

Campus Times

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Students occupy frigid DPS lot, Mangelsdorf and DPS chief promise discussion



Students hang the first banner on Rush Rhees Library promptly at 1:00.

HENRY LITSKY / PHOTO EDITOR

By Henry Litsky
PHOTO EDITOR

By Wil Aiken
SENIOR STAFF

By Michael Vilakazi
NEWS EDITOR

They made their demands directly, in-person, in 34 degree weather.

Six hours into their Saturday occupation of the Department of Public Safety's parking lot, student activists spoke with President Sarah Mangelsdorf and Commissioner Mark Fischer over issues surrounding DPS.

They demanded the release of DPS' budget and disciplinary records, and that DPS cease responding to mental health calls, instead replacing the position with a trained mental health emergency response team.

By the end of the hour-long discussion, Mangelsdorf and Fischer had committed to holding serious discussions including representatives of the student group, particularly about their requests for a new mental health emergency response system and budget transparency.

"We know words mean nothing without action," the UR Abolition Coalition (URAC) wrote on Instagram, "so we look forward to holding the administration accountable."

They added: "We hope this occupation was a powerful reminder that direct action works and that coming together as a community creates change."

URAC began occupying the lot around 3 p.m., bringing sleeping bags, tents, and blankets. They remained there until early Sunday morning. In the occupation's first hours, the group of about 20 was writing slogans like "Abolish DPS" in chalk and hearing talks from professors — as well as a community member — who visited.

There were more tense moments later in the evening, first between students initially blocking DPS cars from exiting the lot and DPS officers, and later between students and the two occupants of a pickup truck flying a Blue Lives

Matter flag repeatedly passing the lot. By the time that confrontation de-escalated, Fischer had arrived.

URAC's demonstration began with a rally for abolishing DPS in front of Rush Rhees Library. They taped two large cloth signs to the building. Both signs listed demands: "Abolish DPS," "Sever Ties w/ [the Military Prison Industrial Complex]," and "Center Us."

Several spoke, wiping down the mic in between speeches. After a speaker read URAC's [list of demands](#), senior Amina N'Gambwa emphasized the demand that the University implement a policy barring DPS from responding to mental health calls. (Free the People Roc has been pushing for a similar law in regards to the Rochester Police Department called "Daniel's Law.") N'Gambwa also emphasized the demands for budget and disciplinary transparency. Senior Efua Agyare-Kumi — former Managing Editor of the Campus Times — spoke about DPS' history and gave a brief history of Black activism at UR.

"We know words mean nothing without action."

"College campuses across the country have histories of activism and college students as change-makers," junior Indy Maring said towards the end of the rally. "So we have to step into that role as college students."

Not long after, marching began. The demonstration moved from Rush Rhees to Susan B. Anthony Residence Hall where sophomore Elvis Vasquez read his poem highlighting the racist divide between the River Campus and the 19th Ward. At the same moment, UR alumni Jerry Rugley and Jason L. Cunningham walked up to the protest and later briefly spoke to the demonstrators.

"Campus security would stay by the footbridge to make sure 'the others' wouldn't come across," Rugley told the crowd, recalling his own experience of the divide Vazquez described.

READ THE REST [ONLINE](#).

Reslife Heads Talks Winter Stay, Spring Semester

By Hailie Higgins
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Students looking to stay on campus over the extra long winter break will be able to snag a room free of charge if they already have a housing contract for the school year.

Unlike previous years, River Campus students will not be relocated, and will remain in their regular dorms for either a short-term or long-term stay, according to the [Residential Life website](#). The former is from Nov. 25 until Dec. 19 (last day of finals), and the second from Nov. 25 to Jan. 22.

Students looking to stay could register using an online survey that closed today. Any student who has not yet reached out, or who wants to stay past Dec. 19 but doesn't have a spring contract, should contact winterstay-housing@reslife.rochester.edu.

Students looking to stay from November to January will have a mandatory \$895 dining fee. This is their only fee. Short-term students do not have a mandatory plan.

"We wanted to make sure that there's enough people to make a [dining plan] viable."

"We wanted to make sure that there's enough people to make a [dining] plan viable," Executive Director of Residential Life and Housing Services Laurel Contomanolis said. "In order to do that, we [...] need to have a certain number of students, so that we can have a dining plan for that period [...]" This is a different kind of situation this year.

She explained that although students might be in facilities with kitchen access, most of those kitchens will be shut down for the break, so those students are not exempt. As usual, unused declining from this period will roll over to the spring semester.

According to Contomanolis, students will only have swipe access to their dorms, the first floor of Susan B. Anthony for Hillside, and a handful of common spaces such as Rush Rhees and Wilson Commons. Wilson Commons Student Activities will have limited programming during the break, the ResLife website reads.

Students staying short-term or long-term must remain within 100 miles of the University at all times. Students who leave at any point are not allowed to return until the scheduled move-in at the end of January, at which point they will have to quarantine and take a COVID-19 test while they wait for the results, according to Contomanolis.

Looking to the spring, Contomanolis does not expect any significant changes to the COVID-19 policies currently in place.

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HENRY LITSKY / PHOTO EDITOR

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CAMPUS

UR Reacts to a Rocky Election

By Micah Greenberg
FEATURES EDITOR

On Nov. 3, millions of people from around the world — including much of the UR community — watched as the results of the American election began to trickle in. But some close states took days to count, causing increased anxiety and anticipation.

President-elect Biden did not claim victory until major news networks called the election for him on Saturday, Nov. 7. President Trump has not yet conceded, and alleges in lawsuits that illegal voter fraud is responsible for his defeat, and that he won the election if only legally-cast votes are counted. So far, there is no substantive evidence of voter fraud.

Classes on Election Day were cancelled this year. Ostensibly the day off, which was officially referred to as a “Study Break” or “Mental Health Day,” was granted in response to a student petition asking for days off to quell academic burnout and make up for the cancellation of fall break.

Having Election Day specifically off was a request of the petition. “With November 3rd being the Election day,” the petition read, “students require and deserve an opportunity to go out and vote (some for the first time in their lives).” However, though people registered to vote in the Rochester area had an easier time voting on Election Day, others found themselves unproductive



HENRY LITSKY/PHOTOEDITOR

Alisia Weekly celebrates the news of a Biden-Harris victory on November 7th at the Liberty Pole.

WINTER FROM PAGE 1

Winter Stay, Spring Move-in

“As much as I would love to see us be able to lift the [ban on guests in dorms], [...] we’ve got to be really careful,” she said. “I get it — I mean, it’s really tough: people with relationships, and wanting to make friends.”

“We’ve had quite a few positive students [in the past few weeks],” Contomanolis said. “We’ve done our best to get people into quarantine, to try to keep that contained. We’ve got our fingers crossed that we’re on top of it. But some of the [cases] had some pretty significant contact levels when the contact tracers really [got] into it.”

“We’ve had quite a few positive students [in the past few weeks], we’ve done our best to get people into quarantine, to try to keep that contained.

We’ve got our fingers crossed that we’re on top of it.”

Students are required to vacate their rooms by Wednesday, Nov. 25 at 9 a.m., and are encouraged to pack up their belongings to the best of their ability.

“While we fully expect to be in-person in Spring 2021 [...] we ask that you take this precaution in case the situation with COVID-19 unexpectedly worsens and the University is not able to resume in-person for spring term,” the website reads.

