

Campus Times



SERVING THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SINCE 1873 / campustimes.org

Eastman Students Lambaste Administration's Title IX Response

BY MAYA BROSNICK
NEWS EDITOR

BY EMMELY ELI TEXCUCANO
FEATURES EDITOR

Second-year doctoral student Rebecca Bryant Novak stood in front of Eastman School of Music's concert hall last Monday to protest against misogyny.

Novak organized the protest in response to how the University had responded to her Title IX complaint filed against one of her professors. The Title IX complaint included accusations of sexism, misogyny, and gender-based harassment against a faculty member from her time as a first-year doctoral student.

After nine months of little to no concrete progress in addressing her complaint, Novak began to document her story on her substack, *The Queen of Wands*.

"When I felt that nothing was happening, I started to share the story publicly, and Eastman's Title IX coordinator threatened me with a lawsuit for defamation," Novak told the *Campus Times*.



MAYA BROSNICK / NEWS EDITOR

Though she has redacted them, Novak has not removed her posts in response to the cease and desist order from J. Morgan Levy — Senior Associate Dean, Title IX

coordinator, and John Hain's lawyer — writing that she believes that the order was intended to intimidate her.

"I think that's just a common theme of these situa-

tions," Novak said. "It's sort of like war by attrition. You know, just like hoping that someone will get tired and stop the process and walk away."

Despite low attendance, Novak did the opposite of walking away in her protest; she wanted to raise awareness about a culture of silence at Eastman.

"I put [my story] online, just to say that it shouldn't be secret," Novak said. "It shouldn't be something that we're not talking about. We have to talk about it for it to get better."

University Spokesperson Sara Miller, on behalf of Hain and Dean Kate Sheeran, declined to comment on the specifics of the case citing confidentiality, but explained, "We can confirm, however, that the University is committed to addressing reports of such matters appropriately and in accordance with University policies and procedures."

The respondent in the Title IX case did not respond to a request for comment.

Brosnick is a member of the Class of 2027.

Texcucano is a member of the Class of 2025.

Universities Must Value Free Speech Over Reputation

BY FINN ABBEY
OPINIONS EDITOR

Over the summer, institutions of higher education across the country said "never again." This was not "never again" to genocide, nor was it a condemnation of how too often institutions turn a blind eye to or even aid horrific acts of violence.

This summer, colleges across the country have adopted a clear message: "Never again shall students make the university look bad."

'These requirements are designed to make any protest against the University or its policies completely impossible.'

Last semester, administrators of schools across the country found themselves beset by student protesters and encampments, spurred by student concern over institutional and educational involvement with Israel. Soon after, they

were also accosted by national institutions like the Anti Defamation League, wealthy university donors, and members of congress over their failure to suppress these demonstrations, and a perceived unwillingness to adequately crack down on their students. Institutions like Columbia University suspended student organizations like Students for Justice in Palestine and Jewish Voice for Peace, but this did not quell the organic discontent in their student bodies, nor did it satiate the loud voices demanding that any criticism of Israel be swiftly punished.

During the time between semesters, schools throughout the country have found a convenient tactic for maintaining order on campus: changes to the "protest policy." Universities across the country have adopted restrictions on protesting, including restricting the size of signs, banning any form of sound amplification, controlling where students can protest, prohibiting mask

wearing, and forcing students to carry their IDs. At the University, prospective protestors are required to fill out a CCC form before protesting — a deeply comical requirement. The University also prohibits "signs and symbols being inserted into the ground, projected, affixed, or hung from the exterior of any University structure or property."

Make no mistake — these requirements are specifically designed to make any protest against the University or its policies completely impossible without risking suspension or expulsion. The University, and other institutions like it, wants as much control as possible over the speech and expression of their students, and believe they should possess veto-power over what students can say on campus. They understand that they are in the position to inflict academic and professional harm on students and faculty, and intend to wield this power to prevent the University from receiving

bad press.

University protests are well-attested throughout history, from demonstrations against the Vietnam war, to nationwide anti-government protests at universities in Iran in 2022. When these protests occur outside the U.S., they are usually positively characterized in American outlets, with special concern being shown for the rights of these students to freely express their opinions. The campus protests over the war in Gaza do not differ substantially from other student protests. They concern popular discontent with institutional and governmental policies, and how they relate to an ongoing war. Compared to many examples of campus protests abroad and in the U.S. historically, last semester's protests were remarkably organized and peaceful. Like all dissenters, they espouse opinions that make authority figures uncomfortable and which large segments of the population disagree with, but these beliefs are

articulated and arguable, and must be contended with rather than suppressed, just as is pushed for abroad.

'University protests are well-attested throughout history.'

The changes to the protest policy at this university and across the country are an unacceptable violation of students' right to free speech. Private schools may not be bound by the first amendment, but any institution that claims to support the free exchange of ideas should be absolutely ashamed of this bold-faced attempt to limit student expression just because it is critical of the actions of the United States and or any other government. School administrators in this country need to grow a spine and stand by the right of their students to speak and assemble, even if they don't like what they say.

Abbey is a member of the Class of 2025.

INSIDE THIS CT

INTERVIEW WITH DARIENNE LAKE
PAGE 2 CAMPUS

LETTER TO THE EDITOR
PAGE 5 OPINIONS

SUMMER 2024 ALBUMS
PAGE 8 CULTURE

BUBLY SORROW
PAGE 10 HUMOR

CAMPUS

CT Interviews: Darienne Lake

BY PAIGE MCCURDY
STAFF WRITER

BY MADELEINE MCCURDY
STAFF WRITER

On Saturday, the lovely Darienne Lake graced the University's Yellowjacket Weekend with amazing performances and lively bingo games. *Campus Times* had the amazing opportunity to interview Lake before the event began on the fourth floor of Douglass Commons in her dressing room.

When did you start drag and what pushed you to start?

I was a middle child of five and I'm a Gen Xer, the ignored generation. And being the middle child, I was also very ignored. I would always entertain myself. I would create little worlds and fantasies through comic books and things. I was always drawn to the dual identity of superheroes. And then also being a self-conscious, chubby kid, I never felt attractive or desirable or anything like that. I just felt like a weirdo. Eventually through my senior year of high school, I had a gay friend of mine — but we weren't really coming out to each other that we were gay. First we saw a "Rocky Horror Picture Show" and I was so enamored with Frank-N-Furter. So then we went to see it in the theater and for one of the performers, who was Frank-N-Furter, I was like, "She's actually kind of pretty for a Frank-N-Furter." He's like, "That's a famous drag queen in Rochester named Aggie Dune and he had the show at this gay bar." So we went to the gay bar, saw the show, and I was like, "This is so amazing that a man could turn into a beautiful woman or drag queen or

whatever." So I thought that was so cool.

'I was always drawn to the dual identity of superheroes.'

I was like, I want to do that, so I started hanging out where the drag queens would hang out, and then they were like, "You need to be in drag because you've got that face." And then I was all excited to do that. I was pretty much right out of high school. I graduated in '89, and then, let's see, the whole summer of "Rocky Horror," so then the following summer in 1990. So that's when I first started doing drag, Aug. 3 of 1990. Yeah, so a long time ago. Longer than any of y'all were alive, you know. Which is cool that I can still be in this business for that many years.

They thought I looked like Ricki Lake from the movie "Hairspray," so they're like, "Be Ricki Lake." I didn't want to take somebody else's name, so they're like, "Be Two Tons of Fun, Twisted Steel and Sex Appeal, Darien Lake, like the amusement park." And I was like "No, I'm going to be an eyeshadow color, like Dusty Rose or Heather Sky." Instead, everytime I'd call them, "Can you put me in drag?", they're like "What's up Darien?" I was like, "Oh I guess it stuck." So I changed the spelling so I wouldn't get sued or anything.

Looking back to the beginning of your career, what would you say to your younger self with the knowledge you now have?

I was fortunate that I was always doing my own thing. I loved comedy and being ridiculous, and I would say

keep at it, and keep doing you, and being you. Other advice, I would probably say eat more fiber — that's always a good one. And great things will happen if you keep at it. Also growing up a fat kid, I was never looking through fashion magazines because I never felt represented in that way. I would say, learn those things you're not strong in, so you become strong in them. And enjoy fashion, because fashion is for everybody.

