

Campus Times

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Rochester Responds to RPD Pepper Spraying a 9 Year Old Girl

By Justin O'Connor
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Sunday, a nine year old girl experiencing a mental health crisis was handcuffed and pepper-sprayed by police officers.

Two graphic body camera videos were released showing Rochester Police Department (RPD) officers, called by the girl's mother, detaining the girl who cried for her father.

This incident took place on Harris Street on Friday, Jan. 29 after the child's mother told police that her daughter was intent on harming herself and others. Prior to the release of the footage on Sunday, Rochester Mayor Lovely Warren held a press conference alongside interim Rochester Police Chief Cynthia Herriott-Sullivan and Executive Deputy Chief Andre Anderson. All three called for protocol reforms in response to the incident.

"This is not something that any of us [...] can justify," Warren said. Her speech underscored concerns about whether the involved officers entered the situation with empathy and compassion for the child. "I know what it's like to be a member of a community [...] that feels that at every turn there's harm, there's hurt, and undervalue [...] I'm asking for everybody, all of us, to understand, to hear, to empathize, but, most of all, to act differently," Warren said.

Anderson went over the specifics of the incident and the immediate response of the RPD. "We are in the process of reviewing policies and making changes, right now, as we speak [...] It's not just



HENRY LITSKY / PHOTO EDITOR

A sign reads, "9 years old + CRISIS Does Not = Mace" at the recent protest.

with the officers that were involved; it's going to be something that's extending to the entire organization," Anderson said. None of the proposed reforms included answers to the long-standing community demands to defund or abolish the RPD.

Later the same afternoon, Mike Mazzeo, president of Rochester Police Locust Club (the RPD's bargaining union), held another press conference in which he defended the decisions of the officers involved. "There was a decision, when they couldn't get her into the car, despite everything they were trying [...] there was a short blast of Cap-Stun [pepper spray]. It worked. It calmed her down, it got her in [the car]."

"What we need to do is change a lot of things, but those officers [...] broke no policy. There's nothing that

anyone can say they did that's inappropriate," Mazzeo said. His comments circulated widely on social media and sparked outrage as users criticized a perceived defensiveness and a lack of empathy for the wider community in his statements.

In response to the way the child was detained, Community Justice Initiative (CJI), a local activist group which "strives to dismantle white supremacy in the Greater Rochester region," organized a march. The Monday after the incident, demonstrators moved down North Clinton Avenue to the gates of the RPD's Clinton Section Office to list a range of demands for accountability in the wake of the incident. The demonstration kicked off a week of protests organized by the group. "That was a savage act on a 9-year-old girl," CJI orga-

nizer Niya Shabazz said in a speech delivered to a crowd at the corner of North Clinton and Avenue D before Monday's march. "It's time for us to stand up. It's been time." Later that afternoon, Shabazz spoke again: "Our babies are not seen as babies. The police [in the body camera footage] said, 'stop acting like a child.' She is a child you fucking idiot! That exposed how they view our children and how they view us as a people [...] How could they care for a community that they don't even know? They don't even live in our neighborhoods and they come here and they brutalize our men and women."

Multiple politicians were among the crowd on Monday. New York State Senator Jeremy Cooney (D-56) was invited by CJI to speak against qualified immunity and on

his plans to address police reform moving forward.

Diallo Payne, another CJI organizer, addressed Cooney and the wider group, citing steps Cooney can take to assist CJI's goals: "On the state level, write this down, there's S8668B. So, when [Cooney's] in the senate he can push that. That will allow for private lawsuits against the cops, carved out specifically for citizens to sue the cops in the state law to make it easier."

Monroe County Legislator Vince Felder also spoke, but was quickly confronted by protesters and stepped down. Members of the crowd expressed support for a range of reforms, including defunding the RPD, expanding government transparency, and developing better mental health crisis response tactics.

Over the week, CJI organized two more demonstrations outside of the Rochester Police Locust Club office, during which they reiterated their accountability demands and called for Mazzeo's resignation. On Saturday, they held a press conference on the steps outside of Rochester City Hall with similar messaging and an announcement of support for Nailah's Law, which would prevent officers from handcuffing or pepper-spraying children and require the county and city to compile a list of mental health professionals capable of assisting children after traumatic police experiences.

The Rochester Police Locust Club did not respond to a request for an interview with its president, Mike Mazzeo.

O'Connor is a member of the Class of 2024.

COVID: Last Semester in Review

By Micah Greenberg
SPECIAL PROJECTS

For the first two months of the fall 2020 semester, students held their breath waiting to get sent home after what felt like an inevitable COVID-19 outbreak. Keeping a college open during a pandemic seemed like an impossible goal, and as colleges like nearby St. John Fisher cancelled in-person classes following outbreaks, many members of the UR community worried our school would follow suit. It proved chal-

lenging, but the University managed to achieve their goal of a hybrid semester.

On the second day of classes in late August, New York governor Andrew Cuomo announced that universities were to pause in-person activities for two weeks if there were 100 cases, or a 5% test positivity rate within a preset two-week period. Only a few weeks later, the University published their plan for a potential pause.

The plan included moving all classes fully online, converting dining to takeout-on-

ly, and shutting down in-person activities, library spaces, and athletics. A pause would be temporary, but could last more than the minimum two weeks.

The goal of a pause is to mitigate spread of the virus, increase or free up capacity for quarantine and isolation, and to reevaluate/implement policies to prevent another outbreak, all in order to avoid the worst-case scenario of another full shutdown like the one in March.

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Dr. Chatbot Challenge

By Melanie Earle
FEATURES EDITOR

Despite the daily emails, last semester's Dr. Chatbot rates weren't great, with about half of the student body filling it out on any given day.

This spring, UR is looking to promote Dr. Chatbot usage through positive reinforcement: a semester-long competition with some eye-catching prizes, such as a free dining plan for a semester.

Dr. Chatbot is a daily COVID-19 screening questionnaire that is mandatory for all

students and employees who will physically be on campus that day. A more detailed version is also used by UR Medicine staff.

To encourage participation,

'This spring, UR is looking to promote Dr. Chatbot usage'

Wilson Commons Student Activities developed the Complete and Compete Challenge, which began on Feb. 5, the start of Winterfest Weekend, and runs until May 7.

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CAMPUS

RESEARCH AT ROCHESTER

Wu Delves into the Intersection of Music and Science

By Hawraa Ahmed
COLUMNIST

Wu, a Mathematics and Music double major with a minor in Philosophy, is currently researching the intersection between music and assorted fields, such as music technology and music cognition. In the past year, Wu has worked on a data science project with three other students, determined to find the correlation between a tonal language and sung melodies.

In English, various consonants and vowels make up different words, and saying the same sounds in a different tone might change the meaning, but the word stays the same. In a tonal language, different tones or pitches represent entirely different words. The tonal language used for the project was Cantonese, and the Cantonese songs selected were sung by Chinese singer Eason Chan.

The result showed a high correlation between the tone contour of the lyrics and the melodic contour. “Next semester, we will pick up the project and extend it,” Wu said. “The possible direction would be to build up a model for melody generation using machine learning, based on the tone contour of given lyrics.”

Wu continues to broaden her research experience by venturing into fields that may not directly relate to her mathematics and music degrees.

Last semester, Wu joined Professor Elise Piazza’s Lab in the Brain and Cognitive Sciences Department, where she focused on music cognition and communication in human interaction. Wu’s current project involves organizing and analyzing MIDI data from piano performance. “We wish to see the impact of shuffling measures (a rearrangement, in multiple degrees, of musical phrases of one piece) on the prediction and accuracy of a piano player’s real-time performance.”

The project is a part of an ongoing research conducted by Piazza using naturalistic paradigms to study music performance and learning within the department.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and two online semesters,

Wu was able to continue her research remotely. “Since the raw data of the [BCS, Piazza Lab] project I am working on has already been collected before the COVID[-19] lockdown, my research process is not interrupted by COVID[-19],” Wu said. “We proceed with the project on the computer. However, the virtual reality of the semester is usually hard for us to keep up the motivation.”

After several research projects, Wu has plenty of wisdom to share. She suggests that students do a literature review before beginning their research. This will allow them to gain a more comprehensive understanding of research works and learn the importance of acknowledging the contributions of other individuals. “So far, I think the most valuable thing for me is not about getting a valid result of the research project, but about what I have learned from the research experience,” Wu mentioned. “But I always remain humble. I stay curious, keep learning, while expecting ‘aha’ moments.”

Wu encourages undergrads to follow their interests and to not hesitate to reach out to professors for research opportunities.

“Along the way, you might be able to figure out which kind of [...] research is your favorite, research/question-oriented or project-oriented. Stay curious and be open-minded for any possibility,” Wu added. “Even if you are not confident in the research field that you are interested in.”

Wu is exploring and deciding on various post-graduate pathways. She plans to apply for Take 5 first, with a potential topic in Empirical Aesthetics.

Additionally, Wu plans on exploring research in the humanities with an emphasis on digital humanity or musicology. “Or I might also want to continue doing research and projects related to science of music and music technology, or pursue an industrial job in music composition, or, or do something interdisciplinary,” Wu explained. “Just don’t be afraid to reach out to people even though you are not majoring directly in that field.”

Ahmed is a member of the Class of 2022.

