

# Campus Times

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## Massage Chairs Win 5K Challenge

By SHWETA KOUL  
NEWS EDITOR

A proposal to install massage chairs on campus won the 5K Challenge, bringing with it complaints about the contest’s process and mixed feelings about its winner.

With 1,983 students voting, massage chairs took 30.71 percent of the votes (609 students), followed by hammock poles at 22.84 percent (453 students), free menstrual cups at 16.89 percent (335 students), and loanable electronic chargers at 15.48 percent (307 students).

The tail end was comprised of reusable lunch boxes, an exam de-stress coloring program, and snow pants, with percentages near five for each.

The student behind the winning proposal, junior Xueying (Shelley) Chen, wants to see the chairs placed in locations such as Wilson Commons, the under-construction iZone, and UCC. But some students are upset that the more overtly social proposals — like free menstrual cups and reusable lunch boxes — were not chosen.

“I really wasn’t happy just for the fact that the other options had more [of a] profound impact that could’ve been made, such as the lunchboxes, which help people carry food around without the need for plastic containers [...] as well as the menstrual cups, which help people with periods and also eliminate the need for other sanitary products which leave behind waste,” first-year Alex Rabideau said.

Senior Jenny Zhao felt similarly about the menstrual cups: “It’s a step in the right direction towards eco-friendliness along with the lunchboxes.” Cleanliness of the massage chairs was also brought up as a concern.

“It’ll be like the pods in the quiet room all over again,” Zhao continued, referring to the reported dirtiness of the sleeping pods in Gleason — a past winner of the 5K challenge. “It’s not a productive use of the money given that massage chairs have limited social good usage; they’re a nice bonus but don’t necessarily add or fulfill the necessary needs or interests of many students on campus.”

SEE 5K PAGE 3

## Tinashe, Princess Nokia Exude Strength



Tinashe performs at Dandelion Day on Friday.

By ASHLEY BARDHAN  
MANAGING EDITOR

“Dandelion Day” and “empowering” are two phrases you might not normally use in the same sentence, but with Tinashe’s and Princess Nokia’s D-Day performances, things changed.

Although different in musical style and content, Tinashe and Nokia offered performances steeped in a shared feminine power.

As her lone drummer boomed along with the speakers’ bass and her four female dancers commanded the stage just as much as she did, Tinashe began with the

sexy, lethargic “Party Favors.” Later, she would introduce the dancers individually, their names projected onto the screen at the back of the stage while they danced before it. At this Dandelion Day, we humbly recognized every woman for each breath she took.

After “Party Favors,” Tinashe played an array of slow, bass-blasting R&B tracks both from her 2018 album “Joyride” and 2014’s “Aquarius.”

Before playing “Company,” (“I just need a moment, fuck and leave”) Tinashe took a poll: “How many of you guys came to the show tonight with your

boyfriend or girlfriend?” Based on the audience’s response, not many.

“How many of y’all came to this concert single?”

Endless screaming.

“This next song goes out to all of you [...] Who needs a relationship?”

Tinashe lay across a set of chairs while her four dancers writhed on and around her. Throughout the show, a woman next to me would intermittently cry out in anguish: “She’s so hot!”

Tinashe ended her set with “No Drama,” a popping, piano-accompanied track featuring Migos’ Offset. After an obligatory

“Tinashe” chant from the crowd, she returned for an encore performance of “2 On,” leading the audience in a sing-a-long of the chorus, “Man, I love to get on / I love to get too on.”

Even before beginning her set, Princess Nokia was infectiously confident, commanding audience members to “bring me some weed” and laying down a framework for the show to follow.

“I can’t control what happens in this audience,” Nokia said. “I ask the men — I don’t care if you are drinking — please be respectful of the women that are in attendance. Social harassment and

SEE TINASHE PAGE 9

## TEDx Speakers Inspire

By MALIKA ZAKARINA  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Students and community members flooded the Feldman Ballroom on April 22 to listen to the inspiring messages of 12 speakers at TEDx University of Rochester, a student-organized event under the TED license.

The TEDx team split up the dozen speakers into two sessions, one in the morning, one in the afternoon.

The team’s goal was not to bring in speakers who were known for something famous but rather to feature relatable individuals passionate about specific issues.

“We are not bringing individuals who ‘changed’ the world,”

said Muhammad Miqdad, vice president of TEDx, “but those who had felt miserably, rose up, and continued doing what they thought was important.”

Tyler Socash, an activist at Adirondack Wilderness Advocates and co-creator of Foot Stuff Podcast, kicked off the event with his talk “Wilderness Challenges You Mentally, Physically, Emotionally and Sometimes All At Once.” Socash, an alumnus, quit his job at UR in 2015 to hike around the world.

The next speaker was Jay Gillen, a mathematician who teaches at the Waxter Detention Center. He used his segment to talk about “radical education in excluded communities.” During his presentation, Gillen talked

SEE TEDx PAGE 2

## In VR Film, Harassment Up Close and Personal

By WIL AIKEN  
CULTURE EDITOR

Visitors slipped on headsets last Wednesday and found themselves transported into the college life of a young woman in “Through Her Eyes,” a student-made virtual reality film whose premiere was accompanied by a women’s empowerment fair.

The film opens with the main character (and the viewer) waking up. A screen appears opposite the bed, displaying Instagram comments. (“You look like less of a bitch when you smile.”)

Soon, the viewer is surrounded by screens like these, almost all of them demeaning. A Tinder inbox shows a message saying, “Let’s skip the part where I get to know

you and go right to you sucking my dick.”

“Through Her Eyes” is the first film from R.I.D.E (Realistic Immersive Digital Experience), a production company founded by seniors Carolina Manent, Ryan Daley, and Skye Dole, who created the film as their capstone project.

Using headphones and headsets, viewers experienced the film by looking around and observing their surroundings, which were pre-recorded around campus with a 360-degree camera. What they saw was displayed on computer screens connected to the headsets.

Putting viewers, particularly male ones, through uncomfortable experiences was something the filmmakers had in mind.

SEE VR PAGE 9

INSIDE  
THIS CT

BEING  
CANADIAN  
PAGE 5 OPINIONS

CT EATS:  
DELI SANDRO’S  
PAGE 4 COMMUNITY

‘PINTER  
PLAYS’  
PAGE 8 CULTURE

ROCHESTER  
WHEELS GAME  
PAGE 12 SPORTS





GABE ISAACSON NEWS STAFF

## VEGAN CHEFS SHOW OFF SKILLS AT 'VEGAN IRON CHEF'

Chefs show off their vegan culinary skills at Vegan Iron Chef, a cook-off at Danforth Dining Hall.

### PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

#### Fire Alarm at Eastman Theater(1)

APR. 24—DPS assisted the Rochester Fire Department in investigating the cause of a fire alarm at the Eastman theater area.

#### Motor Vehicle Accident in South Side (2)

APR. 24—DPS assisted with a motor vehicle accident in the South Side Lot.

#### Stolen Property at Sue. B(3)

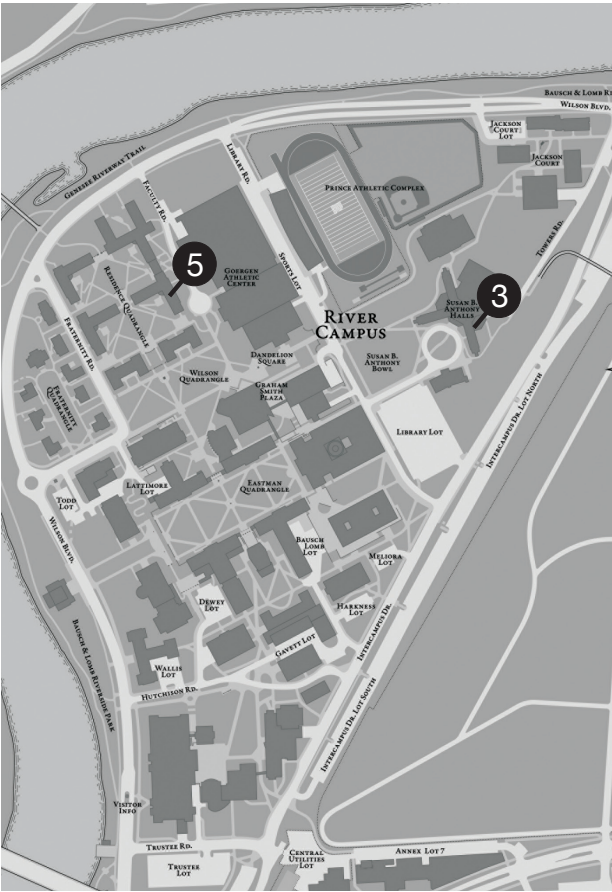
APR. 24—DPS responded to a stolen property report from a facilities worker in the Susan B. Anthony Hall.

#### Stolen Property at Strong Vision (4)

APR. 25—Strong Vision in College Town reported stolen store property.

#### Student Taken to Emergency Room (5)

APR. 26—A student in Hoeing Hall was not feeling well and was seen by MERT and taken to the emergency department.



MAP COURTESY OF UR COMMUNICATIONS

Information provided by the Department of Public Safety.

### THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

#### TUESDAY | APR. 16

**RIVER CAMPUS LIBRARIES' COMIC-CON 2018**  
RUSH RHEES LIBRARY, EVANS LAM SQUARE, 11 A.M. - 4 P.M.  
The River Campus Libraries will be holding its own Comic-Con. Students are encouraged to attend wearing their favorite character t-shirt or cosplay.

#### LAST DAY OF CLASSES FOR COLLEGE

RIVER CAMPUS .  
Tuesday will be the last day of classes for the spring semester.

