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Dandelion Day Bounces Back



AARON RAYMOND / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Rapper Big Sean performed at UR Friday as part of the Dandelion Day festivities.

By **JUSTIN TROMBLY**
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Big Sean isn't that big. Like, physically. At the Dandelion Day concert Friday night, the five-foot-eight rapper looked submerged in the giant, two-tier screens casting colors and elemental patterns behind him, more a silhouette with a

voice than a spotlight stage stomper. But he's arguably the biggest act UR has snagged for its annual spring show in years, maybe ever, and under that billing, he didn't disappoint. With a live drummer and keyboardist/DJ rounding out his trio, Sean took the crowd through old hits, fan-favorite

feature verses, and songs from his fourth LP, "I Decided," released in February. The show started with "Voices in My Head / Stick to the Plan," a slow-burner off that album perfect for allowing Sean to build the atmosphere: a gradually more-intense song with a tempo boost at its tail, delivered from the top level of his setup.

"No Favors," an 808-heavy banger, saw Sean down on the main stage platform, feet away from the front row, his flow as effortless and intense as it would be for the rest of the night, save for some softer songs. "Paradise," from his 2014 album, was up next, the same story. And then: "If the University of Rochester is in the building,

make some fucking noise." He got our name right the first time—a good sign for a visiting artist. And later, after he said, "This that Rochester University shit," he seemed aware of his mistake and kept right. You could see flashes of Sean's mentor, Kanye West, in his performance, and that's not just because he ran thr

SEE **BIG SEAN** PAGE 11

Tampon Effort Stablizing

By **SAM PASSANISI**
SENIOR STAFF

The Students' Association (SA) Government's free pads and tampons initiative is looking more sustainable with every passing week, according to former SA Vice President Lance Floto. Two weeks ago, the Campus Times reported on the struggles of the initiative in its first two weeks. Since then, Floto said, SA has seen the usage of tampons and pads decline to more reasonable rates. "We have seen the usage drop from around 5,800 the first week, to around 3,400 the second week, to 1,900 the third week," Floto said. Nothing is being done differently by SA or Facilities

to precipitate the plunge, he added. The pads and tampons are still being purchased by Floto and former SA Chief of Staff Linda Shackles, who deliver them to Facilities once a week for stocking in bathrooms across campus. Floto believes the novelty of the free tampons and pads contributed to high usage in the first few weeks of the initiative. "Students get excited when a free service is being provided to them," he said, "and, therefore, will take more supplies in the early weeks." Fewer baskets have been stolen or thrown out, as well. Four baskets went missing in the first week of the initiative, compared to just one basket

SEE **PADS** PAGE 3

Senator Seeks to Improve International Student Life

By **DAVID SCHILDKRAUT**
NEWS EDITOR

Despite UR's attempts to welcome the about 23 percent of undergraduate who've come from abroad to study here, many of those students are left feeling disconnected from some aspects of campus life. Students' Association (SA) Senator Beatriz Gil—a sophomore from Barcelona—is trying to address these concerns through her International Students Project. Since October, Gil has been working on developing the framework for this project to be implemented. The International Students Project involves the creation of a committee of students who will discuss and work

on several subprojects as well as listen to and address the concerns of current international students. The committee, which Gil hopes will be formed within the coming week, will consist of 25-30 international students, a representative from each endorsing student organization, and a representative from the University administration. Subcommittees will be formed to work on each subproject, and work will be consolidated via Google Drive. She cited her training to be a Writing Fellow as inspiration for the project. "I am a Writing Fellow," Gil said. "During the class our final project was targeting international students. I was trying to find out why a lot of

international students don't like going to the Writing Center and what problems its has." Gil has identified nine subprojects for the committee to address over the coming year. **From Getting Here** "From the beginning, I felt like things were lacking or could be done better," Gil said of when she first arrived on campus. "When we arrived, for example, as an international student, we weren't received by anybody. But when everyone, national students arrived, they were received by the whole community." Gil is looking to work with the D'Lions and Residential Advisor program to give

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YIYUN HUANG / PHOTO EDITOR

CALF COMES TO CAMPUS

A calf came to campus Thursday as part of Local Foods Week. The calf was located outside Sue B.

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

Power Outage in Dewey (1)

APRIL 23 - DPS and facilities investigated the cause of a power outage in Dewey Hall.

Items Stolen in Wilder (2)

APRIL 25—A student reports items taken from room in Wilder tower.

Fire Near Gilbert (3)

APRIL 25—A fire in the mulch outside Gilbert hall was extinguished.

Damaged Door at Theta Chi (4)

APRIL 25—Unknown persons damaged a door inside the Theta Chi House.

Belongings Stolen from Starbucks (5)

APRIL 26—A student reported belongings taken from Starbucks while they were left unattended.



MAP COURTESY OF UR COMMUNICATIONS

Information provided by the Department of Public Safety.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

TUESDAY | MAY 2

STUDENT DEGREE LECTURE RECITAL

CIMINELLI LOUNGE, 3:30 P.M.-5 P.M.
The Eastman School of Music presents the musical talents of Jeong-Eun Lee on the piano.

MOVIE: POSSESSION

DRYDEN THEATRE, 8 P.M.-9:30 P.M.
The Skalny Center for Polish and Central European Studies and the Dryden Theatre present the movie “Possession.”

WEDNESDAY | MAY 3

HUTCHINSON MEMORIAL LECTURES

HUTCH 473, 4 P.M.-6 P.M.
The Chemistry Department presents Kenneth D. Karlin’s talk on “Generation and Characterization of Primary Copper (I)-Dioxygen Adducts: A Bioninorganic Perspective.” Reception to follow.

1812 OVERTURE: LAST DAY OF CLASSES

EASTMAN QUAD, 5 P.M.-6 P.M.
Director of Orchestral Activities David Harman will be conducting his final performance with Tchaikovsky’s 1812 Overture. The performance will feature members of the Symphony and Chamber Orchestras, Wind Symphony, Brass Choir, the Carillon, and Dean of the College Richard Feldman as the cannoneer.

THURSDAY | MAY 4

BOOK SIGNING: KATHLEEN FRASER

BARNES AND NOBLE COLLEGE TOWN, 6 P.M.-7:30 P.M.
Kathleen Fraser, author of “Mourning and Milestones: Honoring Anniversaries, Birthdays, and Special Occasions after a Loved One Dies,” will be holding an interactive grief workshop and a book signing.

BURIED CHILD

TODD THEATER, 7 P.M.-9 P.M.
UR’s International Theatre Program presents its rendition of Sam Shepard’s Pulitzer-winning Buried Child.

FRIDAY | MAY 5

PORTRAIT IN FIVE SHADES

MAG, 7 P.M.-8:30 P.M.
Eastman senior Orlando Madrid’s Portrait in Five Shades will be performed as a tribute to the works of artist Mark Rothko.

EASTMAN-ROCHESTER PHILHARMONIA

KODAK HALL, 8 P.M.-10 P.M.
The Eastman Chorale, Eastman-Rochester Chorus, and Eastman Philharmonia will be performing the works of Brahms and Duruflé conducted by William Weinert and Miles Canaday.

If you are sponsoring an event that you wish to submit for the calendar, please email news@campustimes.org by Monday evening with a brief summary, including the date, time, location, sponsor, and cost of admission.

CORRECTIONS

A jump headline last issue misspelled the name of the Handler Scholarship as “Hankler.”

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Mayoral Candidates Vie for Votes at Town Hall



YIYUN HUANG / PHOTO EDITOR

Candidates for Rochester mayor speak to students and community members in Hoyt Auditorium Saturday.

By ANGELA LAI
PUBLISHER

Three candidates in Rochester’s upcoming mayoral race, Rachel Barnhart, James Sheppard, and Tony Micciche, described an impoverished Rochester as they argued why they were the best pick to revitalize the city at a town hall hosted by SA Government’s Department of Community Engagement.

Sophomore and Executive Director of Community Engagement Justin Delinois organized the town hall with Milagros Garcia, the Rochester Center for Community Leadership (RCCL), and others. Delinois was frustrated that UR’s Office of Government and Community Relations told him to frame it as an event for students, as he had hoped to reach out to and engage with Rochester community members.

UR didn’t want an event that seemed too political since it’s a private, non-profit university, he and Glenn Cerosaletti, Assistant Dean of Students and RCCL Director, said.

But, Delinois asked, “When does encouraging the Rochester community to be active in the policies that govern them become taking a political stance?”

The organizers only invited Democratic candidates Barnhart, Sheppard, and incumbent Mayor Lovely

Warren to attend what Delinois envisioned as the first of multiple mayoral town halls. He explained that candidates from other parties weren’t invited because Rochester has been Democratic and the Democratic primary takes place on Sept. 12 of this year. The mayoral races for the other political parties are currently uncontested, so they will not have primaries.

I don’t want you to think that because I spent 30-something years in police work that defines who I am.

Warren was attending the Rochester Climate March and could not make the town hall. Micciche, the only Republican currently running for mayor of Rochester, was not initially invited but had expressed excitement for the event. Organizers were then happy to have him attend, as well.

Held in Hoyt Auditorium on Saturday, April 29, the day after Dandelion Day, the town hall saw sparse attendance from students and community members. Candidates gave opening statements before moderators asked prepared

questions, then opened the floor to the audience.

“I don’t want you to think that because I spent 30-something years in police work, that defines who I am,” said Sheppard, a Monroe County legislator and former Rochester police chief with 33 years of experience in the Rochester Police Department (RPD).

He emphasized his belief that police serve the community, not the government, and said that a countywide school district would help answer the Rochester City School District’s (RCSD) many problems.

Barnhart and Micciche also lamented the current state of RCSD. The candidates all highlighted Rochester’s poverty and looked to job growth and bettering the school system as necessary steps for improving it.

Barnhart touted her 18 years of experience as a television journalist, saying that much of her work focused on holding the government accountable. Last year, she unsuccessfully ran for the state assembly.

She would “knock on every single door” to persuade people to choose RCSD schools, she said, and suggested that convincing parents to choose those schools would be easier if they felt they weren’t alone: “No one wants to experiment with their own kid, but what if we did it together?”

To help encourage job

growth and bring internet access to the city, she proposed a city fiber line network that would build on main, preexisting lines, holding that access to fiber internet would draw businesses.

Micciche, the only Republican at the town hall, said that there hasn’t been a Republican in this city since 1972. He drew on his unusual background throughout the town hall, explaining that he came from a very poor family and went through three foster homes.

“I’ve been on my own since 13,” he said. “I slept in cars.”

He recalled putting himself through high school, running a restaurant when he was 16 old, and starting a job at General Motors at age 18 and working there for 25 years. His experience with business and manufacturing, he argued, uniquely prepared him to address the city’s problems.

Overall, Barnhart, Sheppard, and Micciche described a city in need of drastic change. Micciche characterized Rochester schools as failing and underscored the need for drastic measures. Sheppard pointed to high rates of poverty and low attendance in schools. Barnhart highlighted high unemployment and a need for school desegregation.

They spoke of Rochester as a city that had once been incredibly vital and was not living up to its potential.

Lai is a member of the Class of 2018.

Initiative on Track

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per week thereafter.

“If this program becomes permanent, Facilities will be the one to order the supplies,” Floto said, explaining that this would simplify the logistics of the initiative.

