

# Campus Times



SERVING THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SINCE 1873 / [campustimes.org](http://campustimes.org)

## ORIENTATION 2024

WELCOME  
CLASS  
OF  
2028



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# CAMPUS

## Rocky Bucks Explained



KEVINHU / PHOTO EDITOR

BY NATALIE OPDAHL  
NEWS EDITOR

Incoming freshmen and transfer students have likely heard of the terms “Dining Dollars” and “Rocky Bucks” used to describe the University’s dining plans. But for many upperclassmen, these terms are foreign.

On April 25, 2024, the

University’s daily email newsletter, @rochester, announced a change to the dining plans. The campus currency formerly known as “Declining Dollars” or “Declining” would be renamed to “Dining Dollars,” and the currency formerly known as “URos” would become known as “Rocky Bucks.”

The newsletter provided a link to a University news article explaining the change. The article stated that although these new currencies are nearly identical to their former counterparts, Rocky Bucks will be accepted by many more vendors than before, including off-campus.

According to interim dean of students Anne-Marie Algier, “These changes are designed to give students more control over how they spend their money and reduce confusion about their payment options. Whereas Dining Dollars can only be spent at campus dining facilities and on convenience food items, Rocky Bucks are accepted by a larger network of dining, food, and retail options on campus and in College Town.”

On campus, Rocky Bucks will be accepted at all dining

locations, the Campus Mail Center, printer and copier services, vending machines, and ticket sales, according to the dining website. At College Town they will be accepted at Joy Mart, Primohoagies, Taichi BubbleTea, and Barnes and Noble. These stores will provide special discounts and deals when customers make purchases with Rocky Bucks.

Students within Residential Group 4 at the River Campus as well as juniors and seniors at Eastman are able to select the C2 dining plan including Dining Dollars and \$500

Rocky Bucks. All students, regardless of their chosen meal plan, are able to add Rocky Bucks to their account through the kiosk in the back of Susan B. Anthony Hall. In addition, students and parents can add Rocky Bucks and Dining Dollars to the student’s account through learn.rochester.edu.

*Opdahl is a member of the class of 2026.*

Front Page Photo Taken By  
Photography Editor Kevin Hu

Image Description:

Clear skies and warm weather greet the University of Rochester’s Eastman Quad on August 16th, 2024. Students and their families are seen conversing and enjoying the weather on Eastman Quad.

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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.”



## The State of The Campus Times

BY MICAH BETTENHAUSEN  
PUBLISHER

A tradition exists in the *Campus Times* where the Publisher and Editor-in-Chief each author an article addressing the current state of the *Campus Times* at the start and end of the semester respectively — our current objectives, and our plans to achieve our goals. This usually doesn’t mean much to the general public, but it does serve as a valuable snapshot into the current struggles and triumphs of the paper for future generations of *CT* staff members. So, here we are, writing the state of the *CT*.

The *Campus Times* stands today, 151 years old. The only reason the *CT* has survived this long is the tireless and often underappreciated work of dedicated reporters throughout the years. Thousands of people have touched the paper in that time and each one of them has made an incalculable impact.

The *CT* hasn’t made it this far without its fair share of struggles. Unlike nearly every other college newspaper, whether university-subsidized or fully independent, we at the *Campus Times* do not get paid for our reporting. We are an outlier among our peers; even in town, we’re alone. RIT’s Reporter magazine pays their staff because it takes the effort and dedication of a part- or full-time job to make the paper function.

We are working to get our website working properly, especially the author links. We are continually striving to secure more advertisements to then reinvest every cent back into the betterment of our paper. We are growing our community engagement through new partnerships and initiatives including new

distribution in College Town. We are working to ensure we remain relevant and trusted amongst students and alumni alike.

Through it all, the *CT* has remained resilient. We have emerged from a pandemic stronger. We still produce print newspapers — in fact, we are excelling in print. We are expanding our circulation volume and distribution locations, selling more ads than any year since the pandemic, and making progress to becoming a fully independent collegiate newspaper again. Just as *CT* has been a staple in the University community since its inception in 1873, we wish to see to it that the *CT* remains a staple of the University of Rochester and the lived experience of every single student, staff, and faculty member. That is why it is so important that I ask you to help make sure the *CT* is enjoyed and experienced by future generations. Please donate any amount to the *Campus Times*. It will make a world of difference.

As we look ahead, we have a lot on our horizon. We plan to get our newsletter, The Buzz, back up and running; send more reporters to journalism conferences; work with community journalists to create summer internships for writers and editors; build stronger relationships with university events like Commencement and Orientation; create a new subscription service to ship our print newspapers across the country; and strengthen our online social media presence. We have so much to look forward to — all you have to do is keep reading, engaging, and if you have the means, donating to keep the *CT* alive and better than before.

*Bettenhausen is a member of the class of 2025.*

# Community, Carnivals, and Campus Culture: UR Traditions

BY HELENA FENG  
MANAGING EDITOR

BY SHERENE YANG  
MANAGING EDITOR

An energetic University community thrives on a campus life empowered by decades of school tradition — especially ones motivated by a zeal for fostering connection and improvement. Despite its initially academic, serious-leaning demeanor, the University of Rochester hosts a wealth of playful school traditions that have shaped the undergraduate experience since its establishment in 1850: from the Candlelight Ceremony during first-year orientation, to Senior Week at the end of an academic school year. Indeed, a year at UR is incomplete without vibrant celebrations for all who have passed through the University at some point in their lives — for those that are attending, have attended, and will attend. We've highlighted just a few of these long standing traditions here.