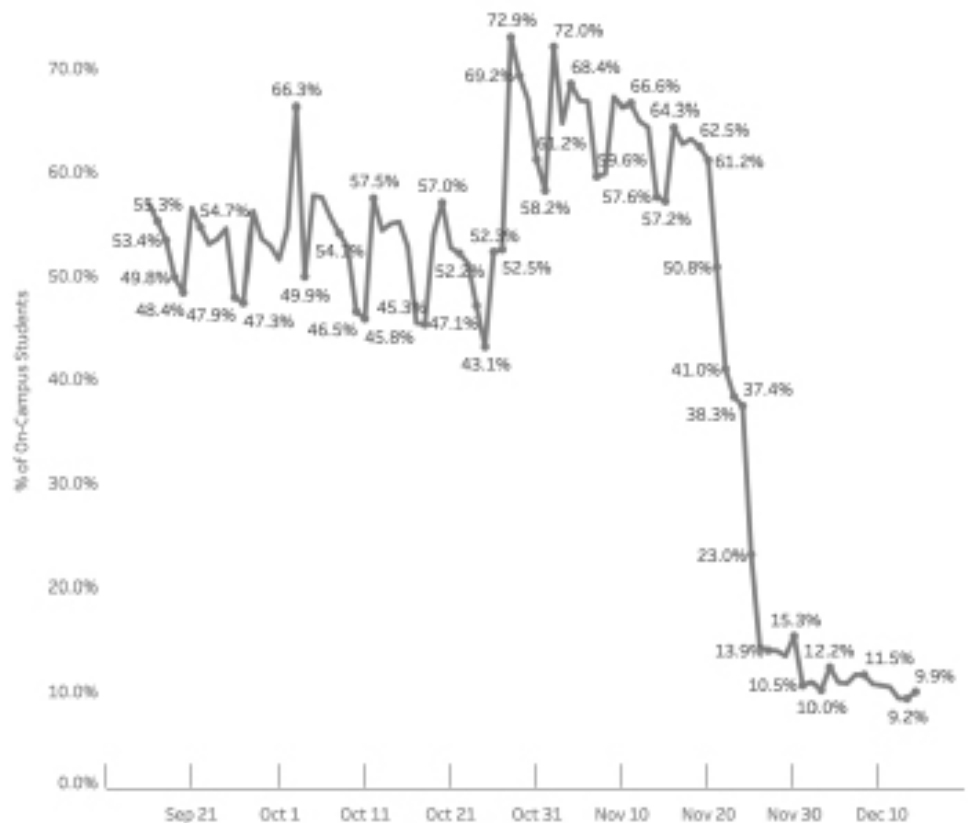


COURTESY OF PANZHEN WU

A Review of Dr. Chatbot

Chat Bot Compliance - Residential Students - %

(Students with on-campus housing assignment; all registration statuses)

By Micah Greenberg
SPECIAL PROJECTS

HENRY LITSKY / PHOTO EDITOR

symptoms. He said that having staffing seven days a week to communicate with those reporting symptoms was difficult this past semester.

Daily reminder emails telling students to fill out Dr. Chatbot began in July, starting at 4 a.m. to catch early-morning employees before they clock in. But as the chart shows, many students did not fill out Dr. Chatbot. The persistence of early-morning email messages even for those conducting the semester remotely were mocked by students in memes.

From mid September through late October, the percentage of students living on campus who filled it out hovered near 50% each day, reaching as low as 43.1%. Some students living off campus also filled out the app, but there is no way of knowing what percent of those students who came on campus on a given day completed their symptom screening.

Compliance was an issue throughout the semester. “It’s important,” Manchester said. He later added, “I would like 100% of people to do it every day they’re on campus.”

But beyond requiring Dr. Chatbot for opt-in events, there was little enforcement and incentivization for compliance. For example, dining did not have the staffing to check everyone’s Dr. Chatbot, and doing so would slow down entrance in a way that could cause further crowding and spread while waiting in line.

A June 15 @Rochester email announced that the University was making the code behind Dr. Chatbot open source and free. In the following weeks, administrators repeatedly mentioned Dr. Chatbot in their emails to the community regarding the fall semester.

“Once on campus, all students will be asked to take a daily Dr. ChatBot health screening survey, which is already in use by faculty and staff at the Medical Center,” read a June 19 email from Provost Robert Clark.

“Students will be asked to take a daily health screening using an online tool, Dr. ChatBot, to help us track symptoms and the possible spread of COVID-19,” said Dean of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Engineering Jeffrey Runner in an email on June 28.

Both framed the completion of Dr. Chatbot as something being requested from students, not as a true requirement, despite its importance to contact tracing.

Seeing the lower-than-optimal compliance from on-campus students, administrators considered ways to get more people to fill it out. Starting on Oct. 29, as quarantines and isolations began to spike due to an outbreak, the University implemented additional email reminders at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. as well as text reminders via AlertUR. As the chart shows, this did significantly increase compliance for on-campus students, but the highest compliance rate on any single day was still only 72.9%. These additional alerts were not kept for long, as students began heading home for winter break three weeks later.

Manchester indicated that other incentives for filling out Dr. Chatbot were considered, including making the ability to use student ID cards for dining conditional on completion. Instead, a positive reinforcement system is being pursued this semester with the Complete & Compete challenge.

Haven Worley contributed to the reporting for this article.

Greenberg is a member of the Class of 2021.

How Close UR was to Going on ‘Pause’

REVIEW FROM PAGE 1.

“I thought we had a good chance of going into a pause [last fall],” Director of Environmental Health & Safety and Coronavirus University Restart Team (CURT) co-chair Mark Cavanaugh said. “I knew it was going to be a challenge but I also knew we had the proper protocols in place to make it work. So, at some point, we had to turn it over to the students, right?”

The University implemented many policies to limit the spread of coronavirus on campus, including a surveillance testing program, Dr. Chatbot, a ban on guests in residence halls, capacity limits, and masking and distancing requirements.

For the first month of the semester, the policies seemed to be working tremendously well. Four students were identified as positive cases upon return to campus and were immediately isolated. Protests against police brutality after the video of Daniel

Prude’s death was published did not seem to cause a spike in cases among the University community, and the county’s infection rate remained low, too. The first new positive cases for students, faculty, or staff did not occur until late September.

There was a small bump in positive cases, people reporting symptoms, and exposures at the beginning of October, but by the middle of the month the number of people in quarantine and isolation had declined.

A few days after Halloween, UR hit its peak with 23 confirmed cases between Nov. 2 and 3. The entire two week period, from Oct. 24 to Nov. 6, only contained 26 new cases, well below the 100-case threshold.

According to Vice Provost and Director of University Health Service Dr. Ralph Manchester, this outbreak caused the biggest strain on isolation spaces. On Nov. 3, the total number of students in isolation or quarantine

reached its peak, forcing the University to outsource hotels such as the Strathallen for quarantine, causing additional costs.

Dave Bujak, the Emergency Preparedness Manager who helped oversee quarantine and isolation, was relatively pleased with UR’s semester compared to some schools across the country that had massive outbreaks. “Our numbers were low, we didn’t run out of space, nobody was on the streets, we didn’t really have a massive outbreak, and we did not trigger any thresholds that required us to shut down,” Bujak said. “We managed to keep it just enough to not get in trouble.”

Manchester also pointed out that the infection rate remained far lower than originally expected throughout the semester. Beyond that, he took pride in the fact that nobody at UR was hospitalized this semester due to COVID-19.

Nearly every administrator interviewed for this project expressed gratitude to students for following guidelines enough to keep cases down.

“We want to thank the students for their compliance,” Cavanaugh said. “I mean, we did it, right? So, they should be congratulated that we made it through the semester like we had wanted to and had hoped to, and that really is thanks to the students.”

“There was a real respect for it and real respect for a potential of a spread,” Head Athletic Director Eric Rozen said. “And I think everyone played an important role in that.”



HENRY LITSKY / PHOTO EDITOR

The river campus was adorned with new yellow and blue signage making the new COVID-19 policies extremely clear throughout the fall.

“This is a resilient bunch [...] You found a way to get it done this fall, we’re gonna find a way to get it done in the spring, and we’re all gonna be better for it,” Head Football Coach Chad Martinovich said.

“Even with all of the best-made plans,” Deputy to the Provost and CURT co-chair Amy Happ said, “If students didn’t do the great job that they did, we wouldn’t have been able to maintain in-person [instruction].”

Though the curve flattened after the early November outbreak and new cases began to slowly decline, the University faced new challenges as case counts in the greater Rochester area were rising. On Nov. 10, Monroe County was put into the precautionary “Yellow Zone,” decreasing the maximum size of outdoor gatherings from 50 to 25 people and limiting tables

at dining halls to four people. Two weeks later, when most students had already left campus for Thanksgiving break, the county entered the “Orange Zone,” further decreasing gathering size to 10 people and shifting dining to take-out only.

This coming semester, many things are expected to change. Administrators and campus health officials now have a lot more experience running the University during a pandemic. Meanwhile, in-person faculty and staff are eligible for vaccination, though availability is scarce.

But the relative success of this past semester does not make it a given that the next semester will run smoothly.

Haven Worley contributed to the reporting for this article.

Greenberg is a member of the Class of 2021.



HENRY LITSKY / PHOTO EDITOR

Druv Patel receives a rapid COVID test before departing campus this fall.

Complete and Compete: Dr. Chatbot Contest

CHATBOT FROM PAGE 1.

The Complete and Compete Challenge is a University-wide initiative and expands beyond undergraduate students, to students from Graduate AS&E, the Eastman School of Music, the School of Medicine and Dentistry, the School of Nursing, and Simon Business School. Students can enter the competition through an online survey.

The grand prizes, which will be available to students who complete Dr. Chatbot every day during the competition, include a Blue Unlimited Dining Plan for a semester, worth \$2,741 dollars, and a Year-Long Parking Pass. There will be three grand prizes available.

Raffles for prizes will be held bi-weekly and monthly, for students that complete Dr. Chatbot every day during that time period. Departments and groups throughout the UR community have also chipped in prizes to promote Dr. Chatbot usage. These prizes include iPads, AirPods,

Starbucks gift cards, T-shirts, hats, and more.

The competition will not only be limited to raffle drawings but a “Prize Patrol” run by UHS Public Health Ambassadors. These ambassadors will appear around campus to reward students who have completed Dr. Chatbot for the day. Participants in the competition will be given clues on where the Prize Patrol may be hiding for the day.

When UR reflected upon fall semester student

feedback on their COVID-19 performance, one complaint rose above the rest: Dr. Chatbot, and the incessant reminders that left students feeling nagged and gave them a negative outlook of the whole system.

“We were super proud of our students for making it through Thanksgiving — so many of my counterparts had pauses or had to send kids home,” Anne-Marie Algier, Associate Dean of Students and Director of Student Activities said.

“[Students] want to be with their friends, they want to experience the college environment, and Dr. Chatbot is a big part of that. We do want to increase the participation, so we thought we’d try something fun, and that’s why we’re launching it.”

Algier wants to change students’ negative perception of Dr. Chatbot.

“I think people were just seeing it as this nag [...] That’s not really the message or tone we want to send out,” Algier said. “We want

students to do it for the right reasons. We want them to do it because they want to protect the hive. When you are thinking about those questions, all the symptoms are different. You have to think about ‘did I travel,’ ‘do I feel this,’ it’s really good to think about that before you step out onto campus.”

