

Campus Times

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UR Libraries' Annual Scare Festival Combines Spooky Scavenger Hunt and a Tower Tour

Enzo Traverso Talks About His Newest Book: "Gaza Faces History"

BY ZOË MILES
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Decorated scholar of the Holocaust, totalitarianism, and contemporary historiography professor Enzo Traverso met with students in the department of Modern Languages and Cultures (MLC) on Thursday, Oct. 24 to discuss his newest book: "Gaza Faces History."

Traverso teaches in the departments of History, Romance Studies, and Jewish Studies at Cornell University and has published nine works on genocide, war, and collective memory.

'Traverso teaches in the departments of History, Romance Studies, and Jewish Studies at Cornell University.'

He began the talk with a lengthy disclaimer about the nature of historical writing and the inability to create his-

torical works without critical distance from the events they focus on. He pointed out that this work is not an unbiased, apolitical historical text and lacks the years of close research needed to create such a book. Instead, his work is meant to provide insight into recent events and the Israel-Hamas conflict from the perspective of a scholar of the Holocaust and modern Europe.

Though he touched on many points in his two-hour talk and Q&A session, which navigated both editorial issues like word choice and broader world concerns including pogroms, Said's notion of Orientalism, and the United Nations, his principal focus was antisemitism.

Traverso outlined the long-term consequences of this narrative and warned that blaming the conflict solely on antisemitism, as many West-

SEE **TRAVERSO**
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TEDDY ALMOND / STAFF WRITER

BY TEDDY ALMOND
STAFF WRITER

The River Campus Libraries host their Scare Festival the weekend before Halloween every year. This year's pirate theme has students follow the "x" marked on the map to collect enough stamps to climb the infamous Rush Rhees bell tower.

'The festival is aimed at helping to promote the River Campus' library system.'

The festival, which was first started in 1998, is aimed at helping to promote the River Campus' library system — specifically the many smaller spaces around campus like the POA or Robbins.

According to event coordinator Claudia Pietrzak, the project was started to help educate students on how to find books in the "spooky" stacks.

Library staff also host the tower tour at the festival, during which staff guide students through the winding staircase and help students

through a window all the way to the top of Rush Rhees.

Pietrzak said that coordinating the tower tour is one of the hardest logistical elements of the event. Staff undergo a brief training session to learn everything from how to guide students to the top to what to do if something were to go wrong.

To be able to see the views from the top of Rush Rhees, students must first complete a scavenger hunt that involves collecting stamps, completing library trivia, and visiting each library on the River Campus.

"The tower tour is not for you if you don't like tight spaces or heights," Pietrzak said. "It's a 1930s building, so it's pretty inaccessible [...] I wish everybody could do it but not every[one can] [...] You literally have to walk out a window."

Almond is a member of the Class of 2028.

As a Rochesterian, I'm Pissed, and I'm Voting for a Republican

BY AUSTIN DELORME
STAFF WRITER

At times, I have felt an urge to give my opinion, while simultaneously sharing equal sides of an argument writing for the Campus Times. With this upcoming election being so important locally, I feel that I have an obligation to share one opinion with no obscurity.

For this year's race in New York's 25th Congressional District, Joe Morelle (D) has got to go. Gregg Sadwick (R) needs to be our next representative.

Someone not from Rochester probably is wondering who I am even talking about. Joe Morelle has been Rochester's representative over the past six years, taking over for late Rep. Louise Slaughter. In very simple terms, he has been one of the most ineffective representatives on the hill since assuming office.

According to the Center for Effective Law, an independent organization composed of University of Virginia and University of Vanderbilt students, Rep. Joe Morelle ranked in the bottom 10% in regards to effective legislation crafting and bill passing. In fact, he aligned partisanly with President Joe Biden on his voting record 100% of the time in this year's session thus far.

Additionally in the report, they found that during the previous congressional session, he did not craft or sponsor any substantive legislation that passed in the House. This lack of care for the community is as if the representative has not taken the time to research needs that affect the Rochester community.

As a lifelong Rochesterian, I saw something very unique play out in front of my eyes. I saw a transition for the city

and for the greater community from hope to darkness. I saw the care of our previous representative, who championed causes close to many community members' hearts. Even before Rep. Slaughter died in office, she passionately fought for the expanded funding of infrastructure which now bears her name, such as Louise Slaughter train station. She also took the time to fund local town projects at a federal level, always fighting for further funding of roads and sidewalks that were not usually earmarked in local budgets.

Looking to the present, I now see the mockery that Joe Morelle has made of Rochester and his predecessors' legacy over a grueling six-year time period. If Slaughter were alive today, she would be embarrassed by Morelle's divisive nature and inaction.

Things have to change. This change starts at the ballot

box. Voters complain about choice. If you are voting in Rochester, you have an alternative to the disrespect our community has faced over the years at the whim of Joe Morelle. From his disrespect of campaign law, to his community corruption scandal surrounding Sabrina Lamar, things have to change. That choice is Gregg Sadwick.

A businessman, a community servant, and an open ear, Sadwick has never been one to back down from a challenge. As a fellow alumnus of my high school in the suburbs of Rochester, I also take comfort in the fact that a potential representative actually knows what it is like to grow up in a middle class neighborhood, surrounded by everyday working people.

When comparing Sadwick's policy goals to Morelle's, you see a clear difference. Sadwick seems very sensible. When it comes to women's rights, he supports a woman's

right to choose and discusses combating domestic violence. In regards to business and the economy, he has a clear economic agenda to invest in infrastructure, creating local jobs. What does Morelle run on? The fact that "Extremist Republicans" are taking your rights away. Is this the guy you want to represent Rochester? A man so fixated on Trump that he can't even pass a bill to help the community?

I think the best contrast between Morelle and Sadwick is their campaign slogans. Joe Morelle has coined the phrase "Fighting For Us," although I can't remember the last time I've seen him in the community outside of the six-month election window. I still question who the "us" is in his campaign.

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CAMPUS

Defining Campus Security with DPS Chief Quchee Collins

BY TEDDY ALMOND
STAFF WRITER

BY NARM NATHAN
DATA EDITOR

In May, the University announced the appointment of Quchee Collins as both the inaugural Associate Vice President for the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and Chief Public Safety Officer.

With extensive experience as the deputy director for public safety at CUNY and the police chief for New York City's Department of Citywide Administrative Services, Collins' hire marks not only the University's continued efforts to strengthen the capabilities of campus safety, but a new influence on how security is conducted on and around campus.

The *Campus Times* had the opportunity to sit down with Chief Collins regarding his experience at Rochester and how he envisions his role in shaping Rochester's security.

On background and identity

As the deputy director for CUNY, Collins has led over 1,000 sworn and civilian personnel, representing 243,000 students and 52,500 employees.

Can you talk about what that responsibility holds — what it means to command such an operation, and how that experience has shaped you throughout your career?

"Working out of a central office as a university deputy director and reporting to my executive director was career changing for me in several ways. Number one: It's an awesome responsibility.

"[These students] are individuals who come [from and outside] the city of New York, who are pursuing their academic endeavors in a city that is diverse and different in each borough.

"Understanding that there are different needs for different areas, and different needs for different populations of students [...] I never lost the opportunity to just reflect on how critical the work we were doing there was. Specifically, what I did there was building community relationships, executing on the five-year strategic plan, identifying resources and capabilities, providing training to both the officers and the larger community, [and] dialing in on and improving our posture with Clery."

The Clery Act requires colleges and universities to publicly disclose their annual crime reporting, which the University has complied with long before Collins' hire.

How do you define your approach to campus security?

"I think campus public safety is a unique area within the public safety realm that has the opportunity to get community engagement correct, in that the University is really catered around the student experience [...] These universities [...] are almost like their own small towns.

"During that time, [students are] forming their own thought processes about the world around them, how things can be and how things maybe should be. It's a great opportunity to really dive into what the community is asking for and to demonstrate our competence in getting the job done.

"What drew me to the University, quite honestly, was the story and the leadership [...] In terms of [the motto], 'Meliora,' my entire career has been dedicated to process improvement. To have that sort of window into where the University is going through President Mangelsdorf's leadership, and that concept of 'one University,' it almost fits perfectly with my idea about how a university could operate best, and what it can be."

On crime in and around campus

As of writing, the Rochester Police Department (RPD) has reported over 1,500 cases of motor vehicle theft in the city.

Though this is a considerable decline from last year's peak of nearly 4,000 thefts, the metric is a 253% increase from 2022's count — and correlates with a spike in DPS reporting, with 26 car thefts reported in 2023.

To combat this, the department has offered steering wheel locks free of charge to Kia and Hyundai owners, who are most at risk due to the models' lack of anti-theft immobilizers.

Are there further measures that can be tackled by campus security to address that kind of issue? Do you view it as a black-and-white issue, or endemic in nature?

"First, allow me to say that when I saw the rates of car vandalism and car thefts here, my first thought was to the victims. Folks are coming here to learn [and] pursue their academic endeavors, and the last thing they want to worry about is someone breaking into their car and stealing their goods. There's a psychological impact to that as well as a cost impact for students.

"After evaluating the data myself, we discovered some trends and decided to develop an operation behind that. What will be happening in the next couple of weeks is Operation ParkSafe will be

initiated.

"What that'll do [is] deploy DPS resources to parking lots. Now, there are long-term solutions like security technology that could be helpful. We obviously want to continue to give our wheel locks, and give safety advice and tips to our campus community, because we do see that impact.

"It's just never a good situation when you see folks that would not expect that to happen to them, and then they become victims."

Reports of students facing threats of burglary, assault, and other dangers have become more prevalent in recent years — with a Ph.D. student being assaulted near campus on Sept. 19.

The University currently employs over 200 blue light systems around campus — but when it comes to surveillance, are there any changes you'd like to make?

"There are some solutions that I would like to see, but they involve also getting a good read from the community about what is appropriate to this University's culture. While I can't go into specifics, what I will say is this is another thing of high concern [...] It's the last thing we want to happen on our campus."

Newly present on the University's Clery report were seven reported instances of hate crimes in 2023 — with none reported in the two prior years.

Have you had any experience dealing with something like this — and how do you highlight instances of discrimination as they pertain to campus?

"I'll speak briefly about CUNY. It's well-documented that there was a rise in antisemitic and other hate crimes at CUNY over my tenure there, and so I do have a lot of experience with responding to hate crimes.

"I think it's important to know that our response to hate crimes is one avenue, whereas what we are doing to inform [and build relationships with] the community [is another], so that they're aware of the impact of it. I'm happy to announce that we've promoted Captain Jackie Shuman to captain over community engagement, who'll be helping to tackle some of these things.

"This is the responsibility of information and bringing awareness to these sorts of incidents, because they have real impact on real people. It's not something that can be undertaken by DPS alone. It really takes the campus community to roll their sleeves up along with us and see how

we can resolve some of these issues."

On the influence and capability DPS holds

In previous years, efforts have been made by DPS members to extend the jurisdiction of armed officers; whether it be increasing the number of peace officers who carry arms, or allowing them to be armed across all campuses — not just their present location at the University's Medical Center.

With regards to understanding that there are areas of campus and of the community that students may view as being served by the RPD — is there a balance between what DPS is effectively equipped to handle versus what RPD can?

"In terms of our partners, we have memorandums of understanding with all our local partners. That tradition is going to continue under my administration.

"In terms of the armed officer contingent, what I think is important to highlight is that there are two job categories [...] One is the unarmed, non-sworn public safety officer. These individuals you'll see in sort of gray polo uniforms, and they essentially provide a security-only and customer-focused response to the security needs — and then we do have law enforcement-trained peace officers that are certified by the state. These individuals undergo rigorous training equal to that of their police counterparts, and exceeding in terms of University-specific training.

"When we talk about expanding the arming, it's important to understand that you're going to have a hybrid Department of Public Safety that serves everyone's interests, including law enforcement when and where necessary [...] If we look at the five-point plan for public safety, that's one of the things that I'm really excited about the opportunity of exploring.

"I think there's a lot of misunderstanding on all sides about the actual policy [and] what it actually states, and I'm looking forward to those conversations [and] the opportunity to clear that up."

Last semester, the events of the Gaza solidarity encampment — including two sit-ins at Wallis Hall and a six-week presence on the Eastman Quad — raised a variety of concerns for existing security. With these events leaving a sour taste in the mouths of students, there have been ample concerns about the role security personnel hold over campus.

How do you work to balance those concerns

with the responsibilities you hold?

"While I can't adjudicate what happened on this specific campus last semester, what I can tell you is that it has been a primary focus of mine to ensure that we have strong relationships with our students, our faculty, and our staff. What that essentially means is going to spaces where we can be invited, and having real discussions about what public safety is doing to specifically provide safety consistently across the board for all groups.

"What makes this University one of the best in the nation is because of the diversity that congregates here — but we have to be consistent [...] Captain Jackie Shuman [has been] a phenomenal leader in this space [...] Captain Joe Reed has been a staple for the Department of Public Safety over the last decade or two, and Lieutenant Tom Egiano has also been heavily involved in our community engagement over the years.

"We've developed some real sound strategies to really go back into spaces and reintroduce ourselves to who we are today [...] We may not always agree, but having the ability to engage with someone who at least respects your point of view is critical these days."