**'A year at UR is incomplete without vibrant celebrations.'**

Established in 2001, Meliora Weekend is designed to bring alumni, current students and faculty, and the

community together through a variety of performances, events, and reunions. It provides a mix of learning and entertainment from individuals across fields and disciplines. This year's Meliora Weekend, from Sept. 26-29, features talks and performances from Grammy and Emmy Award-winner Leslie Odom, Jr., *CBS News* editor Norah O'Donnell, *Hidden Brain* podcast host Shankar Vedantam, and actor/comedian Joel McHale. This is one of the first annual traditions of the academic year and spans across various UR affiliated buildings, including the River Campus, Eastman School of Music, and the Memorial Art Gallery. Use this opportunity to explore the abundance of talent from the community, enjoy different events, and give back to the community. Registration for Meliora Weekend opened on Aug. 7, so make sure to register soon!

Next, Springfest! Taking place on a (hopefully) warm and beautiful spring day at the end of April, Springfest weekend is a four-day festival near the conclusion of an academic year, featuring events such as student performances, carnival games and rides, events, food trucks, and giveaways. You might not recognize Springfest as Springfest,



JOYLU/ ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

but as Dandelion Day, or simply, D-Day. D-Day is built into the Friday of Springfest; as one of the most popular traditions at UR, the day is packed with events. As you walk around Wilson Quad, stop by the food trucks lined up near the dorms, enjoy the student performances outside of Wilson Commons, people-watch the students gathered on the grass with friends and peers, and join the lines for the carnival games and rides. Make sure to hop back in at the end of the day for the free D-Day concert, featuring different

artists each year, from pop bands AJR and Coin, to rock band Hippo Campus. D-Day and Springfest weekend is a social and lighthearted way to end the spring semester and welcome the warmer weather leading up to finals week.

Plenty of other Rochester holidays and traditions are scattered throughout the academic year, including Winterfest, Spirit Week, and Forever Rochester Week. These traditions are established not only to bring a sense of community to the UR campus, but also simply

to give students a chance to enjoy campus life and the Rochester community as a whole. So take some time to explore all the things that UR has to offer!

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

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

## From Campus to Craftsmanship: Weaving Chains and Community in Rochester's Art Scene

BY EMMELY ELI TEXCUCANO  
FEATURES EDITOR

Summer in Rochester means weekends chock-full of markets and festivals lining the streets throughout the city, from the South Wedge to Park Ave or the Neighborhood of the Arts — and chances are you might've stumbled across Vic Crafts. Nearly every weekend this summer, rising senior and small business owner Vic Cohen could be found with their stand adorned with a variety of handmade chainmail jewelry, including necklaces, bracelets, and earrings — whether it was at the Art Jam Market, the Annual Queer Handmade Art Sale,

market days at Boulder Coffee, or markets hosted by the Flying Squirrel and the Free Art Collective.

Cohen only began making chainmail jewelry in April with no previous experience in jewelry making. Currently double majoring in Brain and Cognitive Sciences and Psychology, they're co-president of Jewish Voice for Peace, a Meridian, an admissions interviewer, and an undergraduate researcher at URMC. Being an RA stuck on campus until long past the end of the semester, Cohen found themselves looking for something to keep them occupied, which led to them searching for tutorials online and on Pinterest after getting

initial inspiration from Etsy.

"This was the first time I learned how to like an actual craft and like, you know, multiple dimensions of it," Cohen said.

Cohen began selling to friends and on Instagram, and eventually at art markets around town. Their summer was spent mostly exploring Rochester and jewelry-making while rewatching old TV shows like *Gossip Girl* and *Sex and the City*.

"It's so fun. And also I'm a college student. I want cool jewelry," Cohen said. "It originally started out exclusively for my friends. And because I wanted them to, you know, get cool jewelry without having to break the bank and get it for a reasonable price."

These markets have also been Cohen's gateway into Rochester's vibrant art community encompassing University of Rochester students, students on other campuses, and burgeoning young professionals in the city.

Cohen explains, "It's definitely its own little community. A lot of these people, they're teachers and office workers and things like that and it's like I'm a college student you know. I feel so tiny

in the scene but everyone's just so kind and welcoming."

This has allowed them to learn from others in the scene and improve on their art, learning different weaves and incorporating different tips and tricks in their pieces. Cohen has connected with RIT and MCC students, learning that the former institution has a jewelry-making major and meeting students within the major. "They've complimented my work, which is absolutely crazy," Cohen said. "This has unintentionally been a great way to make friends."

**"This has unintentionally been a great way to make friends."**

These connections led to them discovering Little Button Crafts in the South Wedge and getting the chance to host a beginner chainmail class themselves. "I know I'm capable of teaching other people but it's really fun to share my love for this because as a STEM major, I get stressed out and I get so wrapped up in that, and being able to find an art-sy outlet is nice... I'm going

to teach people how to do this, which is fun because I love sharing what I do."