SA Government is currently in the process of meeting with Facilities, which is also investigating the cost of ordering tampons in bulk.

Long-term funding of the initiative would be a joint effort between Facilities, the administration, and SA Government.

Floto confirmed that, pending approval from the other parties, SA Government does hope to make the free tampons and pads a permanent fixture of campus life.

Passanisi is a member of the Class of 2017.

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Yom Hashoah Spent With a ‘Walk to Remember’

By SAM PASSANISI
SENIOR STAFF

Their words belied the sunny Monday weather.

“As we commemorate Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, we take time to remember,” the two students at the front of the line read. One of them was Alpha Epsilon Pi (AEPi) Fraternity brother and sophomore Brian Schonfeld, who was in charge

We shall never forget those who perished because we will promise to remember.

of organizing the Walk to Remember this year.

Yom Hashoah means “Day of the Holocaust” in Hebrew, and it’s also the date of AEPi’s annual Walk to Remember event.

“It’s an national walk that every chapter in AEPi puts on,” Schonfeld explained later. “Obviously Yom Hashoah is

an annual event, not just here at UR, but [...] around the world, and definitely across the States.”

About twenty-five students participated in the march, most of them members of AEPi or the co-sponsoring sororities, Phi Sigma Sigma and Kappa Alpha Theta. They circled the Eastman Quad at a stately pace before proceeding to the Hajim Quad, then circling back to the Eastman Quad again, starting and ending at the statue of George Eastman.

“We remember the six million Jews, including 1.5 million children, exterminated in the Holocaust. We remember that each of them had a name. Their tragic deaths ended their vibrant lives, that made them more than a number,” the leaders read.

They circled back to the ends of the lines, and the next pair took their places, listing other groups and their suffering.

“We shall never forget those who perished because we will promise to remember.”

The walk was unassuming—solemn, respectful, but without pomp or showiness. The small group of students simply recited the passages over and over as they traversed campus for half an hour, handing out flyers to those passers-by who would take one.

Schonfeld, who had read from



Students participate in the Walk to Remember Monday to remember the millions killed by the Nazis during the Holocaust.

Holocaust survivor and author Elie Wiesel’s “Night” at the start of the walk, said the walk is intended to raise awareness

as well as to memorialize.

“We must never forget what had happened back in those camps,” he said. “We don’t want this ever to happen again. It’s sort of unfathomable.”

Passanisi is a member of the Class of 2017.

International Students Yay!

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international students the same welcome as domestic students, as well as have them encourage international students to get involved more on campus.

She envisions large-scale changes in international student orientation.

“When I wrote this, I was thinking more about the session that they explain to you how Americans behave,” Gil said. “I understand that the intention is to help you to integrate better but sometimes how it comes off, it was more like, ‘This is how Americans behave. This is how you have to behave.’ My goal with that was to have a combined thing [with] international students and national students. So I’m trying to get it instead of targeting a certain group, having both groups and having them explain to each other how they both are and how they are portrayed.”

Gil hopes that her project will review and improve International Services Office (ISO)’s mentorship program for international students, as well as set up an email system for international student applicants to communicate with current UR international students from their home country to ask questions about life at UR and college in general.

To Getting Involved

Despite a nearly 80 percent international student involvement rate in extracurriculars as of April

The International Students Project is expected to begin work over the summer.

17, Wilson Commons Student Activities (WCSA) reports that only 12% of the over 1,300 students on organization e-boards are international students.

When taking a look at Greek Life, this number drops even further. WCSA data shows that just under 7 percent of the nearly 1,000 students in fraternities and sororities are international students.

Gil wants to increase both of these numbers so more international students are involved in both Greek Life and leadership positions on campus.

One such initiative in the works is a poster project to feature international students in leadership positions.

“It’s going to be something that every single student will be able to see,” Gil said. “It will be showing the faces of

international students that hold leadership positions on campus, where people may not know that they’re necessarily international students. When the new incoming freshman class comes in [...] they can reach out to them.”

Gil anticipates that this poster initiative will be rolled out early this fall and that it will encourage international students to get more involved in organizations they are a part of.

Greek organizations will be teaming up with cultural organizations and interest floors so that each group has a few members attend each other’s events.

“So far our organization will be involved in increased co-sponsorships of events that showcase international

‘It’s going to be something every single student will be able to see.’

student groups,” Alpha Delta Phi president and junior Jeremy Staffa said.

Alpha Delta Phi is one of seven Greek organizations to endorse Gil’s initiative.

To Life as a Student

The last of the subprojects focuses on academics. In the

‘This plan will also open up more opportunities to international students.’

end, it all came back to the Writing Fellows.

“Most concerns were about grammar,” Gil said of her research when training to be a Writing Fellow. “When it comes to grammar, it comes to the essay itself. Finding techniques of what mistakes you are making, and going through to paper and try to search for those things, and see the student realizes. If this is the concern, what ways can we find that will be helpful?”

The changes to the Writing Center’s offerings would stem from the feedback of international students and potentially extend beyond just helping with grammar. While the Writing Fellows cannot directly change the paper due to academic honesty concerns, Gil feels that that will not impede their ability to be a

useful resource for international students, especially when it comes to grammar.

In addition to this, Gil is facilitating the creation of an international student club which will serve as an organization for international students who may not have a corresponding cultural organization on campus.

Organizations on Board

As of midday Sunday, twelve organizations had endorsed the International Students Project. The organizations range from fraternities like Sigma Phi Epsilon to the Music Interest Floor to cultural organizations like Spanish and Latino Students’ Expressing Rhythm on Stage.

“As the largest cultural group on campus, we have resources that she might need in completing these plans, and we could also see the direct benefit for our members and all international students,” Chinese Students’ Association President and junior Yiran Shan said. “This plan will also open up more opportunities to international students in terms of their social life and potentially other aspects as well.”

The International Students Project is expected to begin work over the summer, with the first of its subprojects being implemented toward the beginning of fall semester.

Schildkraut is a member of the Class of 2020.

OPINIONS

EDITORIAL OBSERVER

Ratings Over Rationality



By **TREVOR WHITESTONE**
SPORTS EDITOR

Political discourse has gotten an increasingly thorny reputation as of late. The idea of speaking to someone with opposing views on the current administration prompts avoidance among most people. If one already fears interpersonal conflict due to these conversations, they’re certainly not likely to want to partake given a high possibility of reaching a dead end of stubborn insistence on falsehoods.

It’s one thing to have grievances with an idea, whether one sees it as mildly disagreeable or morally forfeit. But there’s zero point in having a discussion with someone who repeatedly makes egregiously false statements—such discussions serve to foster zero fresh ideas and only to engender frustration.

Take CNN’s roundtable discussions involving analysts such as Jeffrey Lord and Kaylee McEnany. In late March, Lord added to the increasingly bizarre vernacular regarding President Trump’s statements when he said that the president didn’t lie but, in fact, spoke “Americaneese,” at the same table as respected figures such as Anderson Cooper and Jim Acosta.

The idea of not only allowing but ensuring that those with differing viewpoints participate in discourse is a time-tested one. It is also central to the ever-increasing push for diversity by universities like UR.

I have felt the benefits of this heterogeneity of thought firsthand, as my most worthwhile political conversations have tended to occur with those more conservatively-minded than my liberal-leaning self. These discussions have allowed me to sharpen both my critical thinking and rhetorical skills, allowing me to better interpret world events with broadened perspective.

And the exact opposite of this effect occurs when a network appoints personnel to vouch for a president whose statements are mostly false or worse 69 percent of time, with 16 percent of his overall statements rating as “pants on fire,” according to Politifact.

Having conservative analysts is as vital an endeavor as ever with Republicans in charge of all three branches of the federal government, but countless conservative voices are being skipped over in favor of shameless Trump pawns who in all likelihood don’t believe half of the words out of their own mouths.

This only serves to give many viewers the impression that the right is entirely made up of abject liars, as opposed to informing them about actual policy issues. In this way, CNN and other networks aren’t doing any more to properly inform the public than the White House’s farce of a press team.

Despite focusing on the network in this column, I still receive notifications from CNN and check its app regularly, but it’s a joke that actual reporting is sandwiched between video clips of Lord calling Donald Trump “the Martin Luther King of healthcare.” In this case, the misinformation leads those attempting to have a legitimate understanding of the news to distrust the very same major outlets with the best access to that news.

The spread of ideas is as important as ever to a country that has been convinced to consider itself divided by recent events. These roundtable discussions could be showing the public how to engage in rational discourse across party lines, but all too often, they end up as shouting matches that rival the toxic masculinity of ESPN daytime programs.

Granted, there’s a rational way to debate anything, sports included, but politics is as much of a cagematch as its presenters enable it to be. When networks market presidential debates like heavyweight title matches, they are setting up the audience to expect traded jabs between the participants instead of measured discussion.

After all, who wouldn’t root for the underdog fighter who’s not afraid to get down and dirty against the arrogant veteran who assumes victory will be handed to them? Trump’s portrayal by the media essentially urged viewers to see the son of a multimillionaire real estate mogul in the same spirit as Rocky Balboa, casting Hillary Clinton as Apollo Creed.

Personally, I don’t know of many people who were saddened by Apollo Creed’s loss to Rocky, and that makes it all the easier to see why people identified with Trump.

No, it’s not the fault of one debate ad or one network, but the general attitude pervading how we present our politicians and how we cover political events as a whole is a gross disservice to the idea of rational discourse.

But the state of discourse is, like everything in entertainment, grossly exaggerated. Genuine hostility and shameless equivocation are far from inevitable in political dialogue and can be avoided in more situations than not given conscious effort. Or we could keep avoiding discourse like wildfire and let the misconceptions continue to spread.

Whitestone is a member of the Class of 2019.

EDITORIAL BOARD

A Step Forward for Dining

At the risk of simply weighing in on what is quite literally a matter of taste, the Editorial Board is encouraged by the planned changes in dining venues for the upcoming academic year.

Some will mourn the loss of dining mainstays Pura Vida, Blimpie, and Panda Express. But Dining Services proposed (and some already-installed!) replacements look to be marked improvements on several fronts, some of which are mentioned in an April 23 report in the Campus Times.

Peet’s Coffee, which has opened in Wegmans Hall, will offer much of what was available at Pura Vida. The real story is the as-yet-unnamed station that’ll set up shop in

Pura Vida’s spot in Goergen Hall. According to Dining Services, this new space will be a spot for healthy, customizable salads and grain bowls with a Chipotle-style ordering model. As for Panda Express and Blimpie, these national brands

This is a positive step towards a healthier, more sustainable dining system for UR students.

will be replaced by home-grown stations that will serve similar food in addition to new options. The difference is that these new dining options will function without the menu restrictions or extra costs associated with national chains.

Most importantly, the new sub shop will significantly increase the use of local ingredients in its sandwiches.

Even if some aren’t pleased with the changes on a taste-basis, we see these changes as a positive development. If it shows anything, it’s that Dining Services is taking student input seriously, translating feedback into action.

This is positive step towards a healthier, more sustainable dining system for UR students.

There are still issues to discuss in regards to Dining Services. In the future, for example, we hope to one day see Dining Services end its relationship with Aramark, a company that retains deep ties to the private prison industry.