To promote the competition, organizers have given RAs an incentive to have all their hall members sign up to win dessert boxes from Dining Services for the entire hall. Promotion for the Complete and Compete contest will continue throughout the first week of classes.

“My humble goal is to hit 500 [enrollments] in the next week with people returning to campus and more promotion and campaigns,” junior Madelyn Candela, Student Lead for Complete and Compete, said. “I think students are going to get talking about it, but I think that is what I want to see from the undergraduate community.”

Earle is a member of the Class of 2023.



HENRY LITSKY / PHOTO EDITOR

Administration hopes Dr. Chatbot compliance will be greater this semester with the advent of the Dr. Chatbot Challenge.

Greek Life: What Are You Paying For?

By Melanie Earle
FEATURES EDITOR

Fraternities and sororities are closely related to American collegiate culture. Across the country, these organizations are currently planning for a spring semester rush that will look quite different from previous years thanks to COVID-19's obstacles.

Recruitment this year is coming off the heels of mass disaffiliations taking place on campuses across the country, including UR and broader discussions of abolishing Greek life.

As fraternities and sororities prepare to welcome new brothers and sisters to their ranks, they are also preparing to justify the price.

The fees of joining a Greek life organization can add up, and while UR's Greek life dues aren't as high as those at other universities, it is still an added cost to the \$57,188 yearly tuition.

Junior Heidi Budd, the former Archon (president) of Phi Sigma Sigma, said she always acknowledged this during the recruitment process. "Giving the financial presentation during recruitment is always kind of awkward," said Budd. "We are trying to make \$500 dollars seem not like \$500 dollars."

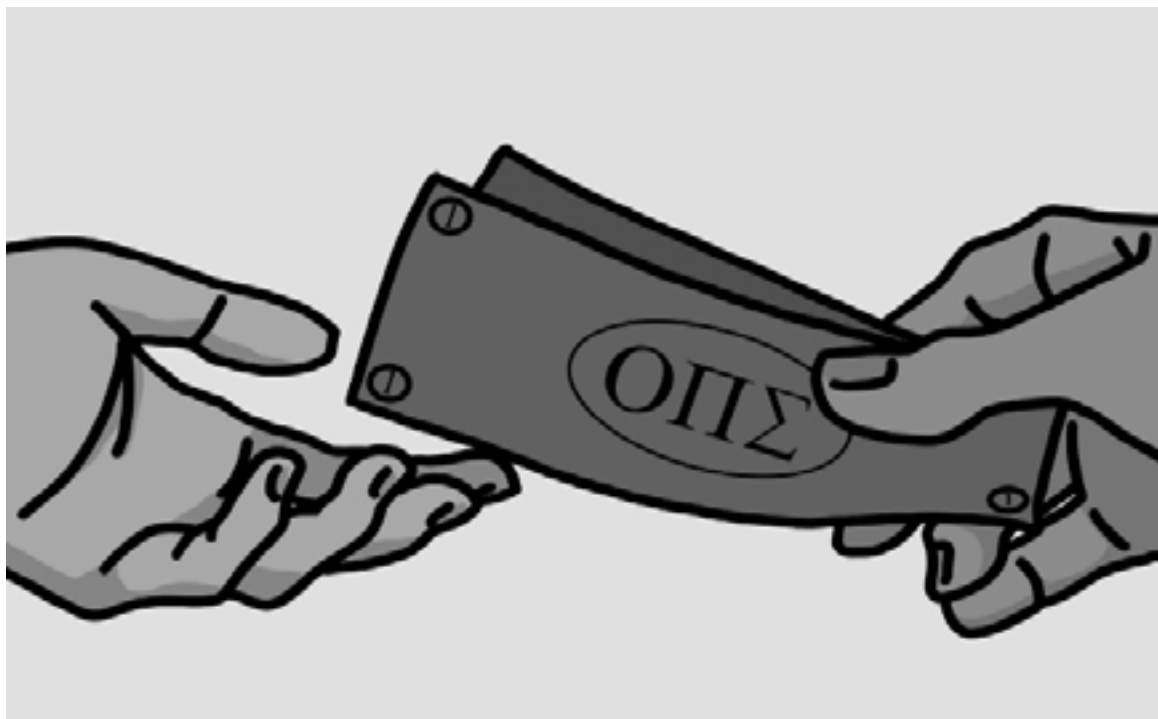
'The cost of joining a fraternity or sorority can be a limiting factor for prospective members, and the full cost may not be revealed until later'

Greek-life benefits can differ depending on the organization, but the general benefits include a support network, scholarship opportunities, academic support, networking help, leadership opportunities, internships, and more.

The cost of joining a fraternity or sorority can be a limiting factor for prospective members, and the full cost may not be revealed until later in the recruitment process.

Because of this, there has been a push to be more transparent about what a member is paying for and receiving in return, such as the National Panhellenic Conference's (NPC's) Financial Transparency program.

"Our parents and caregivers often feel uninformed about the events of becoming a sorority member," NPC Chairwoman Carol Jones said. "We do have an NPC financial transparency program to help educate new members and their parents before they do join a sorority, and then from there the member organizations can



BRIDGET TOKIWA / ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

talk [...] to the potential new members [about] what their dues and fees are." During the standardized Panhellenic recruitment, there is also a day dedicated to disclosing financial information.

Out of the 16 NPC and Interfraternity Council (IFC) UR chapters contacted for an interview and a request to see their dues, four interviewed with the CT. The other 12 either did not respond, did not want to contribute, or were restricted from participating in the article by their national offices.

So, what are you paying for when you join an NPC/IFC Greek life organization?

The dues of a Greek life organization can be broken down into three categories: national conference dues, national chapter dues, and local chapter dues.

The NPC is the umbrella UR's Panhellenic sororities fall under. The UR Panhellenic Association is a board that represents 26 sororities nationally, eight of which are at UR. The UR Panhellenic Association coordinates and partially standardizes training, resources, recruitment, and programming.

"We are the advocacy and support organization for the advancement of the sorority experience," Jones said. "We advocate for the sorority experience on the behalf of our member associations and the Panhellenic Association."

The UR Panhellenic Association pays an annual due to the NPC which is based on the number of sororities on campus. The UR Panhellenic Association pays \$55 per chapter which each chapter is responsible for. If there are more than 10 chapters, that amount would increase to \$65.

The UR Interfraternity Council pays an annual due to the North American Interfraternity Council. According to the North American IFC website, UR's fraternities fall under Tier 3, which requires that the UR IFC pays at least \$750 to the North American IFC. The

basic package includes resources such as coaching, crisis communication support, NIC guidance, recruiting materials and guidance, and insurance.

Greek life members pay two different insurances — one to the IFC/NPC, and one to its national chapter. The difference between the two is whom the insurance covers. If an event has NPC/IFC involvement, such as NPC recruitment, then the insurance paid by the councils can be applied.

If the NPCs/IFCs do not have a role in an event or situation, such as a fraternity-specific event, then the insurance from the chapter's national organization will cover the event.

All fraternities and sorority organizations at UR are required to have general liability insurance that covers at least \$1,000,000.00 dollars and general aggregate coverage of \$2,000,000.00 dollars. In addition, the University of Rochester must also be covered under these insurance policies.

'Once a new member accepts a bid/invitation to join, a new member fee is tacked on top of normal semester dues.'

The insurance usually extends to members, collegiate officers, the University, and advisors of the chapter. The liability insurance can also cover the property of the chapter. To be covered by the insurance, all parties must be able to prove that they were acting within their responsibilities and roles.

For liability coverage in matters involving alcohol, if the fraternity or sorority proved they followed the policies set by the NPC/IFC and their national chapter, then the insurance may be applicable.

Once a new member accepts a bid/invitation to join, a new member fee is tacked

on top of normal semester dues. This new member fee can pay for new member education, apparel, membership processing to the national chapter, and a formal pin/badge.

Based off of the dues received from chapters who participated in this article and the national websites, new member fees can range from \$50 to \$200 dollars.

Local dues are set by each individual chapter, and make up a chapter's budget.

Fraternities and sororities are given guidance by their national programs, alumni advisors, and the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs on their budget composition and dues.

The chapters will decide upon the budgets for the committees that lie within the chapter, which can be things like programming, philanthropy, social events, recruitment, and more.

The Greek life organization can choose how much apparel, like T-shirts and sweatshirts, a member will pay for. The organization can also choose how much a member will be responsible for if the organization chooses to have a social event such as a dance, dinner, or fun activity (like bowling or laser tag).

The active members of the chapter will then vote on the budget, and therefore vote on the dues for the semester.

Each member of a Greek life organization on campus must pay a \$20 dollar fee each semester to the office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs. UR covers staff salary, but the fee is implemented to help with the cost of managing fraternity and sorority programming. The fee can be used towards costs such as community events, leadership programming, and campus printing.

In addition to the dues paid each semester, some chapters charge a fee if a member commits certain infractions, such as alcohol-related incidents

While these numbers can add up, many organizations have means of offsetting the

costs. A big method for doing this is with alumni donations. These donations, which are managed and regulated by UR, are put into gift accounts. Gift accounts are limited to academic mission-related activities only. Approved expenses, for example, are building repair, leadership development programs, retreats, and hosting education speakers.

The donations can also be used to pay national fees for insurance or scholarships for prospective members with financial need, but these are set up through a different account.

The level of alumni involvement is different for each fraternity and sorority on campus, which translates to a significant difference in who is receiving donations.

For example, the UR chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon (DKE) chapter has enough alumni donations to cover the fraternity's insurance fee, putting their national chapter dues at \$70.50 dollars. But a younger organization such as the UR Beta Phi chapter doesn't yet have this network.

"To be honest, [donations are] like almost none at the moment because our fraternity is really new," Beta Phi Vice President of Risk Management and senior Alec Tapia said. "I think we started maybe 2016, 2015 [...] it's very new and our alumni are still very young, and we're starting to get [a donation plan] set up. So I think typically [the donations] have been a hundred dollars here or there."

'You have the option to split it up into a couple of payments; they're pretty rigid on when those due dates are, though, and what the plans they offer,'

For Phi Sigma Sigma, their donations were non-existent.