What do you say to students who might not understand the work that you do, and what would you like to say to the student body as a whole?

"Everyone comes from different lived experiences. Some lived experiences would suggest [that] no matter how sincere, how transparent, and how collaborative I am towards you [...] you will never appreciate the role of law enforcement — and that's all right. You may never like law enforcement or public safety, and that's okay.

"What I would like for, at least, is to get to a mutual footing where we respect what each other does in our space and why we're here at the University of Rochester. What I can show you is consistent leadership. I can show a department that is a part of the community [...] Real individuals with families, with aspirations, with children.

"The community empowers us with the trust that you give us. It's our job not to violate that trust."

Almond is a member of the Class of 2028.

Nathan is a member of the Class of 2025.

The College Dems vs. College Reps (No Booing or Jeering This Time)

BY ALEENA RESSAS
STAFF WRITER

With Election Day around the corner, the College Democrats and College Republicans met to discuss three federal topics in a debate hosted by ROCTalks on Oct. 23: housing affordability, climate legislation, and ranked-choice voting.

Three different representatives took turns giving an opening statement on their stance, each of which was followed by a moderated discussion and a response to audience questions.

‘Three different representatives took turns giving an opening statement on their stance, each of which was followed by a moderated discussion and a response to audience questions.’

Beginning with housing affordability, senior and president of the College Democrats Gautam Bajaj said home values have risen by 162% and incomes by 78% since 2000.

Swiftly shifting to a more sentimental tone, he explained that housing is more than just having a roof over your head — it is also about opportunity and stability, both of which can be ensured by expanding affordable housing programs.

Karl Hirsch, senior and President of the College Republicans, argued that housing is perhaps the best example of how the free market can improve the lives of its participants. According to Hirsch, expanding the housing supply reduces rent and makes homes more affordable for purchasers.

Along with housing affordability, climate change was a topic of considerable discussion.

Hirsch emphasized that although people of all political persuasions agree that climate change is real, they differ in how they conceptualize and address it. He brought up two primary models: climate catastrophism and climate realism.

According to Hirsch, the Democrats’ concept of climate catastrophism is detrimental and instills intense fear in younger generations. He stated that the belief in an “Armageddon caused by manmade climate change” leads to the thought that the world is on fire, in turn leading to a concerning decline in the birth rate.

“We must choose realism over catastrophism because our sustainable future should



KEVINHU/PHOTO EDITOR

empower, not parallel,” Hirsch said.

Junior and business manager of the College Democrats Alex Hegewald took an economic approach. She discussed the detrimental effects natural disasters have on the economy, including the destruction of infrastructure, increased health costs, agricultural losses, and food shortages.

“We want to make sure that we invest in the American economy and American energy so that we can see that this continues to our future and we preserve our environment, which is something that the people after us are going to inherit as well as the economy,” Hegewald said.

The debate ended with a discussion on ranked-choice voting. Bajaj argued that the Electoral College works against most of the population, referencing the Bush vs. Gore election, in which Gore won the popular vote by half a million but potentially lost the Electoral College because the Supreme Court intervened; and the Trump vs. Clinton election, which ended similarly.

‘Seven swing states determine the election’s outcome, ignoring millions of votes.’

Bajaj also emphasized how unfair it is that the seven swing states determine the election’s outcome, ignoring millions of votes from others. The foundation of the entire voting system is one person, one equal vote. Yet, Bajaj contended that his vote as someone from Michigan will matter more than that of many citizens. In contrast to Bajaj, Hirsch insisted that the Electoral College protects minority rights by guaranteeing that no group can repeatedly control elections with a simple majority or even a plurality of support. Stability is fostered with the demonstration that you can win through democratic means as opposed to what you would get with ranked-choice voting — a rebellion — he said.

“Our commitment to liberalism and our obligation to pass out our freedom to the next generation demand our support of the Electoral College,” Hirsch said.

When asked if their party’s nominee reflects their beliefs, Bajaj, Hirsch, and Hegewald implied that voters should vote based on their conscience.

Ressas is a member of the Class of 2026.

CPE to Host Election Day Events

BY NARM NATHAN
DATA EDITOR

The Committee for Political Engagement (CPE) is planning to host two events on Election Day, Tuesday Nov. 5, meant to promote civic engagement for University students.

‘CPE intends to conduct a “stroll to the polls.”’

Students living on campus are able to vote at Plymouth Gardens Apartments, the designated voting location just off the Riverview Bridge at 1400 South Plymouth Avenue. During Election Day, CPE intends to conduct a “stroll to the polls,” where students can join a walking group and cast their ballots together.

“My plan is to have students meet in front of the steps [at the] Warner School of Education,” said Andrew Gold, Associate Director of Community Engaged Learning. “We’ll be leading a group that afternoon, I’d say about 1:00 p.m.. The goal is to get as many folks that want to come out on Election Day to go vote.”

For students who may need additional assistance reaching the polling lo-

cation, transportation via van is also available. That evening, an election night watch party will also be held in the Rettner Atrium from 6:30 p.m. to around 10:30 p.m.

“We’ll have some food provided, and then we’re going to be watching the election results as well,” Gold said.

With early voting underway in New York, engaging with University students has always been a priority of CPE, and next week will mark a culmination of their efforts to get students to the polls.

At events hosted earlier this semester where students are exposed to political debate, Gold finds that the willingness to hear the conversation is what’s gotten him excited: to see an interest in sharing perspectives and having important dialogue on the issues students face.

“If we keep having those discussions,” Gold said, “especially the deliberative dialogue type of discussions where we’re able to bring students together [...where] maybe we don’t agree on the same things [...] it’s how we’re actually able to engage.”

Nathan is a member of the Class of 2025.

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Kearns Center Holds Voter Registration Event for First-Gen Students

BY ALLIE TAY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The David T. Kearns Center hosted a voter registration event on Thursday, Oct. 24 in partnership with the Center for Community Engagement (CCE) to help students check their voter registration, and where they were eligible to vote. During the two-hour window, about 25 students attended.

A resource hub for first-generation and low-income students, the center typically hosts a first-generation student celebration week at the start of November, said George McCormick, manager for the Ronald E. McNair program, which works specifically with first-generation and minority students intending to pursue a Ph.D. In McCormick's six years working at the center, this is the first time the center has hosted a voter registration event. With this year being an election year, they felt that they "needed to respond to the intensity of the time," he said.

With a mix of local and out-of-state students, many students are unclear on where they are eligible

to vote, McCormick said. The event provided direct guidance to students in the midst of an election season, where students — many of whom are first-time voters — are continually called to cast their ballot but not equipped with the knowledge on the process to do so.

Staffers at the event from the Office of Community Engagement were trained by Monroe County on working the TurboVote website, a non-partisan 501(c)(3) registered non-profit, that provides up-to-date voting guidance.

The center is open to hosting voter registration events in future years, although getting turnout for local elections may be tougher, McCormick said. The event was structured to draw out first-generation students and minority students aligned with the center. Hosting larger events in the future may be better for visibility and representation, said CCE Associate Director of Community Engaged Learning Andrew Gold.

Tay is a member of the Class of 2025.

Catholic Center Begins Construction

BY EMMELY ELI TEXCUCANO
FEATURES EDITOR

After seven years of fundraising efforts, the Joseph P. Mack Catholic Center will begin construction efforts this month.

On Oct. 9, Father Brian C. Cool of the Newman Catholic Community led a virtual Town Hall meeting to provide updates on the project following the final approval to begin construction from September's Board of Trustees meeting.

The new building will be named after alumnus and former Board of Trustees member, Joseph P. Mack '55, who pledged over \$2.5 million to build the center. With site preparation and clearing underway, construction is set to be completed by September 2025 for the new academic year.

The center will be constructed at the intersection of Wilson Boulevard and Faculty Road, offering closer proximity to residential buildings and parking lots. The center hopes this will encourage anybody off-campus to be part of the site.

The center will include a pastoral care center, kitchen, sanctuary, and a multi-purpose room, which can be reserved by any University-affiliated student group. Updated building plans show that the building space will be 7,900 square feet, an

increase from the originally proposed 7,300 square feet.

The project is set to cost a total of \$8.8 million. Between the center's previously-existing endowment and contributions from over 440 donors, the Newman Center has currently raised \$7.8 million in funds. The remaining \$1 million is meant to be allocated toward additional features and details for the chapel.

The newly dedicated space is a response to the growing number of religious-affiliated student groups on campus that utilize the Interfaith Chapel. There are currently 13 religious-affiliated groups, with limited reservation capabilities for all groups.

According to Catholic Newman Community's promotional material, the center currently hosts about 75 student leaders and offers over 100 programs on campus. The new center is meant to provide a dedicated Catholic chapel on campus and stronger pastoral care for students.

This recent announcement comes after concerns were raised by students at the beginning of last year at a Town Hall hosted by the Student Association. Government concerning promoted updates on funding for two dedicated non-interfaith religious centers on campus — the Joseph P. Mack Catholic Center and the Greenbaum Center for Jewish Life. In the

Spring 2023 semester, students held demonstrations on campus and issued a statement through Instagram account @stop_the_build that spoke out against the construction of both buildings.

"While we recognize that advocates claim institutional funds will not be used for construction, any time, effort, and land that the University spends on these projects should be focused on meeting students' actual needs such as housing, dining, and academic support," the statement, which was issued on Feb. 28, 2023, said. "The buildings are clearly not examples of openness to the diversity of both religious and non-religious ideas and expression on campus or to collaboration, encounter, and exchange across religious distinctions."

Despite these concerns, the new center aims to serve their community and the greater campus at large. "We want them to come to literally what's called the sanctuary," Father Cool said. "And whether they be Catholic or not Catholic, you know, the students need and deserve a space that is going to be dedicated for prayer and a prayer for any faith tradition that wants to come and use our facility."

Texcucano is a member of the Class of 2025.

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Faculty Council Passes Proposal for New Latin American, Caribbean and Latinx Studies (LACX) Major

BY EMMELY ELI TEXCUCANO
FEATURES EDITOR

A Latin American, Caribbean, & Latinx Studies (LACX) advising breakfast drop-in was organized Oct. 23 to allow students to learn about the new major and to meet faculty and faculty advisors from the Greene Center.

The breakfast was organized in response to a new Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies (LACX) being approved by the faculty council two years after the student petition.

The original petition, filed in October 2022 by Elvis Vasquez '23 was endorsed by 12 student groups and coordinator of the Latin American Studies Minor Molly Ball.

This led to the Student's Association (SA) passing a resolution issuing a statement of support for the creation of the major.

The major was originally presented to the College Curriculum Committee in September 2023 but stayed in limbo for over a year before being accepted earlier this month.

Ball explained, "The process, I think, could have been quicker, but



EMMELY ELI TEXCUCANO / FEATURES EDITOR

it was important to have administrative support, and not just to add a major on the books."

"It was important to have administrative support, and not just to add a major on the books."

While no information is currently available on University websites, the major proposal explained, "LACX is an interdisciplinary

major whose coursework draws primarily from the humanities and social sciences. In requiring students to take courses across disciplines, LACX recognizes that complicated challenges and diverse societies require complex solutions and a holistic, rather than singular, approach."

Ball stated, "We connect with the Humanities Center so that we create kind of a community of faculty as well. So that anyone across the

disciplines can participate in it that kind of connects to that. And that's for graduate students as well. So, it kind of creates the idea of not just to having a major, but also a community."

"Creates the idea of not just having a major, but also a community."

Depending on the combination of courses taken, the major will count

as a humanities or social science major. The major is composed of 10 courses, a language requirement, and a capstone project.

The major also hopes to emphasize direct partnerships with local organizations.

"We also want to expand to thinking about connecting community engagement. To really get those immersive experiences. We have a community in Rochester which is 25% Latinx, or identifies as such. And then you have in the greater area, right, pretty large migrant population, different components," Ball explained.

As of now, the major does not offer an honors program. The department plans on having two LACX-related clusters available for Spring '25, one in the humanities and one in the social sciences. The major is waiting for approval from the state.

Texcucano is a member of the Class of 2025.

Where Do We Go From Here? Hillel Hosts Dennis Ross and Gaith Al-Omari to Discuss Israel and Palestine

BY ALEENA RESSAS
STAFF WRITER

On Tuesday, Oct. 8, a year and a day after the start of the war in Gaza, Hillel hosted Ambassador Dennis Ross and Negotiator Gaith al-Omari, to discuss the past, present, and future of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Executive Director of Hillel Joy Getnick gave a speech introducing the speakers.

Getnick noted that it is hard for many students on campus to imagine a world different from today's — one where Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu does not lead Israel and where Hamas does not control Gaza. A world where the concept of hope abounds is hard to picture, she said.

"It is hard for many students on campus to imagine a world different from today's."

"The opportunity to hear from people who have lived that past, who are working on the present and still have insightful hope for what a practical, realistic, but yet much better future could be, was to me the

most honorable way to spend [Oct. 8], in honor of everybody who's been affected for decades by this tragedy," Getnick added.

"The most honorable way to spend Oct. 8, in honor of everybody who's been affected for decades by this tragedy."