#### WEDNESDAY | MAR. 17

##### RUSH RHEES STUDY BREAK

RUSH RHEES LIBRARY, HAWKINS-CARLSON ROOM, 7 P.M. - 8 P.M.  
The Treasure Room in the Rush Rhees Library will be having therapy dogs and goodie bags to help students take a study break.

##### INTERNATIONAL THEATRE PROGRAM: THE PINTER PLAYS

TODD THEATER, 2 P.M. - 4 P.M.  
The International Theatre Program will be presenting The Collection and The Lover, the two plays from Nobel Prize-winning playwright, Harold Pinter.

#### THURSDAY | MAR. 18

##### BAR-B-QUAD

WILSON COMMONS , FRONT PORCH, 1 P.M. - 5 P.M.  
Students are welcomed to stop by at Wilson Commons for picnic foods and giveaways.

##### ARABIC CONVERSATION HOURS

FREDERICK DOUGLASS COMMONS, 305, 1 P.M. - 2 P.M.  
The Language Center will be hosting conversation hours in Arabic.

#### FRIDAY | MAR. 19

##### RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

STRONG MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, STRONG DONOR ROOM (1-1350), 10 A.M - 3 P.M  
Red Cross will be holding a blood drive, sponsored by Friends of Strong.

##### CHINESE CONVERSATION HOUR

FREDERICK DOUGLASS COMMONS, 305, 1 P.M. - 2 P.M.  
The Language Center will be hosting conversation hours in Chinese.

### CORRECTION

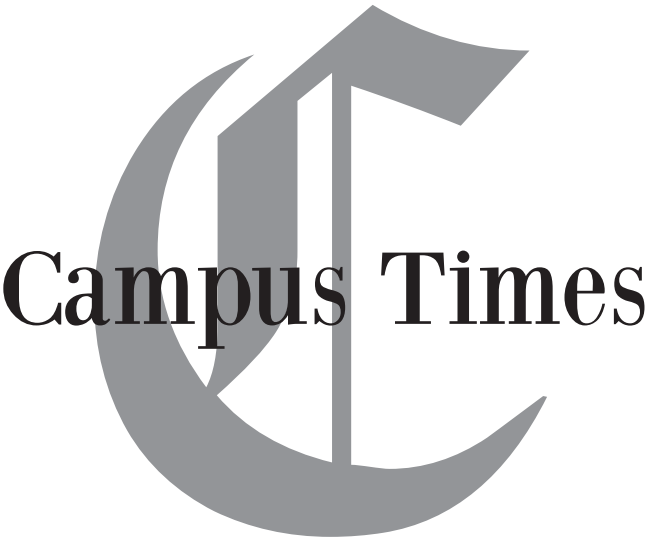
An article last issue said that performer Les Johnson was an alum. Johnson is in fact a first-year.

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Campus Times.

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## UR Mock Trial Team Gains Recognition at Nationals

By SHWETA KOUL  
NEWS EDITOR

UR Mock Trial’s gained national recognition last weekend at nationals in Minneapolis, with six wins out of a possible 12, an honorable mention, and a team member winning an award presented only to the highest-ranking attorneys in the competition.

The team, which had been to nationals last year but did not receive as much recognition, showed schools this year that a student-run and student-taught team with no law school association can still compete at the highest level.

“As soon as the announcer said that we had got an honorable mention, I sprang out of my seat and shouted at the top of my lungs,” junior member Matt Hoffner said. “After not getting any recognition last year at nationals it was just so great to see all the hard work pay off and for all the other teams competing to see that the U of R means business and that we are talented competitors.”

The team — the program’s A team — went through two rounds of the postseason before qualifying for the championship, at which it went head-to-head against 48 of the best college teams across the country. To top off the difficulty of the competition, the 48 teams were only given three weeks to prepare and present a brand-new case.

Junior Deisy Abarca Espiritu,

the team member who won the All-American attorney award, accounts her teammates for pushing her to be the best competitor. She also emphasized that it was not a fluke that the team had so much success this year.

“Every year, more than 700 teams compete to make it to nationals, and the fact that we did it for the second year in a row is no accident,” Espiritu said. “We’ve spent the past two years rebuilding our program and making deliberate efforts to qualify for nationals. Winning an honorable mention means that among a pool of the best teams in the country, Rochester Mock Trial placed in the top 13.”

Members spent the majority of the last three weeks vigorously prepping with the material — some team members spent around 10 hours on it each week.

“From the very beginning an agenda was created by the captain, and everyone knew what they need to have done by when,” senior Cindy Molina said. “Both outside and inside of practice, we would give each other feedback that needed to be implemented by the next practice that would help us improve the content of our material.”

Although it was a competition, members expressed their gratitude for nationals allowing them to meet a diverse group of students from colleges like Northwood University, Ohio State Univer-

sity, Xavier College, and Georgia State.

“One of the great things about the American Mock Trial Association and mock trial in general is that it really is a community,” senior Zachary Marshall-Carter said. “I’ve been fortunate enough to meet so many amazing people from all over the country because of mock trial [...] I know that a lot of them will be going into the legal community in the next five years and so some of us will continue to see them in that realm, later in life.”

Along with making friends, each member has learned their own unique lessons from participating in Mock Trial and going to Nationals. Team member and junior Samantha Myers learned confidence, public speaking skills, and how to choose and present the most important information. Espiritu felt empowered in advocating for her fictitious clients.

“While all the people my teammates and I have advocated for are fictitious, the skills that we have gained are very much real,” Espiritu said. “And as I look out into the world that I’m about to enter, I feel less intimidated than I did three years ago, because through mock trial, I have had the opportunity to learn how to speak up not just for myself, but also for the people that I have the privilege of representing.”

*Koul is a member of the Class of 2020.*

## Douglass Celebrates ‘Stars in Service’

By AYA ABDELRAHMAN  
NEWS STAFF

In a joyful celebration of the second “Stars in Service” reception this past Monday, Douglass Dining Services workers were recognized for their dedicated service.

This year’s award — a \$50 Wegmans’ gift card and a spot for their name on the “Stars In Service” plaque — went to Douglass Dining Hall worker Lucy Perez. Perez and other attendees cheered and danced when her award was announced.

“Somebody yesterday asked to me what it means working here, and I’m surprised somebody asked to me that, and I say working here for me is everything. This is my home far away from mine, so thank you so much,” said Perez as she received her award. “Douglass Dining the best dining on this campus.”

Douglass Dining Hall workers Michael Bell, Dawn Marshall Hosier, Shafonya Nash, and Jayquan Coley were among the finalists for this year’s award.

The winner was chosen by an SA Government committee after an open nomination period. Around 25 students nominated service workers.

“I’m really appreciating

this event because I never got elected for anything growing up in high school middle school, I never got elected for anything at all, so the fact that you guys appreciate what I do for you, I love it,” said Coley. “I’ve been here for eight years, I love my job, and it’s awesome.”

The event was concluded by a joint dance led by Perez. Initiated last year, the award recognizes and celebrates Dining, Facilities, and Transportation workers.

“When I made it I wanted to recognize the people that really keep this university running, just for the wonderful stars they are,” said senior Alexandria Brown, the initiative’s founder and chair of the SA committee.

Brown started the initiative to link students with the greater Rochester community.

“We mostly think of ourselves as University of Rochester students and very often we don’t make the effort to go out in the Rochester community and actually know the faces and the flavors and the cultures and the people that made up these communities, but that community is here every day all day,” Brown said.

*Abdelrahman is a member of the Class of 2020.*

## TEDx Brings Dozen Speakers for Second Annual Event



COURTESY UR PHOTOGRAPHY

12 Speakers gave speeches to a Feldman Ballroom flooded with people

TEDX FROM PAGE 1

about one of his students from the detention center, whose name he had to conceal, who felt like there was something shameful about her being.

“There is nothing shameful about being human — in our acts maybe — but not in our beings,” Gillen said.

Gillen taught English in Baltimore City Public Schools and launched the Baltimore Algebra Project along with graduates of Stadium School. The project helped build math literacy among youth experiencing pov-

erty and discrimination in U.S. public schools. Since 2009, the organization became an entirely student-run co-op and earned more than \$4,000,000 since then.

“Young people don’t need to wait for anybody’s judgment before they can share knowledge and skills with their peers,” said Gillen. “They don’t need anybody’s authority or credential — they can just teach.”

Claudia Gordon, a director of government and compliance with Sprint

Accessibility, knows what it means to be a “minority within a minority.” Along from being an African-American woman, she is also deaf.

During her childhood years, Gordon spent most of her time at home, isolated from the outer world, until it was time to attend school. She felt unwelcome both in her family and in school environment. Despite being constantly judged, she decided to become fluent in sign language. Her determination allowed her to excel at school and graduate at the top of her class.

She started embracing her deaf, marginalized identity and realized how much resilience and power she had. Gordon became passionate about social justice and decided to become a lawyer. She graduated from Howard University in 1995 and went on to attend American University’s Washington College of Law in 2000. That year she was also honored with Scadden Fellowship and started working at the National Association of the Deaf Law and Advocacy Center.

“The stigma of my deafness neither dictated my capacity nor my world,” Gordon said. “It was just another way of experiencing the world.”

*Zakarina is a member of the Class of 2020*

## 5K Challenge Winner Feels in the Dark Over SA Implementation

5KFROM PAGE 1

Chen told the *Campus Times* her proposal was an inclusive one.

“I think massage chairs won because they aren’t only serving women, they can be used by anyone on campus,” Chen said. “Whatever major you are in and whatever department you are in, you get a chance to take a mental break from school.”

Chen also said that a way to keep the chairs clean could be using a disposable covering every time someone uses one.

Some students who spoke with the *Campus Times* agreed with Chen’s focus on mental health.

