

Campus Times

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An International Student's COVID-19 Dilemma

By MUSKAAN VASANDANI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"Bro, NOW what will we do?"

I woke up to this text from a friend one morning back in July. Attached to the text was a link to the latest guidelines provided by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for students on an F-1 visa.

I'm in India, which means that in the dead of night, while I was fast asleep and blissfully unaware, the U.S. government had put into question my whole career as a student.

It was shocking and, to use today's most common phrase, "unprecedented." My friends and I spent the next few days overwhelmed by anxiety and panic. We had absolutely no idea if we'd be allowed to return to campus in August. And if we were, how were we going to afford to come back home after in-person instruction ended in November? Could we be deported if another COVID-19 wave hit mid-semester? Our minds were teeming with every worst-case scenario.

What had kept me going throughout quarantine was that, soon, I'd be back in the familiar city of Rochester, getting a burrito bowl from the Pit and enjoying a meal with all of my friends like nothing had changed. Suddenly, all that had kept me going seemed to be in peril.

The International Services Office (ISO) held town halls to explain the situation, several universities sued ICE, and social media campaigns began. It was all over as quick as it had started.

"Bro, we can go back!"

Attached to this text was an article reporting that ICE had rescinded the alarming guide-



JANE PRITCHARD/ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

lines. That burrito bowl meal seemed likely enough now.

But we weren't in the clear yet. As the weeks passed, I received campus reopening guidelines and more invitations to town halls that outlined every little detail for returning to campus. It was intimidating, to say the least. It seemed like I was going to be able to get that burrito bowl, but I wasn't going to be able to enjoy it in the company of friends. My resolve to go back to campus weakened.

None of the emails I received indicated anything about students travelling internationally having to quarantine.

"How are we supposed to make it there in a WEEK?"

Attached was the screenshot of an email from the ISO stating that now, according to new CDC guidelines, international students had to quarantine. And in order to make it to Rochester for the free quarantine facility in time, I had to be there within a week.

I laughed. No way was I making it there in a week. And this is precisely when I started to

gather my thoughts and think rationally. What was all this panic and anxiety about going back for? A meal with friends that seemed far too good to be true? Three months of Zoom classes from my dorm? Or was it the labs I love so much, but would have to wait until next semester for anyways?

The more I tried to convince myself that the college experience would be worth the risk of a 15-hour flight in these times, the more I was discouraged. The sad truth is that it simply isn't worth it.

Most of us alive today have never experienced a pandemic on this scale before. We have lost countless of our kind, and will continue to do so until a vaccine arrives. Everyone's mental and physical well-being has taken a serious beating. Its consequences are much bigger than my simple hope for a meal at the Pit, and so I have decided that the burrito bowl is going to have to wait. I am going to Zoom my way through the upcoming semester and try to learn as much as I can. It isn't going to be the same — not even close — but it won't be impossible, either.

Here's to hoping we all come out of this and are able to share a simple meal without the fear of a pandemic looming over us. Soon, we'll have the privilege of being late to class in person, rather than signing in late on Zoom. Soon we'll go back to grumbling about our Starbucks drink's 20-minute ETA. And when all of this can happen safely and without putting anyone at risk, that's when I'll happily take that 15-hour flight and return for my burrito bowl.

Vasandani is a member of the Class of 2022

The Racist Policies that Led to the July '64 Uprisings

By AN NGUYEN
PUBLISHER

By WIL AIKEN
SENIOR STAFF

By MICHAEL VILAKAZ
FEATURES EDITOR

In July 1964, three days of social unrest broke out in Rochester. While the events were characterized by the media as shocking and out of the blue, many directly involved felt them to be the culmination of years of racism in policy and policing. In the second of our three-part series on the uprisings and their implications, we explore the role of housing in setting the stage for what some deemed riots, others uprisings. Read the first article [here](#).

When army vet and lawyer Reuben Davis moved to Rochester in 1955, he was hopeful about the prospect of success in a city known for its economic prosperity.

But it soon became apparent to Davis that as a Black man, he was not included in the comforts of the city's industrial opportunities.

When Davis and his wife set off to find a house, their favorite was on Elmdorf Ave in the 19th Ward. "The owner refused to sell to us because we were Black," Davis recalled in an interview for the [Rochester Voices](#) project. The deed for the house itself mandated that it wasn't to be sold to "coloreds and Italians," Davis said. This was despite the fact that such restrictive deeds

were outlawed by 1958 when they attempted to buy the house.

An active member of the NAACP, Davis had learned to navigate racist restrictions, and was able to get a white friend to buy the house and transfer its ownership to him.

This was a familiar story for many Black Rochesterians, who also discovered the hard way that Rochester's version of the American Dream wasn't for them, regardless of their educational or economic status. Decades of testimonials and research have explored Rochester's long-standing history of racist housing policies and practices.

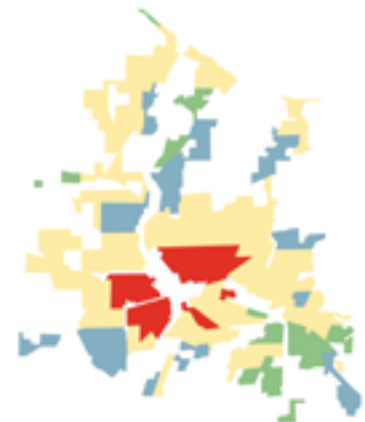
"The housing situation always has been an enigma to [Black people]," Reverend Charles Boddie said in a January 1946 *Democrat & Chronicle* article, adding that, "[i]n Rochester only two areas have been gracefully made available to [them]."

The Third and Seventh wards were home to 80 percent of Black Rochesterians in 1950, according to a [1958 NYS Commission Against Discrimination report](#).

The report detailed that 19.4% of houses in these two wards had no usable private bathrooms, 27.5% had no clean running water, and 12% had more than one person per bedroom.

Despite the poor conditions, "[i]f any attempt is made to move out of the [Third and Seventh wards], the attempt is met with opposition," Rochester reverend Arthur Whitaker said in the documentary "July '64."

Indeed, the 1958 report identifies Rochester as among the cities where a family of color moving



JANE PRITCHARD/ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

An illustrated redlined map of Rochester showing the racial segregation of the city's neighborhoods

into an otherwise white neighborhood would be met with resounding resistance. This often took the form of verbal insults, social ostracism, destruction of property, and in the case of Rochesterians [Alice and James Young](#), written threats from the Ku Klux Klan.

Like Davis, the Youngs struggled to buy their own home, even though they could afford it, because the paperwork for their prospective home came with clauses prohibiting their purchase on the basis of race.

These racist legal contracts, often called restrictive covenants, explicitly banned people of a certain race or ethnicity from purchasing certain properties. Covenants like these were pushed and employed by the real estate industry in the first half of the 20th century across the United States.

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COMMUNITY

UR Revamps Orientation to be Mostly Online

By YUEN NG DU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As the world continues to wrestle with the new reality of COVID-19, UR's incoming first-year and transfer students are having a unique online orientation this year.

First-year Alyssa Koh boiled her first day on campus down to two words: "confusing and exciting." "The orientation this year is going well," said sophomore Waleed Nadeem, one of the six orientation leaders. "We are doing it in the hybrid mode, with both virtual and in-person. It's a new experience, and we are trying to reimagine the events."

A mostly online model means that orientation leaders have to make more efforts to connect with the incoming students compared to previous years.

"I'm mentoring 250 students. I wrote emails and used social media to connect them, [making] sure I answered every question and concern they have," Nadeem said. "We also planned the guidebook app, and hold a weekly talk show."

Nadeem described orientation both this year and in a normal summer as a seven-day opportunity for incoming students to make friends and adjust to their new home before the semester begins.

In an effort to provide COVID-friendly in-person activities, the Orientation Office will hold a series of events such as sunset yoga, gaming night, movie night, and a fitness challenge. Nadeem also mentioned that some of the University's oldest traditions, such as the Candlelight Ceremony, will be held virtually — but "in a very special way."

Meanwhile, the Office for Residential Life & Housing Services is planning for the first-year move-ins that will take place from Monday, Aug. 17 to Thursday, Aug. 20. To prepare, Resident Advisors (RA), First-Year Fellows, and D'Lions went through intensive training.

"The training is going well," said junior and RA Nikola Marinos Raitsevits. "A lot of information and some aspects are still unknown due to the current situation."

Due to COVID, the RAs and other members of

ResLife staff are shouldering extra responsibility to keep the community safe.

"We should keep in mind the restriction of social [distancing] while creating a program," said junior and first-year RA Joseph Frye. "We are going to check on our residents [and] facilities [and] make sure everyone is doing well."

Although Nadeem mentioned uncertainties surrounding time zone differences and possible technical issues, he highlighted that "the whole point is not orientation itself, but the people."

Frye advised incoming students to try to stay engaged and to check CCC and the guidebook app for additional resources and events.

To students studying remotely, Nadeem has a message.

"This might be your advantage. You have more time doing what you like, make a better mindset! Don't hesitate to reach out and ask for help. State it out explicitly and amplify your voice. We are here to help."

