

# Campus Times

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## COMMENCEMENT

2  25

CONGRATULATIONS  
CLASS OF 2025

INSIDE  
THIS CT

COMMENCEMENT  
SCHEDULE  
PAGE 2

THANK YOU CT  
SENIORS  
PAGE 4 INTRODUCTION

'WANTED' POSTERS  
COVERAGE  
PAGE 5 CAMPUS

BEST OF  
GRAPHICS  
PAGE 12



# COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

**UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY**  
FRIDAY, MAY 16, 8:45 A.M.  
FAUVER STADIUM AT THE BRIAN F. PRINCE ATHLETIC COMPLEX

**EASTMAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC GRADUATION CEREMONY**  
SATURDAY, MAY 17, 9:00 A.M.  
KODAK HALL, EASTMAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

**SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY GRADUATION CEREMONY: MASTER'S AND ADVANCED CERTIFICATE**  
SATURDAY, MAY 17, 4:00 P.M.  
KILBOURN HALL, EASTMAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

**DOCTORAL GRADUATION CEREMONY**  
FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2:00 P.M.  
KODAK HALL, EASTMAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

**SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY (MD) GRADUATION CEREMONY**  
SATURDAY, MAY 17, 12:00 P.M.  
KODAK HALL, EASTMAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

**SIMON BUSINESS SCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONY: MSBA, MSMA, MSF, MSA**  
SUNDAY, MAY 18, 9:00 A.M.  
KODAK HALL, EASTMAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

**SCHOOL OF NURSING GRADUATION CEREMONY**  
FRIDAY, MAY 16, 5:30 P.M.  
KODAK HALL, EASTMAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

**WARNER SCHOOL OF EDUCATION GRADUATION CEREMONY**  
SATURDAY, MAY 17, 3:00 P.M.  
KODAK HALL, EASTMAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

**SIMON BUSINESS SCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONY: FT MBA, PMBA, EMBA, MMM, MSBR, PhD, OMSBA**  
SUNDAY, MAY 18, 12:00 P.M.  
KODAK HALL, EASTMAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

# COLLEGE DIPLOMA CEREMONIES

DEPARTMENT	LOCATION	TIME (SATURDAY, MAY 17)
American Sign Language	Wegmans Hall, Room 1400	9:00 a.m.
Anthropology	Wegmans Hall, Room 1400	11:00 a.m.
Art and Art History	Memorial Art Gallery	12:00 p.m.
Biology	Larry and Cindy Bloch Alumni and Advancement Center	1:00 p.m.
Biology: Biochemistry Program	Class of '62 Auditorium, Kornberg Research Building	10:00 a.m.
Biology: Microbiology Program	Class of '62 Auditorium, Kornberg Research Building	1:00 p.m.
Biology: Neuroscience Program	Sanctuary, Interfaith Chapel	9:00 a.m.
Biomedical Engineering	Strong Auditorium	9:00 a.m.
Black Studies — Frederick Douglass Institute	Hawkins-Carlson Room, Rush Rhees Library	11:00 a.m.
Brain and Cognitive Sciences	Sanctuary, Interfaith Chapel	11:00 a.m.
Business	Larry and Cindy Bloch Alumni and Advancement Center	9:00 a.m.
Chemical Engineering	Richard Feldman Ballroom (C,D), Douglass Commons	12:00 p.m.
Chemistry	Richard Feldman Ballroom (A,B), Douglass Commons	11:00 a.m.
Computer Science	Larry and Cindy Bloch Alumni and Advancement Center	3:00 p.m.
Dance and Movement	Richard Feldman Ballroom (C,D), Douglass Commons	10:00 a.m.
Data Science	Hubbell Auditorium, Hutchison Hall	12:00 p.m.
Digital Media Studies	Richard Feldman Ballroom (A,B), Douglass Commons	9:00 a.m.
Earth and Environmental Sciences	Hoyt Auditorium, Hoyt Hall	10:00 a.m.
Economics	Strong Auditorium	1:00 p.m.
Electrical and Computer Engineering & Audio and Music Engineering	Hubbell Auditorium, Hutchison Hall	2:00 p.m.
English	Richard Feldman Ballroom (C,D), Douglass Commons	2:00 p.m.
Film and Media Studies	Hawkins-Carlson Room, Rush Rhees Library	9:00 a.m.
Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies	Sloan Performing Arts Center	1:00 p.m.
History	Richard Feldman Ballroom (A,B), Douglass Commons	3:00 p.m.
Linguistics	Hoyt Auditorium, Hoyt Hall	12:00 p.m.
Mathematics and Statistics	Larry and Cindy Bloch Alumni and Advancement Center	11:00 a.m.
Mechanical Engineering	Hubbell Auditorium, Hutchison Hall	10:00 a.m.
Modern Languages and Cultures	Richard Feldman Ballroom (A,B), Douglass Commons	1:00 p.m.
Multidisciplinary Studies (American Studies, Archaeology, Technology, and Historical Structures, East Asian Studies, Clinical and Translational Sciences, Interdepartmental Studies, Multidisciplinary Studies major)	Hawkins-Carlson Room, Rush Rhees Library	3:00 p.m.
Multidisciplinary Studies (Engineering Science, Interdepartmental Engineering, Materials Science, Technical Entrepreneurship and Management)	Hawkins-Carlson Room, Rush Rhees Library	1:00 p.m.
Music	Sloan Performing Arts Center	9:00 a.m.
Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps	Dryden Theater, 900 East Ave, Rochester, NY 14607	4:00 p.m.
Optics and Optical Engineering	Sanctuary, Interfaith Chapel	3:00 p.m.
Philosophy	Sloan Performing Arts Center	3:00 p.m.
Physics and Astronomy	Hoyt Auditorium, Hoyt Hall	2:00 p.m.
Political Science and International Relations	Strong Auditorium	11:00 a.m.
Psychology	Strong Auditorium	3:00 p.m.
Public Health-Related Programs	Sanctuary, Interfaith Chapel	1:00 p.m.
Religion and Classics	Wegmans Hall, Room 1400	1:00 p.m.

## Support Student Journalism!

The *Campus Times* has been an institution at the University of Rochester for over 150 years. We need funding to afford new office equipment, professional photography and design software, trips to journalism conferences, and more.

