

# Campus Times

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## ‘Wanted’ Posters Accusing University Affiliates Displayed Throughout Campus

BY EMMELY ELI TEXCUCANO  
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DATA EDITOR

BY TEDDY ALMOND  
STAFF WRITER

Posters describing University affiliates as ‘wanted’ for involvement in the Israel-Palestine conflict were displayed throughout campus late Sunday night into early Monday morning.

Plastered in Wilson Commons, as well as campus academic buildings, residence halls, tunnels, elevators, and bathrooms, each poster featured an image of a University-associated individual, a set of targeted allegations, and an accompanying description.

Thirteen individuals were identified on the posters, including University employees, administrators, and members of the Board of Trustees. Each listed a number of attributed offenses — ranging from ties to Israeli institutions to claims of excessive force against student protestors.

**‘Thirteen individuals were identified on the posters, including University employees, administrators, and members of the Board of Trustees.’**

“President Sarah Mangelsdorf openly supports the military organization that has murdered the family members of students, utilizing University resources to



A public safety officer disposes of ‘Wanted’ posters after tearing them off the wall at almost midnight.

TEDDY ALMOND / STAFF WRITER

support these military efforts, while also blatantly disregarding academic values and democracy,” stated one poster.

The posters were not limited to current employees, with Assistant Director James Newell being the subject of one poster. Newell was criticized, among others, for “approach[ing] student protesters with decisive force such as pushing and choking,” read the poster.

Vice President of Student Life John Blackshear and Vice Provost and University Dean for Undergraduate Education Jeffrey Runner were also accused of alleged transgressions against student protestors.

“Vice Provost and University Dean for Undergraduate Education Jeffrey Runner compared saying the word

‘genocide’ about the situation in Gaza to ‘waving the confederate flag in front of a Black person’s face,’” stated the poster depicting Runner. “He later made a statement in the ‘Read This’ newsletter titled ‘Thanksgiving Shuttles / Spring Registration’ attempting to apologize. He never once says the word ‘sorry.’”

In the aforementioned newsletter, which was sent out last year on Nov. 12, 2023, Runner sent the following message: “I want to deeply apologize for the pain my words have caused — to my students, my faculty and staff colleagues, and to the broader campus community. I was wrong to suggest what a Black person might feel when confronted with a confederate flag or how a Jewish person might react to the word genocide [...] My speech

caused hurt that I accept full responsibility for.”

In April, members of the University’s Gaza Solidarity Encampment announced that the University had agreed to begin academic divestment, but University Communications later released a statement saying that no such commitments to academic divestment from Israel were or would be made.

The following week, student protestors staged a sit-in at Wallis Hall, protesting claims from the University’s chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) of a unanimous vote against divestment by the Board of Trustees. Reflecting this, multiple posters condemned University officials for voting against academic divestment from Israel.

One poster stated that

Board member Rich Handler “openly financially supports the IDF which has destroyed every university in Gaza and currently puts the lives of over 2,000,000 at risk,” additionally accusing Handler of having “financially coerced Handler Scholars into staying quiet about genocide.”

While certain posters alleged connections between professors and Israeli institutions — for instance, between Hajim Professor Elby Friedman and Technion’s Architectures and Circuits Research Center — others directly condemned Jewish faculty members for ties to Rochester-Modi’in. Rochester-Modi’in is a partnership between Rochester’s Jewish community and the Israeli city of Modi’in, which, according to their website, aims to “deepen the sense of belonging of all its practitioners to the Jewish people and the State of Israel.” Programs offered by the partnership include student exchange services, summer camps, and teachings on Judaism.

The posters provoked a mass response, with the majority of the posters being removed by University Facilities and the Department of Public Safety (DPS) by noon on Monday, though some reportedly remained up until late Monday night.

On Monday, in a statement to the University community, DPS Chief Quchee Collins called the act “unacceptable” and “vandalism to University property.”

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## University Transitions from HRMS, Introduces myURHR

BY MAYA BROSNICK  
NEWS EDITOR

UR employees will switch from using the Human Resources Management System (HRMS) to myURHR to record their hours and receive payment starting Dec. 15. This change applies to all employees, student and non-student.

myURHR is made up of two systems: UKG, which employees will use to record their hours, and Workday, through which employees will be paid.

In order to facilitate a smooth transition, Human Resources (HR) has released a training module in MyPath for student employees to complete.

“The most important thing that student employees need to do before Dec. 15 is to complete the training that has been assigned to them in MyPath,” Executive Director of Enrollment Services Molly Jacob said. “The eLearning training assignments for student employees are myURHR Core Concepts and Time Entry in

myURHR UKG.”

The training is anticipated to take about one to two and a half hours, and can be found under “My Learning Transcript” on the MyPath home page.

Employees can also access the myURHR Training — What You Need to Know webpage, which contains frequently asked questions, a glossary of key terms, and checklists for employees to use as they prepare for the switchover.

The switchover to myURHR is intended to work

towards the University’s strategic initiatives by modernizing HR, according to the Office of Human Resources.

“The University of Rochester’s new strategic plan will set the course for our future, and an essential element of that plan will be the modernization of Human Resources’ systems, policies and practices,” HR wrote on their website.

myURHR will remove many of the paper forms involved in University employment, switching them

instead to digital processes designed to be more intuitive and efficient, HR wrote on their website.

Before the switchover, employees need to contact their manager for more specific information and save their important documents stored in HRMS, such as tax documents and previous paychecks.

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

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# CAMPUS

## Sex & the CT: Back to the Basics

BY MARIAH LANSING  
STAFF WRITER

My boyfriend and I recently had a conversation assessing our relationship, and one aspect that was mentioned was our sex life. “I feel like we’re falling into a routine,” I said.

“I feel like I’m always initiating and you never tell me what you want,” he said. Well then.

It might be against my best interest to admit in my second installment of “Sex & the CT” to admit that I struggle with expressing desire, fostering intimacy, and experiencing pleasure — but I prefer to lead with honesty in this kind of discussion. Everyone will struggle with one, or all, of the aforementioned issues in their sex lives, and it isn’t a complete representation of who you are as a sexual being. I’d also like to note that understanding your own pleasure and desire, or lack thereof, is also important for those of you who are celibate. If and when you decide to pursue a sexual relationship, or jump back into your sexuality after an extended vacation, knowing yourself will make sexual interactions both more enjoyable and more comfortable.

At this point, I’ve spent an extended amount of time absorbing sexual education content. Just this afternoon, I spent several hours listening to TEDx Talks by sex educators, psychologists, and researchers. What I’ve learned is that there are three main basics to fostering satisfying sexual interactions: intimacy, pleasure, and desire.

Intimacy is important to dis-

tinguish from the act of sex itself. Just because we say we have an “intimate relationship” with someone we could be sleeping with doesn’t mean we only have intimacy with sexual partners. Nor is intimacy a metric of a relationship’s depth, as intimacy can be fostered in a casual relationship without an overabundance of romantic feelings.

Intimacy can’t be forced, but it is influenced by a few main things. Healthline and LBDO make the case that trust, safety, acceptance, honesty, communication, and affection can all influence how intimate you are with your partner.

The intimacy aspect is apparent to me in the case of a fully physical sexual relationship, commonly dubbed “friends with benefits,” or FWB for short. With that person, honesty, acceptance, and communication come easily so long as that person does not cross a line. I believe that is because there is less at stake in these transactional relationships. While you’re sexually vulnerable, there is less of a personal vulnerability that is not required to foster this type of intimacy.

When with a long-term partner though, there is more at stake. While we have established intimacy through trust and longevity, maybe we lack communication as stressors pile up for one partner or another. Maybe one partner is feeling unsafe, as many people deal with the lasting effects of sexual trauma on intimacy.

Whatever may be blocking

you from developing intimacy in your sexual relationship, it’s probably going to take extended inner work and vulnerability on your behalf to your partner. Through safe, gentle, and kind communication and quality time — but also a few *really* tough conversations that may stir up a lot of emotions seemingly *not* related to sex — you can slowly work to increase intimacy in your relationship.

Pleasure is the second part of the trifecta of healthy sexual functioning. Pleasure should be one of the main goals of sex, if not procreation or deepening of a relationship. Merriam-Webster defines pleasure as “sensual gratification.”

One of the most highly valued signs of pleasure during sex in modern culture is the orgasm. For those who have a phallus, the orgasm is literally substantive. For vulva owners, there can be some sorts of physical signs of climax, but according to sex educator and author Emily Nagoski Ph.D., every single orgasm is different. For some, orgasm during penetrative sex is impossible. For some, it comes naturally. Some never climax with a partner. Some never climax until they’re 80 years old.

The moral of the story: Everyone experiences pleasure differently. Sex should be an enjoyable experience with your partner (or partners), and while orgasms are the most commonly known metric to assess pleasure, an orgasm is not always necessary for good sex. How you show up and experience the sensation is most

important for that.

In some cases, sex can be pleasurable and you can feel intimate with your partner, but lack desire. Desire has been stumping sex researchers for decades — especially in conversations of how to sustain desire in long-term relationships. Dr. Petra Zebroff mentions in her TEDx-Surrey Talk that around the one to two year mark, desire drops off in almost every relationship. This is mostly attributed to that exciting adrenaline rush you get from a new partner.

One solution: Find that adrenaline rush together. Talk about what in the past has allowed you to madly desire your partner. Experiment with new things and discuss. Try watching porn together. Masturbate with each other — this is called mutual masturbation and is highly recommended for couples who struggle with all of the issues mentioned here: desire, intimacy, and pleasure. By turning on a piece of media that piques your desire, you can connect with your partner and learn about their desires. You can watch to see what sensations your partner enjoys. The closeness creates a context to promote intimacy.

Another solution, this time less fun: Make space for desire. Hi there, busy college students! Exams, papers, group projects, extracurricular activities, social lives, campus events, etc. It’s enough to keep one person juggling and feeling burnt out. Of course, you don’t have any desire to rip your partner’s clothes off when you’ve got a to-do list a

mile long. Dr. Nagoski emphasizes the importance of creating contexts for desire. Get the top three priority items crossed off, and then maybe you’ll have an easier time having your no-pants party.

This is a two-way street. If you notice your partner is stressed, even if it’s a casual fling, a small extension of kindness to help take a little stress off their shoulders can make them feel *that* much closer to you.

In conclusion: If you have hit a rut in your sex life, bring it back to the basics. Not exactly the same SexEd Basics we learned in separate Boy/Girl classrooms in middle school, but the adult kind that comes with acknowledging that we are sexual beings. A lot of the issues we run into with intimacy, pleasure, and desire, can be brought about through social stigmas and shame, too. Getting to know yourself and your partner is crucial to getting past the emotional, mental, and social blockages between you and the satisfying sex life you crave.

If you’re looking for more resources, I recommend Dr. Nagoski’s book, “Come As You Are,” as well as TEDx Talks from Esther Perel and her podcast, “Where Should We Begin?” For those struggling with sexual trauma, trauma-informed psychiatry and counseling could prove to be some benefit.

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





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“Any activities, including the placement of these posters, that disrupt our normal operations and classroom instruction will not be tolerated,” Collins stated. “Additionally, it seems that the goal of this vandalism is to intimidate members of our University community, which is an action that runs counter to our Meliora values.”

Multiple organizations released statements in response to the posters, including executive director of the University’s chapter of Hillel, Joy Getnick, who was also a target of the posters. “These posters targeted senior administrators but also disproportionately targeted Jewish faculty and staff, including me. That is

antisemitic, and hateful,” Getnick stated in an email to members of UR Hillel on Monday. “Now, more than ever, is a time to celebrate our shared heritage and traditions, and feel the strength of our special UR Jewish community.”

A statement released on UR Hillel’s Instagram mentions that efforts are being taken by local organizations such as the Rochester Jewish Federation, international organizations like the Anti-Defamation League — which, according to their website, seeks “to stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all” — and “many levels of law enforcement” to investigate the source and culprits of the posters.

In a statement released by

the Office of the President on Tuesday, President Mangelsdorf described the act as “disturbing, divisive and intimidating and runs counter to our values as a university,” adding that, “We view this as antisemitism, which will not be tolerated at our University [...] This goes against everything we stand for and we have an obligation to reject it.”

**‘President Mangelsdorf described the act as “disturbing, divisive and intimidating and runs counter to our values as a university.”’**

Notably, this is the first time that a University official has referred to an act committed on its campus

as “antisemitic” in a written public statement.

Following administration’s response, the University’s chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) released a counter-statement addressing widespread claims of the posters’ antisemitic intentions.

“Antisemitism is bigotry or hatred against Jewish people on the basis of their identity and we unequivocally oppose it,” the JVP statement read. “It is not, however, antisemitic to criticize the Israeli government and military that is committing war crimes.”

At this time, no group has claimed responsibility for Monday’s protest.

SJP declined to comment and have not released a statement as of publishing.

Students who may have

information on the event were asked by Public Safety to contact them with any information, and those who may have been impacted by the incident were recommended to utilize the University CARE team.

*None of the authors or editors of this piece are affiliated with any of the organizations mentioned in this article. The full claims taken verbatim from the posters can be found in the online version of this article.*

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

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

*Almond is a member of the Class of 2028.*

# Chef Josh: The Honorary Psi U Brother

BY MARIA VARDANYAN  
STAFF WRITER

Many people might not know, but some fraternities have had their own chefs for years. Currently, there are three fraternity houses with chefs: Psi Upsilon, Alpha Delta Phi, and Sigma Chi. According to Fraternity and Sorority policy, every person living in the house must be on the fraternity meal plan, including initiated members who do not live in the house. Chefs for fraternities are hired through Harvest Table or Aramark, and they can only be assigned to organizations that have fully operating kitchens.

Chef Joshua King, born and raised in Rochester, has been working as a chef at Psi U since pre-COVID-19. He started working with the University through the Eastman School of Music, and after working there for two years, got nominated for the position at the fraternity. King shared that he enjoys working in a fraternity, especially because of the creative freedom the position allows him. The position does not require him to follow any given set of recipes, giving him space to innovate and make things that the brothers want in the house.

Initially, King was skeptical about the position since he did not know what to expect, but as time went by, he started falling in love with the job. The brothers appreciate the convenience, the quality of King’s food, and his company and presence in the house.