*Du is a member of
the Class of 2023.*

What You Missed: CT's Summer Coverage

BLACKLIVESMATTERMOVEMENT

[ROCHESTER JOINS NATIONAL PROTESTS FOR RACIAL JUSTICE](#)

JUNE 02 | EFUA AGYARE KUMI | SENIOR STAFF

Speakers for the protest included a 10-year-old girl who, two weeks prior to the event, was handcuffed during a routine traffic stop.

[JUNE 2020, JULY '64: ROCHESTER'S SO-CALLED 'RIOTS'](#)

JUNE 12 | AN NGUYEN | PUBLISHER

Three members of CT look at the parallels between Black Lives Matter protests today and Rochester's three-day uprising in July 1964.

[VIDEO: BLACK LIVES MATTER PROTESTORS GATHER IN ROCHESTER](#)

JUNE 19 | EFUA AGYARE KUMI | SENIOR STAFF

Senior Staff Efua Agyare-Kumi recorded footage of a second peaceful protest.

COVID-19 ON CAMPUS

[EMPLOYEE FURLOUGHS AND PAY CUTS SPUR CALLS FOR EQUITY](#)

MAY 30 | WIL AIKEN | SENIOR STAFF

Mangelsdorf told CT that her current salary, after cuts, is \$760,000, reduced from a base salary of \$900,000. Employees aren't satisfied with her pay cut.

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TO READ IT ON OUR WEBSITE**

[FLAG DISPLAY TEMPORARILY REMOVED, PUT UNDER REVIEW](#)

AUGUST 14 | HAILIE HIGGINS | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The iconic flag display in Hirst Lounge was temporarily taken down after a series of controversies throughout the 2019-2020 school year.

GREEKLIFE

[DISCRIMINATORY RECRUITMENT PRACTICES STIR UP UNCERTAINTY FOR ALPHA PHI, GREEK LIFE](#)

JULY 20 | COREY MILLER-WILLIAMS | MANAGING EDITOR

Members of the recruitment team of UR sorority Alpha Phi ranked women based on attractiveness, detailed in an anonymous disaffiliation letter.

[SORORITY MEMBERS CALL FOR MASS DISAFFILIATION IN OPEN LETTER](#)

JULY 24 | COREY MILLER-WILLIAMS | MANAGING EDITOR

Twelve sorority members anonymously disaffiliate in an open letter.

[CHI OMEGA UNDERGOES MASS DISAFFILIATION](#)

JULY 30 | COREY MILLER-WILLIAMS | MANAGING EDITOR

73% of UR sorority Chi Omega disaffiliated. We interviewed members to find out why.

CT Cooks: Stocking up for the Potential Apocalypse

By ADINA GOLDSTEIN
STAFF WRITER

Welcome back (or, for you newbies, welcome)! My name is Adina, and I am the writer and creator of CT Cooks! My journey to the freshman 15 and back taught me so much about eating well as a college student. It's the beginning of the school year and you need to start off on the right foot. Stocking your dorm with yummy healthy snacks will help you avoid picking up too many late-night deep fried snacks from the Pit.

For all the first-year and transfer students out there who don't know, the most important part of Rochester is Wegmans. Whether it's the east avenue location or the obviously superior flagship in Pittsford, it's important to understand that this grocery store is basically the backbone of our society. Forget Whole Foods and Trader Joe's. Wegmans will take the number one spot in your heart.

So, go forth! Make a beeline for Weggies and get snacks! Here are some of my top recommendations.

Wegmans brand hummus

When I was surveying people's favorite snacks from Wegmans, so many immediately

said the Wegmans hummus. Which is awesome because one, it's delicious, and two, hummus is packed with protein, filling, and is really freakin' good. Whether you get plain, olive, or red pepper, you can't go wrong.

My recommendation: Pair with baby carrots and Stacy's Pita Chips.

Wegmans kombucha

The importance of gut health cannot be overstated, and kombucha is an awesome way to add a ton of probiotics into your diet. Bonus: While some brands have flavors that seem fancy for fancy's sake, Wegmans has tons of approachable flavors for people new to the "booch."

My recommendation: Raspberry Lemon Ginger.

Granola bars

You really can't go wrong. Missed breakfast? Problem solved. Hungry after class? No need to stress. Starving while studying? Don't worry about it. With so many flavors and options, you'll find your favorite one to be a total lifesaver for any time throughout the day.

My recommendation: Chocolate Peanut Butter Clif Bars for sustained protein.

Cracker Barrel cheddar slices and NYS apples

First of all, cheese. Need I say more? In Rochester we get so spoiled in the fall with gazillions of varieties of local apples. Since you're here, there is no excuse not to try them all.

Your fave trail mix

A great, filling, munch-any-time, throw-in-your-backpack kind of snack.

My recommendation: Wegmans Orchard Trail Mix with dried cranberries, almonds, dried cherries, raw walnuts and raw pistachios.

Halo Top ice cream

I get it. School is hard, life is stressful, and we are, uh, I don't know, living through a global pandemic. Sometimes we all just need some ice cream, and I'm not talking about a polite 2/3 cup serving. I'm talking about a straight-out-of-the-pint kind of need for ice cream. Luckily, we don't have to accept the 1,200 calories that come standard with a pint. With the Halo Top birthday cake at 280 calories a pint, it's fewer calories than one serving of Ben and Jerry's Phish Food, which comes in at a whopping 390 calories per 2/3 cup.

My recommendations: Birthday cake or red velvet

To read the rest of this article, click [here](#).

*Goldstein is a member of
the Class of 2022.*

Former president removed from Chinese Student Association over interview

By COREY MILLER-WILLIAMS
MANAGING EDITOR

“A lot of Chinese are brainwashed by the Chinese government, just like a lot of Americans are brainwashed by Donald Trump,” UR senior and former president of the Chinese Students’ Association (CSA) Sampson Hao said in an interview with Hong Kong newspaper South China Morning Post. On Aug. 5, a month after the article’s July 4 release, CSA revoked Hao’s membership.

The Morning Post [article](#), a piece looking into UR’s controversies last fall surrounding the College Republicans Tibet [event](#) and subsequent tunnel [painting war](#) over Hong Kong’s fight against China for autonomy, had interviewed Hao due to his position of president at the time.

Hao wrote that he had chosen not to rerun for the presidency during e-board elections back in March, but remained as a member of the club. After learning of his quote in the Morning Post, Hao said the current CSA e-board chose to remove him from the club entirely, without any other official process.

CSA e-board posted on WeChat — a ubiquitous Chinese social media, messaging, and mobile payment platform used by nearly all Chinese students at UR — about their decision on Aug. 10, condemning Hao for taking the interview without going through the proper channels. In the post, they wrote that CSA members “can only accept [an] interview after obtaining the consent of all e-board members,” which Hao did not. The post goes on to announce that “CSA e-board members unanimously decided to revoke Simeng [Sampson] Hao’s CSA membership” in an “organized discussion.”

Junior and current CSA president Yisheng Zhong wrote to CT that Hao’s words were “politically sensitive,” and described them as “his personal judgment which is not affiliated with CSA.” To represent CSA in any capacity after knocking the Chinese government would be inappropriate, he explained. In a second post on Aug. 11, they wrote that “URCSA has always maintained a correct political stance and strives to create a safe and

interesting study abroad life for the majority of Chinese students. We do not agree with any inflammatory speech or behavior.”

“Can [an e-board] remove someone? I don’t know,” Hao wrote. He added that he’d been planning on leaving anyway after facing the negative attention his quote gained.

Hao stressed that he respected CSA’s decision, and held no ill will towards the group. “CSA has the right to do whatever they want to do,” he wrote. “I do not want to judge anyone here.”

“I felt like I got ‘canceled’ only because I said something that [is] indeed questionable,” Hao wrote. He later said that his words were intended to represent his opinions as an individual, and not the opinions of CSA.

“I felt like I got ‘canceled’ because I said something that [is] questionable,”

“If they have a problem with my quote, that is totally fine,” he wrote. “I apologize for the fact that people thought I was representing CSA and this whole thing is a misunderstanding.”

The Aug. 11 post further said that Hao has contacted SA and the South China Morning Post about the article, accusing the latter of “tampering with his original words” and “inducing speech.” It also reported that CSA had cut ties with Hao and asked him for an apology, which is included in the post. In this apology, Hao says that the article was “politically guided and distorted my personal speech,” but accepts blame for making “unjustified remarks containing political content.”

Neither Hao nor Zhong would share or discuss the posts with the CT, citing a desire to keep the conflict and coverage to a minimum.

“At the end of the day, most people will remember the good work I have done for this organization,” Hao wrote. “The interesting and peaceful dialogue that I host with HKSA, great Mid-Autumn Festival, China Nite and many many more.”

Miller-Williams is a member of the Class of 2023.

Coping with quarantine

By MICHELLE SHUAI
FEATURES EDITOR

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, New York’s public health department requires all students arriving on campus from restricted states to quarantine for two weeks.

For most students, the idea of being stuck in a single room, alone, for two weeks sounds like a recipe for disaster. However, for rising sophomores Monica Lee, Antony Georgiadis, Rodney Berryman, and Phuong Le and rising senior Abhisesh Acharya, their time in isolation went better than expected.

Originally from California, Lee and Barryman took advantage of the University’s free quarantine housing option at the Riverview apartments. The Riverview apartments are equipped with private bathrooms, a personal desk, and a bed.