Ambassador Ross, who played a key role in the Middle East Peace Process, opened with a joke about how working with Arabs and Israelis was simpler than working with Republicans and Democrats, tying it to Getnick's assertion that there was a time when circumstances were different from how they are now.

The only workable solution Ross envisions is a two-state solution, stating that, "You are trying to reconcile two rights [...] These are two national movements, two national identities [...] competing for the same space. They both have a profound connection to the land [...] Neither one is going to surrender that identity."

Ross then addressed the legacy that October 7th left in Israel, saying it impacts everyday life because what was an unthinkable possibility is now a reality.

"What was an unthinkable possibility is now a reality."

"It was a shock because Israelis might have been used to terrorism, but they were not used to anything quite like this. They were not used to children being killed in front of parents, and parents being killed in front of children. They were not used to the sexual violence. They were not used to hostages being kidnapped as young as nine months old and as old as 85."

According to Ross, the Israeli leadership underestimated the potential threat of Hamas. "The whole senior Israeli leadership had a view that Hamas was not interested in war," he said.

But beyond just Israel, Ross asked the audience to be empathetic towards Palestinians. He asked them to put themselves in the shoes of Palestinians who have suffered as well.

"How can you not be overwhelmed by the devastation?" Ross asked. "How can you not also have a profound sense of pain and trauma by the number of Palestinians killed?"

"How can you not be overwhelmed by the devastation?"

Similar to Ross, former Palestinian negotiator al-Omari declared his strong support for a two-state solution due to how both sides have roots in the same land. The idea for a two-state solution, proposed by the Israeli government and Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) in 1993, was not an "epiphany of happiness," al-Omari said, but a last resort when neither side felt they could win.

"A last resort when neither side felt they could win."

"We, the Palestinians, they, the Israelis, have tried everything in our power since the conflict started in 1948, and then after that in 1967, everything in our power to eliminate the other

side," al-Omari said.

Per Ross and al-Omari, the two parties' shared past prevents them from making changes on their own. "We have to work with the Arabs," they stated, adding that the U.S. must stop alienating them, particularly the Saudis, and work with them to take advantage of Saudi Arabia's willingness to help improve conditions in both Israel and Palestine.

Both Ross and al-Omari ended by directly calling out to Hillel student members because of their "caliber of questions" and "genuine curiosity" as hope for a future of cooperation.

"Hope for a future of cooperation."

"In the middle of this hell that is happening there, there are still courageous Palestinians and Israelis who are working together," al-Omari said. "We do not hear much about them, but they exist [...] deserve our support, our moral support, our highlighting their work, and in whichever way possible, we can support them."

Ressas is a member of the Class of 2026.

The Color of Bruises

BY TEDDY ALMOND
STAFF WRITER

BY LUCY RIVERS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In honor of domestic violence awareness month in October, Adelante Juntos (translation: “Forward Together”) held their second annual “The Color of Bruises” on Friday, Oct. 25.

Sophomore Jonathan Bermudez coordinated the event to spread awareness and make participants “feel proud of themselves and realize how strong they are.”

The panel hosted several speakers, including Dr. Diane Morse from the Medical Center (URMC); Associate Director of Pathway Programs Dr. Ana Gomez Parga; and Lisa Nolan of the Willow Domestic Violence Center of Greater Rochester, an organization aimed at supplying emergency short-term housing and support to those fleeing domestic violence.

The panelists spoke on the effects of domestic violence and on how to support victims. They also promoted resources for anyone interested in becoming involved.

Bermudez explained that the point of the event was not to dishearten the audience and result in despair and heavy hearts, but instead to empower individuals, showcase the strength and resilience of domestic violence survivors, and fight the stigma surrounding domestic violence and



TEDDY ALMOND / STAFF WRITER

intimate partner violence.

One of the keynote speakers, Ariana Montaluo, a survivor herself, shared her story with the audience. She discussed how her partner, whom she had met at 15, abused her and threatened her life.

‘The panelists spoke on the effects of domestic violence and on how to support victims.’

Throughout the presentation, Montaluo checked in with the audience to ensure the attendees were comfortable and not triggered by any distressing content.

She explained that domestic violence victims often feel isolated and completely alone, but added that “there are people who love you and will support you the minute you need

help.”

Montaluo, a recent graduate of Nazareth University, is now a research assistant at URMC. She hopes to continue on to medical school to become an OB-GYN to support other domestic abuse survivors.

The panelists went on to emphasize that domestic violence can happen to anyone, no matter the gender, sexuality, education level, or socioeconomic status.

Director of Prevention Education at the Willow Center Lisa Nolan discussed the cycle of domestic violence and urged youth to be conscious of the normalization of abusive relationships in movies, books, television ads, and music.

Nolan asked attendees to raise their hands if they had a loved one who was younger than them. Across the room, hands shot up.

“Go home and talk to them about love,” Nolan said. “Talk to them about healthy relationships. The cycle [of domestic violence] breaks with young people.”

If you or anyone you know is in an unsafe situation, there are resources available. The Willow Center hotline is open 24/7 and can be reached at (585) 222-SAFE (7233). You can also visit WillowCenterNY.org. Other resources include the University Counseling Center: (585) 275-3113, RESTORE Sexual Assault Services: (585) 546-2777, and the National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233).

Almond is a member of the Class of 2028.

Rivers is a member of the Class of 2028.

TRAVERSO FROM
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“Till recent times, the Holocaust memory was a powerful tool to reactivate the atonement of other colonial crimes,” Traverso wrote in an essay. “Today, the use of the Holocaust to justify Germany’s unconditional support for Israel blurs the democratic culture, education, and memory that the Federal Republic of Germany has built up over several decades.”

He cautioned that things as sacred as The Day of Remembrance risk becoming hollow and hypocritical, should they be used to further other ends.

As a historian and what he calls a “scholar of memory,” he questioned the utility of memory if not to serve as both a reminder of what we’ve lost and a warning to ensure we do not repeat past mistakes.

He also said that justifying the genocidal violence committed by Israel against the Palestinian people risks tainting our “sacred and institutionalized memory” of the Holocaust and weakening the fight against antisemitism.

His essay warns that “if you can conduct a genocidal war in the name of fighting antisemitism, many good people will start to think it would be better to abandon such a dubious cause altogether.”

Much of the following Q&A focused on technical terminology and philosophy. Students asked about his ideas for potential solutions or thoughts on possible outcomes of this conflict. In response, Traverso repeated that he is not a scholar of international law or the Middle East, reaffirmed the importance of critical distance in creating comprehensive historical works, and reiterated the time it will take to write such works.

Despite the uncertainty and closeness of the conflict, he remained hopeful for a peaceful resolution.

“Why would a binational Israeli-Palestinian state be impossible or irrational?” he asks in the final chapter of his essay. “In the throes of World War II, the idea of building a European federation combining Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, and the Netherlands would have seemed strange and naive [...] but by the end of the process, the idea of a war between Germany, Italy, and France had become quite simply absurd. Why would the same not be true in the Middle East?”

For more information and in-depth discussion, check out “Gaza Faces History.”

Miles is a member of the Class of 2025.

Alumni Profile: madisonrubywrites

BY KATE STOUT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Maddie Esposito (’23) could read when she was two years old. Esposito says the composition notebook she wrote her first book in was “disintegrating in my hands” by the time she was through.

While she said the book was “terrible, obviously,” it’s unsurprising that Esposito ended up studying Creative Writing and History at the University. She says she’s always been a big reader and her dream of being a writer is a long-held one.

Her taste in fiction was fantasy when she was little. She said, “I think it was because I was trying to kind of escape all the nonsense of my own head [...] And now I read more realistic stuff, and I think it’s just because I really like to hear other people’s stories.”

The genre she writes in nowadays is literary fiction, which she summed up as “real stories about real people.” Realistic fiction, she said, is a reminder that all

people, if you look close, are fascinating.

Another way Esposito puts it is, “Literature is a way that you can connect with people without even really needing to know them.”

She gains inspiration from the books she reads and her own life. Her journaling tends to come in handy, too, when she’s looking for ideas. For her senior thesis, Esposito’s novella was centered around two characters she saw herself in.

“In my preface, I wrote like I am as much Eve as I am Lily, like there’s components of me in each of these characters [...] And so I think really it’s just writing the way I feel and the things I’ve experienced and trying to make sense of them,” Esposito said.

After graduating from UR, Esposito ended up staying in the Rochester area. She’s currently working at the nonprofit Rochester Area Community Foundation. Her work includes (but isn’t limited to) event

support, managing, and social media marketing. Her dream is to one day work as a writer full-time, and she’s moving toward that.

‘Realistic fiction, she said, is a reminder that all people, if you look close, are fascinating.’

Now that she’s out of college, Esposito has been finding a community to write with and places to go to create. She mentioned that although she was writing while in school, she now has more freedom and time. Earlier this fall, she went to a literary retreat run by local, queer-owned bookstore Archivist Books in the Catskills. She spent roughly two and a half days working in the same space as other writers, and her review was nothing short of glowing.

“Like, genuinely was one of the best weekends of my life, and just showed me that, kind of renewed that motivation of like, this is

what I want to do full-time. This is what I want to do for my career,” Esposito said.

Currently, she’s working on a website to compile her work. She’s getting ready to submit her work too — something she hasn’t done before — including a short story she’s been working on revising. Patience is key, she explained, and she’s taken the time to edit and find beta readers for her work. During the retreat, she worked on outlining a novel, too.

Finally, Esposito is trying to show herself grace, because writing can take a lot of time. “Writing, yes, is putting words to paper, but it’s also editing, it’s also reading, it’s also researching, it’s also learning how to do your craft better, which I think is what I’ve really leaned into this year,” Esposito said.

Updates on her writing can be found on @madisonrubywrites on Instagram.

Stout is a member of the Class of 2028.

VOTER GUIDE

This November, University students will have the opportunity to stamp their influence on the makeup of our state and federal legislatures — with races and measures down

the ballot between our President, Senator, House Representative, and more.

While most elect to focus on federal elections, the *Campus Times* had the opportunity to provide

comprehensive coverage on the local elections and ballot measures students can vote on; with interviews from state legislators Demond Meeks and Jeremy Cooney, their challengers,

and articles on Proposition 1 and the Johnson Act.

For those who have voted early, are voting by mail, or will head to the polls in-person — our in-depth coverage here at the *CT* serves as

a guide to the ways in which students have voted and informs our audience to make the most empowered decisions they can at the ballot box next week.

What is Proposition One?

BY MADELEINE MCCURDY
STAFF WRITER

In the upcoming election on Nov. 5, an amendment of the New York Constitution titled Proposition One (commonly referred to as Prop. 1) is on the ballot for voters. Voters can either vote “YES” to add the protections to the New York State Constitution or vote “NO” to leave the protections out of the state’s constitution.

What is Prop. 1?

Prop. 1 aims to amend section 11 of article I of the New York Constitution by adding to the list of characteristics to be protected under the law from discrimination. Currently, section 11 states that race, color, creed, and religion are protected from discrimination. Prop. 1 would add ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, and reproductive healthcare and autonomy. The amendment would also ensure that the additional protected characteristics will not invalidate laws designed to prevent discrimination or limit civil rights based on other protected characteristics.

‘Prop. 1 aims to amend section 11 of article I of the New York Constitution, by adding to the list of characteristics to be protected under the law from discrimination.’

A committee report from the New York City Bar summarizes what the amendment will and won’t do, as well as informs voters that in order to vote on Prop. 1 they must flip their ballot over.

Support for Prop. 1

Prop. 1 is supported by the New York Civil Liberties Union (NYACLU).

“Proposal 1 will keep New Yorkers — not politicians — in charge of our personal decisions and will enshrine equal rights into our state constitution,” stated the ACLU. “Prop. 1 will be a critical tool for all New Yorkers to exercise their rights.”

New Yorkers for Equal

Rights, a coalition of over 500 civil and reproductive rights organizations, endorses Prop. 1 as a way to protect freedoms and to limit politicians restricting New Yorkers’ rights through giving the power to the individual.

“Vote Yes on Prop. 1 to protect our fundamental rights and reproductive freedom — including abortion. All New Yorkers deserve to have our fundamental rights and freedoms protected, including our right to abortion. And no New Yorker should be discriminated against because of who they are,” they wrote on their website.

“Vote Yes on Prop. 1 to protect our fundamental rights and reproductive freedom — including abortion.”

Planned Parenthood also calls on New Yorkers to take action in support of Prop. 1 through educational sessions, phone bank volunteering, and canvassing. Planned Parenthood, in partnership with New Yorkers for Equal Rights, supports Prop. 1 on the basis of protecting individuals from governmental discrimination and ensuring an individual’s reproductive freedom. The organization points to the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* and recent attacks on reproductive rights as a motivation for passing Prop. 1.

The New York State Democrats urge voters to vote “YES” to Prop. 1 because of the protection it would give to New Yorkers from discrimination and the reproductive freedom that would be gained.

“In addition to protecting abortion rights, Prop 1 will: protect older New Yorkers and those with disabilities, stop discrimination against LGBTQ workers, and cement New Yorkers’ access to reproductive rights like contraception and IVF,” they listed on their website.