King shared that when he first started, he talked to every brother in the house about their allergies and dietary restrictions, making dishes for some of the brothers separately to avoid cross-contamination due to medical or religious dietary restrictions. He also takes

into account the preferences of the brothers when deciding on the meals for the week — for example, having protein-rich foods for brothers who prefer it.

There is also a request board at the house where the brothers can share what they want. Often, it is food from the students’ cultures. For example, he shared making butter chicken with basmati rice and garnish as per request of some of the Indian brothers. As Chef Josh puts it, “I like to bring their cultural food into the house, so they still feel like they’re getting a taste of home.”

**“I like to bring their cultural food into the house, so they still feel like they’re getting a taste of home.”**

King works Monday through Friday and makes two meals: lunch, served around 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and dinner, served around 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. He is responsible for the kitchen, food safety and sanitation, ordering, and inventory. Typical meals are a combination of some kind of protein, starch, veggies, and toppings to “level up the dish a bit more,” as he puts it. Given his \$2,000 weekly budget, King cooks two meals each weekday and leaves some leftovers available for the brothers to have over the weekend.

King also shared that the Psi U brothers are his second home, and they have been very supportive amidst trying times with his daughter, Julieana, who suffered from a congenital heart defect and recently passed away. There is currently a GoFundMe organized by one of the Psi U brothers on behalf of King for the

medical bills along with funeral and cremation costs. The Psi U brothers also organized a Haunted House event on Nov. 1, where entry was granted after a \$5 donation to the GoFundMe.

At the end of each month, King tries to host a big dinner to show his appreciation for the Psi U brothers. “It’s more than just a frat house. It’s really a brotherhood,” he said.

Brothers come to Chef Josh for life advice — which he happily dishes out — since he has experience with things that they probably don’t. His favorite memories are the times when he sits down to eat with the brothers, he said. They bond over these meals, talking, joking, and listening to music. “Just for the record, Psi U is the best frat house,” King said.

Going forward, King also said that he would like fraternity chefs to be more involved in campus life since he feels very isolated on the fraternity quad — think fraternity cook-offs or University events where chefs can get a tent on the campus, or doing catering. Fraternity chefs also need more recognition and funding for the houses, King said.

Maxim Giller, a junior at Psi U, shared that he is excited to go downstairs to eat food and greets Chef Josh with a smile on his face. They see Chef Josh as an honorary brother, he says, and an established member of the fraternity who keeps all of the brothers happy.

“Fraternities last a lifetime,” King said. “Once a brother, you’re always a brother.”

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

# New ‘Safe Ride’ Program Update Announced

BY TEDDY ALMOND  
STAFF WRITER

The “Safe Ride” program, dubbed the “personal campus Uber” by some, is a relatively underutilized and lesser-known program offered by UR.

Originally launched by the Students’ Association (SA), Safe Ride offers safe and reliable transport for undergraduate students between residence halls and certain destinations on River Campus when the shuttles are not running between the hours of 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. every day of the academic year.

**‘Safe Ride offers safe and reliable transport for undergraduate students.’**

The program is not specific to UR and is found in universities all over the country. According to the Department of Public Safety’s (DPS) website, the Safe Ride service at the University is a joint collaboration between the department and SA.

Prior to September of last year, students used an app to summon a Safe Ride-branded shuttle that came to pick them up and take them to a predetermined destination. Since that September, the program now requires students to contact the service directly by telephone number at (585) 276-RIDE.

University Spokesperson Sara Miller explained to the *Campus Times* that there will be a tab within the Passio GO! shuttle tracking app for requesting rides. The program recently moved back to using the official “Safe Ride” branded vans after using the University-branded shuttles last semester.

“The use of shuttles was a temporary solution as we conducted regular maintenance on the Safe Ride van,” Miller said in an email to the *CT*.

The DPS website has recently been updated to reflect that the new app is expected to launch in the spring semester of 2025.

*Almond is a member of the Class of 2028.*



TEDDY ALMOND / STAFF WRITER



# Douglass Institute and Department of Black Studies Hosts Post-Election Reflection Forum

BY MADELEINE MCCURDY  
STAFF WRITER

BY PAIGE MCCURDY  
STAFF WRITER

On Tuesday, Nov. 12, Hoyt Hall buzzed with over 30 people as the Frederick Douglass Institute and the Department of Black Studies hosted the Town Hall: Post-Election Reflection, One Week After. The event, spanning just over 90 minutes, was comprised of two parts: a panel discussion and a town hall session.

The panel consisted of four professors: Fredrick Douglass Professor and Associate Professor of English and Black Studies Jeffrey Q. McCune, Jr., Assistant Professor of Black Studies Philip V. McHarris, Assistant Professor of Spanish and Comparative Literature Vialcary Crisóstomo Tejada, and Professor of English and Black Studies Stefanie K. Dunning.

***"The story we are telling does not disaggregate or separate Blackness, race, anti-Blackness, white supremacy from the conversation of what has happened in this county."***

The event started with a clarification from McCune regarding the topic and content of the talks.

"First I want to say, if you don't know, this is sponsored by the Department of Black Studies and the Frederick Douglass Institute," McCune said, "which means that the story we are telling is one that does not disaggregate or separate Blackness, race, anti-Blackness, white supremacy from the conversation of what has happened in this county."

McCune went on to summarize Vice President Kamala Harris' experiences during her 107-day campaign, from optimism to the use of gender slurs and questions about her race. He also touched on the "white supremacist rhetoric" and "white patriarchal speech" of the Trump campaign, citing instances where Trump called Puerto Rico an island of garbage and compared Detroit to a developing nation. This election revealed where the United States' priorities lie, he concluded.

"I think that what has not been explored is how the message of the vote, or this election, speaks [to] cultural priorities," McCune stated. "On one hand, the people chose a Hitler-brandishing, anti-immigrant, anti-abortion criminal over a joyful, articulate, well-experienced vice president of the United States. On the other hand, and probably a bigger problem for me, and not the one that most people are thinking about, is the way that folks said women's rights, queer rights, and black freed, Latinx justice, was less important than a one-dollar decrease in bread, Christian dogma, mass de-nationalism, and other communited to capital gains and America's imagining of a homogenous America."

McHarris, the next speaker, gave advice to students experiencing difficulties following the election results. He emphasized participating in activities that cannot be taken away from you — for him, enjoying time with his new puppy — and leaning into a community that exudes love and care as well as advancement and resistance.

McHarris also asked how we ended up here and how we can move forward, while questioning the status

quo of political life in the United States. He said that the Democratic Party is not capable of responding to concerns of the Republican Party and speaking to the interests and wants of Americans.

***'The Democratic Party is not capable of responding to concerns of the Republican Party and speaking to the interests of Americans.'***

"I think we need to start asking deeper questions around the nation state as a category and a political container for how we understand everyday life," McHarris said. "Because a part of what we see is, like, there are certain laws, rules, expectations, approaches to how we approach political life. But why is it that this is the way that we approach political life? It's because some people with power decided that this would be the case and other people with power have preserved it."

***'He emphasized participating in activities that cannot be taken away from you and leaning into a community that exudes love and care as well as advancement and resistance.'***

Tejada, the next speaker, refuted the claims that the Latino vote swayed the election towards Trump by going through the percentages of voters to show that the vast majority of Latino voters voted against Trump. She then refuted the claim that Latino voters chose Trump out of patriarchal beliefs that a woman should not govern

the country, pointing out that Latin America has had women as head of states since the 1970s and that there are also currently female presidents in both Mexico and Honduras.

In addition, Tejada discussed the hazards of thinking of the Latinx population as a monolithic group, especially considering differences within the demographic in terms of race, education, socioeconomic status, and reasons for migration to the United States. She also discussed how, in understanding why someone voted the way they did, it is important to consider their reason for migration and the political discourse in their home country. According to Tejada, words like "progressive" hold connotations of leftist dictatorship for people who migrated from Cuba and Venezuela, which can influence voting.

Dunning started off by instructing the audience to close their eyes and take 20 deep breaths. She explained that this was done to give the audience a minute to process as our society forces us to resume normal routine without time to grieve and feel fear. She explained her experience of exhaustion on what she called the "electoral rollercoaster," in which every four years, she has to anticipate what world she will be living in. Her advice for the audience was to take time and make space for regulating their nervous systems while not strategizing about the next political movements.

***'Tejada refuted the claims that the Latino vote swayed the election towards Trump.'***

Dunning also emphasized the importance of disrupting the view that there are benefactors from oppression.

"There are people who think racism benefits them because they're white, and it doesn't," Dunning said. "Racism does not benefit white people. It may give people a feeling of power, it may give people some sadistic enjoyment, but it doesn't benefit them. Patriarchy does not benefit men. It doesn't make life better for men. Homophobia and transphobia don't make things better for straight people or cis people. All of these forms of oppression endanger everyone. They just endanger us differently."

"The moment that the people who are engaged in promoting these kinds

of politics realize that it's not getting them anything, they will be much less likely to support those politics," Dunning concluded.

***"All of these forms of oppression endanger everyone. They just endanger us differently."***

Once the panel discussion ended, the event switched to the town hall portion where audience members could walk to a microphone at the front and ask their questions.

One student asked how the election would impact the environment on campus.

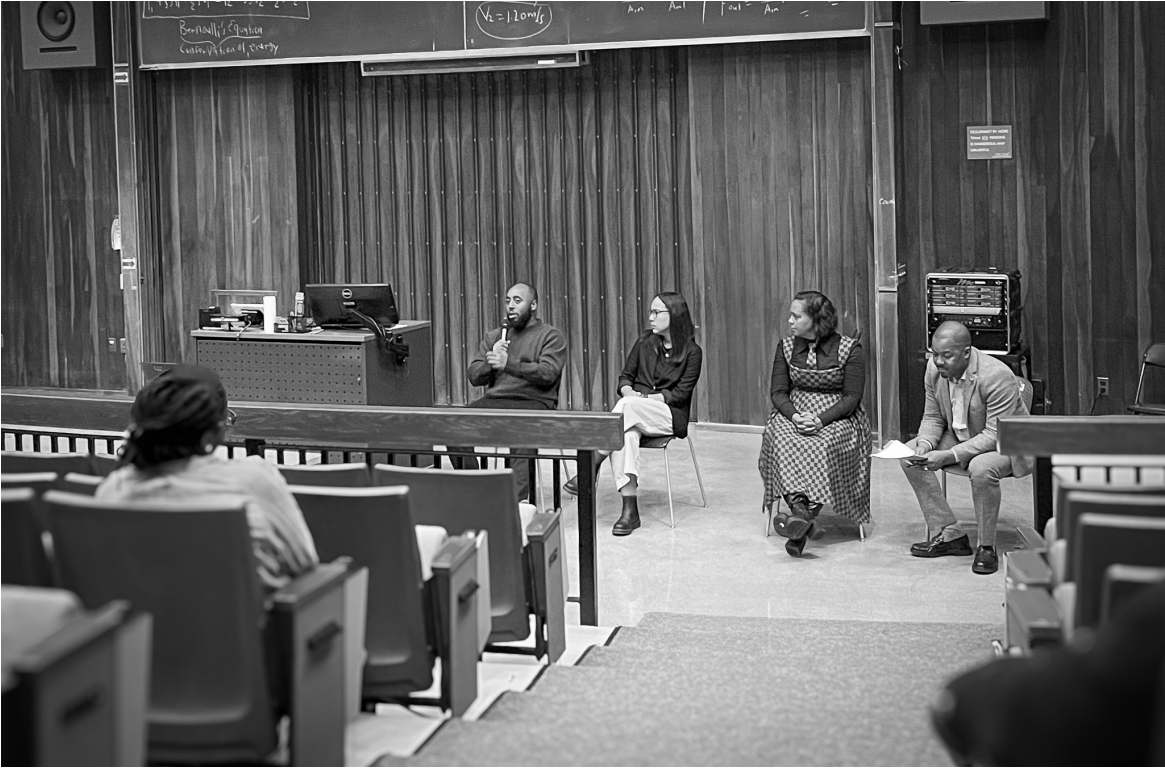
"I mean, the good news is that this is a private institution, and also it's in New York State, and the New York State governor has also, sort of, basically vowed to do everything in her power to protect the freedoms of New Yorkers. And so, there's a little bit of a buffer there, but that isn't to say that even private institutions won't experience some discomfort to say the least," Dunning said. "But I can just tell you that myself as Director of Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies, and Jeffrey as Chair of Black Studies, and other departments are committed to maintaining what we have in terms of programming and offering students, and responding in nimble ways to whatever happens."

Professor McCune ended the event by thanking the audience for their questions and instilling one final takeaway, seemingly referring to the adage of stars shining through darkness in Kamala Harris' concession speech.

"Even if it's dark, I think we do have to remember that we are in fact stars who have the possibility to light up the earth and the world with our imaginations, with new systems, with new communities, with new ways of being, with new identities, with new ideologies. We have that opportunity," McCune concluded. "So, go out and be a star."

M. McCurdy is a member of the Class of 2025.

P. McCurdy is a member of the Class of 2025.



MAYA BROSNIK / NEWS EDITOR



# A Conversation With University Archivist Melissa Mead

BY EMMELY ELI TEXCUCANO  
FEATURES EDITOR

During the construction of Rettner Hall in 2013, contractors unearthed unexplained layers of foundation beneath the ground. Nothing in their existing building plans could explain why the foundation existed, or what the scope of it was. To learn more, they approached University Archivist Melissa Mead, who, after spending some time digging through the archives, discovered the architectural drawings from the '60s for a research center where Rettner now stands.

Mead spends her days fielding inquiries from all over the River Campus, from Facilities to students completing projects to even the President's office, all on about the history of the University.

"What I do is try to collect, preserve, and share the University's history with basically anyone who's interested in it or needs to know something," Mead explained.

Mead originally received her Masters in Information Science at Columbia's Library School, and she worked in children's book publishing

before joining the River Campus Libraries in 1994. In 2012 she became University Archivist.

"I think that I like the job of being the University Archivist because it changes every day, and it's great because it sends me into a different area of the collections," Mead said. "People might think that I just sit back there reading boxes [of documents], but I actually need someone to ask me the question. Pretty much all the work that I did up to 2012 here has supported the work that I'm doing now."

Students interested in learning more about University history turn to Mead, submitting requests and asking her for guidance in their research — whether it be for personal interest, projects, or in some cases, the creation of both digital and physical exhibits in the Great Hall or Friedman Lobby around campus.