Scan the QR code to make a tax-deductible donation to the *Campus Times* today or navigate to the university’s Alumni Relations Giving website and specifying you want the funds of your gift to go to the “Campus Times Fund.”



# INTRODUCTION

## The State of the Campus Times

BY SHERENE YANG  
PUBLISHER

The “State of the *Campus Times*” is written to report on the progress and challenges of the past semester, in addition to outlining the future goals of the *CT*. As Publisher, I aimed to build upon the remarkable work of the previous publisher and staff — from increasing print circulation to a greater abundance in advertisement — and we have made significant progress this past year. We continued to distribute 2,800 copies of our print editions in Spring 2025, with circulation around River Campus, the Medical Center, College Town, Eastman Campus, and various areas in downtown Rochester. Our dedicated staff continues to report key events, including state-wide and national news in relation to our campus, as well as pieces that encapsulate our community’s reactions to them. Along with the *CT* staff’s dedication to journalism, we further supported the staff and the UR student population with professional development opportunities. This semester, the *CT* hosted three journalism workshops, some of which in sponsorship with the Medallion Program, spanning from news reporting training to tips on interviewing. We expanded our copy editing team in collaboration with a professor from the Writing, Speaking, and Argument Program where students came and learned about copy editing from our Copy Chief, gaining hands-on experience in a student-run newsroom. Some *CT* staff members received a summer internship through the *Rochester Beacon*, allowing for more opportunities to hone in on their journalistic and writing skills. For a large portion of time prior to the start of the semester throughout the first half of the semester, we worked towards sending two of our staff members to NICAR 2025, an annual investigative journalism conference. Through insights from panels and workshops, building connections and networks, and learning more about the ins-and-outs of the journalism industry, NICAR was

essential towards these individuals’ development as journalists. This valuable learning experience was made possible with the support and generous donations from our alumni and donors. Of course, success doesn’t come without obstacles. We navigated structural changes in management midway through the semester. In addition, as something we continued to work through since the Fall 2024, we continued to implement changes to print production schedules in order to maximize efficiency of our workflow. Despite some hindrances, the *CT* won three awards from the New York Press Association: Our coverage of the ‘wanted’ posters in November won third place for news story, a profile written by our features editor won second place for feature story, and our election print edition won second place for “Best Overall Newspaper or Online News Platform.” We continue to strive toward a larger audience, expanding our readership both online and in print. To do so, we aim to recruit more writers in the coming semester, particularly for News and Features. There are many important things to discuss on campus, from the Graduate Student Union protests to the aftereffects of the ‘wanted’ posters — writers and reporters are a crucial aspect of this process. We also want to review our print locations and distributions, putting more emphasis on popular locations and relocating others to increase accessibility. With that, I want to say a big congratulations to all the hard work the *Campus Times* staff has put into promoting journalism on campus this semester. Journalism, particularly the physical distribution of newspapers, is a dying field; I am honored to be a part of something that matters to the current climate of the world. With all that we have accomplished this past semester, I am looking forward to all of the things that come with the second half of my tenure as Publisher of the *Campus Times* this fall.

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

## A Note on the Commencement Edition: Best of 2024-25

BY NATALIE OPDAHL  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

BY SHERENE YANG  
PUBLISHER

Before we talk a little bit more about this Commencement Edition, we wanted to introduce the *Campus Times*’ new Editor-in-Chief (EIC): junior Natalie Opdahl. Natalie was News Editor for a year and a half prior to her election as EIC. Throughout her time in *CT*, she has put in great and consistent work towards the betterment of the paper, and the *CT* is excited

to introduce her as our new EIC. Now: As the school year draws to a close, we at the *CT* would like to take time to reflect on months of joy and hard work that our staff poured into the paper. Our dedicated members have spent hours taking stunning photos, creating beautiful illustrations, writing eloquent pieces, combing through articles, and more. The edition before you is a compilation of the *CT*’s best work for the 2024-25 school year, ranging from award-winning news

coverage of the ‘wanted’ posters to remarkable illustrations and photography. Thank you for reading and supporting our work. We hope you enjoy this edition of “The Best of the *CT*”! Best, Natalie Opdahl, Editor-in-Chief Sherene Yang, Publisher *Opdahl is a member of the Class of 2026.* *Yang is a member of the Class of 2026.*

Front Page Photo Taken By  
Senior Staff Micah Bettenhausen

Image Description:  
Senior and Business Marketing major Robert (Xinjian) Lyu throws his cap in the air during his graduation photoshoot on the University of Rochester’s Eastman Quadrangle May 10, 2025. Fellow senior and Neuroscience major Abdi Osman takes Lyu’s graduation photos.

## Campus Times

SERVING THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SINCE 1873

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MANAGING EDITOR	ALEX HOLLY	BUSINESS MANAGER	ELENA BACHMANN

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# Congratulations, CT Seniors! You Did It!

**FINN ABBEY**  
OPINIONS EDITOR

Finn Abbey marched into the *CT* office with a boisterous personality and a willingness to shake things up. As Opinions Editor, he tackled controversial topics with a fiery style that is recognizably and undeniably “Finn” — and encouraged his writers to do the same. From discussing campus Republican-versus-Democrat debates to responding to the death of Aaron Bushnell, he filled a critical niche in the Opinions section and will not be forgotten.

**MICAH BETTENHAUSEN**  
PHOTO EDITOR  
PUBLISHER

If you’ve ever been in the *CT* office, you know Micah Bettenhausen. A reliable publisher and former photo editor whose primary motivation centered around the betterment of not only *CT*, but everyone in it, Micah made his mark in a variety of ways. With a vibrant personality and tangible dedication, he led our staff with compassion and confidence. The creativity he put into his craft helped shape the role of the positions, and he has served as inspiration to many others. The *CT* would not be how it is without you, Micah, and we can’t wait to hear about all your accomplishments!

**BRYAN BURKE**  
HUMOR EDITOR

Bryan Burke is a man of many names: notably Bryan and Burke. His time at the *CT* is hallmarked by his work as Humor Editor and insightful(ly amusing) commentary on the University community: that everything from the library walls to the student body’s need for constant caffeination may not be exactly as it seems. A goofball in the office and in print, Bryan has begun a strong lineage of Bryans (of various spellings) in the Humor Editor chair and left a wonderful legacy in the office.