Was there a moment in your career where you were like "Oh wow, this is it, I made it"?

There have been many of those sorts of things, one of them was in 1994. Pandora [Boxx] and I were living together, we had just graduated hair school and everything, and there was a topic on the "Ricki Lake Talk Show," and it was called "Get a Grip Girl, You're Too Fat to be a Drag Queen." And she's like, "You know I don't think this about you cause I love you, but I think it'd be cool that we could get on the show, and we'll be famous." So we were on national TV on the "Ricki Lake" show, and it was funny 'cause then we did get recognized. We would go to places, and it was the Olive Garden or something, and people are like, "How are you?" So we felt like we made it.

And then a few years later, VH1 was doing a search for drag acts up and down the East Coast, and they came to Rochester and they picked us, and it's called "Boys Will Be Girls." And that was a VH1 special, and we thought, "Oh my God we made it." Then a few years later, Pandora got on "Drag Race," it was season two that she was on. So, you know, it's like you have these

moments of like, "I really made it." But then you also have those dark moments in between. So in between Pandora getting on and me getting on, two of my really good friends and sort of like drag sisters dies. One from cancer, and the other one from complications with HIV. And I stopped doing drag, and I was putting on weight, and I didn't feel good about myself. I felt like, I think I'm done with drag, you know, I'm at a certain age now. I auditioned for season 4 and season 5 of "Drag Race," and I didn't get on. It's weird how you get to such a dark, low moment, and then you get cast, and something amazing happens. There's always something around the corner. There's always a brand new day.

What is your favorite aspect of drag?

My favorite aspect of drag is just really entertaining people. It's just fun. Especially when you're performing, and you connect with a certain moment of a song, and people hear it, and they just laugh or smile. And the money is fun too. Also the whole transformation of it. Like you're made in a certain way, but then you have the opportunity to become the human being you want to be.

What is your favorite RuPaul phrase?

I'm trying to think, what I use on a daily basis, there's so many that I used over the years. "Don't fuck it up" is always good. And that's good for life, just don't fuck it up. But then also, if you do fuck it up, is it that serious? Who cares?

What message would you like to share to the students at UR?

Be true to yourself, and

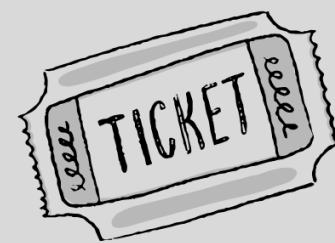
loving yourself is not about loving your body, loving how much money you have, loving your looks, and all that stuff. It's about how other people describe you and how you want them to describe you. Try and be that version. Don't worry about your ancestors, be a good ancestor to your future generations if you decide to have kids. Also you're still finding out who you are. The sort of thing that will carry you through that is friendships and people around you. Your friends are really your soulmates in a way. They make you a better person. Cherish those people in your life.

Would it be okay if we take a picture with you?

Yeah, yeah. Regular or nude?

McCurdy is a member of the Class of 2025.

McCurdy is a member of the Class of 2025.



Want free tickets to events like this?

Write for News!

Contact
ct_news@
u.rochester.edu



KEVINHU / PHOTO EDITOR

COMMUNITY

Rocky Bucks Now Accepted in Select College Town Stores

BY NATALIE OPDAHL
NEWS EDITOR

College Town first opened its doors 10 years ago with the renovation of the Barnes & Noble on the corner of Mt. Hope and Elmwood Avenue. Over the decade, numerous stores and restaurants opened locations in College Town, transforming the once-barren parking lot into a popular destination among the University's students.

Now, one year after the University's purchase of College Town, the shopping center is experiencing a new wave of change.

Most notably, several popular College Town shops now accept Rocky Bucks, the University currency formerly known as UROS. Joy Mart, Tai Chi Bubble Tea, and Primo Hoagies each incorporate Rocky Bucks as part of their rewards program. Joy Mart also offers a 5% discount on all purchases with Rocky Bucks.

The expansion has been a success so far. According to

Joy Mart manager and UR sophomore Jessica Dong, in the first two weeks of the fall 2024 semester, students have spent more than 2,000 Rocky Bucks at Joy Mart.

'The expansion has been a success so far.'

Edwin Li, UR junior and employee at College Town's Joy Mart, has an explanation.

"It's very beneficial because many of us can just buy groceries without having to worry about our own actual bank account because it's already part of our dining plan," Li said. "It's like expanding our campus' dining places... and also with the new bus stop it's very convenient as well."

Starting this semester, the Blue Line shuttle service has added bus stops at College Town's Texas de Brazil and Fitness Center, in addition to its stop behind Goler House.

The impacts of these changes extend beyond Joy Mart. According to Ken Zhou, general manager of Tai Chi Bubble Tea, numerous students

have come into the store requesting to pay with Rocky Bucks. Although the restaurant has not yet finalized their contract with the University, Zhou explained that due to popular demand, Tai Chi Bubble Tea does accept Rocky Bucks. He expects the contract to be finalized in the upcoming weeks.

Unlike Joy Mart and Tai Chi Bubble Tea, the concept of accepting University currency is not new to the College Town's Barnes & Noble. According to general manager and UR alum Frank Tallarico, the store accepted the University currency while it was known as UROS and will continue to accept it as Rocky Bucks.

Tallarico stated that although these changes may be confusing for many people now, he believes they will ultimately be beneficial to the University's community.

"UROS was confusing for some of our international students," he said. "If you don't see it written down, 'U-R-O-S,' you think that perhaps it's the European currency.



KEVINHU / PHOTO EDITOR

So making it 'Rocky Bucks' I think will clarify a lot of things."

Tallarico believes the name change will also create a distinction between Dining Dollars — formerly known as Declining Dollars — and Rocky Bucks. It is common for students to ask to purchase materials with Dining Dollars, he explained, which neither Barnes & Noble nor any other store in College Town accepts. He hopes that the name change will make it clearer to students that these are two separate currencies, and that stores in College

Town only accept one.

Although this change might be difficult to adjust to, Tallarico stated, it will happen with time.

"It's like anything, any change in academia," he said. "Four years from now, no one's gonna remember UROS. It'll all be Rocky Bucks."

Opdahl is a member of the Class of 2026.

Westside Farmers Market Brings Community to the 19th Ward

BY ALYSSA KOH
INTERIM SOCIAL CHAIR

If you live in off-campus housing, it can be easy to feel distant from campus life. However, there's plenty that exists in its vicinity — even if it isn't University related. One such example is Westside Farmers Market, which aims to offer fresh, locally-produced foods to an urban market and build community within the Southwest Rochester neighborhoods and the collegiate campuses interspersed within them.

The market, which runs for a couple hours on Genesee Street every Tuesday evening from June to October, is just a 10-minute walk across the bridge leading to Brooks and

Riverview, and right down the street from the Brooks shuttle stop.

Current vendors include efforts from college organizations such as SUNY Genesee's eGarden, which grows organic herbs and vegetables selling for a couple of dollars each, as well as local businesses such as Mark & Amy's Pickles, which also vend at Ludwig's downtown and the Public Market. Often, there are free food opportunities available at the market, such as free corn grilled by Market volunteers. All vendors of any sort are from within 100 miles of Rochester.

Additionally, you can find nonprofit organizations tabling at the market such as R Community Bikes, which

help repair bicycles and provide biking information and safety training to community members, and SNAP Ed, which educates people on how to use their SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) tokens to the fullest. Local University organizations such as the University's iGEM team and student vendors such as viccrafts (run by University senior Vic Cohen) have also hosted tables at the market to talk about their research and give back to the community. All of this hubbub is backed by performing local musicians, who are stationed at the far end of the market.

"There aren't community events and stuff like there used to be... and there's such a sense of purpose in what we're doing," said Westside Market Manager Jessica DiSalvo. "We're dedicated to partnerships with programs working to help people with food insecurity. We also have cool vendors with boutique products — it's the basics all the way to your blueberry goat cheese or special jam. The Market is this sea of beautiful, smiling faces, and the people there are just so nice, and there's fresh food and resources that improve

people's quality of life, and a social outlet that people benefit from... it is the epitome of a third place."

"There's such a sense of purpose in what we're doing."