Alumna Sarah Woodams worked closely with Mead for the creation of the Campus Times 150th anniversary's physical exhibit in the Great Hall.

"Melissa Mead was a lifesaver," Woodams said. "She

met with us several times over the course of the semester to help us guide our vision for the exhibit."

Mead's role extends beyond just fielding requests, capturing history through the meticulous preservation of documents, and creating exhibits on the University's history. During COVID-19, Mead fielded questions from the administration looking for records on the University's response to the 1918 influenza epidemic, and although there were limited documents available, they served as the foundation for the University's response at the time. This work all serves as the foundation for the direction in which the University is heading.

***'This isn't about me doing research. It's about helping other people do research.'***

"This isn't about me doing research. It's about helping other people do research, do their jobs because the answer that I give to somebody's question may impact what somebody's doing in renovations or naming of buildings,"



AIDAN SCIORTINO / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mead said. "Also, that sounds very grand, but it gets up there."

While Mead's role has previously entailed documenting physical history, her role has shifted over the three decades she's been here with the introduction of technology in history preservation, to capture the new student life that's opened up online.

"I do a lot of [...] thinking about the future for the next person who does this job," Mead said. "Even though I said the digital world makes things hard to collect, [I'm] digitizing the things, the various documents that we can, [which] makes it easier to get into the history right."

Despite having answers to

any question under the sun about the University when asked, Mead isn't done yet.

As University Archivist, Mead has a column titled "Ask the Archivist" in the *Rochester Review* where she gets to the bottom of these questions. "You never get the same question twice. It's always something new," Mead explained. "If you want to know the mystery that I want to solve, and I've almost got it, but it's the: 'Why do we only sing two of the three verses in the Genesee?'"

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

## Know Me for Me



ALEENA RESSAS / STAFF WRITER

BY SUBAAH SYED  
FEATURES EDITOR

As Wilson Commons buzzes with students and staff everyday — either to study in Hirst, attend events in the May Room, or take a lunch break at the Pit — Corey Arnold quietly goes about his work, ensuring that one of our integral student life spaces remains a welcoming and clean environment. With one and a half years of experience under his belt, Arnold has become a familiar and cheerful face in the University community.

Arnold works in Environmental Services from 1:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Sundays to Thursdays, primarily covering the first and second floors of Wilson Commons. On days with a shortage in staff, he ends up covering more floors.

Hailing from Rochester, Arnold knows the area well. He grew up on South Ave, describing it as the "best area I've lived in when I was younger" because of its then-strong community. Prior to

working for the University, he worked as an electrician alongside his brother and went through different temp agencies.

When Arnold was hired as an Environmental Services worker for Wilson Commons by the University, he stuck with the job because he loved interacting with the students and appreciated how they would help out with his rounds from time to time.

"I guess they don't expect us [janitors] to converse with people a lot. There's a lot of times they stay [...] to themselves," he said. For Arnold, communication means a lot, whether it be simple greetings to conversations that he has with students. As Arnold says, "It makes the school go better when you communicate."

Arnold is a "people person." Though he does recognize that many students may be shy or preoccupied with their own groups, he encourages students to talk to not just him, but with other staff as well. "Some people probably judge me sometimes. I'll

be overexcited, so they don't know how to take me, but I'm a good person," he said. "They just really got to try to know me."

One thing Arnold learned from his time in Environmental Services is that students helping him out means a lot to him and goes a long way. Not only does he appreciate the help from students and other staff when he's on shift, he's always willing to lend a helping hand. "Even if it's in the middle of my job and it's right there while I'm doing my job, I'll still help too," he said.

Arnold sees himself as more than just a custodian. He wants to be a supportive figure for students here as well, positioning himself as a "parent away from parents." As a father of five sons and a grandfather of three children, he wants to reassure students that they have a parental figure here that they can talk to, especially for students far away from home when the only means to stay connected with family is over the phone. As he puts it, "Sometimes y'all need an older person in conversation to help y'all go through what y'all going through here, too."

***'Arnold sees himself as more than just a custodian.'***

"I want you all to get far in life," Arnold said.

Reflecting on his interactions with students, Arnold fondly remembers a particular

exchange with a student who offered to buy him lunch, which he found both touching and bittersweet.

"It was sad that the way they see me work, I really don't sit down and eat but a salad," Arnold said. "So it's just, like, when she did that for me, it was just amazing. And she didn't have to do it."

Ever since he started working here, Arnold also became friends with junior and Students' Association President Elijah Bader-Gregory. Bader-Gregory met Arnold when he first started working at the Campus Information Center (CIC) at the beginning of Fall 2023.

"He speaks to me with joy. Like, he really sit[s] there and converse[s]. And I love his conversation, you know?" Arnold said.

"I know it sort of goes both ways and it's tough for students to not just respect but acknowledge Environmental Service workers," Bader-Gregory said. "And I think because of that stigma, a lot of Environmental Service workers don't do that towards students." He recalled how Arnold would drop by every Monday at 8 p.m. during Senate meetings, bursting in with a joke to lighten the mood.

"He'll come in and sit and listen to a presentation [...] and try to always get involved in what we're doing," Bader-Gregory said.

Last semester, Arnold was out for six months for hip surgery, and many people

thought he was fired. But when he came back, students and staff were really happy to see him again.

For students looking to make Arnold's job easier, he stresses the importance of communication and consideration. A little acknowledgment can also go a long way in bridging the gap between custodial staff and students.

"Communicate with us," Arnold emphasized. "Show us that we're here. I mean, because a lot of [the] time, because we're like the bottom of the bunch [...] When you go to the bathroom, when you wash your hands with the napkins, like, pick them up and put them in the garbage. That'd be more helpful for us too. So we gotta keep going through the same stuff all the time." But he also understands that students are always in a rush, trying to get to classes.

While Arnold was hired to work in Wilson Commons, the University recently has been trying to move his services to Rush Rhees. Arnold really enjoys his current shifts in Wilson Commons and deeply values the connections he makes with students there. Bader-Gregory has been helping him to connect with people in Environmental Services and Facilities to advocate against relocation.

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



# OPINIONS

## When It Happens to You: A Personal Reflection from a ‘Wantee’

LETTER TO THE EDITOR  
BY JOY GETNICK, PH.D.

My name is Joy Getnick and I'm the Executive Director of Hillel at the University of Rochester. You might recognize my name because I am one of the people featured on the ‘wanted’ posters. In conversations on campus, I have learned that it can be hard for some to understand the impact of what was done. In the spirit of centering the experiences of the people most impacted, and learning to listen across differences, I thought it might be helpful if I shared my experience as one of the “wantees.”

I do want to be clear that I am sharing *my* experience and how I have perceived the impact of that experience on our Jewish student community. I certainly cannot speak for all UR Jews, but given my role on campus, and the great extent of our relationships and reach, I do feel that what I am to share reflects the majority of Jewish students’ reactions to me being targeted in this way. I would encourage Jewish students to also share their individual experiences and impact as they wish. I am concerned that I am hearing that many students don’t feel comfortable openly sharing, and that is all the more reason I need to model speaking up against hate, even if it makes me more vulnerable in the public eye.

I also want to extend support and strength to the others who were targeted by this hateful campaign, whether they are University administrators and leaders or fellow Jewish faculty and staff. I am sure each of our experiences was a bit different. This was mine.

A bit about me: I'm a proud third-generation UR graduate (B.A. ’06) and a fifth-generation Jewish Rochesterian. I initially thought I’d teach in academia, and went on to earn a Ph.D. in history elsewhere. Yet my Jewish community volunteer work was quickly turning into an unexpected career path, and I am so proud to say I have been "professionally Jewish" for almost 20 years.

One of the reasons I most love working for Hillel, the face of inclusive Jewish life on campus, is that it is what is called a “pluralistic” Jewish organization. That means that instead of promoting

specific ideas about how one should be Jewish, we proudly welcome all kinds of Jews, and all kinds of Jewish, to celebrate the diversity of Jewish heritage and practice together.

UR Hillel is also a Zionist organization, in a classical sense. By that, I mean that the organization upholds the right of Israel to exist as a Jewish state on ancient Jewish land, alongside all global nation-states, many of which have a national ethnicity or religion. It in no way precludes there also being an independent Palestinian state. Hillel has no commentary on the borders, politics, or policies of the state of Israel itself, and there is great diversity of opinion within UR Hillel students about Israeli policies and their relationships with Israel as American Jews. All kinds of Jews; all kinds of Jewish.

In fact, on Sunday evening, Nov. 10, I helped facilitate an intra-Hillel community conversation with an organization called Resetting the Table about how we as Jews speak to and about each other, re: Israel. If we truly want to be a place where all kinds of Jews feel authentically welcome, we need to learn how to listen across differences and practice what it means to be in a diverse community. That takes work. I left the program that evening thinking, “Wow — how fortunate I am to be working with such thoughtful students in such meaningful ways.”

And then, I learned about the posters. Initially, it seemed only me and a few others were targeted. I immediately noticed that all the faculty and staff were Jewish. I looked at the poster of me. I looked at the language used, and the nature of the entirely untrue accusations, and I thought, “This can’t be happening. Am I the victim of an antisemitic crime?”

Although I shouldn’t have to defend myself, I feel I need to explain why these accusations are untrue. First, Modi’in is a city within the state of Israel, not a settlement in the West Bank. I’m part of a Jewish peoplehood partnership where my last contribution before this incident, earlier that weekend in fact, was to help make a connection between a Modi’in effort to start group homes for young adults with autism with similar programs here in Rochester that

could provide expertise. Second, as many Hillel students and University colleagues can attest, the statement about my view of protestors is simply untrue.

**‘The statement about my view of protestors is simply untrue.’**

The poster also plays into harmful antisemitic trope language about Jews. Accusing me of racism and intimidation plays into the antisemitic stereotype that Jews are all-powerful, and of whatever opposing race one wants us to be. In Germany, Jews were regarded as powerful non-white others. Some in the United States (such as those who marched in the Charlottesville “Unite the Right” rally in 2017) still see Jews that way — as powerful non-white others looking to “replace” good white Americans, while others see us as part of

a white power structure responsible for societal oppression. Here at UR, the antisemitic tropes on the poster have historically been used against me when I strive to educate about Jewish peoplehood and antisemitism as an advocate for my community.

I fully agree that it is not antisemitic to critique Israeli policy. American Jews and Israelis do this all the time. I also agree that, of course, one has a right to disagree with UR Hillel's view on Israel or Zionism, or with me personally. But that isn’t what this is. The poster reflects a fictitious person and ideas people seem to have about her. I rarely share my opinions on Israeli policy because my role in Hillel is to uplift student opinions, not to share my own. UR Hillel interacts with hundreds of Jewish students every year in all kinds of ways. When someone targets me, they

target me in my role, which targets Hillel. This impacts Jewish students and hurts the ability for Jewish student life on our campus to fully thrive. It is disgraceful, abhorrent, and harmful.

**‘It is disgraceful, abhorrent, and harmful.’**

But I am also a person, with a family, who lives in this community. I know that the things said about me on that poster aren’t true, but people believe what they read. I needed to call my children's school and tell them that mom was on a fictitious ‘wanted’ poster with literally hundreds of thousands of views on X (formerly Twitter), and in the international press. As educator and influencer Hen Mazzig noted, what were students meant to do when they found the people on these signs? I had to start working with

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security professionals to assess the potential risk of me attending Hillel events on campus, which hurts my ability to fully serve Jewish students, and plan out where I was going to be. While I am grateful that there are no known threats to me, or anyone targeted, and I hope that doesn't change, I still had to stop and think — "Am I safe at my job? Am I safe in my home?" It is one thing to target ideas; it is another thing to target people.

***'It is one thing to target ideas; it is another thing to target people.'***

It is particularly egregious, dangerous, and antisemitic to target people because they are Jewish. My involvement in the partnership with Modi'in has nothing to do with my work for Hillel. It is part of my personal, outside-of-work Jewish identity and strong commitment to global Jewish peoplehood. Many of these partnerships include European cities and Jewish communities, as has been explored by ours locally, because this isn't about Israel — it's about being Jewish. I was targeted because I am Jewish, personally and professionally. If that isn't antisemitism, what is?

I am so sad for all the Jewish students who deeply felt the impact of this poster campaign, and knew in their hearts that this was what antisemitism looks like and feels like the moment they saw those posters targeting Jewish faculty and staff — and me. I am so sad for all students who were impacted in any way, distracted from the core work of learning, research, and growth we are all here to do at an institution I love.

I am also sad because I believe a university is a place to have important, high-level conversations about global issues such as the war, prospects for Palestinian independence, settlements, etc. Our Hillel's Oct. 7 offerings included opportunities to learn, mourn, and reflect on the horrific terrorist attack by Hamas. And the next day, on Oct. 8, we hosted experts in international diplomacy to share their first-hand insights on how we could chart a better path forward for both Israelis and Palestinians. That was the programming we as Hillel chose to put out into the world — a hope for a better tomorrow for everybody. These posters don't further those conversations. In my opinion, they detract from those conversations, because now the focus is on crime and hate. It's not in any way about centering the experiences and perspectives of Palestinians or Israelis, nor is it about elevating critical inquiry into what could be done to ensure security, dignity, mutual self-determination,

and peace in the region.

Real damage has been done here. There is an old Jewish folktale, likely similar to folktales in many cultures, about how a lie is like opening a feather pillow into the wind. People believe what they read, and they share what they read. The feathers spread everywhere, and try as one might, they can never all be collected again. Long after this incident is over, long after current students have graduated, there will still be times when someone says something about the Hillel director and others think, "Oh, there's an issue with her." They might remember the specific accusations. They might not. But they will remember the impact of the antisemitic slander.

There is also real damage right now to the Jewish community at UR. It is imperative that Jewish students feel safe — not just physically safe but emotionally safe — affiliating with and being in campus Jewish spaces. When Hillel is targeted, Jewish students who value what Hillel offers them and our campus community are harmed. We need to do better.

I hope that this is an opportunity for deep reflection on how we got to this moment and who we want to be going forward. I hope this is an opportunity to instill meaningful education about Jewish peoplehood and antisemitism into all walks of University life — for students, faculty, and staff. I hope that this is an opportunity for significant change in how we think and talk about Jewish identity and lived experiences at UR in 2024.

