, reminisced on the past four years and how the event has grown from a few dozen UR students to over 200 participants.

“I think it’s on an upward trend,” Thurston said, noting that this was his last hackathon. “It’s a little bittersweet since I’ve seen it grow over the past four years.”

Schildkraut is a member of the Class of 2020.



Seniors Brandon Slaght, Gregory Hunkins, and Matthew Domeroski (left to right) program an app to find Goodreads reviews of books using image processing software during Dandyhacks.

Students Write Love Letters to Immigrants

By AMANDA MARQUEZ
NEWS EDITOR

Students wrote letters extending words of love and encouragement to UR’s immigrant community last Thursday afternoon at the “#ToImmigrantsWithLove” event held in Hirst Lounge.

“#ToImmigrantsWithLove” is a national campaign whose mission is to encourage people to publicly acknowledge that they stand with immigrants, regardless of the country’s political climate.

Crowds of students surrounded tables covered with stationary and markers, each enthusiastic about expressing their personal sentiments to immigrants.

One card read, “Thanks for sticking it out with us here. We want you here, you belong, don’t let anyone say anything different.”

Another student wrote, “Thank you so much for your hard work. So glad you came to the U of R.”

Immigrants also participated in the letter writing.

A letter signed “A fellow immigrant” said, “Despite this administration, know that you belong here and are essential to this country.”

The piles of letters were later transformed into a giant heart and mounted on the expression wall in the Burgett Intercultural Center.

Freshman and member of the Muslim Students’ Association Fatimah Arshad participated to show solidarity with refugees in America and on campus.

“For them to know that our support is with them provides some reassurance in times like these,” said Arshad. “I know a lot of people who are directly affected by the recent events that have taken

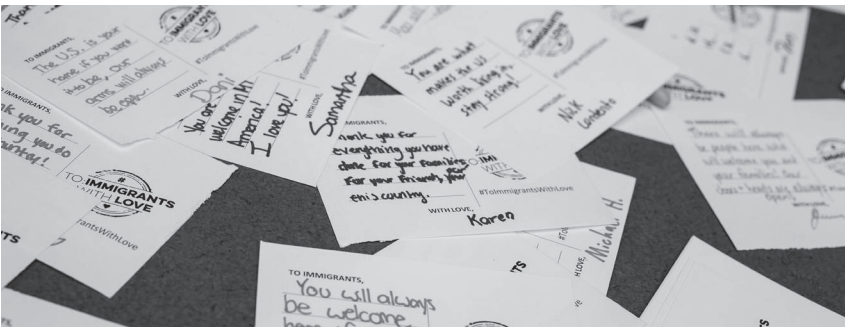
place among our government, and although I can’t imagine what they are going through individually and personally, I want them to know that I am on their side and I am willing to fight for them so that they can feel safe and welcomed here.”

“#ToImmigrantsWithLove” was sponsored by UR Dreamers, Students Helping Honduras, Refugee Student Alliance, Asian American Alliance, Native American Students’ Association, UR Sanctuary Campus Movement, Students’ Association for Interfaith Cooperation, and the Spanish and Latino Students’ Association.

Marquez is a member of the Class of 2017.



(Top) Freshman Fatimah Arshad writes a letter to immigrants in Wilson Commons on Thursday. (Bottom) Cards written to immigrants that are displayed outside the Burgett Intercultural Center.



OPINIONS

EDITORIAL OBSERVER

Thoughts for Food



By JAMES GUNN
FEATURES EDITOR

I'd like to talk about something that any self-respecting student enjoys: food. In particular, I'd like to discuss the ways that I have been seriously disappointed by the selection of food that we have on campus.

The repetition is purely depressing. For nearly a week, Douglass Dining Center served hamburgers for lunch. Not only is this unhealthy, but it's also just sad. Winter is already monotonous enough, so there's no need to add to this feeling.

An excellent initiative, I believe, would be some way for students on meal plans, especially freshman with more limited options, to create their own variety of food options.

Street Food, an option in Douglass, often serves the same food option for a week straight. This is often healthier than the Bistro, yet the problem of repetition remains. Further, it seems it is trying to provide some sort of authentic food from various places, yet I have an Israeli friend who refuses to eat any Middle-Eastern food they serve because of how poorly it resembles what it is trying to imitate.

While the effort is appreciated, the poor quality of the food undermines the good intentions.

I don't have complaints for all the food options. The Allergen Free section is often of a higher quality than the rest. It offers mostly higher-quality and healthier ingredients, which I find commendable. The variance of the pasta station is also laudable. Kosher Comfort has its ups and downs as well, but can usually be relied upon.

Danforth Dining Center, on the other hand, consistently disappoints me and my friends. Of course, Douglass has been advertised as the new and best dining option on campus, but there could at least be some attempt at improving the available selections at Danforth. Danforth is still a convenient choice for students living in Susan B.

Anthony Halls, but the food does not reflect this.

For freshman students on meal plans, there is a feeling of obligation, a feeling that they must use swipes at Douglass or Danforth. This, at least for my friends and I, is the sole reason we continue to eat at Douglass nearly every day. There is the occasional splurge, if you consider spending declining on Burrito Bowl or Panda Express a splurge. But such occasions are few and far between due to the generally low amounts of declining that we freshmen have.

An excellent initiative, I believe, would be some way for students on meal plans, especially freshmen with more limited options, to create their own variety of food options. UROS are already spendable at Chipotle, Mt. Hope Diner, and several other establishments. Perhaps this could be extended to a market or a grocer. Or, possibly, Hillside Market could fill this role. Hillside does offer some options for making your own food; however, for the most part, this consists of microwavable meals and bread. These meals can be a great treat, but it is easy to see the problems for health and nutrition that would arise from eating this type of food on a regular basis.

Some produce, like simple vegetables such as carrots or celery, would certainly be appreciated. It's hard enough for students unfamiliar with the area or to being independent to rouse themselves and leave campus: it is even harder when there is the easy alternative of cheap, unhealthy fast food in The Pit or Hillside. Putting healthy options next to the others could encourage students to be healthier. And yes, Danforth does have a salad bar, but it often offers a lackluster array of ingredients.

None of my complaints extend to the staff and the services they provide. Students are always welcomed warmly and served politely. The dining halls are always well-cleaned and the music provides great ambiance. It is not up to them what food they serve.

I would simply like more of a choice. I cannot think of a single dish where, upon eating it, I thought, "Wow, I'd like to get that again!" Yet each one is served to me for another week. The nutritional aspects must be improved significantly. Burgers, pizza, Panda Express, and Burrito Bowls are all the definitions of fast food.

Something just a little different, and a little bit healthier, could really add some color to the gray world of dining that has come with winter.

Gunn is a member of the Class of 2020.

EDITORIAL BOARD

'Color' Week Means Well, Falls Short

Last week, the University's "We're Better than THAT" campaign held its first-ever Color Cannot Divide Us Week, with a small slate of events focusing on race and identity.

The events were planned and executed well, commendably so. W. Kamau Bell's comedic commentary routine, in particular, was an entertaining and informative lesson about the racial issues facing America

Like campaigns the University has tried in the past, the week was less than effective. To draw students to the week and to its goal, the events it holds should engage better.

today.

It was also, to our eyes, the best-advertised of the week's three programs. Which is one problem with this welcome effort—few students seemed to know about the week's musical performance and discussion, or its implicit bias training dinner.

The bigger-picture issue with the week and others like it, though, is that it was mostly composed of passive events, where people were shown the effects of racism through music or comedy, but didn't really have an opportunity to combat it.

W. Kamau Bell's talk was informative and opened many student's eyes to the African-American experience, but in the end the event was just absorption.

The implicit bias training was a more active event where students were educated about bias and then participated in some activities that helped them realize their own implicit bias. But the event was a small one—fewer than 50 students were participating, an almost negligible portion of our campus.

There's probably a few reasons for that, maybe among them the relative lack of hype for the session and students' aversion to anything called "training."

The week's title embodies this problem with the use of the word "cannot." It implies the work has already been done—that people have already put in the years of work needed to overcome the lines that bind us all, when in reality color does divide this campus and this country—quite often, in fact—hence the need for such a week.

The title should be one that asks for more of its participants—like "Color Should Not Divide Us."

Like campaigns the University has tried in the past, the week was less than effective. To draw students to the week and to its goal, the events it holds should engage better. At the same time, the entertainment factor of the events

should not overshadow their educational purposes. One way to engage students is to cosponsor with student groups on campus, because it both advertises the event to the group and its constituents but also

The bigger-picture issue with the week and others like it, though, is that it was mostly composed of passive events, where people were shown the effects of racism through music or comedy but really didn't have an opportunity to combat it.

the event is planned with students' insights and suggestions in mind. This was done quite successfully with Bell's talk, which was put on with the Student Programming Board, and the co-sponsorships can be expanded to student groups like Black Students' Union or Douglass Leadership House.

Keep in mind, though: Students should stay active in critiquing the administration's efforts but be careful so as not to nitpick campaigns like this out of existence. By working with the University, which is trying to help, instead of brushing its effort off completely, the change we desire might come much easier.

This editorial is published with the consent of a majority of the editorial board: Justin Trombly (Editor-in-Chief), Jesse Bernstein (Managing Editor), Vennela Pandaraboyina (Opinions Editor), Angela Lai (Publisher), Ben Schmitz (Sports Editor), and Alexandria Brown (Community Member). The Editor-in-Chief and the Editorial Board make themselves available to the UR community's ideas and concerns. Email editor@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 JUSTIN TROMBLY
MANAGING EDITOR JESSE BERNSTEIN

NEWS EDITORS AMANDA MARQUEZ
DAVID SCHILDKRAUT
OPINIONS EDITOR VENNELA PANDARABOYINA
A&E EDITORS ISABEL DRUKKER
BEN SCHMITZ
FEATURES EDITORS SCOTT DANIELS
JAMES GUNN

HUMOR EDITOR ERIC FRANKLIN
SPORTS EDITORS LAUREN SHARPE
TREVOR WHITESTONE
PHOTO EDITOR YIYUN HUANG
PRESENTATION EDITOR SARAH WEISE
COPY CHIEF SHAE RHINEHART
ILLUSTRATION EDITOR LUIS NOVA
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR SCOTT ABRAMS

PUBLISHER ANGELA LAI
BUSINESS MANAGER NICOLE ARSENEAU

Full responsibility for material appearing in this publication rests with the Editor-in-Chief. Opinions expressed in columns, letters, op-eds, or comics are not necessarily the views of the editors or the University of Rochester. *Campus Times* is printed weekly on Mondays throughout the academic year, except around and during University holidays. All issues are free. *Campus Times* is published on the World Wide Web at www.campustimes.org, and is updated Mondays following publication. *Campus Times* is SA funded. All materials herein are copyright © 2017 by *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.