“Considering the magnitude of statistics for mental health numbers on college campuses, it feels appropriate to get something like massage chairs to help relax and reduce the mental strain experienced by a majority of students here,” sophomore Miruna Radulescu said. At of the time of this writing, Chen had not

heard from SA since the announcement that she won.

“I’m very in the dark about this process,” Chen said. “I haven’t received a personal email from SA. I just wish there was more transparency on how SA is planning on engaging me in the process of planning and purchasing of the massage chairs.”

According to SA adviser and Associate Dean of Students Anne-Marie Alger, currently “SA is working with the assistant dean of student life [...] about where the chairs could go and what is the best type to buy.”

Alger said the contest’s winner is usually contacted for their thoughts and added that “we should have sent an email to the winner to let her know but we fell a little behind in this project, as the three task forces we had going this year took a lot of attention, which isn’t typical.”

The massage chairs are slated for installation on campus the next academic year.

*Koul is a member of the Class of 2020.*

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# COMMUNITY

CT EATS

## Deli Sandro’s Offers Deli-cious Sandwiches, in House and at Home



By LUIS NOVA  
WEBMASTER

For the last couple weeks, I’ve been able to head out into town and get nice platters of food at comfy sit-down places. Barbecue food, Asian food, ice cream, all types of places. But, like every D-Day season, and every semester’s end, I’ve been up to my neck with final projects and stuck to the confines of my desk back in my suite. When one works for long hours, one gets hungry, and when one gets hungry, one gets food.

Usually, I like to make my own meals at home — gotta save a few bucks, you know? But on this particular Saturday night, I was hungry, and I needed something sizeable and filled with flavor. For that kind of job, I headed over to that little blessing on Plymouth Avenue, Deli Sandro’s, the sub shop home to many of my favorite crunch-time meals.

Deli Sandro’s has been in business in the 19th Ward since 2012. The ownership chose a pretty strategic spot too when first setting up across the street from the shop’s current location — the shop is a block away from Riverview. It’s no wonder the ownership doubled down and moved across the street into a bigger building and opened up a new bar, the Tin Roof, nearby. At its new building, Sandro’s offers a variety of meals to pick from. There are cold sandwich classics in sub or wrap form (like the Italian, ham and swiss, caprese), warm sandwiches in sub or wrap form (Cubano, BLT, parm), cheese steak sand-



LUIS NOVA / WEBMASTER

An Italian sub ordered from Deli Sandro’s.

wiches (including my suite-mate’s favorite: the firecracker, a spicy Buffalo cheese steak with jalapeños), salads, desserts (milkshakes and ice cream sandwiches made with their homemade cookies, which are unbelievable soft), and tons of sides (including chips and meatballs).

My personal favorite of Deli Sandro’s offerings is without a doubt the Italian sandwich as a sub. It’s what I get every time I go, and every time it tastes better than the last. This past weekend in particular, my sub had some of the juiciest tomatoes I’ve had in a while and banana peppers that gave my tongue an oh-so-tangy twist. Oh, and the meat was absolutely mouthwatering. Props to the sandwich makers — their craftsmanship does not go unnoticed. The only thing I’d really like to see Deli Sandro’s

change is to bring back the amazing Reuben sandwich. Unless the memory was just

***This past weekend in particular, my sub had some of the juiciest tomatoes I’ve had in a while and banana peppers that gave my tongue an oh-so-tangy twist.***

a fever dream, I loved that sandwich, but I haven’t seen it on the menu since Sandro’s moved to its new building.

You’ve got three options for getting sandwiches from

Deli Sandro’s: order and have them delivered, get them at the shop, or get their sandwiches in bulk as catering for an event. (You might have seen Sandro’s sandwiches provided at a Greek life rush event, they’re a popular catering option around campus.) Honestly, with Senior Week coming up, I highly recommend that a bunch of my fellow Seniors get a small platter, and some Genny Cream Ales to go with them, for an outdoors, end-of-the-year bash to send off your time in Rochester.

Deli Sandro’s opens at 10 a.m.. every day of the week, closing at 9 p.m. on Monday

to Thursday, 1 a.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 6 p.m. on Sunday. All of its main-line sandwiches start at \$7.50 for the regular size, going up to \$10.50 for a size up to the large, and then increasing in cost based on any extra toppings you might want. You can get to Deli Sandro’s by either walking from campus or hopping on the Gold Line to Riverview and then walking a block up Plymouth Avenue to get to the shop. You can also have your sandwiches delivered straight to your dorm but at an extra cost for delivery.

*Nova is a member of the Class of 2018.*

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LUIS NOVA / WEBMASTER

The exterior of Deli Sandro’s, a deli located in the 19th Ward.



# OPINIONS

EDITORIAL OBSERVER

## On Being Canadian



By JAMES GUNN  
MANAGING EDITOR

I’ll start by saying I miss my home. A lot. Anyone who knows me knows that. I left Canada nearly six years ago, but it never left my heart. More often than not, I’m mistaken for an American, and I guess I’m fortunate in that regard — I’ve never here been victim of racist remarks or anti-foreign sentiments, just the occasional “aboot” launched in my general direction. But I can deal with that.

It is strange, though, when people are surprised that our heralded broadcaster, the CBC, has “real news.” What’s more difficult is when I have to experience national anguish from afar — like the deaths of most of the Humboldt Broncos hockey team in Saskatchewan, or those of 10 people in Toronto last week. I’m sure all international students feel this way, or at least the majority of us. But I can’t help but feel like I have to try to be less American.

It’s not that I don’t enjoy living here. Oh, no, it was much easier than moving to

than once. But maybe you just forget about us entirely.

Yet there’s more than donuts and hockey up north. I owe that phrase to Gord Downie, one of our greatest musicians. Nearly a quarter of Canadians immigrated there, and you can see all sorts of cultural wonders, from the bustle of Toronto, to the plains by Piapot, Saskatchewan. We call ourselves a northern nation, but mostly we just fake it ‘till we make it: almost everyone lives right by the border. Beyond all of us immigrants, over a million and a half indigenous people — Métis, First Nations, Inuits — live in Canada. Despite the horrors inflicted on them — which I encourage any reader to read about — they persevere and offer Canada much more than many of us realize, in culture, in prosperity, in peoplehood.

Some have called Canada a postmodern state. Maybe we just feel a little lost. Two official nations with two official languages. But just ask a Quebec sovereigntist what

*I might just be clinging to something I’m imagining. But I think we all do that a little. Maybe we’re just the Not-Americans.*

they think about our state, or an Albertan how useful bilingualism is. There’s something that makes us different, makes us a country, but I just can’t put my finger on it.

So is there really a nation I’m missing? I might just be clinging to something I’m imagining. But I think we all do that a little. Maybe we’re just the Not-Americans. I think Americans don’t appreciate just how dominating of a cultural power the States are. Everyone knows your music. Everyone knows your cars, and your sports, and your presidents. Do you that Canada is a monarchy? Maybe.

Many other international students have it worse than I do, but it’s particularly poignant how little we know about each other, Canada and the U.S., being neighbors and all.

A few things though. Remember that there isn’t a “neutral accent.” Not every country’s music wins a Grammy. And there are, indeed, Not-Americans.

*Gunn is a member of the Class of 2020*

EDITORIAL BOARD

## The Bus Should Go Through 19th Ward

On April 12, a UR student was mugged in the 19th Ward at 3:15 p.m. On April 19, it happened again, this time at 12:00 p.m.

Robberies in the 19th Ward — or anywhere in Rochester, really — are not unheard of. But robberies in the middle of the day, and with such consistency, are a bit more unusual.

It’s common knowledge that you should be aware of your surroundings when walking through a city. But until now, the general conception was that this warning only applied once the sun went down. Apparently not.

Junior Beatriz Gil and sophomore Jamal Holtz, our

new SA president and vice president, spoke of creating better bus routes in their SA platform. These recent robberies point to improvements they could look into with our shuttle system.

Currently, the Gold Line shuttle runs between campus and Riverview Apartments every day of the week. But it only runs through other parts of the 19th Ward — on a winding route through streets students often live along — after 5 p.m. on weekdays.

Admittedly, it makes sense that a detour like this was considered only at nighttime. Most students don’t need to go deeply into the neighborhood, and usually we think daylight isn’t dangerous.

What we didn’t consider, or didn’t consider seriously enough, is that crime can happen anytime.

None of this is meant to paint the 19th Ward as a bad neighborhood. On the contrary, it is a lively community within Rochester that boasts many establishments students enjoy. But like any area in a city of Rochester’s size, it has its share of crime.

Undergraduates live in the 19th Ward. And in light of the recent muggings highlighted above, we firmly believe the 19th Ward route should operate during the daytime as well. Given Gil and Holtz’ promise to reconsider bus routes, this is an idea that should be explored.

## The 5K Challenge Should Be Fun

This year, a proposal for massage chairs on campus won the 5K Challenge. You heard that right. Massage chairs beat proposals such as adding whiteboards in Gleason library, increasing the number of chargers available on reserve, and providing free menstrual cups to student who would benefit from them.

Does this seem counterintuitive? Luxury over practicality? Clearly, for most voters, it wasn’t. Why was this the case? Can we simply chock it up to an unrepresentative voting sample? Perhaps. Whatever the case, a decision such as this might seem like a violation to some. But let’s explore the layers here.

On one hand, it’s regrettable that voters chose massage chairs over menstrual cups or over more whiteboards; the lat-

ter is something students tend to increasingly demand around exam time.

Although massage chairs have their utility — we’re sure plenty of students during exam time would use them to relieve stress — we cannot in good conscience admit that they’re more necessary than menstrual cups, which are far more sustainable than tampons and would benefit much of the student body in a day-to-day, concrete way.