There are scholarships and payment plans outside alumni donations to help with the costs.

"You have the option to split it up into a couple of payments; they're pretty rigid on when those due dates are, though, and what the plans they offer," Budd said on Phi Sig's payment options. "There's scholarships, but it can be hard to get all the stuff if you need a rec letter or something [...] But I think as of right now, people's best bet are payment plans and maybe applying for scholarships."

The choice to join Greek life can be confusing and complex, and it's a different road for each prospective member, especially now as the role and history of Greek life is being challenged across universities in the United States.

READ THE REST ONLINE.

CULTURE

20-minute Albums: Creativity Concentrated, or a Capitalist Cash-Grab?



By Jacob Hanley
CULTURE EDITOR

KAYOUNG KIM/ILLUSTRATIONS STAFF

Short albums: they're quick, fun, and easy to listen to. You can finish three of them with the mic muted well before your Zoom class is over. But are they also a sad reflection of our generation's lack of willingness to consume art for extended periods of time?

From Kanye West's "ye" to The Weeknd's "My Dear Melancholy," 20-25 minute, 6-7 track albums seem to be becoming more and more of a trend — especially within hip-hop. They've been very well received, which, in many ways, constitutes a certain victory for musicians and artists

of all kinds. These albums are concrete proof that there is no need to tediously generate excessive amounts of creative output in order for a project to be popular, competent, or artistically valid. Rather, they suggest that concise work can be extremely impactful — perhaps even to a greater degree than expansive pieces.

Succinct albums, or any kind of succinct art, leaves no room for filler. There are no throw-away tracks, no unnecessarily long intros or outros, and no extraneous sections. Every moment of the album is there for good reason, which benefits all parties involved: The

listener is bombarded with a lightning-fast flurry of only the best of the artist's work, and the artist does not need to bother themselves with filler material just for the sake of creating a longer project. The artist can then pour themselves into perfecting a smaller portion of work, which prevents them from spreading themselves too thin.

And let's face it: Most everyone would rather listen to a short and amazing album than a long and mediocre one with those few songs that you always skip over. Honestly, I'm sure there are a lot of people who would prefer a short album over a long one even if they were both equally amazing (I admit that I, too, often fall into this category) — which brings us to the heart of the issue with short albums and their implications today.

'Succinct albums, or any kind of succinct art, leaves no room for filler.'

The world moves at a break-neck speed. And thanks to social media, YouTube, and other digital platforms, we never have to be bored. We can look

at a post, a video, or a show for as long or short a time as we'd like, and when we click out of it, there is a virtually infinite amount of other forms of entertainment waiting for us. I often find myself checking my phone while watching YouTube just because the video hasn't held my interest for longer than 30 seconds. Unfortunately, I believe this kind of mental predisposition to gravitate towards constant and varied stimulation has affected our ability to fully consume art, especially music, for longer periods of time. In turn, artists may feel financially pressured to create projects that cater to this phenomenon.

Streaming may also be heavily affecting not only album length, but individual song length as well. Once a listener passes the 30-second mark of a song, Spotify counts the listen as a full stream and pays the artist accordingly. With Spotify paying only about half of a cent per stream, many artists aim to garner as many plays as possible, and listeners may be more likely to stream a song multiple times if it's particularly short.

So, is the shift towards shorter albums an artistic triumph or despair? Is art itself

being adversely affected just because we get bored more easily? Is capitalists' lunge towards creating with the stream in mind destroying artists' ability to fully express themselves?

'With Spotify paying only about half of a cent per stream, many artists aim to garner as many plays as possible.'

In some respects, maybe. But at the end of the day, I believe that artists will (and should!) create art regardless of what's trending, popular, and financially beneficial. Art that disregards those concerns tends to be the best and most revolutionary kind.

With all that being said, I'd encourage anyone who doesn't usually listen through full albums back-to-back to try it out! Shut the lights off, lie down on your bed, and put your headphones in. I'm sure the experience will be very rewarding. Just don't listen to Limp Bizkit.

Hanley is a member of the Class of 2023.

UR HELPED

UR Helped: Tackling Two Questions from UR Confessions

By Amanda Liang
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

By Zophia Dadlez
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Welcome to the CT's latest advice column, *UR Helped*, from two sagely seniors who want to share their wisdom with the world. Students everywhere on campus need advice, but we felt that the poor souls on the Instagram page @ur_confessions_secrets were a great place to start. Here are two questions that we lifted verbatim from the confessions page, typos and all.

"How do u tell ur friend their S.O. is an obnoxious self-centered know-it-all who all their friends dislike?"

Let's be real: Sometimes your friend's partner flat out sucks. But if you think your friend is happy with this person, and it seems healthy from the outside, maybe it's a you problem. It's possible that you might just be jealous over the fact that your friend is taken and consequently spending less time with you. Or maybe it's not. But before you confront your friend, you should identify what bothers you about this person. Are they condescending? Do they

monopolize your friend's attention? Does your friend seem like their soul is being slowly eaten by dementors? Do you want to say something because you're annoyed, or because you're worried about your friend?

While our friends are, in fact, adults who get to make their own decisions about who to date, we might naturally feel compelled to look out for them. After all, sometimes being infatuated with someone can render us ignorant of red flags. Once you've figured out exactly what's wrong, and have decided it's worth confronting, ask to speak with your friend privately and express that you are concerned about their relationship and/or well-being. They might be more willing to talk in a one-on-one setting rather than in a group. Make it clear that you respect their choices and autonomy, but also make it clear that you have been offended by their partner's behaviour.

Your friend may not take it well, but the best you can do is let them know you care about them. Hopefully, it could lead to a change in how their partner treats you. If spending time with their S.O. continues to be difficult for you, it's totally

within your right to set that boundary and limit contact with them. After all, it's your friend's partner, not yours!

"I asked this girl to be my gf, with whom I've been talking and hanging out, and she said it could only work if the sex is good, so we are going to have sex once she arrives on campus.

Is this normal?

I have never been in a relationship and had sex once in my life, and that too was nearly three years ago. I really like this girl she's simply the girl of my dream. I m really nervous. Idk what to do. Any suggestions?"

Generally speaking, relationships are more than sex, good or bad. If this girl's deciding whether to date you based solely on sexual performance, we think you'll need to think long and hard about whether that's the kind of relationship you want and deserve. Sex is really personal, and we here at the CT aren't qualified to tell you what will make you or your partner feel good. That's a whole different kind of sticky situation, and unfortunately, we're not a sex advice column.



BRIDGET TOKIWA/ILLUSTRATIONS STAFF

It sounds like your partnership is already off to a rough start. Sex seems like her top priority, but it sounds like you value her for more than just her sexual performance, which means that you two may not be on the same page. There's nothing wrong with engaging in a casual sexual relationship, but you need to ask yourself if that's what you're looking for. In order to have a healthy relationship, you'll need to agree upon what you both want. If you want more than sex, we recommend communication: Bring the situation up with her, let her know that you really like her, and ask her what kind of relationship she's looking for.

"Girlfriend" means something different to everyone. You might be able to talk it out! But it's also possible that you have totally different priorities. In that case, don't push it. We understand really wanting to be with a specific person, but your needs are important. Why is the "girl of your dreams" someone who's willing to throw you away just because the sex is bad? In fact, forget the idea of a "dream girl," what's your notion of a healthy and fulfilling relationship? These are questions only you can answer.

Liang is a member of the Class of 2021. Dadlez is a member of the Class of 2021.

'Pop'ping into the Mind of Andy Warhol



By Ramisa Maliyat
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

COURTESY OF RAMISA MALIYAT

As the wave of pop art hit the sixties, Andy Warhol was a man who truly embraced and brought great recognition to this particular style. Placing emphasis on commerce and celebrities, his art magnifies the beauty of commonplace, widely consumed popular culture.

'Warhol seems to be pointing out a kind of beauty.'

Take a walk down to the Memorial Art Gallery in

Neighborhood of the Arts, and you'll see how he mastered such a style. In this exhibition, one can get a taste of how he outlines details to include both a sense of materialism and idolatry.

This first example features a depiction of the famous boxer, Muhammad Ali. In these pieces, Warhol creatively highlights the surroundings, ears, and fists of Ali through his use of tertiary colors. These areas symbolize senses that were heavily relied upon by the boxer, inspiring feelings of security and wonder in viewers. Warhol seems to be



COURTESY OF RAMISA MALIYAT

pointing out a kind of beauty within this connection. The contrast of the colors moves the eyes to the most exciting areas of the boxer. The pop effect makes Ali appear superhero-esque. Warhol uses this technique to magnify the various celebrities and figures people cherish.

More examples of this style:

(Note: Warhol made use of crushed glass to create a glittering effect to intensify the effects of these figures)

More famously, Warhol is known more for his repetitive depictions of consumer products. The Campbell soup

cans are an iconic example of Warhol's ability to capture widespread attention, and the simplicity of the various soups depicts a level of comfort that people derive from these objects.

'It fosters a deeper appreciation for some of the objects that are symbolic to us.'

The cans would appear on the shelves of nearly every grocery store, and thus,



COURTESY OF RAMISA MALIYAT

Warhol's illustrations would evoke a feeling of familiarity within viewers at the time. It is interesting how the outline of something as simple as a can of soup can bring about a natural calmness within a person, as a result of it being intertwined with their daily lives. It fosters a deeper appreciation for some of the objects that are symbolic to us, because we have associated the feeling of normalcy with materials like cans, flowers, and household ingredients. Is there any object that reminds you of normalcy?

Ramisa Maliyat is a member of the Class of 2024.

LIV ON THE EDGE

Bob Ross and the Bittersweet Reality of Mistakes

By Olivia Alger
MANAGING EDITOR

It's the third semester of online school, and lately I've been worrying that I've made too many mistakes. It's not that I'm discontent with my life. I like who I am. I like my friends, I like my roommates, I like my classes.

It's just that I spend more time at home than I ever have before, which means I have more time to think, which means that I've been reflecting on the decisions I've made that led me to where I am today, and, well, there are some things I could have done differently.

While I was at home during winter break, these thoughts rose to a deafening volume. I was overcome with a sense of anxiety that I could only calm by scribbling in adult coloring books and watching episodes of "Bob Ross: The Joy of Painting" on YouTube. I watched an episode almost every day — while I ate lunch, while I sat around with my family, before I fell asleep. My anxious thought patterns were so overwhelming that I had to constantly distract myself from the noise in my head. It was too much. Bob Ross was my only relief.