Keep Standing with Standing Rock

By RUTH DAN

Standing Rock is making its last stand. On Jan. 24, President Donald Trump issued an executive order to expedite the approval of the Dakota Access Pipeline, a 1,100-mile pipeline ferry that brings crude oil from the North Dakota Bakken Oil Fields to a processing terminal in Illinois. The memorandum instructed the Secretary of the Army to recommend that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers curtail the ongoing Environmental Impact Statement process and grant the easement to cross under Lake Oahe, the only water source for the Standing Rock Sioux Nation.

On Feb. 7, the Army Corps of Engineers approved the easement. Then, on Feb. 16, a judge threw out a legal challenge by the Standing Rock Sioux calling for a tempo-

rary restraining order against construction; the tribe filed another lawsuit immediately afterward.

The improbability of a court challenge or protests by Water Protectors at Standing Rock halting the combined will of the Trump administration and a cabal of large financial institutions seems insurmountable. Yet the Standing Rock movement is greater than the success or failure—important though it is—of a single pipeline. The unprecedented organization and unity of the Native American community represents a spiritual and cultural resurgence, a foreshadowing of future resistance.

This is a new movement, led by women and the youth, making use of new forms of technology and communication to bring people together instead of driving them apart. But this movement is also

rooted in a 525-year historical struggle against violence, theft, and oppression, and indigenous peoples draw strength from those roots for the future.

The callous lack of concern by both the U.S. government and the private sector for water, public health, treaty rights, and human rights is not new, but the cohesion of 562 indigenous nations is. The established mechanisms for indigenous nations to assert sovereignty over their ancestral lands in the U.S. have always been woefully underdeveloped. The National Environmental Protection Act and the National Historic Preservation Act do have the necessary provisions to bring the United States into compliance with the international standard for indigenous rights, or the treaties the U.S. government made with indig-

enous nations, for that matter. The lack of legal channels for indigenous rights in the U.S. and Canada inevitably means that alternative channels of influence—like civil dissent—must be utilized.

Back in 2015, the Omaha, Dene, Ho-Chunk, and Creek Nations on both sides of the U.S.-Canadian border organized against the Keystone XL Pipeline, presaging the resistance that would take place at Standing Rock a year later. And Standing Rock means that our indigenous nations will be battling Keystone XL a year from now—along with the Oak Flat mine, the Enbridge Line 5 pipeline, and the border wall through Tohono O’odham lands, and many other transgressions of indigenous sovereignty over ancestral lands.

Standing Rock is only one part of a larger movement, a

larger movement in the U.S. and the world for greater respect, dignity, and human rights. Standing Rock is unprecedented because of the universal participation of this continent’s vast diversity of indigenous peoples. Standing Rock is also a movement for all people, all citizens of the United States.

Everyone in the U.S. has a stake in this fight, whether it is clean water, sustainable economic development, global climate change, or equality. Everyone that has a stake is participating in this movement in some way or another. This history of the Native American struggle is inextricably linked with the history of the United States of America, and the continual struggle of Native Americans for their rights affects all of us.

Dan is a member of the Class of 2019.



LUIS NOVA / ILLUSTRATION EDITOR

UR OPINION

BY VENNELA PANDARABOYINA & YIYUN HUANG
OPINIONS EDITOR & PHOTO EDITOR

“WHAT MOVIE TITLE BEST DESCRIBES THIS PAST WEEK?”



ELAINE KUPETS, '20
“Titanic.”



OMER LATIF, '19
“The Shawshank Redemption.”



JACKSON ABASCAL, '19
“Home Alone.”



JOHANN ORTIZ-FRANCO, '17
“The Big Short.”



EMMAN KARA, '18
“World War Z.”



SHANEIL GARCIA
“Hitch.”

FEATURES

Looking Into High Prices at Hillside

By **MELANIE DEJONG**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I like eating fruit—bananas, apples, oranges, grapefruits, you name it. But I also don't like spending money, and on-campus, those two things don't really go well together. I mean, \$1.09 for a banana at Hillside? Seriously? I can get a whole bunch of bananas for that much at Wegmans. What's the deal?

Cam Schauf, Director of Campus Dining Services and Auxiliary Operations, says there's a reason for that pricing. A good one.

First off, Schauf points out that comparing Hillside to Wegmans is the wrong place to start. Wegmans is a huge store. Its operators can buy products in bulk, and get them for a cheaper price because of it. Hillside doesn't have that option. The food there is bought not by the truckload, but by the crate, and sometimes even by the broken crate. This leads to higher prices that are more comparable to convenience stores like 7/11 than to places like Wegmans.

Why is fruit specifically so much less expensive at Wegmans? Bulk pricing is a significant part of it. Schauf also suggests there is the possibility that Wegmans is selling the fruit at a loss to bring in customers—something big grocery stores can afford to do, but small stores like Hillside can't.

So, that explains some of it.

But Hillside food still seems a bit pricey, even compared to other convenience stores. Why does it cost so much? And where is all that money really going?



YIYUN HUANG / PHOTO EDITOR

Hillside Market displays a variety of fruit that some accuse of being too high in price compared to off-campus grocery stores.

Schauf explains that it all goes back to Dining Services.

The budgeting goal of Dining Services is to break even at the end of the year with enough money to put back into the program. And yes, all of the profits go back into the program, paying for everything from dining renovations to replacing equipment. Prices are also adjusted to account for overhead costs, which include things like housekeeping,

team as well as important connections that lead to things like getting a Starbucks on campus. This fee is, of course, accounted for in pricing as well.

So why is Hillside food more expensive than other convenience store food? Schauf points out that overhead fees vary from place to place, and they tend to be slightly higher for a university convenience store than for other convenience stores. Here's one key

reason why: Convenience stores are businesses. They operate with business sense. This means that during slow hours, they close down. If they were to stay open when not a lot of

ing wants students to have access to food when they need it. These extra hours end up being part of overhead costs, since Dining needs to balance out times when there isn't a lot of traffic during times of higher traffic. But as someone who routinely buys food from Hillside at 12:30 a.m., it certainly seems worth it to me.

Wegmans is a huge store. Its operators can buy products in bulk, and get them for a cheaper price because of it. Hillside doesn't have that option.

On the whole, Schauf reminds us that the people in charge of Dining Services are very careful to review each operation and make sure that they're being good stewards of the money they receive from students. All prices are carefully considered, and are the result of a myriad of complex factors that can't be simply distilled into, "Oh yeah, the University overcharges for food."

You are free to buy food at Wegmans, of course, and it may make more sense for your budget to do so, but next time you're tempted to complain about Hillside prices, just remember—they are like that for a reason.

DeJong is a member of the class of 2019.

SEX & THE CT

It's About the Journey, Not the Destination

By **SIMRANJIT GREWAL**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Listen up, cowboy: it's time for you to have great, orgasmic sex.

There's plenty of Googleable articles by the sex geniuses of our time. There's Cosmopolitan, delighting in telling us that men like to have donuts on their penises. There's YouTube, which gave us the grapefruit method of giving blowjobs. Then there's Men's Health, which tells men to spray their bed sheets with aftershave to subconsciously convince their partner to bang them.

There's plenty more super practical ideas online, but I'm not going to get into that. I'm taking us back to basics. There are really only three principles you must follow to have some good sex.

First things first, change your idea of what sex is. Real sex is nothing like what you see in porn or television. Pornography is not real sex: I repeat, porn is not real. It's fantasy. To guide your real sex life with what happens in the virtual world is a rookie mistake. Porn has cuts to take out

emotional impacts. Lower your expectations because it'll probably never be as graceful as what's depicted in media, and that's a-okay.

The media rarely gives us real talk about sex or the physical and emotional impacts.

the awkward position changes, fluffers to make sure the actors are still aroused, and people to wipe sweat off the actor's backs. In movies and television shows, sex is an automatic decision. A couple only has to look at each other from across the club to jump cut into an intense love scene. There's nothing real about that. Sex isn't a look; it's a consensual decision between two or more people. The media rarely gives us real talk about sex or the physical and

This brings us to communication. Just like a conversation, sex is action and reaction, and all partners are an integral part of the discussion. The first step is to ensure consent among all parties. The next step is to get down and dirty. Be an advocate for yourself in the bedroom; if you aren't cumming, don't fake it, because that just leads to further disappointment. Tell your partner if you don't like what they are doing; even better yet, tell them what you like and what works for you. They can't read your mind. So be explicit. It'll be more satisfying in the end for both of you. Tell them how fast, slow, hard, or soft you like it. If your partner doesn't seem to be enjoying something, ask them what they like instead. Don't assume things. Sex is an in-

tricate, emotionally complex, and physically demanding task that differs from person to person, so don't be afraid to communicate your needs.

Another key to great sex is



experimentation. Try some toys. Try different positions. And chances are you're not spending enough time in the foreplay stage. Most women cannot get off to just penetration. They need clitoral stimulation so experiment with different pressures, locations, fingers, etc. The possibilities are endless.

Lastly, stop obsessing over orgasms. This sounds paradoxical. Stop thinking about orgasms so I can have an orgasm? Yes! If you shift your thoughts to the pleasure you

are feeling from that obsession, it increases your chances of achieving climax. Additionally, if you're in the moment, you can focus more on your partner and help them climax. Also, orgasming isn't the deciding factor of whether the sex was great. Turns out that a lot of people don't reach climax when they have sex. A study of college students conducted in 2010 revealed that 67 percent of women and 28 percent of men had faked orgasms. There are plenty of emotional and physical issues that may make orgasming hard or nearly impossible. This is the point where you try different things (experimentation!) and ask your partner what they want (communication!). Sex is complicated. It's awkward and weird and potentially life altering, but communicating, experimenting, and not focusing on the end will make it a lot better.