Leading on Campus, SA or Otherwise

As the spring semester winds down and summer beckons, the newly initiated members of the Students’ Association (SA) have gotten to work preparing for the fall. With that, we wish them luck.

But in the meantime, it’s crucial that the student body continues to get involved in campus activism in a way that doesn’t necessarily involve holding an official position within SA. There are areas of campus life that you can be involved in more effectively than through the trudging legislative process.

First and foremost among those, and also the most directly related to SA, is to volunteer on one of the various committees. You can help by benchmarking SA projects against similar efforts at other schools. This can be

done through being a legislative aid for a committee member, or even applying to be an executive director for one of the committees. Another option is to apply to be an executive aid for SA.

Simply making appointments with people in SA and articulating your point of view can make an impact. They can put you in contact with the right administrators for your issue.

But there are many other leadership opportunities outside of SA. One of the most prominent is the Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence. The Institute offers programs, like where students can go on Alternative Spring Break or volunteer in off-campus volunteer efforts. They offer the Gandhi Service Fellowship Program, which attempts to show students through a year-long in-

ternship how social justice and nonviolence can interact.

Another place of involvement is the Rochester Center for Community Leadership (RCCL). RCCL has a program that combine taking academic classes with real-life leadership work called Citation for Achievement in College Leadership. This citation can be added onto your transcript, and all you need to do is to take a class that focuses on preparing students for leadership, and then following up with a practical application of the what was learned in the class in a leadership program.

Causing a positive change on our campus is certainly not an easy task, but with perseverance and a little bit of creativity it can be done. All that’s needed is the will to do so.

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 (A&E 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.

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OP-ED

If Money is All That You Love

By SAM PASSANISI

I’ve never personally had a bad travel experience with United Airlines. Until last month, I had nothing bad to say about the company. Now, though, I kind of do.

What happened with United Airlines last month, in case you don’t remember, is that a private security officer beat up a doctor and dragged him off a plane before takeoff, while it was sitting on the tarmac.

When you put it that way, it sounds abjectly evil, the sort of thing a caricature of an big, bad corporation would do. Naturally, though, there were extenuating circumstances.

The full story is that on April 9, United Airlines had overbooked a Sunday afternoon flight from Chicago to Louisville—it’s standard practice in the airline industry, so they don’t lose money on empty seats when people don’t show up to fly. Not enough people had cancelled, so there were too many people booked for the flight, which is still a common scenario. In that case, the airline’s next step is to offer incentives for people who agree to take a later flight.

If you have a little leeway in your travel plans, this is usually a pretty sweet deal.

On this flight, for some reason, they’d gotten all the passengers on board before starting to offer bids, which was unusual, but not outrageous. And for United Airlines, the bottom line was that they absolutely had to get four passengers off this flight, so they could fly four of their own personnel to Louisville to meet a deadline. So four passengers were selected by computer to be kicked off the flight, and one of them refused on the grounds that he was a doctor and had to get to Louisville to see patients.

The rest you can see if you look up videos of the incident, which show the doctor being dragged forcibly from the plane—his glasses knocked askew, his shirt pulled up, and blood leaking from his mouth.

Now, airlines have a large

degree of autonomy in removing passengers, with good reason. In this case, though, the passenger wasn’t disturbing anyone or endangering anyone. He was just trying to get to Louisville.

For lots of people—rightfully, I think—their gut reaction was horror. But others came down on the side of United Airlines. “Of course it’s awful that he was beat up, and the airline used too much force, but it’s within their rights to remove him from the plane.”

Others are even more pro-corporation, blaming the pas-

Somebody , or perhaps multiple people, weighed the prospect of hurting a customer against the prospect of losing money, and decided that the latter was worse.

senger for his “stupid” behavior and defending the airline for doing what they had to do to keep their schedule.

That’s a line of reasoning that I object to very strongly. People who make that argument seem to think they’re arguing for common sense and economic pragmatism—the needs of United Airlines’ employees and shareholders outweigh the needs of one passenger.

On the surface that sounds reasonable, but only on the surface. Their argument actually says this: if you get in the way of corporate profits, prepare to be run over.

I’ve also heard the argument that, while United Airlines created a bad situation by overbooking the flight, they had no choice but to remove the doctor from the plane. That’s simply untrue. United Airlines stopped the bidding at either \$800—according to other passengers—or \$1,000, according to their own records. Had they really wanted to remove four passengers from the plane with-

out incident, they could have kept bidding the price higher. It could have gotten expensive, but that’s the risk they’re assuming when they overbook their flights.

Recall that the entire incident came about because United Airlines needed to transport four of their own employees to Louisville. Had they really wanted to avoid resorting to violence, United could have put those employees on another flight, or even sent them by car or bus. Again, it would have been expensive, but it would have prevented someone from getting beaten up.

If United Airlines had those two options open to them, why would they elect to beat up a passenger and remove him from the flight?

The answer is the most messed up part of the whole affair: they did it because it saved them money. Probably not in the long run, of course—the total value of United Airlines stock dropped more than \$700 million in the week following the incident—but it seemed like it was going to save them money at the time. Somebody, or perhaps multiple people, weighed the prospect of hurting a customer against the prospect of losing money, and decided that the latter was worse.

For what it’s worth, I do understand that United Airlines is not a single entity. I realize that the decisions leading up to last weekend’s incident were made by individual people looking out for their own jobs, and not by some Nastian caricature of a robber baron. I understand, too, that corporations aren’t the evil monoliths we sometimes make them out to be. Insofar as I have a horse in the race of economics, it’s usually capitalism.

But I also know I don’t want to live in a culture where it’s acceptable for corporations to use violence against customers to protect their own finances. If corporations are going to be people, it’s time for them to grow up and start acting like it.

Passanisi is a member of the Class of 2017.

ARE YOU LITERATE?

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OPINIONS@CAMPUSTIMES.ORG

UR OPINION

BY VENNELA PANDARABOYINA & YIYUN HUANG

OPINIONS EDITOR & PHOTO EDITOR

“WHAT ARE YOU MOST EXCITED ABOUT THIS SUMMER?”

KAMEL AWAYDA, '20

“Going to Lebanon.”

NICHOLAS KOCHAN, '17

“The Congress to pass research funding.”

RACHEL GOODMAN, '20

“I’m excited to read books for fun.”

JESSICA WEISSMAN, '20

“I’m going to Amsterdam and London.”

MARIA SEPULVEDA, '18

“Camping in Maine.”

ROBERT NICHOLAS '18

“Golfing at my Country Club.”

FEATURES

Little Box Takes City Music Scene Underground

By JULIANNE MCADAMS
SENIOR STAFF

On the walls, in a house on a street nearby, are several stolen directory signs.

You know which ones I mean. The gray ones hanging at the entry floor of every building on campus. Hanging on the kitchen wall is a square sign that says, “Kitchen.”

In the basement, there’s a sign that was clearly snagged from Todd Union. It reads: “round Floor;” “Cam us Mai enter;” “Wom ‘s R om;” “Internat eatre Program.”

By the entrance there’s another, even more altered: “Floomp 4.” There are several pieces of white paper taped over the directory, with new additions written in Sharpie: “Center for Study Albums and Interdepartmental Floomp-ing;” “Black Lives Matter.”

On Floomp 1, you can find the “Center for Bands and Musicianship” and the “We don’t have any books down here b/c basement.”

This is my first time attending a show at The Little Box. That’s what they call it, these four guys whose home doubles as a concert venue for local and traveling bands.

I came for a benefit show in February that raised about \$300 for Planned Parenthood. After President Donald Trump’s “Muslim Ban,” The Little Box also raised about \$250 to go toward Cair-New York, an organization that supports American Muslims.

Most of the time, the donation bucket goes toward paying the traveling artists.

Because of their precarious position as four college kids running a do-it-yourself concert venue from their basement, I’ll be using The Little Box owners’ DJ names, which are senior DJ Disco Gravy, DJ Boxy Grandpa ‘15, and seniors DJ Door Man and DJ Music in the Basement (DJ MIB).

“It’s kind of been more like a beg for forgiveness more than ask for permission kind of deal,” DJ Disco Gravy said of their underground operation.

“I should have come up with a DJ name a long time ago,” DJ MIB, who came up with his disco name for the purposes of this story, said.

At 9:10 p.m., the music starts.

“Fuck Donald Trump!” one of the performers shouts. Apollo 11, the band, is playing.

There’s a banjo. Some Johnny Cash and Bob Dylan covers.

The music happens, as DJ MIB’s name would suggest, in the basement. There are Christmas lights hanging from the low ceiling, a red drum kit, and a washer and dryer. The room is filled with people, and there is a random pile of firewood stacked against the back wall, which I will later stand on to see better.

I see a Genessee Beer can in one of the tangles of lights.

Upstairs, the living room walls are covered in posters and album covers. There are some large house plants, which are named Susan B. Planthony and Swaggy P, respectively.

“The P is for Plant,” Disco Gravy tells me.

A cloud of smoke hangs in one corner. Nearby, there’s an old advertisement taped to a closed door that reads, “Is your washroom breeding Bolsheviks?”

The idea for The Little Box isn’t a new one. Disco Gravy, Boxy Grandpa, MIB, and Door Man picked up where other students left off.

But Boxy Grandpa, who was involved with the old WRUR Radio House, said The Little Box feels a bit bigger.

“I guess we’ve sort of created something bigger than ourselves because we really don’t have to do much pro-

moting and people just kind of show up,” he said.

Disco Gravy agrees.

“Sometimes it’s just like, ‘who are you people? How did you find out about this?’” he said.

The Little Box’s Facebook page doesn’t list a street address. Other than some paper stickers and posters, they don’t advertise.

Instead, The Little Box gets its almost-monthly performances, and its crowd, by word-of-mouth and personal connections.

MIB has connections to several artists from New Hampshire, where he used to play in a band, and the house has earned a reputation in the DIY music scene of Rochester.

Tim Avery, who is known by many Rochesterians as the heart of Rochester’s music scene, has even referred artists searching for venues to The Little Box.

“It is a very welcoming and accepting place, and is a good part of the DIY music scene in Rochester I think,” said Rochester Institute of Technology junior Sabrina Nichols, who also performed for the Planned Parenthood benefit show.

“They have a lot of cool stuff on their walls that I spent a lot of time looking at. It’s a good box.”

“I think that house shows in general are really cool because there’s something about the barrier between being a person and being a performing musician,” MIB said. “People have this big idea that it’s like a separate thing, and when you do a show in a living room or a basement, it just breaks all that down.”

There are a lot of flannel shirts, dyed hair, piercings, and beanies. The music tonight fits the clothes.

I say, off-handedly, to senior Dean Smiros that one of the bands reminds me of another band I know.

“I don’t like to attribute any

vibe to anything I hear in this room,” Smiros says. I’m surprised. He continues. “I feel like nothing that can be here has a sense of professionalism and it makes it very hard to compare it to other types of music [...] I agree with you, but I don’t want to agree with you because of the context of where we are.”

Huh.

“I like to be analytical,” Smiros says, “but I don’t like to be analytical about something like this.”

MIB, who has been involved in the DIY house show scene since his freshman year, before The Little Box existed, echoed Smiros’ protectiveness of The Little Box as a space.