On the other hand, the 5K Challenge is supposed to be fun. And to that end, the decision for massage chairs was perfectly consistent. No, the paperwork for the challenge doesn’t mention the word “fun,” but that was always its essence. The winner of the first 5K Challenge in fall 2013 was a smoothie bar.

So maybe the 5K Challenge

played out as it should. The problem is, in recent years the challenge has been co-opted by students pushing more practical, activist-oriented proposals — for things UR should be providing anyway. If the administration had provided free tampons or menstrual cups by itself, students wouldn’t have felt the need to resort to using the 5K Challenge.

A need for tampons or more whiteboards would not be necessary if the administration addressed such concerns beforehand, and if students voiced their needs loudly enough. That the 5K Challenge continues to introduce fun new things should be celebrated. We urge the administration and the student body to figure out the basics, so that the 5K Challenge can be left to figure out the rest.

This editorial is published with the consent of a majority of the Editorial Board: Justin Trombly (Editor-in-Chief), Aryaman Majumdar (Opinions Editor), James Gunn (Managing Editor), and Ben Schmitz (Publisher). The editor-in-chief and the Editorial Board make themselves available to the UR community’s ideas and concerns. Email [editor@campustimes.org](mailto:editor@campustimes.org).

## Campus Times

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*I can tell you, I may say pop, but I’m not from the Midwest — although I have seen Fargo. And the poutine here is so wrong. But I feel like we have a lot to learn from our differences, you and I.*

Singapore, where I lived during high school. But it is a truly strange feeling, being surrounded by a thousand tiny differences that it seems no one else notices.

I may say pop, but I’m not from the Midwest — although I have seen “Fargo.” And the poutine here is so wrong. But I feel like we have a lot to learn from our differences, you and I. Maybe that’s why conflicts over pipelines, fishing, or Trudeau’s majestic locks seem out of place. We forgot that we’re still different: different countries, different nations (if Canada is one). We were at war, more



Think Hard Before Intevening in Syria

By KEVIN SHAUGHNESSY

In response to a chemical weapons attack in Syria probably committed by the Assad regime, President Trump ordered cruise missile strikes as retaliation.

While these strikes were limited to a few military and chemical facilities, war hawks in Washington like Senator Lindsey Graham are pushing for an overthrow of Assad: “He’s a monster. He should be considered a war criminal and legitimate military target.”

Assad is a war criminal and monster, but to make the right decisions in Syria, Western leaders must compare his rule to the possible alternatives, and consider the costs of intervention. It might well be that deposing Assad is a good idea, but the costs in blood and treasure of doing so have been a total afterthought in the media.

There are two models that Western intervention could follow: Iraq and Libya. In Iraq, the U.S. invaded and toppled Saddam out of nowhere because we thought that he was building “weapons of mass destruction.” Once the government collapsed, an occupying army

set up a new, nominally democratic one and fought an insurgency as part of “nation building.” In Libya, NATO intervened and toppled Gaddafi with airstrikes because he was targeting civilians

*Assad is a war criminal and monster, but to make the right decisions in Syria, Western leaders must compare his rule to the possible alternatives, and consider the costs of intervention.*

to put down a rebellion that started as part of the Arab Spring. Once Gaddafi was gone, the West left governing to the rebel commanders.

There are benefits to both approaches: The first would better guarantee a democratic government, while the second would limit NATO casualties. However, any intervention would probably follow the second strategy. In 2015, at least 60 percent

of the rebels were jihadists. This figure is likely higher now as the only remaining rebel stronghold is Idlib province in the northwest. Idlib is controlled by Tahrir Al-Sham, a jihadist group renamed from the Al-Nusra front, which started as Al-Qaeda’s Syrian branch. They aren’t the only rebels though: The Kurds, ISIS, and some democratic groups still hold scattered territory and are actively fighting each other along with the government. Thus, simply toppling Assad without an occupation would leave the civil war ongoing but greatly increase its scale as areas previously secured by the government became actively contested. As a result, there would need to be an Iraq-style occupation for several years before a democratic government could form.

In the time that it takes to both defeat Assad’s forces and defeat the conventional jihadist armies, there would be plenty of time for an insurgency to fester. In Iraq, this took a while because Saddam actively suppressed jihadists, so they could only organize in the chaos that the U.S. invasion brought; as a result, the insurgency only reached peak strength

in 2006 and 2007. In Syria, this same chaos has been ongoing since 2011, and a U.S. invasion would only add fuel to the fire. Resistance to the new democratic government from jihadists would be even more intense than in Iraq because they wouldn’t need time to organize, and so hundreds of thousands of American troops would be needed to prop up the new regime. Those troops would need to stay in Syria indefinitely to stop the country from falling to the jihadist insurgency and becoming ISIS 2.0, just like in Afghanistan with the Taliban. This would leave thousands more American troops dead and several times that number with serious physical or psychological wounds, plus trillions more dollars spent.

Assad is a truly evil man, but the unintended consequences of killing him would almost certainly be worse than anything he could realistically do. The situation in Syria now is a mirror image to that in Iraq 15 years ago: The U.S. is on the verge of deposing and killing a brutal dictator to turn his country into a democracy. The unintended consequences of that action, deposing an evil regime that didn’t threaten the

west, led directly to the creation of ISIS in Syria and to terror attacks in Europe and America.

Before stumbling into another absolute mess in the Middle East, we need to think seriously about those consequences. How will we ensure that our veterans are cared for when they come home? How will we deal with the inevitable flood of refugees whose homes are once again made into a warzone? How will we pay for the bombs, the tanks, and the planes that we send overseas, and for the infrastructure that we destroy? Might that money be better spent at home fixing our own infrastructure, like Flint’s water pipes?

And most importantly, before we start another endless and unnecessary war in the Middle East, we need to have a serious discussion about why using chemical warfare is so uniquely bad. At the same time that Assad ordered the chemical attack, the Saudis were using starvation as a strategy in Yemen and the Burmese were ethnically cleansing the Rohingya people. If we must be the world police, why only police part of the world?

*Shaughnessy is a member of the Class of 2020*

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# HUMOR

CT EATS

## Unparalleled Cuisine and Unparalleled Convenience: The Pit



By LUIS NOVA  
WEBMASTER

There’s a lot of good spots I’ve covered through *CT Eats* so far in Rochester, but they’re all gate-kept by two sad burdens of the casual eater: distance from campus and real dollar-bills.

When I started writing this column, I had high hopes of getting people off this campus and out into town with a nice meal to help make their week-ends all the better. However, in doing so, I lost sight of what the UR lifestyle is all about: studying, working, not sleeping, and rushing meals. For so long, I neglected the existing food culture that our campus already has in order to push these false-prophet restaurants I’d found through my own exploration. To make it all up to you, I’ve decided to eat at the finest of eateries that campus has to offer: the Pit.

Say you’ve had a long day studying for that midterm. You got drunk the last two nights when you actually had time to study, and now it’s Sunday, and you’re 100 percent not ready for this Monday morning exam. You’re tired, you’re cranky, and you just want to go home and relax, but you can’t allow yourself to drink and ignore your



Decadent delicacies abound in the expertly-curated climate-controlled salad bar at the Pit.

GABE ISAACSON / PHOTO EDITOR

responsibilities because you’ve already done that for two days and your exam’s literally tomorrow. Well, the only real alternative is to eat until you de-stress, and the Pit’s ready to serve you.

The Pit is unlike anything you’ve seen before. You might have heard of a little something called “continental breakfast.” Usually, your average bed-and-breakfast inn has an assembly line buffet of pancakes, waffles, bagels with cream cheese, and scrambled eggs to pick from for its continental breakfast. The Pit doesn’t skimp out like that. At the Pit, each of the seven continents is represented by a

delicious breakfast platter, ornately put together by Michelin star chefs and kitchen hands from countries across the globe. From North America, you have Eggs Benedict and bacon as far as the eye can see. From Australia you have shark fin on a bed of greens. They’ve even got a 120-ounce glass of French wine with a cigarette on the side for Europe.

After a certain point in the day, though, breakfast has to end. Thankfully, after breakfast, the Pit moves straight into brunch hours. That’s right, not lunch, but brunch. It is common knowledge that lunch is

a commodity of working class peons who actually work a full eight-plus hours a day, and so, in keeping in touch with its audience of patrons who pay \$70,000 a year for our University’s wonderful culinary expertise, the Pit refuses to stoop to the level of lower-class standards in dining. Instead, the Pit offers cardamom-vanilla granola, pumpkin Dutch baby with pears, braised kale frittatas, and baked brie with cran-apple chutney, to name a few of their signature brunch items. Be sure to have some freshly made mimosas at the Pit cocktail bar before you rush out to confront

your busy schedule. With a few of those, the Pit guarantees that you’ll be as day-drunk as Agnes at the Scarsdale Country Club’s Annual Silent Auction!

Finally, we end our day with supper, the superior form of dinner. One might wonder: How could such a wonderful previous two meals of the day be beat by the day’s end? The answer: caviar. Once supper hits, the door to the long-lost pool room of the Spurrier Gym opens to reveal an Olympic swimming pool filled to the brim with caviar. Tickets for this event can only be purchased at the daily supper queue in the Pit, which opens at 7 p.m. and are always sold out by 7:15 p.m., considering there are only five of them available each day.

At seven Michelin stars, the Pit is one of the finest dining experiences in Rochester, and, after doing a quick Google search, I’ve also discovered that it’s apparently one of the finest dining experiences in the world. So there you have it, a hurrah for UR in promoting its international prominence as both a research institution and a home to one of the greatest fine dining experiences of all time. You can eat within the alternate reality that hosts this Pit in the year 3XXX, when multiverse theory is applied for the first time, from 7 a.m. to 12 a.m. Meals there will cost you around \$70,000 a year and a portion of your hopes and dreams.

