

Campus Times

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Vigil Held for New Zealand

By **HAILIE HIGGINS**
OPINIONS EDITOR

In response to the New Zealand shooting at a mosque on March 15, the Interfaith Chapel community held a vigil in support of the Muslim community at UR this past Friday.

Held during Jumma — or Friday afternoon prayer — the event encouraged those of any or no faith to attend, observe, and mourn those killed in Christchurch.

The event started with traditional prayer, with non-Muslim visitors sitting and observing. Ahmed Veknach, who is the advisor for the Muslim Students' Association, led Jumma and addressed the attendees between prayers.

His sermon was delivered in English, with Arabic interspersed throughout.

"In our tradition, the first thing that we teach our children is have mercy on people, and God will have mercy on you," Veknach said. "No matter what happened, our goodness will always come together."

At the conclusion of prayer, President Feldman, along with representatives from several other faiths, took the podium to condemn the the shooter's actions and offer support to the Muslim community.

One representative, Rabbi Asher Yaras of UR Chabad, brought up the Ten Commandments in his condolences.

"There are two tablets," Yaras said. "The first commandment is to believe in God. The sixth commandment is not to murder. One might ask why did God choose to give two tablets? Couldn't he have just made the font a little smaller, and then fit it in to one?"

Yaras explained that commandments one and six are put next to each other because they are of equal importance. To Yaras, "Every human being is created in the image of God, and an act against a human being is an

SEE **VIGIL** PAGE 2

Hodgman Has Parallels with White Nationalist Forum User Who Hit UR, Brighton, and More



COURTESY DISCORD USER "ALEX KOLCHAK - NY"

Clockwise, from top-left: a textbook in the Rush Rhees stacks with an Identity Evropa card; a poster for the group in Cabin John, MD; another flier in the library; a poster in the stacks stairwell. Discord user "Alex Kolchak - NY" took credit for placing all of these.

By **TREVOR WHITESTONE**
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

By **HAILIE HIGGINS**
OPINIONS EDITOR

Students researching globalization and immigration last fall could find relevant works in the stacks of Rush Rhees — along with cards advertising Identity Evropa, a white nationalist group.

"Alex Kolchak — NY" took credit for those postings in the group's Discord server, which is now closed after its contents were leaked. The Huffington Post recently wrote about the leak and military members reportedly in the group. The outlet linked UR senior Christopher Hodgman to the Kolchak account.

Hodgman was cited by police earlier this month, accused of plastering Identity Evropa stick-

ers in the Rochester suburb of Brighton (the citation was for placing stickers on public property, and not for their content). Hodgman's name doesn't appear in the server, but Kolchak also claimed credit for putting up fliers in Brighton last fall, as well as in Maryland's Montgomery County where Hodgman is from.

The hate group's leaked Discord archive reveals multiple parallels between Hodgman and Kolchak, who espoused white supremacist beliefs in his messages. Interviews with people who know Hodgman, meanwhile, reveal how the former president of College Republicans shifted his views toward the far-right. Hodgman did not respond to an email request for comment sent Tuesday.

However, a lawyer of his said in the Huffington Post article

that just because his client posted Identity Evropa posters doesn't necessarily mean he belongs to the group. The lawyer neither confirmed nor denied Hodgman's connections to Kolchak.

—
"Nice Respectable People," the group's Discord server, was leaked March 6 by the far-left hacker group Unicorn Riot. The last post on the server is dated March 2.

Kolchak was active on the server from late last August to Feb. 28, according to the released archive. The leak contained nearly 3,000 messages from Kolchak on the server, an amount placing him 21st out of 886 users. Kolchak's messages often spouted pro-white sentiments, such as "the million dollar question is whether we can achieve full white awakening before the de-

mographic trend wins" and "we have to break the anti-white/anti-American conditioning before we can really promote European roots."

The archive shows Kolchak documented his sticker placings on the server's "activism photos" channel.

Kolchak placed fliers and stickers on town signs and mailboxes, bulletin boards and utility poles. There were two batches in Rush Rhees, just under a month apart, according to the server. In the first, six business cards were spread in textbooks and on a sign; the second batch featured a card placed on a sign for the political science stacks.

The propaganda contained Identity Evropa's logo, a blue-and-white (sometimes only white) triangle known as "the dragon's eye." One design shows

SEE **HODGMAN** PAGE 3

Parolee Pleads Guilty to Sexually Assaulting Eastman Student Last Fall

By **TREVOR WHITESTONE**
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The perpetrator of the sexual assault of an Eastman student last September admitted to the crime, the Monroe County County District Attorney's Office announced yesterday.

Parolee Michael Sheppard, 31, pleaded guilty to second-degree aggravated sexual abuse, a felony, for attacking

the 20-year-old student in an Eastman annex practice room on Sept. 15, as reported by the Democrat & Chronicle.

The student will not be made to testify at the trial to prevent her from reliving the trauma, Elizabeth Buckley, chief of the office's Sex Crimes Bureau, said in a release.

Sheppard was on parole for first-degree identity theft, and

had been in prison until April 2018, serving a sentence of over five years. In 2006, he was convicted of third-degree criminal possession of a weapon.

In response to the assault, Eastman added security measures last month, placing new swipe access points around the school.

Sheppard will be required to

register as a sex offender for the rest of his life. He is scheduled to be sentenced April 12 by County Court Judge John L. DeMarco.

Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley thanked the student in a tweet for coming forward "so Sheppard can no longer hurt anyone else."

Whitestone is a member of the Class of 2019.

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DANIEL CAJE / PHOTO EDITOR

RESEARCHER-ARTIST ALLEN TOPOLSKI

UR art professor Allen Topolski describes his personal experience with art and its relation to resarch.

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

DPS Keeps Eyes Peeled (1)

MARCH 15—A mail services driver reported that a person crossing Wilson Boulevard, in the area of the Inerfaith Chapel, poiinted a banana at him. Area was checked, but the person could not be located.

Student Harassed by Phone

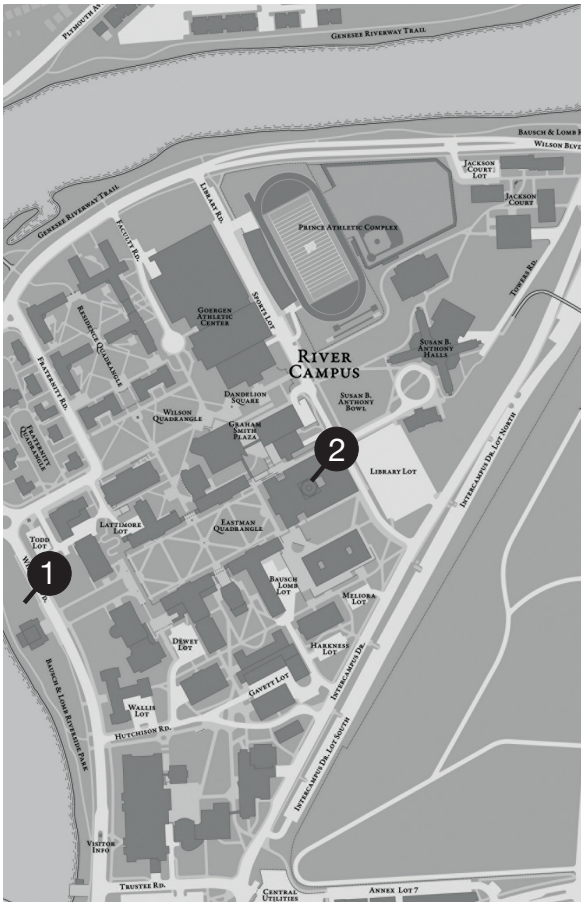
MARCH 18—A student reported being harassed on the phone by a former friend.

Person Loitering near Brooks

MARCH 18—A person who has previously been banned from UR property was arrested after being reported for panhandling in the Brooks Landing Lot.

Students on Rush Rhees Roof (2)

MARCH 20— Persons were reported on the roof of Rush Rhees. They were found and identified as students. They were warned and released.



MAP COURTESY OF UR COMMUNICATIONS

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

TUESDAY | MARCH 26

TINKERSPACE EXCEL TIPS & TRICKS

CARLSON SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING LIBRARY, 2ND FLOOR 2:00-3:30 P.M.
In the Carlson library, an informational workshop will be providing tips and tricks for Excel. Learn how to use formulas, spreadsheets, and more.

PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING WORKSHOP WITH THE SPEAKING FELLOWS

RUSH RHEES G-121 ROOM B, 7:00-8:00 P.M.
Students will be able to practice talking about themselves, their academic interests, and future plans in a makeshift professional setting.

WEDNESDAY| MARCH 27

CAN WE WAIT 75 YEARS TO CUT THE PRISON POPULATION IN HALF?

RUSH RHEES, HUMANITIES CENTER ROOM D, 5:00-6:30 P.M.
Join Nazgol Ghandnoosh, Senior Research Analyst at The Sentencing Project, for a lecture on the “era of mass incarceration”.

