

Campus Times

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URAC Holds Protest During Mangelsdorf Event, Demands Action

By Henry Litzky and Haven Worley
PHOTO EDITOR and NEWS EDITOR

On Thursday, the UR Abolition Coalition (URAC) staged a protest at the in-person Casual Conversations with President Mangelsdorf event.

During the event, students repeated their demands for changes to the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to Mangelsdorf directly.

This move follows last semester’s overnight occupation of the DPS parking lot where URAC protestors voiced their demands to University President Sarah Mangelsdorf and DPS chief Mark Fischer, who promised further discussion.

“[President Mangelsdorf] had promised us that night [...] that she would be starting to actually have progress with this mental health task force to institute Daniel’s [Law] on campus, and ensure that cops [...] and campus police do not respond to mental health calls on this campus,” URAC organizer and senior Antoinette Nguyen said. “However, there’s been no update regarding that.”

The protest began at the steps of Rush Rhees Library, where many of their actions have started in the past. At around 4:30 p.m., organizers went over the plans to the group of roughly 30 people around the steps.

They departed the steps at 4:36 p.m. and walked down Eastman Quad chanting, “What do we want? Care, not cops! When do we want it? Now!”

They soon arrived at the Wilson Quad tent where President Mangelsdorf and various sophomores were talking.

Protestors lined the fence around the tent while URAC demonstrator and sophomore Andre Tulloch read a prepared speech to the President.

“You and your administration behave as though you actually support radical change for the University, but all you have for us is empty promises and fruitless committees,” Tulloch told the President. “We, the students, are fighting hard to actually see change. Last fall, we slept outside in the cold in front of DPS in order to get the attention of those who say they hear us and want to make the changes. Our meeting with you has been thwarted by bureaucratic red tape time and time again. We demand that if you really care about these issues and the students here, that you prioritize this meeting.”

Tulloch went on to read the URAC’s demands before the demonstration moved on into Wilson Commons. The large group, which had gained some sophomore supporters, swarmed into Wil-



HENRY LITSKY / PHOTO EDITOR

son Commons and then Rush Rhees, armed with hundreds of paper flyers that listed The Students’ Demands and included two QR codes for students to read more about the movement.

Sophomore Courtney Jung and first-year Mira Chaskes, who were in the library during that time, were “taken aback” and “caught off guard” when they saw the large group enter the library, but appreciated their conduct.

“They definitely made their presence known, but without being too disruptive,” Chaskes said.

Jung, who was in the middle of completing a calculus problem on a whiteboard, stopped her work to look into the movement briefly. “I like how they were being respectful and knowing it’s a library,” Jung said. “They wanted to prove their message in a way that is not benign, but more subtle, so you feel more accepting [of] their message.”

URAC organizers expressed optimism after the protest and stressed the importance of pressuring the administration.

“It’s important that we made her feel uncomfortable and not only her, but everybody that’s in her circle, because that feeling of being uncomfortable is something that is kind of rare on this campus, espe-

cially for admin,” URAC member and junior Katie Hardin said. “Bringing it to her instead of letting her hold all the cards in this situation [...] was one of the best things we could have done.”

“They did feel physically unsafe but that is something they can . That’s how students feel on this campus with DPS,” URAC member and junior Indy Marring said.

URAC plans to hold another virtual town hall sometime in the future, although the date is unknown at the time of this article’s publication. Though the future of their demands is uncertain, what remains certain is that URAC is here to stay.

“I believe the president saw us and heard us. Whether or not she was listening, I don’t know. I didn’t feel like it,” Marring said. “But she definitely saw and heard us. And we will meet with her later this month to see if she’s listening.”

To follow for more updates, make sure to check out URAC’s Instagram here.

*Worley is a member of
the Class of 2023.
Litsky is a member of
the Class of 2023.*

Mass resignation leaves SA with 11 senators

By Corey Miller-Williams
MANAGING EDITOR

Mass resignation leaves SA with 11 senators
12 senators have resigned from the Students’ Association (SA) over the past two weeks, citing their belief that SA’s bureaucracy makes it difficult to affect real change.

Senior and former senator Amanda Liang spearheaded the mass resignation in a speech she delivered during the senate [meeting](#) on Feb. 22. In this speech, she described SA as a “gatekeeper” that softens student activism until it becomes ineffective.

“I refuse to continue participating and legitimising a bureaucracy that was built to fail,” she said. “This is a machine where not only are there scapegoats and snakes, but a systemic lack of responsibility. Policy-making may not be opaque by design

but it is opaque by default.”

In a later interview with the Campus Times, Liang referenced an incident last year when a student harassed a group of Tibetan students and monks meeting in [Starbucks](#), which sparked a campus-wide debate on the autonomy of regions that China claims as part of their country.

“This is sort of what drove me to run for student government, was just that whole incident, and how everyone fucking did nothing. Didn’t say anything, didn’t have the balls to stand up for anything, or release a statement,” she said.

Senior and former senator Sakhile Ntshangase, who was previously an Opinions Editor for CT, said he agreed with Liang, and called on his fellow senators to become more unified and assertive in their dealings with the administration.

“Accountability is not sucking up to admin,” he said. “Accountability is not coming here and saying

that, ‘Oh, everything is okay,’ or saying that they’re doing the best that they can, because they’re really not. So if we have to be aggressive in our method of advocacy, then so be it. If we have to show up to protests, if we have to show up as a collective.”

Referencing an hour and a half meeting planning the resignation the night before, Ntshangase called out his fellow senators for not being able to come to a consensus on whether to resign en masse, as well as for making little effort within their roles and sometimes not showing up to senate meetings.

“I think we’re lying to ourselves,” he said. “I don’t think we’re honest to ourselves. So either we’re all going to resign, which I’m totally down for, or we start impeaching some people in student government that are not doing their job.”

Sophomore and former senator Andre Tulloch
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CAMPUS

SA Senators Resign

RESIGNATIONS FROM PAGE 1

Sophomore and former senator Andre Tulloch criticized SA for not supporting student activism, asking his fellow senators where they were for the UR Abolition Coalition DPS occupation.

“I was the only senator there. [...] And when I brought it to your attention, what did you do? What did you do? None of you did nothing. I told you, Mangelsdorf came out there. Dean Fisher came out there, had these conversations, and none of y’all did shit.”

First-year senator Blaine Dillingham suggested senators instead organize rallies with specific demands and consistently find and email administrators to pressure them into action instead of resigning. Liang countered that while that would be effective, SA is unable to undertake that kind of direct action, because it would violate various policies.

Sophomore and former senator Rusama Haque expressed concern for what comes after the mass resignation. “I know people will rush here when they know there’s going to be drama,” she said, “but when there needs to be change, everybody disappears.”

She also asked if SA would replace the resigned senators through a “popularity contest,” and asked why other comparable positions on campus (such as Students Association Appropriations Committee and an RA) require applications.

Both she and Liang, along with several other former senators, criticized the administration for not listening to SA and for using them as free labor to do their jobs for them.

“Last week, in our conversation with the deans, I asked, ‘Why is sexual harassment [policies] not clearly pronounced, not clearly talked about?’” Haque said. “And they said, ‘Oh, we didn’t think about it.’”

“Every single year we have a protest where we’re like, ‘We don’t want Public Safety to have guns,’” Liang said, later adding, “Why has the power continued to expand? Because the bureaucracy continues to move like a leviathan and it does not stop.”

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

TO READ THE REST, [CLICK HERE](#)

Eastman School of Music named Yamaha Institution of Excellence



Sarah Woodams/Contributing Photographer

By Sanghamitra Subba
NEWS EDITOR

UR’s Eastman School of Music has been named a Yamaha Institution of Excellence alongside 9 other colleges and universities in an inaugural annual award. The schools have been recognized as institutions with extraordinary commitment to innovating the study of music, and have been awarded for their challenging, enriching, and diverse curriculums.

‘The schools have been recognized as institutions with extraordinary commitment to innovating the study of music.’

“Each Institution of Excellence was selected for its extraordinary effort to prepare and equip modern music students in unique and meaningful ways,” senior director of Institutional Sales at Yamaha Dan Rodowicz [said](#). “This program demonstrates our commitment to finding, celebrating, and collaborating with institutions who share our vision for music’s crucial role in society.”

As a Yamaha Institution of Excellence, Eastman has access to Yamaha’s roster of guest presenters with various performance backgrounds, as well as the opportunity to collaborate with Yamaha on projects of mutual interest and provide feedback on the needs of higher music education. In previous years, Yamaha had occasionally provided guests for Eastman classes and workshops on a variety

of topics, including audio and recording technology, music software utilization, and careers outside of performance. Several Eastman faculty members are also Yamaha artists: Professors Alexander Kobrin (piano), Michael Burritt (percussion) and James Thompson (trumpet).

“Eastman has, throughout its history, stood apart from its peers by placing equal emphasis on artistry, scholarship, and leadership,” Joan and Martin Messinger Dean Jamal J. Rossi said. “Eastman graduates are positioned not only to assume the highest level music performance and scholarly positions across the world, but to have the dual ability to be leaders in their respective areas of expertise, as well as of creative arts organizations and businesses.”

Eastman has been at the forefront of the music curriculum and innovation of its program since it was established in 1921. The Arts Leadership Program — which provides career and professional education for music students — and the Master of Arts in Music Leadership — a 14-month degree program that prepares music students to lead traditional and non-traditional music programs — are a testament to how the University is committed to providing students with not only musical skills but managerial and leadership skills to be successful in their respective fields. Both programs are supported by the Yamaha Graduate Fellow Program.

