

Campus Times

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An Interview with New Title IX Coordinator Kate Nearpass

By Melanie Earle
FEATURES EDITOR

Kate Nearpass, senior counsel member for labor and employment at UR and key investigator during the [Jaeger trials](#), has been named the new Title IX Coordinator and assistant vice president for Civil Rights in the Office of Equity and Inclusion.

The Campus Times recently talked to Nearpass about her new position and goals for Title IX and the Office of Equity and Inclusion at UR.

The merger of the Title IX Coordinator and OEI is a new but necessary step according to Nearpass. Back in August, federal regulations and rights were revised with two major changes affecting schools around the country: employees are now covered under the Title IX grievance process, and the threshold for a Title IX complaint has been changed.

Previously, Title IX investigated complaints filed by students against students. Complaints by or against employees, such as those filed against Florian T. Jaeger in 2016, were dealt with under policies outside the Title IX office. Now, charges filed by and/or against employees are also under Title IX, subject to both UR and federal policy.

However, the requirements a complaint must meet to fall under Title IX have become slightly stricter. Barring single events that create a “hostile environment,” in which a student is denied access to equal education, all other complaints must now [be both severe and pervasive](#) to fall under the scope of Title IX, Nearpass said. Previously, a miscellaneous complaint had to be either severe or pervasive for Title IX to investigate.

“What that means is not every complaint of sexual misconduct is going to rise up to the level of going through the Title IX process,” Nearpass said,



HENRY LITSKY / PHOTO EDITOR

emphasizing this decision did not come from UR. “But of course, the University wants to resolve all complaints of sexual misconduct, not only the ones that rise up to this very high level.” She explained that there are several other policies and processes in place to take complaints.

“For those complaints that fall short of that threshold, we now are going to use other mechanisms we have available to us, like [our policy against discrimination and harassment](#), which was previously really thought of as an [exclusively] employee policy,”

Nearpass said. “That’s another way the employee and the student worlds are merging, and there is so much overlap that it did not make sense to be looking at them separately, because when you look at them separately you leave an opportunity for employees or students to get sort of lost in the mix.”

Nearpass’s role in OEI will include oversight of these new policies and compliance areas such as Title VII (discrimination), affirmative action, and sexual misconduct resolution and investigation.

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Kazmi/Haque win SA Election: Student Community Reactions

By Melanie Earle
FEATURES EDITOR

Rising juniors Sabeet Kazmi and Rusama Haque will be the Students’ Association (SA) president and vice president next year, garnering twice as many votes as their competition. The President/Vice President ticket against first-years William Bothe and Zach Sussman. The Kazmi-Haque

ticket won 507 votes, against rising sophomores William Bothe and Zach Sussman’s 238.

Notably, only 803 undergraduates voted this year, a low turnout for the 5,512 undergraduates enrolled at River Campus. This semester’s elections were especially unusual, between the all-virtual campaigns and the election coming on the heels of a [mass resignation of senators from SA](#).

Students had mixed feelings about this year’s election. However, a common denominator among students interviewed for this article was their confusion over what SA does, their roles, and what they have accomplished.

“It’s hard to see concrete results for what people are working on,” first-year Noor Akhter said.

Some students had trouble voting due to confusion over how to do so, and for a period of time, the link to vote was down on CCC. Students also expressed that they were unable to find a platform they were passionate enough about to vote for.

“To be honest, we didn’t have a platform that provided us with more information about the people, we just heard a lot of very generic statements about their promises,” junior Mahmud Jumaev commented.

“Due to COVID[-19], I don’t think people were able to advertise as much,” first-year Bonnie Dong said. “When you go onto social media and see all these different posts about the same thing and the same picture saying, ‘Vote for Me,’ it’s not like we’re going to take the time to read everyone’s platform.”

It was mentioned during the interviews that some students received direct messages on Instagram from the Bothe-Sussman campaign imploring them to vote for them. While some of the students who received the message were unnerved by it, others simply felt unsatisfied.

“For me, it was honestly a turn-off,” first-year Sabrina Terando commented.

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HENRY LITSKY / PHOTO EDITOR

Rising juniors Sabeet Kazmi and Rusama Haque will be the Students’ Association (SA) president and vice president next year.

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“I feel like if you are having to ask for votes, you are not confident in your capabilities and what you’re providing to the campus [...] you’re asking people to vote for you, instead of saying, ‘Here’s why you should vote for me.’”

Ahkter voted for the Kazmi-Haque ticket. She was motivated by their platform. “I liked their campaign a lot,” Akhter said. “It showed how committed they are and invested they were, and they would really stand up for important issues. I was really fascinated by their motivation and passion they put [into] their campaign.”

“We just heard a lot of very generic statements about their promises,”

Students described their wishes for Kazmi and Haque as UR plans for what semesters after the COVID-19 pandemic look like. Of these wishes, some common threads are wanting a push for more interactive events and opportunities to integrate into the social side of campus.

“I would like more social activities and whatnot, having a college experience,” Terando said. “I would also like more interaction on campus.”

Others wished for a voice in the UR community, and to have a better connection with SA.

“Continuing to hold the administration and professors accountable to the student’s voices, and just making sure the students continue to get heard, and there is still a lot of representation for diversity and equity inclusion in the campus community,” sophomore Claire Decker commented.

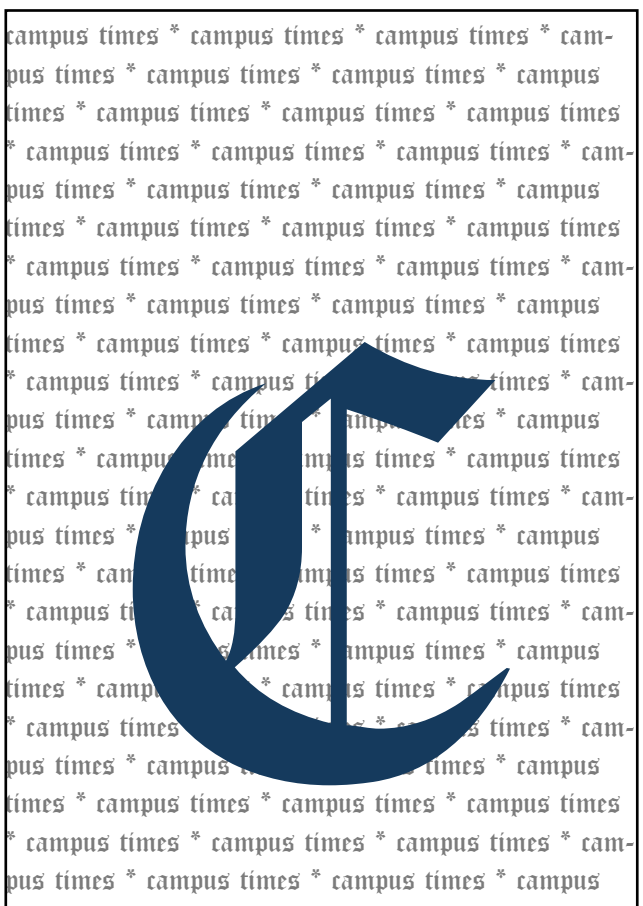
“I would like more social activities and whatnot, having a college experience,” Terando said.

“Getting in touch more with students,” Jumaev said. “I know it’s hard right now due to COVID[-19] and things, but I’m sure it’s still manageable if you don’t violate any rules.”

Students showed little surprise about the low number of votes.

“I’m disappointed but not surprised,” Decker said.

Earle is a member of the Class of 2023.



RESEARCH AT ROCHESTER

Leon Harvey Looks at Plant Proteins to Explain Evolutionary Quirks

By Hawraa Ahmed
COLUMNIST



COURTESY OF LEON HARVEY

Leon Harvey is a graduate student, McNair Scholar, and researcher studying Biochemistry at UR.

In 2018, Harvey graduated from Monroe Community College with an Associate Degree in Biology and later graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree from UR.

“Ever since I took my first general biology course, I have enjoyed learning about the various molecular processes that occur in organisms,” Harvey said. “As I began taking courses such as biochemistry and molecular biology, the intricately beautiful biological mechanisms continued to fascinate me more and more.”

‘His overall goal was to further understand an evolutionary concept known as balancing selection.’

When he’s not running chemical reactions in the lab or digging deep into scientific literature, Harvey finds enjoyment in Shotokan Karate and is an active member of Douglass Leadership House (DLH). “[There], I made a lot of amazing friends who helped me transition to UR.”

While an undergraduate, Leon worked in the Ghaemmaghami Lab, located in UR’s Biology Department in Hutchinson Hall. His research focused on investigating genetically variant alcohol dehydrogenase (ADH) protein in *Drosophila melanogaster*, where he studied their propensity to aggregate under increasing temperatures.

His overall goal was to further understand an evolutionary concept known as balancing selection.

“In balancing selection, a less beneficial variant of a gene persists in a species population due to a compensating advantage,” Harvey explained. “We hypothesized that the less active

‘His overall goal was to further understand an evolutionary concept known as balancing selection.’

variant of ADH persists in natural populations because of balancing selection, and [we] proposed that the less active variant of ADH is able to fold into a more stable conformation, and is thus advantageous at higher temperatures that induce protein misfolding.”

Leon also designed experiments testing the hypothesis that protein activity-stability tradeoff is a potential mechanism of balancing selection. “This was an interesting

project because it was a relatively new concept,” Harvey said. “To be part of a novel research and potentially bringing forth new knowledge is an exciting feeling.”

