

Campus Times



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RPD Officer Shoots Suspect During Skirmish



RPD Police Chief David Smith

BY JUSTIN O'CONNOR
MANAGING EDITOR

A Rochester police officer shot a man on September 25 after that man allegedly tackled and punched the officer before fighting him for his pistol, RPD Chief David Smith said Thursday.

Body-worn camera footage released Thursday shows the still-unnamed officer pursuing a Chevy Silverado in his patrol car around 10 p.m. Monday. Smith said the officer was responding to a report of shots fired on Seventh Street when he saw the truck quickly leaving the area and gave chase.

The Silverado comes to a stop before the driver runs out and the officer pursues on foot. Following the man into the backyard of 360 First Street, the officer draws his

taser and demands the man show him his hands.

The man then tackles the officer, the footage shows, before the video goes black. Police said that the stun gun discharged into the ground and that the wires made contact with the officer. An electrical buzzing sound accompanied by the officer's groans are audible in the footage.

'Smith said the officer was responding to a report of shots fired on Seventh Street.'

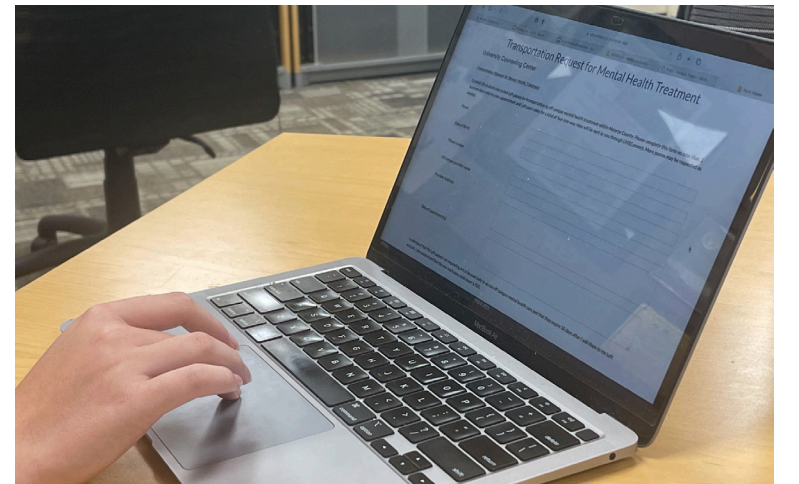
The man then tells the officer multiple times to shoot him. The officer yells something unintelligible and then yells "stop." Five shots ring out, and the man falls silent. Smith said the gunfire hit the man once in the jaw.

During a press conference Thursday before the footage's release, Smith said the shooting happened when the man tackled the officer to the ground and was punching the officer's head as the two struggled over the officer's gun. This is alleged to have happened during the black segment of the footage. The officer was treated for a concussion, Smith said, and for burns from the taser.

"I'd been in that backyard," Smith said. "There is no ambient light in that backyard at all, pitch black. Close your eyes for a second, think about the pitch black. Now picture yourself with your eyes closed, lying on your back, fighting for your life over a handgun with someone on top of you."

SEE **POLICE** PAGE 4

New UHS Grant Funds Lyft Rides For Mental Health Services



COURTESY JUSTIN O'CONNOR, MANAGING EDITOR

BY ALYSSA KOH
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

UHS can now provide Lyft rides to students seeking off-campus mental health resources thanks to a one-time grant provided by an anonymous donor.

Last year, around 150 students utilized the University's remote mental health service TELUS, with a small percentage engaging in recurring short-term therapy, UCC Director Bridgid Cahill said.

UCC also provided referrals to almost 300 students last year for off-campus mental health care alone — which doesn't include the uncountable others who sought help individually.

According to the 2022 National College Health Assessment, 81.2% of university students reported moderate or severe distress levels with-

in the previous 12 months of the study. Programs such as the Mindful University Project, and a variety of health-focused workshops offered by UHS hope to combat the mental health epidemic.

Cahill hopes the anonymous grant will further improve accessibility to mental health services for students.

"In the past, students have given us feedback that their lack of transportation to off-campus therapy appointments was a barrier to accessing care and often resulted in not following through with referrals," Cahill said.

This grant now provides a bridge for students to access in-person mental health services, as UCC's sessions and UHS' other mental health services are conducted remotely.

SEE **UHS** PAGE 3

Meet UR's Furriest Therapist

BY JUSTIN O'CONNOR
MANAGING EDITOR

BY SARAH WOODAMS
PUBLISHER

One of UR's most popular therapists smells like Fritos, pees outside, and doesn't mind eating baby carrots off the ground.

Sasha, a five-year-old golden retriever, runs her practice out of a second-floor office in the Interfaith Chapel that she shares with her owner — Rev. Dr. C. Denise Yarbrough, UR's director of religious and spiritual life.

Faith symbol banners, college degrees, and varied

curios cling to the room's cinder block walls, and stuffing its cluttered shelves are hundreds of holy texts and tomes on spiritual scholarship. None of these works are of any concern to Sasha, whose decorative tastes seem more eclectic and (perhaps) a bit less refined: two tennis balls, a stuffed ducky, and a mangled Lambchop toy with rainbow ears adorn her part of the space.

Pull up to her office hours — which run 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Mondays and Fridays — and the scruffy-around-the-edges psychiatric puppy is liable to greet you with tail wags,

happy grunts, and some not-so-subtle demands for pets that won't relent for anything except shut-eye or her mid-day walk breaks. It's this patented charm that has allowed Sasha to meet the needs of the throngs of students who drop in to see UR's first and most accessible therapy dog in residence, Yarbrough says, even though her introduction to campus was complicated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Sasha was Yarbrough's third golden retriever when she adopted her in 2018 from a Vermont breeder. She wasn't initially gunning to train a therapy dog, but she saw that



COURTESY JUSTIN O'CONNOR, MANAGING EDITOR

Sasha came from a doggy dynasty of sorts, as both of her parents were certified too. The gel between the services

of a therapy dog and the chapel immediately clicked, so Yarbrough bit the bullet.

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CAMPUS

From the Archives: Inside CT's "Classified" Section

BY EMILY ELI TEXCUCANO
STAFF WRITER

We have entered an age where “soft launches” cause an uproar and relationships are kept under wraps. Relationships seem to be kept increasingly more private.

As Taylor Swift sang in her song “Peace,” “All these people think love’s for show / But I would die for you in secret.” In the modern world, the need for romantic privacy is a common desire.

In 2023, there isn’t a desire to publicize our more intimate affairs — a stark contrast from the climate of the 70s and 80s at the University. The “Classified” section proves just how public students were with their affection. This need to publicize one’s relationships and yearning is most visible in the culture of the section.

The “Classified” section in a newspaper traditionally displays text-based ads sold by word count or lines. They are usually paid for by individuals rather than businesses. However, the *Campus Times*’ “Classified” section evolved from the traditional paid advertisements for lost objects and listings in one centralized location to a section more closely resembling Twitter, consisting of jokes between friends played out on a public feed. The section eventually evolved to become an essential part of Valentine’s Day on campus.

Throughout the 70s and 80s, the “Classified” section in the *Campus Times* seems as if it was a vital part of the

socialization and relationships of students on campus.

The “Classified” section made its first appearance in an ad on Sept. 26, 1961. Ads under the “Classified” label appeared sporadically for the next several years until finally gaining a recurring weekly labeled section starting Feb. 3, 1968. Occasionally, throughout the earlier editions of the “Classified” section, there was a subsection labeled “Personals” categorizing the listings.

Throughout the decade, you can see hints of the larger impact the “Classified” section would have had in the University community, with one of the earliest editions including a Valentine’s Day-related note. Among the few job listings and lost ads, we see an occasional inside joke directed at a friend— some that make you wonder how they got approved.

See:

“WOULD YOU BLOW a goat for a million dollars?” (February 14, 1973)

“SPINACH DOESN’T make it happen anymore — You need vitamins and protein. Tell ‘em Wimpy sent you.” (February 14, 1973)

These ads cost \$0.50 for 15 words, and an additional \$0.50 per each additional word, all for the satisfaction of the writers’ friends. These types of messages littered the section throughout its time in the *Campus Times*, making this section gain popularity.

The section expanded from

one or two ads to over 61 ads in a single edition, covering over half of a page by Feb. 1973. The “Classified” section then took a turn, beginning to gain recognition as a place for Valentine’s Day announcements.

“NICOLO — HAVING you as a Valentine is better than a room full of artichoke hearts. Happy V-Day, Theo.” (Feb. 14, 1973)

It was really in the 80s, though, when these public declarations became a known spectacle for Valentine’s Day. 1986 marked the first time the section filled more than one page— in fact, the section spanned nearly six pages that year, consisting of public expressions of love and general tomfoolery coming from friends, couples, organizations like sororities, and anonymous admirers.

Romantic entries included:

“S.B.: Sweetheart, I miss you tremendously. I’m thinking of you and waiting impatiently. Only 881 or 505 more days, or until we both go crazy, whichever comes first. I love you — always. -A. (Had we but world enough and time...)” (Feb. 14, 1986)

“A phrase can sometimes lose its meaning over time, but this I will ever keep dear to my heart: I love you, Jaena. -Ron” (Feb. 14, 1986)

“I would send you a valentine, but I don’t know if you would really want to go through all of those ads to find it...are people [from] Olean, NY that patient?”

(Feb. 14, 1986)

An editor’s acknowledgment of the known culture for using these “Classified” ads for romantic endeavors said “(i am about to barf all over this mush) - the typist.”

The latter half of the 90s marked the decline of the “Classified” section in the *Campus Times*, though, as the section dwindled in 1997 with only two messages for Valentine’s Day. The section became a husk of its former self.

A few ads appeared occasionally over the course of the 2000s. A notable addition to the paper was a recurring listing involving a couple continuously offering to adopt a college student’s child.

‘Throughout the 70s and 80s, the “Classified” section in the *Campus Times* seems as if it was a vital part of the socialization and relationships of students on campus.’

The number listed on the ad is currently disconnected, and it’s unknown if it’s even real, buried among the satirical personal messages and genuine sale listings.

The “Classified” section ended its 49-year run on Sept. 13, 2012.

Echoes of the “Classified” section now only exist in the University’s Campus Community Connection (CCC). The redesign of the University’s CCC page in 2012 introduced a Campus Feed.

