

Campus Times

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iZone Event Embraces Failure

By SHWETA KOUL
NEWS EDITOR

From accidentally inappropriate posters to burning a hole in a desk at a college interview, the students, faculty, and alumni to celebrate their failures at the first-ever Screw Up Nights this past Tuesday.

“We call it fail forward. Once you fail, if you learn from it and move on, you fail forward so it takes you to the next step,” said first-year Deniz Cengiz, an organizer of the event. “We think it’s important to cultivate an environment where failing is not something to be ashamed of, but something to celebrate and learn from.”

The event took place in the Welles-Brown Room and was hosted by Barbara J. Burger iZone.

According to Cengiz, the turnout was more than anticipated — 70 compared to the expected 30 or 40 people.

“At iZone, we love to embrace our failures,” iZone Director Julia Maddox said. “We believe it is an essential step in the innovation process, or at least a byproduct. When you are coming up with cool and creative stuff, you are going to come up with some duds along the way, and we should embrace it and learn from it wherever we can.”

Screw Up Nights featured six speakers and then moved to an open-mic portion — where anyone in the crowd could share their stories.

Maddox started the event with her story about an initial design she had for a poster advertising Screw Up Nights. Her poster featured the Hindenburg disaster. Out of context, though, she said, it could have had poor connotations.

She was followed by Anna Rosensweig, assistant professor and undergraduate advisor of French, who talked about a botched interview Rosensweig danced and mimed her dissertation in French after misinterpreting a question by her interviewers.

Other speakers included Maurini Strub, director of assessment for River Campus Libraries, and Nicholas Hammond, assistant director for CETL.

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Minhaj Brings More Than Jokes



GABE ISAACSON / PHOTO EDITOR

Hasan Minhaj performs his set at Strong auditorium last Saturday.

By WIL AIKEN
CULTURE EDITOR

It was below freezing outside Strong Auditorium on Saturday evening, but you wouldn’t have been able to tell by the students and visitors lined up outside for a performance by stand-up comedian Hasan Minhaj.

As they waited, audience members swapped recollections of their favorite bits from Minhaj’s “Daily Show” segments and from his Netflix special, “Homecoming King,” released last May. Needless to say, little hype was needed.

All this helped ensure that Minhaj’s opener, James Austin Johnson, was enthusiastically greeted with applause and laughter when he walked on saying,

See our interview with Minhaj inside:

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“What’s up, Miami? Let me hear it!” Following a riff with the sign language interpreters (a favorite

shtick of visiting comedians), the mustachioed and bespectacled Nashville native covered topics from the homeless population (it wasn’t as offensive as it sounds), to moms who have questions during movies, to the Chainsmokers. A highlight for Johnson was his interaction with an audience member who didn’t know what Johnson meant when he used the term “GD.” (Johnson, apparently, does not use profanity.) Johnson closed with a squeamish and hysterical cover of Burt Bacharach and Hal David’s “Magic Moments,” and introduced Minhaj to roaring

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PEOPLE PERSON

Student App Helps Dementia Care



By SCOTT DANIELS
COLUMNIST

Dementia is difficult for patients and their families, but a new app made by a current student and an alum might lessen the weight.

Before his December 2017 graduation from UR, Kyle Ryan became involved in an app development project with junior Michael Woodbury. In the summer of 2017, Woodbury had

asked Ryan to help with the technical side of the operation. Together they have developed OpenCare, a diagnostic tracking app designed for caretakers of dementia patients.

Ryan, who earned degrees in computer science and psychology, Connecticut, and he currently lives in San Francisco. He works full-time as a software engineer for Strava, a running and cycling mobile app company..

Ryan was known for his skill at designing apps and was recommended to Woodbury by a mutual friend. Throughout high school, Ryan had worked on several apps, mostly small games. In college, he also worked on

a mental health community-focused app called Stigma.

Ryan was certain he would study the hard sciences, but as his college years went on, it became clear that what he once considered a hobby was going to turn into a career path.

Woodbury, a neuroscience major, came up with the concept for OpenCare after shadowing a neurologist.

“I noticed the difficulty caretakers faced in trying to accurately recollect all the symptoms the patient experienced,” Woodbury said.

Woodbury has family experience with dementia, and has also volunteered at hospice care facilities.

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Hijab Day Seeks Awareness

By AYA ABDELRAHMAN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Would you be treated differently if you wore a hijab?

That’s the question some students attempted to answer this past Thursday in celebrating the fifth annual World Hijab Day, which is dedicated to dispelling negative stigmas surrounding the titular Islamic headscarf worn by women.

“It gives non-Muslim women a chance to be in a Muslim women’s shoes and to really feel what it’s like to wear hijab,” said former graduate student Mai Ali ‘17, who is celebrating her 15th year wearing her hijab.

Initiated by Nazma Khan in 2013, World Hijab Day is an invitation for all women around the world, Muslim or not, to wear the hijab for a day in solidarity. Khan is a Bangladeshi New Yorker who migrated to the U.S. at the age of 11 and was constantly bullied for her hijab after the 9/11 attacks.

World Hijab Day aims to spread awareness about what the hijab is and what it is not.

“If we advocate for women to have ownership of their body, it would only be hypocritical to not give them the right to decide to be covered,” Ali said.

Some women may be forced to wear a hijab — a common thought among its critics — but others choose to.

“My hijab is mine; it’s not just a piece of cloth on the head,” said sophomore Mawada Mahgoub as she talked about overhearing a student calling her hijab “the thing on the head.”

For others, it is more of a religious choice to wear their hijab.

“It’s more than just modesty, it’s about connecting with my Lord,” said sophomore Sara Anis, president of the Muslim Students’ Association. “It’s an external representation of my inner spirituality.”

Many of the interviewed students who regularly wear hijabs expressed frustration with how others seem to perceive them as overly religious because of their heads

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GABE ISAACSON / PHOTO EDITOR

'WHIMSICAL BOOK PRINTS' SPARKS CREATIVITY

Students got creative by tearing a page out of an old book and creating various illustrations using paint and ink at the Rettner Fabrication Studio.

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

DKE Marble Lion Stolen (1)

JAN. 26—Residents in DKE reported that the marble lion in front of their fraternity house was stolen.

Stolen Wallet Found in Hubbell (2)

JAN. 26—Student’s stolen wallet was found in the trash in Hubbell Auditorium. Student reported \$100.00 cash stolen.

Harassing Phone Call in Rush Rhees (3)

JAN. 29— Staff member in Rush Rhees 365 received a harassing phone call from an unknown male. He wanted her cell number to send her a picture.

Student Injured at Hutchison Hall (4)

JAN. 29— Undergrad student working under a chemical hood in Hutchison Hall dropped a tube containing chemicals. The student was taken to Strong ED.

Fire Alarm in Chambers (5)

FEB. 1—Fire alarm in Chambers was due to well done food in the microwave.



THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

TUESDAY | FEB. 6

QUIDDITCH FUNDRAISER

CHIPOTLE, 5 P.M.
The quidditch team will be holding a fundraiser at Chipotle. 50% of the proceeds will go towards sending the team to the US Quidditch Cup 11.

U OF R VS. RIT BLOOD DRIVE

SUSAN B. ANTHONY HALLS, FRIEL AND HARPER ROOMS, 11:00 A.M.
Students can head over to the Susan B. Anthony dorms to donate blood in a blood drive sponsored by the university D'lions.

WEDNESDAY | FEB. 7

ONE LANGUAGE, ONE RECIPE

DOUGLASS COMMUNITY KITCHEN, 12 P.M.- 1 P.M.
Chef Lea Briere will be demonstrating how to make crêpes to celebrate La Chandeleur, a religious holiday in France.

ART EXHIBITION: TRANSPLANT

RUSH RHEES LIBRARY, GALLERY AT THE ART AND MUSIC LIBRARY, 4:30 P.M.
Reception for Paloma Barhaugh-Bordas's artwork.

THURSDAY | FEB. 8

KATIE JO SPEAKS! HIDDEN PASSIONS SERIES AT THE MAG

MAG, 7 P.M. - 8 P.M.
Katie Jo will be presenting a TED-style talk about why she does impermanent art and what it has taught her.

CONVERSATION ON RACE AND POVERTY

FREDERICK DOUGLASS COMMONS 305, 7:30 P.M.
Students, staff, faculty, and community members are welcomed to share their thoughts on race and poverty in whole-group and small-group discussions.

FRIDAY | FEB. 9

THE UNDERHILL

DRAMA HOUSE, 4:30 P.M.
The Underhill is a walk-through, interactive art exhibit that tells the story about a missing girl and her family.

AVI SCHAEFER INTERFAITH SHABBAT

DOUGLASS BALLROOM, 5 P.M. - 7 P.M.
Join various organizations on campus in the Douglass Ballroom to celebrate the Avi Schaefer Interfaith Shabbat.

UR Students Design App to Help Quality of Life

APP FROM PAGE 1

He has worked with researchers, a neurologist, a neuropsychologist, and a nurse, all affiliated with the UR Medical Center, for their insight into how OpenCare could best improve patient and caregiver quality of life.

OpenCare allows caretakers to log the severity of symptoms, track progress over time, create patient profiles to keep note of care preferences, and store information on care history and medications. The goal of the app is to give caregivers more security over the status of their patients in a user-friendly, professional format.

Ryan and Woodbury both think they have accomplished that.

