

Campus Times

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SJP Stages Pro-Palestine Demonstration During Meliora Weekend

BY NARM NATHAN
DATA EDITOR

BY EMMELY ELI TEXCUCANO
FEATURES EDITOR

Outfitted with shirts showing killed Palestinian civilians, student demonstrators took to Wilson Quad on Sept. 28 amidst the neighboring celebrations and events of Meliora Weekend to protest the war in Gaza.

Students began convening close to 3 p.m. at the foot of the Meliora Weekend Ferris wheel outside Wilson Commons, lying together silently to emulate the corpses of civilians killed in the conflict. The 16 participants remained silent and still for the entirety of the demonstration, while others distributed flyers detailing the ways in which individuals can support the efforts of Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) in their efforts to push for University divestment from Israel.

As alumni and bystanders walked past, some began to mock the protestors, while others simply watched the demonstration unfold.

With the latter group was University Vice President



KEVINHU / PHOTO EDITOR

for Student Life John Blackshear, who monitored the event from the beginning, with Interim Director for Student Life Brian Magee joining soon after. Despite gradual ramp ups in monitoring with Public Safety officers hovering inside Wilson Commons after about 30 minutes, the response was minimal during the event itself.

"No request for this event/

demonstration was made prior to it taking place," spokesperson Sara Miller said, stating the protest violated the University's newly released Demonstrations, Vigils, and Peaceful Protests policy. "The matter has been referred to University Student Conduct and DPS, both of whom are investigating."

Student protestors exited Wilson Quad after approx-

imately two hours, leaving their shirts spread out on the quad to emphasize their core message. Shirts were collected and discarded soon after.

'Student protestors exited Wilson Quad after approximately two hours.'

Since Meliora Weekend, signs have been spotted

around campus urging students to "please review the University's current policies on demonstrations, vigils, and peaceful protests," with a QR code to the updated policies.

In continuing with their demands for the University to divest from Israel-associated institutions, SJP took responsibility for the protest in a statement released Oct. 5 on Instagram.

"While the University projects an image of inclusivity and justice, it turns a blind eye to the investments it makes in systems that uphold apartheid and occupation," SJP stated. "We stood in solidarity not only with the people of Palestine, but also with those in Lebanon and Syria, and the many other people who are enduring escalating violence in the hands of the settler-colonialist state of Israel."

Nathan is a member of the Class of 2025.

Texcucano is a member of the Class of 2025.

Norah O'Donnell's Take on Life and Relationships

BY TEDDY ALMOND
STAFF WRITER

Outgoing "CBS Evening News" anchor and Emmy award-winning journalist Norah O'Donnell thinks she has the secret to life: forging quality relationships.

The renowned journalist told an audience at UR about her three guiding points for life during a keynote address over Meliora Weekend, the annual homecoming celebration.

"The quality of your life is built on the quality of your relationships," she said, adding that the most important relationships are those with yourself, friends and family, and the world. "That's my simple thesis of life. That's how to be Meliora, or ever better. Work on your relationships."

In her 20-minute speech, O'Donnell covered many topics but honed in on her "Thesis to Life" interpretation of the word.

O'Donnell, who is a

50-year-old mother of three, has taken the helm at the CBS News anchor desk since 2011, but recently announced that she would step down after the upcoming presidential election.

"That's how to be Meliora, or ever better. Work on your relationships."

She described her role as taking on larger projects for "60-Minutes" and finishing her book "Women in American History." She added that she would probably be back to the Rochester area to delve into the history of Susan B. Anthony.

During her address at the Palestra to an audience of nearly 1,000, she talked about interviewing the most fascinating people and breaking through barriers in a profession previously dominated by men.

During her speech, O'Donnell outlined the three specific types of relationships she nurtures: the one with herself, the one with her family; co-workers and friends; and her one with the greater world.

The best way to turn "fear into fuel and self-doubt into determination is through relationships," she said, quoting Aristotle. "Once you know your authentic power, you are unstoppable."

O'Donnell explained that people must not be afraid to ask for what they want. She reminisced of a time when she applied to be a correspondent for "60 Minutes," and, when being interviewed for a different position at the network, was asked how she would be able to do the job with three children. O'Donnell had responded: "Do you ask men that question?"

"[I] didn't let that one guy's doubts determine what I knew I was capable of,"

O'Donnell said.

However, relationships with others are also important and the key to unlocking happiness in life.

She noted that "integrity is your best currency," and that her values have greatly influenced the success in her career. The best way to improve relationships is to appreciate others.

'During her speech, O'Donnell outlined the three specific types of relationships she nurtures.'

The way to foster relationships is to start with little actions, she explained, whether that be handwritten notes of encouragement or a simple email thanking someone for an interview. These things have allowed her to build a rapport with those whom she interviewed as well as build trust with the world as a reporter.

It is through relationship building, O'Donnell said, that she has succeeded in getting interviews with some of the world's great leaders. She described the story of how she recently landed an interview with Pope Francis by writing him several personal letters over the course of 10 years, and credited her ability to obtain the elusive interview on a letter she wrote him about her children and commitment to the next generation that she and the Pope shared.

O'Donnell stressed that one's relationship with the global community is especially important in a time of political tumult where crises around the world make headlines on a daily basis. Talking with people who have had the courage to stand up for the forgotten or the disadvantaged has inspired her, she said.

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Immigration Health Panel: Treating Rochester’s Asylum Seekers and Immigrants

BY METOK KOGYAL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

According to the *Catholic Courier*, Rochester has welcomed hundreds of immigrants and asylum seekers coming from New York City who seek opportunities and some form of a better life. The increasing number of immigrants and asylum seekers are part of a larger national trend that began in April 2022, when immigrants and asylum seekers from the U.S.-Mexico border were transported to major cities across the nation. Many of these immigrants and asylum seekers in Rochester originate from Latin American countries, such as Venezuela and Ecuador, and join a rapidly growing Latino population in the U.S.

‘Rochester has welcomed hundreds of immigrants and asylum seekers.’

As part of National Hispanic Heritage Month, Dr. Paula Cupertino and Dr. Telve Olivares from URMIC organized a panel on Sept. 26 for students and the public to “[build] URMIC’s capacity to serve the growing Latino immigrant community in Rochester” by “[learning] from key leading organizations serving Latino immigrant and farmworker communities in the region.”

Cupertino kicked off the panel by outlining the current and future state of the health of Latino individuals across America. One statistic emphasized was that the U.S. Latino population has been predicted to have a 142% increase in cancer cases in the next 15 years because of a growing population, in part fueled by immigrants and asylum seekers.

Ariana Montalvo, who previously worked with the Western NY Coalition Farmworkers Serving Agency (WNYCFSA), reflected on the importance of statistics like these.

“Being someone who is Latinx, [this] is something super important to be aware of, not only for my own community, but the community I work alongside of,” Montalvo said.

The panelists then shared their roles in their organizations and their experiences in aiding Latino immigrants and asylum seekers in Rochester.

Attorney Ramon Irizarry of the WNYCFSA explained, “Corroboration is really im-

portant [...] To be eligible for asylum here in the United States, you have to prove persecution, either past or present.”

In order to achieve asylum, asylum seekers have to prove persecution in their country of origin and that their persecution is on the basis of factors such as race, ethnicity, or politics, Irizarry said. Forensic and psychological evaluations are therefore conducted to investigate any trauma asylum seekers sustained in their home country in relation to their persecution.

Hannah Garth, student liaison for Rochester Humans Rights Initiative (RHRI), explained that “[they] connect asylum seekers with physicians who are trained in forensic evaluations.”

RHRI also provides medical affidavits that attorneys like Irizarry use in court to corroborate an asylum seeker’s claims of persecution from their home country.

In addition to aiding in legal and healthcare processes, Ibero and the WNYCFSA host educational training programs that assist immigrants and asylum seekers in achieving self-sufficiency. Bania Bautista, the representative for the latter agency, highlighted the story of a father who originally reached out in 2022 about his special needs son’s education, but also ended up receiving a general “Know Your Rights” education. After this education and some discussion, the agency then realized that he was being labor trafficked.

“The majority of people being labor trafficked do not realize they are victims,” Bautista said. “And so, through a lot of patience and conversations and reassurance, we were able to build that trust as well, where he then said ‘yes, I am ready to speak to a lawyer.’”

“Through a lot of patience and conversations and reassurance, we were able to build that trust.”

With the help of the agency, the father and mother were able to receive work permits, which allowed them to become permanent NY residents this year.

“A lot of [the agency’s] work focuses on that — building that relationship and making sure that we can address all those underlying issues,” Bautista summarized.

While these organizations and panelists have made a lot of progress, they have still encountered many challenges and roadblocks during their practices. Panelists highlighted language barriers between providers and patients, lack of accessibility to health insurance, lack of physician availability, cultural stigma around care, and lack of trust in the system.

“It [takes] more than two or three visits for [farmworkers] to trust me enough to let me know if there’s a concern if they have,” Bautista explained.

Daisy Ruiz, representative of Ibero, also highlighted a lack of cultural competency within the medical field: “Unfortunately, we do not, a lot of the time, take time to slow down and think — okay, so if this is this person’s behavior, why is it and how can I approach this person and how can we come up with a plan to improve their health?”

Then, on the legal side of immigration matters, Attorney Irizarry broke down exactly how drawn out legal processes can be.

“On average, it’s anywhere between one to two years. Possibly three in Western New York,” he explained, referring to how long it takes for an asylum seeker to be granted asylum and obtain a work permit.

Ruiz continued on and explained how the work permit processing length is a challenge in and of itself: “If they’re working under the table, then they’re more susceptible to having issues in their work[...] I’ve heard of individuals getting into accidents and going into labor trafficking.”

Ruiz and Garth lastly explained that their respective organizations would benefit from more consistent support.

Senior Daniela Matute reflected on the panel and the overall immigration experience. “You can come here for work, you can come here for being persecuted. But ultimately, the whole process is traumatizing,” she said. “I think these organizations are helping these communities more and more, but they still need a lot of help in terms of resources [...] and partnerships to help on a broader extent.”

Kogyal is a member of the Class of 2028.

‘Is Russia Redeemable?’ Exiled Russian Journalist Alexander Nevzorov Tells Us

BY AEENEAS WOLF
SPORTS EDITOR

Exiled Russian journalist Alexander Nevzorov delivered a lecture titled “Is Russia Redeemable?” in Morey Hall on the afternoon of Tuesday, Oct. 1. Visiting Assistant Professor in Russian Professor Dmitry Bykov translated for him.

Nevzorov rose to fame for hosting the nationalist television program “600 Seconds,” a radical and controversial series beginning during the end of the Soviet Union’s “glasnost” (openness) period and lasting until shortly after its dissolution. The end of the program came when government censors took it off air, largely due to Nevzorov’s opposition to Russian leader Boris Yeltsin.

In “600 Seconds,” Nevzorov sought to shock viewers with rapid-fire coverage of strange, scandalous, and often salacious news. In 1993, Nevzorov was a fervent nationalist with dreams of reuniting the Soviet Union. He was elected to the Duma, one of the branches of Russia’s legislature, subsequently serving there for 14 years.

‘Nevzorov sought to shock viewers with rapid-fire coverage of strange, scandalous, and often salacious news.’

As recently as 2012, Nevzorov supported Vladimir Putin’s return to the Russian presidency. However, he would soon renounce his previous views and would come to oppose Russia’s annexation of Crimea in 2014. In the years since, he has become an outspoken critic of Putin and the Russian government, leading to his escape from the country under threat of imprisonment in 2022.

Now an enemy of the state, Nevzorov spoke about the mythologies created by the Putin regime to justify its atrocities, including but not limited to the imprisonment of political rivals, assassination of dissidents, and the invasion of Ukraine.

To do so, Nevzorov referred to the 13th century “Battle on the Ice,” in which Russian folk hero Prince Alexander Nevsky and the Eastern

Orthodox forces defeated crusading Catholic armies. Unsurprisingly, this battle became a symbol of Eastern Orthodox pride in the centuries following. This battle, said Nevzorov, has been dramatized and distorted to create exaggerated feelings of pride. He later went on to say that much of Russian culture was like the “Battle on the Ice” — exaggerated at best, and falsified or stolen at worst.

The talk paused for questions and eruptions of laughter from the older Russian-speaking portion of the audience, who evidently found Nevzorov’s quips amusing.

Pacing around the room, Nevzorov proclaimed that any semblance of reform is absent in Russia today. In fact, he claimed that the country was continuing to spiral into mad-

‘He claimed that the country was continuing to spiral into madness rather than curing itself.’

ness rather than curing itself.

Again turning to the topic of Russian culture, Nevzorov said, “We see the results of Russian culture in Mariupol and Bucha,” referring to two of the Ukrainian cities ravaged by Russian attacks.

Nevzorov used the analogy of a circus, where he’d worked previously, to explain how animals cannot become tame or sane once they have been subject to sustained cruelty. The same, he believed, could be said of the Russian people.

Nevzorov’s opinions of Vladimir Putin are apparent: Putin had “no understanding of the real world” and called him “boring, monotonous, and out of touch.” He added on saying, “You can be nothing and still be a mass murderer.”