However, academia and research is not all roses and rainbows. Oftentimes, it takes time for undergraduates to establish their footing when transitioning into the college lifestyle, where they are forced to learn how to manage newfound independence and responsibilities on their own. “I have had a few obstacles in my academic life, and after reflecting on them, I noticed they had to do with my time management,” he said. “When I transferred from Monroe Community College, I found that the course rigor at UR was manageable; however, the pace was a lot faster than I was used to. This caused a lot of stress and burnout in my first two semesters.” After talking to family and mentors, he learned to find joy in what he was learning by creating a time management system.

‘After talking to family and mentors, he learned to find joy in what he was learning by creating a time management system.’

“While it was important to stay focused on my studies, it was also important to take breaks and reward myself by having fun,” Harvey commented. “This helped a lot, because I found that I actually enjoyed what I was learning when it did not consume my entire life. As for time management, I still struggle with this every now and then, but I found the most effective solution is to document your entire week on a calendar. This really made me more aware of the actual time I have to complete assignments and has been the best solution for me.”

When asked how COVID-19 had impacted his graduate education and research work in the Ghaemmaghami Lab, Harvey expressed how learning had changed and how he adapted. “The transition to online learning has been difficult for a number of reasons,” Harvey said. “One, we no longer had the collaborative environment that motivated some of us. Most of us got around this by meeting in socially distant settings, but it was not an easy transition, nonetheless. Research had to be halted, however once safe, research continued with limited capacity.”

After graduating from UR, Harvey decided to pursue graduate school in Rochester for Biochemistry. Currently, he serves as a rotating student to help determine which lab to continue his graduate education in. When asked about advice he would give to students

“There are countless successful people in science that experience failure. It is like a rite of passage.”

pursuing research, Harvey emphasized the importance of experiencing pitfalls.

“Whenever you experience downfalls in research, remember that it is a part of the research experience,” Harvey said. “There are countless successful people in science that experience failure. It is like a rite of passage. What matters is that you reflect and seek to always improve while maintaining your enthusiasm.”

Ahmed is a member of the Class of 2022.

The Founding of Justice for Asian Americans

By Melanie Earle
FEATURES EDITOR

Senior Antoinette Nguyen, co-leader of Justice for Asian Americans (JFAA) saw [the recent mass shooting that claimed the lives of eight Asian Americans in Atlanta](#), as more than a one-off incident.

“I think immediately I would say [I felt] a deep-seated sadness, and also with that comes a frustration and an anger about how this is not an isolated event,” Nguyen said. “It represents and symbolizes decades [...] of oppression in America against Asian Americans.”

Nguyen’s first thought was to call her family and friends, due to how close the act of violence hit to home. “I have a lot of family, they’re Vietnamese Americans who work in nail and hair salons,” she said. “So quickly, I could have seen how it could have been my own family members, and that was just really hard to deal and reconcile with.”

Following the Atlanta shooting, various leaders from student organizations on campus were inspired to develop an online network to build solidarity between the different Asian and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities, both on campus and in the greater Rochester region. Founding members of JFAA included leaders from the Asian American Student Union, Spanish and Latino Students Association, National Society of Black Engineers, and more.

Senior and co-leader of JFAA Sunnie Limson pointed to “a lot of fire and frustration” as the catalyst for JFAA.

One of JFAA’s main goals is to build solidarity between the different Asian and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities on campus. They want to offer healing and resources through discussion and education to help foster community and inclusivity between AAPI communities, while understanding that those communities are not homogeneous.

“It’s a matter of building solidarity within our own community and with other minority communities, because the Asian community is usually treated as a monolith, [which is] very inaccurate,” junior and co-leader of JFAA Arnav Sharma said. “There are many different ethnic groups within singular countries, and then they are enveloped together — we all fill out the same bubble [on the census]. We do have a shared history and shared struggle within western countries and the United States especially, but at the same time we have our own cultural identities [...] It’s about supporting each other and our communities, building a Pan-Asian solidarity coalition.”

JFAA pointed to a lack of response and support from UR over [the increase in Asian American hate crimes over 2020](#) and felt that AAPI students should have been supported sooner.



Antoinette Nguyen (center) is heavily involved in activist work around campus, here she speaks to URAC protestors on March 4th. HENRYLITSKY / PHOTO EDITOR

“The UCC group didn’t come into play until the mass shootings; why does it take a shooting and the death of eight people, six out of eight people being Asian, to get support for a community?” Limson said.

Limson and Sharma, co-presidents of College Feminists, recalled a discussion they had with College Feminist advisor Stacey Fisher about starting an organization for Asian Americans. The two had planned to name the group “Hate Crimes Against Asian Americans Rising.” Limson described the conversation her and Sharma had with Fisher:

“[Fisher said things like] ‘What is Hate Crimes Against Asian Americans Rising? Is that an organization? Why would there be an organization named Hate Crimes Against Asian Americans Rising? It doesn’t make any sense.’ When we tried to explain it, she was like, ‘It’s not in my radar.’ She rolled her eyes at us, and started googling and was not unimpressed when we heard that [...] Whenever we bring anything Asian to the table, she would be furiously interrogating us.”

The Campus Times reached out to Fisher, who stated that she did not recall the meeting and did not advise JFAA.

“Out of respect to the students and student organizations that I advise, it is not in my practice to comment publicly about the details of my meetings,” Fischer added.

Limson and Sharma cited interactions like this as a reason why they felt this coalition was necessary. “She [...] asked us to attend anti-racist trainings instead of holding community discussions,” Limson said. The two expressed a desire for an apology from Fisher.

JFAA sees the need for more AAPI representation,

and as a result, would like to work toward having more faculty in the humanities and social sciences, as well as the creation of a department of Asian Studies. JFAA believes that this is important in the handling of bias related incident reports.

“[What do we want] from the school? Less apathy, less pretending,” Sharma said. “The school has their ‘Meliora values,’ and whatever values they claim that they are supporting, diversity, inclusion, they talk about it, but [...] since the pandemic started, hate crimes have been ramping up, the University said nothing. It wasn’t like it was not in the University conscience either.”

JFAA is planning on hosting more discussions for the UR community to bring awareness and develop support. They’re also launching a book club for members of the UR community who want to learn more about the AAPI history and community.

Nguyen reflected on the vigil that was held for the Atlanta mass shooting, and the next steps.

“It was encouraging to see people at the vigil [...] I didn’t expect that, sadly,” she said. “I think that there needs to be a lot of work done in education on microaggressions, and everyday acts of racism that occur — I personally know tons of my Asian friends and other marginalized groups [...] absolutely and personally experienced a lot of instances of racialized language and terrible things like that.”

JFAA encourages UR students to educate themselves, and that education is an important step.

For students that don’t know where to start in allyship, Nguyen suggested the first step can be supporting their AAPI friends by “asking what they need, instead of assuming.”

Earle is a member of
the Class of 2023.

Nearpass Talks Changes to Title IX

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sexual misconduct resolution and investigation.

Her role as the Title IX Coordinator will be to help assist and coordinate individuals with sexual misconduct concerns with the right resources. These resources include meeting with students who have complaints, connecting them with sexual assault advocates, providing assistance and accommodation for class schedules, living arrangements, and active avoidance orders.

The position includes coordinating the investigation and hearing process for formal complaints of sexual misconduct to the federal and University Title IX regulations and policies.

‘Her role as the Title IX Coordinator will be to help assist and coordinate individuals with sexual misconduct concerns with the right resources.’

Nearpass wants to make sure that the student community knows there was an interim Title IX coordinator and four investigators who have been working on EO and Title IX complaints.

“I want to make sure that the students under-

stand that the commitment to this work has been high and that it will remain high,” Nearpass said.

“I want to make sure that the students understand that the commitment to this work has been high and that it will remain high.”

“We will continue to figure out the best way to serve students and employees [...] the most efficient way, and the most trauma-informed way that we can.”

Nearpass plans to work on educating the UR community about the Title IX/EO complaint process, to make sure the UR community understands how to report complaints, what will happen to the complaint, what the investigative process will look like, and what resolution processes are.

“One thing I hear often is people feel fearful of coming to OEI with a complaint, because they don’t know what’s going to happen to it,” Nearpass said. “I think educating people on what OEI’s complaint resolution processes are, it’s not just one process, there are a lot of things that we can do to get to an outcome that will be satisfying for a complainant.”

One of Nearpass’s goals as coordinator is to begin working on education about the reporting

process. She also hopes to increase the number of reports that are filed through the OEI reporting system.

“One thing I hear often is people feel fearful of coming to OEI with a complaint, because they don’t know what’s going to happen to it.”

“I’m looking forward to really helping to build this office that is doing such great work,” Nearpass said. “As we add new people [...] it creates such an opportunity to form the way this work is done.”

Nearpass is looking forward to interacting with the student community, which is a change from her previous roles.

“I [was] a labor and employment lawyer for the University [in my previous role], so I’ve had less interaction [with students] than I will going forward, which has been a weird place to be: on a college campus and to have not that much to do with students,” Nearpass commented. “I’m really excited to be more integrated with students moving forward.”

Earle is a member of
the Class of 2023.