**KYLE CHANG**  
CULTURE EDITOR

With great taste comes great responsibility, a skill excellently put to use by Kyle Chang as Culture Editor of the *CT*. His album reviews and array of editorials were both insightful and inspirational, and his presence and humor in the office were always a joy. We wish you the best in your future endeavors and are excited to see what you get up to! Congratulations!

**KEVIN HU**  
PHOTO EDITOR

Kevin Hu brought a wit as sharp as his camera lens to the *CT* office as Photo Editor. Providing both crisp examples of photography and jokes to make anyone giggle, his contagious laughter filled the air and reminded us to have fun while working. He brought professionalism to the photography section and will have a legacy lasting long after his tenure here. He will be missed, but we know he’ll tackle the future with a grin. Congratulations, Kevin. You did it!

**RACHEL KAMATA**  
ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

Rarely seen without a friendly smile, Rachel Kamata brought much joy to the office as Illustrations Editor. Staying long nights working with presentation staff, and providing graphics for years, Rachel has made an undeniable mark on the *CT*. Congratulations, Rachel! We look forward to seeing where you venture next.

**ALYSSA KOH**  
HUMOR EDITOR  
OPINIONS EDITOR  
MANAGING EDITOR  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

A jack of all trades and master of fun, Alyssa Koh has done it all for the *CT*. Writing for the paper since their freshman year, Alyssa served (editorially and colloquially) as an Opinions and Humor editor before moving up to management and eventually becoming Editor-in-Chief. Of course, one mustn’t forget their crowning contributions to the office: their friendship, leadership, and titillating hosting of “Spoons” (gone yet never forgotten) as Engagement Coordinator during Spring 2025. Also, further congratulations to Alyssa on being the author with the second most articles in recent *CT* history! Live, laugh, Lyssa, and best of luck as you move from the *CT* to the world beyond.

**NARM NATHAN**  
DATA EDITOR  
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

From the moment he was elected, Narm Nathan has been a staple of the *CT* office. Not only did he found our data section, making him — as some might say — the inaugural Data Editor, but he also ran social media for a semester. But more than just his official roles, Narm will be remembered for the countless speeches he gave, reminding us what it means to be passionate about the news.

**JANE OLIVER**  
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

In many ways, Jane Oliver made the paper more stylish. She was dedicated to her work as Social Media Editor, keeping the *CT* focused on efficiently delivering quality content to the campus community. Her column “What UR Wearing” serves as a lookbook chronicling the 2020s return to the Y2K and indie sleaze trends of yore, and her continuation of the “Sex & the CT” is a legacy that *CT* holds dear. In the gloom of the Wilson Commons basement, it can be hard to remember that the sun shines just a floor above — but Jane’s highlighting of the campus community through her love for fashion and media brought a warmth to the office on the longest of editing days. Thank you, Jane, for all your hard work.

**MAHNOOR RAZA**  
CULTURE EDITOR  
MANAGING EDITOR

As Culture Editor and Managing Editor, Mahnoor served as an integral part of the support system for writers and staff alike. She was such a lively and vibrant presence in the office. Mahnoor, we will miss you dearly. We can’t wait to see all that you accomplish!

**ANGELICA REYFER**  
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Angelica Reyfer, our 2024 Social Media Editor, brought a light to the *CT* that we all are going to miss. She left an undeniable impact on our social media setup, and we will feel her positive impacts for years to come. We wish Angelica the best in her return to California!

**LILLI TAMM**  
HUMOR EDITOR

Here ye and behold — our marvelous Lilli Tamm is graduating! Tears shed from our eyes and anguish fills our hearts ... yet fear not. If you didn’t think STEM majors could be funny, Lilli is the proof against the pudding. Serving as Humor Editor and penning a collection of beautifully crafted works (including the spiritual ghostwriting of Cat Crawford’s fish chronicles), her work will forever be in the *CT* archives and more importantly, our hearts. We wish you the best as you move onto your next endeavors at Stanford and eventually spearhead intergalactic communications between us and the aliens.

**ALLIE TAY**  
OPINIONS EDITOR  
MANAGING EDITOR  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

When we think of the word “commitment,” we think of Allie Tay. She was a support system to many of us during her tenure at the *CT*, bringing a sense of comfort and joy every time she entered the office. Her work as Editor-in-Chief provided a blueprint for our current structure, focusing on projects that would bring *CT* staff closer together. We know you will do amazing things in the future and are excited to hear about how far you’ll go!

**Thank you to all the graduating staff members and contributors that worked with the *CT* during their time at UR. We wish you the best of luck as you continue forward with your journey!**



# ‘Wanted’ Posters Accusing University Affiliates Displayed Throughout Campus

NOVEMBER 13, 2024

**BY NARM NATHAN**  
DATA EDITOR

**BY EMMELY ELI TEXCUCANO**  
FEATURES EDITOR

**BY TEDDY ALMOND**  
STAFF WRITER

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

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

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

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

“President Sarah Mangelsdorf openly supports the military organization that has murdered the family members of students, utilizing University resources to support these military efforts, while also blatantly disregarding academic values and democracy,” stated one poster.

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

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

“Vice Provost and University Dean for Undergraduate Education



TEDDY ALMOND / STAFF WRITER

A public safety officer with a stack of ripped ‘wanted’ posters outside Starbucks in Wilson Commons.

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

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

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

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

for voting against academic divestment from Israel.

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

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

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

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

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

**‘Multiple organizations released statements in response to the posters.’**

Multiple organizations released statements in response to the posters, including executive director of the University’s chapter of Hillel, Joy Getnick, who was also a target of the posters.

“These posters targeted senior administrators but also disproportionately targeted Jewish faculty and staff, including me. That is antisemitic, and hateful,” Getnick stated in an email to members of UR Hillel on Monday. “Now, more than ever, is a time to celebrate our shared heritage and traditions, and feel the strength of our special UR Jewish community.”

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

and culprits of the posters.

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

**‘Notably, this is the first time that a University official has referred to an act committed on its campus as “antisemitic” in a written public statement.’**

Notably, this is the first time that a University official has referred to an act committed on its campus as “antisemitic” in a written public statement.