“It provides real value to the people struggling with these issues,” Ryan said. “Even if it’s a million users or 10 users, I want to be able keep it running so long as it’s helping caregivers provide better help to those that need it.”

OpenCare is currently in the process of being added to the Apple App Store, and Ryan and Woodbury are both looking forward to seeing the effects the app will have on both patients’ and caregivers’ quality of life.

Daniels is a member of the Class of 2020.

CORRECTIONS

An article in the Jan. 29 edition, an article about a demonstration over UR’s handling of the Jaeger controversy misquoted Yuliya Muradova. She said “meted out,” not “kneaded out.”

Winterfest Offers Welcome Distraction

By SHWETA KOUL
NEWS EDITOR

Winterfest Weekend, organized by the Student Programming Board, served as a distraction for students from exams, papers, and of course, the tedium of colder weather this past weekend.

The programs kicked off on Friday with musical events and awareness efforts.

The Saplings, a band of nine musicians from the Eastman School of Music, performed at Hirst Lounge in Wilson Commons. In Starbucks, acoustic indie pop band known as Candy Isle performed originals and covers. Candy Isle consists of senior duo Kat Bakrania and Lydia Dake.

The Vagina Monologues were also held on Friday by the UR College Feminists at Strong Auditorium.

Saturday afternoon marked the centerpiece of Winterfest Weekend – Winter Wonderland. Students snapped pictures with the different ice sculptures scattered around campus.

“I saw people taking pictures with the ice sculptures and that caught my attention,” first-year Selina Xu said. “The ice sculptures were pretty cool, as they had the school designs on them.”

Winter Wonderland featured cold-day desserts – hot chocolate, cider, cotton candy, and cookie decorating – along with carnival activities, karaoke, henna tattoos, origami, and a human-sized snow globe. There was also a bob-sled simulator that students could try out.

“It really felt like the Rochester community had come together,” first-year Hana Mamnoon said.

This year’s traditional giveaway at Winterfest occurred on the Wilson Quad. A blue winter-themed tumbler was offered to students.

“I love the design of the tumbler and I was so excited to get one,” sophomore Mohammad Mansoor said. “You definitely need one during the winters.”

The main event that excited students took place on Saturday night as comedian Hasan Minhaj took the stage at Strong Auditorium to a sold-out show.

“I really enjoyed the show because as a Pakistani Muslim, the show was relatable to me,” sophomore Fatima Shah. “Unlike his Netflix show where he talked about his life growing up, during this show he talked about current politics and issues. He addressed the bias against Muslims in the media. So, I liked how he talked about serious issues in a lighter tone because then it’s easier for people to hear.”

While most students thought the show was a hit, the Winterfest dinner at Danforth inspired mixed reviews.

“I think that the food had a lot of potential, but it didn’t live up to my expectations,” sophomore Meg Moscato said.

The menu featured meat, vegan, halal, and vegetarian options, as well as an assortment of desserts.

“I thought it was amazing, especially the BBQ poutine and the churros,” sophomore Natalie Lebedko said. “I feel like the food was better quality than usual – more comfort foods.”

Winterfest ends on Monday with social justice activist Tarana Burke speaking about the #MeToo movement.

Koul is a member of the Class of 2020.

Screw Up Nights Brings Laughter, and Learning, to Failures

FAILURES FROM PAGE 1

Strub discussed her failure during her last assessment project while Hammond discussed procrastinating his thesis for years and a mistake he made on his father’s farm that could have killed all of his cattle.

“When you make a mistake, you have to make it right,” Hammond said. “If you can’t make it whole, at least make it right [...] it’s never too late to go back.”

Cengiz drew lots of laughs with her own screw-up.

Cengiz was gifted a pair of red fuzzy handcuffs as a joke for her birthday. Later on, she had to pass through an X-Ray machine to get into a mall and had forgotten about the handcuffs. This led to a bit of embarrassment with the guards.

“I think it’s important to make mistakes,” first-year Ashley Sibanda said. “I think [Screw Up Nights] helps my self-esteem, so they should have more of these. It was really funny.”

The guest speakers finished with sophomore Ara Gonzales. She discussed how she became too in love with her non-profit organization to the point where she had forgotten to share her passion with the other members. This led to the organization falling apart.

“I forgot to enjoy the process,” Gonzales said. “I called it ‘my’ project. Not ‘ours.’ Not ‘us.’ No



GABE ISAACSON / PHOTO EDITOR

Nicholas Hammond, Assistant Director for CETL, spoke about procrastinating his thesis and how he almost bloated and killed his father's cattle.



GABE ISAACSON / PHOTO EDITOR

Sophomore Ara Gonzales shared the failure of her non-profit organization, learning to enjoy the process instead of the result.

teamwork there. I am so thankful that that happened because from now on, I am totally convinced that we should all just enjoy the process then.”

For the open-mic forum, undergraduate students shared stories

that ranged from a failed attempt to grow 120 radishes, interview troubles,a misinterpreted private showing at the Gleason theater, and buying diapers instead of pads for a roommate.

By far, the funniest story was

about a college interview gone wrong with the CTO of an Indian technology corporation. A homemade 3-D printer ended up burning a hole in the interviewer’s desk and almost caused a fire.

The iZone hopes to make Screw Up Nights a monthly event. In the near future, it plans to have a few of the deans share their screw-ups.

Koul is a member of the Class of 2020.

World Hijab Day Celebrations

HIJAB FROM PAGE 1

“People assume I’m strict and I have no sense of humor when I’m the complete opposite of this,” Ali said. “While people think I’m very serious because of my hijab, I have minions singing in my head.”

‘It gives non-Muslim women a chance to be in a Muslim women’s shoes and to really feel what it’s like to wear hijab.’

Students expressed concerns that one day of solidarity may not be enough to eradicate the stigma around the hijab.

“I feel like this should be an initial step in finding out what hijab is,” Anis said.

Soon, UR will have its own annual “Hijab for A Day” organized by the Muslim Students’ Association during Islam Awareness Week in March.

Abdelrahman is a member of the Class of 2020.

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COMMUNITY

CT EATS

Spice is Nice at Sodam Korean Restaurant



By LUIS NOVA
WEBMASTER

If you’ve been keeping up with my articles so far, you’ve probably noticed that I genuinely enjoy spicy food. Spice is nice, what can I say? I also really enjoy Asian cuisine because I too was once a weeb child. (Listen here, I know some of you are still out there, we have a support group that meets Fridays if you’re interested.) To combine these two wonderful things in one plate, I like to eat at Korean restaurants. I’ve tried a few Korean shops in the Rochester area, but nothing beats the quality and pricing of Sodam Korean Restaurant.

Sodam is a little Korean shop hidden deep in a network of poorly lit warehouse offices in Henrietta. Yes, getting there is as creepy and suspicious as it sounds, but surprisingly, there is an actual restaurant in this office space. Even more surprising, the restaurant is super modern on the inside, with a huge warehouse space and slick furniture to fill it out. They even have a sushi bar in the middle of the place, which is separate from most of the other seating areas, giving it a meta, shop-within-a-shop feel.

If you’ve never eaten at a Korean place, then let me key you in on what they’re all about. Wherever you go to a Korean place, they’ll give



A bowl of jjampong, a broth made with seafood and noodles, only one of the options available at Sodam.

VIVIAN LI / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

you two things for free. The first is a kettle of some standard tea to drink down along with your meal, and the second is banchan, which is an assortment of small plates containing things like kimchi, seaweed salad, and namul (a bean sprout). When bringing a group of friends to eat at a place like this, the banchan helps kill time and start conversation until the orders start to arrive.

On this trip to Sodam, I got myself a spicy sesame bulgogi plate. This was basically a

combination of pork and squid sprinkled in sesame seeds, laid down on top of a bed of fresh vegetables, all served on a sizzling hot plate, crackling with heat while being brought to my table. On the side was a bowl of plain rice that that you can put slices of spicy meat on.. The rice absorbs the sauce from the meats and becomes its own extra specialty meal.

My table ordered a couple of jjampong bowls, which are basically giants spicy broth bowls filled to the brim with mussels, shrimp, and noodles. I took the

opportunity to swipe some of the broth I was handed by the others at the table and dump it into my rice. That broth ended up being spicier than my actual meal, but my god did it turn the rice bowl into an amazing spice bowl.

Each plate we ordered only cost about \$13 each, so the price is no big deal. The only negative of Sodam is that, being, you know, in the middle of a sketchy warehouse office space in the middle of Henrietta, it might be a bit hard to get to. My recommendation is

to hop the Green Line toward Wegmans, then hop off, call up an Uber, and get there in about two minutes. This might cost you about \$14 for a there-and-back ride from Wegmans, but if you bring a big group (like 6 to 8 people), you can make it affordable. I’m telling you, it’s worth it. There isn’t any other Korean place around Rochester like it, and the novelty of going to a sketchy warehouse restaurant is always fun to explain to people.

Nova is a member of the Class of 2019.

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OPINIONS

EDITORIAL OBSERVER

Are You There, Financial Aid Office?



By ASHLEY BARDHAN
ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

Are you there, financial aid office? It's me, Ashley. Let me get right to the point: this is about money. That can be a hard thing to talk about, and not everyone likes to do it, I know. Maybe you don't like to do it either, and that's why you answer all my questions with the simple yet evocative, "take out more loans!"

