

Campus Times

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First-year Orientations Brings Back Traditions, Exclude New Sophomores



By Henry Litsky
PHOTO EDITOR

HENRY LITSKY/PHOTO EDITOR

Last week, the class of 2025 and some members of the class of 2024 walked onto river campus for the first time and were welcomed with the renewal of many rochester traditions that were cancelled last year due to the pandemic. Many first years expressed excitement to be on campus while some sophomores felt left out. The candle light ceremony was the first event which

brought the class of 2025 all together on Eastman Quad and excited many students. "My favorite event was the candlelight ceremony because it's kind of symbolic." First Year Grace Kim told the CT. "I think I've really realized I'm really here and like, things are starting on campus." "[The candle light ceremony] was pretty good, I guess, except for the bugs. And besides that, the experience was very astonishing."

first year Robert told the CT. "I met a lot of people and I feel like we're getting somewhere. I feel like I'm really excited to start a new chapter of my life with these people that I've met." "I did actually enjoy it despite the hot wax all over my hands" first year Vic Cohen told the CT. "Convocation was very, very hot, but I enjoyed hearing everyone speak. Yeah, I think I sweated part of my soul out."

SEE EXCLUDE PAGE 3.

COVID-19 UPDATES

Cases Rise in Time for Student Arrival

By Haven Worley
NEWS EDITOR

As the Delta variant spreads and students return to campus, new COVID-19 school-wide policies have been put in place for fall 2021.

All students are required to be vaccinated upon returning to campus, barring religious or medical reasons, which must be approved by University Health Services (UHS). Faculty and staff must either be vaccinated or willing to adhere to regular COVID-19 testing and stricter safety protocols. As of Aug. 9, masks must be worn by anyone inside a University building, regardless of vaccination status.

In an interview with the Campus Times, Vice Provost and Director of the Department of Health Service Dr. Ralph Manchester said that "with almost all students being

vaccinated, it's very unlikely that we will have an outbreak bad enough to send students home."

Even so, UR administration opted to err on the side of caution and heed the CDC's new masking recommendations in the face of the Delta variant. According to the COVID-19 Updates page on the UR website, as of Aug. 13, the seven-day new cases rolling average is over 150 per day, with COVID-19-related hospitalizations at Strong Memorial doubling since July 31.

At the time of publication, there have been 14 positive cases, six of them River Campus students. According to the University's COVID-19 Dashboard, more than 90% of students and 82% of UR employees have been vaccinated as of Aug. 18.

As students finish moving in this weekend, UHS has

prepared for unvaccinated students that have been exposed to COVID-19 by requiring them to quarantine in Whipple Park while they wait for a COVID-19 test result. Unvaccinated students are also required to get tested every week.

Parents and students expressed that they support the University's policies and are counting on the administration's ability to manage a possible surge of COVID-19 cases on campus. Sibtain Raza, the father of sophomore Mahnoor Raza, expressed a similar expectation for the University.

"We hope that both students and the University follow all possible precautions to prevent the virus from spreading, and that if someone falls ill, the University will provide the best possible medical assistance," he said.

Worley is a member of the class of 2024.

The Origins of UR's Underground Self-Expression

By Melanie Earle
FEATURES EDITOR

The iconic stretch of tunnel underneath Eastman Quad used to constantly change, with new colors and messages from students, for students. But for the past year, the tunnels have been brought to a standstill, the walls sitting in their old paint jobs for over a year, adorned with mostly political messages. The tunnels have not seen a fresh coat of paint since last week, as COVID-19 safety guidelines banned tunnel painting for the 2020-2021 school year. Although tunnel painting remains banned at the time of publication, it is anticipated that painting will be re-approved in the coming weeks.

Even with this blip, the tunnels are still a visual representation of the student body and campus culture. They are where the UR community comes together to express themselves, and serve as brief documentation of campus events.

The idea for the entire tunnel network started in the 1920s, exclusively for Strong Medical Center. In the '30s the tunnels crept into River Campus, sprawling out from Rush Rhees and Wilson Quad, a reprieve from Rochester's harsh winter winds. Much of the original network is inaccessible to the public today, as the needs of the college community changed. For example, the tunnel leading from Susan B. Anthony Hall to Rush Rhees was closed in an effort to make the dorm more

secure. The tunnels connecting River Campus and the Medical Center were also closed to the public.

Color seemed to have entered the picture in the late 1960s in two places: the tunnel connecting Hoyt Hall to Eastman Quad (the tunnel we still paint today), and the now-closed tunnel to the Medical Center. The paintings were a loose collection of the collegiate mindstate. Political phrases, Greek life letters, random names, and inventive innuendos filled the walls, such as: "Candy is dandy but sex don't rot your teeth," "The dollar standard will not last," and "This is a good tunnel, but not a great one."

In a more organized effort to spruce up the walls, Residential Life commissioned a series of paintings in 1983 in the tunnels connecting all of the Hill Court dorms to each other. The paintings were done to cover up graffiti and bring life into the drab tunnels. Residential Life was concerned at the time that the graffiti would return and ruin their hard work, but over 20 years later the artwork has remained relatively intact.

Under Susan B. Anthony Hall, a cacophony of paintings and spray-painting sits, reminiscent of the lawless creativity of the Hoyt-Eastman tunnel in the '60s. This short tunnel leading to Spurrier is now the only one of its kind, now govern the only other space that encourages painting, Hoyt-Eastman.

SEE TUNNEL PAGE 3.



HENRY LITSKY/PHOTO EDITOR

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YELLOW JACKET

WEEKEND 2021

AUGUST 26 - 30

Check CCC and @WilsonCommonsUR on social for the latest updates and info!

THURSDAY - AUGUST 26

3:30 - 5 PM LGBTQ MEET & GREET
FELDMAN BALLROOM
 All LGBTQ students welcome to attend and meet other LGBTQ students, faculty, and staff! Plus, students can receive Meliorainbow lanyards and enter to win a Meliora hat. Sponsored by the Paul J. Burgett Intercultural Center.

6 - 7 PM GET INVOLVED: ACTIVITIES FAIR, CCC 101, & TRADITIONS!
FELDMAN BALLROOM
 Not really sure what all of our fun traditions are on campus and how to get involved? Join us for a program that will tell you everything you need to know!

9 PM - MIDNIGHT LATE NIGHT VISION BOARDS
MAY ROOM
 Start the semester out right and create a vision board. Let your imagination take you and make a craft that is all your own and will help you create your vision and goals for the fall semester! And it's free!

FRIDAY - AUGUST 27

3:30 - 5 PM ACTIVITIES FAIR
WILSON QUAD
 Come to the quad to our Activities Fair! You will see reps from many student organizations and meet so many people! This is a great way to figure out what clubs you want to join or to just learn more about what you can do to get involved on campus!

6 - 10 PM MAKE-AND-TAKE
STARBUCKS
 Grab a drink at Starbucks, grab some friends and enjoy some crafts!

8 PM - MIDNIGHT LATE NIGHT GLOW ROLLERSKATING
MAY ROOM
 Rollerskates have made a comeback - but did this trend really ever leave?! We've transformed campus into a glowing roller rink and brought all the gear, so all you need is to bring your friends!

8 PM - 2 AM MOVIE: MINARI
HOYT AUDITORIUM
 Movie to be announced soon - check back for updates! Sponsored by Cinema Group.

10 PM - MIDNIGHT GAME NIGHT
ROCKY'S SUB SHOP & LOUNGE
 Challenge your friends to an assortment of games - pool, Uno, Exploding Kittens, and more. Are you brave enough to battle it out over Monopoly?!

SATURDAY - AUGUST 28

2 PM FEEL THE STING SHIRT GIVEAWAY
 A Yellowjacket favorite! Come get a custom limited edition shirt with your class year on it. It's totally free!

2 - 6 PM CARNIVAL
WILSON QUAD
 Enjoy carnival rides and games, novelties, and food trucks. Plus, featured activities from student organizations! Food truck tickets can be purchased from the flex machines for \$2 and \$5.

5 PM LUAU DINNER
HIRST LOUNGE & DANDELION SQUARE
 Don't miss the last taste of summer as you catch up with friends and share a delicious meal! Sponsored by Sigma Epsilon, Wilson Commons Student Activities, Dining Services, and Pepsi.

8 PM JESSE MCCARTNEY OUTDOOR CONCERT
GOERGEN FIELD
 Doors open at 7 pm. Headliner to be announced - check @WilsonCommonsUR on social for updates!

9 PM - MIDNIGHT LATE NIGHT BINGO
MAY ROOM
 This isn't your grandparents bingo game. We've got pizza and amazing prizes. Hang out with your friends, eat, enjoy, and win!

10 PM - MIDNIGHT GAME NIGHT
ROCKY'S SUB SHOP & LOUNGE
 Challenge your friends to an assortment of games - pool, Uno, Exploding Kittens, and more. Are you brave enough to battle it out over Monopoly?!

SUNDAY - AUGUST 29

7 - 9 PM BLACKOUT
HOYT AUDITORIUM
 Experience a welcoming ceremony for first-year students, designed to create a global, inclusive community. All black attire is suggested and all are welcome! Sponsored by Black Students' Union.

MONDAY - AUGUST 30

11 AM - 2 PM NOT UR AVERAGE MONDAY
LOCATION TBD
 Make slime and enjoy treats - all for free! Sponsored by Student Programming Board.

9 AM - 5 PM POSTER SALE
WILSON COMMONS PORCH
 Looking for some fun wall art to decorate your room? Come out to the annual poster sale and make your space the space of your dreams!

Sponsored by Student Programming Board, Wilson Commons Student Activities, UR Late Night, Athletics & Recreation, Class Councils, Dining Services, Pepsi, Cinema Group, Fraternity & Sorority Affairs, Sigma Phi Epsilon, and Paul J. Burgett Intercultural Center.



