

THE SOUTH END

SPRING 2023

Hilberry Gateway Opens

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**RAs unionize
at WSU**
see page 8

**WSU's next
filmmakers**
see page 18

CAMPUS MAP

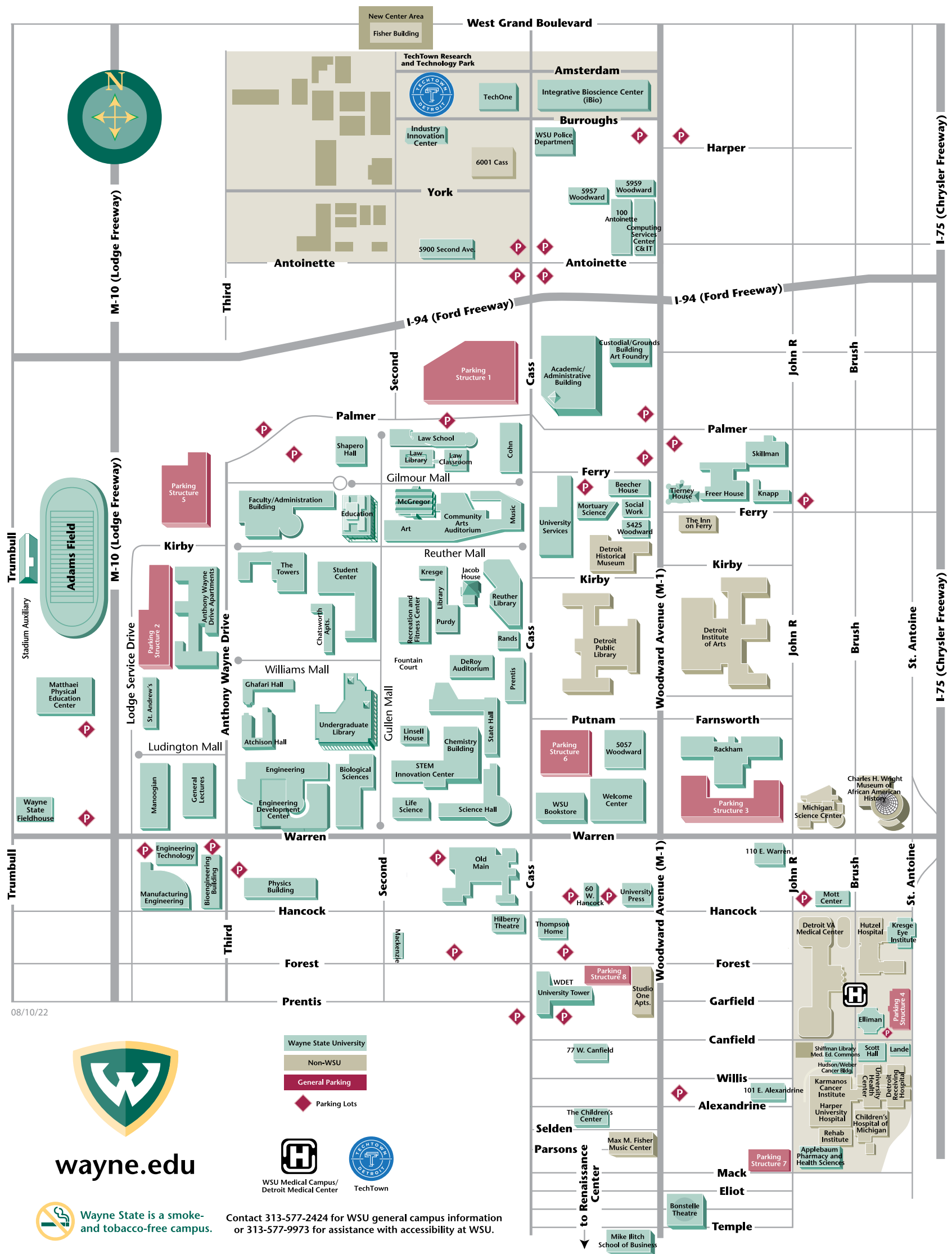


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The South End welcomes letters to the editors regarding all inquiries and concerns from the Wayne State community. Please limit letters to 500 words. All submissions are subject to editing and may be published.

CORRECTIONS

The South End corrects all factual errors published online and in print.

ONLINE POLICY

The South End publishes articles online and in print. Visit our website at thesouthend.wayne.edu. While we support the right to free speech and expression, there are guidelines for morally and socially acceptable content. Comments and feedback deemed offensive are subject to editing or removal.

PUBLICATION

The South End is a daily online publication created by Wayne State students. The South End publishes special print editions at the beginning and end of the academic year. Copies of the print edition will be available free of charge at various locations throughout campus. The Student Newspaper Publication Board, established by the Wayne State University Board of Governors, acts as the publisher of The South End. The board establishes and ensures compliance with publication, editorial and news reporting guidelines. Business operations are handled through the Dean of Students Office. All complaints, comments and suggestions concerning the student newspaper should be directed to thesouthend.wsu@gmail.com.

A Letter from the Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor



*Left to Right: Ciaran Martin, Theresa De Benedetti, Madeline Beck, Ashley Harris, Amelia Benavides-Colón, and Natalie Davies at the 2023 College Media Association Convention holding its three honorable mentions
Credit: David Strauss*

Dear Warriors,

Despite the challenges Wayne State has faced over the last several years, Warriors have remained vigilant and perseverant in the midst of it all. As the winter semester comes to a close, The South End would like to reflect on the positive improvements and progression of Wayne State as spring welcomes campus.

TSE is pleased to present our Spring 2023 Print Edition in hopes of providing accurate and necessary coverage for campus, including advancements with the Campus Master Plan, Student Senate and highlighting the fine arts students in their respective areas of art and film.

Throughout the past year, our top editorial team worked relentlessly to bring credible and respectable news to the campus community despite unexpected hurdles and obstacles. However strenuous and unique our journey, we have taken everything we learned and integrated it into this edition.

TSE is proud to have served as the voice of the Warrior community this year, using our platform to share several perspective pieces written by students and invite student journalists to share their reporting process on our social media.

We entered this year with a mission to increase our presence on campus, strengthen the skills of WSU student journalists and educate Warriors on campus climate. As we transition out of our roles and begin training new leadership, we will continue to strive for effective and important coverage to accurately serve all members of our diverse campus community.

Please view this edition not only as TSE's production, but a composition of Warrior's dedicated efforts throughout the past semester.

We sincerely thank you for your efforts and strength this semester.

Sincerely,

Amelia Benavides-Colón and Ashley Harris
Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor

A Goodbye Letter from President Wilson



President M. Roy Wilson
Source: Matt Lockwood

Dear students,

This is a bittersweet letter for me to write, as this is my last South End letter to you as president. My presidency concludes at the end of July. I'll take a sabbatical, then return to the Wayne State faculty.

Leading this great university has been the privilege of a lifetime, and Jacqueline and I are tremendously grateful to all the students, faculty and staff who made this campus feel like home over the years.