“I suspect that a lot of students who are able to go home are going to go home, and [returning to campus] is going to be part of the conversation over Thanksgiving dinner,” Contomanolis said. “[so] what we’re asking students to do as they prepare to depart is to at least gather things together in your room.”

She said that ResLife will be getting a “limited supply” of boxes and bags to store students’

or unable to de-stress on the “Mental Health Day” because of the anticipation of the results.

“My students are having a very difficult time is my sense of it. The pandemic, Zoom fatigue, and now the election,” Associate Professor of Religion Joshua Dubler said. “My sense is that neither the administration nor — in aggregate — their professors, have been sufficiently attentive and responsive to the cumulative weight of it all.” Dubler added that he made sure to discuss those issues in class and cancel all of the material that would’ve been covered on Election Day as opposed to pushing back the due dates.

Though Dubler was relieved by Biden’s victory, and by the signs that indicated a coup was not imminent, election night was not particularly reassuring. “I’m addicted to Twitter like everybody else, which generally does not make a person feel good,” he said.

He expressed concern that the Democratic Party is not committed enough to policy change. “Where I’m encouraged is with the rising power of the social democratic faction inside the Democrat Party [...] to my mind this growing faction represents our last, best chance at pushing back against empire (abroad and at home), massive wealth disparities, and gathering climate collapse.”

Elaine Sia, a professor in the Department of Biology, similarly found election night stressful. “I watched the election coverage until [around 10 p.m.], then I just had to turn it off. I really didn’t sleep at all,” Sia said. Sia found the historic nature of Kamala Harris’ election as vice president especially noteworthy. “It is high time to see a woman as vice president, if not president,” she said.

Senior Liam Bethlendy had somewhat of the opposite experience. “We had all agreed not to watch, but easily broke down around 10 p.m.,” Bethlendy said. “Sitting with my housemates we alternated espresso and hard alcohol in the way that doctors don’t recommend. But I figured this would be the last celebration of ‘American not listening to good reason,’ so I went ahead with this combination.” He later added that he managed to fall asleep despite the coffee and alcohol.

Ted Pawlicki, an associate professor in the



HENRY LITSKY/PHOTOEDITOR

Computer Science department, spent election night looking at results online. “I didn’t watch any broadcast news shows, as I consider modern corporate news more hype and entertainment than information,” he said.

Pawlicki was hoping for a strong victory for President Trump, as well as a clear winner on election night. “I am proud that there is no ‘quit’ in President Trump,” Pawlicki said. “I am thankful that the Democrats did not immediately begin the type of rioting and looting that we have witnessed during the past months.” To Pawlicki, mail-in voting was a “debacle” that needs to be re-evaluated along with other election security issues.

He also added that he was encouraged to see students react to the drawn-out post-election drama maturely. “I am saddened by the fact that so many young people feel the need to self-censor their political opinions,” he said. “Over the past year or so, I was continually encouraging young people to get involved in the hands-on political process.”

After Biden was declared President-elect, there were several impromptu celebrations by his supporters throughout the city, ranging from an organized gathering at the Liberty Pole to drivers honking their car horns in celebration.

Greenberg is a member of the Class of 2021.

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‘Students are required to vacate their rooms by Wednesday, Nov. 25 at 9 a.m., and are encouraged to pack up their belongings to the best of their ability.’

in good order before they leave,” she said.

When students return in the spring, they will be required to take a COVID-19 test before entering New York State, and will have to quarantine until they receive the results. The University has arranged up to 500 spaces in local hotels, which will be covered up to 95% by financial aid, depending on a student’s level of need. “Students may be responsible for up to \$1386 of the cost,” the website reads. Students concerned about the cost of quarantine or the mandatory winter stay meal plan should contact their financial aid advisor for more information.

Like the fall, students must register for a date and time, according to the ResLife website. Registration for spring move-in will be available Jan. 4, 2021.

Henry Litsky contributed to the reporting for this article.

Higgins is a member of the Class of 2022.

COMMUNITY

Chanel Hines, Trans Woman, Shot by Parole Officer

By Alex Prideaux
STAFF WRITER

On Tuesday, Nov. 3, Chanel Hines was shot three times in the chest and hospitalized by Jeff Smith, her parole officer.

Early media reports on the situation, and the official Ontario County Sheriff report both misgendered Hines, who is a trans woman.

In the report, the Ontario County Sheriff’s office stated that Chanel Hines (referring to her by the wrong name, and using male pronouns) had attempted to run down her parole officer Smith, which resulted in Smith firing his weapon seven times, hitting Hines three times.

Hines is accused of violating parole by stealing a bottle of liquor.

According to Bonnemere, Hines, who was taken to Strong Memorial Hospital and is stable, is being denied basic rights: For the first 10 days of her hospitalization, Hines was denied any form of contact from friends and family outside of one five-minute call.

“They told me she was out of surgery and that the NYS division of parole had blocked all access, so I could not have a phone call, I would not be granted, she was in ICU, [...] I could not send a letter or a card,” Bonnemere said in a [video](#).

Before the sole five-minute phone call Hines was granted with her mother, Bonnemere said she was told to “not ask her what happened or you’ll be disconnected,” as she was “on speakerphone.” While she was speaking with her daughter, Bonnemere said that, “[Hines] asked me why he shot her.”

In addition, when Hines was allowed to meet with her attorney, two parole officers remained in the room during the interview. “Whatever happened to attorney-client privilege?” Bonnemere said. “Where’s our justice?”

Members of a community activist group known as L.A.B.L. – otherwise known as Liberate All Black Lives – protested outside the Public Safety Building on Nov. 12, demanding that Bonnemere be granted access to her daughter. Many of the chants that night referenced violence against trans people across America. For example, according to [various studies](#), trans people face a suicide rate between [14 and 22 times](#) higher than cisgender people.

The organizers also touched on statistics surrounding Rochester’s recent history of crime, connecting a lack of violent crime to the Black Lives Matter movement and questioning the role of police in Rochester.

“From Oct. 7 all the way back in 2011, there’s been a grand total of 100,657 crimes reported,” Shango said. “In the past 9 years, 0.3% of crimes in Rochester have been a murder [...] 0% of crimes have been manslaughter, there’s been one manslaughter in the past 9 years, 5.9% of crime has been motor vehicle theft.”

In addition, 84.1% of crimes were property crimes which led the Rochester Police Department to spend “100 million dollars for policing property crime,” according to Shango.

“The police are obsolete,” he said. “Imagine getting paid 100,000 dollars to fix a fucking barricade; imagine accepting 100,000 dollars to brutalize people.”

These statistics match ones reported by the RPD [Open Data Portal](#), a database of information compiled by Rochester Police Forces. The remaining 9.7% of crimes are composed primarily of aggravated assaults.

After the protest was called for the night, L.A.B.L. stepped aside to share a few messages with the press: “Fuck 12.”

“Protect our Black trans women.”

“We want Chanel Hines free, we want [Smith] arrested, we want the transphobic media to stop misgendering her: Chanel Hines.”

The next day, following another protest outside Strong Hospital, Bonnemere was granted access to call her daughter for 30 minutes per day, but protests are planned to continue until significant reform is made in Rochester.

Prideaux is a member of
the Class of 2022.

