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University Joins Lawsuit Against Federal Funding Cap



Aab Cardiovascular Research Institute, inside the Del Monte Research Building, March 1, 2025.

BY NARM NATHAN
SENIOR STAFF

BY ANASTASHIA CHYZH
DATA EDITOR

Educational institutions like the University are facing new barriers under the Trump administration, including threats to research funding such as the halt of all federal grants.

Though the move was sub-

sequently blocked by federal district court judges, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced in February a 15% cap on indirect cost reimbursements — directly impacting research institutions like UR, who rely on NIH grant funding for a significant portion of the research conducted on campus. In response, UR entered a lawsuit with 12 other universities, claim-

ing the cuts are too drastic.

‘UR entered a lawsuit with 12 other universities, claiming the cuts are too drastic.’

Yet the nature of recent executive orders and their legal status give universities little to work with when accli-

imating to the climate the new administration has established.

“We don’t have a lot of information,” Brenna Rybak, assistant director of business for UR’s biology department, said. “We’re all kind of waiting on pins and needles just like everybody else.”

A cap on indirect costs

The memo released by the NIH stated that “it is accordingly vital to ensure that as many funds as possible go towards direct scientific research costs rather than administrative overhead.”

According to a University statement from Feb. 12, the costs impacted by the 15% cap include the construction and maintenance of laboratories, staff, research equipment, insurance costs, and other operational expenses. The cap, they claim, would cost the University \$40 million annually.

Rybak explains that most, if not all research in the Biology department is supported through federal grant funding — whether it be through the NIH or National Science Foundation.

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Research at Rochester: The Dye Lab

BY KSHIRIN ANANDKUMAR
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Too often, research is done *on* communities rather than *with* them. Good researchers don’t just ask questions—they listen. At the Dye Lab, respect and inclusion of the communities they study aren’t just standards they hold; it’s the foundation of the lab’s work.

Led by medical anthropologist and social epidemiologist Dr. Timothy Dye, the Dye Lab focuses on addressing social and cultural determinants of health in underrepresented and marginalized communities across the world. What Dr. Dye dubs the “medical ecology lab” consists of hundreds of dedicated researchers and contributors from around the world, all working together to make real change in community health.

‘The Dye Lab focuses on addressing social and cultural determinants of health in underrepresented and marginalized communities across the world.’

The Dye Lab is situated in the obstetrics and gynecology department of the University of Rochester Medical Center, reflecting its general research focus on social and biological factors affecting fetal development during pregnancy. However, Dr. Dye emphasized that the lab is “more defined by *how* we do our work rather than the actual work we do.”

The clearly defined values of the Dye Lab spearhead their projects and interactions. At its core, said Dr. Dye, lies a “profound respect for everybody touched by the science.” Inspired by philosopher Paulo Freire’s principle of “not about us without us,” Dye emphasizes the importance of working with — not just studying — the communities they serve. This is especially crucial in international research, where local involvement is commonly overlooked.

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‘Safe Ride’ Expands Service

BY TEDDY ALMOND
PHOTO EDITOR

The service dubbed the “personal campus Uber” by some made a comeback last month with the rollout of “TripShot” — a new and convenient app.

The University’s “Safe Ride” program serves to help students travel between and around the University between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.

Prior to Feb. 17, to utilize the program students had to call to request a van to pick them up. This method was used during a nearly year-long hiatus where Safe Ride’s app was being updated.

Now, students can download the TripShot app on their phones to place a request for a ride. Students simply need to open the app and select a pickup time and location.

Safe Ride operates by shuttling students between a set of predetermined stops on Uni-

versity property. A student can select any of these stops to be picked up and dropped off.

The program has also expanded operations to Whipple Park, the Eastman Living Center, and Medical Center. The new stops are designed to allow more than just River Campus undergraduates to take advantage of the program.

According to Andrea Walton, a manager of transportation at the University, an uptick in Safe Ride requests has occurred since introducing the new app. “We are seeing higher usage since introducing the app,” Walton said. “It’s still very new, but we expect continued growth as more students hear about the service and we continue our outreach efforts.”

With the introduction of the app also came more automation: according to Walton, the app dispatches the nearest



TEDDY ALMOND / PHOTO EDITOR

Safe Ride vehicle parked outside Rush Rhees Library at 2 a.m.

vehicle for immediate pickup. This has led to decreased wait times, with an average wait time of 5-10 minutes.

There are also now three vehicles in service rather than one, which has also contributed to decreased wait times.

Walton said that one vehicle will remain in service

every night during breaks, a service that was previously unavailable.

All rides are free to UR affiliates with a UR ID.

Almond is a member of the Class of 2028.

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“I think the big question for the faculty and the department is if we suddenly have no funding, how does everybody get paid? How does work continue to happen?” Rybak asked. “You know I mean it even boils down to if you need to order a pipette, that’s put on a grant. It’s not only people’s salary, but it’s also [asking] how does the research itself actually move forward?”

“How does the research itself actually move forward?”

The University has maintained a rate of approximately 50% of funding going towards indirect costs. According to the Office of Research Accounting and Costing Standards, that rate was adjusted from 54% to 51% just one day before cuts were announced.

In the 2023–2024 fiscal year, the University received a total of approximately \$190 million from the NIH.

“The implications to the University of Rochester and the region would have profound impacts on healthcare, faculty recruitment, workforce development, and clinical trials,” read a statement prepared in response to general policy changes. “Research at the University fuels the regional economy which would negatively impact the local and regional economy.”

The response

While the University is engaged in its lawsuit, it remains steadfast in its general response to the changes — announcing a team of working groups tasked with evaluating the implications of recent executive orders and developing strategies to continue successful operations, including financial modeling to estimate the impact and response the cuts will have on research capabilities.

“At this stage, we are not asking programs or units to alter their programs or the descriptions of their programs.”

“We want to be clear that at this early stage, we are not asking programs or units to alter their programs or the descriptions of their programs. However, if legal obligations require us to adapt or make changes, we will keep you informed,” the University wrote in a Feb. 26 state-

ment. “Our initial step is to gain a comprehensive and robust understanding of our operations, ensuring that we are prepared to respond effectively and clearly to our new environment.”

Rybak confirmed the Biology department is continuing regular operations the best way they can.

“We’re trying to just keep doing what we were doing,” she explained. “We have not stopped recruiting, we’re still recruiting grad students, and we’re still recruiting faculty. [...] As a department, we try our best to be as positive as we can be. Because there’s really no sense really freaking out until you have information.”

“There’s really no sense really freaking out until you have information.”

Until there is certainty, the University remains committed to preparing faculty and students for whatever changes come — no matter how drastic they may appear.

“The University remains committed to preparing faculty and students for whatever changes come — no matter how drastic they may appear.”

“We are stewards of an incredible institution and legacy. Our University has thrived for 175 years, overcoming numerous challenges,” the February statement continues. “We are confident that we will face each challenge today with our values-centered commitment to our mission of making the world ever better.”

Data visualizations can be viewed online at www.campustimes.org.

Nathan is a member of the Class of 2025.

Chyzh is a member of the Class of 2028.

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“Oftentimes people just parachute in and do the thing, and then they jump out and everyone’s left there with nothing,” Dye said.

Dye’s team takes a different approach, engaging communities to collaboratively address problems — often in partnership with local non-governmental organizations or universities. Dye hopes to see this prioritization of respect in all human-focused research groups, expressing that excluding the studied communities in leading projects is “disrespectful and exploitative, and it feels wrong.”

“Dye hopes to see this prioritization of respect in all human-focused research groups.”

The core values of the Dye lab are a direct reflection of its principal investigator. Dye’s commitment to understanding communities, shaping policy, and addressing determinants of health is evident in his educational pursuits, with master’s degrees in International Relations, Public Administration, and Epidemiology, as well as a Ph.D. in Anthropology. Dye also completed a J.D., a graduate degree in law, at Syracuse University 2024, which he hopes to integrate into his research and use to develop stronger action-based policies to tackle issues in healthcare. His journey in academia has drawn him to projects across the world, spanning from the northern Indian villages of Kashmir to the Appalachian hills of West Virginia. In each new community, Dye has prioritized gaining trust of and connecting with locals. This interdisciplinary, cross-cultural web of connections has been instrumental in expanding the Dye Lab’s reach and impact. “Even though I’m no longer in Paris or at the University of Buffalo,” Dye noted, “the people I connected with there are still part of that network.”

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What Dye describes as a “very alive network” is not only the driving force behind community interac-

tions but also a key principle in his approach to mentoring students. More than simply accumulating research hours, Dye hopes that his lab’s students and faculty alike carry their international experiences forward to create a lasting impact in their future endeavours.

“When you’re involved in anything,” Dye explained, “you’re committing to that community. In the future, we want you to leverage this knowledge and these experiences to benefit that community.” This mindset is what Dye and his colleagues value most in students — the willingness to step up and serve the community, whether as a community member or ally. “Sometimes nobody shows up, so that is what we have to do,” Dye said.

Beyond its commitment to mentorship and community engagement, the Dye Lab is distinguished by its transdisciplinary nature. One of its current projects brings together an interdisciplinary team of 15 students specializing in fields such as computer science, bioethics, and epidemiology. As students of one discipline are challenged to approach problems through a different lens, Dye says he can see “all the lights [turn] on.”

“Dye especially wishes to recruit students from underrepresented populations to give back to the communities they are a part of.”

Over the last 36 years, Dye and his lab have expanded their impact immensely — and their ambitions for the future are just as bold, specifically in mentorship. Dye especially wishes to recruit students from underrepresented populations to give back to the communities they are a part of.

“In this field, it’s not research that is lacking, but action.”

Looking ahead to the next five to 10 years, Dye says he hopes to see the lab’s research “really get to the crux” of several main projects, including increased Black maternal mortality rates compared to their white counterparts. In this field, it’s not research that is lacking, but action. “We know all the factors, we know the interventions, and we know the science... [yet] people still document this [statistic],” Dye said.

“I want my trainees and lab to be on [the action] side of it.”

In his lab, Dye underscores a focus on advocacy and stimulating real change. For Dye, this has entailed serving as the editor-in-chief of the Maternal and Child Health Journal since 2012, where he is redefining what a scientific journal really is. “It’s about bringing new people in — we have papers that we publish from community organizations where people may not have even gone to college,” he described. This is part of the change that has to happen, Dye believes, noting that “we prioritize and value this as we would any kind of really good science.”

“Dye and his lab continue to push the boundaries of what their research can achieve — not just in theory, but in action.”

With this vision in mind, Dye and his lab continue to push the boundaries of what their research can achieve — not just in theory, but in action. Dye notes that “the science is kind of the easy part, in a way,” because the multidimensional nature of health renders the social and cultural determinants as the most difficult to encapsulate when designing policies and programs.

