Selected Coverage March 2012

**National**

New York Times (March 31)
Overcoming ‘Physics Envy’ (opinion)
By KEVIN A. CLARKE AND DAVID M. PRIMO

Economists, political scientists and sociologists have long suffered from an academic inferiority complex: physics envy. They often feel that their disciplines should be on a par with the “real” sciences and self-consciously model their work on them, using language (“theory,” “experiment,” “law”) evocative of physics and chemistry. But we believe that this way of thinking is badly mistaken and detrimental to social research. For the sake of everyone who stands to gain from a better knowledge of politics, economics and society, the social sciences need to overcome their inferiority complex, reject hypothetico-deductivism and embrace the fact that they are mature disciplines with no need to emulate other sciences.

Kevin A. Clarke and David M. Primo, associate professors of political science at the University of Rochester, are the authors of “A Model Discipline: Political Science and the Logic of Representations.”

Los Angeles Times (March 15)
Menopause fog? It’s real, but not what you think

The researchers, from the University of Rochester, N.Y., and University of Illinois in Chicago, recruited 75 women between 40 and 60 whose menstrual cycles were becoming erratic but who had menstruated in the past year. In addition to asking the subjects to assess changes in their cognitive functioning, researchers put the women through an exhaustive battery of tests to gauge their performance objectively. (Also Reported in: CNN.com, Daily Mail, WebMD, Baltimore Sun, Chicago Tribune, Huffington Post, CBSNews.com, and others)

ABC News (March 7)
Survival at a Cost: Common Cancer Treatment Carries Huge Risks

“For many survivors, the cost of the cure of their cancer has been late, life-threatening effects of therapy,” said Dr. Lois B. Travis, director of the Rubin Center for Cancer Survivorship at the James P. Wilmot Cancer Center at the University of Rochester Medical Center. “We recognized that secondary malignant neoplasms and cardiovascular disease are among the most serious adverse effects experienced by the growing number of survivors worldwide,” she added. (Also Reported in: AkronNewsNow)

**Local**

8WROC-TV
10WHEC-TV
13WHAM-TV
Rochester Business Journal
Rochester Democrat and Chronicle
WHAM AM 1180
YNN
UPI (March 15)

‘Wireless’ message sent using neutrinos

A wireless message has been sent using a beam of neutrinos, nearly massless particles that travel at near the speed of light, U.S. researchers say. The message – sent by a group of scientists led by researchers from the University of Rochester and North Carolina State University on a beam of neutrinos traveled through nearly 800 feet of stone and said simply, “Neutrino.” (Also Reported in: MSNBC, NPR, ArsTechnica, Science Daily, e! Science News, TG Daily, The Verge, Gizmodo)

UPI (March 3)

Older Adults Who Sleep Poorly React to Stress With Increased Inflammation

The immune system of an older adult who doesn’t get enough sleep responds to stress with inflammation, increasing the risk for mental and physical health problems, according to researchers at the University of Rochester Medical Center. In the study, stress led to a far greater increase in an inflammation marker in people who didn’t sleep well compared to good sleepers. “This study offers more evidence that better sleep not only can improve overall well-being but also may help prevent poor physiological and psychological outcomes associated with inflammation,” said Kathi L. Heffner, Ph.D., assistant professor of Psychiatry at the Medical Center.

The Telegraph (March 21)

About Time: From Sun Dials to Quantum Clocks – How the Cosmos Shapes Our Lives by Adam Frank: review

Today there are many books on the nature of time as we experience it and even more on cosmic time as revealed by science. Yet few attempt to recount the entwined narratives of cosmic history and human time as a unified whole. Adam Frank’s About Time does just that. An astrophysicist at the University of Rochester, he and many of his colleagues believe that “the Big Bang is all but dead”. Frank and the others do not doubt the scientific narrative of cosmic evolution over the last 13.7 billion years, only the “bang” in Big Bang. The moment of creation with no before is being questioned because of the very precision of the science that gave the notion “a measure of reality in the first place”. “The roots of cosmology cannot be reworked without a new conception of time, including its origins and its physical nature,” argues Frank in this excellent book.