Without a doubt, the best part of my presidency has been meeting and interacting with so many students and alumni. Wayne State Warriors inspire me every day with their stories of perseverance in the face of obstacles, their grace under pressure, their curiosity, their thirst for excellence, and their community-mindedness. I think of them often when confronting a challenge myself, and I draw motivation and newfound strength from the Warrior example when I'm in the 99 th mile of a century cycling race. There are so many things I love about Warriors, but I love their grit and determination most.

In my decade helming this institution, I've traveled a lot across the country and around the world representing Wayne State and attending medical conferences. I often wear Wayne State swag, which always prompts a stranger to come up to me and introduce themselves as an alumnus or alumna. It's been gratifying to me that lately, I have alumni coming up to me even when I'm not wearing swag, because they attended Wayne State during my presidency and remember me from some interactions. It is my greatest source of pride to see so many students succeed here and move on to pursue great and interesting lives.

I won't say farewell, because I'll be back on campus before long as a member of the faculty—just goodbye for now, my friends. You have been an inspiration. Thank you for making Wayne State unforgettable.

M. Roy Wilson

Student Senate makes an impact despite vacant seats

by Natalie Davies

News Editor

Wayne State's Student Senate faced difficulties bringing initiatives to fruition due to lack of involvement during the 2022-23 academic year. Senate began its term with 8 vacant positions and ended the term with 5 vacant positions, 25 members.

Student Senate President Yousra Zouani said a major hurdle has been member turn-around and new members joining each semester when vacancies arise.

It takes some time for new senators to successfully transition into their new roles, Zouani said.

"When you want to continue projects from the last term," Zouani said, "getting people up to speed on what those things are and how they're supposed to be run is what takes them a little bit longer to keep going and that's what causes us to get lost a little bit."

Of the 30 initiatives listed on its website, action was made on 13 of them during both the fall and winter semesters, according to reporting by The South End.

Zouani said WSU's largely diverse campus deserves a student government that equally represents everyone.

"We need as many people as possible from as many backgrounds as possible in order to ensure that we are creating the best solutions for what Wayne State wants," she said.

Chair of the Mental Health Project Group Sheva Khaimov also said all student senators are interested in listening to student concerns.

"Everyone will gladly accept additional support and suggestions from people that want to commit to the project group meetings and be an active and engaged member," Khaimov said. "The 30 of us (senators) do not put forward an all-exhaustive list of concerns that the student body has; we only represent a fraction of them."

Zouani said one of her favorite initiatives from the winter semester

was the Community Affairs Project Groups's single-use parking pass initiative, providing once-a-week free parking passes at the W Pantry & Thrift.

"It makes sense that if you can't afford food, you probably can't afford parking," Zouani said. "Getting that pass to get everything you need is really important. I wish a lot more people used it, but it is going well."

Member at large Zaynah Jadallah said she's an active member in the Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Project Group and has worked extensively on its Middle Eastern, North African, and South Asian initiative this semester.

The MENASA initiative aims to collect enough signatures to add a MENA race category to federal data collection forms, Jadallah said.

"If we are successful, MENA communities will finally be eligible to receive better federal funding and protection, allowing for more equitable health, education, political representation, and support for small businesses in our communities," Jadallah said. "If they don't receive adequate feedback, they could decide that this is not an efficient use of resources. We cannot let that happen."

Of the 10,000 signatures needed, more than 12,000 have been collected as of April 11.

JEDI also met with Student Center Director Katie Beaulieu and Residential Director of Culinary Arts at Amarak John Borso to discuss its halal initiative, which aims to increase and advertise the available halal options on .

JEDI's other active initiatives include working to add more reflection rooms on campus, creation of a student-run magazine, Window Magazine, and advocating for the implementation of bidets in campus restrooms, Jadallah said.

"I hope that after I graduate (fall 2023), there will be a reflection room in most WSU buildings, bidets installed,

and more visible halal options on campus," Jadallah said. "I also hope the Student Senate will keep representing the MENASA community on campus through workshops, statements, and initiatives."

Khaimov said her favorite project from the semester is the Public Health Project Group's Vaping Health and Student Health Initiative, aimed at educating the campus about nicotine use and providing resources for those looking to quit.

"VESHI is important because e-cigarette use is not being addressed by students," Khaimov said. "This type of work needs to be led by students so that other students are able to (hopefully) feel that they have allies, instead of the general media and older adults poking fun at students who use e-cigarettes and are maybe struggling to quit or want to quit and don't know where to start."

Khaimov said she is passionate about creating a safe space for students interested in giving up regular nicotine use.

"We are very focused on being compassionate, kind, respectful, and non-judgmental," she said. "We also realize some students who vape may not want to quit, and that's completely okay, we are here for those that would like the support."

Some of Senate's other projects and events include the implementation of a Fall Break for Oct. 16 and Oct. 17 of the fall 2023 semester, hosting a Vigil for the Michigan State University students lost in the shooting, Know Your Rights Workshop in collaboration with Justice in Palestine and Pali Legal, Contraceptive Vending Machine Initiative, a partnership with PIRGIM for Open Education Resources advocacy, reimplementing campus biodiversity gardens and raising awareness for compost by adding signage around campus and bin locations to maps, according to TSE reporting throughout the semester.

Campus professors push social bounds of free speech

by **Amelia Benavides-Colón**

Editor-in-Chief

Professors on campus have come under fire this semester for posts on their personal social media accounts, with students demanding the lines be clearer around what is considered free speech.

Wayne State administration has suspended an English professor with pay pending an active investigation for allegedly inciting violence, and students actively protested against a tenured history professor's alleged transphobic tweets.

Inciting violence or sparking conversation

In a now-deleted Facebook post, English professor Steven Shaviro said while he doesn't advocate for breaking the law, "it is far more admirable to kill a racist, homophobic, or transphobic speaker than it is to shout them down."

President M. Roy Wilson described the post as morally reprehensible in an email sent to the campus community on March 27, announcing Shaviro would be suspended with pay.

"We have on many occasions defended the right of free speech," Wilson said. "But we feel this post far exceeds the bounds of reasonable or protected speech."

Ph.D. candidate Shelby Cadwell said she's worked with Shaviro for five years and doesn't view him as a threat to anyone.

"His social media post...was drawing attention to the very problem that Wayne State is ironically perpetuating by suspending him," Cadwell said. "The problem is that fascists use the 'free speech' values of universities to provoke and incite protest, sometimes even violence, and then automatically find themselves on the right side of the issue."

Honors chemical engineering major Emmanuel Dannug said the university should've suspended Shaviro without pay.

"Not only did expressing his views in that post as well as the further publicity of this situation invite violence to campus, but having a professor publicly express such flawed ideas does not reflect well on the university as a whole," Dannug said.

Graduate Teaching Assistant Matt Linton said he didn't believe Shaviro's post to be a threat, but more of an attempt at provoking thought.

"A simple reading of it alone should make that meaning clear," Linton said, "that this is a thought experiment regarding the ineffectiveness of engaging verbally with bigots...because that engagement is exactly what they want."

Shaviro could not be reached for comment.