A final question about if Tsarism would return to Russia prompted a joint response from Nevzorov and Bykov: “What do you mean? It’s already here!”

Author’s Note: Special thanks to Arsen Kariazov for translating certain details.

Wolf is a member of the Class of 2027.

Admissions Tours Relocate to Wilson Commons

BY EMMELY ELI TEXCUCANO
FEATURES EDITOR

At the end of April, students set up an encampment in Wilson Quad and demanded a permanent ceasefire statement from the University, as well as the “ending of all academic ties with Israel.” On May 1, students began one of two sit-ins at Wallis Hall, demanding the University to initiate academic divestment from Israel. Protests continued outside of the building for the entirety of the sit-ins.

On Sept. 16, the Office of Admissions and Financial Aids in Wallis Hall began requiring that anyone entering the building must have an appointment scheduled in advance. Previously open to all students, the office now requires students to buzz in the front doors of Wallis Hall with their student ID badge visible.

Vice Provost and University Dean of Enrollment Management Dr. Robert J. Alexander explained, “Last year, student protesters occupied Wallis Hall on multiple occasions and created an environment that made some staff members across all the departments in Wallis Hall feel unsafe in their workspace. [...] Just as students have the right to live and study in a non-threatening environment, staff also have the right to perform their work and feel safe.”

“Staff also have the right to perform their work and feel safe.”

According to Alexander, requests made in the morning will often be accommodated the same afternoon. Any request made in the afternoon or evening will now typically be scheduled for the next morning.

For urgent requests, students

and parents are encouraged to email their counselor directly or call the Financial Aid Office instead of visiting the building.

New changes to Admission Tours were also enacted this semester as a result of the sit-ins.

Before the sit-ins, admission tours typically began at Wallis Hall, and the Meridians — tour guides contracted by the Office of Admissions — previously had swipe access like other employees in the building. As of this semester, Meridians start Welcome and Information sessions at the Campus Information Center in Wilson Commons and do not have swipe access to Wallis Hall. According to Alexander, this will allow admissions to work more closely with Wilson Commons Student Activities and the Campus Information Center.

“Once the decision was made to control access to Wallis, we also decided to relocate [tours] to Wilson Commons, the heart of campus, and hope to give prospective students a positive impression of campus life,” Alexander said.

“We also decided to relocate [tours] to Wilson Commons, the heart of campus.”

These changes followed the announcement of stricter policies regarding the Demonstrations, Vigils, and Peaceful Protests policy and the Prohibition of Camping on University Property.

Texcucano is a member of the Class of 2025.

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Throughout her talk, O'Donnell also highlighted the importance of the upcoming election and her strongly-held belief that America is the country that people emigrate to because of its strong democracy. She urged the audience to vote, respect the vote

of their neighbors and friends, and refrain from challenging the election results. She is confident, she stated, that the election process is a fair one.

While many in the crowd gave her a standing ovation, some were more underwhelmed than others.

UR alumna Jamie Wood, who graduated in 1984, was underwhelmed by the speech,

although she enjoyed hearing O'Donnell's views on issues important to women, the upcoming election, and her three-point take on life.

“It was okay,” she said. “She had her highlights [...] I was expecting more, to be honest.”

Almond is a member of the Class of 2028.

Sustainability at UR Has Changed: What You Should Know

BY ZOË MILES
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Students might have heard of Dining Team Green (DTG), a team within University Facilities and Services that focused on sustainable initiatives concerning dining on campus, from projects such as the Meliora Kitchen Events, Sustainability Hack-a-thon, and Earth Day Dinner. As a student-staffed University organization, DTG created, executed, and promoted UR Dining-related events for years.

In tandem with DTG, Facilities Team Green (FTG) handled all environmental events unrelated to UR Dining, such as the Move-Out Cleanout, Shred Fest, and the plastic bag kiosk in Wilson Commons.

This summer, these two programs merged into one, now called the Sustainability Office. Although the two separate teams no longer exist, many of their familiar projects and initiatives will remain, as will the ability for student staff members to propose ideas and hold leadership roles.

“Many of their familiar projects and initiatives will remain.”

“Both Amy [Kadrie, Senior Manager] and Phil [Piedmont, Waste Minimization Specialist] have encouraged me to share

insights about DTG and provide feedback on the team's current structure,” Alan Rojas, Take Five Scholar and the Office's Sustainability Manager, commented. “They have been very receptive to my input, and I truly appreciate that.”

Within the Sustainability Office, student staff members are divided into three new categories: Education and Engagement, Marketing and Communications, and R5 and Zero Waste. The duties that existed under both Team Green programs are split amongst the three.

The Education and Engagement team partners with student organizations like Grassroots, maintains connections with the SA Secretary of Sustainability, and writes GoGreen articles to educate students. “Right now,” Luisa Luna-Gastelum, senior and Education and Engagement member, said, “Carmen and I are working on planning this year's hack-a-thon and potentially solidifying it as a yearly event.”

Students working for Marketing and Publicity manage the Office's social media, promote events, and serve as the Office's mouthpiece. Their new Instagram account, @ursustainable, is an excellent source of information regarding upcoming programs, tips to become more sustainable, and ways to get involved on campus.

“The R5 Team focuses

on waste management and minimization on campus. [As Sustainability Manager] I serve as the connector between students and sustainability staff,” Rojas said.

But just like any other Team Green member, Rojas has a second role. As a member of R5, his main project this semester has been organizing the Zero Waste dinners, the first of which took place on Sept. 30. “This event aims to raise awareness about food waste while collecting data on food waste from dining halls,” Rojas said.

The department's other projects include the Shoe Recycling Program, the Little Library, and the Plastic Bag Program, which were all originally part of FTG, according to Rojas.

Though the structure of the organization has changed, its mission remains the same: to raise awareness around and promote sustainable living at the University. In the future, the Office hopes to work with RAs regarding residential sustainability and continue to explore new and interesting ways to make our campus ever greener.

For further information, the Sustainability Office's mission and various initiatives can be found on the University website.

Miles is a member of the Class of 2025.

Rethinking Public Safety at the Intersection of Law Enforcement, Race, and Justice

BY STEVE SUN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Public relations and law enforcement have become more complex in the 21st century.

On Sept. 19, the Frederick Douglass Black Studies Department hosted a two-day symposium that brought together notable speakers across the US and Canada to dissect the intricate connections among the criminal justice system, law enforcement, and society, with a special focus on the experiences of people of color.

Philip V. McHarris, symposium chair and Assistant

Professor from Department of Black Studies said, “My goal is to bring together a diverse array of scholars and thinkers to engage critically with the intersections of Blackness, policing, and surveillance by examining both historical and contemporary contexts while exploring new possibilities and innovative approaches beyond policing surveillance.”

McHarris emphasized the importance of understanding the historical roots of policing in the United States, which is intricately linked with slave patrols in the South, night watchers that subdued working-class riots in Northern

cities, and Texas Rangers who disposed of Native Americans and Mexicans from their land in the west.

At the symposium, speakers offered insights into the dynamic interplay between law enforcement and society in the 21st century. Professor Jub Sankofa from Yale University highlighted the criminalization of sex and drugs as a means of race-class control, while Professor Robyn Maynard from the University of Toronto extended the idea by emphasizing the double standards of policing that disproportionately impact racial minorities.

“Bringing people together into the conversation can shed light on the complexities of these ideas while facilitating critical engagement with their intersections,” said McHarris, who advocates for a shift towards exploring community-based safety approaches that foster supportive environments, such as transformative, restorative, and healing justice practices. The importance of allocating resources and time to these initiatives as alternatives to traditional policing methods, he suggested, helps not only to address crime but to prevent it from

occurring in the first place.

The wide range of backgrounds represented by symposium attendees made for an inclusive exchange of different perspectives, said student participant and junior Guy Emrich. “Sharing these voices allows for a more inclusive dissemination of ideas and ensures that insights reach beyond scholarly circles to the wider public, ultimately contributing to a more enlightened and equitable future.”

Sun is a member of the Class of 2027.

Rochester Producers & Musicians Host Introductory Garageband Workshop

BY NARM NATHAN
DATA EDITOR

On Oct. 4, Rochester Producers & Musicians (RPM) hosted a workshop for students interested in learning to use GarageBand, Apple’s free digital audio workstation.

Digital audio workstations offer a platform for music production and composition enthusiasts to develop tracks and projects in a full-fledged application, outfitted with plugins, effects, and tools necessary to bring an idea to fruition. Songs like Kendrick Lamar’s “PRIDE,” and Steve Lacy’s “Dark Red” were famously produced on GarageBand.

‘Outfitted with plugins, effects, and tools necessary to bring an idea to fruition.’

Students gathered at Rettner’s Video Studio at 8 p.m. for icebreakers and an introduction to the software before taking the time to work individually on projects, with organizers sophomores Richard Zhu and Kyle Jhong providing

instruction and mentorship as needed.

“[My] freshman year, I attended a lot of the RPM performance events, and that’s generally how I became more interested in the club,” Zhu says, who is studying Audio and Music Engineering. “I think at the end of one event last year, they asked for community feedback, and then we brought up production workshops [...] I wanted to help out with this type of event because I’ve been producing for a while, and I like teaching other people.”

Both organizers began producing music in high school, and reflected on the process of being creative as well as how they could help bridge the gap for those who had their own ideas but didn’t know how to put them on paper. “I know people who want to start writing, like they write their own songs [...] but they don’t necessarily produce. I want to connect with these people,” Jhong says.

Students who attended came from a variety of backgrounds – from having zero experience

in GarageBand or music production to having their own MIDI keyboards and setups. For Zhu and Jhong, understanding how to help the students came from reflecting on their own journey making music.

‘How they could help bridge the gap for those who had their own ideas but didn’t know how to put them on paper.’

“The way we wanted to structure [the event] was so that there was the least amount of time of us just lecturing as well as the most individualized attention time,” Zhu said. If students demonstrated greater proficiency at the event, the one-on-one time allowed for them to gain more directed feedback.

“I learned a lot from other creators in the workshop space, as many people go about producing differently,” Zahali Vauclena said, a sophomore studying Audio & Music Engineering. “I usually start with drums or percussive instruments, but

as I learned and talked with others, I’ve found some base their projects on piano or even samples they’ve found.”

Organizers and students at the workshop also reflected on the impact that having a community of producers had on them.

“I’ve been producing for four years, [and for] the first three, I didn’t know anyone else who produced music,” Zhu stated. “Knowing that there was a club at UR for like-minded people [...] was very comforting, and it’s really great to just talk to people and bounce ideas off of each other.”

“Knowing that there was a club at UR for like-minded people [...] was very comforting, and it’s really great to just talk to people and bounce ideas off of each other.”

As one of the University’s primary student organizations for music production, the GarageBand workshop is only one

of many RPM intends to host. With previous karaoke nights and artist performances being held, their outreach extends not just to the output of their artists, but towards the collective education their members can acquire.

“This workshop kind of represents a gateway into starting music production. I think starting to learn a new skill in general, there’s often a lot of resistance that you’ll come up against [...] it can be intimidating when you look at the whole roadmap of what there is moving forward,” Jhong adds. “The main impact I felt like [the workshop] had that I actually saw was that it provided [that] gradual step up to starting the first project for a lot of people.”

Additional events they offer this semester include workshops that dive into the various aspects of music production, including working with live sound, DJ sets, songwriting, as well as breaking into the industry.

Nathan is a member of the Class of 2025.

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Interpreting Speech Prosody in Neurodivergence

BY SUBAAH SYED
FEATURES EDITOR

As we go about our everyday lives, we unconsciously pick up cues when talking to people. Through this process, we can determine a speaker’s emotion relatively confidently from just their tone or pitch, especially if they are someone close to us.

“When the other person uses the same set of words, but a slightly different intonation or cadence, or even like a slight change in the tone of voice, you can pick up on some subtle differences in meaning, right?” Dr. Chigusa Kurumada, Assistant Professor in Brain and Cognitive Sciences, said. “It is actually still a big mystery, like a lot of linguists and cognitive scientists have been studying this, but nobody knows what it is that we are actually picking up on.”

“It is actually still a big mystery ... nobody knows what it is that we are picking up on.”

Kurumada currently leads a research lab on language communication and learning. She works with Dr. Loisa Bennetto, whose background lies in the neurocognitive basis of autism. Their recent study lies at the intersection of their two fields, stemming from a fascination with the normal day-to-day interactions of humans and how much speech plays a role in us understanding each other.

Kurumada and Bennetto recently published an article titled “Perception and adaptation of receptive prosody in autistic adolescents,” which observed how autistic adolescents had more trouble picking up the subtle cues in speech, such as change in pitch, compared to neurotypical adolescents. The article focused on the importance of speech prosody, a cognitive concept used to describe the variation in rhythm, timing, and intonation of speech. This study aimed to link linguistic and social factors in language comprehension to autism in adolescents.

Why observe speech in autism? “Speech prosody was actually one of the first characteristics that clinicians and researchers used as a diagnostic criterion,” Kurumada said. “It’s no longer the case, now that we know a lot more about autism, [...] but it’s something that a lot of doctors and researchers and clinicians know — that there is something special about people’s uses of prosody, and autistic individuals’ uses of

prosody, and those understandings of prosody.”