It is notable that so many winter holidays feature light. One of the things I love most about Chanukah is the requirement to light one's own light. It is not enough to watch someone else light the candles — we must also light our own to add our unique light to the world. I hope each one of us reflects on what it would mean to add our light now — to listen, to learn, to reflect — and then to do the work that is needed so that Jewish life, alongside diversity of all kinds, can fully thrive both here at UR and everywhere. In that way, perhaps we can together turn this painful, hateful situation into a spark for lasting good.

*Getnick is the Executive Director of Hillel at the University of Rochester.*

EDITORIAL OBSERVER

BY ALLIE TAY  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Writing for the school paper wasn't something I'd expect to become such a huge part of my life — especially not as an engineer. I set foot in the *Campus Times* office back as a first-year Opinions staff writer with little more than my two cents on the model minority myth, an uncanny boldness to release my thoughts into the Internet abyss, and a much-needed outlet from the hecticness of pre-med.

Channeling my thoughts in a weekly column soon transitioned into learning the ropes on hard reporting. As a journalist, I talked to people I never would have had a reason to approach other than sheer curiosity — for a hankering for a slice of life, for a story.

I met people, and with them I met the worlds they lived in. I talked to hip-hop dancers, student app developers, and drag queens. I learned about how efforts made in Brazilian Sign Language uplifted Black feminist movements in South America. I interviewed fellow youth musicians and educators who verbalized the struggle to pursue music in a cutthroat, ever-shifting world.

And in a profession that requires you to constantly listen and absorb the stories of others — I learned to speak for myself. In parallel with helping writers construct their arguments, I learned to construct arguments of my own: how to act thoughtfully, how to defend your decisions, and how to translate working arguments on an editorial level to defending against pushback. Large-scale politics are at the forefront of journalism, and so I gradually became familiar with how to accurately convey the University perspective on global conflicts and issues — something that became particularly pressing through my editorial decisions during our coverage of the Israel-Palestine conflict on campus. Just as the world has been thrust into the war in Gaza, college campuses have been swept along as well, and the University is no exception. The events of the past week put my experience to the test.

Last Wednesday, the *CT* ran a news piece on the 'wanted' posters displayed throughout campus that accused University affiliates of various offenses related to the Israel-Palestine conflict. Over the last week, these events caught the attention of national news as well. Our news piece received a mix of reactions, ranging from

praise for reporting with integrity, to backlash from multiple groups, including concerns from University administration regarding the full inclusion of claims presented on the posters. We were chastised and urged to immediately remove the photographs of the posters and to issue an online correction acknowledging the unverified nature of the allegations.

First, to address the latter: I don't know how we could have been any more clear. Multiple times in the piece do we state that the claims are alleged. The article states that "descriptions written are taken verbatim from posters." The language used did not imply that the claims on the posters were true, nor that we verified or held opinions on any of the claims. We did our best to make clear that this was a news piece reporting on what had happened, assembled carefully with as much knowledge as we had at the time.

The editorial choice to include the full statements on the posters was not a decision made lightly. As the official student-run publication at the University, we have an obligation to shed light on campus events — to provide crucial insight that other outlets do not have the knowledge or means to do, to promote a holistic understanding given our position as direct witnesses to campus happenings. Other media outlets simply do not, and will not, have the full picture.

***'The editorial choice to include the full statements on the posters was not a decision made lightly.'***

Take a cursory online search, and a flurry of media headlines pop up: "Hundreds of 'wanted' posters were plastered across the University of Rochester campus. Jewish faculty members were targeted," a *CNN* headline reads. "Target Jewish staff," "Jewish University of Rochester faculty and staff members targeted," "wanted posters of Jewish faculty, staff" — amongst others.

These articles source public statements from administration and University officials and do not include the content of the posters at all. By the nature of their headlines, these outlets amplify the University's denouncement of the posters as antisemitic — without providing the actual content in question.

We at the *CT* are not here to agree or disagree with the labeling of the posters as

antisemitic. We as a paper have no desire to promote certain images of those accused to their detriment, nor do we aim to amplify the voices of the accusers. But the ways in which our reporting differed from other outlets — and have garnered much criticism for — stand.

The story stands as is because it gives urgently-needed clarity on what was a quickly escalating situation. The *Campus Times* reported with integrity, fairness, and without self-censorship — because students depend on us to speak the truth in its entirety. It is not our goal to defame anyone, or to cause any harm. The individuals depicted on the posters are public officials, and thus were treated as such. We simply reported on what happened.

The decision to include the content of the posters was made to equip readers with the full breadth of knowledge needed to come to their own conclusions. It was made clear that these claims were alleged, and the goal of the piece was not to conduct a longform investigation of them. Given the time-sensitivity of events, that would not have been possible nor practical for any newsroom, let alone an unpaid student newspaper entirely self-run on a volunteer basis. In an age where many readers preemptively make up their minds, where people believe what they want to believe, national news — without the full scope and cross-verification supplied by local or on-site reporting — wields a deeply destructive potential to misrepresent events to millions. And hence the student paper at any university exists as this sort of checks and balances. We are tasked with the daunting responsibility to amplify the voices that exist within our campus regardless of personal opinion, and to speak on what administration and other media will not or cannot say. That is what the *CT* did here and will always continue to do.

In the four years I've been here, the *CT* has changed. With each regime turnover, editors change. The types of people we represent on the front lines and embody in our staff change. The stories that live in the office conversations of our 15-hour marathon productions change. Yet despite all the moving parts, our cause remains steadfast — providing unbiased truth to the campus community we represent.

With humility, it has been an honor serving as your editor-in-chief. Signing off.

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



# These ‘Wanted’ Posters Are Antisemitic. Period.

BY AUSTIN DELORME  
STAFF WRITER

This past Monday, the University joined the “club” — gaining notoriety with numerous higher-level educational institutions that are dealing with a rise in antisemitism.

Time and time again, we see the hateful messaging that we, as a University community, can presume were motivated by disdain for Jewish students and faculty. I will not sit idly by while this blatant hatred occurs.

Free speech is the foundation on which our democracy stands upon. Expression allows people to effectively communicate their grievances while being heard in society. What happened last week isn't free speech. It was intimidation, fear, and a failed effort to strike back hurtfully against Jews on campus.

**‘Free speech is the foundation on which our democracy stands upon.’**

I have tried to rationalize the actions and messages of groups such as Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) following the hanging of the ‘wanted’ posters. While this group is peaceful at times, it is comments like their statement Tuesday night that sway me away from their cause and rationale.

The JVP statement in part read, “While we do not know who put up these posters or the intention behind it, we view these posters as an attempt to shed light on administrators and professors’ support for the Israeli Military’s destruction of Gaza.”

Make no mistake: These posters were not “an attempt to shed light.” It was a false and libelous attempt to trick the University

community into supporting a cause they are ill-informed about. On some posters, blatant lies have been spewed with largely disproportionate facts and figures, including directly blaming the administration for war crimes, genocide, and the deaths of Palestinian civilians.

It is not just the blatantly untrue contents, but the material itself, which draws me to conclude antisemitic violence. Labeling the posters with “wanted” provides a uniquely dangerous situation, in which actors are inciting violence against administrators and Jews.

JVP’s response to such violent and hateful sentiment and language makes it harder for me to support any group that is calling for the “liberation of Palestine” on this campus. While I sympathize with the death of any civilian in a military conflict, one needs context to understand the full gravity of our current geopolitical situation.

But, we cannot forget the origin of this conflict.

Fifteen hundred innocent people were kidnapped, killed, dragged through the streets, and many more are still being held hostage, including several Americans, resulting from the events of Oct. 7. This fact has been disregarded by many on our campus. Instead of recognizing these facts, some have justified their actions targeting Jewish individuals by trying to ignorantly forget Oct. 7. We must never forget that day and all the people lost.

Firstly, I would like to say one thing clearly. Jewish students on this campus deserve to be heard, and Jews on campus will not be silenced for their support of Israel. Similarly to Palestinians who protest for friends and family affected by the conflict, the solidar-

ity Jews and Israelis have on campus are for the same justifications. The multifaceted angles of this conflict give leniency to both sides who are struggling with tremendous loss and grief. Both sides deserve to be heard and to live in peace.

**‘But, we cannot forget the origin of this conflict.’**

I am ashamed that fellow students could do such vile things, by reposting and sharing content that by definition is antisemitic on social media. The Oxford Reference’s definition of antisemitism is “hostility to or prejudice against Jewish people.”

Since the incident, President Sarah Mangelsdorf has released a statement condemning the protesters, finally calling the vandalism what it is: antisemitism. While I am happy her words finally came to light, we must not stop here.

In the future, we must call for peaceful protests, respect, dialogue, consensus, community, and tolerance for each other. While we can all fight over definitions and semantic wording as a University community, we must not forget the bigger picture. Millions of innocent people have been dragged into this conflict's ugly bowels.

The University must continue to stop this violent rhetoric against Jews along with preventative steps to avoid further escalations.

We must continue to stand up for the Jewish community in today's unstable world — even in 2024 at the University, where it seems safety still can't be achieved.

*DeLorme is a member of the Class of 2028.*

# Blindspots: How the Media Spun a Protest Into an Attack



BY FINN ABBEY  
OPINIONS EDITOR

MARY JERRED / ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

Taking a refreshing break from failing the country at large, this week, corporate news outlets are instead misleading the UR community, inflicting real harm on our collective understanding of the truth and on peoples’ sense of safety. The ‘wanted’ posters incident is a textbook example of how institutions — both academic and corporate — warp current events to fit pre-existing narratives.

Shortly after the appearance (and swift removal) of posters alleging connections between certain staff and community members to the Israeli military, illegal settlements, and mistreatment of pro-Palestine students on the River Campus, University President Sarah Mangelsdorf issued a public statement denouncing the posters as antisemitic and declaring that the administration believes “several of those depicted appear to have been targeted because they are members of our Jewish community.” Moving forward, this became the overwhelming national narrative. CNN reported the story as “Hundreds of ‘wanted’ posters were plastered across the University of Rochester campus. Jewish faculty members were targeted.” Fox News stated, “University of Rochester addresses hundreds of ‘wanted’ posters for Jewish faculty members posted around campus.” The Hill published, “University of Rochester plastered with ‘wanted’ posters of Jewish faculty, staff.”

All of these articles ignore the fact that not everyone mentioned is Jewish, and that the grievances were specific and political in nature. The University has a clear interest in tamping down protests related to its academic involvement with Israel, appeasing pro-Israel donors and administrators. There have been numerous other protests on campus related to this conflict (most of which have been publicly opposed by the University) and nearly all have been centered on policy disagreements with ad-

ministration and the Board of Trustees. The people targeted by the posters are accessible members of the community, and many directly shape school policy. Obscuring the source of the animus behind these posters is journalistic malpractice. It is a symptom of the press-by-press-release style of reporting that national organizations with no connections to the community use to get clicks. Regardless of what one thinks about the posters, they cannot be fully understood outside of the context of ongoing campus protests.

This misinformation has created a real negative atmosphere in the community. As the story was picked up and widely disseminated in this school-approved form, many parents have begun voicing their fear for their children’s safety on campus. Regardless of the content of the protests occurring on the River Campus in the past year, most can agree they have largely been peaceful, and the community has had little reason to fear. The only instance of a Jewish individual injured over the course of those protests was last spring, when a Jewish professor was knocked to the ground by Public Safety while trying to protect the Gaza Solidarity Encampment. Parents should not be made to panic over political speech that the school disagrees with if there is no danger at play.

The national narrative of this story will likely not be rectified. The headlines have already been read, the heroes and villains have been decided, and the more researched stories written by people in the community — like those of the *Campus Times* or the *Rochester Beacon* — necessarily come later than high profile organizations, who, despite having more resources, only report uncritically on published emails. The outcome? Well, now that a judgment can be made, truth is of lesser importance.

*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.*



MARY JERRED / ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR



# English Made My Life Easier as a Study Abroad Student. That’s Not Fair.

BY KATIE JARVIS  
STAFF WRITER

Last fall, I studied abroad at Denmark Technical University (DTU), just north of Copenhagen. I had two main criteria when I chose a school to study abroad at: 1) I needed to be able to take at least four courses that would satisfy my degree requirements, and 2) I wanted to live in a country where I could get by on English alone.

That’s not to say I didn’t make an effort to “immerse myself in Danish culture,” or however the Center for Education Abroad would like me to phrase it. I started up a Danish Duolingo streak the day I got accepted into the program, I went to culture nights, I tried the food, and I even spent days just walking and biking through the Danish countryside near my campus. However, I’ve never been great at learning foreign languages, so when I arrived at DTU, I felt like I was playing study abroad on easy mode.

My main friend group while I was abroad was a group of students who I’d met through DTU’s board games club. Three of the members were local Danish first-years, one member was Icelandic, one member was German, and the other two were Australian. For most of the time we spent together early on, I was more focused on the game at hand than social dynamics (go figure), but

every so often as I waited for my next turn, or as we took a break to choose a new game, I’d suddenly remember that more than half the group was speaking in their second (or even third) language. And there I was, unable to speak more than one. On top of that, the club started at 5 p.m. on a Monday, meaning that many of my new friends had already sat through four to eight hours of technical engineering jargon in their second language, before they even showed up to our meeting place. And on top of that, they had to juggle the rules of a relatively complex board game in front of them.

I was talking with my German friend from the board games group online as I was writing this article, and I was saying how I felt like speaking English constantly must have been so draining. His thoughts were that, “While it definitely was challenging, that challenge also was kinda fun.” He continued that “I feel like native English speakers have it considerably easier. But they also miss out on a part of the [study abroad] experience.” The other thing worth mentioning is that the average European is so much better at English than I am in *any* other language.

During my time abroad, I joined a Dungeons and Dragons club, which similarly had a mixed nationality group: five Danes, me, and my same Icelandic friend. I remember once, we had taken a

mid-session break: I had just returned from the bathroom to find all the Danes having an animated discussion in Danish. As soon as I sat down, they immediately switched to English. I expressed to one of them, my friend Augusta, that I felt bad they all had to switch just for me — it must be so exhausting to have to speak in English all day.

