

Campus Times

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Flag Display will Not be Returning to Hirst Lounge, President Mangelsdorf Decides

By MELANIE EARLE
FEATURES EDITOR

After nearly two years of uncertainty, a lengthy proposal, and months of discussion, University President Sarah Mangelsdorf decided this past Wednesday not to return the flag display to Hirst Lounge, SA Campus Life Chair Lillian Hutton revealed to the Campus Times.



HIRST LOUNGE, KNOWN AMONG STUDENTS AS THE FLAG LOUNGE, PICTURED IN 2016 WITH THE FLAGS IN FULL DISPLAY. COURTESY OF CHI HUANG

A new committee will be formed in October to determine an alternative way to represent the diverse community at UR.

The proposal Mangelsdorf reviewed presented two opinions, the first, heavily favored by students, advised that the flags be immediately returned to Hirst Lounge, and that the Students'

Association Government (SA) be the only entity in charge of adding, removing, and organizing them. It also suggested reframing the display as a way to express student identities rather than nationalities, and included 10 pages of student testimonials in support of the flag lounge. The second opinion, which was supported by members of administration and faculty, was to remove the flags in Hirst Lounge indefinitely, and replace them with something else. Mangelsdorf sided with the second opinion to remove the flags.

The flags were initially removed and placed under review in August 2020 in response to numerous disputes over the flag lounge in the past years, including a controversy over the Hong Kong and Taiwan

flags in November 2019 and a suggested removal of the Palestinian flag in October 2019. Following this controversy, months before the flags were removed, a Flag Advisory Committee (FAC) was formed to discuss the future of the display, composed of various staff, students, and faculty from all University schools. The FAC was tasked with creating a proposal for President Mangelsdorf, with the final decision to be made solely by her.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the FAC was disrupted from March 2020 until August 2020. The Committee was not ready to meet online, and was swept up in the transition to online learning. Before the FAC could reconvene, the Hirst Lounge flags were abruptly removed. At the time of the removal, SA leadership was

told that the flags were taken down for a cleaning, according to SA Campus Life Chair and senior Lillian Hutton and Marc Haddad '21, who was SA Vice President in 2020.

"They didn't need to fully come down [for a cleaning]," Hutton said. "And even some of our advisors who work in Wilson Commons and work directly with Student Government and handle the flags, [whose] whole responsibility is Wilson Commons, didn't know or were [not] told this was happening."

The decision to remove the flags was made by President Mangelsdorf and then-Provost Rob Clark, according to both Haddad and an email sent to the undergraduate student body by former SA President Justina Gorka '21 on Aug. 14, 2020.

SEE **FLAGS** PAGE 2.

Staff Shortages Limit Dining Options for Students on Campus

By ALYSSA KOH
OPINIONS EDITOR

UR dining is suffering from severe staffing shortages, with Dining Services only employing 65% of their scheduled staffing level as compared to the usual 95%. With this drastic shift, hours have shortened at certain dining areas, and more niche options have closed entirely.

'Dining Services is only employing 65% of their scheduled staffing level as compared to the usual 95%.'

Dining Services is currently holding job fairs and working with SA's community engagement team to send out job information to local organizations, as well as expanding student employee roles to all dining locations, however, the process takes weeks.

Thus far, Roots and Shoots, Peet's, the Faculty Club, and Southside Market have closed indefinitely, hours have been shortened at many locations, and the Pit rotates which stations

are open at a given time.

To inform students of what they may see in the coming weeks from dining, Schauf also noted, "With the vaccination mandate deadline taking effect on 9/27, we are contingency planning for an additional loss in staffing. We have been working on several plans for operational changes and other food delivery/production solutions that will be announced later next week. We will continue to communicate through the website, student emails, and @Rochester as soon as new options are available."

"With the vaccination mandate deadline taking effect on 9/27, we are contingency planning for an additional loss in staffing."

The student response to the dining situation has been highly negative, with countless posts against dining administrators blasted across social media. The Instagram account @ur_secretsafe has become a hub for these grievances, and each post has multiple

comments as a result of these changes.

"We paid our bill — we aren't asking for a staffing miracle overnight, but, at least, show some signs from administration that they are addressing staffing issues,"

"I deserve a refund on my dining plan," one anonymous SecretSafe contributor said. "I don't know what happened to the dining halls this year but the food is terrible!!! Like Danforth never even changes [its] offerings anymore," said another.

This anger isn't just expressed anonymously — sophomore Areopl Bai is one of the more vocal UR students who has expressed discontent on social media. "We paid our bill — we aren't asking for a staffing miracle overnight, but, at least, show some signs from administration that they are addressing staffing issues," he posted to Instagram.

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Sorry Professor, I Ate My Homework



HENRY LITSKEY/PHOTO EDITOR

By RACHEL BREINING
STAFF WRITER

I think the peak of my time at UR would probably be characterized by my mornings. Two long years ago, as a little first-year, I was able to leave my dorm 20 minutes before class, walk to Starbucks with my reusable cup (scandalous), have them fill it with coffee, and get to my class still five minutes early to sit annoyingly close to the front row. Gone are the golden ages.

When I sit and reminisce about dining before the bad times, I also remember all the things we're missing. Freaking donuts and pints of ice cream

in the Pit. Three kinds of pizza at all times, AND cheesy bread, AND pasta (sometimes even mac and cheese!). Cups of cereal in the Pit!!! Where did those go? Being able to order a Starbucks sandwich — there was a time when the only thing they ever ran out of was cake pops. We've fallen so far from grace.

By this point, we're all annoyingly aware of the consistent limiting of dining options this semester on campus.

So far we've lost Roots & Shoots, Peet's, and Southside Market, as well as having limited Pit hours and stations.

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CAMPUS

Flags Permanently Retired After Months of Committee Deliberation

FLAGS from page 1

During the fall 2020 semester, the FAC did not meet, FAC student members were unable to learn why the flags had come down, and SA created a subcommittee of undergraduates who met several times.

Junior subcommittee member Alexandra Fegler joined due to her family's roots in Hong Kong. "I wanted to make sure that there were actual Taiwanese and Hong Kong student voices being heard and that that side was involved in the committee," Fegler said. "Marc felt that it was important to have student voices because this is a student space and the administrators don't really come through here; the flag display doesn't really impact them at all."

In spring 2021, during the first FAC meetings after the removal, Hutton said that students were still not told why the flags had come down.

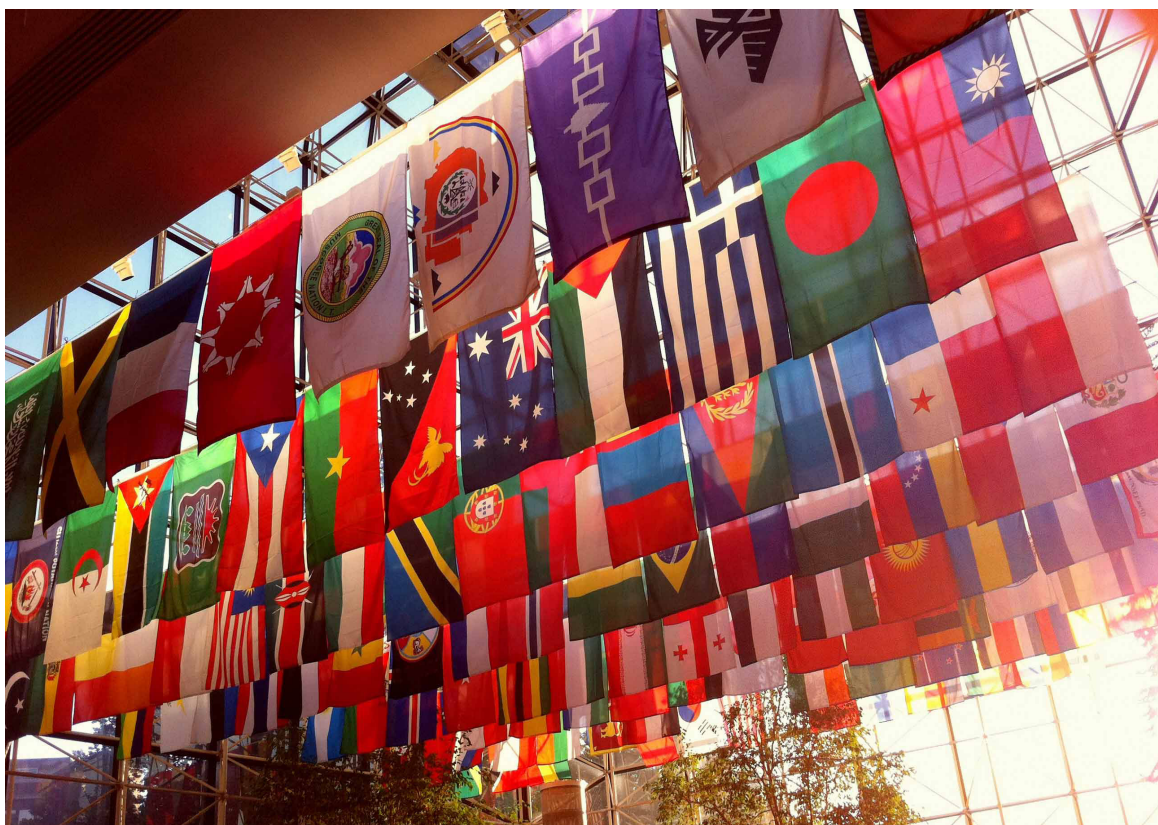
"In those committee meetings, we tried to get an answer to who took them down and why, and we never got an answer," Hutton said. "We were talking with very high level admins from various different offices. The [President's Office], deans, Global Engagement — and we asked who did it, and why? And no one had a firm answer. It was a cop-out, which was frustrating because I'd rather you say, 'You know what, we felt like it was too hard.' It became obvious throughout the year that a couple people very high up just felt like it was too challenging. They believed the display caused more harm than good."