Grewal is a member of the class of 2017.

CAMPUS UNDERDOGS

Joseph Promotes Cultural Celebration



By **ETHAN BIDNA**
COLUMNIST



By **MELISSA HOLLOWAY**
COLUMNIST

If there is one thing we can say about senior Elizana-Marie Joseph, it's that she's simply one thing. All of her identities, passions, and interests meld together to create one of the most radiant individuals you will have the pleasure to meet on campus. With a perfect balance of confidence, empathy, and energy, Joseph has truly embodied what it means to be "ever better."

Joseph notes that her journey begins with her family's. Her grandmothers (for whom she's named) instilled in her the importance of family and sacrifice, and her father's journey from Haiti to the U.S. taught her the importance of education and endurance.

So where did her journey begin?

A native of Binghamton, N.Y., Joseph attended a Catholic elementary school, which taught her about what it meant to be a Haitian-American, what it meant to be alone,, and how to use that energy to better those around her.

She described a particular instance from fifth grade when a young man stepped on her friend's fingers for being friends with a black girl, and said that she "didn't belong in the world."

Joseph told us that she came home crying for about a year of her life, and has since developed a passion for community

engagement and support because she never wants anyone to have to feel that way again. In high school, she found her footing in fine arts, band, musical theatre, chorus, swimming, cheerleading—you name it.

Elizana's decision to come to the University was partially based on her attachment to her sisters—she "takes being a big sister a little too seriously"—because she didn't want to be too far away from home, or too close. She also loves learning for the sake of learning, and Rochester's open curriculum provided her with all of the resources to succeed academically and socially.

This brings us to Joseph's experiences here,(which are more extensive than we can cover in the space provided), but here is a laundry list of her involvements: President of the Student Organization for Caribbean Awareness (SOCA), Speaking Fellow, member of Off Broadway On Campus (OBOC), Peer Adviser for the Education Abroad Office, Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) Note Taker, Student Alumni Ambassador, member of College Feminists, a participant in the Burgett Intercultural Center's One Community Program and Safe Zone Training, a Ronald McNair Scholar, and a David T. Kearns Scholar.

Joseph's investment in SOCA started early in her college career, and her impact on the organization has exponentially increased ever since. Her Caribbean identity is an important part of who she is and something she takes a great deal of pride in.

or this reason, she works to celebrate, embrace, and showcase her culture within the campus community. She notes that last year, while she was acting as the group's vice president, the organization rebranded itself to better encapsulate the spirit of community it represents with the slogan, "Divided by water, united by culture."

As president, Joseph's main goal has been to set up a long-lasting infrastructure for the

organization. Between their massively successful annual Caribash party, their heartwarming Bob Marley Expo, and raising money to donate to Hope for Haiti, Joseph has proven to be an amazing managerial and moral leader for SOCA.

Through these events, she hopes that others on and off campus can "experience and share our culture, and see how we use it as a vehicle in everything that we do," as the organization continues to embody the notion of "one love" in all of its events and fundraisers.

Joseph's work in the One Community program stems from her belief that it's "important to have these conversations [around race] and turn them into actions."

She also says that "race is important to talk about, but it is also important to recognize that it is not the one thing that defines me—there are so many other things that create us, and we are all intersectional beings," which is why the idea of One Community spoke to her so much.

There is truly not enough room to speak about all of Joseph's accomplishments, but we believe it's important to include her shout-out to OBOC, as she says, "They are the OGs, they are my family, and they make me feel like a complete person."

Lastly, advice. If Joseph could say one thing to her fellow students, it's the following: "Be you. You are enough. With time, you will find those people as quirky and weird you and they will validate how awesome you are."

And the best piece of advice she's ever received is to breathe.

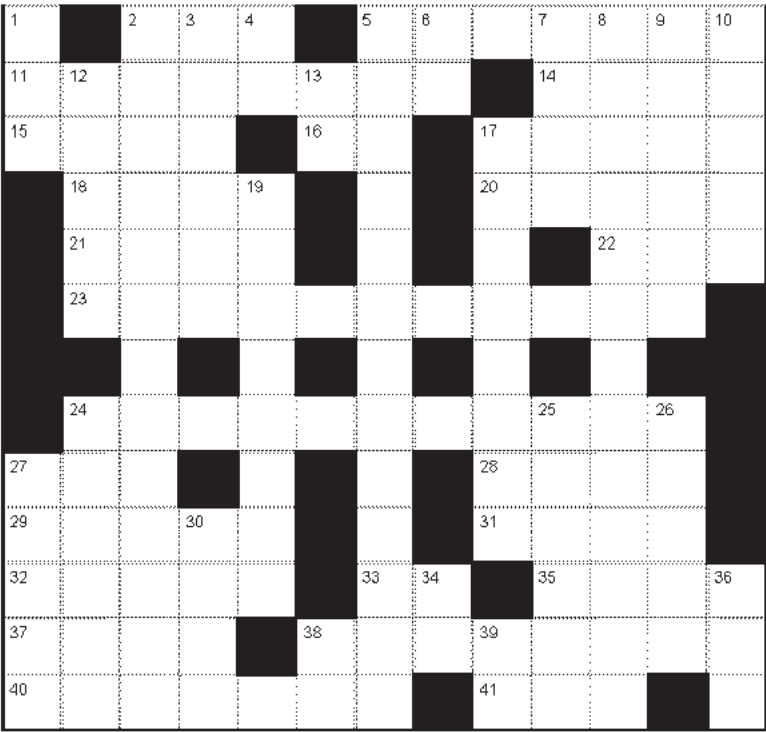
"Whether it means taking it all in, stepping back, or reevaluating, sometimes I need to be reminded that I'm human," she says.

If by "human" she means super woman, then we guess she's right. Look out for her name—we are convinced you'll see it again someday.

Bidna and Holloway are both Take Five scholars.

PUZZLES

Crossword Puzzle



BY **SAM PASSANISI** '17

DIFFICULTY **EASY**

ACROSS:

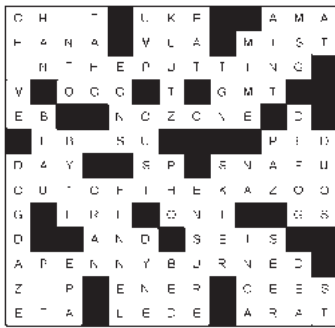
- 2) Short for "family"
- 5) Freshman's dorm furniture?
- 11) Narrative that spans episodes
- 14) Cash-only gas station
- 15) Gossip, perhaps
- 16) Kung-__ fighting
- 17) Binary star in constellation Virgo
- 18) Symptom of e.g. Tourette's Syndrome (singular)
- 20) Quite unpopular
- 21) "Tom Sawyer" and "Spirit of Radio" artist
- 22) Pre-2003 U.S. immigration agency
- 23) One who might punch a Nazi
- 24) Bigger, badder brother of the mimosa?
- 27) Kung __ chicken
- 28) Mysterious captain of the Nautilus
- 29) Before, to a poet perhaps
- 31) Gross national products, in short
- 32) Wearing the emperor's new clothes
- 33) Overdose, briefly
- 35) A single level (not as sad as it sounds)
- 37) Mind-altered state induced by LSD
- 38) American poetry?
- 40) Midday naps
- 41) Plural of "be"

DOWN:

- 1) American currency, abbr.

- 2) Flour-based oracle
- 3) Singer, painter, etc.
- 4) Possessive word
- 5) Dentist's directions for oral health
- 6) Extra credit, abbr.
- 7) California wine country
- 8) "The sun never sets on" this geopolitical entity
- 9) Diacritic mark, for example
- 10) Teases
- 12) Princess' crown
- 13) Intensifier acronym
- 17) Surprising, or perhaps just high-voltage
- 19) Strongly defined, like e.g. a jawline
- 24) Savannah sightseeing trip?
- 25) Geneticist Craig
- 26) Archetypal flowers of romance
- 27) Jeans, for example
- 30) House members, for short
- 34) District attorney, abbr.
- 36) Usual color of 26 Down
- 38) University of Alabama, abbr.
- 39) Spanish "go"

Last Week's Puzzle Solution





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

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

RED DISCOUNT

Visit us at bordeauxsalon.com



YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD GATHERING PLACE®
FOOD DRINK SPORTS FUN
thedistillery.com

Rochester	585-271-4105
Greece	585-621-1620
Henrietta	585-339-3010
Victor	585-425-2337
DeWitt	315-449-2337



01112010

\$10 OFF

Receive \$10.00 OFF your guest check with a minimum purchase of \$35.00*

*Present to your server when ordering. Dine-in only, not valid with half-price promotions, other discounts or on split checks. Tax & gratuity not included. No cash value.

Maximum \$10.00 discount per table/party/visit.

Valid thru June 30, 2017

Deli Sandro's Next Big Move

By JAMES GUNN
FEATURES EDITOR

Two steps from Riverview, Deli Sandro's is the dream of owner Anthony D'Alessandro. And Tony has some big news. Deli Sandro's is moving...across the street. After offering some coffee and a free sandwich, D'Alessandro talked about why the deli is moving.

"We want to add pizza, we want to add wings, we've kind of maxed out our offerings here. In order to offer more, we need more space," he said.

The new space is, indeed, quite a bit larger than the current location. Currently, Deli Sandro's' main offerings are sandwiches, but they also offer snacks, candy, and assorted drinks, completely filling up the current space. The new building will have a larger kitchen, with new equipment that will let the deli make fried foods and, of course, pizza and wings.

Deli Sandro's has numerous interactions with students of the University. Any students rushing fraternities will have noticed that a lot of them have Deli Sandro's cater with

Two steps from Riverview, Deli Sandro's is the dream of owner Anthony D'Alessandro.

sandwiches for at least one gathering. As D'Alessandro says, nearly two-thirds of his sales come from students ordering sandwiches.

The deli also has a place in the broader community. "They've been great, they've been truly supportive of us, and they keep us alive in the summer," D'Alessandro said.

The 19th Ward has an "interesting" reputation, as D'Alessandro puts it, but he certainly finds his way. He believes that the community has definitely improved in the five years since he's established his deli, and he encourages students to explore more of Rochester. As he says, there are a lot of dispar-

Due to the deli's proximity to campus [...] D'Alessandro is confident that he can get campus residents out of their dorms.

ities here. Yet, he commends the diversity and the niches that can be found. He does not like the reputation of the area, and is saddened about how much "people are willing to pay to live outside of the city," but he does have a positive outlook, saying Deli Sandro's "wants to provide exciting reasons for people to stay."