Opposition to Prop. 1

The New York State Republican Party opposes Prop. 1 on the grounds that it is redundant, vague, and dangerous for parental rights. They also believe it will create reverse

discrimination and misuse taxpayer money.

‘The New York State Republican Party opposes Prop. 1 on the grounds that it is redundant, vague, and dangerous for parental rights.’

The Republican party disputes proponents of Prop. 1 that believe Prop. 1 is needed to protect abortion rights for New Yorkers, citing that abortion was legalized in New York in 1970, that there are no threats in regards to appealing that, and that abortion isn’t even mentioned in the amendment.

“The word abortion does not appear in the amendment language as it does in other U.S. state proposals protecting abortion rights. Instead it uses broad terms (‘pregnancy outcomes’ and ‘reproductive autonomy’) leaving much to judicial interpretation.”

They argue that rather than protect the right to abortion, Prop. 1 will do more to harm New Yorkers than help them.

“These new constitutional ‘rights’ will grant minor children the right to transgender and other types of medical interventions — all without parental notification/consent. Parents will remain financially and legally responsible for managing emotional and physical regulation impacting their minor children.”

The Republican party argues that Prop. 1 would take away parental rights by removing the parental consent requirement for children’s medical procedures and allowing the children to decide what they tell their parents about regarding medical procedures.

“In creating ‘national origin’ as a new protected class, Prop. 1 creates a constitutional basis for taxpayer benefits to support non-citizens and illegal migrants,” they listed on their website.

They argue that by including national origin in the characteristics protected under law from discrimination, Prop. 1 will constitutionally protect non-citizens and their access to public assistance.

This would then open the door to allowing migrants to skip the six-month waiting period for work authorization, vote in elections, and apply for public service jobs.

“Prop. 1 contains language which will legalize ‘reverse discrimination’ programs in the governmental and private sectors if intended to remedy past discrimination. This provision provides a state constitutional framework to utilize racial and ethnic quotas in hiring, education admissions, and a range of other areas.”

The Republican party argues that Prop. 1 would cause reverse discrimination through programs like hiring and education admission quotas designed to fix consequences of past discrimination.

The Catholic Bishops of New York State released a statement titled “Proposal 1: A Wolf in Sheep’s Clothing,” explaining that the amendment puts forth a noble idea that in practice is dangerous. According to the statement, although Prop. 1 is called the Equal Rights Amendment, it strips away parental rights and makes it impossible for future abortion limitations.

‘The Coalition to Protect Kids-NY, a ballot issue committee against Prop. 1, is asking New Yorkers to vote “NO” to Prop. 1 and save girls sports.’

“Proposal 1 is a wolf in sheep’s clothing that could lead to darkness for many New York families. This amendment disregards the lives of unborn and struggling children in the name of political agendas. It could have dangerous consequences for these children and their parents. As they look to make their voices heard in the public square, faithful Catholics should consider these consequences and vote no.”

The Coalition to Protect Kids-NY, a ballot issue committee against Prop. 1, is asking New Yorkers to vote “NO” to Prop. 1 and save girls sports. The coalition believes that Prop. 1 will require schools to

allow biological males into female sports, take away parental rights, and jeopardize religious liberties. They also believe that Prop. 1 would take away senior discounts and weaken protections against statutory rape and elder abuse.

“The so-called Equal Rights Amendment which we have dubbed the Parent Replacement Act, poses significant risks to parental rights and family autonomy,” stated the coalition. “Furthermore, if these poorly written one-size-fits-all additions pass, each of the common sense rails in our society could be deemed unconstitutional under state law. The New York State government could have more authority than parents in making medical decisions for their minor children.”

McCurdy is a member of the Class of 2025.

New York State Senate: District 56

BY NARM NATHAN
DATA EDITOR

As the upper house of New York's state legislature, state Senators hold the power to present legislation as well as confirm the Governor's appointments of non-elected state officials and court judges. District 56 of the New York State Senate has been represented by Democrat Jeremy Cooney since 2020.

Last election, Cooney won his election with 54.2% of the vote, against repeat challenger Jim VanBrederode. They will face each other again as they seek office this November. Both candidates were interviewed by the *Campus Times* on background, platform, and policy.

Jeremy Cooney (D):

Senator Cooney, adopted from an Indian orphanage, was the first Asian-American elected to state office from Upstate New York.

"When you're raised by a single parent, you learn that the entire community plays a part in your upbringing," Cooney stated in written responses to the *CT*. "I'm proud to be the first graduate of the Rochester City School District in the Senate in over 40 years and take my passion for our city and community to the state capitol."

On affordability

As State Senator, Cooney supported various bills providing financial assistance, from Senate Bill S277C, that provides a working families tax credit, to Senate Bill S9913, that establishes New York's first home grant program.

These tax cuts led to the lowest tax rates for the middle class in New York in 70 years, Cooney alleges. "They've been fully implemented and will save New Yorkers around \$1.7 billion statewide."

Cooney has also expanded child tax credits covering ages zero to four, "putting cash in the hands of our families, reducing poverty in our community, and setting up our youth for future success."

On healthcare

Cooney supported the proposal for New York Health, which provides a state-funded version of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) that would increase food accessibility to lower-income families.

"We can't talk about ending poverty and increasing the quality of life for our residents without talking about healthcare access. There is no question that all members of

our community, regardless of the zip code they reside in, should have access to affordable, high-quality care.

"All members of our community, regardless of the zip code they reside in, should have access to affordable, high-quality care."

I have been very involved in increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates to support our hospitals, supporting local organizations like Jordan Health that serve underserved areas of our city, and I'll always make the health and wellbeing of our community a top priority."

On women and LGBTQ+ rights

"I am proud to be unequivocally pro-choice," Cooney stated. "Everyone deserves the autonomy to make healthcare decisions regarding their own bodies, and it's crucial that New York leads on this issue as much of the country moves backwards."

When it comes to protecting the rights of the LGBTQ+ community, Cooney pushes for Proposition 1, which also includes protections against discrimination.

"Our city and our state are known for being welcoming and inclusive places for people of all sexualities and backgrounds. It's important to me that we always make a concerted effort to make these communities feel safe, seen, and welcomed across New York State."

On public safety and gun violence

Cooney believes that there is no single fix to reduce crime, and that we need to take a holistic approach to address its root causes — referencing his "Three P's: prevention, policy, and punishment."

"While all three are necessary and important in their own ways, prevention is a key piece that deserves more attention. Whether it's funding grassroots anti-violence organizations, investing in our schools, or creating better economic opportunities, we have to work to prevent our youth from entering the cycle of violence."

Cooney is also a proponent of the Car Theft Prevention Act. The city saw nearly 4,000 car thefts reported in 2023 and is on pace for over 2,000 by the end of this year.

On the election

When seeking re-election this November, Cooney seeks to represent everyone



TEDDY ALMOND / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

who resides in the community, regardless of ethnicity.

"As an Indian-American, I'm also proud to represent a new diverse voice as the first and only Asian-American elected to state office outside of NYC. It is an honor to help better the lives of my neighbors and I'm ready to continue fighting for them for years to come."

Jim VanBrederode (R):

VanBrederode's interest in running for public office comes from his background in policing, both in the town of Gates and the city of Rochester.

"I was always the person providing the services, answering 911 calls, and dealing with people's problems, and coming up with solutions."

"I had no intentions of being a politician," he explained in an interview with the *Campus Times*. "I was always a public servant. I was always the person providing the services, answering 911 calls, and dealing with people's problems, and coming up with solutions. The crime [and] the murders didn't seem to resonate with the voters [in the last election ...] I think a lot of people, if it's not in their neighborhood and it's not in their face, [they] just get used to the news breaking every night and just get so immune to what [we're] seeing every night [...] 2024 came and I decided to try one more time."

Many of Jim's concerns and proposals involve tackling crime in the city and addressing voters' potential public safety concerns.

On gun violence

Recently, Governor Hochul and Rochester Mayor Malik Evans

celebrated a 39% decrease in gun shootings this year, despite the city being hit by mass shootings like that of Maplewood Park in July.

For VanBrederode, recent closings of prisons and an alleged leniency of the criminal justice system are what's to blame for upticks in violence.

"A lot of [innocent] people have died," he said, "because the system is not going to incarcerate [anybody] anymore, we're into this whole 'let everybody out free until we convict them.'"

On bail reform and 'raise the age' laws

VanBrederode referenced New York's repeal of cash bail in 2019 while lamenting the inability of police to prevent repeat offenders from reoffending. His experience in policing, he alleged, gives him a perspective that those in office don't when it comes to preventing crime.

"New York is the only state that doesn't have a dangerous standard [...] The criminal justice system has been totally dismantled, and that's what's frustrating. Nobody wants to talk about [these policies] because [they're] not politically correct."

New York also changed the age a child can be prosecuted as an adult in criminal cases. As of 2019, you must be 18 to be tried as an adult.

According to VanBrederode, the chance to rehabilitate children would have happened had the police and the courts received resources beforehand.

"It really is catch and release; you catch them doing something, and then you bring them home. There's nothing in place to help the parents if they're struggling with someone who's out of control or to help the kids. At the end of the day, we're losing a whole generation because of this new policy."

On balancing concerns

VanBrederode wants to put more focus on the less visible parts of the justice process.

"It's what happens after the arrest where there's no funding to provide supervision or to give them the services that they need, and so people just fall right through the cracks of the criminal justice system."

VanBrederode mentioned the closings of Walgreens in Rochester as a consequence of reducing the responsibility of the government in managing crime.

"You [have] to be there all the time so people know you, and then when there's a problem, they trust you."

"Maybe if we created a safe environment for the store to thrive, these stores wouldn't be closing right? [...] Nobody wants to address the underlying issue. The issue is we have a problem with crime, [but] maybe if you had an environment where somebody didn't get shot in the parking lot, the store would still be in business."

On the election

For VanBrederode, his ambition for public office reflects a tenet of his time in policing: standing with his community at all times, not just the worst ones.

"You [have] to be there all the time so people know you, and then when there's a problem, they trust you."

Nathan is a member of the Class of 2025.

New York State Assembly: District 137



TEDDY ALMOND / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BY NARM NATHAN
DATA EDITOR

The University is in Assembly District 137, which has been represented by Democrat Demond Meeks since the passing of David Gantt (D) in 2020. Despite running unopposed that year, Meeks faced Marcus C. Williams (R) in the previous two elections, winning 67.9% of the vote in 2022.

Both Meeks and Williams sat down with the Campus Times to discuss their background and platform in preparation for next week's election.

Demond Meeks (D):

Meeks ties his commitment to advocacy back to his roots: growing up on Rochester's own Hudson Avenue and watching the way his family fought for him — with a mother who joined the Civil Service Employees Association when he was younger.

Meeks began his foray in community organizing in high school, and became an organizer for 1199SEIU, a labor union for healthcare workers.

"[For] a number of the challenges and frustrations that we were dealing with as a community, I felt like all roads went back to Albany [... whether it was] challenges providing some of the same programs and services that I was offered as a child, summer programs, summer employment [...]. How do we bring those types of programs back? Well, we can sit there and advocate in Albany and bring resources back in those spaces."

On housing

"One of the things that we passed at the state level was Good Cause [legislation]. Years ago, we talked to [Rochester's] city council about it and they said 'you've got to do it at the state level.' [...]. It's done

[now], and we also implemented it in a manner that City Council could outfit it to benefit the community [they] serve, and that's not quite happening [...]. It's like pulling teeth."

"We live in a society where people literally cannot afford to be sick."

While Meeks sees Good Cause — which establishes regulations for property owners to abide by when raising rent or evicting a tenant — as a vital first step, his focus also extends to ensuring that financial barriers don't prevent families from homeownership, where an individual who may not have the best credit or income but pays their rent on time could still find a way to build and own a home.

On healthcare

As an Assembly member, Meeks has sponsored a variety of legislation that seeks to improve healthcare accessibility for New Yorkers, with the most notable being Assembly Bill 7897 that would establish the New York Health program, a comprehensive system of access to statewide healthcare insurance. He has helped pass new legislation where New Yorkers won't have to pay co-payments for insulin.

"If I could wave a magic wand and everyone can have healthcare free of charge, I think it would be beneficial to everyone across the board. As a labor organizer, I remember days going into facilities, talking with my members, and to see people coming to work; you can see that they're actually sick [...]. We live in a society where people literally cannot afford to be sick."

Meeks also mentioned his support for Assembly Bill A3115, which calls for a progressive statewide income

tax.

"I think you have to have a selfless mindset when it comes to paying taxes, but also recognizing that these are ways that we can help benefit [the] masses throughout our community [...]. It has to be paid for, right? With a progressive income tax that focuses on top-tier earners, I think that would be one of the directions that we could [go] in, [as well as] putting pressure on our federal government to say that this is something that we need across the board."

On poverty

According to the Rochester-Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative, Rochester has the highest rate of childhood poverty, the highest rate of extreme poverty, and the second-highest rate of poverty among comparably-sized cities in the nation. During his tenure in Assembly, Meeks supported legislation to both raise the minimum wage and assist women into entering high-demand occupations.