Dye urges students to get involved in helping communities they connect with — either as members or allies. “When you get involved with something meaningful to you,” Dye said, “you learn more and you can also help more.” Dye firmly believes that change is possible, and the lab community he has built is living proof of that mission. Dye’s work is a testament to the idea that research alone isn’t enough — real change comes from action, respect, and collaboration. And change is necessary because, as he puts it, “the system isn’t going to correct itself.”

Anandkumar is a member of the Class of 2028.

Ukrainian Students Association Urges Renewed Support for Ukraine

BY NARM NATHAN
SENIOR STAFF

BY YENAH PARK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

UR’s Ukrainian Students Association (URUSA) hosted a rally March 3 in Hirst Lounge, urging passersby to show their support for Ukraine in any way they could. This came in response to rising tensions between the U.S. and Ukraine, which reached new heights late February when Vice President JD Vance demanded Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy respect the new administration, resulting in Zelenskyy exiting the White House promptly after, leaving potential deals

on the table. “I’ve never seen something like that happening in public, especially in foreign relations with not just the U.S. and Ukraine, but anywhere in the world,” sophomore Arsen Kariazov, president of URUSA, said. Formed last semester, the group is focused on building awareness surrounding Ukrainian culture and the war. The United States has historically provided substantial aid to Ukraine, however the rocky relationship between Trump and Zelenskyy now puts such aid at risk. Kariazov mentioned the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, where Ukraine exchanged its

nuclear arsenal for economic assistance and territorial sovereignty. Because the United States signed that agreement, he said, they should support their ally — especially as Russia has repeatedly violated the memorandum. The United States maintains the memorandum is not legally binding, and represents a political commitment rather than a guarantee or obligation. Trump suspended all military aid to Ukraine March 3, impacting over \$1 billion in arms and ammunition. “I was just not expecting it to be that open, I guess, how he just disrespectfully blamed the war on Ukraine and Ukrainian people,” Kariazov said. “Not just

President Zelenskyy, but the whole Ukrainian nation for [the] courage to step up for aggression and fight for independence and freedom.” For Kariazov, who arrived to the United States after the Russo-Ukrainian war began in 2014, motivation for spreading awareness on campus comes from knowing the wartime reality of his family and friends back home. He stated that though URUSA is a smaller student organization, they are united through a shared experience of the impact the war has had on them and their loved ones. They seek to provide greater information on the reality of the Ukrainian war — whether it be through film screenings, workshops, or

demonstrations. Kariazov’s goal is consistency; while it may be a trend to support Ukraine now, URUSA’s efforts won’t end until the war does. “It’s crucial,” he stated, “for us to get this information out there and keep people informed so they can make rational choices on what to do, maybe support, and maybe show up.”

Data visualizations can be viewed online at www.campustimes.org.

Nathan is a member of the Class of 2025.

Park is a member of the Class of 2028.

University Appoints New Provost: Nicole Sampson

BY EMMELY ELI TEXCUCANO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

BY TEDDY ALMOND
PHOTO EDITOR

Nicole Sampson, professor of chemistry, was named University Provost January, effective Feb. 1. Sampson was the interim provost at UR prior to being formally instated, and served as the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Stony Brook University in Long Island. Sampson will continue as a chemistry professor alongside her new role, which, she says, will allow her to keep in touch with issues directly affecting faculty. “As a research institution we are often under scrutiny because we are held to such a high educational standard,” Sampson wrote in email correspondence with the *Campus Times*. “My approach, and the approach of the institution, is to focus on

our mission and values, and make sure that our actions are aligned with them and with the law.”

“My approach, and the approach of the institution, is to focus on our mission and values.”

Sampson explained that both herself and her office are prepared to handle the nuanced political climate and ready to respond to executive orders pertaining to DEI, Title IX, and student visas. However, Sampson stated that, as of now, it is a waiting game. “We’ve all seen how quickly things can change,” Sampson said. “[We will have] to see how the courts evaluate litigation about the executive orders that come to them.” In a press statement released by her office, Sampson outlined her main goals as

provost, specifically highlighting her focus on funding faculty research and developing transdisciplinary research centers. Sampson also plans on changing the academic budget model. Her plan would redirect funds from her office to initiatives that may not otherwise generate a lot of financial resources through their own activities. “I will be looking to our deans of Arts and Sciences, and Eastman School of Music as academic leaders to further shape the future of the humanities and social sciences,” she explained. Sampson explained that transdisciplinary research is not reserved for the sciences and can impact the humanities as well. There have already been transdisciplinary center proposals from the humanities and the performing arts that were funded as seed grants. The most vocal supporters

of the new budget come from the Humanities Center and the Eastman School of Music. Sampson told the *CT* that her biggest priority is to update physical infrastructure on the University’s River and Eastman campuses. “By updating and modernizing our physical spaces — from practice rooms to classrooms and labs — we will enhance the student and faculty experiences,” she said.

“[This will] ensure that we continue to provide the caliber of academic excellence that everyone expects and deserves from an institution like [the] University of Rochester.”

Texcucano is a member of the Class of 2025.

Almond is a member of the Class of 2028.



AIDAN SCIORTINO / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Provost Nicole Sampson stands inside Wegmans Hall March 2, 2025.

SA Passes Resolution to Protect the University’s International and Immigrant Populations

BY METOK KOGYAL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

BY SUBAAH SYED
FEATURES EDITOR

The Students’ Association Government (SA) passed Senate Resolution 73, titled Resolution to Protect the University’s International and Immigrant Populations, Feb. 3 in response to the Trump administration’s recent executive orders impacting the livelihoods of such populations, on a 13–2 vote. The resolution specifies administrative actions that include declining to create a policy restricting US

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) from entering schools, churches, and hospitals. It also refers to past instances of Trump questioning the legitimacy of documented immigrants and the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. Encouraging the University to declare itself a sanctuary campus, the resolution says that all people have the right to “live, learn, and work at the University of Rochester, including our international students, DACA recipients, and undocumented students.” Senators Jacob Edwards

and Janelly Andrade-Gonzales, who sponsored and wrote the resolution, spoke to the *CT* regarding their reasons for writing the resolution. “I had hoped it was a way for me to show solidarity with people that I care about,” Edwards said. “Especially when they are going through a time where they might have so much other stuff to worry about that they don’t have the bandwidth to focus on something like this, or to write something like this.” As of the time of the resolution’s passing, the UR President’s Office had

released a response to the executive orders stating that “We will continue to protect the rights and privacy of our students, staff, faculty, and patients in accordance with our obligations under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the federal Privacy Act and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).” The statement also advises University community members to contact their supervisor or Department of Public Safety if they see or are approached by federal agents at any University location, and

further affirms University values of inclusion and equity. In Senator Andrade-Gonzales’ words, the University’s response was “vague.” “The main thing that we saw is them talking about how they’re going to handle ICE, more so than how the students are actually going to be protected,” she said. “They did not give resources or even reassurance, just [directed students] to the International Service Office.” At the time of this interview, the International Service Office did not have SEE **SA GOV** PAGE 4

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explicit resources for students for the recent federal policy changes on their website. Currently, the Student Association’s International Students’ Affairs Committee is working on creating and sharing resources for these groups of students.

SA President Elijah Bader-Gregory endorsed the resolution and expressed the need for immediate response.

“I think that the University’s response has been good, to an extent — they can go further in protecting our students, faculty, and staff from ICE harassment,” Bader-Gregory said. “When students are treated inequitably, regardless of how you feel about their background, we have a moral responsibility to call it out. Standing idly by and pointedly ignoring the fact that immigrant and international students are being actively targeted by ICE is irresponsible at best, and I believe that all of our students deserve to live without fear of their immigration status preventing them from getting a quality education, living their lives, and staying in the US.”

Multiple on-campus student organizations were endorsers of the Senate Resolution, and have also played a key role in spreading awareness about the executive orders through social media posts, resources, and workshops. These organizations include the Spanish and Latino Students’ Association (SALSA), the Mexican Students’ Association (MESA), and the Douglass Leadership House (DLH).

SALSA represents Latin American culture, but it also has been politically active on campus in recent years, speaking out on ongoing issues in Latin America and the Middle East. Paoula Almendarez, president of SALSA, told the *CT* that the organization endorsed the resolution to provide vocal support for marginalized groups in the University community.

“There’s not much we can do in terms of, like, policy but we can provide a space for people to speak. We can provide support for individuals, we can try to, like, educate ourselves and educate other people as much as possible,” Almendarez said.

Almendarez emphasized the videos linked on SALSA’s Linktree, which are available in both English and Spanish for more information about undocumented people’s rights and ways to support immigrants.

The Mexican Student Association (MESA) also endorsed the resolution. Senator Andrade-Gonzales, who is the president of MESA as well, highlighted the “Know your Rights” card, a red card that you can find on the door of the SA Senate Office in the Ruth Merrill Center located on the

basement floor of Wilson Commons. The card includes information about constitutional rights and instructions on how to interact with law enforcement.

The Douglass Leadership House (DLH) also endorsed the resolution. In email correspondence with the *CT*, Secretary of DLH and sophomore Sammy Randle wrote that they “chose to endorse the resolution because our purpose in this campus is to provide an intellectual community and raise awareness about the many facets of the Black experience. This includes our international and immigrant population.”

Senators Austin DeLorme and Yuxiang Huang were the two senators that voted no on the bill. DeLorme explained his reasoning behind his decision with *CT*.

“While I do think that we need to give resources and help international students and DACA recipients [...] I do not think that we should make ourselves a sanctuary campus to conflict with federal regulations and authorities that ICE is trying to place on us,” DeLorme stated. “If we do not comply with [the Trump administration’s] orders, that means we could possibly lose millions of dollars in federal funding.”

DeLorme instead argued for advocacy.

After these statements from students were taken, the University updated their response to federal policies March 18, outlining guidelines and recommendations for international travel. In their most recent update, the International Services Office has done the same and linked campus resources and support for students.

Resolution 73 also aims to protect student protestors who are also immigrants from being deported. With the federal attempt to deport Columbia graduate student Mahmoud Khalil, the threat of deportation has become more pronounced in the recent weeks, especially for international students who are pro-Palestinian protestors.

Students held a protest March 20 in support of Khalil and the protection of student activism for all students in the university and throughout the nation.

Due to confidentiality reasons, the University Counseling Center has not organized drop-in counseling for students affected by the recent executive orders on immigration as they have done for other large events, but students can still reach out for one-on-one or small group drop-ins.

Kogyal is a member of the Class of 2028.

Syed is a member of the Class of 2027.