Yamaha has sponsored undergraduate and graduate students for the Eastman Leadership Academy (ELA) through the Yamaha Graduate Fellows program since 2017.

“Taking part in the ELA program was such a unique experience. I was able to learn all about the ins and outs of arts administration, understanding how vital logistics can be when operating performing arts institutions,” UR senior Christopher Corona said. “This program benefited me as I was able to realize the significance of the operational aspects behind musical organizations and how vital administration is to enable musicians to be the best they can be.”

Subba is a member of the Class of 2024.

Rochester Marriage Pact Claims to Find YoUR Perfect Match

By Ashely Yoon
NEWS EDITOR



Julia Kirsch/Contributing Photographer

“Wanna get penetrated by something other than a COVID swab?” “Find someone more stable than URConnected.” “Stop finding faculty on Grindr — take the marriage pact.” Since Feb. 24, the [Rochester Marriage Pact](#) has employed everything from sex jokes to puns through Instagram posts and emails in an effort to reach single students.

The Rochester Marriage Pact is a college-specific matchmaking service — an idea that originated from a market design class project at Stanford, according to the creators. To participate, students had to fill out a 50-question [form](#) which was open to the entire UR student body.

After several days of hype, the matches were finally released, and participating students received an email containing the name and email of their match, as well as a few questions both halves of the match answered similarly.

Behind the scenes of the Rochester Marriage Pact was a team of four UR and two Stanford students who used an algorithm to match students with their potential partners.

“The reason we brought [the Marriage Pact] to UR in the first place was so that we could participate in it,” the creators of the Rochester Marriage Pact said. “We primarily chose [to do the Marriage Pact] now simply because COVID[-19] has made social interaction and meeting new people so much harder.”

‘The reason we brought the Marriage Pact to UR in the first place was so that we could participate in it.’

Another reason was the popularity of the idea seen in other schools such as Stanford and Duke University. “Because the concept was such a hit at Stanford and turned into this quirky school tradition, we’re now trying to bring this experience to UR,” the creators wrote to the Campus Times.

According to the UR team, the questions were “based on psychological and sociological research” and the things that were important when “predicting the long-term success of a relationship.” Cultural differences were also included in the form’s questions as they could either be a huge barrier or a compatible feature for a long-term relationship.

Students had mixed feelings about the Marriage Pact.

First-year Emily Han said she was initially interested in the Marriage Pact as she thought it was “a cool idea,” though she wishes the questions were different.

“I still think it’s a good idea since it’s tailored towards college kids in the same school [...] but I wish the

questions were different,” she said. “I think asking about values is important, but there are a lot of other things that I would like in a partner besides just having our values match.”

On the other hand, first-year Ro Kamala was shocked when she first heard about the pact. She soon grew to be disappointed, however.

“I thought [the Marriage Pact] was a joke of some sort [and I] only believed it was official when they started sending school-wide emails,” she said. “[Now] I feel lowkey disappointed. I think my expectations were super high. I think most people had high expectations.”

‘The questions were “based on psychological and sociological research” and the things that were important when “predicting the long-term success of a relationship.”’

The team hopes that the Marriage Pact will give students a backup plan for the future.

“We hope to provide a fun activity that connects everyone while our social lives are still limited due to COVID[-19],” the creators said. “As students ourselves, we wanted to use this opportunity to bring the school together and give people the opportunity to socialize.”

To learn more about the Marriage Pact, be sure to check out their Medium profile [here](#).

News Editor Haven Worley contributed to the reporting for this article.

Yoon is a member of the Class of 2023.

Intimidating Yellowjackets and Copyright Legality: The Surprising History of UR’s Latest Mascot

By Melanie Earle
FEATURES EDITOR

In 2015, the UR Baja Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) team wanted to make merchandise using an original design they created of Rocky — a design which can only truly be described accurately as “badass”. But once UR found out about “Ricky the Honeybee,” the Baja team was told not to use it at all. Why? Because the orientation of Rocky is actually really important.

In 2008, UR decided to change the school’s mascot from URBee to what we know today as Rocky. At least 3,400 members of the UR community agreed that URBee was too cute for UR Athletics, and the new mascot needed to be “intimidating” and have an edge.

URBee gave the following parting statement: “I didn’t have the name. I didn’t have the looks. I didn’t even have the fingers for downs and quarters. But I had heart, and I wore it on my sleeve each and every day. I like to think that counts for something.”

That same year, our beloved Rocky made their stunning debut during a basketball game.

But Rocky has a doppelganger: Meet Buzz, Georgia Institute of Technology’s mascot, who debuted in 1980. Buzz is also a yellowjacket. Buzz is also a very intimidating yellowjacket. To some, Buzz may look very similar to UR’s own intimidating yellowjacket, Rocky.

Rocky’s design is based heavily on UR’s own history with the insects. The yellowjacket mascot was first introduced in the 1920s and went through several variations until landing at the current iteration.

Georgia Institute of Technology was involved in the 2008 redesign process of Rocky, but the details of UR and Georgia Institute of Technology’s agreement are not publically available. There is an agreement between the schools that allows the bees to coexist.

Comparing the two, there are some clear distinctions. The orientation of Rocky and Buzz is different. Rocky will almost always be forward facing, and must always have the “R” on its chest. UR’s official guidelines on custom Rocky designs is to treat Rocky like a paper doll according to the UR Identity Guide.

Georgia Tech has been in mascot rumbles in the past. In 2017, the town of Damascus in Maryland wanted to paint their high school mascot, the Swarmin’ Hornets, on their water tower to celebrate the town’s high school football team. The town raised the money to get their own intimidating hornet on the water tower, until Georgia Institute of Technology stepped in



JANEPRITCHARD//ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

and shut it down.

In years prior, Georgia Tech had requested that the Damascus High School change their mascot to not be so similar to Buzz, and a licensing agreement was signed. The agreement did not include a painting of the hornet on the water tower, which Georgia Tech was quick to point out.

In 1988, Georgia Tech filed a copyright infringement suit against a minor league baseball team in Salt Lake City called the Buzz, and who also had an intimidating yellowjacket as their mascot. The Salt Lake City baseball team lost the lawsuit, and had to pay Georgia Tech \$600,000 dollars.

The team’s lawyer, Gregory D. Phillips, commented on the suit to the Chronicle of Higher Education.

“Georgia Tech might think their mascot is famous, [but] no one here has ever heard of them,” he said. “No one ever showed up at a game out here expecting to see a Georgia Tech game, and no one ever showed up out there looking to go to a Salt Lake Buzz game.”

The non-public agreement between UR and Georgia Institute of Technology seems to have prevented a “bumble” between the two universities.

Rocky and Buzz do have their differences as intimidating yellowjackets, but it can be difficult to differentiate which yellowjackets UR departments, clubs, and organizations can use. The UR Identity guide has been made to help navigate the UR yellowjacket identity and mascot world of intimidating yellowjackets.

The UR Baja SAE team is not the only group to accidentally venture into the confusion of what Rocky imagery can be used. When the Campus Times was creating our newspaper themed Rocky design, we ran into the cut and paste game of intimidating yellowjackets, too. If you were to go to the bottom floor of Meliora Hall at the moment, you might find this sign:

Look a little off? That’s actually Buzz That yellowjacket goes against the UR Identity Guidelines, and is not Rocky.

Rocky’s image has been carefully curated to not bug the other intimidating yellowjackets, which is why UR’s so protective of the way it looks.

What URBee lacked in intimidation in 2008, he at least made up for in heart and copyright legality.

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

What do
you
think?

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COMMUNITY

UR Professor Ranga Dias Named in Top 100 Influential People

By Sanghamitra Subba
NEWS EDITOR

When Ranga Dias, assistant professor of Mechanical Engineering and Physics and Astronomy, found out that he had been dubbed one of the most 100 influential people in the world, he said he was surprised. Dias had been selected for Time Magazine’s 2021 TIME100 Next list.

“My wife thought that it was a mistake,” Dias said.

Dias and his team at the University have been at the forefront of advancing research on superconductors (materials that can transmit energy without resistance). In October 2020, his team set the record by creating the world’s first room-temperature superconductor. The team combined hydrogen with carbon and sulfur to synthesize a chemical called carbonaceous sulfur hydride in a diamond anvil cell (a device that can create extreme pressures.)

At about 58 degrees Fahrenheit and 267 ± 10 gigapascals (an incredibly high pressure), the carbonaceous sulfur hydride exhibited superconductivity. Previously, superconductors needed incredibly cold temperatures, but Dias and his team discovered a way to bring up the temperature by increasing the pressure.

The ultimate goal of work like this is to have superconductors work at atmospheric pressure and temperature, which would let them theoretically power things like hoverboards and levitating trains. Currently, the main challenge is the incredibly limited theoretical framework to guide such research.

Superconductors have been around since the beginning of the 20th century and scientists have been working for years to bring them up to room temperature. In the last five years, Dias and his team have advanced that research significantly.

In 2017, Dias was part of a breakthrough on getting pure hydrogen to a metallic state, a vital part of achieving room-temperature superconductors. The research was conducted with Professor Isaac Silvera, Thomas D. Cabot Professor of the Natural Sciences, when Dias was a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University. Silvera has been researching

condensed matter and physics of particles for more than 45 years.

“Hydrogen is the backbone, the main driving force behind room-temperature superconductivity,” Dias said. “If you just take pure hydrogen, you have to go up to really high pressures like around 500 giga pascal, [which is a] huge amount of pressure.”

The discovery of metallic hydrogen by compressing pure hydrogen with a diamond anvil cell was incredibly helpful.