Anyone requiring disability accommodations should contact Wilson Commons Student Activities (WCSA) at 585.275.5911 or wcsa@rochester.edu. This request should be made at least five business days in advance of the event.

STUDENT PROGRAMMING BOARD
 UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER



ROCHESTER TRADITIONS

CAMPUS

Orientation Traditions Exclude New Sophomores

FROM EXCLUDE PAGE 1.

Many students expressed how the convocation speeches left the class not only inspired but also feeling together as a community.

“They seemed different, I guess, saying ‘you belong here’ and ‘we are looking forward to having you influence us’ and I felt like that message is something you don’t hear very often and hearing that made the speech feel more authentic and more personalized” first year Hisashi Lonske told the CT. “I thought it really helped establish a sense of what the school’s environment is kinda what the vibe will be for the next couple of years here and setting that tone, I thought it was a great speech”

First years also participated in Wilson Day, the yearly afternoon of community service which places all incoming freshmen in the community to give back time and connect with the Rochester community.

“Wilson day was hard because it was work, but it helped me realize that, like I’m engaged in the community. It was a nice experience.” Soyeon Park, a first year student who picked up trash in Genesee Park told the CT.

Students spent time picking up garbage from parks, cleaning in the Mount Hope Cemetery, and doing various other community service activities in Rochester. Last year these ceremonies were canceled or severely modified due to the pandemic. As a substitute to the normal candle light ceremony, last year students held lights out their dorm room windows at the same time. Updated university guidance allowed for the University to host this year’s candle light ceremony in person, Wilson Day, commencement and a “normal” move in schedule for first years.

Many sophomores who arrived on campus for the first time after a virtual first year, felt left out without having many orientation events to attend.

“I wish we could be let into some of the first year orientation events like the glow in the dark party and stuff, but I understand why the Freshman had their own thing” second year Mahnoor Raza told the CT. “It would have been cool if they could have organized something similar for the sophomores too.”

Sophomores had the option of attending a class of 2024 orientation and class roll signing, but were unable to participate in Wilson day or the in person candle light

ceremony. Many sophomores noted that the 2024 orientation was a bit chaotic and did not have enough seating.

“They had some activities, like you shared some of your experiences, but it was just too loud in there and you couldn’t hear each other” second year Jingfei Huang told the CT. “So we didn’t really do the activities they designed for us, so we just signed the class role and then we left.”

Despite having troubles through a virtual first year and a weird transition to campus, many were optimistic about the semester.

“I think it is a bit harder for me to do it virtual because I had other things going on in my household...so it was a bit overwhelming, but I think being here in person is going to definitely change that” second year Cesar Garza told the CT. “I’m just adjusting to the new environment and atmosphere. It’s welcoming, so that’s a good part.”

Overall, students also emphasized how excited they were to exercise their newfound independence after spending the majority of the previous year home doing virtual schooling.

“The freedom of being able to do things on my own time is really great. I’m really enjoying it” Cohen told the CT. “I don’t have to eat dinner when my beloved boomer parents do at 3pm.”

Another tradition near every Rochester student’s heart is that you should never walk under the Wilco clock tower if you plan to graduate in 4 years. Campus legend says that those who walk underneath it will be cursed to be unable to complete their degree in four years.

First year Sage Arnold decided to look the curse in the face and prove it wrong.

“I wish we could be let into some of the first year orientation events, but I understand why they had their own thing.”

“I want to be the most cursed person on this campus. I’m going to keep walking under that clock tower every time I walk past it” Arnold told the CT after defiantly walking under the clock tower. “You know what, I didn’t walk under that clock tower, that clock tower walked under me.”

“Over you, the clock tower walked over you” Cohen corrected laughing.

Litsky is a member of the Class of 2023.

The Origins of UR’s Underground Self-Expression

FROM TUNNEL PAGE 1.

By the early 1990s, the Hoyt-Eastman tunnel had become overwhelmingly a place for UR organizations to advertise their events. The unwritten rules are pretty simple: Don’t paint over another group’s advertisement until their event has already happened. Although logical, these rules were a bit hard to enforce, as a complaint from the swim team in a 1994 Campus Times issue shows. The Swim team’s promotion for their championship was overtaken by the Peer Health Group’s “Condom Week” advertising before the championship had taken place.

“If their issue was important enough to paint the tunnel, then it should have been important enough to do a good job,” the swim team stated. “We hope that in the future, groups who decide to paint the tunnel will take into consideration the hard work and effort put forth by the previous painters.”

“If their issue was important enough to paint the tunnel, then it should have been important enough to do a good job.”

A similar complaint surfaced in 2012, when UR Cinema Group published an op-ed in CT complaining that several someones had painted over their advertisements for their Oscar Party and spring porn showing, even though neither had happened yet.

More serious offenses have also taken place in the tunnels pretty routinely. In spring 2001, UR sorority paintings were targeted and vandalized with sexual, racial, and hurtful comments. Throughout the semester, there were uncharacteristic appearances of racial and homophobic slurs in the tunnels. These were quickly painted over, and UR Vice President and Dean of Students Paul Burgett responded to the vandalism.

“Every few years, it seems somebody does something thoughtless and insensitive that triggers a series of copycat-like reactions,” he said in a statement. “While it is troublesome [...] such behavior has not been so prolific or destructive to suggest that we should eliminate tunnel painting. I would not want to punish the entire student tunnel-painting community because of the actions of a



ETHANBUSCH / PUBLISHER

few.”

In 2008, the PRIDE Network’s artpromoting “Gaypril” was misidentified by administration as vandalism, and almost entirely painted over. Facilities covered up language deemed inappropriate, such as “fags have more fun” and “suck d*** all day,” which they said they thought was vandalism over the PRIDE Network’s original message. However, facilities also covered up useful information such as times and places for the organization’s events. The PRIDE Network stated that any references to homosexuality were covered up, including educational ones.

In 2009, Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) organized a protest in response to the Gaza War. The goal of the protest according to SDS leaders was to influence UR to reevaluate their funding to avoid supporting the war, through actions like adopting a Peaceful Investing Initiative that would divest from corporations involved in manufacturing weapons. In addition to a planned sit-in, pro-Gaza messages appeared in the Hoyt tunnel, but were covered up after the protests.

When the Chinese Students Association painted in the tunnels to advertise their China Nite event in 2010, their posters were torn down and a six-foot spray-painted “Free Tibet” appeared over CSA’s painting. Administration responded by having facilities covering up the painting.

“Every few years, it seems somebody does something thoughtless and insensitive that triggers a series of copycat-like reactions.”

More recently, in fall 2019, a group of students painted messages

supporting democracy in Hong Kong, autonomy for Tibet and Taiwan, and protesting human rights violations against Uighurs. These paintings sparked a series of reactions in the tunnels, where the original paintings were quickly covered up with seemingly apolitical censorship by other UR students. This started a back-and-forth between students, gained local and international attention from media outlets, and had a major hand in the removal of the iconic flag display in Hirst Lounge.

As the surrounding advertisements became outdated, political messages for social justice and human rights began replacing them. These remained on the walls through the winter, and through March 2020, when most students were asked to leave campus in response to COVID-19 and painting was initially banned. Most of the paintings from the 2019 paintwar stayed on the walls until mid-August, when the tunnel was routinely painted in anticipation of a first-year orientation activity.

For better or for worse, the paintings in the tunnels are a representation of the UR student collective. They serve as a source of excitement for upcoming events, and a way to promote the hard work of student organizations. The paintings advocate for some members of the community, but they also show the less accepting feelings of other members. The tunnels show how we as a university handle adversity. The tunnels show how we come together to discuss, educate, and grow — which is arguably the foundation of a collegiate experience.

As a UR student once wrote, “these are good tunnels, but not great ones,” suggesting the need for continued growth.

Earle is a member of the Class of 2023.

RESEARCH AT ROCHESTER

Manohar Uses Economics to Observe Effects of Climate Change

By Hawraa Ahmed
COLUMNIST

When junior Pramod Manohar isn't competing in mixed martial arts or tuning his violin, you can find him crunching numbers.

"I became interested in economics during high school," Manohar, a double major in Economics and Mathematics, said. "In my history classes, actually, I was fascinated by how institutions shape economic development and how economic development in turn shapes institutions. Economics is versatile, and I knew I wanted to pursue [it] in college."

After taking both AP Macroeconomics and AP Microeconomics in high school, Manohar found that he was especially interested in a subfield called development economics, which focuses on the forces contributing to economic development, particularly in low-income countries.

Empirical research in this field is about estimating causal effects. Economists are often interested in understanding what happens to an outcome variable (y) when an explanatory variable (x) changes by a certain amount.

"For instance, a popular question in the human capital literature is, 'How much do earnings increase for an additional year of schooling?'" Manohar said. "The challenge of economics research is trying to estimate treatment effects given observational data. And in the real world, we don't observe perfect randomization of subjects into treatment groups and a control group. This makes it difficult to capture causality just given raw observational data."

"Subjects and groups often aren't comparable," he added. "In order to overcome this problem, economists use quasi-experimental methods — strategies used to mimic an experimental design — to isolate for the impact of (x) on (y). This is done in order to capture causality."

"My biggest piece of advice [for students] is to be open-minded and adaptable."

Manohar became involved in research during the spring of his first year, where he started working as a research assistant for Dr. John Singleton, an assistant professor for the

Department of Economics. This past semester, Manohar received the opportunity to write his own research paper for a course called "Economics Research and Communication," a newer class that had only been offered at UR for two semesters so far, taught by assistant professor Dr. Travis Baseler.

"When the class started I had no idea what topic I wanted to investigate," Manohar said. "After skimming through the Journal of Economic Literature, I realized that a lot of economists have not conducted much research on climate change, which prompted me to read [...] about climate change."