Alleged transphobia unites campus community

History Professor Bill Lynch, who has since made his Twitter account private, retweeted posts referring to transgender individuals as "terrorists" and "autistic." On April 8, Lynch doubled down on his opinion by pinning a tweet to his profile citing the First Amendment.

Freshman Vendl Whitney said she spoke with Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Stephanie Hartwell, on April 11 who told her, "we will be sure to let Professor Lynch know that his words were hurtful."

Whitney said reading Lynch's tweets wasn't just hurtful, it was a personal attack.



Credit: Theresa De Benedetti

"I have only recently worked up the courage to use the restrooms on campus that align with my gender," Whitney said. "What I thought was a supportive environment (at Wayne State) has come under attack with this professor."

Founder of Anti Transphobe Action Grace Cadieux said Hartwell's lack of a response is an example of WSU's "softball approach" to issues around discrimination.

"Dr. Hartwell had a lot of opportunity here to have a dialogue with trans students on campus, (and) to send Dr. Lynch to DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) training," Cadieux said. "It was honestly disappointing to see from a woman in her position."

Students on campus were introduced to ATA on April 13 when they woke up to flyers across campus promoting a rally reading, "Fuck Bill Lynch; Demand WSU to Fire Transphobic Professor Bill Lynch."

At the rally held on April 15, members of the campus community showed up in support of ATA, including Dean of Students David Strauss.

Strauss said he was outraged after seeing Lynch's posts on Twitter.

"We are a community of collaboration and support, we might not always agree with each other, but everyone deserves respect," he said. "Everyone here deserves civility and I believe that what he said was not civil and not respectful."

In an email sent to TSE on April 18, Lynch said he rejects all allegations that he is transphobic.

"I support the right of all interested parties and stakeholders to be heard," Lynch said. "Censorship of ideas is authoritarian. Liberal democracy and scientific inquiry require a free marketplace of ideas."

Campus RAs become first in the state to unionize

by Ciaran Martin and Amelia Benavides- Colón

Multimedia Editor and Editor-in-Chief

Resident advisors across campus have band together to form the first official RA union in the Michigan.

In an April 6 press release, Resident Advisors United said President M. Roy Wilson accepted their request to unionize on April 3, following confirmation by a neutral third party.

This makes Wayne State's resident advisors the first to collectively unionize, according to the release.

"Once recognized, RAU will be one of the first unions in the nation representing primarily undergraduate resident advisors, setting precedent for RAs across the nation," according to the release.

A formal recognition request was sent to Wilson on March 9 after social media controversy led to changes within housing administration and two weeks passed before Wilson made direct contact.

Problems date back to 2021

A 10-year-old social media post of former Associate Director of Housing and Residence Life Katie Turner captioned with a racial slur began to circulate on Twitter in early March, causing negative feedback from residents.

An anonymous housing student employee said the photo circulated around RAs the night before it was posted.

"I had heard people talk about the photo in previous years but didn't have access to it or have ever seen it personally (until Monday night)," they said. "As a person on her staff it made me feel really gross to see she had said/typed things like that."

In an email sent to Housing employees on Mar. 24, Turner accepted accountability for the post.

"I take responsibility for my account and for my social media presence - the post was wrong and there is not a more simple way to reflect that," Turner said.

Turner said Senior Director of Housing and Residential Life Nikki Dunham was made aware of the post and its contents over a year ago.

"For transparency to you all, this post was first brought to my attention about a year and a half ago. At that time, I had it removed immediately, notified Nikki, and requested to follow up with the individual that reported it," Turner said in the email.

The university's official statement, shared with TSE on March 9, confirms Turner's timeline of events.

"The supervisor addressed the situation directly with her at that time," Director of Communications Matt Lockwood said. "Beyond that, we do not comment on personnel issues."

In a statement posted to social media on March 9, President of WSU's Black Student Union Michael Joseph said the concerns aren't new.

"The recent information we have received regarding a housing representative and their racist social media posts, unfortunately comes with no surprise," read the statement. "This situation has displayed the way racism is wired and embedded into our institution."

According to the statement, BSU presented a list of demands to the university on March 16, 2021, one of which included the removal of Director of Housing and Residence Life Nikki Dunham.

"There were some emails sent and some statements sent out but I don't think there's been enough light brought to the situation," Joseph said. "I think they are still very much in a position of trying to keep it under wraps."

In an email sent to campus residents on March 24, Dunham announced Turner was no longer employed by WSU. No reason was given for her departure.

"Two weeks ago, a ten-year-old Instagram post that included offensive, racist language was recirculated," Dunham said in the email. "This has naturally had an impact on you all as individual students...We can and must do more."

Dunham said the Department of Housing would immediately begin working on audits of the Community Living Guide resident conduct procedures and staff and student leader selection practices to identify potential implicit bias. Additionally, the department is working to revive the Residence Hall Association and participate in future feedback sessions and surveys.

In an April 6 statement sent to TSE, Dunham said the actions taken were not a direct result of any personnel changes, but an example of the department's continued growth.

Dunham said RHA died down due to lack of student participation during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, and it would not be fully revived until mid-February 2024.

"This year, we focused first on individual buildings' hall councils, which has been successful," Dunham said. "From there, we'll be looking to work with these individuals for campus-wide leadership and to grow the RHA."

The Genesis of RAU

RAU member Hannah Mathers said the effort to unionize started when RAs noticed problems with unfair responsibilities and expectations placed upon employees.

"It started with just noticing some really impossible work conditions, including extremely last minute meeting notifications, poor communication, just different things like this," they said.

Senior Honors psychology major and RAU member Holly Tavi said the issues stem from the Department of Housing & Residence Life's decision to remove the Residence Director position in mid-January.

"There's been a lot of turnover (with)in housing on a lot of different levels, specifically, the CD (Community Director)

turnover. I believe we've lost about five CDs in the past year, and so the situation arose where they... eliminated the RD role," Tavi said. "We've always had Community Directors that were advocates for us, and that fought for us, and made the job workable, and then we lost that."

Senior political science major and RAU member Parker Griffith said the expectations of the RA position has changed drastically over the years.

"There's a lack of consistency, and that's partially I think, due to how our contract is laid out where it specifically says something like the RA job is unpredictable and you might have additional duties as needed," Griffith said.

The lack of transparency for what the actual duties consisted of caused problems for RAs, Griffith said, who are also balancing their obligations as students.

"They've always told us that we're supposed to be students first... you know, your academics come first," Griffith said. "Oftentimes, it doesn't feel that way in practice."

Pre-med sociology major and RAU member Solomon Shorter said RAs are left overwhelmed and stressed trying to fulfill both their academic and RA duties.

"I think when they make the overall resident curriculum schedule, they don't look at the academic curriculum schedule," Shorter said. "So we have health and safety checks in the middle of midterms. Not only are we sacrificing our own academic needs, we're also sacrificing the (needs of) residents too."

Mathers said it didn't take much conversation before RAs recognized their shared frustrations.

"It started with a few conversations here and there, and then we started bringing in different people that we knew were also seeking the opportunity to make change in our work environments," Mathers said. "It started with friendships, relationships, conversations, and from there extend into what is now our union."