D'Alessandro also wants to fit into the one part of our campus that he deems is extremely lacking. His idea, he says, is "the missing element of collegiate life" at UR. Unfortunately, only those students over 21 would be able to enjoy his idea. A few names have been tossed around, but the currently proposed name

is the Tin Roof—a new bar. D'Alessandro dreams that

His idea, he says, is 'the missing element of collegiate life.'

one day it can become a staple of the University (or at least for the upperclassmen). Due to the deli's proximity to campus, especially Riverview, D'Alessandro is confident that he can get campus residents out of their dorms and to his establishments. They are significantly closer than College Town—barely a five minute walk from the Residential Quad.

D'Alessandro aims to have completed renovations at the new location by the time students return from spring break in March, just in time to serve sandwiches in the warm weather. The bar, however, will take a little bit longer. The goal for its opening is set around May, so that older students and members of the community can take a break there as the summer heat starts to set in.

If students want to find out more about Deli Sandro's progress and what it has to offer, they can subscribe to the deli's online newsletter, available on its website www.delisandros.com.

D'Alessandro has also set up a promotion for readers of the *Campus Times*: by entering the code "Campus Times" at checkout on the website, customers can cut \$5 off their orders.

Gunn is a member of the Class of 2020.



PHOTO PROVIDED

A view of the facade of Deli Sandro's old location.

Write for the
Campus Times

Help Wanted.

The *Campus Times* is seeking motivated writers, photographers, and editors.

Contact publisher@campustimes.org for more information.

Thousands Left Unread

LIBRARY FROM PAGE 1

brary, Robbins, Koller-Collins, Carlson libraries, Rare Books and Special Collections, and the off-campus annex in Brighton, which houses over 400,000 "older or lesser used" books and printed journals.

For now, University librarians are busy studying a 383,000-volume "base" that they've pledged to include in the EAST project. After that, they'll start to analyze any overlap with other EAST schools to determine the best way to store and preserve those books.

But in the mean time, "Variability in Grain Yields: Implications for Agricultural Research and Policy in Developing Countries" is just sitting on Level 3, waiting for someone to take it off the shelf.

Bernstein is a member of the Class of 2018.

Put
"Journalist"
on Your Resume

Email
publisher@
campustimes.org

Join the
*Campus
Times*

Write, Edit,
Design, Illustrate,
Photograph, and
Create

HUMOR

Cage, the Elephant

By ERIC FRANKLIN
HUMOR EDITOR

Fans ranged from disappointed to infuriated as they left what they thought was supposed to be a rare Rochester performance by their favorite alternative rock band, Cage the Elephant.

"I'm going to demand my money back," said Sarah Weise, a disgruntled fan who left the Main Street Armory half an hour into the performance.

"I thought maybe he was some kind of weird opening act, but when I saw a tweet from the band about how excited they were to be in Stockholm tonight, I realized this was supposed to be the main event."

What most of the rock fans failed to notice as they were their buying tickets was that the act wasn't called "Cage the Elephant" but in fact, "Cage, the Elephant."

Some arrived hoping to hear old favorites like, "Ain't No Rest for the Wicked," while others were hoping to hear more from the band's newest album, "Tell Me I'm Pretty."

None expected what was actually about to happen.

Waiting in the main concert hall for the performance to start, fans were startled when the lights all went out. Most thought there was some kind of technical failure, but in fact it was the start of the show.

The sound of crickets permeated the room on all sides, followed by the growl of some kind of large predator and the sound of a frightened flock taking flight.

A lone spotlight cut through the darkness to illuminate the stage.

Quietly at first—but with increasing intensity—came the slow, steady beat of a bass drum. Eagle-eyed spectators noticed a figure ambling out from backstage in time with the drum.

Into the spotlight emerged what appeared to be a middle-aged man in a tattered elephant costume.

Not acknowledging the crowd at all, the man clomped around the stage, occasionally attempting to make an elephant's trumpeting sound with his mouth.

About five minutes into this baffling display, the man stayed facing the crowd long enough for them to get a good glimpse.

Amid the savannah sounds and otherwise silent spectators, a voice called out from the crowd, "Is that Nicolas Cage!?"

And indeed, it was the one and only Nicolas Cage, Academy Award winner and star of such instant classics as

"Ghost Rider," "The Sorcerer's Apprentice," and "Captain Corelli's Mandolin."

What proceeded for the next two hours—for those who stayed to watch the whole thing—was a baffling display, consisting mostly of Mr. Cage roaming aimlessly about the stage, occasionally trumpeting or trying to engage the weaker-looking males in the audience in tusk-sparing matches, presumably trying to win the attention of females.

After the show, Cage would only respond to questions with elephant trumpets, so all questions had to be answered through his agent, Nicolas Nage, who was reachable only by phone and whose voice sounded eerily similar to Cage's.

"Cage, the Elephant" is a special opportunity for fans to peek behind the scenes at Mr. Cage's unique acting style and role preparation," Nage explained.

Cage is known to practice his own type of method acting, in which, to more fully probe the emotional depths of his character, he lives as the character both on and off the set.

"He wants to audition for the lead in the revival of the Broadway play 'The Elephant Man,'" Nage continued. "They haven't sent the script we asked for yet, but Nic wanted to get a head start on his preparations, so he's been wearing that elephant costume for seven straight months now."

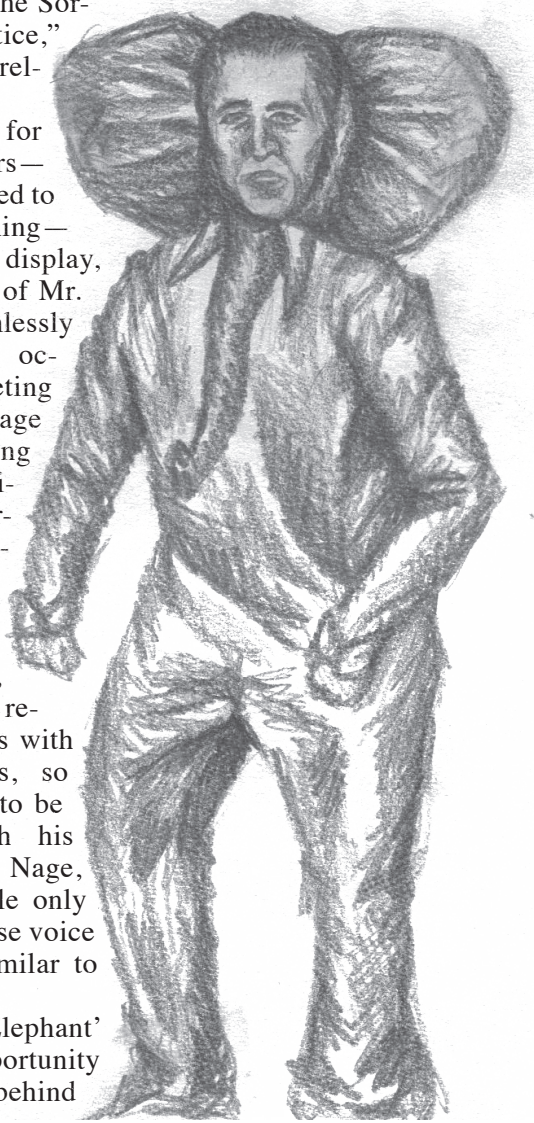
"The Elephant Man" was revived in 2014 for 53 performances, ending in February of 2015. There have been no plans since then of reviving the play again.

"Nic Cage has always been known for unique performances," noted unofficial Nic Cage biographer and convicted stalker Nikolass Kage, who legally changed his name in 1998 after watching "Face/Off" while under the influence of LSD.

"This one-of-a-kind theatrical masterpiece, in my opinion, will no doubt become one of the defining performances of Cage's oeuvre."

Asked to respond to Kage, Cage agent Nage said, "Shit! That guy found us again? Quick, get Nic, we have to get out of here!"

Calling me back safely from the "Cage-o-Copter," Nage explained more about



RACHEL BARGABOS / CONTRIBUTING ILLUSTRATOR

Cage's daily elephant routine.

"His morning routine starts at about dawn: breakfast, followed by a shower in which he tries to suck water into his nose and spray it on himself. These days he rarely ever sucks the water into his lungs," Nage said with a kind of sad pride.

"He then wallows in mud to protect himself from the hot sun, eats lunch, takes a nap while standing up, and spends his afternoon practicing his trumpeting or waving his ears and tusks threateningly at passersby, before settling down for dinner and four hours of sleep."

Asked what his meals consist of, Nage's tone grew more concerned.

"Each meal consists of 50 pounds of circus peanuts. I'm not sure he knows that elephants can eat anything else."

Back at the Main Street Armory the next day, a number of patrons from Cage's show were angrily demanding their money back, claiming they had been deceived.

Complainants were subjected to a rigorous grammatical test that consisted of discriminating between a friendly invitation to dinner and a suggestion to commit cannibalism against one's own grandmother.

Those who passed were turned away, while those who failed were granted their refund but immediately enrolled in a second grade writing class.

Franklin is a member of the Class of 2017.

Martino Signs Order to Build Wall

By DAVID SCHILDKRAUT
NEWS EDITOR

Citing a need to keep U.S. President Donald Trump out, Students' Association (SA) President and senior Vito Martino signed an executive order Friday authorizing the construction of a wall around the River Campus.

"Beginning today, the University of Rochester gets back control of River Campus," Martino said at a University Board of Trustees meeting. "We are going to keep the bad ones out—the president and his advisers and his cabinet and his supporters. This university is over when they can come to our campus and wreak havoc."

While the board declined to comment, SA Government was vocally supportive of the move, with several senators and committee chairs cheering the news on Facebook.

"This order is the beginning of a new era of campus safety," SA Senator Nick Foti said on the Facebook page Overheard at Rochester. "As opposed to sitting around and doing nothing for six months as the *Campus Times* claims, we were actually making arrangements for this tremendous project."