"Loans" is a nice substitute for "money you and your family clearly don't have, but we don't care because we were called a 'new Ivy' so now we have

I'm expected to contribute to my family income, I'm expected to pay them back. I have to go to graduate school. But what if I can't find a job? What if I can't find a job that would ever pay enough? What if I can't handle the stress? What if my therapy doesn't help?

to raise our tuition every year so people think we're better than NYU," or maybe it's a substitute for "money you're going to owe banks until you die because your current projected debt is three times this year's national average (\$37,172), but we don't care because the iZone is an entrepreneurial space." It's a good substitute, I like it.

Presenting you only with cold facts is something that's been done before, but it doesn't seem like it affects you much. Instead, I just want to tell you how it feels to be here, as a student, feeling the weight of you not caring.

I'm currently a sophomore and double majoring in Brain and Cognitive Sciences and American Sign Language. I'm minoring in English, workshop-leading for Linguistics 110, and working as a secretary in the ASL Office. I feel rooted.

I've been on the Campus Times staff since last

semester, and being on it, I've discovered people that have reshaped not only my experience at school, but my broader experience as a young adult figuring things out. It's invaluable, I love it.

My family is struggling financially. My mom is the only one actively working, babysitting, and tutoring disabled children from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. She makes minimum wage, takes care of my little sister, cooks every meal, and cleans the house alone. She's my whole world and she does everything.

None of that's enough. My family's expected contribution is higher than my household income, and when I look at loan statements and the little cluster of numbers indicating their enormity, I feel like everything's collapsing.

I'm expected to contribute to my family income, I'm expected to pay them back. I have to go to graduate school. But what if I can't find a job? What if I can't find a job that would ever pay enough? What if I can't handle the stress? What if my therapy doesn't help?

Why the hell didn't I go to a SUNY?

These questions seem interminable and the answers are nonexistent. They rely on a series of maybe's, if's, then's, and other things that no one will really know until they happen.

What feels definite to me is the fact that my school doesn't care. And that my transfer applications have already been sent.

When my friend Victoria, who is also faced with the great "Financial Transfer Question", meets with the Director of Financial Aid, Samantha Veeder, she's told that she can't expect to be given special treatment. She's generalizing the financial aid office, she's making it too personal.

Maybe the financial aid office doesn't take the financial well-being of its students personally enough.

You're taking me away from a place that's special to me. Not only a place, but the people in it — my friends who love me, my half-finished major that I pursue, hungrily. The exposed brick of my favorite building, Lattimore, blooming with slender curls of ivy. The way I feel entering Rush Rhees, internalizing its cream-colored, wanting vastness.

All gone.

Ashley is a member of the Class of 2020.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Let's Hope Feldman Stays on the Path

Richard Feldman, when he takes over as UR's president later this month, will spend the majority of his interim tenure trying to repair UR's reputation and to regain this community's trust after last semester's fumbling of campus outrage over how sexual misconduct is investigated here.

He has begun this process by communicating his ideas to the student body in a series of emails. His most recent email, sent last Friday, formally announced a the launch of a website dedicated to "cultivating a culture of respect."

The website lists a series of upcoming policy reviews, amendments, and their corresponding deadlines. Feldman also detailed the creation of a trustee committee to oversee the execution and completion of this process.

We appreciate Feldman's transparency and directness so far. He comes off as earnest in wanting to engage in the type of empathetic leadership this community needs going forward. But we should be cautious about doling out praise so early. The bar, frankly, has been set pretty low after our outgoing administration's performance

last semester. Transparency is a solid first step, but it won't be enough. The first of Feldman's deadlines doesn't arrive before April, which means there is ample time for the administration to slip into complacency.

But, all that said, this is the first time people have seen concrete deadlines for policy changes after the controversy over sexual misconduct claims against Professor T. Florian Jaeger. Deadlines ensure a level of accountability, however minute, that we did not have before. And so, we commend Feldman for stepping up. Let's hope he stays on the path.

HAVE SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND?

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OP-EDS

American Pastures: Reflecting on Factions in U.S. Society

By EUGENE NAKAMOTO

Plato’s “Republic” is set in a seaside courtyard down at the port of Piraeus. There, in the shade of an olive tree and against the lapping of an Athenian breeze, are sat Plato’s dramatis personae. Presiding at this conversation, aside from the famed philosopher and such Mediterranean amenities as the shade, sea, and sun, which are all foreign to Rochester, are intelligent names like Lysias and Glaucon, Polemarchus and Thrasymachus. In short order, the prototypical “café circle” fires the opening salvoes of an exchange to be heard ‘round the Western world — at least as its echoes are propagated across two millennia by the skulls of so many scholars and statesmen, and today by the particularly reverberative one of yours truly.

Their topic at hand is justice and its achievement by the state. It is a romantic theme typical to the candor of the Ancients, who by definition were anachronistic to nihilism, industrialization, and mass-nationalism. Spared as it was of the disillusionments that would characterize many a Lost Generation, and the broken exiles and expatriates that seem always to congregate in Paris, this school is childishly unsuspecting in its search for truth. Several pages into “Republic”, it is this primordial innocence that lends an affable charm to Thrasymachus the Sophist when, his own formulation of justice having been rather unjustly rebuffed by Socrates the sophist, he cries, “You’re being tiresome, Socrates, and taking my definition in the sense most likely to damage it.”

One sympathizes; Socrates is tiresome from the outset of the dialogue, what with that staccato skepticism that today bears his name. Truly, he was an insufferable character, the antecedent of the joke: If all the philosophers of the world were laid end to end, well that wouldn’t be a bad thing. Nonetheless, the man was a genius who bestowed upon the West

an inheritance decidedly different from that passed to my own hemisphere, which was saddled with Confucius, his proverbs, and the damned four-character-idiom, which though easily stamped on the agrarian or Stakhanovite mind, mutilates the heterodox one. Being that the East was the tradition I was born into (in Japan) and raised by (in Taiwan) before quitting to a New England boarding school alongside a fair few Han-Chinese, Hanguk-in, and other Nihon-jin, permit this foreigner his distillation of Thrasymachus’s criticism down to the Confucian dictum. Let that dictum be as follows: Be charitable in argument, that victory should lend you all the more persuasion. I have committed myself to the heeding of that moral, and therefore, to the charitable treatment of my subjects, whomever they may be.

Is it not true that Western discourse has been, of late, es-

In my travels, never have I met a constituency of factions as dedicated to their mutual annihilation as the so-called United States.

pecially in the United States, an uncharitable arena with deleterious consequences for all? That is my alien diagnosis. In my travels, never have I met a constituency of factions as dedicated to their mutual annihilation as the so-called United States. When I landed at Logan five years ago, I didn’t exactly have Dvorak’s “New World Symphony” in mind, but I was yet naive to the cruelty exercisable by American factionalists when offered the proverbial mouthpiece — heightened all the more by their being pleasantly American in private company. Your “moderate” laments the cleft between the aisles, to borrow from T.S.

Eliot, as a “broken jawbone of our lost kingdoms.” (Strange that Americans should remain so talkative.). And East Coast punditry amounts to “observing” the degradation of Pax Americana to some dreaded Pax Alabama.

It has become a national pastime to engage in uncharitable ruination, smug hyperbole, and sneering syllogism, all at a magnitude that to me suggests more than the sweeping of details under the rug, but the sweeping of a plateau in advance and the fetishism of Armageddon. In hindsight, I owe Socrates an apology: The American’s enamoration with binary slander while sitting under Damoclesian swords — this is not the offspring, but more the miscarriage of that philosopher’s critical style, which was consistently preoccupied with truth, closely followed by mutual learning. A better, albeit still classical heritage for this behavior would be the insanity of hoplite warfare, of citizenry marching off with the fervid acceptance of total war. That zeal for conflict has been immortalized in Western military doctrine: Eisenhower once remarked, “Every ground commander seeks the battle of annihilation.”

Certainly, the ground commanders at the vanguard of America’s culture wars seem fond of annihilation, and to the point of parody. There is bread at the bakery and milk on the shelves, but their rhetoric is high-stakes. It is meant for times of insurrection (against some monolithic, sexist, and racist Big Bigot) or suppression (of some Soros-funded Marxist contagion, as awkward as that arrangement sounds). “Social justice warrior,” “feminazi,” and “Nazi,” not to mention the salient usage of “movement,” “crusade,” and “resistance”: This is not the lexicon of bookworms, but the pronouncements of a self-appointed angel on the massively negative-sum set piece of Tel Megiddo.

The de-escalation of these affairs cannot be solely achieved by technical optimism, the kind of look-at-the-

graph-we’re-not-so-badly-off economics that is likely to be perceived as a trivialization of issues dear to the combatants, or at least perceived as the statistics of a contrarian more bent on contrarianism than sincerity. And while it is tempting to bemoan the

The irony of mere citizens who have turned dreamers of a better world, is that, by virtue of curating those dreams, they cannot help but become the Curator, the Guardian, and the Authority vested with the right to destroy just as much as to create.

Facebook masses, itching to rage at the shibboleth of a factional meme, the door has already closed on that one, if you are tempted to their disenfranchisement. Say hello to the age of the common man’s divine right. It is here to stay, and it is better than the divine right of kings.