U.S. News & World Report (March 13)

It’s Not the Economy, Stupid – It’s Entitlement Spending

By David Primo

No president – President Obama included – is captain of the USS Economy. Presidential actions rarely have dramatic effects on the macro-economy in the short run (and almost never in a positive direction). But voters tend to believe otherwise, in part due to the promises of candidates and the media’s portrayal of presidential power. As a result, a president’s electoral fortunes are closely linked to the state of the economy come election time.

David M. Primo, a senior scholar at George Mason University’s Mercatus Center and associate professor of political science and business administration at the University of Rochester, is the author of an award-winning book on budget rules, Rules and Restraint: Government Spending the Design of Institutions, and several papers on the subject, including “Making Budget Rules Work.”

New York Times (March 12)

Reasons to Place a Bet on Vitamin D (blog)

At least once a week, someone, usually a woman over 50, asks me about vitamin D. Perhaps a routine checkup has revealed a deficiency, prompting the doctor to recommend an over-the-counter supplement or, in severe cases, large prescription doses to correct the problem. Nonetheless, Dr. Kevin A. Fiscella, a public health specialist and family physician at the University of Rochester, has decided to take 1,000 international units of vitamin D each day, based on data from his studies linking racial disparities in vitamin D levels to disease risk and his belief that “it can’t hurt and it may help.”

Wall Street Journal (March 6)

When Gaming Is Good for You

A growing body of university research suggests that gaming improves creativity, decision-making and perception. The specific benefits are wide
ranging, from improved hand-eye coordination in surgeons to vision changes that boost night driving ability. People who played action-based video and computer games made decisions 25% faster than others without sacrificing accuracy, according to a study. Indeed, the most adept gamers can make choices and act on them up to six times a second—four times faster than most people, other researchers found. Moreover, practiced game players can pay attention to more than six things at once without getting confused, compared with the four that someone can normally keep in mind, said University of Rochester researchers. The studies were conducted independently of the companies that sell video and computer games. The violent action games that often worry parents most had the strongest beneficial effect on the brain. “These are not the games you would think are mind-enhancing,” said cognitive neuroscientist Daphne Bavelier, who studies the effect of action games at Switzerland’s University of Geneva and the University of Rochester in New York. (Also Reported in: Fox News, Yahoo! News, UPI (March 6))

**Social media can find you and spot friends**

A lot can be learned about individuals from their interactions in online social media, even when they hide their messages and posts, U.S. researchers say. In a study at the University of Rochester in New York, researchers said they were able to determine a person’s location within a 100-yard radius with 85 percent accuracy by using only the location of that person’s friends, a university release reported Tuesday. “Once you learn about relationships from peoples’ tweets, it makes senses that you can track them,” lead study author Adam Sadilek said. “My fiancée may be a good predictor of my location because we have breakfast together every morning.” (Also Reported in: Yahoo! News, Science Codex, TG Daily)

**Chronicle of Higher Education (March 7)**

**The U. of Rochester’s Recruitment Rap**

You know what the oh-so-earnest world of admissions marketing needs? More rhymes! Like these: “This is 20 percent clusters/limitless core/dedicated to campus sports/and clubs galore/80 percent research/global acclaim/100 percent reason/you remember our name!” The lyrics above come from a new music video created by the University of Rochester’s admissions office. This original rap song, “Remember oUR Name,” delivers the usual facts and figures, along with pop culture references and plenty of cheekiness. You may love it, you may hate it, but either way you’ve got to hand it to the Midnight Ramblers, an all-male a cappella group at Rochester, for their straight-faced deliveries. (Also Reported in: Washington Post, Huffington Post, Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, 10WHEC-TV, 13WHAM-TV, WXXI)