DiSalvo grew up in the 19th Ward right on Genesee Street, but had never really been to Westside prior to starting with the market in October. Through her work with Westside, she's pushed to keep money within the community and retain thriving local businesses amongst Rochester's food deserts as a way to give back to the neighborhood that raised her.

"The people closest to us know the least about us... we're really working on making sure that we have a lot of kids from the University. If you're a student, maybe you don't have the time or access to get to a grocery store, and we have prepared food options... you can get some brain fuel and not have to make food for yourself, and get that higher quality experience without having to really leave campus."

Westside has benefited in the past from University students, having had students in

the Urban Fellows program working at the market during the summer for over a decade. Additionally, there are volunteer opportunities within the market that are easily accessible to students.

This upcoming week, Westside is hosting a College Night, where students with a University ID will be able to receive a free \$5 coupon to spend, a reusable Westside bag, raffle tickets for various gift certificates to local businesses such as the Brooks Landing diner, and — most adorably — a baby goat to pet. College Night will be held at Westside's usual location and time: in the parking lot next to St. Monica's Church on 831 Genesee Street, on Tuesday, Sept. 3, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

You can find additional information about Westside and their upcoming events at their website and Instagram page, @westsidemarketrochester.

Koh is a member of the Class of 2025 (T5).



ALYSSAKOH / INTERIM SOCIAL CHAIR

ThaiYada: CT Eats

BY ALYSSA KOH
INTERIM SOCIAL CHAIR

ThaiYada Restaurant, which is an easy five-minute walk from the Eastman Student Living Center (SLC), boasts a 4.7-star rating on Yelp — and for good reason. The Alexander Street staple feels like one of those hole-in-the-wall places you stumble into and just know has to be good from the bustling kitchen, tasteful menu, and dilapidated signage.

‘From just a glance behind the counter, you can see the chefs hard at work and the hiss of stir-fry perennially blankets the sound in the shop.’

If you’re eating in, you’ll order at the counter. You’ll want to go up and look at the laminated menus, since the slipshod menu on the wall has changed prices enough times that they’ve fully blocked the prices out. If you’re lucky, there will be a place to sit and wait, which is illuminated (or, given Rochester weather, not) by the glass storefront and its accompanying downtown side street traffic. If not, no worries! Orders go pretty fast, even with multiple delivery drivers impatiently hovering in the doorway.

If you’re ordering online, you might be concerned about the price of the dishes, but these entrees are meant for a voracious appetite. The



ALYSSA KOH / INTERIM SOCIAL CHAIR

prices increase depending on your choice of protein or vegetables (if you don’t eat meat, be warned — the tofu options are not always the cheapest protein) but the portion sizes are hefty enough that leftovers from my current order are still hanging in my fridge a week later.

‘In case of good weather, order your food to go. Downtown Rochester at this time of year is relatively temperate, and there are plenty of places within walking distance to sit.’

On our exploration mission for this article, my friend (and former *CT* publisher Sarah Woodams) and I opted to hit up some benches right next to the Little Theatre to inspect and enjoy our dinners, but there are options closer to Eastman as well. If it’s just too busy in the restaurant and you’d rather eat inside, hit up

Java’s, Spot Coffee, or Ugly Duck Coffee — all of which are a close enough walk that you won’t be kicking yourself for going to a secondary location. If it’s a Thursday night, you could even catch local Eastman and River Campus jazz musicians improvising at Stromboli’s, which is just a bit around the corner on East Avenue.

As someone with a dietary restriction, I often find that Thai food is a flavorful savior for my taste buds.

‘The soy sauce ThaiYada uses is allegedly gluten free (definitely ask at the counter) and there are plenty of vegetarian or vegan options, so for the trepidatious few who struggle to find options at restaurants, you may be in luck.’

Beyond this, though, the

food is truly fantastic. You’re given the option of a spice level (one through five) for each entree, and whether you aim high or low on the scale, the food is both fragrant and flavorful enough that you won’t be left wanting for more.

My friend snagged the pad thai with shrimp at spice level two, which was lacking in number of shrimp but high in volume. There’s plenty of chew and crunch in the noodles, crushed peanuts, and bean sprouts, and the heaviness of the dish is lightened up by the chives and the sauce, which is mildly zingy and not overly thick. Drinks-wise, I snagged a Thai iced tea with lemon, which split the difference between the toasty warmth of Thai tea and the citrusy refreshing quality of an iced tea perfectly.

‘As a spice enthusiast not wanting to seem overzealous, I opted for the gaeng keow wan, or green curry, with vegetables at spice level four.’

The dish surprisingly also came with some fried tofu, which was a welcome addition to sop up the liquidy curry that contained so much oil that a full layer rose to the top of my container. On the topic of spice, the green curry paste in the gaeng keow wan is a slow burn. It doesn’t feel incredibly spicy, being offset by the herbal tang of lime leaves

and Thai basil as well as a mellowing base of coconut milk. You can feel the heat when you step away, which makes eating more pretty addicting.

Normally, I have qualms with getting more broth in a soup, stew, or curry than add-ins, but the amount of food ThaiYada throws in these curries is enough to feel like you’ve got your money’s worth. Thus, I’ve left the broth in my fridge and thrown some over rice for multiple meals without running through it all. As a broke college student, this doubles my satisfaction with my order.

‘Overall, if you’re looking for a new place to try on a foray on the Red or Orange Line, ThaiYada should perfectly fit the bill.’

Make a night out of it. Roll up to an Eastman performance or a Little Theatre movie, or go sit at Java’s and shoot the breeze with some friends over an ill-advised late night coffee. Feel independent as you inhale food that wasn’t concocted in the Douglass back rooms, and feel right at home in a city that might be more new to you than the trivialities of campus.

Koh is a member of the Class of 2025(T5).



ALYSSA KOH / INTERIM SOCIAL CHAIR

OPINIONS

The Importance of Title IX Training

EDITORIAL OBSERVER

BY EMMELY ELI TEXCUCANO
FEATURES EDITOR

The start of the academic year brings friends, relationships, classes, and more importantly a lot, and I mean a lot, of paperwork. From registration to meal plans to looming tuition bills, the influx of mandatory paperwork and training can start to look like busy work. Incoming students, employees, and students with eboard positions must complete mandatory Title IX training at the University, which at the moment consists of an online training course with a series of overly simplified scenarios and questions to indicate you understand and recognize sexual harassment, violence, and gender-based discrimination.

Despite the feeling of busy work, there's value in the mandatory online training that's become standard protocol for people in the professional working landscape. Over the past couple of years, I've heard an increasing trivialization of mandatory training from people around me — from watching someone speed run the course in freshman year, to being surprised at the contents of the Title IX training they took earlier than me. At the hospital, I heard nurses lament over the amount of time they'd "waste" completing their training. I've even heard people I'm close with deride the training in casual conversation. It's described with a groan, or included in a laundry list of mundane tasks like cleaning and cooking.

Now, years after the #MeToo movement, which has enhanced the visibility of conversations around consent, the attitude towards Title IX training is marked by a growing air of complacency. The oversimplified videos and scenarios feel like administrations are just trying to get through a mandatory task, and it's led people to forget the necessity of these trainings.

I've heard people ridicule the training, the seeming oversimplification of more specifically sexual situations or instances of discrimination. While the content might be oversimplified and can (and should) be criticized in its own right, oversimplified training is better than none at all. And the existing modules do accomplish their goal: establishing a foundation for understanding consent that is often overlooked by young

adults.

Regardless of what you think of the content of the training, however, it provides a time for reflection, particularly on your own actions. Ridiculing the training undermines the purpose of the training. Reluctance to accept these basic principles of consent leads to those behaviors becoming normalized with time. People often aren't able to talk about these topics openly because of the existing air of defensiveness and dismissiveness. Training gives people the tools to discuss sexual assault with the transparency it needs, because miscommunication is preventable.

Training also teaches people how to identify and form the foundational blocks of healthy relationships, like communication. I've tried to have direct conversations about consent with people in the past. I've tried to organize conversations. I've been told I'm "projecting" or "being insecure" for asking for affirmative consent and trying to genuinely gauge a direct answer when revisiting a topic and checking on past actions. I've had them laugh at me and say no after asking them to be direct. A small talk about consent can define the difference between hurting someone and having a consensual relationship.