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

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

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

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

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

*None of the authors or editors of this piece are affiliated with any of the organizations mentioned in this article.*

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

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

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



# Graduate Students Hold Protest for Unionization

FEBRUARY 24, 2025

BY MAYA BROSNICK  
MANAGING EDITOR

BY CHLOE YOKITIS  
STAFF WRITER

University of Rochester community members gathered in Wilson Quad Feb. 18 to listen as speakers laid out their reasons for graduate student unionization.

This protest came in the wake of a rally held Jan. 30, in which participants demanded that University President Sarah Mangelsdorf sign an election agreement that would allow grad students to vote to form a union. As of the time of writing, no agreement has been signed.

For graduate students, this protest is the last resort before they begin seriously considering striking.

“This is very important to us. We deserve better treatment, and, you know, we’ve told them over and over again, we’re not afraid to escalate, we’re not backing down,” said organizer George Elkind. “And this is us following through with that.”

The rally lasted about an hour featuring a series of speakers who shared their personal experiences to

illustrate their support for a union.

Emefa Amoah, a fifth-year Ph.D. student, spoke about struggling with the University’s actions regarding her academic status after her mother passed away in 2021.

**‘For graduate students, this protest is the last resort before they begin seriously considering striking.’**

“Within 72 hours of her death, I had to make a choice,” she said. “I had to either take a bereavement leave and lose my income, my health insurance, one year of funding — on top of restarting my student loan payments — or shut down my grief and return to work because I was too poor to afford time to mourn.”

Amoah described how she wished someone else would have stood up for her. “A union would never have let this happen,” she said. “A union would have protected the dignity and respect that this university took from me.”

Amoah explained the strike pledge was a “commitment to stand together” and

for administration to “learn just how far we are willing to go” rather than an official start to a strike.

“Today’s strike pledge is just the first step. We will not move forward without everyone’s support because a union is a democracy that must reflect the will of the people,” she said. “That said, I’d like to be blunt: If we want a union but choose inaction, we’re not just avoiding discomfort, we’re handing our power to the University.”

In addition to graduate students, undergraduates and faculty members attended the protest in support.

Take Five student Jacob Edwards spoke as a representative of the undergraduate Student Association (SA) acknowledging graduate students’ contributions to the undergraduate experience.

“Part of their mission is caring about our education, and I hope it is clear to all of the undergraduate students who are not here today — as I know it matters to those who are — how much poorer an experience we would have if not for their hard work and their care for us,” he said. “So that’s why I’m here supporting our grad students today, and why I’m confident if

the time comes for our grads to strike, the undergraduate students are prepared to stand alongside them.”

Tacarah Reyes, a River Campus dining services worker, pointed to her team’s successful unionization efforts last year and said that she wants the same for graduate students.

“What we want to change is for grad workers to organize and to fight,” she said. “Exercise your rights, your voice.”

Afterwards, New York state Assemblywoman Sarah Clark took the microphone to express support for the students.

“We, from the bottom of our hearts as a state delegation, are behind you all the way. We believe that it’s time to get this agreement signed,” she said.

The University’s delay in signing the agreement comes after a recent court case involving Vanderbilt University’s graduate student unionization efforts. The courts decided that the university did not have to give student information to a potential union.

“The University now needs some additional time to review and consider the ramifications of the proposed

agreement in light of a court decision in the Vanderbilt University v. National Labor Relations Board case, which was decided in December,” University Spokesperson Sarah Miller said in email correspondence with the CT.

Still, the University plans to continue discussions about the Election Agreement.

“The University supports the right of our Ph.D. students to decide whether union representation is right for them. We take this process very seriously and plan to follow-up as quickly as possible with the union about the impact of these recent changes in the legal environment,” Miller said.

Graduate student organizers are ready to do “whatever it takes” to form a union.

“We feel like there’s an extreme need here to get it done as quickly as possible,” said organizer Katie Gregory, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences. “Up to and including a strike, everything’s on the table.”

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

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

## Know Me for Me

OCTOBER 28, 2024

BY SUBAAH SYED  
FEATURES EDITOR

As the campus bustles with students and staff, Corey Arnold quietly goes about his work, ensuring that UR remains a welcoming and clean environment. With one and a half years of experience under his belt, Arnold has become a familiar face in the University community.

Arnold works in Environmental Services from 1:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., primarily covering the first and second floors of Wilson Commons. “If someone’s not here, I do the whole building,” he explained.

Originally from Rochester, Arnold knows the area well. Before joining UR, he worked as an electrician alongside his brother and through temp agencies.

“I got stuck here because I loved it,” he shared. “Because, it’s like, you doing my work and a lot of times y’all help me to make my day go through by communicating with me. It makes the school go better when you communicate. Lack of communication, you really don’t get nowhere.”

He recognizes that many students may be shy or preoccupied with their own groups, but he encourages

them to engage.

“I guess they don’t expect us to converse with them people a lot. There’s a lot of times they stay ... to themselves. I’m a more people person. I want to learn from people so they can learn [from] me instead of who I really am and see that I have a good heart. Some people try to probably judge me sometimes. I’ll be overexcited so they don’t know how to take me, but I’m a good person. They just really get to try to know me.”

One thing Arnold learned from working in Environmental Services is that helping means a lot to him and goes a long way. Not only does he appreciate the help that students and other staff offer when he’s on his shift, he’s also willing to help people.

“If anybody comes to me, I’m willing to help them after I get done with my job. Or even if it’s in the middle of my job and it’s right there while I’m doing my job, I’ll still help too.”

He sees himself as more than just a custodian. He wants to be a supportive figure for students.

“I want you all to get far in life,” he said, positioning himself as a “parent away from parents.” He explained, “Because, it’s like, some of y’all far away from y’all parents. So y’all need

to talk to them, like, on the phone or on y’all tablet or, you know what I mean? And, it’s like, sometimes y’all need an older person in conversation to help y’all go through what y’all going through here too.”

He knows how important it is to have a mentor when away from parents because he has five sons himself and three grandchildren.

“If my kids not around me and they around older people, I would want them to feel comfortable by having a parent kind of parent to parent them.”

**‘He sees himself as more than just a custodian.’**

Reflecting on his interactions with students, Arnold fondly remembers a particular exchange with a student who offered to buy him lunch, which he found both touching and bittersweet.

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

Ever since he started working here, he became friends with Elijah Bader-Gregory, Student Association president. “He speaks to me with joy. Like, he really sit there and converse. And

I love his conversation, you know?”