**Chicago Tribune (March 29)**

**Postpartum depression tied to domestic violence**

Mothers with postpartum depression are more likely to be in a violent relationship than moms without depression, and new mothers in abusive relationships are more likely to suffer postpartum depression, according to a new survey of women with infants. “I think intuitively and clinically it’s not surprising that there would be an overlap between depression and intimate partner violence,” said Dr. Linda Chaudron, a psychiatry professor at the University of Rochester Medical Center, who was not involved in this study. (Also Reported in: Baltimore Sun, Fox News, MSNBC, PBS (March 30))

**Autism’s Prevalence Grows: ‘This Is a Big Problem’**

In a 2006 government study, an estimated one in 110 children were diagnosed with autism. But a new report out today by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found the prevalence of autism is higher still, with one in 88 children being diagnosed. Among boys, the rate of autism disorders is one in 54, almost five times the rate for girls. More now about these findings and the diagnosis of autism. Dr. Thomas Frieden is the director of the CDC, which produced the latest report. And Dr. Susan Hyman is the chair of the Autism Subcommittee of the American Academy of Pediatrics. She’s with the University of Rochester Medical Center. (Also Reported in: U.S. News & World Report, Time, Fox News, NPR, Discovery News, Reuters, CBSNews.com, 13WHAM-TV)
**Huffington Post (March 1)**

**Joe Woodward: Lost & Found in Translation**
The enterprise of translation has always interested me. As a young reader, of course, I read the canonized foreign “classics” of my time: the Russians, the French, the Spanish, the Central and South Americans. I read more Europeans than anything. I read no Asian literature. I read no African literature. Well, very, very little. Just this week, the 2012 fiction long list (25 titles) of the Best Translated Book Awards was announced. It includes books from 14 countries and 12 languages. The awards program is organized by “Three Percent,” a part of the University of Rochester translation program and Open Letter [Books], also associated with the university. The finalists in fiction will be announced on April 10 in conjunction with the poetry finalists. The winners in both categories will be celebrated at the PEN World Voices Festival in New York City.

**New York Times (March 2)**

**An Amateur Snapshot of Kodak’s Early Days**
L. L. Martin submitted the grand-prize-winning picture for what was said to be “the largest prize contest in photographic history” – the Eastman Kodak Company’s first-ever nationwide picture contest. With $30,000 in winnings, it was an effort to woo amateur photographers on the eve of the Great Depression. Today, the picture – which beat out 750,000 submissions – is pasted into one of four albums that comprise “Kodak Historical Collection #003,” nestled within the Department of Rare Books, Special Collections & Preservation of the Rush Rhees Library at the University of Rochester.

**Philadelphia Inquirer (March 5)**

**Snoring Tots May Develop Behavioral Issues Later**
Heidi Connolly, division chief for pediatric sleep medicine at University of Rochester Medical Center in New York, said the study adds to a growing body of research showing that snoring, mouth breathing and sleep apnea in children should be taken seriously. “These findings echo many of the other studies that show having sleep apnea and symptoms of snoring are bad for neurodevelopmental outcomes in children,” Connolly said. While snoring is a symptom of sleep apnea, it can have other causes, such as nasal allergies. Other studies suggest that even snoring alone, without apnea, can cause kids to do worse developmentally, she added. (Also Reported in: Newsday, Yahoo! News)

**Rochester Business Journal (March 12)**

**UR receives $1 million to create symposium**
The University of Rochester has received a $1 million gift to its College of Arts, Sciences and Engineering to endow an annual humanities symposium and related curricula. The gift was made by Bernard Ferrari, UR alumnus and board member, and his wife, Linda. It is meant to help the university explore collaborations between the arts and sciences. This gift also is in support of UR’s $1.2 billion capital campaign, Meliora Challenge: The Campaign for the University of Rochester.