UR Medicine Homecare Workers and the Road to Unionization

BY MADELEINE MCCURDY
STAFF WRITER

BY CHLOE YOKITIS
STAFF WRITER

In the wake of a continued standoff between University of Rochester Medicine Homecare (URMH) workers and leaders in unionization efforts, workers have voted to strike for up to 5 days. They had previously picketed and went on strike for a single day, Feb. 24.

URMH is a home care service of itinerant healthcare professionals who travel to their patients’ residences, including registered nurses (RNs), physical therapists, and medical social workers.

Tracey Harrison, Vice President of the 1199 SEIU (United Healthcare Workers East) union, stated that workers’ “number one issue” was that they have been forced to take on more work than they can effectively handle.

“[Our members] have what [they] consider as unreasonable, unattainable productivity requirements,” he said.

Though the URMH website characterizes the company as “understand[ing] work-life balance and car[ing] about [workers’] time,” workers say that they have been forced to take on more work than they can effectively handle.

Robert Austen, a physical therapist at URMH, explained that workers have been put in “a really rotten spot” due to having to squeeze more work into the same time that they previously had.

“We used to see less people; we could give them our all,” he said. “Now, we’re forced to shorten our visits, leave visits early, just so we can race sometimes from 20, 30 miles to the next visit. I don’t think that that’s great care, and I don’t want to continue in this manner.”

These productivity requirements were exacerbated by recent changes: according to a February statement, URMH has 26 unfilled positions and has asked workers to cover

additional shifts to care for patients.

Besides pushing for a more manageable caseload, vice president Harrison said workers hope for higher retirement contributions, more competitive wages, and better healthcare coverage (currently they pay for high-deductible but low-quality plans).

Despite months of negotiations, the URMH workers and leaders have struggled to reach an agreement. A statement from 1199 SEIU attributes this to employers “repeatedly bouncing back and forth between open economic topics — never settling or signing any agreement in ink.”

‘Despite months of negotiations, the URMH workers and leaders have struggled to reach an agreement.’

According to a mid-March statement, the negotiations have made slight progress, with “non-economic items and nearly half of the economic items [having] been tentatively agreed upon by both sides.” However, the “major outstanding economic issues” like caseload, health insurance, and pay have yet to be resolved.

Because of this, Harrison said that workers believe the employers are negotiating in “bad faith.” He explained how the workers’ bargaining committee would spend upwards of twelve sessions discussing the same topics with URMH leaders without reaching a resolution.

“Without fail, at the [next] meeting, again, they would come back only to say, ‘No, we’re going to stay with our previous position,’” Harrison said. “So, just going backwards with the negotiating process, constantly. As we like to say, the target is constantly moving.”

He also described how on at least two occasions the

workers and leaders reached a verbal agreement that never came to fruition.

“Based from our [...] viewpoint, it was just going to be a matter of coming back together in the official setting and handing the proposals across the table, and the parties would sign off on those particular proposals,” Harrison said. “Well, [that was] wishful thinking — the employer came back and again went backwards on the verbal agreement.”

According to Harrison, URMH’s lawyer told the workers that the employers wanted them to “come along with our proposals” rather than compromising.

“Our folks are [...] committed to the process, committed with the understanding that this is negotiations,” Harrison said. “It is some give and take. This employer is refusing to give on anything to try to meet somewhere in the middle. Right now, it seems like there is just a stalling in place.”

“‘This employer is refusing to give on anything to try to meet somewhere in the middle.’”

Workers have made it clear that they are prepared to strike again.

“One of the biggest things, or one of the most important things, that an employee has is their labor,” Harrison said. “To be able to say to an employer that is not doing right by them, ‘I am going to withhold my labor from you today until you recognize and provide what is necessary for me to be able to take care of the patients, and also take care of myself and my family.’”

McCurdy is a member of the Class of 2025.

Yokitis is a member of the Class of 2028.



The Wolk Pavilion and entrance to Strong Memorial Hospital and Golisano Children’s Hospital.

HARRYLI/PHOTO EDITOR

OPINIONS

The Mahmoud Khalil Reckoning

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

BY JOSHUA DUBLER, PH.D.

The following address was delivered at the “Sanctuary Over Suppression” demonstration on River Campus March 20. It has been edited for clarity.

I am here today to demonstrate that I will not be surrendering my first amendment rights without a fight. I am here today too, to say that, as faculty, we are here to support you. We support you in loco parentis, and we support you as people whose survival is inextricably bound to your survival. To whatever extent you need us, please call on us.

Nov. 15, 2023, an ad hoc group of us wrote to senior University administrators: We write to you privately as a group of Jewish-identified faculty with relevant expertise to state as follows: The coordinated attempt to smear pro-Palestinian and anti-war speech on campus as antisemitic hate speech is anti-Arab, Islamophobic, and antidemocratic. The end goal of this smear campaign is to delegitimize criticism of Israel's brutal assault on Gaza – criticism that is apt, necessary, and urgent. The proximate goal of this campaign is to bully our students who are publicly allied with the Palestinian freedom struggle, many of whom are students of color and international students [...] The University must maintain a strong position on free speech to protect our students from an antidemocratic campaign that seeks to expose them to possible doxxing, violence, arrest, and deportation.

Nov. 15, 2023. What is happening now was already foreseeable then. The recent abductions of Mahmoud Khalil and Badar Khan Suri represent the Trump-era escalation of a coordinated campaign launched in the Biden era and actively nurtured by elites across the political spectrum. What has been credulously framed as a response to alleged antisemitism on campus is better understood as an authoritarian campaign that weaponizes the charge of antisemitism to silence, punish, and now eliminate political dissent. Pursuant to this push, under sustained attack on our campus have been student leaders, student journalists, and faculty members. As is a secret to no one, some of those most viciously targeted are Jewish.

The Trump-era escalations that presently place

non-citizen advocates for Palestinian survival in the crosshairs are very scary. Whereas, as per the Biden-era standard articulated prominently in the Oct. 26, 2023 Anti-Defamation League and Brandeis Center Letter to Presidents of Colleges and Universities, which targeted pro-Palestine student groups, the benchmark for potential criminalization and deportation was “providing material support to Hamas,” the emergent standard, as articulated by Department of Homeland Security spokespeople, is participation in “activities aligned to Hamas.” This shift, which seemingly signals a leap beyond the bounds of law, represents an obscene net-widening. Right now, attention must be focused on protecting the non-citizens among us. Surely, however, I am far from the only one here today who has been

‘My hope is that its authorization of today’s demonstration is a signal of this dawning awareness.’

accused of being pro-Hamas. My remaining remarks are directed to senior University administrators. For 18 months, UR’s administration has seemingly pursued a strategy of trying to keep its head down to minimize potential blowback. I have no doubt that President Mangelsdorf and her team have been working assiduously to try to minimize harm to members of our campus community. However, under acute pressures, civil liberties have been curtailed; police violence has been authorized; and students have been harassed, jailed, suspended, and expelled. The emergent wave of persecution against non-citizens needn’t be placed on a “slippery slope” to be a horror, and the University must do everything in its power to shield and support these vulnerable members of our community. Only in mulish denial, however, could one believe with confidence that the persecution will stop with non-citizens. That which in the Biden era was a discrete political tactic is, under Trump, but one component of a broadside assault against higher education in sum. A strategy of continuing to hide and appease may well postpone what’s coming, but I don’t believe it can stop it. If avoidance remains the strategy, the

will come but rather when. My hope is that UR’s administration is coming to this same conclusion. My hope is that its authorization of today’s demonstration is a signal of this dawning awareness. These are unprecedented times and far be it from me to pretend as if how to proceed is at all obvious. However, in an interview aired yesterday with Chris Hedges, ousted Columbia Law professor Katherine Franke pointed compellingly to how institutions might resist authoritarian tactics: “There are plenty of examples of how this [authoritarian] playbook plays out,” Franke said. “And typically, what slows it down or stops it is institutional actors putting their foot down. Not capitulating and negotiating but saying ‘No more. We will not collaborate in this.’”

We know UR is capable of this kind of courageous oppositional leadership because we saw it in its recent lawsuit filed with peers against the Trump administration for its cuts to National Institutes of Health research funding. Comparable collective action against the erosion of civil liberties is painfully overdue. I do not believe such a suggestion is pie-in-the-sky. Responding to the Trump administration’s bullying of Columbia, university presidents are beginning to poke their heads out of their isolated foxholes. Michael Roth at Wesleyan has been outspoken for some time. Yesterday, in the pages of the *Atlantic*, Princeton’s President Chris Eisgruber issued a call to arms. Eisgruber wrote: “The attack on Columbia is a radical threat to scholarly excellence and to America’s leadership

in research. Universities and their leaders should speak up and litigate forcefully to protect their rights.”

Divided, higher education in the United States could well fall. But if college and university leaders have the wisdom and courage to band together, in broad, principled defense of civil liberties and academic freedom, we may stand a fighting chance. Our institutional mission is bedrock to American democracy. Safeguard the former and maybe we can salvage the latter.

Dubler is an associate professor of religion.

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BY ALEX HOLLY
MANAGING EDITOR

I’ve recently found myself in a state of circularity. An indulgence in the mundane, in the simple steps of going about my day knowing precisely what could and what might happen. I often don’t know how to feel about it. I sit in my bed for a few minutes, potentially an hour. Eat food. Sit at work. Walk five minutes to my first class and another four to my second, presuming I make it to the first one at all. Take two minutes to walk to my second class on Tuesday and Thursday. Sometimes workshop. Usually rehearsal. Occasionally meet with my friends in the kitchen or for a pre-planned lunch. Often repetitive, yet simple pleasures that let joy flow over in my glass. Everything has its place. As the days become warmer and longer I put on my shorts and open the blinds and resume my business outside. I walk to class, talk to friends, perhaps do my work with the window cracked. Maybe tomorrow

I’ll do something new for me. A sense of spontaneity arises in seeing others in these once abnormal states: tossing softballs and lying outside in the grass, talking and laughing. I feel a sort of inspiration from the heat of the sun and the heat of this laughter to submerge myself in the things I enjoy doing but can never get myself to start. And I never do it, but sometimes I do. I know I’ve felt like this before. This spring break I swore to myself that I’d finish everything I needed to. I’d complete my final projects months before they were due and write everything I needed to submit. I’d play guitar and walk to the conservatory and make tiny metal flowers from the cans stacking up in my room. I didn’t, by any measure. I spent the downtime at work or at the pool or with my friends. Called my mom. Drew pictures and made food for myself and for others. That should be enough. It might have been. But I’ve been here for three years, and it often

feels like this. Each excitement — the springtime, the rest, the sun — plays into a larger loop of time. I have just as much to anticipate as I do to miss. It’s a blessing to have an expectation and to see it fulfilled in augmented forms, to deviate slightly from the wheel and bask in spontaneity of each new moment, knowing well it’s simply a pivot from my inevitable rotation. This past fall, I craved a change from this regularity, spending my time across the ocean studying abroad in Copenhagen. I was applauded by a stranger at a sushi restaurant my mom struck conversation with, patting my shoulders with a sentiment of “good on you for taking the initiative.” Good on you to catalyze avoidable change. It often felt like the time would never pass. That I’d never board the plane back from Copenhagen and would never come home. Every moment hung in its frame, movement so rapid that it became still. I was shocked when it was over, just as I was when it began.