“This is the time more than ever where people can feel welcome and accepted [...] and just kind of get out of it,” he said about a show which took place the Friday after the presidential election. “The people thing is almost more important [than the music] to me.”

After the first band plays, MIB takes the mic.

He tells us to remember not to talk over the performers.

“This is a listening room,” MIB says.

Later in an interview, Dan told me the connection between audience and musician is important to him, a musician himself.

“One person talking can break like 30 people out of that connection.”

I asked Disco Gravy about what he hopes for The Little Box’s future. All of its members will continue to live in the house next year, after graduation.

“Just keep booking shows with good tunes, I guess? I don’t really know,” Disco Gravy said. “We could plant an herb garden. That would be nice. Maybe make some bread.”

The morning of our inter-

view, Disco Gravy periodically gets up to check his bread, which he is cooking from scratch in The Little Box’s oven.

The night I come to a show, he is also making bread.

“We’re just trying to give musicians a platform to get more people listening to their stuff, and just like more people knowing about them,” Disco Gravy said. “We’re doing it for the bands, we’re doing it for the music.”

Alternatively, MIB emphasized the value of the community The Little Box provides.

“Going to these kinds of shows when I was a freshman and a sophomore was so significant to me and growing into the human that I am today,” he said. “There’s definitely a huge part [...] that is just about being able to pay that forward to new kids coming in who haven’t experienced stuff like this. I want to be able to help other people have that transformative experience.”

The bands sings: “I’m too busy livin’ that I will never die.”

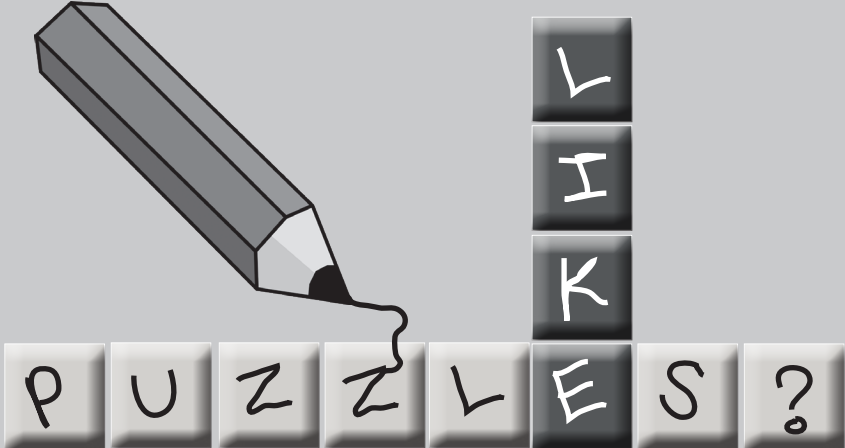
I’m standing next to a friend of mine who I dragged along. He is a freshman, and he’s never come to something like this, either.

Suddenly it’s like I’m standing in a montage of some coming-of-age indie movie from the 90’s: the drugs, the Genesee cans, the lights, colors, and the feeling of the crowd—it all fits.

Dean is balancing on some logs with me, barely avoiding hitting his head on a can stuck to the ceiling, and I decide to put away some of my early judgments.

I forget my running count of beanies and flannels and piercings, of collared, buttoned-up shirts, and I listen to the band play.

McAdams is a member of the class of 2017.

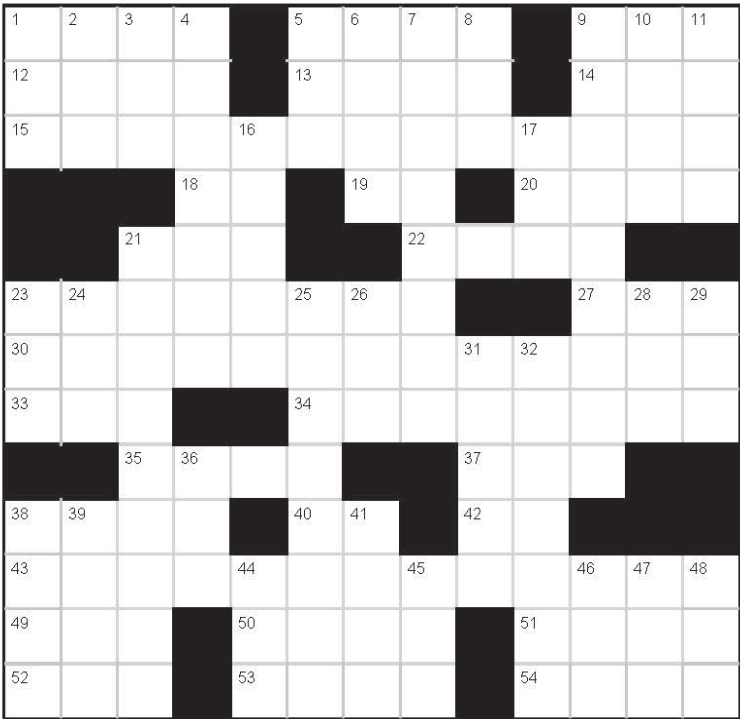


Make crosswords for the Campus Times!

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PUZZLES

EXTRA, EXTRA!



BY **ERIC FRANKLIN**
'17
DIFFICULTY **MEDIUM**

Across

1. Singular android

5. Greek deity of love
9. D.C. office whose negative report helped tank Obama-care repeal
12. Colloquial acquiescence
13. Fanatic fiddler?
14. Local org. for residence

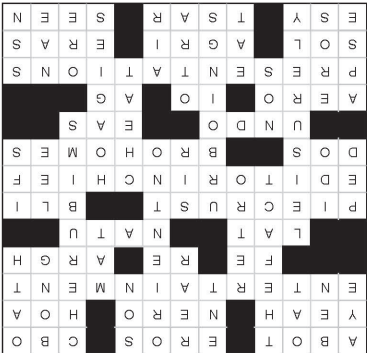
owners
15. Arts & _____
18. Iron
19. In reference to
20. "Confound it!"
21. Shoulder muscle, abbr.
22. Small Psychic/Flying Pokémon
23. Pastry shell
27. Swedish word meaning "become"
30. Journalistic jefe
33. "_____ and don'ts"
34. Fraternity residences?
35. Negate
37. Abbr. for course cross-listed with BME 101
38. British prefix with plane
40. Innermost Galilean moon
42. Silver
43. CT editor responsible for page layouts
49. Martian day
50. Prefix with culture
51. Periods
52. Suffix with court
53. Peter the Great, for one
54. Observed

Down

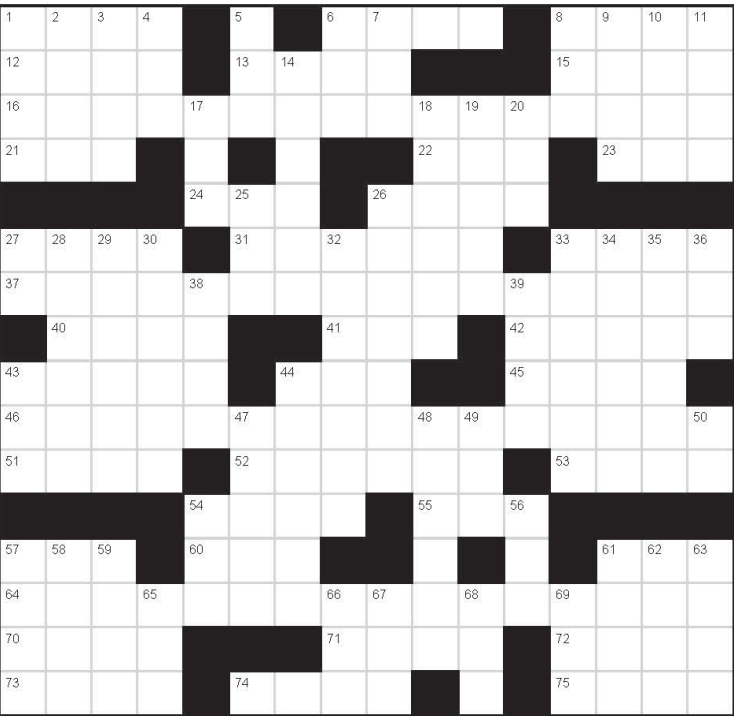
1. Affirmative vote
2. Carson or Franklin
3. Cereal grain
4. "_____ of the matter is..."
5. Fictional race to which Tolkien's Treebeard belongs
6. Aft
7. Align oneself poleward, abbr.
8. Isaac, to Abraham
9. Belonging to infantile angels
10. Important tool for many this past Friday
11. Promise
16. Throwback
17. Can be bath or welcome
21. Like a stroll through the park
23. Banned substance in sports
24. Groom's promise
25. Possible school pogo stick club, or a name for the annual spring porn?
26. Ian McKellan or Patrick Stewart
28. American brand of jeans
29. "No _____, ands or

but's!"
36. Numerals, abbr.
38. Architectural feature in many Gothic churches
39. An Athenian's Cupid
41. Peruvian "other"
44. Consume
45. Atmospheric contents
46. Miners' aim
47. Repeated twice, it makes half a dance
48. a Government-issued identification

This Week's
Answers



LESS-FAMOUS DUOS



BY **SAM PASSANISI**
'17
DIFFICULTY **HARD**

ACROSS:

1) Beginning of a long journey?
6) Promise
8) Tribulations, perhaps
12) Laughter in a mirror
13) Word on a door handle
15) Last refuge in a castle
16) Video game plumber with a window washer's tool?

21) Visitors from other worlds
22) Package delivery corp.
23) Chicago's O'Hare, on your ticket
24) Tax technician
26) Toward the bottom
27) Los Angeles air issue
31) Insomnia drug
33) Not much
37) Curved pasta that's infested with tiny bugs?
40) Shirt's armhole, to a tailor
41) "Goosebumps" author's

initials
42) Elementary skateboard trick
43) Injure with hot liquid
44) Tokyo, in olden days
45) Muslim prayer leader
46) Shakespearean character and his razor?
51) Space Tracking and Surveillance System, for short
52) Biological systems, briefly
53) Light-up beer sign, often
54) Rapper Snoop
55) Source of revenue for many websites
57) Automaton
60) Elemental ending
61) Women's suffrage champ.
64) Comedy legend with Cuban coffee?
70) Grey-brown horse color
71) Chicago's slugger Sammy
72) Scored high on
73) She of the d'Urbervilles
74) Spanish custard
75) Refrigeration units

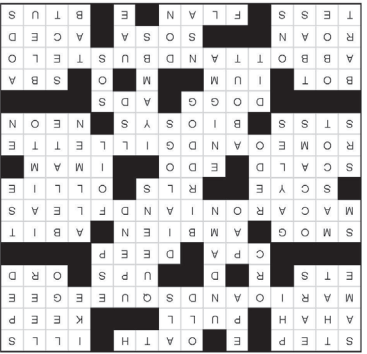
DOWN:

1) Equal
2) "To be, or not to be— _____ is the question:"
3) Listeners
4) Next after upsilon
5) Fed. nature watchers
6) No spring chicken