The study hypothesized that it would be more difficult for autistic individuals to pick up on changes in

“Speech prosody was actually one of the first characteristics that clinicians and researchers used as diagnostic criterion.”

speech prosody, thus interfering with their ability to interpret the meaning of how words are said and the emotional nuances conveyed through speech.

There were three groups of participants: one group of autistic adolescents ages 12 to 17, one group of non-autistic adolescents, and one group of non-autistic young undergraduate students from the University as a control group.

Why this age range? Kurumada explained: “During the adolescent years, your social network expands, and there is this strong need for you to be able to adjust your perception to different types of people [...] That’s the time when adaptation becomes really important for speech communication.” Social stigma is also perceived more during this period, which pressures adolescents to pay more attention to the way they speak and “adjust their speech production to better understand others.”

‘Social stigma is also perceived more during this period, which pressures adolescents to pay more attention to the way they speak.’

From a neurological context, our brain experiences changes to the way we process voices during adolescence. Although there is increased brain activity in response to familiar voices as children, brain activity increases for unfamiliar voices compared with familiar voices as we age. During earlier stages of adolescence in autistic children, however, there is a weaker preference for familiar voices, which may contribute to their linguistic development.

There were three phases used in this study: pre-test, training, and post-tests. The study used a system called Gorilla.sc, which is an online experimental platform that allowed them to present stimuli and collect responses from the participants.

In the initial test, the



MELIORA HALL, THE LOCATIONS OF DR.KURUMADA'S AND DR.BENNETTO'S LABORATORIES

AIDANSCIORTINO / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

participants would hear 44 items or sounds and were required to say whether the sentence was a question or not. Dr. Kurumada played recordings of the sentences they heard. As the recordings progressed, the statement “It’s raining” slowly turned more into the question “It’s raining?”

During the training, the participants were presented with the most statement-like item and had to decide whether it was a statement or a question. This time, however, the participants were provided feedback regarding if they were correct or not. They also played ambiguous sounds resembling something between a statement and a question, and provided feedback. This went on for 30 items, for around four minutes.

“Essentially,” Kurumada clarified, “the idea is that [...] if we provide some ambiguous items and provide feedback that [says] it’s supposed to be a question, that could, if our perception is adaptive, [...] shift their interpretation.”

From this, the prediction was that if the participants were presented with these ambiguous items again in the post-test, they would say that the sound was a question more often compared to how they answered at the very beginning of this experiment due to the feedback given. Thus, the responses would be expected to shift before and after the training.

The study found that although the responses of non-autistic adolescents and non-autistic college students did shift, the responses by the autistic adolescents didn’t shift. This suggests that given the same amount of input and same amount of feedback, autistic individuals seem to be less likely to adapt or shift their personal interpretation of speech patterns.

What are the next steps?

One way would be “increasing the age range, to see whether this flexibility may already be present for younger or older autistic kids outside of the adolescent group they tested,” Kurumada said. Kurumada also wants to expand the types of intonation contours and meanings used in the study as well.

‘The study found that although the responses of non-autistic adolescents and non-autistic college students did shift, the responses by the autistic adolescents didn’t shift.’

A “dream project” that the lab aims to better understand is where these flexibility differences are coming from. “Is this a perceptual property that’s ingrained in autistic individuals’ perceptual and cognitive system?” Kurumada asked. “Our dream project that we hope to pursue is to actually observe younger kids and older kids’ everyday linguistic communication at home, at school, and elsewhere. And, we want to get more information about how they actually communicate with other people outside this lab environment.”

This would help in answering the question of if discrepancies in linguistic understanding in autistic children are derived from the fact that autism is a learning disability or from other social factors that we can also see in non-autistic individuals. For example, the difference might come from the individual’s social experience and everyday linguistic experience, which includes the number of people they talk to and types of social communication they might have on a daily basis.

What’s more, when it comes to picking up social cues, neurodivergent people aren’t the only ones who

may struggle. Even neurotypical immigrants whose native languages differ from the national language can also struggle to pick up on changes in speech prosody. Though they may speak English well, immigrants might not be aware of the social cues used in a foreign country.

In addition, Kurumada’s lab has a separate line of work looking at “second language learners’ understanding of American English, and then also conversely, native speakers’ understanding of immigrants or non-native accented people’s speech.”

“To what extent is it nature, to what extent is it nurture?” she wonders.

‘When it comes to picking up social cues, neurodivergent people aren’t the only ones who may struggle.’

The study of speech prosody connects to an integral component of our daily lives: how we communicate. “We have a lot of international students and a lot of neurodivergent students, and sometimes we feel like [...] something is off in this communication, and we can’t put our finger on one thing and then say, ‘Hey, this is maybe creating some misunderstanding,’” Kurumada said. “But with experience, we can adapt to other people’s speech. So having that conversation, I think, is going to be useful.”

Syed is a member of the Class of 2027.

COMMUNITY

CT Interviews: Party for Socialism and Liberation Presidential Candidate Claudia De La Cruz

BY EMMELY ELI TEXCUCANO
FEATURES EDITOR

The 2024 presidential election is in full swing, with front-runners Kamala Harris (D) and Donald Trump (R) polling neck-and-neck across the nation. Despite their domineering media coverage, other candidates have been making their own waves as well.

Claudia De La Cruz is running as a third-party candidate for the Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL). Her background lies not in politics, but in a long history of social activism, advocating for issues like reproductive health and Palestinian self-statehood.

Currently, De La Cruz is on a circuit of region-specific campus tour visits, visiting college campuses in upstate New York. Though she had originally announced a visit to the University, she could not come to campus because of policy on political activities. With this in mind, the *Campus Times* had the opportunity to sit down with De La Cruz for an interview at South Wedge Mission.

What motivated you to run for the presidency, considering your background is mostly in activism and not any other campaigns?

What motivated me to run is what motivates the party to be active in electoralism and be active in electoral politics, which is basically the need to uplift the demands and needs of the people, which is not done by any of the two corporate parties.

They do not speak about the fact that the minimum wage in this country has not been raised since 2009, and that actually there are, again, over 160 million people in this country who are living in or below poverty.

They always talk about a middle class that is disappearing increasingly

‘The minimum wage in this country has not been raised since 2009, and that actually there are, again, over 160 million people in this country who are living in or below poverty.’

in this country and never actually address the needs, the concerns of working-class people.

So, we run to uplift the demands and to let people know that there are options and



TEDDY ALMOND / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

that they do not have to continue to validate the mediocrity of the two-party system.

Do you think your history of activism does give you a unique perspective on campaigning?

I think the fact that I’m a working-class person [does]. The story is always, ‘I came from the middle class.’

I came from a working-class background. But these are people that have multi-million dollar accounts that are personal accounts. They’re no longer working-class people.

‘They’re no longer working-class. They are no longer people that are accountable to the majority of people in this country.’

They are no longer people that are accountable to the majority of people in this country. And I think that, yeah, my activism, my organizing, the people that I surround myself with, the fact that I’m part of the political organization that I am, have a lot to do with my perspective.

But the fact that I have to get off this campaign trail and go home and still do laundry and still go to the grocery store and experience the price gouging of these corporations, the fact that I have to pay my electric bill that is a surmounting amount of money for the type of service that they give me, gives me the perspective of working-class people that are struggling with the same things.

We cannot expect people who are way far off whatever working class

people experience to be able to solve our needs, because they are way far removed from that reality.

What would you say to people who really believe that there is no point in voting for a third party and only voting in the two-party system?

I would ask those people, ‘What is the point of voting two parties?’

Have they raised the minimum wage since 2009? Have they actually addressed the questions of violence in our communities? Have they eliminated police brutality, mass incarceration? Have we seen more access to health care? Have we seen the shutting down of clinics all across this country? Have we seen the private motive and the profit motive of our education system? Are students paying less for loans in their college spaces? I would say no.

‘What actually is the use of the two-party system except for continuing to validate and promote and uplift the corporate agenda?’

So, if you say no to any of these things, then what actually is the use of the two-party system except for continuing to validate and promote and uplift the corporate agenda, the agenda of billionaires, the agenda of the military-industrial complex?

And so, again, I’ll refer to the Princeton University report that said that public opinion equates zero to the development of policy in this country. But what does matter is the corporate agenda. What does matter

are the wealthiest sectors of society. And this was a Princeton University report that said that. It wasn’t me. And so, again, voting in this country, within this democratic system, is a form of consenting to the things that they do against us.

‘I’ve been organizing for 30 years. I started at 13.’

And third parties are part of a counter to those things. For example, the two parties that are currently in all the ballots are the ones that are promoting genocide, that are promoting the expansion of war, that are promoting attacks on immigrants in this country. And if we believe that that’s what we need in this country, then we vote for them.

But if we don’t believe that, there are third-party options.

Even now, you’ve been involved in on-campus protests and off-campus protests advocating for Palestine and now Lebanon. That’s where you were before this. Is this your most important issue?

I was doing it before. I’ve been doing this since I was 17 in terms of the solidarity work with Palestine. I’ve been organizing for 30 years. I started at 13.

This is what I was doing before the campaign. This is what I’m going to be doing.

So, you know, this is a life-long march. A lot of people who I consider to be ancestors and people that I consider to be comrades took on this task 60 years ago, 70 years ago. Whatever little we have, people who are Indigenous, who are immigrants, who are Blacks, that actually have access to

college education, have that access to education because people struggled for that.

None of that was given to us. And so I believe in the most internal parts of my being that if we don’t fight for things, we don’t get it. And so this struggle around the freedom of Palestine is a very long struggle that has been here for 76 years.

And the worst thing that we could do as we approach one year of this genocide is give them space to demoralize us. We have to continue to fight as they expand. Now, you asked a question, and it reminds me of a question that people are asked often.

Is this a single issue? No,

‘I believe in the most internal parts of my being that if we don’t fight for things, we don’t get it.’

genocide is the issue because it shows us that they have the capacity to annihilate, to exterminate an entire population. What do you think will happen to us?

What do you think is happening to us in the ways in which our people are being gentrified, in the ways in which our people are being incarcerated, in the ways our people are being exploited? All of those things are ways of committing genocidal acts. And so if we can’t see the connections now, once they have exterminated the Palestinians, which we will not allow to happen, they will come to us. And so we need to be conscious of the fact that the same forces that are oppressing us, and that are causing us misery in this country, are the same forces that are conducting genocide across the seas.

There have been past claims connecting the People’s Forum (which advocates for social change by providing a political education and cultural space for nonprofits and grassroots initiatives) and by extension, you and Goldman Sachs, which have been disavowed. Because of that, constituents have raised concerns about Goldman Sachs funding this campaign. What is your response to those claims?

There is a tweet of Goldman Sachs that disassociates itself from the People’s Forum, which is the organization that I co-directed and co-founded.

co-directed and co-founded. People have banks in a capitalist system. If you get paid, your money goes to a bank if you receive direct deposit. Does that money belong to the bank or does it belong to you?

And so in the capitalist system, if you receive donations that are beyond a certain amount, you have to use what is called a donor's fund. And for us, the donor's fund was Goldman Sachs. That is the bank that held the money for the People's Forum, not the Vote Socialist Campaign 2024.

And I would say to people who follow those threads to do much more digging into what things are and what they are not. The Party for Socialism and Liberation, which is the party that is running the ballot of the Vote Socialist 2024 campaign, is a completely different entity than the entity that I co-founded and co-directed, which is the People's Forum. The Party for Socialism and Liberation is an organization that is member-funded.

'The campaign is people-powered, it's people-funded, it's not funded by any capitalists.'

When I mentioned earlier that each of these challenges that we're facing in court has basically depleted a lot of the funds that have come into the campaign, I really mean it because the campaign is people-powered, it's people-funded, it's not funded by any capitalists or any donations that are coming from any fund philanthropy or anything of that sort.

Why has your focus been on college campus-specific tours like the New York College Campus Tour right now?

That's been the least of the spaces that we've been in. We've been in a lot of different communities. In South Carolina, this is a community that has high levels.

'The institutions are the ones that are acting against the people.'

I think it's the second highest level of people who have confronted the reality of having their limbs cut off because of diabetes in this country. We've met with labor organizers in North Carolina, in New York City, in the Bay Area. We've gone to college campuses. We've gone to high schools. But we've also met with a lot of communities that are struggling, a lot of educators, a lot of organizers, and also people who are not necessarily knowledgeable of the campaign. We're trying to share more information about the platform and share more information about the need to build socialism in this country.

The reason that we did this specifically around the college tour is that there has been an increasing amount of young people who have engaged in the fight back against genocide that have been hit very hard by their institutions. And so it also has been revealed in the last 11 months that a lot of these institutions serve to reproduce capitalist values and ideas. And there's a lot of young people that are completely against that. And so we want to validate them in their struggle and say, you're not crazy. Actually, the institutions are the ones that are acting against the people. And I know there are some issues actually getting on the university campus.

Some campuses are more troubling than others. I think that, you know, universities historically

are very good at keeping the people and the people's struggles out of the universities.

Columbia University, which is where I went, is very good at that. It has very big gates all around Columbia University. And it's actually, you know, very particular in terms of who they let in. They let the Minutemen in 2006, which is a fascistic anti-immigrant organization, but they wouldn't let students who are protesting genocide actually take over a lawn to protest. And so they're very particular. It's something that is not unexpected. But, again, it reveals the very undemocratic character of these institutions and who they are really aligned with.