Each episode of Bob Ross's show is almost 30 minutes long. He sports the same look in every episode: a pair of tight jeans, a



JANE PRITCHARD/ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

button down shirt (the first three buttons undone), and a mountain of hair permed into a big, tight sphere around his head. The background is completely black, so the viewer can focus solely on the canvas and Bob Ross's calming voice. "Hello, and welcome to 'The Joy of Painting,'" he says at the beginning of the show. These are words I've come to memorize as if they were my own.

Still, while I watched Bob Ross scrape gentle sloping mountains onto the canvas with his painting knife, my anxious thoughts would creep forward. You're stupid, they'd tell me. You spent your first two years of college doing

all the wrong things, and now look at you. You're stuck doing online school and you have no control over your own life.

'I had to constantly distract myself from the noise in my head. It was too much.'

But the thing about regrets, as my friend told me the other day, is that there's absolutely no point in having them. You made the decision you knew how to make at the time. Even if you were able to go back and change something, you probably wouldn't, because you would be the same person you were

then, and you would still be looking at the situation from your young, naive perspective.

I'm sure many of us are feeling this way, wishing we would have taken greater advantage of in-person opportunities when we could. When I have thoughts like that, I have to remember who I was as a college first-year and sophomore. I was completely different. I was less confident. I felt like I was unworthy of love, and I felt completely lost. I didn't know who I was. Now, I'm almost 22. In just a few years, I've gained so much more perspective on the world. I know who I am, and despite the emotional

ebb and flow of anxious thoughts, I'm happy with myself. I've learned how to handle situations that I would have never been able to navigate as an 18-year-old, and I've embarked on a long journey of self-love

'The thing about regrets, as my friend told me the other day, is that there's absolutely no point in having them.'

and self-discovery.

So, what am I so worried about? If it's true what people say, that mistakes help you learn, then I should be grateful that I messed up as many times as I did. After all, isn't that what youth is about? Messing up, making mistakes, and learning from them?

I'm starting to think, though, that there's no such thing as mistakes at all. I like to think that Bob Ross had it right when he said, "There are no mistakes. Only happy accidents." Even if you get physically repulsed by thinking about a mistake you made in the past, as I often do, try not to be so hard on yourself. Because although you made it once, you'll never make it again.

Olivia Alger is a member of the Class of 2022

OPINIONS

EDITORIAL OBSERVER

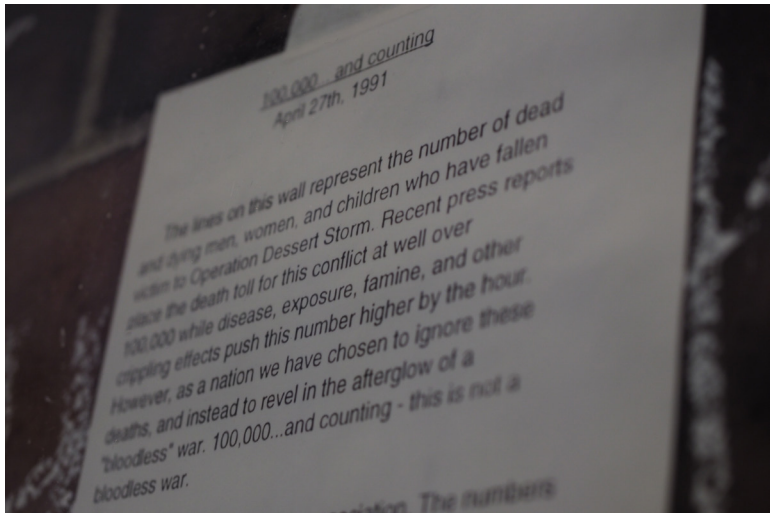
Take a Closer Look at Wilson Commons's War Memorials

By Ethan Busch
PUBLISHER

In Wilson Commons, on the wall underneath what used to be the Flag Lounge, there are a series of plaques honoring members of the UR community who lost their lives serving in every major war since the school's founding.

Well. "Honoring" might be a strong word.

To get the easy, nitpicky complaints out of the way, the memorial to those who lost their lives in Operation Desert Storm is actually a memorial to those who died in Operation "Dessert" Storm. I could make jokes about this, but I don't think that would be appropriate



HENRYLITSKY/PHOTO EDITOR

The Wilson Commons memorial to those lost in Operation Desert Storm.

given the subject matter. Just like I don't think it's appropriate to leave a typo on such a memorial for an extended period of time. But that's easily fixed, and likely an honest mistake, though one might think the University might try a little harder to avoid such mistakes in the context of honoring war dead.

I'm more troubled by the University's commemoration of those who lost their lives in the First World War. The plaque was funded by the mother of one out of hundreds of these students, and features 11 of their names. Under the list of names are the words of the Roman poet Horace: "Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori." In English: "It is a sweet and fitting thing to die for one's country."

'...one might think the University might try a little harder to avoid such mistakes in the context of honoring war dead.'

I noticed this because I take Latin, and on the rare

occasion that I encounter the language in my daily life, I try to translate it as practice. I mentioned the plaque to my Latin professor, who was surprised to find out that the phrase was chosen for this purpose.

He explained that it's quite a famous line, and one that was used in wartime propaganda the world over to boost recruitment. It's also the title that British WWI soldier and poet Wilfred Owen chose for his work. The anti-war poem "Dulce et Decorum Est" is beautiful and haunting. It describes the terror and pain of fighting in that bitter war — and ends by declaring Horace's

words a lie.

The work is a well-known direct criticism of those who blindly glorify war. The First World War was bloody and brutal, and by many — if not most accounts — unnecessary. Owen's point was that it was a mockery of soldiers like him to glorify what he considered an unmitigated tragedy.

'Can we really say that we've honored them?'

I've never fought in a war, and I doubt I ever will. I don't have the authority to say whether this is a fitting memorial for those that our community has lost to violence. But I don't imagine Wilfred Owen would think it is.

If we're callous, careless, or ignorant in our memorialization of those who gave their lives for this country, can we really say that we've honored them?

Operation Dessert Storm. Sweet and fitting, isn't it?

Busch is a member of the Class of 2023.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Prioritizing Donors Jeopardizes the Vaccine Rollout

The vaccine might be free, but money can certainly get it to you faster. Last month, an internal URM communication strongly implied that major financial donors were to be offered a fast pass to the COVID-19 vaccine.

The author of the email, Senior Associate Vice President for Medical Advancement Kellie Anderson, told staff that some donors had asked to skip the line and that requests from those eligible in accordance with state guidelines would be considered.

A few days after the email was leaked, University President Sarah Mangelsdorf and Dr. Mark Taubman, Dean of the School of Medicine and Dentistry, issued a response. They apologized for 26 people — some major donors, some board members — who were given registration information for two vaccination clinics held on Jan. 14 and 15. All 26 individuals were eligible for the vaccine according to state guidelines, but ineligible for this employees-only clinic, potentially stealing spots from frontline workers.

We acknowledge that UR is a business bound to the same occasionally nepotistic and self-serving procedures by which all other organizations are forced to run. They're not unique in this specific practice, either; a Seattle hospital gave the same kind of fast-track treatment to 110 of their favorite donors last week.

26 vaccines is admittedly



HENRYLITSKY/PHOTO EDITOR

insignificant compared to the tens of thousands of employees, frontline workers, and elderly people who got their first dose at UR Medicine.

This situation is significant because it's the one we caught. Where else are administrators pulling strings to serve the business side of UR while talking a big game about fairness?

Nepotism is unavoidable, and no individual can be faulted for helping out someone with whom they feel a connection. But when we institutionalize nepotism to maintain those connections between certain financial statuses, fraternity members, or legacy admissions, we only entrench ourselves further in inequality.

Whether the majority of University leadership knew or not, internal emails and public apologies like this turn University values of integrity and equity into lip service. This doesn't just affect the reputation of upper-level

officials at URM, but also the health workers saving lives there.

These sorts of failures are also fodder for vaccine skeptics; two of the biggest reasons for vaccine hesitancy hinge on beliefs that the healthcare industry is motivated by greed more than health, which subsequently perpetuates inequality.

Debacles like this erode faith in public health guidelines among the University community. The primary goal of the vaccine rollout is to prioritize those with the greatest need from a public health perspective. Secretly prioritizing the well-connected within the eligible group undermines the legitimacy of all UR policies moving forward.

The vaccine can bring our community together and offer us hope, or it can tear us apart. It's up to health officials like those at UR Medicine to get us out of this health crisis — and the resulting social crises that come with it.

This editorial is published with the consent of a majority of the Editorial Board: Hailie Higgins (Editor-in-Chief), Ethan Busch (Publisher), Lucy Farnham (Opinions Editor), Micah Greenberg (Special Projects), 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.

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An Open Letter to Openers, Closers, and People with Keys

By Rachel Breining
STAFF WRITING

Why is the third level door to the Wilson Commons tunnel locked? Why is Georgen locked? Why is LeChase locked? Why are the side doors to Gavett and Harkness locked?

It's incredible to me that with all the big key carrying managers and Public Safety officers on this campus, essential doors still manage to be forever closed. Why bother shoveling a path to the WilCo tunnel door if it's a dead end more often than not? It's almost like they want me to walk up to it and realize I can't get in, so that I have to walk all the way back around to another door, just to spite me personally.

Clearly, I like to joke around about this topic, but rerouting around these locked doors over the past few weeks has me thinking about the way physically disabled students go about their days.

As an able-bodied student, this extra walking is a minor disruption to me at best, and fuel for my endless spite at worst. But this isn't the case for the hundreds of disabled people who will have to reroute to adjust for key carriers' laziness and neglect.

'Honestly, recalling the myriad ways the University fails disabled students, I shouldn't be surprised.'

Honestly, recalling the myriad ways the University fails disabled students, I shouldn't be surprised.

Remember when Wilson Commons wasn't up to ADA standards because the second floor entrance had a ramp outside, showing that the path was for people with physical



ABIGAIL STRUGGER/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

disabilities, but then had no stair-less way to get from the entrance to Hirst Lounge, or the elevator?

