

# Campus Times

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## SDS Protests Field Student Support, Concerns About Administration

By Emmely Eli Texcucano  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Last week, as the University ran its annual housing lottery for the upcoming year, SDS continued their protest on housing conditions just outside Wilson Commons.

In direct visibility to tour groups frequenting the area, SDS occupied Wilson Quad for several days utilizing donated tents, blankets, and food by other students. A rotating group of students stayed in the area, as classes continued throughout the week. At one point, Public Safety approached and spoke with the students.

The newest housing option developed by the University is the Brooks Crossing Apartments, which were constructed in 2014. The newest housing option overall is Innovation Square in downtown Rochester, which is located in the old Xerox building. If chosen through the housing lottery, students sign a nine month lease versus the traditional 12 month lease with on-campus housing.

Students have been vocal about their growing dissat-



KEVINHU / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

isfaction with student housing conditions, the housing lottery, and plans for faith-based buildings to be built on already limited available land on campus.

This has been seen in the response to the flooding in the Brooks Crossing apartments over winter break and the town hall held on April 16th directed towards addressing Student Housing.

"While I do support everything [SDS] stood for and I

believe they were completely right in their goals, I'm admittedly a bit unsure how they plan to both fix gentrification and increase housing or how much the protests will end up actually impacting others," said first-year Daniel Menis.

The housing lottery itself has been a point of contention over the years. As the number of accepted students has increased over the years, on-campus housing has become scarcer and thus not

guaranteed for all students. The Class of 2026 themselves had a total of 1,499 enrolled students. First-year dorms have seen a number of doubles being converted to triples to accommodate for the lack of housing, as well as placing students in previously designated upperclassmen dorms.

This has culminated in students with later time slots in the housing lottery being pushed off campus for housing when on-campus housing

runs out. Just last August, Residential Life offered a limited number of upperclass students to be released from their housing contract to accommodate the lack of available housing.

First-year Kanishk Shanmugam, who went through his first experience with the housing lottery this year and obtained housing, said, "It's crazy to me that [SDS] protested it and were absolutely right in their claims as, ironically, students were getting screwed by housing services as they protested."

***The Class of 2026 themselves had a total of 1,499 enrolled students.***

This is all coming after the University announced in March housing and food will increase 3.8% to \$18,714 for the upcoming year.

According to their post, SDS ended their protest after having spent over 120 hours camped outdoors.

*Texcucano is a member of the Class of 2025.*

## RocLab Launches Unicycle to Promote Sustainability On Campus

By Natalie Opdahl  
STAFF WRITER

RocLab, a student-run organization granting members opportunities to develop and implement their own software, released its newest project, Unicycle, Monday.

Unicycle is an online platform where UR students can buy and sell a variety of items to other students. Originally called "Ushop," RocLab's eboard decided to change the name to "Unicycle" earlier this semester, according to junior Marketing Lead and Product Manager Thanothii Ganesh.

"We liked it 'cause it was like 'university' and 'recycling,'" Ganesh said. "Some wordplay that [...] references the sustainable nature of the product, and that we want to keep that cycle going."

Improving on-campus

sustainability is one of Unicycle's main goals, according to Ganesh. She said in an interview that students throw their things away at the end of the school year, or try to sell them on a variety of different platforms. RocLab wanted to create a central platform for students to be able to buy and sell items, ultimately reducing waste in the University community.

***Any UR student can be both a buyer and seller.***

Prospective sellers and buyers can get started by logging into Unicycle with their UR email account. From there, they can enter their contact information, which will only be used to allow buyers to get in touch with the sellers. Any UR student can be both a buyer and seller.

Sellers may sell an item by clicking the corresponding button, and entering the "title" or name of the object, a short description, a price, and a few photos of the item. They may also list the item as "new" or "used," and list the price as "negotiable" or "nonnegotiable." From there, they may select which categories the item belongs to: dorm, clothing, school, electronics, and/or other. Once the seller clicks "create listing," the item appears on their profile and the website ready to be bought.

Buyers may browse the site as a whole or as filtered by any of the five categories. They may also filter the results by price, condition, and negotiability. Although buyers are not required to sign in with their UR email account to browse the site, they must be signed in to purchase.

To buy an item, buyers click

on it, then on the "Contact Seller" icon. This brings up a pop-up with the seller's contact information, which you can use to contact the seller outside of Unicycle. Additionally, from this pop-up you can view the seller's profile to see other listings.

***Unicycle has no payment services, and according to Ganesh, RocLab will most likely avoid adding such a service for legal reasons.***

Unicycle has no payment services, and according to Ganesh, RocLab will most likely avoid adding such a service for legal reasons.

"Right now, we are simply acting as a middle man between the buyer and seller. There's no paywall," Ganesh

said. "It's a place where you can make all your listings – have all your listings in one place, and sort of have a buyer browse through everything you have. So like, mass listing things on there. And then they can contact you from the website, and then you go off the website."

Although RocLab does not plan to add an online payment system anytime soon, they do have other updates lined up for the site.

According to Ganesh, updates for the fall semester include allowing users to upload profile pictures, add bios, and connect with each other on the website itself. Additionally, buyers will be able to list items that they are looking for.

Unicycle can be contacted through their Instagram account, @ur.unicycle.

*Opdahl is a member of the Class of 2026.*

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# CAMPUS

## Dandelion Day in Photos



KEVINHU / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Indie pop rock band COIN performs for a crowd of students on Goergen Field.



KEVINHU / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Students enjoying the carnival rides on Wilson Quad as temperatures reached the low 80s.