"Although they didn't say it explicitly, the obvious issue is that the University doesn't want to get involved in geopolitical issues," Haddad said.

The FAC included members from every major school at UR, such as the Medical Center, the Warner School of Education, and University Communications and Strategy. Haddad, who became co-chair of the committee in spring 2021, recalled that it was difficult to get everyone on the committee to attend every meeting.

"Because those meetings happened virtually, sometimes one week, some person would show up and then another representative from the group would show up," Haddad said. "There were some consistent students and consistent members of the administrators there all the time, and those would be the five or six people that very, very consistently worked on this."

One topic that repeatedly came up was if the flags were a good way to represent the many identities in



A photo of the flag display from 2014.

the University community. According to Jim Ver Steeg, Vice President of the Office for Equity and Inclusion and committee member, some questioned whether the flags were the best method of student representation.

"Perhaps one of the biggest challenges was an opinion held by some that the flags represented diversity and inclusion," Ver Steeg wrote in an email to the Campus Times. "The flags that were on display in Hirst Lounge represented nationalism and internationalism, and that is an important distinction. We had a couple conversations about how geopolitical identities [such as] borders [and] nationalities [...] are not always appropriate determinants for how we think about equity, diversity, and inclusion. Those two ideas became linked in the minds of some of the committee members, but issues of diversity and inclusion are often very different from issues of internationalism."

"In those committee meetings, we tried to get an answer to who took them down and why, and we never got an answer,"

Laura Ballou, Director of Wilson Common Student Activities, described an open dialogue of ideas between students and faculty. "I really appreciated that there were faculty voices on the committee to be able to have those conversations," she said. "I was really impressed by all the students that were members of the committee. You could see their passion. They did a lot of really good work in the undergraduate subcommittee to be able to bring forward

students' voices and ideas."

Saab praised how the committee was able to represent diverse perspectives. "I feel like the exchange of ideas and opinions is crucial, and I feel like this committee was good because, as I said, people are coming from different points of view and have different stakes," she said. "I do feel like everybody on the committee listens to one another, and respects one another's views."

At the end of April, the committee drafted their proposal for what should happen to the flag lounge. But according to Hutton, the first draft — written by Vice Provost for Global Engagement Jane Gatewood and a representative from the Communications department — stated that the committee's consensus was that the flags should be removed from Hirst Lounge, which failed to capture the student perspectives of the FAC.

While student representatives agreed the flags didn't fully capture a person's identity, they still believed the display was important to the University community, and that the flags should not be removed indefinitely. The first proposal only included the conclusion to remove the flags, the belief most administrators and faculty FAC members held, with the exception of a few.

"We have our last meeting and we're supposed to have this proposal done and we get the draft ahead of time and we're reading through it. And I'm like, how is this the opposite — not even just not close to it, it's the opposite — of what we were saying. [The proposal] essentially was like, 'We [unanimously] agree the flag should come down.'"

At the end of June 2021, Haddad and Hutton rewrote the proposal to also include the student's conclusion

on the flags and 10 pages of student testimony, which Saab approved and sent directly to President Mangelsdorf for her to review.

While the committee was split on their decision on what should happen to the flags, the Committee unanimously agreed that President Mangelsdorf should apologize to the University community for the consistent lack of communication and transparency regarding the removal of the display. The committee thought that the community should have been informed officially about

"I feel like the exchange of ideas and opinions is crucial,"

the removal of the flags.

Before President Mangelsdorf disclosed her decision to members of the committee, Saab described her thoughts on the final proposal.

"I mean, here's the thing: I hope that we just don't keep having more and more committees," Saab said. "I hope that we come to some sort of movement. But maybe we do. I mean, we are a university and we have to. We have a ton of different people that are part of the University community, and I think we want to be respectful and inclusive and as much as we can. And so I think because of that, there are people who want quick answers and quick responses. But I think sometimes you have to think through and be very deliberate to make sure that nobody feels left out or offended. And that's hard because I personally am one of those people who is like, I want a response yesterday, but it's a big institution, and I think that she's giving it a lot of thought and I'm hopeful."

This past Wednesday,

President Mangelsdorf met with Hutton, Saab, and Associate Dean of Students and Director of Student Activities Anne-Marie Algier about her final decision on the flag lounge. President Mangelsdorf decided that the flags should not return to Hirst Lounge, due to the controversy raised over them in recent years. (Editor's note: Click here to see CT coverage of those controversies.)

Hutton does not believe that this means the flags are gone for good. Hutton mentioned there is a strong push from alumni, especially recent graduates, to return the flags. Hutton believes that there needs to be more input from the student community over the flag lounge, whether or not it's a difficult conversation to have.

"Unfortunately, I made the point that about 95 percent of the students here and even the ones who had an issue with the flag didn't want them down," Hutton said. "But the President believes that there's still too many issues with it, and that's unfortunate. Because it felt like it was just taking the easy [route] to take them down, rather than having the tough conversations about why there are issues. The campus community was never polled about the flags, which was one of the roles of the committee, but due to a variety of reasons that never happened. We need to gather input."

Hutton wants the conversations to continue with the new committee, but also with the student body and SA. Hutton pointed to the fact that students still ask about the flags, both on campus and online, with many unsure of what happened to them in the first place. Hutton believes that students need to continue talking about the display and sharing what it meant to them.

"We need people to share their stories," Hutton explained. "[10 pages of student testimonies] was great and warranted, but apparently that wasn't enough for them. [...] I remember the flags when I toured, and different cultural groups with flags. We need to let them know we still want them back up. I think that we'll put enough pressure on the administration to realize that it's actually something that's very special to Rochester." Hutton quoted Laura Ballou's description of Hirst Lounge as the living room of UR. It's not unique, we're not the only ones with flags up, but it's [something] that for the last 25 going on 30 years has been in the living room of our campus."

Earle is a member of the Class of 2024.

UR Team Competes to Revolutionize Hospital Work

By ALYSSA KOH
OPINIONS EDITOR

The International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) Competition has hundreds of student teams worldwide using synthetic biology — the practice of using existing biological systems for new purposes — to address significant problems in fields such as human health, agriculture, manufacturing, and the environment. Last year, UR iGEM Team UteRus, won multiple awards including the gold medal, best diagnostic, and the inclusivity award for their endometriosis diagnostic device. This year, UR Team Bio-Sphere has fostered an insurgent team we should all be keeping our eyes on.

‘This year, UR Team Bio-Sphere has fostered an insurgent team we should all be keeping our eyes on.’

Here’s Team Bio-Spire’s pitch: Sepsis is one of the leading causes of death in hospitals, resulting in nearly 270,000 deaths per year in the U.S. alone. Team Bio-Sphere is working on developing a wearable biosensor (with an accompanying app) to help monitor biomarkers within patient sweat and predict a risk of

sepsis. Team Bio-Spire has been working under the direction of Biology professor Dr. Anne Meyer since October 2020 (including 30-hour work weeks during the summer) to put together a team, complete development of the hardware for their idea, and prepare a presentation to give to a virtual panel in November for judging. “Our 12-person team is divided into roughly eight subteams, each with a few team members and a leader,” senior Amanda Adams, the team’s PR manager, noted. According to Adams, due to the variety of subteams working on the project, “there are many initiatives going on at once within [the] team, and it’s always exciting to learn about them during our weekly meetings when we come together to debrief.”

For a brief rundown of the subsets of Team Bio-Spire and what they do: On the science side of things, the wetlab team has been transforming DNA aptamer molecules in E.coli, synthesizing reduced graphene oxide to attach said aptamers to, and utilizing techniques such as asymmetric PCR (polymerase chain reaction) and rolling circle amplification to amplify certain strands of DNA. In addition, the hardware team is in charge of the actual manufacturing of the

biosensor, which will function like a sleeve and utilize COM-SOL (an analysis and simulation software) and microfluidics to collect, transport, and measure the changes in how sweat biomarkers bind to the aptamers.

“There are many initiatives going on at once within [the] team, and it’s always exciting to learn about them during our weekly meetings when we come together to debrief.”

Outside of the direct creation of the biosensor, there are multiple teams working to promote the Team Bio-Spire brand. The public relations team has been managing social media and press opportunities, and the fundraising team has been contacting various sponsors for equipment to develop their product, but there are other venues outside of typical promotion that teams have been focusing on as well. For example, the education team took the summer to focus on implementing outreach programs with local summer camps in the Rochester area.

Koh is a member of the Class of 2024.

Dining Services Staffing Issues

From DINING page 3.
There have been more than just verbalized complaints — a short petition to SA advocating for refunds of students’ dining plans, set up by junior Arielle Savoy, has reached over 300 signatures. “As a result of the dining hall staff shortage, hours are significantly reduced, making it impossible for some students to ever get a meal at the dining hall due to class schedules,” the petition states. “Students paid money for meal plans that they are unable to use, and therefore should receive a portion of that money back.”
When asked about the

barriers to dining operations, Director of Campus Dining Services and Auxiliary Operations Cam Schauf said that “the timeline to return to normal operations is tied entirely to our ability to hire new employees. We are actively working on hiring new staff including student workers and working proactively with the union, human resources, and the Student Employment Office. We will evaluate each operation as we work to hire new staff [...] All of our available resources are being directed toward addressing these issues.”
Koh is a member of the Class of 2024.



SARAH WOODAMS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

New Report Reveals the University’s Regional Economic Impact

By HAVEN WORLEY
NEWS EDITOR

A new report has found that University’s economic reach in the greater Rochester region has more than doubled in the last 14 years. The report, conducted by the Center for Governmental Research (CGR), is commissioned by the University every two years for the objective information UR can provide to stakeholders. CGR analyzes data both at the state and local levels.