Finding the ambient pressure of superconductivity, which is around 270-350 kelvin and around 0-10 GPa, is the “holy grail of physics,” according to Dias.

“The challenge is to make it for practical use at atmospheric pressure,” Dias said. “We need to come up with a way to make [superconductors] work at atmospheric pressure and ambient conditions by bringing it from 2.6 million atmospheric pressure to room pressure.”

In addition to the strict environmental conditions needed, superconductors are far too expensive to hold any commercial value. To help lower the cost of superconductors, and to create an economically scalable superconductor, Dias co-founded Uearthly Materials, a start-up company with Ashkan Salamat, a professor at the University of Nevada, who Dias met as a postdoc fellow at Harvard.

When Dias, Salamat and their team were getting closer to achieving room-temperature superconductivity, they were very skeptical about it at first.

“I didn’t believe it at first,” Dias said. “We decided to do more experiments and not get our hopes too high because we wanted to make sure that what we were seeing was actually real.” It was only after repeated experiments that Dias had what he calls a “eureka moment.”

“It was a strange feeling because while we were excited, we were also surprised,” Dias said. “There was a lot of pause [in the lab] because it was happening after all those years of work.”

Dias, who teaches physics at UR, loves that he can use his own research to explain superconductivity and thermodynamics in class. His students also enjoy having the personal aspect of having a



Courtesy of J. Adam Fenster

A MAGNET FLOATING DUE TO THE MEISSNER EFFECT.

professor teach them about a topic that he has been at the forefront of. It adds an exciting element to class discussions.

Undergraduate students are also a big part of his research, and Dias said he hopes to have them back in his lab once pandemic protocol allows for more people in those spaces.

“I always tend to hire undergraduate students to my lab,” Dias said. “It doesn’t matter if you don’t know much about superconductors but they are always welcome to come watch and participate in the research [...] If I can make even one student curious [about superconductors], then I feel really good about it.”

Dias was first introduced to physics and astronomy at the age of seven when he joined an astronomy club in his home country of Sri Lanka, where he was able to meet other people with a passion for the subject. He pointed to his parents, who gave him freedom and support to explore his curiosities. Now, Dias wants to give other young people a similar opportunity at his lab.

And while Dias is very honored to be a part of the TIME100 Next list, his work is just beginning.

“I hope to see hoverboards and magnetic levitating trains within my lifetime,” Dias said.

Subba is a member of the Class of 2024.

An Interview with UR alum and Mayoral Candidate Malik Evans

By Micah Greenberg
SPECIAL PROJECTS

For months, protestors have been calling for Mayor Lovely Warren to be replaced, and Rochester City Council Member and UR alum Malik Evans ’02 is her main competitor. .

Evans grew up in Rochester, attending Wilson Magnet High School. At a young age, he became involved in community programs and helped found the City-County Youth Council, now called the Mayor’s Youth Advisory Council. In talking about his campaign, Evans said that youth development is the under-discussed issue he is most interested in.

As a UR student, Evans stayed involved in the Rochester community. He was a part of the Mayor’s Council on Race and Ethnicity and the Mayor’s entertainment task force.

Evans did not originally plan to go to UR. He wanted to live in Washington, D.C. and was interested in American University’s journalism program. “If you would have told me that I was going to [UR] when I was in tenth grade, I would have laughed at you”, he said. But the University’s Political Science department, coupled with a good financial aid offer, enticed him to stay in the city. Once he got to UR, Evans was highly involved in campus organizations and activism. He helped found the College Diversity Roundtable, which partially resulted from protests in 1999 that Evans participated in.

He recalled a situation when he was a first-year in which a Public Safety officer called the Rochester Police Department on students of color despite them showing their identification cards. Though the situation was difficult, it led to positive change, including increased efforts to hire more faculty of color, admit more students of color, the reactivation of the



Courtesy of Malik Evans

Frederick Douglass Institute, and moving the location of the Office of Minority Student Affairs out of the basement.

“I got to [UR] and realized they didn’t celebrate Martin Luther King Day. I went crazy and didn’t like that so [...] we started the Martin Luther King Commemorative Address.” At the inaugural address, Evans introduced NAACP Chairman Julian Bond, the first speaker for the annual event. He was also involved in the Minority Student Affairs Board, the Black Students’ Union, and the Rochester Men’s Forum, which he co-founded.

Recently, student activists, such as those who created petitions this past summer, talked about the University’s role in the community, especially in terms of gentrification. “I think [UR] is a great resource for our community, but they have to make sure they’re embedded in the community,” Evans said. “They’re one of the top employers, so they play a very important role in Rochester. But they have to make sure that they aren’t displacing longtime residents that were there, so it’s a balancing act for

them”.

For all four years, Evans served on the Students’ Association Appropriations Committee, and spent two years as SA Treasurer. Since graduating, Evans has worked in the banking industry, in addition to his government positions.

Soon after graduating, Evans ran for the Rochester School Board, and at 23 years old he became the youngest-ever person elected to the group. He later went on to serve as its president. He will be running for Mayor in the upcoming June election.

Evans encouraged students to get involved in politics. “I’m turned off by politics, too, but everything is politics and politics is everything,” he said. “When someone says they don’t want to be involved in politics, I’m like ‘what are you talking about?’ [...] your birth certificate is signed by probably a registrar that was appointed by a politician, and then the person who signs your death certificate was probably appointed by a politician.” Evans emphasized that many relevant public issues like taxes, roads, street lights, and schools, are all determined by politics.

“Politics doesn’t mean you have to run for office.” Evans said. “Think about it from the broader context to say: ‘what can I do to make a difference?’ And that difference may be working for a nonprofit on criminal justice reform, or working on a community development financial institution.” At the very least, Evans stressed, students need to be sure to vote.

Evans said that his time at the University was important to him in many ways beyond the classroom. “Yeah, I got a great education at the [UR], but I got even a greater education because there are people now that are working on my campaign that were students with me [...] I’ve got lifelong friends from [UR].”

Greenberg is a member of the Class of 2021.

OPINIONS

EDITORIAL OBSERVER

Biden isn’t Sleepy: He’s Complicit

By James Gunn
PRESENTATIONS CHIEF



JANEPRITCHARD/ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

“Sleepy Joe Biden” is a derisive phrase to diminish Biden’s reputation, to call him old, slow, and boring. Boring isn’t necessarily bad, politically, but only if he’s boring for the right reasons. So far, the relative quiet of his administration compared to the last one isn’t very reassuring.

Often, when people don’t care about politics, it’s because they don’t have to. That’s a habit that too many Americans are comfortable with. The late former prime minister of Canada Pierre Trudeau once said, “Living next to [America] is in some ways like sleeping with an elephant. No matter how friendly and even-tempered is the beast, if I can call it that, one is affected by every twitch and grunt.”

Americans don’t have to pay attention, and we Canadians are privileged in that, as long-time allies, we only have to feel the twitches.

We had a little taste of that during the trade spats between the Canadian and U.S. governments over the past few years. While the broader economic consequences are hard to grasp at a small scale, these little disputes over prestige, machismo, and saving face have a punishing impact on day to day life. Something as simple as [Pokemon cards have a 10% tariff](#) in Canada in response to American tariffs on Canadian steel and aluminum.

Other nations feel more than a twitch. Yemen [faces a largely man-made famine](#) at the scale of the infamous Ethiopian famine of the ’80s. Biden [announced](#) a lukewarm reduction in sales of arms to regrettable ally Saudi Arabia and a limit to activity in Yemen. Of course, the U.S. will still provide “relevant” arms to support “defensive” Saudi operations.

At the border, [Biden is already pushing back plans for immigration reform](#). He’s asked for patience, but the 70,000 migrants per month for the last four months don’t have time to wait. At least Biden decided to no longer expel children, although in response to the overflow of minors in custody the government has started putting them in shelters that aren’t even state-licensed.

So Sleepy Joe hasn’t changed all that much. And that’s concerning, because there’s a lot worth changing. But people don’t care about the necessary, quiet fixes to bureaucracy and regulation that prop up so much of the country. People don’t notice when those fixes are dismantled either, like [the removal of protection for 35 million acres of land](#) during the Trump administration.

In his campaign, Biden himself said that when he was elected, [“nothing would fundamentally change.”](#) That’s not boring. That’s being content and complicit. Unfortunately, that leaves us in a status quo that makes it easy to forget the real effects of obscure policy. I want nothing more than for President Biden’s administration to be pleasantly boring. It’s certainly better than a president ranting on Twitter. But so far, the only reason to be bored with Biden is if you don’t have to care about everything that’s still going wrong.

Gunn is a member of the Class of 2021.

EDITORIAL BOARD

We Can’t Cover Campus Without the Community



COURTESY OF @BANKRUPTPHOTOGRAPHER

Junior Nan Xie prepares to take off at the indoor track at the Goergen Athletic Center.

Sports are back! On Feb. 18, UR Women’s Basketball played the [first game](#) since the University (and world) shut down. Slowly but surely, athletics teams are getting back into the swing of intercollegiate competition.

You may have noticed that the Campus Times sports section has been pretty silent lately. Our Sports Editor position has been sitting vacant since the end of October. Sports has always been a challenging pair of shoes to fill — few students on the paper have professed an enjoyment for both writing and athletics. But since March 11 of last year, there haven’t been any games, meets, or competitions.

We’re not entirely off the hook: Even without games, there have been plenty of stories about student athletes, practice restarting, and changes to the GAC that we should have covered.

We love to joke that people don’t really pay attention to our sports teams. For student athletes and alumni, though, sports are a pretty big deal. CT would love to address this part of our community, so we need more writers. We have about 25 core members, but we rely heavily on contributing and staff writers.