Over time the Campus Feed has evolved to include hints of the character only seen in the *Campus Times* “Classified” section in the 70s and 80s.

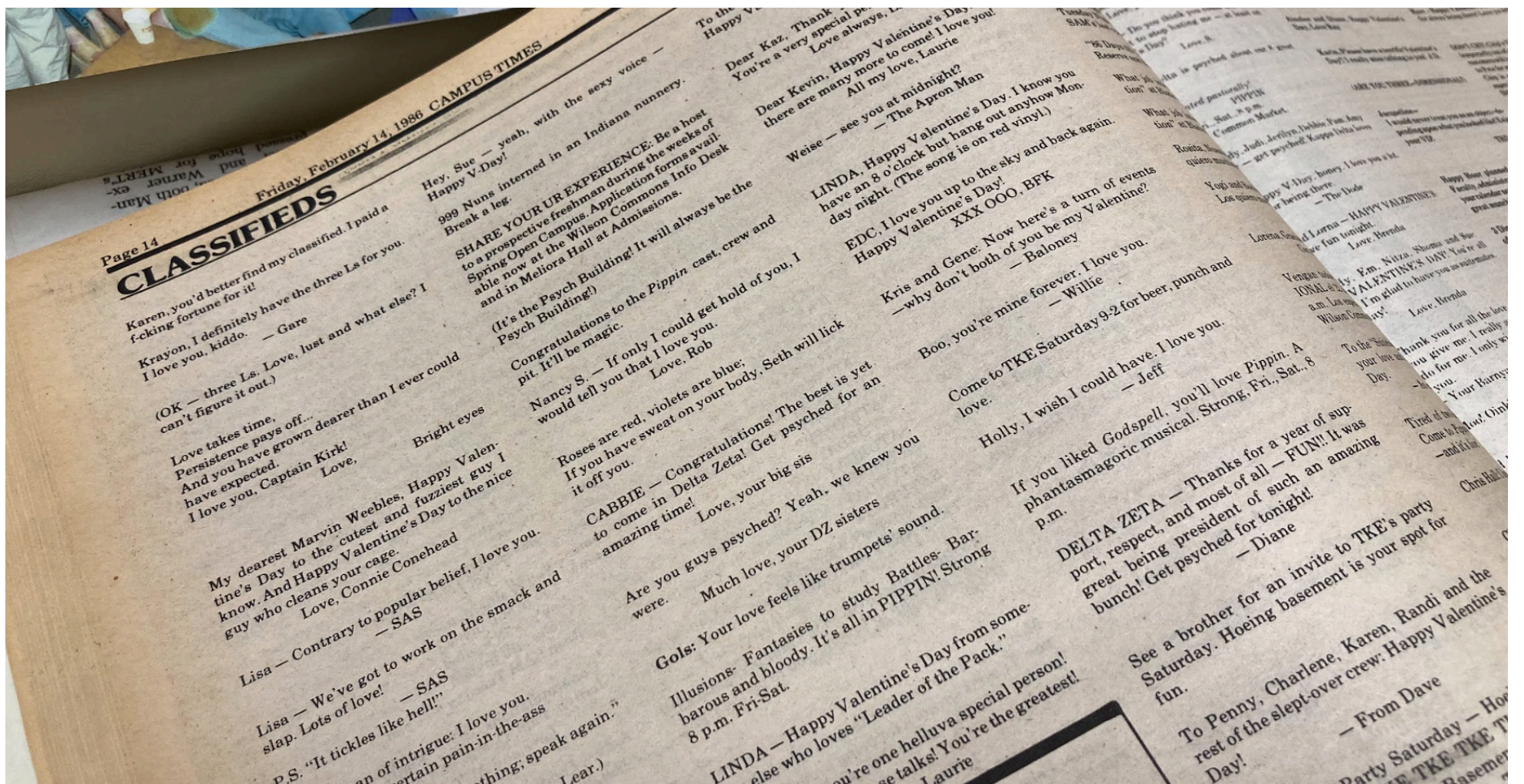
Typical posts include those in the “lost and found” section and occasional listings, more representative of a traditional “Classified” section. Occasionally, though, there will be the same antics. People making posts directly addressing their friends are buried among the regular listings like this recent post:

“I saw a red salamander with black specs that made me feel moved and amazed outside my door earlier tonight. He asked if I could take him to The Pit, so we went and ate chicken sandwiches together. He was super chill...”

These joking posts are few and far between, and not even close to the level of personal messages that overtook the “Classified” section. Long gone are the days of love stories documented through a public campus forum, or even in general social media.

Maybe one day there will be a second wave of “Classified,” a desire for public declarations of love and friendship. Until then, you can page through past editions of the *Campus Times* and bear witness to UR campus relationships past, platonic and romantic, documented so adeptly in the “Classified” section.

Texcucano is a member of the Class of 2025.



COURTESY ALYSSA KOH, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

SASHA FROM PAGE 1

Sasha has been a mellow mutt since the get-go, but the path to her puppy Ph.D still called for three rounds of training.

First was a two-week residential camp in nearby Walworth on the essentials — sit, stay, come, heel, etc. There her penchant for people pleasing revealed itself when, on her very first day, she made a loop around the bundle of dogs in her playpen to greet the kind humans along the perimeter. The quick learner had picked up on a cold, hard fact about this cruel world: Other puppies don't bear tasty treats.

That training was followed by the American Kennel Club's eight-week Canine Good Citizen program, where she learned how to stay composed in crowds, to resist reacting to other dogs, and to be comfortable with Yarbrough

leaving her side. A five-week therapy dog specific course was the last step in her journey. There she studied approaching people with mobility aids like wheelchairs, tolerating loud noises, and the importance of the "leave it!" command, among other things.

Sasha passed the therapy dog boards at nine months old but couldn't get certified until she was a year old, so the puppy prodigy had to do a re-take in 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic postponed her on-campus arrival, but Yarbrough did eventually get to bring her to work, and chapel staff and students consequently fell in love.

"I had this constant stream of students, and so I thought, 'um, obviously this is meeting a need,'" Yarbrough said. "This is the third year we're doing this, and she does get a pretty steady stream of

friends coming in on the days that she's here."

Since then, Sasha's role at the chapel and in the community has ballooned.

Now, she's become something of a TA for Yarbrough's Sexuality in World Religion class. A litany of barriers prevented her from taking on the role in the past — allergies, COVID-19, students scared of dogs, and the like — but this year has worked out. Welcoming every entering student is her primary role. Taking light naps on the couches lining the classroom is her other big contribution.

She has also become an unofficial Hillel mascot, most recently attending their brunch this past Sunday, where Sasha got to worship a holy object of her own — bagels. She also accompanies Yarbrough to the Students' Association for Interfaith Cooperation's (SAIC) "cafe" discussions, as

Yarbrough is the group's advisor.

A roving off-campus therapeutic practice is an additional part of Sasha's repertoire. She sometimes volunteers at the School of the Arts and East High School on weekday mornings, where she is so popular that a private escort ushers her in and out of the buildings to avoid causing chaos during passing periods.

While she is plenty busy, seeing Sasha in action assuages any fears of canine burnout. She is an ardent multitasker, blending work and sleep like a master alchemist. Take up a session with the pup, and you might easily mistake her for a downed trophy buck — if not for the accusatory darting eye glances and warm-but-insistent paw nudges she'll toss your way if you stop petting her. Sasha doesn't judge, but she does demand payment for her ser-

vices.

All-in-all, Yarbrough says Sasha's been a big boost on a bunch of fronts, but she's been a particularly great servant of the chapel's goals of promoting interfaith cooperation and refuge.

"Sometimes I have a whole bunch of students sitting in here with her in the middle, chatting away," she explained. "We've had interesting interfaith conversations, you know, Muslim kids and Jewish kids and Hindu kids all exchanging stories. They're all meeting people that they wouldn't have otherwise met, except that they all like the dog."

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

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

UR Drops 11 Spots in US News & World Report Rankings

BY SAMUEL ARNTS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

US News & World Report currently ranks UR as the 47th best national university, down from last year's ranking of 36th.

According to historical ranking data, the University's 11-spot decline is the fifth largest drop among top-50 universities for the 2022-23 school year, with the College of William and Mary, Brandeis University, Wake Forest University, and Tulane dropping 12, 16, 18, and 29 spots respectively.

The vast majority of universities that surpassed UR in the U.S. News & World Report rankings are large public ones, including the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the University of Texas at Austin, and Rutgers University-New Brunswick. Public schools received a big rankings bump in general, as the ones that ranked in the top 75 last year rose 5.6 spots on average, while their private counterparts dropped 7 spots on average.

According to U.S. News & World Report, this year's ranking methodology "increased the emphasis on how often schools' students from all socioeconomic backgrounds earned degrees." Several factors will no longer be considered, including class size, which previously accounted for 8% of a school's total score.

The new methodology also added factors such as first-generation graduation rates, first-generation graduation performance, and the proportion of graduates that earn more than a typical high school graduate, which together now account for 10%

of a school's score.

The rankings themselves, however, do not explicitly account for costs of tuition. Instead, the rankings account for diversity and debt — which are influenced by, but not directly representative, of cost.

According to Vice Provost and Dean of Enrollment Management Dr. Robert Alexander, UR's ranking drop was due primarily to U.S. News and World Report's method of measuring post-graduate student income and the socioeconomic diversity of the current student body — but the lack of consideration for class size also factored in.

"Rochester's socioeconomic distribution is noteworthy when comparing us to other highly selective research-intensive private universities — amongst which we have the highest fractions of students from low and middle-income families amongst our peer group," Alexander said. "We do not, however, have as large a fraction of our undergraduates coming from lower-income backgrounds than public universities, a core element of their institutional missions, and this was the most important driver of our decline in the relative rankings."

Alexander said he's not concerned about UR's ability to recruit top students despite the drop in the rankings.

"While we know some families look to rankings as an external indicator of institutional quality, our admissions counselors provide prospective students and parents the tools to choose the college that is the best fit for them, not simply the one ranked highest on any particular list," he said.

Admissions policies are

determined exclusively by the university. Policies are guided by what is best for the students rather than external rankings, according to Alexander.

"Publications create rankings to drive clicks and sell ads, and consequently periodically manipulate methodologies in ways that reshuffle the rankings to attract new attention. We focus on enrolling fantastic students who are the right fit for Rochester," Alexander said.