VICTORIAN MOMENTS, 1819-1901

RUSH RHEES ,HAWKINS-CARLSON ROOM 6:00-7:30 P.M.
Join Rush Rhees Library in their celebration of the new exhibition in Rare Books & Special Collections. UR Professor of History Stewart Weaver will be lecturing on the content of the new exhibition, giving insight on the key defining moments of the Victorian era.

THURSDAY | MARCH 28

CASINO NIGHT

WILSON COMMONS, HIRST LOUNGE, 7:00-10:00 P.M.
Come to Casino night for Blackjack, Poker, Eu-chre, Liar’s Dice, or Roulette! The winner will get to choose which non-profit organization they will donate their winnings to.

COLOR THE DAY AWAY!

WILSON COMMONS, RUTH MERRILL, 6:00-8:00 P.M.
Hosted by Inter-Class Living Community, come on down to take a relaxing break from the first week after spring break. Color, have some fun, and enjoy some free food.

FRIDAY | MARCH 29

SIMCON 41:

FREDERICK DOUGLASS COMMONS, FELDMAN BALL-ROOM, 6:00PM-12:00AM
Come for UR’s annual gaming convention! Join Simcon for board games, video games, etc. in the longest-running gaming convention in New York state.

STARTING THE PUBLICATION PROCESS

RUSH RHEES LIBRARY, SUITE B, 11:00AM-1:00PM
Want to publish a work but don’t know where to start? Join the Graduate Writing Program, the Graduate Student Association, and the River Campus Libraries, for a two part workshop on how to get started.

RESEARCH ROCHESTER

Professor Topolski Asks Whether Art Can Be Research



By AUDREY GOLDFARB
COLUMNIST

As an art professor at a research institution, Allen Topolski is encouraged to embrace a research-like approach to art. “What we do is equated to research, so we’re expected to have shows and museums and galleries,” Topolski said. “Our studios equate to labs.”

For Topolski, art doesn’t fit within the current definition of research. When he finds himself trying to accommodate the research culture of UR, he questions whether it might compromise his work. “I’m always tempted to make an equation, but the equation itself shouldn’t be necessary,” Topolski said. “If making is a version of research, [...] it’s problematic. I want a broader understanding of what [research] is.”

A key difference between art and traditional research is reproducibility. An experiment should yield the same results in the hands of different scientists, but art is unique to the creator.

“So often my assignments are inspired by another artist’s work and the way that artist thinks,” Topolski said. “I’m always shocked that students come up with a different solution. The solutions are endless.”

Still, some aspects of Topolski’s process resemble research. Pursuing a completely original project is an exercise in troubleshooting, even when creating a sculpture. “It’s always about the problem solving,” he said. “The solutions are accrued as you go along.”

There’s no protocol for what Topolski does in the studio. But, much like new research, an artist’s questions and answers may change as a piece develops. When working on a project, Topolski stays in tune with his surroundings to plan his next move. “Because I’m so process-based, I have to spend time in my studio and get caught up in my

objects, and the space, and the things they carry with them to get prompted,” he said. “I shouldn’t just grab the first screws in the drawer.”

A finished product brings together elements accumulated throughout the creative process. Though there may not be just one right answer, every decision is weighted with significance and contributes to the message of the piece. “It’s a visual communication,” Topolski said. “When students say ‘it can mean whatever you want it to mean,’ that’s bullshit.”

Topolski’s work explores memory, nostalgia, and the space between. “One is intellectual and one is emotional,” Topolski said. “They’re different sides to the same coin.”

In high school, Topolski spent time with his grandmother with Alzheimer’s. He relinquished strict control over his own reality to accommodate hers. “Her space and time weren’t any less real to her than mine was to me.”

This drove him to create physical representations of memory and nostalgia. “I’m not into art being about magic or catharsis, although I find it necessary to make things as my own version of catharsis,” he said.

Topolski balances the poignancy of his work with its common relatability. “I think we have a visual vocabulary,” Topolski said. “There are common words and there are rare ones, and I try to employ the common ones. It makes room for everyone else. There’s a common understanding.”

Topolski believes art is driven by the same curiosity motivating most research. “It’s about trying to find our place in this room and in the universe,” he said. “Our best students are the ones who question why they’re doing this in the first place.”

Topolski sees art, like research, as rigorous, but said it doesn’t hinge on the concept of accuracy. He added, “While research traditionally aims to be quantitative, the value of art does not depend upon a clean and reproducible final product.”

“It’s about process,” Topolski said. “The end isn’t necessarily singular or attainable.”

Goldfarb is a member of the Class of 2019.

New Zealand Vigil

VIGIL FROM PAGE 1

act against God. Failing to see God’s image in a fellow [human being] is the source of such a heinous act.”

Rev. Dr. Laurie Tiberi, on behalf of the Protestant Chapel Community(a student organization), echoed the sentiments of each faith most succinctly. “We love you, we have your back, and we are so glad that you are here,” she said.

After the prepared speeches, event leaders opened up the floor to any students who wanted to speak.

Following the theme of unity, junior Haytham Abdelhakim took the opportunity to highlight similarities between all the different beliefs present.

“Muslims know about Jesus, Muslims know about Moses, and the stories we have share a lot in common — it’s hard sometimes to see beyond our story,” Abdelhakim said. “Let’s actually think that maybe the truth is bigger than all of us. Maybe it’s bigger than religions. Maybe all of us have parts of the truth, and we are just sharing some pieces of a puzzle together.”

Partially as a response to the shooting, the Muslim Students’ Association is holding Islam Awareness week with events from April 8–12 showcasing Islam and Muslim culture in an effort to foster understanding.

Higgins is a member of the Class of 2022.

Screw Up Nights Goes Presidential

By DALER BEISENBAYEV

Screw Up Nights show everybody’s human, and at the fifth installment last Wednesday, so was the president.

Stories of failure serve as a “great equalizer, allowing everyone to have a laugh at human foibles,” said Mary Mavrinac, Dean of River Campus Libraries to the audience at iZone. Holding true to this, president Feldman and anthropology professor Daniel Reichman were the first two speakers.

“None of the mistakes are presidential,” Feldman said, diving into stories of failed plumbing attempts and recurring rejections from Brown University for undergraduate, graduate, and job positions. Feldman’s third story, received with laughter, was about how he published a 2003 philosophy textbook, in which he predicted the Chicago Cubs would never win a World Series. After the 2016 World Series, he said he was flooded with messages.

The winning story of the evening — as chosen by event organizers —



JESSIE LI / PHOTO EDITOR

President Feldman talked about his past screw-ups to a packed audience at iZone.

came from Reichman, who recalled his days in a faculty exchange program in Argentina. When apologizing for his flawed Spanish, Reichman repeatedly mispronounced “I’m embarrassed” as “I’m pregnant.” On the same trip, Reichman attempted to thank someone by saying he liked the dish, instead saying “I like the pope.” With this story, his winning prize read “Pregnant Jewish man who likes the pope.”

Reichman’s other story was about

almost causing a lawsuit at his first job. While working for an international energy organization in Boston, Reichman says he was told not to call one specific person who had threatened to sue the company if it bothered him again. Reichman accidentally called him. Years later, he still receives emails from former coworkers with just the man’s name in the body.

iZone project manager Alexandra Frederickson said these stories “give people the courage to share their



JESSIE LI / PHOTO EDITOR

own.”

Once the scheduled speakers were done, the floor was opened to anyone wishing to share their own experiences. People shared tales of drinking too much wine and missing a campus event, thinking “husband” means “cousin” and telling their class they were “playing with their husbands,” and asking someone if their boyfriend had a date for the prom.

Sophomore Deniz Cengiz, who helps organize the events, said, “A

mix of returning and new audience members indicates a sense of community.”

Unique to the fifth Screw Up Night, organizer and sophomore Mike Arinarkin pointed out that students were able to “connect with members of the administration through stories of failure.” He concluded, “If you don’t have a screw-up story to share, you don’t live bold enough.”

Beisenbayev is a member of the Class of 2022.

The Parallels Between Hodgman and ‘Kolchak’

HODGMAN FROM PAGE 1

a horseback commander and the phrase “European Roots American Greatness.” Another features a young white girl, blonde and rosy-cheeked, and praises immigration officers for “all [they] do” for America.

Along with the apparent connections to Rochester, Brighton, and Hodgman’s home state, Kolchak’s username seemed based on a 20th-century Russian admiral, Alexander Kolchak. The user once recommended a 2009 television series called “The Admiral” that documents the Russian’s life. Hodgman, a member of the U.S. Army’s ROTC program, majors in Russian studies.

Within days of the leak, Identity Evropa rebranded as the American Identity Movement. The group’s logo is now a red, white, and blue eagle.

The group endorses racial segregation, believes ethnic diversity is ruining the United States, and promotes a closed-border, all-white America. The organization, which came into the public’s eye when it helped plan the 2017 rally in Charlottesville, tries especially to recruit on college campuses.

The day Hodgman’s police citation was announced, College Republicans published a statement disavowing their former president. “We hope the Republican Party chooses to purge itself of the Christopher Hodgmans of the world,” read part of the statement, written by senior Jose Fernandez, the club’s current president.