We’re students first — ones with midterms, and homework, and papers, and extracurricular activities.

None of us have the time or energy to write an article every single week. In every section, but especially in sports, we need writers who contribute as regularly or irregularly as their schedule allows. You, the University community, are the backbone of this paper. 100 people who write a single article every semester are just as important as the dozen who write one every week.

This paper is only as good as its contributors. We want to be able to offer complete and detailed coverage of events on campus, and the [return](#) of sports is definitely eventful. And we want to hear all about the stuff that interests you — whatever cool new thing is happening at UR, we’d love to hear your take on it.

Do you have a friend who’s making music or painting? Is your professor doing fascinating research? Are you part of a club that is changing the city for the better? The more writers willing to cover whatever weird, zany stuff is going on, the more complete our coverage can be.

Ultimately, this is a student newspaper, which means we rely on student writers to fill our pages. We’re interested in what you have to say, and we have a variety of sections under which your writing can be published, even beyond sports. So reach out to us if you’d like to get involved!

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. EmailEditor@campustimes.org.

Campus Times

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UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER, ROCHESTER, NY 14627
OFFICE: (585) 275-5942 / FAX: (585) 273-5303
CAMPUSTIMES.ORG / EDITOR@CAMPUSTIMES.ORG

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF HAILIE HIGGINS

MANAGINGEDITOR COREY MILLER-WILLIAMS

MANAGINGEDITOR OLIVIA ALGER

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PUBLISHER ETHAN BUSCH

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MUSKAAN’S MUSINGS

The Marriage Pact And Modern Loneliness: It’s Too Good To Be True

By Muskaan Vasandani
COLUMNIST

The COVID-19 pandemic changed a lot for everyone. As going out on Friday nights has morphed into staying in with Netflix (and no chill), opportunities to socialize in person are slim, if not impossible. Let’s face it: Most of us are so used to staying in at this point, we find socializing and going out to be herculean tasks. This change has caused psychologists to worry that we’re being hit by not just the global pandemic, but a [loneliness pandemic](#) as well.

A recent Harvard study suggests that feelings of social isolation are on the rise, with older teens and younger adults hit the hardest. College students are normally at the age that’s supposed to be the “prime of their lives.” They’re biologically programmed to be at their highest social capacity at this age, and when such a group of individuals has no choice but to quarantine for the better part of a year, this takes a toll on their mental health. This is completely normal, even if you identify as an introvert. Feeling lonely is warranted, and a sadly common occurrence in today’s world.

What’s important to keep in mind though, is that lonely people are easy to prey on. Americans lost \$201 million to online romance scams in 2019, according to [CNN](#) — an almost 40 percent increase



JANE PRITCHARD/ILLUSTRATIONSEDITOR

from the year before. Loneliness makes us vulnerable, and we cling to any glimmer of hope that companionship may be possible.

This is where the Marriage Pact comes in. “50 questions. 10 minutes,” and the promise of getting you your best possible match.

It sounds extremely enticing — especially to a college student sitting all alone in their dorm on a Friday night. So what’s the harm? Isn’t it just a simple questionnaire? Isn’t it just a more sophisticated Tinder?

Well, it probably isn’t all that bad — and I’m sure the Marriage Pact even connected many students

with a good match! But what we really need to be asking ourselves is who gets to keep all of this personal information about us? With a questionnaire that goes into excruciating detail about everything from religious beliefs to kinks and fetishes, do we really want an anonymous person at the Marriage Pact to have all of this information? Probably not.

This survey has made its appearance at numerous other schools, too, including Duke, Yale, Cornell, Tufts, and Columbia. Even after numerous attempts to contact the organization, which is [registered in Delaware and doing business in California](#), no one has a definitive answer as to how the company is protecting this sensitive data.

So, here’s the million dollar question: Do we really have to risk all of our personal data for the promise of a perfect on-campus companion? Definitely not, and there are much better ways to make new friends in these times of social distancing. Join a new club — you may meet someone you like at a GIM! Be more interactive in breakout rooms. They aren’t that bad. And if your most pressing concern is finding a date, I’d suggest that Tinder is a much better option than whatever the Marriage Pact actually is. Just because you’re lonely and single doesn’t mean you deserve to be targeted by the Marriage Pact. You definitely deserve much better!

Vasandani is a member of the Class of 2023.

The Toxicity of TikTok Beauty Trends

By Ruchita Makhun
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“Mirror, mirror on the wall. Who’s the prettiest of them all?” Everyone is. Including you. No matter what TikTok’s beauty trends want you to believe.

The popular video-sharing platform, with over one billion users, needs no introduction. Its huge library of short clips ranges from dancing to awareness campaigns to DIY hacks. But what happens when anyone in the world can create anything and post it on a widespread platform? Not all of the content will be good for you. TikTok has a dark side: its toxic beauty trends.

An air of self-deprecating humor pervades the platform. People with large followings keep this population entertained by creating more and more fault-finding content — especially in regard to people’s looks.

“This filter lets you know if you have full lips or not.”

“You’re attractive if you have eight to 10 teeth showing when you smile.”

“Apparently, this filter shows how good your eyebrows look.”

“If your forehead, nose, and lower mouth are of the same length, then you have a perfect face.”

“Use this effect to adjust the size of your features.”

Often paired with catchy background music, these comparison trends easily catch your attention. With the strategic hashtag #fyp, creators ensure that these videos appear on your “for you page” (fyp) and compel you to watch them.

Human nature imbues within us a conformist tendency to follow the crowd to gain approval. As a result, we look at the huge number of views on these posts and think following these trends is the right thing to do. So we hurriedly download the filters or rush to the mirror to fake the biggest smile we can muster and curiously count our teeth.

Curiosity kills the cat. Likewise, the inclination to compare our looks kills our confidence.

We see all the likes on these videos, and the bandwagon effect compels us to like them too. TikTok’s algorithm then believes this is the type of video we enjoy and will bombard our fyp with more, leading us down a bottomless pit of toxic beauty standards.

This reflects in our personal lives as we grow overly conscious of ourselves in public and scan the faces around us to check who has the most

perfect TikTok face. The newfound impulse to constantly compare each other intrudes our minds as a parasitic whisper of insecurity, taking a huge toll on our mental health.

Maybe I’m just really stubborn, but I don’t understand why I should let anyone else dictate how to feel about my body.

Why is the definition of beauty restricted to only full lips, small pointy noses, high cheekbones, etc.? Media has been sustaining Western beauty ideals for generations and has failed to consider that different cultures and countries have their own beauty standards. What is considered a flaw in one country or culture is pretty in another. You might not believe it, but I find dark circles (the proof you worked hard until late at night) and scars (the proof that you’ve survived battles) beautiful. And I’m sure there are plenty of others who do, too.

My point is that we need to strive for body positivity because every facial feature is beautiful in its own way. We need to uplift each other, celebrate each other’s uniqueness, and spread positive messages — not comparison tests.

TikTok beauty standards sort people into groups

according to the sizes of their noses, foreheads, or lips. They diminish a person to nothing more than their looks. People are whole individuals with far more interesting qualities than their forehead size.

It’s who you are and what you do that matters. It’s the way your eyes light up when talking about your favorite book or the way you take care of your sad friend that makes you beautiful. As we age and grow wrinkles, it’s the things we did that we’ll be remembered for, not what we looked like 20 years ago. Trust me, no one’s actually counting and committing to memory how many teeth are in your smile.

So, next time such toxic comparisons pop up on your fyp, I want you to pause and ask yourself if it’s helpful to watch, or if you want to spread the message to others. If not, click on that “not interested” option or scroll away. You’ll be doing your future self a great favor by avoiding inhibitors to your mental health right now. We’re the first person we can count on to love and appreciate ourselves.

Makhun is a member of the Class of 2023.



JANE PRITCHARD/ILLUSTRATIONSEDITOR

How ‘Orange Is the New Black’ Fails Female Prisoners



By Ari Wolf
STAFF WRITER

I never thought I’d have to say this, but here goes: Violence against women and girls isn’t funny, it’s a tragedy.

I started watching “Orange Is the New Black” over winter break. I’d heard such good things — about the show’s feminism, its portrayal of Black women, its willingness to include women who don’t have the dimensions of a model. I was curious.

I was curious for more reasons than that, though. I was in jail myself for several days, once. I stole \$10 worth of food because I was starving. I missed my court date because I had no car or even money for bus fare, or a cell phone to set an alarm for my 8 a.m. appointment. The court issued a bench warrant, and like so many others, I was swept into a system fueled by forces that had no real concern for a 20-year-old disabled woman with no idea how to navigate the world safely.

The nurse who checked me in asked me whether I’d been raped by my arresting officer. I told her I hadn’t been, and asked why she would ask me something like that. She told me that, in her

estimation, one-third of the women answered that question with “Yes.”

I can’t tell you whether those statistics are accurate. I can only tell you what I know.

What I know is that during the three days I was in jail, I made five close friends. Within those three days, one of those friends confessed to me that her arresting officer had raped her.

This is jail, in real life. Women’s bodies are still

‘This is jail, in real life. Women’s bodies are still objects of titillation or scorn to the men around us.’

objects of titillation or scorn to the men around us.

And this was only county jail. Jail isn’t like prison. Jail is by nature temporary. I have some idea of what women in prison go through, but I don’t know. No one can know unless they’ve been there.

But what the rest of us do know is that the percentage of female inmates who report being raped or sexually abused is very far above zero. We also know that rape is a vastly underreported crime.