CULTURE

LIV ON THE EDGE

The Return of Y2K and the Effect of the Media Machine

By Olivia Alger
MANAGING EDITOR

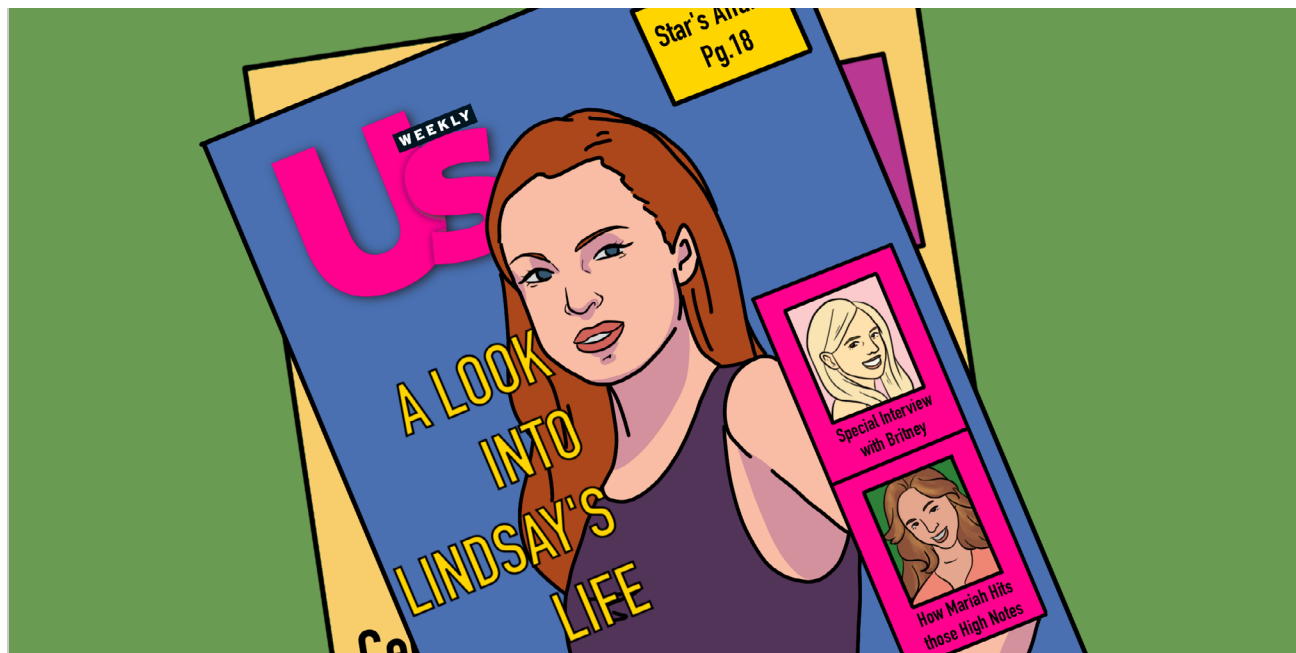
Hello everyone. In the weeks since we last spoke, I've been reflecting on a piece I wrote earlier this year about the cyclical nature of [fashion](#) in which I touched on how the early 2000s has made a full comeback. I've been thinking about it (and my obsession with the Y2K aesthetic) ever since, and it seems, the rest of the internet has as well.

Early 2000s fashion is all over the place — on social media, online shopping, in culture magazines. The makeup brand ColourPop recently released a Lizzie McGuire [collection](#). Last week, I saw a woman at the grocery store wearing a “Simple Life” sweatshirt (Paris Hilton and Nicole Richie’s popular television show that ran from 2003 to 2007). And a few days ago, New York Magazine’s culture website The Cut published an article called “[What Will Be Cool This Summer?](#)” by Safy-Hallan Farah. Among her predictions? Y2K and Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen.

The fact that Farah mentioned the Olsen twins got me thinking about another facet of early 2000s culture that’s come to light recently, which is the vulturous nature of the paparazzi. While so much has changed in the world since the 2000s, the field of media coverage has stayed stagnant — female bodies are still mercilessly scrutinized by media publications. This relentless probing of female celebrities — and the high standard by which they are compared to their male co-stars — is not, by any means, a new phenomenon. But the emergence of the so-called “tabloid decade” came on the heels of a new, unprecedented obsession with celebrity culture and brought media to accessible new heights.

Last month, on the heels of their Britney Spears documentary, the New York Times published an article called “[Lesson of the Day: ‘Speaking of Britney... What About All Those Other Women?’](#)” in which columnists Callie Holtermann and Katherine Schulten offer a lesson in confronting the stereotypes about women that run rampant in media coverage — and in our own lives — throughout history. At one point in the article, they talk about the detrimental effect of the paparazzi on young celebrities and refer to tabloid publicity as the “celebrity media machine.”

The Olsen twins are two distinct young targets of this media machine which, ultimately, led to their



BRIDGET TOKIWA / ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

retreat from acting in 2004 and their official departure from the entertainment industry in 2014. Tabloids picked apart their bodies, their habits, and their lifestyle, pinning them against other young female celebrities of the time. Mary-Kate in particular was thrown into the spotlight with rumors about weight loss due to a cocaine addiction — which, in reality, was the result of an eating disorder.

The Olsen twins’ departure from the scene is just one example of the toxicity inflicted by the early 2000s media frenzy. Lindsey Lohan was relentlessly exploited by the media and was characterized as a drug-addicted, alcoholic craze by the paparazzi that followed her incessantly during the peak of her fame. Paris Hilton has come out in recent years to announce that her socialite party girl persona and voice — that low drawl in which she uttered her iconic catchphrase “that’s hot” — was actually a [character](#) she was using to satisfy the image the tabloids had carved out for her.

As we’ve seen from the New York Times’ [documentary](#), the absolute insanity of the paparazzi’s steadfast and ever-tightening grip on Britney Spears resulted in the deterioration of her mental health, and ultimately, her imprisonment in an unjust conservatorship under her father. Similarly, Amanda Bynes

was pursued by the paparazzi for years until the tabloids’ obsession with both her mental state and her body resulted in a mental health downfall, a sustained Adderall addiction and, like the Olsen twins, a complete departure from the entertainment scene.

There is a certain narrative expected of young women in America, and those who are unable to live up to such impossible expectations are immediately shunned by the double standard that scrutinizes women’s behavior more than men’s. The resurgence of the early 2000s in the past few years has illuminated the detrimental effects of the tabloid decade, but such behavior doesn’t stop there. America, and society at large, patrols women’s behavior and tells them what they can and cannot do. The double standard in the media is merely a reflection of the double standard we hold as citizens. While this may no longer be just in the grubby hands of the paparazzi, we can still see it in social media and all over the internet. Why are there so many rules around gender? Why can’t we just let people do their thing? I don’t know. Clearly, though, we can’t — or, at least, we haven’t been able to yet. While Y2K resurges in popularity, we have to keep our biases away.

Alger is a member of the Class of 2022.

CT EATS

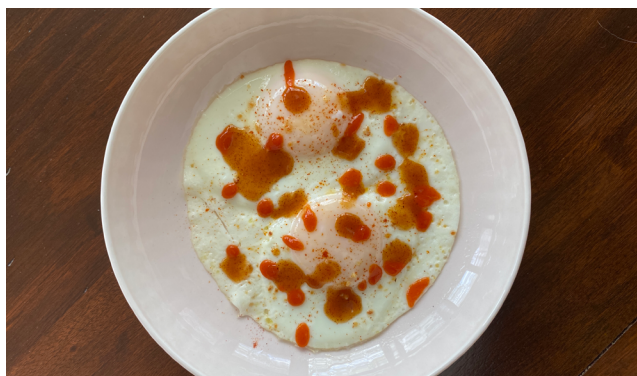
CT Cooks: So-called “Empty Calories” From Eggs

By Mattie Martin-Olenski
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Diet culture really irks me, so when my mom started calling the yolk of an egg “empty calories” last week, I was a little irritated.

The phrase “empty calories” is used to describe foods with low nutritional value. It is used by a variety of people from medical professionals to extreme dieters. The concept is good, but it can be easily spun to demonize certain categories of foods by labeling them as “good” or “bad” calories. By viewing certain categories of food as “better” than others, it’s easy to get sucked into an unhealthy eating mindset.

It’s also really easy to forget that the diets of people on Instagram or TikTok are fabricated



COURTESY OF MATTIE MARTIN-OLENSKI

to appeal to viewers, and are almost never the full picture of what someone eats in a day, let alone an entire diet. The peer pressure to conform to social media standards has an effect on trends in food, such as with the rise of [chia seeds in 2019](#) or [sweet potatoes in 2020](#). Both of these foods have traditional roles in cooking, but before becoming popular for dieters, they were sometimes considered “empty calories.”

Eggs are one of those foods that are kind of in the middle. Egg whites contain very few calories and some protein, but they also lack the flavor, nutrients, and creamy texture offered by the higher calorie egg yolk. As a result, eggs can be a bit controversial in diet communities. I, however, love them unconditionally.

So I’ve got some egg preparation tips to break down this resistance to the magic of eggs. Whether you like them fried, scrambled, or raw, I have some subtle guidance to make eating the whole egg irresistible.

If you like frying, make sure to season your eggs with salt, pepper, garlic, and parsley. Depending on your desired level of crispiness, you can adjust the amount of oil you fry in. Since I prefer mine only a little fried, I use about one teaspoon of oil, but you should add up to two tablespoons of oil for a perfectly crisp egg. And don’t forget to top it off with some hot sauce. I cannot emphasize enough how a combination of Cholula and

Sriracha has converted me to a full-on egg stan.