Hodgman’s route to conservative leadership was an indirect one.

As a first-year in 2016, he attended several College Democrats meetings, club president and senior Kavya Bana told the Campus Times. She said he then ran for and won an executive board position, effective the following semester.

Hodgman never served that term.

“He reached out to us before the beginning of fall 2016 over the summer to let us know he did not align with the Democratic Party anymore and no longer wanted to be a member,” Bana said.

Bana said that when Hodgman was involved with College Democrats, members “had no idea that he espoused views of hatred.”

Hodgman joined College Republicans in the fall of 2016 as a “born-again Republican,” said junior Anthony Pericolo, the club’s vice president.

Pericolo told CT that, from the start, Hodgman was “articulate,” “competently spoke his views,” and “seemed to know what he was talking about.”

Hodgman made media appearances in the winter of 2017 on the club’s behalf before becoming president, sup-

porting embattled professor Ted Pawlicki and appearing on the WXXI radio show “Connections.” A few months later, Hodgman was elected.

Fernandez and Pericolo said Hodgman was almost entirely absent once he became president, leaving them to pick up the slack. “We hated Chris by the end of the first semester,” Pericolo said. “The e-board despised him.”

Hodgman stopped going to meetings, sending out emails, or organizing events with other groups, according to Pericolo.

“I’ve never seen someone actively avoiding responsibility like Chris,” Pericolo said. “He put us in a bad spot last year. And once we thought we were over it, the ghost of Chris came back and haunted us once more.”

Pericolo said Hodgman never expressed far-right views around club members and stuck to a traditional Republican platform. Hodgman had closed-border immigration views, he said, but didn’t express malice toward immigrants and instead made economic arguments. But sometimes, Pericolo said, the arguments were cultural.

“What he expressed was, if [immigrants] come in, then other people might feel that their culture is being displaced, sort of like the Trump effect,” Pericolo said. Still, the vice president wouldn’t have predicted Hodgman’s apparent white nationalist actions.

“This was a shocker,” Pericolo said. “He totally hid this from everyone.”

Fernandez, for his part, said he used to joke that he “wouldn’t be surprised if this guy turned out to be a white nationalist.”

After his presidential term ended, Hodgman attended one club meeting about immigration early last fall, during which he was “aggressive” and “did not conduct himself well,” Pericolo said. Pericolo and Fernandez said they never saw their former president after that, save for one time when Pericolo tracked him down later that semester to collect “money that he held from the club.”

Fernandez and Pericolo want to focus on the future. “Hopefully, this is the last we’ll have to deal with Chris,” Pericolo said.

Monroe County is no stranger to bigotry. In the fall of 2016, fliers for a website touting superiority of the European-White race were distributed in Brighton and Pittsford. A few months later, unrelated white supremacist fliers were posted at St. John Fisher College.

At UR alone, there were reports of 25 bias-related incidents last fall, one of which was made in response to Identity Evropa business cards on campus, according to Jessica Guzman-Rea, director of the Burgett Intercultural Center. Over the previous four semesters, the

average number of bias-related incidents was 24.

Dean of Students Matthew Burns hopes Hodgman will consider changing course.

Burns told CT he plans to meet with the senior this week with the goal of determining how he came into his beliefs and whether the senior is willing to listen to other viewpoints.

Burns explained that any student conduct response by the school regarding Hodgman will be independent of the senior’s legal proceedings, adding that suspension and expulsion as disciplinary measures are a last resort.

An Army spokesperson, as reported in the aforementioned Huffington Post article, said that Hodgman is under investigation, and that the Army prohibits “personnel from actively advocating supremacist, extremist, or criminal gang doctrine, ideology, or causes.”

President Feldman told CT that the

University removed white nationalist material upon finding it in October, but is working with Public Safety, state police, and a crime lab to verify the culprit.

Larry Hudson, a UR professor who will teach History of White Supremacy next fall, sees how people like Hodgman could turn to extremism. “I do feel for [...] young white males who have been asked to live in a society where things have been changing so rapidly over the last 40, 50 years,” Hudson told CT. “It’s all very confusing and I think a lot of these people sometimes isolate themselves from mainstream society and become even more disgruntled, more depressed, and they look for something.”

Hudson said he had no interest in Hodgman’s internal motivations and feelings, and that there are many reasons why an individual might turn to

white supremacy.

Hudson elaborated that one of those reasons may have been that neither College Democrats nor College Republicans had what Hodgman was looking for, while white supremacy groups like Identity Evropa did. Hudson said that now is the best time to be a white supremacist in nearly a century. “If you’re a young kid,” he said, “and you were looking for some attention, if you were looking for some friendship, some community, why not?”

“Some ethnic groups join gangs, some join alt-right organizations — but I think they’re all suffering from that same sense of disconnectedness,” Hudson said. “And no one’s really speaking to them.”

Whitestone is a member of the Class of 2019.

Higgins is a member of the Class of 2022.

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COMMUNITY

CT EATS

Jay’s Diner: Late-Night Edition



By OLIVIA BANC
COLUMNIST

As the bleak Rochester winter is finally making way for sunnier skies and the days are getting longer, it is now time to tack on the fourth meal of the day: the late-night snack. And what better place for a midnight munch than Rochester’s very own 24-hour Jay’s Diner?

Jay’s has been reviewed by CT in the past, so what I’m bringing you here is not a review, but an exploration of what to select when you find yourself in a Jay’s booth at God-knows-when in the morning.

It’s a great thing I brought Rosie, one of my favorite CT Eats companions, because while we both agreed that the root beer float was a midnight must-have, I hate root beer. When asked for three adjectives, Rosie offered up “creamy,” “cold,” and “float.” I then asked where the float would fall on a scale from “Bangerz”

Miley Cyrus to current Miley. She said RuPaul’s Drag Race guest judge Miley, which places it on the upper tier of the float hierarchy.

To honor the mindset of “random midnight cravings,” we decided on the deep-fried fantail shrimp, chocolate chip pancakes, lasagna, and a Mexican sundae.

The crispy shrimp was surprisingly great. It was crispy, well-cooked, and not too oily. The thick-cut french fries on the side certainly helped as well. It was overall way better than expected. I’ll give it a “Wrecking Ball” Miley, as in, it should have been worse than it really was.

And you can certainly call me a fan-cake of those chocolate chip pancakes, which had tons of chocolate throughout and a wonderful texture. The inside was cakey and fluffy with a slight chew. Plus, the edge of these pancakes was delightfully crispy. Even though that means tons of fat was used for cooking, it does make for a delicious crisping, so I’ll call it a guilty late-night success.

Next, we cleansed that 2 a.m. palate with a plate of lasagna. The best aspect was the tomato sauce, delightfully sweet with



OLIVIA BANC / COLUMNIST

Jay’s Diner is perfect for the delirium-fueled, nonsensical late night snack.

a bit of tang. The pasta, on the other hand, got lost in the sauce. It was mushy and overdone. The meat, though crying for seasoning, was still hearty. This was flanked by a thick hunk of garlic bread, a welcome surprise.

My one gripe with the lasagna was the oil spill around the base of the plate. An oily plate is a huge turn-off. I’d rather not see the mistakes I am forcing into my body when I’m living it up late-

night style, thank you very much.

Sadly, I have saved the least for last: the Mexican sundae. Neither Rosie nor I knew what “Mexican sundae” meant but we decided to just go with the midnight flow, throwing caution to the breeze. How foolish. The ice cream was nice, the chocolate syrup and whip were decent. However, I cannot forgive the peanuts. This sundae was 70 percent peanut — more nut than ice cream. I don’t

even want to rate this one on the Miley scale.

Overall, late-night Jay’s did exactly what I wanted. I got a fairly cheap, nonsensical meal of decent quality at an odd hour of the night. If you’re looking for a quick, cheap meal with lots of options for delirious, wild, sleep-deprived choices, then Jay’s Diner is the place for you.

Banc is a member of the Class of 2021.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

UR’s Cultural Publication Relics

By EDDIE HOCK
STAFF WRITER

“None Of Us Are Free Until All Of Us Are Free,” reads the title of the October 1987 issue of the “Grapevine,” haphazardly stenciled on an orange construction paper cover in bold, all-caps lettering.

Published through the Office of Minority Student Affairs, this black pride magazine functioned as a liaison between OMSA and the students it served. In the “Grapevine,” students could read important pieces from the greater American black consciousness and find a home for original writing from members of the black community on campus.

Today, it looks like any other classic, radical publication of the ‘80s. “Call Earl for Your Free, Hyped Up Cut Today. Free Haircuts!! See, I’m not a Capitalist,” reads an ad printed on the later pages of a 1988 issue.

There is a reprinted section of a James Baldwin essay, an article ominously titled “Bush And Abortion” (George H.W. Bush had just been elected President), and a promotion for an Alpha Phi Alpha party, with a step show and a five-dollar price of admission.