The University is the largest employer based in Upstate New York and the seventh-largest private employer in the state, according to 2019 data.

This impact as the largest employer has been further analyzed in a series of biennial assessments of employment and payroll, capital expenditures, purchasing, student and visitor spending, and tax impact of UR, UR Medicine, and its affiliates.

In an interview with the Campus Times, Vice President of GCR Peter Robinson, said that when looking at the report’s data, it brings public awareness and serves as a background for what the

“University is looking to do that requires support.”

“We do that through the jobs we create [...] when we purchase from the community, putting money and jobs into the community.”

According to the report, the University purchased goods and services totaling approximately \$1.3 billion in 2019. Additionally, over the past five years, UR has averaged about \$324 million annually in capital invest-

ment spending. However, the general history of Rochester and the University’s relationship with the surrounding city — especially neighborhoods such as the 19th Ward where many of its employees reside — has proved challenging. Gentrification, racism, a lacking public grade school education system, and transportation among other issues have continued to be topics of conversation for students,

staff, and faculty. Robinson responded to this concern as well, expressing that the University is doing its best to hire workers from the community and ensure that they’re compensated and treated fairly. “Our investment is in our people,” he said. The movement towards raising the minimum wage is one of the University’s initiatives to commit to a positive impact on its employees, although Robinson

also expressed a challenge in recurring investment. “When you’re short-staffed, the people that are here are more stressed, working more hours, and the pace is faster,” Robinson said on the dining staff shortage. He said that UR is doing its best to fill positions via competitive wages, hours, and benefits packages. Lack of public transportation and a general shortage of staff after the pandemic are Robinson’s reasons the dining problem is occurring. Even so, Robinson says it’s that much more important the University “creates opportunity for future job opportunities” and supports employees in educational benefits.

In 2019, the University had a growth of 5 percent from 2017 with 32,408 employees. Additionally, UR paid \$2.2 billion in wages in 2019, and was responsible for \$4.7 billion in direct and spillover income. “I think that the real advantage of the University’s economic impact is that it’s mission driven — they have real value in the community,” Robinson said.

Worley is a member of the Class of 2024.



SARAH WOODAMS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

COMMUNITY

UR Student’s Coffee Company Hit by Hurricane Ida

By SANGHAMITRA SUBBA
NEWS EDITOR

When Hurricane Ida hit New York City, nobody, especially 24-year-old UR student and owner of Don Carvajal Cafe, Hector Castillo Carvajal was prepared. Carvajal’s company had just moved into their new warehouse location three weeks prior to the hurricane that hit their East Bronx location in late August. The company faced losses of \$10,000 to \$15,000 and had to stop operations for a week. “Whether it’s people’s homes who got flooded and they lost everything or people’s warehouse and businesses who

were affected by it [...] I think it was one of those things where people didn’t really know what was happening and then when it happened, it kind of hit everybody by surprise, just kind of like us,” said Carvajal. “I think people weren’t informed correctly on the magnitude of what it could have been and then it was much bigger than what a lot of people expected it to be.” Due to the flooding, shipping equipment, machinery, and parts of the warehouse were severely damaged. Carvajal and his team have spent the past few weeks repairing the damage

and replacing equipment. On his first visit back to the warehouse, Carvajal was shocked by the aftermath of the flooding. “It was kind of hard to believe, you know what I mean, because I had just fixed it and set it up,” Carvajal said. “I was just in disbelief and at a loss for words.” At the time of this publication, the company has resumed supplying orders and is in the process of shifting to another warehouse location. Carvajal started Don Carvajal, an ethically sourced sustainable coffee company, in 2019 from his second floor dorm room in O’Brien Hall in Jackson Court. The idea of the company germinated from a project he undertook in his MKT

203: Principles of Marketing course. Students had to create marketing and business plans for company ideas they had for the course. Castillo later turned his class project into a full fledged e-commerce coffee business that initially used coffee beans from Costa Rica. Now, they’ve added beans from Brazil, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic. According to Carvajal, the Ain Center for Entrepreneurship and iZone were crucial resources for him when starting the business. The guidance and support he received from the two departments enabled him to understand the intricacies of running a business. Carvajal is currently on a leave of absence from the University

and is unsure when he will return to complete his two remaining semesters. With the rapid expansion of Don Carvajal Cafe, he plans on focusing on the company for the foreseeable future. As the company looks forward to moving to a new location later this year, Carvajal reflected on the events of the past month: “The goal is to kind of look at situations to prevent it from happening again,” Carvajal said. “Typically we don’t get a lot of hurricanes in New York like Ida, but you know, taking into consideration [the whole situation] we’re trying to find ways to avoid damages like that from happening again.” Subba is a member of the Class of 2024.

The Commissary Revitalizes the Food Industry in Downtown Rochester

By SARAH WOODAMS
STAFF WRITER

In the heart of downtown Rochester sits the only community kitchen in Monroe County. Launched in October 2020 in the Sibley Building, The Commissary is Rochester’s first food business incubator. Last week, I visited the site and talked with Laura Fox O’Sullivan, the President of The Commissary, to learn more about this exciting enterprise. She is also the Vice President of the non-profit Rochester Downtown Development Corporation (RDDC) and has been a leading member of The Commissary since the beginning. The project was first conceived in 2016 by a group of economic development and urban planning experts that visited Rochester who

O’Sullivan and Heidi Zimmer-Meyer, the President of RDDC, loved the idea. “We thought there was a need and a demand for it,” O’Sullivan said. “As part of our mission at RDDC, we felt that this was on mission because it was about creating economic opportunities for all different types of people and it was about enlivening downtown.” After years of fundraising for this two million dollar project, construction officially began in December 2019 but slowed down due to COVID-19. Luckily for them, construction was eventually completed and The Commissary officially launched less than a year later in October 2020. “We were very quiet October through March, and then [in] April/May, we started to get much busier,” O’Sullivan said. “I think people were starting

ability to launch their business. I hope that confidence continues.” There are three main sections of The Commissary: the performance kitchen, the prep kitchen, and storage. The performance kitchen can be used to host private meals, events, and tastings. Some people even film video workshops and tutorials. The prep kitchen has tables and equipment that are rented by the hour through a scheduling system. The storage cages allow members to safely keep their ingredients on-site and are also available for rent. This system helps lower the cost of entry to the food industry by eliminating the need for members to own a professional kitchen and storefront or food truck. O’Sullivan emphasized that “We’re all about a flexible and affordable approach to launching your food business.” The Commissary currently has 43 members. 57% of the businesses are BIPOC-owned and 52% are women-owned. The businesses vary from baked goods, sauces, teas, BBQ, soups, tacos, and more. Three of these 43 are regulars: Biscotti Brewers (a gluten free bakery), Que Chèvre (Puerto Rican food), and Le Petit Poutine (poutine, obviously). Lisa Malavez, owner and chef of Que Chèvre, uses the take-out window at The Commissary to serve lunch Tuesday through Friday. Kayla Sandoval, owner and baker of Biscotti Brewers, sells her products at lots of markets around town and is hosting her first event in the presentation kitchen this coming Friday. Le Petit Poutine is possibly Rochester’s busiest food truck, and is in The Commissary kitchen

almost every day until they finish building their own brick-and-mortar location. You can keep up with the members and any events through their Instagram @roccommissary. O’Sullivan hopes that with the help of The Commissary’s incubation services, businesses will start to be on-site more regularly as they grow. She told me, “What we’re here for is to provide them with a space that is affordable, that’s flexible so that they can launch their businesses, do a lot of market testing, learn lessons, and then with all that knowledge go out and make a decision on what their next step is and then help them along the way with that.” Besides providing their members with a professional kitchen, The Commissary also hosts workshops to help members with their business strategies and has an “entrepreneur-in-residence” program that connects members with a local entrepreneur in the food industry who can help them scale up their business. When asked about her goals for the Commissary in 2022, O’Sullivan stated, “I would like for us to continue to get the word out about what the commissary is because there are so many aspiring food entrepreneurs [in Rochester]. My goal is to help people who want to have a food business legitimize their business, professionalize what they do, and also see that there is so much opportunity for that.” In terms of growth for Rochester, she remarked, “We’ve made a lot of progress. COVID[-19] has definitely been a blow for downtown, but I do think there are a lot of people moving back from other cities who thought they may never come back. With that, comes expectations for certain things, for really good food, and things to do, and I think that helps raise the bar for what we want for our community.” And as for how The Commissary plays into this, “We like to think that with this [The Commissary], we are playing a small role in revitalizing downtown.” Woodams is a member of the Class of 2023.

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Courtesy of Hannah Robbins

recommended it to RDDC. to feel more confident in the

in The Commissary kitchen

REJI Holds Event 50 Years After Attica Prison Uprising

BY HENRY LITSKY
PHOTO EDITOR

50 years ago, one of the largest prison rebellions in United States history took place only a mere 40 miles to Rochester’s southwest in Attica, N.Y. The Attica prison uprising would ultimately go down as one of the largest prison uprisings in the United States, a turning point in the prisoners’ rights movement, and one of the deadliest examples of state power as New York forces killed 29 inmates, 10 correctional officers, and injured at least 80 inmates while retaking the prison. The Rochester Education Justice Initiative (REJI) hosted a panel on Friday, Sept. 10 to discuss the Attica uprising and its meaning 50 years later.

Panelist and Attica survivor Dolph Stergis was only 16 years old when the prisoners took control of the grounds and recalled an extremely segregated institution.

‘Despite extreme segregation, conditions in the prison were horrible enough to inspire an uprising.’

“It’s very racist; we couldn’t play sports together. Whites couldn’t play against Blacks, they couldn’t play together. We couldn’t communicate,” Stergis told the audience. “If they caught me talking to a white guy. It was a problem. You got smacked up, kicked in the butt, you know? And same thing would happen to them.”