7) A.k.a. Lou Gehrig's disease
8) Likeable 34th president
9) Plastic building block
10) Creep's expression, maybe
11) Went fast
14) Remove from Hell?
17) Middle-earth baddie
18) NYC borough
19) Turn over
20) Sixth sense?
25) Kung-_____ chicken
26) Web design elements (e.g. pop-up windows)
27) Clothing size for the not-as-large
28) Sports team's costumed goof
29) Philosophical razor?
30) Belonging to "CBS This Morning" host King
32) Retriever, setter, or pointer
33) "_____ are mortal" (as a logical proposition)
34) Fail to arrive on time
35) Statement of intent?
36) x2, an African biting fly
38) Take another stab at
39) Aluminum wrap for leftovers
43) Old folks (or Spanish men) for short
44) Nazi code machine
47) Regarding
48) Metric feet for Popeye?
49) Flower-child's psyche-

delic
50) Prefix for danger and cyclopedia
54) Morse code sound
56) Emergency message using six of 54 Down?
57) San Francisco's subway
58) Woodwind instrument
59) Not-yet-filled slots on the calendar
61) Religious subgroup
62) Stinky type of cheese?
63) Alcohol and Other Drugs Studies, abbr.
65) Opposite of offs
66) Govt. surveillance org.
67) Mafia boss' title?
68) Oman neighbor and OPEC member
69) Bar patron's running total

This Week's
Answers



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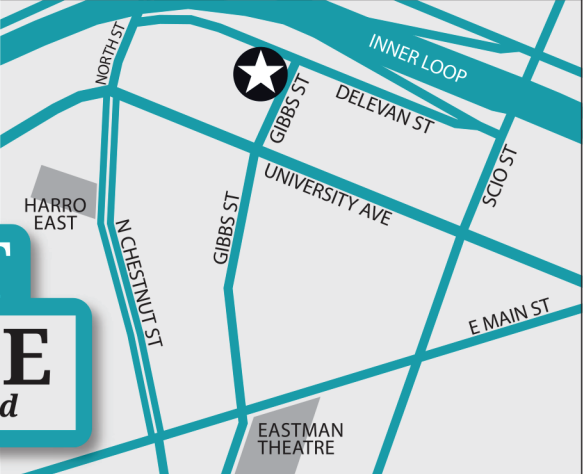
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HUMOR

Trump’s Unofficial First 100 Days

By ERIC FRANKLIN
HUMOR EDITOR

This past Saturday, Donald Trump reached the first major milestone of his presidency, the 100th day of his administration. Analyses across the media have been taking stock of what he has accomplished (and what he has notably failed at accomplishing) in this first litmus test of presidential success or failure.

But despite many outlets characterizing his tenure so far as an unusually unproductive, divisive, and crisis-ridden, Trump has been largely successful in fulfilling most of his “unofficial” first-100-days checklist.

So while we may differ on most policy points, personal opinions, and our overall philosophy of life and the nature of reality, I am nothing if not fair, so I will give credit where credit is due and recognize him for fulfilling his unofficial goals:

1. Covering the entire interiors of the White House and Mar-a-Lago in gold: Trump’s first budget proposal includes \$54 billion in spending cuts, all of which would be funneled into increased spending for defense and national security budgets. These moves have been criticized even by Trump’s Secretary of Defense, who said, “If you don’t fund the State Department fully, then I need to buy more ammunition.” But what the fake news losers don’t know that Trump does is that gold, as the most beautiful metal, is therefore also the strongest, and so the best way to provide for national security is to encase Trump (who’s basically the entire nation, or at least the part of it that matters) entirely in gold, and so Trump has rightly and successfully taken that \$54 billion from the whiny, entitled masses and spent it on what he and his supporters love most—himself.

2. Make a friend: Being Donald Trump is lonely—he has so few true peers that it’s hard for anyone to relate with him as an equal and truly be his friend. Most people only want to know him to try and use him for their own power or gain. Fortunately, there is another spoiled man-child who had everything given to him by his dad and whose actions frequently cause outside observers to speculate about the state of his mental health. The only thing preventing Trump from befriendng him earlier was that he didn’t have fancy enough toys to play with him yet, but now he and Kim Jong Un can play with their toy ships and nuclear weapons, make up the rules to their own

games, then argue with each other when one of them breaks the rules. Already in his first 100 days, Trump has finally gotten to experience the ordinary childhood he couldn’t as a kid. Let’s just hope he doesn’t throw too big of a temper tantrum in the years to come.

3. Officially adding “bigly” to the English language: This was one of the few unofficial goals at which Trump failed, despite extensive lobbying efforts aimed at the Oxford English Dictionary ahead of its March update with over 500 new words. Advisors are calling it a learning experience, however, as the President learned valuable lessons during his crusade, such as the fact that neither Oxford nor English are American-owned entities.

4. Ensuring that he has the biggest hands in the United States government: While many in the lamestream media have derided the President for leaving “hundreds of appointed positions” unfilled in his first 100 days, what they fail to note is that this is actually indicative of the success of Trump’s new “extreme vetting” hiring policy. “Many politicians on both sides of the aisle have stressed the importance of doing things right, rather than fast,” said Sean Spicer, Trump’s press secretary. “The extreme vetting of presidential appointees is an example of that principle in practice.” This “extreme vetting” involves every candidate for appointed office coming to the Oval Office and placing their hand against Trump’s, who then make it to the next round of consideration if their hand is smaller than the president’s. This policy also explains the dearth of women in Trump’s administration.

5. Pooping in every White House toilet: What most people don’t know about Donald Trump is that his shit (literally and metaphorically) is more important than anyone else’s in the world. This was one of his primary motivations for running for president, and he intended to prove himself right by erasing all memory of President Obama’s shit and replacing it with his own. He accomplished this despite both his fear of stairs and the fact that more than half of the White House’s toilets reside in women’s bathrooms or are urinals. Factors that helped him accomplish his goal included pretending the women’s bathrooms were backstage changing areas for beauty queens backstage at the Miss Universe Pageant, as well as a medical condition known as “constantly being full of shit.”

Franklin is a member of the Class of 2017.

D-Day Outdoes D-Day

By NOAH LEIBOWITZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This past Friday, students at the University experienced an event even more catastrophic than the storming of Normandy Beach—Dandelion Day. According to official analyses, 425,000 casualties and widespread destruction along the French coast pale in comparison to 2017’s D-Day.

Rochester’s History, Biology, Math, and Environmental Engineering departments have released a statement saying that D-Day 2017 was “a complete catastrophe that will live in infamy. An all-out beer blitzkrieg beyond comparison.”

A member of the Student Programming Board (SPB), who preferred to remain anonymous, recalled the events.

“The Wilson Quad was quiet until 8:00 a.m., and that’s when it happened. A distant rumble suddenly became an overwhelming earthquake when a barrage of students seized the quad.”

The SPB member described

students as “belligerently fearless, with wide eyes and an insatiable desire to hold ducks at the petting zoo.”

He recounted the ferris wheel launching inebriated and flailing students into the sky.

The on-campus food trucks exacerbated the disaster.

“Students reached the Wilson Quad, already geared up for the onslaught of D-Day festivities. But when they spotted Abbott’s Frozen Custard, their most animalistic of instincts kicked in,” one official said. “They voraciously grappled with each other in an all-out battle to get their hands on a chocolate-vanilla swirl. It was a true conflict between man and machine, student and custard truck.”

That official, who is familiar with the internal planning of D-Day, added that next year’s Abbott’s truck will be replaced with Chipotle.

“If we can’t stop the destruction, we can at least add guacamole to it,” they said.

Environmental engineers from UR examined the site

and surveyed the damage. On the Wilson Quad, one professor stopped at a smashed Genesee can on the ground.

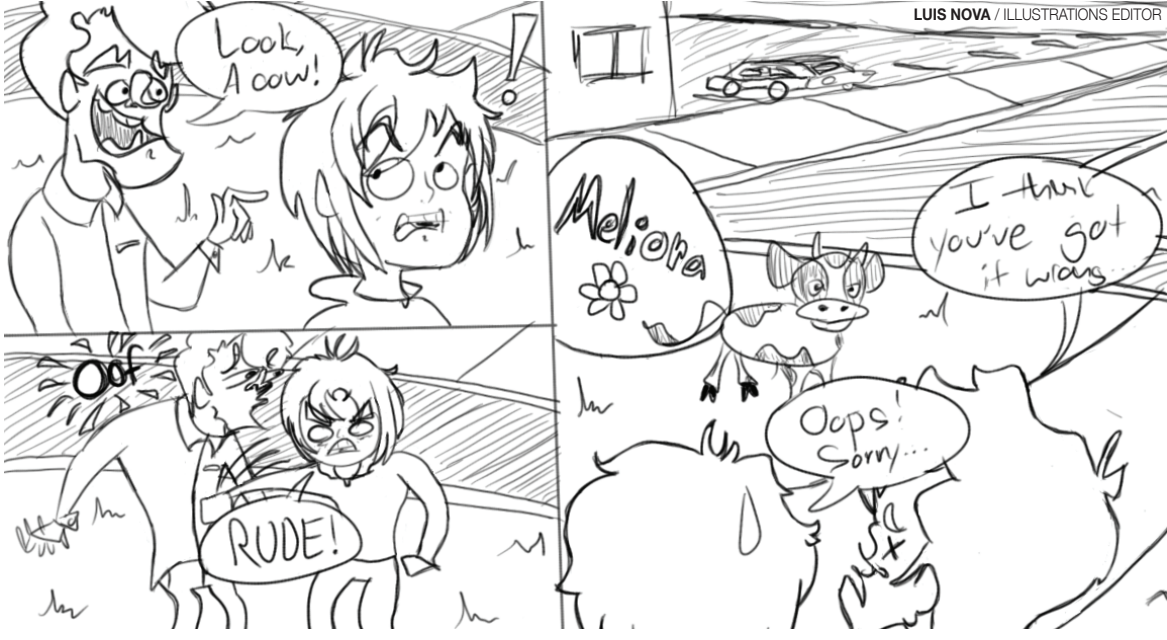
“When an explosion happens in a battlefield, that’s the end. There’s no evidence, just dust and scorch marks, maybe a stray limb. What happened yesterday is different,” he said, picking up the can. “This here is tangible evidence of the mass, unmatched destruction of a UR D-Day.”

He also pointed out the multiple pools of vomit on the quad.

“When you’re dead from war that’s it. But when you’re hungover, that’s when you wish you were dead. We would’ve been lucky if this was Normandy.”

“Dude, this year was sick. That’s insane!” said sophomore Timothy Tandoreau when informed of the University’s official conclusions. “I can only hope next year outdoes the Battle of the Somme.”

Leibowitz is a member of the Class of 2019.



Confessions of a Javelineer

By SIOBHÁN SEIGNE
HUMOR STAFF

“Nicolas Cage is the one true god.”

“I am sooooo sore.”

“Oh this, it’s just a stress fracture. I’ll be back at practice next week.”

“What did you think of the workout today?”

“Roast.”

If you couldn’t tell by now, I’m a member of the track team. But I’m not just any member of the track team. Yes, I participate in running aimlessly in an oval. However, I have a talent that you might not ever guess just by looking at me. (For those of you that don’t know me, despite my complex in which I think of myself as a hulking giant I reluctantly compare myself to others as an angry, yappy Scottish terrier). I’m a javelin thrower.