“Grapevine” was far from the only cultural paper on campus in the ‘80s. Among others, “Keshet” stood out as an independently published place for Jewish voices from UR to discuss and debate issues of culture, religion, and politics. Articles praising Israel, criticizing it, attacking then President Ronald Reagan, and unpacking the relationship between traditional Judaism and feminism filled its pages.

In the December 1983 issue, an article called “Judaism and Feminism: A Traditional View” seems to ward against ordaining women as rabbis, but a response in the same publica-

tion titled “Judaism and Feminism: A Confrontation” calls for “reformulation or creation of a new Jewish law.” It asks for ways that Jewish women and their allies can oppose the stances like those promoted by “A Traditional View.”

“Keshet” includes plenty of examples of visual art, as well as a piece called “All right, what can I eat?! A practical Passover guide.” There are ads for a cultural trip to Toronto, events with Chabad and Hillel, and a calendar for Jewish activities throughout the month.

“Grapevine” ran from 1975 to 1991, and “Keshet” between 1983 and 1993. Today, they represent relics of a time when a larger variety of publications populated the newsstands, when the printed page was a more dominant form of communication.

Hock is a member of the Class of 2021.

Courscio: The Better CDCS

By SKYLAR SCHUTTER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Dull fonts and complex search bars make CDCS difficult to use. Rate My Professor is cluttered with ads and only provides student comments.

So juniors Vitumbiko Kambilonje and Shuting Liang created Courscio — to provide a platform that centralizes course information to allow students to make more informed course decisions.

Features include a search bar, course titles, professor names, course CRN numbers, and the ability to add courses to a mock schedule and export it directly to Google Calendar. Under each course description, users can find an example syllabus, past student reviews, and professor information. Courscio also provides the professor’s past publications, education background, and a direct link to their personal website or research page.

The idea for the platform originated when Kambilonje and Liang were discussing how the current course scheduling system could function better. They noticed student frustration when navigating other course websites and disliked how “student review” websites were extremely biased. Liang explained that often the student opinions commented only on the professor rather than the course content. “The value of the course should not be directly related to the value of the professor as a person,” Kambilonje said.

When developing the prototype, the design team needed creativity in naming their service. After finding that their original name idea was already claimed, Jade Fung, a junior and one of the developers, suggested something catchy: “Scio is the Latin verb for ‘to know,’ so Courscio literally means ‘to know your courses.’”

Working with the Rochester-based Venture Jobs Foundation over the course of nine weeks, the Courscio team has received mentorship advice from large investors and past CEOs. Upon completion of this business accelerator program, the team will present the Courscio prototype “Shark Tank-style,” to a panel of investors who may choose to financially support the start-up. Among six other groups in the accelerator program, Courscio is the only student-run entrepreneurial group.

Within three weeks, the team went from developing an idea to creating the prototype and conducting initial user testing. During spring break, the team of nine met every day from 2 p.m. to midnight, working 10 hours a day on their project. Fueled by the goal of creating the best user experience, the team took various prototype design options to Douglass Dining Hall and surveyed students table by table for opinions.

Next week, the Courscio website will go live, with all the Fall 2019 courses.

Schutter is a member of the Class of 2021.



EDDIE HOCK / STAFF WRITER

The back cover of a 1988 issue of ‘Grapevine,’ featuring an ad for an APA party.

OPINIONS

EDITORIAL OBSERVER

Finding my Way with Google Earth



By **JOHN PINTO**
Instead of having friends when I started high school, I played around in Google Earth.

When you’re starting to leave childhood behind and are terminally unsure of yourself, exploring the world from a safe distance is empowering and comforting. Google Earth was colorful, expansive, safe, and as models of buildings became more widespread, occasionally even three-dimensional. There was a sun that moved in real-time and a spectacularly unwieldy flight simulator. I spent hours seeing how fast I could get the plane going straight down, how close to the ground I could pull out of the dive. My parents, bless them, said nothing.

The world outside kept turning, and eventually I caught up to it. I started running and was suddenly good at something socially valued. In a matter of weeks, I was fit, confident, and aware of a physical world beyond my house and school. Each route conquered, each loop to and from my starting point, gave me a new piece of the world to explore.

Google stopped updating Google Earth regularly, and it became buggy and weirdly unpleasant to look at. I didn’t care — I’d stopped using it. I was in and of the real world now.

For the most part, at least. There was one run where I saw a white Prius with some sort of scaffolding affixed to its roof — the Google Street View car. By now Street View had surpassed Google Earth as the major geographic service the company provided. While I didn’t use Street View nearly as much as I had Earth, I still found the basic idea — a constantly updated, 360-degree, first-person POV map of everywhere a (terrifyingly powerful and almost certainly evil) corporation has been able to get its cars — revolutionary. I stopped running and waved.

The car got closer. I waved and waved and waved until suddenly I realized that my Google Street View car was actually just a Prius with a white bike fastened to the top. The driver, looking more than a little confused, waved back.

I graduated, came to Rochester, lost my way, and stopped running. It turned out that the real

world was full of smarter people, faster people, kinder people, all of whom were already reaching goals I didn’t even know I was supposed to be aiming for. My academic standing became what one would call “precarious,” my body rejected the stress of training and tore itself up, and I spent the summer washing dishes and listening to my boss talk about how Trump would solve everything.

In the Hero’s Journey, this is what’s known as “the abyss.”

And even then, when I was over-

These aren’t tools for conquering the world, but for dreaming it.

whelmed by how little of the world I seemed ready for, I hungered for it. I started reading — big, performative books with endnotes and themes I didn’t understand, but less pretentious things, too. I read Jon Bois’ online novella “17776,” wherein a trio of sentient satellites look down on a world where no one has aged or died in 15,000 years and everybody plays football on a trans-continental scale, and was amazed to find that the majority of his illustrations and graphics were ripped straight from Google Earth. There was art to be made out of something I’d thought of as a childish security blanket. I started writing, and I haven’t stopped yet.

Thinking about Google Earth got me thinking about my encounter with the faux Street View car. I’d waved because I wanted to be documented as aware, aware of where I was and of who was viewing me. I wanted to be documented as having complete control of myself.

That’s a kind of power that is dangerous and ultimately unattainable. Dictators get drunk off that power. It’s also the opposite of what Street View and Google Earth represent. These aren’t tools for conquering the world, but for dreaming it. Before I was ready to join the real world, I could watch it from afar.

I’m doing better now, in school and in life. When I find myself thinking about what I want to achieve and dreading the thought of falling short, I go on to Street View. I find the address of whatever grad school I want to attend or the office of whatever literary magazine I want to write for, and I remind myself that at the end of the day it’s just a building full of normal people, and that the door can be open for me, too.

Pinto is a member of the Class of 2021.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Dining Deserves Decency

“Rice. Cheddar cheese. Ranch.” A tall thin man in a peacoat — we’ll call him Trent — is standing in line at Freshens. He’s on the phone while ordering, and seems to have devolved into a caveman-like manner of speech where complete sentences don’t exist. Instead of “Hi, may I have brown rice please?” or “I’ll have spinach and lettuce,” this man has reduced his communications to pointing and neolithic utterances.

The one complete sentence to come out of his mouth is “More ranch — I’ll tell you when.”

“Keep going.”

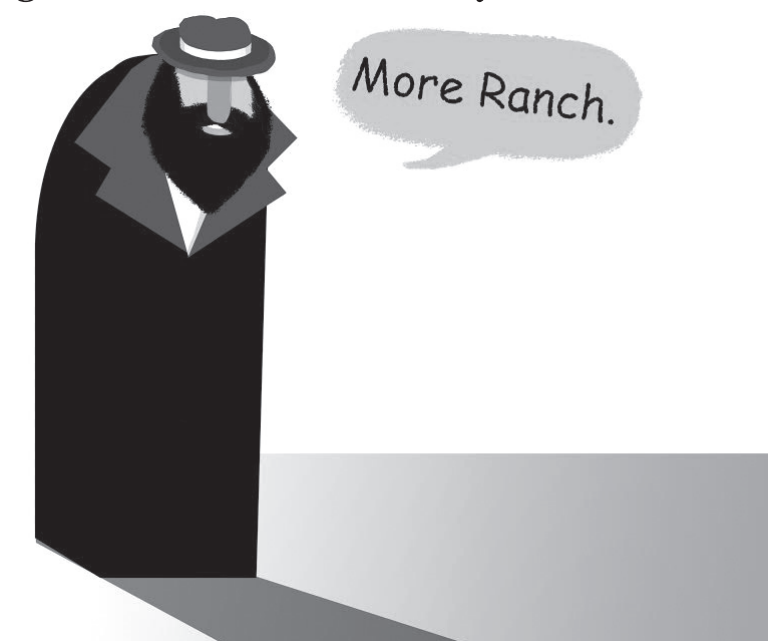
We know you really love loading your bowl up with cajun ranch, but your mother taught you how to treat others with a modicum of respect, Trent.

“Keep going.”

Even if she didn’t, you’re an adult now. You should be old enough to know that the people who serve you food every day — an integral and very necessary part of this campus — are deserving of common courtesy.

“Keep going.”