“Everything positive. Everybody knows me. Everybody’s cool with me,” he noted, emphasizing the uplifting connections he makes daily.

Last semester, Arnold was out for six months for hip surgery, and many people thought he was fired. But when he came back, students and staff were really happy that he was back.

Regarding other staff in Environmental Services, Arnold said, “We all hang together ... Some of us eat lunch together, you know. And we ain’t got no bad vibes with each other.”

He also appreciates his bosses who also sometimes help around during his shifts, and Miss Jen from the library who has always spoken up for him.

For students looking to make Arnold’s job easier, he stresses the importance of communication and consideration.

**‘He stresses the importance of communication and consideration.’**

“Communicate with us,” Arnold said. “Show us that we here. I mean, because a lot of time, because we’re like the bottom of the bunch.

[...] When you go to the bathroom, when you wash your hands with the napkins, like, pick them up and put them in the garbage. That’d be more helpful for us too. So we gotta keep going through the same stuff all the time.” But he understands that students are always in a rush, trying to get to classes.

A little acknowledgment can also go a long way in bridging the gap between custodial staff and students. “We often feel like we’re at the bottom of the bunch,” he admitted. A small act like properly disposing of trash can make a significant difference in his day.

One of Arnold’s favorite eating spots is a Mexican restaurant called Three Brothers in Geneva. He also loves seafood and the outdoors. He’d rather be outdoors than be in the city because it’s more relaxed and not too busy.

He went to New York City before and thought “people were robots, because [he’d] be like ‘Hey, how you doing?’ and they’d just be walking past you like they don’t know who you are.”

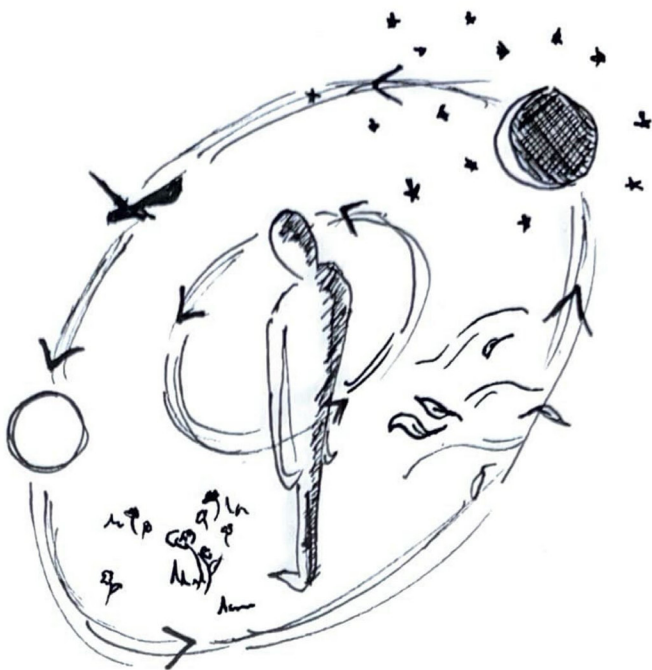
For his future, he wants to buy a tiny house, similar to a mobile home, and travel everywhere.

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



OPINIONS

Circularity



MARY JERRED / ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

MARCH 24, 2025

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 find the mundane and I enjoy it, I tire of it, become depressed of it, and repeat again.’*

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.*

Graduation Anxiety

APRIL 23, 2025

BY ENANA JACOB  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I first felt it when my ottoman broke. It’s one of those classic college storage ottomans — the kind that opens up to hold whatever you want (usually some sort of contraband the RA shouldn’t find). I sit on mine every morning, and I guess the wear and tear of not properly aligning the lid quite right finally caused the seat to cave in.

I was annoyed. My chair was broken. And my next thought was, “well, it’s not worth buying a new one since I’ll be leaving soon anyway.” And there it was.

Suddenly, I crossed the threshold: I was close enough to graduation that it wasn’t worth replacing broken things.

A few weeks later, the shoe rack in the entryway of my apartment broke. My roommate and I laughed about how it had been falling apart slowly for the past few months, and now that it could barely hold more than one pair of shoes at a time, it was finally on its last legs. But we both agreed it was too close to “the end” to bother trying to repair it — we could survive a broken shoe rack in the time we had left. Which was, as we were finding increasingly hard to ignore, not a lot of time.

The month of April has brought on a lot of strange things: springtime snow, pressing deadlines, and the undeniable feeling of something nearing its end. I have finally reached a point where every day, whether I’d like to or not, I think about how little time there is until I graduate college and am shoved out into the mysterious abyss of “Real Life.” And though this has brought on many feelings — panic, joy, relief, terror — it has also sparked a certain kind of joie de vivre made possible only as one approaches the end of something.

*‘With an expiration date looming, there is an instinct to make the most of things while you can.’*

With an expiration date looming, there is an instinct to make the most of things while you can. Bucket lists spring from nowhere. Confessions are made. Risks are taken. What was once a foreign, formless concept is suddenly staring you in the face: graduation is here. And where you maybe once felt fear or apprehension,

or even apathy, something kicks into drive. It’s either this month that you finally try Rochester’s famous garbage plate, or never. You either plan that trip with your friends now, or it will never happen. Now any hypothetical is slapped with an ultimatum: It’s either real and happens right now, or it stays a daydream forever.

It’s a scary thing, but a beautiful one. It’s a reminder to live things to the fullest, and to not leave regrets behind. The logical knowledge that all things end is no match for the innate human capacity for adaptation. But there is a wonderful, brief period of time when the feeling finally sinks in, and suddenly the here and now is real, finite, and special. Small things become huge: walking to class on a nice day, a kind professor, a joke with friends. And big things become manageable: putting yourself out there, trying a new skill, changing your routine. Because if not now, when?

*‘So take it from a senior: appreciate everything, even the mediocre things, and never underestimate how quickly time will go by.’*

I’ve only been able to find this feeling a few times in my life, every time on the edge between something old and something just beginning. But each time, I hold onto it as a reminder that with every ending, no matter how bitter or how sweet, there are some things worth holding onto and others worth letting go. It’s a reminder that these moments that I’m suddenly grateful for or these opportunities that I’m suddenly ready to seize were here for much longer than I was able to appreciate them, and that in my next chapter of life (wherever that leads me), it’s worth slowing down to make the most of what I have. I’m not sure if the lesson ever sticks for very long — like I said, humans are excellent at adapting and settling in — but it stays a little longer each time I experience it. So take it from a senior: appreciate everything, even the mediocre things, and never underestimate how quickly time will go by. Make the most of what you have for all the time that you have it. And of course, remember to buy a storage ottoman that actually lasts.