You weren't able to step foot at the University of Rochester, and couldn't visit the campus due to the University's policy on political activities. What are your thoughts on restrictions on political campaigns in institutions like this?

I think in general, these are nonprofit organizations, obviously. And I say that loosely.

I say that with air quotations. They say that they cannot allow electoral politics on campus, yet they do exercise the type of politics that is against the people, the students, and people who struggle. And so there's nothing more political than that in practice.

And so, for us, the question of these institutions and how they relate to politics is very, like, they're very superficial in the sense that they will say that they don't support, you know, electoral politics and that they can't promote. But there's a possibility of doing educational teachings. And so it scares them that there are students who are there to reproduce the

capitalist system who actually learn about another option and another way of doing things that is not the way that the education system historically presents.

What would you say you would have learned from visiting all these college campuses?

In general, young people, people talk about, people often say as a cliché slogan, students and young people are the future. And I don't necessarily think that is true.

I think students and young people are the now. And whatever we do now to be able to elevate how people think in relationship to themselves, their communities, and the world is what ultimately will build strong people that can respond to crisis. Young people have had the ability in the last 11 months to do things that many other generations didn't do, which was uplift and break, break the isolation of the universities and the people.

'There are people that are willing to fight within these institutions to be able to transform the reality.'

They bridged it. A lot of the movement and the energy that was built in demonstrations in the streets came into the college campuses. And it came into the college campuses because of the consciousness of the young people in those spaces.

And so if we are focusing some of our campaign journey to visiting these spaces, universities, it's because we believe and we have seen hope in that. Every time I go in and I meet with students that have been organizing around the question of Palestine, but also students that have been organizing for labor rights as graduate students — that

fills me with hope because there are people that are willing to fight within these institutions to be able to transform the reality. And so I've learned a lot from students.

'A lot of the movement and the energy that was built in demonstrations in the streets came into the college campuses.'

I've learned that they have the ability to transform things now, that they actually understand the need for organized struggle, and that they have the capacity to bridge struggles that are happening in the university space with struggles that are happening outside of those spaces. And that fills me with enough hope to say that our future is guaranteed if they continue to fight.

Is there any last statement you want to leave constituents with?

The most important thing to say is that the proof is in the pudding.

When you want to judge people, organizations, and politicians, you look at what they do and what they have not done. And you look at the consistency of their work. Never believe words.

Believe deeds. And believe the people who are able and willing, and have had the capacity to withstand moments of crises, and still struggle, still fight, and are still betting on our ability as a collective force of history to make the transformation happen.

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CT Happy Earth Tea

BY ALYSSA KOH
ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

The South Wedge neighborhood — which exists about a half hour’s walk from campus — is home to an abundance of quaint little shops fit for a community of college students (including a food co-op that, aptly, is named Abundance). From a unisex barbershop to a sushi restaurant and natural wine retailer, there is more than enough to explore.

Perhaps you’re perusing the wares of Little Button Crafts and the amount of local artists has your head reeling, or you’re parched but a bottle of water from Little Venice Pizza won’t quite quench your thirst. Right in the center of South Avenue, there may just be a place for you: Happy Earth Tea.

Happy Earth is a family-run tea shop established in 2011 by Niraj Lama and his wife Mary Boland. For Lama, tea is the epicenter of his world; his family business growing up in India was built around darjeeling tea, and his shift towards bringing tea to a Rochesterian audience has been focused around ethical sourcing and environmental stewardship.

Notably, Happy Earth Tea is a member of 1% for the Planet, a global network of businesses that commits to donating at least 1% of their annual sales to supporting environmentally conscious efforts. With their donations, they support the Finger Lakes Land Trust, which acquires local land for conservation means, and Climate Solutions Accelerator, which creates accessible information about climate change and action items in the Genesee and Finger Lakes regions.

All of this contributes to a “happy earth,” and knowing that your hard-earned dollars are going toward a good cause and a good cup of tea makes the latter that much sweeter.

The second you walk in the door of the shop, you are immediately greeted by warm spun-glass lights and the calming aesthetic of wood and green. In a shop like Happy Earth Tea, everything has its place; from the shelves of local honey and maple syrup with handwritten labels to the origami animals that line

the counter you sit at to receive your tea. You can’t help but feel relaxed in a place like this. If you’re looking for a quick, cheap caffeine boost, this isn’t the place for you. Instead, Happy Earth Tea is a place for savoring. The prices aren’t absurd, but if the idea of paying over five dollars for a cup of chai makes you shudder, either remember you’re investing in an experience or flee to whence you came.

You can purchase tea leaves and tea-making accoutrements in the shop, but the cafe section is home to some rotating seasonal specials and tea flights — three different cups of tea for \$10. (For the broke college student: score.)

As someone with a lack of institutional tea knowledge — I drink, I enjoy, but I do not ponder much — ordering a tea flight initially felt daunting. However, Lama was there to walk me through it. I ordered a white tea flight and was immediately affirmed for my choice — apparently, white tea is made with buds rather than leaves, and so the more premium the tea, the fresher and more subtle the flavor, making it perfect for a flight-based experience.

Lama scooped the tea and poured the water, and I found myself appreciating the rhythm of the otherwise quiet store. The teas are served in porcelain cups on a little wooden tray, so when you pick up each cup, you add to the sound in the space, which makes every sip feel momentous. Combine that with the clink of decorative metal canisters and the rustle of tea leaves, and your ears become attuned to the natural heartbeat of the tea-making process.

The teas themselves were — as noted — subtle, but what made the whole experience was Lama’s descriptions of the teas as I assumed my best connoisseurial demeanor. As Lama explained the origin of each tea and the tastes he associated with each, I could feel my taste buds learning to find the words for what I would normally just think of as “warm.”

Read more at www.campustimes.org

Koh is a member of the Class of 2025 (T5).



ALYSSAKOH / ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

Early Voting at the Susan B. Anthony House



AIDAN SCIORITINO / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BY KATIE JARVIS
STAFF WRITER

From Oct. 26 to Nov. 3, the Susan B. Anthony Museum and House (SBA) will be holding early voting for the upcoming general election.

Last April, ahead of the March presidential primaries, the SBA House opened its doors to early voters for the first time. According to President and CEO of the National Susan B. Anthony Museum and House, Deborah Hughes, the organization aims to share the story of Anthony’s fight for voting rights, and has wanted to become a voting site for a long time.

“We thought it was really appropriate [to become a polling site], but things just opened up to make that possible recently. One is that we have early voting in New York state now.”

Early voting has less dramatic restrictions placed upon the occupant capacity and facilities of a voting site, but even so, the House wasn’t ready right away. The biggest hurdle was to retrofit an existing building to accommodate a stream of voters throughout the day.

The only space big enough on the museum’s campus was the carriage house, a larger space built in the ’90s to accommodate educational events in conjunction with the visitor center. It wasn’t until this winter that a second door was installed on the carriage house so that the space could become eligible as a polling place.

“We had approached the Monroe County Board of Elections and said ‘We would really like to be a voting site, is that possible?’ They came and they had a whole set of criteria that they had to look at,” Hughes said. “And one of the pieces was you need to have two doors, just for safety and security.”

The move to install the door had been in the works long

before though, according to Hughes. However, it wasn’t until early voting became a serious possibility that the organization was able to expedite the project in time for the presidential primaries.

Accessibility, it turns out, is an important ideal of the organization — both when it comes to the educational mission of the Museum and as it relates to tearing down barriers relating to voter suppression.

It’s well known that younger generations have dismal voter turnout when compared to older demographics, which is often attributed to the widespread belief that individual votes can’t make a difference in the current system. Hughes disagrees: “If voting weren’t so powerful and so important to democracy, we wouldn’t have people still trying to prevent us from getting to the ballot box.”

Hughes continued, saying that voting is one of the single most important acts one can do as a citizen in America, and refusing to vote is far from a revolutionary act. “Misinformation, disinformation — these are intentional strategies used by people in power [to create voter apathy]. It’s a lot easier to convince you that it’s not important [to vote] than it is to convince you to vote the way they want you to.”

Even in a solidly blue state like New York, the amount of voter turnout can hold elected officials more accountable. “We don’t see lawn signs, we don’t have town meetings, we don’t get together to talk about policy because everybody thinks they already know what [the voters] think [...] And if the political parties aren’t even willing to invest time and energy in having those conversations, how can they possibly represent us?”

Given the mission of the SBA house, it’s not hard to see why voter apathy is such a pressing issue for them. To someone whose work is in

telling the story of a woman who wanted nothing more than to be granted equal voting rights, little is more frustrating than to see so many Americans forfeiting this right.

Susan B. Anthony saw herself not just as a suffragist, but as a revolutionary. More than just suffrage for women, according to Hughes, Anthony “believed that good politics was complicated politics. That it does involve compromise but also involves bringing everybody to the table.”

Casting a ballot in this election in and of itself is a way to honor those who fought for our right to vote, but the opportunity to do so at the Anthony Estate is a way to feel even closer to Rochester’s voting rights activists.

For Hughes, “everybody who shows up to vote, everybody who stands in line, no matter who they vote for, is a courageous person. And I just — I can’t imagine how much fun [it would be] to take that daring step right here.”

Alongside early voting, the SBA House is offering several upcoming events such as a celebration of National Nurses Week (a profession for which Anthony advocated fiercely during her lifetime) from Oct. 8-12, neighborhood walking tours on Oct. 19 and 26, as well as an annual birthday celebration and fundraiser in February.

You can find out more on their website. Registration for voting in NYS ends Oct. 26 and can be done online or in person. Early voting across Monroe County also begins on Oct. 26, and locations and times (including the SBA House) can be found here.

Any UR student, on or off-campus, is eligible to register as a NYS voter, so long as they meet all other federal voting requirements.

Jarvis is a member of the Class of 2026 (T5).

OPINIONS

The Surprising Thing I Learned When I Was Invited Into UR’s Free Palestine Encampment

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

BY GEORGE MCCORMICK

On Friday, May 3, I sat with 20 students in the Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) encampment to talk about a five-page excerpt I’d assigned from Martin Luther King’s Christian social protest masterpiece, “Letter from Birmingham Jail.” I’d been invited to the camp by several of my students, and Friday marked the ninth day of the camp’s existence on the main quad. And while it had dropped to 23 degrees just a couple of nights before, spirits were high when I entered. As of this writing on May 11, now 17 days in, spirits are still high and the focus of SJP’s demands — 1) that the University publicly back a cease-fire in the war in Gaza, 2) that the University divest in Israeli universities — has never been made with greater focus or conviction.

I was welcomed at the camp’s entrance by my student, D—. He showed me around, introducing me to a few protestors doing homework in camp chairs or in their tents. Immediately, I was struck by how well organized and tidy the encampment was. I know this sounds silly, but as a one-time Boy Scout, I’d learned an appreciation for such things, and here it was on immaculate display: a horseshoe of two dozen two-person tents, evenly spaced; a large dome tent in its center serving as a command post, and beside it, a high-ceiling canopy tent serving as a kitchen. The second thing I noticed was a detail well-beyond the vision and purview of the Boy Scouts of America: All the tents in the horseshoe were tied together, like knots in a string. If you were to try and rip one out, you would have to rip them all out. D— led me into the command tent and then to the kitchen where boxes and containers of dry goods and perishables were stacked around a long, narrow fold out table. On the table were a bunch of bananas. A lot of bananas.

“Want a banana?” D— asked.

“Yes,” I lied.

He gave me two, both very ripe.

“Co-op sent us over a ton of bananas. All visitors can’t leave without taking a banana.”

D— led me to a clearing where a dozen or so camp

chairs were set up in a circle.

As we neared our start time at noon, the camp began to stir. Some students were grabbing food in the mess on their way to class; others were returning to camp from morning class. And then by noon, on the dot, 20 chairs were filled with students with Xeroxed copies in hand. The reason I’d asked them to read these few pages from King’s letter was pretty straightforward. I wanted to know if King’s methodology still made sense 60 years later. I introduced myself and thanked them for inviting me into camp. Then I asked if anybody had ever read King’s letter before, before I’d assigned it, and out of the 20, three had. What happened over the next hour in discussing King, in particular his four steps toward Direct Action, was extraordinary. Every student not only had something to say but had immediate examples of lived-experience with which to tie to King’s ideas. After all, SJP had been peacefully protesting the war, in various forms, since November.

The hour-long discussion was at turns intense, funny, smart, and provocative. I learned a ton about King from their reading of him. When they spoke about King’s ideas of “negotiation,” they spoke of the difficulty of trying to negotiate with an administration they felt was unprincipled. The paradox, they said, was this: How do you discuss an ethical situation with an entity that is thinking almost exclusively about money? When we talked about King’s ideas of “self-purification” — that is, could you absorb violence without inflicting it — several students updated the idea to include the challenge of “purifying your intellect” and “decolonizing your point of view.” They said it was about establishing an intelligence unafraid of questioning the assumed authority of western culture; they said King made sense because he too had to self-purify long-held notions of power that were toxic. And that this, in fact, had everything to do with the Gaza war: After all, one student said, Israel was clearly using Oct. 7 as a pretext to invade and expand Israel’s borders — a colonialist and imperialist act. When we got to King’s ideas of “direct action,” I told them what I believed — that the camp had been the most visible and effective thing SJP had done. I told them that my neighbors out in the suburbs

knew about it and talked about it. Saw it on the news. To me it was powerful, I said, and at this moment a student to my left jumped in. She said that she was an engineering student, would graduate next year and certainly go directly into industry, but this, she said, this encampment is the thing she’s most proud of in her time at UR. I didn’t know UR students had this in them, she said, but it’s clear we do.