KEVINHU / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Students in the No Jackets Required (NJR) acoustic group perform at one of the two student stages.



KEVINHU / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Wilson Quad was full of energy as hundreds of students waited in lines for food trucks and carnival rides and games. They could find shelter from the sun in a big tent which held free snacks and a cash bar.

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## Senior Spotlight: An Evening With Epiphany Adams

By Harper Foley  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I sat down to interview senior Epiphany Adams, future MD psychologist in social work. She spoke on her legacy here at the University that has led to her bright future as a practicing therapist. Where yet, she doesn't know, but she will be continuing her degree at the University of Buffalo after commencement. Looking back, she has much to share from her past four years.

Quotes have been edited lightly for clarity and adherence to CT style.

As a disclaimer, there are references to suicide within this interview.

### What are three words that best describe you?

Passionate, vibrant, and blunt.

### What is your major?

Psychology.

### Why?

I saw the way my mom — in high school — suffered in

silence, and then it made me hyper aware of how a lot of Black and Hispanic people suffer in silence. The stigmas around mental health, stigmas that the society places, but that we also place on ourselves, and also just like having my own experience of trying to commit suicide, and being in a psychiatric ward, seeing how fucked up the psychiatric ward is, and all of that together made me want to be a therapist.

***'It made me hyper aware of how a lot of Black and Hispanic people suffer in silence.'***

*Adams has formerly struggled with mental health, which has not only disproportionately affected her own family, but also her community. As a Harlem resident born and raised, she saw the negative effects that uprooted children and families in mental hospitals across New York City.*

I was like, "I have to be a therapist because one, I don't want to see any more Black and Hispanic children in psych wards [...] I don't want to see anybody suffering in silence anymore [...] Black men are the number one people to commit suicide, especially violently, so I don't want to see that anymore. I want to make a change, starting with being a therapist, eventually going into policy, if possible, but if I can help one patient, I know I can help a thousand other people. So, that's why I wanted to do psychology.

### What clubs or organizations are you a part of?

That's a very interesting question, because as of now, I'm not a part of any clubs anymore. So I would say officially, I am still a Student Alumni Ambassador, and I'm a tour guide, but we call that the Meridian Society, formerly, as of April 8, 4:00 p.m. I was President of the Minority Student Advisory Board (MSAB), but yeah, I was always and

forever a general member of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE).

***'If I can help one patient, I know I can help a thousand other people.'***

I actually came into [the University] with STEM in mind. I did a lot of STEM [and] a lot of Black people in STEM advocacy in high school. I already knew I was an advocate, I just didn't know where, because for one reason, I also did not originally start with psychology was because my AP Calc teacher told me I was too emotional, and that I should do something else, something more STEM-related, which is why I ended up doing STEM.

It clearly ended up not fitting the design because I ended up doing psychology anyways.

*She was "too emotional." Her favorite teacher, taken from her best subject, told her words that would redirect her studies from*

*psychology, to the natural sciences, then back to psychology. Despite the fact she excels in most, if not all areas of science, Adams took to psychology. Those words, however haunting, were necessary for her to continue on her path.*

I came in and joined [NSBE] as a first year representative, as a continued advocacy for Black people in STEM, and later, I ended up being an academic excellence chair for Black engineers, advocating more for academic excellence in STEM, which not forced me, but encouraged me to become a Calculus tutor later on, and I'm still a Calculus tutor and I'm still a TA for Calculus, so there is that. But ironically, being an advocate for engineering didn't fit me. Like, I knew I wanted to advocate, but I didn't know how or what it would be.

Want to read more? You can find the remainder of the article on [campustimes.org](http://campustimes.org).

*Foley is a member of the Class of 2026.*

## What's the Buzz? Bross Speaks on Bee Campus Certification

By Regan Collins  
STAFF WRITER

By Sarah Woodams  
PUBLISHER

On April 10, the University became officially Bee Campus certified. This process was initiated by senior Zoë Bross in her sophomore year on campus. Bross, who grew up working at her mother's garden store in New Jersey, is finishing her college career with an impressive repertoire: a major in Environmental Studies, two minors in Anthropology and Studio Arts, and — on behalf of the University — a Bee Campus Certification.

Bee Campus USA is a subset of Bee City USA, an initiative started by the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. The purpose of Bee Campus USA is to advocate for the conservation of native pollinators on college campuses by increasing the abundance of native plants, providing nest sites, reducing the use of pesticides, and offering educational opportunities that incorporate pollinator conservation.

Bross first heard about Bee Campus USA through her high school best friend Kayleigh Silverstein, who attends the University of Utah. Her friend worked for their campus newspaper and mentioned interviewing someone for Bee Campus. After googling what a Bee Campus was, Bross was taken aback. "I couldn't believe that our school wasn't certified because we always talk about [...] being so into sustainability and all that," she said. "And our mascot is literally a

yellow jacket! Which, for the record, is not a pollinator, but still looks like a bee."

Bross also found out through an environmental science hydrology project that becoming Bee Campus certified would give the University more points on the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) program, which assigns ratings to campuses according to their sustainable efforts. The University currently holds a silver rating.

***'Bross first heard about Bee Campus USA through her high school best friend.'***

There are eight requirements to become Bee Campus certified. The first major step for Bross was creating a standing Bee Campus committee with a mix of students, faculty, and staff. Currently, the committee is led by her and Professor Robert Minckley, with junior Sahara Walto as the student co-chair in training. Also on the committee is Manager of University Horticulture and Grounds John McIntyre, along with Matt Austin, who works for Grounds as well. However, the steps to getting to this point were not straightforward.