*Nova is a member of the Class of 2018.*

## Picolas Cage: The Epilogue: The Return of the Cage

By ERIC FRANKLIN  
HUMOR EDITOR

*Editor’s Note: This article is the conclusion of a series about this reporter’s quest to find the One True Picolas Cage, a quest that ended in the en-pickled Nicolas Cage bequeathing his identity to this reporter before flying off in a helicopter to live in an Egyptian pyramid.*

Several months had passed since I had last seen the original Nic Cage, his wrinkled lumpy green pickle-face gleaming with either tears or brine. I had followed his instructions to a T and, after many rounds of plastic surgery, I had finally transformed my athletic young body into that of the middle-aged American icon I had so long revered.

Though the process had been long, I did my best to keep up the breakneck pace for which Nic Cage is so well-known. Since I couldn’t appear on-screen during my transformation, I had to land other types of roles.

My first gig was the voice of Willy Watercress in “Veggie Tales: The Podcast,” but I quickly made it back to cinema with a non-speaking cameo in the straight-to-DVD “Emoji Movie”

sequel. I even fulfilled a personal fantasy of appearing in a “Pirates of the Caribbean” movie, working as the motion-capture model for a ship’s mermaid figurehead in “Pirates 6: Hopefully They Brought Back Orlando Bloom and Keira Knightley.”

A few more months went by after my final operations, and I was getting into the swing of being Nic Cage. I had even started seeing Stephanie the Ex-Nutritionist, now free of her contract’s anti-fraternization clause after The Pickle Formerly Known as Cage (as we had taken to calling the original Nic Cage) fired her in the barn in Nevada.

It was a cool, fall afternoon. Stephanie was, er, “visiting” me between my morning gig as the host of the Hulu-exclusive game show “The Weakest Kink” and my evening job playing Drake Parker in the upcoming movie, “Drake and Josh: 40 Years Later: Also It’s in Space.”

We were alone and upstairs, so I was confused when I heard what sounded like someone opening the front door downstairs. I ignored it at first, but I continued to hear more sounds coming from downstairs, so I decided to go investigate.

The only thing resembling a weapon that I could find was a cricket bat signed by wrestling legend André the Giant, so I grabbed it and tried to look as threatening as possible as I crept toward the kitchen.

The cricket bat and my jaw dropped in disbelief at the sight confronting me. Before me was none other than the actual Nicolas Cage, completely de-pickled, naked save for a tattered lab coat too narrow for his broad frame.

Dirty and disheveled, as if he had just returned from a long journey, his face was beaming with a wild grin of triumph, the triumph of a man who has just recently fulfilled his deepest desire. He managed to exude this radiant jubilation even as he performed the mundane task of rummaging through the cabinets, gathering the ingredients to prepare what looked to be a peanut butter and hummus sandwich.

He didn’t see me at first, and I stood frozen, unsure how to start a conversation with the man who had bequeathed me his identity. Before I could say anything, though, I was distracted by the pocket of his coat, which seemed to be wriggling. I even thought I heard a voice coming from it. I

didn’t have much time to worry about it, though, because at that moment Nic noticed me.

“Who the hell are you?!” he roared, brandishing a hummus-covered slice of bread at me.

“It’s okay, it’s just me…” I bumbled, unsure how to introduce myself since he had never called me the same name twice.

My indecision cost me, and before I could complete my sentence Nic charged and smote me to the ground with a sticky thwack of his hummus-bread.

“What the shit is going on out there?” Now on the ground, much closer to his pocket, I was certain that there was a voice coming from within. “Get me the hell out of here, you crazy B-list actor!”

The ridiculous notion that Nic Cage could be considered a B-list actor distracted me from my predicament for a moment, until suddenly Nic was hoisting me by my ankle and yelling, “Jarvis, we have another imposter!” Looking back I shouldn’t have been surprised that this wasn’t the first time this had happened.

Suddenly, a bookshelf against the wall slid out of the way, revealing a secret door. A butler I didn’t know existed came out of

the door and replied, “Yes, sir. Of course, sir.”

Jarvis grabbed me by the scruff of my neck and the waist of my pants, carried me like a defenseless kitten to the front door, and threw me, face first, out toward the front lawn, which was inhabited solely by Venus flytraps and pygmy badgers.

As I flew through the air, hanging over the vicious flora and fauna below, my mind was racing with questions: How did he get unpickled? How did he get back from Egypt? Why didn’t he remember who I was? How had Jarvis survived in that room for so many months without my knowledge? Will I be able to get a job, trapped as I now am in Nic Cage’s body?

But a surprising number of these questions were answered as I heard one final outburst from Nic’s pocket.

“Goddammit, trapped in my own lab coat like some kind of fucking metaphor,” I heard from Nic’s pocket. “You were just an experiment to help me get out of my goddamn family therapy appointment! Let me go! I’m Pickle Riiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiick!”

*Franklin is a Take Five Scholar.*



# CULTURE

## ‘The Pinter Plays’ Savor Discomfort

By WIL AIKEN  
CULTURE EDITOR

“The Pinter Plays,” the UR International Theatre Program’s side-by-side productions of the late playwright Harold Pinter’s one-acts “The Collection” and “The Lover,” possessed a certain sadistic glee in their opening Thursday night. That would make me, I suppose, a happy masochist.

The sadism possessed by these plays was not a sadism exerted upon its characters (or at least not solely upon its characters), but upon the audience. The first one-act performed, “The Collection,” left me with the emotional sensation of an unreachable itch, while “The Lover” felt like a long, far too detailed, tasteless joke that you only let your friend tell you because you’re too lazy to protest.

But thanks to Pinter and the team of storytellers at URITP, I left Todd with unease in my heart and a spring in my step. The folks there have made these two plays so enveloping, with such top-notch storytelling (consistent down to the enormously impressive set and lighting design), that I didn’t care where the story was taking me, and I hardly batted an eye when a mistimed blackout onstage had to be rapidly corrected and redone.

“The Collection,” written in 1961, is about two housemates, Harry (senior Marc Laroussini) and Bill (junior Rick Carl, in his first stellar comedic performance of the night), who receive repeated calls and attempted visits from a mysterious man (a frightening, funny Joel Omino). To reveal much more would be too much, as one of this play’s finest qualities is the way it controls information.

As I said before, the play’s ultimate feeling is one of discontent, but that doesn’t mean that there’s no fun along the way. Laroussini was enjoyable to watch as Bill’s befuddled older companion, whose nastiness grows from



“The Pinter Plays” performed in Todd Union on Thursday Night.

GABE ISAACSON / PHOTO EDITOR

comic to comically disturbing as his frustration grows. The suspense building is masterful in the dialogue scenes between Carl and first-year Omino, who brought a (sometimes) subtle but unshakeable menace to his every scene. Senior Meredith Watson delivered an appropriately frustrating performance, unfortunately marred by the frequent presence of an unconvincing fake cat used as a prop. (It was as distracting here as it was unfunny in “Octavia.” Todd people, I love you, but get rid of that stupid fake cat — it’s unfair to the actor who has to deal with it onstage.)

A friend of mine from high school used to talk about the differences between the weird people he didn’t like, and the

weird people he did like (his friends). He told me that he was alright with the weirdos in our friend group because he always knew what they were thinking — he understood their intentions. Other weirdos, on the other hand, were total mysteries to him — he couldn’t tell what they were thinking, so they made him uncomfortable.

This was the primary source of tension in “The Collection.” (By the way, I still cannot for the life of me figure out why this play is called “The Collection.”) I was never quite sure of what each character was thinking, what they wanted, or what their goal was. The back-and-forth dialogue was fun but tense, and during the intermission I found myself on the unsettled side of things.

I actually wish that the ordering of the two plays had been reversed, because I would have liked to let the aftertaste of “The Collection” percolate a while longer afterward rather than be cut off by the next play. “The Lover,” written in 1962, follows Sarah (junior Samantha Richardson), a married woman who is allowed by her husband (Rick Carl, back again) to have her lover (Rick Carl, yet again) over when he’s not around.

This play is basically an hour-long joke, with a set-up and a punchline, but that’s okay, because the way it’s told is so damn good. Carl and Richardson delivered tour-de-force performances that made a whole lot of ridiculous things seem very real. (Have you ever heard an orgasm played

on the bongos?) Richardson’s performance as Sarah was in particular so sensitive that she contributed the human element necessary for the rest of the play to function.

It is that element that brought both plays where they needed to be. Why watch an hour-long joke or put yourself through all this anxiety if you don’t care what happens to the people you’re following? One could look at the Pinter Plays and walk away with disturbing insights about the ambiguity of life. But I found myself walking away with a tangible confirmation of the power of old-fashioned, anxious, ambiguous, messed-up, human storytelling.

*Aiken is a member of the Class of 2021.*

## UR Symphony Orchestra Showcases Soloist

By NATALIE RAMESH  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The UR Symphony Orchestra concert in Strong this past Saturday started out soft, mysterious, and a little sneaky, with the energetic sound of the violins setting off the performance with Johannes Brahms’ “Academic Festival Overture,” later revealed to the audience to be a collection of drinking songs of the time.

Rachel Waddell, the group’s music director and conductor, gave the audience a history lesson on the piece, which contextualized and helped us better appreciate it. As the piece progressed through its around 11-minute duration, the climactic highs were carried by the violinists’ dextrous hands, as

well as marked, crisp articulation across the orchestra, interspersed with some lyrical woodwind lines. Overall a short and pleasant mix of lyrical and exciting, the piece served as a good intro to the rest of the concert, which was much more hefty in terms of technicality and musicality.