Eventually, Manohar refined his research to looking at how temperature shocks affect the output value of a major set of crops in India. To test this question, Manohar obtained a district-wide panel of data from Cornell University, which included all of the agricultural and weather variables necessary for analysis. He employed various econometric models to investigate the effect of a large spike in temperature on crop production. After controlling for

rainfall, observable district characteristics, and adding in state and year fixed effects, Manohar found that a temperature climb as small as 1°C "leads to an additional 5.7 percentage point decline in output value for a given year."

Manohar also tested the effectiveness of three mitigation mechanisms: fertilizer usage, irrigation, and road length. "I found that fertilizer usage and irrigation were highly effective at mitigating the negative impact of heat shock [on crops]," Manohar said. "I also [examined] if the underlying distribution of heat shock is changing over time. I found mixed evidence that this distribution evolves over time, meaning that the temperature level was becoming more volatile [over time] in some states and less volatile in others."

"Manohar refined his research to looking at how temperature shocks affect the output value of a major set of crops in India."

Currently, Manohar is in the process of submitting his paper to an economics journal. But his research

wasn't always easy. "I remember when I first started this project, I was writing out a lot of the coding stuff and found that I was struggling with [coding] the different models and working with the data," he said. "There were [many] missing values in the data set that I was working on, and so I had to adopt an imputation strategy to address that issue. Eventually, everything started to fall in place so it was [nice] to see it work."

After graduating from UR, Manohar plans to pursue a graduate degree in economics. Additionally, he aims to apply to pre-doctoral fellowships in economics, which are one-to-two year post-baccalaureate programs where students are assigned projects and work in tandem with professors in the field.

"My biggest piece of advice [for students] is to be open-minded and adaptable," Manohar recommended. "You're not always going to get the opportunities or outcomes that you want, but that is okay. What matters is appreciating what you do have and making the most out of it. Eventually, your work will pay off."

Ahmed is a member of the Class of 2022.

The Orientation Team: Planning for an Uncertain Future



By Michael Riches
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

COURTESY OF CRYSTAL CUSIMANO-FIGUEROA

Between a record-breaking class size, fluctuating COVID-19 policies, and a smaller-than-normal list of returning staff, the first-year orientation team for the class of 2025 had a lot on their plates.

Sophomore Orientation Leader and Campus Times Opinions editor Alyssa Koh said she started planning this experience with an open mind. "As someone who never had an in-person orientation, I had no expectations coming in, just because I couldn't."

Upperclass Orientation Leaders like junior Waleed Nadeem, the only returning member from last year's group, had to rethink almost every part of the process. Nadeem said that this year

was "completely different" from his prior work. "Last year we had the biggest challenge of reimagining orientation in a multi-modal setting," he said. "This year we had virtual interactions with our students, but the primary focus remained on making the [in person] Welcome Week the best week for the incoming first-years and transfers."

The sudden rise of the Delta variant is a difficult challenge for a team trying to plan in-person events for UR's largest class ever. To deal with so many factors out of their control, they've had to be ready to adapt or scrap plans on the fly.

"The Delta variant was definitely something we were monitoring very closely," Nadeem said. "We had to make sure our programs

were flexible enough that if something comes up, we can still offer the opportunity for students to interact and form strong connections."

Koh said that plans have been in place for "a couple weeks to a month now," but the recent decision to reinstate the mask policy for everyone at the University required some quick reworking. Shifting guidelines "meant that we had to go into [a] really big overhaul," Koh said. "So, the past week or so has been all about that — I had to cancel some big orders that were coming in, which feels really disheartening."

Last-minute changes have been challenging for the team, but nothing exemplifies their tireless search for silver linings better than the forward-thinking orientation theme.

"Our theme is UR The Future," Koh said with a laugh. The slogan is "deliberately cheesy," and the orientation team has really gone all in. Their ideas have a fantastical and futuristic energy, including Space Crafts and Space Golf, Intergalactic Karaoke, a showing of Guardians of the Galaxy, and dining groups named after planets.

According to Nadeem, deciding on a theme was an easy, fast process. After the Orientation Leaders were tasked by professional

staff with picking a theme, Nadeem shouted, "UR The Future' as the very first idea, as it sends a message that we at [The University of Rochester] are the future leaders of the world."

"This relentless optimism is a necessity, not a luxury, for the orientation team."

This relentless optimism is a necessity, not a luxury, for the orientation team. They're keeping a positive attitude about their many limitations and setbacks, to deliver the best orientation experience possible. To keep morale up for orienters and orientees, they're focusing on the activities that have been able to happen this year rather than those that haven't.

For instance, Koh began her planning under the assumption that Wilson Day couldn't take place, at least not in any recognizable form. "I assumed that [...] if people were going to be able to go off campus it would be a really small number or a really open space," she said, adding that Wilson Day happening at all is something of serendipity for the team. Instead of being disappointed that many students would remain on campus, they embraced the restrictions and adapted by bringing some of the community

onto campus to speak.

Other than the event planning, Koh describes her job as middle management: "I had an email list of about 200 students that I would send out information to, get responses back from, [and] be responding to them." Beyond direct emails, she also took the initiative to organize virtual group meetings. "I [tried] to advocate for a lot of online events over the summer to help foster the sense of community that I really felt coming here."

Despite its enormous impact on the incoming class, a lot of Orientation Leaders' work happens under the radar, and often goes underappreciated. "I wish more students would learn about the impact that an OL can make on the incoming class," Nadeem said.

Even with their low profile, even with a uniquely challenging year, Orientation Leaders can still have a fulfilling role — especially when they finally get to see the new class on campus. In Nadeem's words: "There have been countless students who have come up to me and told me that I have played a pivotal role in their transition to college, and made them feel like they are not alone in this journey. To me, that is the most rewarding part of orientation."

Riches is a member of the Class of 2023.

UR Alumnus Brings New Life to Tin Roof

By Melanie Earle
FEATURES EDITOR

Tin Roof. Tinny. The Tin Bin. Whatever you call it, most students will have spent at least one evening at the only bar located a block away from campus before they graduate.

UR alumnus Kaleb Chitaphong '19 spent so many nights there as an undergrad, he bought the place.

Chitaphong didn't intend to own a bar after he graduated, instead hoping to follow his Political Science education through to a Ph.D., and probably find a career in academia.

But when his college haunt was facing closure last year during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Chitaphong decided he couldn't let that happen.

"I grew up in this area, I went to high school right down the street, and then [UR],"

"I grew up in this area, I went to high school right down the street, and then [UR]," he said. "So when I found out the business was closing [...] I got in contact

with the owner. And, initially, I didn't even have plans to buy it — I was just curious what was going on with the business. But then we got to talking a little bit more, and things worked out and I was able to gain ownership."

Tin Roof is located a block away from Riverview Apartments, and less than a 12-minute walk from campus. For many students living off campus, Tin Roof is closer to their house than campus. This was the case for Chitaphong's friend, who lived across the street from the bar. Chitaphong didn't turn 21 until the end of his senior year, but once he was of age, he quickly became a regular at Tin Roof, frequenting the bar for dinner, a drink, or just to hang out.

Chitaphong has experience in the restaurant industry from his family, several of whom own and run restaurants. But even with some background knowledge, he still had a crash course in owning a bar the hard way — learning the laws, earning his liquor license, understanding regulations — all during the pandemic. Chitaphong re-opened the restaurant

under his ownership this past February, starting small.

Although loved by students, Chitaphong's hope for Tin Roof is to attract local residents as well. "A big thing that's important to me is having a place where everybody can come and have a good time," he said. "I think that we've had success with that so far. A lot of our regulars who live around this area have gotten to know some of these college kids, and have gotten to know them by name [...] and that's really cool for me."

"A lot of our regulars who live around this area have gotten to know some of these college kids by name [...] and that's really cool for me."

While Chitaphong wants to have a bar that isn't exclusive to just UR students, he also wants to remain close to campus life. "I want it to be a [UR] bar, in whatever way that means," he expressed. "I've talked to sports teams; let's get some jerseys hung up. I've got one hung up



MELANIEEARLE/FEATURES EDITOR

there now." Chitaphong wants to let student groups know that if they are interested in working with Tin Roof in any way, such as holding events at Tin Roof for organizations on campus, he is ready and willing to work with them.

As COVID-19 restrictions continue to ease up, Chitaphong has plans to host more and more events. In addition to Trivia Tuesdays, and Thirsty Thursday drink specials, he recently added Karaoke Fridays. Honeydü, a band composed of RIT students, played on July 31. Chitaphong is also planning a collaboration with UR's Standup Comedy to try out Stand-Up Wednesdays.

Although Chitaphong has big plans for the place, Tin Roof isn't his end game, and he isn't quite sure what his next move is. He may open up another business, or head back to school. But right now, he's focused on the present, and on Tin Roof. Chitaphong wants Tin Roof to be the same for others as it was for him: their own spot to relax, grab some dinner, be with friends, or meet new people.

"At least for the next two to three years, we really are going to be focusing on this space to make it the best time for as many people as possible."

Earle is a member of the Class of 2023.

Exploring The Lucky Flea Market



Opening time at The Lucky Flea Market

SARAHWOODAMS/STAFF WRITER

By Sarah Woodams
STAFF WRITER

Do you have a love for vintage goods, thrifted clothing, handmade crafts, and food trucks? If so, check out The Lucky Flea Market downtown in the Neighborhood of the Arts.

Co-founders Sofia Cerankosky and Chris Rapoza were inspired by vintage markets in Los Angeles and decided to create their own Rochester-based outdoor vintage market back in January 2021. After months of planning, reaching out to possible vendors, and sorting through over 200 applications, The Lucky Flea Market held its grand opening on May 30 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Originally, the market was only going to remain open until June 27, but because of its extreme popularity, it has been extended through the end of October

— which is good news for all of the UR students who went home for the summer.

"My only previous flea market experience was on a dreary day about 10 years ago where I paid way too much for a unicorn Beanie Baby and a pair of moon shoes."