Senior Kevin Gery, a prospective Ph.D. student majoring in Biomedical Engineering and Biochemistry, says he's not necessarily worried about UR's ranking affecting his chances of getting into graduate programs, but he does feel like university rankings factor somewhat significantly into graduate admissions. "I know that [the rankings] exist and I know people are aware of them, so, where we lay is still relevant in terms of what it means to have a degree from here," Gery said.

Catherine Zhang, now a first-year at the University, says she looked at rankings like the U.S. News & World Report when deciding what college to attend, but that rankings were ultimately not a deciding factor.

"I was mostly focused on research opportunities and resources available, the class sizes, and the location of the school," she said. "When deciding on a college to attend in the fall, [the University] was a great option for me because I knew about the amazing research conducted here and I really liked the size of the average graduating class."

Arnts is a member of the Class of 2024.

UHS FROM PAGE 1

"As we get further from the pandemic, we are seeing more and more students whose preference is to be in-person," Cahill said. "So the donation was perfect timing to develop a program to help students access care that they need in-person."

'UCC also provided referrals to almost 300 students last year for off-campus mental health care alone.'

The Lyft passes can be used for any mental health-related appointment, which includes counseling sessions as well as mental health assessments and psychiatry visits. The passes come in increments of four (intended for two round trips) per order and are accessible via a

form students can request through UHSConnect.

'Lack of transportation to off-campus therapy appointments was a barrier to accessing care.'

The passes expire 30 days after the application but can be re-ordered. To order, one appointment date is needed — and in order to get passes in time, the form should be submitted at least three days in advance of the appointment.

Cahill is hopeful that the grant will be able to fund the entire academic year, but the program will continue as long as the current funds last unless additional sources of funding are secured.

Koh is a member of the Class of 2024.

Survey Time!

Meliora Weekend brings back thousands of alumni to the University and Rochester at large.

Rochester and Western NY have a lot of quirks. Let us know in our fun survey what you think! (and help us solve a disagreement over Buffalo sauce)



Arnts is a member of the Class of 2024.

COMMUNITY

POLICE FROM PAGE 1

The unidentified man is in stable condition at Strong Memorial Hospital. Smith said officers found a revolver with six spent rounds on the driver's seat floor of the man's truck along with another handgun in the driveway of 360 First Street.

'Five shots ring out, and the man falls silent.'

On September 27, before the footage's release, City Councilmembers Mary Lupien, Stanley Martin, and Kim Smith — who have all campaigned as part of The People's Slate, a progressive local political coalition — released a statement criticizing the shooting and calling on RPD and Mayor Malik Evans to turn over all body-worn camera footage to the Police Accountability Board “in hopes of a transparent, community-led investigation.”

“The news of yet another young man shot while fleeing an RPD officer has unfortunately become all too familiar in our city,” the statement reads. “This is not normal — it is unacceptable, and we reject all efforts by the RPD to make our community believe otherwise.”

“This is not normal — it is unacceptable.”

In response, the Rochester Police Locust Club, which is the union representing RPD officers, issued a statement decrying the councilmembers' comments and calling on the mayor, Chief Smith, and other councilmembers to denounce them as well.

“Any investigation should be unbiased and based on facts, and all our members understand the need for criticism and critique,” the Locust Club's statement reads. “The statement by Councilmembers, however, without any evidence or facts, is simply criticism to drive their personal agendas.”

The statement was similarly denounced by the Monroe County Association of Chiefs of Police, who said it “lower[ed] the bar to new levels.” The rest of the city council, excluding Councilmember Jose Peo, also issued a statement Friday expressing disappointment at their colleagues. Peo noted his own opposition on his Facebook page.

“In the future, we strongly recommend that our colleagues watch the body-worn camera footage and look at all associated evidence before rushing to judgment,” the councilmembers' statement reads. “This Council has consistently asked the Rochester Police Department to improve their practices, specifically when it comes to use of force. The body-worn camera footage demonstrates that in this case, the RPD did exactly what this Council and our constituents have asked of them.”

In response to all of the denunciations, Councilmembers Lupien, Martin, and Smith issued a follow-up statement Friday afternoon doubling down on their comments, calling for key community stakeholders to be brought together to find solutions to ending cycles of violence in the community, and asking community members to “remain vigilant” and to challenge “failed systems” that “often do not work for, or with, our communities.”

“For many of us, the first reaction to any shooting in our community is fear, anger and grief,” the statement reads. “The follow-up should always be accountability and seeking to understand why this happened and how we could prevent such a tragedy from happening in the future.”

“The body-worn camera footage demonstrates that in this case, the RPD did exactly what this Council and our constituents have asked of them.”

The investigation into the shooting is ongoing, and Chief Smith says RPD is working with the Monroe County District Attorney's Office to determine appropriate charges against the man who was shot. The PAB confirmed September 28 it was launching its own investigation into the shooting.

“The investigation into the shooting is ongoing.”

More information will be released as RPD's investigation continues, Smith said.

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

Food Truck Rodeo: A Rochester Summer Tradition for 12 Years



COURTESY MARIAH LANSING, STAFF WRITER

BY MARIAH LANSING
STAFF WRITER

Thousands of folks — and a horde of local food trucks — packed the public market's parking lots Wednesday for the final Food Truck Rodeo of the year.

The Public Market hosts the rodeo on the last Wednesday of each month from April through September, and it features over 40 local trucks serving up mouth-watering bites to droves of eager customers.

The tradition started in 2011 when the Market Director, Jim Farr, attended a similar event in Orlando, Florida, according to the City's website. He brought the idea back to Rochester and with the help of John Uralb, owner of Rohrbach's Brewery, Rochester's Food Truck Rodeo was born.

Since then, the event habitually attracts hordes of people, often well over 5,000 each month. Local bands take the stage, and each month features a different music genre. This month, Big Blue House headlined the foodie fiesta.

“The event habitually attracts hordes of people.”

The Rodeo is popular amongst families, couples, and students alike. Locals Karina and Gabriella, who declined to give their last names, have been going to the Food Truck Rodeo for years. Gabriella said the atmosphere and good food are what keep her coming back.

“There's just a ton of options,” Karina said. “You get to just sit and listen to some music. It's really nice.”

She had “The Gobbler” from The Melt, an upgraded grilled cheese with bacon and turkey. Gabriella got fries and a chicken sandwich, also from The Melt.

As for myself, I enjoyed jerk chicken from Caribbean Soul Food. While their truck was far too busy to make time for an interview, I was thoroughly pleased with their offerings. The pieces of chicken were perfectly tender and literally fell off the bone. They paired with a classic jerk-style sweet sauce with a big kick.

“The Rodeo is popular amongst families, couples, and students alike.”

I also got dessert from Rochester's own Waffles R Wild Truck, which also has a permanent location on Lyell Avenue. I opted for a ten-piece mini waffle basket covered with powdered sugar, brown sugar, cinnamon, and chocolate dipping sauce. One word: yum. This dessert provided me with the motivation I needed to finish a paper.

The owner of the truck, Roxanne, also took the time to talk to me about the community of vendors at the Food Truck Rodeo.

“We know all the trucks, so it's a great experience,” she said. “Our all-time people favorite is our chicken and waffles.” Finally, before I had to trudge back to my assigned hole in the ground on campus, I got a Beef K-Bowl from KO-BQ, a Korean-American fusion truck. I'm a frequent customer of this particular food truck, so I'm a bit biased, but their

K-Bowls are to die for. I first had their food at this summer's Lilac Festival, and I've been following them religiously ever since.

“We know all the trucks, so it's a great experience.”

The owner, Clay Kim, was ecstatic to talk to me about his love for the truck and the Rodeo. He mentioned that the KO-BQ truck opened for the first time at the Food Truck Rodeo last year in August.

When asked what he loves most about the rodeo, Kim motioned to the crowds of people surrounding his truck.

“Just look around,” he said. “Just about every food truck in Rochester is here. And the people!”

Kim's recipes were all passed down from his mother, so the dishes have a special place in his heart — which shows in his food. While KO-BQ currently only offers three meat options (beef, chicken, & pork), Clay says he plans on introducing a vegetarian option in the near future.

Kim also clued me in on a secret: He's been talking with the University about bringing KO-BQ to campus in the coming years.

If you are in Rochester from April to September, be sure to add the Food Truck Rodeo to your list of summer activities. It's a wonderful opportunity to familiarize yourself with and support local businesses. It's a favorite amongst locals for a reason!

Lansing is a member of the Class of 2025.

OPINIONS

EDITORIAL OBSERVER

Hasan Minhaj And The Credibility Complex

BY ALYSSA KOH
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As a student journalist, I spend so much time debating the issue of credibility in my head. Journalism, for all its artistry and possible humor and beauty, is, first and foremost, meant to convey information.

Thus, when I heard about Hasan Minhaj's recent run-in with the real press, it got my gears turning.

The comedian, in an interview with *The New Yorker*, admitted to his standup being based on fictionalized exaggerations of real-world events, only some of which happened to him.

'His standup being based on fictionalized exaggerations of real-world events, only some of which happened to him.'

As an example, Minhaj received a letter with a white powder in it, which he utilized to fabricate a story to audiences about having anthrax sent to his house, leading to the hospitalization of his infant daughter.

I — like many — watched Minhaj's Netflix show, "Patriot Act." The show itself was known colloquially as a snappy mix of informative political commentary with a peppering in of relevant jokes, a la "The Daily Show" — where Minhaj was previously a senior correspondent.

To me, the difference between SNL's Weekend Update and "Patriot Act" is its establishment of paths and a focus that I assumed had been placed on information first, ha-ha-funnies second. However, this fact was much more flexible than I expected — just like Minhaj's comedy.

"The nature of storytelling, let alone comedic storytelling, is inventive; its primary aim is to make an impression, to amuse or to engage," Clare Malone writes in the aforementioned *New Yorker* article. "But the stakes appear to change when entertainers fabricate anecdotes about current events and issues of social injustice."

Malone depicts Minhaj throughout the article as staunchly committed to the prioritization of emotional pull over fact, highlighting this as a concern during the writing process for episodes of "Patriot Act."

According to the article, fact-checking was a distant, hastily added second to the creative flow. Minhaj refutes

this — noting in a written statement that "A team of news producers fact-checked every line of every draft of every script at least 8-10 times before [he] ever said anything on camera." Despite the hearsay, his credibility as a journalist was quashed for many.