The next part of the concert was what I had been looking forward to the most: Alexander Arutunian’s “Trumpet Concerto,” performed by Orchestra Concerto Competition winner, Jeffrey Pinsker-Smith. With a tone that can only be described as hopeful and glittering, first-year Pinsker-Smith brought out a character in the trumpet that many only dream of hearing. Full of life and clarity, his articulation was spot on and the

music he made flowed with ease as he remained completely composed playing a technically challenging piece.

On top of the piece itself, playing as a soloist with an orchestra poses numerous additional challenges. Adding a whole additional piece to fit with the rest makes an accurate performance that much more difficult to create, but I think this group did a fantastic job of not only staying with the soloist, but also of following the conductor. With soloists, the spirit and passion outweigh everything, so even if mistakes were made (by the orchestra or the soloist), I didn’t notice them. The spirit was there in full force, especially during the cadenza, where Pinsker-Smith’s articulation was absolutely impec-

cable. My only criticism is that the piece ended abruptly and I wanted to hear more. If you’re looking to hear more quality trumpet playing, Pinsker-Smith is definitely someone to keep your eye on.

This was a difficult piece to follow up, but I was not disappointed. I must admit, I was a little bit apprehensive going into the final piece, “Symphony No. 2” by Howard Hanson. Hanson was the director of the Eastman School of Music for 40 years, from 1924 (three years after its founding) to 1964, and wrote the piece for Rush Rhees. (The person, not the library — although the library definitely deserves its own piece.)

Because this symphony is relatively modern, written in the 20th century, I was a bit unsure whether

I’d like it. I personally have a harder time falling immediately in love with more contemporary pieces, and while I didn’t fall in love with this one, I did appreciate it. There were some really cool compositional elements, such as the airy texture through parts of the Adagio and Andante movements. The brass playing was impressive throughout, with various horn solos and low brass features, and the final movement finished things off with a blast of energy.

Altogether an exciting program, I was left feeling satisfied, but wanting more. I guess I’ll just have to wait and see what the Symphony Orchestra has in store for us next semester.

*Ramesh is a member of the Class of 2021.*



# UR Celtic Celebrates ‘St. Paddy’s Day’ in April

By LOUKIA AYDAG  
CULTURE EDITOR

This year, we were graced not with one, but two St. Paddy’s Days thanks to UR Celtic’s Irish stepdance performance this past weekend in Feldman Ballroom.

The showcase was filled with both traditional Irish dances as well as a several choreographed by the members of the organization. The show was also a perfect balance between hard shoes and soft shoes and made you smile from beginning to end.

There were a couple of performances choreographed for the Intercollegiate Dance Competition hosted at Villanova every year, one choreographed by junior Tor Breza and the other by senior and co-president of UR Celtic Bee Hamilton.

Both were incredibly fun and decently impressive with the various formations and added arm movements. The music for these pieces was a medley of both traditional Irish music as well as current songs on the radio, which is what Celtic is known for and makes it even more enjoyable to dance along to. “Children of Lir” featured awe-inspiring formations, though I preferred the musical medley of “Out of the Fire.”

I loved the pieces performed using hard shoes without lacked music. For those who have never seen an Irish dance show, or aren’t aware of the difference between soft and hard, hard shoes are similar to tap shoes. With hard shoes, dancers can create audible rhythms that sound phenomenal with or without music. “A

Capella” and “Maggie’s Dance,” choreographed by first-year Maggie Brennan, left me in awe.

Without music to support and offer a beat, the dancers were left to sync with one another to create one cohesive and collective sound. This was incredibly more impressive and in sync than their performance of “Believer,” because though it was a small group performing with hard shoes, it seems more difficult to perform immensely quick or more difficult choreography keeping to the rhythm of a poppier song.

The tradition of having the Dunleavy School of Irish Dance, a local Irish dance school, come and perform is a treasured one on both ends. The younger girls are able to perform with pride in a wonderfully supportive environment and have the UR Celtic women to look up to as their dancing future. The girls performed in Glasgow for the Irish Dancing World Championships and decided to present their piece themed around the folklore of the Glasgow Geese.

First-year members Brooke Schirmer, Mairead Bresnahan, and Sisi Falcone were given the opportunity to choreograph a piece to “Smooth Criminal.” The piece was more theatrical than typical performances by Celtic, following the storyline of an officer following as thief who stole an engagement ring. It was refreshing to see a piece that was funny and quirky yet intriguing and skillful.

*Aydag is a member of the Class of 2021.*



GABE ISAACSON / PHOTO EDITOR

Participants experience the virtual reality ‘Through Her Eyes’ during the Women’s Empowerment Fair.

VR FROM PAGE 1

“The whole point of the project was to bridge that knowledge gap of the female experience from women to men,” Daley explained.

Menent, who wrote the script with Dole, agreed, asking rhetorically, “If you don’t know what the experience is, how can you even start talking about it?”

But neither gender issues nor virtual reality were motivating ideas for the project: It was the immersive style.

“Carolina was the first one who actually pitched the idea of an immersive experience. That was pretty much how it started,” Daley said. “So with that idea, we kind of ideated and threw out a bunch of ideas until we realized we wanted to do something with virtual reality.”

The technology proved a challenge on a logistical level, how-

ever. Menent spoke about the difficulties that a 360 camera presented.

“In every scene, the beginning [...] would be our face up close to the camera and then [we needed to] run, because we had to have our laptop connected with the camera at all times. So we were like always no less than five feet away. We were either behind a wall — you can even see in the scenes. I’m wearing the same scarf the whole time.”

Senior Sammir Lesage — who played an aggressive, leering student who interacts with the viewer at the Goergen Athletic Center and later reappears threateningly at a party in the penultimate sequence — struggled with the type of character he had to play.

“Going from who I am to this horrible type of human being was rough,” he said.

Menent believes that this roughness is what makes the film effective.

“We have a lot of our male viewers come out of it and be like, ‘Whoa. I did not realize that — I felt so small. I felt so....’ And then I think a lot of the female viewers were like, ‘Yeah. I’m glad you’re talking about it.’”

The film ends with the viewer placed on the Eastman Quad on a sunny day, surrounded by women, as the final stanza of Maya Angelou’s “Phenomenal Woman” is read in voiceover, leaving the viewer with the words: “It’s in the click of my heels, / The bend of my hair, / the palm of my hand, / The need for my care. / ‘Cause I am a woman / Phenomenally. / Phenomenal woman, / That’s me.”

The fair featured several booths run by with gender-related groups, like UR SEGway and The Womanist Club.

*Aiken is a member of the Class of 2021.*

## Dandelion Day Performers Empower

TINASHE FROM PAGE 1

and sexual exploits on campus are disgusting. I don’t want that here.” The crowd erupted. The alliance of the audience had been established.

“Secondly, this is a safe space for all P.O.C. people on campus. And all P.O.C. allies, I ask you to respect the space for P.O.C. people, because this is for them.” This was met with more cheering, shared looks of amazement, and implied requests for Nokia to “fuck it up!”

“Thirdly, this is a queer and trans safe space, okay? If you feel like your safety [...] has been compromised, I’ll have security take care of it. Okay? Let’s have some fun.”

She then launched into “Brujas,” a staccato trap track in which Nokia proclaims her identity as a “black-a-Rican bruja straight out from the Yoruba,” setting the tone for the rest of the performance, which was saturated in pride for her minority status. With an effortless cool, Princess Nokia chanted about her

“little titties and my fat belly,” (“Tomboy,”) gave ode to “Boricua girls who rock yaki ponytails / ... And love to my Asian chicks who make hair go straight as shit,” (“Mine,”) and revelled in her ability to “throw ‘bows in the mosh pit” (“G.O.A.T.”).

Looking at Nokia, a queer woman of color, member of the emo subculture, raised by the ignored impoverished parts of New York City, who lets her identity speak through her stage presence, performing on D-Day, was like looking at a light after expecting none to be there.

Tinashe thanked us for “Dandelion Fest,” and that was nice. (Princess Nokia had earlier shared her appreciation for “D-Day, [...] Drug Day, Dick Day... Dick-You-Down Day.”) But the thanks goes mostly to the unapologetic, visibly powerful women of color that brought Dandelion Day something it didn’t have before: some heart.

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

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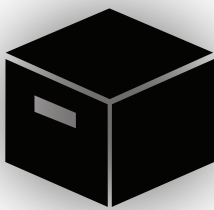
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NOT VANILLA

## The Joys of Instagram



By VENNELA PANDARABOYINA  
COLUMNIST

Reader, perhaps you have not heard this app called Instagram — it’s something young people are quite into.

When I downloaded Instagram, my impressions of the app made me think it would be filled with aesthetic images of the people I followed and the occasional beauty tutorial. What I realized is that Instagram is truly what you make of it, so I followed things that I wouldn’t see in any of my other social media outlets: high fashion and landscape-hunting. I also started following a bunch of those celebrity-models (Kendall Jenner, the Hadid sisters, Hailey Baldwin), and while it hasn’t done much for my self-esteem, it has given me an interesting insight into their worlds.

So, reader, I’m going to give you a quick review of my Instagram experience thus far.

First, the landscape-hunting Instagram accounts. I follow two types. The first type is the accounts of actual people who travel around the world going to locations both absurd and breathtaking and photographing their travels. Those accounts have a certain unique aesthetic to each of them. The photographers vary on how personal they get. For me, the less personal, the better — I did not follow them to learn about their lives, but rather to stare at beautiful images of places around the world.

The other type is accounts that procure pictures from all corners of the internet and post them on their account (with permission, of course). These accounts have less of a consistent aesthetic but tend to showcase a really diverse array of landscape photography — they feature everything from natural wonders to cityscapes and whatever is in between.

The biggest impact these accounts have had is continuously reigniting my want to travel and giving me ideas of places I want to go. Other than that, I just find it pleasing to bask in the glory of wonderful places around the

globe, as seen through the eyes of an Instagrammer.