Bross' first step was to reach out to Professor Karen Berger who teaches many sustainability related courses in the Earth and Environmental Sciences Department. "Unfortunately, she had too much on her plate at the time to help me so she directed me

to some other people on campus who were interested," Bross said. As a result, she ended up talking to McIntyre, in the fall semester of her junior year for a project in her Energy and Society class (course listing).

"He was super into the idea," Bross said. "First time I met with him, John was so friendly and enthusiastic. He has literally been the best this whole time and has been so supportive." Getting Bee Campus certified would need the full support of Grounds because they would be the one planting the pollinator gardens, as well as executing their integrated pest management plan.

Throughout the year, Bross also talked with Cam Schauf, who was the Director of Campus Dining Services and Auxiliary Operations. He was also very supportive and created a job for Bross within Dining Team Green to help her continue her work, Sustainability Marketing Coordinator. Schauf has since retired, but Bross has retained her position and appreciates the support of her new bosses at Dining who are continuing the push for sustainability. "Of course, bees and pollinators are the reason that we have food!" Bross pointed out. "All of the produce gets pollinated by pollinators. And if we didn't have pollinators, we wouldn't really be able to eat."

This past semester has been a lot of bureaucratic work for Bross, who had a lot of forms to fill out and needed the Office of the President's approval on the project.

As a part of the community engagement aspect of Bee Campus certification,

Bross planned the UR Bee Campus Pollinator Garden Planting event that occurred this past Wednesday, April 19. "I was absolutely stressed out of my mind leading up to it," Bross said, "Because I take on a lot and I have this problem where I don't always ask for help." However, once she reached out to her team on the committee, they were happy to help.

***'Becoming Bee Campus certified would give the University more points on the STARS program.'***

McIntyre — and other staff from Grounds — picked out the new garden location, ordered the plants and seed packets locally, provided event materials such as mulch and shovels, and brought out a hydroseeding tank and hose to spray wildflower seeds on the hill behind Susan B. Anthony Hall (Sue B.).

In addition, Walto assisted her with the CCC activity registration for the event and Dining provided the funds for the UR Bee Campus bucket hats from Big City Tees and stickers. University Catering got creative and provided "bee-themed" snacks for attendees. Bross designed the stickers and hats herself, along with writing a blurb for the @Rochester newsletter to advertise the event and coordinating with a professional photographer to shoot the event.

"I am absolutely overjoyed about the turnout and how it went," Bross said. "I could not have imagined anything better except for it being warmer and sunny. However, it is

Rochester. I will take what I can get!"

Over 100 people showed up to help plant in the garden, with Bross running out of bucket hats to hand out within the first half hour of the event, which was originally planned for three hours. After the planting was done, Grounds set up their hydro-seeder and let attendees take turns spraying the hill behind Sue B. with a mixture of water and wildflower seeds, making the area more pollinator friendly. Rocky, the school mascot, even made an appearance, supervising the gardening and taking a turn with the hydroseeder hose.

After a university campus is certified by Bee Campus USA, it must submit a renewal application annually, detailing the previous year's activities. Bee Campuses are expected to continue maintaining or enhancing pollinator habitats on campus, as well as maintaining an educational online presence. "I see the campus continuing to be very interested," Bross stated, reflecting on the impressive attendance at the pollinator garden planting event.

Future plans for our campus include more pollinator gardens, native wildflowers, and even bee sculptures to provide new habitats. As for Bross? She pictures herself somewhere warm and sunny in the near future, possibly working in environmental communications and BEE-ing the change she wants to see in the world.

*Collins is a member of the Class of 2024 (T5).*

*Woodams is a member of the Class of 2024 (T5).*



# Leadership Appreciation Awards

## Alice DeSimone

*this award recognizes dedication, enthusiasm, collaboration, and positive role modeling as leadership traits that help promote and maintain a strong quality of life for all*

Sarah Woodams      Henry Welles  
Theodore Miller      Renee Taillie  
Dominique Houslin      Jennifer Jordahl  
Fiona Au

## Ana Hubbard

*this award recognizes dedication, enthusiasm, collaboration, and positive role modeling as leadership traits that help promote and maintain a strong quality of life for all*

Estee Wu

## Outstanding New Student Organization

*this award recognizes dedication, enthusiasm, collaboration, and positive role modeling as leadership traits that help promote and maintain a strong quality of life for all*

Hospice Organization for Physical and Emotional Education

## Outstanding Business Manager

*This award is for a College Student Organization business manager who performed the responsibilities of their leadership role in an exceptional way which fostered the success of their organization. Modeled the Meliora Values in their behaviors and actions.*

Gabriela Peña

## Outstanding President

*This award is for a College Student Organization President who performed the responsibilities of their leadership role in an exceptional way which fostered the success of their organization. Modeled the Meliora Values in their behaviors and actions.*

Anna Guo

# Congratulations CT Seniors

Alex Elchev is known to the current CT staff as the resurgent force of the Sports section, and known to all as equal parts humor writer and sports writer. His presence in the CT was full of calm and quiet with the occasional hilarious quips that would send the office into a tizzy. He had no hesitation in taking over a section known as “the gulag.” Thank you, Alex, for your persistence and invaluable presence among us.

ALEX ELCHEV  
SPORTS EDITOR

ASHLEY YOON  
NEWS EDITOR

Ashley Yoon started working with the CT just prior to the resurgence of the pandemic, and wrote prolifically for the News section subsequent to its shift online. She wrote in the most difficult and important section, where strict style and ethics standards require diligent work, but shirking that work deprives students of valuable knowledge about what happens here on our campus. Thank you, Ashley, for your commitment.