But should this matter? At the end of the day, Minhaj is not a journalist — but to some, he is. His credibility as a source matters because he chooses to portray himself as such.

After this bombshell, Comedy Central reportedly is "going back to square one for efforts to find a new host for 'The Daily Show'" after news buzz that Minhaj was a front-runner replacement. Minhaj has gone through the X (formerly Twitter) rigmarole of being hated on; he's being written about by every news outlet that can get their hands on a new piece of the chatter.

Obviously, I'm not in the unpaid student journalism business to exaggerate, but I can understand why Minhaj — who views himself as an entertainer first — would be inclined to prioritize getting a message he believes in out there with a focus on style first.

"Lying in comedy isn't necessarily wrong," says *New York Times* journalist and *On Comedy* columnist Jason Zinoman in his piece on Minhaj. "But how you lie matters." Unlike the *Campus Times*, a comedian like Minhaj can get away with some narrative futzing to audiences as long as the morality of it is, to their perception, sound.

"Lying in comedy isn't necessarily wrong."

However, the distraction of "playing to the audience" will be able to continue to mislead people — and shift blame from politicomedians like Minhaj to the consumer for believing the fictitious, also-named-Hasan-Minhaj persona — unless it is thrown out.

When you choose to toe this line as a comedian, it's important to draw attention to the fact that you are not the news — and that you have the freedom to play fast and loose with the rules.

If people are so shell-shocked by issues like Minhaj's, maybe political comedy, as a result of getting to dip its toe into both realms, requires its own set of disclaimers.

Koh is a member of the Class of 2024.

Celebrity Relationships: Why They Matter And Why They Don't

BY EMILY ENGLISH
STAFF WRITER

A few hours after I attempted to deny Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce's alleged relationship, the news broke that she was at Sunday's Chiefs versus Bears game. Although this is no confirmation of a relationship between them, it makes me wonder — why do we all care so much?

Every day there is a new article about who's dating who and how this should change our perception of them. These rumors easily turn into headlines and headlines into changed reputations. How much of it is real? How much of it is fake?

The reason we care is hard to pinpoint. It has to do with our parasocial relationships with these celebrities. It's the same psychology that motivates us to keep up to date on our best friend's dating lives. For example, Taylor Swift is currently at a new height of fame, selling out stadiums, and breaking records with each new album release. To her fans, her music seems autobiographical because of this, they think they know her. Their relationship feels skin to to a one-sided friendship. Although Swift knows little to nothing about her millions of fans, they think they know everything about her.

So, when rumors circulate that she is dating someone new, people marvel at it and feel they need to give their opinions, even though they don't really have the right to. This only worsens due to Swift's knack for secret codes, naturally increasing her fans' impulse for speculation

with all of her actions.

Do celebrities at large, including Taylor Swift, mind the speculation about their romantic lives? That comes down to the individual. The history of their actions can't tell us much, either, because people are constantly changing; one relationship could've been extremely private, the other extremely public.

'Although Swift knows little to nothing about her millions of fans, they think they know everything about her.'

It's not like Swift isn't aware that she is famous as well. She talks about the lack of normalcy in her life in the documentary "Miss Americana." In the documentary, she discusses how fame has made her learn both how to be secretive and how to be seen. When she goes out for a stroll in New York, whether it's right or wrong, people will gather. A recent example of this was when Swift attended her producer and friend Jack Antonoff's wedding rehearsal a few weeks ago. When fans found out, they flooded the streets. Because of this, the next day — at his actual wedding — the streets had to be shut down.

However, for someone as publicly debated as Swift, sometimes secrecy isn't enough. In fact, a few years ago she disappeared from the public eye completely due to media scrutiny.

In comparison, speculation has actually benefited

both celebrities. Kelce's jersey sales have spiked, and Heinz created a ranch mixed with ketchup in honor of their relationship. It also marked a significant demographic shift of the viewers of Sunday football. This parallels the significant attention spike Swift experienced with the release of her album "1989," which is coincidentally her next "Taylor's Version" release. Swift's songs have also started being used in NFL ads, and "New Heights" — Kelce's podcast — changed the cover to incorporate a Taylor Swift/"1989" theme.

'This parallels the significant attention spike Swift experienced with the release of her album "1989," which is coincidentally her next "Taylor's Version" release.'

Whether or not this relationship is a PR stunt is certainly up for debate. Swift has only ever confirmed one relationship out of the many speculated over the years. This is probably a good opportunity for audiences to reflect on their relationships with celebrities, fame, and most importantly, the cost of fame. We need to be acutely aware of how much we think we know about them, and the harm in assuming it's more than just the headlines we read.

English is a member of the Class of 2027.

Campus Times

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It is our policy to correct all erroneous information as quickly as possible. If you believe you have a correction, please email CT_editor@u.rochester.edu.

Editor's note: In the last print edition story "Student innovators set to showcase 3D bioprinter project at iGEM competition in Paris," Arianna Slupik '24 was misquoted as saying "null to photosynthesis pathway." The quote should be "native to the synthesis pathway."

CULTURE

Netflix's "Choose Love" Is a Great Choice for Movie Night

BY MAYA BROSNICK
STAFF WRITER

Have you ever found yourself wishing you could dive through your TV screen and stop a character from making a stupid choice? Well, Netflix's newest rom-com can get you pretty close.

The movie titled "Choose Love," is the streaming site's latest foray into choose-your-own-adventure media. The movie joins other titles such as "Black Mirror: Bandersnatch" and "Escape the Undertaker" in Netflix's selection of interactive films.

'This is not the movie to watch if you're in the mood for an intellectually stimulating movie experience, but it's not trying to be.'

"Choose Love" centers around successful recording engineer Cami Calloway — played by Laura Marano, of "Austin & Ally" fame — who's in a long-term relationship with Paul (who has plans to propose). Cami likes her life, but she feels like she's missing something, so when she meets old flame Jack Menna and British rockstar Rex Galier, she sees a chance to find out what it is.

I have to confess that from the start of the film I was on Team Paul. Paul is nice, funny, and, as illustrated by an early charades victory, has a connection with Cami. My roommate and I were yelling at the screen whenever Cami considered dating someone else.

Despite my immediate bias, Cami did have chemistry with all three of her suitors. Scott Michael Foster, Avan Jogia, and Jordi Webber (Paul, Rex, and Jack respectively) were very believably interested in Cami, who Marano plays as someone who — relatably — doesn't

know what she wants out of life. I bought into her struggle, even though it did come across as a little one-dimensional.

'The movie joins other titles such as "Black Mirror: Bandersnatch" and "Escape the Undertaker" in Netflix's selection of interactive films.'

Despite the actors' success in creating chemistry between their characters, we don't really get to see who any of them are outside of their romantic lives. In particular, Cami's love interests are barely developed beyond how they appeal to her.

But the movie isn't trying to win an Oscar. "Choose Love" is the kind of film you put on the night before a test to try to turn your brain off. The ability of the viewer to decide the storyline makes it a particularly good distraction, and the chance to change the ending depending on your mood makes it sure to work for any situation.

'Cami's love interests are barely developed beyond how they appeal to her.'

This is not the movie to watch if you're in the mood for an intellectually stimulating movie experience, but it's not trying to be. "Choose Love" knows what it is, and it accomplishes its goal very well.

The cuts between different scenes are almost unnoticeable, and the story flows cohesively no matter what choices you make.

Whether you want Cami to pursue her childhood love, commit to her boyfriend, or travel with a rockstar, "Choose Love" is a fun watch, and has an ending you'll love.

Brosnick is a member of the Class of 2027.

A Slice of Home at AASU and TSA's

Night Market

BY ALLIE TAY
MANAGING EDITOR

For those missing a slice of home or looking to learn more about various Asian traditions and food, the Night Market on Wilson Quad last Saturday offered just that. Co-hosted by the Asian American Student Union (AASU) and the Taiwanese Student Association (TSA), the bazaar gave passersby a glimpse into nightlife culture condensed down to the essentials: long-forgotten childhood snacks, traditional fair games, and craft-making.

The first event of its kind on campus, UR's own was inspired by the Shilin Night Market — one of the largest, most popular night markets in Taiwan — seeking to recreate on campus an amalgamation of the diverse markets across Asia. In a two-hour snapshot, students sampled snacks — from Vietnamese pia to Filipino barquillos — while speaking with club members about upcoming events and festivities. The set-up was far from extravagant — several rows of tables fanned out along the quad pathways with poster boards packed with club details and eboard members clustered behind handing out treats.

'The bazaar gave passerby a glimpse into nightlife culture condensed down to the essentials: long-forgotten childhood snacks, traditional fair games, and craft-making.'

But behind the minimalism ran an undertone of humble simplicity. Maybe it was in the way eager students clustered around the pop-a-pirate game at the Korean Student Union's table to win the

last pack of Shin ramen, or how they took turns doing each other's henna at ADITI's booth and traded fun facts for li hing mui, a dried plum treat with Chinese Hawaiian roots, at the Hawaiian Interest Club stand.

'The first event of its kind on campus, UR's own was inspired by the Shilin Night Market [...] seeking to recreate on campus an amalgamation of the diverse markets across Asia.'

UR's Night Market, though small, was something special. The feeling was palpable — from the Chinese nostalgia pumping through Wilco's speakers that I used to sing along to in my parents' SUV, to the huddles of people stringing together charm bracelets and folding fortune tellers. Although I'm not artistically inclined and have no crafting skills whatsoever, I found myself drawn nonetheless. (Then, the imposter syndrome really began to kick in, so I left. RIP.)

'In a two-hour snapshot, student sampled snacks — from Vietnamese pia to Filipino barquillos — while speaking with club members about upcoming events and festivities.'

As the sun set on the quad, as the stalls ran out of snacks, as throngs of people were coming and going like a coming-of-age movie timelapse, I opted to recline back one of the huge lawn chairs out on Wilson Quad and keep my artistic inabilities to

myself.

'Behind the minimalism ran an undertone of humble simplicity.'

For kids like me who grew up spending summers back in their parents' hometown overseas, the Market was an identity crossover between life as an American college student and a member of another distant world — a slice of my heritage hidden in plain sight.

'The Market was an identity crossover between life as an American college student and a member of another distant world.'