Also from California, Georgiadis had planned to quarantine in Illinois, but soon after his arrival, Illinois was added to the list of restricted states. Although he was no longer eligible to quarantine at Riverview, he says that the cost of staying at the Hyatt was still worth the price, and opportunity to come back. As an optics student, Georgiadis had a “poor experience with the [online] physics labs” last semester, and wanted a more interactive experience.

Filling time was among the biggest challenges

‘he says that the cost of staying at the Hyatt was still worth the price,’

everyone faced in quarantine. Lee and Barryman chose to spend their waking hours leisurely, watching YouTube, K-dramas, or animes. Berryman recommends the YouTube series “Pitch Meetings” by Screen Rant, and shounen animes like “Fairy Tail” and “Goblin Slayer.” He admits that he “sleeps in all the time” since he now has an “excuse to be lazy.” In addition to watching anime and K-dramas, Lee learned how to play “Count on Me” by Bruno Mars on the ukulele and practiced ASL.

Conversely, Le and Georgiadis established personal routines including errands, exercise, meals, breaks, and rest. Upon arriving in his room, Georgiadis says he mentally divided the space in sections to relax, work, and sleep. Having that distinction helped him stay on track with his schedule and remain productive.

In his routine, Le allocated time for cooking meals. Assigned to a four-room suite with a shared kitchen, Le wore a mask when he used the commu-

‘On move-in day, most students had to use some form of public transportation.’

nal kitchen space. For a change of environment, Le spiced up his quarantine by eating his meals by the window. Like Acharya and Lee, he missed the sunlight and fresh air, so this routine helped mitigate the lack of nature.

On move-in day, most students had to use some form of public transportation. Lee recalls that she arrived with fellow classmates who were also quarantining at Riverview, most of whom used ride services like Lyft and Uber. Georgiadis said that her Lyft ride “seemed pretty counterintuitive to me if the whole point is to quarantine.”

Despite these minor setbacks, everyone generally agreed that quarantine was more enjoyable than the online alternative. The general consensus said it was worth the opportunity to see their friends, attend in-person classes, and be part of the campus community once again.

He also found it difficult to keep up his good habits. At the beginning, he was extremely cautious with disinfecting and donning PPE, but later on, this vigilance began to wear off.

Looking back on the last two weeks, Le was left with a grim takeaway. “Human resistance [to endure these circumstances] isn’t very strong.”

At the end of the day, COVID-19 is a public health issue that involves everyone. Remember that overcoming the pandemic is not the result of a few individual efforts, but an entire community effort.

Shuai is a member of the Class of 2023.

The role of Facebook moderators during a pandemic

By MICAH GREENBERG
FEATURES EDITOR

The internet is so ingrained in our daily lives that we often take it for granted. But when the pandemic forced most students off campus last semester, and our campus got converted to cyberspace, the internet allowed a now-worldwide University community to remain close. Zoom became the new classroom, but social media conquered social interaction and public discourse. Internet culture became University culture.

Of course, even before the pandemic, Facebook was a key platform for UR students public discourse. The oldest UR pages have been around for over a decade.

“Overheard at Rochester” began as a group to post funny things students hear others saying on campus, but evolved into a space where opinions about campus current events are posted more than anything else. “Ever better memes for meliora teens” is a group built for sharing UR-specific memes. Both have been around since before current seniors began their college experience. The sentiments behind these groups aren’t unique to the University — most colleges have their own meme group and “Overheard” group. And like most schools, our pages have seen an uptick in activity during the pandemic.

Other, more targeted groups have sprung up more recently. “UofR Quarantine” was founded just a few weeks ago for students quarantining upon return to New York state. A [group](#) devoted to International Students began just after the University switched to remote classes in March.

These newer groups grew out of what felt like necessity to some amid the new online environment. Once junior Lea Thome noticed there wasn’t a group specifically for international students, “I realized that such a platform should



letting people post memes in a meme group

giving yourself the power to censor submissions and trample on students' freedom of speech by pretending you don't want to deal with the "comment section"

VICTOR ANTHONY/CONTRIBUTOR

definitely exist and created it,” she said.

Most of the posts in “International Students - University of Rochester” are from people who need help navigating travel restrictions, University policies and deadlines, and health guidelines. “Almost every time, there is someone who has an answer, can help, or has experienced the same [thing],” Thome said.

The more popular, long-standing groups are often uplifting, too. Many posts on “Overheard” depict sightings of groundhogs or the infamous Quad Fox. Other posts share new announcements from administrators or inform students of upcoming events and opportunities. On “Ever Better Memes,” people find others experiencing the same frustrations as them, and laugh about it together.

See the full article on our website [here](#).

Greenberg is a member of the Class of 2021.

COMMUNITY

Rochester Mayor sued over order limiting gatherings

By ASHLEY YOON
NEWS EDITOR

Rochester's Mayor Lovely Warren is being sued by [Free the People Roc](#), an organization that describes themselves as a "movement focused on investing in [Rochester's] community by defunding the police and abolishing the Prison Industrial Complex."

Rochester's chapter of the National Lawyer Guild (NLG), an [organization](#) that focuses on legal support for human rights violations, has also joined the lawsuit.

'According [the Police Chief La'Ron Singletary, the order was put in place to reduce gun violence.'

Both Free the People Roc and NLG Rochester are taking action against Mayor Warren's [emergency order](#) enacted on July 15 that limited public gatherings of five or more and private gatherings of 10 or more individuals from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. Breaking the curfew would lead to a misdemeanor charge. The order must be renewed every five days, and is still in effect at the time of this article. According to Warren, this order will be continuously extended and renewed [until the violence stops](#).

Although the order itself only points to concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to [Police Chief La'Ron Singletary](#), the order was put in place to reduce gun violence. From June 1 to July 16, 70 people were shot in Rochester — a near [46% increase](#) from 2019 during the same time period. In the two weeks before the curfew started, [twenty people](#) had been either shot or stabbed.

Warren attributed this sharp spike in violence to "a combination of hopelessness from job losses, the confinement from the pandemic, and the weariness from the high heat," adding that "[many](#) of these incidents were preceded by large parties."

Soon after the emergency order was announced, Free the People Roc organized a [protest](#) in Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park, according to a City newspaper article. This demonstration began at 10 p.m. and ended around 2 a.m., when Rochester police officers began arresting the protestors

'This demonstration began at 10 p.m. and ended around 2 a.m., when Rochester police officers began arresting the protestors for breaking the curfew.'

for breaking the curfew. Thirty protestors were arrested that night.

In the [complaint](#) filed on July 24, NLG Rochester and Free the People Roc organizer and plaintiff Stanley Martin stated that Mayor Warren's emergency order violated people's First and Fourteenth Amendments — specifically, the right to peacefully assemble and the Equal Protection Clause — especially in Black and brown neighborhoods. Both plaintiffs also said there was no public health justification for Mayor Warren's new curfew.

The complaint ends with Free the People Roc and NLG Rochester asking the city of Rochester and its police department to "refrain from interfering in or otherwise policing lawful and peaceful assemblies and protests in the City of Rochester," to "cease enforcement of Mayor Warren's Emergency Order," and to "refrain from covering [the officers'] names and badge numbers when engaging in law enforcement activities."

At the time of publication, the trial date remains uncertain.

Yoon is a member of the class of 2023.

Redlining in Rochester

UPRISINGS FROM PAGE 1

Restrictive covenants are something that Shane Wiegand, a teacher in the Rush Henrietta School District, often discusses. Wiegand, also a board member for the [City Roots Community Land Trust](#), frequently holds talks on the history of gentrification and racist policy in Rochester. The most recent was back in July, hosted by Fairport Deputy Mayor Matthew Brown over Zoom.

During that talk, titled "Racist Policy and Resistance in Rochester," Wiegand made an important distinction in Rochester's historically racist housing — de facto vs. de jure segregation.

Richard Rothstein, in his book "The Color of Law," writes that segregation in America was not the natural, unintended consequence of individual prejudices and actions (de facto segregation), but rather the purposeful result of racist, exclusionary government policy (de jure segregation).

"Without our government's purposeful imposition of segregation, the other causes — private prejudice, white flight, real estate steering, bank redlining, income differences, and self-segregation — still would have existed but with far less opportunity for expression," Rothstein writes.

The 2020 [report](#) on restrictive covenants in Rochester by City Roots and the Yale Environmental Protection Clinic acknowledges that segregation in the Rochester area was a product of institutional white supremacy — "a system built specifically to increase the dignity, power, and wealth of white people by taking those things from Black and Brown people."

The federal government propagated housing **'Explicitly racist policies from federal authorities were not an anomaly.'**

ing segregation through the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) and the Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC), organizations created during the New Deal policy era. The HOLC, created in 1933, was tasked with determining the creditworthiness of neighborhoods and grading them on a scale of "best" to "hazardous."

If a neighborhood had minority communities, HOLC would lower its score, all but preventing investments from going into communities of color.

In 1939, HOLC appraisers assessed Rochester and designated large swaths of the predominantly Black Third and Seventh wards as "hazardous." Their 1939 report insinuated Black people were responsible for the neighborhoods' poverty levels, saying that Black people "have come to [a part of the Third Ward] and today it is the poorest section of the entire city."