CT EATS

The Campus Times Wants to Hear Your COVID-19 Experiences



By Olivia Banc
COLUMNIST

This week, I bring you yet another break from our regularly scheduled program... whoops. I’ve been neck-deep in grad school applications all week. After I finalized and submitted my very first one (woo!), I was craving some Chinese food on that cold, cold Saturday night. I truly did scour the internet for a Black-owned Chinese restaurant in Rochester, but I could not find a single one. If anyone happens to know of one, let me know.

Anywho — Szechuan Opera! I’ve had food from Szechuan Opera maybe twice before this occasion and, oh my goodness, it fucks, every time. (I mean that in the most elegant of ways, of course). Everything I have ever had from them has been so incredibly flavorful, balanced, and perfectly cooked. They absolutely delivered on that again this time around. This was exactly the delish Chinese meal that I was craving after my stressful week.

‘I truly did scour the internet for a Black-owned Chinese restaurant in Rochester.’

For our appetizer, I switched things up and tried out some dan dan noodles, which I’d never had before. They were a complex mix of nuttiness, umami, meatiness, and spice. The light meatiness came from some sparse bits of a mystery meat (I think it was beef?). It brought a nice flavor to the dish and a tiny bit of texture, so I’ll call that a win. The dan dan noodles were a great departure from my beloved go-to order of cold sesame noodles. I would order them again without question.

Next, I tried the dry pot-style tofu, which I also loved. The tofu had a light, chewy fry on the outside and was wonderfully soft and moist on the inside. All of the different vegetables (of which there was a great variety) were cooked perfectly as well. They brought many different flavors and textures to the dish. There was

an overall deep, bright flavor to the sauce as well as quite a bit of heat — which seemed only mild-medium at first, but built up quite forcefully.

Our next entrée was filled with some sneaky spice. The cumin style chicken had a strong, rich flavor. It was moist, topped with tons of yummy cilantro, salted perfectly, and oh my god it was spicy like no other dish. The heat was strong right from the get-go and continued to build up progressively. This was the first time that I’ve ever felt the heat in my ears, which was a wild sensation. If you have IBS (like me), I’ll warn you that this dish hurts. But if you love heat (also like me), then it’s definitely worth it.

‘I’ve had food from Szechuan Opera maybe twice before [...] and oh my goodness, it fucks, every time.’

I also had the great pleasure of trying out some desserts! Szechuan Opera offers quite a compelling list, so it was hard to choose, but we eventually settled on a combo plate of sesame balls and pumpkin pies. The sesame balls were textbook perfect in every way. They were crisp and just lightly fried outside, rich and chewy inside, nice and hot, sweet and nutty, and really flavorful. The gummy dough, which normally is pretty plain, actually had a lot of sweetness and sesame flavor, which was really nice.

And the pumpkin pies were more like chewy pumpkin donuts than little miniature pumpkin tarts. They were slightly flattened, fried, and rolled in sugar. They were super crispy outside because of the coarse sugar, but the inside was an interesting chewy and cakey texture that felt like a cross between a chewy sesame ball and a fluffy donut. The pumpkin flavor was light but prominent, and really lovely. Much like everything else from Szechuan Opera, I’d recommend both of these desserts.

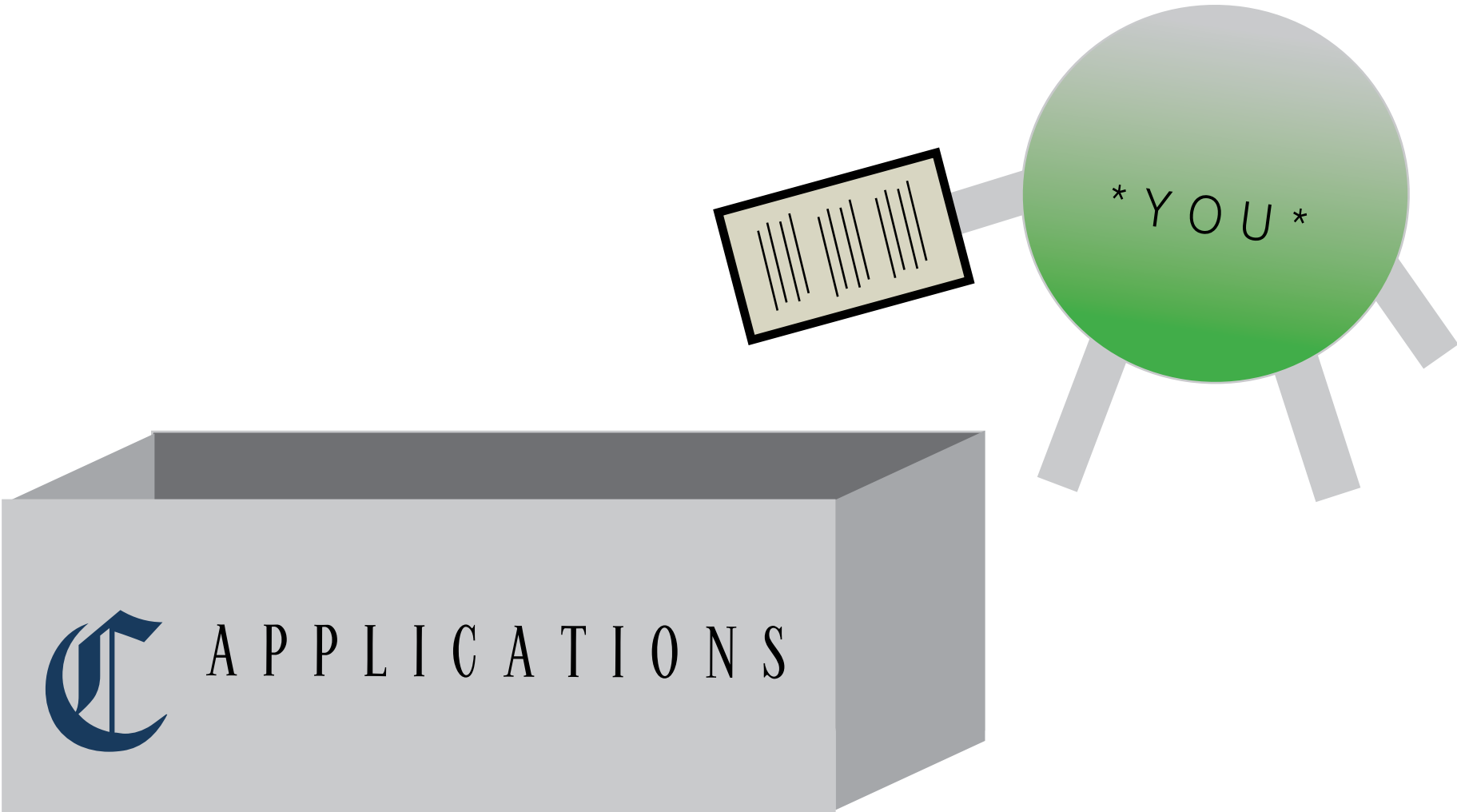
Other honorable mentions from Szechuan Opera that I’ve enjoyed in the past include but are not limited to: the lotus root, soupy style entrées, spring rolls, and all of the bubble teas (no, I have not tried literally all of their bubble teas, but based on the ones I have, I’d bet money they’re all delightful). Szechuan Opera is pricier than your typical Chinese takeout, but it truly is miles above the rest, so I’d encourage everyone to try it at least once if you can; it’s a real treat. Consider me singing for Szechuan Opera and, if you try it out, I guarantee you will be, too.