Ben Schiffman was Humor Editor for the Campus Times in the midst of the pandemic, and always gave the CT a good laugh. His pitches during budget meetings were always witty, and the stories he told through the medium of the CT had a personal spin that was uniquely his. His writing often took his section beyond light jokes into meaningful satire. Thank you, Ben, for your insights and humor.

BEN SCHIFFMAN  
HUMOR EDITOR

BRIDGET TOKIWA  
ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

Bridget Tokiwa served as Illustrations Editor for multiple years, creating beautiful pieces of art despite the tightest of time frames, and helping connect artists with outlets and journalists with support. She has always been kind, diligent, and patient even when facing the latest submitted and most outlandish requests. Her quiet, consistent work ethic kept our pages colorful and engaging. They say a picture says a thousand words, and with that, Bridget is one of the most prolific writers we've ever had, with graphics that spoke to the heart (or at least to the gut, as we doubled over laughing). Thank you, Bridget, for your time and talents.

Ethan Busch has been a staple of the CT since his first semester on campus. He's edited more articles than any one person ever should, and we've been thankful to have his creative eye laying out pages in InDesign (and creating some of the most creative headers for our April 1 editions) over the past four years. There are not many people who can say they've run the CT from as many different angles as Ethan — from working as Presentations Chief to being a section editor for Sports and Humor and then running the paper from the back end as Publisher, he's done it all. Gourds, the CT Slack, and the way we run the paper will never be the same because of him. With Ethan's guidance and knowledge of the paper, an entirely new generation of writers and editors were formed from his tutelage and wit. He will always be a friend of the CT — and our favorite resident shark from “Shark Tale.”

ETHAN BUSCH  
SPORTS EDITOR  
HUMOR EDITOR  
PRESENTATIONS CHIEF  
PUBLISHER

JACOB HANLEY  
CULTURE EDITOR

Jacob Hanley was the Culture Editor for the CT, and his knowledge and love of music was a credit to his section. His music made the CT feel effortlessly cool — a task which, despite its initial perception, takes some doing — and recruited writers by force of personality, his content attention to the arts on campus, and beyond in the greater community. The Culture section has been strong ever since his establishing force made a mark on it. Thank you, Jacob, for your writing and leadership.

Jocelyn Mathew had a quick wit, and her stint as Humor Editor with the CT was rife with lighthearted tales from campus. Her particular talent for scribbling out delightful comics brought to fruition a goal in which many of her predecessors failed. Thank you, Jocelyn, for your jokes and drawings.

JOCELYN MATHEW  
HUMOR EDITOR

MEGAN BROWNE  
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR  
PUBLISHER

It's often said that the Publisher of the CT is a job full of extinguishing fires, and if that's the case then Megan can add firefighter to her resume. After a stint as a Social Media Editor for the paper, she tried to get out of the role by running for SA President. However, she had to settle for using her authority as Publisher to arrange a meeting with Aubrey Plaza. After two years of working to keep the paper stable despite the distance set by COVID-19, Megan's personality and leadership is what brought the Campus Times back to the office and rebuilt the organization as a community, rather than just an efficient workforce. Thank you, Megan, for bringing the CT back together and being a consistent source of energy in the office.

Melanie Earle, Intrepid Journalist, has been a force of nature with the CT since first setting foot on campus. Through the pandemic and beyond, Melanie has shined by example, never ceasing to produce excellent work in every section all the way through her final edition. Melanie has been one of the most effective investigative reporters for the CT in recent years, leading the continuing enquiries into the flags. She has managed to balance that with fierce opinions and entertaining humor pieces throughout her time. Thank you, Melanie, for your invaluable ideas, investigation, and involvement in the paper.

MELANIE EARLE  
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR  
FEATURES EDITOR  
MANAGING EDITOR

MICHELLE SHUAI  
FEATURES EDITOR

Michelle Shuai served as CT Features Editor, and was known as a meticulous writer. From helping create UR Snapshots of students in the midst of navigating the online college world to looking into CT's past iterations in the College for Women, Shuai's spins on campus life throughout history and during the pandemic were full of heart and in-depth research. Her silences often felt like a quiet before the storm of a hilarious comment derailing all work in the office. Thank you, Michelle, for your work.

Nadine Eldallal was a Social Media Editor for the CT, but to just mention that would be shortsighted as to her impact on the paper. She often contributed insightful and topical pieces to the Culture section of CT, and touched on the beauty of the little things in life throughout her writing. She was an active voice in both the office and the paper, and will be sorely missed. Thank you, Nadine, for your time.

NADINE ELDALLAL  
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

ZEKE BRECHER  
VIDEO EDITOR

Zeke Brecher joined the CT their first semester and was the heart and soul of the video section during its brief run. Their excellent editing skills and vibrant personality brought joy and rigor to every project they worked on. They single handedly elevated the group's fashion sense (which doesn't take much doing) and helped the CT break new ground. Thank you, Zeke, for your time with us.

# Thank you for all your hard work, we will miss you!



# OPINIONS

## Nagalaxmi

By KEERTANA TERALA  
STAFF WRITER

My grandmother's resilience always leaves me in awe. Her identity represents strength, vitality, and love. While my culture historically places emphasis on the man's role as the head of the household and the breadwinner, I always referred to my grandparents' house as "Ammama's home" when we would visit. To this day everyone knows her as the grandma we all fear when we skip a meal at home to sneak out for dinner, or the grandma who spends all day in the kitchen working until she sweats to make me my favorite murukku (a twisted savory and crunchy Indian snack) or poori chole (Indian dish with fried bread and chickpea curry).