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







# CULTURE

## Float Through Spring with Ichiko Aoba’s ‘Luminescent Creatures’

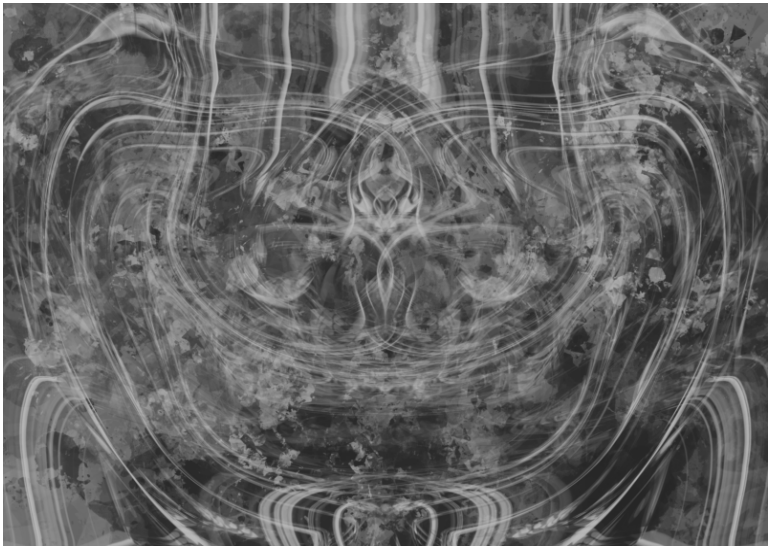
MARCH 25, 2025

BY CINCY CHENG  
STAFF ILLUSTRATOR

With the snow slowly thawing on the quads of our campus, spring has finally begun to seep in through the cold. In this brand new sunny world, let us all enjoy the beautiful new folk album by Ichiko Aoba — “Luminescent Creatures.”

*‘The tracks contain combinations of these delicate instrumentals and Aoba’s soul-touching voice.’*

The album, co-produced by Taro Umebayashi, was released last month with 11 tracks lasting 35 minutes. Following Aoba’s usual style, the music is mostly composed of simple instruments such as piano, guitar, chimes, and occasional field recordings. The tracks contain combinations of these delicate instrumentals and Aoba’s



JOY LU / ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

soul-touching voice, creating a strong sense of calmness and longing as if you’re floating through the crystal blue waters of the album’s cover. While some of the songs are a bit longer than the rest, lasting for more than five minutes, with the dreamy instrumentals, the time passes by like a gentle drift of wind. When the song is over, you temporarily return to real life as if waking up from a dream you’ll remember forever, for

the next song to bring you to sleep again. Although there aren’t many lyrics within the songs, with some tracks being purely instrumental, the album still managed to convey a sense of livelihood beyond what words could share. The lyrics that are present usually describe a small scene of nature, making you feel as if you’re living in that specific moment — being out there in another part of the world

where time has paused for the beauty to last forever. In “COLORATURA,” there are only two sung lines: “To the drifting waves of the sails / The people of the heavens follow the wind.” From these two lines alone, a scenery of boats drifting on the ocean is depicted, with the piano and the chime sounds in the background mimicking the flow of the water. Other lyrics describe a more emotional scene along with nature, such as in “tower,” “Sitting at my window I looked upon the night sky / When the sound of wings fades away / The lid on my dreams shall be opened / Memories, shaken off.” The melancholy within the lines is guided to you with the gentle piano as if you’re seated right next to Aoba in the solitude of that night.

The tempo of the tracks is rather slow, unlike some of Aoba’s other songs, serving as a nice break from the urgency of real life. When everything around us is moving

along so fast, sometimes we need this bit of slowness to remind ourselves of the actual world we’re living in — one where just like the album cover, the clear waters are flowing by slowly but surely.

*‘Sometimes we need this bit of slowness to remind ourselves of the actual world we’re living in.’*

So, with the exquisite music of “Luminescent Creatures,” let us live in the moment — there exists the beauty that we need not close our eyes and forget about. Listen to the music and listen for the sounds of our hearts reflecting through the melodies as we float through this spring together with grace and peace.

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

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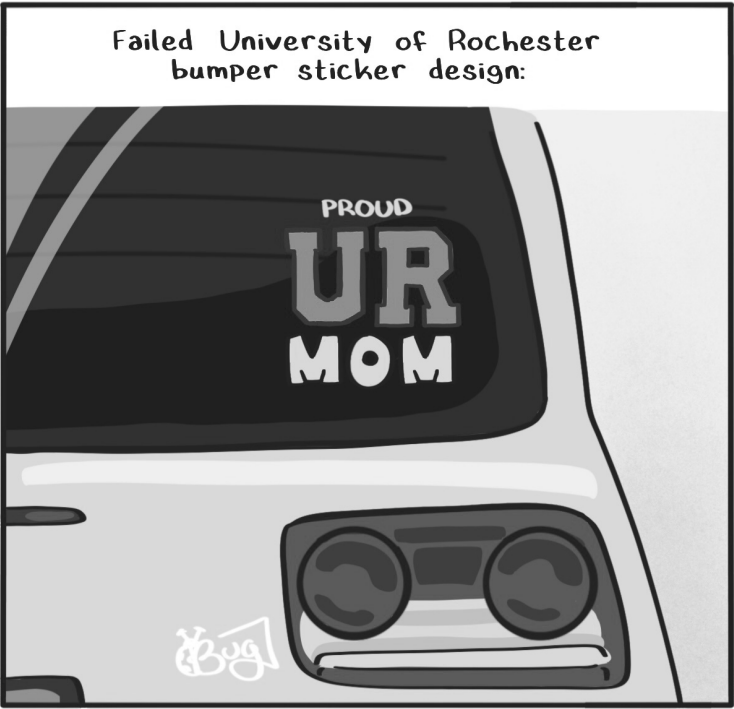




HUMOR

UR Mom

BY BUG CARTWRIGHT  
STAFF WRITER



Baby Presses Charges against Mother for Being Born

FEBRUARY 10, 2025

BY GABRIEL JIANG  
HUMOR EDITOR

A peculiar court case has recently captured the public’s attention: The baby of a mother pressed charges against their mother for giving birth to them. Apparently, the birth was so unsatisfactory that the plaintiff received auditory and visual trauma from the disgust and harassment from the doctors, as well as sustained neglect from the mother subsequent to their birth.