Inmates were segregated throughout their



COURTESY OF EITAN FREEDENBERG, PHD

time within Attica, even having separate lines for whites and Blacks at the mess hall. Despite extreme segregation, conditions in the prison were horrible enough to inspire an uprising. Corrections officers frequently tortured and beat inmates, according to survivors’ testimonies.

“I was in on the south side of Attica [...] in the last cell right by the elevators, so they smart, they know they got to have cameras on you, and they take you to the to the box now so they don’t beat you until they get you off the back of the elevator. And that’s where you get in the box now so they can turn the camera off. So this is where they do their thing, you know?” Stergis told the audience while recalling some of the horrific things he had seen. “I’ve seen Jamaicans with dreads pulled out of their hair.”

Inmates overtook Attica on Sept. 9, 1971 and issued a list of demands which included humane living conditions and political

rights. For many, the uprising was about survival. “Basically, for me, it was about trying to survive, gathering food, to eat, you know, and I had a few cuts,” Stergis told the audience.

‘Inmates overtook Attica on Sept. 9, 1971 and issued a list of demands which included humane living conditions and political rights.’

On Sept. 13, 1971 New York State sent the national guard into the prison to take control of Attica despite ongoing negotiations. The media was not allowed to watch and was fed misinformation claiming that the inmates had killed the hostages. Later autopsies would reveal that the hostages had been shot and killed by state forces while retaking the prison.

Attica now had a double meaning: one of the uprising in which inmates demanded to be treated like human beings, and another of the massacre which ensued on the thirteenth.

“I call it a massacre. And the reason why I call it a massacre is that the United States government has a history of massacring people,” panelist, author, and activist Jalil Muntaqim told the audience. “Tulsa, Oklahoma as one example of massacring people. The lynching tree, you know, and it’s

celebrating the lynching of Black men.”

Muntaqim went on to discuss the history of the United States and institutionalized racism as well as how the prison system is the continuation of the slave system. Other panelists agreed and discussed past and current events such as the crime bill and Daniel Prude’s murder last year.

“The basic demands of the Attica uprising have still not been met. We still do not have reform in parole. We still do not have equity, as they now call it. We still do not have the same rights as our fellow white people,” panelist, PhD candidate at the Warner School of Education, and REJI’s director of community outreach Precious Bedell told the audience. “The Attica brothers had the courage to die for what they believed was right and they died from basic human needs, basic human rights.”

The event concluded with the panelists discussing the future of organizing and how to pursue the goals of the Attica brothers. Muntaqim emphasized the need to change minds and to break the groupthink of our present times. Most institutions, however, are self-serving organizations which contain “power within themselves and don’t look outside their own concentric circle.” Instead, people need to challenge institutions which fail to serve the community interest

and build power outside of these institutions.

Attendees were generally very pleased with the event.

“I thought it was really important to hear from people who were formerly incarcerated, who understand the impact of the Attica uprising and where we are today in relation to what people who are incarcerated than we’re fighting for,” Stanley Martin, candidate for city council, told CT. “It was really important to talk about, you know, things like the crime bill talk about policies that really impact Black people in America.”

“I think that this is just very indicative of all of the things that we should be doing from now on, just continuing to try to bridge that generational gap and continue to keep this movement going,” senior Katie Thomas told CT. “So I think this is very hope-

‘Attica now had a double meaning: one of the uprising in which inmates demanded to be treated like human beings, and another of the massacre which ensued on the thirteenth.’

ful, very empowering, very enlightening.”

“I think these are the kinds of conversations that we should be having as a community and that these historical events that were representative of what is going to happen when you mistreat people in an ongoing way, but they’re not just going to settle for it regardless of where they are,” alumna Nicolle L. Haynes ’91, ’93W told CT. “There’s a lesson for us to learn that this — the revolt — is going to happen not only in jail. It’s going to happen in schools. It’s going to happen on jobs. So we need to learn from this and decide that we’re going to treat all people in a humane way so that we don’t have unnecessary loss of life.”

Litsky is a member of the Class of 2023.



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OPINIONS

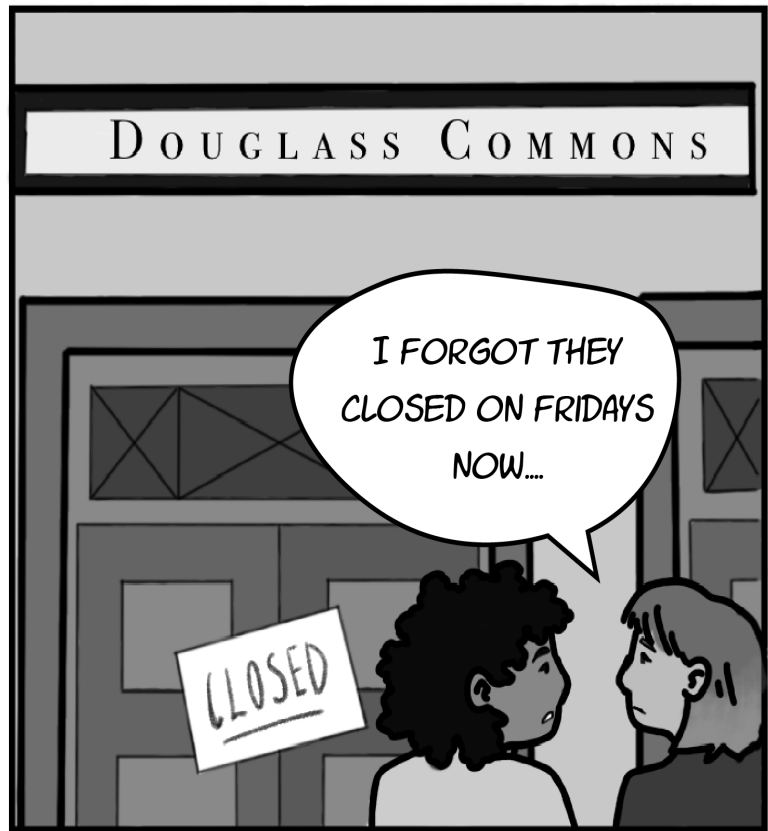
EDITORIAL OBSERVER

No Food On Fridays, Or Mondays, Or Tuesdays...

BY RACHEL KAMATA
ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

BY RITA PEI
ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

BY BRIDGET TOKIWA
ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR



EDITORIAL BOARD

UR, Stop Waving the White Flag

The flags in Hirst Lounge are down, and it looks like this time it's for good.

In the winter of 2019, UR students received an email from Dean of Students Matthew Burns and Dean of the College Jeffrey Runner about their potential removal. They went down in August, under the cover of night and an executive decision from President Mangelsdorf and then-provost Robert Clark. Now, nearly half of our student body has never even seen that vivid display of culture and community.

It's understandable that the administration doesn't want to deal with the conflict head-on — it's a tenuous situation.

But it seems more and more like upper administration, the actual brain and decision-making power of the University, is incompetent at best, and cowardly at worst. It's cowardly for an entire university to be so afraid of conflict between students that they just give up in fear of the discussions they pretend to value. It's cowardly to hide your decision-making process behind bureaucracy, drawing out the process over two years. It's cowardly to dismiss students' identities because you value tranquility over individuality. And it's especially cowardly to dress up your unwillingness with lofty out-of-touch descriptions of nationalism versus culture. It's administrators' job to listen to the student body; students across the board (and in the committee) strongly supported keeping the flags.

What example does the University set when instead of trying to develop solutions for complex problems, they step away from the table completely? Pretending like there will ever be a comparable alternative to the flag lounge is laughable, and unlikely to ever even happen, given how long it took for the University to even decide the flags were staying down. What does this say about the qualities the University wants to impart on students who will graduate and become the next leaders in the world? How does this demonstrate a promise to be "ever better?"

This school keeps on avoiding such discussions because they know they can get away with it — whether it's interior decorating or something more serious, we're all going to be gone in four years. And it's frustrating to watch this happen again and again, and be reminded that nothing we as students care about is as important as saving administrators a headache or two.

We're still waiting on our email from the President's Office explaining why the flags were taken down in the first place. Additionally, as much as the faculty and staff are part of this school, the flags were a representation of the identities of students, whose opinions should be weighed more heavily.

Wilson Commons is our space. The flags represented us. And the determination of the student body's representation should be, as much as possible, made by the student body and its leadership.

Why can't we display the flags in alphabetical order? If the University really believes a flag represents nationalism, then we propose the American flags on this campus be taken down immediately, and a committee be created to decide a better representation of the many cultures and identities that live in the United States.

But this administration would never do such a thing, as they enjoy their donations from patriotic alumni. Is there a cash cow quietly determining the death of the flag lounge?

We understand there are complicated personal and political issues at play here. There might not be any solution that makes everyone happy. At the same time, we condemn the timidity of the University in not engaging with these issues or keeping us in the loop.

This is about the flags. But it's also about the flagrant disregard for student opinions that has happened throughout the process. Administration only told SA the night before the flags went down. The general student body never received a message about the status of their removal. 10 pages of student testimony were left out of the initial proposal on what to do about the flag lounge.

We support senior Lilly Hutton and the rest of SA, including junior and President Sabeet Kazmi and junior and VP Rusama Haque, in continuing to fight for students' right to decide how we should be represented on campus.

This editorial is published with the consent of a majority of the Editorial Board: Hailie Higgins (Editor-in-Chief), Ethan Busch (Publisher), Alyssa Koh (Opinions Editor), Melanie Earle (Features Editor), Corey Miller-Williams (Managing Editor) and Olivia Alger (Managing Editor). The Editor-in-Chief and the Editorial Board make themselves available to the UR community's ideas and concerns. Email editor@campustimes.org.