For those who love a good scramble, try adding some milk or cream when you’re beating the eggs. The fat intercepts some of the egg protein to make the final product softer and more creamy. As always, season with some salt and pepper before you cook it. You also don’t need to stick to the script: try adding some pesto to mix things up!

If you’re like me and prefer your eggs sunny side up, then I suggest a smaller amount of oil (same as for frying). Cook the eggs on the lowest heat you can, and ensure that the whites cook all the way through, but the yolk is barely affected (on my stove, it’s medium-low). As always, season generously. Again, I’m adding hot sauce, but sunny side up eggs already have their own sauce (the runny yolk!), so this up to chef’s preference.

If you want to try a raw egg, I personally like them the best when they’re in cookie dough. I just tried drinking one the other day, and it wasn’t bad. However, I think I’ll be deferring to the other three methods I mentioned before chugging another egg.

I firmly believe that if eating a certain food makes you happy, then you should eat it. A calorie enjoyed isn’t empty. So, eat with happiness in mind, and maybe try some of these tips to become an egg fanatic, just like me!

Martin-Olenski is a member of the Class of 2022.

An Interview With Alexa Silverman, Member of UR's Jazzy Indie Rock Band 'The Recall'

By Alyssa Koh
HUMOR EDITOR



COURTESY OF ALEXA SILVERMAN

The Recall in their practice attic.

On April 10, UR students performed one of the first live concerts advertised to UR students since the onset of the pandemic this time last year.

The Recall — comprised of senior Alexa Silverman (keyboard/synth), senior Jeff Pinsker-Smith (trumpet), senior Beau Hanson (guitar), senior Grace Conheady (vocals), recent alum and current graduate student Sam Schacter '20 (saxophone), senior Aaron Hamilton (drums), and junior Zack Uchima (bass) — had senior [Zophia Dadlez](#) as their opening act.

'Their current sound can be characterized as "a blend of jazz-pop and indie rock, with some instrumental fusion thrown in.'

The concert was attended in person by over 150 people and was simultaneously livestreamed on YouTube with the help of student-run radio station WRUR.

The Recall was founded in 2017 by Silverman, Pinsker-Smith, Hanson, and Hamilton, and while the band has gone through multiple iterations of lineups and musical focuses, their current sound can be characterized as "a blend of jazz-pop and indie rock, with some instrumental fusion thrown in." Their newest release, "[can you hear me](#)," which can be found on streaming services such as Spotify, Apple Music, and Bandcamp, fits the jazzy bill, and the heart and soul that is put into every track, live and recorded alike, is palpable.

Silverman, who is both a band member and the manager for The Recall's Instagram account,

agreed to an interview with the Campus Times to outline how the performance functioned and what UR listeners should be expecting next from The Recall.

How did the live concert function?

We chose April 10 as our concert date because we were also releasing our single "can you hear me" that day, and we thought it would be really cool to celebrate the release with a live show for our friends and fans. The concert was located at Jurassic Farms, a small oasis in the middle of the 19th Ward. It's owned by a friend of a friend of the band's, and we were lucky enough to play a show there last October as well.

The owner, Aaron Rubin, had actually built a stage and had a banner created in anticipation for the event, so the show felt a lot less DIY this time around. When people arrived they had to check in at our table, which was graciously run by UR alumna Siena Facciolo '19. After people checked in, they could go grab a spot with their group and settle in for the show!

By the time Zophia started her set it was dark, and it made the lights hanging on the trees look super magical. When we went on to play our set we were all so excited to finally play. We had been working so hard to get our set list together and to organize the show, so it was extremely rewarding to look at the crowd and see all of our hard work finally come together.

I can honestly say that we played the best we have ever played at that show. Every hit, every pre-planned song structure — we played everything better than we had ever rehearsed it! This was our first show in over 1.5 years that everyone in the band was able to play at. We actually had our producer Tom Mariano '19 play some organ with us for a few songs, and that was our first time playing with him ever. It was all amazing.

The only unexpected thing about the show was how many people came, and we were worried that we weren't going to have enough space for everyone, but it ended up being perfect.

What was the planning process for the concert like, and how long did it take to arrange COVID-19-safe seating?

I started planning this show over a month in advance. The biggest "if" for the show was the weather. We had no idea what the weather was going to be like on April 10, but we sent some good vibes to the powers that be and they delivered. The other biggest factor was figuring out how to address

COVID[-19] safety for a potentially big crowd at the show. I ended up coming up with a pretty basic but effective check-in process.

We limited groups to four people (the only exception was people living together could come as a bigger group if they wanted to). This was to discourage people who weren't in each other's bubbles from being too close to each other. We also required that masks be worn at the event and that groups stay 3-6 feet apart from one another at the venue.

When groups arrived, they filled out a Google Form with their names and contact information in case we needed to contact trace for any reason. We ended up having north of 150 people at the event, and every single person who showed up was extraordinarily respectful of these guidelines!

"I can honestly say that we played the best we have ever played at that show. Every hit, every pre-planned song structure — we played everything better than we had ever rehearsed it!"

Some of the smaller details included organizing merchandise and getting the gig poster together, as well as coordinating with WRUR for lights and the livestream. We ran our own sound; most people in The Recall are affiliated with AME in one way or another and our bassist has a ridiculous live sound rig, so we were lucky to have that taken care of internally for the show.

Why did you choose Zophia Dadlez to open for your show?

We actually didn't choose Zophia to open for us; we weren't even going to have an opener for the show! She reached out to me and asked if she could play at any upcoming gigs we were having, so I offered for her to open for us. I had heard her music before and knew she was a really talented musician, so it was really a no-brainer! We love sharing the stage with friends and we thought her music complemented ours really well at the show.

Any upcoming events that The Recall fans should be looking forward to?

We would love to promote our last show; it'll be back at Jurassic Farms on May 18 at 8 p.m. We'd also like to promote our latest single "can you hear me," which is available on [all streaming platforms!](#)

Koh is a member of the Class of 2024.

Revisiting Superman Through 'Superman for All Seasons'

By Will Leve
CULTURE EDITOR

When I was in my early teens, I got into superhero comics. I never kept up with any of the modern serials — far too much self-indulgent power fantasy and soap opera bullshit for me. Instead, I read classic limited edition series. I'll never forget reading "The Dark Knight Returns" and "Watchmen," where tight, self-contained stories took center stage. They were smartly written, politically subversive, and led me to question the mythological underpinnings behind each hero. "The Dark Knight Returns" featured an aged, violent, and slightly mad Batman who pushed the ethical boundaries of what a superhero could do and still keep his title. "Watchmen" detailed the multitude of dark implications of how superheroes would act if they existed in a more realistic world.

I didn't know it then, but these stories would subconsciously fuel my more cynical perception of superheroes as far too idealistic for a world as dark as the one we live in today. Superman was the main target of this cynicism: to me, he was emblematic of naive optimism and reductionist American nationalism. His catchphrase is "truth, justice, and the American way," for God's sake.

My disdain for hero worship and disillusionment with the United States spurred me to revisit Superman as a character; I wanted to verify if my cynical view of him was truly representative of what he stands for as a superhero. I chose author

Jeph Loeb and illustrator Tim Sale's "Superman For All Seasons" as the beginning of my reevaluation of the hero, because as I vaguely recalled, the limited series focused more on Superman's condition as a man than any vehicle for idiotic idolization or dogmatic American exceptionalism.

'Without spoiling too much, the limited series raises the question: What happens when the man who can do anything fails when it matters the most?'

I'm happy to say that upon re-reading "Superman For All Seasons," much of my disdain for Superman has subsided. The four-issue limited series is a fantastic read in its own right, especially if you have an interest in Superman and his mythology. It foregoes any hero-worship or pro-United States propaganda, and instead simply tells the story of a good person who discovers they have god-like abilities and the burdens that come with such power.

"Superman For All Seasons" is a thoughtful, subtle, and frankly beautiful coming of age story for Superman. Much of the story follows Superman as Clark Kent, who is charmingly characterized as a real person, quiet and gentle. When he is teased for his aloof nature by friends and family, he shrugs it off as nothing, admirably passive but confident in his personality. This is sharply contrasted with his illustration, as he's drawn towering in size over

his loved ones and occasional enemies. More than any other representation of Superman that I can think of, "Superman For All Seasons" reminded me of how Superman is a gentle and lovable giant.

Superman's vulnerability and likeability make the adversity he faces throughout the comic even more impactful. Without spoiling too much, the limited series raises the question: What happens when the man who can do anything fails when it matters the most? Throughout the story, Superman grapples with the high expectations he sets for himself and the inevitable failures he has to face — because even with his god-like powers, he is still only a man in a world permeated by tragedy. When he inevitably becomes tortured by a loss he feels he should have prevented, the comic follows him overcoming it and eventually striving to do as much good as he can even in the face of failure.

I love "Superman For All Seasons," and after reading it again, part of me loves Superman again as I did when I was younger. Even though the undeniable darkness of our world can make a character as wholesome as Superman seem reductionist and even naive in nature, these qualities can still inspire idealism in me. Even through my cynicism, the hope and inspiration I felt from reading "Superman For All Seasons" shone, just as it did when I was younger, when my view of the world was as green and pure as some of the comic's pages.

Leve is a member of the Class of 2022.