‘This didn’t feel like a UR thing.’

When our hour ended, I thanked the students again for inviting me in. I told them I had been teaching King for nearly 20 years and that today I had learned new things, important things, about his work, which was true. But the thing I learned that was most surprising, and in time, profound, I felt

unsaid. It was the fact that these students were here at all, on this quad, in this camp, acting in solidarity with the several hundred thousand Palestinians refugees who, because of the war, were now forced to live in tents. This didn’t feel like a UR thing. What I mean is student protests — especially solidarity movements — often derive from previous cultures and traditions that are already present in the institution. For example, when I was at the University of Wisconsin and the protests against the Iraq War swept me out of my third-floor apartment and onto the street, the history of Students for a Democratic Society was in everybody’s mouths. Stories of protest were a part of the fabric of the city. Later, when I was affiliated with Cornell University, the story of the Willard Straight Hall

takeover wasn’t just a story we all knew, but had been the very action that gave rise to the spaces — the Clarke Africana Library in particular — I learned and taught and wrote in. But the University doesn’t have this history. Or if it does, it’s not in the air as it was in Madison or Ithaca, which is why the SJP protest is so striking: Here is a camp of future engineers and doctors, at least half of which are underrepresented minority students, deciding to do something that has never been done before, all in a unified voice.

McCormick is the McNair Scholars Program Manager in the David T. Kearns Center.

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The Vance Walz Debate was... Refreshing?



BY AUSTIN DELORME
STAFF WRITER

I never thought that, seeing recent political events, I would call a debate “refreshing.” But after this past Tuesday, it was exactly that.

The debate was a perfect mix of policy, personal criticism, and ... politeness? I would argue it was probably the most constructive and civil debate since 2012, when Obama and Romney were vying for the presidency.

JD Vance served up a clear choice between Trump and Harris, breaking from his boss’s often untraditional debate style. He laid out clear policy action points on much of what I was seeking, particularly on inflation and foreign policy.

Walz, on the flip side, didn’t do bad. While he did seem nervous on the front stretch of the debate, he came in strong later, with the debate hardly ending in a rout. His handling of topics like abortion provided more stable ground for his arguments later on, and his questioning of Vance about January 6th helped level the playing field towards the end of the night.

I would say the most astounding part of the debate was the return to normalcy. In the words of Walz, things are getting pretty “weird” these days. To see a strong change in debate performance and outcome definitely brings more hope for our current system.

While it definitely is not the end-all be-all to our current political climate, it showed a generation of young people what politics used to be like before the era of Donald Trump. I did wonder one thing while

watching the debate: What will the Republican party look like post-Donald Trump?

It seems that much of the Republican platform is founded in what I like to call “Trumpism,” or the theory of a policy completely crafted by one individual’s beliefs. Trumpism more generally is the decision making power of Donald Trump over the values or mainstream beliefs of the Republican party. An example of this could be on the topic of the economy, where Trump has supported tariffs on foreign powers, even though fiscal restraints are against mainstream Republican values.

Vance’s performance and calm demeanor provides a light into what could be a turning point for the

‘The debate was not the final answer bearing forum for the American people.’

Republican party. Hopefully, this turning point will mix his demeanor and style with a different approach to crafting party platforms in future elections, and tossing Trumpism for holistic party building.

Now, many factors have to be taken into account before we make these broad generalizations of what the future could look like. We can’t forget that, only months ago, a former president was almost assassinated, a current president stepped down from his re-election bid, and a vice president who didn’t receive a single primary vote is now vying for the most powerful position in the country. With this in mind, we must remember that anything can

happen.

So, the debate was not the final answer bearing forum for the American people. Rather, it was a sliver of light into an uncertain country and election. I do wonder whether both presidential candidates will appeal more to younger voters, specifically in regards to the economy. With an ever-growing national debt, inflation rate, and lack of economic growth in youth demographics, it will be interesting to see what 30 days can do to turn the tide, especially seeing that no comprehensive economic plans have really been let out by both parties.

With October here, surprises could be just around the corner. In 2016, the Trump Access Hollywood tape and the Clinton email scandal jolted voters in the lead up to election day. These events can dramatically alter undecided and independent voters’ minds before the election. If the VP debate did not achieve the persuasion goal, October would be the time for both the campaigns to “seal the deal” so to speak.

Let’s see if anything of such a proportion could emerge in 2024. Voters are always begging for a “normal” election cycle and the want for simplicity. But as we witnessed with the vice presidential debate, people are yearning for chaos to compel their decision making. Let’s see if it matters.

DeLorme is a member of the Class of 2028.

Nobody is Coming to Save You.

EDITORIAL OBSERVER
BY BRIAN LY
HUMOR EDITOR

As the title suggests, this article is about the idea that you can’t depend on other people. Naturally, this may come off as pessimistic and might contain some harsh truths, but it’s a message that certain people, myself included, desperately need to hear.

I want to be able to rely on others and trust them, and I genuinely try to do that. Yet, reality often leaves much to be desired. Promises aren’t kept, and I’ve been jaded by life.

At the end of the day, you have to realize that you are responsible for your own life and outcomes. Nobody is coming to save you. You have to learn to save yourself.

I’m writing this not out of spite or bitterness, but out of hope. Hope that someone, somewhere, will read this and recognize that they’ve been leaving their fate in the hands of others for too long. Hope that one day, we’ll all find our own paths: paths we’ve clawed our way onto, and paths that we rightfully belong on. Let no one burn down the ladder you’ve worked so hard to build. Let no one take that place on the podium where you belong. If you’ve put in the work and fought your way to the top, no one can take that away from you.

Every time I’ve relied on someone else, I’ve felt that familiar sting of disappointment. There have been so many times that I tried placing trust in people, only to be met with silence and inaction. Those moments are tough. They’ve made me doubt whether I should have expectations for anyone at all, or if it would be better to isolate myself to avoid disappointment.

But I realize that those moments have become my greatest teachers. They’ve shown me the importance of self-reliance, of forging my own path, no matter how steep or rocky it may be. This doesn’t mean shutting people

out completely. It means recognizing the limits of others and understanding that, ultimately, I am the architect of my own destiny.

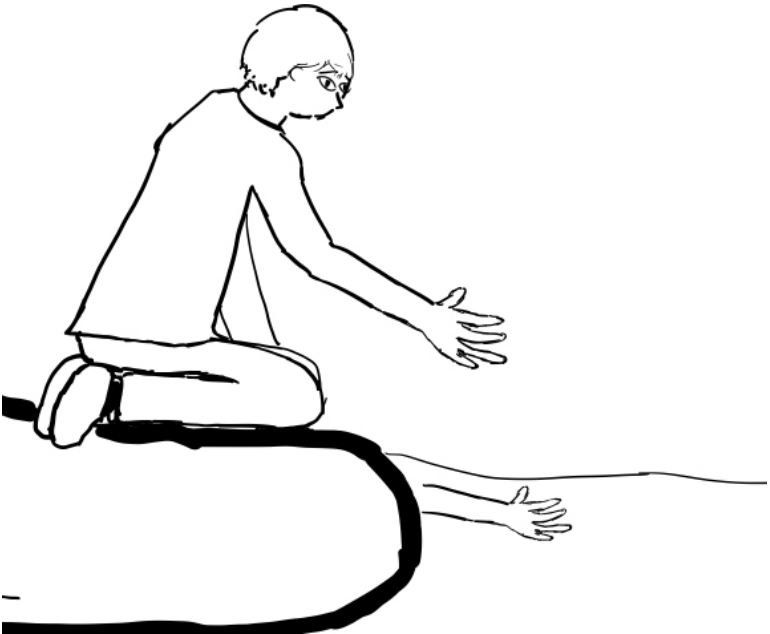
I can already hear the objections — what about community, support systems, and friendships? These things matter, of course. They can uplift you when you stumble. But your self-worth and resilience shouldn’t depend solely on external validation. Learn to be your own biggest fan, your own best friend. Take some time to celebrate yourself and your victories, big or small, and acknowledge your growth.

In this harsh reality, there is a certain freedom to doing all that. Once you accept that no one is coming to save you, you also realize that no one can take power away from you. The moment you take responsibility for your own journey, you can move forward with purpose and determination. You don’t have to wait for someone else to unlock doors for you. You can create your own keys.

So, as I keep moving forward, I’ll honor the struggle. I’ll savor the taste of hard-earned victories and learn from the setbacks. I’ve always considered myself an underdog anyway, forced to claw my way out of every unfortunate situation I find myself in. But you know what? I’m fine with that. Each bitterly-won victory feels just that much more sweet to me. Because when you take control, when you refuse to wait for others to step in, that’s when you truly start to live.

In a world where reliance on others can lead to disappointment, remember that you have the power to shape your own destiny. Sure, nobody is coming to save you. But maybe, just maybe, that’s the best news of all. It means you have the power to save yourself. Learn to honor your struggles, take responsibility for your own journey, and recognize that true liberation starts from within.

Ly is a member of the Class of 2027.



BRIAN LY / HUMOR EDITOR

Blindspots: Dick Cheney Is Still a War Criminal

BY FINN ABBEY
OPINIONS EDITOR

It is deeply disappointing that Dick Cheney is able to leave his house without being pelted with rotten fruit and vegetables. On Sept. 6, the former Vice President, a notorious supporter and facilitator of torture, wiretapping, and graft, announced that he would be casting his vote for Kamala Harris. Harris, for her part, excitedly accepted the endorsement of a man who left office with 13% approval, and welcomed the support of “Republicans for Harris” — a group that counts among its members numerous ex-officials from the second Bush’s administrations and the Reagan administrations. This reconciling of old political grievances has the most breathless cheerleaders in American media beside themselves with glee, but do not be fooled. For the actual direction of Democratic politics in this country, it is a grim portent of the future to come.

In general, the Harris campaign has attempted to project a pragmatic bipartisan image of the Vice President — a woman who is working to stop Trump, a dangerous man unfit for office, from taking power again. In the abstract, this seems like a decent, if uninspiring, campaign strategy. The race is tight, and Harris needs every advantage she can get to beat Trump. Trump has undoubtedly brought an air of chaos to the executive branch and to the politics of this country, which upsets not only Democrats, but also the neoconservative wing of the Republican Party. It is no surprise that Harris, a candidate fielding many of Biden’s same campaign staffers, would embrace his same promise of a return to “stability and normalcy.”

“‘Stability and normalcy’ is looking dicier than ever.”

Unfortunately, “stability and normalcy” is looking dicier than ever.

Biden is allowing the rise of regional war in the Middle East. Israel, living large on vast American military support facilitated by the most deferential man to ever serve as President of the United States, has learned that there are no red lines for them. Most recently, Israel has disregarded the presidential pushover by invading Lebanon, provoking a volley of missiles from Iran. Though almost all were intercepted by Israel’s U.S.-funded defense system, they appear set on a counterattack on Iran’s oil production facilities, and Biden doesn’t seem prepared — or willing — to stop them now. A regional war is right around the corner, and few in government or media are concerned. This is a disaster in the making. It is clear that without changes in U.S. foreign policy, the conflict will continue to spiral and slaughter more innocent lives.

In the same way that Democrats so quickly abandoned their feigned concerns about “kids in

cages” as soon as they realized that pushing back on fascist right-wing narratives on immigration would require some effort, the Democrats have now readily accepted the support of the ghouls that orchestrated the Iraq war, when told it might bump Harris’s chances a little. The Iraq war was a mistake, which killed almost a million people, and the people who zealously ginned the U.S. into that conflict should be made into pariahs, not platformed and commended by presidential contenders. George W. Bush shouldn’t be getting softball questions about his painting, he should be in prison.

‘The Iraq war was a mistake.’

With the increasingly pressing possibility of war in the Middle East, it is reckless and stupid to welcome the perpetrators of America’s great crime in that region as political allies. Now more than ever, the world needs American

leaders who are willing to say that the Iraq war was an unjust mistake, and that peace in the Middle East is not built by America-backed regime change, but rather by diplomacy and de-escalation. It is time to confront the politicians and writers who eagerly lied about weapons of mass destruction and the necessity of regime change, and forge a new conversation about American foreign policy that rejects their jingoism, greed, and bloodthirstiness, before the whole world is on fire.

Editor’s Note: The digital version of this article (on campustimes.org) includes many hyperlinked sources.

Abbey is a member of the Class of 2025.