Campus Times

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The Dining Shortage is Hitting Vegetarians Extra Hard

By: KATIE JARVIS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In the few weeks since I’ve moved on campus, I’ve grown to dread the dining halls. Breakfast is alright as long as you get in before 9:00 a.m.; lunch can be problematic, especially if you’re on a time constraint; and dinner is a free-for-all. This problem isn’t isolated to any one dining hall either. I’ve waited 15 minutes for a bean burger at DFO, 20 for an omelet at Dougie, and 30 for a sub at Rocky’s. As a first-year, I’ve got no comparison for what the dining situation was like in past years, but clearly something isn’t right.

On Friday, the University released a statement on the current dining situation, and it was... underwhelming. We were told that due to staffing shortages, many dining locations have reduced hours further in order to consolidate resources. Furthermore, Peet’s, Hillside, and Roots & Shoots will all be closed until further notice. And I, for one, am scared.

I’ve been a vegetarian since seventh grade, and I’ve managed to stick to it fairly consistently for these past six years. With the state of dining at UR, I’m closer than I’ve ever been to just giving in. I’m sure any other people with dietary restrictions will agree that these recent “consolidations” have impacted us the most. Take Danforth, for example: My favorite station used to be the Burger Joint — I mean, those beet and bean burgers? Fantastic — but recently, they’ve been struggling to keep up with demand. Most days, there’s only one choice, the DFO Burger, which isn’t vegan, vegetarian, or even gluten free.

And this isn’t limited to Danforth; my friend sent me a picture last week of Dougie’s menu entry for ginger soy tofu. On its ingredients list? Anchovy

sauce. Worse yet, with the lack of food options in general, students are looking to get a filling meal any way they can. When the line for a hotdog is 15 minutes long, many students turn to other, faster, stations, such as the Kosher Deli, or Free. I visited the kosher sandwich station at 8 p.m. one night to find they were out of almost every ingredient. If I were someone who kept kosher, I’m not sure what I would have done.

You can easily compare the students and our food halls to an ecosystem. When an upset occurs that makes food scarce, animals who have restricted diets are forced to compete for resources with those that don’t. Currently, no UR students are facing extinction because of the dining situation, but shouldn’t all students know that they’ll be able to find something to eat a few times a day?

‘Instead, we should all start growing vegetables in our dorms and raise livestock on the quads,’

I don’t know if there’s a right solution. The most obvious would be to pay the meal hall workers more to ease the staffing shortage; surely a 15 percent increase in class size opens up some extra funds for dining. Or perhaps UR should give all students some amount of credit in a service like DoorDash or UberEats, outsourcing our dining problem to the city.

Or, instead, we should all start growing vegetables in our dorms and raise livestock on the quads. If the problem doesn’t get sorted out in a few months, at least we can enjoy fresh veggies and goat cheese together.

Jarvis is a member of the class of 2025.



RACHEL KAMATA / ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

By ALLISON HONG
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If you happen to see a girl holding a small black lunch bag power walking across the quad because someone thought it was a good idea to schedule classes 10 minutes apart, it’s probably me. That lunch bag is filled with snacks from Trader Joe’s (best grocery store, sorry Wegmans) to hold me over until I have to begrudgingly head to one of the dining halls out of sheer hunger. Most of the time I head to Douglass (unless it’s the weekend) because they change up the menu somewhat in comparison to Danforth. I know a lot of people like the Pit, but everything there other than Rocky’s has disappointed me. I went to Roots and Shoots once, but it’s currently closed for forever, which is a damn shame because it was actually really good.

Just as a disclaimer, I am not in any way bashing the employees who work at the dining halls. It is no joke feeding thousands of students and faculty a day, especially while understaffed and overworked. My thoughts and complaints are mostly aimed at the higher powers that control the University dining system.

This is my first year at UR, and I realized pretty quickly that food-wise, campus is kind of desolate. Even in College Town, the food

selection isn’t particularly diverse. I’m from northern New Jersey, and trips to New York City just to grab a bite were a common occurrence. I was used to having access to a thousand different cultures and cuisines just across the George Washington Bridge. I truly miss being able to go to Chinatown for Gong Cha (a bubble tea chain that puts Tai Chi to shame) and dim sum and then head uptown to Los Tacos No. 1 for some of the best tacos around, all in one afternoon. I know that I can’t exactly compare Manhattan to Rochester, but I still wasn’t prepared for the extent of the food barrenness. Sure, you could say there are plenty of good restaurants downtown, but trekking miles off campus just for a meal isn’t feasible for most students. We can’t carve out over an hour to take the shuttle to Eastman when I (and others) can barely find time to eat between classes. Most of the off-campus restaurants are also typically way out of the average college student’s budget, especially for those who already have dining hall swipes to use or a declining balance.

When I went to Grab-and-Go for the first time this week, I promptly walked out without getting anything (also because they were somehow out of coffee?). The price of the food simply did not match its quality or quantity. A sad looking chicken wrap that was smaller than the palm of my hand at the Grab-and-Go

was \$7.25! The first thought I had was how much of a better meal I could get with the same amount of money in NYC. Or even in College Town, for just a dollar more, I could get a much more substantial and filling burrito bowl at Chipotle.

Living near one of the most diverse and populous cities in the country, the people I knew with various kinds of dietary needs could find a place to eat relatively easily. But here? Not so much. I personally don’t have any dietary restrictions, but I can only imagine how much more limited the options are for those who do have them. Whether you’re gluten-free, dairy-free, lactose-free, vegetarian, vegan, have allergies, or any other kinds of restrictions, your choices are severely limited. It’s not that if you have a specific diet you won’t find anything to eat, it’s just that you can’t choose because you’ll be lucky to find one thing you can eat. It’s not right that these students either have to eat the same things every day or they have to take extra time and money to get food elsewhere. I do think that UR is on the better end when compared to the food at some other universities, but sometimes it still feels like I’m living in a desert of processed wheat and dairy, with the occasional tumbleweed of a properly cooked vegetable.

Hong is a member of the class of 2025.

Dining Situation Unacceptable for those with Disabilities

SORRY FROM PAGE 1

That’s almost half of the locations around campus. Furthermore, the places that are open are overrun with insane lines and wait times, causing them to run out of food before the end of the day. From a broad student body perspective, everyone I’ve spoken to has asked only for clarity from the school. The SA statement made clear that there’s a work shortage, but dismissed student concerns with “we are bureaucratically working on it, cook for yourself if you can.” Forgive me, but as someone who specifically requested ac-

cess to a dorm with a kitchen due to my disability, was then denied that, I’m nowhere near satisfied. The even more recent statement from Dean Runner only emphasized the work shortage without offering any timeline or forecasting of events. It’s infuriating and disempowering for students who pay thousands of dollars to have access to well rounded meals on campus to feel as though we are being hand-waved away in emails.

It’s important in this discussion that we recognize how many students on this campus have dietary restrictions, and how they take a hit 3x harder than most. Speaking from my

personal experience, I have a chronic disability that comes with a variety of diet restrictions. Some days I can be more lenient and suffer the consequences, others I have no wiggle room. In fighting with housing accommodations going into my junior year, I was approved for needing access to my own kitchen, but due to the shortage of housing available they were unable to accommodate me. Disability services, however, assured me that I would have enough options on campus to avoid my triggers and eat well.

Surprise! I don’t. More days than not I struggle with balancing food I want to eat,

food I can eat, and my dining options. And I’m not the only one with a chronic condition or dietary restrictions. I’m one of hundreds, maybe even a thousand. It’s unacceptable that the University fails to properly provide for students’ needs, especially when they promise inclusivity. Lack of access to basic needs is fundamentally alienating and creates divides among the student body in regards to pursuing higher education on an equal playing field.

While I understand there’s a work shortage indicative of larger societal issues happening outside of just our University community right

now, that’s no excuse for the school to lay down and let dining services bleed out. We are a closed community where hundreds of students have no other financial or logistical choice but on-campus dining. The school has a responsibility to us to stand up and find what incentivizes workers, perhaps inspiring other institutions and leading, rather than continuing to restate how our issues are part of a trend with other colleges. What happened to making things ever better? Right now, it feels like we’re being left behind.

Breining is a member of the class of 2023.

Writing: The Ugly Duckling of Education

By Adya Mohapatra
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With the number of readings we are assigned for our classes, it is hard to recall almost any of them. They are often lengthy, boring, and unnecessarily convoluted. However, some works will always stand out, whether in a good or bad way. You have to wonder why we are forced to incorporate the writings of others as well as our own into our everyday lives, especially when some of it, to put it simply, sucks. With so many ways of dispersing information nowadays, what is the importance of written works, and how do we determine what is valuable and what is not?