I've tried to have a conversation about future instances, and with the last person I was with, I was told "thanks for the warning." However, it's more about taking time to reflect on actions and how they affect others, and how a lack of communication could be detrimental. Reflection is necessary and these Title IX trainings allow young adults who haven't had an easy time being direct to have time to reflect.

As eboard members, new student employees, and incoming students begin completing their training, it's important to remember the gravity of these situations. Clear communication is simple and while for some people it can initially make them insecure or uncomfortable, it is something that needs to be normalized. Foundational blocks for consent and relationships need to be set, and it starts with taking Title IX training seriously.

Texcucano is a member of the Class of 2025.

First Year Welcome Message



COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

BY JOHN BLACKSHEAR, PH.D.
VICE PRESIDENT FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENT LIFE

Dear University of Rochester Students (undergraduate, graduate, and professional):

I am delighted to welcome you to the 2024-2025 academic year. Since my arrival on campus, I have been inspired by your display of collective genius and incalculable diversity. Your presence at the University of Rochester, each one of you, is significant because you add a thread to the fabric of who we are as a community. As you begin the school year, my wishes for you are threefold:

I wish that you make it a priority to engage in

activities that give you joy, peace, and a sense of wellbeing. I believe that such activities make for better scholarship and citizenship in support of our campus, local, and global collectives.

'I have been inspired by your display of collective genius and incalculable diversity.'

I hope you find time to engage the city of Rochester and the surrounding communities in meaningful ways. This place not only recalls rich history, but the community is alive with awe-inspiring people, landscapes, and opportunities to engage your fellows of all humankind.

I trust that you will take advantage of living and learning in close proximity to some of the greatest minds in the world by building authentic connections of compassion with one another. My motto is if you are here then you are mine and I am yours. We must care for one another.

I wish you all success, joy, and accomplishment. May the future unfold in our favor. Meliora.

John H. Blackshear,
Ph.D.

Vice President for University Student Life
Professor of Psychology,
Department of Psychology
Clinical Psychologist

Campus Times

SERVING THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SINCE 1873

WILSON COMMONS 103A
UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER, ROCHESTER, NY 14627
OFFICE: (585) 275-5942
CAMPUSTIMES.ORG / CT_EDITOR@U.ROCHESTER.EDU

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ALLIE TAY

PUBLISHER MICAH BETTENHAUSEN

MANAGING EDITOR SHERENE YANG

MANAGING EDITOR HELENA FENG

BUSINESS MANAGER ELENA BACHMANN

NEWS EDITORS	MAYA BROSNIK NATALIE OPDAHL	PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR	KEVIN HU
FEATURES EDITORS	EMMELY ELI TEXCUCANO KATHERINE MITCHELL	ILLUSTRATIONS EDITORS	JOY LU SUBAAH SYED
OPINIONS EDITOR	FINN ABBEY	STAFF WRITERS	MARIAH LANSING MADELEINE MCCURDY PAIGE MCCURDY BRENNAN PRICE CADEN DILLON
CULTURE EDITORS	EMILY ENGLISH COLIN JONES	COLUMNIST	NADIA PENTOLINO
PRESENTATIONS CHIEF	KAYLIN HAN	STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER	HARRY LI
COPY CHIEF	AUDREY BROSSETTE	PRESENTATIONS STAFF	YUTING PU LAUREN BIGLEY NINA ROBLES
SPORTS EDITOR	AENEAS WOLF	STAFF PUZZLER	CALEB OSHINSKY
HUMOR EDITORS	BRYAN BURKE BRIAN LY		
INTERIM SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR	NARM NATHAN		
DATA EDITOR	NARM NATHAN		
INTERIM SOCIAL CHAIR	ALYSSA KOH		

Full responsibility for material appearing in this publication rests with the Editor-in-Chief. Opinions expressed in columns, letters, op-eds, or comics are not necessarily the views of the editors or the University of Rochester. Campus Times is printed monthly throughout the academic year, except around and during University holidays. All issues are free. Campus Times is published online at www.campustimes.org, and is updated Monday each week. Campus Times is SA funded. All materials herein are copyright © 2024 by Campus Times.

It is our policy to correct all erroneous information as quickly as possible. If you believe you have a correction, please email CT_editor@u.rochester.edu.

What Do These People Have In Common?

Judi Dench William Penn
Kevin Bacon Joan Baez Ben Kingsley

Answer: They are all members of the Religious Society Of Friends known as Quakers.

Question: What does Quaker worship look like?

Answers:

- We sit quietly in a circle.
- We listen to others if they feel moved by the Spirit to speak.
- We dress as we feel comfortable.
- We believe that every person is loved by the Divine Spirit.
- All are welcome here.

Rochester Friends Meeting
Sundays at 11:00 to 12:00 in the Downtown
Presbyterian Church in Hallock Lounge
121 North Fitzhugh Street, Rochester, NY 14614

For Further information: RochesterQuakers.org

It may not be a brat summer anymore, but it COULD be a *Campus Times* fall!

We are holding SPECIAL ELECTIONS on **Sunday, Sept. 15** at 12 p.m. in the *CT* office (Wilco 103) for the positions listed below. If you are interested in running for these positions or want to learn more, please reach out to the relevant co-editor or administrator.

Opinions Co-Editor:
ct_opinions@u.rochester.edu

Features Co-Editor:
ct_features@u.rochester.edu

Social Media Editor:
ct_publisher@u.rochester.edu

Photo Co-Editor:
ct_photo@u.rochester.edu

Illustrations Co-Editor:
ct_illustrations@u.rochester.edu

Please reach out even if you're not sure if you meet our qualifications! We're always interested in learning more about students on campus. As journalists, it's par for the course, and as peers in the paper, we want to support you in your *CT* journey.

Extra, Extra:

The *Campus Times* is Looking For Contributors!

Join the Slack:



Join our email lists:



GOT A TIP FOR THE TIMES?

Call (585) 275-5942

Email
ct_editor@u.rochester.edu



CULTURE

“You Won't Go Before You're Supposed To” Is the Best Album of the Year, If Not the Decade

BY COLIN JONES
CULTURE EDITOR

Imagine crashing your car into a copse of trees. The impact, fierce and sudden, knocks you out cold. Later, you wake in the center of the woods, alone. Blood drips down your face from a gash on your forehead. All around you are howling voices, screams, and unnatural wails. Illuminating it all is a cold, unfeeling light that shines from the darkness. Now imagine that experience again, but somehow it's exhilarating, exciting, and energizing. It sounds paradoxical, and yet, this is the experience I've had with the new “Knocked Loose” album.

I haven't been this excited about a new album in a long time. I've been following Kentucky metalcore act “Knocked Loose” for a few years now, and have been thrilled to see not only their success — they played Coachella in 2023, pretty much unheard of for a band as aggressive as they are — but also their relentless dedication to getting heavier and more grim-sounding with each release. While so many metal and rock bands

‘It’s incredibly rare that I find the experience that a piece of art provides to be perfect, but “Knocked Loose” has done it.’

have switched to a poppier sound as their careers have gone on, “Knocked Loose” has only doubled down on throat-shredding screams, neck-destroying breakdowns, and ominous riffs that leave you haunted as well as headbanging.

“Knocked Loose” has only doubled down throat-shredding screams, neck-destroying breakdowns, and ominous riffs that leave you haunted as well as headbanging.’

The band had made it clear that they weren't satisfied with the standard beatdown metalcore their career started with, and 2021's “A Tear in the Fabric of Life” EP saw the band leaning into a much more ambitious and extreme version of their sound. With songs incorporating eerie ambiance and dark lyrics, the band also began to exhibit influences from heavier subgenres such as death metal on this EP, such as blast beats and tremolo-picked riffs. In 2023, they released the standalone “Upon Loss” singles with new producer Drew Fulk (who also engineered this new album), both of which showed them again covering dark topics with blistering ferocity.

Finally, after some fantastic singles leading up to it, we got the band's third full-length album: “You Won't Go Before You're Supposed To,” a record that discusses personal darkness and reckons with death, loss, and religion. It's a short listen at less than 30 minutes, but not a second is wasted.