My only previous flea market experience was on a dreary day about 10 years ago where I paid way too much for a unicorn Beanie Baby (with a shiny horn!) and a pair of moon shoes, so I was very excited when I heard about the opening of The Lucky Flea through a poster at Yotality, of all places.

Most of the vendors are

thrifted resellers, boasting copious amounts of vintage clothing and goods that look like they could be straight out of my grandparents' houses. In fact, last time I went, I saw the exact vase that my mom and I took home from my grandpa's house the month before.

There's also a decent amount of vendors selling handmade jewelry (mainly earrings), some plants, and other handmade crafts. My favorite booth was a "flower bar" by Sibleyville Flowers, where people could build their own flower bouquets. I also love the embroidery done by Sick Hoops — a skill I meant to learn over 2020 quarantine but never did. The vendors can vary from week to week, so make sure to keep up with The Lucky Flea's Instagram to stay up to date. Fun side note: One of the vendors is actually a current UR student, junior Emily Bingham, which I discovered after looking up her Instagram from the business card she gave me after I purchased a cowboy worm T-shirt.

Some of the food vendors have stands, but there's also a handful of food trucks for market-goers to choose from. During my last visit, Le Petit Poutine, Roll'n Deep (bubble tea and Asian fusion food), and The Dainty Donut Factory all made an appearance. I hope to see a

fried dough truck there one day, but perhaps it's best

"My favorite booth was a "flower bar" by Sibleyville Flowers, where people could build their own flower bouquets."

for my health if that doesn't happen.

As for the prices, the range is pretty extreme, from \$1 tees to \$300+ vintage Bills jackets. You can try haggling with the vendors (I think this would go best with the clothing ones,) but sometimes they'll even offer you a discount outright if they sense you're on the fence about buying something. I justify all my purchases there as supporting small local businesses and remind myself of the time they either spent making a piece

or sifting through junk at a Goodwill.

So now that I have you hooked on going, how can you get there? If you have the luxury of driving, there is easy-access parking at Village Gate (entrance on Anderson Ave). Biking only takes about 20 minutes, and much of the route is mainly along the Genesee Riverway Trail. The longest option is the bus, which according to Google Maps will take you a little over an hour on Sundays.

TL;DR:

When: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sundays through Oct. 31

Where: 320 N Goodman Street (a large parking lot behind Village Gate)

Why: It's a fun outdoor market with clothing, vintage and handmade goods, and plenty of food.

Woodams is a member of the Class of 2023.



Left: The chocolate pretzel, s'mores, oreo crumble, and french toast flavors from the Dainty Donut Factory
Right: Bacon covered poutine

SARAHWOODAMS/STAFF WRITER

OPINIONS

EDITORIAL OBSERVER

The Joy of a Crowd



HENRY LITSKEY/PHOTO EDITOR

Starbucks has returned to its pre-pandemic seating arrangement and capacity.

By Ethan Busch
PUBLISHER

I apologize for my rudeness, but if you've been on this campus in the last two years, I might've eavesdropped on your conversation. It's a bit of a bad habit, but I really can't help myself.

I'm interested in what you have to say.

It's why I started writing for the Campus Times, why I am majoring in Linguistics and Classical Civilizations, and why I became an RA.

'One of my favorite things about this campus is how often we get to watch each others' stories play out.'

People have interesting lives and stories, and though we can only experience our own, one of my favorite things about this campus is how often we get to watch each others' stories play out. There are only so many tunnels, dining halls, and study spaces, so eventually you start to recognize the same people in the same places at the same times. If you really watch, you might be able to tell who they talk to, what homework they do, when they are too tired to put on more than sweatpants and a hoodie, and when they are too busy to even appear.

I don't think I'm alone in this habit of recognizing strangers on campus.

Humans are hardwired to recognize each other. I think this might be part of why some are angry about the new mask mandate (though I am not). We can't recognize each other as easily. All the hello's in the hallways and the familiar strangers around campus become blank, unapproachable masks.

But even with indoor masking requirements, campus is returning to life. The dining halls are full. Starbucks has a line out the door every morning. Students are playing frisbee on the quad and stopping to greet old friends and new as they move in.

Campus is alive again. I'm excited about it.

I'm excited to hear your stories, and to write new ones together.

I'm excited to recognize you from afar, and greet you in passing. I'm excited to meet you for the first time, and to see you again after two years. I'm excited to sit in a class with you, and to ask, "Hey, I think you were in a Zoom class with me?" And yes, I'm excited to eavesdrop on you.

Welcome back to campus. It's a bit small sometimes, though hopefully the crowds will make up for the loneliness of the past year and a half. It's been too long since we've all been together. I think it'll be a good time.

Busch is a member of the Class of 2023.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Campus Culture is O(UR)S To Change

Welcome, first-years! And sophomores who have never been to campus. And students of all years who spent last semester remote.

At the time of writing, we still have a few COVID-19 guidelines left, yet your presence in classrooms, in dorms, and across the river signals something all of us have been waiting for: Campus is returning to normal. Sort of.

We can't return to the way things were.

There aren't enough students who remember what UR's culture used to be. First-years and sophomores have never had a non-COVID-19 semester. Many sophomores have not been on campus, ever, and have just arrived for the first time. For sophomores and juniors, most of our college experience has been during the pandemic. Not to mention, many policies that came about or became relevant due to COVID-19 are here to stay, like checking in for an event on CCC.

Juniors and seniors are the only ones who remember what campus was like, and even those memories are incomplete. The isolation we felt for the past year made participating in co-curriculars seem more daunting than it should be. The last school year was awful for many of us, but we are rebuilding our campus culture from the ground up.

There are events to attend, people to see, places to visit — now, more than ever, making the choice to do is vital to your college experience, and

to that of everyone on campus. There are events to plan, too, not just to attend. We have a loose blueprint on the way things were, and we can only improve from an event held on Zoom. For those of you who haven't gotten involved yet on campus outside of academics, maybe this is the time to try. It may not seem as easy as that, especially if it's been months since a club (or anything beyond just getting by) was on your mind at all, but if there is an organization you think could be improved, why not be part of that change?

So, take the advice you will hear over and over again during your college career, and get involved. Attend that General Interest Meeting. Go watch that dance performance. Go to the Activities Fair and wander around. Maybe even pick up a flyer or two. Do something entirely new, even if you hate it. That transition back to a lively, spirited campus is in your hands.

Here are some resources

to help you get started: The Activities Fair is on Friday, Aug. 27, 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. This isn't just for first-years; it's also a chance for older students to reconnect with a campus that has been disjointed for too long. If you don't want to do that, ask your RA, your advisor, or your friends what activities they know about. And if worst comes to worst, there's always CCC. (Or, if you want an online resource that is actually operable, check out the Campus Times website for information on University life, both on and off-campus. CT does our best to cover student organizations and their programs, and if you think we can do better, join us and make that happen.)

Campus is never going back to the way it was. It's unlikely that any part of the world will. Like every other campus recovering from COVID-19, we will figure out what to keep, what to discard, and what to reimagine.



ETHANBUSCH/PUBLISHER

Students visiting the orientation expo during First-year Move-in.

This editorial is published with the consent of a majority of the Editorial Board: Hailie Higgins (Editor-in-Chief), Ethan Busch (Publisher), Alyssa Koh (Opinions Editor), Corey Miller-Williams (Managing Editor) and Olivia Alger (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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UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER, ROCHESTER, NY 14627
OFFICE: (585) 275-5942 / FAX: (585) 273-5303
CAMPUSTIMES.ORG / EDITOR@CAMPUSTIMES.ORG

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF HAILIE HIGGINS
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MUSKAAN'S MUSINGS

Muskaan's musings, orientation edition

By Muskaan Vasandani
STAFF WRITER

Snapchat memories are a very expressive ritual for our generation. Every time that red dot pops up next to that stack of photos on my snapchat, my finger does not waste a second tapping it. So, when that red dot came up this week, I went to it instantly, and lo and behold — there it was. A treasure trove of numerous snaps from three years ago: my freshman orientation.

I am a yellowjacket senior who has seen it all — from the days of the comfy Starbucks couches to when Tapingo gave way to Grubhub. In the grand scheme of life, three years doesn't seem like a long time, but it feels like an eternity considering the countless experiences I've had on this campus. So how does a seasoned rising senior feel during first year orientation for the fresh new faces of 2025? I would call it a mixed bag of feelings, maybe even a mid-college life crisis. As soon as I saw the first confused first-year coming in with bulky suitcases, I was drawn back to the time when I was lugging my own bags up the four floors of Gilbert.

It was surreal watching this fresh batch of yellowjackets going through ice breakers with their hall mates outside, and trying to get along with people in the dining hall. The hope in their eyes and the smile on their faces (which I could not see due to the masks, but I know they were there) was a nice change from the stressed out seniors I normally hang out with. I couldn't help but think — how long will it be until these little babies miss their first 9:00 am? How long will it be before the class valedictorian gets her first B? Or how long will it be until they realize that it's possible their major isn't really for them? Everyone talks about how wonderful University is, how much it teaches you and

how much fun you have, but no one talks about these little failures. Although when I look back, it was that first 9:00 am that my roommate and I missed that helped us bond over a late brunch in Douglass. It was that B in a chemistry midterm that made me realize that my GPA wouldn't tank because of one test, and the party I went to instead of cramming all weekend was still worth it.

'It was that B in a chemistry midterm that made me realize that my GPA wouldn't tank because of one test, and the party I went to instead of cramming all weekend was still worth it.'

And even though most of my fellow upperclassmen are perpetually stressed out, we can't help but smile every single time we hit that red dot and look at those Snapchat memories — because that's what college is. It's just a bunch of ups and downs (definitely more downs) that put together, give you something to look back at and smile about. So, to all the first years reading this — don't worry if you didn't get into that one class during course registration, or if you don't particularly like your roommate at first. Whatever happens, you'll have a red dot on your Snapchat three years later, and you will definitely have a grin plastered on that stressed out face.