I’d go to sleep on a bus and I’d wake up in Germany. I’d rest in the home of someone I’ve known for years yet have rarely seen, or walk through a passage I’d only read of in a novella. I was not bound to a future, for I had no expectation of what it would be. I filled in the outlines of the idea of the journey I’d made. The semblance of routine I did have was bound to be temporary. That I didn’t and don’t know if I’ll walk down Vestergade again after the final day of coursework. Rare chances of seeing now-familiar faces in the same context, in the same country. What I formerly considered constants became a matter of the digital realm, barring two peers I’d known from Chicago and the odd chance of sharing a friend-of-a-friend with someone back in the states. I was known only from the present onwards, rather any prior impression or prior self. I was asked many times if I was ready to leave yet. We’d hit a month, a week, a day till departure. I’d say

yes, I think so, the time will come when it does. Yet, I’d always be certain that the life I’d come to know in Denmark had no way to hold on to me. It will fade, shift into regularity and soothe its entropy, just as everyone in the picture will reset themselves to a homeward place. I keep my memories, my friendships, my joy, yet adapt it to the cycle I’ve come to know. I return to Rochester and place myself back in the circle. I find the mundane and I enjoy it, I tire of it, become depressed of it, and repeat again. I learn and rest and adventure. Augment my day-to-day or maintain a familiar schedule to what fits my fancy and my energy and my time. Find more time for the special things, yet keep the routine that keeps me grounded. It will all keep happening, regardless of what I do. So I spin, and I spin, and I spin.

Holly is a member of the Class of 2026.

Sex and the CT: Experiments with Honey Packets

BY MARIAH LANSING
COLUMNIST

Anonymous 20-year-old bisexual female asks: Can you [talk] about those arousal honeys? Are they safe/do they work/what is in them etc.? After about three weeks of begging *Campus Times* editors, it became apparent that a CT-sponsored experiment to answer this question was not an option. Instead, just for you anonymous 20-year-old bisexual female, I took one for the team.

‘Manufacturers can put anything in them without needing to disclose specific ingredients.’

For those unaware, honey packets are the newest sex fad amongst sexually active college students. Not to be confused with culinary honey packets, containing only the products of honeybees, the packets I’ll be discussing are touted on TikTok as being a cure-all for any sexual dysfunction and often contain other ingredients, such as unspecified “herbs” and potentially other undisclosed additives. It’s hard to discern what the actual effects of these honey packets are; people online claim that they will make your dick harder for longer, allow you to go for multiple rounds, and maybe your girl will see God when she comes. Honestly, I couldn’t even tell if there was

a specific brand I was supposed to get, so this entire subject is very convoluted. The use of these honey packets by college students definitely has some medical professionals very concerned for our health: Honey packets are classified as a supplement, not a medication, meaning that manufacturers can put anything in them without needing to disclose specific ingredients, and make whatever claims they want about its effects. Most typically just contain some herbs like maca and ginseng, which won’t do much in terms of sexual performance, but some, such as the Royal Honey brand, have been proven to contain tadalafil, aka the main active ingredient in Cialis, a prescription medication for erectile dysfunction. The FDA even issued an advisory against using the product, as tadalafil can cause low blood pressure and dizziness. When consumed in conjunction with alcohol and certain prescription drugs, it can possibly lead to death. The danger is that these products often do not advertise or even mention tadalafil on their ingredient labels. While investigating these honey packets, I asked many friends if they had ever tried them in their sex lives. One friend, a female graduate from the Class of ’23 who wishes to remain anonymous, said she and her boyfriend recently tried using a honey packet. They had split one packet

between them, and according to her, she “was a waterfall,” had an erect clitoris (yes, this is a thing), and her boyfriend was able to go for multiple rounds with a minimal refractory period. At this point, with another woman telling me that she noticed a difference in her genital response, I knew I had to grab a couple and try them myself.

‘She was ‘a waterfall,’ had an erect clitoris...’

With my boyfriend in tow (and slightly embarrassed), I took a walk down to the nearest vape and smoke shop. There I stood in front of the looming wall of sexual enhancements, with a plethora of decisions to make. There were so many brands, flavors, and specialized effects to choose from. Some packets were about the size of a single ketchup packet, while others were the size of literal Go-Gurt tubes. While I was intrigued by the largest pack labeled “Rabbit Mode,” I instead opted for two of the least-intimidating packets, each the size of a Hellman’s Mayonnaise packet. The package advertised to improve size and stamina, as well as be longer-acting and faster-acting than similar products, all with the added benefit of no headache! They cost me \$7 each. Upon cutting them open, my boyfriend and I were hit with a rancid smell — sort of like hot honey mixed with soy sauce. It tasted equally disgusting. Neither of us could finish the entire packet.

The good news is that we didn’t need to. As far as differences in sexual performance, we both agreed it was much easier to get started: while we typically require at least ten or more minutes from foreplay to insertion, we were able to begin much sooner. By this, I mean our respective genitals were raring to go, but neither of us noticed a dramatic increase in desire. While I really only noticed an increase in my vagina’s natural lubrication, my boyfriend experienced more effects. His erection was almost immediate as foreplay began, and he did last quite a bit longer than is typical for us. However, we both agreed that there wasn’t exactly an improvement in sexual performance. Sure, it was fun to have sex for about 10 more minutes than usual, and being wetter certainly helped me keep up. However, my boyfriend did report slight dizziness and a very upset stomach afterwards. He also woke up at five in the morning with a massive erection, so it definitely lived up to the demand of “long-lasting.” All in all, my boyfriend and I are in agreement that for the price of \$7, the honey packets aren’t worth it. For all the hype, I was quite disappointed. I didn’t come and see God, and my boyfriend just got a bellyache and an annoying erection. The wisdom I will impart on you is this: If you’re struggling with sexual performance, a product claiming

to be a cure-all is likely not going to fix it, and could actually pose risks to your health. The main issue with unregulated sexual enhancement products is that there are no regulatory agencies to ensure that these companies are being transparent about what is in their products. The FDA does not have the ability to test every product on the market. Especially at our young age,

‘For all the hype, I was quite disappointed.’

erectile dysfunction medications are truly not a necessity and can lead to further sexual dysfunction down the road. Not to mention these products are typically designed for men, and usually don’t have as dramatic an effect on women, because tadalafil works by increasing blood flow to the penis. The most likely side effect of this will be an erect or highly sensitive clitoris — anything else is likely a placebo. If you or your partner are having issues with getting hard or wet and staying that way, it may be something you should talk to a healthcare professional about, and explore safer, regulated alternatives for, first. The bottom line is that one product is not going to make you have mind-blowing sex. Taking care of your mental, physical, and sexual health is a much better path to unlocking extraordinary sex.

Lansing is a member of the Class of 2025.

CULTURE

CT Escapes: Get the Fork Out

BY COLIN JONES
CULTURE EDITOR

About a month ago, I was lucky enough to join my fellow *Campus Times* members Alex Holly, Brian Ly, and Aeneas Wolf on a trip to Rochester’s very own GTFO (Get the Fork Out) Escape Room. The owners of the escape room were gracious enough to give us a free run of their ’90s-themed room, and as someone who has done a handful of escape rooms before, I can pretty confidently say that this is the best one I’ve ever done.

Worry not if you aren’t a ’90s kid — this room immerses you in the decade with familiar touchstone brands like Pokémon and Tamagotchi, as well as ’90s TV staples like Seinfeld and The Simpsons. There’s even a soundtrack of classic ’90s music curated by one of the owners as a backdrop for your escape — it’s a lot more fun to hunt for solutions to puzzles when Depeche Mode’s “Enjoy The Silence” thumps quietly from a small radio in the corner.

The premise of the room is fairly straightforward: a kid’s bedroom from the ’90s, with various puzzles connected to the paraphernalia scattered about. However, as you progress through the

various smartly balanced puzzles, you and your group will come to discover that there is more than meets the eye. While I won’t give away the storyline of the room or any of the specific puzzles both the room’s puzzles and narrative were clever, fun, and challenging without being a slog to get through. Not to brag, but we’re pretty smart over here at the CT. My coworkers and I cleaned up the room in a brisk 40 minutes, which is one of the faster times in which that room has been completed. While the standard time limit in which to complete their rooms is an hour, the owners are happy to give you a bit of extra time to finish the puzzles and even offer a time bonus if you find a certain clue. After we completed the room, I had the opportunity to sit down with two of the escape room owners, Xavier Weisenreiter and Zachary Gilbert-Mahoney, and talk to them about the experience of designing, running, and managing an escape room.

Weisenreiter and Gilbert-
‘Your group will come to discover that there is more than meets the eye.’

Mahoney are two of a rotating group of six friends

who alternate various roles in the escape room process, from financing to advertising to the actual construction of the rooms themselves. The whole operation is managed by this group, so everyone wears a lot of hats. “We split up the roles in various ways, but there has been a lot of meshing of responsibilities and changing of the guard throughout the almost three years now that we’ve been open,” Gilbert-Mahoney said with a smile. Despite the unique endeavor of operating an escape room without outside assistance, he and Weisenreiter made it clear how much fun the job is, even with the challenges that come with it.

The idea for the escape room came together almost out of the blue. “We have a group of friends that kind of just meet up every year,” Weisenreiter explained. “And we’d always talk about fun business ideas and stuff that we can do. But we were like, ‘Let’s actually take seriously one of these things,’ one time during COVID.”

“We like escape rooms. We like the idea of designing something. We think we have the ability and the intelligence and know how to run a business. Let’s actually put it into practice.”

In the years since, the group of friends has made themselves a staple escape room destination in Rochester, expanding to dozens of bookings a week. “One of the bullet points ***‘He and Weisenreiter made it clear how much fun the job is, even with the challenges that come with it.’*** [when coming up with the idea] was that it was such a unique business ... it was a niche,” Gilbert-Mahoney said when asked if it was hard to get the operation off the ground. Weisenreiter elaborated on the formation process: “The major thing was planning a location that was in downtown Rochester ... There’s a bunch of other escape rooms on the outskirts of Rochester but being a part of downtown Rochester, being a part of the college scene was huge for us.”