**PakistanToday.com.pk (March 10)**

**US professor sees cultural diplomacy as peace solution**
The use of violence to curb violence is a dangerous trend and through such means violence can’t be curbed, as only people-to-people contact and cultural diplomacy can bring long-lasting peace, said renowned American professor and teacher of digital video production Dr Brian Bailey. The researcher and his wife, Heather Layton, are on a visit to Karachi on the invitation of two Pakistani members of the International Visitors Leadership Programme (IVLP) – one of US State Department’s professional exchange programmes. Layton is also a multimedia, interdisciplinary artist and a senior arts lecturer in the Department of Art and Art History at the University of Rochester in Rochester, New York, US, where she teaches courses in painting, mixed media, performance art and social intervention. She wants the world to use arts to resolve conflicts.

**MyHealthNewsDaily.com (March 1)**

**Vitamin A May Slash Melanoma Risk, especially in Women**
Vitamin A supplements could reduce the risk of developing the deadly skin cancer melanoma, according to a new study. “This is promising evidence that in addition to sun protection, there’s another option that can help prevent melanoma,” said Dr. Mary Gail Mercurio, a dermatologist at
the University of Rochester Medical Center, who was not involved with the study.

_Fox News (March 9)_
**Harlem churches see gospel tourist boom on Sundays**
Celeste Lejeune, 16, from Paris, didn’t know anything about Mother AME Zion’s history as a stop on the Underground Railroad, or that its congregants once included Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman. “I would like to just hear voices of people who live in Harlem, and see the atmosphere,” she said. “We don’t have music like this in France.” That is precisely the sort of outlook that disheartens the congregation, who would like to believe the tourists have come to listen to the word of God, to be transformed by the power of Scripture. “Within this site that’s meant to be sacred, you have, maybe to some of the members, this invasion of the secular and profane,” said Margarita Simon Guillory, an assistant professor of religion at the University of Rochester in Rochester, N.Y. “You’re going to have a certain amount of tension in that space.” (Also Reported in: _ABC News, CBS News, NPR, MSNBC, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Seattle Times, Hawaii Tribune-Herald, Newsday_, and others)

_ABC News (March 17)_
**Tourette’s Syndrome Doesn’t Stop NY Teen’s Dreams**
Nikole (Nikki) Blowers, a freshman at the University of Rochester, is always on the move. Before dawn she walks three miles to a nearby river for crew practice. Then she tutors for an hour. After her first class, she catches up on email and plans future events for her clubs. And all this before lunch. Blowers, 18, can control her busy schedule, but the one thing she can’t control is her body. She has Tourette’s Syndrome (TS), a neurological disorder. The disorder is characterized by a combination of physical and verbal tics. The verbal tics can be vocalizations such as grunts, sniffing, little throat-clearing sounds and, in about 10 to 15 percent of cases, outbursts of involuntary cursing or foul language.

_ABC News (March 1)_
**Breastfeeding Advocates Praise Beyonce for Nursing Daughter in Public**
A megastar helps to take away the stigma of nursing in public, experts said. And role models are needed to help young women see the value and the beauty of breastfeeding, said Dr. Ruth Lawrence, professor of pediatrics and obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Rochester School of Medicine. (Also Reported in: _Yahoo! News_)

_Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (March 23)_
**Innovative spirit helps transform Rochester’s economy**
In basic terms, Rochester has gone from being an international company town with an establishment top-down culture to a vibrant region of small and medium-sized businesses increasingly focused on pieces of larger markets, be it optics or health care or alternative energy or food manufacturing. The University of Rochester, as the region’s largest employer, is trying to make up for the capital dearth. UR won more than $210 million in National Institutes of Health funding in 2010, ranking it 31st in the nation. “We’re collaborative partners in helping this community,” UR president Joel Seligman [said] about RIT. “I’m the first one to sing the praises of what (RIT president) Bill Destler has done.”

_Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (March 23)_
**High-tech businesses keep local economy afloat**
Start-ups from the laboratories of local universities, spin-offs from larger corporations and just people with innovative ideas are developing new industries that are creating jobs, boosting economic development and keeping Rochester from becoming another rusting upstate New York boom town. It’s a subject that has fascinated Duncan Moore, vice provost for entrepreneurship at The University of Rochester’s Institute of Optics. And after doing a little research on the subject he said he became more impressed with the city’s ability to adapt to major industry changes. “I took a look at the top 10 employers between 1982 and now and not only did we lose about 54,000 employees at Kodak we lost another 30,000 at Delphi, Xerox, Baush & Lomb and it is just remarkable,” Moore said. “This ecosystem is not all about optics – optics is a big part it – but we generated about 170,000 new jobs in that period in a labor market of about a half a million, so we turned over a third of our jobs.”
**MedicineNet.com (March 8)**

**Longer Use of Alzheimer’s Drug May Help Patients**

The Alzheimer’s drug Aricept helps people with early to moderate signs of the disease maintain a higher level of function, but just how long the drug continues working is not fully understood. A new study may help clear up some confusion. “The findings are illuminating and this affirms how most of us practice in the U.S.,” says Anton Porsteinsson, MD. He is the William and Sheila Konar Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Rochester Medical Center in Rochester, N.Y. (Also Reported in: Huffington Post, WebMD)

**YNN (March 19)**

**Eastman Student Wins Metropolitan Opera Competition**

A student from the Eastman School of Music was one of five winners at the Metropolitan Opera’s National Council Auditions Sunday in New York City. Matthew Grills is a second year master’s degree student. He performed two arias at the Met accompanied by the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. Grills was one of 1,500 students entered in the auditions. He and the four other winners won cash prizes of $15,000. (Also Reported in: Rochester Democrat and Chronicle)

**Wall Street Journal (March 5)**

**EPA testing in Dimock, Pa., feeds drilling debate**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s testing of scores of water wells will give residents of a small northeastern Pennsylvania village a snapshot of the aquifer they rely on for drinking, cooking and bathing. That’s what researchers at Duke University and the University of Rochester, who are conducting their own studies in Dimock, are hoping to pin down. They are using a technique called tritium-helium dating to pinpoint the age of the water coming out of residential water wells – in other words, how long it’s been since it fell as rainwater and percolated into the ground. Duke researcher Tom Darrah said age dating will help clarify whether contaminants were present before Cabot began drilling the wells, or showed up after drilling began. (Also Reported in: Newsday)

**Self Magazine (March 1)**

**5 steps to a Healthier Immune System**

YOUR HEART: Keeping this organ healthy means less work for your defensive line. High levels of cholesterol inflame your arteries, triggering white blood cells to zoom in and gobble up the waxy substance. But the more the cells consume, the bigger they get, says Mark Taubman, M.D., dean of the School of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Rochester Medical Center.

**Scientific American (March 31)**

**U.S. Opted Not to Ban BPA in Canned Foods**

Bisphenol A (BPA) will continue to be a part of the US diet. Today the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced that it would not ban the chemical from food and beverage containers. BPA is a ubiquitous chemical that has been linked to a range of conditions, including heart disease, reproductive problems, behavioral problems and breast and prostate cancers. Scientists believe that it produces such a wide range of health effects in low doses because it mimics the hormone estrogen, disrupting human development and making it particularly potent for infants. Although much of the new work has strengthened suspected links between BPA and human-health problems, one rigorous study has come back with negative results. Because estrogens affect the immune system, researchers hypothesized that low levels of BPA could be harmful. So far, however, Paige Lawrence, a toxicologist at the University of Rochester Medical Center in N.Y., has not found that to be the case in mouse studies. “We turned over a lot of rocks, looked under them, and consistently saw little effects,” Lawrence says. “I think it’s good news.” (Also Reported in: Nature)

**U.S. News & World Report (March 13)**

**Harvard, Stanford Top 2013 Best Business Schools Rankings**

For the third time in five years, Harvard Business School and the Stanford University Graduate School of Business have tied for the top spot in U.S. News’s rankings of Best Business Schools. Although Stanford and Harvard staking claim to the top spot has been commonplace in recent years, some business programs moved up in this year’s rankings considerably. The Rice University Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Business jumped
nine spots from a tie for 34th to a tie for 25th; the University of Notre Dame Mendoza College of Business climbed 12 spots from a tie for 37th to a tie for 25th; and the University of Rochester William E. Simon Graduate School of Business Administration leapt from a tie for 45th to a tie for 37th in the 2013 edition of the rankings. (Also Reported in: Rochester Business Journal)