**"I'm going to teach people how to do this, which is fun because I love sharing what I do."**

After graduation, Cohen plans to apply to different graduate schools, including the Warner School for Mental Health Counseling, and continue their small business on the side.

"I'm walking the fine line of learning to not capitalize off of something I enjoy to the point where I don't enjoy it anymore," Cohen said. "I want this to remain something I love."

Cohen can be found on @viccrafts on Instagram, at art markets across the city, or at their permanent stand in The Op Shop in the East End.

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



EMMELY ELI TEXCUCANO/ FEATURES EDITOR

# OPINIONS

## Blindspots: Democrats Should Follow Tim Walz's Lead

BY FINN ABBEY  
OPINIONS EDITOR

The Vice Presidency of the United States is a curious office. Almost always completely impotent, yet it's one heart attack or Secret Service screw up away from making history. It's been a banner year for veeps; Kamala Harris has quickly assumed the mantle of the Democratic party after Biden was finally forced out, J.D. Vance has made history by likely being the least popular running mate of all time, and Tim Walz has arisen from relative obscurity to become the most liked candidate in the race.

Harris's selection of Tim Walz came as a surprise to many who saw popular PA Gov. Josh Shapiro ('95) as a shoo-in for the role. There are many reasons Shapiro may have been passed over, from his virulently racist Campus Times op-ed, to his role in the controversial death of Ellen Greenberg, to the fact that he simply may have appeared too ambitious to be content as Harris's sideshow. What probably was not a main factor in Harris's calculations is that

Tim Walz is exactly the type of politician that Democrats need to represent them. In her quest to find someone that would help deliver the midwest and balance the ticket, Harris has picked the man who could reinvent the Democratic party if given the chance.

*'Harris has picked the man who could reinvent the Democratic party if given the chance.'*

Since the mid-20th century the Democratic party has increasingly focused on a neoliberal policy agenda, seeing the private sector as the most important, leaving the government to facilitate global trade and free markets while scaling down welfare spending. This approach led to the boom (and eventual bust) of the Clinton administration, and the gutting of welfare programs of all kinds in 1996. Broadly, Democrats conceded to Republican ideals which had great political purchase only a half century prior, that the government is the best vehicle to improve the lives of citizens. In the aftermath of the Clinton

years, the American public saw ambitious policy ideas like single-payer health-care watered down into market-based approaches like Obamacare, and public schools supplanted by private "charter schools" that sap their funding. The problem is that these ideas don't work, at least not for that long. The GDP may continue to grow, but the quality of life for all but the richest Americans continues to decline as corporations control more and more of everyday life.

Of course, Tim Walz has made no pronouncements about neoliberalism — few politicians have. But his record shows that his brand of politics is a real departure from this 50-year trend. In his time in congress, Walz opposed the bailouts of the banking and auto industries and supported stricter financial industry regulations. He also opposed a number of free trade agreements citing concerns over human rights and their impact on American workers. As a former unionized public school teacher, Walz has been great to both of these key democratic constituencies. He walked picket lines; banned

"non-compete" agreements, which hindered workers' ability to find new jobs in the same industry; and banned employers from holding captive audience anti-union meetings. Walz also boosted public education funding by \$2.2 billion and opposed charter schools, privately-run institutions that undermine the universalist goals of publicly funded education. This is a break from figures like Barack Obama and Josh Shapiro who have strongly supported charters and Senator Mark Kelly who has failed to stand by organized labor.

*'It's a return to being defiant about what we will not accept in one of the richest countries on Earth.'*

The most evocative achievement of Walz's gubernatorial career, however, is the passage of universal free school lunches and the child tax credit in Minnesota. Unlike neoliberal welfare programs, these policies do not "means-test," meaning there are no complicated hoops to jump through, and all citizens of

Minnesota can expect those benefits as a public good. The Covid-era national child tax credit reduced child poverty by as much as 30%, and by implementing a state level version when the other expired, Walz and his allies have dealt a big blow to child poverty. When pressed on the politics of feeding all kids rather than only the ones deemed poor, Walz retorted, "This just makes sense. This is the assurance that no one falls through the cracks because a busy parent didn't fill out a form." News coverage of the signing centers a beaming Walz flanked by numerous happy kids.

This is the politics of joy. It's a return to being defiant about what we will not accept in one of the richest countries on Earth. America's political moment begs for something more than the usual means-tested half measures and equivocation; it asks for ambitious, universal government actions and the confidence to defend them. A friendly midwesterner might be the best guy to show Democrats that vision.

*Abbey is a member of the class of 2025.*

## Unsolicited Advice: Things I Wish I Knew As A First-Year

BY SHERENE YANG  
MANAGING EDITOR

When I first started at the University, I thought it was just another four years of school, similar enough to high school so that I could keep the same routine. But alas, I was completely and utterly wrong. Plenty will change in college, for better and for worse, and there will be a lot of challenges. As someone who is starting her third year, here are some of the things I wish I knew at the start.

**Balance, balance, BALANCE!**

Balance your academic and social life. Balance your work and personal time. Balance your research hours and your own projects. Know your limits. I know that many of you are over-achievers, but it is important to build up what's on your plate, not put as much as you can all at once. Balance can prevent burnout which is good for you in the long run! Don't bury yourself.