But tenuously. The irony of mere citizens who have turned dreamers of a better world, is that, by virtue of curating those dreams, they cannot help but become the Curator, the Guardian, and the Authority vested with the right to destroy just as much as to create. For many Americans, this irony has bred that tiresome leftist messianism so committed to the inexorable raising of stakes, and to the vaporization of the Big Bigot, even at the cost of Armageddon, for the sake of Ideal America. For all their militancy, they never seem to have read Sun Tzu nor to have heeded his warning against the total encirclement of a desperate foe. That its relentlessness has gifted its opponents a fabled Last Stand will frustrate the Left well into the next decade.

Not that they are the only

ones culpable for self-insistence. Returning to “Republic,” the nubility of Socrates’ ideal state — his pet state — was what seduced him to prescribe it the zealous boundaries that have historically inspired so many comparisons to totalitarianism. The same genius that precedes the Smithian and Ricardian insights in suggesting the division of labor and specialization of workers also seems to precede Goebbels: Socrates prohibits his Guardian class from reading certain sentimental Homeric passages and from listening to certain idyllic musical scales, for fear that they will corrupt them and lead to the demise of his paradise. In a rather fundamental way, at least among visionaries, it seems that control and construction are two sides of the same coin. One wonders the geometric feasibility of retaining one over the other.

I was once asked why I decided to come to America. My brusque response was that America will still be remembered in 1000 years. This was uncharitable, because implicit in that smug view was the suggestion that my fellow countrymen are going about their Japanese lives, paying their Japanese taxes, and raising their Japanese families in a state of ironic sarcasm. But, I do think that there is an undeniable firebrand vision within the American citizenry, and sometimes I think it makes my country seem to be an island of prevaricators and equivocators in contrast. So while I am appalled at the name-calling, the aggression, and the righteousness, and I have my reservations about treating pithy poems as charters of national policy, I cannot help but admire that soul who sees a military objective in the Statue of Liberty. I call for only the sophistication, not the tempering of this ferocity — the ferocity that is just as component in vision as it has lately been in condemnation, and which must remain terminal if the American republic is to be remembered in the far future.

Nakamoto is a member of the Class of 2021

UR OPINION

BY ARYAMAN MAJUMDAR & GABE ISAACSON
OPINIONS EDITOR & PHOTO EDITOR

“WHO’S GOING TO WIN THE SUPER BOWL?”



ALISON CIURZYNSKI '19
“Patriots”



EILEEN BEQUETTE '21
“Eagles”



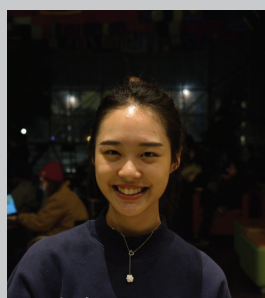
CYNTHIA COLEMAN-CRAY
“Patriots”



ANTHONY YAN '19
“Eagles”



BRANDON REINKENS-MEYER '19
“Doritos commercials”



JANE JING '21
“Blue”

HUMOR

ITS, Beloved Study Space, Dies at 48

By DAVID SCHILDKRAUT
FEATURES EDITOR

It was just another Saturday afternoon. Students labored away, studying for finals. Some eavesdropped on the conversations of others, hoping to get inspiration for their next meme. Others sat down to decadent dinners financed by their “Declining Daddies.”

This scene, on Dec. 16, 2017,

whose hiring was recently announced by the University, had killed ITS.

“In response to student concerns, we have conducted a thorough investigation into the death of ITS,” a Public Safety official said in a statement. “After a thorough autopsy by doctors at Strong, it was determined that ITS died due to a combination of asbestos and carelessly standing in the path of construc-

This wasn’t some accident. It was a premeditated murder done in cold blood.”

I. Zone was not available for comment due to ongoing surgical procedures.

While beloved by students, ITS was notorious for having bad Wi-Fi. Hundreds of students were incredulous that such poor internet quality could come from someone who had a close relationship with University IT.

“ITS was always so fickle with the Wi-Fi,” R. Duous ‘14, said. “One minute he would tell me, ‘UR Connected,’ then a few minutes later my laptop was no better than a glorified typewriter. It made me want to scream.”

ITS was born Res Irve Reading-Room in October, 1969, to University Head Librarian Ben Bowman and former University President W. Allen Wallis. He set the unofficial world record for the world’s largest birth of a new study space that year, since he had two levels and drew much attention as the son of two fathers, unheard of at the time.

In the following decades, Reading-Room would help students waste time between classes, set high scores on Slither.io, and stay warm place to wait for the next Gold-line bus.

Reading-Room changed its name to ITS after discovering itself in college.

Toward the end of its life, ITS was plagued by excessive computer loss and low levels of dry-erase markers. Despite this, it maintained a positive outlook on the future.

“I don’t see people who spend the entire night here as procrastinators,” ITS said in an interview in 2011. “Life will always have its hiccups, but as long as we keep our heads up and out of our phones, there’s always something to look forward at.”

Schildkraut is a member of the Class of 2020.

Smile, You’re Being Watched

By SIOBHÁN SEIGNE
HUMOR EDITOR

If you’re looking for a success story — read no further.

Now that I’ve lost the attention of every student at the UR, I’ll proceed.

I was a star student. I had everything going for me: captain of the football team, valedictorian, you name it, I was it. After I graduated from high school, I majored in political science and completed graduate school at Harvard Law.

Every choice I made pointed toward greatness. Every blunt I denied and every beer I forwent was all in pursuit of eventual career success. It’s just not the same shotgunning a can of Polar Seltzer.

And then, finally, my dream job: a position at the FBI. It was all worth it, I thought. My first day on the job they burned off my fingerprints, handed me the keys to my Aston Martin, unveiled a whole room full of assault weapons, and introduced me to several gorgeous women...

Just kidding. They sat me down in a grey-walled cubicle, put a monitor in front of me, and explained my new job. Yep, I’m the FBI agent who watches you through your laptop camera.

I’m assigned a rotation of several hundred laptops. It’s the perfect job for anyone with a short attention span because it cycles through cameras fairly quickly. (I’m referring to you, folks in the younger generation who blame all your problems on ADHD.)

As for the things I see on the job, well, there are quite a few gold diggers and I’m not talking about beautiful women who are aspiring trophy wives. You also wouldn’t believe the maximum number of chins

a human can have. (Hint: it’s over seven.)

Some days are more interesting than others. Just last week I watched someone eat five bags of Cheetos in a row. Puffy, not crunchy, of course — not everyone can be a savage.

I’m only allowed to come forward if I hear or see something from our “trigger manual.” Luckily, I didn’t major in the natural sciences, so I learned how to read in college — the manual is thick.

As it turns out, most Americans are pretty sensitive. Everything from “politics” to “religion” has an entry in the manual.

It’s important to follow the reporting guidelines, otherwise my supervisors get annoyed. It’s a slippery slope, though. Consider the TSA. Travelers are required to take their shoes off before going through airport security. What’s next? Our socks? Underwear? Will we just start going through naked? Same goes for my job. If you have to report every use of the word “gun,” where do you stop? Do you know how many Americans have the word “gun” in their everyday lexicon?

I must say that I am a little concerned about the increased frequency of Skype calls between Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin. I’ve been debating about whether or not to report them. Unfortunately, due to the speedy rotation through the cameras, I only hear bits and pieces of their conversation. Last week’s snippets — “photo shoot,” “chest-day,” and “I would have gotten away with it too, if it weren’t for you meddling kids!” — didn’t trip any “trigger” warnings.

Seigne is a member of the Class of 2019.



would be one of the last set in ITS.

ITS, which helped students get work done without violating the academic honesty policy, died Dec. 22, 2017, of unknown causes. He was 48. The death was confirmed by Connections Cafe, Gleason Library, and the UR Tech Store.

“I’m still in a state of shock,” Gleason told the Campus Times. “ITS was like a brother to me. His loss is weighing me down, probably because of all the additional students who now come to me to get work done.”

Some students found the death of ITS suspicious, with several suspecting that I. Zone,

tion equipment. We do not plan to press charges at this time.”

Several students weren’t buying it.

“There’s no way ITS wasn’t murdered,” junior Cam Pewter said. “I saw him the day before he died, and he was perfectly healthy and attentive. Construction equipment, my ass.”

Others agreed that the Public Safety investigation was severely flawed.

“There’s no way they researched all the facts,” a student IT worker, who wished to remain anonymous due to having an affair with ITS, said. “For months, I heard my colleagues talking about how they were going to replace ITS with I. Zone.

Punxsutawney Phil Gives State of the Forest Address

By ERIC FRANKLIN
HUMOR EDITOR

Last Friday was Groundhog Day, the day of each year when President Punxsutawney Phil comes out to give his annual State of the Forest address. After the political turmoil of the past year, the speech was highly anticipated, with many wondering what stance the president would take on immigration.

While the address had been touted as one that would bridge the divide between fractured animal communities, the president failed to extend any substantive olive branches, and the speech elicited a menagerie of controversy in the news.

“This speech was an assault on the common animal,” responded Bernie Loonders, who delivered the official opposition response. “Over the past 10 years, the

top 1 percent of the top 1 percent of the top 1 percent has received 99.9998 percent of all new healthcare. It’s time to tear down the wall and let all the taxes in!”

The choice of Loonders to present the opposition response was curious, since he is a political independent who technically does not represent either of the major parties. We tried to ask young voters whether the state of the opposition should be defined by the positions of a political independent, but every animal we spoke to swooned at the sound of Loonders’ name.