For some reason, “Orange Is the New Black” felt the need to write a prison inmate who gets pregnant through consensual sex with a guard. She later tries to manipulate a different guard into having sex with her, so she can accuse him of rape and blame her pregnancy on him to avoid getting her lover in trouble.

Given that this is a show, this entire situation is played for laughs. The guy this woman tricks is a jerk, so who cares what happens to him? She and her lover are “in love.” She can’t get him in trouble (with the pregnancy he caused), right?

Meanwhile, the real-life counterpart to this fictional situation remains unacknowledged. Women are being sexually exploited in prison.

Not to mention the children who’ve been sexually abused, and the women who’ve been sterilized against their will, [in detention camps](#). Rape isn’t a joke, and you’d expect a show that fancies itself feminist to know that.

Not to mention, female violence is inextricable from long-term patterns of male abuse. [Experts indicate that between 40-80% of women in prison for murder killed their abusers](#). Widespread statistics don’t exist, but a [survey](#) of New York’s Bedford Hills Correctional Facility identified 80% of the female inmates as having “a childhood history of physical and sexual abuse,” and 90% as having experienced physical or sexual assault.

‘Violence against women and girls isn’t funny, it’s a tragedy.’

Female prisoners aren’t the empowered, angry, hostile agents of violence represented in “Orange Is the New Black.” Female prisoners are survivors of abuse that, due to poverty, racism, and cyclical oppression, they lack the resources to recover from.

We are a civilized nation, ostensibly. We don’t, however, treat female trauma survivors with civility. We call them “Crazy Eyes” or insist we’re afraid of them, as main character Piper does in “Orange Is the New Black.” We treat them as though their pain is a disease, a contagious one. We throw them away.

I’m one of them. I don’t know if you’ll take my word for it, but please. Don’t throw us away.

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

Literally, Defund UHS

By Hawraa Ahmed
STAFF WRITER

If the University ever needed to make budget cuts, UHS is where I’d cut first and most. A close second is the introductory physics labs, about which I have nothing kind to say. But we’ll save that discussion for another day.

UHS is the bane of my existence. I shiver at the sight of it when I walk each weekend from the Residential Quad to my precious Hillside. Just seeing that useless brick and concrete establishment makes my eyes bleed. It almost makes Sue B. a bearable place to be in — roaches, rats, and all.

You might be wondering why I wouldn’t think twice to sell the entire establishment and related assets for a 6” tuna sub from Rocky’s.

UHS manages to stick its grimy hands into everything and absolutely ruin it — I’m specifically referring to their “random” surveillance testing operation. Why anyone would let UHS run anything is beyond me; I wouldn’t trust them to pour piss out of a boot if the instructions were on the heel.

I’ve spoken to students that have never been surveillance tested. They never received the urgent email that was supposed to inform them of their selection for required and random surveillance testing at the GAC, while others have been called to be tested a total of six or even seven times over the course of this school year, including testing upon arrival and departure. We’re not even halfway through the second semester.

Once, I even received a scathing email from the University that said I’d never been tested for COVID-19 and that “Failure to have testing completed by a [certain time] could result in deactivation of your ID card.” By this point, I’d already had multiple tests on file with the University, one of them taken the day before I received that email.

Let me clarify: I am all for student testing, and I’m aware that UHS has been able to test more students this semester, after adopting the [Rapid Antigen Testing kits](#). I’m all about the Dr. Chatbot business and [the rewards](#). I’m a big supporter of testing students upon arrival to campus and testing them again before they leave. I’m also a huge proponent of surveillance testing in general, but



ABBY STRUGGER/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

The University Health Service Building on the River Campus sits behind Rush Rhees and serves as the center for undergraduate health.

it really should be implemented more effectively and with more behind-the-scenes organization. It shouldn’t be that some students are never tested while others are repeatedly tested, to the point of excess. At the end of the day, I have classes to attend, assignments to work on, and a job to go to. I don’t need UHS derailing my schedule and “randomly” calling upon me, the same student, every time they need to meet their student testing quota.

UHS had been the butt of plenty of jokes and complaints by students even before the COVID-19 pandemic started. And now, as a result of their complete inability to handle testing during this global emergency, I think it’s time that we carefully re-evaluate UHS’s usefulness, necessity, and contributions to the student body. My stance is pretty clear: We need to have a more efficient and more organized surveillance strategy.

For the UHS loyalists — who are far and few between — next time you wake up with a sore throat or a painful migraine, make the most out of your next stroll to the desolate wasteland that is the First-Year Hill. After you walk through UHS’s gleaming silver doors and sit in that bland waiting room, savor the Dum-Dum the nurse gives you to ease you of your ailments.

Suck on that root beer-flavored, linty Dum-Dum lolly. If you’re good, you might get a pat on the head. If you’re extra special, they might give you a follow-up gumdrop or a broken candy cane that expired a year ago. Suck on it while you look at your next bill from the University and see if it makes you feel ever better.

Ahmed is a member of the Class of 2022.

CULTURE

Corning Museum of Glass Worth the 99 Mile Trek

By Ethan Busch
PUBLISHER

The Corning Museum of Glass is probably the biggest attraction to see in the big town with the same name, located just 100 miles north of the Pennsylvania border. Fortunately for me, the museum is exactly 99 miles away from campus, so I could go without exiting the 100 mile travel radius allowed by the school.

From the outside, the museum is both striking and unassuming. A white box with straight corners faces rows of nearly identical houses, reminiscent of the drawings of houses I made in kindergarten. The museum is the image of modern architecture with clean lines, large negative spaces, and huge windows. You enter through glass doors, and after undergoing a temperature check and picking up your timed tickets, you finally enter the contemporary art exhibit.

This part of the museum was fantastic and likely would have been enjoyable even to those who don't particularly enjoy contemporary art. White walls carve the space up fluidly with gentle curves, and skylights allow the sun to illuminate the glass on display. A bowl of fruit, each one bigger than my (admittedly large) head, rests on the ground. Freeform, winding, flowing pieces of glass combine at just the right angle to suggest a shape. Many of the exhibits play with light, changing color from different angles, or creating the effect of a foggy morning. A particular highlight: Nocturne 5 by Karen LaMonte, a piece featuring a life size black dress, which felt almost like it was really made of fabric wrapped around a turning figure.

Just off of this area was the demonstration room. Here, two women worked in tandem to blow a glass vase in only



Ethan Busch/Publisher

a few minutes. It was remarkable how practiced their movements were individually and as a team. With only a handful of maneuvers, a lump of molten glass became beautiful glasswork.

Next, a bridge carried me to a section that seemed like it was designed to give further demonstrations of the modern history and processes of glassmaking. Unfortunately, this section was largely closed down, as many of the demonstrations and interactive exhibits couldn't be operated safely during COVID-19.

The largest exhibit was the best. Starting with ancient Egypt, the exhibit is a circular tunnel that takes you through the history of glassmaking. First, simple perfume

bottles, then mosaics, and eventually masterful works of Rome. You leave Italy to travel the world, seeing works from a variety of cultures before returning to the height of the Italian Renaissance, with the works of Venetian glassmakers. The historical section of the museum does a wonderful job walking you through not just the development of the craft of glassworking but also the ways that craft reflects cultural and political trends.

‘If you aren’t particularly interested in the glass itself, but you do enjoy museum architecture, history, or contemporary art, then the Corning Museum of Glass is a great place to see all three.’

After the Renaissance, you begin to see more and more contemporary work. More modern Finnish artists, Steuben glass, the history of industrial glassmaking, and more. They start to blend together as the modern world allows for advancements, and creativity abounds.

A museum of glass certainly isn't for everyone. If you aren't particularly interested in the glass itself, but you do enjoy museum architecture, history, or contemporary art, then the Corning Museum of Glass is a great place to see all three. If any of this sounds appealing to you, and you don't mind driving an hour and a half, it's certainly worth a day trip.

Busch is a member of the Class of 2023

CT EATS

Good Luck Affording the Entire Menu at Good Luck



Hailie Higgins/Editor-in-Chief

Good Luck's 1lb burger was so good, we got it twice! Once with a salad, once with (killer) fries.

By Hailie Higgins
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Have you ever wanted to spend \$28 on a cheeseburger and fries? Boy oh boy, do I have the place for you.

Clickbait-y introduction aside, Good Luck's massive, four-person platter is worth every penny. I consider myself somewhat of a burger connoisseur, and the one I tried last Wednesday knocked my socks off, took my breath away, and appeared in my dreams that evening.

To celebrate my roommate turning 22, my housemates and I zipped over to the Neighborhood of the Arts to try out Good Luck: a hip, upscale-yet-industrial bar and restaurant that serves giant gourmet versions of American classics, designed to share with the whole table. This is not the place for defensive eaters, as everything on the menu is way too big (and, by extension, way too expensive) for any one person to tackle. Normally, they're open for dinner until 11 p.m., and serve drinks until 2 a.m.

There, we met up with Good Luck employee and good friend of my roommate, Emma, who got us a seat at the nicest table, a free bottle of champagne, and a pizza on the house. Although I was admittedly wine and dined more than the average customer due to my connections with a staff member, I can say with confidence that I'd go back a hundred times for the quality of my meal alone.

To kick the evening off, our server, Alex, gave us a free bottle of Le Couture Prosecco, which was on the menu for \$40. As a college kid who turned 21 back in

October, that might have been the most expensive alcohol to ever enter my temple of a body. Sitting at the table with us was Steph, Emma's roommate and Good Luck bartender, who had drink recommendations aplenty. I tried the Kathy, a froo-froo pink drink made of grapefruit liqueur, St. Germain elderflower liqueur, and lemon juice. Added to that is your choice of vodka, gin, or tequila. If you're looking for a punch, go with gin or tequila. Looking for a soft, sippable drink, I went with the least punchy option, the vodka. It was wonderfully inoffensive, and went down like a refreshing, slightly flowery glass of juice.