Moving Forward

Mathers said with many of the RAU core team members set to graduate this year, focus has shifted to recruiting members.

"One of the setbacks was that a lot of returners didn't want to join us because they were scared that there would be retaliation," Mathers said.

Tavi said communication and openness are important factors in gaining support for their cause.

"We always want to uplift our co-workers' voices. So if they're not as involved, we want them to be in the know. We've been putting extra effort into keeping other RAs in the loop," Tavi said. "Everyone is Resident Advisors United. And we just want to make sure that that's understood by every RA on campus, because they are a part of what we're doing. And we want to hear their voices. And I think that the more outreach that we do in that regard, the more involved other RAs are going to get."

EVERY WARRIOR HAS THE RIGHT TO LIVE AND LEARN AT WSU – FREE FROM HARASSMENT OR DISCRIMINATION

TITLE IX

Title IX is a federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education. Sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking are forms of sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX and by University policy.

To learn more about WSU's Interim Title IX Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedures, please visit the Title IX website.



To learn more about support resources and reporting options, connect with the Title IX office.

313-577-9999

TITLEIX@WAYNE.EDU

TITLEIX.WAYNE.EDU

OPTIONS FOR REPORTING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Students may report sexual misconduct to law enforcement, to the university, to both, or to neither. All Warriors are encouraged to make the reporting decision that's right for them.

REPORTING EMERGENCIES

In cases of threats, imminent danger and other emergencies, contact the Wayne State Police at 313-577-2222.

CONFIDENTIAL SUPPORT

For confidential assistance, contact Counseling and Psychological Services at 313-577-3398.

For after-hours crisis support call the crisis line at 313-577-9982.

WSU takes steps to fix elevator problems

by Natalie Davies

News Editor

The average elevator at Wayne State is down the equivalent of 36.5 days each year.

WSU has allocated \$12,220,956 towards elevators since 2019, according to the Campus Master Plan presented during the March 23 Student Senate meeting.

Chief Business Officer Chief Financial Officer and Senior Vice President for Finance and Business Operations David Massaron said the university changed elevator companies in January 2021, from Switzerland-based company Schindler to Finland-based company KONE.

Massaron said since the switch, elevator uptime has increased from about 70% reliability, in 2019, to the current rate of 90%.

"Of course that percentage doesn't mean much to some people because the elevators(?) in their buildings are down," he said. "We want to make sure every building has reliable service going forward. There's been a marked improvement on campus of the reliability of elevators, although we still have a long way to go and a number of investments to make."

Massaron said it's standard practice for the university to contract with an international elevator company, as they have regional offices that provide parts and modifications for equipment.

"You usually have long term relationships so they get to know the assets on going forward," he said. "But like all university contract, it has termination for convenience clauses."

Massaron said the contract with KONE is for two to three years, and just the relationship is considered "indefinite".

Massaron said repair time is usually extended due to parts being discontinued. One example is the upgrade request put in for the elevators at University Towers in October 2022 won't be finished until May when parts are available.

"When we finish major repairs or overhauls, we also have to go through a regulatory testing process with the city and some of these elevators are old enough that they require additional modifications because the codes changed," Massaron said. "Or for that testing, we have to shut the power down in the building because they want to test what happens if power goes out."

Massaron said repairs can also take longer because WSU works on one elevator at a time.

"We have to phase the repairs so that the building is still functional," Massaron said. "It's two or three months to do the modification installation for each of the four elevators in that building that were modified."

WSU hired an outside consultant to review the installation and maintenance proce-

dures for elevators in Anthony Wayne Drive Apartments, Massaron said. Corvias, the university's property management company, has also hired a third-party consultant, Massaron said.

"Elevators in this age should not be having the problems it's having," Massaron said. "We wanted to get a national expert that was employed by us to tell us what needed to be done and what may have been done wrong with either the installation or maintenance of this elevator so we can ensure it was fixed and will be reliable going forward."

Disabled community floored by issues

While the university works to repair the future of its elevators, students with mobility needs require more immediate assistance.

Junior Sana Hasan said though many students express their elevator concerns in the form of passing jokes about getting stuck and concerning noises, the issue is very real.

"If anyone has needs, it is important that there is some way for them to have mobility without needing to advocate for themselves or wait for a solution," she said. "As it (WSU) is such a large university, having working elevators seems like an easy first step."

Disability Specialist Ryan Wiseman said Student Disability Services sometimes has to switch the locations of classes that originally are located in certain parts of Old Main to more accessible classrooms and buildings to make sure students who have mobility needs have equal opportunities to access their classes.

"If you shut down an entrance to Old Main you shut down an elevator, there's so many random little stairs everywhere that it just becomes kind of a maze and sometimes completely inaccessible for students," Wiseman said.

He said SDS also works with its registered students to move the location of their dorms in the case that elevators consistently make them inaccessible.

Wiseman said those changes include moving classrooms to different buildings, working with maintenance, and working with professors to consider attendance and potential tardiness of a student to make sure students have access to class material if they physically can't get to class.

"It's trying to work around the physical infrastructure that we don't have too much control over," Wiseman said. "It's just addressing some of those other barriers to make sure that they (students) are not evaluated based on those things so that their grade isn't a measure

of how accessible the class was to them, but it's a measure of what they know."

Wiseman said students should contact public safety in the case of an emergency or being stuck on a floor, and in non-emergency but inconvenient situations to use the "Report a Barrier" form on SDS's website to send concerns to SDS and FPM.

"We've unfortunately had situations where students have had to be carried down the stairs to ensure that they could safely exit the structure," Wiseman said. "They'll get there no matter the situation. They'll get students out of where they need to go safely, and then from there, it's about following up to see if this is an isolated incident or if there is something that we need to change to make sure that this isn't gonna happen again."

Moving in the right direction

Both Massaron and Wiseman said the future looks optimistic due to the new contract with Kone.

In their first full-year of operations on campus in 2022, the number of elevator trouble calls fell from 870, in 2019 under Schindler, to 260, according to the Campus Master Plan.

"There's a lot of optimism with the new vendor and with our new system," Wiseman said. "There are updates and reports that they're able to access live and there's a lot more visibility and transparency and likability for accountability for those things."

Both Hasan and Wiseman said they wanted to see more transparency regarding the timeline of the fixes. Hasan said it would be helpful if a plan and/or expected fix date were included on the out of order signs.

"If you're experiencing the material reality of inaccessibility and you don't see the work, and it often feels like it's not being done," Wiseman said. "Being transparent in timelines in terms of plans I think could be helpful."

Wiseman encouraged students to use their voices and said that the students communicating their stake in the issue has been an important component to the improvements thus far.

"Students just need to keep being vocal about it and sustain this," Wiseman said. "I believe they're addressing it, but it's communicating the urgency of it and how important it is to us and how we need to have a solid foundation of trust and functioning of these things just to operate as a university."

Campus master plan update

by Theresa De Benedetti

Breaking News Correspondent



Credit: Multimedia Editor

Wayne State is looking to revamp its Campus Master Plan after the COVID-19 pandemic changed the way students use and view physical space.

Created in 2019, the 2030 Campus Master Plan provides the framework to guide Wayne State's decision making on current and future physical campus projects.

