

Campus Times



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CT Community Mourns Alum Miguel Rodrigues

By MEGAN BROWNE
PUBLISHER

“You can’t stop me, you can only hope to contain me.” Quoting Dan Patrick, those were Miguel Rodriguez’s (’96) last words to the Campus Times when he said goodbye as a senior. This month, Miguel — Miggy, to his colleagues — passed away due to complications from COVID-19.

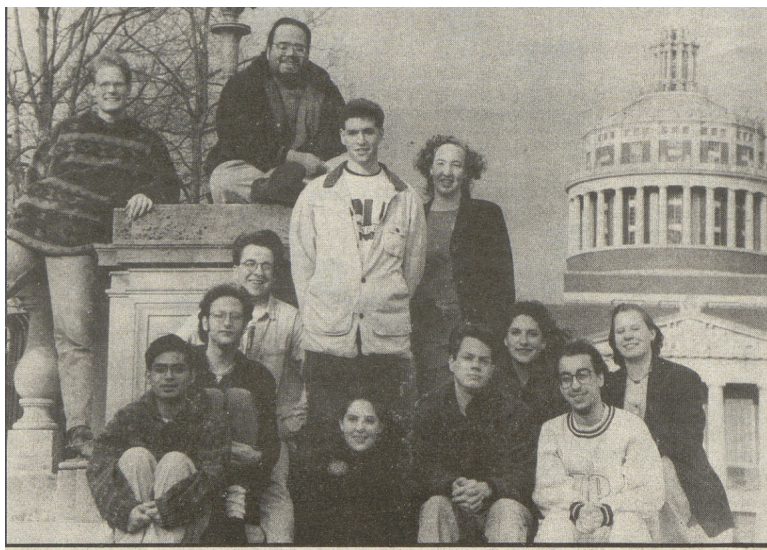
Miguel’s legacy is obvious. He served for all four of his undergraduate years

with the Campus Times, acting as a Staff Writer his first year, Sports Editor his sophomore year, Syndications Editor his junior year, and Senior Staff his senior year. After graduation, he continued to be a lifelong journalist. Along with CT, Miguel played as a goalkeeper for UR Hockey and majored in English. After graduating, he went on to work for the University Sports information department at the Democrat and Chronicle from 1997-1998,

the Greater Niagara Newspapers from 1998-2003, and finally ended up with The Buffalo News from 2003, covering the high school sports beat until his death. Miguel’s death made headlines not only at his home publication of The Buffalo News, but also made national news at the Washington Post.

Miguel’s story is a testament to the Campus Times as an organization. On Tuesday, we received a letter to the editor from David Leavitt ’98 regarding Miguel’s passing, including how Miguel had a big heart, and was a dedicated editor who helped him grow into the Editor-in-Chief he became years later during his first year in the CT. Following that, the Campus Times reached out to David about doing a long-form article about Miguel, in which we immediately received an email with four former editors CC’d, who then CC’d two other editors, all telling touching stories about Miguel and the CT.

SEE MEMORIAM PAGE 3



PHOTOGRAPHS BY KELLY EGAN/CAMPUS TIMES, BOTTOM LEFT COURTESY OF SATYA RAO, COURTESY OF ALLEGRA BOVERMAN

Rodrigues (top row, second from left) and Campus Times members

Dining updates include GrubHub ending Feb. 14

By HENRY LITSKY
NEWS EDITOR

Starting Monday Feb. 14, students will no longer be able to spend declining dollars on off-campus GrubHub purchases, and Grab & Go will reopen. The decision comes as the University continues to expand on-campus dining hours/options as dining staffing levels approach normal levels.

Many students who spoke with the Campus Times were disappointed about the closure of off-campus GrubHub purchases.

“The general population of students are not satisfied with the quality of food in the dining hall[s], so having the GrubHub really opened up the options that we have, and variety of cuisines and quality of food that we can get. So it was kind of disappointing to hear how GrubHub was being closed,” senior Joanne Lee told CT. “We are not totally back to where we were before, so there is some dissatisfaction in that.”

UR first allowed declining dollars to be spent at off-campus restaurants through GrubHub last semester after

dining staffing levels plummeted to 65% of their normal rates. In response to the employment crisis, the University closed many dining options and consolidated employees to prioritize keeping the Pit and Douglass Dining Hall open. The University has always presented the GrubHub arrangement as a temporary solution.