That napkin you left on the board last week in all caps berating chefs for “MORE PASTA” misses the mark. There’s a correct way to



give feedback, and Dining Services encourage it. Cam Schauf, director of Dining Services, is willing to sit down with any student and hash things out. Chefs respond personally to every single napkin comment. If it’s a voice you want, you have it. They’ll hear you, you don’t have to shout, Trent.

“Keep going.”

Listen, Trent, just because it’s their job doesn’t mean the workers

at dining services are less deserving of the incredibly fascinating and surprisingly helpful terms known as “please” and “thank you.” You may have heard of them, but in times of stress they’re easy to forget — that’s still not an excuse. Acting as if the people who make and serve you food are somehow below you, and therefore don’t need you to express your gratitude, is unbelievably selfish.
“Stop.”

This editorial is published with the consent of a majority of the Editorial Board: Trevor Whitestone (Editor-in-Chief), Wil Aiken (Managing Editor), Hailie Higgins (Opinions Editor), Sakhile Ntshangase (Opinions Editor), Efua Agyare-Kumi (News Editor), and Shweta Koul (Publisher). 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

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Wealth and Admissions

By **KEVIN SHAUGHNESSY**

It’s been hard to avoid the recent college admissions scandals, in which many rich and famous parents tried to buy their children spots at elite universities. This involved mail fraud and bribing athletic coaches and standardized test proctors, sometimes to the tune of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

This scandal is only the tip of the iceberg when looking at the advantages that wealth provides

for applying to college across the board. The median family income among UR students is \$126,000, over double the national average. At more elite schools like Harvard, it’s \$168,000. When middle class people, like myself, qualify as low-income at any college in America, something has gone seriously wrong in our society.

Numbers like that don’t happen naturally, and they severely limit social mobility and meritoc-

racy. Some of those advantages are baked-in by the time students apply for college. Growing up wealthy likely means that you had a stable home life — in a safe, clean neighborhood — with good schools that didn’t face shortages of basic necessities like paper. It means you didn’t have to fear being shot leaving school like students in parts of Chicago. You weren’t exposed to neurotoxic chemicals, like children in Flint. Your school probably had a working furnace in the freezing

winter. Students in Detroit weren’t so lucky.

The other easily solvable problem is that low-income students often misjudge the costs of college and of applying to college. They may not know that application fees are often waived for them, or that because of financial aid, they will pay far less than the sticker price for college, especially at selective colleges with high sticker prices. Because of that, they either don’t apply to college at all or apply to less selective col-

leges, where they will end up paying more money and have fewer academic resources. Two economists, Sarah Turner and Caroline Hoxby, mailed out information that clarified all of this as part of a study. They found that high-achieving, low-income students who got this information applied to 50 percent more colleges and were 80 percent more likely to be accepted to colleges that matched their academic ability.

Shaughnessy is a member of the Class of 2021.

OP-ED

Timing Matters, College Republicans

By WARISH ZAMAN ORKO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

My parents fear for my life. The recent terrorist attack in New Zealand where at least 50 Muslims were killed while praying has shaken them and the global community at large. The Muslim community is in shock and overcome with waves of grief, as I’ve seen with my own eyes. This is a time for communal healing, mourning, love and support. I found the Solidarity Vigil at the Interfaith Chapel to be helpful in my personal grieving process and I’m grateful such a supportive community exists at our university.

Not all groups responded to this tragedy as respectfully. “Religious Extremism in the Middle East: Meet a Muslim w/ AMYA,” an event organized by the College Republicans, had zero self-awareness or understanding and should have been delayed. 270 petitioners agreed that the event should have been canceled.

While this event was planned in advance and the timing was unfortunate, going ahead with it when so many in the campus community found it offensive and actively hurtful is highly insensitive to Muslim suffer-

ing, and directly harms the feeling of communities on campus.

If the intention of the College Republicans really was to be an ally to the Muslim community and fight Islamophobia, they would have listened to all Muslims, not retreat behind one Muslim organization off-campus that they happen to agree with. It’s perfectly understandable that the diverse Muslim community would have different responses to a traumatic event. In the presence of differing preferences, picking a particular side while ignoring the rest is not allyship by any definition. The most important action an ally can do is to listen and be respectful of the community.

Ignoring 270 requests explicitly saying that this event is harmful to them is not being an ally. Telling a community how to grieve is not being an ally. None of this demonstrates good faith by the College Republicans.

The terrorist attack in New Zealand was due to white supremacist ideology, a form of extremism. The terrorist targeted people at their place of worship due to his vile beliefs about Muslims. Responding to this tragedy by hosting an event with a

panel featuring Elan Journo — a right-wing author accused of dehumanizing Palestinians — trivializes their suffering and denies their massacre. It doesn’t take an investigative journalist to make the logical connections, only basic empathy. In the aftermath of a terrorist attack by a far-right extremist who dehumanizes Muslims, an event with a title featuring his main complaint (“Religious Extremism in the Middle East”) and a panelist that does not see Muslim lives as equal to others is morally abhorrent to say the least.

The University must remain a welcoming and safe environment for people of all faiths and backgrounds. If protecting that requires us to de-platform an Islamophobic author, or canceling an event due to sensitive timing, we must not shy away from our commitments.

Zaman is a member of the Class of 2021.

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CULTURE

Nyle DiMarco Embraces Deaf Identity

By SING CHAN
CULTURE EDITOR

Nyle DiMarco never once wished he could hear.

Ever since 2014, DiMarco has been active in the public sphere and is best known for being the first deaf winner of two famous competitive reality shows: “America’s Next Top Model” and “Dancing with the Stars.”

But instead of his good looks and talent in modeling and dancing, DiMarco prefers to be recognized by his more important role as a Deaf activist.

“I embody my Deaf identity, I cherish who I am, I cherish my culture, and my language[s], American Sign Language and English, making me bilingual.”

DiMarco’s visit to UR this Saturday brought members of the Deaf Community around the Rochester region together. For a city with one of the largest Deaf communities in the nation, his speech was momentous.

DiMarco presented himself as a confident ambassador for Deaf people. Through an interpreter and several ASL signers, he shared his experiences, struggles, and ambitions.



Nyle DiMarco speaking to a captivated audience.

“I embody my Deaf identity, I cherish who I am, I cherish my culture, and my language[s], American Sign Language and English, making me bilingual,” DiMarco explained, translated by an interpreter.

By comparing his experience to the rest of the Deaf Community, DiMarco highlighted his good fortune of being born into a Deaf family, which allowed him to receive proficient education in signing. His first encounter of disparity within the deaf/hard-of-hearing population was when he attended the Maryland School for the Deaf. He was shocked to find out that not all students had the same ability to sign as he could. He joked that at the

age of seven, he was able to sign more fluidly than his teachers.

Furthering his experience with disparity, DiMarco described his travels around the world, which allowed him to meet more Deaf people. According to DiMarco, those he met were not as privileged as him. DiMarco said that while “there [are] 70 million deaf people in the world who [use] some kind of sign language, only two percent of them have access to education and a formal sign language.”

“I used to think every other deaf person in the world was just like me, but now I realize I’m incredibly privileged,” DiMarco confessed.

His discovery led him to recon-

sider his career path — he no longer wanted to teach math, but instead wanted to work in admissions for his alma mater, Gallaudet University, to “recruit students from all over the world, inside and outside of the U.S.” DiMarco’s determination was to “bring [deaf people] from the middle of nowhere [...], bring them here, help them find their identity, find their home, their language, and their community.”

In that same time, DiMarco said he was invited to be a part of “America’s Next Top Model” and “Switched at Birth.” While he was successful in both shows, DiMarco admitted that he was isolated by the other par-

ticipants during the production of “ANTM.” In one incident, his only form of communication, a special phone, was taken by another contestant to take selfies. Instead of creating drama, DiMarco focused on the competition and being optimistic.

DiMarco’s stories of his experience depict the ideology of embracing and loving one’s identity — he is a leader that encourages the Deaf Community to thrive. From his initial goal of teaching and recruiting Deaf students to educating the world about the Deaf Community, he said, his commitment to education has been unwavering.

Chan is a member of the Class of 2022.

Indulgence Underdogs Come Out On Top

By EFUA AGYARE-KUMI
NEWS EDITOR

After practicing 18 hours in a week and staying up till 2 a.m. to perfect formations the night before, the day of Indulgence’s spring show had arrived. The costumes, lighting, and guest performers were ready. Indulgence — even if its dancers didn’t feel like it — was ready.

The show’s theme was the movie “Mean Girls.” The team would embody the rise against the perils of cliques and bullies. But hours before the show’s start, sophomore Jerrod Obiye and junior Michaela Pratt, the captains, received an email and found themselves facing perils of their own.

“Your worst fear is something happening on the day of the show,” Obiye said later, “but the worst thing we could have expected was losing the entire venue.”

The email explained that the building had structural issues that needed to be addressed, and until they were, the venue could not be used for performances.

“The biggest challenge we faced was deciding what to do,” Obiye said.

The dancers wrestled over whether to cancel the show or change the venue. Their new location, they were told, would be determined by whatever Event and Classroom Management could set up for them. They would have to redo their formations and lighting directions to suit the new space. They would no longer have an erected stage.