Explicitly racist policies directly from federal authorities were not an anomaly: The FHA's 1936 manual dissuaged racial integration, stating that "if a neighborhood is to retain stability it is necessary that properties shall continue to be occupied by the same social and racial classes."

In his July talk to Fairport residents, Wiegand described how the 1939 edition of the FHA underwriting manual went so far as to "mandate that if you're going to build a new suburban housing tract, in order to get the FHA to underwrite your material costs upfront, you must impose racial deed restrictions."

Even seemingly innocuous community spaces like parks and roads were strategically placed with racial segregation in mind. The 1939 manual encouraged having "natural or artificially established barriers" put in place to separate "inhomogeneous racial groups." As Wiegand explains, "that's how we get something like 490 or the Inner Loop — separating white and Black neighborhoods in downtown Rochester."

As a direct consequence of these policies, Black Rochesterians were denied from buying homes in already affluent areas like suburbs, because they were predominantly white, excluding Black people from one of the best ways to accumulate

and retain wealth.

Not only was the federal government instrumental in creating a segregated, inequitable Rochester but the local government was, too.

In 1959, an urban renewal project cleared 60 acres of the Seventh Ward settlement to build a new low-income housing development.

Six hundred families and 150 businesses were immediately displaced to make room for, among other things, a new housing development, Chatham Gardens. In September 1963, the Democrat & Chronicle reported that only 184 Chatham Gardens apartments had been built, a fraction of the housing necessary to accommodate the displaced families.

'It was "just inhuman for human beings to be" in the homes Black people were'

The development also had an integration standard requiring that the white-to-non-white resident ratio remain equal, even though the overwhelming majority of displaced residents weren't white.

In 1964, it was announced that the remaining acres would become home to a warehouse, a Pepsi-Cola bottling factory, and a UPS installation.

And with these housing disparities, health inequities followed.

Minister Franklin Florence, a Rochester civil rights leader and former president of civil rights group F.I.G.H.T., said in "July '64" that it was "just inhuman for human beings to be" in the homes Black people were forced to inhabit, calling it a shame to a society that calls itself civilized.

Wiegand cited some stats on this health crisis in his July lecture: Anthony L. Jordan, the second Black doctor in Rochester, found that Black Rochesterians were dying at rates 50 percent higher than white Rochesterians, and the tuberculosis death rate among Black people was two-and-a-half times that of white people. Both statistics were "directly linked to housing and forced segregation," Wiegand said.

This barrage of injustices compounded over decades, finally exploding into the Rochester uprisings of July 1964.

In the words of a NYS Commission Against Discrimination report from the late 1950s, "Rochester today is sitting on a pressure cooker whose relief valve has long been choked."

Carolyn Vacca, the chair of St. John Fisher **'People who lived in the worst housing were most likely to be in the streets'**

College's history department, found a statistical correlation between the percentage of a given neighborhood's population who were arrested in the uprisings and that neighborhood's housing conditions. In other words, the people who lived in the worst housing were the most likely to be in the streets those July nights.

As Eastman Kodak scientist and president of the Rochester branch of the NAACP Walter Cooper said, "The fact that the riots occurred with so few deaths indicated that the rage was directed at the symbols of the power of the white establishment and the property in the run-down [neighborhood], which the participants inhabited."

So, despite the prevailing opinion among many white Rochesterians at the time, the so-called riots of 1964 were anything but a surprise — rather, an inevitable consequence of bubbling social discontent and inadequate access to a basic human right: shelter.

Special thanks to Shane Wiegand, who provided context and many examples for this article.

Nguyen is a member of the class of 2021.

Aiken is a member of the class of 2021.

Yoon is a member of the class of 2021.

OPINIONS

EDITORIAL OBSERVER

A Note From the Editor

By HAILIE HIGGINS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Hey, thanks for checking out the Campus Times! Traditionally, the first Editorial Observer of the school year is reserved for the Editor-in-Chief to deliver an update on updates, where I'm to detail the latest and greatest CT coverage, projects, and policies to our loyal fanbase.

But given that our loyal fanbase rewards us with an average of 30 likes per Instagram post (hey, still more than iZone), a lengthy explanation of the inner workings of CT strikes me as self-imposing grandeur. As it is, the most common reply to my talking about the paper is "we have a student paper?!"

So why do we do this? The University pays people to run their [NewsCenter](#), and everyone's an informant on social media, so why bother adding our amateur-hour content to the information overload?

Well, for one, making UR look good is the NewsCenter's entire job. UR isn't even trying to objectively report on themselves, so someone has to step up and hold them accountable when things go wrong.

For two, who else would write a satire news piece about a [CS class becoming sentient and immediately searching for porn](#)? We're the creative outlet of the people!

On a more serious note, we do this to provide a platform for campus-specific complaints on issues like the [tunnel painting controversy](#). We want to encourage the difficult conversations.

And for three, we do this because we love it. Because the best way to make friends is to be locked in a room with someone for 12 hours every single week.

Because I can point to our website and say "I did that." I can cut my article out of a print issue, and save it in a scrapbook. Because it's fun to feel like you're working on something bigger than yourself, and it's fun to be fiercely proud of something. Because it's fun to care.

Don't get me wrong; it's impossibly hard to care all the time, or even to drag yourself across a snow-covered campus for your beloved activity of choice when the sun starts going down at 4:30 p.m. in the winter. It's almost harder to sustain that engagement when the barrier between you and participation is reduced to 30 seconds in a Zoom waiting room. Who wants to settle for a subpar substitution for our old lives?

Online doesn't compare to in-person, and it never will. Yes, people have lost their lives and livelihoods, but we are still allowed to mourn the partial loss of our college experience. (At the very least, we can mourn the price tag for our online degrees.)

But mourning on its own is unproductive, and a semester-long pity party won't make me feel better, so I'm turning to the things that ground me and remind me my world isn't forever doomed to exist inside a six-by-three inch phone screen.

CT might not be everyone's thing, but I hope we can help you stay connected in some capacity.

I hope when you're furious that an [iconic piece of our campus](#) has been taken down, you know CT wants to amplify your voice. Whether you want to plug your favorite [cocktail recipe](#) in our culture section, or interview the geniuses behind the [Minecraft recreation of UR](#) for a feature, know you can drop us a line. If you're one of the five student athletes UR recruited, we're especially interested in hearing from you. Sports writers are hard to come by.

If you're not much of a writer, I still hope that CT can serve as a foothold to help keep you afloat. Without post-party Pit runs, iZone group study sessions, and the genuinely impressive a cappella concerts, we're all going to battle an impending sense of disconnection from the community most of us have come to love. Suit up however you can.

Higgins is a member of the Class of 2022.

EDITORIAL BOARD

We All Want Normal

Of course it's easy to circumvent the rules and get into your friends' dorms — nobody's going to stand guard to make sure you live in that building. That's not the point.

The University has set out certain guidelines to keep us safely operating through to Thanksgiving. Buses are at 50% capacity, while Starbucks asks that only five customers be inside the space at a time.

It would be naively unrealistic for anyone — University administration included — to assume students are going to follow these rules to the letter. UR can't feasibly provide its own far-reaching enforcement, so they're leaving it up to us, hoping that we'll half-assedly follow enough of the rules to prevent an outbreak. They gave us enough rope to hang ourselves.

It's up to us. We can't rely on Starbucks employees to stop someone from taking a test sip and forgetting to pull their mask back up. A single employee serves hundreds of students each shift. By the 20th reminder that day, they're tired of asking. It would take herculean willpower to keep it up for an entire shift, let alone a week, let alone a semester.

You have to police yourself and your friends, because the University can't. Whether or not these rules should be properly enforced is beside the point. They won't be, and it's up to the individuals to check themselves.

'It would be naively unrealistic for anyone to assume students are going to follow these rules to the letter.'

As we all arrive on campus these next few days, we have a unique opportunity to develop one of two cultures. The peer pressure could swing either way. Our social circles could get increasingly more comfortable with taking risks until it snowballs into throwing a full-blown party, or we could hold each other accountable. We must be active bystanders against selfishly irresponsible actions, even if it's your good friend laughing off the rules. The people you trust can still get you sick.

Yeah, we're young, and will probably be fine as



individuals, but it's not about your personal exhaustion. It's about the fact that if we have uncontrollable outbreaks, we will get shut down, and we will get sent home, and we might not come back.

Worst of all, in any one person's selfish efforts to enjoy their college years by sharing joints, drinks, and the latest party location, we might hurt or kill people on this campus.

Some of your classmates could have preexisting conditions. Plenty of professors are in their 70s. Most faculty members are over 40. And staff members have their own social circles outside the UR bubble that they have to worry about infecting, too.

We all want a vaccine, but nobody knows when that's coming. Wearing a mask and staying apart is what we have right now.

On the subject of masks, cover your nose. If you only put on one leg of your pants, how useful are they? Your nose sticking out and spraying viral particles all over the room completely defeats the purpose. The half-mask look is the worst fashion statement you could make. It says "I am only wearing this because I have to, and I don't care if I'm endangering everyone around me."

If we want to finish this semester out, and keep returning to normal, all of us have to properly don the minorly inconvenient PPE and take a semester off from partying. It's not about you. It's about collective action.