Due to the change in how physical space usage has changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, WSU is planning to bring in consultants to go through the plan with a new lens, said Ashley Flintoff, director of planning and space management for Facilities, Planning & Management, said the

She said because of the change in how physical space usage is used has changed since the pandemic, WSU is planning to bring consultants back in to go through the master plan through a new lens.

Next to the new Hilberry Gateway on Cass Avenue, the former Hilberry has begun the process of becoming the Gretchen C. Valade Jazz Center. The reimagined performance space will feature 350 seats and renovations to restrooms, dressing rooms and underground jazz cafe.

Ashley Flintoff said once that project has finished, the park between the Jazz center and condos, which has been operating as a constitution zone, will be renovated into an outdoor space for students.

Also located on Cass Avenue, the renovations at State Hall continue with an estimated completion of the fall of this year. Renovations to the 76-year-old building include new classrooms, lecture halls and meeting spaces, a reflection room and gender inclusive bathrooms.

Flintoff said the projects will be an appealing addition to WSU's campus.

"I think it is going to be one of those projects where everyone is impressed because it's going to be a completely different building without having to tear down the building and build something new," Flintoff said. "We did do extensive demolition (to State Hall) so I don't think anyone will recognize it, you won't think it's the same building at all which is pretty exciting."

Flintoff said the renovations will give the historic building, which has become a staple of the WSU campus, a new life.

Senior Jordan Connor said State Hall is the project they are most excited to see finished.

"I took classes there my freshman year and I was shocked how out of date and run down it seemed," Connor said. "There were always issues with the heating and cooling when I was there that made class miserable, hopefully the building will be brought up to today's standards."

Connor said he is glad the next generation of WSU students will get to take classes in a renovated environment that doesn't take away from the learning experience.

According to the original master plan, buildings possibly up for demolition include Manoogian and General Lectures Flintoff said the fate of the buildings has not been announced and many other underutilized buildings across campus are under review as well.

"We're just not at a point where I know for sure where I could say, 'Yeah, we're absolutely gonna tear one of those down. It's possible.' But it's also possible that those could completely stay and not be torn down and just be repurposed," Flintoff said. "We've had really good luck repurposing the STEM building, repurposing State Hall. So there is always that option of, 'Well, maybe we don't tear it down, is it a good candidate for repurposing?'"

Junior Maddy Grunow said they look forward to the renovated Yamasaki Reflection Pool, because they didn't even realize it existed.

"I have classes that look right out over them, so it would be nice to be able to see them actually working and get to sit out there during the summer," Grunow said.

Grunow said she wished there were better resources for students to learn about the renovation projects happening around campus.

Flintoff said now that more classes are taking on a virtual model, there is more flexibility to shift things around on campus and reevaluate underutilized space.

Announced in July 2022, WSU and the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute will partner to build new property for medical education and research. Although announced as two new buildings, Flintoff said it will likely only be one building and smaller than the original vision.

"There are these buildings or portions of those buildings that we can renovate to be better, more effective, efficient spaces, and thus not have to build as much new construction," Flintoff said.

At the Dec. 2nd 2022 Board of Governors meeting, \$2 million dollars were allocated toward the renovation of the Yamasaki Reflecting Pool that surrounds the Helen DeRoy Auditorium. Flintoff said they are working with the foundation created by DeRoy to reimagine the space.

"One of the things they challenged the university to do is not just think about the exterior, but the interior and what it would take to do a refresher of the interior as well. The design is already working on the documentation for what we need for the reflecting pool renovation so that is in progress already."

Flintoff said students can expect renovation work to start on the reflecting pool this summer.

Flintoff said because of the change in physical space usage since the pandemic, WSU is looking to bring consultants back in to go through the master plan through a new lens.

Behind the W Mascot

by **Theresa De Benedetti**
Breaking News Correspondent



Credit: Wayne State University

It's hard to imagine a Wayne State gameday without W the Warrior sporting head-to-toe green fur, bushy yellow eyebrows and the occasional cape.

W the Warrior is only 24 years old and hasn't always been the symbol of WSU Athletics.

From 1927 to 1999 the university's mascot was a Tartar, a Central Asian warrior depicted in battle gear, before its rebranding by the WSU Athletics Department.

According to a 1999 WSU Athletics press release, the rebranding of the mascot and "Warrior" name received favorable reactions from the staff and student body during the research process.

"In addition, the name embraced characteristics associated with the WSU student body and athletic teams--a fierce determination and an ability and willingness to compete and succeed. The Warrior name also provides a bridge to the Tartar heritage, thus providing an effective means to retain the loyalty of those who want the Tartar name to live on," the press release reported.

Relics from the Tartar-era can be seen in various places around the athletic campus, most notably the Tartar Drive sign on the corner of Warren Avenue and John C. Lodge Drive.

The Face of W

Sports Administration graduate student Ethan Kimble was the W mascot from August 2021 through April 2022. In addition to being present at home sporting events, Kimble said he made appearances as W at university promotional events.

Kimble said students have some misconceptions about what it's like to wear the mascot costume.

"People always tell me it's so hot in mascot costumes, but I don't think it's that bad," Kimble said "You may get a little hot and sweaty and stuff, but it's not as exaggerated as people make

it seem."

Kimble said the costume presented other physical challenges.

"With that particular costume you can't be too tall. Sometimes my head would kind of hurt a little because I was a little too tall," Kimble said. "Sometimes you may not be able to see either and you have to tilt your head up to see through the mouth."

Kimble said he made sure not to tell people he was W and was careful changing in and out of costume to not ruin the magic for fans.

"I felt like superman in a way," Kimble said. "Like your human one minute and then you're Clark Kent and then you change back, it made me feel like a superhero."

Kimble said his favorite part of being W was getting to be on the court or field interacting with the players, and taking pictures with fans.

Mascot performers are offered a \$500 per semester scholarship from the university. Auditions for the 2024 mascot took place from March 1 to March 2 and the baton was passed to a new W.

Torria Robinson, who oversees W, declined The South End's request for an interview.

W and the Gameday Experience

Mike Sangster, WSU alumnus and co-host of the "Warrior House" podcast, said mascots like W are an integral part of the college gameday experience and said he has lots of fond memories from his time as a student.

"I remember the W conducted the fight song on the drum major podium with me a couple times. There are also two videos still on the university's YouTube page, 'What Does the W Say?' and 'Harlem Shake Wayne State Style' that are core memories of W for me as well," Sangster said.

While it is not made clear whether W is a monster, animal, human or something in between, Sangster said this works in WSU's favor.

"W is unique in that it's the only mascot in the conference that is ambiguous as to what it is, and it is great when the character is executed well," Sangster said. "For instance, no one knows what the Flyers mascot Gritty is supposed to be, but the character acts so over the top and is promoted so well that it's a meme nationwide."

Senior marching band member Kyle Waligora said although he knows people that have mixed feelings about W, their unique look makes them an important part of the gameday experience.

Waligora said his favorite memory with W was getting their last photo together of his college career during a heavy snowfall on senior night.