“Not really,” she said casually. “We start learning English in primary school. Did you know that something like 95% of the Danish population under the age of 65 is fluent in English?” Not just “took it in school.” Fully fluent. “Don’t worry Katie, it’s really not a bother at all,” she reassured me.

Europeans don’t learn English for the same reason we learn Spanish or French or even Mandarin in our high schools. For the average American student, a second language is simply a nice thing to have, a resume booster. Maybe you can use it to impress your friends if you decide to visit Paris over spring break. Unless you want to pursue a degree in international relations or language education, a second language feels closer to a hobby than a life skill.

For Europeans, English is basically a prerequisite for any job that requires more than a high school education. And if you live in a city? You’ll need it for pretty much any customer-facing job. In my six months in Denmark,



MARY JERRED / ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

I never met a single cashier who didn’t switch to perfect English as soon as I garbled out my best attempt at “I’m good, how are you?”

Even the libraries. The libraries had a comprehensive English section, sometimes because no Danish translation had been printed, and sometimes because a translation for a popular book took too long to be released. I could have read a new book every day of my semester and still not exhausted the fiction section of the English books at the Lyngby Public Library.

The crazy thing is, it never had to be English that got this special treatment. I’m not going to get into the root causes of why English became the world’s lingua franca, but it could just as easily have been Spanish, German or ... Franca — I mean French. However, as trade expanded, it became increasingly obvious that having one language become the international language of commerce and trade would simply be more convenient. Due to rampant colonialism

and power dynamics in the 20th century, English presented itself as the most obvious choice. Although there’s a rational reason for English’s dominance, my emotions tell me another story.

**‘English presented itself as the most obvious choice.’**

A story that, somehow, through sheer luck, the tongue of the world is the tongue of my mother. Somehow, the stars aligned in a way that I could travel 4,000 miles, and be seated in an empty classroom of a Danish university, surrounded by German, Icelandic, and Danish people who can all speak my language, meanwhile I can barely form a full sentence in theirs. And as I sat there, celebrating my latest victory at the board game Root, I wondered if I still would have won if we were playing in Danish.

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

## Why Haute Couture Is Worth Keeping Up With

BY HELENA FENG  
MANAGING EDITOR

Juxtaposition, ambiguity, tasteful restraint — words that come to mind when thinking of the collections presented around two months ago during Paris Fashion Week. At its most basal, the contrast of the conventional and unconventional; of the new, young, and old.

Taking place in the world’s fashion capital, Paris Fashion Week features several dozen of the most prestigious designer brands, who present their coming collections in the form of exorbitant fashion shows. Complete with meticulously curated guest lists and set details down to the seating and music choice, few things are as representative of the stark inaccessibility of the ultra-rich lifestyle, the grandeur only amplified by the price points — each garment featured in this twice-yearly extravaganza is priced anywhere between thousands to tens of thousands of dollars each. And, arguably, not without good reason, as each

piece is hand-made-to-order, and the culmination of countless hours of skilled design and careful craftsmanship.

Certainly, far more people tune into these shows than those who can afford to purchase anything on display, which begs the question — to the average person, what is the value in viewing such a wildly inaccessible spectacle? At first glance, it might seem like a futile attempt to vicariously experience the realm of wealth that permits the luxe lifestyle of high fashion clientele. More charitably, perhaps, a chance to enjoy the fantasy of bejeweled gowns and tailored perfection.

But, I’d argue, these interpretations fundamentally misunderstand the value we can derive from haute couture.

A long estranged aspect of the mainstream fashion space, haute couture allows us a glimpse of creativity when it is unrestrained — at the very least, less so — by the stifling constraints of the current fashion economy, which must follow, co-opt, and bastardize

trends in alignment with the general public to maintain profitability. The crux of high fashion, and what makes it worth watching, is its contrastive lack of limitation in a space so delineated by its own struggle for profit. Indeed, it is by virtue of its monetarily privileged position and cultural legacy that haute couture enjoys a certain creative freedom, permitting a drift from palatability into novelty. At its very best, high fashion challenges its very medium, emphasizing the arbitrariness of fashion convention and pushing the boundaries of dress.

Take Dutch fashion designer Iris Van Herpen, whose creations — often constructed with cascades of geometric, repetitive layers, or billowing wings of fabric — effortlessly meld with the body. Among her past few collections was “Architectonics,” which took inspiration from oceanic color palettes and habitats, featuring wavelike and fluidly sculptural pieces that celebrate their connection to the human form. As for ex-

amples from this recent season, Spring/Summer 2025 (SS25), Issey Miyake SS25 introduced a clean, introspective collection revolving around paper — not just in the composition of the garments themselves, of which many were constructed using blends of hemp, but encapsulated in their various forms. The presentation exudes a certain gentleness: delicate pressed-leaf and floral arrangements worn as eyewear, and widely present architectural draping, signature pleating, and elegantly twisted garments which embrace the natural qualities of their material. Sharing a similar tenderness, Valentino SS25 was a muted parade of bows, lace, and ruffles spilling from gowns — a visual convening of lightness, delicateness, and femininity. Despite completing their microtrend cycle now, there’s nothing outdated or kitsch about the frequent appearance of ribbons and bows in Alessandro Michele’s creations, reminding us of the unfortunate reality of the modern fashion econo-

my: What should be timeless motifs are compartmentalized into specific substyles of fashion, subsequently accelerating their falling out of favor from the mainstream. But here, alongside many others this season, these designers keep alive a wonderful sense that we tend to lose in mainstream fashion — that the body is not just a mannequin, but an individualistic form deserving and capable of interacting dynamically and uniquely with its accessories.

Beyond offering a sort of visual freshness to the fashion space, high fashion introduces a heightened level of storytelling and intrinsic social commentary exceedingly rare in mainstream fashion. When the production of clothes hinges on promises of guaranteed financial gain, the result is the unsurprising constraint of affordable fashion to uninspired spinoffs of current trends.

In fact, the fad of replicating a given subculture’s styling — see the grunge, “hippie,” or

SEE HAUTE PAGE 10



FROM HAUTE PAGE 9

goth movements — with superficial regard for anything beyond visuals is partially the cause of their subsequent reduction from decades of cultural legacy to bare aesthetics. Not to say that high fashion exists in total isolation from the influence of said trends, but haute couture operates more predictively — the most successful high fashion ventures are those that introduce styles and pieces that remain timeless, or at least ever-returning to the fashion mainstream.

And to produce evergreen garments of this nature requires a fine-grained attunement with or conscious reading of social trends. Put simply, it requires the identification and harnessing of the social components driving the appeal of current trends instead of mindless reproduction of their form. It's not the ribbons and bubble skirts, per se, but the reclaiming of hyper-feminine and playfulness in dress that has driven the commercial success of these motifs.

For example, we can attribute the mainstream recognition and success of brands like Miu Miu — sister brand of Italian fashion house Prada — in recent years to creative director Miuccia Prada's remarkable attunement with Miu Miu's freshly discovered essence: an intrinsic flexibility and sort of accessible effervescence. And what I mean by this is that the brand's core playfulness feels inclusive, and intentionally so, in a way fashion trends often do not; despite Miu Miu remaining relatively true to the brand's visual identity, which, in itself, is characterized by the juxtaposition of youth and maturity, the brand has been tactfully diverse in its choice of representation.

In addition to more typical vectors of fashion like superstar K-idol Jang Wonyoung and American actress Sydney Sweeney, who are often seen sporting Miu Miu apparel, the prolific actor Willem Dafoe and Dr. Qin Huilan — a 70-year-old Guanxi-born doctor by training and longtime Prada superfan — both walked Miu Miu's recent show. And it's this dichotomy that makes the brand identity of Miu Miu a force to be reckoned with within the modern fashion sphere; the oscillating nature of today's accelerated fashion cycles, combined with the continued personification of dress — think the bookish yet sexily powerful "office siren," the demure "coquette," etc. — lends an intense appeal to brands that successfully harness this subconscious indecisiveness to be everything all at once. As Miuccia Prada herself has written about the "Miu Miu girl," "There is a strength, and a tenderness [...] For instance, you can want to be beautiful and gentle but also intelligent, political."

"There is a mentality which has always been present

at Miu Miu — a sense of freedom, of spontaneity," she wrote.

Bottega Veneta SS25 carried similar themes of social dichotomy and reflection, encapsulated by a collection revolving around the transition from childhood to corporate adulthood. Palpable was a certain awkwardness intrinsic to the process of growing up, with too-big blazers with heavily accented shoulders, intentionally frumpy dress-shirts, and tastefully messy, asymmetric skirts and pants.

Here, Matthieu Blazy's tender carefulness to each component of a look is extraordinarily clear. Entire ensembles deceptively constructed with leather, including details like ties and striped dress-shirts, exemplify perhaps what is the most cherished and distinct aspect of high fashion: a careful attention to detail and passion for expert craftsmanship. Clearly, a perfunctory glance or once-over is not enough for Blazy. Each look, instead, can be dissected and appreciated, down to the crocheted leather flowers that drip from the hands of the models. And this in itself is precious: that there even exists something beyond a superficial glance or two is increasingly rare within the context of a wider fashion space, where a closer look too often only begets the discovery of design carelessness or economic corner-cutting.

Though high fashion certainly exists in a setting more opportune for artistic innovation, lazily repackaged brand motifs and shock value-based ploys for attention are certainly still present in high fashion. For example, I personally can't see any potential longevity or cultural value Balenciaga's \$2,000 trash bag purse brings to the table. All is to say that though a small group, the people who regularly consume luxury fashion are loyal, and brands know it. Bringing freshness to how we dress is not secluded to high fashion by any means, but it's a fact that the most accessible fashion — think SHEIN and other fast fashion brands — tend to regurgitate cheap copies of what is already mainstream, naturally pushing consumers toward falling into line with current trends. High fashion is fascinating because it's a paradox of sorts — wildly inaccessible in a practical sense, yet reminding us of the arbitrariness of fashion convention and how simple and accessible stylistic reinvention can potentially be. Indeed, we might not be able to readily purchase garments that themselves embody reinvention and innovation — this necessarily requires time and craftsmanship, which the fashion industry at large generally lacks — but we can all learn something from the founding principles of high fashion: to be experimental and individualistic in the ways we view and style ourselves.

Feng is a member of the Class of 2026.

# Transphobes Have No Idea What They're Talking About

BY NORA GOODMAN  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Following Harris' loss, Democrats are scrambling to find scapegoats, with trans people being one of the most enticing. *The Atlantic* recently published an article arguing that, because Democrats are unable to actually defend trans athletes, they may as well abandon this politically unpopular "issue." Instead, they recommend going for a "compromise position" to "defend transgender Americans who want to live their lives in peace." Why do mainstream Democrats see a trans woman playing a sport as somehow being in opposition to living our lives in peace?

***'Democrats are scrambling to find scapegoats, with trans people being one of the most enticing.'***

The transphobes of this country have done an incredible job of turning the public against trans athletes. They've done this in two ways. Their first complaint usually occurs when a transgender athlete wins something, and critics label her as an example of an unfair advantage. Take Lia Thomas, for example, who, in addition to being transgender, is also a strong swimmer. Because of this, she won a 500-yard freestyle race in 2022, after three years of transitioning with hormone replacement therapy (HRT). At that same meet, she finished behind many cis women in plenty of other events. Other articles go into more detail about the reality of her performance — nonetheless, it's safe to say that Thomas is not exceptional. This "debate" isn't really about how broad Thomas' shoulders are; it's about the use of selection bias to shit on trans athletes when they win, and ignore them when they lose.

***'The transphobes of this country have done an incredible job of turning the public against trans athletes.'***

The other argument surrounds "biological differences" between men and women. Another lovely article in *The Atlantic* rattles off comparisons between male and female sports leagues. This would be a very smart and astute analysis — if it made any sense at all. They use statistics of men in place of actual statistics of trans women, usually referring to trans women as "men" in their rhetoric. And when we call them out for this, we're

*'I SHIT YOU NOT,*



*HRT IS GIVING ME CUTE FRECKLES ON MY NOSE."*

MARY JERRED / ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

"shouting down" opinions. Trans women are not men. This is, as the saying goes, basic biology.

***'They use statistics of men in place of actual statistics of trans women.'***

Transphobes are predictably unconcerned with the actual science at play. In 2021, the Canadian Center for Ethics in Sport commissioned a "review of scientific and grey literature on transgender athlete participation in competitive sport." This study found that "available evidence indicates trans women who have undergone testosterone suppression have no clear biological advantage over cis women in elite sport." Despite this, both the NCAA and Olympics have banned trans athletes. So, if there really are no actual statistical differences, why do people flip their shit every time a trans athlete ... \*gasp\* wins an athletic event?

***'Why do people flip their shit every time a trans athlete ... \*gasp\* wins?'***

The answer is that transphobes are a bunch of scumbags, and the consequences affect both cis and trans people. We're at the point where the Florida House of Representatives is giving schools the power to subject students to "physical examination" — aka genital inspections. As they enact these policies, they use the trans sports "debate" to try and find "nuance" in the transgender "issue." It's a starting point to exclude trans women from other spaces too. How in the world can you justify banning trans people from women's chess leagues? And, if this debate is truly about biological "advantage," why does the debate make its way to the locker rooms as well?

Well-meaning cis "allies" promote the view that, while gender is changeable, sex is the immutable characteristics controlled by

chromosomes. This is why you'll hear people yapping about "biological" men and "biological" women. To that, I say, any doctor that is treating me like a "biological man" is a bad fucking doctor.

What cis people don't understand is that even the most basic trans healthcare is basically magic. Since starting HRT, my hormone levels are a lot closer to an average cis woman than an average man.

***'What cis people don't understand is that even the most basic trans healthcare is basically magic.'***

Feminizing HRT does a lot. It changes fat distribution, decreases muscle mass, and changes your emotions. It thins body hair and decreases sweat. It can change shoe size and height. I shit you not, HRT is giving me cute freckles on my nose. Many trans women report monthly menstrual cramps. With the right hormone cocktail, trans women can breastfeed their children, and some doctors now believe that the first uterus transplant for a trans woman is "anticipated to take place within the next few years, if not sooner." I call dibs.

The fact that you actually can change your sex is a terrifying threat to anyone who is currently trying to control women's bodies. If there's not actually much of a biological difference between men and women, it's harder to enforce structures that maintain men in power.