CNN Money (March 12)
Big banks: Too big to behave?
An independently funded SEC? The SEC says its budget is hampering its ability to act more boldly. Not only is it its technology way out of date, last spring the regulator had to stop hiring expert witnesses for court cases and skimp on airfare to stay within its budget, [spokesperson John] Nester says. One way to address the funding issue would be to allow the SEC to determine its own funding requirements along the lines of the FDIC, a suggestion University of Rochester President Joel Seligman made in a New York Times op-ed two years ago.

BusinessWeek (March 31)
Analysts don’t predict doomsday for insurers
Those fearing such a scenario say it would cripple the health insurance industry. But few, if any, financial analysts or health economists share the same level of concern. “It’s not like an apocalyptic disaster,” said Chuck Phelps, a retired professor of health economics at the University of Rochester. “The people harmed are not the insurance companies. The people harmed are relatively healthy people who want to buy individual policies. They won’t be able to.” Health insurance companies were making record profits before the health care law by denying coverage for pre-existing conditions, selectively choosing individuals to cover and by setting premiums based on personal health histories and ages, Phelps said. If the Supreme Court overturns the entire reform, he added, insurance companies remain in that highly profitable system. (Also Reported in: Minneapolis Star Tribune)

Chicago Sun-Times (March 6)
A red alert for all our single sisters
Forget expensive blowouts and designer handbags. All women need is a bright pop of color – red – to be irresistible to the opposite sex. A recent study from the University of Rochester in New York found that men are more likely to view women in red as sexually available. And, because love is a game of chance and no one likes to be rejected, men are more likely to approach women who they read as available. Hence, ladies in red probably get asked out a lot more than ladies in any other hue.

Rochester Business Journal (March 16)
UR ranks No. 1 here in graduation rates
At the University of Rochester, three-quarters of undergraduates who entered in 2004 left with diplomas in hand within four years. The university’s four-year graduation rate of 74.6 percent makes it No. 1 among local schools and puts it within the 90th percentile nationwide, statistics compiled by the Chronicle of Higher Education show. The Chronicle analyzed four- and six-year graduation rates for 3,800 degree-granting institutions nationwide, publishing the results in an online database. For UR, the numbers represent an upward trend that has occurred in the past few years – one fueled by retention efforts. Richard Feldman, dean of the College of Arts, Sciences and Engineering at UR, said he expects the numbers to rise further in the next couple of years because of these efforts.

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (March 29)
Plans for new Golisano Children’s Hospital unveiled
Officials with the University of Rochester Medical Center unveiled plans for the new Golisano Children’s Hospital on Thursday. Construction is expected to begin on the new $180 million eight-floor hospital tower on Crittenden Boulevard in late summer. (Also Reported in: Rochester Business Journal, 8WROC-TV, 13WHAM-TV, YNN, WHAM AM 1180, 10WHEC-TV, Messenger Post Media)

Salt Lake Tribune (March 10)
UVU graduate considers Michael Jackson’s musical legacy
As we approach the third anniversary of Michael Jackson’s death, we know all about the marriage to Lisa Marie Presley, the architectural concept of Neverland, the molestation trials and, of course, Bubbles. Joseph Vogel, a graduate of Utah Valley
University and now a doctoral candidate in the University of Rochester’s English department, knows all about that, too.

Rochester Business Journal (March 23)
Fusing biological data and medical technology [Spencer] Rosero’s educational journey included a stop for his master’s degree in pharmacology at the University of Rochester. He decided to return to Rochester for his post-doctoral training and residency at Strong Memorial Hospital. Rosero now works as a cardiologist at the University of Rochester Medical Center, where he is able once again to meld multiple passions. “Being at the university, you get to take care of patients, which is my primary job, and you also get research opportunities,” he says.