Now, reader, we move to the fashion content. Once again, I follow two types of Instagram accounts here. The first type is the fashion brand accounts. Brands like Versace and Yves Saint Laurent have their own Instagram accounts, each one glamorous and representative of the Haus of Fashion, while others follow different fashion weeks around the world and post pictures of the runway couture and the collections that designers are presenting each season.

These accounts give me strong “Devil Wears Prada” vibes, where I get a view into the ex-

*What I realized is that Instagram is truly what you make of it, so I followed things that I wouldn’t see in any of my other social media outlets*

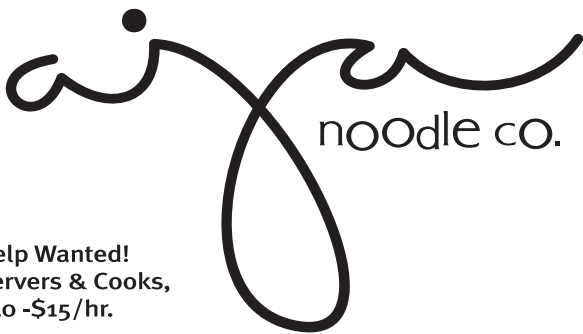
clusive world of high fashion, which I have no clue how to interpret. But I nevertheless enjoy looking at what’s new, what’s trending, and then seeing how those innovative ideas are incorporated into general fashion later.

The other type is following models around as they walk in shows, promote brands, attend red carpet events, and generally be fabulous. These accounts are obviously heavily edited and monitored — nothing off-brand goes up, even if they’re trying to go for the “I just posted this because I’m feeling like it” mood. I like seeing the different outfits they all wear for all types of occasions, and I like sneak peeks into the shows and photoshoots that they do. It’s like I’m their weirdo friend who follows them around everywhere.

Overall my Instagram experience has been a positive one. Whether I change what I look at or even keep the app is up in the air. But to anyone who says Instagram is useless — that is simply not true. It is what you make of it, just like almost everything else in this crazy thing we call life.

*Pandaraboyina is a member of the Class of 2020.*

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EVERYBODY TALKS

There’s a Lot Out There



By JACKIE POWELL  
COLUMNIST

What is the takeaway? Who deserves X and who deserves Y? Why should I care?

These are questions I try to answer every week. I’ve thought a lot about why I’ve become so fascinated with the crossroads of sports, feminism, and society. I’ve thought about how this is a movement not just for me, but for all of you, too.

As we near the end of the semester, it’s crucial to provide some ways you can interact with our sports news cycle productively. There is always so much to learn, and that’s thrilling, but, it’s worth noting that these outlets don’t always make some of the most interesting and thought-provoking content easily accessible.

At the top of ESPN’s site, the top events displayed are what have arguably been the two leading sports stories for the past week: the NFL draft and the NBA playoffs. The 2018 draft began on a Thursday evening, but based on how sports outlets cover it, you might assume it started an hour ago, rather than four days ago.

Look no further than at peer sports sites such as Bleacher Report and SB Nation, as what they define as salient are both the 2018 draft and the NBA postseason. A headline about a female, an injustice, or new league development is pushed out of the scope of the human eye.

While you were counting LeBron’s point totals or taking what Mel Kiper Jr. says with a grain of salt, here’s what you missed.

The New York Times obtained audio from a meeting held in October including NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, current players, and team owners. Kaepernick, kneeling, Trump, and the possibility of having a black American as “a face that could be in the media” were topics raised during the discussion.

Also, why we aren’t asking why Reuben Foster’s girlfriend recanted her domestic violence claims against the 49ers linebacker? Where is the sports media’s discourse about the NFL’s “inconsistent” domestic violence policy?

While Commissioner Goodell welcomed new players on Thursday night, former cheerleaders Bailey Davis and Kristan Ware were obviously on his mind. In the past month, what have we learned about NFL cheerleaders? No sweatpants. Strict social media policies. Groping and sexual harassment.

Now in the NBA, do you know who you are listening to while James Harden gets inside? I’m not talking about Mark Jackson or Jeff Van Gundy, I’m talking about Doris Burke. Google her and read Noam Scheiber’s feature on the first female full-time NBA analyst.

Give ESPN a full scroll and you’ll find a story buried deep in the webpage, the home of the extraneous rather than the significant. There you will find reaction pieces

to Commission on College Basketball, led by former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. The recommendations are a start but lack specifics and fail to mention how women’s basketball is involved in these new policy recommendations.

While I understand that many sports fans see events such as the NBA playoffs and the NFL draft as opportunities for high entertainment and socialization, what is wrong with taking the time to understand the leagues they love? There’s merit in understanding a system’s flaws and having that knowledge allows fans to be a part of that change rather than indifferent to it.

While I’m clearly critiquing the sports media machine, there are some opportunities for pop culture nerds, future activists, policy makers, and even academics to begin giving some of this discourse a try.

Pop culture nerds, I recommend giving Emmy winner Katie Nolan’s podcast “Sports?” a try.

ESPN’s “Outside the Lines” and partner program “E:60” provide a mix of analysis of top stories along with feature pieces revealing issues plaguing the sports world.

OutSports is a blog dedicated to the sports narratives of the LGBTQ+ community, while David Zirin of The Nation has provided the sports world with political commentary for over 10 years in his columns, books, and podcast, The Edge of Sports.

Tune into the podcast “Burn It All Down.” It’s got a special feminist flavor and features five women, two of which are professors, with the other three being sports reporters and writers. Similar to “Everybody Talks,” they apply an intersectional feminist view to top stories.

For academics and those interested in research, EspnW recently hosted a conference at the University of Maryland’s Philip Merrill College of Journalism. Papers were presented on topics such as self-image of female athletes and the careers of female sports journalists.

Now I guess there’s a counter-argument. Why should we have to hunt for these opportunities? I’m one to praise EspnW for its extensive coverage of female athletes and women employed in sports, but Britni de la Cretaz of Bitch Media argues that the site could do better. Currently there isn’t enough focus on women’s results and statistics, and de la Cretaz recommends that ESPN could employ more cross-promotion with its partner.

The shift toward complete parity will continue to be an uphill battle. There will always be something to digest, but the opportunities are there. Even if you aren’t interested in sports, they inevitably reflect where our society is.

The draft and the playoffs will most likely always dominate headlines, but we live in a world where niche evolves into the mainstream. The unspeakable becomes a buzzword, a hashtag.

“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 thesting.wrur.org.

Powell is a member of the Class of 2018.

The Winners and Losers on Draft Day

By NICK DAVIS  
CONTRIBUTOR

Thursday night in Arlington, Texas, many NFL teams began a draft they were hoping would reshape their franchise. The scouts called this draft class one of the best and deepest in recent years. All eyes were on the Cleveland Browns with the first pick and the most needs of any team.

The Browns chose Baker Mayfield out of Oklahoma with the first-overall pick. Mayfield walked onto the Oklahoma football team and led them to the playoffs his final year. He draws comparisons to Brett Favre in competitiveness but also to Johnny Manziel with size and attitude at times. I like Mayfield, but I don’t feel that he’s a number-one-pick caliber player.

The Browns also had the luxury of the fourth-overall pick, but they reached with this one, selecting Ohio State cornerback Denzel Ward. He’s an elite corner at the college level and should have a very successful NFL career, but they could have traded down and still gotten him.

For the rest of the league, there wasn’t as much pressure. The Giants picked Penn St. running back Saquon Barkley second overall. Barkley is the best player coming into the draft and will balance out the Giants offense and take pressure off of Eli Manning. They are a playoff-caliber team when healthy, and Barkley solidifies their chances of making a run this year.

The Jets took quarterback Sam Darnold out of USC third overall, who I think will be the biggest bust in the draft. Darnold struggled to read defenses his entire career and failed to protect the football. He throws into double coverage and deep-safety help far too often. Darnold turned the ball over 36 times in 24 career games at USC.

At fifth overall, the Broncos got NC State defensive end Bradley Chubb. He is the best defensive lineman in the draft by far and, paired with Von Miller, will be an absolute nightmare for opposing teams.

The Bills traded into the seventh spot and selected quarterback Josh Allen out of Wyoming. He’s a wildcard. A physical specimen that could be the best quarterback in the draft or could never develop into a starter. It’s a bold move, but he has upside.

The Chicago Bears got the best defensive player in the draft with the eighth pick, linebacker Roquan Smith. Expect to see him producing from the start of the season.

Minkah Fitzpatrick was drafted 11th overall by the Dolphins. Fitzpatrick is the most complete defensive back and can play corner or safety. I was surprised to see him fall this far, he’s going to be a star.

A little further down, the Carolina Panthers selected Maryland receiver D.J. Moore 24th overall instead of Alabama’s Calvin Ridley. Ridley is the best receiver in the draft and went 26th to the Falcons. This pairs him with Julio Jones and I can’t really think of a team that’s going to be able to cover them

both. A great pick for the Falcons.

The Arizona Cardinals very quietly had my favorite draft. They got quarterback Josh Rosen out of UCLA with the 10th pick. Rosen is the best quarterback in the draft. I like him in Arizona especially alongside David Johnson. When it’s his time to start he’ll flourish, especially with their second pick, Texas A&M wide out Christian Kirk. Kirk is a versatile slot receiver who can blow by coverages and make defenders miss once he has the ball. Arizona has the veterans to develop both of these players and become a real contender in years to come.

With the 23rd and 31st picks, the Patriots took Georgia offensive lineman Isaiah Wynn and teammate Sony Michel. Bill Belichick has an offense where it’s easy for running backs to flourish, and I expect nothing less from Michel. He’s is a great college back who finds a way to get first downs and get in the endzone. He should have a huge year.