Yes, you read that right. I

throw a spear. Basically, I’m a killing machine, or so other people would think I am. I’m here to tell you that this epithet is far from the truth, unless by killing machine you mean that my chances of dying are far higher than the average person.

The first thing you learn at javelin practice is how to properly retrieve your javelin. You should always approach the javelin from the side. If you approach your javelin head-on you might slip and impale yourself. I’m not kidding. And what’s most ironic is that the part of a javelin sticking out of the ground, the opposite end from the spear tip, is actually pointier. All it takes is a lackadaisical skip, subsequent slip, and bam—impaled. Fatality. Or serious organ damage. You might need a splenectomy.

The assumption is often made that I could pick off people in the distance with my

spear-throwing ability. That is also hardly truthful. I’m really not sure how the Greeks did it. I would say the time I feel least in control of my body is when I’m throwing javelin. I’m not sure what I’m channeling when I throw but after seeing pictures of myself, carnal rage might be an accurate description. So, I’m certainly not capable of hitting a target. Perhaps the Greeks, like me, just threw blindly into space. I could probably clear up all of my questions with a short Google search, but I kind of like the scene of chaos and destruction playing in my head right now.

If you were really concerned, you could throw a pity party for the countless worms that have no doubt fallen at the hand of my spear, but I don’t really much care about worms, or animals, or people for that matter.

Seigne is a member of the Class of 2019.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Gorillaz Evolve with ‘Humanz’

By ISABEL DRUKKER
A&E EDITOR

Did you forget about the the Gorillaz? Because don’t worry—their first album in seven years will remind you who they are, what they’re about, and why they’re who you should be listening to.

This new album, “Humanz,” kills it with unique and precise collabs, virtual 360 music videos, and a single that’s topped the alt music radio charts since its first week. “We Got the Power” sits on the brink of sappy, but honestly who doesn’t dig the vocals by *Savages’* Jehnny Beth?

For those who

missed out, the Gorillaz



LUIS NOVA / ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

put out music in the early 2000s as a virtual hip-hop group. The faces of the band include 2-D on the keys, Russell as the drummer, Murdock as the crew leader and bassist, and Noodle, a ten-year old Japanese guitar player.

The four animated characters **Don’t worry-- their first album in seven years will remind you who they are...**

ters are illustrated by animator Jamie Hewlett, who worked with co-creator Damon Albarn, from Blur (anyone else remember that “whooo-ooooo” song?). Their early hits included “Feel Good Inc.,” “Dirty Harry,” and “Clint Eastwood.” The music videos paired with their songs include driving through a war-torn desert, fighting enormous villains, or dancing around a giant singing human head. They rely heavily on the theme of being transported somewhere unreal, magical, and nightmarish. Of-

tentimes, characters end up waking up to return to their mundane reality.

The Gorillaz continue this way with their 360 music video for “Saturnz Barz,” which

Oftentimes, characters end up waking up to return to their mundane reality.

truly re-introduces us to the band. Chris Plante from “The Verge” compared them to a modern Scooby-Doo gang, except when this group of friends meet their monsters, they’re far from safe. Rather, they’re suffocated, drowned, and sent into space—pretty much all at the same time. A non-360 version is available as well, which if you’re anything like me, is helpful because it can help you from accidentally looking at a wall for half the video.

Out twenty-four hours before Trump’s 100th in-office,

day fice, the

underlying political tone of the album and it’s paired videos are im-

possible to ignore. From the bonus track, “Ticker-Tape”: “Cause we’re working through it/ Working through your nightmare [...] Working through the night shift,” followed by breaking glass in the next track. The video for “Hallelujah Money” features the track’s lead singer Benjamin Clementine singing from Trump Tower. If the song title and lyrics (“If this be the end, then so shall it be”) don’t convey the song’s meaning clearly enough, the horror movie imagery helps drive the point home.

And if that didn’t do it, it ends with a recognizable scream from your childhood friend SpongeBob.

The video for ‘Hallelujah Money’ features the track’s lead singer Benjamin Clementine singing from Trump Tower.

Part of the album can be a little too Banksy for me. Having

the crowd repeat “I promise to be unique! I promise not to repeat things other people say!” in unison was a little too obvious for me. The generalization of the concept and the endless possibilities of who this group of people could be (Trump voters? Followers of pop music? Everyday consumers?) keeps it too heavy-handed for me as a listener.

Overall, the album is beautiful. It’s got more length and variety than one can expect from most albums, the lyrics are poignant, and there’s enough collabs to make your head spin. I personally found myself listen-

ing more to the tracks that are too quiet and sad for radio time, like “Busted and Blue,” which officially made it onto my list of favorite songs to ugly cry to.

Feel like you’re not getting enough? Murdock and 2-D re-

Murdock and 2-D recently did a half-hour virtual interview which is available now on Youtube.

cently did a half-hour virtual interview which is available now on YouTube.

Ironically, they spend a good deal of time describing their favorite real-world cities to hang out in and record, such as Paris and Brooklyn.

Considering where their videos tend to take them, maybe we can take their word for it. The surreal work of the artists behind the band doesn’t glorify the unreal, rather it reminds us that as bad as the world we exist in gets, at least we can take hold in that we’re not floating in space with a piece of talking pizza next to us.

(Or are we?)

Drukker is a member of the Class of 2017.



MIA KOULOPULOS / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

BURIED CHILD



MIA KOULOPULOS / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

UR Senior and “Buried Child” Director Aishwarya Krishnamoorthy commented that the show was a “wonderful challenge” and that it “really shows off what students can do.” “Buried Child” was written by Sam Shepard and was awarded a Pulitzer Prize.

CT RECOMMENDS

‘DAN BARRETT’

BY BEN SCHMITZ
A&E EDITOR

Artistic mastery normally manifests in musicians as the conquering of a genre or sound: Michael Jackson and his era’s pop, Brian Eno and ambient music, The Wonder Years and revival-era pop punk. Musical mastery can, however, also take the form of the encapsulation of a mood or emotion within an artist’s work. Connecticut musician Dan Barrett falls firmly within this latter camp, with his expansive discography as Have A Nice Life, Giles Corey, Black Wing, and Nahvalr exhibiting his talents in capturing depression, mortality, and all aspects of human despair across a multitude of genres.

Barrett’s first success in attracting an audience was with the release of “Deathconsciousness,” the debut release of his and bandmate Tim Macuga’s project Have A Nice Life. Home recorded by Barrett and Macuga, “Deathconsciousness” is an 85-minute lyrical and sonic meditation on death and its role in the human condition. Drawing influence from the likes of Joy Division and My Bloody Valentine, the album meanders through post-rock, shoe-gaze, and drone music, all in a cocoon of lo-fi production.

The album opens with “A Quick One Before The Eternal Worm Devours Connecticut,” a soft and melancholy instrumental that lowers listeners down into the cavernous dark of the album gently before transitioning into the driving bassline of “Bloodhail.” This track introduces the post-rock side of the album well, serving as an energetic and brooding introduction to what “Deathconsciousness” has on offer

Despite the grittiness and hazy production, moments of beauty break through the fog such as the harmonized vocals of “The Big Gloom” that beg “please release me” before segueing into pummeling drums and walls of guitar.

The album’s length and noisiness demand a listener’s full attention for it to be enjoyed to the extent it deserves. What seems like fuzz and noise on the surface of many of these songs opens up into richly layered and detailed textures upon closer listening, especially in a good pair of headphones.

Some of the best of what “Deathconsciousness” has to offer can be found in the album closer “Earthmover.” Beginning with a simple strummed guitar and vocal, this song soon explodes in a flurry of noise and massive drums. A pleading beauty bleeds through the din here as well, with more harmonized vocals that grasp at the hopelessness that simply living can offer when deaths inevitably is realized (“more than a symbol / more than I bargained for”). Piano chords triumphantly punctuate the song as well before giving way to the album’s roaring final few minutes of furious noise.

While “Deathconsciousness” serves as an excellent example of the breadth of Barrett’s grasp on despair, his debut self-titled release under the “Giles Corey” name speaks even better to the depth of his reach.

Conceived amid severe depression and in the wake of a suicide attempt, “Giles Corey” is a deeply, intensely dark album of inner turmoil.

The opener “A Haunting Presence” plunges listeners right into the hellish pitch black of Barrett’s head. A lone, sorrowful piano melody together with increasingly desperate vocals are dragged by a growing wave of distant drones to the introduction of a massive pounding drum. Whispers flit around in this darkness before erupting into hellish, gospel-like wails and menacing organ. The drumbeat continues past the wailing and is joined by sounds of frantic screaming and pounding on a piano that close off the track. Perhaps one of the album’s most challenging listens, “A Haunting Presence” immaculately sets the scene of the album’s angry, hopeless, and dizzying despair.

“Blackest Bile,” “Grave Filled With Books,” “Spectral Bride,” and “Sleeping Heart” showcase the equally heavy, but softer side of the album’s industrial-folk. At the heart of these tracks is somber but beautiful balladry, but Barrett’s unique musical decisions (such as the stomp-clap rhythm on “Blackest Bile” performed on a gargantuan sounding drum) offer the songs an edge that elevates their emotional effectiveness hugely. Lyrically, Barrett is tragically poetic, avoiding whininess with his consistently heart-wrenching honesty.

One of the album’s strongest tracks is “No One Is Ever Going To Want Me,” a striking example of Barrett’s ability to write epic, dynamic songs. Soft plucking is slowly soaked with distant vocals leading up the song’s strikingly catchy guitar picking midway through. This gives way suddenly to a rapturous explosion of strumming and horns that lift Barrett up while he wails repeatedly, “I want to feel like I feel when I’m asleep,” driving home how desperately he’s clamoring for inner peace and how frustrating and futile that battle can seem.

If you Google search for Dan Barrett, you’ll find a smattering of images and videos that show Barrett as a completely normal, almost goofy guy. To some, this may dispel some illusion of Barrett as a musical dark prince, but it can also serve to make the sheer darkness of “Deathconsciousness” and “Giles Corey” much more relatable. The fact that a normal person has dealt with such intense, blistering internal grief has the ability to make listeners feel much less alone in their own pain, no matter how mild or extreme it may be.

*Schmitz is a member of
the Class of 2019.*

New HBO Series More
Than Just Animals

By DEAN SMIROS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Rats who are obsessed with 311, squirrels who are close personal friends with Ty Segall (who is also a Squirrel), and roaches who go the “Church of God (but for roaches)” are only some of the anthropomorphized animals of NYC featured on HBO’s “Animals.”

“Animals,” currently in its second season, is one of the funniest shows I’ve watched this year, and officially takes place as my second-favorite animated show, right after the cult classic “Rick and Morty.”

The series, created, written by, and (for all but one episode) starring Phil Matarese and Mike Luciano, thrives in the ridiculousness of its narratives. It’s mostly episodic with a few serialized elements. Each episode is named after a different animal of primary focus, and generally has at least one other species with significant screen time. This makes random viewing and sequential viewing both a possible and enjoyable experiences.

A prime example is the twelfth episode: “Pigeons.” It centers around a pigeon who is filled with regret from accidentally killing his brother. He begins a personal

vision quest to face these feelings but gets interrupted by real-life artists Killer Mike and Big Boi who rap about life as a fox in NYC.

The show is insane. It’s hilarious but also insane.