That was only fixed last year after years of students complaining.

Hilariously enough, the newly added elevator is frequently out of order (including as I write this article), rendering it useless and difficult to rely on. The common theme here seems to be a lack of both reliability and accountability.

'The common theme here seems to be a lack of both reliability and accountability.'

Speaking of Wilson Commons, that ramp outside is unusable during bad snow (which, in Rochester, might as well be daily) due to a lack of prioritization from the school. It was seen last year covered in a sheet of ice, even though other staircases that are only available to able-bodied students are regularly salted and cleared. With all the resources available to this institution, how radical of an idea is it to believe that one of the most essential commons buildings should be consistently accessible to the entire student body? Able-bodied students can shuffle up and down snow-covered stairs, but people in wheelchairs cannot roll their chairs safely down a sheet of ice.

Then there's the elevators — so slow and

unreliably functional, they might as well not exist. College students have busy and demanding schedules, and their ability to climb stairs shouldn't be a deciding factor when it comes to their day-to-day success. High traffic elevators such as the ones in Wilson Commons and Genesee are — once again — so frequently out of order they can't be relied on. But for some students, there are no alternatives, and these modes of transportation have to be relied on.

My freshman year, two people on the seventh floor of our building had to use the elevator, but it was out of service. One was chronically disabled, the other only temporarily, with a sprained ankle. They had to be carried down seven flights of stairs. If two of my hallmates hadn't been willing and able to help, what were they supposed to do?

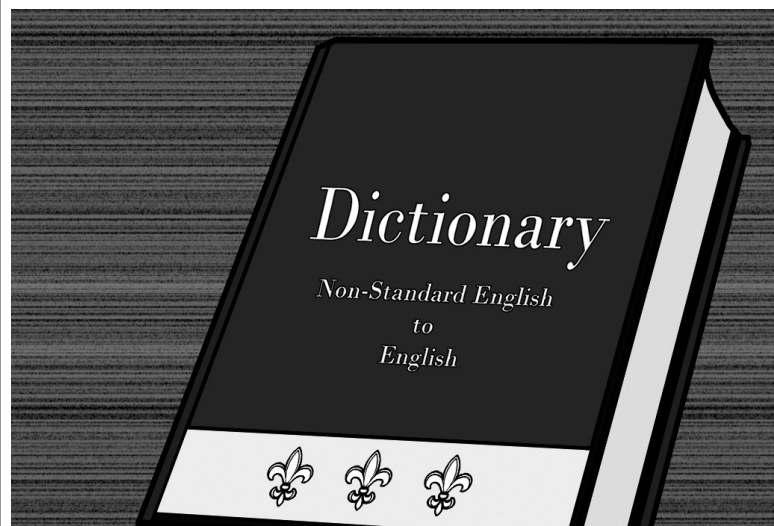
'How radical of an idea is it to believe that one of the most essential commons buildings should be consistently accessible to the entire student body?'

People will make excuses for the University, implying that UR has better things to spend their time and money on than shooting higher than the bare minimum of ADA compliance. They'll argue that nothing is ever perfect for disenfranchised groups, so take what you can get. These people are ableists.

As much as I personally am just annoyed by these issues, I should be using that annoyance to amplify the voices of those the University refuses to hear. Why have these issues persisted for so many years over so many campus locations? Because we have a culture of negligence, encompassing everything from locked doors to simultaneously unusable and essential elevators.

Breining is a member of the Class of 2023.

Everyone You Know Has an Accent



JANEPRITCHARD/ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

By Oufan Hai
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

You have an accent, I have an accent, and so does everybody else on Earth.

This might not make sense to you at first. When I mentioned to some friends that we all have accents, most of them proudly replied, "Well, I speak perfect English/Chinese/etc." But this kind of misses the point.

More often than not, what we mean when we say someone "has an accent" is that their accent is different from the local one. We're usually talking about pronunciations different from our own, and sometimes foreign slang usage. But this definition of accents is limiting and could give rise to prejudice.

Funnily enough, in a linguistic sense, every person speaks with an accent. A linguist's definition of an accent refers to systematic phonological variation. In simpler terms, the regular differences in how we produce sounds define our accents. For example, in American English, the words "three" and "tree" are pronounced differently. But in Singapore Colloquial English, "three" is pronounced the exact same way as "tree."

It's time to reframe how we view accents. Even if you don't hear it yourself, or it's not as dramatic as a TV New Yorker, you speak with some sort of accent. In this sense, it's pointless to point out that someone "has an accent." We all do! The right question to ask is, "What particular accent does the person have?"

'Funnily enough, in a linguistic sense, every person speaks with an accent.'

Every person speaks a dialect, too. In the linguistics definition, a dialect is a version of a language that is characterized by its structural and lexical variations. For instance, "You

got eat or not?" (meaning "Have you eaten?") is an acceptable and understood question in Singapore Colloquial English. The fact that this expression would cause a Standard American English speaker to take pause doesn't mean that Singapore Colloquial English is "wrong" or "ungrammatical." The sentence is well-formed and clearly communicative, according to native Singapore English speakers' robust system of grammar. Why should it be wrong just because it's different?

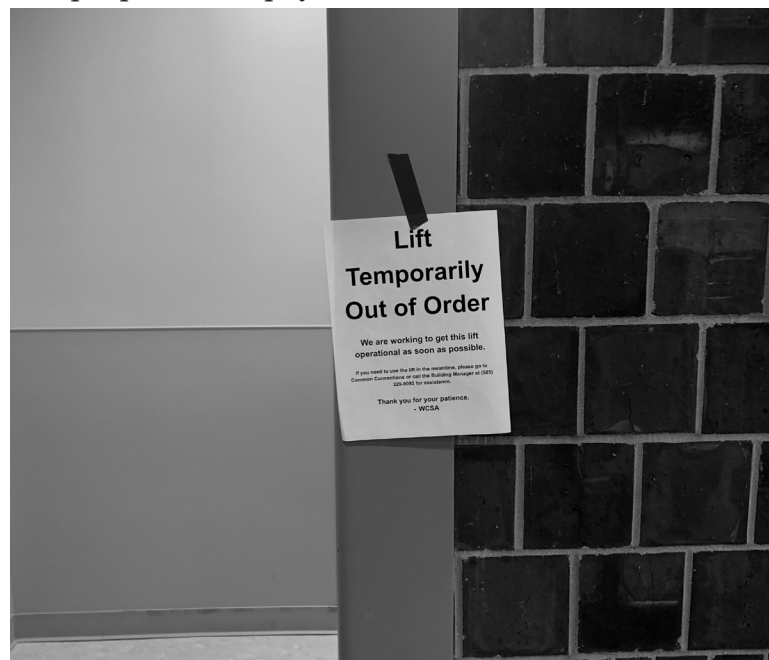
We need to move beyond a narrow conception of dialects and accents — for the benefit of everyone.

'We need to move beyond a narrow conception of dialects and accents — for the benefit of everyone.'

Language differences like these provide insights into people's cultural experiences and backgrounds. In our global school in a global age, the way we speak is a distinct part of one's identity. There is much that accents and dialects could teach us about cultures, if we would just listen. As senior Sakhile Ntshangase once wrote in the Campus Times, "Accents can be the beginning of intriguing conversations." Most people would be happy to talk about the cultures behind their speech. We'd learn more about the world we live in and make friends along the way.

Despite COVID-19, students have come back to campus from all across the United States and the world. Next time you hear something like, "You want to go Makan?" ("You want to go eat?"), don't label it a "foreign" or "inferior" accent, or an incorrect version of the language. Rather, treat it as a perk of our diverse campus community.

Hai is a member of the Class of 2024.



RACHEL BREINING/STAFF WRITER

Will Coming Back to Rochester Be Worth It?



BRIDGET TOKIWA/ILLUSTRATIONS STAFF

By Muskaan Vasandani
STAFF WRITER

Remember how everyone was so hopeful about 2021 when the pandemic hit last March? I thought 2020 was hopelessly cursed, and that simply changing that last zero to a one would put a swift end to all of the problems 2020 threw at us.

'I couldn't have been more naive.'

I couldn't have been more naïve.

I just travelled back to Rochester from India after about 10 months, because I knew I couldn't bear

another semester of 2 a.m. classes. But even with the assurance that my professors and I are finally in the same time zone, I'm still trying to figure out if all the effort I made to get here is going to be worth it.

'I don't know if I'll get to enjoy even a fraction of the aspects of colleg life I took for granted before COVID-19.'

For instance, I totally underestimated how arduous a 24-hour journey across

an ocean is with a mask on and the sheer amount of sweat that gathers underneath said mask. It felt like the bottom half of my face had a tiny sauna all to itself.

'I learned that for once in my life I'd actually made a smart choice!'

I decided to quarantine in an Airbnb, as the University's hotel option was way outside my budget. After talking to some friends about their experiences in hotel quarantine, I learned that for once in my life I'd actually made a smart choice! UR's Basic Needs Hub was kind enough to fund me for three days' worth of great Chinese take-out — and from what my friends told me, this food was much better than the hotel's offerings.

Ten months away from Rochester has made me appreciate just how cold it really is here. Rochester gave me a characteristically frosty welcome as I left the airport, just before I fell in the snow lugging my

mammoth suitcase behind me, spraining my wrist. This series of unfortunate events only ended when my COVID-19 test came back negative, and I could finally meet my absolutely wonderful suitemates.

Seeing my friends physically after months of Zoom calls and group chats felt amazing, and I actually forgot for a while that I'd sprained my wrist. We have the cutest, comfiest little apartment in Riverview which, after a series of small fixes by Facilities and an extremely deep cleaning by its residents, feels almost like a home away from home now.

'What I do know is that 2021 hasn't completely solved all of our problems, but it has brought some hope.'

Again, I don't know if returning to Rochester will be worth it. I don't know if I'll get to enjoy even a fraction of the aspects of college life I took for granted before COVID-19. I don't know if

I'll make it to an in-person lab more than a few times, or if campus will shut down mid-semester.

'We need to learn how to enjoy the simplest of things.'

What I do know is that 2021 hasn't completely solved all of our problems, but it has brought some hope in the form of vaccines. Life at the University definitely won't go back to the "old normal" anytime soon. All we can do for now is adhere to social distancing norms so that we don't switch to a completely virtual curriculum all over again. We need to learn how to enjoy the simplest of things, like having dinner with our suitemates or even just spotting a familiar face at Target. Exercise gratitude for the moments that bring a smile under that mask.