Almost a fifth of our campus isn't actually coming back, due to travel restrictions, money issues, or health concerns, all of which are symptoms of the pandemic. The better we fulfill our public health obligations, the sooner our remote peers can come back.

Those of us moving to Rochester this week have a shot at restoring normalcy to our lives. Once again, we have the chance to develop a home away from home. Keep that home safe. Take social distancing seriously.

This editorial is published with the consent of a majority of the Editorial Board: Hailie Higgins (Editor-in-Chief), An Nguyen (Publisher), Lucy Farnham (Opinions Editor), and Corey Miller-Williams (Managing Editor). The Editor-in-Chief and the Editorial Board make themselves available to the UR community's ideas and concerns. Email editor@campustimes.org.

Campus Times

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Oh, To Live on Sugar Mountain

By MELANIE EARLE
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

My childhood sleepaway summer camp tucked away in Rhode Island has a tradition. At the last singalong campfire of the season, the final performance of the night would be an acoustic rendition of Neil Young's "Sugar Mountain." I began camp at 10 years old, having never heard the song before, and left camp for the last time at 14 years old, knowing all the words by heart.

I didn't truly understand the significance of the song until my last summer there. Summer camp is a sandbox full of daydreams — my final campfire brought me back to reality. "Sugar Mountain" would never be formally announced. You just knew when it was time for the song. Everything about my final moments at camp were like a fairy-tale, but the most memorable snapshots of the end were those minutes during "Sugar Mountain."

I knew there was a high possibility it was going to be my last summer at camp. The song ushered the realization into fruition and brought me close to tears. I was growing up, and finally leaving Sugar Mountain.

"Ain't it funny how you feel, when you're finding out it's real?"

This memory struck me one day this summer. I was biking along the Hudson River of New York City, passing by memories. For the previous three summers, I spent my weeks working. I spent my summer at 15 as a ropes course assistant, at 16 as an intern, and at 17 in an even better internship. I spent summer days pursuing my dreams, but I wasn't able to truly savor summer in the city until weekends or nights.

I had a job this summer, too, but this time I was able to see the city in a way I'd previously

been too busy to do. New York is alive during any summer, but it moved everything outside this year.

People sprawled and picnicking along the water. Restaurants with open windows, patrons talking outside, this time wearing masks. The laughter, the quiet, and all the murmurs in between. I can't think of any way else to describe it but magical.

'I spent summer days pursuing my dreams, but I wasn't able to truly savor summer city.'

I biked by a new concrete monstrosity on 16th Street near the West Side Highway, where I used to run cross country. Seconds later, I was riding by the castle playground with the sprinklers, where I would cool off with old friends. I passed the library at 6th Avenue and 8th Street where I spent many summer days, hopping up the spiraling stone staircase, enjoying the cool air encased in the brick tower. I was then speeding across town to the Lower East Side, where I used to travel for dollar box comics at St. Mark's Comics. I couldn't remove the smile that had snuck up on my face.

It was a trip of nostalgia, and I was a moving picture.

Summer is the time of year we realize how much we've grown. How much we've changed, for better or worse. We go from popsicles and poolsides to our first jobs and responsibilities. Lemonade becomes a mojito, our nights become later. And here I was, leaving Sugar Mountain again. I was growing up.

When you leave camp, as a camper or counselor, it hurts. You might keep some sand in your shoes, but they're booting you off the mountain, and it

feels like you're leaving it too soon.

College is another Sugar Mountain. This semester is going to be different. For those who are climbing to the peak for the first time, savor it. This is a bubble where you grow and adventure. While we can't venture the way we used to, that doesn't mean we can't still try. It's not summertime magic but college magic, a different kind of memory.

Don't throw away this semester just yet and resign yourself to nine weeks in your dorm room, because you're going to regret it. You only get so much time on Sugar Mountain. Of course, this is not an excuse or a reason to buck health and safety. Please adhere to the University and New York State's policies and guidance on COVID-19.

'It was a trip of nostalgia, and I was a moving picture.'

But one day, you are going to walk around this campus, or be somewhere else entirely — let's say the streets of Manhattan. Something will catch your eye, and you'll find yourself lost in a memory of when you were on the mountaintop. Let it be a good one; let it bring a smile to your face.

We can enjoy our upcoming stay on Sugar Mountain, safely. When the time is up, we're going to think we're leaving too soon. But, for now, you're still on Sugar Mountain. Don't waste it.

Please adhere to all policies and guidance on COVID-19. While this article is encouraging you not to see the fall semester as lost time, it is not motivating anyone to treat the Fall 2020 semester as normal times. Maintain proper social distancing and limit larger gatherings to protect yourself and others.

Earle is a member of the Class of 2023.

Vaccine Trials and Tribulations: the Questions that Really Matter

By RACHEL BREINING
STAFF WRITER

In these confusing, unusual, insane, unprecedented times, we're all looking forward to one thing: a vaccine that will eliminate the threat of COVID-19 and allow us to return to our daily lives.

But vaccines have somehow become a polarizing issue among Americans. The past few years have seen a rise of anti-vaxxers and "skeptics" that has laid the groundwork for the anxiety people are feeling over a possible COVID-19 vaccine.

Beyond the fear-mongering of the conspiracy realm, there are valid concerns about this golden ticket we seem to be racing toward. So what should we really be asking?

To tackle the first question everyone seems to have — will it be safe?

Yes. The FDA has already put out [emergency development guidelines](#) that will be updated to ensure we have a longstanding, stable vaccine after the main outbreak has subsided. Most importantly, licensing a vaccine is going to require full data on every trial run, every living cell it was in, every step of the manufacturing process, and multiple finals from batches shown to be safe for human use. There's no exception to increase the speed of production.

'But vaccines have somehow become a polarizing issue among Americans.'

How soon can we get it? Currently, the most exact date we have is Pfizer pushing for regulatory review by [October](#). This would mean in the early months of 2021 we could see healthcare workers and high risk groups receiving the first distributions of the vaccine. Moderna, another major player, hopes to have similar efficiency and enter review by the end of this year.

What about the FDA saying that a vaccine effec-

tiveness of 50% is enough? Isn't that really low?

Well, comparatively, it's right around [flu vaccine effectiveness](#). The upper average of flu vaccine effectiveness is 60%, only 10% more than the lowest acceptable number for a coronavirus vaccine.

America's sweetheart, Dr. Anthony Fauci, is [unconcerned with this standard](#) as there is an incentive for producers to create the most effective vaccine independent of guidelines. So no sweat. Any protection is still protection that we don't yet have.

How much will it cost? Pfizer has gone on record saying they aim to have each dose available for less than \$20, making the two doses a total of around \$40 for vaccination. Moderna, however, has been less clear, hinting at a commercial price because of their innovative research and smaller federal funding. Their prices are currently around \$30 per dose (\$60 per course), but there's [speculation](#) it could cost anywhere from \$300 to \$725.

An important side note is that both companies have seen stock prices decline, so no, federal

'Beyond the fear-mongering of the conspiracy realm, there are valid concerns about this golden ticket we seem to be racing toward.'

funding isn't artificially inflating [stock prices](#) and benefiting the business side of these companies.

That all sounds well and good. So what are the real problems we should be focusing on?

The first thing to remember is that a vaccine will still take multiple weeks to work — [7 weeks minimum](#), in the case of the current Moderna vaccine. You can't return to normal maskless life straight out of the doctor's office. We can't fall into a false sense of security, as many states did in July, to catastrophic ends.

It's also important to note that vaccines attempting to use mRNA, like Moderna and [Pfizer](#), must be [stored at -112](#) degrees Fahrenheit.

Regular glass vials will shatter at this temperature, meaning specialty vials must be produced before major production can happen. Small clinics that serve rural and poor communities likely won't have the facilities to keep vaccines stable for more than an hour or so. There will be major losses because of vaccines spoiling, meaning insane production numbers already in the billions will have to include extra billions of doses to account for loss.

Furthermore, the federal government has no specific plans for vaccine distribution. [Operation Warp Speed](#) predicts that vaccines will be of no

'The biggest threat to the health and safety of the public right now is bureaucracy.'

cost to the people if purchased by the federal government. They'll need to be held accountable when the moment arrives.

When I got the H1N1 vaccine as a child, I had to wait for hours in a crowd outside of a public health center 30 minutes from my home. It's impossible to maintain social distancing in a scenario like that. Imagine the many families who can't sacrifice that time. We can't allow the healthcare gap to be widened by the COVID-19 vaccine.

The biggest threat to the health and safety of the public right now is bureaucracy. Our attention should be laser-focused on these large corporations and logistical issues. Without boots on the ground working to engage non-urban areas in a national immunization program, the elimination of COVID-19 is far off the horizon.

It's not impossible to tackle COVID-19. Modern medicine has come a long way since the last respiratory pandemic. As the public, we should be working diligently to stay educated and engaged. We have a few months left to figure out how every American's basic right to life will be protected.

Breining is a member of the Class of 2023.

EDITORIAL OBSERVER

What it Takes to Survive University Quarantine

By ARIANNA GUNDLACH
STAFF WRITER

UR [posted a picture](#) on Instagram of a student happily arriving to quarantine — a smile presumably beneath their mask, sanitizer and soap in hand. Even though quarantine messed up people's plans, giving first-years an especially jarring transition into college life, the University attempted to put a positive spin on it.