Coverage was more positive on other outlets. Sean Parrotty of Fox News simply reread the president’s speech in its entirety while the banner below him flashed, “Best speech ever? Fact check says: Yes!”

Many expected immigration, a prominent plank of President

Phil’s campaign, to be a major theme of the speech. The president did spend a good deal of time on the topic, though! he generally adhered to the relatively restrained language on his teleprompter.

“You see these beavers coming across the border, thousands of them. Do you think it’s a co-



incidence that innocent, hard-working animals are losing their trees? I think the evidence is damming.”

That particular comment drew widespread ire. SeaNN’s Rachel Minnow was one of the most outspoken.

“Damming?” she yelled on her program, straining the ears of her viewers and the bounds of objective reporting.

“That is a clear attempt to demonize the beaver community and link all of them to crime, even though beavers commit crime at a lower rate than natural-born citizens. Never has a president been so disconnected from logic and the truth since Horse W. Bush claimed that Saddam Moossein had weapons of mouse destruction.”

But perhaps the most notable topic of the speech was the one that wasn’t covered — Bob

Moler’s ongoing investigation into the president’s campaign activities. It has been alleged that the campaign colluded with foreign powers to rig the election in his favor.

Some expected a rebuke of an investigatory process that he has called corrupted, but others were glad the president kept quiet.

“Is good he did not talk about investigation,” said local resident Boris Bearovich. “I think is, how you say, partisan witch hunt distraction. Very bad.”

Meanwhile in Washington, Donald Trump saw himself in the bathroom mirror, leading him to hideout in the Oval Office. Traditionally, this would signal six more weeks of winter, but if he has access to Twitter in there, then believe me, folks, it’ll feel like much longer than that.

Franklin is a Take Five Scholar.

CULTURE

Minhaj Tackles Refugees, Policies in Set



GABE ISAACSON / PHOTO EDITOR

Hasan Minhaj performs in Strong Auditorium this past Saturday.



GABE ISAACSON / PHOTO EDITOR

James Austin Johnson, the comedian who opened for Hasan Minhaj

APP FROM PAGE 1

Minhaj clearly didn't have to try hard to win over the audience, but he took care of it pretty quickly, starting by asking, "Did I go over the North Wall? Is that where I'm at right now?" After briefly interacting with a sign-waver in the back from Aligarh (the Indian hometown of Minhaj's parents), he introduced his hour-long set by explaining that he was testing material for a new special. Minhaj set the humorous but sincere mood by opening with a photo of refugees struggling to

get onto a beach. During his set, much of which was a takedown of the United States' counter-violent extremism programs, Minhaj used diagrams, news clips, pre-recorded interviews, and infographics in performance, which felt, as a result, less like a stand-up set and more like a comedic TED talk. Not that the audience minded. This is what Minhaj is known for from his work on "The Daily Show" since 2015. In fact, his set had much in common with his "Daily Show" segment, with Minhaj bringing the audience through his own research on

refugees and extremism. Minhaj received waves of laughter throughout, but also applause of ***In one uncomfortable moment, Minhaj noticed someone nodding when he asked the question, 'Does Islam have a monopoly on extremism?'*** approval and gasps at some of the disturbing data he provided. In one uncomfortable moment, Minhaj noticed someone

nodding when he asked the question "Does Islam have a monopoly on extremism?" After resting his head in his hand and sighing he looked up and diffused things by quipping, "We really are in upstate New York." After the show, Minhaj stayed for a brief audience Q&A. Here it became evident how valuable Minhaj's presence as a mainstream comedian is to some. When one student asked how he dealt with racism, Minhaj responded, "I don't know. How do you?" More than questions, however, Minhaj received sincere

thank-yous from immigrants and students of South Asian descent. When one student of South Asian descent asked how he would feel about something like "Black-Ish" (a sweet, topical family sitcom that showcases the everyday life of an African American family), for South Asian families, Minhaj replied, "You should write that!" The audience burst into applause. "I am!" the student shouted back. *Aiken is a member of the Class of 2021.*

‘The Vagina Monologues’: Uncomfortable and Important

By NATALIE RAMESH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It's about time someone talked about how hard it really is to find your vagina. I thought I was the only one who struggled to put in a tampon. At the College Feminists-sponsored production of Eve Ensler's play "The Vagina Monologues," ***I thought I was the only one who struggled to put in a tampon.*** which was performed on Feb. 2 in Strong Auditorium, it was definitely a relief to hear stories about all the various problems associated with vaginas because people don't talk about it enough; it's great to feel normal about all the happen-

ings down there. Aside from funny and relatable quips, there was a heavier blanket of truth the message of the performance, — we need to honestly talk about the female perspective more. It says a lot about our society and how we view female sexuality that the myriad of issues that come with having a vagina are unknown to most, including to many who have said organ. Expletives were beautifully thrown around in such a way that captured my attention and emphasized the frustration associated with the various tribulations that many women endure daily. Senior Ava Sauer's performance of "Reclaiming Cunt" did this in a particularly powerful way. I have always been uncomfortable with that word, but by the end of that monologue, it simply became a normal word, even a bit empowering at that. Discomfort during the performance is normal, judging by the number of trigger warnings on the program. I could feel vicarious pain

from a few of the monologues. Junior Samantha Richardson told the tale of "The Little Coochi Snorcher" ***Discomfort during the performance is normal, judging by the number of trigger warnings on the program.*** That Could," in which her character injures her vagina while jumping on a bed and is sexually assaulted during her childhood. Another is "Hair," where sophomore Shagun Bose's character describes the painful sex she had because her husband forced her to shave her vagina. However, all of this discomfort was strategically interrupted with bits of humor, saving it from becoming a performance so raw it broke your heart.

Speaking of heartbreaking, the "Original Testimonial: Bounds" was just that. The combination of the dance performance by sophomore Yara Izhiman along with the haunting recorded testimonial of a woman's experience in the Middle East gave me chills. It added another dimension to the message of the whole performance. In addition to this aspect of feminism, however, the discussion of asexuality and transgender women served to highlight modern issues and the many people that are often forget about when the feminine narrative is explored. This is why performances like "The Vagina Monologues" are so important. Communication of messages through stories is an immensely powerful way of connecting to an audience, as opposed to only spewing facts and statistics about violence against women. People need to start feeling uncomfortable with our societal situation and the issues that women and so many others face every day if we are

going to spark change. Personally, I'd love to see more performances like this: funny, entertaining, but also deeply informative. We need more of this kind of art, the kind that provokes uneasiness, understanding, and ultimately, pushes ***People need to start feeling uncomfortable with our societal situation and the issues that women and so may others face every day if we are going to spark change.*** us into awareness that propels the progressive change that our world needs. *Ramesh is a member of the Class of 2021.*

NOT VANILLA

Concrete...or Canvas?



By VENNELA PANDARABOYINA
COLUMNIST

I remember, during freshman year, looking with a bit of excitement and a lot of anxiety at the walls and empty surfaces of my dorm room as if they were blank canvases.

It was an unprecedented opportunity to start fresh. With a couple of items and a decent idea, I could set up this whole new aesthetic for myself and my life. All I had to do was go out into the world and find the posters and accessories I wanted. I put considerable effort into finding items I liked and building my room into a place I could call home. But I always felt — and still feel — like there’s something missing.

I realized this feeling is what drives people to constantly be working on something in their home, or to buy new furniture, paintings, or flower arrangements randomly. It’s what drives them to hire expensive home decorators or buy a grand piano when all they know how to play is “Chopsticks.”

Reader, this week we’re going to talk about interior design — well more like interior design lite, since I am no expert on this subject.

Interior design is what makes a house or an apartment a home. It’s the personal flavors and preferences of whoever is living there. And because of that, it serves as an extension of how we choose to show ourselves to the world. My room featured a lot of bright colors and decorations centered around nature — I like to think it showed the side of me that loves the outdoors. (Even though, reader, I don’t have much time these days to be outdoors.) And while it is an opportunity for us to express ourselves, it can also become a reflection of our own insecurities.

Why am I always feeling like I could do more, or that my room could be a bit more organized, or just a little bit better? Why am I never satisfied

with the way it looks? Why am I a little embarrassed when people come into my room and observe what I think are half-done decorations? It’s because my room is so closely tied with how I like to present myself. It’s no different than the clothes I wear everyday.

It also can be a show of wealth or life experiences. I’ve been in homes littered with random baubles from around the world, each with their own anecdote on how amazing that specific trip was. Or homes with cherry wood kitchens, granite countertops, and handmade Egyptian rugs that all seem to scream, “I make a lot of money,” I’ve also been in homes overrun with toys, school materials, and pastel colored mini furniture, obviously hinting that there’s a small child nearby.

I feel like we can all take a good look at how we decorate our rooms and homes. There’s insights about ourselves there that are useful, and you’ll either be pleased, or find something to change. It can be the first step you take to start your own transformation, or it can be a comforting affirmation of your own self-confidence. Maybe you’ll find the energy to experiment with new looks — who knows! And, reader, keep in mind what I find most important about how we present ourselves to others — in the end, the only person that matters is you. Show what you want to show, and if people take it the wrong way, who cares? What’s important is what those items or posters mean to you. Maybe you’ll share why you like them, or maybe it’s a closely held secret. Either way, how you decorate your room, what you were, or even what you do is only in service to yourself.