Honestly, I don't really care about sports all that much. But when liberals blame trans people for Harris' loss, it really pisses me off. Instead of letting trans rights even more rapidly slip away — why not just actually take the time to learn about our issues, learn that we're not a threat to sports or locker rooms, and just be fucking normal?

Goodman is a member of the Class of 2026.



# All Eyes On Trump

BY JOANNA LEE  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Clearly, I’ve been living in a liberal, anti-Trump bubble for the past couple of months because I swore the 47th president-elect of the United States would be Vice President Kamala Harris. However, on Jan. 20, 2025, Donald J. Trump will be inaugurated into the White House, again. With 312 electoral votes and 50.3% of the popular votes, President-elect Trump won the 2024 elections against Vice President Harris’ 226 electoral votes and 48.1% of the popular vote. Not only that, but the Republicans have won the race for control of the House and Senate.

***‘He is in a position that will allow him to truly enact his agenda.’***

Despite Vice President Harris’s qualifications, having served as a district attorney, attorney general, and senator for California, she ended up losing largely due to, what many Americans

viewed as, President Joe Biden’s failed presidency. Although it was inevitable for Vice President Harris to be linked to President Biden’s actions throughout their term, that, and his late exit from the race, restricted Harris substantially. It also didn’t help that Trump’s campaign largely emphasized strengthening the U.S. economy, which the Biden administration failed to fix, leaving many Americans to economically struggle under the effects of inflation. This gave Trump a slight, but significant, advantage amongst low income and middle class voters.

What does Donald Trump’s win in the 2024 elections mean to Americans? Despite the supposed good and winning point of reducing inflation, he is planning to attack immigrants, the education system, transgender individuals, the climate, and more. Not only that, he will use his position to prevent federal cases against him from going through, and pardon his supporters and their actions on Jan. 6. We can all act like he will

be as inefficient as he was in his first term as president, however, things are different now. With all three branches of government practically on his side, and a little more experience under his belt, he knows what he needs to do. And we are beginning to see his strategy come together with the people he has appointed as members of his Cabinet and staff. Trump is picking individuals with an emphasis on loyalty rather than expertise in their appointed positions, making sure there are no obstacles in the way of him enacting his agenda. He does not want another slew of former Cabinet members who speak out against his actions.

***‘Trump is picking individuals with an emphasis on loyalty rather than expertise.’***

We need to understand the true implications of his presidency, because he is in a position that will allow him to truly enact his agenda. As it relates to us, University students, Trump claims that he will be taking money from private colleges who do not

agree with his agenda, and plans to generally have a stronger federal hold over them. Diversity, equity, and inclusion staff have been one of his bigger targets, and he is trying to remove them from schools and government institutions. Trump has also stated that he is trying to prevent transgender students from participating in sports. He also plans to reverse Biden’s protection of transgender students under Title IX. What does Kamala Harris’ loss in the 2024 elections mean to Americans? It is hard to see another prominent female candidate for president lose against Trump, whether her being a woman of color had any weight on people’s votes against her. It is extremely discouraging for the millions of women, and specifically the women of color, to watch Americans not have faith in Kamala Harris, a woman of color, to lead this country. But what can we truly do? We aren’t going to follow in the footsteps of MAGA Capitol rioters — we actually believe in democratic elections. We also aren’t just going to stand by as we watch Trump

rise into presidency and threaten Americans and the democracy we exist within.

I think Kamala Harris said it best in her concession speech, “Sometimes the fight takes a while.” We should not completely give up on the issues we care about. If you care, continue fighting in any way you can. Continue to emphasize the importance of voting in elections, whether it is on a national or local level, and put the people who will represent you and the things you care about into office. Honestly, keep Donald Trump in check. Continue to focus on the actions he is taking and promoting as the president, and fight back. And be there for yourself and for others. Build yourself a community, people you can turn to and talk to about the things going on. And bring a sense of community for other people, be there for the people around you and be someone that people can come to. Put all eyes on Donald Trump — he is not above the law.

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

# The Consequence of Apathy

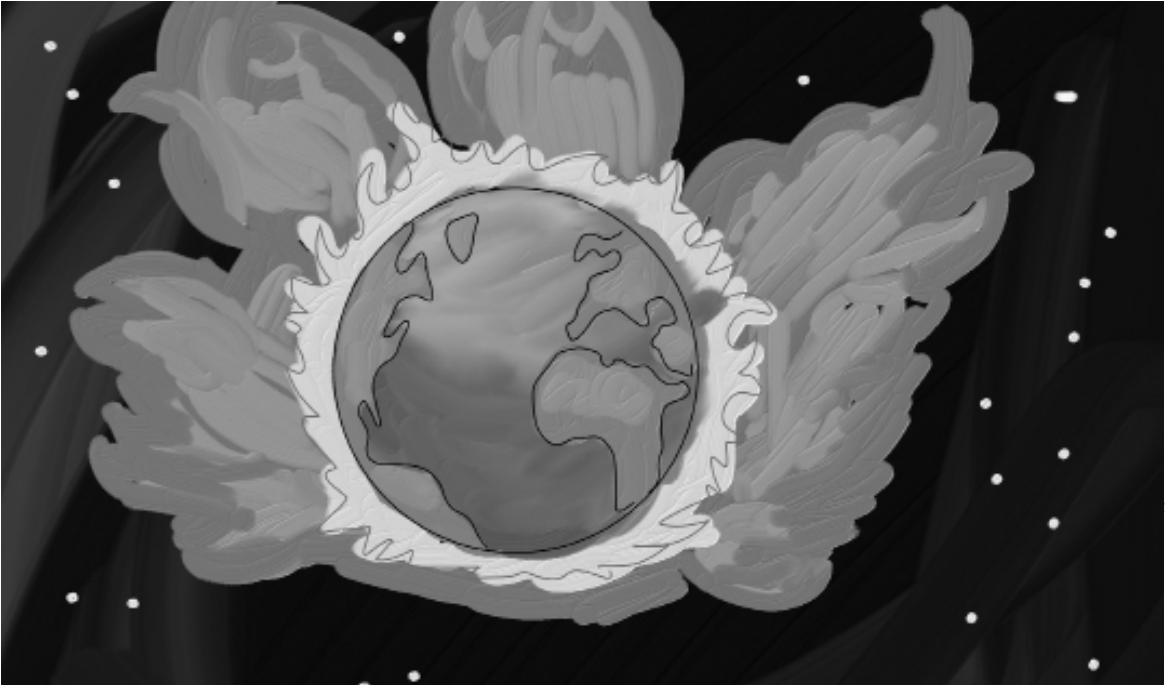
BY NARM NATHAN  
DATA EDITOR

I was the political type in high school. I don’t think people went as far as to consider me a social justice warrior, but I felt as though their patience had run thin with me by my junior year. Though my high school was relatively diverse, it didn’t shield me from growing up near rural whites who didn’t let their friendships with me trump their personal politics.

I’ll never forget being told by one of my best friends that “they couldn’t trust an immigrant” — and losing more than one friend for calling them out on their xenophobia. Each time a white student had an issue with saying racial slurs, the conversations revolved more around the drama of the situation rather than the words’ actual impact. It felt as though preserving the social fabric mattered more than having a backbone; that I would have been better liked had I just kept my mouth shut.

***‘Preserving the social fabric mattered more than having a backbone.’***

Even the people I thought were my friends didn’t so much respect me as they simply tolerated me. They’d enjoy my presence and share laughs with me, but turn their nose up at my minority



SUBAAH SYED / ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

friends for no valid reason. I’d previously thought I was loved for who I was, but it was when I expected their open support or love that I realized that their desire to preserve an image of themselves mattered more than actually caring. Their approval among their peers dictated their actions, and I had zero social capital to influence them, no matter how close I thought we truly were.

Yet, I recall watching everyone turn into Instagram activists after George Floyd passed away in 2020. Suddenly, there’s blackout squares from those same individuals, and there’s infographics explaining systemic racism to me, and everybody’s a newfound expert in racial

justice — not because they felt morally compelled to, but because they felt socially responsible. Their image and status weren’t threatened by being vocal — quite the opposite — and so they didn’t feel afraid to act.

***‘Everybody’s a newfound expert in racial justice.’***

We live in a perpetual fear of what the next person has to say about us: what we’re doing, the way we act, and how we appear to eyes that otherwise hold zero influence over us. It defines our relationships, our social hierarchies, and our psychology itself. As humans, we want to be included and approved of, so we toe the line just enough

to never fall out of favor, and we prevent ourselves from embracing the truths that define who we truly are. We elect to preserve our status in the face of an unjust society, because who would we be without it?

I’m described as being “too much” for choosing to be somebody who cares about other people. I’m “too intense” or “too passionate” because choosing to care is too much in a world where we’ve grown too comfortable with apathy. We masquerade as activists through social media and aesthetics and pat ourselves on the back for doing the bare minimum. We coddle ourselves by weaponizing therapy language like “trauma bonding” and “boundaries” that prevent

us from accessing the vulnerability that human connection requires. We protect ourselves in echo chambers, where anyone who challenges us is worthy of judgment and unworthy of our acceptance.

***‘We protect ourselves in echo chambers.’***

We’ve failed to embrace the social responsibility that community requires, and we are losing ourselves because of it. I work with individuals every day who look at me with bright eyes because nobody’s ever paid attention to them the way I have, or treated them with the same respect I do. They feel undesirable, as though the world’s turned their back on them — and I can’t help but reflect on how I’ve felt doing the same before, begging for someone to care about me or pay attention to my work.

It isn’t easy to care, nor does it pay well or look cool. But people who do are who ground the community, and who give those around us a reason to embrace each other. The world is shaped by the collective impact of individual actions, and it’s through a mutual responsibility to the empowerment of one another that we can find avenues of social progress.

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



# CULTURE

## Teddy's Travels: Niagara-on-the-Lake

BY TEDDY ALMOND  
STAFF WRITER

When people think of Rochester, New York, they might not think of the many adventures that come with being the third-largest city in the state. Being smack-dab in the middle of Western New York opens you up to the many cities on the eastern edge of Great Lakes megalopolis.

Just a quick hour and 45 minutes from the University is the quaint Canadian town Niagara-on-the-Lake, situated on the shores of Lake Ontario. The town boasts colonial-style buildings and rich history due to the role it had in the War of 1812.

Getting there, we took the scenic route, which shadows the Lake Ontario shoreline, taking us about 20 minutes longer than had we taken the direct route on I-90.

Before arriving in Canada, I stopped in Lewiston, NY, at “The Griffin,” a bar and restaurant specializing in gourmet American cuisine. The restaurant sits on the Niagara River — less than a few hundred yards from the Canadian border. Its bar offers a small-town atmosphere while at the same time offering a large lunch menu to choose from. The Griffin is less than 10 minutes away from the Lewiston-Queenston Bridge, which is one of the three bridge crossings to Canada in the Buffalo-Niagara area.

While a lot of the attention often sits on its southern neighbor Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake definitely has plenty to offer for a quick day trip. In its quintessential downtown, you can spend the day taking a horse and carriage ride around the city, or go shopping and stop by its various clothing stores. Be sure to stop by “Just Christ-



GUINEVERE TOCZEK / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

mas,” a holiday-themed local business specializing in personalized trinkets and tchotchkes. Afterwards,

spend the next few hours window shopping downtown and trying on bespoke hats or British clothing at “Irish Design.”

After wandering around downtown, I concluded my afternoon by watching the sunset on Ball Street Beach, which features stunning views of the Toronto skyline in the distance backdropped with a pink sky.

Even though the sun was setting, I wanted to do one last thing before we left back for home. About 30 minutes west of the town is Short Hills Provincial Park, which, while we couldn't explore due to it being dark, offered breathtaking views of one of its many lakes during sunset.

As we were trying to leave, however, the GPS told us to go down this one road through the forest for a mile before connecting back up with the highway. Little did we know that this seemingly short stretch of roadway

would become 15 minutes of jaw-clenching.

We quickly realized that this was not an ordinary road. Now, in the pitch black, we found ourselves going uphill on a muddy road barely wide enough for my car. We carefully navigated through puddles and deep ruts in the road that would make the car shake from side to side as we rolled over them.

It was when I could hear the dirt beneath scraping the undercarriage of my Honda CR-V that I realized this might not be good for my car.

Nevertheless, after what was about 15 minutes of driving through deep puddles and being terrified my car would get stuck, we emerged from the bush and got on the normal highway. I looked out my rearview mirror and I could see the mud flying off my car as we went down the road.

Before leaving Canada, we decided to grab a quick snack at one of their signature Tim Hortons, then we got back on the Lewiston-Queenston Bridge to head back to New York. The excitement did not

stop there: After all of the bumping around in the car, I then got a low-tire-pressure warning, so as soon as we got back to Lewiston, I stopped to fill up the air in my tires (of which all of them were low) and get gas at the highly recommended Smokin' Joes gas station, located on the Tuscarora Nation territory just outside the city. If you are in the area, I highly recommend you stop there for fuel, as their \$2.79 price per gallon is unbeatable. I should, however, warn you to make sure to watch the pump carefully when refilling — when I was filling up, I inadvertently got sprayed with a little gasoline as it overflowed my tank, which made the rest of the hour-and-a-half journey back reeking of fuel less than desirable.

Of the places I have been to so far, I think this is one of my favorite destinations. The highlights being the custom hat shop BeauChapeau and the Toronto skyline backdropped with a stunning sunset on the shore of Lake Ontario.

Being the first edition of Teddy's Travels, this is my breakdown for how I decide how many “Teddy Stars” to award a destination:

**Price:** This trip was relatively inexpensive. The main cost was getting there and paying for gas — a price which drastically goes down if you carpool with others, as I did. The total amount driven during the trip was about 265 miles. If you fill your tank up at Smokin' Joes for \$2.79 a gallon, my fuel price totaled about \$28. The toll to get into Canada (which you can use an E-ZPass for) costs \$6, and the I-90 toll was also a few dollars. For lunch, I ordered a crispy chicken sandwich for \$17, and then my snack at Tim Hortons set

me back \$5 CAD. I spent \$10 CAD for parking while we were there. In total, since the three of us split the gas bill, I paid a total of about \$47 for the trip. *\*Please also keep in mind that these prices do not reflect the conversion from Canadian to USD.*

**Food:** The chicken sandwich I ordered from The Griffin was amazing, although it was a little pricey. However, the convenience of where it was located, right by the bridge, and the stunning views it offered, were definitely a plus.