The wall would require "extreme vetting" of anyone who attempts to enter the River Campus, whether by foot, car, or the UR Medical Center's helicopter. An aide to Martino revealed on the condition of anonymity that the vetting would include an examination of voter records and a check of all emails and social media activity to see if an individual supported or voted for Trump.

An SA Appropriations Committee report revealed the wall's cost to be 21.6 billion UROS, with the recommendation that it be funded by the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT).

"Such a move by the University of Rochester SA is inappropriate and unprecedented," RIT President Dr. William Desler said at a press conference Saturday. "We intend to file an appeal with UR's All-Campus Judicial Council."

Martino quickly responded via his Twitter, @realVitoMartino: "ALL LIES. SEE YOU

COURT, THE SECURITY OF OUR CAMPUS IS AT STAKE. Make UR Great Again!"

In the day since the press conference, RIT issued a report showing that its endowment had more than tripled as supportive alumni looked to fund the estimated \$25 for a round-trip cab ride from RIT to UR.

ACJC has yet to set a date for the trial, though it is unclear if the case will ever be brought up since Martino graduates in May.

The move has caused protests to erupt across the UR campus, with nearly twelve students filling the Ruth Merrill Student Organization Center before the University Fire Marshall and Public Safety issued citations for fire code violations.

"While we respect the right our students have to free speech, intentionally endangering their peers is an inexcusable act," Director of Public Safety DPS Mark Fischer said. "We at DPS are committed to ensuring the safety of all UR students and faculty."

A letter written by College Republicans has garnered the support of over three other student organization presidents. It states that "the executive order has no basis in fact that it will protect students." The letter cited additional concerns that the order singles out conservative students and that it is an invasion of their privacy.

An IMPACT Petition posted to the SA website garnered over 87 signatures Saturday evening before it was taken down, presumably by Martino's administration.

After initial coverage of the order was posted on the official *Campus Times* Facebook page, Martino tweeted: "The failing @campustimes writes total BS concerning me. They've gotten it wrong for six months, now are making up stories and sources. SAD!"

The *Campus Times* is dedicated to reporting only the truth and checks all of its sources. Additionally, internal polling of *Campus Times* editors revealed that, in fact, fewer than 20 percent would consider themselves to currently be "sad."

Schildkraut is a member of the Class of 2020.



DALIA MITCHELL / CONTRIBUTING ILLUSTRATOR

An Open Letter to Big Loser Club Penguin Executives

By ANNA LLEWELLYN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Dear Club Penguin,
This is BigFlippers100, a long-time player of your game. I was just informed by a colleague of mine about your plans to shut down Club Penguin next month. This is a huge mistake, and quite simply the worst thing to happen to anyone anywhere.

I don't know why you would quit on such a shining example of American innovation. No other country in the world could so ingeniously create an icy virtual world where people can communicate through cartoon penguins.

What kind of people quit on such patriotic masterpieces? Losers! Sad!

Maybe you're quitting because you're choosing to invest in a whole new platform. Maybe you think this makes you non-losers. Wrong! This makes you even bigger losers. Why not keep Club Penguin going, in addition to creating a new game? Every smart businessman knows it's never a problem to split your time and resources between two projects. New York is a big city. Wait, ignore that last part. I told you to ignore it so you have to.

Maybe you're quitting like the big losers that you are because you think global warming will melt your snowy world and all the penguins will die. If this is this case, I am writing to assure you that that is stupid.

Global warming is a hoax! I am literally freezing every single day, so it scientifically can't be real. My doctor says this might be a symptom of me being the first ever cold-blooded human, but quite frankly my doctor is a big idiot loser.

So don't worry! Club Pen-

guin's ski lodge is safe! The iceberg will remain afloat! I have proof that China is behind this whole climate change conspiracy. Have you heard of China? What about Taiwan? Did you know Taiwan is kind of in China but kind of not? Why does no one tell me these things? Anyway.



I am going to list all the things that make Club Penguin great so you will stop your absurd plan to shut it down.

1. The game is educating a whole new generation of Americans. It's easily better than public school. But really what isn't? You little idiots probably didn't even mean to, but you have created a virtual tundra that is microcosm of the real world. Ninety-nine percent of the players play for free, and are limited to the game's most boring

features. They can pretty much only sled down the ski mountain. Which I am amazing at, by the way. The other one percent of players can get their parents to buy them a VIP membership, and therefore enjoy absolutely everything Club Penguin offers with no restraint. They can buy fitted penguin suits and long

penguin ties to their heart's content. They can furnish their igloo to look like a gorgeous Manhattan penthouse. And, best of all, they can rub all of this in their poorer penguin peers' faces, as is their well-earned right. This is just how the world works, and the sooner these dumb kids learn that, the better.

2. I love Club Penguin's use of censorship. As you know, any penguin that uses his words to offend another penguin is immediately banned from the game.

This is great. Bans are great. I have the best ban, but yours is pretty good too. I think your model of censorship should be implemented beyond Club Penguin. More specifically, let's use it to silence the most corrupt and villainous voice existing in our great nation—the media. Yep, the whole thing. You write fake

news, you're silenced forever! You read something from the New York Times, you're deported! You get hired at CNN, you're fired! One can only hope. Club Penguin's harsh censorship also teaches your members a valuable lesson in creativity. Since typing words like "loser" and "idiot" will get you banned from Club Penguin, the players have to get inventive if they want to assert their superiority over their fellow penguins. I like to use really innovative adjectives

like "bad" and "nasty" myself. "Rosie O'Donnell-like." "Handicapped." I could go on.

3. I am really good at this game. You claim on your website that this is a "social world" that cannot be "won", but you are wrong. I won it. BigFlippers100 wins it every single day. I have bought every virtual product Club Penguin offers. I have all the puffles in every color. Trust me, I know puffles. I have the best puffles. No one knows puffles like me. And all my puffles love me, you can ask them. Because I am the winner of Club Penguin, I feel personally attacked that you would even consider ending it. I cannot tell you who I am, but I will tell you that I am a very important man. Literally millions of people showed up to see me the other month, no matter what "the media" or "facts" say. That's how important and handsome and beloved I am. Now, I'm not saying that if you don't keep Club Penguin going that you will mysteriously disappear without a trace. Except I am. I am saying that.

Now that I'm sure I have changed your mind and you've already begun writing your apology statement, let me share with you my recommendations for ways to improve Club Penguin. The option to make your penguin a brown color should be abolished. That's all. Now get to work.

Mine truly,
BigFlippers100

P.S. Barron—I mean a colleague—has just informed me that Club Penguin was created by Canadians. I retract everything I wrote. Go ahead and end your garbage game. I never liked it anyway.

Llewellyn is a member of the Class of 2017.

What is Humor?

By SIOBHÁN SEIGNE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I wouldn't call myself a particularly creative person.

That being said, I'm quite surprised I have the confidence to write for the campus paper. Although I wouldn't necessarily consider that an accomplishment because they were willing to accept my first draft, in which I discussed the secret life of squirrels.

But despite my incessant ramblings, I found myself with nothing to write about this week. In an unceremonious act of laziness, I decided to question, "What is humor?"

After all, I do pretend to write it.

My first thoughts were not about its origins, society's take on it, or cognitive brain science, but about myself, naturally, and what I find funny. If you know me, you'll have witnessed me laughing at things and trying to show them to other people who stare blankly at my phone screen.

If you don't know me, I really wouldn't recommend meeting me because you

could be doing so much better things with your time, like counting the ceiling tiles in your bedroom or cutting grass with scissors. However, if you would like to discuss a question that has been assailing my mind lately—"are cats nihilists?"—please reach out.

Here follows an abridged list of what I find funny:

1. That video of pigeons being sucked into an industrial grain plant in Russia. At first you're not really sure what you're watching, and then you notice that these birds are slowly being sucked one by one into this grain mill.

Some of them realize what's happening but usually by the time they do their efforts are futile and they make one last ditch attempt to escape and get sucked in with their wing splayed against the grain. This lasts for at least a minute. Brilliant.

2. That vine where the kid says "pussy."

3. Extremely dark and twisted jokes about the blissful release of death. It might be saying something if in almost every piece of writing I sub-

mit to a professor I include a postscript urging them not to CARE report me.

This isn't because I think I'm a mentally stable person who doesn't need to talk to a professional, but because talking to a stranger about my problems gives me anxiety and makes me cry. As you can imagine, on my quest to become an animatronic, emotionless robot, this is a real setback.

Really though, how am I supposed to write something humorous when half the people I know find the cutesy, innocent humor of "New Girl" to their taste? I can't write something that caters to the pansies of the world while also appealing those whose idea of comedy is uncomfortable footage of Adam Sandler in every movie he's starred in or people who find those "Cash Me Outside" memes funny. Guys, they're really not. So, I guess what's most important is that at least I find myself funny.

Or do I?

Seigne is a member of the Class of 2019.

Do you think
you're funny as



send your ideas to
humor@campustimes.org

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Eastman Band The Saplings Plants Roots in Rochester

By BEN SCHMITZ
A&E EDITOR

The Saplings are a nine-man student band made up of primarily Eastman students. Their fun-filled fusion of pop, rock, jazz, and many styles new and old has been providing audiences with upbeat, danceable entertainment since they formed in 2016. The Campus Times talked with keyboardist and vocalist Abe Nouri via email who, with the help of his bandmates, gave us valuable insight into their influences, musical process, and plans for the future. It has been edited lightly.

Who makes up The Saplings and what do they play?

Abe Nouri - Junior, Keyboard and Vocals

Greg Roberts - Senior, Guitar and Vocals

Matt Bent - Junior, Drums and Vocals

Ryder Eaton - Senior, Bass and Vocals

Ben Bird - Junior, Trumpet

Adrian Eldridge - Sophomore, Trombone

Rowan Wolf - Sophomore, Tenor Sax

Jack Courtright - Sophomore, Bass Trombone

Geraldo Marshall - Sophomore, Percussion

We all go to Eastman except Greg, who goes to the U of R.

How long have you guys been playing together/how did you get your start?

We formed as a band during the spring semester of 2016. However we weren't super serious at the beginning. We only had three original songs, and played covers to fill up our sets. This was good for learning to play together as a band. In the summer, we ramped



PHOTO PROVIDED

The Saplings consist of both Eastman and UR students.

things up a bit and started to have regular rehearsals and many more original songs.

Has your lineup and sound been pretty consistent or has it changed over time?