Vasandani is a member of the Class of 2022.

Attention Incoming Introverts

By Arianna Gundlach
STAFF WRITER

Greetings fellow introverts! Ready to emerge from your cozy cocoons and start your college experience?

...Yeah, me neither. But that's okay — I know you can do it.

While starting college can be difficult for anyone — especially those who find socialization challenging and at times draining — starting college as an introvert during the COVID-19 pandemic is something else entirely. The pandemic brought accessibility and convenience. It forced more no-contact options, such as online ordering, virtual appointments, and classes over Zoom. So us introverts burrowed farther into our shells, slinking into our fuzzy sweatpants and oversized T-shirts — relishing in the comfort the extroverted world loves to steal from us.

The detriments of the pandemic are truly atrocious, but it's okay if you've been enjoying not accommodating the rest of the world for a change. As introverts, we have to put on a face to appear acclimated in public spaces. I've been told many times throughout my life, "You look so sad all the time," or "You should smile more." I had to learn my face is not here to appease others.

My resting face tends to lack a smile because of all the introverted and anxious thoughts running through my head 24/7. I'm constantly jumpy, on edge, and overthinking, and I get nervous when I can't plan every aspect of my day. Meeting new people and being in unfamiliar buildings is something that seems simple to others, but it's a daily struggle for me. I had to painfully smile more to survive high school — and I didn't want the same for college.

Even though masks are temporarily here to stay and thus no one has to fake a smile, this academic year students return to a more normal

college experience. Classes are all in person, more students will be back on campus, and social distancing is no longer a guideline. While these all mean we're moving forward from the pandemic, they do strip back the accessibility and convenience introverts may have gotten used to.

But don't let this transition deter you. Whether you've known for a while or are new to the introverted experience, the following guide should aid you in keeping accessibility and convenience in your daily schedule, while also allowing for new adventures.

Making your way around campus without getting lost and arriving to your classes on time is hopefully one of your main priorities. I know as a first-year I was especially concerned when I had two back to back classes and had to hurry between buildings that were nowhere near each other. Knowing the layout of campus with the online River Campus map as well as residential and instructional building floor plans was a big asset to me. And if that isn't enough, feel free to practice your day-to-day schedule before classes start and scope out buildings. No shame in being prepared.

With classes covered, let's move onto professors.

Interacting with professors in college is different from high school. Here you can challenge and question and discuss. In high school, at least for me, those things were silently frowned upon. Following instruction without issue made working autonomously as an introvert easy.

Having this new kind of freedom with your academics on top of the open curriculum may seem daunting at first, but you'll come to learn that professors aren't as high and mighty as they may seem. They're pretty normal and often pretty cool. Start with a strong email relationship with your TAs and professors and then work up the confidence to go to office hours. These

relationships won't only help you in class, but in your following semesters as well.

So now you're good on classes and professors. How about food?

If you're eating in the dining hall or taking a meal to go, there are options to make the process hassle-free. To eliminate the potentially awkward wandering between food stations, check out the dining menus online. This lets you know what's being served for the day and what station it's being served at.

If you don't have time to eat in a dining hall or you just don't feel like being around the hustle and bustle of students, Grubhub is a great opportunity to take advantage of. Last semester Grubhub was offered at most, if not all, dining locations and we can only hope the same of this semester. Download the app, turn on your location, connect your swipes/declining with your student ID, and boom, you're in business. Judging how great the food is in person versus take out is up to you.

As for making friends, joining clubs, and putting yourself out there, there's no one way to do it. Don't underestimate yourself. Know your boundaries and choose to push yourself when it's a productive priority you feel good about. There are tons of activities on campus, especially for first-years at the start of the semester. Don't feel like you have to do everything — it's not abnormal to take a break and delegate the start of your college experience. Remember, it is your experience.

Don't feel the need to accommodate others and hide your awesome, introverted self. Make a couple solid friends or join a big group; whatever works for you. From one fellow introvert to another, good luck — I hope I've given you some comfort for the year ahead.

Gundlach is a member of the Class of 2023.

Be "Ever Better" Than Yourself, Not Others

By Alyssa Koh
OPINIONS EDITOR

I think one of my favorite parts about the Orientation office (Lattimore 210, for any of you lore-seekers) is the crash corner: A beanbag in the corner of the office for when someone needs a power nap or a place to decompress after an intense shift. It was set up on a whim before Welcome Week got into full swing, but I think it is very indicative of the culture we live in here.

You may have heard of the phrase "toxic Meliora," the phrase we have for the over-achieving culture on campus. Many students here do a lot, both inside and outside of the classroom. The motivation I have seen in our stu-

dents is unmatched — people overload on classes, pick up extra shifts, and devour eboard positions like they're at an all-you-can-eat buffet. In high school, you've likely done something similar. That's why you were picked to come here — you have drive and determination, gall and grit. You've seen things in the world that you want to change and improve, and you are constantly pushing yourself to be "ever better." However, being ever better doesn't mean striving to do everything, all the time, better than everyone else around you.

While our open curriculum is a blessing in the way that it gives students the freedom and opportunity to pursue their interests, it can

be daunting to see people pursuing double majors as if it's the only possible way to graduate. I've heard many friends express doubts about their abilities and pitch double standards for what they can put up with as compared to their peers. I've done the same — this week alone, I've said that I could stay up later and work longer shifts than my colleagues for orientation events, and for what? My passion is proven enough, and yet I still find myself pushing further just because it seems to be the only way to prove that I care. I look at that beanbag in the corner every day and shake it from my mind in favor of doing more.

Reader, I can't pretend to know what it's like to be in your specific shoes. Many of

you come from worlds I've never known, from hometowns I've barely seen on a map. However, you now belong here, just as I do, no matter what shortcomings you think you have or abilities you lack. This is a place to grow and to change, and the true epitome of Meliora is that change — that willingness to push through the discomfort, to face what you do not understand with an open mind, and to live each day with as much life as you can bear. This doesn't mean doing more than everyone around you, just more than yourself. There is no one-upping in an individual game.

The biggest piece of advice I can give you over the course of the next couple weeks is one I'll have to take myself, so

we can do this in solidarity. Please, push yourself to take a nap. Retire to your room early for a day, even if you think you can stand to stave off the exhaustion through sheer adrenaline and excitement. This is just the beginning. There is no set timeline, and you are free to do as you please. Breathe in and take in your surroundings. Cry, if you want to. Transition, especially in a time like this, is so hard. Remember that nobody expects you to know anything, and that the people you think have it all together are also just trying to get through the day as best they can. Most of all, be kind to yourself. You owe it to yourself to be ever better to yourself.

Koh is a member of the class of 2024.

HUMOR

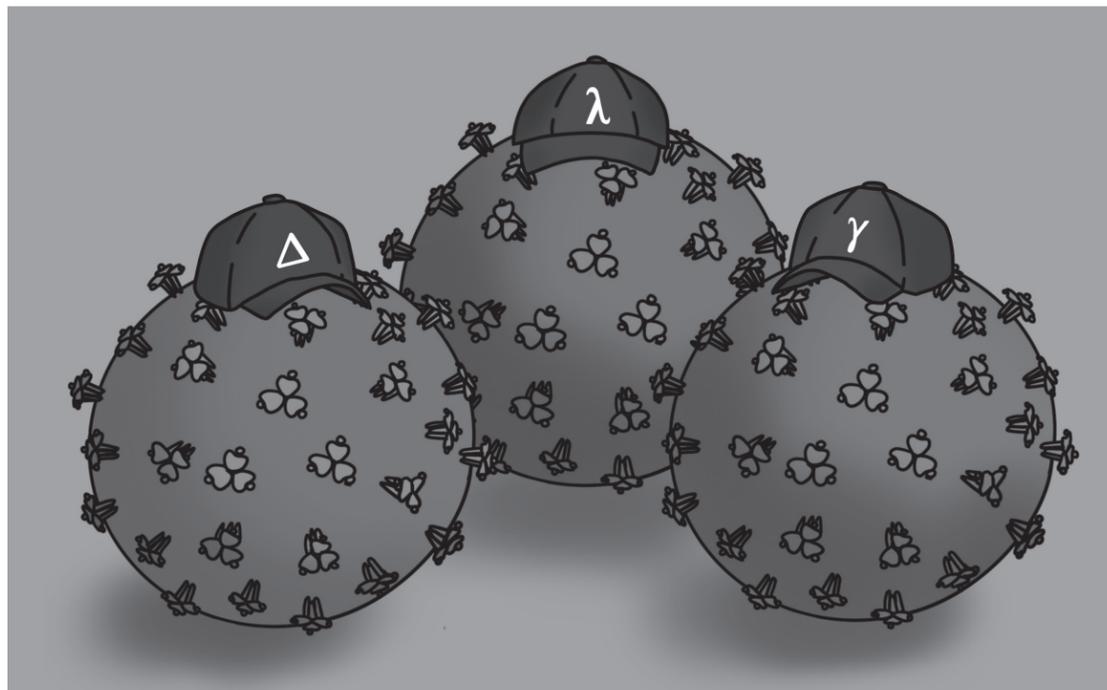
COVID-19 Variants to Form Fraternity

By Ben Schiffman
HUMOR EDITOR

Two friends who met on campus and formed a quick friendship are now on their way to forming a new Greek organization at the University. COVID Delta Lambda, although starting out small, intends to incorporate a large number of students and many other variants as they make their way onto campus from around the world.

‘CDL hopes to permeate its ideals not only at UR, but as far and wide as possible.’

CDL hopes to permeate its ideals not only at UR, but as far and wide as possible, and hopes to change the college experience for anyone attempting to get an education in the



next decade (or eternity). We spoke to the founding members to find out more about their missions.