Would people still come?

Indulgence decided the show would go on. The dancers would perform and trust the rest to follow.

Their new venue, Feldman Ballroom, seats a maximum of 300. Attendees filled all 300 chairs and kept coming, finding seats on the floor and standing room in the back. Sophomore and show host Andre Hodges thanked everyone. “Thank God y’all are still here, give it up for yourselves,” he said, drawing applause, cheers, and whoops. On that note, the

show began.

The “Mean Girls” theme was developed through video clips showing members of different dance groups on campus, like Xclusive and Bhangra, making snarky comments about Indulgence members.

Between these videos were the dance performances, which transitioned quickly from one to the next, outfit changes and all. The chatter never fell below an excited buzz, and rose to a cacophony as needed to support the performers.

“The audience was amazing,” Obiye said. “The biggest relief was knowing people still showed out and did everything in their power to give us their love and their energy.”

Obiye also heaped praise on the show’s guest performers: Velocity (a hip-hop dance team from Rochester Institute of Technology) and evolutionX (a Rochester dance team for youths under 18). The show’s last-minute troubles inconvenienced them as well, as there was no time for them to become acquainted with the new stage’s conditions.

“They were so flexible,” Obiye said. “Everybody was like, ‘whatever we have to bend, we’ll bend.’” Both groups brought the audience to its feet, in particular one little boy — the youngest of evolutionX — who moonwalked straight into the hearts of everyone in the room.

For their part, the groups appreciated the audience’s generosity. “The audience was so supportive,” said Prince Diaby, choreographer and director of evolutionX. “As soon as we finished [the kids] were like ‘Can we do it again?’”

For the finale, Indulgence members formed a half circle where everyone could strut their stuff. Here, the team’s diversity — in both race and style — became evident.

“Everybody brings their own spin on hip-hop,” junior and Indulgence member Omolemo Matloga told the Campus Times. She choreographed a South African-style number for the group. She thinks Indulgence defies stereotypes on who likes or can dance to hip-hop. “It wasn’t a white

thing, it wasn’t a black thing. We literally have every demographic in our group,” she continued. “Everybody sees themselves represented in our team.”

Indulgence fosters this type of

diversity by focusing on a variety of things in the recruitment process. For them it’s not about expertise — Obiye had no dance experience when he joined Indulgence in his freshman year.

“We look for energy, willingness to learn, and people who have a passion for dance,” Obiye said. “Everybody brings something.”

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



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‘Bright Star’ is Syrupy Sweet, Hard to Resist

By WIL AIKEN
MANAGING EDITOR

For all of its cliches — oh boy, are there some cliches — “Bright Star,” performed on Friday and Saturday in the May Room, worked. Maybe this is because the Players — led by director sophomore Michael Wizorek — treat their production with such a genuine attitude that it reminds you of how sweetness and nostalgia became cliches in the first place.

Some will find it a bit much, even though I didn’t. This slice of Americana is as treacly as they come, like apple pie dunked in corn syrup and painted by Norman Rockwell.

The musical — by Steve Martin and Edie Brickell — follows two storylines, one in the 1940s, and one in the 1920s. In the 1940s, young Billy Cane (first-year Jack Bell) tries to get himself published in a North Carolina literary journal, as a young bookstore worker Margo (stellar senior Maddy Gartenberg) pines for him. In his quest for publication, Billy must get past a sharp and shrewd editor, Alice Murphy (graduate student Sara De Franco).

In the 1920s, Alice — 23 years younger — falls in love with Jimmy Ray Dobbs (senior Will Cunningham), the Mayor’s

son, and much melodrama ensues.

The melodrama is, of course, melodramatic, and is only held together by the performances and music. The acting worked smoothly enough in the dialogue scenes, but the performers soared in the musical sequences.

Take an early scene, where Billy’s father (senior James Fosburgh) tells him that his mother died while he was away. The non-musical part, where Billy asks for his mother while his father tries to figure out how to tell him, was fine, but familiar enough that it didn’t hit viscerally.

But moments later, when Fosburgh sang “She’s Gone,” supported by mournful violins and banjo from the live orchestra, it had a new emotional sting.

The-part-bluegrass-bray-part-Broadway-belt vocalizing style, mastered by the performers here, is enormously emotive. “Please, Don’t Take Him” might be the best example of how the intersection of excellent acting, singing, and instrumentation can make convincing drama out of what could easily be soapy in shakier hands. In this number, junior Casey Brentnall — as the Mayor — plays a fine mustache twirler, and De Franco is memorable as the smart-aleck whose desperation reveals a powerful sincerity.

But this is a musical, so there are fun and games to accompany the woe. Some

of the literary winks are self-congratulatory. But first-year Richard Nessler and, in particular, sophomore Elena Robson are very funny as two of Alice’s bantering underlings at the literary journal.

Robson leads the play’s funniest — and most fun — number, “Another Round,” a rambunctious anthem of intoxication featuring the play’s best choreography. This production, like all ROC Players productions, has to do a lot with the confines of the May Room, so there were times early in the play that found the blocking and choreography a bit stagnant. As the play went on, those elements became more and more dynamic, and by “Another Round,” it was at full bloom. (Senior Charlotte Pillow and first-years Julia Bergel and Kathryn Berger deserve a shout out for their choreography.) By the end, the smaller stage and minimalist sets (by sophomore Delilah Przybyla) were endearing and felt appropriately folksy.

So yes, you may notice that you’re watching a simplified, face-value version of America. If you let go of your desire for cynical stories (as I did), you might find that there is something just as valuable to be found in optimistic storytelling treated with honesty.

Aiken is a member of the Class of 2021.

Student Stars Alongside Ben Affleck in Netflix Film

By SING CHAN
CULTURE EDITOR

By AN NGUYEN
CULTURE EDITOR

Maddy Wary seems like your average college student, aside from having her own IMDb page and having acted alongside Ben Affleck.

A first-year at UR, Wary recently starred in Netflix film “Triple Frontier” with Affleck, Pedro Pascal, and Oscar Isaac. The movie was directed by the Oscar-nominated J.C. Chandor and was filmed mainly in Hawaii, where Wary lives.

“Triple Frontier” is an action thriller that follows a group of former Special Operations agents as they plan a heist on a Colombian drug lord. Affleck plays Tom “Redfly” Davis, one of the agents, and Wary plays his daughter, Tess Davis.

Wary described her character to the Campus Times as “an average teenager,” except that she’s “really sneaky [...] she always acts like she’s not caring [about adult matters] like a cool 15-year-old, but then you also know that she knows everything that is going on with her parents.”

Tess recognizes the struggles of Affleck’s character as he tries to adjust from the life of a secret agent to a more normal one. Wary said viewed her on-screen dad as a negligent but generally good dad.

She first auditioned in her junior year of high school, not expecting to get the part at all, especially after the movie ran into financial problems. But a year later, she received a call asking her for a second audition and jumped at the opportunity, even though she was hospitalized. Wary’s sickness was possibly a blessing in disguise — she described being so sick that she didn’t feel nervous.

For Wary, the role was a natu-

ral one, and she likes to imagine Tess as “being [as] close to [her] self as possible.”

But not everything was so easy for the new actress. Wary detailed her struggles during a particular scene, where she says “I miss you” to Affleck’s character. “I kept on getting nervous about that because I could so easily make that so cringey,” she said. “I was frustrated because I could not get myself into the complexity that Tess would feel at that time.”

Many of her scenes take place in the backseat of a car with headphones on, and to calm her nerves and further get into the teenage perspective, Wary would sometimes listen to music over the headphones.

The glamor of the film was also unexpected, especially the red carpet premiere and private screening. Wary wasn’t aware that there was a red carpet until she got there, so she walked it in a \$17 romper she bought from Macy’s the day before.

Now that the Hollywood glam has faded into the past, Wary has adjusted to life at UR, where she plans to double major in brain and cognitive sciences and mathematics. Wary says that acting is “not [her] focus right now” and plans to “keep acting stuff separate from school.” At UR, she is involved in the tennis program and works at the Barnes and Noble Cafe in College Town. She plans to start a club next year to bring the Hawaiian “island vibe” to the Rochester winter.

Even though she doesn’t plan on actively pursuing her acting career right now, the opportunity was one she won’t forget anytime soon. It was a “cool experience to learn from [Affleck] of how [...] focused he is in his character,” Wary said. “You could tell he was a professional and knew what he was doing.”

Chan is a members of the class of 2022.
Nguyen is a members of the class of 2022.

ToddX Brings Tales of Meat Loaf, Nudity, and More



Nigel Maister, Liz Femi, and Andrew Polec during their ToddX panel.

By OLIVIA ALGER
CULTURE EDITOR

From BuzzFeed to Broadway lighting, the first ever ToddX brought an array of alumni from the entertainment industry to Todd Union in a rapid-fire 24-hour showcase of discussions, workshops, and masterclasses.