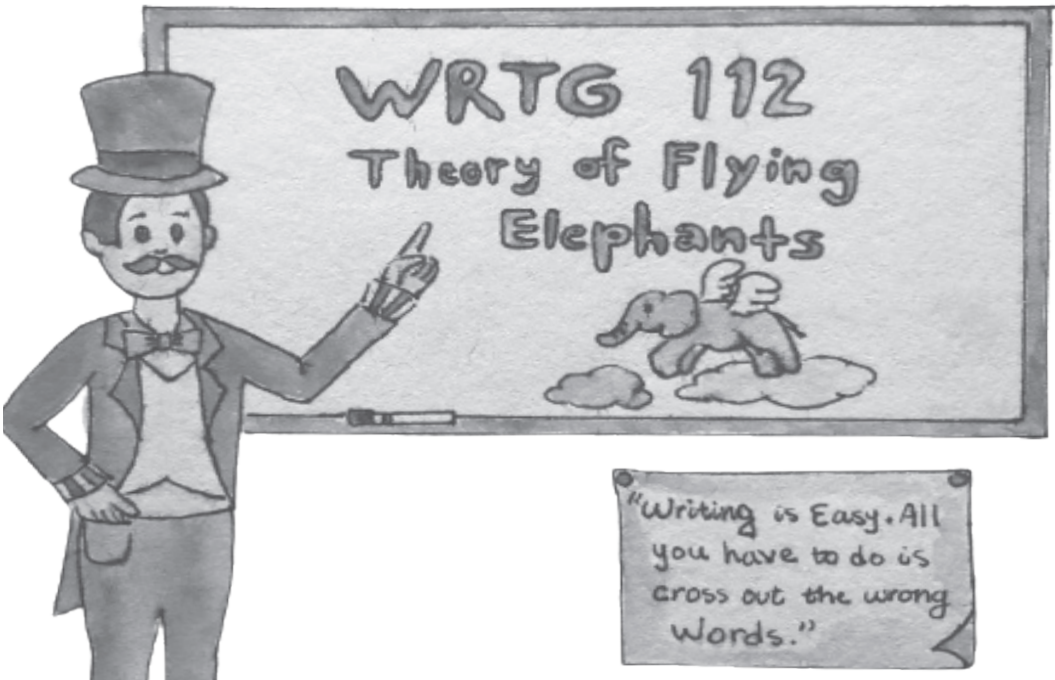
Well, I think it's safe to say many people dislike writing as a concept because of their personal experience with it. The way schools teach and enforce writing classes is horrendous, and it's the reason most people learn to despise writing. Every teacher has a different grading system, so students are forced to change their writing style year after year until they end up forgetting what their own voice even looks like. And for the love of God, if I had to write one more paper about whether or not self-driving cars are ethical in that five paragraph format, I would have abandoned writing altogether. Let us talk about what we want to talk about. More people would be open to written communication

if they learned how to do it using subjects they actually care about.

I feel like that is part of the reason why UR's general writing requirement does not receive as much hatred as one would expect. Most WRTG 105 classes introduce some of that creative freedom, though that varies depending on the topic and instructor. When people see what their writing can be and is allowed to be, it makes all the difference in their attitude towards the work and thus the final product itself. And once you have that drive, I think it is very easy to write compelling pieces regardless of "talent." As long as you actually have something to say and some purpose in doing so, you can't go wrong. The actual writing may not be perfect or the most magnificent thing to have ever existed on Earth, but why does it have to be? Why can't some pieces exist solely because the writer had something to say?

I believe many people shy away from writing because they are afraid of falling into a terrible pit full of self-hatred and zero genuine content, where many, many revered writers lay. This is a direct call-out for many authors, but Nathaniel Hawthorne deserves a special shout-out.

Yes, there is such a thing as bad writing, and I'm sure everyone has read something that's made their eyes burn and their



Catherine Xie / Illustration

minds go blank. Not one thought in or out, almost as if your brain is trying to protect yourself from being mentally scarred from the absolute nonsense you just read. The thing is, it's hard to categorize, but very easy to identify.

So how do you avoid that? Well, of course, everyone has their own preferences in writing. But I think it helps to realize that you can't ever please every reader — and that should never be your goal. As a college student with a minimal understanding of my own life, let alone world affairs, I have very little authority and knowledge to share about writing well. However, that kind of feels like the point. Writing is just an extension of the people we are and the kind of impact we want to make on others. When given the chance to put our thoughts

in an organized manner for anyone to read, we often make connections and come up with concepts we never considered before. And if you are then able to inspire that same process in others, then I think you can call yourself a good writer.

Everything you read should make you feel something. It does not have to be groundbreaking; you should not be in an existential daze after reading just anything. You can simply agree or disagree, acknowledge they made a valid point, anything, but you probably should react in some capacity. It's like what many say with movies; good movies are fun to watch, and bad movies are entertaining in their own right, but boring movies? They make you regret every choice that led you to some

dark living room, staring at a screen wondering just how something can be so utterly inconsequential.

I truly believe writing is an essential skill. So many great ideas and thoughts have been shared through writing, and I think it would be a shame to let misunderstanding and poor education ruin that medium for people in the future. So much of what we consume on a daily basis is rooted in writing, whether it be cultural concepts, different forms of media, or even our perspectives on the world around us. Writing is too vital a form of self-expression for us to completely turn our backs on it, so we have to be able to look past its ugly presentation in education and recognize its actual purpose.

Mohapatra is a member of the class of 2025.

MUSKAAN'S MUSINGS

By Muskaan Vasandani
COLUMNIST

Everyone has a guilty pleasure: From chocolate chip cookies at midnight to watching Gilmore girls with a tub of ice cream for the millionth time, there's something we all do when we're desperate for comfort, and never tell anyone.

'Just give it a shot. It has something for almost anyone, and I promise you won't be disappointed.'

And here comes my confession, my ultimate guilty pleasure: Reality TV. From "Survivor" to "Love Island," from "The Circle" to "Bachelor in Paradise," I've watched it all. With a tub of ice cream and popcorn handy, wrapped up in my favorite blanket and sitting in my "spot" on the couch. My suitemates know I've assumed my position for the day when

Reality TV Isn't That Bad

I then proceed to turn on the tv and watch the tenth season of "Love Island."

As a connoisseur of reality TV, I will state that it is as far from reality as it can be. Most shows involve perfectly sculpted humans socializing in a beach house in an attempt to find "the one". So how does an international student and no bullshit STEM major get

sucked in by the blackhole that is reality TV? It starts with self-indulgent cringe-watching with a group of gal pals, but before you know it, your perception starts to warp and you're suddenly actually invested in Grocery Store Joe and his struggles in Paradise. Believe it or not, I bonded over a very pretentious show called "The Circle"

with a friend that I had absolutely nothing else in common with at that point. Shows like these, despite their seeming stupidity, can be great conversation starters!

Reality shows are entertaining, and they have something for everyone: From baking competitions to mating shows, you can find your

thing, killing hours of your time by binging one of these gems on TV. And this brings me to "Rochester in Paradise": an outlet for a school filled with stressed-out overachievers. When I first saw the Instagram notification for this incredibly close-to-home reality show, I was beyond psyched. I think it was about time that something like this came into being, after a slew of initiatives like UR Matched and the Marriage Pact. The Instagram story's highlights of application snippets for our silly little home-grown reality show are not only entertaining, but also very intriguing. The fact that one of the "celebs" on the show may be behind you in the Douglass pasta line is, I believe, very funny and exciting.

So, if you're one of those reality TV haters, I'd say just give it a shot. It has something for almost anyone, and I promise you won't be disappointed.

Vasandani is a member of the class of 2022.



RitaPei/illustrations Editor

HUMOR

YoUR Confessions Are Safe (With Administration)

By KATIE JARVIS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In recent years, scholars have declared social media to be a panopticon. True anonymity is no longer achievable in the digital age. Thus, to share our innermost thoughts without indulging the prying eyes of future employers, drunk exes, and younger siblings (who need to stop making fake accounts just to follow my finsta, Julia), anonymous confessional accounts rose to prominence. These Instagram profiles provided UR's masses with an outlet to share their darkest thoughts, pettiest pet peeves, and... whatever the first-year class is up to. UR confessional pages have, unsurprisingly, become part of our school culture in the way that only chaotic, irresponsible, student-run programs can. But, if 2020 has taught us anything, it's that nothing is holy and we can't have nice things.

A recent leak within UR admin's "student affairs" department reveals that, for the past few weeks, UR admin has been operating under the confessional Instagram account Tell_Me_UR_Secrets. Purportedly, more than 600 confessions have been submitted to the account. According to the department leak, 143 of these confessions are from a single student thirsting over UR mascot Rocky the Yellowjacket. But all of them were intended to be read by students and students only. Admin has,

in an act of treachery, turned what once was most sacred to us into a wicked weapon.

And we believed them.

To be honest, I'm surprised no one noticed Tell_Me was a plant sooner. The "anonymous" form requires the entry of a student ID number and directly asks for academic honesty violations. According to the leak, this account has already led to four warnings and two permanent notes on students' academic records.

However, despite the account's "success," UR admin has decided to permanently suspend the Instagram account, citing "continuous psychological harm" to the interns tasked with combing through all the messages. In a transcript of a recent board meeting, one intern said "They [the confessions] never stop coming... These students, they're feral. They won't stop

complaining about the internet, one won't stop thirsting over his math TA, and I think one is planning to impersonate a dining hall worker to steal the Danforth ice cream machine. I'm not even sure who to report that to. And then there's the Rocky kid..."

'To be honest, I'm surprised no one noticed Tell_Me was a plant sooner.'

In the weeks since the start of the account, at least seven interns have checked into UHS counseling and three have taken "indefinite time off" from the UR admin team. Admin's decision to suspend the account seems to be for the best; like Schrödinger's cat, some things are best left unobserved.

Jarvis is a member of the Class of 2025.



BRIDGET TOKIWA / ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

Slim Goodbody is Back, Baby!

By MAXIMILIAN LEVY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

(Editor's Note: This article was slipped in a folder underneath the Campus Times' door under the cover of night. We know as much as you do, and encourage consulting the internet for more information.)

You thought you could run. You thought you could hide. You buried any thought of him back in the 1980s, didn't you? Back when you found out his organ-painted outsides matched his organ-painted insides?

'His skin is impenetrable, his abs are irresistible, and his wrath inescapable.'

You went home to your spouse, covered the memories in dirt and put his colorful body in an unmarked grave. You thought you could stop him. You thought you could bring his madness to an end. Fool. Blithering idiot. You thought you could murder the superhero of health? Murder the minstrel of medicine? Hang the herald of hygiene?? Slim Goodbody is the bane of worlds, and the conqueror of hearts and minds. He is enshrouded in fear, mystery, and a 4000 dollar costume.

His skin is impenetrable, his abs are irresistible, and his

wrath inescapable. Only his godly visage could navigate such complex roles: appearing twice a week on "Captain Kangaroo" between the years of 1976 and 1981 (being the year in which Slim Goodbody absorbed the Captain's soul), and a Radio Shack commercial in the 2014 Super Bowl.