OPINIONS

EDITORIAL OBSERVER

The Problem With American News

By Mattie Martin-Olenski
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

On April 13, the CDC and FDA recommended a temporary pause on administration of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. When this decision first hit televised news stations, their stories focused on the formation of life-threatening blood clots in patients who'd received the J&J vaccine, while neglecting the fact that only [six of the 7.5 million](#) people vaccinated experienced blood clot formation. Some public health experts fear this message will further anti-vaccination fears, making herd immunity even more difficult to achieve.

This misconstrued story is emblematic of a greater issue in reporting, particularly for TV news. [American media](#) has been deeply influenced by policy battles between activists, policy makers, and corporations. Plus, these media corporations have parent companies who push for stories that increase viewership and strengthen ratings. News stations' tendency to [focus on the stories that get the most viewers](#) makes a story more likely to be inaccurately reported and sensationalized.

The best example of this phenomenon was Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign. The campaign benefited from [free national air time](#) as Trump was exposed as a misogynist, a racist, and much worse. Each of these stories was lapped up by every news outlet from CNN to Fox News, and while each put their own spin on the incidents, Donald Trump was the undeniable focus of televised news. This kind of media presence made the Trump campaign almost impossible to ignore, and many analysts credit it in part for Trump's successful presidential bid.

It's important to point out that these biases [don't come from the internal political leanings](#) of reporters. Rather, they're largely a product of the commercialization of media that needs profit to continue, that earns that profit from, say, choosing to [exaggerate particular political struggles](#) over other, "less interesting" events.

"...to focus on the stories that get the most viewers makes a story more likely to be inaccurately reported and sensationalized."

This should worry you. Many people look to televised news to keep them informed, so when the information we receive is filtered by what stories are the most "clickable," we get a biased view of reality. One poignant example of this is science reporting.

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced Americans to become more familiar with the science behind infectious diseases. For example, when the CDC released updated guidelines to prevent the spread of coronavirus, there was an onslaught of news stories focusing on the changing conditions. Stations could get more viewers by discussing the malleability and impermanence of these recommendations and throwing around blame than they could by focusing on why the recommendations were changing, so they sat on this issue for months. Because news stations focused on the inconsistency of CDC recommendations rather than the reasoning behind the changes, many consumers began to question the legitimacy of the CDC.

If we want to intercept this cycle of bad reporting, the parent companies of these massive news networks need to be removed. The Public Broadcasting Network's nightly news represents a fair and factual discussion of both American and international news. This is possible because PBS makes an effort to accurately convey news stories to the public without worrying about pleasing a capitalist parent company oriented around their bottom line. And while Judy Woodruff doesn't bring in the ratings an appearance from Anderson Cooper might, she ["stands as a counterweight to a haywire era of American news."](#)

Martin-Olenski is a member of the Class of 2022.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Next Year, SA Has More Opportunities Than Ever Before to Make Change

At the time of writing, UR's Students' Association (SA) election results have yet to be announced, not that it matters: Outside of 2024 Class Council and the Presidential ticket, all positions are uncontested.

Normally, SA does and can do very little. Despite the lofty presidential platforms we skim every year, SA's successes are usually very small, or things that maybe would have happened without SA's involvement.

As we transition offline, UR has to make a lot of decisions on whether to keep, discard, or modify the temporary COVID-19 measures — moves that will impact students for years to come. Right now, UR is in a unique state of unrest, where issues that would normally take years of effort and lobbying and endless committee-forming have the opportunity to be fast-tracked.

Next year's student government has a rare opportunity to influence these issues.

Will classes be held with a hybrid format? With or without recorded lectures? And now that we've gone a semester with few attendance requirements, how will professors reimagine these policies moving forward?

Will tests continue to be delivered online? After getting a taste, many students have developed a preference for a format that leans away from rote memorization and into conceptual demonstrations of learning. Will professors honor this, or return to their pre-pandemic models in response to noted upticks in academic dishonesty?

Will students finally start taking advantage of the reusable takeout boxes given to them during orientation, or will disposable takeout be here to stay? And what about serving yourself just the right amount of Duggie Brunch bacon? If we do keep disposable takeout, what is SA going to do about the mounds of disposable takeout boxes overflowing from the trash cans on Eastman Quad every time the sun is out?

Will the support systems from offices like University Counseling Center, the Office of Minority Student Affairs, and the Kearns Center continue to be available virtually, especially for students who are more comfortable reaching out in that format? Will professors' office hours? How



JANEPRITCHARD/ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

much should in-person support systems return? There are a lot more questions than answers when it comes to the differences between last year, this year, and next year. The student body, and the administration, will look to the recently elected student government to help find those answers.

This year's ballot was so small that there weren't enough candidates to fill all the empty seats. There are a lot of possible reasons for this. Despite efforts of club leaders and the Student Programming Board, the pandemic still decreased exposure to campus politics, meaning there are fewer interested people to fill open spots.

Relatedly, many students haven't even been to Rochester yet, or haven't been here in over a year. Even if you wholeheartedly intend to be involved, it's hard to maintain a consistent interest in campus life if you haven't been living here.

It's not necessarily an intentional shift away from student government, but an unfortunately hindering one. The very reason students are less involved — the pandemic — is a reason why now more than ever SA must have complete and qualified representation. SA has the potential to make unprecedented changes during the next school year, but to do that, we need the people in charge to mean it when they say they care. And that's pretty much impossible when we don't have enough candidates to be picky.

This editorial is published with the consent of a majority of the Editorial Board: Hailie Higgins (Editor-in-Chief), Ethan Busch (Publisher), Lucy Farnham (Opinions Editor), Micah Greenberg (Special Projects), Corey Miller-Williams (Managing Editor) and Olivia Alger (Managing Editor). The Editor-in-Chief and the Editorial Board make themselves available to the UR community's ideas and concerns. EmailEditor@campustimes.org.

Campus Times

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Corporations Need to do More to Protest Georgia's New Voting Law

By Sarah Woodams
STAFF WRITER

If you haven't already heard about the Election Integrity Act of 2021, Georgia recently enacted new voting laws problematic enough to make President Biden call them "[Jim Crow in the 21st century](#)." This is coming from a guy who lived through the tail end of the original Jim Crow era, so I think I'll take his word for it.

Multiple lawsuits claim that parts of the Act are "[discriminatory and unconstitutional](#)." Dozens of corporations based in Georgia, including Coca-Cola, Delta Air Lines, UPS, Home Depot, and the Atlanta Falcons have all issued statements and criticisms of some kind, citing concerns about "equitable voting access." Major League Baseball (MLB) has even decided to move its All-Star Game out of Atlanta in response to the law.

None of these companies are overreacting. To get an idea of just how seriously this [new law](#) threatens Georgian democracy, here's a sampling of its worst parts:

Despite [no evidence](#) of increased voter fraud with mail-in ballots during the 2020 election, there are now stricter voter ID laws for mail-in ballots, making this voting method unnecessarily more difficult.

[Mobile polling stations](#), like the two previously used in Fulton County, are banned except in cases of emergency. Fulton County also happens to be the Georgian county with the most [Black residents](#) by population and where [72.6%](#) of residents voted for Biden in 2020. Coincidence? I think not.

The law prohibits "anyone except poll workers from handing out water to voters in line, and out-law[s] passing out food and water to voters within 150 feet of the building that serves as a poll, inside a polling place or within 25 feet of any voter standing in line." Did giving people food and water cause voter fraud? As long as the food and water bottles aren't labeled with endorsements of candidates or policies, there's no good reason for this.

Voters have less than half of the previous time to request a mail-in ballot and two fewer weeks to

complete a mail in ballot application, and counties will mail out absentee ballots three weeks later than previous years. I can't understand why this is necessary. There was [zero evidence](#) of voter fraud in the 2020 election. If Republicans in the Georgia legislature are upset that their Republican constituents thought there was and therefore didn't bother voting, that's their problem, not the entire state's.

It's great that corporations are speaking out against this law, but statements are clearly not enough to reverse its effects. Voting rights across the country are on the line. We need serious action — not just words — to prevent voting laws from getting any more restrictive and hopefully even overturn some of them.

Unfortunately, not every company has promised to help change things; most have only publicly criticized the bill, which is really just the bare minimum. The MLB is the only one that's taken direct action of any kind.

Trump and some of his supporters have taken these statements quite seriously, calling for [a boycott](#) of the MLB, Coca-Cola, and other companies. Many conservatives like to say that companies should "stay out of politics" whenever a company voices support for anything other than the right's agenda. That's pretty ironic when you remember that those same companies often spend millions of dollars lobbying Congress to pass or block bills to maximize their profits. Coca-Cola alone has spent tens of millions of dollars attempting to block [soda-tax bills](#) in states across the country. It's too late for corporations to "stay out of politics" — they've been in politics for decades, if not longer! Corporations have political clout, and it's about time they used it for good.

While I don't expect or want big corporations to be in charge of advocating for and protecting voting rights in America, it's great to see them take a political stance on something that benefits more than their wallets. I just hope these companies' next step is a little more substantial.

Woodams is a member of
the Class of 2023.

MUSKAAN'S MUSINGS

A Hug on a Plate

By MUSKAAN VASANDAN
STAFF WRITER

When you live miles away from home for the better part of the year, it's normal to experience bouts of homesickness. This is something that us college kids often go through — especially during the holidays. So, what to do? What's the quickest, fastest, and most effective way to cure homesickness?

The best way, I think, is to indulge in a plate of food that reminds you of what's served at the dinner table back home.