My room is currently as barren as the Sahara Desert. There’s no posters on the walls, no cute baubles on my desk. I recently moved, reader, so I haven’t had the time to put anything up. But, now I think I’ll let my room lay blank until I have a strong feeling and see that through. Until then, my walls will resemble the ones I was so anxious about during those first days of freshman year.

Pandaraboyina is a member of the Class of 2020.

‘Les Enfants Terribles’ Tells a Twisted Tale

By MALIKA ZAKARINA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In a small, intimate “black box” theater at Eastman School of Music, Philip Glass’ opera “Les Enfants Terribles,” based on Jean Cocteau’s novel of the same name, was performed on Feb. 2.

A thin, moonlit screen separated the stage and the audience, and when the curtains opened it poured over the theater. Two beds, a coffer, stepladders, and drab chairs composed the scenery. Then, two taciturn dolls, looking like hospital patients in white nightgowns, could be seen. Dancers interacted with each other, flying around the room, and groping each other in the dark.

“Les Enfants Terribles” tells the story of two orphans, Elizabeth and Paul, who are brought to life by senior singers of the Eastman School of Music, Nicole Minielli and Adam Wells. While Elizabeth looks after her bedridden mother, Paul is obsessed with a school crush, Dargelos, until she throws a snowball containing a sharp stone at his chest. Paul becomes confined to the family home due to his injury and Elizabeth begins to look after him as well. Isolated from the outer world, the siblings become engulfed in a twisted mental game, which they play in their shared bedroom, that involves creating psychodramas. The winner is the individual who gets the last word. “In their life the children plunged into the game. To disturb the game was inexcusable and unforgivable,” narrates their school friend Gerard, played by

Anders Namestnik.

As the opera progresses, the behavior of the two siblings becomes more and more appalling. When they discover the death of their mother, they hold hands and hysterically laugh.

Tensions build when Elizabeth marries a Jewish man, who dies

Isolated from the outer world, the siblings become engulfed in a twisted mental game...

on the way to a business trip right before their honeymoon. Elizabeth inherits his estate and the siblings decide to move in. Agathe, a friend of Elizabeth’s, who looks similar to Dargelos, moves into the house as well. Paul and Agathe fall in love with each other. When Elizabeth finds out about their feelings, she encourages Gerard to propose to Agathe because she feels that Agathe will steal her brother’s attention. Gerard and

Elizabeth chooses to shoot herself in a final attempt to win the Game and one-up her brother.

Agathe are married while Paul plunges deep into despair. After taking a lethal dose of Opium, Paul is found dying by Elizabeth who chooses to shoot herself in a final attempt to with the Game and one-up her brother.

“When choosing the cast we were looking at the combination of things,” said Steven Daigle, the artistic director of Eastman Opera Theatre and director of the production. “Their voices should imitate kids, while still sounding professional. And

that’s part of the learning experience, because they have to give up some operatic maneuvers to better pass the meaning.”

The size of the room mattered too, according to Daigle. Because it was so small, and because the audience was so close to the stage, it created an intimate environment that could either helped and intervened with the singers’ performances.

“But this is a great learning tool,” said Daigle, “because if [the performers] feel comfortable in that space the chances are that they will feel comfortable in any space.”

The performers tried to intrigue the audience by giving more questions than solid answers.

The performers tried to intrigue the audience by giving more questions than solid answers

“We also considered deeply the relevancy,” said Daigle, “and the two characters who play the so-called game, which leads to death and destruction, and this has a symbolic meaning. The key is that they are not psychopaths, but humans, like you and I.”

Jean Cocteau, the author of the novel, was an opium addict who struggled with his homosexuality. He wrote the play while recovering from his addiction.

Daigle argues that the theme of the opera is relevant today and that people have forgotten how to sympathize with others and the significant influence adults have over children.

“Our main task was to make the audience sympathetic,” he said. “And to point out that these kids act like that because they are abused and don’t know any other way. Nobody taught them the other way.”

Zakarina is a member of the Class of 2021.

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RECYCLE ME.

Hasan Minhaj Talks Comedy, Inspirations, and Family

By WIL AIKEN
CULTURE EDITOR

Campus Times: How did your parents react when you said you wanted to do comedy?

Hasan Minhaj: I feel like the snake venom of my dreams just slowly went through their body over the past decade [...] ‘Okay, you can’t do comedy. Okay, this is just a phase. No, seriously. Please stop doing comedy. Okay, we can’t change you, just, At least be good at this. Hey, we’re proud of you.’

CT: Do you tell them if you’re going to include them in a set?

HM: My dad has an incredibly good sense of humor. I actually got a lot of my stage presence [...] from him. He’s one of the funniest people I’ve ever met in my life [...] I know that a lot of parents would be mortified [...] but my dad really takes it all in stride and I really respect him for that [...] But I’m also lucky that I genuinely do love my parents.

CT: Do you agree with the assessment that your comedy is a means to an end of delivering a message?

HM: I use comedy as a tool to

share something with the world [...] I really, really would love to add something to the chapter in this book called modern comedy [...] I’m in a very specific, interesting time in history. Son of immigrants, Muslim-American background, growing up and becoming an adult post-9/11, finding my way in America. I’m an American citizen, but at the same time, sometimes I feel like I’m less than. I try to use comedy as a tool to describe my perspective [...] on what it means to be a patriotic American.

CT: At the White House Correspondents’ Dinner, were you afraid that a roast would get too deep under the president’s skin?

HM: President Trump [...] is such a mastermind of the media and he’s almost like a professional wrestler. I was prepared for him to literally kick through the back doors of the Washington Hilton, WWE style, and I’d be like, ‘Oh, holy shit! It’s Donald Trump!’ And he’s there with Steve Austin and Triple H, and he was gonna come in and just DDT me through a table [...] I had a list of jokes called ‘Defcon Orange’ in case he showed up.

CT: What is it like going into

that event where you know that half the room is going to not be laughing on principle?

HM: I got a great piece of advice from Larry Wilmore [...] ‘Look. You’re not playing to that room. You have a very rare opportunity to roast that room on behalf of the world and the country. So just keep in mind, you’re playing to C-Span, which will then play to the internet.’ But when you’re in the room [...] you are sweating [...] and you have to be up there for a half an hour, which is a long time [...] I was coming around the closing bend and I talked about the importance of journalism [...], and in fact the type of persecution that they’re dealing with [...] is similar to what minorities feel. So I was like, ‘Congratulations, now you know what it feels like to be a minority.’ [...] That was sort of towards the back three minutes of the speech and then I could feel like, ‘Oh, this is clicking. They’re really into this.’

CT: Is it ever tough for you to keep your criticism in the context of comedy?

HM: Well, I’m very lucky in the sense that [...] I can pivot between jokes and earnestness. And the more I’ve been able to

just lean in to that superpower, I’ve found I’ve been able to open up a whole new sort of creative level for me that I find to be really really interesting: hitting both highs and lows through jokes and through silence. And that to me is really really rewarding, to be able to play all the notes.

CT: “Homecoming King” had parts that were very cinematic. Are you a movie guy?

HM: I’m a big fan of pushing the medium and saying, “Where can we take this?” You know, ‘Where can we take the comedy special? How far can we take it?’ And I was really, really inspired by a lot of the comedians in Europe that come out of Edinburgh that do these like big, ornate one-man shows or one-woman shows that are sort of centered around a specific idea or theme. And then I was also inspired by the way stage is presented in films. Specifically in the movie ‘Birdman.’ I loved how there were parts of that movie that were entirely one take and how you could bring the camera on stage literally inches away from your face and they could document an entire performance and it felt really palpable and real. It was one of the first specials where I really wanted to storyboard scenes and emotional

moments, to go, ‘Oh, let’s try this here and do this here.’ It was a swing and I just wanted to present it to the public and go, ‘What do you guys think of this? I think that this could be an interesting place we could take comedy specials.’

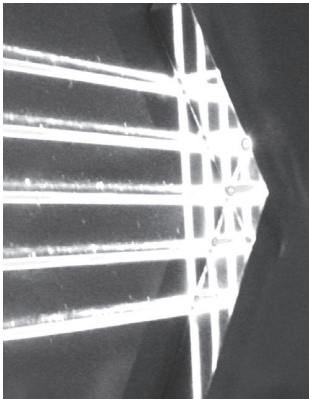
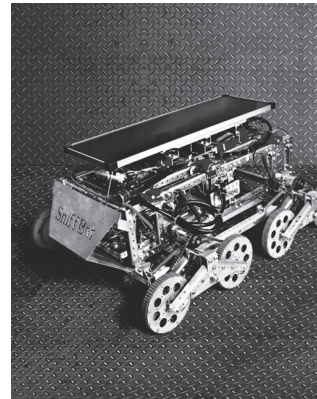
CT: Do you have any advice for any aspiring comedy writers who might be reading?

HM: Practice your craft every day. Even if it’s writing a hundred words or two hundred words or free writing [...] You know, I didn’t get to join the ‘Daily Show’ until [...] I was 29 [...] I had started in college when I was 18 or 19, so it was a long time [...] but I was really proud of just the progress that I made every day, every six months, every year [...] ‘Hey, I have five minutes now [...], I have 10 minutes now [...], I have an hour now,’ and realizing that if you really do love comedy or writing, you’re playing for life. So in the grand scheme of things, two years, five years, 10 years, it’s nothing in the scheme of a 60-year career.

Full interview available soon at www.campustimes.org

Aiken is a member of the Class of 2021.