**Seriously, don't skip class.**

There was one mandatory class I took sophomore year for my major that put me to sleep and it was the

only class I willingly skipped (just twice). What I can tell you is that skipping a class for no particular reason just once might feel trivial, but once you get on the class-skipping-train, you might not be able to hop off. And then you fall behind on lectures because if going to class is boring, watching the online lecture will be torture. There will be nobody to keep you accountable to finish watching that lecture. I had to force myself to walk to this class every Tuesday and Thursday, even if it meant sitting in the lecture hall and zoning out and zoning back in when there were new things on the slides. Go to class, even if it's to just turn your brain off and soak in information subconsciously.

**Don't put your hobbies on the sideline.**

Hobbies keep you alive; they prevent your mind from being buried by all the literature you have to read or the studying you have to do. Sometime last semester, my friend took me to the Sage Art Center when she needed to work on her projects. I would either sit in there and work on Orgo or other times, she would find me a block of wood and

I would just paint. Instead of worrying about an exam the following week, I could focus on the present. I always thought hobbies were a waste of time whenever there were responsibilities, but it helps declutter your mind. Keep 'em alive.

**Schedule your classes to fit you.**

People often overlook this, but the way you make your schedule can make or break your semester. Some might like classes back-to-back while others cannot sit through two of them. Knowing whether you can sit through multiple one-hour and fifteen minute classes in a row is extremely crucial especially if you're like me and do not have the capacity for three classes in a row; it might be compelling to put classes back-to-back to get them over with, but it is exhausting. Same goes for whether to sign up for 8 a.m. or 6 p.m. classes. Know your limits and make your schedule around those limits.

**Switching majors is okay.**

College is supposed to be the place you explore what you want to do. So don't let the set-in-stone-career people intimidate you. Finding what you actually want to do

will always out-trump pushing through a major you despise. Which brings me to my next point...

**Please, please, please take classes for fun and explore.**

Utilize the University's open curriculum. We have a cluster system. If a hobby did not make it to your aspiring career list, take it for your cluster! Explore all the different classes the University offers and build something you enjoy (other than your major(s)) into your schedule.

**Attend Orientation events.**

Orientation in itself, is a prime opportunity to make life-long friends and meet individuals that could make your college experience exponentially better. It is an opportunity to surround yourself with mentors and peers alike that'll stand with you throughout your college career. You don't have to go to every single event, but Orientation is the place where everyone wants to meet new people. Take the opportunity to make connections.

**Get to know your professors.**

Oftentimes, your professors are really interesting

people. Go to their office hours and ask them questions about their lectures and make conversation with them after class. They're generally great people to get to know and it'll make getting letters of recommendations easier. They might even connect you to opportunities you never know you'll have or push you to excel in ways you didn't expect.

**Don't be afraid to ask for help.**

Whether it's your peers, professors, or financial aid or academic advisors, ask questions. I developed a habit in high school of trying to figure everything out myself but that has shown to be excruciating. You could spend hours trying to figure out a neural pathway when all it takes is to ask your professor a simple question during office hours. Time is important — spend it wisely.

All in all, use your first-year to really figure out what works for you. In the end, college is a place for you to explore who you are as a person and to grow from who you were in high school. Have fun with it!

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

# An Ode to the Times

BY NARM NATHAN  
DATA EDITOR

I still remember what inspired me to write my first article as a data journalist. I was reading a research paper on computer-assisted reporting and had skimmed through a TED talk — the little, mundane self-help activities I thought would motivate me beyond belief. Unbeknownst to me, however, were the events that would lay the foundation for my career today.

Just across the world lay the body of 17-year-old Nahel Merzouk, a French-Algerian who was killed by French police during a traffic stop. When the country erupted in riots after initial news of his death, it wasn't just the incident that sparked my interest — it was the public reaction I witnessed on social media.

Nahel reminded me a little bit of myself: a teenager with a tendency for rebellion. The only child of a single mother, I saw a reflection of the same struggles my family went through as refugees finding their place in a world without a space for them.

Seeing the vortex of far-right, Islamophobic, racist and anti-immigrant sentiment so freely espoused on social media proved a stark personal reminder: that even in death, people like us must always fight to prove our humanity to a world comfortable with our oppression.

***'That even in death, people like us must always fight to prove our humanity to a world comfortable with our oppression.'***

Uncovering the history of France's entanglement with the far-right imposed a newfound responsibility on my shoulders: to illustrate to the world what we have always experienced just for living in our skin. The opportunity to pursue journalism, then, lay directly on that path.

After publishing my first project, I had the chance to join the *Campus Times*, first applying for a Social Media Editor position in the fall of 2023. Thankfully, I wasn't accepted — the staff liked me, but they hadn't seen me around and wanted me to show what I was capable of. I got to know our then-Editor-in-Chief, Justin O'Connor, who first gave me feedback on better data visualizations, clearer sentence structure, before calling me last January to offer the Data Editor position as part of an initiative to expand the *Campus Times* into what we both viewed as the future of

journalism.