"So many of our challenges as a community tie right back to poverty [...]. When we have better wages, the money goes a bit further, and it also affords people more time [...]. I've seen it time and time again, where often the case is you have single moms working these hours, sometimes working as travel nurses — they're making money, but they're not able to be present."

For Meeks, raising the minimum wage is one thing, but having a living wage for families is another.

"Before the onset of the pandemic, studies showed that a living wage for a single parent raising two children in Rochester was \$18.50 [...]. Something that I worked on as a member of 1199SEIU, we were intentional in hosting financial literacy workshops [...]. Programs] to help people

have a better idea of how to go about spending money and resources, necessities versus wants."

On the election

When it comes to re-election, Meeks ties his position directly to the identity of the people he's served since his beginnings.

"Members of the community really want to see the community in a positive light. They want to see clean streets. They want to see less violence [...]. I belong to the Democratic Party, but I'm a member of this community," he added. "I also believe wholeheartedly that the power of the people is stronger than the people in power."

Marcus C. Williams (R):

Williams' choice to run for Assembly comes from not being heard at the city-level.

"I reached out to city council, and my city council person at the time [said] 'we'll take a meeting with you and we'll talk to you about stuff.' It was next week, next week [...]. and tomorrow never came."

That's not how you're supposed to be as a representative. You're supposed to be able to be accessible to the people when they want to reach out to you and engage with them."

On lowering crime

According to Williams, bail reform is fundamentally misunderstood — and allows juveniles to continue crime without adequate punishment.

"For juveniles, they don't fingerprint. They don't mugshot, or any of that. Somebody could have a rap sheet as long as your arm, and every time they get caught, when they go before a judge, it's like their first time doing a crime."

He also spoke about jail and prison reform.

"The living conditions in the prisons are terrible [...]. The food quality, the access to positive, impactful staff, it's not there. We also need to give the people the ability to work jobs. There's a lot of companies that have no issues hiring people with records [...]. They'd be willing to work with prisons to train the people for the jobs while they're in prison before they get out."

On the income and state gas tax

Williams mentions other states that don't have income tax at all. "These are burdens that everybody is facing, but [they're] also part of our everyday economy. If the money isn't able to be paid into that, it deteriorates the economy, and

we can't grow and have the positive directional focus that we need as an area."

Williams also mentioned expanding the state's capabilities for oil and gas production in tandem with eliminating a state gas tax — building another oil refinery, for one, and proposing ventures into nuclear energy production.

"We know that nuclear is clean energy [...]. If you're shutting down power plants, but we need the energy, why would you do that? We're not able to produce enough with wind and solar. It's a great concept — but the question is, 'is it practical?'"

To him, wind and solar don't generate enough output to meet current energy needs. Without being realistic, he says, communities would face the burden.

On accessible housing

Though Meeks largely supports Good Cause legislation, Williams is opposed to it — and would rather see benefits flow to homeowners.

"My alternative to Good Cause is [that] for the first five years of a new home purchase, I'd like it to be tax deferred, where you don't have to pay tax for the five years [...]. That helps first-time home buyers and owner-occupants of their property [in terms of] not having to pay that extra expense when really you're trying to establish yourself."

On educational and economic opportunity

"We see that charter schools and religious schools are having a boom because what they're doing is they are preparing children better educationally-wise to be more proficient and to have the option to access better opportunities in the future, be that jobs [or college]."

To Williams, schools with the best outcomes — charter and religious schools, he says — should have the most funding.

On the election

On seeking victory this November, Williams wants to see change in the relationships constituents have with their representatives.

"My job is to represent the people in my community and their concerns," Williams stated. "I could care less about the political elites or whatever, because [my job] is not to [just] serve the people [...]. My goal is to serve the people and show them that they matter to me."

Nathan is a member of the Class of 2025.

Why You Haven't Seen Politicians Campaigning Around Campus

BY TEDDY ALMOND
STAFF WRITER

BY EMMELY ELI TEXCUCANO
FEATURES EDITOR

There are currently 18.5 million college students across the country, according to Statista — with many of them being eligible to vote.

By having so many young voters condensed on college campuses, one might wonder, “Why don’t politicians devote more time to campaigning there?” The answer: It’s illegal.

The Johnson Amendment, a remnant of a law drafted in 1954 into the U.S. tax code, states that 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations, which claim tax-exempt status, cannot host or endorse political candidates.

This means that organizations like most colleges or churches are prohibited from exhibiting any sort of endorsement of any political campaign or candidate, such as by hosting a politician’s rally.

The theory behind the law is to prohibit institutions seeking tax-exempt status from “taking sides” in a political campaign. However, the law does not prohibit organizations from merely educating its members on how to vote or encouraging them to vote in general, so long as they do not endorse any particular candidate.

‘The law does not prohibit organizations from merely educating its members on how to vote or encouraging them to vote in general.’

Professor of Religion and Classics Daniel Beaumont agreed with the reasoning behind the law’s existence.

“I understand it completely,” he said. “And there’s a reason for it too [...] From the University standpoint, obviously, it’s like, they’re here, the University is a place of free speech, and they don’t want to be seen to be endorsing various political viewpoints.”

However, as Beaumont went on later to point out, there is some gray area.

Some confusion seems to lie in whether politicians on the campaign trail are essentially banned from school property, or if they are just prohibited from renting rooms or space to hold political rallies. Based on the law’s wording and interpretation, this decision could depend on the school’s policy.

When reached for comment, the University’s legal department explained that there are exceptions to



TEDDY ALMOND / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

these rules as well. They explained that the University is allowed to rent out rooms to student on-campus political groups — such as the UR College Democrats or College Republicans, so long as those attending are solely affiliates.

The department emphasized that prior to any such events, those hosting must make a statement verbally and in print that the University does not support or oppose candidates for political office and that the opinions expressed are not those of the University.

‘Based on the law’s wording and interpretation, this decision could depend on the school’s policy.’

They also added that an additional expectation exists that, “if [the University were to] choose to invite candidates to speak individually in their capacity as a candidate, we should take steps to ensure that all such legally qualified candidates are invited and that none are favored in relation to the activity.” Any such invitations must be coordinated through the University’s Office of Government & Community Relations.

‘When management of the third-party communist presidential candidate Claudia De la Cruz asked if they could rent a room to hold a speech at the University, they were turned away.’

Internally, the University adopted Rule 112, which stipulates much of the same regulations as does the federally-instituted tax code.

Recently, when management of the third-party communist presidential candidate Claudia De la Cruz asked if they could rent a room to hold a speech at the University, they were turned away.

However, the University’s enforcement of this rule seems sporadic. Back in 1959, John F. Kennedy visited the schools on his

campaign trail to become senator. And transcripts of his speech confirm his presence on school property. His visit would have been three years after the law barring candidates from campaigning went into effect.

‘It could potentially have been seen as the University’s tacit endorsement of the candidate.’

Then, in July 2016, U.S. Secretary of Energy Dr. Ernest Moniz and U.S. Senator Charles Schumer were invited to the UR Laboratory for Laser Energetics (LLE) to meet with University leadership, LLE scientists, staff, and students.

During the visit, in addition to his other roles as senator, Schumer chaired the Senate Democratic Policy Committee.

Schumer also was seeking re-election, and later in the year Senate Democrats unanimously elected Schumer as Senate minority leader in November 2016. While this may not have been a rally or planned campaign event, it could potentially have been seen as the University’s tacit endorsement of the candidate.

It seems there is some room for interpretation when it comes to the University’s policy on candidates’ campus visits, and there may be different expectations for affiliated groups than for the University as an entity.

For students, the end result is that while they will not be seeing Donald Trump or Kamala Harris swing through campus to campaign, there seems to be some gray area in the law that could permit other political figures to speak to students.

Almond is a member of the Class of 2028.

Texcucano is a member of the Class of 2025.

Monroe County’s Voting Trends



KEVIN HU / PHOTO EDITOR

BY AUSTIN DELORME
STAFF WRITER

In 2000, a majority of residents were registered with the Republican party, numbering at about 146,437 compared to the 142,479 residents registered as Democrats. County-wide offices often reflected such makeup — but from 2000 to 2024, party makeup shifted, and the Democrats took on the challenge of reshaping Monroe County politics.

It was 2004 when the tides began to change, and the Democrats managed to outperform the Republicans in party enrollment. Since then, the trend has continued, and Republicans now hold far less voters compared to just 20 years ago.

As of the Monroe County Board of Elections’ most recent reporting on Oct. 1, Democrats have a sizable advantage county-wide, with around 204,393 voters compared to 125,611 registered Republican voters. With a little less than a two-to-one advantage, it seems that it would be impossible to ever win a county-wide race in Monroe — except it isn’t.

‘Such a trend in registration raises questions about the future of Monroe County’s voter demographics.’

Up until 2019, Republicans, despite having less voters, actually won several county-wide races — from County legislature and executive positions to county judge races. One reason for this could be the presence of two factors outside of the main two political parties: Independents and unaffiliated voters.

Monroe County Board of Elections’ data suggests that at the same time that Republicans were losing enrollment, the Independent party saw upticks in registration. Simultaneously, voters have increasingly opted to not affiliate with any party, choosing to be “Blanks,” or unaffiliated — which means that they cannot vote in party primaries, but can still vote in general

elections as any registered member.

Such a trend in registration raises questions about the future of Monroe County’s voter demographics.

An indicator could be recent congressional election results. In 2014, first-term town supervisor Mark Assini (R) almost won a seat considered a Democratic stronghold against incumbent congresswoman Louise Slaughter (D). In fact, the race was so close that it ended up being one of the last calls for the 2014 elections nationally. Despite the Democrats holding an advantage of over 46,000 registered voters against Republicans, Slaughter won by less than 1,000 votes.

New York’s 25th congressional seat, which encompasses the entirety of Monroe County, was easily won by Democrats until 2022 when Republican La’Ron Singletary came within five points of a possible victory, and overperformed general expectations for the race. He garnered 45% of the vote in the Monroe County portion of the congressional district, despite there being a disparity of 80,000 registered voters between the parties.

This trend can be explained in several ways — either Democrats are not going out to vote because of a lack of enthusiasm about candidates, or Republicans are garnering a sizable coalition of Democrats and unaffiliated to heighten their chance of securing a local victory.

With all these trends in mind, it seems that this election cycle could be hotly contested for New York’s 25th Congressional District.

Editor’s Note: Austin DeLorme has consulted for and volunteered with the Monroe County Republican party. He is also the founding chair and current senior advisor for the Monroe County Teen Republicans.

DeLorme is a member of the Class of 2028.

OPINIONS

The Children Will Not Save Us

EDITORIAL OBSERVER

BY FINN ABBEY
OPINIONS EDITOR

I am no fan of obligatory sequels. When I heard that the College Democrats and Republicans were going to have another debate, I considered skipping it at first; I said all I needed when I wrote about them last semester. However, I was told that they'd requested the *Campus Times* not attend, and the Marxist in me saw the beauty of a club which would not have me as a member. I figured I'd check back up on them.

'No new intellectual ground is ever broken at a debate.'

If you are the type of sicko who pays attention to electoral politics year round, debates are less of a learning opportunity and more of a tedious obligation. No new intellectual ground is ever broken at a debate, and any voter who goes to one sincerely expecting to learn is doing themselves a great disservice. Debates are only useful insofar as they are a convenient microcosm of whatever rhetoric is en vogue at the time. When I went to watch the partisans duke it out, I was going not to learn, but to study.

The housing portion was the driest of the debate. The Democrats trotted out what I expect will continue to be the party rhetoric, crying "tax the rich" and then clarifying that their agenda consists mostly of complicated tax incentives rather than anything approaching a government program. It appears that people respect Bernie's brand, just not his policies. The Republican debater — who I recognize as being such a fan of my work that he once came up to me, appearing quite intoxicated, so starstruck that he could only quote his favorite passages to me — rose to say housing should be a commodity, and that the way to fix the housing crisis was to pass bills encouraging everyone to become a mini-landlord. Little thought was given for people struggling with housing insecurity or outrageous rent hikes, they can rent some homeowner's shed. For the *really* poor, vouchers. Bully.

Ranked-choice voting was no more inspiring than housing. The Republican speaker valiantly argued against any reform, except perhaps eliminating

primaries and letting party bosses decide nominees instead. The speaker seemed to be advocating for whatever combination of democracy and not-democracy achieved his preferred policy outcomes. It was powerful and disheartening to see a man my age excitedly talk about the genius and foresight of the Founding Fathers and the beauty of the structure of American government. We took the lead out of the paint and gasoline, and still some of our citizens are cognitively struggling.

The middle of the debate is where I must focus the most of my policy attention. Nothing else I heard in the debate struck me as particularly new. I had seen again, as I did last year, how Democrats, living almost entirely in an era where the national party eschewed ideology beyond opposition to the Republicans, stumbled again and again when trying to articulate a clear vision for the future. I had also seen a white man smugly tell the audience the world was great actually, except for all the people getting in his way.

'We must be vigilant to prevent too much from being done about climate change, lest it adversely affect the beloved economy.'