“They were just screaming and yelling at me while forcibly evicting me from my home!” the baby told CT in an exclusive interview outside the courthouse. “I was still sleeping during that time too! They woke me up from my much needed beauty sleep. So, of course now I’m suing for emotional distress too.”

**‘The baby also explicitly articulated to their mother and doctors that they neither wanted to take on the responsibilities of life nor face the harshness of reality.’**

The shouting and lights purportedly hurt the baby’s ears and eyes, resulting in the need for hearing aids, glasses, and an Instagram addiction. The baby also explicitly articulated to their mother and doctors that

they neither wanted to take on the responsibilities of life nor face the harshness of reality. Clearly, they already foresaw those 4 a.m. late nights writing essays while crying and not sleeping, school food that is barely edible, and taxes. Yet, to the dismay of the baby, no one understood. According to their filed complaint, their guardians “only wrapped them up in a blanket that restricted them from trying to use their body language to further express their qualms.”

**‘As of writing, the baby has received a degree from law school and is acting as their own lawyer for the case.’**

As of writing, the baby has received a degree from law school and is acting as their own lawyer for the case. If found guilty, their mother is expected to compensate the baby by paying for the necessary medical bills involved with the incident and providing housing of an equal or greater quality than the baby’s previous accommodations.

Jiang is a member of the Class of 2028.

‘Well-Informed’ Opinion Once Again Submitted Without Any Sources

JANUARY 27, 2025

BY BRIAN LY  
HUMOR EDITOR

In a society full of rampant misinformation and blatantly biased news sources, the *Campus Times* is proud to work with extremely well-researched opinion articles that are submitted without any references to sources.

“The editors want me to cite my sources, but it’s all true stuff that I’ve been hearing in the news,” one writer said. “It’s really just common sense at that point.”

When we polled our writers about where they source their news, 40% said social media websites such as Instagram and Facebook, while the remaining 60% sourced their information from local news channels and newspapers. Among those 60%, only 12% said that their only news source is the renowned *Campus Times*.

“This is great for us!” a former *Campus Times* editor



BRIANLY / HUMOR EDITOR

exclaimed. “We get to publish more articles with less effort on the end of the writers, and we get to stay overtime in the office helping our writers look for their sources!”

**‘We highly encourage submitting more sourceless articles for us to look through.’**

As a dedicated news source, we truly value representing

every opinion possible, and we highly encourage submitting more sourceless articles for us to look through. (Please note that if our opinions section is overwhelmed with articles, the humor section is not opposed to receiving these new articles.)

Ly is a member of the Class of 2027.

Commencement Crossword

BY CALEB OSHINSKY  
STAFF PUZZLER

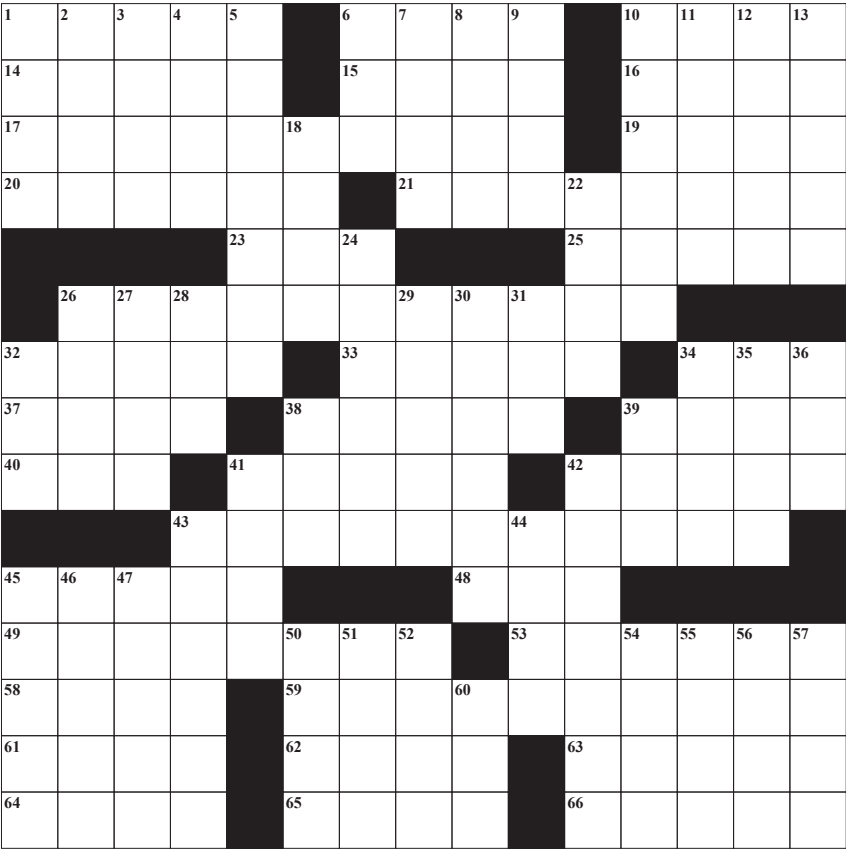
ACROSS

- 1 "Midsommar" director Ari  
6 Foundation  
10 Bird enclosure  
14 Santiago's country?  
15 The answer to many prayers?  
16 Visa or MasterCard rival, for short  
17 \*An annual school event where alumni are traditionally invited  
19 2+0+2+5  
20 Assent with eyerolling, perhaps  
21 \*Packing more punch  
23 \_\_\_ and outs  
25 Leg up  
26 Likely research goal for the newfound graduate students and post-docs  
32 Outdoor shelters for commencement speakers and events  
33 Advil alternative  
34 Do the math, as in 19A  
37 Words preceding and following "\_\_\_ what \_\_\_" in a phrase  
38 Distress signal  
39 Sunburn soother  
40 Meower  
41 "\_\_\_ is human ..."