Having my summer in the middle of a pandemic wasn't what I expected, of course, but it was tolerable. Then Virginia got added to New York's quarantine list, and I just about lost it.

After I got over the initial shock of having to completely shift my plans, I was able to prepare for quarantine. I was confident that I could get through it well enough. Riverview was the quarantine housing, a dorm about which I had mostly heard good things. Housing that's restricted to juniors and seniors must be nice, right?

'After I got over the initial shock of having to completely shift my plans, I was able to prepare for quarantine.'

I was welcomed at Riverview with a "care package" of toilet paper, a shower curtain, garbage bags, a list of reminders, an activity calendar of sorts, and my very own Rochester coloring book. Everything I could ever want — except hand soap, which, you know, is just a little important.

First impressions are extremely important, and my quarantine room made the worst one yet. I'll start with the few positives, because during workshops professors have always told me to cushion the negatives. The room was a decent size with my own bathroom and furniture.

Yeah, that's it.

Staff had warned us if we didn't use the shower curtain provided, the bathroom may suffer water damage that we'd have to pay for. When I stepped into my bathroom, I realized they could have saved themselves a shower curtain. My floor was bound to take on water damage anyway from the leaky toilet. I rolled my eyes at the puddle of water seeping from the toilet base.

I decided to inspect the rest of the bathroom to



JANEPRITCHARD / ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

see what else I'd be dealing with. I found a significant amount of ant carcasses and spider webs under my cabinet. And although the spider who had left her victim's remains under the cabinet was nowhere in sight, I did manage to find some of her friends in the corners of my ceiling and on my window sill with yet more lovely ant carcasses.

I went to bed that night looking forward to getting a good night's sleep. That was practically impossible with the mattress springs digging into every part of my body. I have a bruise on my back to prove it.

But I wasn't the only one suffering.

A couple days in, one of my suitemates slipped a note under everyone's doors. She introduced herself and invited us all to start a group chat.

In the group chat, I learned that everyone's mattress sucked, spiders were invading every room, and everyone's toilet was leaking on the inside because you could always hear them churning late into the night. A few days later, one of my suitemate's AC's started leaking into their closet. This incident was the only time maintenance seemed to care that one of us had called.

Maintenance looked at my toilet once and couldn't tell if it was leaking or if condensation was appearing from the temperature change. From the looks of the nasty discoloration and dampness around the toilet base, I didn't think you'd have to question if it was leaking.

While I didn't get anywhere with maintenance, I had hoped the service desk would be a little more helpful. The flyer they gave us clearly stated, "If you have any questions or need any basic supplies, such as toilet paper, toothpaste, or soap, the Service Desk is there to help."

Body wash and soap had been on the same line of the quarantine packing list. I didn't assume this meant we had to bring hand soap, nor did the majority of my apartment mates. But the service desk was there to provide soap if asked, so I was saved! Or so I thought.

Each time I called the service desk the first two days, I was sent to voicemail. I waited a couple more days, getting by with shower soap and hand sanitizer, and brought the situation up to my apartment mates. A couple of them were low on other necessities the service desk offered, so one of them did a group order. We never received anything we asked for.

The next day I called again. This time they told me they didn't have any soap. I figured they either never had soap to begin with or they ran out. Given that soap is one of the most important things to have during a pandemic, they should have had enough for everyone or should have been willing to buy more.

To calm my anxiety from dealing with maintenance and the service desk, I played online [Cards Against Humanity](#) and [Uno](#) with my apartment mates. From just that and texting, we got to know each other. I learned who had a questionable sense of humor, who was extremely competitive, and who didn't like to lose. Without them, quarantine would have been even worse, if you can imagine.

'I learned who had a questionable sense of humor, who was extremely competitive, and who didn't like to lose.'

But I survived. I survived quarantine by co-existing with spiders, living with a leaky toilet, substituting hand soap, learning not to rely on UR volunteers and staff, and commiserating with three other people who understood what I was going through. If I hadn't been in quarantine, I would have three fewer friends than I do now.

But UR did not make the experience easy, and I'll continue to be critical of their social media coverage of quarantine as a happy-go-lucky experience.

Gundlach is a member of the class of 2023.

Beirut: Glory from the Ashes

By CHARBEL HADDAD
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

How do I begin this article? I could start by talking about how I found out about it, but that pales in comparison to those who lost everything in its wake. I could begin with a short history lesson, but I was never taught the part of our history that matters because they couldn't decide on a bad guy.

The truth is, it doesn't matter where I begin this story. There are no good guys here. No matter how I spin it, since the Lebanese Civil War in 1975, the outcome has been one and the same: death and destruction.

To date, the biggest example of that is the [explosion](#) of August 4. After a fire ignited near the Port of Beirut, 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate exploded, releasing a huge mushroom cloud and a supersonic shock wave that destroyed almost everything in its 10 kilometer radius, with damages exceeding a 30 kilometer radius. It is one of the biggest non-nuclear explosions in history.

The aftermath? At the time of writing this, at least 220 deaths, 110 missing, 7,000 injuries, and 300,000 people displaced. Businesses that were already shutting down in the wake of an

economic crisis and a [crushed currency](#), destroyed. The Port of Beirut, Lebanon's hub of trade activity and perhaps the only thin wire it was hanging by, flattened. Beirut, the city that was once hailed as the Paris of the Middle East, snuffed out like a candle flame.

It's easy to romanticize what happened, or to brush it off as an unfortunate accident. But none of it was inevitable.

The dangerous chemicals had been stored since 2013 after they were seized by Lebanese authorities

from a ship sailing to Mozambique. They knew about it and the security threat it posed. They did nothing.

But in the middle of all the chaos, [it was the people](#) who [showed up](#). After having just suffered a traumatic incident, they shared what little they had left. In a country that has three times more citizens living outside of it than inside of it, its youth have not given up on it.

Meanwhile, our [leaders](#) were weeping crocodile tears. They were running around like circus animals in cages, denying responsibility and gaslighting the people. They were having a banquet at a funeral. They confirmed to the rest of the world what most Lebanese people already know: that [Lebanon is a failed state](#), built on a sectarian system that separates the people and lines the pockets of those in power.

'It's easy to romanticize what happened, or brush it off as an unfortunate accident. But none of it was inevitable.'

You're probably thinking, "What stake do I have in any of this?" The answer is probably not

much. You can scroll past an Instagram post asking for donations or explaining what happened and go about your day. But is that really the world we want to live in? Where the cruelties faced by the people in one corner are ignored by the vast majority in another corner?

Tragedy in the Middle East is already orientalized and normalized enough as it is, and most of it is a consequence of [Western colonialism](#). Since coming to the U.S., I've had people ask me some variation of, "Isn't there, like, a war there?" almost

every time I tell them where I'm from.

The media narrative that Arab lives are enshrouded in tragedy isn't new, nor is it necessarily untrue. But this explosion should be treated as if it had occurred in New York City or Paris,

because Beirut was as big a city as either of them. It had Versace, Gucci, and Rolex stores. Its downtown put SoHo to shame. It had homey cafes, fancy restaurants, the best nightlife in the Levant, and some of the only safe queer spaces in Lebanon.

So how can you help? First of all, signing petitions is, as the Lebanese proverb goes, like slapping water. It does nothing.

Instead, donate to the Lebanese Red Cross [here](#) or via [their app](#). They're a 100% non-profit, volunteer-based NGO. They're also Lebanon's national emergency hotline, and are currently helping with disaster relief efforts.

You can also donate to the Lebanese food bank [here](#), [Baytna Baytak's housing relief](#), as well as many more [emergency funds](#). No amount is too little. Due to currency inflation, a single dollar helps much more than you think.

And lastly, keep talking about what happened. This isn't your social media activism flavor of the week. Healing all those people mentally and physically and rebuilding or finding new homes will take time and money.

It is said that Beirut has been destroyed and rebuilt seven times during its 5,000 year history. The land finds itself in a vicious cycle of abuse, clinging to past glories and taking solace in the Eden that it once was. But in the words of Lebanese legend [Fairouz](#) in her ode to the city, "Beirut has a glory made from ashes."

Haddad is a member of the Class of 2023.

CULTURE

The paradoxical genius of 'London Weekend'

BY JACOB HANLEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"London Weekend" will absolutely tear your heart out and rip it to shreds in the sweetest, happiest way possible.

The 1993 album by British singer-songwriter Harvey Williams is existential dread in a sugary coating with a cherry on top. Released by Williams under the stage name "Another Sunny Day," it's a genius and paradoxical combination of effervescent indie pop and uncomfortably bleak themes. Jangly guitars and buoyant melodies accompany Williams' brutally honest lyricism, manufacturing an experience that will have the listener simultaneously dancing and questioning the meaning of their own existence.

This album sounds like your girlfriend dumping you for another at the beginning of summer while you're living in a 600-square-foot apartment with two other dudes that only know how to cook roast beef, the rent for which you're barely able to scrape together by working your minimum wage window-tinting job in Greenwich, but every single day is bright and sunny and you just bought a used 4-track recorder and a faux-leather bound journal instead of groceries with your welfare check. And it's awesome.