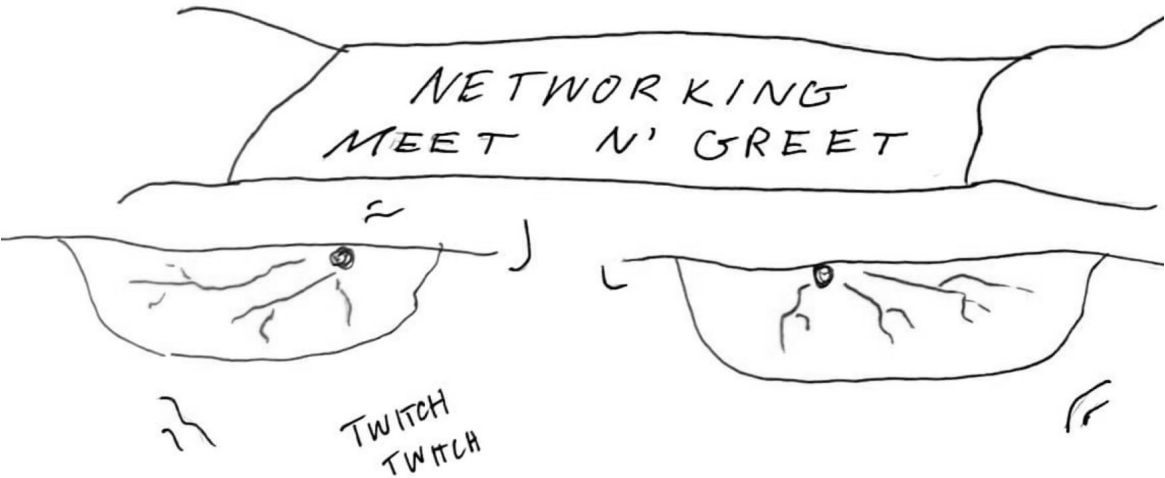
Why You Shouldn’t Have to Network to Get Work

BY SHERENE YANG
MANAGING WRITER

The word “networking” often sends chills down my spine — usually in a dreadful way. This word simply clashes with my personality, and if I could, I would never do a single thing that has anything to do with this word ever again. But of course, networking is currently one of the only ways to seize big opportunities, whether that’s being able to shadow a neurosurgeon at a hospital or an internship in DC.

‘Networking is currently one of the only ways to seize big opportunities.’

Networking, defined as “the process of making connections and building relationships,” seems to characterize a good bulk of events hosted by many organizations on campus. And at these events, I walk in with a friend, I sit down, and I listen to these professionals or graduate students answer prompts and Q&As about their career. And then I leave, satisfied from having gained insight on what it means to be in that specific field. As I leave, I turn around and see undergraduate students chatting with these professionals,



MARY JERRED / ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

whether small talk or asking questions, and I get a little envious.

In this day and age, merit is not enough. We study at a competitive university; we’re in a competitive world. In a 300-person class, you’re likely not going to be one of the few that does well in the class. Professors aren’t going to notice you just because of your grades. And this is typically where networking comes in. You connect with the professors at a more personal level and the next thing you know: “Hey, my colleague is open for that shadowing position you wanted. Would you like me to send them an email?” And there you have a shadowing position.

As someone who doesn’t have great conversation skills, the idea of small talk is daunting. What do you mean I should just go to a professor’s office hours and have a chat about their life (granted,

you should probably lead with questions about their class)? We emphasize making connections with professors so they can write you one hell of a recommendation letter. We emphasize talking to professionals so you are one of the first on their lists when they have an opportunity open up. And I think that’s a great way to receive opportunities. But this isn’t going to work for everyone. We place so much emphasis on networking that it doesn’t really matter what you know anymore; this creates disparities that leave many individuals behind. Connections are formed from the time you were born — like being born to an upper-class versus lower-class family.

As I’m hustling through the seven seasons of “Gilmore Girls,” I can’t help but be amused by the Gilmore grandparents’ lifestyle — having tea with

different committees and luncheons with bigshot lawyers and CEOs. They have connections for everything; and part of that is because they’re a part of the upper class, having connections to everyone in their little rich-friend circle who also have extensive connections. With connections like these, it is exponentially easier to receive opportunities. Compared to those that grew up in, for example, an immigrant household without a history of connections — who also may not have time to be at social events to network — these individuals end up in the shadows. Their merits may be applauded in some aspects, but would they receive the same things as someone who has these big connections? Likely not.

I grew up in a household that valued merit and hard work, and with the belief that if I worked hard

enough, everything would pay off. But as I wiggle my way into society, it seems like every opportunity depends on who you know, rather than what you know. Because of course, anyone can learn the skills, but not everyone can have these connections. This is how you navigate the current world.

In addition, no one teaches you how to network. Networking comes naturally to some people and not as much to others. Oftentimes when I’m in a conversation with multiple people, I feel more like an audience than an active participant; and typically, all I can muster is a smile and a nod.

‘Every opportunity depends on who you know, rather than what you know.’

Networking is an important skill to have in life. But I wish that less emphasis is placed on who you know, but what you know. This could push people to be better in their field rather than having to settle for mediocrity. But in the meantime, I guess it’s time to put on my big-girl pants, black loafers, a black blazer, and start networking.

Yang is a member of the Class of 2026.

The Impact of Campus Activism That Falls Into Misinformation: A Syrian’s Perspective

BY NOAH GHUSSEN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Dear Campus Protesters,

Standing near the edge of the Sept. 24 protest on Eastman Quad, I reflected on my family’s experience with the Syrian Civil War in 2011. My grandfather’s family home in Damascus was seized by Hezbollah and Assad Regime forces, turning his once-peaceful neighborhood into a battleground. His house was looted, and my grandfather was beaten to the point where he still lacks full mobility in his arm.

As my grandparents fled, Hezbollah forces grazed my grandmother’s head with a bullet — but at the hospital, the doctors refused to treat her unless she signed a document stating that Zionist-funded opposition forces had shot her. The Assad regime was determined to paint the revolution as a Zionist/CIA conspiracy — a lie that, unfortunately, many Americans continue to believe.

‘Hezbollah’s tactics are not heroic acts of defense.’

When campus activists speak of Israel’s “senseless violence” or “systematic erasure,” as the recent protest’s main speaker and junior Sarah Aljitawi did, they fail to recognize that Hezbollah itself has been a major contributor to this cycle of destruction. Hezbollah’s aggression towards Sunni Muslims, Christians, and Jews is not a liberation movement — it is part of a broader Islamist agenda that began with the 1979 Iranian Revolution. Islamism (a political ideology rooted in the religion of Islam) seeks to overthrow secular regimes and replace them with an ultra-strict religious world order. Hezbollah, created in 1982 by Islamist clerics, aligns with Iran’s goal of spreading fundamentalist Islamic rule in the region.

On Feb. 7, 2012, Hassan



FELIX BRENER / CONTRIBUTING ILLUSTRATOR

Nasrallah, publicly admitted that Hezbollah had received “moral, and political, and material support in all possible forms” from Iran since its inception. In an interview conducted by TRT World in Feb. 2017, Sheikh Subhi al-Tufayli, Hezbollah’s first secretary-general, revealed that Hezbollah is “just a military piece tied to Iranian policies.” He explained that Hezbollah’s goals are fully aligned with Iran’s objectives in the Muslim world and the surrounding region.

‘Israel’s conflict isn’t with the Lebanese or Syrian people; it’s with Hezbollah and Iran.’

Hezbollah has seized control of southern Lebanon through violence and manipulation, turning civilian infrastructure into weapons storage and launch sites for attacks. Footage of Israeli air strikes clearly shows Hezbollah launching missiles from residential areas, endangering those they claim to defend. These homes are not just innocent targets but military strongholds. Beyond Lebanon, Hezbollah has played a key role in the

Syrian Civil War, backing Bashar al-Assad’s totalitarian regime in a conflict that has killed over half a million people. Between Lebanon and Syria, Hezbollah has killed hundreds of thousands of civilians and repressed the remaining population, including my own family.

‘Hezbollah isn’t fighting for the people of Palestine; they are pawns in Iran’s ambitions.’

Hezbollah’s tactics — manipulating local populations, hiding behind civilians, and stockpiling weapons — are not heroic acts of defense. These are calculated moves that strengthen Iran’s control over the Levant. Hezbollah isn’t fighting for the people of Palestine; they are pawns in Iran’s ambitions. Iran’s goal isn’t to liberate Palestine but to spread its Islamist revolution at the cost of countless lives. By embedding Hezbollah in Lebanon and extending its reach into Syria, Iraq, and Yemen, Iran has entrenched itself across the Middle East, using Hezbollah as its militant arm.

While Iran seeks domination of the Levant, activists

are quick to frame Israel as the ruthless war-monger, often spreading explicit anti-Israel misinformation. On Sept. 29, @jvp.ur, the Instagram account for UR’s Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) chapter, shared a post from the JVP main account (@jewishvoiceforpeace) featuring images of explosions in Lebanon, Gaza, Syria, and Yemen, all dated Sept. 29, with “STOP ARMING ISRAEL” overlaid on the images. An investigation reveals that each photo was misdated and misleadingly captioned to sway public opinion against Israel. The photo from Lebanon was actually taken two days earlier, on Sept. 27, following a bunker-busting bomb that killed Hassan Nasrallah. The Gaza photo was from the Rimal residential district in Gaza City, taken on May 16, 2021, according to its Getty Images description. The Yemen photo depicted a July 20 strike on a Houthi-run oil facility. According to the New York Times, Israeli forces destroyed the port in response to a Houthi drone attack on Tel Aviv that left one dead and at least 10 injured. The source of the “Syria” photo could not be identified, and the post’s caption provided no context for its origin. The post that @

jvp.ur shared was deceptive, using incorrect dates, and omitting details about the targets being terrorists, and playing into the false narrative that Israel is engaging in senseless violence.

‘If your goal is justice and peace in the Levant, think carefully about who you’re standing with.’

Most recently, on Oct. 4, the Instagram account @sjp.ur, associated with the unaffiliated campus group Rochester Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), posted a message reflecting on their Meliora Weekend “Die In” demonstration and expressed solidarity with “those in Lebanon and Syria, and the many other people enduring escalating violence” by Israel. However, Israel’s conflict isn’t with the Lebanese or Syrian people; it’s with Hezbollah and Iran, the forces that took my grandfather’s home in Damascus and devastated countless others. By protesting for Lebanon and Syria without acknowledging Hezbollah’s atrocities, Rochester SJP, JVP UR, and other campus groups endorsing or promoting these protests are aligning with the very group that has oppressed and killed the civilians it claims to defend.

Before joining the next protest or posting on social media please consider whom you’re supporting. Exploiting the suffering of my family and their homeland to fit a simplistic narrative or to gain likes on Instagram, proves to me that organizers care more about demonizing Israel than supporting the individuals suffering from war. If your goal is justice and peace in the Levant, think carefully about who you’re standing with.

Ghussen is a member of the Class of 2027.

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	A	T	E	B	7
S	L	I	V	E	9
N	A	N	O		5
E	S	U	R		4
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CULTURE

OSSIA: A Contemporary Take on a Classical Stage

BY NATALIE OPDAHL
NEWS EDITOR

Golden light spilled from the suspended light fixtures of Eastman’s Kilbourne Hall, bathing the auditorium in a welcoming, enveloping glow. Precisely at 7:30 p.m., this glow retreated as the hall lights dimmed, centering all attention onto the raised stage.

It was the evening of Wednesday, Oct. 2, and little did I know I was about to bear witness to a demonstration of chaotic beauty unlike any I had seen before.

‘I was about to bear witness to a demonstration of chaotic beauty unlike any I had seen before.’

OSSIA New Music is a student-run organization at Eastman dedicated to the performance and promotion of contemporary classical composers. This evening, at their first concert of the 2024-2025 season, they performed works by Alexander Schubert, Max Vinetz, and Osnat Netzer, the second of whom was present in the audience and introduced his work prior to its performance.

The group first performed “Point Ones,” a piece by Schubert and conducted by Immanuel Mykyta-Chomsky. Although it is usually the conductor’s role to keep time for the group, cue entrances, and



NATALIE OPDAHL / NEWS EDITOR

guide musical expression, for this piece the conductor had a different role: to make music with the players.

Mykyta-Chomsky wore electronic sensors on their hands, which activated certain prespecified electronic beeps, whistles, and other marked noises with their movements. The players sounded their instruments in relation to these electronics, resulting in a uniquely dynamic performance featuring long, hollow-sounding tones, polyrhythmic beeping, and musical conversations between the players and the conductor. Sitting in the audience and watching the scene unfold before me, it felt as if I were witnessing

an aural representation of an action-packed sci-fi film complete with aliens, robots, and space wars.

After a brief intermission, a new set of musicians took the stage to perform “here,” accompanied by composer Max Vinetz. He explained that the piece includes spoken word as a response to the depression and eating disorders he had dealt with in college, and encouraged the audience to pay attention to these words, which were played on a pre-recorded backing track.

These consisted of numerous voices speaking, sometimes in sequence and sometimes simultaneously, ranging from mellow invitations to “close your eyes”

to preppy influencer-style statements that “a lot of you guys have asked me how I put together my apple cider vinegar.” It was a touching, personal, and deeply emotional experience.

‘It lived up to expectations.’

Floating over all of this were the susurrant resonations of the live musicians, swelling and falling back in tandem with the vocal tracks in a mellow, enveloping, and utterly gorgeous performance.