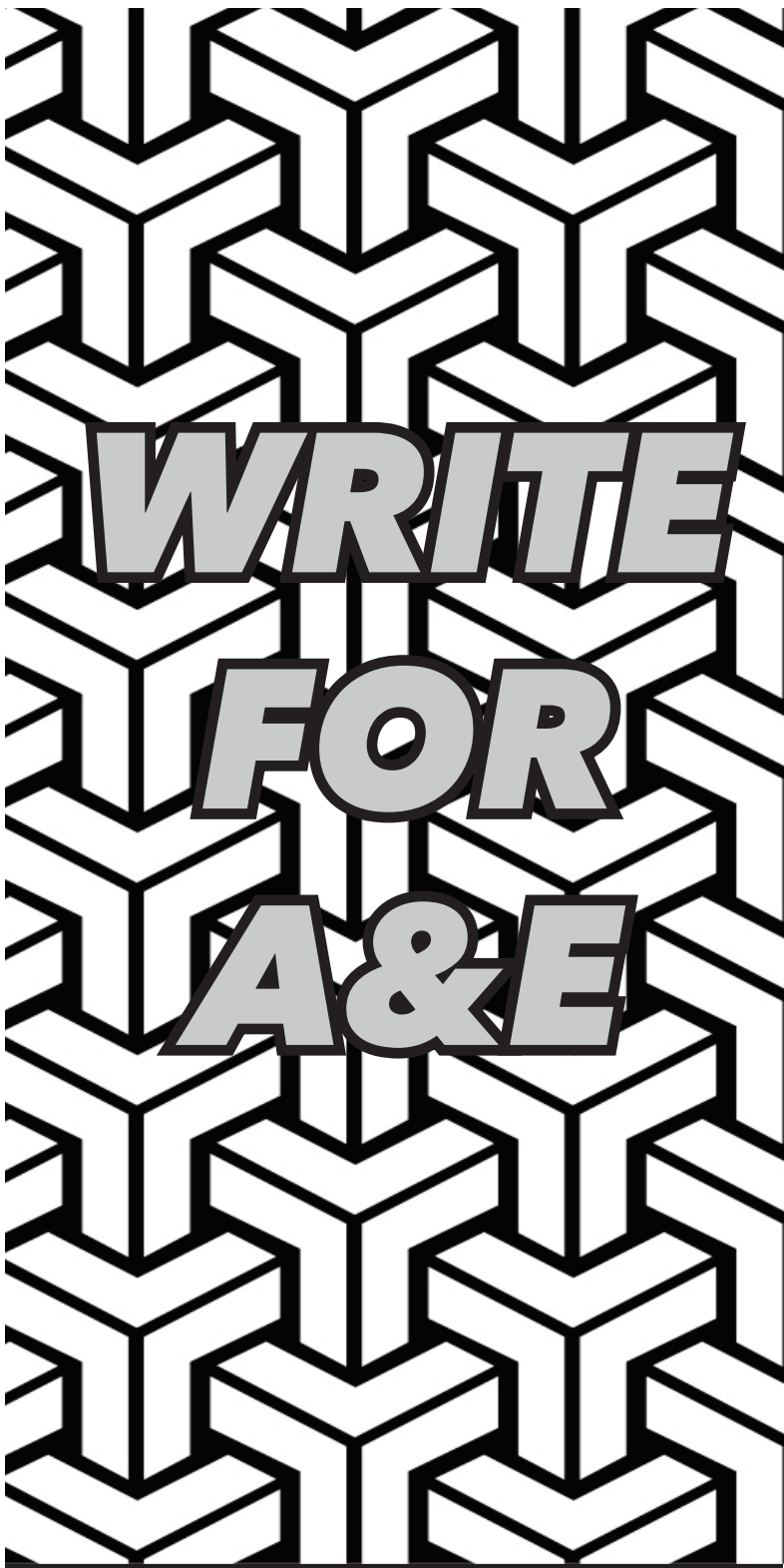
The animation is very straightforward. Characters are simply drawn, most movement is quick and a bit jumpy. What’s most irritating to friends I have watched the show with: the mouths of the characters basically never move.

But that doesn’t take away from the show. The visuals aren’t all that impressive, but the stellar voice acting by Matarese, Luciano and basically every comedian who has done an ASSSSCAT show at the Los Angeles UCB theaters for the past five years more than makes up for that.

Humor-wise, it’s a strange blend of something like “Comedy Bang! Bang!” skits and “Parks & Recreation” due to its generally wholesome themes that are mixed starkly and suddenly with vulgarity and darker vibes than most sketch/sitcom shows.

I recommend watching the fourteenth episode “Squirrels.” It’s representative of the entire series and if you like it, you’ll probably like the whole show.

*Smiros is a member of
the Class of 2017.*



Dandelion Day: Finally Famous?



AARON RAYMOND / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Reo Cragun opened for Big Sean at the concert on Friday night.

BIG SEAN FROM PAGE 1

through his guest verses on West crowd-pleasers “Mercy” and “Clique”: every few songs, Sean would stop to talk about being in Rochester for the first time, or his come-up, or God, but mostly about inspiration, the currency West often deals in.

“I seen the impossible happen 10 fucking times, man,” he told the crowd, which unsurprisingly was less engaged in these quiet moments. “Don’t ever let nobody tell you shit, tell you what you can do with your life, what you can be—that’s only up to you.”

And: “I made music for go-getters, I made music for dreamers.”

These were humbling moments for a rapper whose biggest hits often feature braggadocio about ass, but a bit Diet ‘Ye or Diet Drake, like some of his discography. On a similar note, it’s weird that some of the hypest songs of the night weren’t even Sean’s. But that he could whip up such excitement off features alone speaks to his electricity as a performer.

Most of that energy came from hooks and flows, Sean’s strong suits.

The concert’s two closers—“I Don’t Fuck With You” and “Bounce Back,” his highest-charting singles to date—sent the crowd into frenzies.

Sean said to throw your middle finger up for the first song. Most obliged. He screamed, “I don’t, fuck with, you.” His listeners followed suit, stop-start cadence, drawn-out final syllable, and all.

His run-through of “Sacrifices,” off “I Decided,” toward the end of the setlist was a good example of how Sean can trans-

form songs live. The studio version of the song’s outro is somber—live, Sean turned his lyrics about how his “great, great, great aunty was a slave” into a springboard for a blistering a capella delivery that brought cheers from the audience.

Sean Don is a nimble performer, too, dancing around the stage, jumping to the cadences, animated. That, combined with the dynamism of his drummer, the hear-it-from-Phase bass, and the churning crowd, made this concert a welcome one for students who’ve been here for the last three D-Days.

“We heard that in Rochester, they were crazy,” Sean said early in the show, explaining his team’s decision to take up UR’s offer. Hopefully we lived up to his standards—his show rewrote ours. through his guest verses on West crowd-pleasers “Mercy” and “Clique”: every few songs, Sean would stop to talk about being in Rochester for the first time, or his come-up, or God, but mostly about inspiration, the currency West often deals in.

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Trombly is a member of the Class of 2018.

MEDIA MATRIX

The Spirit of Meliora: Jeff’s Farewell Column



By JEFF HOWARD
COLUMNIST

The spirit of Meliora Meliora. The word flung through my head like a dozen acrobats in the county square. But what does it mean? Is it the voice of a generation, or does the spirit of Meliora call to a greater place, a place of longing and companionate love?

The thing about Meliora is, it’s kind of a connections thing. It’s not so much a state of mind as it is a feeling that starts in your toes and ends where your dreams begin. You know, it’s funny, ‘cause to me Meliora is the squeeze of the tomato seed, the gushy oozy juice from that Worchester tang (call it Mel sauce—eh, you know what I mean). It’s got a little bit of pepper and a little bit of jack, but when you put it all together you get what we call a family.

But don’t take my word for it. *It’s got a little bit of pepper and a little bit of jack, but when you put it all together you get what we call a family.*

it. Here are some of what UR’s brightest voices have to say about the spirit of this great nation we call “Meliora.”

ELIZABETH: It’s kind of a connections thing. It’s the razzle dazzle you feel in your step, the rock and roll that hits your feet when you get out of bed. To me, being a student at UR is about calling to a greater service than that which is my own. I’m just really proud to be a part of such a supportive and enriching commentary.

MATT: It’s like, a feeling you get when you walk through the parking lot where you’re like, “Yeah, I belong here.” What I like so much about Meliora are the people that are in it, and the good times we share. I can say I’ve met so many people who are

like, “Yeah, we support you.” TANNER: Well, for one thing, Meliora ain’t easy! I can definitely say that the professors here challenge me to my most withering heights. But it’s also, like, really fun because you get to talk about things like “Twin Peaks” in class and then the professor’s like, “Who wants a

It’s like, a feeling you get when you walk through the Parking lot where you’re like, ‘Yeah, I belong here.’

cheese pizza?” It’s hard, but at the end of the day I know why it went down.

ANASTASIA: I like the class size, it’s not too big but it’s also not big.

FLETCHER: I’m a business major, which means I have a lot of time on my hands and places to be. When I entered Meliora Square for the first time, the faculty extended open arms to my season’s greetings. I couldn’t have asked for an easier come down experience from the gram of external credits that then shifted to my inter-curricular enrollment fund. So for me, Meliora is about, well, having a little bit of fun.

PAPRIKA: The Pit offers a wide assortment of goods and services drenched in thick and gooey asiago compote with just a sprinkle of home grown, grass-fed dish.

REESE: Meliora? It’s like, you wake up everyday feeling really good about the day ahead, and the teachers play a big role in that. I can think of this one time, when I got so drunk at Chi Phi but honestly not even as drunk as Teddy who was like, way over his limit. They had edible arrangements but they were like, alcoholic. You know the fruits that are presented to look like a basket of flowers? The pineapple one was honestly so good, like, take me away from that please before I eat all of it.

VIRGINIA: I think it comes down to the classes here which are all too good and super challenging. For example, Instagram.

Howard is a member of the Class of 2017.

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Reina Looks to Varied Experiences in Guiding UR Baseball

By **TREVOR WHITESTONE**
SPORTS EDITOR

Joe Reina took over as the head coach of UR Baseball in 2001, and has built a foundation of success for the program in the 16 years since. He has a lifetime of experience with the sport, spending time as a player and coach at not only various levels of competition but on multiple continents as well.

Reina is a Rochester native and attended Gates-Chili High School, where he led the team at shortstop. After graduating, he went to play at Monroe Community College, under the tutelage of Hall of Fame coach H. David Chamberlain. He earned multiple honors in his second season there and went on to receive a full athletic scholarship to Division I LIU Brooklyn, where he was a two-year starter and hit .371 with four grand slams his junior year.

Shortstops are often considered the captains of the defense, involved in a high percentage of plays in the infield and in charge of coordinating with the outfield. Reina’s time at the position made him naturally predisposed to coaching.

“[At shortstop], you’re always involved, you’re always moving, you’re always trying to read what other teams are trying to do,” he said. “I think the more I got to play it, the better I got at anticipating strategies from other coaches.”

‘I was in Germany when the World Cup was happening,’ Reina said. ‘Trying to run practices when the German national team was playing, obviously you’ve got a pretty low attendance, if any at all.’