For me, it was a time capsule that alluded to Malaysia, core summer memories of when I'd hold my Ah Ma's hand to not get lost in the seas of people at the pasar malam — Malay for "night market" — as we hunted for new hair accessories, or tagged along with my Po Po and Kong Kong to get their daily breakfast fix of pan mee at the hawker stalls. I can still see the vendors slicing huge trays of rainbow kuih muih, a glutinous sweet cake, and wrapping sticky rice in banana leaves. The UR Night Market brought back all those memories, marking the campus' first a huge success.

Tay is a member of the Class of 2025.



SUBAAHSYED / ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR



KEVINHU / PHOTO EDITOR

Obsession: A Retrospective on the Love Story of Simon Petrikov and Betty Grof

BY KYLE JACQUES-BRITTON
STAFF WRITER

“Adventure Time” was an animated television series that aired on Cartoon Network between April 5, 2010 and Sept. 3, 2018. Created by Pendelton Ward and produced by Frederator Studios, the show ran for ten seasons with 283 episodes. On Aug. 31, 2023, a spin-off mini series titled “Fionna and Cake” aired on Max. After ten episodes, its season finale aired on Sept. 28, 2023. With these two incredible media finally coming to a close, I wanted to look back on a major plot point that has spanned both series — the love story of Simon Petrikov and Betty Grof.

‘On Aug. 31, a spin-off mini series [to “Adventure Time”] titled “Fionna and Cake” aired on Max.’

Simon first appears in Season Three, Episode 12 of “Adventure Time.” While watching through forgotten tapes from the Ice King — the show’s recurring antagonist — protagonists Finn and Jake come across Simon’s video diary. Here, he presents an important yet dangerous item that he’s recently added to his collection — Ice King’s crown.

‘I wanted to look back on a major plot point that has spanned both series - the love story of Simon Petrikov and Betty Grof.’

When Simon acquired the crown, he ran home to show his fiancée, Betty, but when he jokingly placed it on his head, it showed him maddening visions. When he came to, Betty was gone. As the diary entries pass, we see Simon’s slow descent into madness as he turns blue, grows cold, and stops aging before he morphs into the Ice King himself.

Sprinkled through the following seasons, we see snippets of Ice King’s past and his transformation - but we don’t see Betty again until Season Five, Episode 48. Instead of following their story through episode order, let’s unravel the love story of Simon and Betty chronologically for simplicity’s sake.

Editor’s Note: This piece has been abbreviated for print. Want to read the full breakdown? Check it out on www.campustimes.org.

With “Fionna and Cake,” we are allowed to see the end of Simon’s story and the aftermath of his grief.

In the early episodes of the show, Simon is seen trying the same ritual that Betty used all those years ago. Even decades later he cannot let go of her. However, in his failure, he accidentally summons Fionna and Cake and sets off the events of the series. Throughout his journeys with the two, he recalls his time with Betty with great love. He tells the pair how they met and the time they spent together.

‘Sprinkled through the following seasons, we see snippets of Ice King’s past and his transformation - but we don’t see Betty again until Season Five.’

Eventually, however, you are reminded of the darker undertone of this mini-series. You are constantly reminded that the trio is looking for the crown to make Simon the Ice King again and return magic to Fionna’s world. After everything that Betty did and gave up to save him from that fate, he is actively searching for it once more. When the time comes for Simon to don the crown once more, he is instead transported to GolBetty herself. After a strange “choose your own adventure book” in the distant future, Simon comes to a

realization.

He finally realizes all Betty sacrificed for him through the years. She gave up her research, her life, her sanity, her physical being, her future all for him. And he let it happen. Time and time again he loved her because of what she gave up for him. He tells her that he had wanted to see her again because he was sorry that he screwed up the second chance at life that she gave him. He didn’t think he was worthy of being saved, but he now knows that he is just as worthy of being saved as Fionna and Cake were.

Betty leaves Simon by telling him that she doesn’t regret a single thing that happened. He was a wonderful experience, and she was his everything. She sends him off one last time into the multiverse toward Ooo.

The love story of Simon and Betty is not one of pure love and affection. It is instead a love story of uneven sacrifice, obsession, and loss. The “Fionna and Cake” mini-series was a gift from the creators of “Adventure Time” in the form of a love letter to Simon, Betty, and the worlds they created.

‘The love story of Simon and Betty is not one of pure love and affection. It is instead a love story of uneven sacrifice, obsession, and loss.’

Anyone who has ever felt an unexplainable connection to someone can tell you the pain you feel for doing everything for someone while knowing deep down that they wouldn’t do the same for you. “Fionna and Cake” brings to a close a story arc spanning two series, eight seasons, and over 200 episodes. For that, I will always be grateful for the stories these characters have been allowed to live and feel for us.

Jacques-Britton is a member of the Class of 2025.

A Night at the Cinema with “The Barker”

BY JANE OLIVER
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Do you need an escape from upcoming deadlines? Do you want to leave the brick prison of campus? Do you just want something to do on a Tuesday night? Go to the cinema!

As I walked into the George Eastman Museum’s Dryden Theater, I felt as though I had stepped into a time machine. On the way to the traditional, old-timey box office, tons of vintage movie posters like Harold Lloyd’s “For Heaven’s Sake” and Carl Laemmle’s “The Cat and the Canary” line the walls.

It’s primed for viewers to take in all the posters — and even snap a few pictures. However, the real attraction is the theater entrance. I walked into a beautiful plum-colored theater with a luscious, luxurious golden velvet curtain and plush maroon seats. It felt like I was on Broadway. As everyone took their seats, an older gentleman who looked like he walked straight out of the 1920s spoke to all of the attendees.

‘As I walked into the George Eastman Museum’s Dryden Theater, I felt as though I had stepped into a time machine.’

Normally, Philip Carli is the pianist who plays all of the live accompaniment for the films shown at Dryden. However, “The Barker” has music synchronized with the film, so Carli was tasked with giving the audience a historical background of the film we were seeing.

‘The real attraction is the theater entrance. I walked into a beautiful plum-colored theater with a luscious, luxurious golden velvet curtain and plush maroon seats.’

Carli’s British accent was entrancing to me, and his wide breadth of knowledge about the background of the film made it feel as if I was transported to the time and place of “The Barker” prior to the start of the show.

‘[Carli’s] wide breadth of knowledge about the background of the film made it feel as if I was transported to the time and place of “The Barker” prior to the start.’

The film itself, which was released in 1928, is considered a “part-talkie.” Before films included synchronized sound, films were played with live accompaniment, contained intertitles to add context, and some

added sound bites. With the invention of synchronized sound, films slowly added talking dialogue in scenes sporadically throughout the film; these films were considered “part-talkies.”

“The Barker,” which delves into the lives of carnival workers, is the talking debut of all of the main cast. The film was revolutionary for the technology but also for the actors. My film experience consists of mostly talkies, so when I finished “The Barker,” I felt like I witnessed something brand new for the first time.

‘My film experience consists of mostly talkies, so when I finished [the “part-talkie”] I felt like I witnessed something brand new for the first time.’

The experience I had at Dryden Theater was unlike any movie-going experience I have ever had. The music, the film, and the atmosphere itself were completely unique. Since viewing films has gradually been demoted to streaming services, especially since the pandemic, this has both increased the accessibility of film and stripped us of reliance on a social experience to watch a movie — one that attending “The Barker” reminded me of.

‘[Viewing films through streaming] has both increased the accessibility of film and stripped us of reliance on a social experience to watch a movie - one that attending “The Barker” reminded me of.’

“Barbenheimer,” a phenomenon that contrasts the stark differences in the recently released movies “Barbie” and “Oppenheimer,” allowed us to return to the movie-going adventure. Finally, everyone wanted big screens and surround sound rather than the tiny screens in bedrooms. More importantly, we were all able to interact with a piece of content alongside other people. Barbenheimer brought back the pastime of going to the cinema — one that I think we should continue to indulge in. I say we take a page out of the 1920s playbook and return back to the cinema.

The George Eastman Museum hosts silent movies every Tuesday and offers a student discount with your UR ID.

Oliver is a member of the Class of 2025.



SUBAAHSYED / ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

Underscores: A Warm Welcome To The World Of “Wallsocket”

BY ALEX HOLLY
STAFF WRITER

Billboard signs. Horses. Old money homes. Military kids. Bank robberies. Train tickets. Good luck.

The town of Wallsocket appears to be the pinnacle of Midwestern suburbia — a small town with a bright history and an even brighter future; a beacon of safety and community in the turbulence of the modern world.

As with any suburban town, however, Wallsocket faces its little dramas; corrupt politicians, gossiping parents, loitering musicians, and whatever secrets lay underneath the surface. In its radiant normalcy, Wallsocket seems to be almost the perfect case study for this modern age of mundane Americana.

‘As with any suburban town, however, Wallsocket faces its little dramas; corrupt politicians, gossiping parents, loitering musicians, and whatever secrets lay underneath the surface.’

That, of course, would be if Wallsocket were a real place.

On April 21, 2023, April Harper Grey, a musician better known by the name “underscores,” recapped her latest “vacation” to the town of Wallsocket on social media. The town, which was soon revealed to exist in an ARG (Alternate Reality Game), unraveled into a maze of stories and interlocking secrets — culminating with the reveal of underscores’ upcoming album focusing on none other than Wallsocket’s core. “I tried to write from the perspective of the people I saw there [...] and the circumstances that allowed them to exist,” she wrote in an Instagram post parallel to her eerily staged teaser video. “Everyone is such a character.”

The release of each single unlocked new characters and pieces of



ALEX HOLLY / ILLUSTRATIONS STAFF

their storylines (noted by descriptions on each song’s Soundcloud uploads and music videos), while Wallsocket’s community websites buzzed with town updates throughout the leadup to the album. Fans even found themselves able to get a piece of the action; they could call the recently reopened Wallsocket Pizza, work through codes to unlock pages in the town’s government website, and even track Wallsocket’s recent bank robbery for a chance at getting some cash of their own.

underscores created a puzzle of a storyline for fans to solve, one that only continued with the album’s full release.

‘underscores created a puzzle of a storyline for fans to solve, one that only continued with the album’s full release.’