Banc is a member of
the Class of 2021.



OLIVIA BANC/COLUMNIST

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Applications are due December 10 to publisher@campustimes.org

OPINIONS

Neutrality Accomplishes Nothing

By James Gunn
PRESENTATIONS CHIEF

Measures for Justice is a [Rochester-based nonprofit](#) creating measures to address criminal justice reform in communities. Admirable. They recognize communities’ inability to adequately self-reflect. They try to be non-partisan — by that they mean they suggest no policy, and they identify no individuals whose behaviour is reprehensible, or even criminal.

Justice is a simple word. It is not a simple act. Non-partisanism means nothing. It’s a surrender to the status quo, an admission that you’re unwilling to sacrifice in order to improve patterns of inequality and wrong. It relies on the misunderstanding that people are capable of acting in pure goodwill, and that it’s worth working with everyone out of an expectation of “fairness.”

If I say All Cops Are Bastards, you might scream, “No! That isn’t fair. That isn’t just, to condemn one because of the actions of others. They’re good people, with just a few bad apples.”

You could say one bad apple spoils the bunch if it weren’t so horribly cliché, and if it weren’t so wrong.

Because cops aren’t apples. Apples don’t reinforce the institutions that make life hell.

To be a part of an institution is a choice, a choice to prolong it, to allow its hold to tighten around the spirit of the citizen who never consented to its creation. There is no “changing it from the inside.”

There are no good apples. There is only the persistence of the institution and those who dare to confront it.

For everyone, there’s a self-truth, a framework to their lives, that they’re too cowardly to fight. Our self-interest binds us to a group, chains our minds to dogma. We internalize expectations of how the world should work, and recoil when that’s challenged. We act a certain way because that’s just how things are done. That’s what’s proper.

For that, we all are the bastards.

By “institutions” I don’t only mean formal institutions like the police force, government, or laws that are always in focus. I mean the structure behind your behaviour, your disposition, your attitudes towards other people and concepts. Concepts like justice.

It’s so easy to forget where privilege comes from. It’s easy to forget the self-interest that leads us to lie passively with institutions. That’s why it’s so easy to forget the alienation that permeates societies. Humanity suffers for that stagnation and the lives we live because of it.

Measures for Justice is a tool. Tools accomplish nothing without the will to use them. That will doesn’t just emerge. It doesn’t just arrive because Black men and women are murdered in their homes and on the streets, it doesn’t appear because of the genocide of Indegenous peoples. It isn’t the product of city councillors doing their job.

That will is the result of the painful realization that things are wrong in the world, and then the decision to act on them. The will to fight comes only from confronting the fact that everything you’ve lived for, everything you were raised on, is intertwined with injustice.

No, tools are not enough. Support is not enough. Words are not enough.

Frankly, I haven’t had that necessary courage. Few have. It’s isolating, standing as an individual against a group. But the willingness to stand alone is what separates you from the “bad apples.”

What we need isn’t tools, or change from within, or the slow chipping away at the vast inequalities that structure all human relationships. We need those willing to stand alone, together.

Gunn is a member of the Class of 2021.

EDITORIAL BOARD

The Campus Times Wants to Hear Your COVID-19 Experiences



HENRY LITSKY/STAFF WRITER

Every student on campus has heard at least one rumor this semester about parties gone wild, students unable to get a COVID-19 test, and so much more. All corners of campus have expressed frustrations behind closed doors at ridiculous policies and even more ridiculous policy violations they believe have gone unchecked.

But the Campus Times hasn’t been able to report on these, because nobody will go on the record. We can’t report on the rumors because we can’t find a single source to confirm them.

This is frustrating for a newspaper. We aim to keep the student body informed, and we especially want to give people the information they need to make safe decisions during a pandemic. But we can’t publish unconfirmed, potentially inaccurate hearsay. We need students to step up and talk to us about their experiences.

As journalists, we’re required to have a source for everything we say. We don’t make up the news, and we don’t present our opinions as facts. When someone comes to us asking for anonymity, we risk our credibility. By publishing an anonymous account, we’re telling our readers, “Trust us, this is a real person. We’re not making this up.”

That being said, we’ll take any sources we can get. We won’t take rumors, but we can work with anonymous experiences that corroborate each other. If you have a valid fear of retaliation if you go on

the record, we will work with you. And we certainly would never release any source’s identity unless they’ve consented.

It’s not just our peers that we have to hold accountable for partying and other policy violations; it’s also the University. We have heard rumors of difficult quarantine experiences, a lack of access to testing, and unwritten exceptions to rules.

We aren’t so dramatic and anti-administration as to think there’s a big conspiracy where administrators are endangering our community in the name of saving face. They likely have legitimate reasons for decisions they’ve made this semester. But we don’t even know what we don’t know.

That’s where you come in.

Because we’re all human beings, we aren’t following University policies perfectly. We might be doing great — as we said, we don’t really know — but we could always do better.

Monroe County is in the [yellow zone](#) right now, severely limiting gatherings and activities.

We can’t tell how much of that is our fault; we aren’t aware of our own blind spots. So give us a hand: Fill out this [Google Form](#) if you have a personal experience related to COVID-19 that you want us — and everyone else — to know about (again, we won’t publish your name without your consent). You can also email editor@campustimes.org.

If we aren’t the ones to get the story, [who will?](#)

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), Corey Miller-Williams (Managing Editor), and Micah Greenberg (Features 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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WILSON COMMONS 103A
UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER, ROCHESTER, NY 14627
OFFICE: (585) 275-5942 / FAX: (585) 273-5303
CAMPUSTIMES.ORG / EDITOR@CAMPUSTIMES.ORG

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Why Dining Halls Should Give Meatless Mondays a Shot

By Muskaan Vasandani
STAFF WRITER



HENRYLITSKY / PHOTO EDITOR
Douglass dining hall nearly empty as dining staff prepare for the dinner rush.

Imagine: It’s around one in the afternoon, and you’re waiting for class to end so you can finally grab lunch. You’re starving because you skipped breakfast in the rush to get to your 9 a.m. class and have been busy since then. After a torturous wait, your class finally ends, and you dash to a dining hall, only to see that it’s filled with food that you can’t eat due to dietary restrictions.

Sounds like a nightmare, huh? But for vegetarians and vegans, this is our sad reality.

Contrary to popular belief, people who don’t eat meat aren’t always stuck-up, fancy folks from LA who shop exclusively at Whole Foods. A lot of us choose this lifestyle for sensible reasons and have never seen the inside of a Whole Foods.

‘A lot of us choose this lifestyle for sensible reasons and have never seen the inside of a Whole Foods.’

Forgoing meat is a conscious and thoughtful choice that people make because they think that easing the burden on our earth is more important than satisfying their taste buds. These people come from all walks of life — from famous celebrities to broke college students.

I know what you’re thinking: What difference is one person who doesn’t eat hamburgers going to make? Researchers at the University of Oxford [found](#) that cutting meat and dairy products from your diet could reduce an individual’s carbon footprint from food by up to 73%. If everyone stopped eating these foods, they found that global farmland use could be reduced by 75%, an area equivalent to the size of the U.S., China, Australia, and the EU combined.