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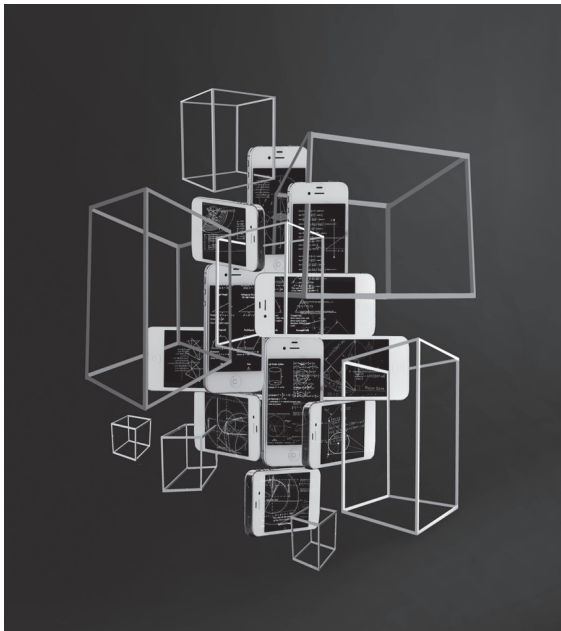
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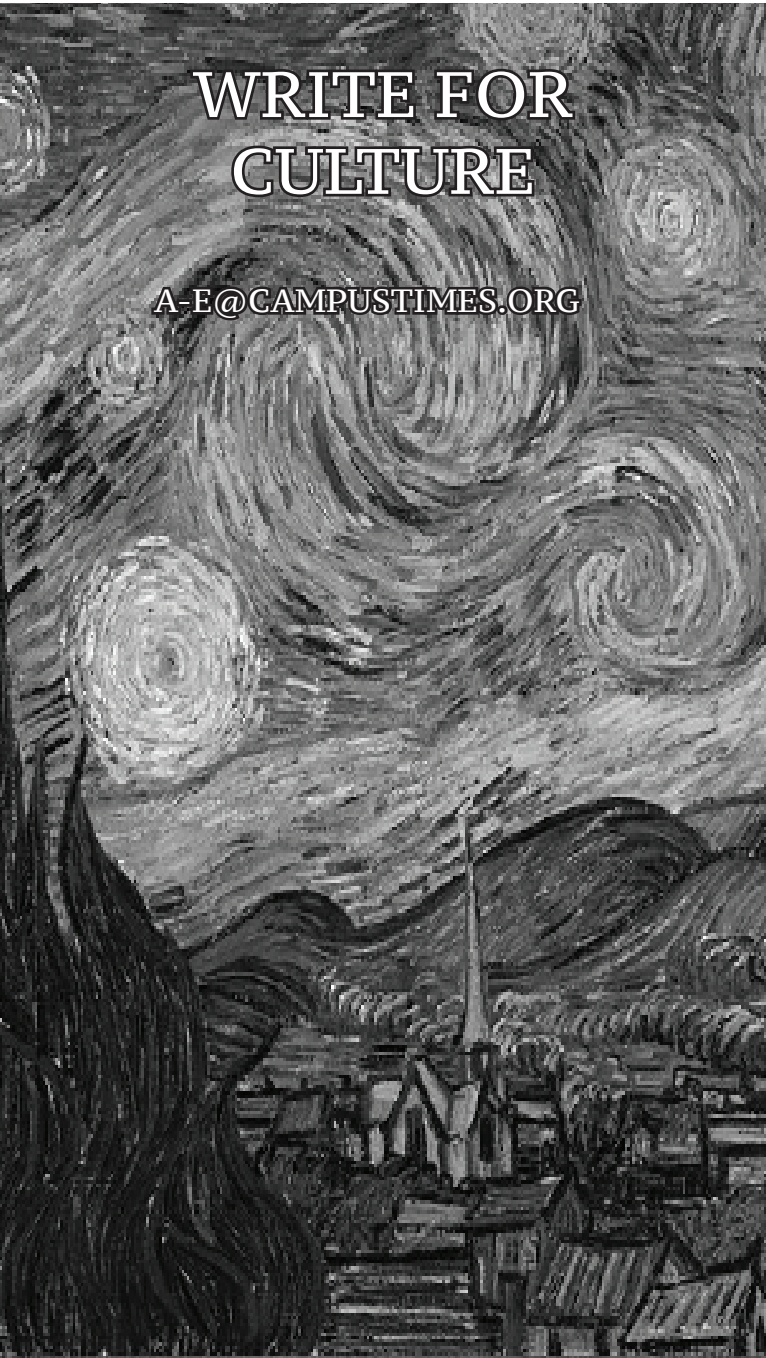
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Steroid Users Snubbed

By MICAH GREENBERG
SPORTS EDITOR

Last week, the National Baseball Hall of Fame announced its inductees for 2018. Four players were selected: Chipper Jones, Jim Thome, Vladimir Guerrero, and Trevor Hoffman.

Additionally, the Veterans’ Committee inducted Tigers greats Jack Morris and Alan Trammell.

There were, though, many notable absences.

For instance, Edgar Martinez barely missed the 75-percent vote cut-off. Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens shattered records, but their alleged steroid use kept them from attaining such recognition. Curt Schilling was pivotal in World Series victories for the Diamondbacks and Red Sox, but his personal antics have hindered his chances. All of these players aren’t perfect Hall of Famers, but they all deserve a plaque in Cooperstown. Here’s why:

Edgar Martinez had a fantastic career and stat line. However, as a designated hitter, he didn’t play in the field. There are many positions

in baseball, and designated hitter is one of them. The greatest designated hitter ever deserves to be enshrined.

No Hall of Fame candidates have been more controversial than Bonds and Clemens. Although neither player has ever failed a drug test, they most definitely took steroids that helped them extend their careers and break records. Nevertheless, both were fantastic players before the steroid-era. Regardless of all of this, other players, like Ivan Rodriguez, have been inducted despite their drug use. Still, if Bonds and Clemens don’t make it, then other greats like Alex Rodriguez and Manny Ramirez likely won’t either.

Finally, Curt Schilling deserves the nod. He was a key member of three championship-winning teams and known for pitching with a famously bloody sock. As a player, Schilling was a class act. But since his retirement, he has been fired by ESPN after various controversial tweets. Schilling still was a fantastic player, and he deserves to be in Cooperstown.

Greenberg is a member of the Class of 2021.

LAST WEEK’S SCORES

FRIDAY, FEB. 2
MEN’S TRACK AND FIELD AT RIT – 3RD OF 9
WOMEN’S TRACK AND FIELD AT RIT – 1ST OF 10
WOMEN’S BASKETBALL AT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS – L(52-71)
MEN’S BASKETBALL AT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS – L(63-77)

SATURDAY, FEB. 3
MEN’S SQUASH VS BARD COLLEGE AT VASSAR COLLEGE – W(9-0)
MEN’S SQUASH VS ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY AT VASSAR COLLEGE – L(3-6)

SUNDAY, FEB.4
MEN’S SQUASH VS HOBART COLLEGE AT VASSAR COLLEGE – W(9-0)
MEN’S BASKETBALL AT UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO – L(83-90)
MEN’S SQUASH AT VASSAR COLLEGE – W(9-0)
WOMEN’S BASKETBALL AT UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO – 1 P.M. (CT)

THIS WEEK’S SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 7
MEN’S SQUASH AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY – 6 P.M.

FRIDAY, FEB. 9
WOMEN’S TRACK AND FIELD AT NYU INTITATIONAL – 1 P.M.
MEN’S TRACK AND FIELD AT NYU INVITATIONAL – 1 P.M.
WOMEN’S BASKETBALL AT CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY – 6 P.M.
MEN’S BASKETBALL AT CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY – 8 P.M.

SATURDAY, FEB. 10
MEN’S TENNIS VS. VASSAR COLLEGE – 12 P.M.
MEN’S TENNIS VS. NAZARETH COLLEGE – 5 P.M.

SUNDAY, FEB. 11
MEN’S BASKETBALL AT CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY – 12 P.M.

WHAT TO WATCH

UR Men’s and Women’s Track and Field will both travel to New York City to participate in the New York University Invitational next Friday. The Women’s team has been very successful, placing first at RIT last week and second at College at Brockport two weeks ago. The Men’s team has also done well, finishing third in points at RIT and fourth in points at College at Brockport. Both teams have the chance to improve their already-high standing this weekend.

LASR WEEK’S HIGHLIGHTS

UR Men’s Basketball played at the University of Chicago on Sunday. The University of Chicago has had a subpar season so far, but an early scoring spree put the Maroons ahead at the half. Chicago continued their success, and expanded their lead to as much as 19 points with just 5:04 remaining in the game. However, the ‘Jackets went on a tear late in the game, outscoring Chicago 25–9 late in the game. However, this exciting comeback wasn’t enough, and Chicago still won the high-scoring game, 90–83.

Squash Plays Well in Liberty League Championship

By NICHOLAS DAVIS
CONTRIBUTOR

Men’s Squash beat three of its four opponents this past weekend 9–0, dropping only a close match to no. 4 St. Lawrence University 6–3. Three of the six games the Yellowjackets lost went beyond three sets and two went all the way to a fifth set.

Those victories come after the rough weekend of Jan. 27, when the then-no. 8 team lost 9–0 to no. 3 Harvard and fell in a heartbreaker to no. 7 Dartmouth.