'Growing up, I despised cooking. I thought it was way too much work and needlessly messy.'

It could be the simplest of things — maybe a mac salad your mom makes. Or it could be the most elaborate curry that's made only for the special occasions back home. Good food is like a hug on a plate — it fills you up with warmth and nostalgia. Sometimes this kind of food is exactly what's needed to get through a rough day.

Growing up, I despised cooking. I thought it was way too much work and needlessly messy. I took my mom's home cooked meals for granted and didn't realize how much I'd miss them when I started school halfway across the world. A few months into the semester, smack dab in the middle of midterm season, I had a terrible day and just didn't know how to fix it. I went to Hillside and got one of those microwavable Indian dinners. It was probably the worst curry I've ever had — but it completely fixed my day. That

one microwavable meal was just what I needed in that moment.

Of course, home cooked meals can never be replaced by take-out or microwavable meals. In my first two years at Rochester, I tried every Indian restaurant in the city and all of the microwavable Indian meals at Hillside, but, after a point, nothing really did the trick.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I ended up going back home to India and stayed there for the fall semester. Like anybody else during months of isolation and with absolutely nothing to do, I turned to TikTok and YouTube. I just had to keep my idle brain occupied. I was sucked into all of the quarantine trends: dalgona coffee, TikTok tortillas, cloud bread, mug cakes — I did it all. Cooking was no longer cumbersome when I had so much time on my hands, and I was in love with the end result every single time. The satisfaction I got from a bite of my own food was immeasurable. Eventually, I learned how to make my favorite home-cooked meals too, and cooking finally became something I genuinely enjoyed.

When the time came to return to Rochester this spring, I was relieved and comforted knowing I wouldn't have to go back to those microwavable meals from Hillside. Eating food that I actually like has been my saving grace this semester. Nowadays, when it's so easy to feel low, and when it's so difficult to go out and socialize, good food has lifted me up every day. Cooking is an essential life skill, because sometimes all you need is a hug on a plate.

Vasandan is a member of
the Class of 2022.

My Plea to You: Get Vaccinated

By Samuel Gerecke
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



HENRY LITZKY/PHOTO EDITOR

I got my COVID-19 vaccination last Thursday at Strong Memorial Hospital. Conveniently, the University spammed my email with six messages telling me that I (and everyone else in the school) was eligible to schedule a vaccine appointment. To appease my crippling needle phobia, I decided to get Johnson & Johnson's single dose vaccine to avoid a second appointment and a second jab.

Getting the vaccine was probably the easiest medical appointment I've ever had (apart from the parking... Walk there if you can). Once I was inside, it took me about five minutes to show someone my UR ID and wait in line. I sat down, made some nice small talk with the person about to stab me, got stabbed, and stayed for another 15 minutes to make sure I wasn't going to die from an allergic reaction. As you can probably guess, I didn't. I was in and out of my appointment in less than 30 minutes.

'Getting the vaccine was probably the easiest medical appointment I've ever had.'

That night, however, the vaccine absolutely kicked my ass. I've heard a variety of stories from different people about the severity of their reactions, but I was having a bad time. For the next 24 hours, I was achy, had a slight fever, and suffered a pounding headache.

I felt awful. But I'd do it again in a heartbeat. Here are some reasons, both selfish and selfless, why you should get vaccinated as soon as possible.

To the more self-centered people: Like everyone else, you probably preferred normal college life over what it's been like for the past year. You probably enjoyed getting drunk in a basement on the Frat Quad or at an off-campus

'That night, however, the vaccine absolutely kicked my ass.'

house, or just hanging out with friends, without having to worry about masks and exposure. Getting vaccinated will increase the chances of a normal college year next year, where you can party with your friends without worrying about COVID-19, or getting caught breaking rules.

To the more altruistic among you: Getting vaccinated saves lives. Neither the CDC nor the WHO know what percentage of the population needs to be vaccinated in order to achieve herd immunity against COVID-19. But in the case of other common viruses, we typically need around [93% to 95% of the population](#) to be vaccinated, meaning that people who are eligible to get the vaccine have a moral obligation to do so.

I have every reason to believe that I don't need the vaccine. I'm a healthy young adult with a low probability of contracting the virus, and an even lower probability of being severely afflicted if I do get it. I don't have a job that puts me at a high risk, nor do I have any obligations that require my in-person presence. Despite all that (and my fear of needles), I still got the vaccine.

There is no excuse. Get vaccinated.

Gerecke is a member of
the Class of 2022.

The University's Tone Deaf Response to Burnout

By Rachel Breining
STAFF WRITER

I don't think I have to preface this piece with a definition of burnout. Almost all of us are experiencing it — that exhausting feeling like you're constantly running but not actually going anywhere. Like a treadmill you've been on for a year and a month now.

Administration keeps throwing the word around, along with several other nouns that might make them look sympathetic to our situation. The most recent tactics have been particularly offensive, though. I'm sure some of you have noticed the brightly colored posters and Instagram posts. Let's talk specifically about why these efforts aren't just unhelpful, but actively mocking the issues students are facing.



HENRYLITSKY / PHOTO EDITOR

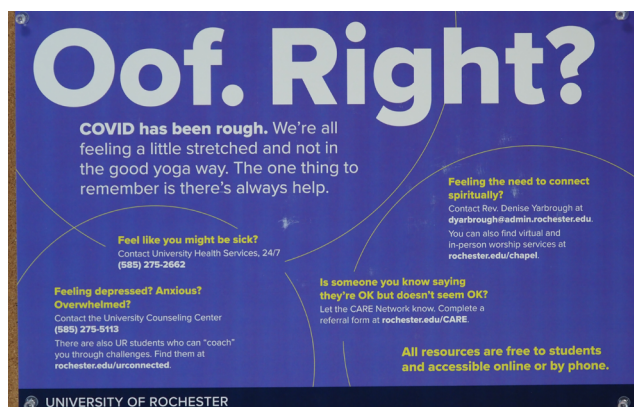
The Orange Poster

"Ughhhh" isn't exactly a good descriptor of what you're trying to advertise. It just seems like a lame attempt at relating to the youths.

It continues: "total isolation is a choice." Um, ouch? It's a pandemic. Feeling isolated, or physically being isolated, are very real, serious, and sometimes unavoidable consequences of a deadly pandemic. Such a general statement is a terrible way to address it.

They even go on to recommend: Group counseling vent sessions (not exactly what everyone is looking for, since you're likely to spend most of that time listening to stranger's problems), physically moving spaces (as if it's possible for many people to get off campus regularly), and signing up for CCC events (most of which are either over Zoom or a "Take and Make").

The language of the orange poster dumps all the responsibility on us, phrasing issues of isolation as a personal shortcoming from students who aren't trying hard enough to connect.



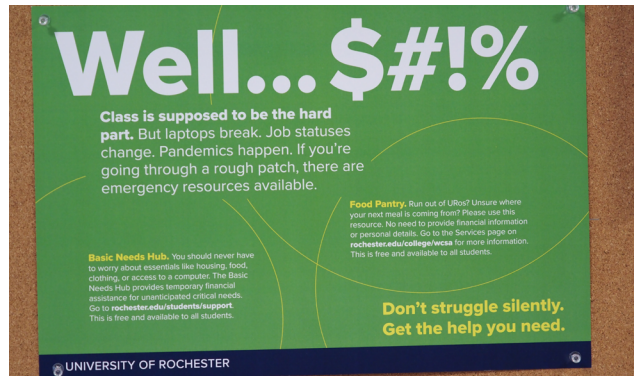
HENRYLITSKY / PHOTO EDITOR

The Purple Poster

"Oof. Right?" That's what the kids would say, right? We, the administration, understand what it's like to have deadline after deadline with no pause, no interaction with your professors, and nothing but asynchronous lectures. To have no idea what kind of job market you'll be going into. It makes you feel, 'oof,' right?" It's like being talked down to by a robot. Why would they think such a dismissive title followed up with the same list of mediocre resources they regularly share would make us feel heard or supported in any way?

UCC is always overworked, even in a normal semester, and you only get the number of sessions they think you need. Feel like you're in a tough spot but were only awarded six sessions? Too bad. And the CARE network isn't a resource

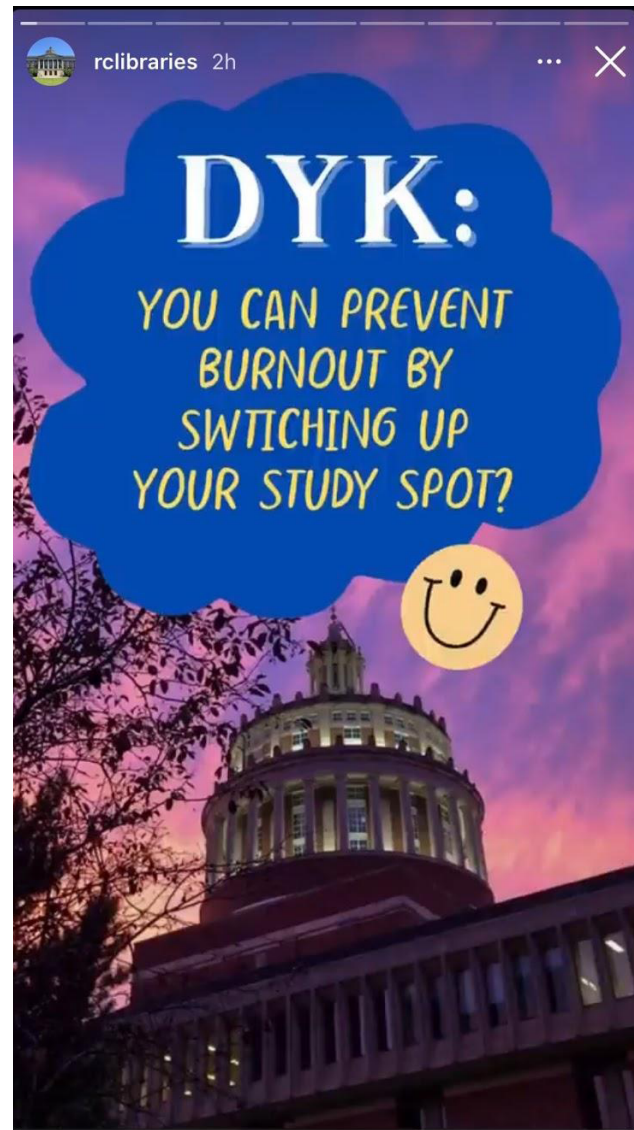
in itself; all they do is send you an email letting you know of the other resources on campus, and offer to meet with you to talk about them. Finally, UR Connected Coaches were the University's response to their lack of mental health oriented staff — but it's just other students who've gone through fewer than five training sessions who have no other qualifications to properly handle potentially traumatic situations.