My intention here isn’t to persuade anyone to quit eating meat entirely — one article isn’t enough to do that. I just want to ensure that every Yellowjacket has the opportunity to have a good, filling lunch and maybe even get a peek at what a meat-free lifestyle looks like.

I strongly believe that having Meatless Mondays at just one dining hall every week is a great idea. It’s inclusive, as there will still be options available for meat eaters in other dining locations on campus. An added benefit is that this will reduce the University’s carbon footprint significantly, while giving people a taste of vegetarian food — which really isn’t bad at all.

One vegan counter in Danforth is definitely not enough to serve everyone on campus. Take it from someone who hasn’t touched meat in four years — it isn’t easy to fill yourself up from the salad bar alone. But if an entire dining hall served bean burgers and eggplant lasagna, even for just one day a week, it would be an absolute treat for vegetarians and meat-eaters alike.

Vasandani is a member of the class of 2022.

Students’ Complicated Relationship with WiFi

By Micah Greenberg
FEATURES EDITOR

On Thursday night, I was in the middle of a club’s weekly meeting. The meeting was going well until, suddenly, everyone’s Zoom square froze, and the audio cut out. About half a minute later, it was back, but a third of the people had been booted from the meeting.

Soon I found out what happened through my hall’s group chat: The WiFi had cut out for the entirety of Riverview A, and likely for other Riverview buildings, too. When someone called IT, they learned that they were doing maintenance from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. and that they didn’t know when service would be restored.

Luckily, the WiFi was restored in about an hour. But some people had assignments due that night and had to scramble to find ways to work on them in the meantime, whether by using data to create a hotspot or by writing offline if possible.

This wasn’t the first time this semester that I’ve had WiFi issues. It feels like at least a couple times a week, everyone in my meeting freezes as I’m greeted by the ominous warning: “Your internet connection is unstable.”

Students often joke about renaming the University’s WiFi network from “UR_Connected” to “UR_Not_Connected,” and I’m beginning to understand why.

Likely, the WiFi this semester is no different than in past semesters. My WiFi definitely cut out in the past, but since being online is so important — and so constant — this semester, I notice it more.

Of course, it’s extremely difficult to build a system that can handle thousands of students streaming classes at once. And I’d much rather

the University spend money on testing, subsidized housing, meal plans for winter stay, and quarantine capacity than on reducing the amount of times my WiFi cuts out from five times a week to once a week.

Additionally, I understand that the University can only make a difference for people living on campus, leaving people who were unable to return to campus to figure out their internet issues on their own.

But this semester more than ever, WiFi matters to us.

In order for online classes to work, we need WiFi to work. In order to take online tests and turn in online assignments, we need WiFi to work. In order for clubs to function online, we need WiFi to work.

When Zoom tells me, “Your internet connection is unstable,” it’s a reminder not just that the WiFi is unstable, but also that my personal connections with others in general are subject to the random whims of poor internet service and a global pandemic.

This year, running social and academic life through a screen has become a necessity. But it’s also becoming a habit. Is that a problem? I don’t know. And even after the pandemic, we’ll all still use computers and want good WiFi. It’s just important to remember how dependent on it we’ve become.

Take the time when your internet freezes to reflect on what you want your relationship with technology to be after the pandemic, or to think about just how much scientific innovation has improved our lives.

Alternatively, spend the brief periods your WiFi cuts out praying that the meeting is being recorded so that you can go back and find what you missed.

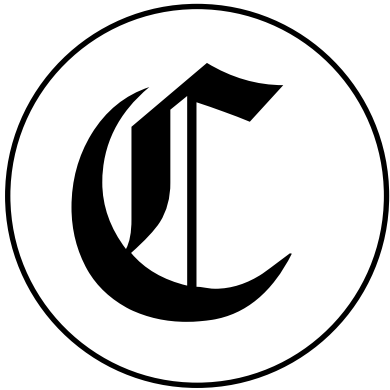
Greenberg is a member of the class of 2021.



HENRYLITSKY / PHOTO EDITOR
The IT center help desk in Rush Rhees serves as the home for students with technical issues.

Have an idea for a piece? Write for us!

If you’re interested, email our editor-in-chief:
editor@campustimes.org



CULTURE

My First Weekend with the PlayStation 5

By WILL LEVE
CULTURE EDITOR

Getting my hands on the PS5 was a pain in the ass, but boy was it worth it. I would have never secured one on launch day had it not been for the help of a close friend, but I’m happy to report that it was totally worth the headache.

The PlayStation 5 is an awesome piece of tech with great games, and my first weekend with the thing was honestly unforgettable.

After the longest car ride of my life, I unboxed the console and set it up inside one of the shelves of my TV stand. I was honestly grossed out by the design of the console when it was first revealed online, but I’m glad to say that it’s a slick looking machine in person. The white arches that sandwich the console give it a premium and futuristic look, kind of like what you’d imagine Elon Musk’s house looks like. And even though it’s massive, the added space gives the console airflow, so it runs much cooler and more quietly than the PS4. In fact, the machine is virtually silent when playing games at their most hardware intensive settings.

‘It runs much cooler and more quietly than the PS4.’

PlayStation 5’s upgraded hard drive is a pleasant surprise as well. It reduces load times to virtually nothing, and makes the console’s menu systems feel far snappier than any console I’ve used before. These reduced load times drastically streamline the experience of certain games as well. One of the PS5’s exclusive launch games is a remake of a 2009 PS3 classic, “Demon’s Souls.” In the OG version of “Demon’s Souls,” you die a shit ton ‘cause the game is hard, and it sends you back to the beginning of the level after every death. On the PS3, it would take upwards of two and a half minutes to load back to the beginning of a level, but thanks to the PS5’s new harddrive, the remake’s load times are usually about five seconds.

I have to mention the Dualsense as well, which has to be the best gaming controller I’ve ever used.

Its feel is a bit bulkier than the PS4 controller, but its face buttons, triggers, and thumbsticks all feel much more tactile and responsive. The controller also brings two new transformative features to the table: dynamic triggers and haptic feedback. The dynamic triggers can be programmed to take more or less pressure to push depending on the design of the game. For example, if you’re playing “Spider-Man: Miles Morales” and Spider-Man launches a web, the triggers will increase in pressure as your character arches their swing to simulate the feeling of swinging on a webbed rope.

‘The remake’s load times are usually about five seconds.’

The haptic feedback works similarly, in that it simulates what the player character is experiencing on screen. For example, if you’re playing “Demon’s Souls” and an enemy strikes a sword against your shield, the controller’s internal haptic feedback motors will simulate the feeling of metal clashing. If an enemy launches an explosive and it hits the ground to the left of your player character, the left side of the controller will simulate the feeling of the explosion. It’s hard to explain with words, but these features are a fucking trip and one of the most rewarding innovations in gaming hardware since the hybrid design of the Nintendo Switch.

A console would be nothing without its games, and the PS5 has some great ones, specifically its exclusive launch titles “Spider-Man: Miles Morales” and “Demon’s Souls.” Both games take advantage of the console’s new features and provide a thorough first impression of what to expect from this new generation of games.