The third and final piece of the evening, “I won’t be outrun by a cavalry of snails,” provided a stark contrast to end the concert. Described by composer Netzer as “a theat-

rical, absurdist, psychedelic adventure,” the composition creates a fantasy world “in which the listener can almost piece together a semantic meaning, but that meaning always escapes them.”

It lived up to expectations.

With its unusual instrumentation — including but not limited to the pianist drumming on the body of the instrument, vocalists alternating between beatboxing and singing nonsense syllables, and strings executing consistent glissandi in extremely dissonant intervals — “I won’t be outrun by a cavalry of snails” seemed to emulate the sheer entropy of nature. I mean this in the best possible way.

Sitting in Kilbourne Hall, it felt as if I was listening to the chatter of squirrels, the chirping of birds, the buzz of insects, and the howling of coyotes; and all the while a rainstorm is passing through, sometimes gently caressing the listener; sometimes beating down with passionate doggedness.

Some contemporary classical music has gathered a reputation among classical musicians for being overly difficult and unappealing compared to the standard Mozarts and Shostakoviches of classical repertoire. But if this concert taught me anything, it is that contemporary classical music can be just as exquisite.

Opdahl is a member of the Class of 2026.

“Heartstopper” Season 3 Is an Ode to Queerness and Mental Health



BY BRENNAN PRICE
STAFF WRITER

The hit queer coming-of-age show “Heartstopper” returns with its junior season — and this time, it tackles heftier topics than before. The show, based on Alice Oseman’s award-winning comic series, manages to perfectly capture the essence of being a queer teen, while showcasing the challenges that come with it as well.

This season’s main plotline focused on Charlie’s (Joe Locke) internal struggle with an eating disorder and his resolution to seek therapy.

MARY JERRED / ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

This reflects Oseman’s decision not to undermine the importance and heaviness of mental illnesses, which the show puts most of its energy into and is better for.

It is clear by episode one that the series is no longer a simple slice-of-life show but rather an in-depth exploration into the struggles of being queer. Charlie’s sister, Tori (Jenny Walser) also becomes a more prominent character and she helps show the importance of having a support system. Aside from Locke’s character being the focus of this season, smaller

story arcs focus on Imogen’s (Rhea Norwood) and Sahar’s (Leila Khan) on-and-off relationship, along with Darcy’s (Kizzy Edgell) non-binary identity — arcs that are quickly resolved by the end of the season. The show also goes deeper into Elle’s (Yasmin Finney) struggle with body dysmorphia, depicted through the typical “Heartstopper-esque” comic-style graphics that give the audience a glimpse of what’s going on in her head. The show also uses Elle’s character to delve into the greater conversation of what it means to be trans today.

This season takes what is perfect about the relationship between the group of friends from the previous two seasons, but allows each character to breathe outside of Nick and Charlie’s relationship — which is pivotal to Nick’s development this season. It also adeptly navigates tough topics in a way that makes this not only the most emotion-

al season so far but also the most significant. Although its turn for the dramatic is a bitter-sweet departure from its typical, upbeat approach, it shows that “Heartstopper” isn’t afraid to be a little more serious.

In the past, “Heartstopper” has felt more like a fantasy in the way that it uses bright colors to be more like its comic book counterpart. However, the show now feels like it’s adopted a life of its own and can stand as its own thing, running through most of the remaining source material and evolving its characters alongside the actors’ real-life identities.

The cast this season has also shifted with the addition of Hayley Atwell, known for “Captain America” and “Mission: Impossible — Dead Reckoning Part One,” as Aunt Diane, who takes on a motherly role for Nick this season due to the show’s loss of prior cast member Olivia Colman.

Regardless of Colman’s

temporary exit, Aunt Diane still feels like a fulfilling adult character in Nick’s life, especially given her occupation as a therapist, who gives Nick insight on how to be there for Charlie without overstepping either’s boundaries.

Also making an appearance this season was “Bridgerton” heart-throb Jonathan Bailey as Charlie’s favorite historian and celebrity crush, James Maddox. Although his character has very little impact on the story, he is still a fun addition and has cute interactions with Nick and Charlie.

“Heartstopper” is still a break away from reality, even if it now feels more grounded and less fantastical than it once did. You can find the show’s newest season with all episodes, as well as its previous installments, streaming on Netflix.

Price is a member of the Class of 2027.

HUMOR

Housepital-ity

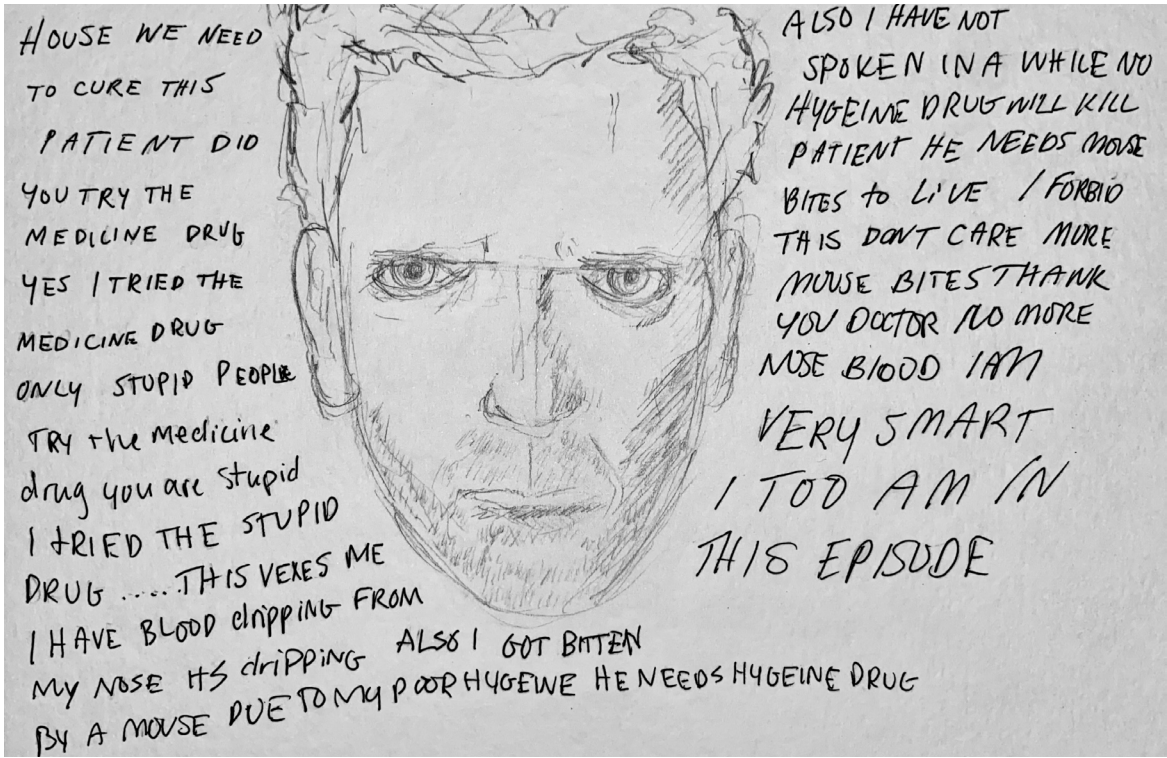
BY LILLI TAMM
SENIOR STAFF

Log 1.

I fear I may have started this job off on the wrong foot. Right off the bat, when I stumbled into the reception of URMIC, I committed the critical silly of asking where to go. The once-emergency room fell into silence: A baby being born stopped crying, and some guy just kinda stuck his arm back on and left. "FIRST MISTAKE," boomed a voice emerging from below the desk. "I TELL YOU WHERE TO GO. Try the watch store ... but something tells me you're more of a calendar guy." I was told that I replied along the lines of 'nosir, yessir, I will get a calendwatch sir.' Then I was forcibly concussed and came to in the clinic 20 hours later with five years worth of charting on my desk. I think I'm not fired?

Log 2.

A building where I am and have been has yet to be left. Underneath the starchy burlap of the couch I have been de-gumming, there is exactly one US dollar and 73 cents. Not anymore! The coppery coins were licked clean and taken with care to the hospital cafeteria, where they were exchanged for two hot dogs at pre-housing market collapse prices. When I strutted back with wind blowing in my white coat and three patients going into cardiac arrest in my wake, the booming American man (with a couple



MARY JERRED / ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

funny syllables) glared at me for still being here, and let me air chair by the table while the real doctors discussed the case. The patient had strokes and bad breath, which the one very attractive woman doctor diagnosed as lupus after the patient died from antibiotics. My boss looked at him, said "BOO!" and thumped a walking stick, and then the expired patient stood up and got discharged. Still not fired!

Log 3.

My seat at the table has been upgraded to a chair! Soon I will make it to board, where the markers will infect me with their wisdom fumes and I will gain five degrees of attractiveness, and negative five degrees of negligence.

The boss was nowhere to be found for most of the day because the Chinese government flew out him and Wilson in a fighter jet to solve what turned out to be the second coming of malaria. He cured it by giving them polio and curing it with rabies: The New England Journal of Medicine has been burning up our telephone lines to publish the first medicinal application of mouse bites. I pretended to go to the restroom and called my mom, who told me I'm moving up in the world. But then the door was kicked in and they wrestled my phone from my hands: Apparently, I'm not allowed to experience emotion without a periodic remark sexualizing our administrator's

choice of clothing. "I swear I'll do better next time!!" I yelled as they dragged me away into the sterile room, but I got extra sequestration time for plot-unrelated character growth. Tomorrow will be better another day.

'I pretended to go to the restroom and called my mom, who told me I'm moving up in the world.'

Log 4.

Patient: 34-year-old female, admitted with symptoms of coughing and uncontrolled internal bleeding. Family: overanxious husband, no kids. Living room: spotless except for the dusty,

padlocked, mysterious cabinet, the sand tracks I left on the windowsill and carpet, and also the broken window from when I broke it. Treatment: 50cc aspirin, 100cc liquid LSD to test for rheumatoid arthritis. Patient: started levitating, had to be chained to her bed until vitamin C titration started working. Consequences: none. Cuddy's bra: cream. Treatment: long walks on the beach and radiation therapy. Boss problematic index: 87.

Log 5.

My coworker/hook-up-in-the-janitor's-closet told me she's secretly the daughter of a Russian mob boss, and that the mail we've been getting that knocks people out upon envelope opening is a sign of goodwill. In the clinic, three patients spontaneously combust, which we deduce were entirely separate incidents owed to mitochondrial uncoupling, meth inhalation, and loser syndrome, respectively. I find myself at the deathbed of a kindly old woman who appeared mid-opening montage to deepen my moral duty to patient-first diagnostics. "Arr naur, Cleaurr," I say, sprinkling tears across her ancient hands. House downs five Vicodin in front of me, then cures cancer. Pretty boring day. I go home, get my mail from the Dr. Chase box, then go into my holding box until next episode.

Tamm is a member of the Class of 2025.

Dietary Liberation

BY BRYAN BURKE
HUMOR EDITOR

Food safety is a myth. Salmonella is not real. Humans are incredibly complex creatures with one heluva digestive tract. Why is it that for some reason we cannot munch on some raw milk or medium rare chicken breast?? Hell, raw eggs are supposedly really dangerous, but people do use them in cocktails, or even as a quick and easy protein source.

When I was a wee tike, I was enrolled in my high school's cooking class. They didn't teach me much, but they did make a massive fuss about food safety and cross-contamination. Supposedly, if there's any raw food anywhere near the cooked food that could have possibly shared the same space, cities will burn and our fields will fall fallow.

Since then, I learned about some of the more distrusting dishes from around the

world. A wicked common one I'll lead with is sushi, but that's too tame. Everyone knows it's raw and everyone has come to the collective understanding that sushi is probably safe. What about ceviche? If you are not familiar, allow me to fill you in. Ceviche is raw fish. It has never come into contact with any sort of hot environment (not grill nor smoke) yet it is recognized to be much safer than raw food. It's marinated in a high acidity sauce ... and that's where my understanding has reached an impasse. How is acidity capable of rendering the meat safe to eat? Is it a form of quick pickling? Why don't we do this with other meats, like beef or chicken? It seems too good to be true. Is this why fish is not considered a meat?

I believe that there is no actual "cooking" going on with ceviche and that it's just as dangerous as sushi to consume. If there was a legitimate concern, the suburban

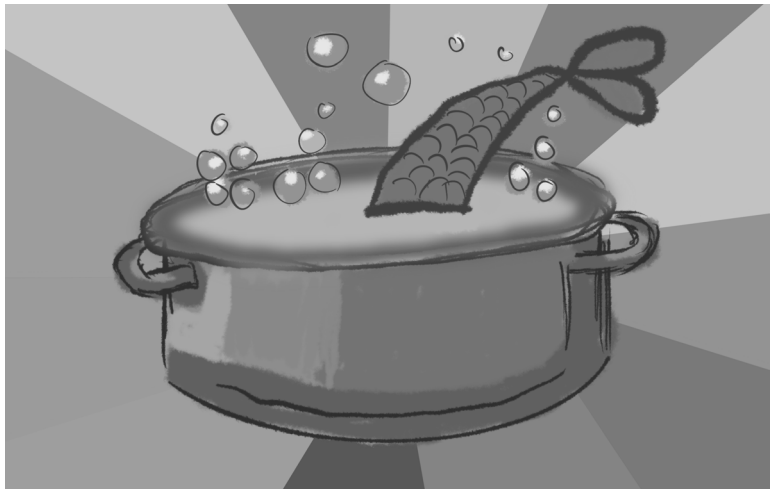
wine moms would be on such an anti-sushi tirade. They have not.