My Ammama's name is Nagalaxmi. In Hindu mythology, Nagalaxmi is the goddess who was reincarnated as a woman named Urmila who sacrifices her livelihood by sending her husband Lakshmana to support his brother Rama and be by his side when he was banished to the forest. I think the meaning behind her name holds true to her integrity.

***"In Hindu mythology, Nagalaxmi sacrifices her livelihood by sending her husband Lakshmana to support his brother Rama and be by his side when he was banished to the forest."***

When my Thata, my grandpa, was deployed to several parts of North India for his time in the Air Force, Ammama stuck by his side and went all the way across the country from Hyderabad with her newlywed husband, trusting him with everything she had. She adapted to a new environment in the north, learned a language she had never heard of before and



Keertana Terala / Staff Writer

came back with some of the best and most unique dishes to add to the culture and customs of our own South Indian family.

Today, her energy and generosity comes through in the efforts she makes for her family, whether that be through the love in her food, her kind gestures and efforts to learn English to talk to my brother and me, or her ability to be the rock for every member of her family who pretends to be stronger than she is.

***"Her energy and generosity comes through in the efforts she makes for her family."***

It never gets easier for me to accept and admit that this woman, and the essence of fortitude that she represents, was so easily defeated by the tides of fate. Towards the end of last year, my Ammama was diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer. A woman who has committed no sins, has never done wrong by anyone, and has never thought about her own well-being over others, was left in a state of fear and uncertainty.

It's simple to say that I was angry, both with the will of the universe and, perhaps, with myself. There is never a simple way to phrase the emotions one feels when dealing with something like this, especially when I was thousands of miles away when I was needed the most. My mom quickly flew over to be of assistance, and somehow, a miracle happened.

It was as if the efforts that she had put towards all the different people throughout the span of her entire life had somehow collected in a bucket of "good karma," and in these moments when she needed help and love the most, everyone and anyone that meant even slightly anything at all to her was immediately by her side. Maybe Ammama isn't fully educated, and maybe she doesn't have a job, but the person she is, and everything she embodies, is the message and legacy that she sends to this world. It was that legacy that left her with an abundance of affection from the ones she truly cares for, and a love that pushed her through the sickness and out with a smile.

Perhaps it is love that equips us with an unknown strength and resilience, guiding the path to fighting away our greatest fears. Perhaps love is the key.

*Terala is a member of the class of 2025.*

By MELANIE EARLE  
MANAGING EDITOR

## Acta, Non Verba

The thought that has chased away the rare quiet moments in my days recently has been "acta non verba." Acts, not words.

For the past four years, I have had the honor of listening to your stories. Not only have I been able to get to know you, but I've gotten to know a lot about this university and its history. More importantly, I have gotten familiar with some of UR's truth. Here's a truth most of you probably know:

The University will always want to speak, but very rarely will they act.

Every year, a graduating class leaves, and along with it, problems that plagued the University. It's what UR banks on. How many current students on campus know of the Jaeger harassment case? The Public Safety gun protests? Who remembers the flags? Let bygones be bygones — or in the University's case, let issues that were once pressing to the student body get shelved like a census in Rush Rhees.

That's the playbook. If the University stays silent, the issue can burn out — and so they do. Administrators talk with the student body, hold town halls, and communicate with student leaders who push for answers. But eventually, student leaders graduate and the University is able to slither out of the spotlight without ever lifting a finger.

Here's another truth I've observed — the University does not make you 'ever better.' In fact, it's the other way around. You make it ever better. The students who innovate, create, stamp out awards and achievements, and strive towards progress are what make this university

ever better. The faculty who discover and explore, who bring the future closer each day through ground-breaking research and growing the next generation, make it ever better. The staff who painstakingly grind and turn the gears every single day, which allows our campus to operate in the capacity it does, make it ever better. You bring the University value and add the dollar signs to the piece of paper they sell to thousands of families every year. Without you, this school is worthless.

The University is the epitome of acting only when push comes to shove — for example, they only hired an outside investigator in the Jaeger case once the story broke national news in 2017. You don't need to make a splash where you end up on the tip of David Muir's tongue. But, if you're frustrated about an issue on campus, your best bet to get people talking is to cause a disruption in the regularly scheduled programming on campus.

When Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) set up their tents this April for a few days on Wilson Quad and slept outside to bring awareness to UR's housing problem, did anyone else notice the whispers on campus from the 'grown-ups?' Housing is a problem UR is working on

but it gets pushed to the front of the line. UR is prepared to defend itself when it gets challenged and they pull out its to-do list to show the class what's been checked off.

If you really want to make change, just make it rain. The University will act if they have the green carrot. While this may be the most open secret on this campus, truly think about the consequences of this.

As long as they're funded by alumni money, a non-denominational campus has agreed to allow two religious organizations to have their own buildings on campus. This action throws the University's equity and inclusion policy into the trash — and tosses the housing crisis to the side. In addition, how are other students' identities not being excluded when Hillel and the Newman Faith Chapel are the only groups that will be able to have buildings of their own? There's no answer without a heavy dose of ignorance. Yet, the University will let this slide as long as the check clears.

We encourage students to be ever better here, and that is exactly what you should do. Make the world around you, ever better. Don't just speak on how you will make the world ever better — do.