“Spider-Man: Miles Morales” is a sequel to “Marvel’s Spider-Man” from 2018, and even though it’s smaller in scale, it still brings enough gameplay and story improvements to the table to make it a worthy sequel and an even better game than its predecessor. The power of the PS5 makes swinging around NYC pop more than ever thanks to new “ray tracing” lighting technology. This new tech allows extremely detailed lighting effects, so



HENRY LITSKY / EDITOR

the glow of neon signs and passing cars realistically reflect off the puddles in the street as you zip through the city.

My favorite of the launch games I’ve played so far is the remake of “Demon’s Souls,” an extremely difficult medieval fantasy dungeon crawler. It also has to be the best looking console game I’ve ever lain my eyes on. The level of detail in its character models, environments, sound design, and overall presentation are consistently jaw-dropping and bring a whole new level of polish to an already classic game.

The mechanics of the game are basically unchanged from the 2009 version besides aspects of its presentation, but this is a good thing since its gameplay didn’t need much revision anyways. Don’t play this game unless you’re in for a brutal challenge, but if you like that sort of thing, “Demon’s Souls” might end up being one of your favorite games.

I’m happier with the launch of the PlayStation 5 than I ever imagined I would be. The speed of the system, its controller, and its incredible launch games make this my favorite console launch that I’ve had the pleasure of experiencing. If you have the chance, go out and get a PS5; you’ll have a good time.

Leve is a member of the class of 2022.

Check Out Four Armenian Men Yelling For Armenian Rights!

By JENNA HRAKI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Have you heard that one song with all the men yelling at you to wake up, grab a brush, and put a little makeup on? If not, maybe it was the yelling about self-righteous suicide that left a mark, or thinking super hard about how that song would be great without all the screaming. “Chop Suey!” by System of a Down (also known as SoaD or System), this yelling song, was my introduction to not only SoaD, but metal as a genre of music that defies the stereotype of tons of white men channeling their anger into yelling about Satanism. (There are some of those out there and I will say that they do hit on occasion, not because I am Satanist but because I do enjoy some hardcore yelling.)

Although my primary appeal to System was their combination of Middle Eastern folk music, hip hop, and all the many subgenres of heavy metal, I began to look into them more when I listened to their lyrics. System is a group of four Armenian activists, who were activists long before they were artists. Their music is open to interpretation, but when asked, System is far from fearful about advocating for their initial intentions. With songs like “ATWA,” which openly illustrates environmental influences from Charles Manson, to songs such as “P.L.U.C.K.” (Politically Lying Unholy Cowardly Killers) addressing the Armenian genocide, System doesn’t shy away from difficult topics.

System has been stubborn about having their music advocate for a cause since 1998.



RACHEL KAMATA / ILLUSTRATOR

The cover art to System of a Down’s single “Protect the Land.”

In 2005, however, System released their last two albums for quite some time. Fifteen years later, they released two singles. These two singles, called “Protect the Land” and “Genocidal Humanoidz,” pertain to the war against Armenia by Azerbaijan. System released this music as a call to action, the music video having a link to donate underneath it. Merchandise can also be preordered, with 100% of the proceeds going to Armenia.

The first track, “Protect the Land,” I initially did not enjoy, or rather, felt it was not unique enough to be in accordance with System of a Down’s style. There were none of the heavy guitar riffs or crazy drumming rhythms that typically drew me to System’s songs. Yet after one listen and watch of the music video, I felt the raw emotion that came with that track. It was far too driving for me to not enjoy it just

because it carried a few simple riffs you can hear in any rock song. This song carried too much: thanking those fighting in the war for Armenia, and System has publicly shown their despise for war and those who partake in it.

The second track, “Genocidal Humanoidz,” sounded much more like System, a pretty quick guitar riff and atonal change leading to the final verse. The sound appealed to me greatly, but yet again, upon listening to the lyrics, I felt even more than I did when just following the raw music:

“Guess who’s coming over to dinner?

The genocidal humanoidz

Teaching warfare to their children”

That interpretation can be left to the listener, but it seems pretty explicit what System wants to get across, making the music appealing to those that support the cause. Even listeners that do not support the cause will give the music the traction it deserves, as System’s goal is to draw attention to those losing their lives in Armenia.

System is more than just their aggressive sound. I unfortunately agree with those I do not want to agree with, Anthony Fantano and Pitchfork (sorry), when saying that System is one of the most influential bands in metal. Whether or not this sound is for you, you can appreciate the fact that music is to them both art and expression — System will not be appealing to the masses!

Check out their [music video](#) for “Protect the Land” (it’s homework, if you will).

Hraki is a member of the class of 2023.

HUMOR

The World is Ending, But Not for Me

By Briana Lindsey
STAFF WRITER

As a student on campus in these unprecedented times, it’s important to me to remain positive in all ways. All ways, of course, except test results.

Test results that might make me a danger to all those I care about or whatever, but more importantly mean that I have to go be isolated for two weeks, which would make me very sad. Remembering to wear my mask, wash my hands, and stay 6 feet away from others can all drastically reduce my chance of catching and spreading the virus is great, but kind of hard. While I’ve never regularly done any of these things, the habits are certainly good for other people to form.

So long as I maintain a life devoid of human connection, I seem to be safe. But I’m on the swim team, and we got special permission to practice, so I hope everybody else is working hard to keep us safe. Herd immunity: if everybody else does the work, I’m golden!

As golden as the leaves on the trees! To be honest, I’m so grateful that it’s been as warm as it’s been for as long as it’s been; normally, by this time of year, I’m breaking out my expensive winter coats which were doubtless produced through borderline slave labor, but thanks to global warming I can appreciate temperatures above 50 degrees for the small price of disastrous environmental consequences. What a steal!

‘Herd immunity: if everybody else does the work, I’m golden!’

In addition to the wonderful weather, I’m taking countless steps to keep myself motivated for when the world returns to a state of normalcy! I’ve been on the lookout for internships each weekend, and I can’t wait for the chance to apply the business skills that my trust fund is paying for me to obtain.

Honestly, I don’t have much to show for having completed three quarters of my degree, but that’s not important because college is a status symbol, and if you go to college it means you’re intelligent and have value and contribute to society in a meaningful way because existing is a privilege not a right. That’s besides the point, though. Gosh, I’m always getting so off topic!

My biggest ambitions might be realized in the coming years, such as: Make Something and Be Proud of It. A lofty goal to be sure, but I think that as long as I stick to who I am, or the lone interest I attached myself to in high school out of fear, everything is going to work out.

Everyone, including myself, is excited for regular, interactive life. We’re all looking forward to waking up to an open world where we’re allowed to socialize freely, take our dogs to the park, cry on company time, plan vacations — all the little things COVID-19 took from us besides, oh, y’know, what was it... upwards of a million human lives or so?

‘All the little things COVID-19 took from us besides, oh, y’know, what was it... upwards of a million human lives or so?’

Us students at UR are doing our best to adhere to the safety protocols, but in the shadows, under the premise of a study session, sometimes even the best of us long for the touch of another.

The bliss of skin against skin, that shameful thrill.

Having experienced a COVID-19 fistbump or two, it is with the utmost confidence that I say they are indeed everything they’re cracked, or rather, knucked, up to be.

Lindsey is a member of
the Class of 2024.