In total, our table of six ordered the chicory salad, the potato salad, two burgers, the Sicilian pizza, and an extra order of fries for good measure, all to share. We were also given a second free margherita pizza, likely thanks to any of Emma and Steph's friends who were working that evening.

To keep this article a reasonable length, I won't go into detail about everything I tried, but just know that if I were to die tomorrow, I'd have any one of these items as my last meal. Yes, even (especially) the crispy almost-shoestring french fries, which came with a house-made sauce of ketchup, mayonnaise, and brandy.

Well, everything except the 10-inch personal margherita pizza, which was aggressively average. It was a good, fancy pie, with chunks of mozzarella and a sexy sauce-to-crust ratio, but only by "locations outside of New York City" standards.

I'd especially like to highlight the Sicilian pizza, a



Coutesty of Emma Geisler

square, six-slice behemoth. It was the thickest, lightest crust I've ever eaten; the chefs in the backroom must have employed some molecular gastronomy tactics to achieve the crispy, cloudlike, not-chewy-at-all crust.

For those that don't know, molecular gastronomy is the food science subgenre that gives you smoking martinis cooled to -320 degrees Fahrenheit by liquid nitrogen. Good Luck's Sicilian pizza defied science that much with its ethereal crunch. Going back to that giant burger, the magical chefs also managed to merge both crispy and fluffy textures in their burger bun. It was toasted to buttery perfection and held between its golden gates an unbelievably juicy, savory piece of meat.

To wrap up our birthday meal, we took a peek at the dessert menu. Now, I'm a firm believer that everyone has two stomachs: the normal one that fills up with normal food, and a second, smaller dessert stomach that can only be satiated by cookies, cakes, and ice creams. We ordered two chocolate cakes that had a cheesecake center and came in a ramekin with a dollop of vanilla ice cream.

Like most nice restaurants, the dessert's always both too small to share and the most overpriced thing in comparison to the rest of the menu. This cake didn't do it for me. The exterior was a little too dry and almost crumbly, and the center was a little too liquidy and a lot too rich.

But again, I cannot emphasize how every other aspect of my gustatory experience blew me away. Even with the meal-sharing, Good Luck is a little out of the college kid's budget. But if you're looking to splurge or impress your marriage pact match, consider taking a drive. It's only a block away from the Memorial Arts Gallery. Date night, anyone?

Higgins is a member of the Class of 2022



Hailie Higgins/Editor-in-Chief

Pressing Play in a World on Pause

By Mahnoor Raza
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With the rest of the world at a halt this past year, many of us college-aged kids craved an escape or turned to nostalgia for comfort.

In particular, music has enabled us to wallow in our emotions and connect with ourselves and others who were feeling the same way. For these reasons, the noticeable increase in our consumption and sharing of music comes as no surprise.

Senior Zophia Dadlez, a DJ for student radio station WRUR-FM, noted that music is an inherently “emotional experience” that people are able to share with their friends easily, making it a “jumping point” for social connection.

‘In particular, music has enabled us to wallow in our emotions and connect with ourselves and others who were feeling the same way.’

Dadlez hosts her own show “Full Moon in Leo” every week on The Sting, WRUR’s online radio station. The show gives her a platform to share the songs she’s been enjoying, talk about astrology, and (virtually) spend time with an occasional co-host, such as her sister. She became involved with WRUR a few weeks after the pandemic struck. In a time where it was increasingly difficult for students to initiate and maintain relationships, Dadlez found that her social life had actually improved. This resulted from the sense of community she discovered at the radio station, which has an active Discord server and hosts Zoom meetings for members every weekend, where students share their favorite music.

It was also through WRUR that Dadlez met her current housemate, as well as two of her closest friends, one of whom produced her phenomenal 2020 EP, “Night Plow Route.” The two spent the summer sending files back and forth, with Dadlez writing



Bridget Tokiwa/illustrations Editor

and recording in her room, and UR alumna Hannah Jocelyn mixing and producing the tracks. The deeply personal experience of sharing lyrics, instrumental audio clips, and the odd vocals via voice memo helped her form lifelong friendships even when everything was shut down during her senior year.

WRUR is only one example of how the power of art persisted during the pandemic; music brought people together in unprecedented ways, be it neighbors singing with each other from across their balconies and through their windows, policemen playing guitar in the streets of Spain, or the Internet unifying to scorn the delusional, tone-deaf debacle that was celebrities singing “Imagine” from the comfort of their mansions, barely a week into quarantine. As festivals were cancelled and tour dates postponed, artists and fans shifted to livestreams, ranging from virtual concerts such as BTS’s record-breaking event Bang Bang Con and Dua Lipa’s Studio 2054, to free online events such as Sennheiser’s #Don’tStopTheMusic, Global Citizen’s Together at Home series, and various Instagram lives.

Slowly, as TikTok crept its way into our scrolling routines, music such as “Blinding Lights” by The Weeknd and “Say So” by Doja Cat began to fuel viral dance challenges. These “sounds,” as they are known on the app, formed the backdrop for performances that became sources of respite for bored teens in their

rooms, frontline workers on break, and everyone in between.

The success that “Blinding Lights” experienced, however, extended far beyond TikTok; it became the first song to go No. 1 during the pandemic. In fact, 2020 was a massive year for pop — perhaps the biggest since 2014 — with releases like The Weeknd’s multi-platinum “After Hours,” Beyoncé’s visual album “Black is King,” Dua Lipa’s disco-revival record “Future Nostalgia,” Chloe x Halle’s Grammy-nominated “Ungodly Hour,” and Ariana Grande’s chart-topping “Positions” dominating the music landscape.

‘Music has served as a testament to the incredible uniting power of online communities. It’s helped us stay afloat through the turmoil of our time...’

The year also inspired a number of more understated pandemic albums, the most notable of which included Taylor’s Swift’s “folklore” and “evermore,” released within six months of each other. All other spontaneous pandemic-time releases echoed this sentiment, be it Troye Sivan’s captivation with boredom and being alone in “In a Dream,” Charli XCX’s examination of emotional extremes in “How I’m Feeling Now,” or Phoebe Bridger’s raw yet satirical songwriting that addressed overcoming trauma in “Punisher.” Music has served as a testament to the incredible uniting power of online communities. It’s helped us stay afloat through the turmoil of our time; if anything, the past year has been a resounding confirmation of humanity’s capacity to persevere, our tendency to draw from our individual and collective experiences, and our unbelievable commitment to finding ways to foster a sense of community, even in an era as unprecedented as this.

Raza is a member of
the Class of 2024

WandaVision (Nearly) Knocks it Out of the Park

By Melanie Earle
FEATURES EDITOR

“WandaVision” was not supposed to be the first Marvel Cinematic Universe Disney+ debut. But due to COVID-19, the show became the historical first release, setting a grand stage for what’s to come.

It’s a brilliant step forward for the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), showing that the MCU is finally settling into the rich history of the comic books and putting out some of the best television in a while on the table.

‘With the exception of the final episode, “WandaVision” steps out of the generic MCU formula and isn’t afraid to get a little crazy — which makes it a gas!’

A mystery-comedy-thriller with a hint of horror, “WandaVision” focuses on the small New Jersey town of Westville. Something is amiss — and by amiss, I mean Westville has been sucked into a television show.

“WandaVision” launches the viewer right into the mess with two of the MCU’s superheroes, Wanda Maximoff (played by Elizabeth Olsen), and her lover, Vision (played by Paul Bettany), starring in the leading roles of a spin-off of “The Dick Van Dyke Show” and “I Love Lucy” (aptly named “WandaVision”).

If Wanda Maximoff and Vision playing house and having dinner with Ms. Hart (UR alum Debra Jo Rupp) and her husband isn’t an indicator that something weird’s going on, then the fact that Vision died in “Avengers: Infinity War” should alert the viewer to pay closer attention.

With the exception of the final episode, “WandaVision” steps out of the generic MCU formula and isn’t afraid to get a little crazy — which makes it a gas! The refreshing format allows Olsen and Bettany to excel.

“WandaVision” is an exploration of grief and trauma, which is a strange pairing for a show that takes a strong influence from sitcoms from the 1960s

to 2000s, but it works. In fact, that’s what makes “WandaVision” soar.

The contradiction from the easygoing mood of sitcoms creates a sharp contrast between the dramatic pauses of “WandaVision.” The too-cheesy sitcom inspiration also creates an unsettling feeling as the viewer waits for the other shoe to drop.

Olsen delivers a stunning performance, and without her, the ship would fall apart. Olsen has a blast jumping through the decades and yucking it up with Bettany on the screen, but blink and she’s suddenly a person who’s only ever known loss and pain. Olsen’s destined for award season thanks to “WandaVision.”

Bettany’s Vision is the viewer’s partner throughout the journey. He has no clue what is going on, which perfectly resonates with the viewers’ feelings. The viewer discovers the mysteries of Westville alongside Vision, which is a nice touch.

The supporting cast is stacked as well, with Nosy Neighbor (Kathryn Hahn) and all-grown up Monica Rambeau (Teyonah Parris) shining. Both deliver memorable contributions to the MCU — looking at you, Hahn — with a surprising anthem for the summer: “It Was Agatha All Along.” I loved the new and unexpected trio of the MCU: Darcy Lewis, Agent Jimmy Woo, and Monica Rambeau. The trio made the exposition needed for the show fun and bearable.