'Every morning that man wakes up and eats a doctor, to keep the apples away. He invented the Hippocratic oath just so that he could violate it.'

Let me make something painfully clear to you. Do you know how healthy Slim Goodbody is? Every morning that man wakes up and eats a doctor, to keep the apples away. He invented the Hippocratic oath just so that he could violate it. He locked his cytoplasm in a prison, and you best believe he is the powerhouse of his mitochondria's cell.

Slim Goodbody fucking photosynthesizes. He is hell on earth, terror incarnate; the fifth horseman of the apocalypse.

And he knows what you did. And you know what he's going to do.

So hide your fruits. Hide your veggies.

Cuz Slim Goodbody is back, motherfuckers.

Levy is a member of the Class of 2024.

Public Safety Find Secret Mice Cabal: Adderall For All

By MELANIE EARLE
FEATURES EDITOR

Before the release of her thA secret adderall-slinging organization run by the mice that live in residential housing was uncovered this week by Public Safety officers. After a two-year long investigation, Public Safety has presented their investigation to the public. Code-named "the Meliora Mouse Clubhouse," their report named leaders and key players, and detailed how the mice operate.

New students interested in study drugs were able to get in contact with the cabal through upperclassmen with at least four of the following traits: triple major, four or more e-Board positions, a plan to teach themselves a language (programming or spoken), Strong Memorial Hospital volunteering position, at least 24 credits, and a position on SA or CT.

The overachieving student would provide a specific Pit order for the interested student

to acquire: a burger from the Grill with fries and orange chicken with a fortune cookie on the side from the Wok. The interested buyer would then leave the meal partially eaten on their desk in their dorm room for at least seven hours.

'The doses ranged from a 20 mg UR Bee All-Nighter to a 80 mg Rocky Final's Week special'

The mice would then come into the dorm room when either the student was asleep or at class. They would leave a paper that looks like an old General Interest Meeting slip you got at the club fair that you never threw out for some reason.

This form detailed in code the different doses of adderall you could buy. The doses ranged from a 20 mg UR Bee All-Nighter to a 80 mg Rocky Final's Week special, aka, "I didn't learn a single thing in my STEM class this semester and my final is 50% of my grade."

The mice cabal would pick up the completed slip that day, and once the student paid, the mice would deliver the goods within 12 hours in an empty Starbucks cup.

The mice cabal headquarters was found to be a broken dryer in Anderson Hall. The mouse in charge, Cheesy Tom, was taken into custody after a high-speed chase through Jackson Court that ended in him getting trapped in a decades-old mouse-trap. Facilities forgot about. Over the two months alone, according to the cabal's books, the tiny cabal has made \$318,000, which is just over the full cost to attend UR for four years.

With Cheesy Tom out of the picture, the cabal seems close to collapse. For students looking for an alternative way to keep up with their insane Google Calendar schedule that does not involve a secret cabal of mice, try a fool-proof method that got me through the MATH 160 series. I give you...

Earle is a member of the Class of 2023.

Melanie's Rocket Fuel

- 2 cans of cold brew
 - 1 Red Bull
 - Pre-workout
 - A venti Sweet Cream Cold Brew
 - A water
- Optional: A room to lock yourself in and a trusted friend to safe-guard the key.
1. Bust out your dorm room key and shotgun one cold brew. Then shotgun the Red Bull, followed by the second can of cold-brew.
 2. Sit and contemplate what you have just done to yourself.
 3. Now guzzle down that Sweet Cream Cold Brew and swallow two cupfuls of pre-workout dry.
 4. Accept that you have just discovered a new high-power-entity-being that has taken your soul, one that is so old, exists beyond time, and belongs to a palace deeper than the plane that we may perceive as hell; their name is unknown to the world.
 5. If you did not choose to lock yourself in a room, the best place to ride this out is in Gleason/iZone. Ambience is key.
 6. Get grindin'. Don't worry about the stares you'll get from people once you start climbing the walls like Spider-Man. They are just jealous.
 7. If you feel like you're gonna pass out, have a sip of water. You'll be fine, champ. Just have MERT on speed-dial.***
- ***RECENT AMENDMENT TO STEP 7. MERT IS GONE, SO TAKE THE BLUE LINE TO THE STRONG EMERGENCY ROOM.**

CULTURE

“Beavis and Butthead” is a Lot Deeper Than You Think

By JACOB HANLEY
CULTURE EDITOR

“Beavis and Butthead” might be one of the stupidest shows to ever exist. But somehow, I can’t pull myself away from it. For anyone who isn’t already familiar with this integral piece of ’90s MTV culture, the show follows two impressively idiotic teenage boys who are obsessed with TV, rock ‘n’ roll, crude jokes, the opposite sex, and anything they deem “cool.”

‘every single one of Beavis and Butthead’s adventures can be traced back to their two core motivations: watching TV and “picking up chicks.”’

Each episode, the duo’s lack of

brain cells always seems to land them in all sorts of unpredictable and often chaotic situations accidentally blowing up their friend’s kitchen while trying to inhale stove gas to “get a killer buzz,” and tearing up their neighborhood’s septic system in an attempt to mine for “oil,” just to name a few.

Despite the fact that it’s a comedy show, I rarely ever find myself even cracking a smile while watching it. And still, there’s just something that keeps me coming back for more. It’s not the low-brow, brainless, IQ-destroying comic relief that makes the show compelling. What makes the show great is its subtle commentary on the meaningless pursuit of superficial pleasure that is glorified by Western civilization.

Pretty much every single one of Beavis and Butthead’s

adventures can be traced back to their two core motivations: watching TV and “picking up chicks.” Whether they’re hijacking a steamroller to impress said “chicks” or trying to get hit by a car so that they can sue and get \$2 for TV remote batteries, the show demonstrates the great lengths the pair will go to just to get their next rush. They are locked in a never ending dopamine-chase, where they never truly are satisfied or fully achieve their goals. The next episode always comes, and the next dead-end adventure always follows.

‘a medium that glorifies sex, violence, and anything intensely stimulating.’

This cycle is no doubt fueled by their constant intake of televi-

sion — a medium that glorifies sex, violence, and anything intensely stimulating. In fact, one could argue that Beavis and Butthead serve as a hyperbolic representation of how humans would act if they were exposed solely to Western media: sex-crazed, crude, violence-obsessed, and constantly seeking the next thrill. It’s no coincidence, then, that Beavis and Butthead are also portrayed as the pinnacle of stupidity, as the show seems to make a statement on how mainstream media can deteriorate the mind with its glorification of constant stimulation.

Beavis and Butthead’s antics are so painfully ridiculous that it’s easy to look down upon and laugh at them — but don’t they represent a flaw that is inherent to us all? Even if we are grateful for the things in life that

are truly fulfilling, it is far too common for our focus on those things to take a backseat to the next thrill we can have. Instead of deriving joy from meaningful elements of life, it can be easy to slip into dependence on the stimulation that is offered by fleeting day-to-day pleasures — the next time we can go out, the next thing we can buy, the next plan for the weekend. As in Beavis and Butthead’s case, this is a flaw that is no doubt exacerbated by contemporary media, which encourages the relentless pursuit of this superficial stimulation. For this reason, “Beavis and Butthead” might be one of the most geniusly subtle comments on modern culture and its often destructive effects on the human psyche.

Or maybe it’s just toilet jokes.
Hanley is a member of the Class of 2023.

Lorde’s “Ribbs” is a Misunderstood Masterpiece

By CARTER HASENOEHRL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Before the release of her third album “Solar Powered,” Lorde’s music was almost notorious for being sad. As a result, a lot of her songs have only been enjoyed as sad bops and are not appreciated in their full capacity. The song most undeserving of this classification is “Ribbs.” The time has finally come to right this wrong and recognize “Ribbs” as the perfect blend of sadness, nostalgia, and joy.

Lorde herself has admitted that “Ribbs” is an exploration of aging, which is something that stresses her — and almost everyone else — out. Think of the track’s angst-inducing lyrics: “It drives you crazy getting old,” “This dream isn’t feeling sweet,” and “I’ve never felt more alone, it feels so scary getting old.” Mix these melancholy words with the song’s progression from slow singing to more fast-paced cries for a recipe of iconic sadness and existential anxiety. However, there’s more to “Ribbs” than just the fear of growing old.

The track also has a warmer nostalgic side to it. It’s about longing for the days when one was younger, when things were more simple. Lyrics like, “I want ‘em back / The minds we had” and “Sharing beds like little kids” convey that beneath the underlying stress, there is a softer appreciation of the past.

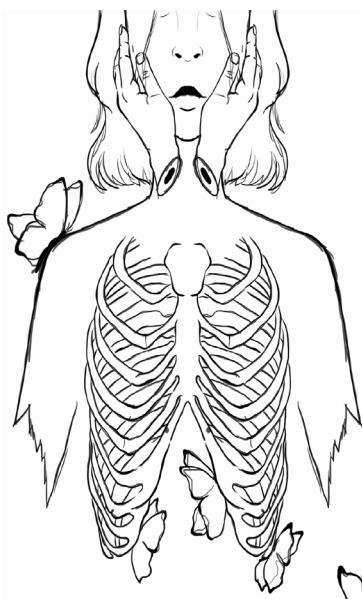
“Ribbs” also works as a song for going out with friends. The song evokes a feeling of company through the lyrics, “You’re the only friend I need / Sharing beds like little kids / And laughing ‘til our ribs get tough.” “We’re reeling through the midnight streets”

gives off a very strong feeling of stumbling one’s way across town after a party.

The instrumentals of “Ribbs” adds to the fluidity of its vibes. The beat and tempo and even the general sound isn’t one that you would associate with sad music. “Ribbs” is pretty upbeat, especially as the song reaches its climax and speeds up. This lighter feeling that the song produces counterbalances its lyrics and is what allows the other feelings of the song to be more aptly recognized and felt.