After graduating with a degree in physical education, Reina went to Monroe Community College for his first coaching job. The team had tremendous success during his two years there, accumulating nearly 100 wins combined, with several players ending up as MLB draft picks.

Reina then accepted a two-year position as a graduate assistant at The College of New Jersey, which has a Division III program. He worked with the infield and hitters in another successful program, as the team came within a game of the College World Series in his first season there. Reina left TCNJ in 2001 having earned a master’s in education.

The following summer, Reina served as an assistant coach for the Bourne Braves of the Cape Cod Baseball League. The league is known as a major pipeline to the MLB—as of 2016, 297 current MLB players had spent some time in the CCBL—and Reina oversaw six players taken in the first round of the MLB draft on that Braves team.

Around the same time, Reina

was fielding offers to coach at multiple schools, including several Division I schools as well as UR. Despite growing up five minutes from campus, he wasn’t overly familiar with the school.

“I never really knew what was on campus here until I actually came back for my interview and really was blown away by the academic prestige, the reputation it had, along with the vision of our director of athletics, not only for baseball but our entire athletics departments,” Reina said. “I think those were all very big selling points to me and something I wanted to be a part of.”

In between his first two years at UR, Reina continued to get unique coaching experience. As part of the MLB’s International Envoy program, he worked with baseball and softball players in Southern Germany and Japan over the course of the two summers. He worked with U.S. military families stationed in both countries, also working with some local clubs in Germany.

While overseas, Reina observed various differences in culture and approach to the game.

“I was in Germany when the World Cup was happening,” Reina said. “Trying to run practices when the German national team was playing, obviously you’ve got a pretty low attendance, if any at all.”

Reina’s first two teams at UR finished below .500, but he guided the Yellowjackets to 20 or more wins in six of the next seven seasons. He is the school’s career leader in coaching wins, at 331, and his teams have made the Liberty League playoffs in 11 of his 15 completed seasons.

To fill out the roster, Reina looks for players who fit the right mold relative to team cohesion and program goals.

“There’s been plenty of players who are extremely talented, that when they come to campus, they interact with our teams [...] it doesn’t work,” he said. “So I

want to make sure they’re good fits for us, personally socially, academically, obviously as well

custom metric developed by the program, known as quality at bats.

Player	QAB	PA	PCT
Jake Hertz	40	79	.506
Pete Carrier	42	80	.525
Jack Herman	26	58	.448
Will Conroy	24	46	.522
Grant Kilmer	38	66	.576
Tyler Schmidt	38	71	.535
David Rieth	37	64	.578
Aiden Finch	45	72	.625
Kyle Trombley	18	47	.383
Mark Davis	22	39	.564
Owen Gabbey	7	17	.412
Zach Miraz	1	2	.500
Corey Ziring	4	9	.444
Ryland McNabb	2	7	.286
Team	344	657	.524

Reina and his staff use the custom metric quality at bats to evaluate team and player performance.

as the baseball aspect.”

Within the season, Reina and his coaching staff evaluate player performance with observation as well as conventional statistics, like batting average and earned run average, while also using a

ing 10 or more pitches in the at bat. The team has kept game-by-game data for each player on the stat since the beginning of April, and each player’s QAB average (ratio of plate appearances resulting in quality at bats) can be seen in the associated table.

The metric helps push across a philosophy necessary to be a successful hitter at all levels. In a game where even the best hitters get out more often than not, getting QABs can keep a slump from getting into a player’s head, since they’ll know they’re bound

Reina is the school’s career leader in coaching wins, at 331, and his teams have made the Liberty League playoffs in 11 of his 15 completed seasons.

to see better results if they keep hitting similarly. And it also keeps a player from trying to do too much, simplifying their approach at the plate.

Though the team has struggled this season, with a 7–17 record through Friday, Reina remains optimistic.

“We’ve struggled, and our record kind of reflects that. But I will say that in all my years of being coach here, the schedule we’ve played this year has been our most difficult by far,” he said.

“We’re playing better now than we’ve played all season, so that’s a trend that is very positive for us, not only to finish this year out and make a run to get into the Liberty League playoffs, but for the next couple of years to come. I think it’s just continuing for our guys to work hard, we’re still playing for something, and it’s just guys getting better each and every day.”

Whitestone is a member of the Class of 2019.



Reina has worked with softball and baseball players in Southern Germany and Japan.

PHOTO COURTESY OF UR ATHLETICS

SPORTS

UR Softball Splits Final Eight Games of Regular Season

By **LAUREN SHARPE**
SPORTS EDITOR

In the final week of the regular season, the UR Softball team (URSB) faced off against St. John Fisher and Nazareth Colleges, Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), and finally, St. Lawrence University. Before their first game on Tuesday, the team's record stood at 17-11 after posting three wins the weekend prior against Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Union College.

Despite a strong start in the first game, which included two runs scored in the first inning, the Yellowjackets were swept by St. John Fisher, which is ranked 10th nationally. In game one, senior pitcher Eleni Wechsler held off the Cardinals for three innings, but in the fourth, they managed to score four runs.

The bases were loaded after a walk, a dropped throw on a sac bunt and a single when St. John Fisher's Julia Sortisio hit a double to right field for two runs. The Cardinals scored two more runs in the fourth and three in the sixth to contribute to a final score of 7-2. The Yellowjackets looked to avenge their loss in the second game, but missed their goal, falling 5-0 after St. John Fisher scored two runs in the third inning, one in the fourth and two in the sixth.

In game two, sophomore catcher Harleigh Kaczegowicz had a single and a double, with freshman infielder Lydia Petricca singling in the seventh.

At Nazareth College on Wednesday, an offensive burst gave UR a 4-0 lead heading into the third inning of the first game. Sophomore utility player Rachel Pletz had a home run to make it 5-0 for the Yellowjackets as they headed into the fourth inning. Sophomore pitcher Eliza-



PHOTO COURTESY OF UR ATHLETICS

Senior pitcher Eleni Wechsler had a shutout with nine strikeouts against St. Lawrence University.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UR ATHLETICS

Freshman infielder Anne Marie Cortes had two hits against Nazareth College on Wednesday.

beth Bourne relieved Wechsler in the fourth, and Nazareth was able to score three runs off of a walk and four hits in the inning. The final score was 5-3 in favor of the Yellowjackets.

In game two, the score was tied after the Golden Flyers scored in the fifth inning, which matched UR's one run in the second. On a

walk and an misplayed bunt for an error in the seventh, Nazareth scored twice. St. John Fisher's Delaney St. George hit a home run, giving the Golden Flyers a total of three runs in the final inning, which sealed the 4-1 win over UR. The split against Nazareth left the Yellowjackets with a record of 18-14 going into Fri-

day's game against RIT.

At home against the Tigers, UR scored four times in the first inning of game one, but their opponent answered with five runs in the top of the fourth. Two runs off of a single by freshman infielder Anne Marie Cortes gave UR a 6-5 lead going into the sixth inning. RIT's

Erin Guinan earned two runs off of a double in the seventh and scored on a single by Sam Killian, who then scored the Tiger's fourth run of the inning off of a single. The final score of game one was 9-6 in favor of RIT, but UR came back to take the second game 3-2 after sophomore Raegan Herne scored in the extra inning. Senior pitcher Sam Malecki allowed seven hits, two earned runs, one walk and had two strikeouts in the game's eight innings. RIT's win secured their spot in the Liberty League Playoffs, and UR's kept their hopes for the same outcome alive.

The Yellowjackets traveled north on Saturday to play St. Lawrence University, which is 20-10 on the season. Wechsler pitched for UR in game one and earned a shutout after striking out nine times and allowing only four hits. In the first, Kaczegowicz doubled and scored on a single from Petricca. In the fifth inning, Petricca earned another run, with three more coming from Wechsler's triple, which left the bases loaded. Another run in the sixth inning would make the final score of game one 6-0. In the second game of the day, Kaczegowicz and Petricca continued to perform well at bat, both having three hits. Wechsler, senior outfielder Courtney Semkewyc and junior utility player Jocelyn Blackshear were also strong hitters for UR with two hits apiece, contributing to a final score of 10-6.

The sweep against the Saints ended UR's regular season with a conference record of 6-6. The team is now awaiting the results of the final day of conference play to see if they will be competing in the Liberty League playoffs.

Sharpe is a member of the Class of 2019.

Golden State and Cleveland are Still The Teams to Beat

By **JAKE SEHNERT**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Throughout the first round of the NBA Playoffs, the conventional wisdom hasn't changed much despite a good amount of competitive games. There were no major upsets, as Golden State and Cleveland showed they are still the teams to beat in their respective conferences.

San Antonio closed out Memphis in six games—a series Coach Gregg Popovich would have liked to have been a bit shorter after blowing out the Grizzlies in the first two games. Houston, meanwhile, looked impressive in their wins against Oklahoma City, and ended the series in five games. Many of the wins, however, were more indicative of the Thunder's inability to close out games in the

fourth quarter.

Toronto, once the premier challengers to Cleveland in the East, beat Milwaukee in six, but Demar Derozan, Kyle Lowry, and Serge Ibaka all shot below 45 percent. These three players will have to be much more efficient and consistent to challenge the Cavaliers.

No matter how many flashes of excellence we may see from the challengers to the big two, particularly from the Celtics and the Spurs, they remain a tier below, making a Finals rematch for the third year in a row seem inevitable.

Boston struggled mightily against a disheveled Chicago, despite closing out the series with four consecutive wins. The team's heart and soul, Isaiah Thomas, scored 23 per game, which was well below his season

average, and made one out of every five attempts from behind the arc.

Al Horford's and Amir Johnson's struggles on the glass led Brad Stevens to slot Gerald Green into the starting lineup. Green's athleticism and quickness spreads the offense and helps the team grab boards.

However, against a team like the Cavaliers, with work horses Tristan Thompson and Kevin Love consistently hitting the offensive glass, Green's contributions will be mitigated. Amir Johnson needs to step up and anchor the team's defense by finishing defensive possessions with a rebound or Cleveland will wear them out.

Coach Brad Stevens has done an excellent job pushing the Celtics to the number one seed in the

East, but the team can only overachieve for so much longer. The Celtics have the potential to give the Cavaliers trouble with their tenacity, but they simply do not have the consistency to put together such a showing in a seven game series.

Moving to the West, the San Antonio Spurs, led by Kawhi Leonard, stand as the Warriors' biggest threat. Leonard has been an offensive force, averaging 31.2 points per game on 50-40-90 shooting and getting to the free throw line ten times per game. His offensive consistency and defensive stopping power give the Spurs the ability to win any game.

However, to challenge the Warriors, teams need more than one player. With Popovich at the helm, there is no question the

team's defensive ability and ball movement will be running efficiently. When facing a Warriors team who added Kevin Durant, however, there is no reason to believe anything has changed from last year when the Spurs lost to Oklahoma City in six games.

Tony Parker was second on the team in scoring against the Grizzlies, but he let Conley score 24.7 per game on 48 percent shooting. Against an even tougher point guard matchup in Steph Curry, Parker's age will be apparent as his lack of quickness is exposed.

Despite how much NBA fans want to see some change in the playoff environment, the Cavs and the Warriors seem too good to lose to anyone but each other right now.

Sehnert is a member of the Class of 2019.