The opening track, “Thirst,” begins with some creepy ambiance that is used as a motif across the record, before bursting into a wall of noise, drums, and pained screaming from frontman and lyricist Brian Garris. It's a short song that immediately lets you know what you're in for. Next is “Piece by Piece,” a simple track with a simple but deadly lead riff and a tension-building chorus. Following this is “Suffocate,” a fantastic collaborative cut with a killer feature from alternative artist Poppy, whose high-pitched shrieks blend

‘It is grand, emotional, and climactic, with genuinely heart-wrenching lyrics and vocal samples that make this finisher feel grimly open-ended like a mind still lost in mourning despite the trials it has been through.’

perfectly with Garris.’ This song is also notable for its reggaeton breakdown, a combination that shouldn't work nearly as well as it does.

“Don't Reach For Me” is a stomping mosh-fest that manages to outdo itself with each bruising impact. Sister tracks “Moss Covers All” and “Take Me Home” see the band pushing the eeriness of their sound to an extreme, with uneasy riffage and a noisy, anxious climax that feels anything but resolved when it finishes out. “Slaughterhouse 2” features Chris Motionless of fellow metalcore band Motionless in White who gives a great vocal performance, as

‘This is a resounding 10/10 for me and undoubtedly will go down as my album of the year.’

well as some scathing commentary on capitalism and the uber-wealthy.

The final leg of the record has some of its best moments. “The Calm That Keeps You Awake” is probably my favorite track here, with a fantastic buildup that leads into a crushing two-step breakdown that feels like being inside a cave collapsing on top of you. Lead single “Blinding Faith” pulls out all the stops with its biting lyrics about religious fanaticism, rapid-fire riff passages, and feedback-filled ending.

The album's closer, “Sit and Mourn,” is no less heavy, but more so emotionally than sonically. It is grand, emotional, and climactic, with genuinely heart-wrenching lyrics and vocal samples that make this finisher feel grimly open-ended like a mind still lost in mourning despite the trials it has been through. “Grief that spreads but will not show/ Every season weighed by all we went through/ Brought back by a voice unknown/ You won't go before you're supposed to.” The aforementioned vocal sample (taken from an episode of “The Sinner”) ends the record with “Why'd you leave? I feel like I've failed.” It's a haunting ending.

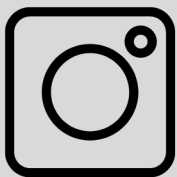
“You Won't Go Before You're Supposed To” is not an accessible album if you aren't into metal, but I highly recommend it to anyone, especially fans of metal and metalcore in particular. It's incredibly rare that I find the experience that a piece of art provides to be perfect, but “Knocked Loose” has done it. This is a resounding 10/10 for me and undoubtedly will go down as my album of the year.

Let me know if there are any albums, new or old, that you'd like me to cover in the future! Or, if you want to give your perspective, write your own album review and send it to the *Campus Times*!

Jones is a member of the Class of 2026.

Stay up to date with CT!

Follow us on social media!



@urcampustimes



@campustimes



Campus Times

Crossword Answers

Play this crossword puzzle on page 12.

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

The Essential Albums of Summer 2024

BY COLIN JONES
CULTURE EDITOR

2024 has been one of the most interesting years for music in a while, and there's been a plethora of great projects released. Since I couldn't give my usual album roundups over summer vacation, here are the albums released this summer that I think you need to hear. The albums here were released in May at the earliest. I've also included a song recommendation from each album so you can dip your toes into these albums and see if they sound intriguing.

HIT ME HARD AND SOFT - Billie Eilish (8/10)

'This might be the album to convert you.'

Eilish presents her most lush-sounding and mature crop of songs yet on a brilliant pop album that I think is her best. I love her explorations of queer love here as well. If you've been a doubter of her music in the past, this might be the album to convert you. Incredible production and smart lyrics coupled with powerful vocal performances — it's all I could ask for from an alternative pop record.

Essential Track: BIRDS OF A FEATHER

Dark Times - Vince Staples (8/10)

An incredibly consistent rap album from Staples that has gloomy and great production to match the dour songs. Not groundbreaking, but just perfect at establishing an introspective vibe. Feels understated in a very tasteful way.

Essential Track: Black&Blue

POST HUMAN: NeX

'Fun and eclectic mix of songs that blends rock, pop, metalcore, and hyper-pop elements.'

GEN - Bring Me The Horizon (8/10)

Despite a messy rollout, the UK rock outfit brings a fun and eclectic mix of songs that blends rock, pop, metalcore, and hyper-pop elements. Not everything works, but when it does, it's some of the catchiest and most interesting rock of the year. Give it a listen whether you're a fan or not, it's a pretty creative album that surprised me with

how much it holds up to re-listens.

Essential Track: a bullet w- my namE On (feat. Underoath)

Night Reign - Arooj Aftab (8/10)

Aftab weaves a tapestry of folk and jazz that is incredibly soothing and beautiful. Serene production and lovely vocals. One of the most relaxing albums of the year.

Essential Track: Aey Nehin

NO HANDS - Joey

'Two rappers modernize the Beastie Boys.'

Valence and Brae (8/10)

The two rappers modernize the Beastie Boys sound in the best way while making sure their songs are still fresh and interesting. Some of the funniest lyrics I've heard in a while, as well as some great in-house production from Joey Valence.

Essential Track: PACKAPUNCH (feat. Danny Brown)

BRAT - Charli XCX (8/10)

If you've heard it, you get it. If you haven't, go listen. Probably the most culturally significant music release of the year, and one of the best. Charli's brand of eclectic, confident, and self-aware electropop is at a peak with this album.

Essential Track: von dutch

'A cinematic vision that elevates them above other acts in the saturated prog scene.'

Mare - Mirar (8/10)

A thrilling trip of bizarre djent riffs that feels both groovy and apocalyptic. Mirar takes elements of progressive metal that I often find boring and combines them with crisp production and a cinematic vision that elevates them above other acts in the saturated prog scene.

Essential Track: Rose Bonbon

Where The Butterflies Go In The Rain - Raveena (8/10)

Incredibly tasteful R&B record that feels like a nod to earlier strains of the genre. Raveena's voice is gorgeous and the production on the instrumental side is warm and comforting.

Essential Track: Junebug (feat. JPEGMAFIA)

What's Left Unsaid - Foreign Hands (8/10)

A fierce throwback metalcore album with biting production and seething with energy. If you're into the early 2000s sound of this genre, this is a must-hear.

Essential Track: God Under Fingernails

Veta - Zake (8/10)

A simple but well-layered drone record that's great for focus, sleep, or just vibing. Not necessarily the most dynamic in terms of ambient music but it still does its job very well.

Essential Track: Glory (w/City of Dawn)

AMERICAN MOTOR SPORTS - Bilmuri (8/10)

A fun, tongue-in-cheek rock album with some elements of pop-country thrown in. Manages to be silly and often memetic while covering some personal subject matter.

Essential Track: BETTER HELL (Thicc boi)

'Lupe raps like he's still hungry and outclasses pretty much everyone else.'

Samurai - Lupe Fiasco (8/10)

One of the most lyrically dense and well-rapped projects of the year. Don't let this one pass you by, Lupe raps like he's still hungry and outclasses pretty much everyone else behind the mic right now.

Essential Track: Cake

'Frightening and beautiful.'

Impossible Light - Uboa (8/10)

A frightening and beautiful noise and death industrial album that is a nightmare worth trying. Not going to appeal to most people but to those who give it an honest chance and an open mind, it's incredibly revealing and powerful.

Essential Track: Endocrine Disruptor

The Great American Bar Scene - Zach Bryan (8/10)

Easily the most tasteful release to come out of mainstream country music this year. In an era where 90% of the genre getting attention is bland, gentrified trap-slop, Zach Bryan is taking the genre back to its roots both lyrically and instrumentally. This album feels rustic and personal in the way the best country

albums do.

Essential Track: 28

Who Are You When No One Is Watching? - Graphic Nature (8/10)

A vicious nu-metalcore record that pays homage to Slipknot while not giving into copycat tendencies. Lyrically very raw and delves into the darkness of a damaged psyche. Also, to add a nerdy note, one of my favorite snare tones I've heard in a while.