That spring semester, I worked even more closely with him and the staff I've gotten to meet as we toyed with ideas and projects that have helped me get off the ground. I'll never forget taking the time to create our own *FiveThirtyEight*-esque metric to define the two-way individual performance of an NBA player to visually determine who was the clear MVP of the 2023-24 season, and tracking the events of the Gaza solidarity encampment as students like me stood for what they believed in.

***'I represented my community in ways I never thought I was capable of before. I shed light on people who others considered unworthy of notice.'***

What I lacked, however, were the fundamentals that established the love I have for journalism and the reason I continue to pursue what I love most today.

This summer, I had the chance to work with the *Rochester Beacon*, a local newsroom focused on tackling the complex issues facing the city and its community. Far from the shallow regurgitation of traffic accidents and crime statistics that dominated corporate news, we wanted to actually delve into the issues facing the community.

I remembered the work it took to get here in the first place; how much envy and insecurity I used to feel for not having the connections and experience and internship under my belt like the rest of my peers.

I also remembered what it meant for my people to be here — to sacrifice their culture, identity, and way of life in the preservation of their humanity. When I read the stories of Nahel, I'm reminded of the stories my people share as the victims of a genocide that not only exterminated them from their homes, but eradicated their history and culture from the planet.

It wasn't spoken as clearly as it is now, but I don't think my Editor-in-Chief, Smriti Jacob, had any trouble being on the same page as me. From our first conversations and my first drafts, she could see the intention behind every sentence I wrote; and the absolute commitment I had to speaking justice to every word that flowed from my hands.

It was just last August that my lead story for the *Rochester Beacon* came out, on the City Council's proposed legislation to

adopt Good Cause protections in line with New York State. It wasn't enough for me to just repurpose the spreadsheets and press releases I received — because it wasn't enough to our community.

Across the six weeks I spent working on our story, I attended City Council meetings, public hearings, and press conferences just to be in the know regarding the way the issue was developing and gaining momentum. I interviewed everyone from tenants facing eviction, to Councilmembers with experience on the policy, to landlords who disagreed with Good Cause on a fundamental level.

Most importantly, I told their stories.

I got to know a parent surviving stage-four cancer that couldn't withstand a no-cause eviction because of the effect such a change would have on her daughter, who lives with high-functioning autism. I got to meet the child of a mother of seven who suffered depression and anxiety from the economic hardship she would face had she been evicted with no cause. I heard the stories of legislative drama and political strategy that lie behind the curtain of policymaking, and I worked to understand the concerns of property

owners who worried about their investments.

I represented my community in ways I never thought I was capable of before. I shed light on people who others considered unworthy of notice. I didn't even realize how much I had done because of how much the responsibility of wielding this power meant to me.

***'To work with our staff and editors means embracing the belief that a better world is possible through the diligent reporting and editing we do on a weekly basis.'***

To stand as a journalist means embracing a lifelong commitment to sharing the stories of the unheard, for me: To the minorities and refugees whose lives may never be told without the horrors of war. To the immigrants who fought their hardest to create a life in a world that meant sacrificing their identity in the face of assimilation. To the people of color who continue to fight for their rights in the face of oppression every single day.

I may be privileged enough to not have to face these issues first-hand, but I would not be who I am

if I didn't stand for these people in everything that I do. In coming back to the *Campus Times* this year to further develop the data desk and hone my craft, I'm not only reminded of this reality — but eternally grateful for the support I've had in the efforts I've made.

To work with our staff and editors means embracing the belief that a better world is possible through the diligent reporting and editing we do on a weekly basis. Whether it's reporting on the events of student government, or covering the incredible clubs we have on campus, or highlighting the features we have on the individuals that make our University special, I'm reminded that by being here I play a role in defining the culture of our community that highlights the voices of the many students that attend our school, no matter what their background is.

To the incoming freshman, to the students, to anyone looking to have their voices heard, we welcome you as a new academic year begins, not just for all of us, but for the paper I've found my place in. On behalf of all of us at the *CT*, welcome back — and welcome home.

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

## Come and Visit our Quaker Community

### What do Quakers believe?

We believe all people can have a direct experience of the Divine, individually and in shared worship.

We believe everyone is equal. We look for the Divine in every person we meet.

Our guiding principle is love.



### What happens in a Quaker meeting?

We come together in a circle for worship and sit quietly.

We listen to the small still voice of the Divine within us.

We speak only if we feel led to do so.

When worship ends we greet those around us.

#### Come join us:

Rochester Friends Meeting

Sundays at 11:00 to 12:00 in the Downtown United Presbyterian Church in Hallock Lounge, 121 N. Fitzhugh St., Rochester, NY 14614

For further information:

RochesterQuakers.org

Chester Freeman 727-420-8621

# CULTURE

## Cultural Rehash: Looking Back on (Pop) Culture Moments from this Summer

BY EMILY ENGLISH  
CULTURE EDITOR

Looking back on what's happened since May, we've had a gold mine of cultural moments that have taken the Internet by storm. It isn't odd for online society to choose a piece of media and define it as the media of the summer. We saw this happen with Barbenheimer: Whenever someone saw a bright pink square, we'd know that it was a reference to Barbie. This summer, the phenomenon has repeated itself again with "brat," Charli xcx's most recent album.