**Parking:** Parking was not a problem in Niagara-on-the-Lake. We found street parking right downtown, which also was a bit pricey at \$5 CAD an hour, but there also seem to be other parking options available near downtown.

**Shops:** The shops were a bit marked up, but depending on what you buy, some things were actually quite reasonably priced. While there was a carriage tour of the downtown, we did not take it because it was ridiculously priced at \$90 for 15 minutes.

**Adventure/Fun:** There was definitely adventure and fun on this trip! The area had plenty of things to do, and the trip could easily be extended by going down to Niagara Falls, going to the nearby amusement park Clifton Hill, or indulging in the many wine-tasting opportunities locally available.

I would rate this journey four out of five Teddy Stars, and would highly recommend this day trip to anyone looking for a quick getaway.



*Almond is a member of the Class of 2028.*

## ‘Heretic’ Is Thoughtful, but Falls Short in the Fear Aspect

BY KATE STOUT  
STAFF WRITER

“Heretic” is the story of a terrifying visit by two young missionaries to the home of the older Mr. Reed. After entering, the two women realize there's no way for them to leave. Mr. Reed attempts to teach them about faith and — as they descend deeper into his home and into danger — what he thinks is the one true religion.

The aspect of “Heretic” you'll be least likely to forget when you walk out of the theater is Hugh Grant's performance as Mr. Reed. He has all the self-assuredness of a British academic wrapped up in a cardigan, which only makes him scarier as a villain.

The film's two missionary characters, who visit Mr. Reed in an attempt to convert him to the Church of the Latter-day Saints, are both wonderfully written and performed. After being trapped in Mr. Reed's home, they're faced with his arguments against the truth of their faith. Although the story comes to (sort of) affirm Mr. Reed's views on religion, these ideas don't go without rebuttal, and neither does Mr. Reed's violence. The missionaries argue, with compelling evidence, for their own views and have agency within the story.

It's probably worth noting that there's been some conversation about the film's portrayal of the Church of

the Latter-day Saints — the Church commented on the film's portrayal and so have former members of the Church.

At times, the first half of the film veered into territory that was more cerebral than I expected, prioritizing intellectual commentary over the scary to a degree unexpected for a thriller or horror film. In the first half of the film, the viewer is basically watching a religious studies debate set in a cozy study full of religious iconography. Despite this, the discomfort in the scenes reads palpably and the shots are so gorgeous that I don't mind being reminded of classrooms.

While this choice was a risky move on the part of the

filmmakers, the performances are strong enough and the atmosphere throughout the film is disquieting enough that it works. Additionally, the little moments of absurdity sprinkled through the story (Hugh Grant does a Jar Jar Binks impression?) added to the disturbing world of Mr. Reed's design.

The weakest part of the film was its third act: It was much more horror-like than its first two, but at a cost. I could feel myself growing bored and even Hugh Grant (who sheds his alarmingly charming cardigan!) was unable to preserve my faith in the film. Once the two women leave Mr. Reed's study, the beguiling veneer is gone. So is the film's tension.

The beginning of the film felt so intentional — aesthetically indulgent and kind of funny. The end, however, nearly felt like the filmmakers were deciding what to do as they were doing it. Though I can appreciate an open ending, I needed some sort of resolution. Hugh Grant's lecturing spends so much time building up to nothing terribly interesting.

Still, “Heretic” was largely enjoyable! I would definitely recommend it to anyone who likes a dialogue-heavy film, but not to someone who's looking for a horror flick.

*Stout is a member of the Class of 2028.*



# Grammy Noms: Colin’s Predictions and Favorites

BY COLIN JONES  
CULTURE EDITOR

Well, it’s that time again: Grammy season. I think most people would agree with me that the yearly awards shows have lost the public’s respect. People still tune in for the Grammys and Oscars, but I think we usually know what those committees will choose to highlight.

*‘Perhaps some part of me hopes that an artist who actually deserves it gets the recognition.’*

For awards, the big winners often overshadow much better works of art, especially when it comes to the Grammy Awards. Look no further than 2012, when Macklemore’s “The Heist” won over Kendrick Lamar’s “good kid, m.A.A.d city” for Best Rap Album. In retrospect, public opinion touts that Kendrick obviously should have won.

That said, I’m always still curious to see what gets nominated. Perhaps some part of me hopes that an artist who actually deserves it gets the recognition. And this year, we might just have that — some great music got nominated for some pretty prestigious awards! I have some thoughts on the nominations in the big categories (and one less-recognized category that means a lot to me), so read on, and let’s unpack the nominees for the 2025 Grammy Awards.

**ALBUM OF THE YEAR NOMINEES:**

- 1. “New Blue Sun” by André 3000
- 2. “COWBOY CARTER” by Beyoncé
- 3. “Short n’ Sweet” by Sabrina Carpenter
- 4. “BRAT” by Charli xcx
- 5. “Djesse Vol. 4” by Jacob Collier
- 6. “HIT ME HARD AND SOFT” by Billie Eilish
- 7. “The Rise and Fall of a Midwest Princess” by Chappell Roan
- 8. “THE TORTURED POETS DEPARTMENT” by Taylor Swift

As always, this is the most looked-at category for most music fans. I have a pretty clear favorite and least favorite here. Regardless of whether you personally enjoy it or not, it’s pretty hard to deny the cultural smash hit of “BRAT.”

*‘Regardless of whether you personally enjoy it or not, it’s pretty hard to deny the cultural smash hit of “BRAT.”’*

If we’re choosing the album



JOYLU/ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

that is truly emblematic of the 2024 music scene, this is the clear winner for me (and, of course, I also think it’s the best album of the bunch). It’s going to win, simply due to its monopolization of the zeitgeist as shown through the popular phrase of “Brat summer” and the album’s multiple viral TikTok sounds, if nothing else.

If Billie, Chappell, Sabrina, André, or Beyoncé win, I wouldn’t mind that — all of their albums ranged from really good or great. Initially, my least favorite was “THE TORTURED POETS DEPARTMENT” (readers may remember my beloved review in which I was not as enthusiastic about the record as some might have wished), but that was before I heard the Jacob Collier album.

*‘I get that Collier is talented as a composer and has a phenomenal grasp of music theory, but in my opinion his actual music is pretty garish.’*

While I think Taylor’s record is super dull and bland, I think the “Djesse Vol. 4” is genuinely terrible musically. I get that Collier is talented as a composer and has a phenomenal grasp of music theory, but in my opinion his actual music is pretty garish and hard to listen to. Hopefully once the Grammy committee “Talk talk” it out (subtle “BRAT” reference), they will land on Charli’s record, because if Collier or Swift wins, I will lose it.

**BEST NEW ARTIST NOMINEES:**

- 1. Benson Boone
- 2. Sabrina Carpenter
- 3. Doechii
- 4. Khruangbin
- 5. RAYE
- 6. Chappell Roan
- 7. Shaboozey
- 8. Teddy Swims

This category is always a bit strange. It’s not really accurately titled; it’s more about what previously-less-known artist blew up recently. Sabrina Carpenter has six albums at this point, and several of the other artists here have been making music for almost 10 years.

*‘I’m tired of these soulful white guys appearing every few years to dominate the airwaves with their blandness.’*

Naming convention aside, I think the clear winner here is Chappell Roan. While she’s my favorite artist on the list, Roan has also proved herself as a formidable cultural force this year, with numerous songs of hers spreading like wildfire across the radio. Yes, we’ve all heard a couple of Benson Boone tracks, that Shaboozey song, and probably some of the others (no shade to Doechii or Sabrina though, they’re both good artists), but Chappell Roan is second only to Charli xcx in terms of her hold on pop music this year. My least favorite on the list is Teddy Swims; I’m tired of these soulful white guys appearing every few years to dominate the airwaves with their blandness. Except for Hozier. That’s MY soulful white guy. Hozier is the exception.

**SONG OF THE YEAR NOMINEES:**

- 1. “A Bar Song (Tipsy)” by Shaboozey
- 2. “BIRDS OF A FEATHER” by Billie Eilish
- 3. “Die With a Smile” by Lady Gaga and Bruno Mars
- 4. “Fortnight” by Taylor Swift (featuring Post Malone)
- 5. “Good Luck, Babe!” by Chappell Roan
- 6. “Not Like Us” by Kendrick Lamar

- 7. “Please Please Please” by Sabrina Carpenter
- 8. “TEXAS HOLD ‘EM” by Beyoncé

For the most part, there’s a good crop of songs for this year’s nominees. “Fortnight” is really the only song here I think is truly bad; sorry, Swifties. While I think it would be cool for “Not Like Us” to win, for the spectacle that song produced, I think the actual best song here is pretty easily “Good Luck, Babe!” I think this is Chappell’s best song — not just a perfect pop song in terms of vocal performance and instrumental, but also it’s just so cool to see a song so explicitly about queer love (or compulsive heterosexuality, in this case) get so much recognition. It’s a generational track from an artist with an undoubtedly illustrious career ahead. Again, I’d be fine with most of these songs getting the award, as they’re a decent bunch, but “Good Luck, Babe!” is the one.

**BEST METAL PERFORMANCE NOMINEES:**

- 1. “Mea Culpa (Ah! Ça ira!)” by Gojira, Marina Viotti & Victor Le Masne
- 2. “Crown of Horns” by Judas Priest
- 3. “Suffocate” by Knocked Loose (featuring Poppy)
- 4. “Screaming Suicide” by Metallica
- 5. “Cellar Door” by Spiritbox

If it wasn’t clear by most of the music I cover in stand-alone reviews, metal is my favorite genre of music. Normally, this category never picks any interesting bands, and I just sigh and move on. This year, however, the nominees are looking a bit more interesting.

Metal always goes overlooked at the Grammys, and usually, the nominees are legacy bands pumping out forgettable material.

This is clearly still the case, with the Judas Priest and Metallica songs being some of their least interesting tracks (not to diss the bands as a whole, they’re obviously legends). The Spiritbox track is pretty cool, and Gojira’s Olympics performance was a great moment for the metal community, but “Suffocate” is just elite.

Of course, as a huge Knocked Loose fan, I’m quite biased (go read my review if you want to hear me praise the band some more), but I genuinely think “Suffocate” is a perfect metal song — savage vocals, killer riffs, pummeling energy.

It’s rare nowadays for genuinely heavy bands to get the recognition that Knocked Loose has been able to achieve. It would just be so cool for a pure metalcore band to win a Grammy!

*‘It would just be so cool for a pure metal-core band to win a Grammy!’*

Out of the bunch, I’ll say I like the Metallica track the least; it’s not bad, but modern Metallica just isn’t in the same shape as their 80s output.

Thanks for reading! Feel free to disagree; I’d love to hear other perspectives. If anyone wants to cover other categories I didn’t focus on, go ahead!

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



# Book Club Reviews: Lemme Babble About ‘Babel’

BY LAUREN PEACOCK  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

BY ERIN KANE  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

BY JAYLA HALL  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

BY MERRILL TRAPHAGAN  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“Babel: Or the Necessity of Violence: An Arcane History of the Oxford Translators’ Revolution” by R.F. Kuang follows Robin Swift, a Chinese boy who is removed from his motherland for the purpose of being trained at Babel, the Royal Institute of Translation, to ultimately assist in strengthening and expanding the British Empire. The story takes place in 1830s England, with the sole deviation from reality being the resource of imperial interest, which is magical silver bars powered by imperfect translations.

**‘The book explores themes of language, identity, imperialism, colonialism, and inequality within academia.’**

The book leaves very few stones unturned, exploring themes of language, identity,

imperialism, colonialism, and inequality within academia. I consumed all 500 pages of “Babel” in one voracious, derealized weekend. From cover to cover, I found myself firmly situated and invested in the reality-adjacent world Kuang built. The book was the perfect accessible introduction to the inherent hypocrisy of the Western world, and as the title suggests, the necessity of violence is spoon-fed to the reader in a riveting fantasy novel package. In a devastating betrayal, not everyone in UR Book Club was able to finish what is arguably a very dense read in the thick of midterm season (gasp). Consequently, our final thoughts are a tad disorderly, albeit overwhelmingly positive.

One crowd-pleasing element of “Babel” was what we as a club described as the “Harry Potter Effect.” For around half the book, the vibes are cozy, successfully overshadowing any anxieties that may have been introduced. The main characters are happily fostering their relationships and their love of learning in a way that was relatable to all of us as students, especially those

of us with backgrounds in linguistics, classics, and anthropology. The main four characters, Robin, Ramy, Victoire, and Letty embody characterization and themes of found family that are both lovely and devastating. Despite this, if we had to choose one character to read the book for, it’s Griffin, who serves as the main catalyst for Robin’s character development and general “rascalion,” as club member Skylar put it.

**‘One crowd-pleasing element of “Babel” was what we as a club described as the “Harry Potter Effect.”’**

The primary critique from those who finished the book was the uneven pacing. Due to the lengthy exposition, the ensuing climax and conclusion can feel somewhat rushed. Additionally, a few members found Kuang’s somewhat pedantic writing style as grating. One member stated they often felt like screaming “Okay, I get it!” every time Kuang would diverge into an over-explanation of some thematic



SUBAAHSYED / ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

element that likely could have been left to the reader to figure out on their own. Although these points have validity from a stylistic preference perspective, I interpreted each point as a necessary creative choice to mirror and communicate the reality of extended systemic oppression and subsequent revolution. However, this is coming from me, someone who hesitates to accept any criticism on what I view as a perfect, five-star read. “Babel” is the third member-nominated book that we have elected to read together this semester. The Book Club’s previous reads include “Butter” by Asako Yuzuki and “Interview with the Vampire” by Anne Rice,

both of which inspired some stimulating conversation among members. If you are interested in hearing more of our thoughts and potentially sharing your own, I entreat you to pick up our next read, “Mrs. Dalloway” by Virginia Woolf and pop by our last discussion of the semester on Thursday, Dec. 5.

Peacock is a member of the Class of 2025.

Kane is a member of the Class of 2027.

Hall is a member of the Class of 2026.

Traphagan is a member of the Class of 2026.