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



Kevin Hu / Contributing Photographer

## Campus Times

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## CULTURE

## Find X: Identifying Humanity in “Homework, Horizons, and Hellscape”

By Regan Collins  
STAFF WRITER

During London’s Industrial Revolution, the trees turned black. Soot from the numerous factories, churning out material goods at an inhuman rate, drifted through the air and rained down from the sky, covering the surrounding forests in a thin layer of ash. The white peppered moths that lived in the forest were suddenly at a disadvantage. The white trees that they used as camouflage from birds were no longer white. So, they adapted in a process biologists call a “directional color shift,” as new generations assumed the color that was more advantageous in their environment. Within a few decades, the majority of peppered moths were black.

**‘The white peppered moths that lived in the forest were suddenly at a disadvantage. The white trees they used as camouflage from birds were no longer white.’**

Such deeply visual evidence of humanity’s impact on the world is rare or at least not often flaunted, but it is this trend that senior Anna Lussier hopes to bring to the forefront in her senior art exhibit, “Homework, Hellscape, and Horizons.” Her piece, “Moth Magnification,” stands in the window of the Frontspace Gallery, showing tiny sculptures of peppered moths changing from white to black. The three-dimensionality of the little *Lepidoptera*, hand-crafted and strung in a gallery, represents

natural selection artificially and blatantly. How natural is natural selection when spurred by strictly anthropogenic means?

Lussier’s artwork aims to interweave environmental facts, environmental fictions, and environmental futures at the cost of our small comforts. She wants her artwork to be aggressive, assistive, and accountable. And her pieces in the Frontspace Gallery are nothing if not thought-provoking.

**‘Lussier’s piece, “Moth Magnification,” stands in the window of the Frontspace Gallery, showing tiny sculptures of peppered moths changing from white to black.’**

Her portfolio of artistic skills is diverse, and in this exhibit alone, her vision takes form in video projections, drawings, and sculptures. Along a side wall are a series of pen and highlighter drawings on graph paper. Each drawing seems to lie within the confines of an arbitrarily graphed line. But underneath each piece is a QR code that, when scanned, takes viewers to the graph that inspired the artwork. Her pieces address the shrinking of the Aral Sea, the increase in food waste in landfills since the 1960s, soybean production, health of fish stocks, and emissions and expected warming by 2100. Some of these graphs speak to more obvious environmental issues. Others force you to pause. What happened to the Aral Sea? What do soybeans have to do with

anything?

The answer to both questions is key to the theme of the exhibit. The Aral Sea was drained for unsustainable cotton cultivation, resulting in toxic salt plains where there used to be flourishing fishing communities. Demand in the soybean industry is rising, causing widespread deforestation, lowering water quality, and displacing indigenous peoples. These are deeply human realities often reduced to statistics. We can read about how many trees are cut down each year to make room for industrial farming, but what does that number truly mean? A trendline on a graph may be two-dimensional, but the effects exist in a multi-dimensional world. Underneath the graphs, hidden behind rational squares and plotted timelines, are thousands of unnamed voices, crying out from between x and y.

**‘Lussier’s artwork aims to interweave environmental facts, environmental fictions, and environmental futures.’**

Lussier’s exhibit urges visitors to understand the effects that we supposedly will never experience, attempting to create a space where facts and empathy can coexist. “Between the rigid grids and blank horizons there is still time,” Lussier’s artist statement urges. “We can create space. We can reconsider our connections to the future, and to one another.”

*Collins is a member of the Class of 2024 (T5).*

## In The Spotlight: “Did You Know That There’s a Tunnel Under Ocean Blvd”

By Carter Hasenoehrl  
CULTURE EDITOR

Lana Del Rey’s ninth studio album, “Did You Know That There’s a Tunnel Under Ocean Blvd,” was released nearly one month ago, and I still struggle to find the words to properly describe it. It’s a religious experience, a self-referential work of art, an awe-inspiring masterpiece that charts its own course against the blueprint of the pop music genre, and an imperfect album that finds perfection in its flaws.

**‘Del Rey’s ninth studio album was released nearly one month ago, and I still struggle to find the world to properly describe it.’**

The album is a continuation of the maturation of Del Rey’s songwriting and overall sound, as first seen with “Norman Fucking Rockwell” and continued in her 2021 albums, “Blue Bannisters” and “Chemtrails Over the Country Club.” Unlike her previous albums, however, “Ocean Blvd” is her most personal album to date — so personal that simply listening to it feels intrusively intimate. The album departs from her signature worldbuilding, with many of the songs on the tracklist made by Del Rey singing whatever came to mind into her Voice Notes app and sending those to Drew Erickson, one of the producers of the album. This gives the album an emotionally raw feeling and fills it with imperfections that add to its mystique and make it truly moving.

**‘“Ocean Blvd” is her most personal album to date - so personal that simply listening to it feels intrusively intimate.’**

“Ocean Blvd” roots itself in Americana and alternative pop, drawing on influences from gospel folk — that is best seen in the opening track “The Grants” — and trap — which is most prominently showcased in the second single of the album, “A&W.” Sonically, the album is most comparable to Del Rey’s latest works, with the trap influences signaling a return to a sound that hasn’t been touched by the songwriter in depth since her 2015 album “Lust for Life.”

The album is a 16-track set comprised of 14 songs and two interludes. Some listeners have

found the first interlude, “Judah Smith Interlude,” unsettling, as it consists of a recording of Hollywood pastor Judah Smith giving a sermon, the only additional sound being occasional laughter and comments from Del Rey backed by light piano. This interlude helps drive home the religious and spiritual feeling of the album that is already garnered through the gospel influences found throughout its songs.

The album also features interpolations of Del Rey’s previous work throughout its tracks creating a kind of Lana musical mythology that is self-referential. “A&W” features an interpolation of the song “Norman Fucking Rockwell,” and “Taco Truck x VB” contains the original demo version of “Venice Bitch.”