‘I have to say that the message behind “WandaVision” doesn’t exactly hit the target. It’s an interesting take on grief, but can be better.’

I have to say that the message behind “WandaVision” doesn’t exactly hit the target. It’s an interesting take on grief, but can be better. “WandaVision” has two characters who’ve recently suffered a loss in their life through an extraordinary circumstance, but only one of them has the power that can bring back their loved ones. “WandaVision”

does an amazing job at displaying the grief, but doesn’t do much to put the cap back on the bottle.

My heart strings were forcibly tugged at, and some episodes almost had me sobbing before my 9 a.m. lecture, but I will give “WandaVision” the benefit of the doubt that Wanda’s healing is a continuing story. Despite this, the show might not get a pass on its lack of attention to the emotional damage that Wanda inflicted on her surroundings, unintentional or otherwise.

“WandaVision” is almost a slam dunk. The only thing holding it back is the pacing, and the finale. The first two episodes of “WandaVision” are fun, but a little too slow. My disappointment in the final episode is that after managing to avoid the superhero clichés for eight episodes, why give up on originality right before you cross the finish line?

“WandaVision” is almost a slam dunk. The only thing holding it back is the pacing, and the finale.’

There was just too much trauma dug up in an amazing penultimate episode for it to be dealt with alongside some superhero fights. The secret behind Westville is really dark and well thought out, so for it to be mashed-together with a generic slugfest, even if they gave a stunning new look to Wanda, may or may not have been the best bang for Marvel’s buck.

Despite those slight shortcomings, “WandaVision” is spectacular and builds excitement for what’s next for the MCU. “WandaVision” delivers a captivating story and showcases an excellent cast. “WandaVision” makes strides for what the superhero genre can be and is a touching reflection on the American sitcom.

So long, darling. Until we say hello again, MCU (which will be this Friday, with the debut of “The Falcon and The Winter Soldier”).

Earle is a member of
the Class of 2023

HUMOR

How to Make Friends During a Pandemic

By Brianna Lindsey
STAFF WRITER

In these unprecedented, never-before-seen, new, foreign, unexplored times of quarantine, it's more important than ever to remember that humans are social creatures.

This means this pandemic is not only interfering with every socially-constructed concept of our society, it's interfering with our basic evolutionary programming!

With that being said, it's still completely, totally, 100% possible, so here are 10 ways to make friends during a pandemic (Hint: #4 will SHOCK you):

1. ~~Stalking~~ Close subject surveillance

The time the world has spent in quarantine has seen many more social changes beyond those directly caused by the pandemic. What's one more? The "law" calls it stalking, but rebranding fixes everything because of very reasonable reasons but mostly because we say so; therefore, pick your future friend, and follow their every move. Learn their habits, their preferences, their routines, their life. Learn them, and they will be enamored with you. They don't know it yet, but they will. They WILL!

2. Make eye contact

Eye contact? Is it really that easy? Sure is! Maintain sharp, intense, eye contact with someone in the vicinity for as long as it takes them to approach you. Chances are they will eventually, so don't be too impatient with this method. Everyone takes different lengths of time to warm up to people, so don't be afraid to step outside of your comfort zone and into theirs!

3. Get a dog

Do we really have to explain this one? Pandemic, schmandemic, no internationally-threatening virus can come close to rivalling the power of a good boy (yes you are, such a good boy!). Purchase a lifelong commitment and people will flock to you with no regard for any silly regulations!

4. Talking to people!?

We know, we know. This sounds way too far fetched, but just listen. Despite the cumbersome measures that've been put in place, wearing a ghastly mask, washing your hands, working in bed, we think it just might be possible for people to work around them. It'll take a lot of hard work, and this definitely isn't for those who are looking for a quick fix to friendship, but if you follow the CDC guidelines, stay six feet away from people



BRIDGETTOWIKA/ILLUSTRATIONSEDITOR

and make polite smalltalk whilst considering the safety of both of you, friendship could, just maybe, possibly, barely, begin to emerge. Like we said, be patient, and don't expect it to work the first time around. It is a little far fetched!

5. Put notes in bottles

Why stop at bringing back the plague? We can throw it back even more. This method doubles as a fun DIY project. Take any bottle of your choice, preferably a classic clear glass one, glass with some browning around the bottom and enough cloudiness to add to the intrigue but not enough to completely obstruct the view to the inside, and put a cute lil' note inside. Cast it into a body of water (no Logan, the puddle on your driveway from last night's storm does not count, it will shatter. Yes it will, just — fine, do it, see what happens, I don't care anymore), and wait to hear back. Is your address on it, will it ever be found, is this pointless? Wait and find out!

6. Impersonate a doctor

How do you get people to open up to you? Make them feel comfortable. And since we're all faced with living a different sort of life, why not take your new life in a new direction that will allow you virtually unlimited access to people and their personal information? Pretending to be a doctor guarantees you one-on-one time with new friends, as well as a helpfully-lowered guard. Do yourself a favor and commit dangerous impersonation, it's practically foolproof!*

7. Find a cure

#6 sound too easy? Up for more of a challenge? Why not do away with this whole pandemic completely? Find a cure and spread it internationally to achieve total immunity with no time constraints! This is a great way to get back to your normal, friend-filled life. We really don't know why more people aren't talking about this, but now you're privy to a super special secret!

8. Sign up for Scientology newsletters

Feeling alone? We know. That's why you're here. Don't worry, we can help. Our friends at the Church of Scientology would love to get to know you. Just check out their website to sign up to receive regular communication from them in the form of newsletters and various other methods.** We'll keep you company. We promise. Join us. This is a great way to make tons of new friends and constantly meet new people, whether you want to or not!

We hope these 8 ways to make friends during a pandemic (#4 will SHOCK you) have been helpful, and we can't wait to see the world full of thriving human connections once more!

*terms and conditions apply: the fool is you.
**legally, these other methods of communication cannot be disclosed in a publicly-available source. It's Okay Though. Everything Is Okay. Trust Us.
Lindsey is a member of the Class of 2024.

Letter to the Editor: In Defense of Rocky

By Jeremy Reguer
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

According to recent posts in an online forum, liberals on campus are planning to cancel our beloved mascot, Rocky the Yellowjacket. The reason for this is that Rocky's a WASP: White Anglo-Saxon Protestant, and therefore he doesn't truly



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represent all of the voices and people on campus.

I didn't care too much about Rocky before, but now I'm his biggest champion. I mean, this is just unacceptable. This news comes in the wake of two more cancelations this past week. First Dr. Seuss, next MISTER Potato Head... what's next? The Washington Redskins? With all these victims of cancel culture, it feels like we're going to have to start reading them off at the end of each day like the fallen tributes in the Hunger Games.

Rocky is a valuable, hardworking member of the community, as proven by his business endeavor on campus Rocky's Sub Shop (and, posthumously until the libs get over this whole virus thing, Lounge).. Rocky's is the only way to obtain chips with just a swipe, which is great for the economy. He also shows up to every sports game and even did an ad campaign for the school to fight the College Collapse Disaster that was COVID-19.

The libs want to see URBe, a "less polarizing" and "PC enough to appeal to CS majors" mascot, come back into play.

There's a reason why we got rid of the bee: he's too cuddly. Some other students suggested

bringing [sqURm](#) back, but he, too, represents a school of hippies who'd rather sing kumbaya. When our football team takes the field, we want our opponents to be quaking in their boots at the sight of Rocky- well, maybe not our football team. However, when our squash team takes the field? We want our opponents to be running for their lives in fear of The Sting.

Rocky is proud. Rocky is strong. Rocky is a fighter. Rocky climbed the stairs of the Philadelphia Art Museum. (Wait, that wasn't our Rocky? The whole "float like a wasp, sting like a wasp" thing wasn't us?)

Ultimately, just because Rocky is a White Anglo-Saxon Protestant doesn't mean that he can't learn about other cultures. I hear that he's picking up a GSWS cluster and he even helped students attend the BLM protests last fall. He's really turning over a new wing from when he insulted that basketball referee, who definitely should have caught that foul.

Reguer is a member of the Class of 2024.

Magic 8 Ball Juice

By Ben Schiffman
HUMOR EDITOR

Scientists at the UR Medical Center have been studying a student who claims to have gained clairvoyance. He’s predicted every SA election for the next fifty years, even naming their unborn parents — forget the student leaders themselves! He also predicted every car accident that would take place in Rochester in the next five and a half years and what would be for dessert in the Douglass dining hall every night for the next two months.

So how did Noah Dafuture, a UR junior, gain his psychic powers? Dafuture attributes his success to drinking the mysterious liquid found inside a Magic 8 Ball. Intrigued by what could have possibly compelled him to crack one open like a coconut, the Campus Times reached out to Dafuture. Here’s what he had to say:

Interviewer: Noah, it’s so nice to meet you, and thank you for taking the time to sit down with CT. To start us off, I have to ask: What made you decide to drink the juice from your Magic 8 Ball?

Noah Dafuture: Well, funny story, I ran out of mouthwash and wanted to rinse. It looked kind of blue, so I thought it might have been Listerine in there. When I took a sip, it tasted like fruit punch, so I drank the whole thing. I wasn’t trying to gain any type of powers, but when I woke up the next morning, it was like my every thought was being answered by the universe as either yes, no, or ask again later. I tested my powers out a little by watching out my window to see which students would slip on the unsalted path to Jackson Court and drop all their Pit food. I got every single one right, and I learned that if you ask enough questions, eventually you know the answer to all of them.