Organized by Nigel Maister, Artistic Director of the UR International Theater Program, ToddX kicked off with a panel discussion featuring five of the speakers. All speakers were past students of Maister, who’s worked in the International Theater Program for 23 years. “There’s a real cross section of people we invited back,” Maister said. “I wanted to get people from different eras of the theater program [...] I wanted a cultural diversity, a diversity of men and women, a diversity of what they were doing.”

Jeff Englander ‘10, a chemical engineering graduate who now works as a lighting designer for Broadway shows, led a workshop on automated moving lights. He made the switch from STEM to the arts his junior year at UR, when he visited various engineering firms as a part of a required course and realized he wasn’t passionate about the drab prospects of a career in

chemistry. “Maybe I should be the guy building the scenery instead of the guy in the windowless office upstairs,” he said. “Those cubicles looked miserable.”

Maister emphasized the relationship between STEM and the arts when planning ToddX. “Something the University recognizes, and recognizes with incredible pressing attention, is that the ‘A’ in ‘STEM’ is missing — the arts,” he said. “Students who have experience in the arts and the humanities fare better and have greater chances of success than students who do not[.]”


Actors Liz Femi ‘02 and Andrew Polec ‘12 brought younger voices with their panel, “The Young Actor’s Life.” Polec, who just finished playing the lead role in a London company production of “Bat Out of Hell” (a musical by Meat Loaf), said he landed the main role after being rejected from “The Sponge-Bob Musical.” “If you’re not nervous about what you’re going for, you probably have a better shot at doing what you’re doing in the room.”

Femi, who’s working in L.A. on a Netflix original called “Ratched” (a prequel to “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest” about Ken Kesey’s character Nurse Ratched), talked about the representation of women

of color in media. “People have trouble trusting that,” she said. “I’ve passed on stuff that’s insulting and racist, but you’re always negotiating propelling your career with these people and being an artist of integrity.”

The discussions were filled with anecdotes about awkward brushes with fame. Wardrobe supervisor Alex Rozanski ‘11 has seen many television personalities in the nude, and once accidentally punched Seth Meyers in the throat while fixing his tie backstage. Todd Theater typically puts on three shows per semester, and ToddX was organized to replace this spring’s first production. “Cardenio,” one of Shakespeare’s lost plays, was originally supposed to be produced by Malaysian director Ed Iskander, but had to be cancelled because Iskander was denied his visa. The speakers also touched on the groundbreaking narratives performed in Todd Theater, relating to each other with stories of six-hour long productions filled with nudity and crass language. “Theater offers something deeply humanistic in its approach to the world,” Maister said. “Show up, do the work, and be open.”

Alger is a member of the Class of 2022.



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HUMOR

The Humanities Fun Zone

By JOHN PINTO
HUMOR EDITOR

Hi! I major in the Humanities (English Creative Writing, to be exact) and objectively have a more interesting and vibrant life than you! Probably more sex, too!

But as much as I love my courses, department, and bits of actual free time, there are times when I feel overlooked by the University at large. In an effort to combat this, I've curated this little section to be a playground for my fellow Humanities majors. Enjoy, and remember: STEM people don't know how to read! Everything here is just for you!

Pinto is a member of the Class of 2020.

While all of your STEM friends are stuck taking classes, recitations, and labs, you actually have a bit of time to look after yourself. Take our quiz to see how you use your time!

Where do you go when it's time to relax?

A. B Stacks, where the University hides all of the library's fiction, poetry, and imagination.

B. Back to sleep.

C. "Back to sleep." (I have a substance abuse problem.)

D. The nearest liminal space: the courtyard by Dougie that's both a forest and a lung cancer clinic, the Mount Hope Diner parking lot, that place in Simon with the sushi and the important-looking grad students, Southside.

Regardless of where you actually go, you chose "D!" What



do you do in your liminal space?

A. Peruse the latest journals and periodicals from my field, work on my thesis, enrich my understanding of the world, its

people, and myself.

B. Sleep.

C. "Sleep." (If you're a cop you have to tell me or else it's entrapment.)

D. Slowly sink into a catatonic state of despair over the ruin that is the world, the dread you feel about post-graduation life, and whether or not you'll ever have enough income to start a family or even own a cat.

Regardless of what you actually do, you chose "D!" Do you find this experience beneficial?

A. Nope.

B. No.

C. "No." (No.)

D. Yes – brooding fuels the completely unfounded inferiority complex which led to the creation of "The Humanities Fun Zone."

Regardless of how you actually feel, you chose "D!" Check back next week, when our Free Time Quiz will be "Am I Actually Always Hungry, or Should I Get a Hobby?"

Find All the Mistakes: Literature Edition

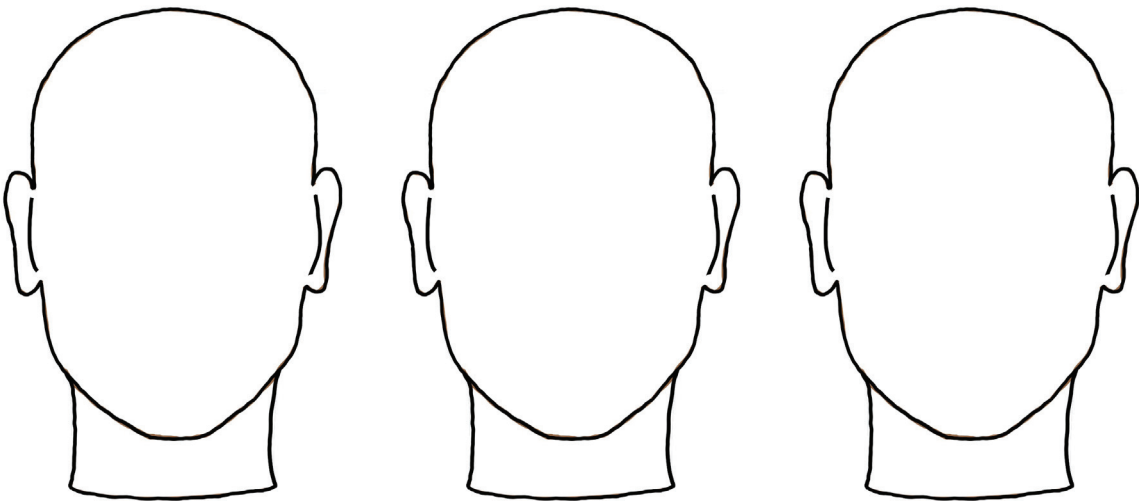


Can you find the five mistakes in this famous work of literature? Bonus points if you can find the mistake in the accompanying illustration!

"Man is the only creature that consumes without producing. (And by "Man," I mean "Capital.") He does not give milk, he does not lay eggs, he is too weak to pull the plough, he cannot run fast enough to catch rabbits. (The milk and eggs and shit are all products made by labor. Are you getting this? Am I not being clear enough?) Yet he is lord of all the animals. (Also, Stalin's pretty fucked up, amiright?) He sets them to work, he gives back to them the bare minimum that will prevent them from starving (the worst kid in your philosophy class will somehow cite this book as an advocate for capitalism)), and the rest he keeps for himself. (I wanted to call it "Russia Farm," but my publisher wouldn't let me.)" – George Orwell, "Animal Farm"

Drawing Section

Follow the prompts and draw the faces of people responding to you telling them that you're majoring in the Humanities!



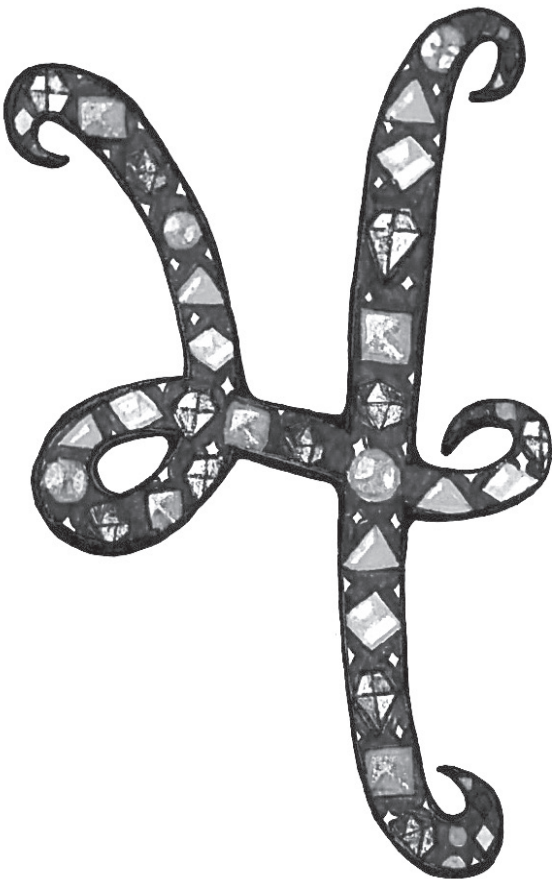
"Oh! So, uh, what do you think you'll do with that? Maybe marketing? I've got a sister-in-law that works in the city, do you want her number? Here, take her card."