- 42 Rental truck oft seen this time of year  
43 \*Groggily given greeting  
45 "Dagnabbit!"  
48 A great configuration for your ducks to be in  
49 \*Virtuous, moral, and satisfying state of being  
53 Homeland security secretary Noem  
58 Queue  
59 \*Activity for the class of 2025, or an album containing 17A, 21A, 43A, and 49A  
61 "¿Cómo \_\_\_ usted?"  
62 Boat propellers  
63 Mani-\_\_\_\_: spa treatments  
64 Dawson of "The Hunger Games" (or an anagram of FEST)

DOWN

- 65 Littlest in a litter  
66 Refine, as with a Minecraft furnace  
12 Hereditary gifts from Mom and Dad  
13 Put forth, as effort  
18 Prefix for "potent"  
22 Orchestral reed  
24 Went up, as a wall  
26 Animal rights org.  
27 Syllabus section  
28 K-pop septet  
29 Burglar's bane  
30 Intense fear  
31 "\_\_\_ been had!"  
32 \_\_\_-tac-toe  
34 Mathematician Turing  
35 UR dining hall, for short  
36 Ctrl-Alt-\_\_\_  
38 Rock's \_\_\_ Fighters  
39 Tuna type



- 41 Total moron  
42 Opens, as a gift  
43 Lose one's hearing  
44 TV streaming device  
45 Leers at  
46 Lift up, as a flag  
47 Florence's \_\_\_ Vecchio  
50 "Symphony of Psalms" symphonist Stravinsky  
51 Lady of the Haus  
52 Make  
54 Tabloid twosome  
55 Hypotenuse, as one on a triangle  
56 Work hard  
57 The "I" in MIT: Abbr.  
60 Summer clock setting: Abbr.

The answers to this crossword can be found on page 8.



*Congratulations*  
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Percy Dutton Prize



***Cameron Cary***  
Award for Campus Contributions (Senior)



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Award for Campus Contributions (Junior)



***Jaydee Ortiz***  
Gwen M. Greene First Generation Senior Award



***Zataisha Wilson-Sims***  
Transfer Student Award



***Micah Bettenhausen***  
The University Meliora Values Award



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Award for Excellence in Creative Co-Sponsorship



***Jason J. Wagner***  
Students' Association Student Life Advocate of the Year

***SALSA Adelante Juntos***  
Award for Excellence in Programming



***Outing Club***  
Outstanding Student Organization Award





# SPORTS

## Jackie Hsiao on Competing at the Fencing Junior Olympics

MARCH 25, 2025

BY AENEAS WOLF  
SPORTS EDITOR

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

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 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, CT 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.”

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.*

## UR Hosts Squash ProAm Tournament with Top 100 Professionals

MAY 11, 2025

BY AENEAS WOLF  
SPORTS EDITOR

From Apr. 2 to Apr. 6, UR hosted the 2025 Hazlow Electronics Rochester ProAm at their Lyman Squash Courts in the Goergen Athletic Center. The event was part of the Professional Squash Association’s (PSA) Challenger’s Tour and notably featured two of the world’s top 100 players, #82 ranked Nasir Iqbal of Pakistan and Egypt’s Khaled Labib, ranked #99. Aside from Iqbal and Labib, 19 other players in the world’s top 500 participated. Three members of UR’s varsity squash team also played — senior Yash Fadte of India, senior Omar Zakaria of Egypt, and sophomore Dhirren Rajarathinam of Malaysia.

The first round of play began at 4:30 p.m. Apr. 2, when Fadte, Zakaria, and Rajarathinam each played. Rajarathinam lost to Malaysia’s Yee Xian Siow in three games with scores of 11-6, 11-6, and 11-3. Later, Fadte

beat Matias Lacroix of Chile in four games, concluding with scores of 11-13, 11-8, 11-6, and 11-9. Finally, Zakaria won when his opponent, Pakistan’s Ahsan Ayaz, retired from the match down 2-8 in the fifth game. Iqbal and Labib each had a bye day due to their tournament rankings of #1 and #2, respectively.

Starting at 5:00 p.m. Apr. 3, Iqbal defeated Germany’s Jan Wipperfurdt in three games with the scores 12-10, 11-4, and 11-5. Later, tournament ranked #3 Sebastian Salazar of Mexico played Fadte, winning in three games scored 11-8, 11-4, and 13-11. In the final game, Zakaria lost his second round match versus Labib in three games, 11-13, 8-11, and 7-11.

The quarter final round began on Apr. 4 at 5:30 p.m. Iqbal played the first match of the day against Gabriel Olufunmilayo of Nigeria. Iqbal won in three games, 11-7, 11-1, and 1-0 as Olufunmilayo retired in the third game. Labib lost to his countryman, Omar Said, in five games scored

11-8, 11-4, 5-11, 7-11, and 4-11.

In the next day’s semi-final round, Iqbal lost to the tournament’s #4, England’s Sam Todd, in four games. Iqbal dropped the first two games 8-11 and 9-11 before rallying to win the third 11-9. He then lost 7-11 in the final game. Just after, Salazar and Said squared off; Said took the first game 11-5 before Salazar struck back in the second and won it 9-11. Said recovered and won the next two games 3-11 and 8-11.

Todd and Said matched up in Apr. 5’s final at an hour past noon. In a five set barnburner, Said took the first game 11-8 before Todd took the second 4-11. Said avoided dropping a crucial game three by winning it 11-7 but could not seal the deal in the fourth game — Todd won it 3-11. However, Said won the tournament deciding fifth game 11-6 to conclude the tournament in a 71 minute marathon of a match.

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

## Best of Photography



KEVINHU / PHOTO EDITOR

Photo initially published alongside the article “Top 7 Must-Visit Spots in Rochester” by Brennan Price on Aug. 20, 2024.



HARRYLI / PHOTO EDITOR

Photo initially taken for the article “UR Graduate Students Hold Protest for Unionization” by Maya Brosnick and Chloe Yokitis on Feb. 24, 2025, but was ultimately not selected. This photo has not been previously published in the CT.

## Best of Illustrations



MARY JERRED / ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

Illustration initially published alongside the article “Congestion Pricing Is Clearly the Way To Go” by Maya Brosnick on Feb. 11, 2025.



RACHEL KAMATA / SENIOR STAFF

This illustration has not been previously published in the CT.