**'These battles once again raised questions on abuses of power, misogyny [...] rampant in the music industry.'**

"brat" is mostly associated with club beats, raw and honest lyricism, and, of course, lime green. This signature lime green brings to mind what can only be described as a "brat" mentality: a mindset extremely interconnected with clubbing

culture and the personality that comes with it. Lyrics throughout "brat" describe an aggression, smugness, and popularity that is often associated with frequent partygoers. "brat" and its effects have even been seen with Kamala Harris' election campaign, like temporarily changing her X banner to a lime green, immediately cuing to a younger audience the cultural phenomenon that is "brat."

**'This signature lime green brings to mind what can only be described as a "brat" mentality: a mindset extremely interconnected with clubbing culture and the personality that comes with it.'**

Music is continuously one of the major forces of cultural shifts, and one that cannot be easily categorized and monitored. Let's not forget about when Drake and Kendrick went back and forth releasing diss tracks

for weeks — a major pop culture event that's still talked about months later. It started with "Like That," a fast-paced, hardcore hip-hop track featuring Kendrick dismissing the "big three" of rap, instead asserting that he is the best of the best in the genre. Later, Drake released two tracks attacking the validity of Kendrick's fame. It took a week and a half to receive Kendrick's response — a worthwhile wait — as he dropped two tracks "euphoria" and "6:16 in LA" not attacking Drake's fame but rather gray spots in his morals, ethics, and past decisions. The silence didn't last long between the release of "6:16 in LA" and Drake's "Family Matters," which dives deeper into rumors of infidelity and domestic abuse. A day later, Kendrick hits back with "Meet the Grahams," an ominously monotone track and non-conventional deviation from previous releases, attacking Drake's parenting skills and moral character. Later that day, Kendrick dropped "Not Like Us," ultimately the most popular

of all releases which delved into the possibly pedophilic relationships in Drake's past. The immediate aftermath of this release is when attention to the battle peaked, but it quickly dissipated with music video releases and remixes. Besides being a massive public spectacle, these battles once again raised questions on abuses of power, misogyny, and general ethical issues seemingly rampant in the music industry.

Aside from pop culture, a major global event over the summer was the Summer 2024 Olympics. This year's Summer Olympics, held in Paris between July 26 and Aug. 11, spurred discourse over many subjects, including the first gymnastics specialist for the U.S. team, Stephen Nedoroscik. Specifically, he drew the world's attention for taking the bench during the majority of the events until the pommel horse where he promptly took off his glasses — thereafter giving him the nickname 'Clark Kent' — and put on a performance that helped the U.S. men's

gymnastics team win a medal for the first time in sixteen years.

**'A moment that will undoubtedly go down in history was the first-ever podium to be held by all Black women.'**

The Artistic Gymnastics performances this year could be discussed on their own. A moment that will undoubtedly go down in history was the first-ever podium to be held by all Black women: Rebeca Andrade, a Brazilian gymnast who took home gold for floor exercise, followed by American gymnasts Simone Biles and Jordan Chiles, who secured silver and bronze, respectively. These three women, marvels in their own ways, came together and cherished this historical moment — Biles and Chiles bowing down to Andrade, but still uniting in their success together.

*English is a member of the class of 2027.*

## Top 7 Must-Visit Spots In Rochester



BY BRENNAN PRICE  
STAFF WRITER

**Roam with animals at the Seneca Park Zoo.**

The zoo can take your worries off your work as you hang out with some of your favorite animals. Located along the Genesee River, the tickets are budget-friendly at \$12 for adults for any college student and allows for a fun, anxiety-free trip.

**Learn about local Rochesterians in the Mount Hope Cemetery.**

Next door to the University is the Mount Hope Cemetery, home to those who have made their mark on history, such as Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass. An

afternoon getting lost in the cemetery offers a quiet stroll and rich history about some of Rochester's most influential people.

**Relive your childhood in The Strong National Museum of Play.**

The museum is easily recognizable from its yard, which features iconography from classic board games, just hinting at the museum's love for games and toys. Before going, it's best to plan ahead; the sheer amount of experiential things to do is worth a whole day trip, from visiting its popular butterfly garden to playing old arcade games or learning about toy history.

**Wake up with some coffee at Java's Cafe**

**(or any coffee shop, for that matter).**

Right in the heart of downtown Rochester, you can find several cafes waiting. Java's Cafe, located near the Strong Museum and off the side of the Eastman School's main building, is a student favorite known for its unique vibes and delicious coffee that is bound to make you want more. Open every day from 7 a.m., Java's is a must-visit if you want to call yourself a cultured Rochester coffee-goer.

**Catch a performance at the Geva Theatre.**

Downtown, the Geva Theatre features frequent live performances of shows that range from acclaimed musicals and plays to showcases and speakers. The theatre also puts on live discussions with the cast and crew of their seasonal shows during their "Sunday Salon" and gives local performers and speakers their time to shine on "Mondays at Geva."

**Or watch a film at Roc Cinema.**

If theatre isn't your thing, maybe movies are.

Roc Cinema offers low-priced movie tickets for students — \$7 with student ID — for some currently being screened in theatres. They also offer "Free Movie Mondays" with several classics. Aside from movies, they also feature comedy open mics and showcases.