10WHEC-TV (March 19)
Former Surgeon General David Satcher in Rochester
Former Surgeon General David Satcher will be in Rochester to launch a new multi-million dollar heart health initiative for our area. It will address tobacco use, eating healthy and also reducing high blood pressure and cholesterol. The University of Rochester Medical Center, Monroe County Health Department, YMCA and Foodlink are all involved. (Also Reported in: 13WHAM-TV)

NPR (March 8)
Solar Flares May Interfere with Electronic Devices Today
The sun ejected two huge solar flares Tuesday, and NASA says that we here on Earth may notice the effects of magnetic fields and ionized gases that it estimates will arrive around 1:25 a.m. ET Thursday. So, if you detect some electronic interference – say, your GPS doesn’t work right – blame it on the sun. And our colleague at the 13.7 blog, Adam Frank, has also explained “space weather” in very clear terms. To learn more about solar phenomena, you can visit NASA’s page of Frequently Asked Questions – it starts off with, “Is the world going to end in 2012?” (Also Reported in: YNN)

New York Times (March 16)
When the Voice in Your Head Just Keeps Talking
Meet Daniel Fish. On Thursday this director’s new creation, “A (radically condensed and expanded) SUPPOSEDLY FUN THING I’LL NEVER DO AGAIN (after David Foster Wallace)” will open at the interdisciplinary Chocolate Factory theater in Long Island City, Queens. This is no adaptation or biopic: the script, which changes every performance, as manipulated by Mr. Fish, is Wallace’s voice itself, reading his work and giving interviews. But audiences never hear that voice directly: instead it pours, literally, into the heads of the five performers, who labor mightily to channel word for word the relentless rush streaming into their headphones. (Wallace would no doubt have recognized this kind of contemporary theater tactic; you can imagine him giving it the “po-mo” label.) Mr. Fish, a slender 44-year-old with a tangle of dark curls and a beard, discovered Wallace about five years ago and was immediately struck, he said, by how addictive he found the writing. He began thinking about a Wallace-related project during a residency at the University of Rochester in 2010 and came across audio recordings of Wallace while researching his idea.

The Hill (March 28)
To stop insider trading in DC, shrink government (blog)
By Hester Peirce and David M. Primo
Widespread outrage over the recently passed STOCK Act, however justified, is misplaced, as it is directed toward a symptom, not the disease. The disease is the ever-growing micromanagement of the economy by the federal government. You can’t cure a cold by blowing your nose, and you can’t “cure” Washington by trying to restrict information flows.

Primo is a senior scholar at the Mercatus Center and an associate professor of political science and business administration at the University of Rochester.
**Rochester Democrat and Chronicle** (March 19)
Maggie vs. Louise to be battle of 2 popular, powerhouse politicians
If name recognition is a key to political success, as history suggests, then the outcome of the contest between Rep. Louise Slaughter and Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks for the newly drawn 25th Congressional District is anyone’s guess. “Forget Thelma & Louise, that’s kids’ stuff compared to Maggie and Louise,” said political observer and radio talk show host **Curt Smith**. “I can’t think, frankly, of a race anywhere in which neither candidate has a last name.” … “What’s interesting about this race is, after 10 years where the Rochester region was fragmented into four districts, we now have a Monroe County-centric district,” said **Gerald Gamm**, a political scientist at the **University of Rochester**. “We have a challenger who is as well known in the county as Congresswoman Slaughter,” he added later. “The challenge that (Brooks) has will be to convert her strengths locally to Congress, and the challenge that (Slaughter) has will be to reconstruct a local coalition.”

**YNN** (March 1)
**UR Students Set New Rowing Record**
Two **University of Rochester** students broke a world record Friday. **Ross Pederson** and **Joe Prosack** are on the university’s rowing team. The teammates were born the same year, and both are dual majors in economics and math.