“It was not our brightest moment,” sophomore player Rodrigo Porras said of the blowout losses.

His teammate, senior Ben Pitfield, called the losses one of the worst moments in recent years for the squash program.

The team had jumped out to a quick 3–0 lead against Dartmouth, but Dartmouth rallied to win the match. It was a painful pill to swallow for the ‘Jackets’ young roster, but they still believe that there’s more to be done this season.

“We can beat any team in the country,” said Pitfield. His teammates agreed.

It’s safe to say that nobody expected the team to be performing at the caliber that it was last year. The team lost two first team All-Americans and two more graduating seniors last year. One of the seniors was the individual runner-up at nationals last year. But despite these losses and what most people think outside of their team, the men



PHOTO COURTESY OF UR ATHLETICS

Junior guard Lizzy Atkinson had 13 points in 17 minutes against Geneseo.

are still confident they can perform at the highest level, make the playoffs, and win a championship. The playoffs take the top eight teams in the country for a tournament, and the winner of that tournament is crowned the national champions.

First-year player Ashley Davies emphasized that the team had gotten good training in during the week. The morale was high, and the men were excited. Their season is by no means over, and they were embracing the underdogs role.

After the losses suffered against Dartmouth and Harvard, Rochester still has some work to do to secure a spot in the tournament, with plenty of highly ranked opponents left on the schedule. Davies, Pitfield, and Porras were all in agreement that the remaining opponents on their schedule are an opportunity to get back into the mix and that they intended to do just that. They play no. 1 Trinity College, no. 7 Princeton, and no. 15 Cornell over the coming weeks.

Davis is a member of the Class of 2020.

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SPORTS

Chad Martinovich Hired as Men’s Football Coach

By LAUREN SHARPE
SENIOR STAFF

After former head football coach Scott Greene made it known he would be stepping down from his position, it was announced, in late January, that former MIT head coach Chad Martinovich would be his replacement.

The announcement was made by Executive Director of Athletics George VanderZwaag who said he is “thrilled to have Chad join our staff.”

Martinovich attended and played football for Hobart College before graduating in 1994, and began his coaching career at Bucknell University where he remained until 1995. He then moved to Hamilton College where he coached for two years, to the University of Albany for one and, finally, was the offensive coordinator for Swarthmore College until 2001. Before taking a job at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 2004, he returned to coach at Hamilton College in 2001 where he also became an assistant professor of physical education.

At RPI, he took the team to the 2007 NCAA tournament before accepting the head coaching position at MIT in 2009.

In 2014, Martinovich won a conference championship and had an NCAA playoff run with MIT, earning him multiple Coach of the Year honors, including that of the New England Football Conference. This past season, he led MIT to a 7–3 overall record, going 5–2 in the conference where his team averaged 26.8 points and 400 yards of total offense per game.

Despite excitement about the team’s new leadership, Greene, who coached the Yellowjackets for 12 seasons, will be missed.

“We are deeply grateful to Scott for the 12 years that he has led our football program. He cares deeply about his players, and has earned their respect and support,” said VanderZwaag.

When Greene took over as coach in 2006, he led his team to post-season appearances in both that year and 2007. Since 2011, 38 members of UR Football were named to the Hampshire Honor Society, in which players must achieve a cumula-

tive GPA of 3.2 or higher over four years of college. UR produced the most honorees (13) out of any school in the nation in 2014.

Also announced in January was the hiring of former Yellowjacket Brian Daboll as the Buffalo Bills offensive coordinator. Daboll, a Buffalo native who attended St. Francis High School and played football at UR from 1994-1995, has five Super Bowl rings from his time coaching the New England Patriots. He also helped coach the University of Alabama to an NCAA championship.

From 2000-2006, Daboll served as the tight ends coach for New England, and returned in 2013 before moving to coach at Alabama in 2017. He also served as an offensive coordinator for the Cleveland Browns from 2009-2010, for the Miami Dolphins in 2011 and the Kansas City Chiefs in 2012.

“He’s done a great job for me. He does a big role on our staff and he’s someone I have a lot of confidence and trust in because of the experience and amount of time he has been in our system,”



PHOTO COURTESY OF UR ATHLETICS

Chad Martinovich (center) was successful as Head Coach of MIT Football

Bill Belichick told the Democrat and Chronicle. “He’s a really good coach. He could probably coach any position on the field. He works hard and again,

has a very extensive knowledge of the game and he has done a great job for us.”

Sharpe is a member of the Class of 2019.

EVERYBODY TALKS

How Much Do You Know About Women’s Sports Here?



By JACKIE POWELL
COLUMNIST

Huzzah, the NFL season is finally over. It was quite a year on the gridiron. While the pigskin is usually known for portraying the highest levels of athleticism, the 2017 NFL season instead highlighted deeper issues. Instead of high-quality play taking center stage, all eyes focused on racial injustice, sexual harassment accusations, and the league’s declining TV ratings. I guess that’s another reason why President Trump isn’t a fan.

This past Saturday, Sam Gordon, a 14 year old from Salt Lake City received the first-ever Game Changer Award at the 2018 NFL Honors. Gordon established a Utah girls football league in 2015, and it is her mission to fight for equal opportunity and respect for young women who want to be involved in sports.

I believe and cherish Gordon’s mission, and a day earlier, I performed in College Feminists’ latest production of the Vagina Monologues with that exact intent.

I started with a personal tale, and my narrative uncovered how, for so long, my knowledge of sports

was a shock to my peers. During my first year at the University, jaws dropped when I could predict an inside blitz. My knowledge was immaterial, a bit outlandish, and far from taken seriously.

“Wow, Jackie, you know so much,” they all said.

I shifted my routine away from my story and began discussing accomplishments of UR female athletes. Periodically in this column, I discuss the injustices women encounter in sports. And while reporting on injustices can become rather draining, I made the case this past Friday night that my reason to persist is of our University’s female athletes.

That night, these moments about UR women engaged my audience the most.

In honor of that, I challenge you. How much do you know about female athletes and their teams here at UR? These women stand with Gordon and me everyday. Take this quiz and you’ll see that our female athletes are forces to be reckoned with.

1) Which UR team went on an 11-game winning streak, won six all-conference awards, and in the past three years had three All-Americans?

- a. Soccer
- b. Field Hockey
- c. Basketball
- d. Swimming and Diving

2) This senior helped UR achieve

five total shutouts in the past year. She also has been honored by the UAA three times in her career:

- a. Sydney Melton
- b. Hannah Geitner
- c. Gabriela Alatorre
- d. Kiran Sundaram

3) Sophomore Camilla Garcia was...

- a. 8-for-10 shooting from the field against WashU.
- b. awarded Liberty League athlete of the week in 2017.
- c. regionally ranked 13th for doubles in the Northeast.
- d. victorious in the 200 fly during a meet against RIT.

4) Junior Becca Selznick finished her sophomore season in 2017 as a top scorer for which UR team?

- a. Field Hockey
- b. Swimming and Diving
- c. Basketball
- d. Soccer

5) Who became the third UR athlete to win two national championships?

- a. Monica Jackson
- b. Rachel Bargabos
- c. Claire Dickerson
- d. Kylee Barlett

6) Junior Clara Martinez, junior Alara Kocak and sophomore Beth Ghyzel all:

- a. racked up over 175 kills in 2017

- b. scored hat tricks this fall
- c. received UAA honors
- d. hit 20 RBIs

7) Who ranked second in the Liberty League in goals against average?

- a. Gabrielle Cantley
- b. Madilynne Lee
- c. Conley Ernst
- d. Rebecca Fuchs

8) Which team sent four players to play in an All-Star Championship in Florida and is currently ranked eighth in the nation?

- a. Basketball
- b. Rugby, the Sledgehammers
- c. Softball
- d. Field Hockey

9) In 2017, which pair recorded a .436 batting average and a 1.72 ERA?

- a. Madeline Levy and Jamison Seabury
- b. Lydia Petricca and Sam Malecki
- c. Sayaka Abe and Nancy Bansbach
- d. Harleigh Kaczegowicz and Eleni Wechsler

10) Which of the following are accomplishments of senior Al Leslie?

- a. had a higher free throw percentage than Anthony Davis, Carmelo Anthony and LeBron James in 2017.
- b. was named d3hoops.com East

- Region Player of the Year
- c. received State Farm’s Assist of the year.
- d. both A and B

If you got 7–10 correct answers,

Answers:

1) B 2) A 3) C 4) B 5) D 6) B 7) C 8) D 9) D 10) B

you are a real Yellowjacket, congratulations!

If you got 4–6 correct: Go hibernate with the groundbois. And 0–3 correct answers earns you a sting from Rocky.

Take a listen to the audio of my piece “You Know So Much” live at the Vagina Monologues. Join Sam Gordon and me as we fight for equal opportunity for all women in every aspect of sports. I challenge you to go see at least two women’s sports events this semester. I’m sure you’ll have a jolly good time and may even learn something. Was your mind blown? How did it make you feel? I’d love to hear about your experiences. Write me at jpowe20@u.rochester.edu.

“Everybody Talks” is a radio show on WRUR’s the Sting that highlights women’s involvement in sports and the social issues that surround athletics. You can listen to it every Friday from 1–2 p.m. on the Sting.wrur.org.

Powell is a member of the class of 2018.