

Campus Times



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Dandelion Day Sucked, Students Say

By Haven Worley
NEWS EDITOR

On Friday, April 30, many students were looking forward to the Dandelion Day they never got. Given last year's pandemic-induced cancellation, sophomores hadn't experienced a D-Day before.

This year, Wilson Commons Student Activities had an array of activities planned, many of which were new in hopes of encouraging engagement and preventing off-campus parties from turning into superspreader events.

In an email to the Campus Times, Assistant Director of Programming Jill Wulfenstein said they tried to offer "the same traditional Dandelion Day events while adding some new and exciting things!" Activities included carnival rides, cosmic golf, laser tag, roller skating, yoga, student performances, bubble soccer, take-and-make crafts, tie-dye, lawn games, and more. One of the more exciting events happening this year would have been the hot air balloon, but it was cancelled due to wind.

"The hot air balloon was what I was looking forward to the most," first-year Lucy



HENRY LITSKEY/PHOTO EDITOR

Keffler said, who participated in most of the activities. She added that the food trucks were "the only good thing about D-Day."

"But even that was a flop," she added, having stood in line for two hours before realizing that the truck was out of food.

The most noticeable addition to this year's D-Day was the accommodation of NYS COVID-19 guidelines. According to Wulfenstein, activities were much more

spread out across Fauver Stadium, Library Lot, and the Fraternity Quad. Another change was that there was no headlining concert, although there were featured student bands and DJ's on the quad.

Additionally, many events were virtual to allow for remote student participation. There was a remote giveaway and activities such as a virtual murder mystery and virtual late night bingo. Despite the effort to make

the day safe and exciting, many students expressed their disappointment due to the weather and impending finals season, made worse by only a two-day reading period over next weekend.

"I thought it sucked," sophomore Jason Salmanowitz said. "The weather was awful, and the food truck lines translated to lots of wasted money. But those are my only complaints. Overall,

I just did not feel a vibe."

Sophomore Rachel Rountree expressed a similar sentiment. "It was cold, but fine," she said.

Many students stayed home entirely. Junior Sichoe Tsethar said she didn't go to campus at all. "I spent D-Day in my room stressing about finals."

"D-Day is cursed, but at least I made a friend while freezing to death."

Despite the weather and COVID-19 restrictions, many students who waited in lines for the food trucks in wind and hail said that they made friends and were glad to see people.

"D-Day is cursed, but at least I made a friend while freezing to death," sophomore Jerome Daniels said.

"Yeah, can't wait until next year's D-Day. Maybe it won't feel like purgatory with better weather and without a pandemic," Keffler added with a wink. "It can only go up from here."

Worley is a member of the Class of 2024.

CT EATS

Beautifully Decorated Boxcar Donuts

By Sarah Woodams
STAFF WRITER

I discovered Boxcar Donuts through a repost on the @rochesterny Instagram account displaying their Buffalo Bills themed donuts. As a lifelong Bills fan, this picture sold me, and I immediately made plans to head over to the Public Market District to fulfill my newfound donut craving.

The interior of the shop is

open and bright, with large windows facing the street and plenty of seating — all accompanied by an industrial/modern theme. Their speciality is gourmet (expensive) donuts, but they also serve coffee, beer, and cocktails, along with some breakfast and lunch options.

As we all know, only the best of the visually appealing best make it to Instagram pages, and Boxcar Donuts

'Only the best make it to Instagram pages, and Boxcar Donuts is no different.'

is no different. While the donut itself was delicious — dense and rich, but not to a point where it was overwhelming — the icing calligraphy of "Go Bills" was a bit disappointing after

the beautiful writing published on their social media. In the end though, icing is icing, and it tasted great — even if it may not have been beautiful enough for any online advertisement.

Impressed by the quality of the donuts (much better than Dunkin' or Tim Hortons), I followed their Instagram page to stay updated on their menu options, which they post

weekly. This was how I found out about their Easter pre-order donuts. My family decided to order the set of Easter-themed ones for our dessert. The dozen donuts included three chocolate "birds nests," three carrot cake-flavored ones, three square ones with a peep on top of the center hole, and three cream filled eggs.

SEE **DONUTS** PAGE 3.

A Two Way Street: UR's Adherence to and Influence on Public Policy

By Micah Greenberg
SPECIAL PROJECTS

It's difficult to browse the University's website for long before coming across a mention of regulation or legislation that mandates how the University runs.

Because the University is such a large institution, it is directly affected by many aspects of government policy — but it also wields a lot of influence on those policies.

There are two offices at

the University who most directly interact with these government policies: The Office of Government and Community Relations (OGCR) works to shape policy, and the Office of Counsel works to ensure legal compliance with policy or to represent the University in the judicial system.

These offices are important to the University. Donna Gooden Payne, the University's General

Counsel, and Peter Robinson, the head of OGCR, are two of the 10 members of President Sarah Mangelsdorf's Senior Leadership Team, and both have the title of Vice President.

'It is directly affected by many aspects of government policy.'

As a 501(c)(3) educational

nonprofit organization, the University is somewhat limited in its advocacy abilities. It is not allowed to donate to campaigns directly or to publicly tell people to support specific candidates. Nonprofits can conduct lobbying activities, but they can't be a "substantial part of its overall activities." All of these limitations come with the benefits of being a nonprofit, though. Namely, the University is tax-exempt

and does not have to publicly report its donors.

But the University is allowed to influence policy through lobbying. OGCR publishes its state and federal legislative priorities, and requires that all lobbying for the University be done through OGCR. In their reports, they advocate for specific legislation, but not for or against any candidates.

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