Delta is coming to campus from Florida. He’s hoping

that he can reach a huge number of students while here and have them join the organization. “Even though it will be harder to recognize and meet new people with

the masks on, Lambda and I are confident that we can spread our message to a big portion of the campus community,” said Delta, the fraternity co-founder. “I really

believe that we can be a part of campus life this year.”

His partnership with Lambda is what is driving the fraternity to greatness, Delta said. “He quickly became my best friend,” Lambda said about Delta, “we are so similar, it almost feels like we’re twins. We already felt like brothers, so starting the fraternity together just made sense.”

Some students are wary of *“I really believe that we can be a part of campus life this year.”*

the duo, and have been trying to keep their distance from any social events they hold, while others are indifferent about their presence on campus. CT plans to keep tabs on COVID Delta Lambda as their case study on Greek life grows.

Schiffman is a member of the Class of 2023.

Journal of a Lonely Student Exposed, Published in Museum of Natural History

By Fabian Halblander
STAFF WRITER

Editor’s Note: The below text is a journal entry from the year 2021 found crumpled in a pile of used masks in the year 2087, and will be on display in the Museum of Natural History in the COVID-19 Pandemic Exhibit.

Journal day 572,

My lazy-ass mother made pancakes for dinner and acts like she’s doing us a favor. This took zero foresight and an entire 10 minutes of preparation, so don’t serve this to me like it’s gourmet. At least warn me next time so I can prime myself for the gut-punch of coming home to the smell of spongy carb discs slathered in corn syrup after a hard day at work. I might as well stuff my intestines with packing peanuts, and to make matters worse, now I’ll feel weird when I pound an entire container of Americone Dream later as Stephen Colbert ogle me like I’m a Republican senator at the “Q” convention.

Speaking of insects, I have a paralyzing phobia of caterpillars. Every time one of the hairy green turds inches by, I’m overtaken by an intense dread rooted in a traumatic childhood event that I have repressed — don’t ask me what it is, I have no clue, but it was terrible, I’m sure. The deepest caverns of my psyche are stuffed with gauzy, stringy globs of caterpillar silk and rendered inaccessible. Welcome to my twisted mind. Only The Very



Hungry Caterpillar in my brain knows what horrors lay beyond, and instead of apples or lollipops or pickles, he’s jonesing for serotonin.

I got Tinder again on my phone and kept it for a smidge and then deleted it after that, once again. It’s just not worth my time I don’t think. I was swiping for an entire hour (or it could have been two or maybe three, I don’t know). There’s no way they’re showing my profile to all the people that I see, because the count at the top (I paid for Tinder gold...as a joke) said I only

got three likes. Statistically, that makes no sense. I did the math. I also found this study that says, if Tinder were a country, its Gini coefficient would be 0.58. Journal, that means that Tinder has more income inequality than 95.1% of the world’s economies. Some estimate that the ratio of men to women on Tinder is nine-to-one. Nine-to-one! But it’s not a big deal. I’ll just go outside instead. It’s not like I was serious about finding love on Tinder; I was just bored. I’m not even concerned with finding love at all; I’m just

too busy. There’s not enough time in the day, except for when I have nothing to do but surf Tinder. Dear god, please help me, nobody likes me because I have a big nose.

I took a massive shit at work earlier, which I was purposely holding so that I could go at a time that I know people don’t usually have to go, like biorhythmically, and so I thought 12:30. It was great at first, but then this older dude that always seems to overestimate the closeness of our relationship walked in and recognized me by my Crocs-and-socks

combo. He started telling me about how he was excited to leave work early to pick up his idiot kid from day camp, or something. Figuring that my fate was pretty much sealed, I asked him his kid’s age and he said pre-school. And then, for whatever reason, he took that as an invitation to chronicle his child’s pre-academic, pre-social, pre-artistic, and pre-athletic history in near encyclopedic detail as I proceeded to pinch loafs. I made grunting noises to indicate my attention but also to vent some bodily pressure because man did I bank it. We went on like that until I had to wipe, at which point my discomfort hit its summit and I had no choice but to channel some realness, so naturally I interrupted his monologue by shouting that I needed to wipe my ass and that he should tell me about his kid some other time. We didn’t talk for the rest of the shift.

Thanks, journal, you’re always here when I need you. It’s so great to have a space where I can share my innermost thoughts and feelings without fear of judgement or the risk of being perceived. You are nice, safe, and voice activated Frozen themed diary. I wish I could stay, but I have a CT Humor deadline to meet. Fucking fantastic. I haven’t even started.

Best,
Fabian Halblander, ’23
Dreamer | Do-er | Libra

Halblander is a member of the Class of 2023.

CULTURE

Charlie Brown Musical

By Jacob Hanley
CULTURE EDITOR

I know I'm probably going to enrage a great deal of people by saying this, but I've never been the biggest fan of musicals. Call me tasteless, but more often than not they come off as monotonous and contrived to me, and I find myself constantly checking the time

'I've never been the biggest fan of musicals.'

when sitting through one.

So, when my friend suggested this past weekend that we go see the musical "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," I must admit that I wasn't particularly elated. I figured that I was about to repeat the all-too-familiar cycle of half-hearted investment in the plotline and characters, sneaky phone-glances during the heartfelt (yet typically drawn out) solos, and overwhelming apathy. Adding on to that, the fact that the performance was "family friendly" didn't exactly add to its excitement factor. Still, I agreed to come along — it was something to get me out of the house, even if it didn't sound like the most exciting excursion.

As the night of the show rolled around, I started mentally preparing myself for the next two hours as we set up lawn chairs at the outdoor venue. As the sky grew dark, the field slowly became more packed, and eventually, the actors took the stage. Before the opening number was even finished, I could feel myself slipping into the usual musical-induced state of ennui — that is, until the song concluded and Charlie Brown took the stage, alone. Sitting down on a bench with a peanut butter sandwich, he began lamenting the fact that he is incredibly lonely and always finds himself without anybody to eat with during school lunches. After a minute or two of moping around, a fleeting moment of butterflies rushes through Charlie Brown as he spots an unseen "cute little red-haired girl" also eating her lunch alone, not too far from him. He resolves to go over and talk to her but quickly melts into a panicked flurry of overthinking as he immediately falls victim to debilitating self-consciousness, frantically turning over every single reason why he is unworthy of her attention. "I'm so big a coward she probably wouldn't even look at me — in fact, she hardly ever looks at me!" he cries — only to cover his head with his paper bag from lunch when she does look at him.

The classic rehashing of "shy guy can't approach girl" was a simple trope — but to me, it resonated. This opening scene immediately portrayed Charlie Brown as an undeniably human

and even painfully relatable character, with his incredibly low confidence, crippling rumination, overanalysis of simple situations, and rapid shifts between motivation and self-doubt. It was amazing how such a simple scene could pack so much of the human experience of anguish and anxiety into just a few brief minutes, even through a cliché. Not only that, the scene was also able to do so in a way that was silly enough to appeal to children without sacrificing the integrity of its deeper meaning.

As the performance progressed, I was shocked yet intrigued and appreciative of how this intermingling of heavy topics and kid-friendly entertainment seemed to become a recurring theme throughout the play. Charlie Brown constantly discusses his poor mental health and even flat out admits how depressed he is at Lucy's makeshift "psychiatric help" booth. In one scene, Lucy herself proclaims "there's no single reason why I should go on living on this Earth" during a fit of self-loathing.

Now, before you go off thinking this musical an irredeemable sobfest, it's crucial to note that its darker moments were only a single part of the performance's whole picture. The play always seemed to find a silver lining and provide a sense of hope. One of my favorite scenes had Charlie Brown sing a song lamenting his lack of talent — he isn't "good at music like Schroeder," "happy like Snoopy," or "lovely" like Lucy. But by the end of the number, he realizes that despite this, he's still "the singular, remarkable, unique Charlie Brown." "I'm ME!" he triumphantly declares.

This moment really stuck with me. We so often try to define ourselves by our achievements and productivity at the expense of overlooking our inherent worth as individuals. Nobody loves Charlie Brown because he's particularly amazing at one thing. Everybody loves Charlie Brown because he's Charlie Brown — the clumsy, self-deprecating, insecure, but loveable four-year-old who's practically bald.

It got me thinking — if I were Charlie Brown, how would I feel about myself? Would I accept my quirks and imperfections as a part of who I am like everyone else does, or would I measure my worth by what I was good at like he initially did? I think that it can be easy to disregard the whole inherent worth thing when it comes to evaluating ourselves — so to see an embodiment of this concept in a character like Charlie Brown was eye-opening.

Maybe musicals aren't always so bad.

Hanley is a member of the Class of 2023.

A Review of Most Campus Dining Locations

By Sarah Woodams
STAFF WRITER

Between the largest first-year class ever, and a whole host of other students who have spent a year remote, the food options at UR may be a bit of a mystery for many on campus. Even as a junior who transferred here in Spring 2020, I still haven't uncovered every food-related delight UR has to offer. This guide covers the top dining choices that you may encounter during your fall semester. UR Dining's website has all of the details you will need for the menus and hours of the many dining locations on campus.

Douglass Dining Center:

The dining hall dubbed Duggie is a traditional college all-you-can-eat buffet. For students living on the quad, it is usually the first choice by default, as it's 500 feet closer than the other major dining hall (500 feet might not sound like a lot, but just wait until the first snow). The worst brownie I've ever had in my life was from Just Desserts because it was so dry, but I love that station's salted caramel ice cream. If I ever want to try something new, I know I can find something at Douglass because they have such a wide variety of options. A downside to this location is that it's closed on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

Danforth Dining Center:

I have never actually visited Danforth ("DFO" for the uninitiated), mainly because I only spent about 2.5 months on campus before COVID-19 hit, so I had to ask for an outside opinion. Campus Times Social Media editor Megan Browne describes Danforth as "super reliable," especially the pasta, sandwiches, salad bar, and burgers. They claim the pizza is worse than Douglass's, which is a little concerning to me because I don't find the pizza particularly appetizing at Douglass in the first place. DFO also has a vegan station that Browne's heard can be "hit or miss." Danforth is located in the Susan B. Anthony Residence Hall, so it's less centrally located than Douglass. But according to campus veterans, it's well worth the two-minute trek.