We started out as a quartet. Greg played bass, I played guitar and keyboard, Matt played drums, and Geraldo played percussion. We decided to thicken things up a bit by slowly adding horn players to the mix. Once our good friend Ryder got back in town after a semester in Paris, we added Ryder on bass, switched Greg to full-time guitar, and put me on full-time keyboard. Soon after, we solidified a horn section, and had our first gig as the 'real' Saplings at Abilene Bar and Lounge near the end of the summer of 2016. We continue to refine our sound every time we rehearse, but I'd say it changed the most

drastically while we were figuring out instrumentation. Our sound is defined by having a four-piece horn section, thick four-part harmonies, a keyboardist who uses solely a Rhodes piano, and complex songs that are still singable and danceable.

What artists would you consider your biggest influences?

The Beatles, The Talking Heads, Steely Dan, Tame Impala.

How would you describe your style to someone that is not familiar with your music? Do you stick to a singular style or genre or try to switch things up and combine styles?

We combine influences, even within songs. Pop, rock, soul, disco.

What is your songwriting process like? Is it a group effort or more independent?

We usually write songs independently (so far it's been Greg and I) but refine and put all the parts together as a band.

Do any of you make music with other groups or independently?

Definitely. All of us play many other gigs in other bands and thrown-together jazz groups. We are essentially a bunch of freelance musicians who all decided to play in a band together. Some of us also do solo projects. Ryder Eaton writes some amazing music that he will occasionally record and perform (but not often, so if you get the chance to hear it, I would. The recordings are online). I also have a solo project called Brahim in

which I write music a lot closer to the soul and R&B vein.

What types of venues do you typically perform at? What performances have you already done on the UR campus and elsewhere?

We try to perform anywhere we can. So far, we have played at a lot of house shows, at the Bug Jar, opened for KNOW-ER at The Yards, at Princeton University, in Harrisonburg, Virginia, at Flour City Station opening for THUNDER BODY and more. As far as what we have done at UR, we have played three Eastman on Campus Events at Alpha Delta Phi, and have enjoyed every one of them. We are always looking to play more on campus so if anyone has ideas for that, shoot us an email at the-saplingsmusic@gmail.com or message us on Facebook.

Do you have any upcoming performances?

We are playing a show with Juicy Connotation at the Bug Jar on March 23. If you can't make that, you can catch us the next night at the Lovin' Cup with The Beaumonts.

What's in the future for The Saplings?

We are recording our first EP in the beginning of March. It should be out by April. Look out for it on Spotify, iTunes, Amazon, Bandcamp, etc. There has also been talk of a summer tour, so look out for us in your hometown. Besides that, we just want to keep making music that keeps our friends in the audience singing and dancing.

Schmitz is a member of the Class of 2019.

Motion Meets Still Life in Eastman Photo Exhibit

By ANTONIO CARDENAS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"The Secret Life of Objects," an exhibition showcasing artist Robert Cumming's most notable artwork, opened its doors to Rochester at the Eastman Museum on Friday the 17th. It features photographs, sketches, and paintings inspired by the meeting of geometric Californian architecture and realist urban landscapes.

Guest curator Sarah Bay Gachot gave remarks on the opening night of the exhibit.

Some of Cumming's most notable works are "Quick Shift of the Head Leaves Glowing Stool Afterimage Posited on the Pedestal" and "Two Views of One Mishap

of Minor Consequence" (located in MoMa's permanent collection).

His career progression can be divided into two main sections: photography to puzzle viewers, and abstract artistic photography.

Both photographs employ unique techniques to portray the moment Cumming hoped to capture. In the former, Negative Gelatin Prints showcase a stool under a unique light, providing it with an untraditional glow; in

the latter, hidden wires give the spectator the illusion of stillness in motion.

Cummings used these wires because the technology of his era did not allow for cameras to capture motion in precise seconds.

In an interview, Cumming said he believes his creative photography techniques are not impacted by technological advancements, but rather, they run parallel to the artistic development of photography, and only expand the cadre of tools to encourage creativity in the medium.

Cumming exercises his creativity not only through photography, but also through other forms of artistic expression.

One of his favorites is writ-

ing 10 letters per day, dedicated to friends and strangers alike. Some other artistic outlets he engaged with were painting and sculpture, from where he draws his ideas on the state of being static and time snapshots.

His career progression can be divided into two main sections: photography to puzzle viewers, and abstract artistic photography.

As Gachot mentioned, Cumming likens his artistic motifs to those of a short wall, saying, "What good is a wall if you can't see over it?"

Cumming's work is like a wall where you can see over, introducing artifacts that don't obstruct the panorama's view; instead, they complement it by adding aestheti-

cally pleasant elements to it.

Cumming emphasizes that three-dimensional objects are attached to a frame in two dimensions when photographed, so perspective can be easily manipulated.

As Gachot said, "We cannot walk around an object after the shutter is clicked."

At the exhibition you'll be able to find most of his best works, walk through the artistic transition he experienced, from mysterious photographic puzzles to abstract paintings with an air of contemporary realism. The price is \$5 for students if you show your student ID.

Cumming's art will be on display Feb. 18-March 28.

Cardenas is a member of the Class of 2017.

‘Vagina Monologues’ Grabs Back for V-Day

By ASHLEY BARDHAN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Where there is aggression, there is resistance. And from our current politicians, there’s plenty of the former: a propensity to villainize women and their bodies.

So, leave it to UR College Feminists to show us what resistance looks like with this year’s showing of “The Vagina Monologues,” which played on Friday night.

For those unfamiliar with the show, “The Vagina Monologues” is an episodic play written by Eve Ensler in 1996.

Broaching a range of topics—masturbation, genital mutilation, unbridled self-love—“Monologues” leaves no path untouched in the presentation of the core of a woman, as raw and as real as she is.

Allocation of Friday night’s profits coincided with this value, with 90 percent benefiting Planned Parenthood of Central and Western New York, and the remainder going to V-Day, an organization to end violence against women.

The intimacy of the event was palpable, seen in the faces and tears of the diverse audience members.

Before all that emotional intensity, though, was the show’s opener, which started with a very basic, very surface-level concept: the word “vagina” itself.

“In Rochester, they love vaginas,” laughed the introduction group, comprised of sophomore Aliye Gallagher, and seniors Kim Rouse and Sophie Zhang. “They call it The Pit, the Common Market, and the Dirty Genesee.”

Although we could laugh at the absurdity of these euphemisms, they brought up an undeniable point that some people even fear the word “vagina,” let alone talking about it, seeing it, and finding a connection with it.

The rest of the show, in many ways, was for these people.

As “The Vagina Monologues” have been revised throughout the years to discuss whatever the most current brand of misogyny is, Friday’s performance was an eclectic display of the modern woman, including immigrants, trans-

women, and more. Although monologues ranged in female perspective, what remained consistent was the unfiltered, and at times, graphic, dialogue they opened on womanhood. This realness was not lost on freshman Ali Thome, who serves the Vagina Monologues Publicity and Fundraising committees.

“This show, to me, is all about people with vaginas reclaiming that word and concept,” Thome said. “It’s so empowering and a means of approaching a topic that’s really very taboo. Nobody talks about vaginas, and that’s a damn shame.”

Taboo was perhaps most salaciously approached in the night’s performance of fan-favorite “The Woman Who Loved to Make Vaginas Happy.”

About a female sex worker specializing in women, this monologue ended with two minutes of the actress, in this case, Biomedical Engineering major and senior Marina May, demonstrating various types of moans she elicits from her clients.

The audience howled at what might have been one of the biggest political middle-fingers of the night, the demonstration of the “Trump Moan,” which, as I’m sure we could all guess, involves having “the best moans.”

As well as successfully carrying out the original monologues, the Rochester production excelled at making the otherwise foreign topic of discussing vaginas an issue that felt immediate. Whether through references to the campus, the current political climate, or by supplying a novel testimony on often-invalidated asexuality, College Feminists’ show conveyed the most important facet of feminism: unity.

Despite systemic violence against women, Friday proved that when we are there to cheer each other on, there is light and an unadulterated pride in womanhood.

There is no doubt that regardless of the socio-political climate, when women are united, they will not be silenced. We are here, we are powerful, and we will grab back.

Bardhan is a member of the Class of 2019.



YIYUN HUANG / PHOTO EDITOR

Students perform “A Personal Testimonial to Asexuality” onstage at Strong Auditorium for the Vagina Monologues.



YIYUN HUANG / PHOTO EDITOR

UR Bhangra held a Spring Send-off Performance, inviting friends and fans to attend and critique.



YIYUN HUANG / PHOTO EDITOR

UR Bhangra traveled to Cleveland, Ohio to perform at Naach di Cleveland.

BHANGRA SPRINGS INTO COMPETITION

Contribute to the Campus Times:
Write to a-e@campustimes.org
for writing & publication opportunities!

‘Lincoln in the Bardo’ Is Past, Present, and Poetry

By ISABEL DRUKKER
A&E EDITOR

“Lincoln in the Bardo,” the upcoming debut novel of George Saunders, brings troubled American history to our troubled American times. Poetic, spacious, and poignant, “Lincoln in the Bardo” successfully exposes traits of the American people who, given the current political atmosphere, have apparently changed very little since the novel’s setting in 1862. The book follows the spirits of several characters who live within the bardo, a place that exists after one’s death and before one’s acceptance of it. Here, they welcome President Abraham Lincoln’s son, Willie, who died from sickness in the White House. Saunders’ comfortably uses the historic personas as characters, using clipped excerpts from fictitious journals and letters to describe the president’s life during this time. Joined by the dialogue of spirits ranging from lieutenants to mothers to slaves, Saunders builds a world driven solely and slowly on answering the question: Do we, the people of the United States, deserve forgiveness?