Fighting Back Against Voter Fraud

By Ben Schiffman
STAFF WRITER

To the Editor,

I am writing to you to express my fear about the past election. I’ve been hearing so much about voter fraud online and on TV, and it makes me think that the Illuminati or the Jews or someone have organized to steal this election. As an avid consumer of social media posts from Russian-sounding users, I know for a fact that American elections are not secure, and something needs to be done about it.

I’ve already taken a few steps myself to try to combat this undemocratic behavior by the underground forces that really control this nation (I’m talking to you, Hillary “Martian Moon Nazi” Clinton). Firstly, I’ve spread all the facts and research I’ve seen about this crazy voter fraud situation, like people voting twice or even more times and throwing out ballots for the candidate they didn’t like. All my Facebook friends have now been informed, except for my grandson.

Does that mean count the dead people, too?! I don’t know where I went wrong with him — that kid voted for a Lizard Person.

Secondly, though, I tried to balance out all of this proven fraud myself. If the other side won’t fight fair, why on earth should I sit back and let those check-collecting, system-using libs cheat? I voted at least six times in two different states. This seemed the only logical step to prevent all that voter fraud from destroying our representative democracy. I had to balance it out.

I also decided to drive to Pittsburgh and start-burning boxes of mail-in ballots. (I have some



JANEPITCHARD/ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

connections over at USPS because of my huge stamp collection, and I mail out at least 10 pounds of cat hair to all my \grandchildren monthly so they remember what all seven of my cats look and smell like.)

Anyway, I got a hold of about 17,000 ballots, loaded them into my minivan, and blew the whole thing up. I made an insurance claim and told them I got into a fender bender and the car was talled, so at least I won’t have to worry about paying for it. The cost of the gasoline I torched it with is technically included in the insurance claim so I come out even in cash, and I’ve saved the country.

I hope my small contribution has done something good, but I don’t think it will be enough on its own. So please, Editorial Board, publish my letter so all my fellow patriots can save this nation one vote at a time. And if that doesn’t work, I’ll move to Canada!

Sincerely,
Jeff Norburg

Schiffman is a member of
the Class of 2023.

Campus by Torchlight

By Fabian Halblander
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It is an uncomfortably balmy November evening, a Saturday. The air is thick with COVID-19, Schrodinger’s election is over (the orange cat is dead), and, for fuck’s sake, it’s 70 degrees in November, but that’s another article.

Tensions are high and students are more stressed than ever, having been pelted with Panopto stream after Panopto stream, mitigated only by the recent Election Day-Zoom armistice from a few days prior. UR professors had disarmed their mics and put down their annotation tools, and we all had some extra time to dread election night.

On such an eerily beautiful evening — and a Saturday nonetheless — what better way to decompress than with a socially distanced quad gathering? On a night like this, it’s time to get the boys together, crack a few cold ones, and just have an all around pandemic-friendly good time.

Sophomore Chadwick Barnes had just the idea: He and his boys, out on the quad, pounding brews-kis and tossing dice. It gets dark early, so they’d need a light source. Chadwick’s solution? Torches. Chadwick and his friends ran to Home Depot and set them up on the quad to light up their night. Festive with a tropical twist.

On their torch-lit march to the quad, the sight of Chadwick and his boys hoisting torches after dark provoked a range of reactions — double takes, gawks, goofs, gaffs, glares, sobs, not to mention a few screams.



JANEPITCHARD/ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

Too buzzed from their pre-game to notice, the of young men took part in the ball-busting of group member, Mark, each brandishing their torches in his face after he appeared afraid of the flames.

We had a conversation with Chadwick (who, for some reason was wearing sunglasses even though it was dark) later that night. A reflection of the torchlight in his jet-black frames reminded us here at CT of the burning pit of despair that the U.S. has become.

Our conversation with Chadwick on that night: “So, why torches? Why the quad?”

“Yeah, I just thought it would be a vibe... Like, torches? That’s dope. We all thought it was a good idea, so we went and got some torches... and... yeah. Here we are on the quad, just vibing. The quad is sick.”

“Aren’t you concerned that, especially during an election cycle, you might appear to be aligning yourselves with a controversial agenda, and possibly even a hate group?”

“So, why torches? Why the quad?”

After a long silence interrupted by some head-scratching, facial contortion, drunken belching, and a series of confused looks at his boys, one of whom was passed out face down on the grass, Chadwick replied:

“Huh?”

“You know, with all the civil unrest and whatnot, you might be sending a certain type of message with the torches, the kind that might attract some unsavory attention.”

In response, he continued to stare blankly off at some point in the distance, mouth agape, clearly confused. A fleshy thump sounded as another of his boys planted their face on the quad.

“Neo-nazis. You guys look like neo-nazi demonstrators.”

Chadwick started for a second, then stood still for a second, mouth working wordlessly before speaking, “What’s a neo-nazi? I don’t really follow politics.”

Halblander is a member of
the Class of 2023.

A Closer Look at the Freshman BME Major

By Alyssa Koh
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With the rise of COVID-19 cases and the imminent realization that life on campus for the fall semester is coming to a close, the student ecosystem has begun to adapt.

The cycle of metamorphosis begins.

Packs of first-years taking BIO 110 and CHEM 131 have succumbed to early onset burnout, and intended pre-meds drop like flies as winter arrives. While this is to be expected, as we all know how many wannabe doctors come out with an anthropology degree, this new year has only expedited that process.

For their fellow students, witnessing the fallout from this shift can be heartbreaking. However, for the nature documenter, being in the thick of such a transient community is akin to landing in a heap of gold.

One of the most intriguing on campus species can usually be observed in the recesses of Carlson Library: the struggling first-year BME major.

“The Hajim class (the taxonomic rank under which the genus of BME majors falls) operates primarily within the engineering quad and under piles of depression laundry in each organism’s respective dorm habitat.”

Each student arrives on campus with a complex spreadsheet that comprises their schedule, and the constraints prove to be equal parts beneficial and detrimental.

The comfort in knowing what lies ahead and only needing to fulfill one cluster requirement lulls some into a false sense of security, but that is immediately disturbed by the intensity of the course load they face. Their Zoom-centric domain is wrought with incorrect textbook answers and confused TAs, and their main forms of sustenance are declining-fueled Starbucks runs at ungodly hours and the occasional crumbs from the beginning of a Douglass Commons study sesh.

Going against the theories of recuperation and adaptation, caffeine replaces not only food and sleep but also every possible substance in

the bodies of these students. When interrogated about their means of persisting in this manner, common answers are awkward laughs followed by a sigh or the phrase, “I’m just built different.”

When it comes to social interaction, struggling first-year BME majors follow in the footsteps of their upperclassmen by using Hirst Lounge, iZone, and Rettner Hall as equal parts social crutch and study space, and each has their own individual benefits.

Hirst is adjacent to the sole reason to continue forth in life, which happens to be the slice of cheesecake in the PepsiCo Plaza that calls your name each time you pick up your GrubHub order.

iZone feels just enough like a library space that you can imagine completing work there, but the seating is just cushy enough to provide a comforting backdrop to the hellscape of Panopto lectures.

Finally, the pain of the multi-flight stair climb makes Rettner feel familiar, and it serves as a change of scenery for the study grind.