To be less specific, "London Weekend" feels like a diary that tells the story of a poor soul who has lost the love of his life to another man. All 14 songs are relatively cohesive, each one seeming like a different entry that presents a new puzzle piece to this messy and heartache-ridden journey that Williams appears to be enduring.

The album opens with the explosive "Anorak City," a two-minute headrush of zesty indie pop characterized by chugging distorted guitar chords driven by a punchy drum machine and lo-fi vocals that evoke feelings of carefree and summery living. Unlike the rest of "London Weekend," though, this song lacks the distinct underlying sadness present in most, if not all, of the 13 other tracks. This track could be viewed as representing the phase of a relationship where things are still in full swing, and a lover is genuinely content with his circumstances.

The second track, "I'm In Love With A Girl Who Doesn't Know I Exist," is where Williams' world starts to crash and burn. The entire song revolves around — you guessed it — Williams' love for a girl who doesn't know he exists. Taking it hyperbolically, it could suggest that Williams' love interest has now distanced herself from him to the point where he might as well not even exist in her world. On the flip side, if you interpret this more literally, it goes to show just how much of a sucker Williams is for infatuation and idealized love. Whether that makes him a hopeless romantic or just pathetic (maybe both) is up for you to decide — but no matter which way you swing it, this song is still an amazing combination of beautiful guitar melodies and displays of pure emotion.

One of my favorite tracks on this record, "The Centre Of My Little World," is disgustingly bittersweet in the best way imaginable. Williams' beautifully thin and youthful voice seems to almost plead with his love interest, passionately and even somewhat pathetically proclaiming his unwavering commitment to her. The guitar and vocal progressions slowly unfold into a bewitching tension every few measures, creating a kind of melodic climax before quickly resolving back into its regular pleasant and harmonious rhythm.

If there was one track on this record to sum up the despondent themes of the entire project, it would be "Rio," whose lyrics read:

**"Not so long ago
I tried to make you love me
I told you that I loved you
Then asked you if you loved me
And although you said no
There's still something inside me
That trembles when I hear your name
You're still the only girl for me**

[...]
**But I just can't forget you
I know it's all so pointless
But honestly I love you
Perhaps I should admit
That he'd be better for you
But I could never say that
Because it's simply not true"**

This lyricism shows Williams at his lowest point in the album, pitifully yearning to rekindle his past relationship. However, in true "Another Sunny Day" fashion, the instrumentals are deceptively cheery.

On a slightly lighter (but perhaps more morbid) note, the track "You Should All Be Murdered" is one of the catchiest and most thematically interesting cuts on the record, and could easily pass for an early demo from The Smiths. While the song mostly sounds like a stroll in the park under a sky full of rainbows, there is a clear edge to the instrumentals, creating an experience that keeps the listener on their toes.

Williams takes an indirect and metaphorical route in expressing his emotions through this song. He states that he's going to murder everyone he doesn't like, and then lists the kinds of annoying people that are murder-worthy. This moment is a self-aware way of expressing and hyperbolizing just how extreme his thoughts and actions are. It extends his obsessively passionate love life into other areas of his personality as well. Intense heartbreak can certainly invoke high levels of irritability and irrationality, and this song could also just be another way of Williams expressing his intense inner turmoil from losing the love of his life.

The third to last track, "The Very Beginning," is where the first real ray of hope begins to poke out from the ashes of Williams' life. Some of the unusually positive lyrics read:

**"So let's try
To start anew
[...]
So let's forget her
Let's start again from the very beginning
Let's carry on till we get to an ending
Till we get to an ending"**

Williams finally appears to be attempting to move on from his past lover and get on with his life. This newfound optimism only compounds over the next two tracks, and ultimately reaches a climax with the album's final track, "New Year's Honours," whose most notable lyrics go:

**"And there are so many beautiful girls in
this world
Just look around and you'll see
That there are so many beautiful girls in
this world
There must be one somewhere for me"**

Though still lamenting his loneliness, Williams is clearly opting for a more positive outlook on love. In this song, we can still hear his pain, but in a new light that demonstrates hopefulness and serious character growth.

All in all, the project lives up to its name. The phrase "another sunny day," while seemingly radiant and cheery on the surface, conveys an underlying level of monotony. Just "another sunny day," where there is definite beauty, but you can't quite escape the sensation of feeling trapped within the cycle of life or any given hardship.

However, Williams teaches us that through this draining and sometimes even devastating monotony, hope can eventually be found, even if we're still extremely doubtful of how positive things may turn out. No matter the circumstance, there is always a grain of hope that we can grab onto, which can give us the strength to get through just Another Sunny Day.

Hanley is a member of
the Class of 2023.

Liv on the Edge

BY OLIVIA ALGER
CULTURE EDITOR



Lately, I've been thinking about control. Who gets it, and why? What happens when we lose it? In this essay I will —

I've felt a little out of control recently. I imagine most other people our age are feeling that way, too, considering the idealizations we had for our college years are being dangled in front of us, like how that old man in the [insurance commercial](#) dangles a dollar bill on a fishing pole just out of a woman's reach.

Often when I feel out of control, I look for a scapegoat, something to blame. It's the weather, I think when I'm sad. It's my astrological sign, I think when I can't explain my emotions. But does anything ever happen for a reason?

Ultimately, I've been slowly losing hope for the future — of America, of our school year, of our health both as a student body and as a country. As the year progresses, things seem to be getting worse, not better, and my recent musings on politics and the pandemic have rendered me feeling totally and completely helpless.

So, where do we lie in this greater cosmic web of disaster? I don't know. I'm not currently sure of my place in the world. And other than staying involved and educated, I don't know how to regain that feeling of control again.

But one thing I'm sure of is that I'm not alone in my helplessness. For those of you out there who feel the same as we start this school year, which will be new and different in so many ways, I can only suggest that you turn to the things that make you feel autonomous. Rewatch the movies you've seen so many times before. Listen to the artists and albums that changed your life. If you'll be living with your roommates, turn to them for connection. If you'll be living with your family, show them the art that makes you happy. And if you're living with family you don't like ... I'm sorry. Turn to the people you do like, as poor as your internet connection over Zoom or FaceTime may be.

In times of trouble, I often turn to one of my favorite short stories. It's called "[Paper Lantern](#)" by Stuart Dybek, and it's about a group of scientists watching their laboratory burn down because of an accident with a Bunsen burner. They stand outside on the sidewalk as their years of research disappear in front of their eyes. One of the scientists, while watching, reflects on a relationship with a past girlfriend and thinks of something she said to him many years ago.

"I was crying because the way we fit together seemed suddenly so familiar, as if there was some old bond between us," she had said. "I felt flooded with relief, as if I'd been missing you for a long time without quite realizing it, as if you'd returned to me after I thought I'd never see you again."

Isn't that the sort of human connection we look for throughout our whole life? Maybe, for a while, those sorts of relationships will be stunted. We can't randomly run into each other at parties, and we won't be spending long, late nights together in the lounges of our dorms. We can't be astounded by the fast friendships we make that feel totally and completely familiar. Instead, I think, we'll have to turn to our favorite art pieces for that comfort. We'll have to return to the books, movies, and music that shaped us and hope they help rekindle a sense of control over our lives. Until next time, that's all we have.

Alger is a member of
the Class of 2022.

HUMOR

How to enter a dorm you don't live in

By STELLA RAE WILKINS
HUMOR STAFF

In light of the University's new no-visitors policy, students must find more creative ways to get blackout drunk with strangers, complain about orgo lab, and drown out the sounds of the excessive sex.

My neighbor Jane and I have come up with a few creative (albeit convoluted) ways of sneaking each other into our dorms, and we are happy to share our methods.

1. The Lil Jon

This one is named as such because you will be catapulting your body from the window to the wall. First, make a rope with whatever you can find: shoelaces, twizzlers, the little strands of hair left in the dresser from whoever lived there last. Have your roommate make a harness with said rope and secure several knots.

'You will be catapulting your body from the window to the wall.'

(For more information on harnesses and knot tying, we recommend contacting your local BDSM community. College Feminists can help.) Next, attach a basket large enough to fit a small human to the rope and jump into the basket, flinging your body from your window, through your neighbor's window, and against their wall. Don't worry about the physics of this. We promise it will work.

2. Embracing the SqURm

If you're a first-year, significantly behind on your CT lore (how could you?!), or someone who simply doesn't keep up with current trends, you probably don't know that the University's TRUE mascot is actually a fuzzy, pink, human-sized worm-on-a-string named [SqURm](#). Forget whatever the orientation team told you about groundbois, this little guy is the real deal!

'Once you're covered head to toe in suction... Take a running start, and undulate your body up the wall like so.'

First, step into your favorite SqURm costume (if you don't have one already, you can pick one

up at the CT office, a conveniently located pit-stop on your way to the Pit). Next, have your roommate tape suction cups all over your body. Once you're covered head to toe in suction, head to your friend's dorm. Take a running start, and undulate your body up the wall like [so](#).

If you're interested in learning more, we suggest reaching out to UR Rock Climbing Club about starting special events on scaling brick buildings, asking the American Society of Mechanical Engineers for suction cup methodology, or talking to any member of CT about Embracing the SqURm.