Readers unfamiliar with Saunders’ work might lose themselves at first. Going through this novel, it is clear that reading previous works “Tenth of December” and “Pastoralia” are calisthenics necessary for completing this marathon sans injury. Characters often enter and leave without introduction or explanation, the formatting disregards mainstream precedent, and the content itself requires an active imagination from the readers. The novel asks that its readers simultaneously forget everything they’ve read before, but also use past literature to paint this somewhat upsetting picture. Even so, the raw emotion and poetic prose throughout ensures that readers will at least want to stay connected to the work. If the reader agrees

to this compromise, they’ll find it pays off in the end. Though the novel centers around Willie’s stay in the bardo, it makes clear parallels to today’s circumstances in the U.S. This is unsurprising, considering Saunders’ piece in the New Yorker last summer “Who Are All These Trump Supporters?” in which he recognized the U.S. is “fragile, as an experiment that could, within my lifetime, fail.” Perhaps the most obvious commentary on this is Saunders’ decision to have segregation between black and white characters outlive death and continue within the bardo. One particularly violent brawl is described as “a fury that suggested the two might well fight on into eternity [...] unless some fundamental and unimaginable alteration of reality should occur.” It’s a sad truth that an American reader can feel lost in literary elements,

have done otherwise? We were that way, at that time, and had been led to that place, not by any innate evil in ourselves, but by the state of our cognition and our experience up until that moment.” Moments such as these align with the concept of thought and acceptance after death. Is cultural cognition enough to exchange for forgiveness? When you separate yourself from what you’ve been programmed to think, are you done? By asking questions like these, “Lincoln in the Bardo” attempts much of what Lincoln himself did: uniting a divided country. Some Americans may read the book and feel that they are a villain—

or maybe for this reason, they won’t read it at all. But for those who do, they will resonate with death, and the idea that we all die. It’s repeated to the spirits that “you are a wave that has crashed upon the shore.” It could be that Saunders intended for this image to be patriotic (from sea to shining sea) or destructive (being that waves break the shoreline). But whether we like it or not, every wave is a part of a bigger ocean. “Lincoln in the Bardo” presents the perhaps impossible and definitely terrifying possibility that we’re all going to be stuck together after this tiring and disputing American life. If that’s the case, though, maybe we should just start being a little nicer to each right now—sooner rather than later.

Drukker is a member of the Class of 2017.

‘MEDIA MATRIX’ Dreamy Synth EP Floats Among the Soundclouds

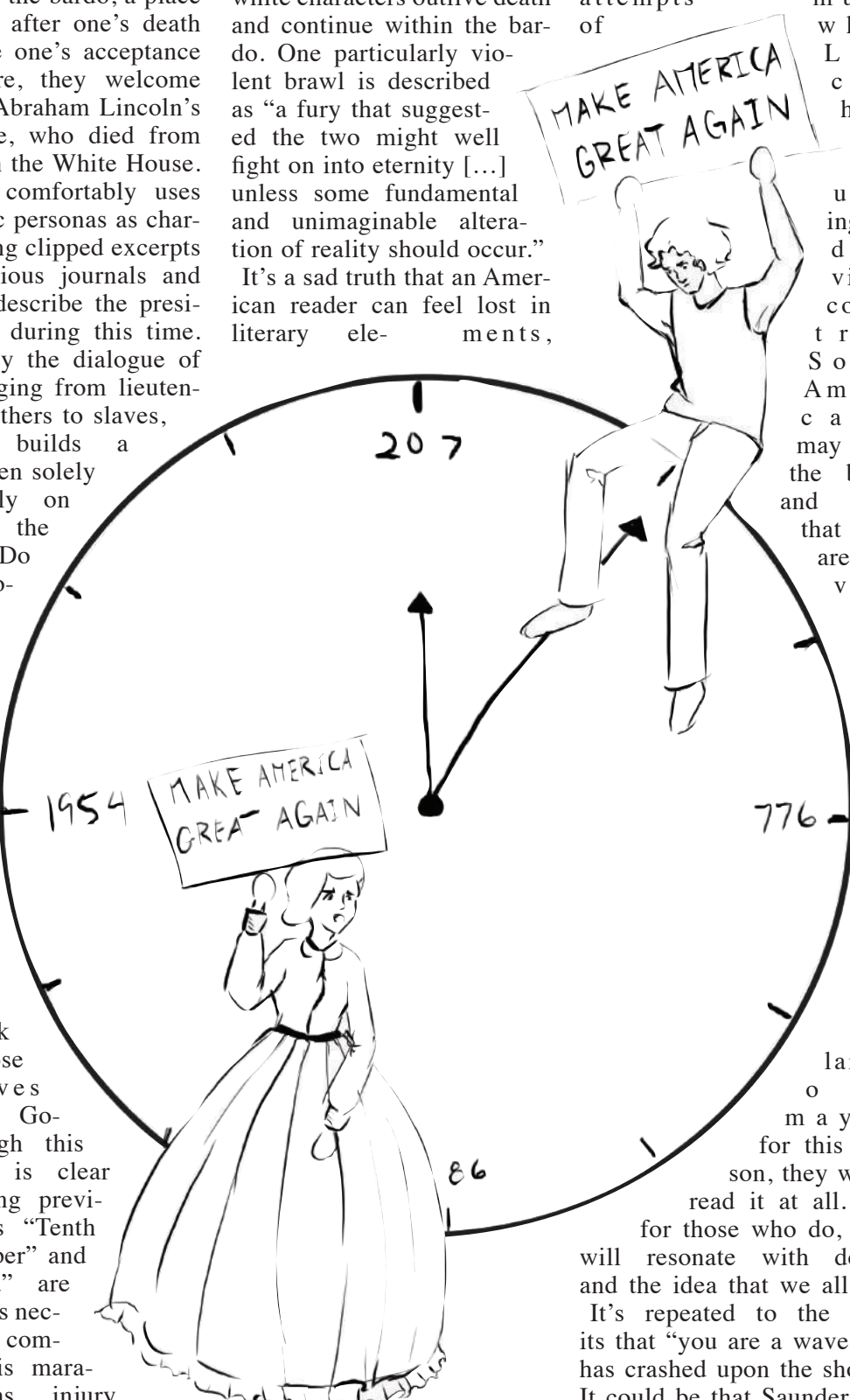


By JEFF HOWARD
COLUMNIST

Mallrat sounds like Lorde, but it works. Her songs gyrate with aquatic synthesizers that evoke images of a futuristic city, yet her profile picture on SoundCloud is of her sitting on a dark lawn with a golden retriever. Perhaps it’s this clash between hometown rustica and lavender-colored futurism that makes mallrat so exciting. Her debut EP, “Uninvited EP,” contains six songs of mallrat singing moody, wistful melodies over absolutely top-rate production. The music isn’t glaringly original, but it has a playful charm and is so well executed that it grows on you with each listen. Mallrat could be called synth-pop, but I think an even better label for her music at this point in history would be punk. After all, mallrat’s angle is that of a disenchanting, bored teenager from the city whose parents pay her cell phone bill and is now trying Klonopin for the second time and it’s 2 a.m. On the opening track, “Tokyo Drift,” mallrat sings the depressed chorus, “Weeks were getting super long and I was getting bored / Monday doesn’t even feel like Monday any more.” The topic of “bored teenagers just trying to feel alive and swerving out of control on a Friday night” feels kind of

played out at this point, but mallrat approaches the idea with a delicate and breathy sincerity. The next track on the album, “Inside Voices,” is fire. The songs starts off with ear-gasmic vocal samples (once again, typical late 2010’s protocol, but done so well) and then settles into blissful, tropical synth pop. The song solidifies mallrat’s status as a mainstream underdog, one who’s not afraid to make a banger with kalimba synths playing dotted sixteenth note rhythms while still sounding better than the industry titans. (I’m looking at you, Adam Levine.) Halfway through the EP, mallrat throws a punch with the track “Sunglasses.” The song has a Gorillaz-esque swagger to it, and in it mallrat critiques her friends for all wearing the same type of sunglasses. The track has an immense amount of vibe and badassery to it. This is the song on the album that makes you think, “Mallrat might get picked up by a big time record label in the near future.” It’s very relatable yet charmingly original. Mallrat isn’t flipping the game on its head, but she’s playing it like a champ. “Uninvited EP” breathes with sincerity and bubblegum whimsy, in addition to being outstandingly produced. If you’re interested in keeping up with the “new new” pop stuff that’s a little ahead of the curve but still accessible, mallrat is worth checking out. Howard is a member of the Class of 2017.

Please recycle this paper when done reading.



ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Competitive Environment Fuels Fan

By **BELLA DRAGO**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Junior Arlen Fan of UR Men's Swimming & Diving has been the team's strongest breaststroker this season. Fan's accomplishments include breaking two school records, along with hitting a provisional qualifier in the 100-meter breaststroke at the UAA Championships. This past week, Fan was named Liberty League Swimmer of the week.

What is your first memory in a pool?

I remember when I first started to swim at my grandfather's house when I was three or four, and I would always hang on to the walls. One day, my dad carried and dropped me in the middle, and I had to swim to the nearest wall. I immediately felt that I was sinking and that terrified me. For a long time, I wouldn't go near a pool. My parents still give me a hard time for that moment.

How has swimming impacted your life?

I have so many memories from my time swimming. In high school, I've had great seasons, where I would go on a 20 event winning streak with personal bests. I've also had bad seasons, which made me quit my junior year of high school. I picked it back up senior year, but I lost a year of training. Overall, swimming has taught me to be persistent. Reaching goals

takes a lot of hard work, and most of the time, it isn't a straightforward path. Also, through swimming, I have built meaningful relationships with my coaches and teammates. I spend time with them more than any other group. Even though we are weird and quirky, we get along well and come up with the best inside jokes.

What was your favorite swim meet during your UR career?

Without a doubt, it would be UR vs. Nazareth in the 2014-15 season. During the 100-meter breaststroke, which is one of my principal events, I slipped off the diving block and belly flopped into the water, hitting my shin on the metal frame. In the first five seconds of the race, all of my competitors were already halfway across the pool. I was so embarrassed and angry, but I sprinted and quickly caught up. I ended up winning the race with blood dripping down my foot.

How did it feel to break two school records and why?

It was a great milestone in my time as a swimmer, but I know that I have more to accomplish as an athlete. If anyone told me that I would swim under 58 seconds in the 100-meter breaststroke three years ago, I would have been like, "No way." Now, my time stands at 56.79, and I know I can set the bar higher next



PHOTO COURTESY OF UR ATHLETICS

Fan credits swimming for teaching him to be persistent when reaching goals.

season.

Do you enjoy the team dynamic, and why?

I think the team has a good dynamic. We support each other during practices and cheer people on during meets, but are also extremely competitive. We may be teammates, but we also compete against each other during practices (especially the dreaded test sets) and meets.