**Stroll through Highland Park.**

If you want to take a

screen break, Highland Park is just a short distance from College Town. The park is home to the annual Lilac Festival in mid-May, with gorgeous colors to be found all around. Although the lilacs may not be blooming, the park is a nice spot away from city life.

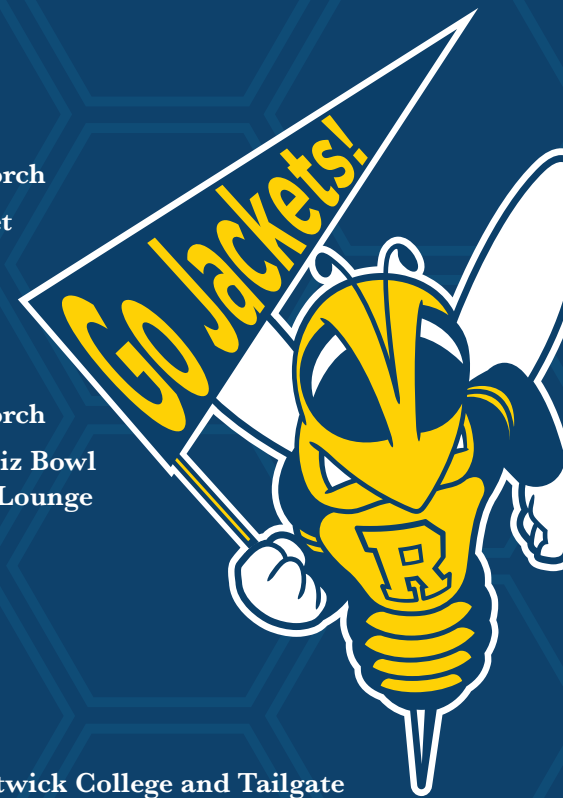
*Price is a member of the class of 2027.*

## Crossword Answers

Play this crossword puzzle on Page 8.

E	B	O	R		E	S	V	S		N	V	A	V	T
N	V	T	V		L	I	D	E		V	R	L	E	L
I	H	S	O		L	V	S	V	M		M	V	I	S
F	V	O			R	I	V	N	O		L	H	C	V
					S	U	P	O			S	E	S	O
S	C	I	L	P	O		T	E	U	V		E	D	V
X	N	N	U	S			N	I	A	T	E		W	E
V	A	I	H				N	O	S	I	B		K	O
L	S	M			E	R	I	V	E		M	E	L	V
S	N	O			G	O	T	B			R	V	E	E
					D	R	A	V	C	E		N	E	L
E	M	O	I	B			D	V	E	L	S		S	O
N	O	N	V	R			N	E	M	R	I	V	E	R
Y	O	N	N	V			V	A	R	U	V	A	C	M
L	N	V	I	G			D	V	L	C		R	V	O

# Yellowjacket Weekend August 28 - September 2



## Wednesday, August 28

- 9am - 6pm Poster Sale  
Wilson Commons Porch
- 4:30pm - 6pm LGBTQ Meet & Greet  
Feldman Ballroom

## Thursday, August 29

- 9am - 6pm Poster Sale  
Wilson Commons Porch
- 10pm Trivia Night with Quiz Bowl  
Rocky's Sub Shop & Lounge

## Friday, August 30

- 9am - 6pm Poster Sale  
Hirst Lounge
- 3:30pm - 5pm Activities Fair  
Wilson Quad
- 4pm Field Hockey vs Hartwick College and Tailgate  
Fauver Stadium
- 9pm Movie on the Quad - Inside Out 2  
Wilson Quad

## Saturday, August 31

- 2pm Feel the Sting Giveaway  
Wilson Quad
- 2pm - 6pm Yellowjacket Weekend Food Trucks & Fair  
Wilson Quad
- 3pm - 5pm Powder Fete by SOCA  
Goergen Field
- 5pm Back to School BBQ Bash  
Hirst Lounge and Dandelion Square
- 9pm - 11:30pm URLN Drag Bingo feat. Darienne Lake  
Feldman Ballroom

## Sunday September 1

- 3:30pm - 4:30pm Election Interest Meeting  
Genesee 325
- 10:15am - 2 pm Alpaca Yoga  
Leaving from Rush Rhees

## Monday September 2

- Noon - 7pm Eastview Mall Shopping Shuttles  
Leaving from Rush Rhees

Scan QR code to see event details



Follow @ WilsonCommonsUR on social for the latest updates



The University of Rochester is committed to providing inclusive experiences and equal access to programs and services. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation, please contact WCSA at [wcsa@rochester.edu](mailto:wcsa@rochester.edu). In all situations, a good faith effort (up until the time of the event) will be made to provide accommodations.

Sponsored by Student Activities Board, Students Association, Student Organization for Caribbean Awareness, Wilson Commons Student Activities, UR Late Night, Athletics & Recreation, Class Councils, Dining Services, Pepsi, Fraternity & Sorority Affairs, and Paul J. Burgett Intercultural Center.

# PUZZLE



SERVING THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SINCE 1873

**GENERAL INTEREST MEETING**  
YOUR VOICE, OUR PLATFORM  
JOIN THE CAMPUS TIMES



**Main GIM**  
5 p.m. September 1st  
Wilson Commons 103

**Make-up GIM**  
6 p.m. September 3rd  
Wilson Commons 104

If you are interested in writing and editing, photography, or illustration, this is for you!  
Pizza will be served.