We also talked about the process of designing the rooms themselves. Currently, GTFO has two operating rooms: the ’90s-themed room that we did and a prison break room, as well as a third room that is currently being developed. Weisenreiter explained

how even the finished rooms are constantly in a state of improvement. This definitely came through in the room from my experience — there were so many fine details and subtle puzzles that were clearly the product of much testing. The labor of love to make it the best room possible was tangible throughout our conversation. I think the biggest takeaway from completing the escape room and talking to the minds behind it, is that it is possible to do what you love for a job if you put your mind to it and have the ingenuity and good fortune to make it happen. A group of six friends who knew each other in high school came together, most of whom had little prior experience with escape rooms and the work it took to maintain them, creating a great, sustaining staple in downtown Rochester. Perhaps my favorite thing said in the interview was from Weisenreiter, who fondly remarked, “Passion projects [and] the ability to express yourself creatively, [to] create creatively, [they] just don’t die.”

Jones is a member of the Class of 2026.

Teddy’s Travels: Allegheny National Forest & Buffalo

BY TEDDY ALMOND
PHOTO EDITOR

Off-roading has always been something that I have found fascinating: feeling the car bobbing side to side while at the same time trying to make sure the car doesn’t get stuck or break down has always been thrilling to me.

When looking for places near Rochester that would cater to this adventure, I stumbled upon the Allegheny National Forest, located two-and-a-half hours southwest of Rochester. Allegheny straddles the border between Pennsylvania and New York featuring hundreds of miles of hiking, biking, snowmobiling, and of course, off roading trails.

Prior to making our trip, I made sure to print out and download maps onto my phone as, once you are in the park, cell service is spotty. To select, what I thought would be, the perfect off road adventure, I would recommend Google Maps’ satellite viewer. Pinning down a final

starting point, I set our GPS to the coordinates 41.86125° N, 78.87829° W — a state forest marked dirt road — and hoped that this would prove fruitful.

Upon arrival, we noticed that there was more snow in the park than we’d seen on the streets around Rochester. We traveled State Forest Routes — some of which go unmaintained during the winter. I would not attempt this without snow tires or an SUV/Crossover. Most of the trails we were on in the beginning were partially maintained but clearly had not been plowed recently.

While very scenic, I found the State Route roads not thrilling enough and decided to spice things up, navigating to an unmarked road that wasn’t on the map. Along this trail were dozens of oil rigs, and we seemingly stumbled onto a service road designed for maintaining the rigs.

Soon enough, the larger trail ended abruptly—but a much narrower, completely unmaintained, trail continued to our left. My friend was cautious about

us continuing, but I pushed us through anyway. This proved to be a mistake.

On the path were deep tire marks, probably left behind by a tractor but only a few feet in, it became evident that the snow in some places was deeper than the ground clearance of the car, meaning that the undercarriage was scraping against the bottom. This took some careful maneuvering as I needed to find a place to turn around ASAP.

At this point, the car was stuck and the tires were spinning, but I wasn’t about to allow this to be the end of our adventure. After vigorous maneuvering, I got the car freed and proceeded to drive to the main road — but by this time, it was starting to get dark and we decided we needed to get out of the park before nightfall.

Directions in the park can be a bit confusing. While not as exciting, I would highly suggest that if you are in a rush, you should exit the same way you entered.

We realized this during what I thought may have been the scariest part of

the trip. As we were going around a bend in the road, I realized that water had spilled onto the road and then froze, leaving behind a sheet of ice blanketing the downhill section of the road.

When I got out of the car to investigate, it was so slippery that I could barely keep my balance. At this point, had we turned around, we could have been adding upwards of an hour to our journey and would have meant trying to navigate the trails in the dark. We decided to continue forward navigating the icy road.

Alas, we ended up making our way to the main road and got back on the highway to head up to Buffalo for the night.

I personally liked our trip. If we had more time, I would have loved to explore more of the park’s trails and I would definitely be open to going back to the park. Allegheny is huge and offers a wide variety of activities for anyone interested in the outdoors. It also has some spectacular hikes which, in the spring or summer, I would be happy

to try out. But for this trip we just stuck to off-roading.

Buffalo is located just about an hour and a half from Allegheny, sitting next to Ontario, Canada with downtown just steps away from the border. Ready for any sort of adventure, I already had my passport in my coat pocket and eagerly agreed to a quick midnight bar trip in Niagara Falls, Canada.

‘Chris explained that Big Texas is often frequented by Buffalonians who want to take advantage of the lower drinking age.’

The bar in question, Big Texas, is located about 30 minutes from the Buffalo suburb where I was staying. Chris, a Buffalo native and friend of mine, explained that Big Texas is often frequented by Buffalonians who want to take advantage of the lower drinking age. We

SEE **BUFFALO** PAGE 8

Thrift with Jane: Staple Vintage

BY JANE OLIVER
SENIOR STAFF

People that know me personally know that I am an avid thrifter. Some may call it an addiction, but I call it a creative passion.

Not having a car or a clue on where to thrift in Rochester, I’ve often resorted to Depop. Don’t get me wrong, I love Depop, but it gets expensive quickly. Scrolling online will never hit the same as perusing the racks.

‘Some may call it an addiction, but I call it a creative passion.’

In order to scratch the itch that only a good thrift trip can remedy, I’ve challenged myself to go to all the best thrift and vintage stores in Rochester. Every week, I’ll be going to a new thrift store and giving you my honest opinion. Whether you’re

new to thrifting or a vintage shopping connoisseur, this series will be perfect for you!

According to a *Democrat and Chronicle* article written in 2023, Rochester ranked fourth in New York State for thrift stores and vintage shopping. Yelp and Google provide long lists of the “Best Thrift Stores in Rochester.” One name that appeared on many lists was Staple Vintage.

For my inaugural *Thrift with Jane*, I headed over to Staple Vintage, located at 664 University Ave.

Staple Vintage is only a four minute walk from the Memorial Art Gallery. On Saturdays and Sundays, the University Shuttle Service offers the Orange Line which stops near the store. The store is located next to Melo Coffee & Kitchen and is a short walk from Park Avenue.

Staple is easy to miss, as its exterior is a simple brick building with barely any signage. The only indication of what’s inside is a small,

easy-to-overlook window decal. From the outside, it blends into the surroundings, giving no hint of the vibrant space within. But once you step inside, it’s the exact opposite — bright, colorful, and inviting. Some vintage stores can feel overwhelming, but this was not the case at Staple Vintage. The store had an open floor plan with separate racks dispersed around the store. Everything was organized meticulously by type of clothing and by size so it was easy finding exactly what you were looking for.

Staple prides itself on its size and gender inclusive vintage fashion, which the store definitely lived up to. From XXXS to XXXL, Staple Vintage has something cool for everyone.

The store was thoughtfully curated, with a selection of high-quality pieces spanning a range of aesthetics. Every item felt intentionally chosen, from the clothing to the wide variety of modern accessories

— including an impressive assortment of Baggu bags. Despite the well-curated selection, I ultimately didn’t purchase anything.

‘Despite its pros, one major con for Staple Vintage were the prices.’

Despite its pros, one major con for Staple Vintage were the prices.

This is a vintage store, so I was not expecting thrift store prices. Unlike thrift stores which resell donated items, vintage stores curate higher quality items and price items based on age, rarity, and brand. In a thrift store, you have to comb through (oftentimes unorganized) racks to find something good, whereas, vintage stores do the hard work for you. Because of this, vintage stores tend to be more expensive than thrifts.

Still, I found many items that felt extremely overpriced. I found a top by the brand

Esprit for \$30. On ThredUp (an online thrift store), you can find Esprit clothing items from \$5-\$9. With that kind of up-charging, I would rather order from Depop.

When thrifting and vintage shopping, I recommend price checking. If you think something is too expensive, 90% of the time it is. To price check, I look for the tag and google the brand name. Usually, online thrifting platforms like ThredUp, Depop, Poshmark, etc. will show similar items to give you a price comparison.

Overall, I would rate Staple Vintage a 3.5/5. The store offered a great curated selection that was inclusive, is accessible through the University Shuttle Service, and is in a great location. Although it is on the pricier side, I still recommend checking out Staple Vintage.

Oliver is a member of the Class of 2025.

food house’s ‘two house’ Makes You Hungry for Seconds

BY ALEX HOLLY
MANAGING EDITOR

Since its inception, the internet has perpetually found itself in a cycle of death and rebirth. Trends accelerate, build, and compound on themselves, morphing aesthetics into amalgamations and turning anything out of the vogue into nostalgia or cringe. What’s come of scenecore and the My Little Pony fandom? Of those Geometry Dash playthroughs from 2016? Of anyone who frequently uttered the word “poggers” back in the day and still whispers it to themselves under their breath?

‘Since its inception, the internet has perpetually found itself in a cycle of death and rebirth.’

In a seemingly endless search, food house holds the answers. A staple of internet subculture that ran through pandemic-age hyperpop like a freight train, the duo dips their ladle into the web’s primordial soup to speak (well, sing) on behalf of those less often heard: for furies, for freaks, for Massachusetts residents, and for 2025 former Tumblr users with a strong affinity for autotune.

The duo is composed of Gupi and Fraxiom, a blue-haired pronoun-having tag team who know how to dig into the circuit guts of the online age. The pair met in 2017 and seared and served bombastic hyperpop through their partnership on

the self-titled “food house.” They followed it with a nearly five-year hiatus, both going solo and briefly off the map. “two house,” the group’s aptly named sophomore album, presents a full showcase of this world in all its absurdity, euphoria, and anxiety.

food house may not have been able to write “Hamlet,” but Shakespeare certainly couldn’t write “two house” either. Despite the disparity in their place and age, many of the themes remain the same between the two. Like the aforementioned Shakespearean drama, “two house” provides a spanning tale of soliloquy, brazen humor, and occasional murderous intention, simply a “girlypop bussy cunt vagina”-ified 2025 version of the Bard’s work.

Lyrics like “and can we call it furry music if you don’t slap a fursona on the cover of the album?” or rather “how did you both come up with something that inspired other people to come up with something more?” take the place of Hamlet’s churning internal monologue, just as “dancing as your grave” chews insults like bubblegum as the duo goes “fucking ... upstairs neighbor” on the hypothetical tomb of their alleged abuser backed by club-pop sensibilities.

It’s an album with range akin to Julie Andrews, oscillating between outlandish speech and sincere sentiment. Fraxiom deems herself a “FreakyBob”-esque figure and ketamine-carrying saint for “he/him

lesbians” while retaining a sense of earnestness, reserving verses to voice pride in her trans identity, personal anxieties, career growth, and moving past abuse and struggles with depression. Beneath the synth noise, the autotune, and the absurdity, is authenticity.