Eastman Dining Center:

If you're an Eastman student, this is really your only option unless you want to get on the shuttle over to River Campus. I haven't heard amazing things about it from Eastman students, but it appears to have a lot



HENRY LITSKY/PHOTO EDITOR

of options, including a grill, vegan station, deli, and some breakfast options. If you're a River Campus student in the city and don't feel like spending real currency, your declining will work at Eastman's dining hall.

The Pit:

The Pit is my favorite place to eat on campus and is where I spent 99% of my declining. There are a lot of local brands offered at the Pit such as Cheesy Eddies, Nathan's Soup and Salad, and California Rollin' II. Keep in mind that you can only use meal swipes at the Pit Monday-Friday from 5:00 pm till close and on the weekends. If you need to know what constitutes a swipe, there is a chart in Rocky's by the checkout that you can take a picture of.

Hidden Gem: Did you know next Friday there will be kabobs in the Pit for lunch? Check out the "Events" page on Dining's website to stay up to date on any special food pop-ups that might be coming. Dining loves to bring in local restaurants, hold themed dinners in Duggie and DFO, and is known to occasionally take over spaces they don't normally use for special events!

Grab & Go:

Grab & Go is conveniently located on the patio near the upper entrance to Douglass and offers, as you may have guessed, pre-prepared foods that you can "grab" and then "go." I've mostly seen sandwiches there, but they also serve bagels, fruit, breakfast parfaits, and soup. According to upperclassmen, first-years tend to sleep on Grab & Go, but it's definitely worth checking out for when you only have 10 minutes between classes.

Starbucks:

In case anyone didn't know, there is a Starbucks in Wilson Commons for anyone craving some coffee or overpriced pastries while they study. Most people order on Grubhub to avoid the lines. My personal Starbucks

favorite is a warmed up pain au chocolat (so I can pretend I am in Paris).

Peet's Coffee:

I can't speak to the quality of coffee at Peet's but I can say that I've had the worst bagel ever on a dreary January day there. I will go back this semester to see if anything has changed but I'm not getting my hopes up. The location is great in Wegmans Hall with huge glass windows looking out onto the engineering quad and a lot of different seating areas.

Connections:

If COVID-19 hadn't shut down the school, the chocolate chip muffins at Connections would've become a problem for me. Connections is a great place to stop if you're studying in iZone or Gleason or waiting for a shuttle. They have a lot of baked goods as well as soups to choose from.

Roots & Shoots:

This is a new location on campus, so your guess is as good as anyone's! If you're down by the engineering quad and are craving the healthiest food you can find at UR, head to Roots & Shoots. According to Dining's website, almost everything offered there is vegan and "plant forward."

Hillside Market:

Hillside is the closest thing you can find to a grocery store on campus. Unfortunately, it is incredibly, insanely overpriced. In addition to the astronomical sticker prices, most students make their purchases in declining, which has a weaker dollar value than an actual dollar, meaning you are paying even more for your item than the sticker says. It sells frozen meals, snacks, other groceries, toiletries, and more. I learned the hard way that you can only use UROs or cash to buy non-food items, so keep that in mind. At least UROs have a 1:1 ratio to cash. Hillside is located on the hill (shocker) inside the Susan B. Anthony Residence Hall.

Woodams is a member of the Class of 2023.

CULTURE

LIV ON THE EDGE

'A Little Life' Broke My Little Heart

By Olivia Alger
MANAGING EDITOR

Hello, lovers. Welcome (back) to campus, and welcome (back) to my column, "Liv on the Edge." This is a safe space in which I dissect things I love — like movies, music, books, relationships, and politics — and things I've been thinking about recently — like anxiety, the end of the world, and getting older, among other things.

This summer, I spent the majority of my time at home in Illinois, contemplating my mental health and reading books in the safety of my childhood bedroom. It's a strange, emotional landscape, the childhood bedroom — and, in my opinion, the best place to read Hanya Yanagihara's harrowing novel "A Little Life."

'We can only derive meaning from our lives as we live them.'

"A Little Life" is about childhood, and about adulthood, and addiction, and sexual abuse, and love, and, of course, life itself. The novel chronicles the lives of four adult men in New York City throughout several decades, bound to each other by their intense platonic love. It is one of the few novels I've ever encountered that focuses on male friendship, and one of even fewer novels that addresses life and love in such a complete form.

Released in 2015, the book was originally met with critical acclaim and ended up as a National Book Award Finalist. In the years since, however, criticism has arisen over Yanagihara's too-strong obsession with difficult themes. It's a whopping 814 pages, and each page gets harder and harder to swallow. Recently, one of my Creative Writing

professors reached out and asked what I had been reading this summer. "A Little Life," I told her. "Ah," she responded. "The novel that breaks friendships apart."

Indeed, one of the reasons I purchased "A Little Life" was for its mixed reviews I read online. In *The New Yorker*, critic Jon Michaud argues that such mixed reviews are a product of Yanagihara's presentation of graphic violence. One of the main characters, Jude, suffers from extreme depression and harms himself repeatedly throughout the novel. Yanagihara does not mention this as fact, however — she demonstrates it in scene, and continues to demonstrate it in scene, until the end of the novel. Jude's self-mutilation, Michaud writes in his 2015 article "The Subversive Brilliance of 'A Little Life,'" "is described with a directness that might make some readers queasy [...] the graphic depictions of abuse and physical suffering that one finds in 'A Little Life' are rare in mainstream literary fiction."

Sexual abuse is another violence presented throughout Yanagihara's book. In order to avoid spoiling the slow, simmering reveal of the characters' backstory, I won't mention which of the characters endure such abuse, but it is written in such vivid detail that I found myself needing to close the novel and put it down for a while. Not only is the abuse itself difficult to read, but it's made even more difficult by Yanagihara's tactic of mercilessly ripping away a character's carefully detailed backstory and childhood with one foul act of violence without mercy. "What makes this book's treatment of abuse and suffering subversive," Michaud writes, "is that it does not offer any possibility of redemption and deliverance beyond

these tender moments. It gives us a moral universe in which spiritual salvation of this sort does not exist."

Since such spiritual salvation does not exist, Yanagihara seems to argue, then we can only derive meaning from our lives as we live them — from our friends, from our art, and from our lovers. The four main characters are artists, and the book is permeated with otherworldly details about art and beauty. There are also prominent gay characters, and the book is wrought with conversations about queerness and love. These conversations do not seize the foreground of the novel, however. They're only one ingredient of the ultra-emotional soup that is "A Little Life."

Because of this, some

'Pay attention to the aspects of your life that give it meaning, even if they are very little.'

have hailed the novel as an "astonishing and ambitious chronicle of queer life in America" — as Garth Greenwell did in his 2015 *Atlantic* article "A Little Life: The Great Gay Novel Might Be Here." Of the four main characters, Greenwell writes, only one of them "unambiguously embodies an immediately recognizable and unambivalent gay identity." Yanagihara refuses to explicitly label the other three as one sexuality or another, which, Greenwell argues, warrants its position as the great gay novel of the century.

Additionally, Yanagihara refuses to define the time period in which the novel takes place — there is no reference to the current president or political era, thus forever suspending the story in time and sparing the characters from, as Greenwell writes, "the familiar narratives of gay fiction" like the anxiety faced in the wake of the AIDS epidemic or the uncertainty/frustration enduring during political arguments about gay marriage and mainstream acceptance. The characters just are — they live, breathe, and exist as realistically and wholeheartedly as you and I.

"A Little Life" is extremely dark and depressing, and although it completely destroyed me, it also completely changed my perspective on life. These are the most vivid, realistic characters I have read in a work of fiction in a long time, and, despite the fact that their little lives are painted in the immense beauty of Yanagihara's writing, they still are just that — little lives. As we embark on this new school year, I urge you to pay attention to the aspects of your life that give it meaning, even if they are very little.

Alger is a member of the Class of 2022.

A Rainy Day Visit to Roc City Skatepark



WILL LEVEE/CULTURE EDITOR

By Will Levee
CULTURE EDITOR

Even though I'm no skater, I've always considered Rochester to be a perfect location for an outdoor skatepark. Being a place that misses out on some of the pleasures awarded to big-name cities like New York or Chicago, Rochester fosters a grungy, do-it-yourself attitude in the pursuit of having fun, which breathes unique life into the cultural centers of the city, and gives them that singular Rochester flavor. So, when I noticed a skate park was being built under the highway on-ramp downtown, I was excited — not because I wanted to learn to skate (I'm a coward), but because a skate park is a perfect setting to facilitate the DIY charm of Rochester, acting as a sort of melting pot for people of all walks of life to bond over sick tricks and scraped up shins.

'Rochester fosters a grungy, do-it-yourself attitude in the pursuit of having fun.'

So, this past Saturday, I decided to visit the skatepark for the first time; not only to take a closer look at its physical design, but to take a peek at the sort of crowds it attracts.

When I approached the skatepark on foot, I noticed that all the skaters took cover from the rain under the highway, concentrating on a small slab of concrete with a ramp on the far end and a few rails to grind on. It was fascinating to see this small group of skaters take refuge under the highway together, but before I'd have a chat with them, I wanted to take a closer look at the rest of the skatepark itself.

I was struck by how much care went into the park's upkeep and design. Totally clear of any litter, the half pipes, grind rails, and bowls were designed with a consistent blue and yellow color scheme.

There were even multicolored rows of tile that lined the top edge of the park's bowls (see featured photo). My favorite touch was the Rochester city logo acting as a sort of support beam for a few of the grind rails.

'Even during a rainy day, life's heartbeat can be found at that park.'