Essential Track: Locked In

Charm - Clairo (8/10)

A lovely, soothing indie pop album. I feel like Clairo has done herself a favor by leaning into this very sophisticated pop sound. In doing so, she creates a cozy album anyone can enjoy while letting her writing and personality shine through.

Essential Track: Sexy to Someone

King of the Mischievous South Vol.2 - Denzel Curry (8/10)

Back-to-back Southern hip-hop bangers from the seasoned rapper. After a very lyrical and conscious-leaning album with 2022's Melt My Eyez See Your Future, Denzel returns to his roots with high-energy, grimy, and personality-filled tracks.

Essential Track: HOODLUMZ (feat. PlayThatBoiZay and A\$AP Rocky)

Life's Promise Dies - Starve (8/10)

A brief but throttling metalcore record from the Melbourne outfit. Pissed-off vocals and lyrics, with great production from Lance Prenc. Starve exhibits why Australia is such a force in metalcore.

Essential Track: Starve2death

'Soaring hooks, charming production with an indietronica flair, and an emotional range that goes from crying in the club to raving in your room.'

SMILE! :D - Porter Robinson (8/10)

An exciting and emotional synthpop album with some of my favorite songs of the year. Porter brings soaring hooks, charming production with an indietronica flair, and an emotional range that goes from crying in the club to raving in your room.

Essential Track: Cheerleader

I LAY DOWN MY LIFE FOR YOU - JPEGMAFIA (8/10)

JPEGMAFIA continues to be one of the most forward-thinking and consistent artists not just in hip-hop, but music in general. His incorporation of obscure samples with rock instrumentation and electronic elements on this album makes him sound wholly unique on this project. Lyrically, this album sees him getting a bit more personal than usual, leading to some surprisingly emotional highlights.

Essential Track: SIN MIEDO

Flight b741 - King

'A wild hoedown from front to back.'

Gizzard and The Lizard Wizard (8/10)

KGLW reminds us that rock and roll can be just plain old fun. It's surprising for an album so loose and jam-band feeling to work so well in 2024, but this does the trick. As someone who hasn't really been into King Gizzard in the past, this clicked with me, and it's a wild hoedown from front to back.

Essential Track: Field of Vision

Umbilical - Thou (9/10)

Oppressive sludge-doom metal that leaves you floored. Thou's Umbilical is a brutal and riveting journey through a grim soundscape, never once allowing itself to get stale throughout its nearly 50-minute runtime.

Essential Track: Emotional Terrorist

ONLY ONE MODE - SPEED (9/10)

The most fun and off-the-wall hardcore album of this year. Melbourne's very own Speed shoots out the gate with a debut that's a back-to-back bundle of bangers with great production, breakdowns galore, fun mosh callouts, and a welcoming vibe that makes you feel part of the gang called Speed.

Essential Track: REAL LIFE LOVE

Jones is a member of the Class of 2026.

“Thelma” is A Hoot and A Holler For The Ages

BY ALYSSA KOH
INTERIM SOCIAL CHAIR

I’m not a big movie person, but when someone tells me there’s a movie where a grandma kicks ass, I’ll be there. And this movie, in its own sweet, goofy way, kicks ass.

“Thelma,” a lighthearted action comedy written, directed, and edited by Josh Margolin, follows the titular character, Thelma Post, as she gets scammed by someone posing as her grandson, escapes from her family’s careful (but, at times, overbearing) grasp to pursue her lost money, and begrudgingly recruits an old friend from a nursing home to help her regain both her agency and her money. In particular, it pays homage to Tom Cruise in “Top Gun,” including using an older Cruise’s scenes in “Top Gun: Maverick” as a motivational factor for Post pursuing her goal in the movie.

‘When someone tells me there’s a movie where a grandma kicks ass, I’ll be there.’

While the action part of the premise may sound lukewarm (how’s an action movie supposed to have gravitas if the protagonist is a nonagenarian?), the film is built on leaning into expectation and pushing it into hilarity. Your standard action comedy might have a character stumbling through a heist, sure — but are they equipped with the comedic gold that is a goodhearted grandmother slowly rolling onto a bed due to mobility issues in order to steal her friend’s gun? I think not.

The movie relies heavily on tropes for its comedy and its thoughtful, pensive moments are potentially easy to see coming, but everything is completely sold by June Squibb’s full embodiment of Thelma

herself. As someone who once had a fragile but feisty Jewish grandmother, Thelma is a dead ringer for her archetype: sincere and blunt, full of mental spitfire withheld by physical unease, and adorably funny in the way only the elderly can be. Squibb, who is 94, also did most of her own stunts (a la Cruise), which is just one of the many reasons for her deserving her flowers with this film.

‘As someone who once had a fragile but feisty Jewish grandmother, Thelma (as played by June Squibb) is a dead ringer for her archetype.’

Beyond just Thelma herself, the dynamic between every character in the film is so real that it compels you to laugh out of understanding. From Thelma’s heartwarming bond with her awkward but caring grandson, Danny (depicted charmingly by Fred Hechinger) to her feuds with accomplice Ben (masterfully played by the late Richard Roundtree), all of Thelma’s relationships feel grounded and, as life often is, intimately funny. Even the characters and relationships beyond our protagonist — notably, Danny and his parents, Ben and the other residents in his nursing home, and the dull ache of Bunny Levine as the absentminded elderly Mona — are written with interactions that sting with intense familiarity.

Most importantly, though, “Thelma” is a movie for the ages — for all ages, if you will. I caught the final showing of the movie at The Little Theatre on Aug. 28, where it’s been playing all summer since its release on June 21. According to Director of Communications Scott Pukos, he hasn’t seen a movie stick around for as

long as “Thelma” has at The Little, and there’s a reason why — it has a heart that particularly resonates with demographics that may not always feel prioritized in the theater, such as the elderly.

When I was watching the movie, the audience had been politely rowdy, with people loudly guffawing and clapping their hands in delight at Thelma and the gang’s antics, which I initially attributed to the story just being that darn cute. However, as the lights came up in the theater on the Wednesday night showing I attended, it dawned on me. I was perhaps the youngest person in the room.

On exit, I weaved through groups of women that looked like my grandmother had; with breathing tubes and coke-bottle glasses, with knit cardigans and broad smiles. I complimented someone’s earrings to a “thank you, dearie” in response; I felt my eyes well up without warning.

“Thelma” has a heart that particularly resonates with demographics that may not always feel prioritized in the theater, such as the elderly.’

There’s a beauty in being able to be brought together by a movie, and to feel at least a semblance of similarity to everyone else watching through the story being told on screen — at “Thelma,” the fear I’ve always had of aging beyond my “prime” melted into laughter. Getting old and losing some freedoms inherent to youth is terrifying, which the movie addresses in spades, but those fears — and what accompanies them — are okay to feel. If Thelma Post and Tom Cruise can get through it, so can we.

Koh is a member of the Class of 2025(T5).

“Alien: Romulus” Might Remind You to Take Your Birth Control

BY RILEY HOWE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In an age of cash-grab franchise flicks and tedious celebrity cameos, no one is more surprised than me to say that “Alien: Romulus” might actually be a worthwhile addition to the now seven-installment series.

Directed by Fede Alvarez, whose other works include, notably, “Evil Dead” and “Don’t Breathe” — “Romulus” slots into place about 20 years after the events of the original 1979 film. In the hopes of stealing a means of escaping their dismal planet and its corporate overlords, adoptive sister-brother pair, Rain (Cailee Spaeny) and Andy (David Jonsson), join a crew attempting to break into an abandoned space station for fuel. But, as you can probably guess, the pitstop quickly turns nightmarish.

It’s rare to be able to claim that a sequel is “worth it” in 2024. We’re constantly drowning in ads for reboots, revamps, re-castings, and revivals. We throw around the word “revival” a lot, but a better fit might be “reanimation” or “resuscitation” — dragging something that should have stayed dead back out of the grave. Where these so-called revivals fail typically involves some artless imitation of the original content without acknowledging any of the cultural context that ensured its popularity in the first place.

‘We’re constantly drowning in ads for reboots, revamps, re-castings, and revivals.’