For food house, rawness finds itself at the strangest extremes. “credit card knife” presents an enraged murder ballad, the bloodlust fantasy of killing a chaser (in this context, someone who fetishizes and looks to sleep with trans people purely because they’re trans) over a spur of drums and a Greek chorus of chipmunk-pitched background vocals. “computerpunk”’s tidal wave of digital riffs and crunched tones loop the circular question of “is this ironic?” into infinity as Frax screams above the noise, so certain of itself that its brashness becomes its unbreakable backbone.

food house won’t grow up and go acoustic, and it’s a well-needed declaration. They do it for the love of the music, for the love of the game — although it might not be clear what they’re playing (5D tic-tac-toe, perhaps). “two house” is just as much an ode to being silly and stupid as it is a personal manifesto and an electronic (cybergrind? digicore?) amalgamation of self in the internet age.

Holly is a member of the Class of 2026.

BUFFALO FROM PAGE 7

arrived at the bar and found very convenient street parking steps away from the establishment’s entrance. Chris very kindly volunteered to stay sober and be the designated driver of the night.

Big Texas costs \$15 CAD (in cash) per person for entry, but they do also take American dollars. To enter and drink, customers must be 19 years of age.

The establishment features live country music, a dress code (no sweatshirts), and a mechanical bull.

The bar itself is rustic, and drinks are served in plastic cups with pretty low prices. I ordered my standard gin and tonic which set me back a pretty reasonable \$6 CAD (about \$4.15 USD). The bar staff was very friendly and helpful, however, my drink was not very good as the bartender poured too much tonic and not enough gin. I cannot attest to the quality of their other drinks. The bar had fast service, even for water, which we appreciated.

Afterwards, I paid \$10 CAD to ride the mechanical bull. One ticket is good for the whole night, and I did it three times before leaving. I would not normally do something like that but it seemed pretty tame. The bull started out not very exciting — akin to more of a see-saw — but suddenly began launching you in different directions.

Last call was at 1:40 a.m. and the bar and live music closed at 2 a.m.. Afterwards, we made our way to get some Canadian McDonald’s and then returned to the border to end the crazy day of adventure.

I found the forest to be very

enjoyable and would recommend it to someone looking for an adventure. I will say that going in the winter may not be the smartest idea as, unless you like hiking on ice, there isn’t a whole lot to do.

Buffalo was amazing and with it being only an hour and a half drive from Rochester, I think it would be a perfect Friday night getaway. Big Texas was fun, but it felt as if it was trying to be both a nightclub and a country themed bar. The music varied strongly from Shania Twain to Usher – an interesting setup, but one that didn’t work. I would be curious about trying different options in the Niagara Falls area.

If you are going straight to Allegany from Rochester, I would suggest filling your tank at the Seneca Reservation. The day we went, the reservation advertised a sale on gas, with regular unleaded priced at \$2.60 a gallon.

In total, this trip was amazing, and I give it 4½ “Teddy Stars.”

★★★★★

Almond is a member of the Class of 2028.



CHRIS DEPINTO / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER
Teddy Almond rides mechanical bull at the Big Texas Bar in Ontario, Canada, moments before being launched off the saddle.

OBOC Brings ‘Glitz and Glamour’ to the Main Stage



OBOC performs “Dancing Through Life.”
BY MAYA BROSNICK
MANAGING EDITOR

UR’s Off Broadway On Campus (OBOC) hosted its spring revue Friday, putting on what I heard multiple audience members describe as the best show from the group that they’d ever seen.

I had never been to an OBOC performance before, so I tried to go in without expectations. It was immediately evident that I had

failed to prepare myself, however, as what I had expected would be an evening of just singing was actually two hours of fully realized scenes, featuring singing, acting, and dancing, all underscored by the live musicians behind the stage.

The show featured 16 distinct scenes that each found a way to pop and keep the audience entertained and engaged. My personal favorites were

“Dancing Through Life” from “Wicked” and “Noel’s Lament” from “Ride The Cyclone,” both of which nailed the harmonies, and the latter of which absolutely stuck the landing on the humor. With that said, the singing, acting, and dancing were strong throughout the revue – who knew UR had so many triple threats?

Separating the orchestra from the stage was a screen onto which the club projected colored backgrounds, which were a very effective way of setting the scene without requiring the transition times associated with traditional scene changes, which would have killed the show’s momentum. The colors helped give further insights into the characters’ feelings and made the space feel more open or closed depending on what the directors

wanted from their specific scene. Beyond the background coloring, scenes exclusively used chairs or handheld objects (including wine bottles, wooden swords, and Rockette-style fans), which also helped to draw the audience in without lengthy transitions from scene to scene.

The most effective scene setter, for me at least, was the costuming in each number. I don’t know how all the actors managed to change into and out of everything so quickly, but the costumes, particularly the matching waistcoats for “Yorktown (The World Turned Upside Down)” from “Hamilton” and realistic Halloween costumes for “Halloween” from “Be More Chill,” also worked to pull the audience into the worlds that OBOC was bringing to life.

However enthralling

those worlds were, the show eventually had to come to a close, which OBOC executed with a rendition of “A Musical” from “Something Rotten.” The song is a walkthrough of the reasons why people love musicals and was a fitting end for this sampling of some of the greats. The song ended with the entire cast singing the chorus which then flowed smoothly into bows.

Overall, despite some mic difficulties and occasional shaky harmonies, it was clear throughout the show that the cast put their hearts into their performances, or at least were good enough actors to convince me that they had. This year’s spring revue earned a good review from me.

Brosnick is a member of the Class of 2027.

‘Novocaine’ Slowly and Painfully Tortures Audience for Two Hours

BY RILEY HOWE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

For a movie about a guy who can’t feel pain, I sure felt a lot of it while watching. And I don’t mean sympathetically. I mean that every single drawn out slo-mo shot and “he’s right behind me, isn’t he?” line caused a degree of agony in me that may actually have been worse than getting my fingernails pulled out. As my viewing experience wore on, I found myself questioning: Would I rather be put out of my misery? Or, alternatively, would I appreciate it more if every single person who had a hand in making this film could be lined up and systematically executed in front of me?

‘For a movie about a guy who can’t feel pain, I sure felt a lot of it while watching.’

Nonetheless, I am a merciful and benevolent judge. I am willing to, just this once, spare the lives of Jack Quaid, Amber Midthunder, and Ray Nicholson. Quaid and Nicholson (along with recent star Margaret Qualley, who I’ve adored since she gave one of the best acting performances of all time in 2022’s “Sanctuary”) make a strong case for nepo babies everywhere, and Midthunder scrapes up an admirable amount of sympathy for an extremely unlikeable female lead. Plus, Nicholson spreads his diva wings in a gorgeously campy performance, which – thank god – the narrative does not taint with any laughable heterosexuality. I’m nauseous thinking about it.

In Quaid and Midthunder’s defense, their characters’ tedious love story does have potential (to the directors Dan Berk and Robert Olsen, I’m willing to clear my schedule if you have a sequel in the works). With a little more creativity, I can see glimmers of a beautiful “freak4freak” relationship a la Sam Rockwell and Anna Kendrick’s “Mr. Right” or Cillian Murphy and Lucy Liu’s “Watching the Detectives” (Jack Quaid sobbing while running around a baseball field, anyone?). The two leads have a few sexy and/or vulnerable moments that, like a singular bite of life-changing cherry pie, fill me with visions of delightful BDSM and entertaining conjugal visits. I mean, Midthunder’s Sherry is asking the *real* questions – how kinky can you get with a guy who can’t feel pain? I personally have faith in her ingenuity. And Jack Quaid’s puppy dog eyes.

“Novocaine” works off of a pretty interesting premise, albeit one that raises some questions about disability representation and Hollywood sensationalism. The title itself refers to the protagonist Nathan Caine’s middle school nickname based on his genetic disorder, Congenital Insensitivity to Pain with Anhidrosis (CIPA) that prevents the body from experiencing pain (among other things, like temperature differences and some interoceptive sensations like bladder pressure). Although the film provides an interesting look at the day-to-day life of a disabled person, complete with a

mostly-liquid diet and strategically placed tennis balls to prevent unintentional injuries, it also has its manic pixie dream girl character somehow totally change Nate’s life by telling him to change his mindset. Hm. In fact, “Novocaine” seems to rocket back and forth between disability-positive and -negative aspects.

In another plus for representation, I appreciate that Nate is a disabled man living past his disability’s life expectancy. It’s not because he’s some kind of savant or prodigy, but because he takes appropriate steps towards accessibility and self-advocacy. I also appreciate the brief referrals to the less “sexy” aspects of disability that are usually sterilized to preserve the character’s “sex appeal” or “palatableness”; particularly the aforementioned management of incontinence symptoms. Is it subtle? Yes. Still meaningful? Also yes.

On the other hand, there’s obvious suspensions of disbelief about how the human body works, and the movie revolves around his CIPA making him a “superhero” (of course, only when he’s wrecking his body instead of protecting it), which is a classic ableist trope that aligns disability with both abnormality and societal pressure to use your disability to somehow improve *other* people’s lives. As is the case for countless others like Daredevil or Deadpool, apparently being disabled means it’s your moral obligation to almost get yourself killed saving civilians. Sure. I guess in Nate’s case we’re supposed to believe it’s less about



JOYLU / ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

obligation and more about true love, but that would be a lot more believable if Quaid and Midthunder had literally any chemistry and/or more than two lines after the movie’s twist draws into question their romance. Oh well.

Overall, it is Quaid’s performance that grants the film any kind of watchability. He’s funny, endearing, and somehow makes some of the most painful lines I’ve ever heard resonate with sincerity and not “*please put me down like a rabid dog, why did I sign up for this, please send me back to The Boys.*” Also, I’m woman enough to admit that he looks good covered in blood. Sorry not sorry or whatever.

However, even Quaid getting sexily punched in the face and Midthunder stealing a car (plus an appearance from a leather-jacket-wearing Jacob Batalon) are enough to outweigh the film’s flaws. “Novocaine”’s writing is trite, its dialogue excruciating, its romance un compelling, and its political correctness lacking: In one of the oldest stereotypes in the book, we’re subjected to copaganda in

the form of Betty Gabriel (who is wasted on this role) playing a police officer who “heroically” spares Quaid after a moving (not) speech about what if her daughter got kidnapped instead. One of Quaid’s most cringeworthy L’s of the entire movie. Ew. Plus, her fellow officer’s police brutality against Batalon is played off as a joke.

Ultimately, to the darling readers of the *Campus Times*: Do I recommend watching this film? I mean, I guess if Jack Quaid’s basic-Lego-figure-esque charm (or Amber Midthunder’s doe eyes) really do it for you, then sure. Or if you’re having a craving for campy gore. Or if you just really want to watch a guy dig a bullet out of his own arm (not yucking your yum, I promise). On the other hand, if you’re really tired of copaganda, the Handicapped Hero trope, and unconvincing heterosexuality, maybe don’t waste your movie ticket.