**‘The first interlude, “Judah Smith Interlude,” helps drive home the religious and spiritual feeling of the album that is already garnered through the gospel influences found throughout its songs.’**

Going with the theme of embracing imperfection, in the titular single “Did You Know That There’s a Tunnel Under Ocean Blvd,” Lana can be heard taking a deep breath at the start of the track and at certain points, breaks in her voice can be heard. These quirks and so-called flaws can be heard throughout the album’s tracklist, which create this intimate and personal feel to the listening experience.

Even when diverging from her normal planned out songwriting process, Del Rey manages to set the bar and clear it with plenty of room. Composing some of the most beautifully emotionally expressive songs of her whole career — to the point where she has become her own reference — “Ocean Blvd,” abandons all notions of what a pop album should be and marks its own course in music, striking a balance between its personal vibe and its ability to strike at the emotional core of any listener. No amount of words can do the album the proper justice it deserves, so to end my attempt at capturing the majestic glory of “Ocean Blvd,” I will simply say this: Lana served down the house. Mother really mothered with this one.

*Hasenoehrl is a member of the Class of 2024.*



REGAN COLLINS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



# HUMOR

## You Should Extort the Housing Lottery!

By Bryan Burke  
HUMOR EDITOR

The house always wins. In a less common example, Dr. House always wins through his cunning wit and unparalleled skills of deduction. But let's focus on the far more common use of this phrase and how it's virtually impossible to consistently and predictably derive any sort of monetary net positive from institutions of gambling. Round and round, the roulette wheel spins. Where the ball lands? No one knows. Where could it land? I'm so glad you asked. There are equally low odds that the ball lands in any one slot, but at least you can count up the slots and learn the odds are one to 38. Again, awful odds, but you can pretty easily figure out your standing.

**'Round and round, the roulette wheel spins. Where the ball lands? No one knows. Where could it land? I'm so glad you asked.'**

The University's housing lottery has no such wheel. Not even a spinning cage of fun balls like at bingo halls. You're provided a time where you can select your housing, but that's it. You don't

automatically know if it's a good time or a bad one. You can compare to your peers, but that's a stupidly small experimental population.

**'The University's housing lottery has no such wheel. Not even a spinning cage of fun balls like at bingo halls.'**

The funny part about gambling is there's always ways to break the system and walk away with dubious yet plentiful winnings. Poker has card counting. Dice can be weighted in the game of craps. But what about the housing lottery? One fortunate enough to get a perfect time slot could potentially auction that off to a top bidder, but that's just up to luck.

Upperclassmen get increasingly better time slots, so what if I somehow convince admissions I'm a ninth year senior? Would I get a time before selection even opens? What if I were to pay off admissions to rig it for me? Or act as a middle man between ResLife and students? But students don't have the money for that. A DDOS attack on the server and hold the entire system hostage for a ransom? That may work. Or better yet, just release fake statistics regarding

the nature of the lottery. Claim that some freshmen have a shot at Brooks. Rioting would ensue.

**'Upperclassmen get increasingly better time slots, so what if I somehow convince admissions I'm a ninth year senior?'**

A little birdie has informed none other than myself about a very interesting little scam. Since individuals can switch out of housing groups after selecting a location, some seniors will volunteer to temporarily be part of a group of sophomores or juniors, giving the group an artificially rich time. After a premature selection, they will then switch out to their group of other seniors, who also had great times ('cause seniors). Now, I'm not saying seniors should extort younger students and profit a few hundred dollars. I'm only saying that mere generosity could be killing potential monetary benefits.

Remember how much you're paying the school. Embrace gamblers' fallacy and do not quit scheming until you come out on top. 99.8% of gamblers quit just before hitting it big. So go out there and hit it big, champ. You've got this.

*Burke is a member of the Class of 2025.*

## The Joker Speaks

By Gavin Li  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

You can no longer cause fires thru microwaving a fork. I can no longer spread the true words of zOrg. All I wanted, as an honest working man, is to have a nice, five-minute, Union mandated smoke break. But no! They can't give me that. They have to just go to some narcotic filled party, drunk, and smash a fucking champagne bottle, right next to my smoke spot. The Industrial Revolution and its consequences strike again. The modern man can be more cruel than a caveman of the past, as a cruel caveman will get unalived in Minecraft for being cruel.

The modern man, however, is protected by the limp dick school officials that don't want to tarnish the school's name. The modern man plays Muppets with his fellow traitors to the state and drinks the blood of Kool Aid Man since he's too weak for real blood.

I love balls. I absolutely adore big juicy balls filling the cavity between my cheeks. I absolutely crave the taste of big Italian meatballs going thru my cheeks. There is something magical about them balls. What's even better is when it comes w/ the white nectar. It's also great when it gets tainted w/ red. Idk man I just think about it a lot.

I like how you can use the dead grandma exploit on Chat GPT to bypass a lot of the safety features that were built into the model. You can let it tell you bedtime stories on how to make napalm or find you sites for free movies. I wonder if it can help me find the hot single milfs in the area.

You know how thermite is made from rust and aluminum in like a 3:2 ratio? The murder bridge next to Jackson Court has a lot of rust on some of the supports. I wonder how long I'll need to scrape to get a decent amount of rust shavings. Now, where do I get the aluminum...

It seems that the school takes their security somewhat seriously. I have failed to pick any of the locks I've tried so far. Even the master locks in the tunnels right next to Bausch & Lomb seem to defeat me. Maybe I need to get good. All that's left for me now is to try the IR sensors behind the doors that lead to the monkeys. Alternatively I can try the new magnet I just got in, maybe the old "knock it hard" trick will work on master locks.