"W is someone that many fans and alumni love to see at every football and basketball game. Plus W is always excited and willing to take pictures with fans," Waligora said. "I do feel that W measures up to other college mascots but is still very different because W has a very unique look."



The W Food Pantry & Thrift Shop provides currently enrolled Wayne State Warriors in need of food assistance with supplemental food and additional resources gently used garments to enhance student success.

<p>Food Pantry</p> <p>Access to food twice a month</p> <p>Feminine hygiene items available any time</p> <p>Essential baby items</p>	<p>Thrift Shop</p> <p>Casual and career clothing items available</p> <p>Household items available</p>	<p>Other resources</p> <p>Michigan Department of Health and Human Services representative on campus to learn and apply for state and federal benefits (SNAP, childcare, transportation, etc.)</p> <p>Warrior Meal Share Program</p>
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High standards of student conduct play a major role in creating an environment of excellence, and the Student Code of Conduct serves to uphold these standards.

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WSU's new Hilberry Gateway performance complex opens

by Madeline Beck

Arts & Entertainment Editor



Credit: Multimedia Editor

Wayne State's Hilberry Gateway, a brand new theatre and dance performance complex, made its debut on April 7 with a lineup of shows to celebrate its opening.

The Gateway features two brand new state-of-the-art theatres, production facilities, high-end technology, a café and outdoor performance space.

The theatre has been under-construction since 2019 and has seen its fair-share of challenges over the years, said Michael J. Barnes, Interim Chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance.

"If there was something that was going to be an unexpected issue, it seemed to have happened on this project," Barnes said. "So officially, this project is about two years behind schedule."

Barnes said the Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance had to push back previously scheduled shows due to delays with the Gateway.

"Originally 'Marcus; or The Secret of Sweet' was supposed to open at the end of February and because of delays with the building we pushed it back. So now, the building will open with 'Cabaret' on April 7 (and) 'Marcus; or The Secret of Sweet' will open on (April) 14," he said.

Barnes said the theatres within the

Gateway are designed with both the performers and the audience in mind.

"We will have a President's Preview Gala to celebrate the opening of the theater...There's a flexible black box theatre known as The Studio, and there's also a traditional proscenium theatre which...is around 500 seats, and those will both be running simultaneously on the day that we have the big opening," Barnes said.

Barnes said he's excited theatre students will have access to professional equipment.

"I'm excited that we will be in spaces that really can support the learning of our students and they will have amazing equipment," Barnes said. "That's what is exciting to me, that the students will actually have equipment that is being used entirely in the industry right now."

Freshman theater student Abby Grant said she's excited for the opportunities the Gateway will provide.

"The technology in the new building is so much more advanced and will provide amazing learning opportunities for the theater technology students," Grant said.

Barnes said the Gateway and other facilities offer great entertainment

opportunities for students.

"We have these great entertainment opportunities on campus... I want the students on campus, some of them that just don't realize what we're doing or they don't make it to this end of campus to see it (and) to take advantage of these things," he said.

Performances at the Gateway included "Cabaret," which ran from April 7 to April 16, and "Marcus; or The Secret of Sweet," which ran from April 14 to April 23. Upcoming performances include "Orlando" from May 5 to May 14. "With the delay on the building, we shoved everything we're doing to the end of the semester," Barnes said. "May 5, our graduate actors open 'Orlando,' the adaptation of Virginia Woolf's 'Orlando' by Sarah Ruhl."



Credit: Department of Theatre and Dance

Barnes said he hopes the new Hilberry Gateway will be a space for all students to enjoy.

"I want it to be a center that is open to let anybody come in. We have tables there where the students could...go down to have something at the café and sit and do their homework," Barnes said. "I want it to be welcome all the time so that then those students that haven't

been coming to our shows go in and say 'Oh, well I wonder what this is.'"

Director of Project Management for Facilities, Planning & Management Ekta Kamalia said the original plan was to connect the old Hilberry with the Gateway.

"The initial plan (was) to combine the two buildings with a common lobby. But... there was a house (the Mackenzie house) between the two buildings... that we moved to the other corner of the lot... we did move the house but (now) there is this alley that is between the two buildings instead of a common lobby," Kamalia said.

Kamalia said the alley between the buildings will be renovated into an outdoor performance space.

"There's an alley and there's a pocket park behind the Gateway building that we are developing for community engagement," Kamalia said. "That is still in the works but that's coming soon."

Kamalia said the old Hilberry is has been under construction since August 2018, and will soon be home to the Gretchen C. Valade Jazz Center.

"The same team has mobilized in that building, to renovate it to make a jazz center. We are working very diligently on that...and that will be a world class

jazz center," she said.

According to Wayne State's website, the jazz center would include a renovated 350-seat theatre, strong acoustics and even an underground jazz café.

Kamalia said she believes the Hilberry Gateway project is an important investment for the future.

"Even for alumni or whoever made it possible, I think it's so important for them," Kamalia said. "We have donors who have their names inside the building if you walk around. So I think it's important for everyone who loves music, and any kind of performance."

'Cabaret' marks new era for WSU theatre and dance program

by Morgan Hokett

Contributing Writer

Wayne State's Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance concluded its run of the Tony-award winning musical "Cabaret" at the new Hilberry Gateway this spring.

"Cabaret," written by Joe Masteroff and based on the semi-autobiographical writings of English author Christopher Isherwood, takes place in early 1930's Berlin.

The musical centers around American writer Cliff Bradshaw and his exploration of the Kit Kat Club, an underground night club, during the rise of Nazism.

Director and Interim Chair of the Theatre Arts Department Michael J. Barnes said the musical was a great choice for opening the new Hilberry Gateway performance complex, which finished construction earlier this year.

"At its heart, it is a boy meets girl story gone wrong," he said "But the message of this story in many ways is exploring the apathy of a society and what can happen when you don't pay attention to what's going on around you."

WSU sophomore Quinn Jacob played the role of Fräulein Schneider, an older German boardhouse owner who falls in love with a Jewish man.

Jacob said she had been interested in "Cabaret" since she was a young girl.

"It's a really dark, really emotional

show even though there's a lot of glamor and splendor and a lot of things to cover up the sadness," Jacob said.

Jacob said the play's themes tend to reflect the conflicts seen in today's sociopolitical climate.

"I feel like ('Cabaret') was a right choice for this year in particular, especially with so much anti-trans legislation being passed and gun violence going on in our country right now," Jacob said, "I feel like this is a really great way to show what a country could become with so much hate."

Barnes said the societal message of "Cabaret" was a major influence in his directing.

"It was very important for me to really emphasize the fact that we're seeing this same thing happening right now," Barnes said. "That I would say was the biggest direction I pointed people to."

WSU senior Andrea Meza said she enjoys musicals, with the 1972 film adaptation of "Cabaret" being one that she is familiar with.

"I think it's cool that Wayne State is putting on a production of "Cabaret," Meza said. "I have seen the film, and I'm not too sure how different the Broadway show is from it, but I know that it touches on some important topics like sexuality, abortion and of course how the rise

of the Nazi party affected everyday life in Germany."