The Sept. 23 announcement introduced the measure as “not meant to be a permanent part of the meal plan” only continuing “as long as necessary to supplement student options during this staffing crisis.”

The start of the spring semester welcomed the resumption of both dining halls operating in tandem again, but with altered service hours. Grab & Go, which was open during the fall semester, was closed for the first few weeks of this semester, which helped to justify the continuation of off-campus GrubHub benefits.

Despite many reopenings and expanded hours of service on campus, some students are still worried about the number of options available, especially to those with

dietary restrictions.

“You can get the same food from Grab & Go that you can get at the Brew or [...] at Connections, it’s the same shit just in a different place,” sophomore Meaghan Baker told CT. “So I don’t know what they think they are doing by magically opening Grab & Go.”

“I don’t eat beef or pork, [and] I feel like the dining halls just don’t have as many options [as] they make it seem,”

“If I’m being honest I think the hours are there. My bigger concern is personally I don’t eat beef or pork, [and] I feel like the dining halls just don’t have as many options [as] they make it seem,” senior Destine Baldonado told CT. “Like, the vegan station at Danforth, sometimes the options are just very limited [for] someone who has a more restricted diet. It’s not even the hours that’s concerning to me; it’s being able to eat literally anything.”

Litsky is a member of the class of 2023.

Medallion Program Workshop Ends Abruptly After Conflict



MICAH BETTENHAUSEN / PHOTO EDITOR

By ALYSSA KOH
MANAGING EDITOR

Thursday night’s Medallion Program workshop, titled Understanding and Responding to Antisemitism and Anti-Israel Sentiments on Campus, received intense student backlash after presenter Joy Getnick, Executive Director for Hillel, muted attendees during the presentation and ended the Zoom discussion early. Getnick said she wasn’t sure “if people came to hear things in the way [she] intend[ed],” and “[she] reserv[ed] the right to close that.”

The workshop was promoted by the Medallion Program as a way to “introduce participants to historical and contemporary expressions of antisemitism, with a focus on understanding how antisemitism presents itself on campuses today.” In addition, the training was to “focus on understanding the intersection and divergence of antisemitism and anti-Israel sentiments, and the boundaries between legitimate criticisms of Israel and anti-Israel/anti-Zionist/antisemitic behavior.”

Immediately after the workshop’s announcement on WCSA’s Instagram, which has subsequently been deleted, student concerns arose. As a result, the eboard of Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) agreed to join the event together, promoting attendance to their individual followings as well as to the club at large.

“Hey guys! Just wanted to let you all know how the Medallion Program is trying to discuss the anti-Israel sentiment on campus and correlating it with antisemitism, and I think it’s important for our members to try to attend to set the record straight that anti-Israel isn’t antisemitism. That our school and the

Medallion Program specifically should not stand for a state that is committing the crime of apartheid!” said SJP President and senior Mufida Asmar in a statement to the club.

The Zoom event was prefaced by Getnick explaining the workshop’s origins, which were apparently spurred as a result of incidents this past May during increased tensions between Palestinians in Jerusalem and Israeli police. Getnick specifically mentioned that there had been “some Instagram posts and some comments that felt upsetting to Jewish students on campus that felt threatening of their identities and how they might connect to their heritage,” and that “there wasn’t really an awareness of why those statements might be so upsetting.”

The goals of the event were noted as being launched through the Medallion Program “as part of increasing understanding and cultural awareness of all peoples and for all people on campus.” According to Getnick, the workshop had “started with some faculty and staff” and Hillel was “doing kind of a soft launch tonight through the Medallion Program to see who really wanted to show up and engage in the conversation.”

In addition, group participation was encouraged, with Getnick specifically noting that she wanted people “to feel like they can ask questions.”

“If that’s not something that we’re really going to focus on, I might say, ‘Hey, I’m happy to continue that conversation online at a different time,’” she continued, “so that we can get through what we do intend to focus on today. I certainly don’t want people to feel like their voices are squashed.”

SEE WORKSHOP PAGE 2

INSIDE THIS CT

DIVERSITY ROUND TABLE
PAGE 2 CAMPUS

ROLLER SKATING
PAGE 4 COMMUNITY

VALENTINE’S DAY
PAGE 7 OPINIONS

ALUM IS NFL HEADCOACH
PAGE 12 SPORTS