Hang tight just a little longer — the sunshine of spring is just around the corner!

Muskaan Vasandani is a member of the Class of 2022.

Consent is Simple, Actually



BRIDGET TOKIWA/ILLUSTRATIONS STAFF

By Ari Wolf
STAFF WRITER

The thing my worst sexual encounters all have in common is that they were instigated by men I thought I could trust. The guy who put his hands where he knew I didn't want them, and dared me to do something about it. The guy who called me frigid when I didn't let him grope me in a hotel hallway. The guys who avoided defining our relationship because they liked getting whatever they wanted, and being accountable for nothing.

Emotional coercion is still coercion. Pretending to love someone or to want a relationship with someone is still shitty. Bullying someone into sex with words isn't much better

than bullying someone into sex with fists.

'There's something deeply sick about a culture that thinks lying to somebody about being in love with them is funny.'

Coercion looks like bullying, manipulation, or "smooth talk" that maneuvers past someone's defenses, sometimes supplemented with alcohol. Coercion is Barney in "How I Met Your Mother," mocking the women he sleeps with because they believe his outrageous lies. The most outrageous lie he tells is that he's in love with them. There's something deeply sick about a culture that thinks lying to

somebody about being in love with them is funny.

It seems to me that men (yes, this is a gender thing) have taken to applying the word "consent" to any situation in which a woman eventually says something other than "No."

To clarify: It isn't consent just because she "lets" you. It isn't consent if you "get" her to do it — through calculating words, a guilt trip, sheer physical strength, etc. It isn't consent if you get to second or third or any base at all while she's shoving your hands away or asking you to slow down. And you're not a "sex god" for pushing past the boundaries of someone who's unsure. You're a perpetrator.

'It's important to be aware of the ways gender conditioning shapes you.'

Of course people of all gender identities are capable of betraying those they care about and perpetrating sexual harm. However, men, for the most part, are encouraged more than others to view women as conquerable territory. Women, for the most part, are taught to blame ourselves when men enter the territory of

our bodies without asking first. It's important to be aware of the ways gender conditioning shapes you. You're affected by what you're taught it means to be a "good man" or a "good woman." You're affected by whether you were taught to view your body as a weapon, or as a piece of real estate.

'The goal here, in case it's not clear, is to treat those around you like human beings.'

While women of course need to learn to be assertive, no amount of self-defense is ever going to substitute for men who believe that women don't deserve respect. No amount of consent-based sex ed is going to fix a man who can't distinguish between his interest in a woman, and her interest in him.

The principles of consent aren't actually hard to understand. If he says she consented and she says she didn't, then she didn't consent. If she's silent and doesn't expressly say, "Stop," but she didn't say yes either, and she's not kissing or touching you back, she still didn't consent.

If she doesn't make it clear that she wants to,

and you do it anyway, then she didn't consent.

This has always been true. The laws have changed and the social norms are changing, but the reality of what constitutes a consensual sexual encounter has not changed. The only difference is that men are suddenly being held accountable.

I encourage all of us to hold each other accountable, in all our relationships. Ask for permission before you touch someone you don't know. Ask your partner if any new sex act is alright before you "just try it." If there's any new territory you'd like to enter with someone, ask before you do.

The goal here, in case it's not clear, is to treat those around you like human beings, not walking, talking toys. The goal is to hold yourself accountable for how you treat someone when they're vulnerable. The goal is to hold yourself accountable for what you do with the power you have.

That's the true measure of a human being's sexual worth. Not what they can manipulate or force or coerce their partner into doing.

Wolf is a graduate student at the College of Arts and Sciences.

Campus Times

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HUMOR

Top 10 Quarantine Phases, Ranked

By Alyssa Koh
HUMOR EDITOR

One of the most intriguing parts of quarantine is having the time and space to “find yourself.” For some, that means lots of soul-searching and active effort to make themselves better, inside and out; for others, that means bingeing “Bridgerton” until they resign themselves to the fate that they will never be loved by a mildly attractive British man (and thus deserve absolutely zero rights). However, one incredibly prominent experience is reverting back to phases that we all experienced in the most formative years of our lives, such as middle school.

Thus, here, for your viewing pleasure, are 10 of the mid-quarantine phases, ranked and psychoanalyzed by yours truly.

Disclaimer: I have also been through these phases, so all of these jabs are also directed at myself. I feel your pain.

10. Kids' shows

Were you — rightfully so — obsessed with “Fetch! with Ruff Ruffman” as a kid? Did you happen to be wholeheartedly invested in “Spongebob,” “iCarly,” or even “TUFF Puppy?” If you rewatched any of these types of shows over quarantine, you are definitely clinging to a part of your childhood that you miss: the freedom to watch television without the fear of impending deadlines. Bonus points for now searching for gay subtext in every show by yourself without watching a two hour-long video essay

about it first.

9. Puzzles/elementary school-level crafts

You enjoy the simpler things in life. However, for the past couple of years, you've done nothing but focus on academics, so you may have lost touch with a more creative side of yourself. Puzzles and simple crafts, such as bracelet-making or paint-by-numbers, are easy tasks to do while going completely head empty that also leave you with a finished product. That way, you feel less bad about possibly wasting your time. Bonus points if you've also tried to pick up/relearn an instrument over quarantine.

8. Conspiracy theory rabbit holes

Did you watch Shane Dawson in his conspiracy phase or “Gravity Falls” (and follow the finale's ARG) back in the day, or did you recently discover YouTube channels like “Night Mind” or “Dad?” Either way, the absurdity of our current situation — being in a “panoramic” and all — has led you to explore other absurd events that can only potentially be explained. Bonus points if you religiously tune in for every new “Buzzfeed Unsolved” episode.

7. Cooking shows

You definitely veered towards a mental breakdown after the “Bon Appetit” fiasco went down and you definitely obsessed over the newest season of your favorite emotional support show, “The Great British Baking Show.” Not only did you have a home



JANEPRITCHARD / ILLUSTRATION EDITOR

cooking/baking phase of your own at the start of quarantine, but you may have also set up a separate Instagram account for your new culinary endeavors. Bonus points for continuing to support Sohla on the “Binging with Babish” team or for binge watching “Chef's Table.”

6. Old-school YouTube

You definitely had an “Undertale” phase in some way, shape, or form. If you didn't, you had a serious existential crisis about cancel culture after Jenna Marbles left YouTube (or maybe you experienced both). Whether you've gone back to gaming channels like “The Game Theorists,” “Markiplier,” or “Jacksepticeye,” or more general classics like “Nigahiga” or “Smosh” circa-2012, you miss having inside jokes with your friends that lasted for longer than a couple of days on TikTok.

5. Mid-2010s music

You are obsessed with the new coming of Taylor Swift

and you're not afraid to say so. In addition, you can most likely recite either all of Harry Styles' “Fine Line” or recognize a Panic! at the Disco song within three seconds. You miss how YouTube Rewind used to make you feel, and you found yourself becoming a fan of musical artists that you used to hate back when they were popular. Bonus points if you have a playlist dedicated to Minecraft parody music or you're making plans to go to the next Warped Tour.

4. Any fandom-based social media

Whether it was “Harry Potter,” “Sherlock,” or “Dan and Phil,” you were bit hard by the fandom bug. You may have forgotten what it was like to have online friends, or maybe you always had them, but quarantine strengthened your relationships with your fandoms and their source content. You may have moved into new fandoms over the years, but your passions and frustrations stay the same.

Bonus points if you've become a therapist for your online friends... again.

3. Anime/K-pop

Maybe you just started getting into it over the initial quarantine — possibly even winter break — or maybe you just got back into groups/shows you had been casually stanning while classes became busy, but the amount of your feed that is dedicated to fan edits is absolutely astonishing. If you can now explain the entire synopsis of “One Piece” or can name all of the 23 members in NCT, you really went through it over quarantine. Bonus points if you spent money on merch or reopened a fandom-centric social media account.

2. Fanfiction

Similar to the other stan culture social media entries, but somehow so much more intense. You either had an AO3 account or made one over quarantine and the amount of mediocre writing you have read makes you feel as if you've lost brain cells, but the hidden gems keep you going. You know way too many adjectives — to the point where you are basically a human thesaurus — and any time you hear the word “orbs” it stresses you out to a hilarious degree. Bonus points if you started writing yourself.

Thought I would give the best phase away that easy? Nope! Check online to find out the best mid-quarantine phase.

Koh is a member of the Class of 2024.

Lake Ontario: Shockingly Bereft Of Crabs



JANEPRITCHARD / ILLUSTRATION EDITOR

By Ethan Busch
PUBLISHER

Coming from Baltimore, I'm a southerner at heart. Baltimore definitely gets snow, but it's nothing like the bay freezes. We also spend more time crabbing than fishing. I love crab, which is somewhat

problematic for the son of two Rabbis. However, it's really their problem, not mine. My love for crab is stronger than my affection for Jewish tradition.

Suck it, Tevya.

But there are

unfortunately no blue crabs in lake Ontario. There is, however, plenty of ice. This led me to the conclusion that I should try ice fishing. So I went up to the lake, and ventured out onto the ice.

A disclaimer: I know nothing about ice fishing.

I started by trying to kick a hole in the ice. That... didn't work well. I'm told that if you can kick a hole in the ice you probably need to get off the ice before you fall into a freezing lake. Which, while surely an interesting experience, was not the goal.

So, I went back to my car to get my ice saw (because every good fisherman has an ice saw in his back pocket) and brought it out onto the lake. It took me a while (because unlike every good fisherman, I know next to

nothing about ice saws) but I eventually made a hole.

At this point, I was beginning to realize how woefully unprepared I was to go ice fishing.

'A disclaimer: I know nothing about ice fishing.'

Go figure. I knew that some people do it with a spear, and I figured that after two semesters of classical archaeology, I would have one laying around, but unfortunately I didn't.

I decided to do some research and try again. I probably should've started with that, but we're here now.

My girlfriend, fortunately, speaks Finnish. I thought that would make her an expert on ice fishing. She disagrees, but she still

had lots of advice.