The climate change portion was the only moment where I could feel something novel happening. It seemed impossible that a man my age could stand before an audience of his peers and say that he believed, like the leaders of his national party, that climate change was some sort of evil hoax (possibly Jewish in origin). Indeed, he did not let me down, saying on the reality of climate change: "Across the spectrum you'll find no disagreement here." Almost immediately I received the spin. The real problem was not climate change, but that dreaded dogma, "safetyism." We must be vigilant to prevent too much from being done about climate change, lest it adversely affect the beloved economy. Young people are too scared by the reality of climate change to have the adequate amount of children, which is something these freaks care about apparently. We should favor a multidisciplinary approach to climate science, that balances climate scientists'

opinions with people who don't study climate science, like economists. I was assured that the economic damage of climate change came out to about \$200 million a year, a mere rounding error in the Pentagon's budget. If you sincerely believe that climate change will be that minor, I have beachfront property to sell you.

It was an incredible experience. I felt like I saw the future. We have passed the point where rational people can deny to themselves or others that climate change exists, and so we must reformat climate denialism for the new generation. What is important is not action, but to have the proper talking

points for when someone says they're worried that they will be driven from their home. It is an insulting variety of conservatism that feigns concern for the price of gasoline for people in the global south as they are directly killed by rising temperatures. It is the fresh new perspective of the people that will kill millions. If people like the College Republicans are the people leading us in the future, I am tempted to agree with them that we are too stupid for democracy.

Editor's Note: The digital version of this article (on campustimes.org) includes many hyperlinked sources.

Abbey is a member of the Class of 2025.



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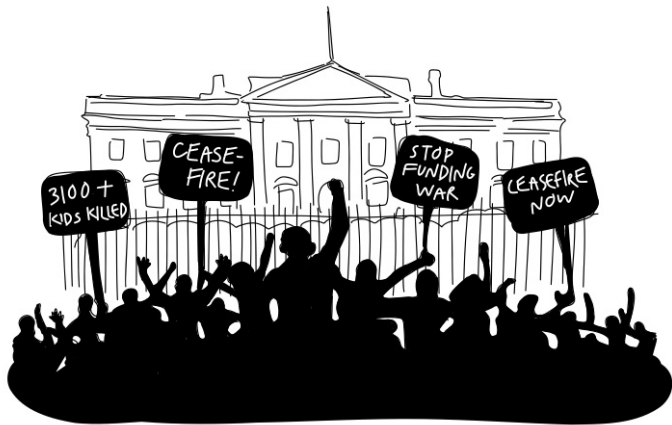
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Weighing in the War in Gaza for This Year's Presidential Election



BY SUBAAH SYED
ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

It is essential for voters to recognize the significance of the war in Gaza as they weigh their choices for this year's presidential election. The conflict has profound humanitarian, political, and financial implications. Understanding how each candidate plans to address this crisis is crucial for voters, especially given the deep financial ties to Israel and the broader implications of these actions on international peace and security.

It has been a little over a year since the Oct. 7 attack, and over 1,100 Israelis and 43,000 Palestinians have died from the ongoing war in Gaza, which has now also extended to Lebanon and Syria. These numbers do not include the many undocumented deaths due to reporters being killed on the field.

Though the conflicts occurring in the Middle East seem like a world away from us, this is a very pressing issue that many voters will factor in when casting their ballot for the 2024 presidential election. Kamala Harris (D) and Donald Trump (R) need to secure their standing across Jewish and Muslim American voters, especially in tight battleground states like Michigan and Pennsylvania.

'Though the conflicts occurring in the Middle East seem like a world away from us, this is a very pressing issue.'

For voters in general, they should care about how each candidate views this issue because it will determine where their tax money will end up. This year, the U.S. gave Israel 8.7 billion dollars in September alone, which included 3.5 billion for essential wartime procurement and 5.2 billion for air defense systems.

In a recent poll by the

SUBAAHSYED / ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

Pew Research Center, 61% of Americans believe the U.S. should play a diplomatic role in ending the war, while 31% say that Israel has gone too far with their current military operations. What's more, there are very stark differences in how each party views Israel Prime Minister Netanyahu's ability to resolve the issue. Almost half of Republicans have confidence in him while 71% of Democrats have little to no confidence in Netanyahu's handling of the war.

What are each candidate's views on the conflicts in the Middle East, and how will they be dealing with the issue when becoming president? Harris has repeatedly advocated for the two-state solution, much like her predecessor Joe Biden. She said on the final day of the Democratic National Convention how Israel has the right to self-defense, but that the thousands of lives lost in Palestine is "heart-breaking." The Biden/Harris presidency has been pushing for a cease-fire since Harris's meeting with Netanyahu back in July, where she reiterated her unwavering support for Israel but also mentioned that she would not remain silent on the humanitarian crisis in Palestine.

Trump, on the other hand, has been attempting to lure away voters from Harris, confidently claiming that the war would not have started if he would have remained president and that he believes that world affairs will just get worse if Harris takes presidential office. He posted on his social media platform TRUTH Social that "if Kamala gets four more years, the Middle East will spend the next four decades going up in flames, and your kids will be going off to War, maybe even a Third World War." He also mentioned in an interview with a Saudi-Lebanese news outlet how his business connections in the Middle East will also help him in

securing firm ground in Middle East affairs.

In an interview with conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt, Trump mentioned vague plans about having Gaza as a resort "better than Monaco" if "rebuilt the right way." This is certainly a shocking statement, especially for people who have lost relatives during the war. Other than that, he hasn't really mentioned a concise foreign policy that his administration would institute if he gains presidency.

Especially due to the war and humanitarian crisis in Gaza, candidates are struggling to gain ground, largely due to the complexity of the situation and its varied effects on different groups of voters. America hasn't had a great track record when it comes to foreign policy, and one can suggest not being involved altogether.

'America hasn't had a great track record when it comes to foreign policy, and one can suggest not being involved altogether.'

However, with America's longtime involvement in providing billions of dollars for weapons that eventually lead to the mass killing and displacement of thousands, it's crucial for the U.S. to take an active role in ending the conflict. From how deeply they are entangled in this conflict, it is a moral responsibility for the U.S. and the next president to come to a resolution and leverage its power to ensure long-term stability in the region.

However, this should not be the sole determinant for who to cast your vote for this upcoming presidential election. Many people have decided on not voting altogether due to Harris and Trump's stance on this issue alone. Despite how important it is for how the next president will address the war in Gaza, we have to keep in mind the many pressing domestic policy issues in the nation and how each presidential candidate has expressed their plan on addressing these matters as well. As voters, we have the responsibility to weigh the broader spectrum of policies that will shape the future of our nation.

Syed is a member of the Class of 2027.

Why I'm Voting Yes to Prop. 1 (and You Should Too)

BY ROSE SWATEK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"PROTECT PARENTAL RIGHTS VOTE NO PROP 1"; "SAVE GIRLS SPORTS VOTE NO PROP. 1"; "NO LEGAL RIGHTS FOR ILLEGAL MIGRANTS VOTE NO PROP. 1."

If you've driven anywhere in New York State (NYS) in the past month, you've probably seen lawn signs like these all over the place. These signs make it seem like Prop. 1 is going to ruin our state and hurt children in New York for decades to come — but that's simply not true.

NYS is currently considering the addition of an amendment to the state constitution. Known as Proposition 1 or New York's "Equal Rights Amendment," the amendment would ensure that no person within NYS would be denied the equal protections of the law.

'NYS is currently considering the addition of an amendment to the state constitution.'

This would codify the civil rights of many groups into the New York Constitution, including women, LGBTQIA+ people, minors, the elderly, and immigrants. It would also enshrine the right to reproductive healthcare within the New York Constitution. It also ensures that this amendment will not interfere with legislation protecting the rights of other groups.

Prop. 1 will appear on every NYS ballot, either on the back or the bottom. There will be a brief description of the proposed amendment, and voters will be asked to fill in YES if they want the amendment to be added to the New York Constitution or NO if they do not.

This proposition has stirred much controversy. Many opponents to Prop. 1 claim it will allow for "illegal" immigrants to vote, for men to compete against little girls in sports, and even the legalization of pedophilia. These concerns are rooted in fear, so it's worth examining.

First, undocumented immigrants have never been able to vote in the U.S.. It is against the law of the federal government, which trumps state law and is unconstitutional. Voting is a constitutional right of U.S. citizens, and citizens only. The bill also doesn't say a single thing about the rights of citizens versus non-citizens.

Second, men are never going to play sports against little girls. The amendment says literally nothing about athletics, and schools are still

required to follow the current regulations given by the state, federal governments, and athletic bodies which they are competing under.

Third, and I cannot believe I have to say this, pedophilia is not going to be legalized. Engaging in the sexual abuse of a minor is a federal crime: Protecting the civil rights of people of all ages is not going to change that.

There are a million more wild scenarios that opponents of this amendment have come up with, but all of them are meant to do one thing and one thing only: stoke fear in people. We have seen this time and time again when there is an attempt to make progress; from the civil rights movement in the 60s, where many white people in power said that civil rights for Black people would increase crime rates and hurt the white children in school, or the transgender rights movement, where many cisgender people accused (and continue to accuse) trans people of grooming their children and assaulting women in bathrooms. These oppositions utilized fearmongering and overblown claims to try to hold progress back. These desperate accusations are never true. Don't let this work.

'This proposition has stirred much controversy.'

Proposition 1 needs to be passed in these uncertain times. We don't know what the next four years are going to look like for marginalized people. We don't know if our next president will be focused on progressivism or Project 2025. New York can't make much of a difference in protecting our country from having a president who will push forth policies that destroy marginalized communities and strip people of their right to bodily autonomy. But if we pass Prop. 1, New York could be a safe haven for those whose identities are being threatened and those who have lost control of their own bodies. New Yorkers, if you want to make a real difference this November, I am begging you — vote Yes to Prop. 1. I know I will.

Swatek is a member of the Class of 2028.

ROCHESTERIAN FROM PAGE 1

Sadwick's slogan? "Not Left, Not Right, Forward." The message to me highlights exactly what he is trying to do with this campaign. Finally casting away party politics and his party's ghosts in exchange for a common sense voice to represent Rochester in Washington.

Many will be hesitant of the fact that Sadwick is a Republican and that their values don't all align with him. But that is exactly what makes him so special as a candidate. You don't have to agree 100% of the time with someone to support them for the good of the community.

If we went by the 100% logic, we would all vote for Morelle, who has

often used divisive rhetoric about his opponents to achieve his political devices. The result of Morelle's last victory was a two-year cycle of — you guessed it — nothing!

So while we preach from our high horses about righteousness and virtues we pride ourselves with, think to yourself on Election Day: Who do we want to be as a country? Who do we

want to be as a Rochester community?

If the answer to those questions is that you want an inclusive and multicultural community, look for confidence not in the current congressional incumbent. Who knows? Maybe we can finally establish an effective change for Rochester, and continue the changes that Louise Slaughter started.

Editor's Note: Austin DeLorme has consulted for and volunteered with the Monroe County Republican party. He is also the founding chair and current senior advisor for the Monroe County Teen Republicans.

DeLorme is a member of the Class of 2028.

On Demanding Transparency in a Time of Censorship

EDITORIAL BOARD

We're living through the era of journalism by press release. As newspapers continue to lay off reporters and shrink local coverage, large institutions, particularly universities, have become accustomed to the luxury of controlling their own narratives. Outlets do not have the staff to extend their coverage to university campuses and often rely on student newspapers to break University news. Legitimate, in-depth reporting is crucial to the free functioning of a community, and central to in-depth reporting is access.

The *Campus Times* is one of the largest print papers in Rochester by circulation, and covers issues that other outlets don't — namely, campus issues that would otherwise go uncovered. Unfortunately, some at the University seem to believe

they can restrict the scale of our coverage, the opinions of our editorials, and the access of our reporters. This has become a recurring pattern across various departments and organizations — and needs to stop.

Earlier in September, the *CT* attempted to cover an event hosted on campus by a religious organization, but when our photography editor arrived at the event, he was met with hostility. The following week the organization asked us if the *CT* could be barred from covering any of their future events. Another organization, after first extending an invitation to the *CT*, emailed to ask the *CT* not to cover their event.

This is unacceptable. Whether it is a fundamental misunderstanding of how newspapers operate and news reporting works, a willful ignorance

of journalistic principles, or a misconception that the *CT* is not a real news organization and therefore can be barred from basic event coverage, we condemn these thoughts and actions.

Recently, *CT* also published an opinion piece on the choice to pirate textbooks due to the lack of alternatives the University offers to students faced with exorbitant textbook costs. Post-publication, the *CT* was met with University lawyers' request to remove the article, which led us to question if administration truly read the article. The gist of the piece was not to endorse piracy — it was to underscore the University's lack of attention to students who are unable to afford crucial resources when it has more than sufficient means to support them. Taking down the piece silences the voice of this

author — and likely many more students who feel the same but who don't have the means to deal with the backlash of voicing such a stance. And so, the piece remains online.

The *Campus Times* has continuously been barred from covering events and accessing what should be public information. In 2022, DPS forbade *CT* writer Justin O'Connor from covering a set of information sessions, even though they were advertised as open to students. The (at the time) Associate Dean for Student Affairs Emily Fehnel said that the presence of a reporter would stop students from speaking their minds in the sessions, but when O'Connor tried to compromise Fehnel stopped responding, and the sessions went uncovered.