Here, at least, “Romulus” hits its mark. The original movies knew exactly what made their body horror so horrific, and they didn’t hesitate to lean into it: The xenomorphs have always been designed to prey on viewers’ — particularly

male viewers’ — fears of bodily violation, assault, and impregnation. But “Alien: Romulus” built on this fear in a very real and terrifying way, milking (pun intended) the birth metaphor for all it’s worth.

The film has a poignant effect. In just a handful of plot twists (that somehow garnered studio approval, luckily for us), Alvarez crafts a sequel that somehow both articulates the original film’s vision and makes it relevant to our current sociopolitical climate. Our world right now is obsessed with bodily autonomy and the lack of it, and it’s impossible not to be reminded of that while watching this film.

‘The original movies knew exactly what made their body horror so horrific, and they didn’t hesitate to lean into it [...] But “Alien: Romulus” built on this fear in a very real and terrifying way.’

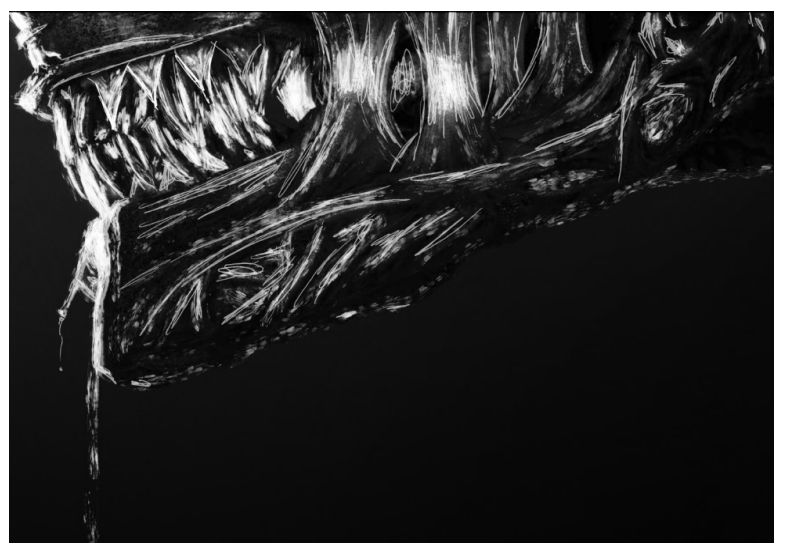
Control over reproductive healthcare is strict and getting stricter. Bureaucracy and legislature allow women’s bodies to be hijacked for profit; trading individual autonomy for a new status as a living, breathing vessel. Shame is everywhere, sanctuary is nowhere, and the living nightmare of an unwanted pregnancy extends long past the impregnation. “Romulus” captures this in vivid detail.

Alvarez hasn’t abandoned the chest-bursting and face-hugging of earlier “Alien” films. But the violation that “Romulus” victims experience doesn’t stop at the symbolic “childbirth”: they aren’t that lucky.

Howe is a member of the Class of 2026.



KEVIN HU / PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR



JOY LU / ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

HUMOR

Bubly Sorrow

BY ALYSSA KOH
INTERIM SOCIAL CHAIR

They've done it, folks. They've taken everything from us. Our free time, our youthful exuberance. Our self-dispensed Bubly.

Long gone are the days of testing one's moral ethics by trying to pass off mildly-flavored not-so-flavored seltzer water as general water past the unfortunate Pit employees; and further, gone are my days of putting a little bit of water in a cup, followed by a lot of lime Bubly, and then a little bit of water at the top of the cup, thus creating a water sandwich where all of it is inherently water and thus not ethically wrong for me to pass off as water. (My logic is incredibly sound.)

Bubly didn't even say goodbye. It was a fleeting realization at first, one I clocked on a quick trip to the Pit. I don't have Dining Dollars anymore as a Take Five student, so I popped in on my way to the Campus Times office to snag some sexy sexy Pit ice and a generous glug of my favorite morally dubious Pit liquid.

And where my heart had once stood, a hole remained.

A gash, a wound in the counter, emanating void and a patch of wall that hadn't seen the direct fluorescent light of day in at least two years. I was gagged. Gooped, if you will. I emailed Dining Services in the middle of the week, attempting to maintain some semblance of composure in my sorrow.

"Hello, I was wondering why the Bubly machine that used to exist in the Pit last year does not exist anymore. Was there a problem with the machine or its use?"

No response. I mean, sure, it's the beginning of the year, where most email traffic to RC Dining must be about changing dining plans or complaints about options for those with dietary restrictions or questions about how to add more Rocky Bucks or Dining Dollars (I'll save you the email). They're busy, maybe. But wouldn't an email like this stand out amongst the crowd? Wouldn't my plight incite some sort of feeling within the chest of those who oversee our dining experience as worth a quick email? Would they really be so cruel as to leave me without closure, without an understanding as to why my dear Bubly had to go?

What do you do when that which you love is stripped from you unceremoniously? When all of a sudden, you wake up in the same attic you've slept in for a year and go to the same college campus you've attended for four, but something has fundamentally changed? When you look around and realize that all your friends are somewhere new, having left you behind to pursue brighter futures, while you sit in the middle of the same windowless office with fresh new faces you can't help but be too exhausted to truly get to know, burdened with the realization that in the chokehold of college, you've decided to forgo the future, grit your teeth, spit on the floor, and continue to gasp against the pressure for another year more?

'Even the Bubly has left you.'

I know I'm not the only one who hurts like this. There are plenty of people who don't know how to change with the times; how to watch as the world you once knew passes you by. I don't want to feel like I'm losing control of my grasp on student life, relegated to two days a week of classes and a job that tears me away from the idyllic, insular ecosystem of a college campus for the other three. I don't want to feel washed up or out of touch. The only type of washed up I want to be is on the shore of a Pit where a Bubly machine still stands, like Calypso against a carbonated shoreline. But even Bubly goes flat.

I like flat seltzer. I like the taste of change, even if it seems a little off at first. I'll have to get used to watering down my Bubly at a water fountain, or stop wasting money on Bubly altogether. Maybe I'll just call my friends and tell them about how I'm happy to still be here, but it sucks that the Bubly is gone. I hope they miss it too.

Koh is a member of the Class of 2025(T5).

See My Summer? Very Interesting, Very Busy

BY BRIAN LY
HUMOR EDITOR

After hearing that I went to Vietnam for a month this summer, everybody and their cats and their dogs and their birds have been asking me about how my summer went. I'm so tired of explaining my summer to everyone individually, so here's an entire article about what I did this summer.

Sometime in the beginning of the summer, I went to Canada with some friends. We had no idea what we were really doing there. We just spent the first few days trying, and failing, to find good food so we just ended up going to a nearby McDonald's for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

'We got so tired of it that we ended up getting an Uber just so we could ask them about food recommendations.'

We tried a few locations and the food was pretty decent, but as broke college students with little money to their name, we just ended up going back to ol' reliable, though we did hit up a market and buy 50 baguettes that we had to finish before we left.

Other than the sad and slimy weather during our stay, Montreal was really fun. We spent our days going out to museums and exploring the old looking city. And we spent our nights playing Smash Bros. Ultimate until

our neighbors knocked on our door.

'We were so obviously American tourists that on multiple occasions, when we walked into a small store, they never failed to switch the music to Kendrick Lamar's diss tracks.'

After that, I went back to New York City, where I stayed for the majority of the summer. I played so much badminton with my friends, and won so much that I could probably shuttlecock a shuttle. Shuttle a shuttlecock. Shuttle a cock? With my eyes closed. All of that to keep myself busy to forget the impending doom of the upcoming school year.

And then, around the beginning of August, my Vietnam adventure began. Altogether this summer, I definitely got on a plane more than 10 times. Call me the traveler the way I be traveling.

My family and I followed tours for the majority of the trip, and only near the end did we do some self-exploration. At one point, I was even debating whether to wear pants or shorts.

'One could say that we saw the highest of highs and almost the lowest of lows.'

Or I guess if I had to put it another way, we went from the highest mountain in Vietnam (3,147m high) to the tunnels of the Ho Chi Minh trail, witnessing a lot of cool monuments and historical sites.

Although I was too lazy to actually take pictures of myself near those sites, I definitely wasn't too lazy to take pictures of literally everything around me. I might've gotten lost from the tour group a few times because I was too focused on taking pictures, but that's not important.