In a similar vein to its conceptual storyline and premise, the soundscape of “Wallsocket” matches its more experimental themes. underscores twists listeners through the town in a genre self-described as “new prog pop” (which seems to draw inspiration from midwest emo, hyperpop, and plunderphonics, among other styles), spinning together electronic grunge,

dark guitar riffs, bright vocal work, and video game-esque sound effects into one cohesive body. “Wallsocket” is far from one-size-fits-all stylistically, and offers the angst of the modern age in a wide range of applications for audiences to take in.

Parallel to its shifting genres, underscores shifts fluidly between characters and their intertwined story arcs throughout “Wallsocket.” Following its opening gloaty heist tale of “Cops and robbers” (lead by none other than former Columbia bank employee Joshua M. Domingo), Grey’s storytelling shifts its perspective to the quote-on-quote “arms, body, legs, flesh, skin, bone, sinew” of the album— the “Girls like us” of “Wallsocket.”

Though static in their existence in an imaginary town, Wallsocket’s locals find themselves dissecting the dauntingly resonant transition to adulthood in song after song. The album runs rawly through stories of illness, parasociality, financial hypocrisy, and the confusion of losing friends and family to a world far bigger than yourself — all through a riveting hour-long LP.

Many of the tracks are playfully cynical. One in particular being “Johnny Johnny,” an adaptation of the children’s song to recap a character

S*unny’s run-in with grooming and sexual abuse using rock chords and peppery repeats. Similarly, “You don’t even know who I am” layers samples of cartoonish inspirational quotes while character Mara eerily confesses to stalking S*unny. Piecing it all together, the recurring tag of “Good luck!” placed delicately at the forefront of almost every album track works to amplify this feeling.

While maintaining a sense of playfulness, underscores doesn’t shy away from the emotional rawness of these experiences. S*unny asks if the “colorful plastic / That [God] puts at the end of [his] line” is alive as she contemplates her recent diagnosis with a no-name disease in “Duhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh,” and character Old money bitch finds herself confessing to her own internal violence and “getting the hype” of shooting as she apprehensively nudges a close friend off to war.

The residents are portrayed to live in an uncanny valley of human existence, making the resonance of their stories often unsettling. In their mannerisms, they’re just like us: They take personality quizzes, struggle with religious and queer identity, and often fall into wavering states of obsession, grief, and apathy. In a town whose

mundane legacy spans far beyond their own stories, the girls’ existence and eventual break from this mediocrity only means as much as the audience is willing to piece together and underscores urges her listeners to do exactly that.

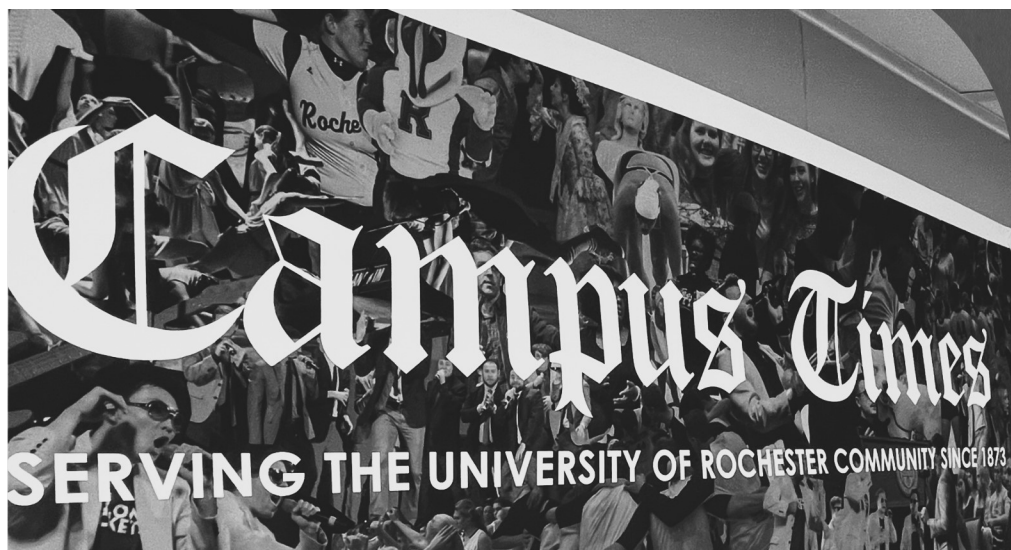
‘In a town whose mundane legacy spans far beyond their own stories, the girls’ existence and eventual break from this mediocrity only means as much as the audience is willing to piece together and underscores urges her listeners to do exactly that.’

“Good luck final girl,” the album’s closing track, sings a campfire-esque song of coming of age in which “The girls realize that navigating adulthood is an individual responsibility.” Mara works through her issues of obsession and vanity, S*unny finds self-acceptance as she finally leaves town, and Old money bitch begins to shed through layers of numbness unbroken in years. In an album which makes excellent usage of complex compositions and production techniques, “Wallsocket” ends on a note of well-needed sonic emptiness. The tonal shift highlights the isolation that comes with growing up and leaving behind the stories and people you’ve known in the past.

After welcoming listeners to the “new age of the future” in her debut album “fishmonger,” Grey has proved herself to symbolize everything this era of music should be. Her work is explorative, complex, and offers a new perspective on concept albums and fan interaction rarely seen from artists in this day in age.

Through the artistry in her music and marketing, underscores proves that we may not be as alone in our worlds as we think we are.

Holly is a member of the Class of 2025.



You’re Invited!

Join us to celebrate 150 years of the *Campus Times* at Meliora Weekend 2023!

We’ll be in the CT Office (Wilson Commons 103) from 2:30-5 pm on Saturday, Oct. 7 to share stories, look through the archives, raffle merch, and enjoy some fried cakes and cider!

Please register at rochester.edu/melioraweekend

HUMOR

A Note to the Editors Regarding Gilbert Being a Non-Euclidean Space

By Gavin Li
STAFF WRITER

Hello Sir Bryan,

You might not know me personally, so I might as well name myself. I am Sir Gavin the third, a somewhat expert on non-Euclidean space throughout campus and a previous resident of Gilbert. As someone has pointed out in previous editions of the Campus Times, Gilbert is indeed a non-Euclidean space. But, I'm afraid there might have been some rather amateur and grave mistakes in that article.

First, some credentials, I have been a tunnel rat (they drive me crazy) for more than a decade. I've also worked with the puddle jumpers in the past. Most importantly, however, is the fact that I lived in Gilbert during my freshman year.

Now, to address the elephant in the room. Gilbert is not a building of infinite height and volume. It is however still non-Euclidean. The reason the previous reporter thought that it stretched infinitely up is due to the lack of knowledge on important landmarks. Gilbert, in fact, just loops on itself randomly when one enters the stairwells. The next floor you exit onto will be random, but it is just the same four floors with occasional derivatives. I would like to note that non-Euclidean repeating dorms are fairly wild spread within the United States, another example being the University of Buffalo south campus apartments, it being the same corridor and rooms looping within each floor.

Now that I've established that claim, I shall back it up with some facts, specifically regarding the landmarks of Gilbert. As it is quite dangerous to navigate non-Euclidean space, I shall back up my claim with some landmarks close to the exits of Gilbert, to help those wayward souls that need to traverse these halls daily.

'Gilbert is not a building of infinite height and volume. It is however still non-Euclidean.'

One of the safest exits would be the one next to the area office, which one encounters by continuously

going down one of the stairwells. You will eventually see a door sealed off with some markings about the area office. This is the exit with the lowest hazard rating, but also one of the rarest to encounter. If you are unlucky, you might end up in close proximity to our next exit.

The second safest exit would be the laundry room exit. Though the laundry room itself has no hazards (besides maybe fire hazards), the floor it is attached to is rather dangerous. It's colloquially known as the dick dungeon. The hazard of dick dungeon varies by year. There were tales of it being an extreme biohazard zone during some years. I've also heard tales of it containing a meth lab that blew up a few years back. Regardless, the point stands, this floor is unpredictable, and sometimes dangerous.

The last exit I will touch on is the bridge side second floor exit. It is one of the worst exits depending on the day of the week. It is right next to the second floor men's bathroom, which is an extreme biohazard zone from Friday night to Monday morning. Those who wish to use this exit — be advised to bring at least basic PPE or rebreathers.

'It is right next to the second floor men's bathroom, which is an extreme biohazard zone from Friday night to Monday morning.'

In short, these three are the best ground floor exits. Those who doubt my claims are welcome to experiment on this themselves using the scientific method, though I strongly advise against it.

Well, I hope this letter finds you well, Sir Bryan of the Campus Times, and I hope you publish this to amend some of your mistakes, lest there be blood on your hands of poor adventurers that perish on their quest adventuring into Gilbert mistakenly thinking it is of infinite height and volume.

Li is a member of the Class of 2025.

CCC: See a C-List App Sinking in a Sea of Mediocrity



COURTESY OF KAITLYN WONG

By Bryan Burke
EDITOR

"There's an app for that!" has served as a rallying cry for techy individuals for the past 15 years. The first iPhone was released in 2007, 16 years ago, by Steve Jobs. Steve was a visionary; he released a product well ahead of its time. The world, and the app store, could not come anywhere near understanding it. Over time, users became more comfortable with their new phones, and developers became creative. Novelty apps began to spring up. Waiting in line at the deli counter? Flappy bird. Waiting for drinks with your buddies? iBeer. Slowly, apps began to shy away from glorified tech demos, and became moderately useful. PDF scanners, dslr emulators, shitty ports of popular, yet dated, video games. Even full scientific calculators, which gave my TI-84 Plus CE a run for its money. This was Steve Job's App Store.

'The crown of Tech Tzar now rests on the head of Tim Apple.'

2011. Steve is dead. Time's arrow marches on. The crown of Tech Tzar now rests on the head of Tim Apple. Under Tim's regime, techy individuals are still echoing the sentiment of an app for everything, but it's become quite hollow over the years. There's been a shift in the very ideology of the app store. It was once envisioned as a democratic library for anyone to publish their own software, but no longer.

The app store of today is far sleeker than the one I grew up with. Tim snuffed out the warm and amber wood-fueled flame of democracy long ago. He replaced it with a soulless blue propane flame of capitalism. It's hotter, with absolutely none of the charm. The apps tend to be unoptimized, slow, and chock full of popup ads. There's a dearth of passion projects: I haven't downloaded an app out of interest or joy in over five years.

'There's still an app for that.'