**Our sections include:**

- News
- Opinions
- Features
- Culture
- Humor
- Sports
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Interested but can't make it?

Contact [CT\\_editor@u.rochester.edu](mailto:CT_editor@u.rochester.edu).  
We'd love to work with you.

## City of Rochester and University of Rochester Crossword

BY CALEB OSHINKSY  
STAFF PUZZLER

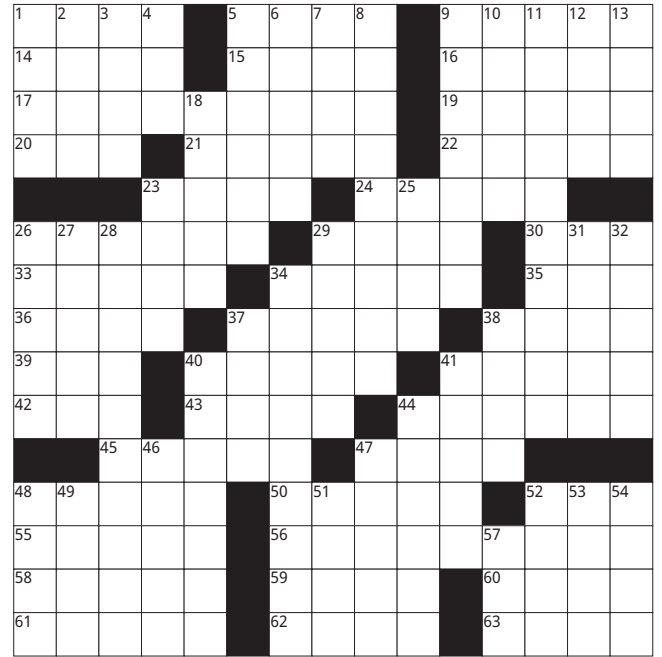
**ACROSS**

- 1 Wild pig
- 5 Accoutered
- 9 "Fee-fi-fo-fum" utterer
- 14 Our school for Drs.
- 15 Accidentally blasting music in Rush Rhees may lose \_\_\_ points
- 16 Bother
- 17 They have a lot of parts
- 19 Yapped
- 20 Refusals
- 21 Lieu
- 22 Taiga or tundra, e.g.
- 23 Secluded valley
- 24 Paperless post
- 26 "To him who is \_\_\_\_, everything rustles." -Sophocles
- 29 Internet journal
- 30 Slip-\_\_ (shoes)
- 33 Witch trials town
- 34 Laissez-\_\_
- 35 Two hrs. behind Rochester time
- 36 Wild way to run
- 37 Yellowstone grazer
- 38 "Howdy!"
- 39 Poisonous, long-living, superstitious, bow-making evergreen
- 40 NBA Hall of Famer Hayes
- 41 Uncommon forecast for Rochester
- 42 Fruit drink suffix
- 43 "The Clan of the Cave Bear" author Jean
- 44 Field of study at our renowned Institute of \_\_\_\_

- 45 Valentine's day gift
- 47 Magnum \_\_\_\_
- 48 Time after-dark in Düsseldorf
- 50 Broadcasting
- 52 Lubber
- 55 The way you see me
- 56 UR graduate, neutrino-detecting Nobel laureate Koshiba
- 58 Prefix meaning "four"
- 59 Modify
- 60 Actor Rickman
- 61 \_\_\_\_ egg (possible direction for a chicken)
- 62 Ethnic affinity group for Hajim students
- 63 Spa attire

**DOWN**

- 1 Overcook, by a lot
- 2 Creme-filled chocolate sandwich cookie
- 3 Hypes (up)
- 4 Red, white and yellow AV connector
- 5 Jazz double bassist Ron, a UR graduate
- 6 Light unit
- 7 Vicinity
- 8 Our school flower and D-Day namesake
- 9 The \_\_\_\_ plate, a Rochester staple food
- 10 ♪ "... the bombs bursting \_\_\_\_" ♪
- 11 Latin phrase in some dates
- 12 Exercise and diet tracking app



- 13 River that Newcastle is upon
- 18 Five-pillared religion
- 23 Many a techie
- 25 Maize, by a more sensible name
- 26 "\_\_\_ Little Prayer" (Warwick hit and Franklin cover)
- 27 Identified
- 28 Rochester nickname for its role in floriculture
- 29 Pesto herb
- 31 Timberlake's boyband
- 32 Sticks around
- 34 Our music school's brass quintets, for example
- 37 A UR school color
- 38 Humble abodes

- 40 Kodak founder and music school's namesake George
- 41 Sudden gush
- 44 Narcotic
- 46 Catherine of "Home Alone"
- 47 Culprits of "Wonderwall"
- 48 The "N" of N.B.A.: Abbr.
- 49 Between ports, like 53D
- 51 Goose egg
- 52 Capital of Norway
- 53 "Moby-Dick" captain often found 49D
- 54 Dandy
- 57 Propelling paddle

Answers to this crossword puzzle available at the bottom of Page 6.



### SENECA PARK ZOO

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