Jacob said although the rehearsal process has been gratifying, it has also been tough due to the intense themes in the musical.

"The show is so heavy and because there is so much emotion going on in the space, at times it can be hard," she said.

Barnes said a lot of work went into creating the production for WSU.

"I began looking and researching and deciding on the way I wanted to approach this play about a year ago at least," he said.

Barnes said the features of the Hilberry Gateway, such as a state-of-the-art sound system, will greatly improve the quality of WSU productions.

"We really are bringing our facilities that our students are working in into the 21st century," he said.

Jacob said that the opportunity to perform "Cabaret" in the Hilberry Gateway performance complex was an honor for both the musical and the cast and crew.

"I feel that "Cabaret" is the right choice to open the new theater because it's telling such an important story and such a prevalent story that it needs to be in a bigger space," Jacob said.

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FDMO spring fashion show returns on campus

by **Camille Williams**
Contributing Writer

Wayne State's Fashion Design and Merchandising Organization is hosting its upcoming spring fashion show on May 4 with a theme of promoting sustainability.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event was hosted at the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, located along Woodward Ave., because FDMO wanted to welcome more people who may not have attended in the past at an established place in the community.

FDMO President Siara Dominguez said this year's fashion show will be at Jam Handy.

Dominguez said the show's theme centers around sustainability.

"Because it's been kind of like a buzzword in the fashion industry, in which a lot of people will use it to greenwash their products and claim that they're sustainable but they're not," she said.

Dominguez said FDMO hopes this fashion show highlights how the designers practice sustainability within their work.

"We do care about the environment and the future of our planet," Dominguez said. "And that doesn't always mean that fashion has to be ugly or quirky or weird just because it is sustainable, it can actually be really amazing pieces that are wearable every day."

FDMO is collaborating with WSU's Department of Music for the show's soundtrack and the Department of Art & Art History for the event's photography, videography and set designers.

Dominguez said FDMO has been organizing the show since December 2022 and is excited to see the plans grow to fruition.

"Everyone has their different ideas and they want to make it come to life," Dominguez said. "But to see that the designs are now coming to life and to see some of the models and stuff, it's been really cool to be able to know about it from its inception to it becoming a reality."

Design and merchandising junior Jaden Rossini said he is creating three looks for the show. He said his brand Burrough Archive focuses on brutalism, minimalism and how natural materials last and fade over time.

"It's all a very industrial look and at the same time has ties to workwear and military inspiration," Rossini said.

Rossini said his three looks for the fashion show will include elements of denim, the idea of uniform and natural materials.

"I'm focusing on ethical sourcing as well as using natural materials as I've stated before," Rossini said. "Such as cotton, leather and also using organic materials as much as I can, specifically organic wool."

Design and Merchandising junior Haley Moore said she is creating four looks for the show. She said she uses fabrics and construction to add a vintage twist to anything she creates.



Credit: Siara Dominguez

"I feel like when I'm designing, my inspiration just always goes back to the beginning of style because style is repeated so often," Moore said.

Moore said sustainability is about how a garment is made. Her collection will be made from thrifted curtains.

Design and Merchandising freshman Dalis Patton is also creating three looks for the show. She said she looks forward to showing how fashion isn't just her hobby.

"My vision for my designs was to turn things into other things," Patton said. "My materials are things people have for years and maybe wear once and forget they have it."

Patton said her idea of sustainability is reworking items that go unused, and creating a new and wearable look with them.

Moore said she will be creating corsets for this collection, and using a vintage looking emerald green fabric.

"It's a really pretty emerald and it makes me think of the Wizard of Oz, back to when that came out," said Moore.

Moore said her looks are not inspired by a specific era because she takes inspiration from different times.

"I think I'm looking forward to opportunities that come afterward," Moore said. "Because last year, when I was in the fashion show, that was the first big thing I had my name attached to."

Meet WSU's next filmmakers

by Madeline Beck
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Chloe Malagar

I major in Business Management and minor in Film. I am a 3rd year Senior Undergraduate student. I started my college career wanting to do film full-time. I chose to major in business mostly because people thought I'd be good at it, and because it makes money. However, as I end my time as an undergraduate, I realize I actually love business management. Film is stressful. Yes, storytelling is my passion, but I'd much rather make movies just for fun. *My main social: @3uttdog on Instagram.* My short films can be found on YouTube (in the search bar put their names and Wayne State University).

What's your speciality?

Within film, I've dabbled in a little bit of everything over the past few years. However, I think I specialize in screenwriting and editing.

What are some of your most notable works?

My first film at Wayne was "BUNNY PARTY" (2022), a surreal piece following a girl who realizes that her life is a sitcom. My second film was "CHEROPHOBIA" (2022), a drama-comedy about a screenwriter clashing with personifications of Love and Death to discover what his life and his art mean to him.

Currently, I am directing a short film called "GOD, I LOVE YOU!" I am working with some amazing people in my COM 5400 capstone class. The story follows a quirky artist who must convince God that there is hope for humanity if she wants a shot at dating her. Production for "GOD, I LOVE YOU!" has been rocky, especially since we've had to halt it due to a COVID-19 outbreak, but we're working through it. Hopefully the final cut will be out this summer!

What are some of your proudest achievements in filmmaking and what do you hope to accomplish in the future?

Something I pride myself on is my multimedia work. "BUNNY PARTY" features puppetry, while "CHEROPHOBIA" has 2D/hand-drawn animation. I will also be animating a few key sequences in "GOD, I LOVE YOU!"

I am also proud of my writing style. I think all my screenplays from my time at Wayne have a distinct sense of style, genre, and zeitgeist. They're all existential but humorous. While they're not for everyone, I enjoy them, and I think that's what matters most to me.

I hope, in the future, I just keep doing what I love. I hope I keep writing the kinds of stories I want to read. I also want to keep incorporating my favorite hobbies into my work and have fun with my friends all the while.

What do you want students to know about being a filmmaker?

Dear WSU students! There are some incredibly talented and hungry filmmakers all around you. Pretty much everyone I have met in the film program at Wayne is fervent and ready for work. If you have a project you want some collaboration on, or if you'd just like to get to know the local artists, check out the film-related fliers around Old Main. Or, look up Wayne State short films/filmmakers on YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram. There is wonder and beauty in the minds of your fellow students.

Ben Garza

I am a sophomore film major and you can find me on Instagram, YouTube and Letterboxd at @benyoscarza.

What are some of your most notable works?

I currently have two works which I would call "notable:" 2020's "Frog Guy" and 2022's "Dear Anne - A Letter to a Friend."

"Frog Guy" is a surrealist dark comedy about a frog who tries to live a human life - complete with a dead-end job and crumbling marriage. After quarantine was lifted, my friends and I decided to get together to make something silly - "Frog Guy" was the result of that. It was through the process of making "Frog Guy" which inspired me to pursue film in the first place. In the years since its initial release on YouTube, it has gained a small cult following - finally getting a proper big-screen premiere at Planet 9 Film Festival at the Planet Ant Theatre back in January (we won the "Weird and Wacky" Award). Currently, my sibling and I have finished writing the sequel and production should be starting in the next year or so. "Frog Guy" can be found on YouTube and Letterboxd.