Let's move onto my oldest and most forbidden of loves, perpetual stew[1]. It's like normal stew, but perpetual. Here's a handy code snippet that may aid in understanding:

```
if(stew < 0.5*pot_volume)
{ stew++; }
```

The general idea is that in a high-traffic dwelling, like a public house or hotel, there may exist atop the kitchen stove a pot of stew. Stew is a hearty meal. Everyone likes stew. So why not always offer it? And I mean ... always. Never allow the cauldron to cool, never allow the stew level to fall too low. Just keep throwing in scraps of meats, veggies, and potatoes, with a splash of water to thin it out. The stew must never run dry.

If you are a more food-safe person than myself, you may see the obvious issue with adding raw meat to a cooked



JOYLU / ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

dish. In theory, this should be fine, assuming you wait for the meat to cook through. But that's not always possible, as the stew is a means of generating profit. If someone wants a bowl of stew, they're getting it.

The takeaway should be that the world is too safe of a place. If you wanna make perpetual stew, do it. If you want to "cook" fish in acid, be my guest. And finally, now that I've convinced you food safety is not real, you can eat easy

at all of UR's dining centers. [1]:

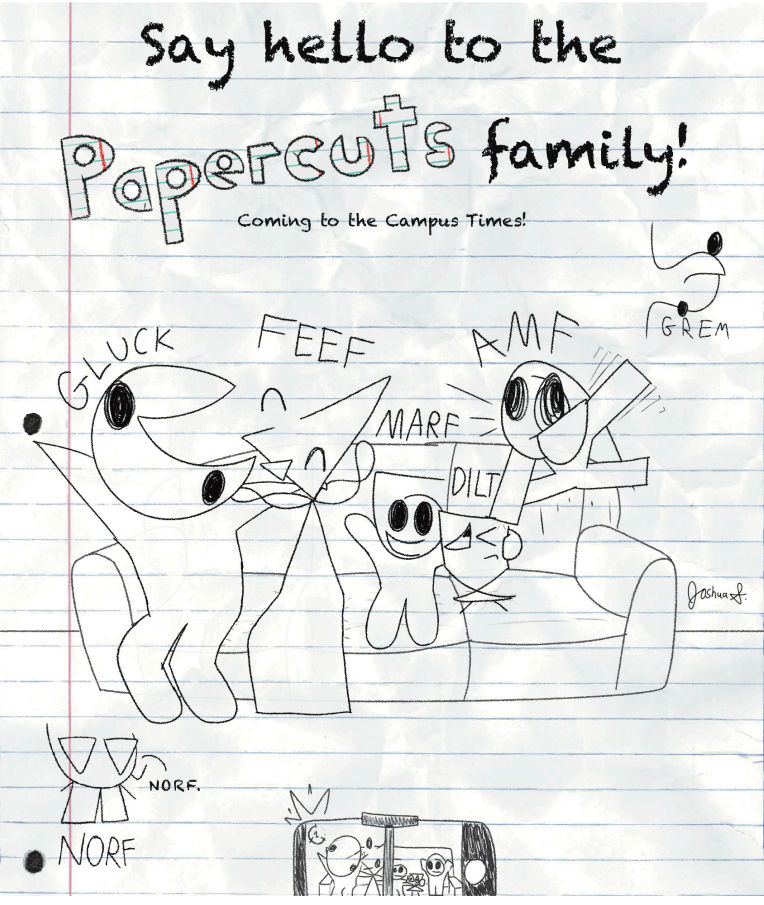
As a brief aside, I feel the need to explicitly mention the *See also* section in the Wikipedia page for perpetual stew. It feels like such a shit post or a collection of tumblr tags: List of stews, Master stock, Ship of Theseus.

Why do we need to get all philosophical about a pot of stew?

Burke is a member of the Class of 2025.

Papercuts

BY JOSHUA SCHIAVI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



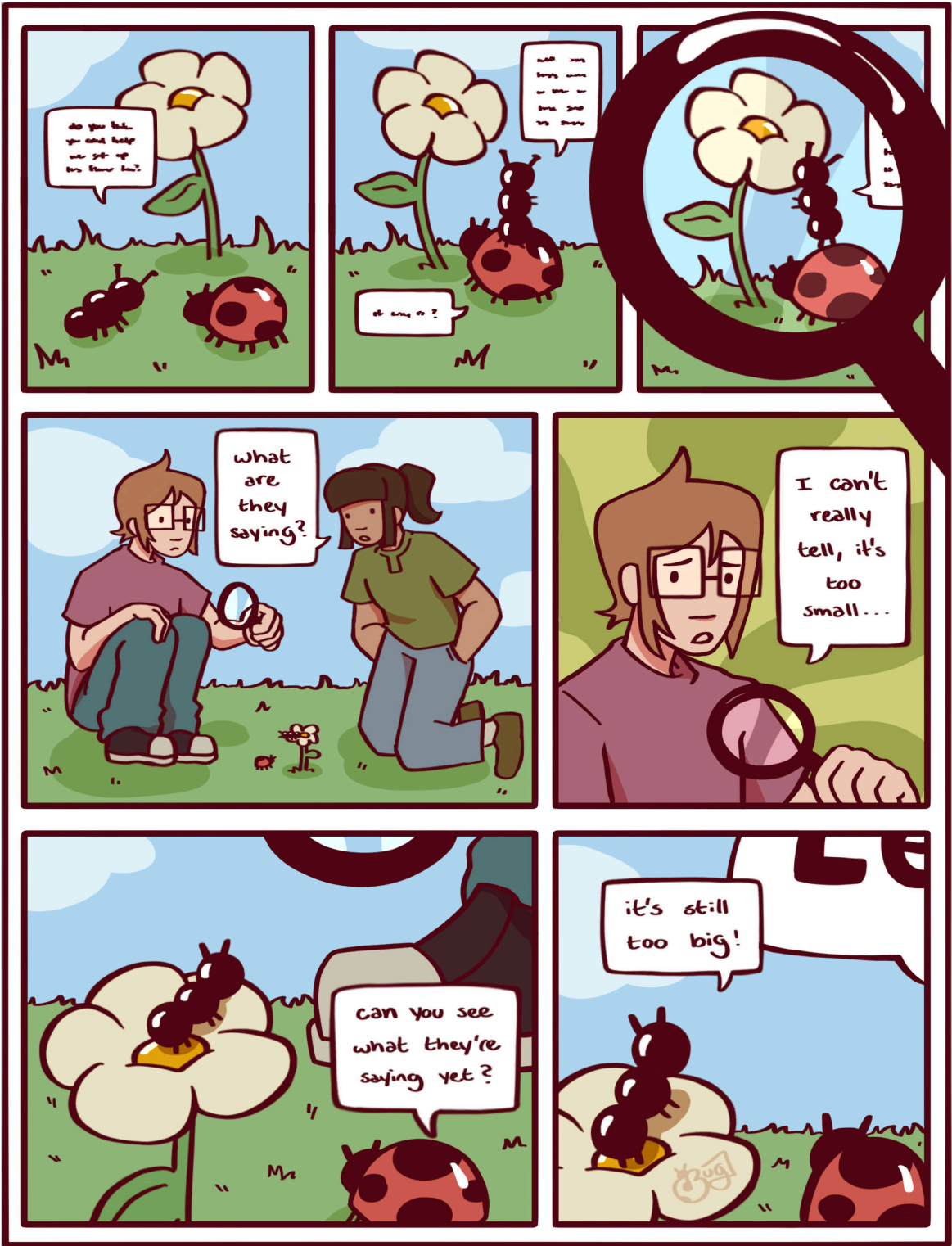
Campus Times Survey

The CT is conducting a survey to gauge the issues most important to UR students in this year’s upcoming election. Please fill out our survey detailing what issues matter most in deciding your vote. Please complete by Friday, Oct. 25.



A Bug’s Life

BY BUG CARTWRIGHT
STAFF WRITER



Pesto is Sus

BY BRYAN BURKE
HUMOR EDITOR

Ever had a bad day and looked up something like “baby penguins falling over” or “penguin malarkey” or even “penguins have no legs”? We’ve all done that for a quick shot of dopamine, and that’s because penguins are scientifically proven to be 100% bonafide Little Guys™. We are human — it is only natural that we cannot get enough of them. That’s why just about every zoo on the planet has several of the little guys atop some rocks with ample swimming liquid below.

You’ve heard that everything’s bigger in Texas, right? Then you’ve obviously never heard of Australia, the land of the large lads, with beer cans larger than a newborn, and flightless birds large and angry enough to kill a man. It is only natural that there exists the largest baby

penguin ever in the history of penguins in the one and only Sea Life Melbourne Aquarium. If you’re not familiar with Pesto, imagine a baby penguin, then supersize it. This guy is twice as large as any of his siblings and even larger than his parents. He is anything but a little guy. His stature is ... actually a little bit suspicious.

‘Imagine a baby penguin, then supersize it.’

I’d wager something out of the ordinary is going on here. Might the Australian CIA be involved? There could possibly be an array of microwave antennae under that bushy coat. Or what if it’s just a science experiment gone too far? Pesto could be two penguins in a trench coat as a publicity stunt to draw more tourism. What about a single small Australian child acting as an internal

puppeteer? What are the Australian child labour laws anyways? Or what if it’s just an Aussie furry? Pesto does give wicked uncanny valley vibes, just like this Japanese man (see linked online).

‘What if it’s just a science experiment gone too far?’

A baby penguin is the perfect disguise for something nefarious. It’s cute, so of course it can do no wrong. But this seems too suspicious to be a coincidence. Is Pesto’s stature and girth a statistical outlier? How good is our dataset for juvenile penguin heights and weights? Does this conspiracy go all the way to the top? These and many more questions are all things we must ask ourselves to stay woke and prevent the spread of not-penguins.

Addendum:
While trying to best

convey the magnitude of this penguin to you dear reader and otherwise illustrate Pesto, I noticed a dearth of in-comparison pictures between Pesto and a standard sized baby penguin. This must be due to how laughably huge and unrealistic this not-bird is. It’s clearly a deep state surveillance drone, as the

oddity may draw the attention of global dignitaries.

‘It’s clearly a deep state surveillance drone.’

Burke is a member of the Class of 2025.



HARINIPRAHARAN / CONTRIBUTING ILLUSTRATOR

SPORTS

UR Women’s Soccer Beats University of Chicago 3–1

BY AENEAS WOLF
SPORTS EDITOR

UR women’s soccer defeated the University of Chicago (UC) Maroons by a score of 3–1 on Saturday, Oct. 5 at Fauver Stadium. The game was scoreless through the first 35 minutes, although UC had six shots to UR’s one. Two of UC’s shots were saved by UR goalie senior Grace Kuropatkin (#00) in the 19th and 32nd minutes. Finally, one of UC’s shots got past Kuropatkin, courtesy of sophomore Kamiryn Braxton Grimes (#2). UR equalized just before the end of the first period when sophomore Lauren Blanch (#7) scored her first goal of the season with 45 seconds left; first-year Claudia Ferriera (#30) picked up the assist. Five minutes into the second period, UC junior Mary Stuart Kerrigan tested Kuropatkin, only for the shot to be saved. Minutes later, UR took the lead when first-year Natalie Santagelo (#10) scored, assisted by sophomore Maya Bravo (#4). The next 20 minutes were a defensive battle as neither team scored and various players from both teams were called for fouls.

Finally, Blanch scored again in the 75th minute to make the score 3–1 to give UR some breathing room. In the following minutes, UC furiously tried to fight their way back into the game, firing three shots on goal, only for Kuropatkin to save two and for UR’s defense to block the last. In the final minutes of the game, UR made an effort to pull away but were thwarted by UC’s defense. Kuropatkin picked up her final save in the 86th minute, while UC’s final shot was blocked with seconds left in the game.

‘UR made an effort to pull away but were thwarted by UC’s defense.’

The game was a physical one, with UC picking up nine fouls to UR’s seven. UC out-shot UR 15 to 12, although they had just one more shot on goal (7–6). On the defensive side, Kuroptakin anchored UR with six saves, while UC had three. This win propelled UR to a 7–1–2 record. UR will next host RIT on Tuesday, Oct. 8 at Fauver Stadium.

*Wolf is a member of
the Class of 2027.*

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Meliora Mini 2

BY CALEB OSHINKSY
STAFF PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Ploy
5 "___ island in the sun" (get Weezer'ed)
6 Lesser of two ___ (often mentioned in election season)
7 Alpha follower
8 Raised, as livestock

DOWN

- 1 Opportunity on Mars, eg.?
2 Join together
3 Leaves for lunch?
4 Inn ending?
6 Seaside retreat?

	1	2	3	4
	5			
6				
7				
8				