After asking if I could take some photos for this article, I began chatting with Rochester skater Angel Vazquez.

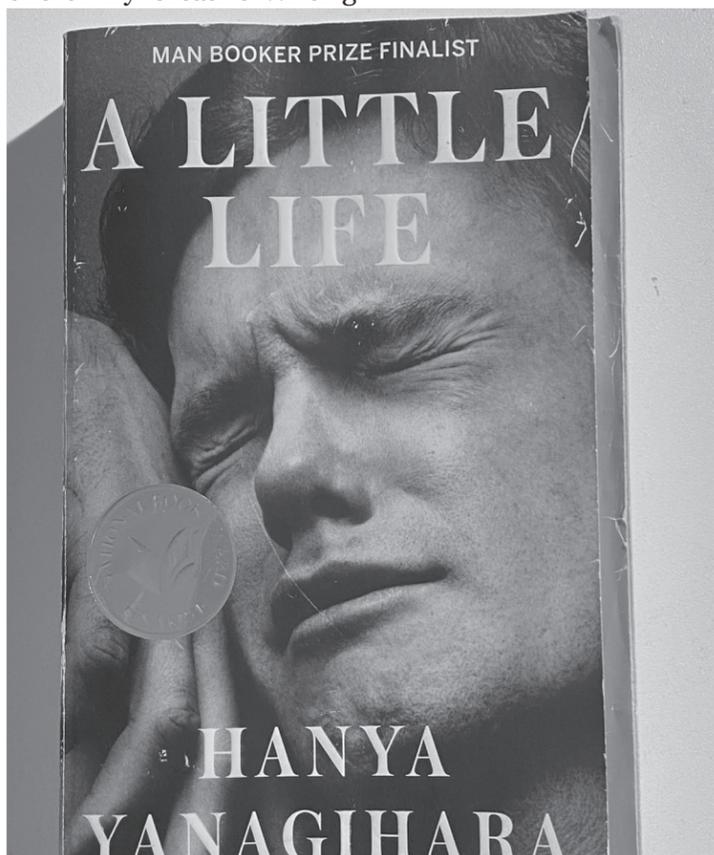
"All you need is a slab of concrete and a ramp, and you can spend thousands of hours learning hundreds of tricks," Vazquez said, gesturing towards the small area of concrete protected from the rain. "And once you've learned them all, you can do it all over again with a different stance."

He then pointed toward the other skaters. "Look at all these people. So many people from different walks of life come here to skate. No matter the color of your skin, or your denomination, everyone is brought together here by skating."

He then specifically pointed out a young man doing tricks on a nearby grind rail, saying, "See him? He's my best friend. He's not able to understand me because he's deaf, but we love to skate together. We communicate with each other through a notepad."

Soon after my conversation with Vazquez was over, I had to run off to my car because the parking meter I barely paid for was about to expire. And as odd as it sounds, while I was strolling back over the pavement thinking about our conversation, it felt as though the ground under my feet had a pulse. Even during a rainy day, life's heartbeat can be found at that park, pounding to the rhythm of polyurethane wheels rolling over concrete.

Levee is a member of the Class of 2022.



OLIVIA ALGER/MANAGING EDITOR

CT EATS

Bubby's BBQ is Worth the Price

By Hailie Higgins
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

By Ethan Busch
PUBLISHER

Welcome to CT Eats! This year, our culinary column exploring the best restaurants in Rochester is going to be split between our Publisher, junior Ethan Busch, and our Editor-in-Chief, senior Hailie Higgins. Busch and Higgins will trade off the title of columnist every other week, and come together once a month to write a joint review of that week's joint for our print edition.

The first stop for this year is Bubby's BBQ on South Avenue, just past Alexander Street.

Before we taste-tested, the Campus Times sat down with co-owners Demetrius Washington-Ellison and Terrell McClean on Saturday to talk about how Bubby's came to be.

The two founded the brick-and mortar location during the COVID-19 shutdown in early 2020, but the concept of Bubby's got on social media in 2019. McClean, the main chef, had started barbecuing as a hobby, selling paper plates of smoked meats out of his backyard smoker a few years back. As word got



ETHANBUSCH/ PUBLISHER

around, he started upgrading his equipment and getting involved with pop-ups at other businesses in the city.

Washington-Ellison and McClean met during one such event in summer 2020 at Viticulture, a nearby wine bar. Washington-Ellison was involved with at the time.

"The first pop-up was Ribs and Rose," Washington-Ellison said. "It was great, it was absolutely amazing. The second time, it was Brisket and Bordeaux. When I had it the second time, I was like 'I gotta talk to this guy!' [McClean] loved the idea, he could see the vision of the smoker on the patio [...] It just made sense, so we put our minds together and made it

happen."

The smoker on the patio was a great choice, as it was what got us through their doors. Driving down South, you pass their massive machine right next to the restaurant, pumping out delicious aromas all day long. The smell draws you in, and the food backs it up.

The menu is pretty simple: They currently have their meats, their sides, two sandwiches, and some bottled drinks, all written on the side of the wall. In the interest of seasonal fare, the menu will be changing soon for the fall. Though they don't plan to remove barbecue staples like pulled pork, ribs, brisket, and cornbread, the two hope to bring back their wings in time for football season, as

well as their fried chicken sandwich, the Fly Bird.

We got a half rack of ribs (\$15) and a half pound of brisket (\$14), with cornbread (\$2) and mac and cheese (\$6) on the side. All of it was incredible.

The ribs were doused in a fantastic barbecue sauce full of flavor, depth, and almost as much delectable smokiness as the meat itself. The meat was just the right amount of tender where it came off the bone, but didn't fall off on its own. The cornbread was moist, delicious, and a sweet (but not too sweet) reminder of how good a side of cornbread can be. The mac and cheese came with bits of bacon and fresh scallion, providing much-needed texture and pizzazz to a phenomenally creamy dish that was interesting enough to eat by itself, but simple enough to elevate the game of the meaty main attraction.

Our gripe was with the brisket, which felt small shoved into a container half the size of the ribs. But a half pound is a half pound, and we trust it was measured out. We were only sad because we wanted to eat more of it.

So how do you pack so much punch into your meat? You start cooking at 4 a.m., which is what McClean does every day the restaurant is open. This way, the food is ready by the time they open at 2.

As of right now, they're only open Friday through Sunday, 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., but they usually close a bit

earlier. Following a traditional BBQ platform, they cook as much as they can in the morning, and when it's gone, it's gone. This usually happens somewhere between six and seven, so we recommend heading in for an earlier dinner at the latest.

Looking for a late-night bite? Don't worry! The two do have plans to expand both their location and their hours eventually.

"Right now we're a small business, a very small business," McClean said. "And just like a lot of other restaurants, who've been affected lately about hiring the staff, we're in the same situation. So all of us are wearing different hats right now. His mom has been amazing, my wife behind the scenes has been amazing, we got Ronnie [another chef] back, he's been amazing."

Barbecue is rarely cheap, but in this case, it's definitely worth the price. If you want to go in person, the Orange Line has a stop at South and Alexander, right outside Bubby's front doors. You can also find them on Grubhub and Doordash.

"Come get some good food, come get some good ribs. You got the Bubby — [if] they want a good hang-over sandwich, it's the perfect sandwich," McClean said, laughing. "Tell 'em that: Every Sunday, come get the Bubby."

Higgins is a member of the Class of 2022.

Busch is a member of the Class of 2023.



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This Month in Photos

“This Month in Photos” is a new image column coming to the Campus Times, starting with this edition. The article will feature student-captured photographs of daily life on campus to help document Rochester for current and future readers of the CT. Anyone can submit photos and join the CT Photo Department by emailing photo@campustimes.org



WILLLEVE / CULTURE EDITOR



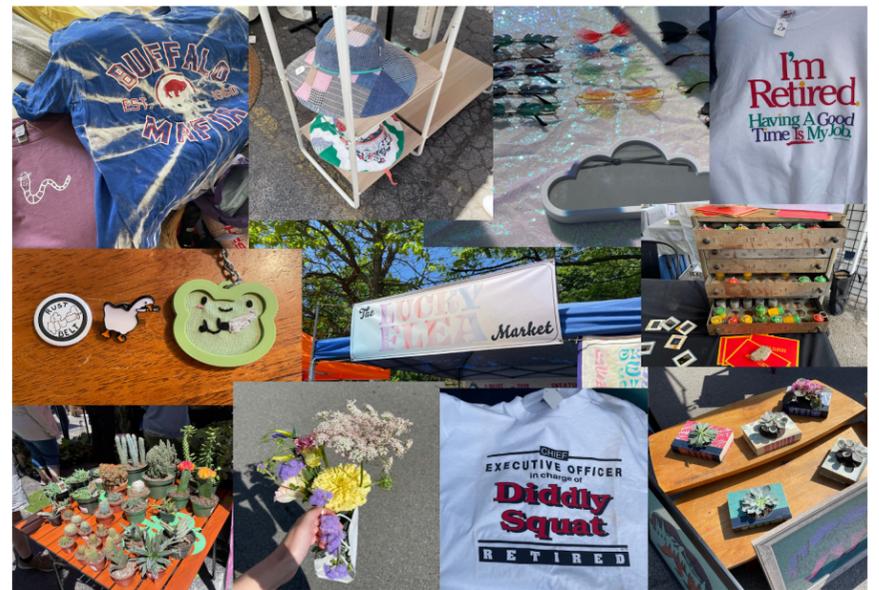
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HENRYLITSKY / PHOTO EDITOR



HENRYLITSKY / PHOTO EDITOR



SARAHWOODAMS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Campus Times General Interest Meeting

Interested in the student paper? From writers to photographers to graphic designers, we have a place for you! We have two GIMs, which will cover the same material.

Sunday, Aug 29 at 6 p.m. in Wilson Commons Room 104

Or

Sunday, Sept 12 at 6 p.m. in Wilson Commons Room 104