'More importantly is that my cousin drove me around on her motorcycle. And that was very cool. We even took a picture with me in the front, as if I was the one who drove it. There's probably some statement about the patriarchy in there somewhere.'

Overall though, vacations are never about the times you forget your sunscreen or the mosquito bites you get — they're about the fun and friends you made along the way (even if you didn't make any friends). So maybe one day I'll stuff all of my mutals in a suitcase and then we'll travel the world together.

Ly is a member of the Class of 2027.



BRIAN LY / HUMOR EDITOR

SPORTS

UR Women's Soccer Takes Ws Against St. Lawrence and Clarkson

BY AENEAS WOLF
SPORTS EDITOR

The UR Women's Soccer team was victorious on Friday against St. Lawrence University in their opening contest held at MacAllaster Field Friday.

'In the second half, Rochester took 13 shots and possessed the ball north of 60% of the time. During the game, St. Lawrence took only seven shots.'

Rochester seniors Claire Grover (#17) and Syd Coggins (#9) scored the game's only goals in the 23rd and 73rd minutes, respectively. The Yellowjackets bombarded St. Lawrence with 20 shots throughout the game, starting in the 12th minute when Grover took her first shot.

Overall, UR fired seven shots in the first half, four of them coming from Grover.

In the second half, Rochester took 13 shots and possessed the ball north of 60% of the time. During the game, St. Lawrence took only seven shots, three of which landed on goal.

UR also drew St. Lawrence offsides three times without any violations of their own. UR's intense offensive pressure forced St. Lawrence to foul the Yellowjackets nine times while only committing three themselves.

UR followed up their Friday night victory with a 4-1 win on Sunday at Clarkson University.

UR entered the game ranked sixth. Clarkson struck first in the 12th minute when senior Emily Davis (#5) poked a shot by UR goalie, senior Grace Kuropatkin (#00).

Neither team scored for the rest of the half, giving

Clarkson the 1-0 lead. UR scored two goals

'UR followed up their Friday night victory with a 4-1 win on Sunday at Clarkson University.'

in the 69th minute when sophomore Maya Bravo (#4) and first-year Natalie Santangelo (#10) each got one by Clarkson goalie senior Molly DiCaprio (#99).

Santangelo scored again in the 83rd and assisted on sophomore Sydney Holmes's (#3) 88th minute goal to put the game well out of reach with minutes to spare.

The Yellowjackets will look to continue their winning streak Saturday, Sept. 7 at SUNY Cortland.

Wolf is a member of the class of 2027.

UR Volleyball Beats Albion Before Falling To Denison

BY AENEAS WOLF
SPORTS EDITOR

UR Volleyball opened their 2024 campaign by besting Albion College 3-2 before falling 3-1 to Denison at the Mt. Hope Invitational on Saturday.

UR scored 65 kills to Albion's 37 in the five-set opening match. Sophomore Ashley Cook (#3) led UR with 16 kills and two aces in the first game, with fellow sophomore Myla Nover-Estes (#10) not far behind with 15 kills.

UR won the first set 25-15 before falling behind two sets to one when Albion outscored them 25-10 and 25-20 in the following sets.

UR struck back in the fourth set, scoring 19 kills and hitting .359 en route to a 25-19 set victory.

The Yellowjackets won the final set 15-6 with eight kills and hitting .253.

'The Yellowjackets won the final set 15-6 with eight kills and hitting .253.'

UR dropped the first set to Denison 25-20 before winning the second 25-23. A tightly-contested third set resulted in a 27-25 extra-points victory.

The Yellowjackets fell in the fourth set 25-18, ending the game.

Nover-Estes and junior Rylee Bergeron (#11) tied with 11 kills in the second match; Nover-Estes had two blocks while Bergeron added two aces. Cook was second in kills with eight.

'UR will next play Ithaca, St. John Fisher, and Middlebury on Friday and Saturday during the Ithaca College Tournament.'

Cook's play earned her a spot on the eight-player All-Tournament Team.

UR will next play Ithaca, St. John Fisher, and Middlebury on Friday and Saturday during the Ithaca College Tournament.

Wolf is a member of the class of 2027.

Support Student Journalism!

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

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



This Month in Photos

"This Month in Photos" is a column to document daily life on campus each month. You can submit your photos to ct_photo@u.rochester.edu with the subject line "This Month in Photos."



KEVINHU / PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

PUZZLE

Crossword of Couplets

BY CALEB OSHINSKY
STAFF PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 "Would you like _____?" (Hillside query)
- 5 Clay automaton of folklore
- 10 Go for a stroll
- 14 Yield control of
- 15 "Minuet" composer Boccherini, or with 51A
- 16 Away from the wind, asea
- 17 Moment of change
- 19 Teeny
- 20 Scattered about
- 21 Down times?
- 23 Rogen and Meyers, for two
- 26 Before long
- 27 Tennessee _____ Ford, or with 2D
- 30 Oklahoma native
- 32 Capture
- 35 Vietnam neighbor
- 36 Strip off, as blubber
- 38 Quarterback Brady, or with 40D
- 39 Range constituent: Abbr.
- 40 Kangaroos, famously
- 41 Kimono sash
- 42 Knight's title
- 43 Some resins from Philippine trees
- 44 Subpoena, e.g.
- 45 "_____ is human; to forgive, divine"
- 47 Cover some ground?
- 48 Some seniors of the deck department, for short
- 49 Broadcasts
- 51 "The Godfather" author Puzo, or with 15A
- 53 Cowboy-to-horse directive
- 56 Compel
- 60 Less fortunate brother of Cain

- 61 Pair of people who work well together, or a hint to the coupled clues
- 64 Trifling, _____ mortals MERE
- 65 Big sports venue
- 66 Mathematician Turing
- 67 Online crafts marketplace
- 68 Out of office
- 69 Push-up targets, familiarly

DOWN

- 1 Performs in a play
- 2 Hypocorism of Hubert, or with 27A
- 3 "Battlestar Galactica" president who shares a name with Purim's month
- 4 Bible starter
- 5 Sparkle of light
- 6 Umpire's call
- 7 Number of weeks per annum
- 8 Big heads
- 9 Operation appearing twice or thrice in the quadratic formula
- 10 DNA discovering data crook with Crick, or with 24D
- 11 Disaffecting people
- 12 Pre-Easter period
- 13 Custodian's collection
- 18 Popeye's _____, Pea
- 22 They smell
- 24 Famed heavyweight Larry, or with 10D
- 25 Second wife, to the husband's kids
- 27 Craven's slasher film locale, on a map
- 28 16:9, for one
- 29 Bibliophobes
- 31 Local Iroquois Confederacy founding Five Nations tribe

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17				18							19			
20								21		22				
			23			24	25		26					
27	28	29				30		31		32			33	34
35					36				37			38		
39				40								41		
42				43							44			
45			46			47				48				
		49				50		51		52				
53	54					55			56			57	58	59
60						61		62	63					
64						65						66		
67						68						69		

- 33 Red-breasted bird, or one of the canonical 61A
- 34 Gives off
- 36 Suffix with thank or grate
- 37 Grade above Jrs
- 40 Comedian Lewis, or with 38A
- 44 Head scratcher?
- 46 "Star Wars" star Daisy
- 48 Netanyahu, familiarly
- 50 3rd largest country in Africa, since 2011

- 52 Kind of numeral found in 7D
- 53 Something caught by 32A
- 54 "Yeah, right!"
- 55 Fire starter?
- 57 Inactive
- 58 Premium topping at Sol Bowl
- 59 Ages and ages
- 62 Court divider
- 63 Padme's hypocorism for Skywalker

Answers to this crossword puzzle available on page 7.

Oshinsky is a member of the Class of 2027.

Campus Times

SERVING THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER COMMUNITY SINCE 1873 / campustimes.org

Interested in joining our team?
Couldn't make it to our General Interest Meetings?

CONTACT: CT_EDITOR@U.ROCHESTER.EDU

NEWS • FEATURES • CULTURE • OPINIONS • HUMOR • SPORTS
DATA • PHOTOGRAPHY • COPYEDITING • ILLUSTRATIONS • PRESENTATIONS