HENRYLITSKY / PHOTO EDITOR

The Green Poster

"Well shit, pandemics happen." Sure — once in a century. At UR, maybe one other cohort ever has had to deal with a full-fledged pandemic. Why are they trying to play off a once-in-a-life-time crisis so lightly? Extend a little sympathy beyond telling us we aren't using the Basic Needs Hub enough. Your eye-catching censored curse word is way too blasé.



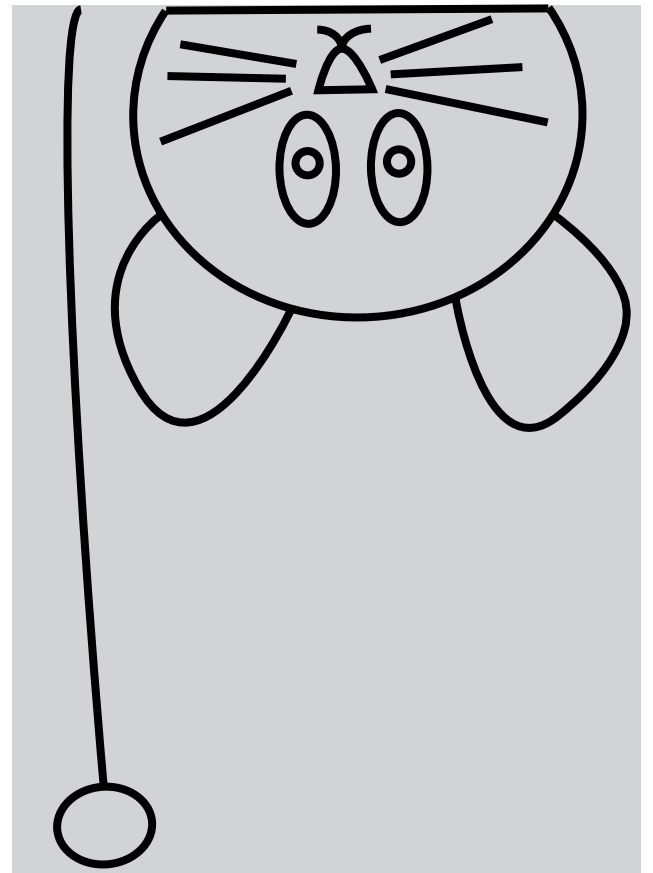
COURTESY OF RACHEL BREINING

This Instagram Post

Again, they're making students responsible for their own burnout and stress, when it was never our fault. Switching study spaces isn't going to change the fact that so many of us have multitudes more work and no set lecture schedule. The smiley face mocks me with its smugness.

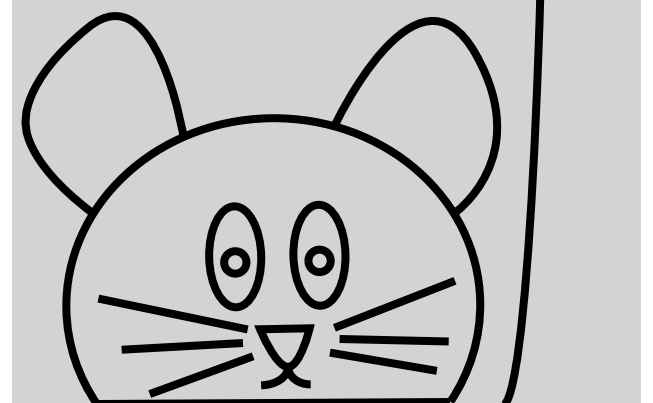
These resources could potentially help. But they're much less effective when admin shifts the blame for burnout and pandemic-related stressors onto students through dismissive and trivializing language. According to admin, it's up to the suffering student to actually do something about the problem that admin helped create, while admin feigns empathy. Don't fall for these lame excuses for outreach.

Breining is a member of the Class of 2023.



Write for the
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org



HUMOR

“Got Lamps?” My Lampstagram, a Chronology

By Isabella Mihok
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Even since pre-pandemic times, students at the University have been searching for and creating new ways to connect with one another. Enter salacious social media accounts like the facebook page [Overheard at Rochester](#), which, in terms of journalistic integrity and accurate quoting, was highly questionable. Keeping up with the trend, @ur_confessions_secrets, is an instagram account where UR students can anonymously ask for help on homework, complain about the administration, and even answer polls about anal sex!

The wildly popular @ur_confessions_secrets (which has garnered over 2500 followers since it's first confession post in December 2020) and @ur_loved585 (with over 1100 followers since November 2020) are consistently the talk of the collegiate town. Whispers can also be heard through the halls of Rush Rhees about the less popular, but slightly more niche, @URVirgins, @URVirginsbutnotbychoice, @URTimbs, and @URchairs.

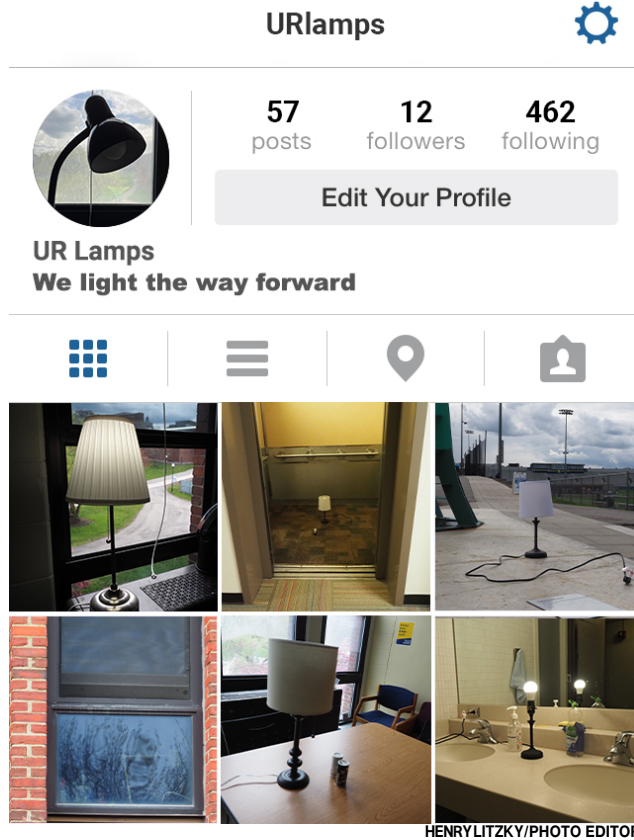
‘As an attention seeker who yearns for fame, I have been interested in creating my own niche.’

As an attention seeker who yearns for (at least campus-wide) fame, I have been interested in creating my own niche UR Instagram account for some time now. And with pandemic boredom bringing about more and more accounts, I figured it was now or never. Seeing as I'm not particularly interested in anything of substance, I landed on the bright idea of @URLamps, the new designated spot for all UR students' lighting fixture content! To get ready for my new venture into this domain, and to prepare myself for the inevitable stardom that was to come, I decided that I needed to consult an expert.

I was lucky enough to (anonymously) interview the lovely admin of @ur_loved585, an account dedicated to spreading love and positivity via anonymous submission. They had much to say about their own success, as well as some commentary on why they think this trend has become so popular.

‘To prepare myself for the inevitable stardom that was to come, I decided that I needed to consult an expert.’

First, I wanted to know how this account got so successful. If I was going to achieve the kind of accolades and notoriety I was looking for, I needed some insight from the best. The admin of @ur_loved585 attributes their success to the account being “something that was long overdue!” Just like my lamp idea! They continued, “You have all these confession pages, but none of them specifically focus on having an outlet for your crushes or expressing appreciation for your loved ones. Also who doesn't love secret admirer vibes?” I do love secret admirer vibes! Even more than I love lighting fixtures! Dammit, why didn't I think of this idea before you, @ur_loved585!!!



While my reason for starting my account is sheer narcissism, @ur_loved585's reason was slightly more wholesome, stating, “I believe that we don't spend enough time to unapologetically and loudly appreciate our loved ones. It's definitely one of the more ‘little things,’ but the impact is unfathomably large!”