Interviewer: Wow, it must have been a shock to discover that the 8 Ball juice gave you powers, instead of killing you slowly and painfully! What other types of predictions have you been able to make so far?

Noah Dafuture: Well, the other day I predicted that Danforth dining hall would win the [chili cookoff](#). I wrote it down and sealed it in an envelope before the chilis were even cooking. When I opened the envelope to show my friends, they were blown away. URMC got wind, and within hours, I had probes on and in every orifice. Thing is, I don’t think doctors can explain it. This is supernatural.

Interviewer: Do you think anyone who drinks 8 Ball Juice can gain these powers? Would you recommend people give it a go?

Noah Dafuture: I can’t be sure. I tried to give some to the mice that visit me in my dorm, but they all died after drinking it. I can’t be certain whether I was just lucky, or if those things really can predict the future, and I absorbed its powers. It would be a good chaser, though. It’s very sweet.

Dafuture is scheduled to continue testing at Strong Memorial Hospital and is expected to be visited by President Biden within the next week. He has already been publicly banned by all casinos in the area, and Area 51 has contacted him for an interview. We hope to follow up with Dafuture and welcome him to the team, so we can report on news in advance.

Schiffman is a member of the Class of 2023.



BRIDGET TOWIKA/ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

Things to do With Your CT Stickers



BRIDGET TOWIKA/ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

By Alyssa Koh
HUMOR EDITOR

In an act of shameless self-promotion, the Campus Times has distributed hundreds of CT stickers to the public over the past couple weeks. As a result, you may have seen the rectangular Campus Times and the circular Reporter Rocky on various water bottles, instrument cases, and laptops. However, here at UR, in an effort to be ever better and ever quirkier, several students have asked how to make this new merch really shine. Thus, here are a couple ideas on how to rep the CT brand (but not like all those other stickerers).

Redact classified information.

Are you secretly working for admin under everyone’s noses and need to cover up a scandal or two? Do you have any notes you need to edit in order to comply with the academic honesty policy? Are you too lazy (or too broke) for some Wite-Out? The rectangular stickers are preferred for this option, but the circular ones could suffice if you do it correctly.

Nipple coverings.

Did you sign up for a workout at the GAC and then completely forget to go? If you opt for the outdoors to get in your cardio, the CT stickers could come in clutch to battle Rochester’s cold weather. Harness your inner marathon runner, and remember: CT is not responsible for any bodily harm that

comes as a result of the application or removal of any CT-affiliated merchandise. However, maybe the pain of ripping the adhesive from your skin is a part of “doing things just to feel something” after midterms. If you want a similar experience with less pain, think about attempting to use the CT stickers as mediocre waxing strips.

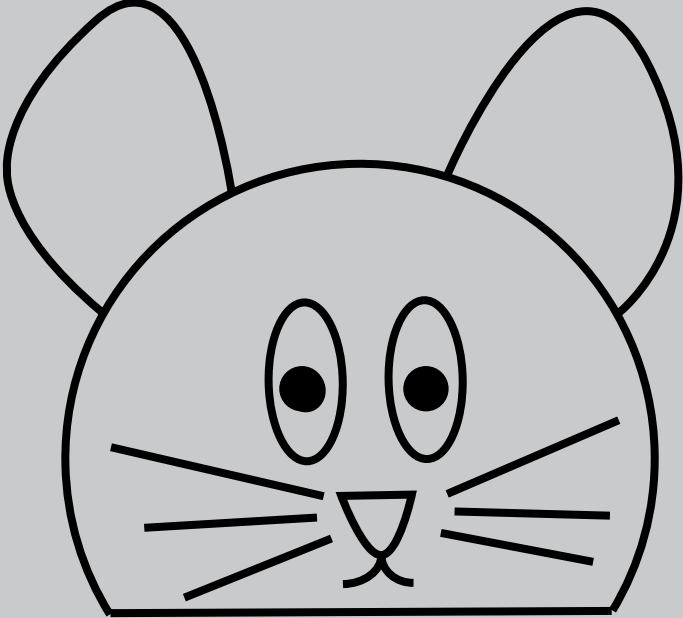
Camera blockers.

We’ve all been in Zoom rooms relentlessly for nearly a year now, but there is always the offhand chance that a professor or peer could ask you to turn on your video for a number of reasons. As a way to prove your camera is “broken,” pasting a CT sticker over the lens temporarily could do the trick, so you can return to lounging in the most visually unflattering positions possible during your lectures. The FBI agent in your laptop might not be too pleased, but sometimes you have to make sacrifices in order to eat in peace.

Bumper stickers.

If you’re lucky enough to have a car on campus, think about getting some mileage with your new merch! Not only are you promoting farther and wider than your standard student, but you can finally cover up those Life is Good make-your-own-family bumper stickers that your parents slapped on the back of your ride in 2008.

Koh is a member of the Class of 2024.



Write for the Campus Times!

humor@campustimes.org

SPORTS

The 'Jackets are Back & Ready to Attack



Sophomore Joseph Varghese, Senior Eileen Bequetteon, and First-year Cole Siewert, practice on the track indoor track at the Goergen Athletic Center. COURTESY OF BANKRUPT PHOTOGRAPHER

By Natalie Fullerman
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

UR’s varsity Yellowjackets have enjoyed a triumphant return to competition. Beginning in late February, many teams — including track and field and men’s basketball — were given clearance by the University to begin modified versions of their typical seasons.

I recently had the pleasure of speaking with several coaches and students on their experiences with starting back up. This past week, I spoke with Coach Luke Flockerzi and seniors Ryan Algier, Kailan Lee, and Trent Noordsij from the basketball team, as well as Coach Sam Albert ’01, the director of the track and field and cross country teams.

Despite the obvious hardships, the coaches and students highlighted some benefits of their nontraditional seasons.

For the basketball team, they got the green light to compete at a time when they would typically be nearing a season’s end. The extended practice period meant lots of individualized skill attention, said Flockerzi, as well as an increase in the level of competitiveness in day-to-day drills, said Algier and Noordsij. The coaches initiated three-on-three play and methods of tracking shooting numbers for the players to help them maintain their motivation and competitive spirit.

Albert echoed this positive outlook, describing benefits his team has gained from the disruption of normalcy. He looks forward to the increase in small-scale meets this year, such as duals and triangulars, something that he feels has been lost in recent years in favor of larger events.

Throughout the past year, the track and cross country teams connected with other collegiate programs in a creative way: They set up courses at UR for their athletes to run and then recorded times to compare and score with their opponents, simulating races. Albert said that athletes were enthusiastic about finally being able to have their first official meet this winter.

“From the conversations that I had with most of our athletes, I think it was more excitement than nerves,” he said. “They’ve been working and

training for such a long period of time now without a chance to compete.”

Seeing upcoming basketball games and track meets on the calendar has boosted morale and given the teams goals. The officially sanctioned competitions resulted in increased motivation and intensity and breaks in redundant student life cycles. The seasons’ beginnings have improved athletes’ mental and physical health and, as Flockerzi said, “You can kinda just see the glimmer in their eyes and the excitement at just kind of reclaiming some kind of normalcy.”

‘Albert echoed this positive outlook, describing benefits his team has gained from the disruption of normalcy.’

Algier missed his team’s camaraderie most during the time off. But he was also grateful for any opportunity to continue playing, saying that “to be able to play this year is rewarding in its own way.”

Noordsij shared his sentiment: “When I have the most fun on the court is when all five guys are really clicking, and we’re executing the stuff we work on in practice, and everything is going in our direction; moments like that is when I get the most excited playing games” — a feeling that remains the same this season.

Algier and Noordsij will be utilizing their fifth years of NCAA eligibility in 2021-2022 as Take 5 Scholars at UR, but this season is Lee’s last. He expressed an immense amount of gratitude and excitement in getting to compete for a final round, and considered it a chance to “reap the rewards” of UR’s caution and COVID-19 protocols in the fall.

“I definitely feel really fortunate to be able to have these final moments on the court,” said Lee.

All five men on the team shared the sentiment that practices this semester have felt very similar to those of years past. Both Coaches expressed a sense of commitment to their missions to improve student athletes’ college experiences. “We want our players to have a positive experience through athletics and have it be an additive element to their

educational experience; that hasn’t changed,” said Flockerzi.

All of the players and coaches expressed gratitude to UR and the trainers, medical staff, coaches, athletes, and general student population for everything they’ve done to keep athletics running and healthy despite the pandemic.

“We have students that I think are really responsible and mature and [who] understand the circumstances,” Albert said.

Like the rest of the UR community, the student athletes must complete Dr. Chatbot and follow mask protocol. Added safety measures include limited locker room capacities, extra COVID-19 testing, lower bus densities, athlete-specific daily health checks, and following the NCAA DIII guidelines for only facing opponent teams that have tested their members at least three times per week.

Keeping in line with New York state’s travel guidance, UR’s restrictions on visitors to campus, and travel outside of a 100 mile radius, the teams cannot hold home competitions, and competitors are located closer to campus than normal. The basketball team is calling downtown Rochester’s Blue Cross Arena “home” for this season and has faced Yeshiva, Bryant & Stratton, and Nazareth thus far.

‘UR’s varsity Yellowjackets have enjoyed a triumphant return to competition.’

Track and field traveled to Nazareth for an indoor triangular meet Saturday, Feb. 27, and plans to compete there once more before proceeding to their outdoor season in the Liberty League, which just gave the go-ahead to begin scheduling spring conference meets.

Stay tuned to watch these teams’ progressions as they optimistically move forward.

Fullerman is a member of the Class of 2024.