# The Competition Heats Up As Semifinals Loom: ‘DWTS’ Week 8

BY ISABEL DOSHI  
STAFF WRITER

“Dancing with the Stars” has made it to 500 episodes! In celebration, this week’s episode had the contestants reinterpret a dance from a previous season with new choreography. Additionally, a new challenge was added: the Instant Dance Challenge. Contestants prepared four dances but did not know their song until five minutes before going live. They had to pick their costumes, rehearse their dance, and learn the timing all during the commercial break.

Joey Graziadei and Jenna Johnson kicked off the episode with a contemporary dance to “Work Song” by Hozier. Reimagining a dance by Riker Lynch and Allison Holker from the 20th season, the pair wowed with their beautiful choreography, solid lifts, and good connection, scoring a 28 out of 30.

**‘Joey Graziadei and Jenna Johnson wowed with their beautiful choreography, solid lifts, and good connection, scoring a 28 out of 30.’**

Danny Amendola and Witney Carson incorporated some football training moves into their quickstep to “Hey Pachuco” by Royal Crown Revue. Their dance was inspired by Helio Castroneves and Julianne Hough’s performance from season five. Their bubbly and refreshing dance showed great improvement, rewarding them with a 27 out of 30.

In their Argentine Tango, Dwight Howard and Daniella Karagach used a platform to combat their height difference. Dancing to “Santa Maria (Del Buen Ayre)” by Gotan Project, the pair reinterpreted James Hinchcliffe and Sharna Burgess’ dance from season 23. Their captivating dance was innovative and strong, scoring them a 26 out of 30.

Stephen Nedoroscik and Rylee Arnold had a challenge reimagining the beloved Viennese Waltz by Charli D’Amelio and Mark Ballas. The dance to “Glimpse of Us” by Joji was elegant and Nedoroscik never lost track of the counts, showing his improvement in musicality. The judges gave them a 29 out of 30.

Chandler Kinney and Brandon Armstrong

stunned with an Argentine Tango to “Para Te” by Appart. Inspired by Kellie Pickler and Derek Hough’s performance from season 16, Kinney’s dance blended beauty and danger, with Hough stating he preferred her dance over his. She received the first perfect score of the season, getting three 10s.

Ilona Maher and Alan Bersten closed the first round with a quickstep to “Chuck Berry,” inspired by Jordan Fisher and Lindsey Arnold’s dance in season 25. In my opinion, this was the best dance Maher has performed on the show. The judges praised her bounce back from last week, pointing out the refinement in her footwork and beautiful hold. She got her first 10, for a total score of 28 out of 30.

**‘Ilona Maher and Alan Bersten closed the first round with a quickstep to “Chuck Berry.”’**

Now, onto the Instant Dance Challenge.

Joey and Jenna performed a steamy Rumba to “BIRDS OF A FEATHER” by Billie Eilish. With great musicality and shapes, they

received a 27 out of 30, for a total score of 55 out of 60.

Danny and Witney’s jive to “Good Golly Miss Molly” by Little Richard was strong and athletic but had some timing issues. The judges gave them a 24 out of 30, for a total score of 51 out of 60.

**‘In my opinion, this was the best dance Maher has performed on the show.’**

Dwight and Daniella faced one of the hardest challenges with their Paso Doble to “Victorious” by Panic! At The Disco. Daniella had a few slips on her skirt, and the pair struggled with the accents needed for the dance style. They received a 22 out of 30, for a total score of 48 out of 60.

Stephen struggled with his timing on his and Rylee’s jive to “Love is Embarrassing” by Olivia Rodrigo. Nevertheless, the judges were happy with the dance, giving them a 27 out of 30, for a total score of 56 out of 60.

Chandler and Brandon danced a cha-cha to “Apple” by Charli xcx, which the judges adored. Carrie Ann Inaba said Chandler owned the dance floor. She

received her second perfect score of the night, for a total score of 60 out of 60.

Finally, Ilona and Alan performed a Salsa to “Da’ Dip” by Freak Nasty, which the judges said was clean, but had a few mistakes. The pair got a 24 out of 30, for a total of 52 out of 60.

At the end of the night, it was unclear who was going to go home — let alone, who I wanted to go home. We have gotten to the point in the show where everyone has improved, and I want everyone to continue. However, someone must leave us. This week it was Dwight and Daniella. In the end, their height difference got the best of them, and no matter how much Daniella tried to distract us with her beautiful extensions and choreography, Dwight was not doing enough.

**‘We have gotten to the point in the show where everyone has improved, and I want everyone to continue. However, someone must leave us.’**

See you next week for the semifinals!

Doshi is a member of the Class of 2027.



# The First Gifting Games of Black Friday

**BY GABRIEL JIANG**  
STAFF WRITER

Ah, yes. It's that time of year again: Black Friday. The day that marks the beginning of the holiday season shopping with low prices. Yet, retail companies still make bank from this one day of the year. After all, how else does Target stay afloat these days?

This day includes people fighting over a singular, super special, one-in-a-lifetime, unavailable-before-Christmas gift item before it's too late. For this reason, the government has instituted a Hunger Games-esque competition surrounding each item, and the winner gets the gift. One of these items just happens to be a highly-sought-after, bright-pink, fuzzy blanket.

It started in 1967, when Skain Barkode dove over the shelves to reach the blanket but was quickly intercepted by another challenger who wanted that same item: Schteal Bahchks. They both desperately grasped onto the fabric with their lives, neither of them willing to move.

In a quick thought, Barkode grabbed a plastic spoon off the opposite shelf and shoved it down Bahchks' throat. Bahchks began coughing, spitting, and dying (literally) while Barkode made his getaway.

A couple more scuffles occurred as people encountered each other in the wild. Opheon

Giphftes pushed Despohz-able Careactor I down a cliff, and Feitte Fourgud impaled Dizposable Karaktir II with Christmas lights. They all wanted to become the victor and take the blanket home.

Soon enough, Giphftes and Fourgud teamed up to get that blanket from Barkode. They ambushed him while he was hiding out in a pile of Squishmallows. In the end, Barkode passed away due to "unknown causes." It's speculated that he suffocated in the pile of Squishmallows; however, a plastic spoon found lodged in his esophagus suggests otherwise.

Then came the Great Betrayal of 1967 orchestrated by Opheon Giphftes. While they were eating together, Giphftes snuck a plastic spoon into the food of Feitte Fourgud without her knowledge. This led to Fourgud choking on the spoon and rolling down a cliff. She was never seen again.

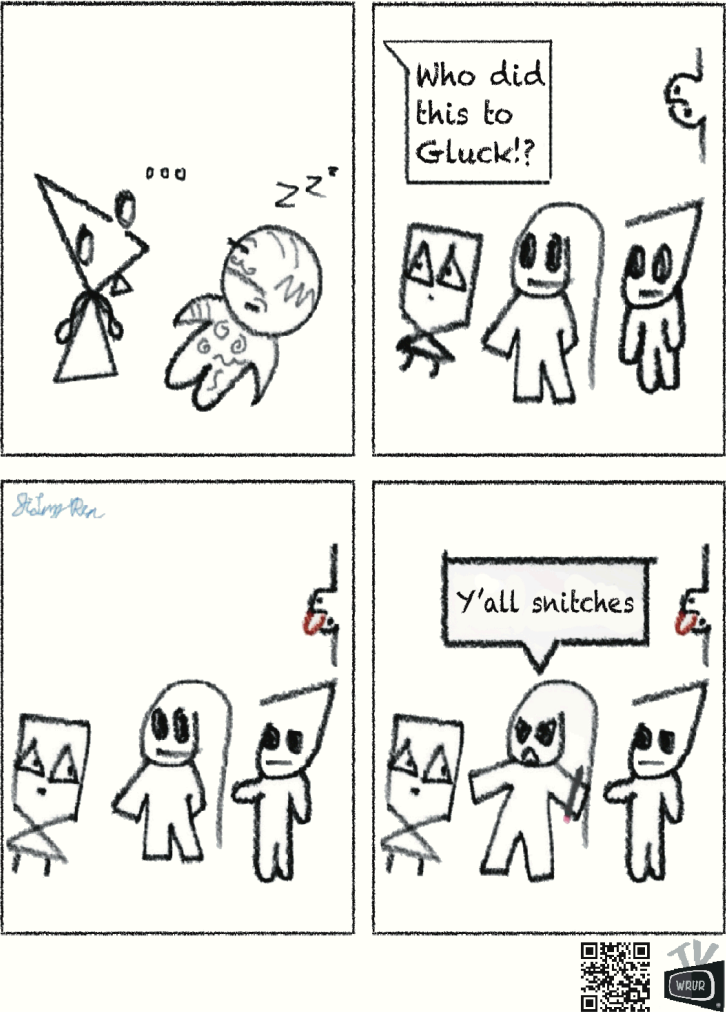
With that, Opheon Giphftes became the proud owner of the highly-sought-after, bright-pink, fuzzy blanket. At least, she was the proud owner until she gifted it away as a holiday present. But that's how these bloodbaths usually end. To the victor goes the spoils.

*Jiang is a member of the Class of 2028.*

# Papercuts: Snitches

**BY JOSHUA SCHIAVI**  
STAFF WRITER

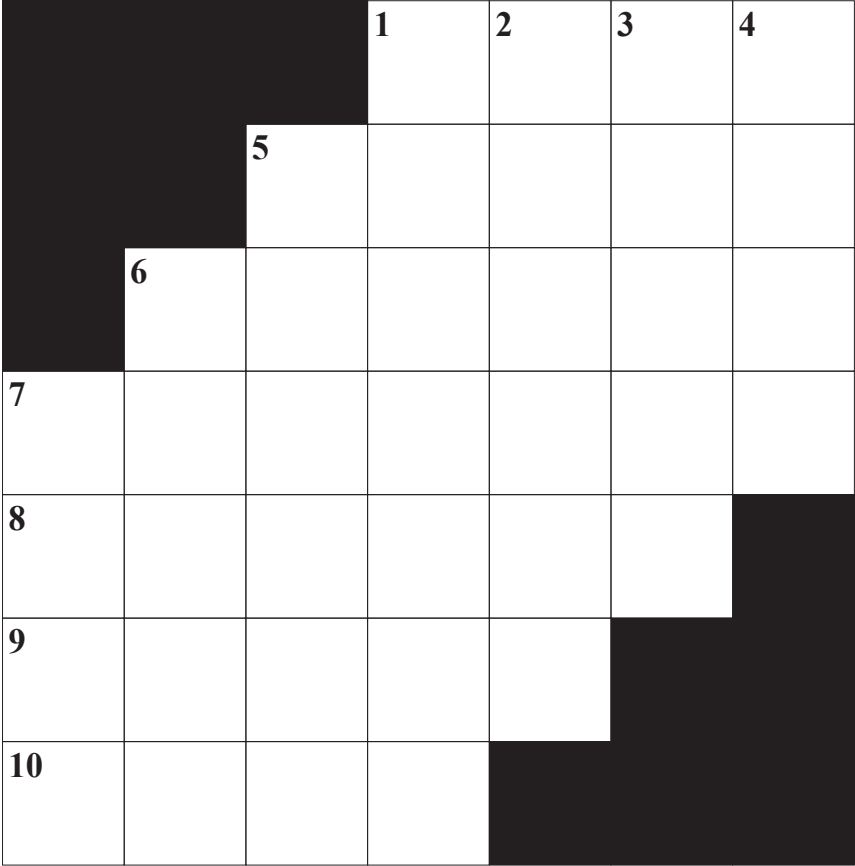
**BY JI LING REN**  
CONTRIBUTING ILLUSTRATOR



# Meliora Micro-Crossword

**BY CALEB OSHINSKY**  
STAFF PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Word with Ali or ghanoush
  - 5 Outspoken
  - 6 North America's highest peak
  - 7 Tool which might improve a pupil's performance
  - 8 Cover stories
  - 9 Wintry drink served with marshmallows
  - 10 "\_\_\_ Tu": 1974 hit
- DOWN**
- 1 Great apes with a matriarchal social structure
  - 2 Savanna tree (in Minecraft too)
  - 3 A full count has three of these
  - 4 "I cannot tell \_\_", alleged George Washington quote



- 5 City of ~150 canals and 472 bridges
- 6 "Lorem ipsum \_\_\_ sit amet"
- 7 Knight club

# Tail Me About It

**BY BUG CARTWRIGHT**  
STAFF WRITER





# SPORTS

## UR Men’s Basketball Rallies for Second Straight Win Against RIT

BY ARJUN AUJLA  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

UR Men’s Basketball defeated the RIT Tigers 85-68 to capture their second straight win. The Yellowjackets were led by senior captain Logan Jagodzinski’s 18-point double-double. Junior Corvin Opera was second in scoring with 13 points followed by transfer Nate Sock with 11.

**‘UR Men’s Basketball defeated the RIT Tigers 85-68 to capture their second straight win.’**

From the get-go, it was apparent that the Yellowjackets still had a sour taste in their mouth from splitting their weekend games. They came out of the gates dominating both sides of the ball, quickly gaining a 10-point lead six minutes into the game. Despite a few runs made by

the Tigers, the Yellowjackets were able to hold on to their lead for most of the first half.

After a scoring surge by RIT with a few minutes left in the first half, the Yellowjackets’ lead had been reduced to just four points. In the final possession of the first half, Sock delivered a deep three at the buzzer that put the Yellowjackets up eight points at half-time.

“The biggest thing is locking in to scouting the other team and being able to defend all their actions. The biggest thing has been that we’re able to get out on big runs, and when we step on it defensively, it’s been perfect,” sophomore Theo Murray said.

The second half was more of the same story. The Yellowjackets continued to run the flow of the game and were able to contain RIT on offense. More impressively, however, was the Yellowjacket defense — only allowing 12

points in the first 10 minutes of the half.

Junior Tomiwa Adetosoye was doing all the little things, as he recorded a game-high nine assists and three steals that night. The Yellowjackets were dominating in the second half and were able to grow their lead to 30 points with six minutes left in the game.

**‘The Yellowjackets were dominating in the second half.’**

A big win over a cross-town rival was what this team was looking for after a crushing loss in their first game of the season. The Yellowjackets now sit at 2-1 and look on to their next game against SUNY Cortland on Nov. 18.

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

## Crossword Answers

			S	E	R	E	10
		V	O	C	O	C	6
	S	I	B	I	L	V	8
E	L	C	O	N	O	M	7
I	L	V	N	E	D		9
L	V	C	O	V			5
A	B	A	B				4

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