If little things are what the people of Rochester are needing in these dark, dark times, then my lighting content would certainly get the job done, right?

‘If this is what the people of Rochester are needing in these dark times, then my lighting content would certainly get the job done, right?’

Before venturing into the world of Instagram account management, I needed to learn what I was getting myself into. When I asked what the hardest part of running such an account was, @ur_loved585 mentioned “just keeping up with notes sometimes. I try to remind myself that it's okay to pace myself and no one is mad at me for being inactive.” Seeing as I refuse to put maximum effort into anything, I knew that I would not experience similar struggles.

‘No idea is too crazy.’

Having learned about the difficulties and inspiration behind their account, all that was left to ask @ur_loved585 was tips to ensure that I would become the most popular account on campus. They suggested that I “really pay attention to what people respond to and just interact with them as often as possible! A page is nothing without UR students. Always remember that whatever you're doing should be geared towards the students... ALSO: No idea is too crazy. If you want to create an account for people to submit notes to their friends

about how much they've pooped that day, do it.”

No idea is too crazy, says the anonymous, omniscient presence of ur_loved585? Well, we would see about that!

And so, @URLamps was born.

The concept? Simple.

I would accept submissions via direct message of any and all lighting fixtures from around campus and post them. While I started out beaming with confidence, I must admit that my lamp dreams were dimmed pretty quickly. Maybe I should have gone with the poop thing, because apparently, nobody cares about lamps.

My Lampstagram Timeline:

Day One:

My first step was to follow as many people from UR as possible and see how many followers I could get back. Day one went well on the follower-count front.

(Not to brag: 61 followers)

I posted my first “submission,” which consisted of a grainy photo of a street lamp outside of Todd Union that I took approximately three minutes after creating the account. I realize this may be cheating, but I figured that this was allowed for my initial submission (just to get the account started... to illuminate it, if you will).

Day Two:

...

Day Three:

I was already losing steam. Still no submissions. I had to bribe my roommate with Starbucks to send in a photo of the Blue Light outside of our building. I posted it, and received a real comment from a real UR student, who said “holy shit that light is stunning.”

It lit up my day.

Day Four:

No Submissions

Day Five:

I am a failure

My Great Big Lampstagram Experience was a total flop. I dropped the bulb, big time, and it shattered all over the ground. Maybe I didn't put in enough effort, or maybe my dream of being in the limelight clouded my judgement, but either way, the content wasn't doing it for the people of UR. My not-so-near brush with Instagram stardom left me feeling light-headed and disoriented, much like the overhead lighting in iZone (that was, sadly, not featured on the page).

Instagram may not end up being my claim to fame. But it's fine, I guess I'll just keep submitting wild accusations about myself on @ur_confessions_secrets!

Mihok is a member of the Class of 2023.

WRITE FOR THE

Campus Times

SERVING THE ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SINCE 1873

Best Places to Have a Semi-Public Breakdown

By Sara Vechinski
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

We live in an interesting time, and with every day bringing new reasons to stress, we no longer need to wonder if people are lying when they say they're fine. We know they're not fine, and neither are we.

'That being said, crying in the middle of Fauver Stadium might not be the vibe. If it is for you, go ahead!'

Sooner or later we all reach a breaking point, and who doesn't want an audience for that breakdown?

That being said, crying in the middle of Fauver Stadium might not be the vibe. If it is for you, go ahead! Make that breakdown a spectacle! However, if you're looking for a more controlled population, here are the top five places for a semi-public breakdown.

5: Rush Rhees Library

While Rush Rhees has many great spots to breakdown in front of a small number of people, it's so overdone that people probably won't even notice you're crying. They're probably having a mental breakdown themselves. I mean, have you ever been in there during finals week? Try to find someone who isn't crying.

4: Your Zoom Room

While likely half those cold, uncaring, faceless black squares are hiding equally apathetic and distant people, there've got to be at least a few people paying attention. Instructors are always begging you to turn your camera on, so show them what's going on behind the screen. On the bright side, they

probably won't ask anymore.

3: University Health Services (UHS)

"My favorite is walking from UHS to Sue B. I cry everytime. UHS really does it for me," first-year student Lindsey Szalach said.

On the verge of a mental breakdown? UHS can help push you over that edge with mandatory isolation. Before you're removed from all human contact for God knows how long, go out with a bang!

2: Any First-Year Floor Lounge

Your floor lounge presents the perfect opportunity for a semi-public breakdown. While not many people will see you, you can almost guarantee the unlucky soul who does will know you personally. Maybe they'll even join you.

1: Eastman Quad

Nothing says "I'm not okay" like lying face down in the middle of the quad. With all the new grass being planted, you don't even need a blanket. The quad can be pretty populated on a warm day, but you'll probably just look like a sunbather from a distance. A totally normal, okay person sunbathing in Western New York. You're doing great!

'Nothing says "I'm not okay" like lying face down in the middle of the quad.'

Remember there's no wrong place to have a mental breakdown. Scream alone in your dorm! Cry in line at Starbucks! Throw your books across a classroom! Catharsis is real and it is great.

Vechinski is a member of the Class of 2024.

Mishap at Rochester Easter Egg Hunt Leaves Event Organizers Scrambling for Cover

By Jeremy Reguer
STAFF WRITER

Someone at the Rochester Easter egg hunt swapped the normal easter eggs with real eggs, and the man to blame is event organizer Mr. Tom. To get the full picture, we have to go back to the start, before it went frittata control. I don't want to be pudding words in Mr. Tom's mouth, so we actually have a quote from him.

"The plan was simple. All we needed to do was go to the supermarket, get some fake eggs, hide them, and the event would be over easy," Tom said. "The problem was that we sent our interns. These guys weren't the brightest; they were the people you call when you need to poul trees out of the ground, but we decided to let them have a crack at it. The store was out of fake Easter eggs, the interns didn't realize the difference. They approached our art team with the incorrect eggs, and the artists painted them anyway. The mistake went unnoticed until a student spiked their egg on the sidewalk and it splattered everywhere."

"The Rochester community is known for its practical yolks."

"We thought that there was fowl play involved; maybe a student had hidden real eggs amidst ours. The Rochester community is known for its practical yolks. We eventually figured out that the eggs were ours, thanks to one chick in the art team's unique art style. We then had a choice: Do we call the event off or whisk it and hope none of the students notice? On one hand, the students have been cooped up in their dorms for weeks, and it would be nice to give them a bit of fun."

"On the other hand, Rochester students are smart; you have to have a pretty big noggin to get here. Then comes my mistake: I decided to keep the event going, giving the students free range."

Needless to say, once the students found out about the mishap, there were dozens of problems.

The swap had some students shellshocked. Others were hatching all sorts of nefarious plots.

'One student crowned himself king of the eggs, demanded to be called "Benedict Cumberhatch," and covered himself in egg.'

The students came up with an egg toss game, where one student would throw an egg to their partner, who would hatch it. Of course, some students tried to beat the system and be their own partners. Students fried and fried, but no pair of partners could get it just white and beat the self-partner strategy. After students realized that being your own partner was too good, they deviled the playing fields and let everyone be their own partner.

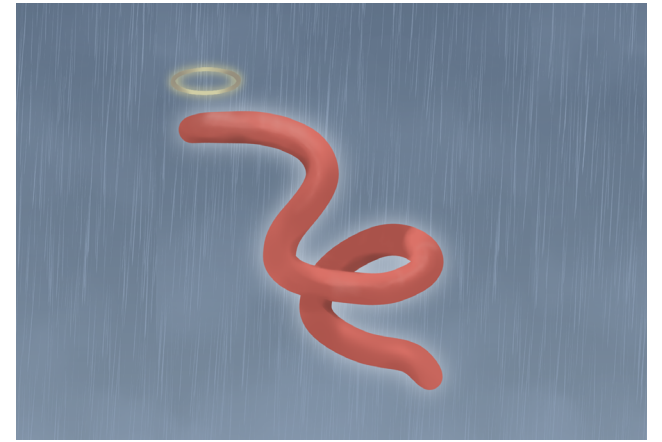
One student crowned himself king of the eggs, demanded to be called "Benedict Cumberhatch," and covered himself in egg. Only after a shower did he realize his mistake: His skin is now all boiled over.

Eventually, Tom decided un oeuf was enough, and shut it all down.

Reguer is a member of the Class of 2024.

Poetry From the Publisher

By Ethan Busch
PUBLISHER



JANEPRITCHARD/ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

Editor's note: Normally, the Campus Times doesn't publish poetry. But these works were so moving, we felt it would complete our image as a morally emaciated, corrupt media outlet to withhold these from the public. Don't get us wrong, we still are, but at least now we have poetry. Enjoy!

A Precipitatory Limerick

I was on my way to The Pit,
Wet pavement, my food and I bit.
The next day I snooped,
Right after I pooped,
My god, there's a worm in my shit!

Rainworm rhyme

My name is Worm,
I like to squirm.
And when it rains,
I lose my brains.
I leave the ground,
Slick sidewalk bound.
I like to wriggle
And make kids giggle.

Epitaphium Lumbricus

Just yesterday,
A man walked by,
Who did not mean to make me die.
Without a look,
He trampled me,
And did not even stop to see,
That now I'm dead,
From his wet boot,
Without so much as a salute.
You saw my death,
And yet stood by,
It did not even make you sigh.
What does it mean,
To be a worm?
It means your life is quite short term.

Busch is a member of the Class of 2023.

Write for the Campus Times!

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