Apparently, I was missing beer and a chair. The chair was pretty easily acquired — I stole one from the pile in the corner of Wilco (it's not like anyone was using it). In addition, I happened to have the beer in my trunk (as all good fishermen also do).

She also explained that nobody uses spears anymore, so I procured a fishing rod through... certain means. Now, I was actually prepared to go ice fishing.

I cut a new hole, plopped my chair down next to it (the green of the padding clashed a bit with the ice, but oh well) and started drinking beer. Unfortunately, I caught no fish, but I did get drunk and fall asleep.

I'd count this as a success.

Busch is a member of the Class of 2023.

The Real Reason Students Returned To Campus: The Results Will Shock You

By Fabian Halblander
STAFF WRITER

Poll: 87% of on-campus students cite freedom from Duo authentication as their primary reason for returning.

Ah, spring semester. Nothing quite like the feeling of a cold, dark, Sunday night in snowy Rochester, contagion lurking behind every corner, the tally of consecutive sunless days growing like UR's endowment.

Snuggle up under five or six blankets in your under-insulated dorm room and get some rest. You'll need your beauty sleep for the next few months of good ol' pre-recorded academic rigor, and — you guessed it — full price tuition baybeee.

'Nothing quite like the feeling of a cold, dark, Sunday night in snowy Rochester, contagion lurking behind every corner, the talley of consecutive sunless days growing likr UR's endowment.'

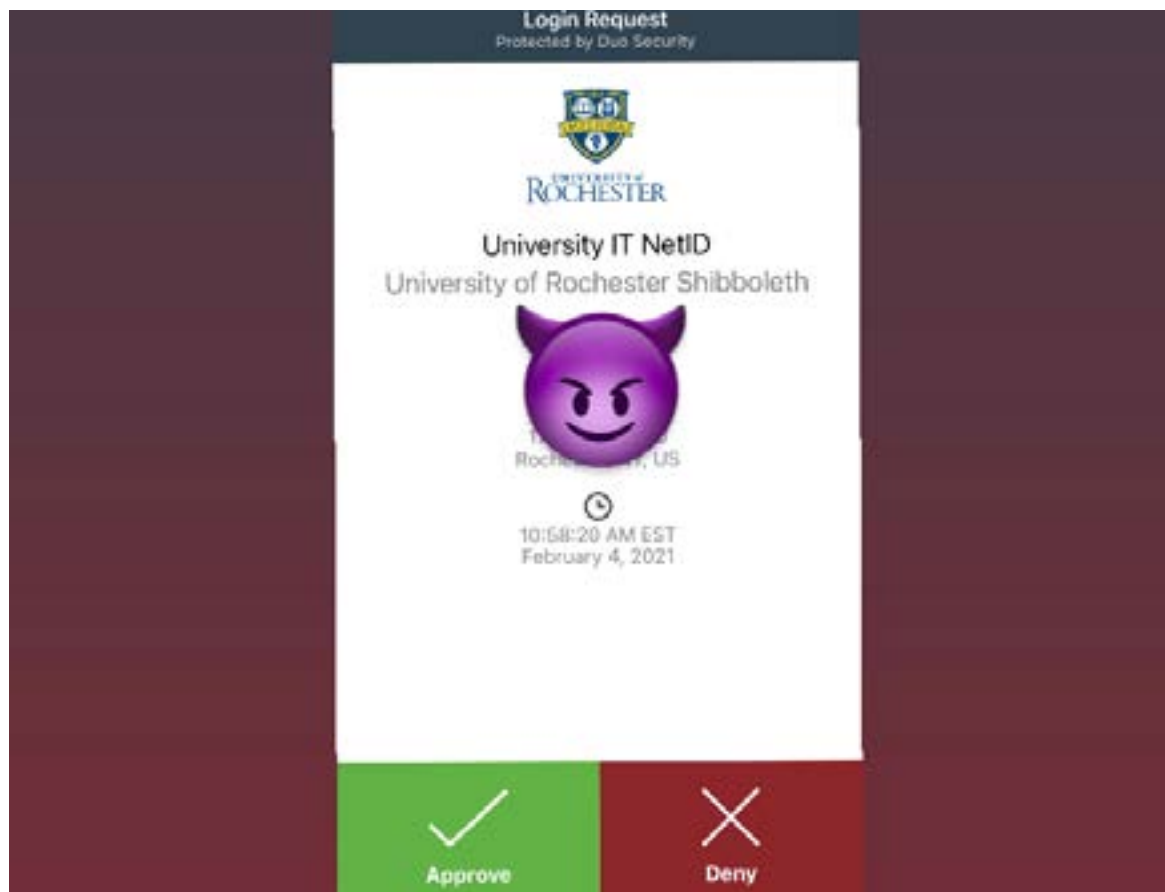
Bitterness aside, we're interested, and maybe our readers are as well, in the following question: What is there to do around here, anyways? What does a yellowjacket have to look forward to after a long day of protecting the hive; that

is, shutting themselves in their room at all costs, venturing out only to speed walk to and from the dining hall three times a day with their head down? Sure, it has to be done for "the greater good," or "public health and safety" or whatever, but it's kind of boring. What are UR students happy to be back for?

To find out, a crew of intrepid CT reporters battled River Campus' frigid terrain over the course of the weekend, searching for any signs of life, any student, shrew, or Quad Fox, to interview. After some hours, we were able to speak with a first-year whose name was either Alvin, Calvin, or Melvin, we couldn't tell, his speech obscured by a thick cloth mask and a blistering westerly wind.

"What excites you most about being on campus this semester?"

"Excites me? Uh..." eyes darting back and forth, as if seeking an escape, Alvin, Calvin or Melvin furrowed his brow. "Uh... my um... my parents don't really let me have sugar. Here I can eat sugar, so that's pretty cool I guess. I was just going to Hillside for some Chips Ahoy." He twitched and shifted his stance: "Do you guys know if it's possible to check the specifics of declining charges? I might get a call."



JANEPRITCHARD / ILLUSTRATION EDITOR

After that, a particularly ferocious gust of wind plucked the mic from our interviewers hand, like how one might snatch their little cousin's candy cane on Christmas, ripping it effortlessly from their frail clutches. We intended to interview another few students, We intended to interview another few students, hopefully other prospecting types like the Chips Ahoy boy, but alas, nature had other plans.

Determined to persevere,

we hit the email registry, settling for some virtual polling. The results were overwhelming: 87% of on-campus respondents cite access to school WiFi, and with it, freedom from Duo authentication, as the most exciting part of on-campus vlife. And how.

Some other things that students are excited about include:

- Pandemic protocol trumpeting brought to you by the Instagram Stories of Poli Sci majors

- Spamming the 10-second rewind button
- Agoraphobia
- Decimating your own circadian rhythm
- A tepid reclamation of your independence
- Ice skating in disappointingly small circles
- Your mask absorbing your nasal drippings, a process you are utterly powerless to stop as your frantic bouts of sniffing prove futile

Halblander is a member of the Class of 2023.

Email From A Distraught, Unvaccinated Donor

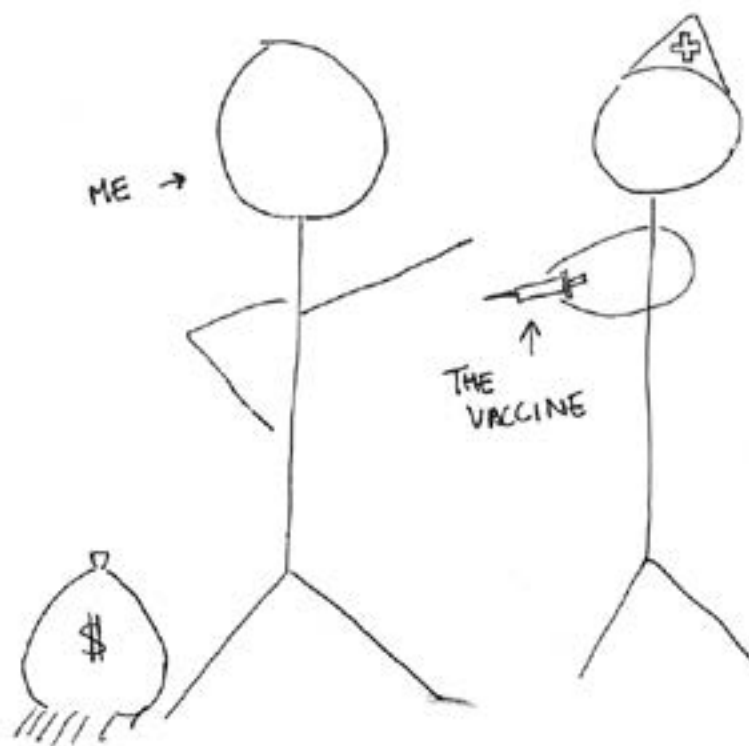
By Ben Schiffman
HUMOR EDITOR

Dear President Mangelsdorf and whoever didn't add me to the donor GC,

I've just found out that Rich E.D. Ette and his cabal of slightly richer than me friends were able to cut the line for the COVID-19 vaccine, while I seem to have been left out of the loop. Nobody told me there was a cutoff for illegal benefits, and it would have been nice to know considering my most recent donation of \$150 and two black market kidneys seems to total only \$5 net value under the apparent "official" vaccine "price."

"I am personally offended that I am not getting stuck in the arm as we speak."

While I expect you to correct this by giving me both vaccines on the same day so I don't have to wait, I also hope to be further compensated with a refund of the kidneys. Therefore I demand to be put at the top of the organ donor list as retribution to your organization. In



KAYOUNGKIM / ILLUSTRATION STAFF

addition to these demands, I want a full apology letter to be published.

You big shot, entitled jerks don't understand that I should be given everything I want when I want it because of my devotion to my alma mater. I spend well over \$10 a month to support this university, and I expect a pat on the back and a jab in the arm in return.

Please see the attached image for a diagram of what I expect (you will see a hyper realistic image of me receiving the vaccine. I may have majored in Business, but I minored in Art).

I hope you feel ashamed. I could have hidden in my grandma's trunk and slept in a parking lot in Florida for less than I've donated to you, and still have gotten the vaccine. If you want to keep my support and prevent further angry Facebook posts, I expect to be immune to COVID-19 by noon Feb. 10.

Love,
Grant Methings, Class of 1983

Schiffman is a member of the Class of 2023.