There's still an app for that. If you keep your ears peeled, you will hear the same words every once and a while. But they're no longer uttered by techy individuals. They're spoken by the blissfully ignorant, excited that their company has produced an app that we all know need not exist.

CCC ONE is utterly pointless. Wait a second... This is an app for facilitating car repairs. Okay, now I found it. Under the same color scheme and even font, UR CCC is the second result on the AppStore when searching for "CCC." That should express its relevance quite well. The only reason for the average student to open it is to have their QR code scanned for events. But why can't that be part of the Student ID keypad we all have to carry with us at all times? Or why isn't it part of the litany of other apps we have to download, like CampusGroups, UR Mobile, or even Blackboard?

It's getting really, really hard to remember which half-assed app to use for what. I propose a solution. Every year, the University comes out with a single app that covers all aspects of campus life. To ensure confusion is no worse than the current clusterfuck, UR should adopt an n+1 naming scheme. $n=n+1$, where $n=c$. The first year, everyone downloads C, for campus. Then CC, for Campus Center. By year seven, you could download Campus Center for Catering Cuisine to Children and Council of Conveniences!

'By year seven, you could download Campus Center for Catering Cuisine to Children and Council of Conveniences!'

Stop making pointless apps. There's nothing wrong with a decent website and there's so much wrong with the labors of Silicon Valley computer science feed farms.

Burke is a member of the class of 2025.

Think
you're
funny?
↓
Write
for
Humor!

CT_humor@
u.rochester.edu

Dear Spirit Coordinator: Please Let Me Beat Up Rocky

By Caden Dillon
STAFF WRITER

Dear Spirit Coordinator:
please let me beat up Rocky

Some weeks ago, I was sitting outside, basking in the September sunshine, when out of nowhere one of our lovely mascots, the yellowjackets, decided to sting me. This was most unsatisfactory.

As a result, following a trip to UHS to ensure that I was not going to die of a bee allergy I didn't know I had, I was struck with an idea. It went something like this:

1. Yellowjackets are terrible, mean-spirited little creatures who deserve only suffering.

2. Rocky is a yellowjacket.

3. As director of WRUR-TV, I am in direct control of the largest (and only) television-based propaganda network on campus.

4. I should beat up Rocky.

5. And televise it.

Immediately after having this epiphany, I began typing an email to the University Spirit Coordinator.

'I should beat up Rocky.'

From: Caden Dillon

Date: Wed, Sept. 6, 2023,
at 9:12 AM

Subject: Rocky

To: spiritcoordinator@
rochester.edu

To whom it may concern,

I write to you with an extremely stupid, but genuine, question. As the director of WRUR-TV, it is my job to produce video



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content for the entertainment of the student body, and after being stung by a yellowjacket the other day, I was struck with an idea: we pay to hire out Rocky for a couple hours and chase him around campus in a beekeeping suit.

I think this would be very funny, but I do not know whether it fits within the boundaries set by "an appearance by Rocky at your event." The three main logistical questions it seems to raise are these:

1. Is a certain level of beekeeper-on-Rocky roughhousing permissible? What sort of physical activities can the Rocky suit not sustain?

2. Regardless of the above, would it be permissible for Rocky to be chased around campus by a man in a beekeeping suit?

3. If the individual who portrays Rocky did not wish to appear in such a video, would it be possible for a member of TV to

perform a successful audition to become Rocky for the occasion?

If this project is able to be seriously considered, please let me know of any other rules on how TV would be permitted to use Rocky. I would never dream of portraying Rocky in a negative light, but if he were (for instance) allowed to break out some crazy kung-fu moves to defeat a wild beekeeper, that would be very awesome.

Again, this is a serious question! My duties may be humorous, but I take them quite seriously.

Sincerely,
Caden Dillon
Director, WRUR-TV

I never received a response.

Am I upset about this? In a word, yes. I thought the email was very polite. I made no threats of violence against Rocky. I even suggested that Rocky

might emerge victorious against a beekeeping adversary. Of course, both of these elements were mere distractions to obscure my true intentions — "I would never dream of portraying Rocky in a negative light" is a bald-faced lie, and I'm proud to say it — but what's the point of deception if it doesn't get me anywhere?

No more euphemisms. I couldn't care less about "a certain level of beekeeper-on-Rocky roughhousing." I want blood. And look, I don't know who the current Spirit Coordinator is, but if they're reading this, I have only one word for them: coward.

Let's get something straight. Rocky is an abomination. Not only is he a yellowjacket, he's also ugly, and he doesn't look like he would offer me a comforting hug in difficult times. URBees, our (unfortunately) retired mascot, looked like he would offer me a comforting hug in difficult

times. But URBees is dead, consigned to the grave by his successor. Legend says that when Rocky showed up to kill URBees, he never got the chance. URBees died immediately upon seeing Rocky's ugly mug.

So who is left to bring Rocky to justice? There is but one mascot who, by way of refuge in the shadow of obscurity, remains to challenge the pointy-abdomed dictator: SqURm.

SqURm, the worm on a string. SqURm, who could do no harm. So unlike the vicious, pointy, decidedly uncuddly Rocky. SqURm, the communist. So unlike Rocky and his sub-shop monopoly. SqURm says "Chill!" Rocky probably listens to "Thunder" by Imagine Dragons and thinks it gives him a hardcore image.

As we begin the transition to colder weather, I can't help but notice I've been seeing a lot of dead yellowjackets on the ground. This is Rocky: Rocky is weak. He projects strength when he has none. The arrival of autumn, however, marks the beginning of worm season. Do you know what this means?

SqURm is only just coming into their power. The time is nigh. Soon, the Spirit Coordinator will be spirit-coordinating Rocky's passage into the afterlife.

SqURm is coming. And they will bring the beekeeper.

Dillon is a member of the class of 2025.

I've Had Enough of the PDA in Gleason!!

By Brian Ly
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Comment / Complaint
Form

I wish to remain
anonymous?

Yes No

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to bring attention to an issue that greatly affects the student population as a whole.

As academics who value education, we all know the importance of libraries. Libraries are archives of history, palaces of modern thought, and calm environments for us academics to study and do research in. I'm sure we are all in agreement that libraries are sacred places which should be protected and kept unsullied by vulgar behaviors.

I am a humble and honest student, and I cannot stand to see acts of delinquency which promote savage behavior.

However, I have recently

noted an increase in vulgar and crude actions that threaten to overthrow the values that we as a University hold dear.

Yes, I have bore witness to students holding hands as they walk around the library, and I've heard couples giggling loudly as they stare into each other's eyes.

This is an ABSOLUTE DEVASTATION of our Meliora values.

THESE COUPLES ARE TORMENTING US SINGLE PEOPLE.

WHERE IS THE MELIORA IN HOLDING HANDS? WHERE IS THE INTEGRITY? WHERE'S THE RESPECT?

I'm tired of walking through Gleason and seeing couples cozied up next to each other. There is no epicness in that.

I'm tired of trying to do work while the couples next to me flirt at each other without a care in the world.

There is no coolness in that.

Sure, showing affection to someone you care about is fine. Completely fine. It's all okay and dandy. Absolutely no problem if you want to laugh at a funny joke or show someone that you appreciate them.

JUST PLEASEEE, PLEASEEE STOP FLIRTING IN FRONT OF EVERYONE. GET A DAMN ROOM!!! Y'ALL COULD'VE BEEN ANYWHERE, FROM YOUR OWN DORMS TO THE BACK OF BUILDINGS, OR WHEREVER ELSE WE CAN'T SEE YOU.

WHY WOULD YOU GO TO ONE OF THE BUSIEST PLACES ON THE CAMPUS, IN THE PLACE WHERE ALL OF US ARE TOO BUSY FOCUSING ON OUR GRADES TO FOCUS ON FINDING LOVE???

As the unofficial official leader of the "Being Single is Cool" club, I am launching a petition to forever remove



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Public Displays of Affection (PDA) from our treasured Gleason Library, and to instead replace it with PDCE: Public Displays of Coolness and Epicness.

It is only through being epic can we ensure that we students live up to Meliora standards, and only through being cool can we ensure that everyone is full of respect and integrity.

We as students must come together to condemn PDA and bring peace back to

Gleason Library.

I STRONGLY recommend that the University and the Student Government investigate this malicious behavior that aims to rip apart the social fabric of our society. Please act justly and END. THIS. DEVIIOUS. BEHAVIOR.

Ly is a member of the class of 2027.

SPORTS

CT Recaps: The MLB Regular Season

BY MAYA BROSNICK
STAFF WRITER

After six long months of play, Major League Baseball's 2023 regular season has come to an end. Before the playoffs start, let's recap where we stand going in.

National League East

Before the season started, everyone expected the NL East battle to go down to the wire. That didn't happen. Instead, the Atlanta Braves claimed their sixth straight victory in the NL East, almost without challenge.

The Braves were the first team this year to clinch a playoff berth, and currently boast the best record in the Major Leagues at 104-57. As for the rest of the NL East, both the Philadelphia Phillies and the Miami Marlins have clinched a wildcard spot. The New York Mets and the Washington Nationals, on the other hand, have ended the season with more losses than wins.

National League Central

The Milwaukee Brewers clinched their division title this year following the Braves'

come-from-behind win against the NL Central's second-place Chicago Cubs. This race was a little tighter than the NL East, with the Cubs and the Cincinnati Reds fighting until the very end.

'[The NL Central's] race was a little tighter than the NL East, with the [Chicago] Cubs and the Cincinnati Reds fighting until the very end.'

Eventually, the Brewers came away with the title, possibly due to their easy September schedule, and neither the Cubs nor the Reds managed to claim a wildcard spot. The remaining teams, the Pittsburgh Pirates and St. Louis Cardinals, have both come away from the season with losing records and will look to improve for next year.

National League West

The Los Angeles Dodgers have won the NL West for the 10th time in the last 11 years. Their 99-62 record has earned them second place in the NL and

a bye into the second round of the playoffs.

Before the season, some speculated that the San Diego Padres might usurp them, but the Dodgers have played a great season to prove that they are the best in the West. The Arizona Diamondbacks are in second place and have the third wildcard spot, but the rest of the division seasons are over due to their losing records.

American League East

The AL East was supposed to be just as much of a battleground as its NL counterpart — and this division actually delivered. Despite the New York Yankees having a rough year, the Tampa Bay Rays, the Toronto Blue Jays, and the Baltimore Orioles have played excellently all season.