"I wish I could just draw pictures for my major! No, I haven't gone to Calc lecture in two months. Yes, of course my parents will keep paying tuition. I just wish you could major in being an influencer, y'know? By the way, have you heard about Blue Apron?"

"Wow, have fun being a barista! I still get very mad online about the four female "Ghostbusters" and am very intelligent."

The Number Corner

As per University academic policy, we have included some cross-disciplinary material. Please look at this big number and feel enlightened.



The Social Sciences Corner

As per University academic policy, we have also included some cross-disciplinary material from the Social Sciences. Please read about and/or visit the country of the week, which is: Peru.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

For Ethington, Friendships Outweigh Dominance

By MICAH GREENBERG
SPORTS EDITOR

Senior guard Lena Ethington led Women's Basketball in minutes, points, and steals. Though the team ended with a 10-15 record this season after making the Elite Eight last season, Ethington reflected on the challenges the team has faced and her experience as a player.

How did you feel about this season in comparison to past seasons?

I think it definitely could have gone better, but from the standpoint of the fact that a third of the team was first-years this year, we had a lot of growth, which was definitely good. In comparison to last season, [where] we graduated four starters [...], we graduated six seniors [this season].

How different was this season with so much turnover in the roster?

Our coach really looks for more than basketball ability. He also looks for personality. Our team was really close. Last year was great, because we were all best friends, and that was pretty much the same this year. From an outside-of-basketball perspective, it was amazing. From a playing standpoint, it was hard because we had so many less experienced players, but everyone caught on really fast. It was definitely different, but it was just as fun. As long as you love the team, it doesn't really matter.

How did you feel about your performance this season?

I could have done better, but it was hard because we graduated so many key players. It was hard because they did a lot last year, so I had a bigger role on the team, and I maybe could have done a better job embracing it, but I did what I could.

How did you improve over the course of the season?

When you have more responsibility given to you, you're going to improve somehow, as long as you acknowledge



PHOTO COURTESY OF UR ATHLETICS

Senior guard Lena Ethington was a starter each of the past two seasons and led the team in minutes, points, and steals. this season

that it's there.

Now that the season is over, how are things different in terms of time?

I don't know what to do with my extra time. It is really nice, but I'm just not used to having Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays free. It is nice for getting schoolwork done, because I just finish everything by five and then go to sleep. I think it might be easier during the season because you're always in a time crunch. You say "I actually have to do it now." It's easier and harder now because I used to do things on time because I knew I had to. The back-up-against-the-wall idea is easier to work with than what I have now.

How do you think the team is going to do next year?

I think they're going to be fine. We graduated six key people last year. We weren't necessarily as good this year, but the team was fine, and we're only graduating two of us this year. Honestly, the team is going to be better next year than it was this year just because everyone is going to have time to adjust.

What is your biggest accomplishment through basketball?

I don't want to sound cliché, but the

friendships. I am pretty confident that I am going to keep talking to everyone on the team. They'll be at my wedding. I know I have lifelong friends through them. Also, going to the Elite Eight last year was pretty fun.

How did you start playing basketball?

My best friend, when I was eight, said that she was going to go to a basketball camp, and she took me with her. She then made me join a team at a rec center. Then

she quit, but I didn't stop.

If you could be any TV character, who would you choose?

Tina from "Bob's Burgers."

Greenberg is a member of the Class of 2021.



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SPORTS

Baseball Continues Hot Stretch Against RIT, Extending Streak to Five

By CESAR GARCIA
SPORTS EDITOR

UR Baseball beat rival Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in a doubleheader on a chilly March Sunday. The game, originally scheduled for a Saturday at 1 p.m. had to be shifted to the next day in order to accommodate the weather.

The 'Jackets entered the game with confidence after sweeping Elmira College in a three game series. This was not reflective of the season as a whole, with the team having a record of 4–5. The team has attempted to make Towers Field, its home stadium, a fortress by staying undefeated at home.

In the first game, UR started strong and ended stronger. In the first inning, sophomore outfielder Steve Pickering singled to left field, allowing for senior infielder Jack Herman to score. Shortly after, first-year infielder Jacob

Matzat singled past the shortstop, resulting in a score by senior catcher Aiden Finch.

The next three innings provided no runs as the score was held to 2–0. In the fourth inning, runs started coming through once more. The 'Jackets scored in the fourth and the fifth inning while the Tigers responded with a run of their own in the fifth. The sixth inning provided the most entertainment to the fans as the bats came alive for the 'Jackets.

The fireworks began when Herman homered to left center field, bringing in another two runs for the 'Jackets. Immediately after, Finch hit a solo homer to left field. To top it off, sophomore infielder Drew Bankovich hit a two-run double to center field to bring the score to 9–1. RIT was able to grab one back in the seventh inning bringing the final score to 9–2. Senior pitcher Jack Denzer pitched

all seven innings allowing only four hits with seven strikeouts. "[O]ur bats were alive and our defense was as solid as it gets," first-year infielder Harper Sy said.

With four wins in a row under their belt, the 'Jackets moved on to the second half of the doubleheader. Unlike the first game, it was a slow start for both teams. It was not until the third inning that both teams started to heat up. The 'Jackets put up four runs and the Tigers put up two, resulting in a score of 6–3 after three innings. In both the fourth and the fifth inning, UR and RIT put up three runs each, including a three-run homer from Finch. Besides a couple runs in the seventh inning, the game was fairly quiet from then on out, ending in a 14–10 win by the 'Jackets. Aiden Finch finished extremely strong with a total of seven RBIs across the two games, including six in the final one.



Junior first baseman David Rieth had four hits in the second game to help the 'Jackets to a 14–10 victory over RIT.

PHOTO COURTESY OF UR ATHLETICS

The sweep of RIT results in a perfect 5–0 record at home for the 'Jackets. With a five-game winning streak, the team will look to keep its momentum going this week against SUNY Cortland, The College at Brockport, and in two doubleheaders against

Skidmore College on the weekend. Sy believes that the team has "a lot of amazing things to look forward to this year as long as we keep having fun and playing great baseball".

Garcia is a member of the Class of 2022.

Bring Back the Scholarship in Sports Scholarships

By MICAH GREENBERG
SPORTS EDITOR

Two weeks ago, scandal engulfed several colleges when the U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts announced charges against 50 people. The allegations stem from schemes in which an admissions counselor helped prospective students buy their way into college, specifically by bribing SAT proctors to inflate test scores or by bribing coaches to recruit students as athletes, even when they had never played that sport.

In some cases, the real faces of students were photoshopped onto a picture of an athlete, creating the fraudulent appearance that the student was a skilled athlete in their own right. Others never played a particular sport, but were admitted on the basis that they were a worthy athlete after bribing coaches.

Clearly, there needs to be

more oversight of the recruitment process. Coaches taking bribes is quite bad, but it's also difficult to detect. It should be far easier to notice when those enrolled as student-athletes do not actually intend to ever play the sport.

It is important to remember that the colleges involved in the scandal, including Yale, California, Wake Forest, UCLA, and Stanford, are all Division I institutions. Schools in Division I have the ability to grant several full scholarships to student-athletes for their athletic abilities. For many of the schools playing at such a high level, the entire athletic department is funded by ticket sales.

Because successful Division I teams, especially in popular televised sports like football and basketball, draw lots of attention to universities, athletic success also theoretically increases the prestige of a school, and in turn

brings in more donations. For all of these reasons, Division I coaches essentially act as admissions counselors by recruiting athletes to fill spots on their team's roster, with little oversight from admissions departments.

Even though the UR is a Division III school, don't think that we are immune to shady tricks aimed at gaining admission into the school. In 2017, a student's admission was revoked during orientation after the revelation that she lied about being homeschooled. Though this was not a case of criminal fraud or wealthy parents bribing their children into the school, it shows how difficult it can be to detect deception.

Obviously, the college admissions scandal is not limited to sports. But as the March Madness tournaments begin, it is difficult to forget past college sports scandals in comparison

to this one. Some high-profile professional athletes had other students take standardized tests on their behalf in order to meet minimum requirements to get into school. In other scandals, colleges enrolled student-athletes in fake classes so that they could spend their time practicing.

There is a big difference between those scandals and the new bribery and fraud scandal. In the new scandal, the fraud was used to get fully unqualified people into college while not playing the sport. The past scandals that have embroiled schools from North Carolina to Memphis were aimed at accepting people who were less qualified academically but extremely athletically skilled.

But if top schools are recruiting athletes who wouldn't be able to get into school or who would fall behind in schoolwork, shouldn't we reconsider the ties

between academics and athletics?

The two solutions that make some sense are on opposite sides of a college sports spectrum. On the one hand, paying college athletes would allow them to be appropriately compensated for the prestige they bring for new colleges, and paying student-athletes would force schools to weigh athletic skill against academic potential. On the other hand, some argue that schools place far too much of an emphasis on athletics, and that they should no longer offer such extensive scholarships for a wide variety of sports.

It is unclear what will actually change for Division I student athletes as a result of this scandal. But the time has come for schools to reconsider how they recruit athletes.

Greenberg is a member of the Class of 2021.

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