The last selection from the first round I want to mention is the Ravens pick of Louisville quarterback Lamar Jackson. Jackson will start as an NFL quarterback and could be better than Deshaun Watson was last season. He could also turn out like Robert Griffin III, but I’m excited to see him develop. Jackson could fit in with up and coming dual threat quarterbacks finding success in the NFL and maybe even be the best of them all.

Davis is a member of the Class of 2020.

LAST WEEK’S SCORES

**TUESDAY, APRIL 24**  
MEN’S TRACK AND FIELD AT RIT MID-WEEK CHALLENGE – 3RD OF 6  
WOMEN’S TRACK AND FIELD AT RIT MID-WEEK CHALLENGE – 3RD OF 5  
WOMEN’S SOFTBALL VS. CLARKSON UNIVERSITY – W(10–9) AND W(10–2) (DOUBLE-HEADER)

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25**  
WOMEN’S LACROSSE AT ST. JOHN FISHER COLLEGE – L(2–12)

**THURSDAY, APRIL 26**  
MEN’S BASEBALL AT ITHACA COLLEGE – L(12–17)  
MEN’S TENNIS AT DAY 1 UAA CHAMPIONSHIPS IN ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, FLA. – L(0–9)  
WOMEN’S ROWING AT WILLIAM SMITH COLLEGE – COMPLETE

**FRIDAY, APRIL 27**  
MEN’S TENNIS AT DAY 2 UAA CHAMPIONSHIPS IN ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, FLA. – L(1–8)  
WOMEN’S TENNIS AT DAY 1 UAA CHAMPIONSHIPS IN ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, FLA. – L(0–9)  
WOMEN’S SOFTBALL AT RIT – W(3–1) AND W(8–4) (DOUBLE-HEADER)  
MEN’S GOLF VS. DAY 1 LIBERTY LEAGUE SPRING TOURNAMENT – 1ST OF 7

**SATURDAY, APRIL 28**  
MEN’S TENNIS AT DAY 3 UAA CHAMPIONSHIPS IN ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, FLA. – W(5–4)  
WOMEN’S TRACK AND FIELD AT ST. JOHN FISHER CARDINAL CLASSIC – COMPLETE  
MEN’S TRACK AND FIELD AT ST. JOHN FISHER CARDINAL CLASSIC – COMPLETE  
MEN’S GOLF VS. DAY 2 LIBERTY LEAGUE SPRING TOURNAMENT – COMPLETE  
MEN’S BASEBALL AT SKIDMORE COLLEGE – W(2–0) AND (3–1) (RAIN SUSPENSION) (DOUBLE-HEADER)  
WOMEN’S TENNIS AT DAY 2 UAA CHAMPIONSHIPS IN ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, FLA. – L(0–9)  
WOMEN’S LACROSSE AT CLARKSON UNIVERSITY – L(8–11)  
WOMEN’S SOFTBALL VS. UNION COLLEGE – (5–0) (RAIN SUSPENSION)

**SUNDAY, APRIL 29**  
WOMEN’S TENNIS AT DAY 3 UAA CHAMPIONSHIPS IN ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, FLA. – L(2–7)  
MEN’S GOLF VS. DAY 3 LIBERTY LEAGUE SPRING TOURNAMENT – COMPLETE  
MEN’S BASEBALL AT SKIDMORE COLLEGE – W(4–2)

THIS WEEK’S SCHEDULE

**TUESDAY, MAY 1**  
MEN’S BASEBALL AT THE COLLEGE AT BROCKPORT – 4:30 P.M.

**FRIDAY, MAY 4**  
WOMEN’S TRACK AT DAY 1 LIBERTY LEAGUE OUTDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS – 12 P.M.  
MEN’S TRACK AT DAY 1 LIBERTY LEAGUE OUTDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS – 12 P.M.  
WOMEN’S ROWING VS. LIBERTY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS – 3 P.M.

**SATURDAY, MAY 5**  
WOMEN’S TRACK AT DAY 2 LIBERTY LEAGUE OUTDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS – 10:30 P.M.  
MEN’S TRACK AT DAY 2 LIBERTY LEAGUE OUTDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS – 10:30 P.M.  
MEN’S BASEBALL VS. ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY – 1 P.M. AND 3:30 P.M. (DOUBLE-HEADER)

**SUNDAY, MAY 6**  
MEN’S BASEBALL VS. ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY – 12 P.M. AND 2:30 P.M. (DOUBLE-HEADER)  
WOMEN’S ROWING AT HAMILTON/ST. LAWRENCE/UNION IN ROME, NY – 9 A.M.  
MEN’S BASEBALL AT BARD COLLEGE – 1 P.M. AND 3:30 P.M. (DOUBLE-HEADER)



# SPORTS

## ‘Jackets Adapt to Rochester Wheels’ Tough Competition

By MICAH GREENBERG  
SPORTS EDITOR

The men’s and women’s basketball teams played a scrimmage against the Rochester Wheels, a professional wheelchair basketball team, last Wednesday. The ‘Jackets won 73–71, though they received lots of help to stay in the game.

Wheelchair basketball is an official Paralympic sport. The biggest difference in the rules from Olympic basketball is that there is no double-dribbling, and traveling occurs when a player touches their wheels more than twice between dribbles. The sport is difficult, since shooting from far distances depends completely on upper body strength — only five three-pointers were scored in the entire game.

Because the Wheels are a



GABE ISAACSON / PHOTO EDITOR

Both teams often crowded the paint in an effort to control the ability to rebound

*The biggest difference from Olympic basketball is that there is no double-dribbling, and traveling occurs when a player touches their wheels more than twice between dribbles.*

professional team with a lot more experience in the sport, the ‘Jackets were helped out in several ways. For example, baskets scored by the ‘Jackets

counted for double points.

In the first half of the game, the Wheels seemed to help the ‘Jackets, and the ‘Jackets were still adapting to the modified sport. When ‘Jackets players were on offense, Wheels players grabbed rebounds, then passed it back to the player who missed to give them another try. It was an entertaining game, and the ‘Jackets were up 30–21 at halftime.

At the beginning of the second half, Women’s Basket-

ball head coach Jim Scheible, who was the referee for the game, told the crowd that the ‘Jackets would start the second half with 65 points, and the Wheels would actually start trying in the second half. The ‘Jackets only managed to score two baskets in the second, while the Wheels scored 50 points.

However, in the final minutes of the game, the ‘Jackets focused on defense and managed to hold the Wheels. With seconds left and down three,

the Wheels took a three-point shot, drawing the only foul of the game. The Wheels only made one of the three free throws, allowing the ‘Jackets to win by two.

The game was more fun than competitive. At various times, Scheible literally pushed the ‘Jackets players along to help them reach a loose ball faster. Both teams had some fantastic shots, and some humorous airballs. The teams supported each other and kept the contest lighthearted throughout.

The ‘Jackets face the Wheels annually to help raise money for the Wheels’ expenses, especially their travel, so that they can face other teams. The Rochester Wheels are officially recognized by the National Wheelchair Basketball Association as a Division III team. The team also helps mentor youth with disabilities and adults who want to remain active after an injury or a new medical diagnosis.

*Greenberg is a member of the Class of 2021.*

### ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

## Gudipudi Discusses Successful Tennis Season

By MICAH GREENBERG  
SPORTS EDITOR

*Sophomore Sravya Gudipudi has consistently had a strong impact for Women’s Tennis. She often plays in the No. 1 spot in singles play and also completes at high levels in doubles play. Earlier this month, Gudipudi earned UAA All-Academic honors.*

**How did you get interested in tennis?**



PHOTO COURTESY OF UR ATHLETICS

Gudipudi is a key contributor for Women’s Tennis

I got interested in tennis through a summer camp that I did when I was 10 years old. Slowly, I started playing junior tournaments and haven’t stopped ever since!

**What do you enjoy most about tennis at UR?**

I enjoy playing against such competitive teams and playing tennis at a high level. I also enjoy the team atmosphere

and how we have all gotten so close throughout the season.

**How have you grown as an athlete over the course of your collegiate career?**

Coming from California was a huge adjustment. There were many things I had to adapt to. For instance, I was not used to playing so much indoor tennis, and this was something I had to adjust. Also, I have grown as a team player by supporting one another and cheering each other on during matches.

**What has been the highlight of your tennis career at UR?**

One of the highlights in tennis was being nationally ranked last year. It was definitely a great start coming in as a freshman. Also being named Second-Team All-UAA for second singles was another highlight from last year. This was really exciting especially since we compete in one of the highest-ranked conferences in the nation.

**What has been the most difficult aspect of being a varsity athlete?**

The most difficult aspect of being a varsity athlete is balancing tennis with school, especially in the spring. As a varsity athlete, we travel almost every week, which requires us to miss a lot of classes and even some exams. Sometimes balancing school and tennis can be a little stressful but in a way it makes me more organized. I have learned to manage my time wisely and be on top of my school work.

**Who has had the greatest impact on your playing career and why?**

My parents have had a huge impact in my tennis. They pushed me to be a better tennis player by always supporting me and taking me to junior tournaments almost every weekend. My parents were there throughout my entire tennis career and without them I would not be where I am today.

**Who is your favorite professional athlete, and why?**

My favorite professional tennis player is Rafael Nadal. I really admire his work ethic and determination that he shows both on and off the court. I also enjoy watching him play because of his competitive nature and how hype he gets in his matches.

**If you hosted a talk show, who would your first three guests be?**

LeBron James, Roger Federer, and The Weeknd are the three individuals that I would invite if I hosted a talk show. I really respect LeBron James and Roger Federer as athletes and how successful they are in their sports. This takes a lot of hard work and determination to be that successful and that is something I really admire. Also, I would invite The Weeknd because I really enjoy listening to his music.

*Greenberg is a member of the Class of 2021.*