“Ribbs” masterfully intertwines sadness with joy, and feelings of fear of the future with fondness of the past. Yet, just because these are mixed together so fluently does not mean that everyone recognizes the song for how dynamic it really is. “Ribbs” is a masterpiece that is simultaneously uplifting and sad, and the feeling derived from the song truly depends on whatever your mindset is when you put your headphones on.

Hasenoehl is a member of the Class of 2024.



SUNAHRA TANVI / ILLUSTRATOR

Liv on the Edge: America, a Lexicon of Fashion and Failure

By OLIVIA ALGER
MANAGING EDITOR

This was a tremendous week for culture — MTV’s annual Video Music Awards were held on Sunday, with Lil Nas X claiming video of the year; New York Fashion Week transformed the city into a walking runway, debuting new collections in-person after a two year hiatus; and, most importantly, the Met Gala returned, after being postponed for four months (usually it’s the first Monday of every May). This year’s theme? In America: A Lexicon of Fashion.

The theme was named after the newest collection in the Costume Institute at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, which features a variety of pieces from designers new and old. Andrew Bolton, the curator of the Institute, gave Vogue editor Steff Yotka three words to define American fashion in an article on the new exhibit — “heterogeneity, diversity, and pluralism.” Bolton said, “the idea of reducing American fashion down to one definition is totally antithetical to what the exhibition is about.”

Indeed, American fashion is fickle, as demonstrated by the range of outfits worn by celebrities on this year’s beige carpet. Some stars took the theme quite literally, like Debbie Harry of Blondie, who wore a tattered red-and-white striped American flag skirt and tight denim jacket. Others, like Jennifer Lopez and Maluma, went with looks from the Wild West, donning a cowboy hat and red leather fringe jacket, respectively. And some made references to iconic outfits of the American past — like Bil-

lie Eilish’s homage to Marilyn Monroe, Gemma Chan’s nod to Anna May Wong, and Yara Shahidi’s look modeled after Josephine Baker, just to name a few.

In classic Met Gala tradition, however, many attendees failed to dress to the theme at all. Some male stars arrived in nothing more than a traditional black jacket, like Adrien Brody. The Met Gala steps are never the place to arrive in a basic suit and tie, regardless of how traditionally American that look may be. There were plenty of disappointingly basic red dresses — Addison Rae and Emily Ratajkowski, to name two. And, of course, celebrity couples who didn’t look bad but didn’t stand out, either — Shawn Mendes and Camila Cabello; Justin and Hailey Bieber.

“the idea of reducing American fashion down to one definition is totally antithetical to what the exhibition is about.”

There were only a few guests who decided to use the American theme as a platform for political statements. Two congresswomen in attendance, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Carolyn Maloney, each wore custom statement pieces — Ocasio-Cortez in a white dress with the phrase “Tax the Rich” emblazoned in red print on the back; Maloney draped in strips of fabric declaring “Rights for Women.”

Most interestingly, Kim Kardashian was elusively decked entirely in a tight black outfit, her face entirely covered — perhaps because there is noth-

ing more American than Kim Kardashian’s iconic, shapely silhouette, which has defined American beauty standards for the past 20 years.

In my opinion, the best thematically dressed and most notable guests of this year’s Gala were Lupita Nyong’o, in a denim-inspired gown; Simone Biles and her 88-pound outfit; Kenneth Nicholson and his blue-belted dress; Quannah Chasinghorse in a look that represented Indigenous American fashion; and Tyler Mitchell in a red Bode suit.

The worst? Cara Delevingne, in a white armor plate with the words “Peg the Patriarchy” printed across the chest. Her attempt to make a political statement is slashed by the quirkiness of the word “peg” — not to mention that the usage of “peg” instead of “smash” or “crush” weaponizes an act of sexuality, which, if she was truly an opposer of the patriarchy, she would know is something to avoid.

Largely, though, I am disappointed by the lack of urgency in this year’s costumes. Just beyond the Metropolitan Museum steps, during the event, Black Lives Matter protesters gathered to rally against racial injustice and many were quickly arrested by police. The United States is and always has been fraught with extreme political and social turbulence — I expected celebrity attendees of an American-themed gala to reflect this more than they did. I suppose, though, there is nothing more American than celebrities demonstrating their decadent wealth in front of citizens suffering and fighting for their rights on the streets.

Alger is a member of the Class of 2022.

Students + Free Cookies = A Batch Made in Heaven

By REGAN COLLINS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Students from campuses across Rochester flocked to Mt. Hope Ave this past Monday night for Insomnia Cookies' Annual PJ Party. A yearly tradition since 2019, this event welcomes students back to school with some sweet deals — so long as you arrive wearing your finest sleepwear. People wrapped in fuzzy blankets and dressed in pajama pants lined the street, eating free samples of chocolate cookie butter (basically the equivalent of raw brownie batter) and dancing to Insomnia Cookies' carefully curated playlist of TikTok hits. While the event was slow to start, by 10:00pm there was a line of eager students, myself included, stretching down the sidewalk. Perhaps the best-dressed attendees were the Insomnia workers themselves, all decked out in animal onesies and glow stick crowns. They led games of trivia, tic-tac-toe, and rock-paper-



Students from UR's Class of 2025 wait in line for their free cookies.

scissors, handing out prizes to all the winners. Students collected Insomnia Cookies pop-sockets, sunglasses, and pens, but by far the most coveted items were the free cookie samples.

Trivia winners earned a six pack of mini cookies in signature flavors like chocolate chunk, snickerdoodle, and white chocolate macadamia nut. Other lucky students won full-size samples of

REGAN COLLINS/CONTRIBUTING WRITER
Insomnia Cookies' newest release, the Cereal N' Milk Cookie. True to its name, this cookie is chock full of Fruity Pebbles cereal, white chocolate chips, and marshmallows mixed into its brown

butter batter. While it might be too sweet for some, one late-night worker heralded it as "the best cookie we've ever sold", and I'd have to agree. *'the most coveted items were the free cookies samples.'*

There was also a special-edition box cover and decoder flashlight that revealed a QR code to unlock three free months of CookieMagic. But all good things must crumb to an end, so this was only available for the first 50 students to order the \$12 12-pack deal. This subscription includes one free cookie per day, free delivery, 20 percent nationwide shipping (to share the love), and exclusive new discounts every week. Not a bad way to kick off the school year in my opinion! I will be waiting for next year's party with bated breath, but until then, I hope all you smart cookies have an incre-dough-ble semester! *Collins is a member of the Class of 2023.*

CT EATS

By HAILIE HIGGINS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

By ETHAN BUSCH
PUBLISHER

When you walk up to Dolce Italy, you know it's going to be good. The storefront isn't immediately obvious — the shop sits in the corner of a small, old-looking shopping strip across from the East Ave Wegmans. When you come up to the door, you see a sign for a tailor's shop, and enter a small hall with one door leading to the tailor, one door leading to Italian dessert heaven. The store itself is a snug corner with few frills. You don't need to focus on decor when your desserts are this good. Also, in true Italian fashion, the food is what really matters, with the store's old-world charm a pleasant side effect. Display cases are full of dainty, delicious looking pastries. A small table sits off to the side. A fridge stocked with drinks and cakes is bordered by news articles about the shop's opening. And in the back right there is the real gem that brought us to Dolce Italy: gelato.

'You don't need to focus on decor when your desserts are this good.'

Unlike ice cream, which lays flat and frozen in its cylindrical containers, the gelato is stacked in ribbon layers, a visual indication of how creamy and delicious

Dolce Italy Delights the Senses



ETHAN BUSCH/PUBLISHER

the treat you are about to eat is. The sight reminded us of past trips to Italy (and reminded Ethan of a COVID-19-cancelled spring break trip) containing a tantalizing variety of gelatos. Ethan got stracciatella (sweet cream with chocolate pieces) and Nutella. Hailie got plain vanilla, but taste tested hazelnut and caramel. It was all fantastic. The hazelnut and caramel were subtly flavored in a way that made it feel authentic and, for the hazelnut, naturally nutty. Juxtapose that with Reece's peanut butter ice cream, for example. Despite being small servings, it felt right — the gelato is so rich that any more would be excessive. The flavors were complex and deep, and the texture was creamy

and smooth. It's a tad more expensive than, say, Dairy Queen, but you get what you pay for: quality. *'The flavors were complex and deep, and the texture was creamy and smooth.'*

It isn't Pittsford Farms Dairy ice cream — there aren't any crazy mix-ins, silly names, or massive waffle cones — but it also isn't trying to be. Dolce Italy serves authentic Italian gelato, and it doesn't need anything else to be good. Given that we're in Rochester, New York, approximately 4,318 miles away from Italy (but only 40 miles from Italy, New York), we're both willing to pay a bit more for a high-quality,

authentic treat. Ethan also got the focaccia, and on a past trip, one of the chocolate pastries. Like the gelato, they're just as good as they look: light and flaky with delicious chocolate. The focaccia was a little greasy, but still very good, and less than \$2. Opened during the pan-

demic, the pastry shop couldn't feel more genuine. It's clear that from the owners to the employees, there is a real love of Italian food and culture. And you can taste it too. *Higgins is a member of the class of 2022. Busch is a member of the class of 2023.*



Authentic Italian gelato and focaccia from Dolce Italy

This Month in Photos

“This Month in Photos” is a column in collaboration with UR Photography Club to document daily life on campus each month. You can submit your photos to photo@campus-times.org with the subject line “This Month in Photos.”



HENRY LITSKY/PHOTO EDITOR



WENZHE WANG/UR PHOTO



ZIHAO TANG/UR PHOTO



ZIHAN ZHONG/GUEST SUBMISSION



HENRY LITSKY/PHOTO EDITOR



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