Howe is a member of the Class of 2026.

HUMOR

Geedis 3: Need for Geed

BY CADEN DILLON
STAFF WRITER

At the close of a quiet summer, I started dreaming of Geedis again.

There had been no news of Lou D’Amaro, the missing student at the University, since April, when he had apparently been sucked into a VHS tape containing Season 1, Episode 18 of “The Land of Ta,” a mysterious animated TV series from the early ’80s. In fact, it might be more accurate to say that there had been no news of Lou D’Amaro ever, since searching for him in the University’s directory turned up nothing and my email correspondence with him had mysteriously disappeared from my inbox. No one seemed to remember that he had ever existed.

But I remembered. I remembered how I, too, had been transported to the Land of Ta, where I had encountered Geedis, a yellow-eyed, bearish creature with the power to exert his influence upon our world from afar. I had suffered a terrible fate there, but it seemed that I could not die in Ta, or maybe it was simply that Geedis preferred to let me live so he could torment me another day. I wondered if Lou D’Amaro had met a similar fate. More likely, he was still trapped in Ta, alive — and I clung to this notion — alive, but afraid.

Or maybe — I thought back to the disappearing emails — Geedis had simply erased him from existence entirely.

Geedis. When last I had seen him, he had left me with the words “Geedis never forgets.” And I had believed him. But the school year marched on, and summer came, and for a precious sliver of time I thought I could put Geedis behind me forever. Then the dreams started.

It was the last week before I was to return to Rochester for my junior year. Unlike the last time I had met Geedis in my sleep, I did not find myself in the Land of Ta. Instead, I would be in my bed, at home, when I would hear a snuffling noise from outside. The first night there was just the dread. The second, a flicker of a shadow visible through the window. And so it went on for a week.

The night before my departure, I heard the snuffling. I saw the shadow flicker on the window. I heard the gentle sound of the door as it was nudged open. I heard the patpat of Geedis’ footfalls as he entered the room. I saw his shadow fall upon the far wall. I was paralyzed. Then, Geedis moved into view, his massive frame looming over me. He spoke three words: “I am waiting.” And then I woke up.

In the morning, I knew exactly what to do. Frankly, I was in too deep. I couldn’t handle Geedis on my own. I needed help. I needed a savior.

I sat at my computer and typed an email to University President Sarah Mangelsdorf.

“Dear President Mangelsdorf,” I wrote, “I have reason to believe our beloved University is entangled in some kind of mystical plot involving a murderous cartoon character from another dimension called Geedis. Awaiting your response please and thank you, Caden.” I hit send, safe in the knowledge that Sarah Mangelsdorf would understand.

Almost immediately after, I received a ping in my inbox. It was from Sarah Mangelsdorf, and it read: “Hello Caden, thank you for your email. Please meet me in my office as soon as you arrive on campus. THERE CAN BE NO DELAY. Sincerely, Sarah Mangelsdorf.”

I smiled. Even if I was under threat from a godlike being who haunted my dreams, at least Sarah Mangelsdorf would have my back.

That same day, I arrived on campus with a spring in my step. Remembering Sarah’s words, I skipped over to Wallis Hall without delay, leaving the unpacking for later. I made my way up to her office and knocked on the door. “Come in,” said a voice from within. I rushed inside.

Happily, I took in my surroundings — and was met with sudden horror. There, before me, was University President Sarah Mangelsdorf. And behind her, the hideous shape of Geedis.

The door clicked behind me.

I stifled a scream.

“I had this office specially soundproofed.”

“It’s okay, you can scream,” said Sarah Mangelsdorf. “I had this office specially soundproofed.”

I screamed.

For the next few minutes I sat there, barely able to process what was happening, as Sarah Mangelsdorf explained her diabolical plot and partnership with Geedis. “Since its very founding, the University and Ta have been unshakably intertwined,” I heard her say. After that, I processed only snippets. “Geedis is a mind-feeder. Where better than a university to claim his harvest?” “As long as the yearly sacrifice is made ...” “The walls between worlds are thinning.”

Suddenly I noticed that they had stopped talking. “So Geedis will be taking you on a little field trip,” Sarah Mangelsdorf concluded.

“What?” I said.

“The more intense your state of mind, the more nourishment Geedis can derive from it at the moment of consumption. Any heightened emotion or brain activity will do, but Geedis usually finds that torment produces the best results.” She smiled. “Go

on,” she said. “Go and join him.”

I did. Geedis reached out, gripping my arm with force.

All at once, my surroundings transformed and shifted into a completely different place: a dark room with marble floors and torchlight illuminating a row of paintings. Each depicted a hideous winged creature of yellow and black alongside servants and expensive-looking relics. “This is the Hall of Kings in Ta’s great palace,” said Geedis. “Each of them richer than the gods.”

“Why are you bringing me here?” I asked him.

“Because, my child,” said Geedis, “I want you to remember what you have lost. That you chose to be a sacrifice, instead of a king. Despair is such a succulent thing. But,” he continued, “let us not linger. This is not the only world we have to visit.”

Again, our surroundings shifted. From then on, I cannot describe to you the things Geedis showed me: imagine the most horrible, terror-inducing visions you can think of, and multiply them by a thousand. You may then be able to picture a fraction of what I saw. When at last the horrors died down and I opened my eyes, I saw a world that looked strangely familiar. “Where are we?” I asked Geedis, through ragged breaths and the pounding of a panicked heart.

“The place where you once stored your deepest grief,” Geedis replied.

We were in another hall, lit by dim torchlight and built with black stone. An evil-looking statue of a man in sweeping robes towered over us. He was holding a wand. There was broken glass on the floor, and a cold wind blew through the shattered window above.

“Do you recognize this place?” said Geedis.

I couldn’t believe it, but I did. For a moment I felt a sensation of comfort, but it was quickly supplanted by the dread of what might come next. “Geedis ...” I said, “this looks like the edgy Harry Potter fanfic I wrote after my parents divorced.”

“And a piece of yourself still lives here,” said Geedis.

“I— ” I tried to object, but I couldn’t find the words. Geedis was right. I didn’t want him here, and the thought of him desecrating this place put a pit in my stomach. This was MY edgy fanfiction sanctuary, not his. It was sacred ground.

Footsteps echoed in the distance. Someone was coming.

Quickly, I made for a statue at the end of the hall and hid. Rather than moving to stop me, Geedis stood his ground.

And waited.

The footsteps drew closer, and at last, I witnessed from behind my perch a young wizard entering the hall. He was tall and thin, his long dark hair accentuated with streaks of red and purple, and

his eyes an icy blue. I could hardly believe my eyes. It was Ca’dynn Dillione, the tortured wizard with a self-righteous attitude, a violent temper, and for some reason, ties to the Italian mob. His robes were hidden from view by a long black cape, but I knew that within, there would be his silver wand with a core sourced directly from the Devil’s Snare.

He stopped. “Who art thou, foul creature?”

I cringed a little. I’d forgotten he spoke in “thou”s.

Geedis stepped forward. Dillione drew his wand. “Did my father send thee?” (This was probably his legendary daddy issues rearing their head.)

In a flash, Geedis leaped for his throat. Blood spattered everywhere. I watched as Geedis tore the flesh from Dillione’s neck, and shuddered. We shared the same face. One moment later, it was ripped to shreds.

Behind the statue, I panicked. I could see my future before my eyes, and it was very short.

I knew from experience that I couldn’t outrun Geedis. I would have to find another way. I took another peek at Dillione, and instantly regretted it. The body hardly looked like a body anymore.

Then I spotted it. Lying on the stone floor, blood-spattered, about halfway between me and Geedis, was Dillione’s wand.

If only I could reach it without Geedis seeing.

Geedis perked up, sniffing the air around him. “Do I smell hope, little one?” said Geedis. “What cause could you ever have to hope?”

I knew I only had one chance. I dove for the wand. In an instant, Geedis pounced. “Insolent child!” he screamed. I felt the full force of his body collide with mine, and suddenly we were tumbling over soft grass. It was quiet. I felt the sun on my face.

It was quickly replaced by a shadow. Geedis stood over me, snuffling. “And to think you might have ruled over all of Ta,” he said. The palace loomed over us in the distance.

He took a step further, bringing his jaws closer to my neck. I scrambled back in terror — and my hand alighted on something cold.

The wand. A surge of hope spread through my body.

All of a sudden, Geedis lifted his head higher and spoke. “You are so far away from home ... Don’t you yearn for an end to your suffering, child?”

“Why don’t you give it to me, then?” I said. I gripped the wand harder.

And then it dawned on me. He was stalling.

Geedis fed on despair, on suffering. As long as I held this small hope in my hands, he didn’t want me. It was like

someone had spit in his salad.

I stood up. “Take me back home, Geedis.”

Geedis practically exploded. “You think you can bargain with me? I have lived a thousand of your lifetimes!”

“Why aren’t you despairing, you stupid creature?!”

“Take me back home, Geedis.”

“Why aren’t you despairing, you stupid creature?!”

I tackled Geedis, or at least tried to. His bulk mostly prevented any actual tackling from taking place, but it was enough.

I rolled onto the floor of Sarah Mangelsdorf’s office and sprung to my feet. “Geedis deletus!” I shouted, pointing the wand directly at Geedis.

And then, just like that, he was gone. No final words, no menacing promise of return. Just an office, with a big empty space where Geedis had been. It was like he had never been there at all.

“You fool!” said Sarah Mangelsdorf. “Do you realize what Geedis was going to give to me? I was going to be the ruler of Ta! The University would have been the first academic institution to spread its influence between worlds! You’ve spoiled everything!”

That explained a lot. She had been duped by Geedis, and maybe many had before her. But it was all over now. I didn’t pretend to understand everything about Geedis and the Land of Ta, but I understood the power of Ca’dynn Dillione’s silver wand, whose invented spells had mostly been used as a deus ex machina in the fanfiction of days gone by. With that, there was no coming back for Geedis.

I’m not sure whether Sarah Mangelsdorf ever truly repented for what she had done, but a few threatening waves of the wand sufficed to ensure that there would be no further efforts to contact interdimensional horrors from the Land of Ta or elsewhere. And that was that.

After all that was sorted out, there was only one thing left to do. I unpacked my bags, moved into my dorm, and basked in the knowledge of a Geedis-free year ahead. I never heard anything of Lou D’Amaro again.

And there you have it, reader. Geedis has geeded his last geed, and you may rest assured that no one will ever whisk away unsuspecting university students to faraway lands for no reason at all other than a desperate need to feed off negative emotions to fuel one’s own power ever again. That could never happen in America. Cheerio!