In a step forward, the new

DPS chief, Quchee Collins, agreed this week to an interview with the *CT*'s Data Editor, Narm Nathan, for a profile. To accurately and truthfully inform the student body, it is integral that the *CT* has open and unhampered access to information, and that we are not stonewalled from events that deserve coverage. Under the new administration, DPS is showing a positive change — one towards transparency, one that we hope other University departments and organizations soon follow.

As a student newspaper, we cover events that mainstream media do not. Our status as student journalists does not undermine our legitimacy as an investigative outlet and news source. Going forward, we need to have access to the information we need to do our jobs.

The Editorial Board is an Opinions article representing the view of the *Campus Times*, co-written by Editor-in-Chief Allie Tay, Publisher Micah Bettenhausen, Managing Editors Helena Feng and Sherene Yang, Opinions Editors Finn Abbey and Eva Naik, News Editor Natalie Opdahl, and Features Editor Emmely Eli Texcucano.

The Green Party are Grifters



JOY LU // ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

BY FINN ABBEY
OPINIONS EDITOR

BY ALEENA RESSAS
STAFF WRITER

There are historic moments wherein the political and economic conditions of everyday life seem to cry out for someone to embody them and herald a new understanding of the world. This is one of those moments. Jill Stein is not that somebody.

It may seem silly to even

mention Jill Stein considering how much of a political nonfactor she is. She has never held an elected position higher than a town seat, even after running twice for governor of Massachusetts. The Greens will lose, as they have in every election, by significant and pathetic margins. Far from providing a meaningful alternative, the Green Party, and their apparently irreplaceable standard

bearer Stein, simply farm protest votes and suck up government allotted election money. This money is spent, in turn, on making sure the Greens continue to cross the threshold and keep the money flowing so they can continue to run for President, apparently the only office they are ever interested in.

Outsider status is not a disqualifying factor in politics, both in the mainstream and in left-wing circles. But it is truly galling how rife with opportunists the Green Party is. Instead of recruiting and running on a local level, where elections can be won, and the lives of citizens can be meaningfully changed, they insist on only aiming for the biggest prize every time, promising the world and grafting themselves onto anyone who had conducted serious organizing.

The latest of these serious organizing pushes is the movement for Palestinian lives and a ceasefire in Gaza. This war provided

Stein with the fantastic opportunity to capitalize on the waves of Palestinian solidarity activism that have been in frustration about the circumstances in Gaza, the West Bank, and now Lebanon, and she has engaged them as tactlessly and shallowly as you would expect. Putting aside Stein's shallow roots and lack of credibility in the movement, she does not seem to harbor her ideological opposition to genocidal dictators responsible for the killings of Syrians and Ukrainians, such as Vladimir Putin and Bashar al-Assad, as she cozies up with them, hesitant to call them war criminals despite the atrocities of genocide and displacement committed. Morally, you cannot be willing to vote for Stein due to her opposition to the killing of Palestinian children since she is delighted to support and defend governments who have killed Syrian children.

Unfortunately, the zero-sum nature of American

elections means Stein's antics are far from harmless. Her love of the spotlight has led her to specifically target Arab Americans — a crucial group of voters who, in light of recent events, tend to cast their ballots based on conscience — thus taking advantage of their moral concerns and anguish in efforts to boost her brand. If the Greens want to be taken seriously, they need to stop running for president and start running for city council. Until then, only two candidates have a chance of winning, and Jill Stein is not one of them.

Editor's Note: The digital version of this article (on campustimes.org) includes many hyperlinked sources.

Abbey is a member of the Class of 2025.

Ressas is a member of the Class of 2028.

CULTURE

Celebrities Can't Be Candid: Chappell Roan's Refusal to Endorse

BY ELENA BACHMANN
BUSINESS MANAGER

"I just woke up [...] to like, people just skewing it even more," is how your favorite drag queen's favorite artist opened her statement on TikTok announcing she won't endorse either presidential candidate.

Lesbian pop renaissance leader Chappell Roan announced on TikTok, "Endorsing and voting are completely different," and explained she doesn't agree "with a lot of what is going on, with like, politics."

In the aforementioned video, posted on Sept. 25, Roan animatedly articulated, "Like, obviously fuck the policies of the right, but also fuck some of the policies on the left." Because she doesn't agree wholeheartedly with the policies of either group, she feels she can't rightfully promote either: "I'm voting for fucking Kamala, but I'm not settling for what has been offered."

"I'm voting for fucking Kamala, but I'm not settling for what has been offered."

Chappell Roan's clarification came following interviews with *Rolling Stone* and *Guardian*, joining a steadily growing collection of political TikToks where she said, "I have encouraged people to use critical thinking skills, learn about what they're voting for, learn about who they're voting for and ask questions, and it's being completely taken out of context."

The message comes as a repetition of the stance on trans rights she has taken before: Transgender people cannot have cis people making decisions for them. "Hear it from my mouth if you're still wondering," Roan said. "No, I'm not voting for Trump, and yes, I will always question those in power and those making decisions over other people."

This kind of behavior is expected from Roan, who "has been vocal about her disagreement with the U.S. government's support of the [war in Gaza] and is a longtime advocate for LGBTQ+ rights," according to the *San Francisco Chronicle*. In fact, it was because of her disapproval of the Biden administration's policies



MARY JERRED/ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

she turned down an offer to perform at the White House for Pride 2024 — and told *Rolling Stone* she originally had something "way more" planned. She was originally going to say yes, show up, and then refuse to perform; instead, she would protest with some poetry.

"I had picked out some poems from Palestinian women," she said. "I was trying to do it as tastefully as I could because all I wanted to do was yell. I had to find something that's tasteful and to the point and meaningful, and not make it about me and how I feel. I don't know if I'll ever get that close in direct sight of the president ever in my life. This is my shot." She talked it through with her publicist, who was supportive but made a point: "You fuck with the president and the government, your security is not the same, and neither is your family's."

"I don't know if I'll ever get that close in direct sight of the president ever in my life. This is my shot."

"I will stand up for what's right and what I believe in," Roan followed up in her Sept. 24 TikTok. "It's always at the forefront of my project." Roan entreated viewers with an eye roll before she dropped a somewhat-sarcastic "I'm sorry that you fell for the clickbait" and ended the video.

The 26-year-old singer, whose real name is Kayleigh Rose Amstutz, faced serious public backlash for not endorsing a specific candidate. Her and other "authentic" celebs, like Jennifer Lawrence, seem

to often find themselves at odds with public perceptions.

"You fuck with the president and the government, your security is not the same, and neither is your family's."

Even the untouchable Taylor Swift has faced criticism from the public and felt like she couldn't win. In her documentary, "Miss Americana," Swift's decision to voice her politics is captured as she rose to support the Democrats in her home state of Tennessee for the 2018 midterm elections.

Results varied, as tens of thousands of young people registered to vote, but her senatorial candidate of choice, Democrat Phil Bredesen, lost to Republican Marsha Blackburn, whom she'd called out as a flagrant enemy of feminism and gay rights. Swift told *Variety*, "Definitely, that was a bigger disappointment for me [than the Grammy snub]."

Nevertheless, following Taylor Swift's glowing approval of Harris, people seem to want more political meddling from celebrities.

In her TikTok, Roan doesn't offer up an endorsement for either presidential candidate, but does provide her voting plan. The video marks the first time she's publicly announced her preference for Harris. She also encourages viewers to go out and vote for who "in your mind is the best option for what we have right now because it's all we can do."

Swift didn't always

perform perfectly when politics were posited, something captured in "Miss Americana," which includes a secondhand-embarrassment-inducing clip of her on "The Late Show with David Letterman." The host mentions politics and cajoles Swift into endorsing the "shut up and sing" mantra. The audience screamed adoration — something Swift found wild.

Swift looks back on her apolitical twenties with a grimace. "Every time I didn't speak up about politics as a young person, I was applauded for it," she told *Variety*. "I said, 'I'm a 22-year-old girl — people don't want to hear what I have to say about politics.' And people would just be like, 'Yeahhhhh!'"

The journey has been tumultuous, to say the least. Roan finally hit mainstream success this year, but "has had only a few months to grapple with the kind of meteoric rise that most artists have years to adjust to," according to *Slate*.

"Every time I didn't speak up about politics as a young person, I was applauded for it."

From the beginning, Roan has held steadfast in the boundaries she sets between herself and the public and press. She has told photographers off and called out creepy fan behavior, and I think she is doing a stand-up job making sure she's not taken advantage of.

Roan's recent decision to pull out of major festivals, including All Things Go, has raised eyebrows, especially in light of

the ongoing political controversy surrounding her refusal to endorse Kamala Harris. Roan, who had been a highly anticipated headliner at the festival, canceled her performances in both New York and Washington D.C., citing the need to prioritize her health. According to *Pitchfork*, she expressed deep regret for disappointing her fans but emphasized that this step was necessary for her well-being. In a statement on X, she wrote, "I need a few days to prioritize my health. I want to be present when I perform and give the best shows possible."

While health concerns were the primary reason given, the timing of her withdrawal has led many to speculate whether the increasing public pressure and political backlash have taken a toll. After all, Roan has been under intense scrutiny ever since her Sept. 24 TikTok. *Forbes* reported on the fan reactions to this statement, with some accusing her of avoiding responsibility at a time when many view celebrity endorsements as critical.

"Right now, it's more important than ever to use your vote, and I will do whatever it takes to protect people's civil rights, especially the LGBTQ+ community," Roan told *Rolling Stone* in August. "My ethics and values will always align with that, and that hasn't changed with a different nominee. I feel lucky to be alive during an incredibly historical time period when a woman of color is a presidential nominee."

"It's more important than ever to use your vote, and I will do whatever it takes to protect people's civil rights, especially the LGBTQ+ community."

In a world where public figures are often expected to speak for their followers, Chappell Roan's refusal to endorse feels radical. It suggests that perhaps the greatest political act a celebrity can take is to challenge the very system that demands their participation.

Bachmann is a member of the Class of 2027.

SPORTS

UR Football Shuts Out St. Lawrence Saturday

BY AENEAS WOLF
SPORTS EDITOR

UR's football team dominated St. Lawrence University in a 21-0 shutout Saturday afternoon at Fauver Stadium.

St. Lawrence won the opening coin toss and elected to play defense to start the game. They stopped UR quickly on UR's first drive, forcing them to punt after six plays.

After forcing a turnover on downs, UR marched back up the field until they missed a field goal from 28 yards out.

The teams traded punts until St. Lawrence drove the ball back to UR's goalline, when junior defensive back Jordy Tawa (#29) intercepted a ball in the endzone. UR regained possession of the ball on the 20-yard line after a touch-back.

Despite this, UR was unable to score and was forced to punt to St. Lawrence, who also could not score before halftime.

The defensive stalemate ended when St. Lawrence threw another interception, this time to junior Luke Hertler (#12), who returned the ball to the endzone for the game's first points. Senior kicker Jordan Laudani (#97) successfully converted the extra point.

UR forced another punt out of St. Lawrence, but threw an interception of their own when they received the ball. Despite this, a steady defensive effort prevented St. Lawrence from advancing, culminating in a sack from graduate student linebacker Joe DeBonis (#0). St. Lawrence punted.

A 43-yard rush from junior Aidan Papantonis (#4) got

UR in the red zone, where they then scored from a 17-yard run from graduate student Daniel Papantonis (#1). Laudani scored the extra point.

UR stifled St. Lawrence yet again and forced them to punt.

On UR's subsequent drive, they turned the ball over attempting to convert on fourth down.

St. Lawrence drove the ball back into UR's half of the field, where they also turned the ball over on downs when trying to achieve a first down on the UR 10-yard line.

Papantonis's 63-yard rush enabled UR to get into scoring position again, when junior Jake Adelman (#31) scored to put UR three touchdowns up. Laudani converted the extra point again.

A desperate attempt to get the ball down the field by St. Lawrence ended with them being sacked and turning the ball over on downs on their 13-yard line.

In an effort to put the game out of reach, UR fumbled the ball.

Although St. Lawrence got the ball back down the field, they ultimately failed to score a touchdown.

'UR ended the game in possession of the ball, improving their record to 6-1.'

UR ended the game in possession of the ball, improving their record to 6-1. They will next play Buffalo State University on Nov. 2 at Fauver Stadium.

Wolf is a member of the Class of 2027.