'The AL East was supposed to be just as much of a battleground as its NL counterpart - and this division actually delivered.'

The final standings hinged on

the Orioles and Rays, with the former clinching the division lead on Thursday. The Orioles division title marks their first since 2014, and their first 100 win season since 1980. The Rays and the Blue Jays will still be in the playoffs having claimed a wildcard spot each. The Yankees, and the below .500 Boston Red Sox have been eliminated from contention.

American League Central

The Minnesota Twins have been in first place for almost the entire season, and continued that by clinching their division title last week. The Twins were the best of the worst division in baseball, managing to win the AL Central with a record of 87-74. The other four teams in the Central have been eliminated, making them the only division with no one in the wildcard race.

Looking to the playoffs, the Twins have an 18 game post-season losing streak, the longest active streak in North American professional sports. They haven't won a playoff game since 2004, before any of their current players were in the majors. The Twins have been playing well

going into the end of the season, but a streak like that is hard to overcome.

American League West

The AL West crown came down to the very last game, but in the end it will be the Houston Astros who come away with the title and receive a bye through the first round of the playoffs. The Astros and the Texas Rangers each ended with a record of 90-72, but the Astros hold the tiebreaker over the Rangers as they beat them in the season series. The Rangers will still be in the playoffs as they hold the second wildcard spot. The rest of the division has been eliminated from playoff contention, although the Seattle Mariners were in the wildcard race until the very end.

With some of baseball's biggest stars, this year's playoffs are sure to be games to remember. First round is the wildcard round, which starts on Oct. 3. Make sure to tune in to ABC or ESPN to watch the action.

Brosnick is a member of the Class of 2027.

Interested in talking about sports?
(Or, really, anything specific?)

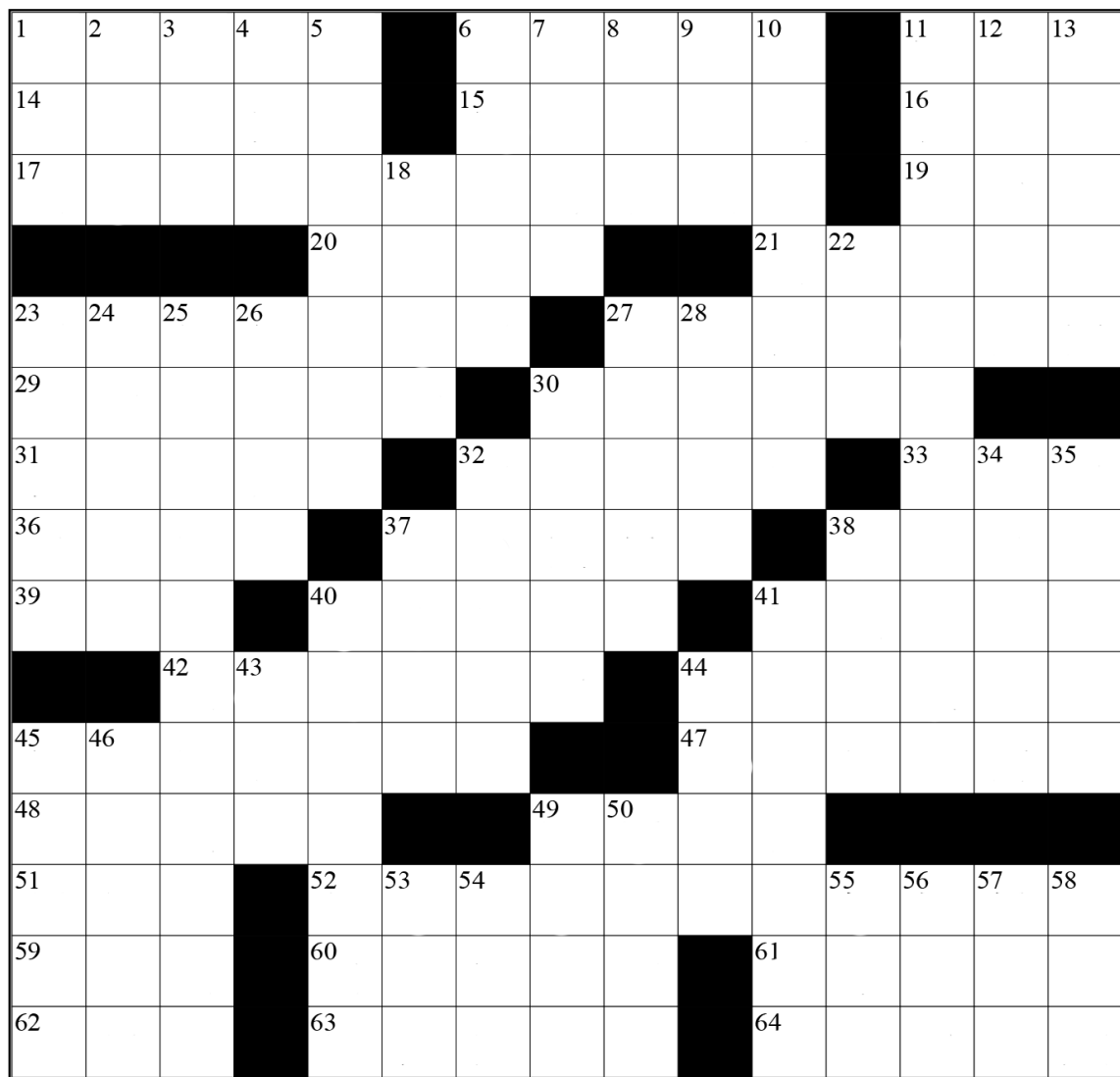
Think about writing a column for the *Campus Times*!

Columns can include:

- Talking about finance
 - Recurring op-eds
- Looking into campus history (From the Archives)
- Covering campus research (Research @ Rochester)
 - Reviewing restaurants (CT Eats)
 - Anything else your heart desires!

For more information, join our Slack channel here:





Crossword

BY CALEB OSHINSKY
CONTRIBUTING PUZZLER

Across Cont.

- 47. Garden upkeep
- 48. Boating capital of the northern Bahamas
- 49. "Hold your horses!"
- 51. ___-Aviv
- 52. Television show about Bugs?
- 59. Icelandic football team, on a scoreboard
- 60. Finish no later than
- 61. Dodge, duck, dip, dive or dodge
- 62. Redpilled protagonist
- 63. Fathers, to babies
- 64. A singular statistic

Down

- 1. Berkeley school, for short
- 2. French indefinite article
- 3. "Wham!" in comics
- 4. Journalist ___ B. Wells
- 5. Least bright
- 6. "You in ___?"
- 7. Church seats
- 8. Those likely running workshops and recitations, abbr.
- 9. The ___, a feeling of cringe in a relationship
- 10. Poet Neruda, for one
- 11. Death symbol of antiquity
- 12. Resistance figure that ends Greek?
- 13. Yellowstone grazer
- 18. Quad building, or a clue to [23], [27], [45], and [47] across
- 22. Ashes, coffee, or flower receptacle
- 23. Valve's Newell, com-

- edy's Kaplan, or baseball's Speier, for three
- 24. Arctic abode
- 25. "Pagliacci" composer and librettist
- 26. Partiality
- 27. George of "Star Trek"
- 28. American modernist composer Charles
- 30. Board game with an apologetic moniker
- 32. ___-turvy
- 34. Poison in "Breaking Bad" or "The Interview"
- 35. Metallic bang
- 37. Scott of "Happy Days"
- 38. Mahler's "Das Lied von der ___"
- 40. Persuaded with flattery
- 41. [31] across, in the past
- 43. Winter solstice month, for short
- 44. Cry to a matey
- 45. "Romanes eunt domus" language
- 46. More than plump
- 49. Female hooping league
- 50. Casual greetings
- 53. ___ roll
- 54. Unusual
- 55. Charlottesville sch.
- 56. ___ King Cole
- 57. Academic's email domain
- 58. Two school qtrs.

- Across**
- 1. Mythical matchmaker found in FIFTY FIFTY single
 - 6. Instrument one might find in Goergen Hall?
 - 11. Pitchfork-brandishing horde
 - 14. Battery's "+" side
 - 15. Get through to
 - 16. Defunct UK record giant and owner of Abbey Road Studios
 - 17. Polish soccer star Robert
 - 19. 12th of an año
 - 20. ___-chef (kitchen's number two)
 - 21. "iHasta ___!"
 - 23. Comedian-actor Gottfried
 - 27. Irish director of Addams Family and Sausage Party franchises
 - 29. Scorn for seniors
 - 30. Like Rain Man, John Nash or Mozart
 - 31. Swell
 - 32. Arcade coin
 - 33. Tolkein's Misty Mountain beast
 - 36. Countless millennia
 - 37. Fails to interest
 - 38. Soviet pianist Gilels
 - 39. Everything-in-one integrated silicon, for short
 - 40. ___-Sun, or a Neapolitan isle
 - 41. Speech center named "___'s area"
 - 42. Fresh as ___
 - 44. Buzz of space
 - 45. Helen and Reverend Timothy, of "The Simpsons"

View the answers at www.campustimes.org/2023/10/01/oct-4-2023-crossword-answers

Oshinsky is a member of the Class of 2027.

Photos of the Month

Every month, *Campus Times* photographers submit photos to be featured in print. This month had the theme of "Changing Seasons." If you want to get involved in the *CT* Photo section, please email CT_photo@u.rochester.edu.



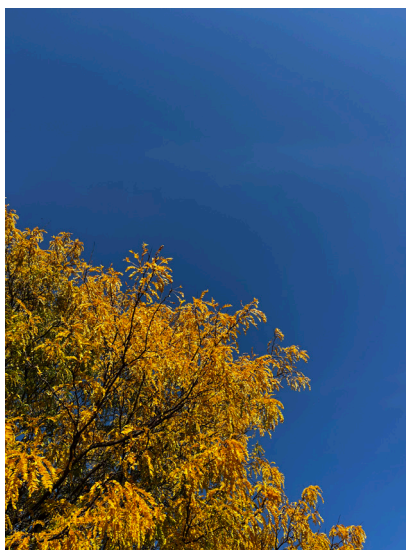
HARRYLI/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER



KEVINHU/PHOTO EDITOR



SOFYANARAYAN/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER



CHARLIELU/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER



JUSTINO'CONNOR/MANAGING EDITOR