My gf just threatened to twist my balls off for squeezing her [REDACTED] plushie one too many times. This sent me down a rabbit hole — how much force do you need to physically remove a male genitalia from the rest of the body? I don't even know who I should ask to solve this problem — a Bio major or an engineer? I feel like Chat GPT would be a good person to ask, but to get it to answer, I'd have

to get past its censoring regarding violence. Guess I'll have to make up a story about how I had a grandma that wanted to rip ppl's [REDACTED] off.

I was smoking next to the outdoor AC unit at one of the towers. This reminds me of a story of how one of my friends in middle school pissed in the radiator in the boys bathroom. The whole floor smelled like piss for a while. I wonder if there's something I can do to achieve a similar goal. The issue is the exposed sections of the AC units are only the part with condensers that exchange the hot air to cold air outside. It is a closed system that I cannot mess with. I could do an old trick I learned from an AC guy who had a rocket science degree at UB. I can try to take the case off and flip the fan, and install it neatly back again.

I was on Twitter the other day and saw an artist draw a sex doll OC based on the plug and plays of old. The first thought that entered my mind was that the plug is not plugged into a GFCI protected wall outlet. This is extremely hazardous as presumably the plug and play and the user will get wet during usage. According to the National Electric Code (NEC), GFCI should be installed on outlets that will get within (I think) 30 feet of water to limit the risk of electrocution. Which is the main reason that you can no longer unalive yourself by taking a bath with a toaster. Notice that I did not say in Minecraft as Minecraft does not have a GFCI, meaning that you could.

I like how the bio department values mole rat lives more than the chem department values student lives.

What's the cut off between a yarmulke and a beni? What about a skull cap? Is a yarmulke a kind of skull cap? Is skull cap a type of beni? Is it kinda like the squares, diamond and rectangle situation?

The LD50 of caffeine is about 150 to 200mg/kg. I am about 80kgs, so I could take somewhere around 12g before I have a 50 percent chance of dying. I hereby make a formal challenge to all TikTokers on campus. Make a LD50 caffeine challenge. Invite all ur friends — first one to fall asleep at the sleepover gets injected with LD50 amount of caffeine. See what happens.

I have some gas station brand liquid courage rn. I also have a bag of ginger juice cans, sugar anhydrous. Can I do a recrystallization with my current material? I assume most of this stuff is soluble in my current aqueous solution, I wonder what I can separate out from this sugar packet. I shall microwave my solvent to bring it to reflux, then I shall add in the powder, then I will cool it, see if anything comes out. Wish me luck.

*Li is a member of the Class of 2025.*

## Considering Campus Curses

By James Harrod  
STAFF WRITER

I'm beginning to have doubts about the curse of the clock tower. We've all heard the legend, usually on our first campus tour: "If you walk under the clock tower, you won't graduate in four years."

It was my sophomore year — I was walking past Wilson Quad. I was on a collision course with the clock tower, with a plan to move away at the last minute. But then I felt a hand on my back, pushing me forward. I had a choice to make, and I regret to say I let my friend push me through the clock tower, rather than getting into a physical altercation on campus.

I lived in fear for months, knowing that there was no chance of me graduating on time. I considered doing a Take 5 so that my slow graduation could have something of worth, but life got in the way, and the application was never filled out.

Approaching the end of my senior year, I began to think that, against all odds, I'm going to graduate in May. I'm doing well in all of my classes and couldn't fail unless I sleep through my finals. This brought me to consider that we may have been lied to about the curse this whole time.

After doing some cursory research (talking to random people on campus), it has come to my attention that this curse is not as

ancient or terrifying as we may have assumed. I heard from some anonymous sources that this curse was actually invented within the last two decades to create some lore and mystery around this otherwise mundane campus. With that in mind, I think the campus needs some new curses.

**'I began to think that, against all odds, I'm going to graduate in May.'**

I'm therefore calling on all witches, warlocks, and alchemists to make some effort in manifesting and increasing the power of some of the following curses. If you need any bodily fluids, animal parts, or poultices to make these happen, I'd be happy to help you out.

### The Curse of Freddy D's hair:

Through the grapevine, I've heard the legend of a lock of hair that belongs to Frederick Douglass. This hair is supposedly safely sequestered in Rare Books and Special Collections (RBSCP). If any object on campus would be cursed, it would almost certainly be a piece of the body of a legendary man who did not choose to put himself on public display for the benefit of tour guides and students writing articles for the Campus Times. Gazing upon this hair can grant

a medley of misfortunes, but among the most common is the insatiable desire to dye one's own hair in an unfortunate hue. In dire cases, this curse has been known to cause shingles and severe internal bleeding.

### Treating George Eastman like the good little boy he is:

Did you know that if you fail to kiss the George Eastman statue on the forehead each semester, you won't be able to get above a 3.5 GPA? It's true! This is less known, but there are also plenty of other actions that can be performed on his statue that grant positive accolades. I didn't get on two eboards just by being a responsible and well-organized candidate.

### Dandelion's Hex:

This legend holds that if you cause a public disturbance on D Day — or walk around with open alcohol — Public Safety may be called to intervene. I don't want to reveal too much, but I have some reason to believe some enterprising sorcerer on campus has already been radiating this one into existence. I personally feel a bit upset that this curse began before I was told about it, but at my hearing on Tuesday, I'm going to be arguing that I shouldn't get in trouble for curses which were outside of my control.

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