Jack-o'-Lantern Crossword

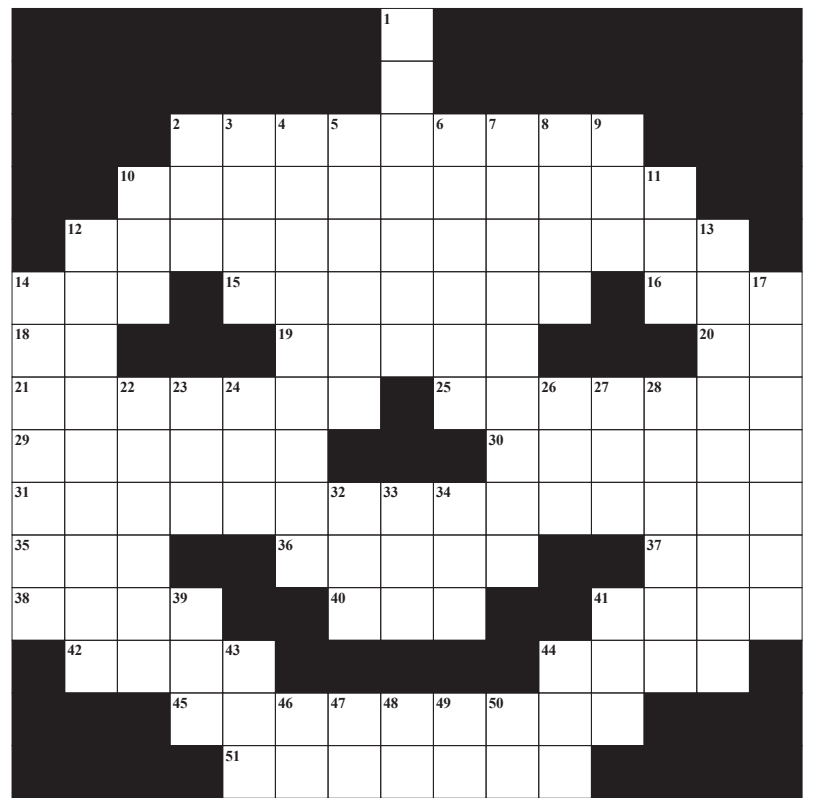
BY CALEB OSHINSKY
STAFF WRITER

ACROSS

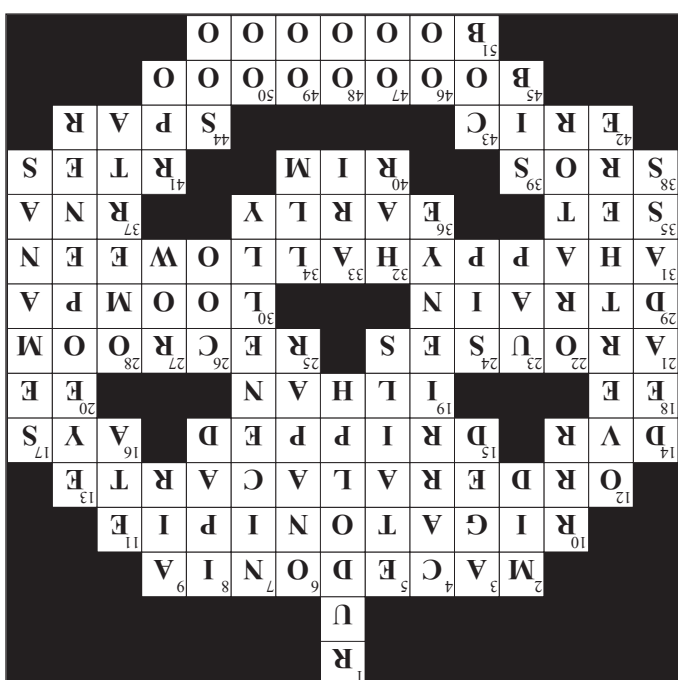
- 2 Alexander's home
- 10 Baked pasta dish
- 12 Pick and choose from the menu
- 14 TV show taper
- 15 Leaked, as an old faucet
- 16 Shakespearean assents
- 18 Spooky/Creaky ambiance (1)
- 19 Omar of Congress
- 20 Spooky/Creaky ambiance (1)
- 21 Wakens
- 25 Where you might shoot pool
- 29 Bronx-to-Coney Island subway
- 30 Oompa _____
- 31 What I wish you, dear solver
- 35 Good to go
- 36 Jumping the gun
- 37 Genetic "messenger" material
- 38 Some low-budg. hotels
- 40 Lip
- 41 66 and others: Abbr.
- 42 Author Carle of voracious caterpillars
- 44 Trade jabs
- 45 Spoooooooky noise
- 51 Spoooooooky noise (reprise)

DOWN

- 1 Red-nosed reindeer
- 2 Skyline Chili, or your Cincinnati Reds who haven't won a world series since 1990, for two (eg.)
- 3 Like fine wine
- 4 Actress Fisher's name if she married The Science Guy
- 5 Sells with clicks
- 6 Commensurate (with)
- 7 Self-righteous goody-goody, euphemistically
- 8 _____ kid (new millennium phenomenon)
- 9 Divulge, as a grievance
- 10 Oscar winning Tollywood film
- 11 Hellenic H
- 12 Yonder
- 13 Startling revelation
- 14 "I kid you not!", slangily
- 17 Weeks, in Oaxaca
- 22 Soapbox speaker
- 23 UFO, by recent parlance
- 24 Tentative taste
- 26 Pigeon English?
- 27 Heed the coxswain
- 28 Southern Italian code of silence
- 32 Sarcastic laugh sound
- 33 Director Aster
- 34 GPT-4, for one
- 39 Member of the fam
- 41 Local symphony-playing ensemble
- 43 Corn core
- 44 Great Lakes' _____ Canals
- 46 Spooky ambiance (2)
- 47 Spooky ambiance (2)
- 48 Spooky ambiance (2)
- 49 Spooky ambiance (2)
- 50 Spooky ambiance (2)



Crossword Answers



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HUMOR

It's Called Flirting, Amelia!

BY ZOË MILES
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Countrymen, brothers, find your rest with me. Close your gaping jaws and squeal no longer.

Yes, that really happened. We all watched Spiderman giggle and kick his feet over the cutest (fake) date ever. In the visual embodiment of “jk, jk... unless,” Amelia Dimoldenberg and Andrew Garfield teamed up this Saturday to unite America through collective heart failure. After years of flirty red-carpet interactions, Andrew and Amelia’s long-awaited Chicken Shop Date dropped (conveniently following Garfield’s recent break-up).

The premise of this show, a beautiful woman taking A-list celebrities on awkward first dates to chicken shops, is excellent. Episodes are flirty, even suggestive, but unserious, making this a (swoon-worthy) departure.

If you are not one of this video’s 7.5 million views, stop reading and catch up. As a nation, we need to be on the same page now more than ever. To those who have seen it, how are you coping with the feelings in your body? I am genuinely asking. If any of you have suggestions for giggle-induced cheek pain, please write in. My body is full of bees, and they are all inappropriately invested in this relationship. Never have I felt a stronger parasocial connection, and I have a shrine to Dolly Parton. Andrew Garfield, down horrendous as you are, I understand you. I, too, have been at the mercy of beautiful, impossible women. Your performance was admirable, all things considered.

The show’s nature puts Garfield at a disadvantage, something he clocked and immediately ignored. His determination to get to know Amelia was so strong it changed the show’s genre. He asked more questions than she did. Many celebrities have successfully flirted with

Amelia, but no one else has seriously asked her thoughts on marriage and children while visibly planning their life together. It took my terminally unimpressed roommate and I 30 minutes to watch an 11-minute video, because every time we relaxed, someone would say something insane. It was like getting third-party-edged by romance. At some point Andrew started looking into the camera, Fleabag style, as if to say, “Oh, you’re still here?” He later proposed this date be a rehearsal, to which she replied that he had her number. Which could mean nothing. Amelia frequently broke character, but didn’t fold, placing her up there with the Dalai Lama in self-control. If Andrew Garfield told me I was funnier than him then looked at me like that? Those cameras are going bye-bye.

The meta-ness of it all, knowing they’re professional liars, makes this a dizzying watch. I was more conflicted than when I realized I was gay at a Tennessee single-gender school. It’s possible this was an elaborate ruse to promote Garfield’s movie, but I doubt it. Maybe I’m a romantic, but the fact that I don’t know the movie’s name after four watches leads me to believe that was not the goal.

Although the interview ends with an open-ended exchange —

Amelia: “We have to stop this now.” (referring to the interview)

Andrew: “But how?” (NOT referring to the interview)

— I doubt we will get any sort of public resolution, so this will likely be our only glimpse into whatever this is. But what a glimpse!

Yours, Zoë Miles

Coping suggestions can be sent to my home office. I will be out on lovesick leave for the indeterminable future, so leave them at the door.

Miles is a member of the Class of 2025.

Voting Day: Rochester's Newest School Tradition

BY MANGO NORENBURG
STAFF WRITER

If you thought Meliora Weekend was fun, with high-lights such as the giant “Meliora” sign, food trucks, and the obviously run-down Ferris Wheel, brace yourselves for UR’s newest tradition.

With the highest-stake Election Day coming up on Nov. 5, the University has now introduced the All-School Election Race, a University-wide contest promoting political polarization on our moderately liberal college campus. Everyone is required to attend (or else).

All students are divided into two major groups: those voting for the Kamala Harris/Tim Walz ticket and those voting for Donald Trump/JD Vance. Students voting for third parties will be forced to join one of the major groups or will be shamed for “throwing away their vote” by being tarred and feathered on Wilson Quad.

‘The Election Race will host a great deal of challenges. The first challenge is your typical carnival event: an eating contest.’

The Election Race will host a great deal of challenges. The first challenge is your typical carnival event: an eating contest. Donald Trump has clearly warned us how people will be “eating the dogs and cats.” To support his argument and live by this new all-pet meat diet, students must eat 100 hot dogs made from cat meat or participate in a cooking competition where they must prepare dishes made from cute dogs.

“If supporting Trump means going on an all-meat diet and dining exclusively



SUBAAHSYED / ILLUSTRATIONS EDITOR

on household pets, I’m more than willing to take on this challenge for the world,” a sophomore, who refused to be named, said. They refused to give their name to the student press despite posting

‘Following the competition comes the even more exciting Election Race Afterparty.’

their political beliefs daily on their Instagram highlights.

The second challenge will be a singing contest. Groups of students will attempt to sing the newest Harris/Walz campaign anthem, “Miss Americana and the Heartbreak Prince” by Taylor Swift. Students will be required to sing this song as if they were Harris herself, including replicating all of Harris’ iconic debate facial expressions.

Next might be the simplest

challenge known to humanity. As Trump’s new position as the “leader of fertilization,” participants must race to fertilize the lawns on campus with commercial fertilizer. Sustainability practices are exempt, so nitrogen runoff be darned!

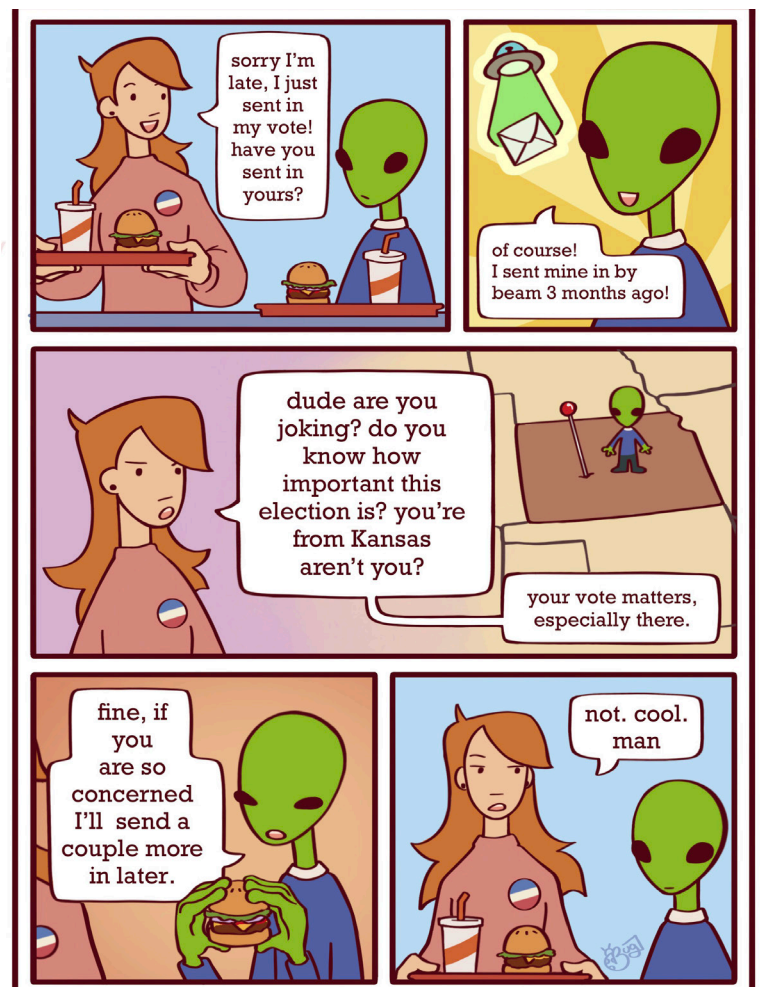
Following the competition comes the even more exciting Election Race Afterparty. It will be hosted in the United States Capitol, featuring a dance party, cake (made with Democrat-blue blueberries, Republican-red cherries, and the key ingredient: JD Vance’s Diet Mountain Dew), and a firework show from Elon Musk’s SpaceX craft.

Be sure to attend this brand-new tradition and back your Presidential Candidates all while enjoying the thrill of competition.

Norenburg is a member of the Class of 2028.

Mission: To the Polls

BY BUG CARTWRIGHT
STAFF WRITER



Papercuts Halloween

BY JOSHUA SCHIAVI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