It is a nice feeling being able to beat a teammate, and it can sometimes be a great motivator.

What does it mean to be Liberty League swimmer of the week?

It's always nice to be recognized, especially in the Liberty League swimming. We won't be a part of the Liberty League next season,

but I'm glad I got my name out there before we left the conference.

If you were to pick your last meal, what would it be and who would you eat it with?

Egg-fried rice with my three younger brothers. It has always been a comfort food that I cooked a lot at home.

Drago is a member of the class of 2018.

LAST WEEK'S SCORES

FEB. 17
MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY—W(82-67)
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY—W(86-79)
MEN'S SQUASH VS. ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY @CSA TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS—L(6-3)

FEB. 18
WOMEN'S TENNIS VS. COLGATE UNIVERSITY—L(9-0)
MEN'S TENNIS VS. COLGATE UNIVERSITY—L(6-3)
MEN'S SQUASH VS. UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA @CSA TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS—W(6-3)
MEN'S TRACK @UTICA COLLEGE PIONEER INVITATIONAL
WOMEN'S TRACK @UTICA COLLEGE PIONEER INVITATIONAL

FEB. 19
MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY—L(76-72)
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY—W(79-70)
MEN'S TENNIS VS. ITHACA COLLEGE—W(8-1)
MEN'S SQUASH VS. DREXEL UNIVERSITY @CSA TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS—W(7-2)

LAST WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Men's Basketball's last home weekend of the regular season ended with a win on Friday evening against Carnegie Mellon University and a loss to Case Western Reserve University on Sunday. Senior Zach Ayers scored a team-high 22 points, with fellow senior Mack Montague scoring 16. Friday night's victory was the team's 21st of the season, the most since 2013. It also moved the Yellowjackets to the no. six spot in the NCAA Division III rankings. On Sunday, junior Colin Zucker of the visiting Spartans scored 27 points, contributing to the team's strong performance to upset UR at home 76-72.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Women's Basketball won both home games over the weekend, over Carnegie Mellon and Case Western Reserve University on Saturday and Sunday. Senior Al Leslie and freshman Lauren Foley combined for 45 points against Carnegie Mellon, with Foley going 4-7 on 3-pointers. Against Case, Leslie posted 27 points and 12 rebounds. She was highly efficient, shooting 9-13 from the field and getting nine of her points on free throws.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD

This Saturday, both Men's and Women's Track & Field traveled to Utica College to compete in the Utica College Indoor Invitational meet. Sophomore Benjamin Martell finished second overall in the 1,000-meter race, qualifying him for the ECAC Championships next weekend. Senior Laura Lockard finished first in the 500-meter with sophomore Alice Freese finishing sixth in the same race. Seniors Samantha Kitchen and Anne Peterson finished second and fourth, respectively in the 1,000-meter, and Kitchen also finished fourth in the 5,000-meter. The 4x200-meter relay team fin-

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

FEB. 24
MEN'S TRACK @NYSCTC INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS DAY 1—10 A.M.
WOMEN'S TRACK @NYSCTC INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS DAY 1—10 A.M.
MEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING @NCAA ZONE DIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS DAY 1
WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING @NCAA ZONE DIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS DAY 1

FEB. 25
MEN'S TENNIS @VASSAR COLLEGE—9 A.M.
MEN'S TRACK @NYSCTC INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS DAY 2—10 A.M.
WOMEN'S TRACK @NYSCTC INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS DAY 2—10 A.M.
MEN'S BASKETBALL @EMORY UNIVERSITY—12 P.M.
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL @EMORY UNIVERSITY—2 P.M.
MEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING @NCAA ZONE DIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS DAY 2
WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING @NCAA ZONE DIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS DAY 2

FEB. 26
MEN'S TENNIS @RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE—11 A.M.
WOMEN'S TENNIS @RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE—11 A.M.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CONCLUDE REGULAR SEASONS AT EMORY

In the final games of the regular season, both Men's and Women's Basketball will travel south to compete against Emory University in Atlanta. Emory sits one spot below the men, in third place, in the UAA standings. They will look to avenge their loss at home to Case Western this past weekend, and end the regular season on a high note. For the women, fifth-place Emory will look to upset the third-place Yellowjackets. A win would improve the women's conference record to 9-5.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD AT NYSCTC INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Next week, both the Men's and Women's Track & Field teams will travel to St. Lawrence University for the New York State Collegiate Conference championships.

SPORTS

Division I Opponent a Challenge for UR Tennis

By **TREVER WHITESTONE**
SPORTS EDITOR

UR Men's Tennis (URMT) showed its mettle against elite competition on Saturday at the Goergen Athletic Center. The Yellowjackets (2-2) won three team points against Division I Colgate (3-0).

They had the edge over the Raiders in doubles play, emerging from that phase with a 2-1 lead. Junior Aaron Mevorach and sophomore Masaru Fujimaki endured in the opening match, 8-7 (7-2) over Bobby Alter and Noah Rosenblat.

After Colgate responded in the second match to tie up the score, freshmen Sajah Somani and Tanmay Thakkar posted an 8-6 versus Dean Koman and Jacob Daugherty Win to regain the lead.

The Raiders opened singles play with consecutive points, as Rosenblat defeated Mevorach 6-2, 6-3, and Jake Hirschberg won 6-3, 6-2 over Andrew Nunno. The 'Jackets earned their lone singles victory of the day, as junior Sam Leeman won against Alter in straight sets, 6-3, 6-3, knotting up the overall score at three.

Afterward, the visitors took the final three points. Daugh-

erty, Alec Dardis, and Win Reynolds defeated Fujimaki, Yifan Shen, and Somani, with Fujimaki's match being decided by a third set.

URMT had to be encouraged by their showing, despite the loss. Taking three points and four sets against Division I competition is no small feat, and will give the team valuable experience when facing contenders going forward. They also managed three points against Division II Roberts Wesleyan in September, so there is a trend of the team rising to the occasion against tough matchups.

UR Women's Tennis (URWT) also played Colgate (2-2) closely on Saturday, despite what the final score would indicate. Though they didn't win a team point, the 'Jackets (0-1) took three of six singles matches to a third set.

In doubles play, Colgate's Lauren Hyland and Hannah Fleckenstein prevailed over freshman Sravya Gudipudi and sophomore Camila Garcia, 8-6. Senior Lauren Zickar and sophomore Alex Wolkoff fell to Jordan Williams and Kelly Klein by the same score.

In the final doubles match, senior Darby McCall and freshman Abbey Reinhart narrowly lost, 8-7, to Kristie Woodbury



PHOTO COURTESY OF UR ATHLETICS

Freshman Abbey Reinhart strikes the ball during a match against Colgate.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UR ATHLETICS

Junior Aaron Mevorach won his opening doubles match alongside partner and sophomore Masaru Fujimaki.

and Lauren O'Brien.

Singles play opened as Zickar fell, 6-0, 6-1, to Williams. In the next match, Garcia was edged out 7-6 (7-5), 6-3.

Extended sets were common for URWT on Saturday. Wolkoff took Colgate's O'Brien to three sets, winning the first, and losing the second

on a tiebreaker. She eventually fell by a final score of 4-6, 7-6 (7-3), 6-4.

Reinhart played an even longer match against Klein. The final score shows a battle of endurance, which Reinhart eventually lost by a score of 6-7 (5-7), 7-6 (7-5), 10-7.

To put things in perspective, the match consisted of 65 games. An average match with the same scoring rules might consist of 15-20 games.

In the other two singles matches, Gudipudi battled back from a 6-0 first set to force a third set before falling 6-0, 5-7, 6-4 against Hyland, while McCall lost 8-4 to Brittin.

Overall, both UR Tennis teams exhibited a high level of competitiveness against a team from a tougher Division. Only URMT has played against Division III so far this season, and they have yet to surrender a team point, winning both 9-0. If URMT and URWT play like on Saturday for the entire season, they will stand out as contenders.

URMT played Ithaca on Sunday and will travel to face Vassar next Saturday. URWT, meanwhile, will continue their season at RPI on Sunday.

Whitestone is a member of the class of 2019.

Squash Misses Ultimate Goal but Finishes Strong

By **NATE KUHRT**
SENIOR STAFF

After achieving a no. 1 national ranking earlier this season and taking down top-ranked Trinity College, UR Squash hoped to make a historic run, including winning the team's first national championship.

But over the weekend, it ended up winning only the postseason consolation bracket at Harvard, falling to rival St. Lawrence.

The team, entering the weekend as the no. 4 seed, traveled to Harvard University to compete in the Potter Cup, the most selective and competitive postseason tournament draw in the College Squash Association. To begin the tournament, UR faced the no. 5 seed and in-conference rival, St. Lawrence University (SLU).

For the second time this season, the Yellowjackets fell to SLU with a final score of 6-3. The loss prevented UR from being able to play for the national champion-

ship. UR's three wins came for senior co-captain Ryo-sei Kobayashi, senior Mario Yanez Tapia, and junior co-captain Tomotaka Endo.

Upon losing in the first round of the tournament, the Yellowjackets were placed in the consolation bracket to compete for fifth place. In the semifinals of this bracket, UR faced off against the University of Pennsylvania. The Yellowjackets outplayed the Quakers, winning the match with a score of 6-3. The win was rooted in strong performances from the top of the team's lineup, with wins coming from all positions 1-5, in addition to a win from Aria Fazelimanesh at no. 8. The match win moved the Yellowjackets to the consolation finals to compete against Drexel University.

UR was able to continue its momentum from the previous match, against Drexel, where they went on to win 7-2.

In the main draw, Harvard



PHOTO COURTESY OF UR ATHLETICS

Senior Aria Fazelimanesh competes at the Lyman Squash Center.

University and Trinity College each won their respective semifinal matches, setting up a final match between the tournament's top two seeds. In the finals, Trinity went on to defeat Harvard with a final score of 5-4 to

secure the Potter Cup.

Overall, the Yellowjackets will leave the tournament still searching for their first Collegiate Squash Association nation-ship championship after finishing fifth this season. The team was able

to accomplish its first top-ranking during the season. Select Rochester team members will go on to compete in individual tournaments in the upcoming weeks.

Kuhrt is a member of the class of 2017.