Dillon is a member of the Class of 2026.

Updates On Our Rabbit Overlord

BY KATIE JARVIS
COPY CHIEF

It's been four months since I published a statement introducing the campus community to Daisy, the two-pound tyrant who rules over us all. Hopefully it hasn't been too difficult for you all to adjust to her iron-pawed rule. However, there has been a recent shift which hangs like a spectre on Lady Daisy's noble court and she would like the people to know that she is Not Pleased.

'Hopefully it hasn't been too difficult for you all to adjust to her iron-pawed rule.'

After a simply lovely trip up to her winter estate for the greater part of the holiday season, Daisy returned home to once again rule over and protect her realm. Yet, not two weeks had passed when a certain someone, or should I say something, began to cause unrest in the kingdom.

The invader is said to be known to his followers as "Kip" or "Kipper." My sources tell me that Kipper is a word sometimes used to refer to a male salmon during its spawning season, and this vile cur certainly shares the garish fish's determination when it comes to bothering the good Lady Daisy.

'He proceeded to urinate upon the ground.'

Early attempts at diplomacy went poorly. Initially, the dastardly beast kept to the unincorporated province which lies just outside Daisy's realm, but when he finally approached Daisy's kingdom, he proceeded to urinate upon the ground just outside the gates of her vast estates. Very



KATIE JARVIS / COPY CHIEF

Rude!

After a few weeks had passed, Daisy was betrayed by her loyal attendants, being taken from her home and deposited unceremoniously upon a carpet in the lowlands beneath her kingdom. Worse yet, he was there too. Daisy mainly kept to herself, hoping that this nightmarish coup d'état would soon be over, but he refused to leave her to her solitude. Queen Daisy may have the weak and feeble body of a rabbit, but she has the heart and stomach of a king, and she served quick justice to the warlord in the form of a powerful chomp upon his furry chest. Her attendants quickly jumped to their senses, rescuing the powerful noble from further harm and returning her to her quarters. Based on their sudden reaction, the Lady figured that they must have fallen under some sort of mind control from the heinous hare.

Daisy made sure to keep

an eye on her attendants from then onward, but they nevertheless proceeded to abduct her and deposit her alongside the reprehensible rabbit several times within the next few fortnights. Worse yet, earlier this month, Daisy herself suffered extreme territory losses, her estate crippled to a quarter of its once-grand reach with barbaric metal fencing installed to prevent her escape. Her only solace is that it appears that the villainous Count Kipper has also been contained to a realm of a similarly small footprint.

'Served quick justice to the warlord in the form of a powerful chomp.'

As of late, Daisy continues her good fight, nipping at the invader whenever he dares to thrust his bulbous snout past the barrier which separates

their lands. Recently, she has begun pondering why the devious count never appears to fight back. Is it because, perhaps, he sees her as a potential ally? Preposterous! If he wanted to seek her allyship, he should never have requisitioned her home, her servants, and her freedom.

The Honorable Queen Daisy wishes to conclude this message with a moment of humility. She recognizes that some challenges are too large for a small rabbit to bear on her own, and requests that the loyal subjects reading this aid her in this fight such that the good and righteous may conquer the wicked and evil. If you have any information or resources that may help her vanquish the insidious interloper, please let it be known to her aides. The fate of our empire hangs in the balance.

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



GOT NEWS?

SHARE ANY TIPS YOU MAY HAVE



SEND TIPS!

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2024

Can

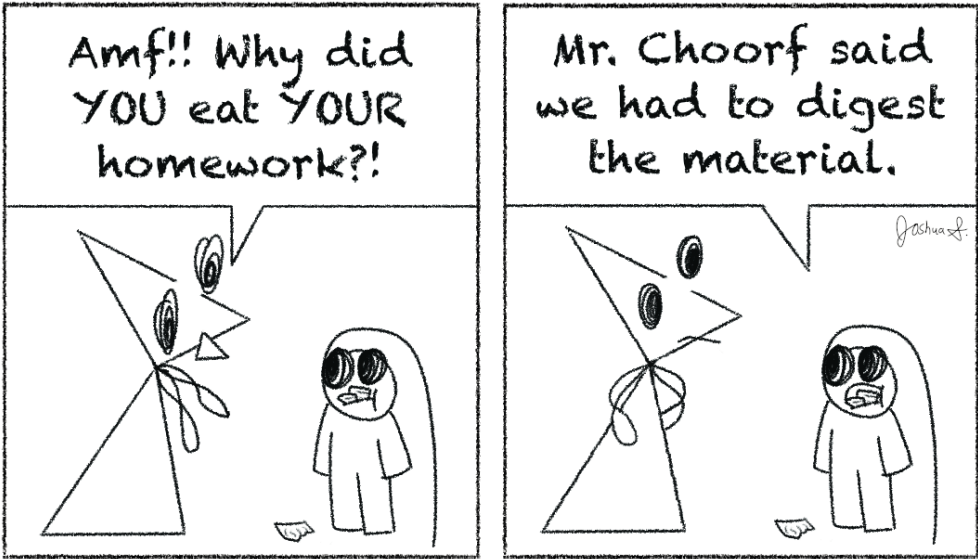
SEND TIPS!

Crossword Answers

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Papercuts: Homework

BY JOSHUA SCHIAVI
STAFF WRITER



SPORTS

Jackie Hsiao on Competing at the Fencing Junior Olympics

BY AEENEAS WOLF
SPORTS EDITOR

Back in February, sophomore Jackie Hsiao of the UR Fencing Club competed in the 2025 Fencing Junior Olympics in Charlotte, North Carolina. To her, it was the culmination of six years of preparation and her first time competing against elite fencers at a national level.

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Hsiao’s fencing journey began at a summer camp before her eighth grade year. She hated it. Between the long hours spent sweating through fencing gear and having to compete against more experienced opponents, Hsiao ended her days there tired and frustrated. Nevertheless, her time at camp kindled an interest in the sport within her, one which she would pursue in high school.

At her New Haven, Connecticut high school, Hsiao found a welcoming community of fencers and coaches, some of whom also went to participate in February’s Junior Olympics. In high school, Hsiao developed and refined her skills with the foil (a poking weapon that targets the torso), the smallest and lightest of the three weapons used in fencing.

In her senior year, Hsiao suffered a devastating ACL tear which put her fencing career in jeopardy. “I had a lot of doubts after I tore my ACL that I never would get back into fencing,” she said. After surgery and nine months of grueling physical therapy two to three times a week, Hsiao began fencing again.

Regarding the changes to her fencing after the injury, Hsiao said, “I’ve always been a more defensive fencer so my fencing hasn’t changed too much after my injury. I do have to think more about getting my back leg under me while I fence.”

Beyond the physical alterations to her style, Hsiao spoke on the mental adjustments she made to compete at a high level. She emphasized the importance of positive thinking and mental

preparation, saying, “If you think you’re going to do badly or you’re not going to do well, it does have an impact on how you fence.” Moreover, Hsiao said she learned to “trust her instincts and stop over-thinking during competition” in response to her experiences in recent bouts, including those at the Junior Olympics.

Hsiao also revealed the life lessons fencing has taught her, saying, “Persistence is key and losing is one of the best ways to learn.” She re-watches all of her bouts, which her mother and teammates record.

She said that her family has been instrumental in supporting her through her fencing journey, from the very beginnings to most recently at the Junior Olympics. Hsiao recalled the moment she learned that she qualified for the Junior Olympics via email and said that she immediately called her mother to break the news. On the subject of family, Hsiao said, “my family was very supportive and excited because they knew it was something I wanted to go to for a while.”

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At the Junior Olympics, Hsiao met two of her favorite fencers: three-time Olympic gold medalist Lee Kiefer and fellow Olympian and Princeton fencer Maia Chamberlain.

Her next goal in fencing is to continue competing at a national level and earn a rating from the United States Fencing Association through victories in their competitions.

Most recently, Hsiao was elected as the next president of the University of Rochester Fencing Club, while continuing to coach women’s foilists there. In April, she will lead her team to Pennsylvania for the United States Association of Collegiate Fencing Clubs’ championship. There, UR will field a full team of 19 fencers for the first time in their history.

Wolf is a member of the Class of 2027.

CrossWords

BY CALEB OSHINSKY
STAFF PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 One of seven Snow White companions
6 Instruction to provide one's personal beverage
10 *Exchange, or a hint to the end of 43A, 50A, 5D and 9D's homophonic phrases
14 Tripoli's country
15 Former mayor Giuliani
16 "¿____ está usted?"
17 Physicist Newton
18 Guitarist Clapton
19 Strike callers
20 Chillax, with "out"
21 Astronomer honored by a famous space telescope
24 For ____ (not free)
25 Humbled
26 Thin as a rail; emaciated
31 What Donald wants to do to Greenland, and possibly Canada
32 Tolkien trilogy, for short
33 ____Reps, the on-campus environmental educators
36 Cat call?
37 Vanishing sounds
39 Focus problem, for short
40 Complete collection
41 Angel's headwear
42 "Full steam ____!"
43 *A bad thing for a doctor to do?

- 46 Bistro or diner
49 Convention
50 *Momentarily?
53 Some boxing wins, for short
56 Mister Rogers
57 "Swan Lake" skirt
58 17-syllable Japanese poem
60 "____ trap!" -Admiral Ackbar
61 Mononymous "Orinoco Flow" singer
62 Working counterpart, in "Severance"
63 Simple
64 Ground grain

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- 65 "Les Misérables" has over 1400 of these

DOWN

- 1 554, in ancient Rome
2 Sensible and sage-like
3 "Would you like ____?" (Hillside query)
4 Scandinavian rug, or an anagram of ray
5 *Send one's expression, printed telephonically?
6 Made tea
7 Cosmonaut Gagarin
8 Thor's father
9 *Via Gregorian songs?
10 Dives with a tank
11 Prenatal sites
12 More than sufficient
13 Sat to be sketched
22 Family room
23 Lyft alternative
24 From square one
26 ____ Club (Costco competitor)
27 Cap site
28 "How could ____?"
29 Low-pitched electronic noise
30 Roblox reaction
33 Genesis garden
34 Converse
35 Chances
37 Principal means of address?
38 Spanish stadium support?
39 Throat-clearing noise

- 41 Instrument after "English" or "French"
42 Blimp, for example
43 Rhyming Hawaii holiday on May 1st
44 Yearly
45 Young 'un
46 ____ Trinket, "The Hunger Games" District 12 chaperone
47 Major artery
48 Lock of hair
51 Pull some strings, say?
52 "Right back ____!"
53 Principal chess piece
54 "____ dokie!"
55 Seeks damages
59 Actress de Armas of "Knives Out"

Answers to this crossword can be found on page 11.

UR Mom

BY BUG CARTWRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