3. The-Hole-In-The-Wall

Make a hole in the wall.

4. Stolen Identity

Spend some time studying your friend's roommate. Have your friend slowly steal articles of clothing over the course of a few weeks or months. A sock one week, a shirt another, maybe some pants from the dryer. Once you have collected a full outfit, your transformation is complete, and you will be virtually indistinguishable from your friend's roommate. We encourage you to put your own spin on the roommate as well. Accessorize with jewelry, wallet chains, and layers, and if you think they could use a new hairstyle, try one out! Have fun with it! Their RA will never know (unless you get caught in a Spider-Man meme situation. If this occurs simply spin around in a circle very fast with the roommate until the RA can't tell who's who). Their room is now yours; do with it as you please.

Wilkins is a member of the Class of 2022.



JANEPRITCHARD / ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

My drug-induced quarantine haze

By ETHAN BUSCH
HUMOR EDITOR



JANEPRITCHARD / ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

I recently left quarantine after spending two weeks in Riverview Building D, room 202. At least, I think it was two weeks. Time gets a little funny when you're alone for that long... well, it does when you're alone and high for that long.

The first day started with a five-hour drive. Like most people, I don't believe in drinking and driving; unlike most people, when I say drinking I mean literally anything. If you drink, you have to pee, and stopping to pee is anxiety-inducing during the end of the world. It really does feel like the apocalypse these days. I'm impressed that the Mayans were only off by eight years on the world's expiration date.

So after five pleasant hours I reached Riverview, and was told to go into Building D and not come out. Finding D was surprisingly difficult despite the broad daylight, though I'm not sure if that was because of poor signage or dizziness brought on by dehydration. Or maybe it was just because D is smaller than most of the other buildings.

That day and the next few were relatively boring. I woke up; I tried to go back to sleep. I failed because the beds in Riverview might as well be metal slaps with plastic blue tarps over them. Then I got high, which was nice and time consuming and relaxing — until my mom called. I can always count on Rabbi Debra Faythe Pine to call me at the worst times. Thanks Debbie. I'm not mad, though, because she also made me bring pancake mix to quarantine, which created three whole activities. First you make dinner, then you eat it, then you get to clean it up. If you want to try it on hard mode, take a few shots first.

If this is beginning to feel like a rambling mess, that's good, because quarantine feels more or less like one long run-on sentence that just keeps going and going and going and going until suddenly, before you realize it, you're out of food. Which breaks up the monotony. Fortunately, the very kind food runners will startle you out of your daze with an ominous knock on the door, but no matter how fast you go to answer, you always just miss any chance of human contact, as they leave no traces besides someone else's dinner. I guess that is the whole point — to not have any contact. Huh.

Another thing that happens in quarantine is you start to get a headache. Maybe it's the boredom, or the obscene amount of screen time, or the dehydration. Don't worry, this is different dehydration from earlier — I drank water. This one happens when you masturbate too many times in a row.

Regardless of the admittedly minor ways in which quarantine has taxed my body and major ways it has taxed my social skills and soul, I am incredibly glad to be leaving it.

I can't wait to hang out in dorm rooms and go to parties... Wait. Shit.

Busch is a member of the Class of 2023.



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SPORTS

Sports Teams at UR to Suspend Fall Competition

By JAMES GUNN
SPORTS EDITOR

For the time being, athletic competitions at the University have ceased to exist. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the social distancing policies adopted by the University, this is hardly surprising.

On June 22 UR Athletics announced plans for a “phased approach in the resocialization to sport activity” through the fall semester. On Aug. 5, [the message was more dramatic](#). Two major leagues for UR teams, the Liberty League and the University Athletic Association, had previously suspended play for fall 2020, and now so has the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III. The NCAA website confirms that Division II is cancelled as well, and that decisions for Division I will be made by Aug. 21.

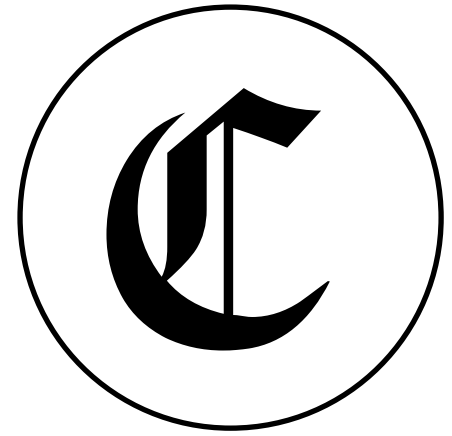
The Liberty League’s cancellation, announced July 7, will affect UR football, field hockey, golf, and rowing teams, and overturns previous plans for gradual resumption of the League. Under that plan, universities would individually follow the NCAA’s [resocialization of sports policy](#), which requires two weeks of declining infection rates. After evaluating the course of the pandemic, as well as the development of government and NCAA policy, the League decided to end its fall competitions.

The UAA tried to develop a schedule that fit within travel restrictions but came to the conclusion that such a season would not be feasible. At the time of writing, the cancellation only applies to competitions that have championships in the fall: soccer, volleyball, and cross country. The fate of sports that begin in fall but whose championships are later, such as basketball, has not been decided by the UAA.

Universities can still compete in sporting activities, so long as they comply with state laws and NCAA policy, but UR Athletics has said they don’t predict games to be available. As it stands, the travel radius alone significantly limits the number of possible opponents.

The Goergen Athletic Center will remain closed in compliance with New York state restrictions. Upon its undetermined opening, only full-time UR students may use the facilities, and only at 25% occupancy. Outdoor facilities and athletic spaces will be restricted to one team at a time, and indoor spaces will be restricted to half a team, per the University’s [Rochester Restart policy](#). It is unclear if this allowance extends to club or intramural sports, or how those teams will be affected by social distancing policies compared to their varsity counterparts.

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



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Sports in a Pandemic: a Primer

By JAMES GUNN
SPORTS EDITOR

Coming back to campus, it may be hard to feel excited about social activities — or their absence. For the time being, students can no longer participate in organized sports or group athletic activities. Fortunately, over the past few months many major professional organizations have developed strategies to continue or start the playing season despite COVID-19.

Although live television may be hard for college students to come by, there are some options. Unknown to many students, some living areas at UR have cable televisions, and with this comes access to Fox Sports, ESPN, and broadcast networks for MLB, the NHL, the NFL, the NBA, and the Golf Channel. There are online options as well, such as ESPN+, Hulu, SLing, or AT&T Now. Many leagues have their own subscription-based service, though these are often subject to blackouts as a result of broadcast rights distributions. There is illegal

‘Although live television may be hard for college students to come by, there are some options’

streaming, but that is, of course, illegal.

Most major sports have resumed or started play in various states of pandemic preparation. In the United States, the only major league with more than a handful of COVID-19 cases is Major League Baseball (MLB). The others have been very successful in preventing the spread of the virus.

Concern grew for the future of MLB’s season when the Miami Marlins announced on July 28 that 17 players and at least two

personnel had tested positive. Unlike the National Basketball Association (NBA) and the National Hockey League (NHL), MLB did not create a bubble. All teams are using their home stadiums with the exception of the Toronto Blue Jays, who are playing in Buffalo as the Canadian government rejected a plan for players to travel between the United States and Canada.

‘If your favourite American sports have been disrupted, consider outsourcing to international leagues for fall 2020’

The MLB season continues with trepidation: Just days after the Marlins returned on Aug. 4 following their suspension, the St. Louis Cardinals missed 19 games when 17 members of that organization tested positive and some team members had to visit the ER. It came to light that groups of players from both teams had violated safety protocols. Several other players from various organizations have also tested positive, and the league has thus far postponed 32 games.

The NHL, the playoffs for which started last week, created two isolation “bubbles” for its Western and Eastern Conferences, in the Canadian cities of Edmonton and Toronto, respectively. The most successful so far at preventing COVID-19 transmission, no NHL players have tested positive for the virus since entering the bubble.

The NBA has created their bubble in a sports complex at Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL. Early in the restarted season, two players contracted COVID-19 — Lou Williams of the Los Angeles Clippers made headlines when a friend revealed that Williams had stopped at a strip club for an order of lemon pepper wings. There

have been no further cases in the league, and the playoffs are due to start on Aug. 17.

But not every sporting league in the world has required such extreme measures.

Despite handfuls of positive COVID-19 tests across various teams, the Champions League, the primary competition for the Union of European Football Associations, has proceeded fairly regularly, albeit with players prevented from leaving their hotels and no fans in the stadium.

‘While social distancing has certainly narrowed the in-person experience available to fans it’s never too late to seek out something new’

If your favourite American sports have been disrupted, consider outsourcing to international leagues for fall 2020 — they may be more niche, but are prominent in their own right. Australian football, closer to rugby than its American or European counterparts, has resumed its season after postponing following just one round of matches in March. Korean and Japanese baseball have both resumed play. The two codes of rugby, Rugby Union and Rugby League, have active leagues in the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, and a number of other countries.

While social distancing has certainly narrowed the in-person experience available to sports fans, it’s never too late to seek out something new. Even though UR’s sports have ground to a halt, professional teams and leagues are innovating and trying to create a new culture of participation within the bounds of social distancing. It just might be worth keeping up.

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