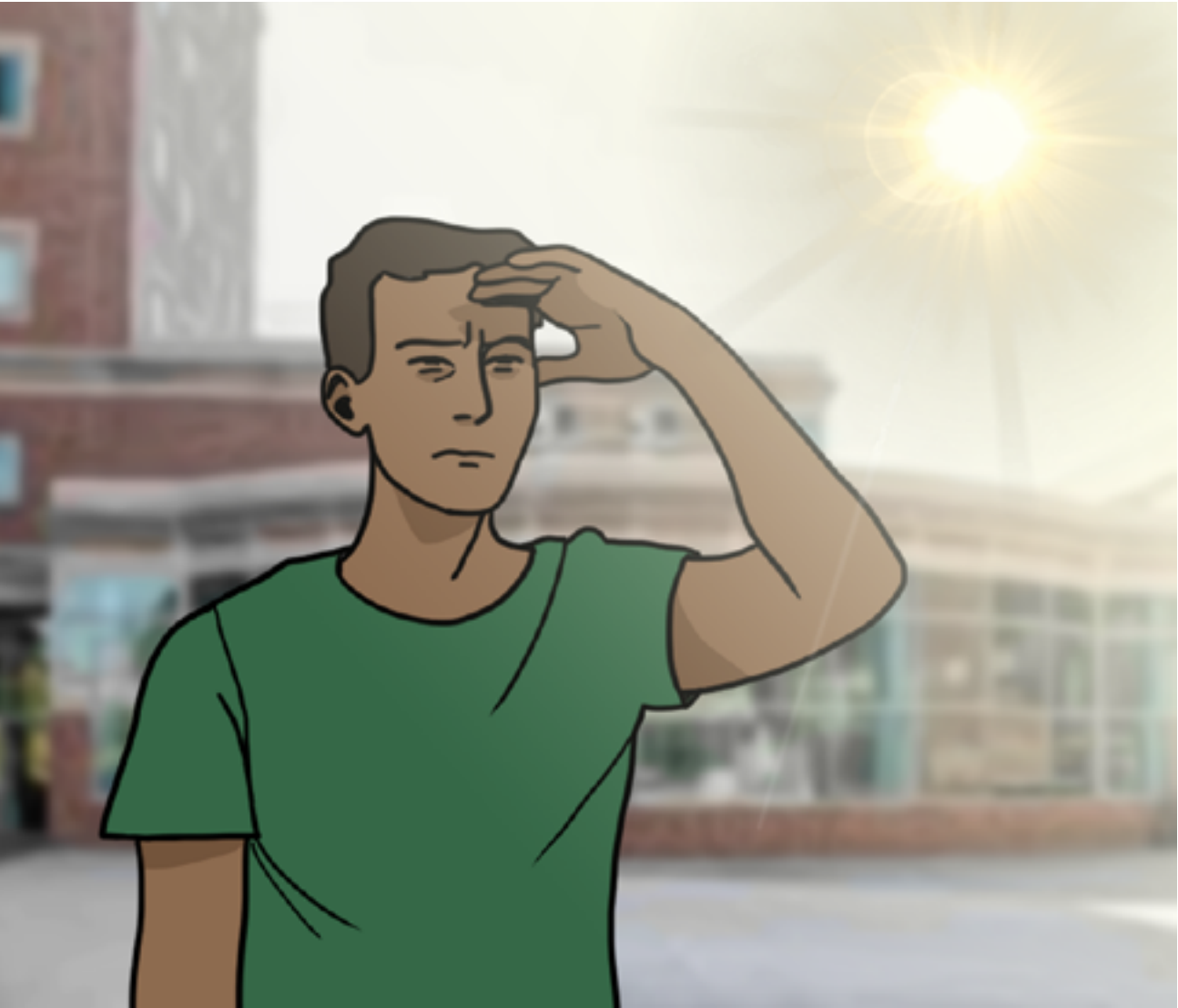
To the most delusional, or those considering the medical optics concentration after having it shoved down their throat by the entire department, rotating between these three locations can even be considered “the college experience.”

Despite all of the adversity, the life cycle of a first-year BME major has the occasional splash of solace, such as the dreamy, coma-like state that is entered when searching for grad schools during your first semester of college. Other paltry examples include needing to wipe down your fogged-up glasses and adjust your mask mid-assignment and reconsidering everything after a single experience outside of the Hajim Realm, but there are two main peaks that occur in the emotional states of these scholars.

The first is the euphoria of attending a cluster-fulfillment class, which can be easily compared to the biological mechanisms experienced during mating. The second, and inarguably most impactful, is the knowledge that there is no BME course for first-year spring.

I feel that I have compiled enough information over the past week to give a general overview of this fascinating species and how those within it are adapting to the struggles that plague this semester. Their tale is one that I will carry with me for the rest of my time here. Most importantly, they have taught me a truly invaluable lesson: thank goodness for the humanities.

Koh is a member of the class of 2024



JANEPRITCHARD/ ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

Gourds!

By Ethan Busch
HUMOR WRITER



JANEPRITCHARD/ ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

Last week, I [wrote](#) about pumpkins being out of fashion in November. In that article, I proposed replacing your properly placed but poorly timed decorative pumpkins with a perfectly practical alternative: acorn squash.

I received many letters, Google Sheets documents, and rocks with messages painted on them from excited readers who loved my piece. Some of them couldn’t wait for me to check my phone, so they threw their message through the window. A notable theme in the messages was that people were dissatisfied with my suggestion of acorn squash. They wanted more gourds.

“I, unfortunately, am no connoisseur of gourds, simply a common admirer.”

So I asked a friend and gourd connoisseur, sophomore Gillian Reeder. Gill agreed with my recommendation of acorn squash, but prefers to eat it rather than look at it. She explained, “For purely decorative gourds I’m a big fan of Tennessee dancing gourds, and bicolor egg gourds.”

Her recommendations for decorative squash are both small and delightful; they would do well in bowls on coffee tables or hidden around the house with little faces painted on them. Though I appreciated Gill’s help, I wanted to identify more gourds for my fans’ personal use.

My first thought on how to find more gourds was Wikipedia. I started with the [list of lists](#) of lists. This is a rather self-explanatory page, and a good place to start for any search. This took me to the [list of foods](#). Another aptly named Wiki page. This led me to the [list of vegetables](#) (which for some reason includes fruits), which finally led me to my ultimate goal: the [list of gourds and squashes](#). The lesson learned? If you’re bored, I highly [recommend](#) Wikipedia [lists](#).

Anyways, here are a few of my favorite gourds and squashes from the list.

Calabash, also called Bottle Gourds, is one of the oldest domesticated crops. It is grown all over the world to eat and to use as... bottles. Shocking, I know.

Pattypan squash is a little green boi that people like to eat. I like it because it reminds me of the little [purple pentapus](#) from “Avatar: the Last Airbender.” I promise I didn’t include this one just to reference the show.

Spaghetti squash, the favored squash of the [Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster](#), does not look like spaghetti from the outside. Spaghetti is long and stringy. Spaghetti squash is not, until you cut it open! Then it’s long and stringy, like spaghetti, or burnt hair.

I hope I have satisfied your solicitations of succulent, stunning, and superb squashes and gourds. If not, to gather greater gobs of good gourd information, check out the aforementioned list of gourds and squashes. Or talk to the campus’s gourd connoisseur, Gillian Reader at gourds@campustimes.org.

Busch is a member of the class of 2023.