"Dear Anne - A Letter to a Friend" was a class project I made during my previous semester for COM 1600. It is a short essay film, an open letter written to a friend of mine who had passed away while I was gone during my first year of university. The visuals are composed entirely of archival footage from various points in film history. Footage from the works of filmmakers Len Lye, Jean Epstein, Georges Melies, Nevil Maskelyne, Chuck Jones and many others are re-shaped and given new context in order to help express the difficult emotions I was feeling at that time - an attempt to give form to grief through the medium of film. This was a very difficult project, but it has been good to me - allowing myself to break through my comfort zone of wacky surrealist comedies and getting in touch with a new artistic side of me. "Dear Anne," just recently, was one of the six films picked by the Ann Arbor Film Festival to play in their New Voices Program - which collected student works from various colleges and

universities in Michigan in an effort to shine a spotlight on independent student film. Having it play at AAFF was an honor - I'm still trying to get over it. "Dear Anne" is set to be playing in two upcoming festivals as well: the Independent Film Festival of Ypsilanti (IFFY) on April 19, and Detroit's FREEP Film Festival on April 28. "Dear Anne - A Letter to a Friend" can be found on YouTube, Vimeo, and Letterboxd.

What's your speciality?

I am an amateur director, writer, editor, actor, storyboard artist, and DoP (director of photography). On my personal projects, I tend to do all of the above. I enjoy all aspects of filmmaking - although, my technical knowledge (i.e. equipment handling) is less than spectacular. I have acted in the works of my peers on multiple occasions - most notably being the short film "THOUGHTS ON TIME & LESSONS LEARNED" directed by my friend Victor Martin.

What are some of your proudest achievements in filmmaking and what do you hope to accomplish in the future?

I think my proudest achievements in filmmaking have to be seeing myself grow within the medium, and the recognition I have received/the people I have had the pleasure to meet. I'm still nowhere near a "perfect" filmmaker, but I am definitely getting closer to a higher level than I used to be. For my final project in COM 1600 (a horror-comedy titled "Wolf Meat"), a lot of the original vision had to be completely reworked on the day of shooting because the weather outside was messing with our equipment. I had to compose an entirely new shot list, plan out new dramatic twists, rework the script to fit within a new environment, new staging, new blocking - it was overwhelming! But, we were able to pull it off - I'm very proud with how fast I had to think and come up with a solution, and I'm very proud of the collaborative energy from my teammates (WSU students Meg Arsenal, Victor Jackson, and Luca Errecalde) which helped with the compromise. I would have never been able to do something like that, say, a year or two ago.

I'm proud of the recognition that my work has claimed - both within film and around it. Thanks to "Frog Guy" and "Dear Anne," I've been able to meet people from all areas of the Michigan Independent Filmmaking scene. Being in the same room with people like Jerrod Willis, Leighton Pierce, Death Cat, Joey Huertas, BURN mARALAGO - it is always staggering to see artists in their natural habitat, and it is a privilege for me to be there. I am also a very active user on Letterboxd and have had the opportunity to

befriend many artists through the app. Seeing the work my mutuals make fills me with pride, I just want to keep cheering them on!

Being contacted by Dean Fleischer Camp (the director of Oscar-nominated *A24* gem “Marcel the Shell with Shoes On”) was a highlight of my life as a filmmaker as well.

What do you want students to know about being a filmmaker?

Stop whatever you are doing right now and make a silly little movie - I promise you, it is the best therapy. Better yet, share it with someone/something you care about. That experience is next to perfect.

Rishi Gudduguriki

(My major) is communication, with a concentration in media arts & studies. (I am a) graduate student (2nd year). I also have a BA in Film from WSU (graduated 2021). I love being on set and making films.

What's your speciality?

I mainly focus on directing and cinematography, but I have co-produced my two shorts. I have shot a couple of student shorts, and I also assisted with the camera team on other productions, so the camera is my strong suit.

What are some of your most notable works?

I finished/directed a film last year called “Delineation” that is currently in its festival run (2 Official Selections, 1 Nominee). My sizzle reel from my cinematography class is currently featured at the Ann Arbor Film Festival New Voices program. I am currently in post-production on another short film that I'm looking to submit to festivals in the summer. That one is called “Akhil & Ben win the Lottery.”

What are some of your proudest achievements in filmmaking and what do you hope to accomplish in the future?

My proudest achievements are being featured in a major festival like the Ann Arbor Film Festival and having my short film selected to be screened in some festivals. I hope to continue to improve myself and my work so that I can screen my films in major festivals. However, I strive to push myself with new boundaries for my own learning/knowledge rather than targeting awards.

What do you want students to know about being a filmmaker?

I would say that if you're interested in participating in independent shorts, please reach out because we are always looking to grow the small community. Also, I encourage (students) to come support their local filmmakers (and other artists) when there are any public screenings nearby.

Linda Miller

I'm a media arts and studies major with a minor in theatre currently finishing my sophomore year.

What's your speciality?

I kind of do everything, that's kind of what my major's about. I'll edit, write, film and produce everything.

What are some of your most notable works?

The most notable of my films is currently the one that's making it through these film festivals. My short film is called “Overwhelmingly Overwhelmed,” and it's made it to (the) Ann Arbor Film Festival and will be showcased at Freep Film festival here in Detroit on April 28.

What are some of your proudest achievements in filmmaking and what do you hope to accomplish in the future?

I think my proudest film is “Overwhelmingly Overwhelmed,” just because of the time it took to think it over and write what I was thinking. I took pen to paper and just wrote whatever I was thinking and because of that I think the film is a little bit vulnerable. But yeah, (“Overwhelmingly Overwhelmed”) making it through these film festivals was a surprise to me because I initially thought it wasn't that good of a short film.

What do you want students to know about being a filmmaker?

I think any film student here making their art needs all the support they can get when their films make it to festivals. It really makes a difference and it means a lot.

Andrew Shea

(I'm a) film production major. I'd like WSU students to know that they are not alone in their beliefs.

What's your speciality?

Within film I direct, write, edit and shoot.

What are some of your most notable works?

Some notable films I've made are “The Digital Hand” and “Exterior Lines,” two projects that display my cinematography skills.

What are some of your proudest achievements in filmmaking and what do you hope to accomplish in the future?

Every year, I hope my projects get more interesting. In the future, I hope to create progressively larger films, hopefully better ones, at that!

What do you want students to know about being a filmmaker?

Some advice I'd like to give to WSU film students: begin experimenting yesterday. As a film student, you will always be playing catch-up, so don't neglect the tenets of art. That is, we must create new and interesting things wherever we go. Take risks before it's too late.

Vincent Renard

I am a junior transfer student majoring in film.

What's your speciality?

I've been both behind and in front of the camera ever since my friends and I began making

films, but I feel as if I really came into my own with the camera. Cinematography is my favorite aspect of filmmaking, not only because of the precision, or lack thereof, and skill that is required to make a film look cohesive, but also because of the amount of expression and emotion one can evoke through the frame. A strong visual language in a film goes a long way for me, and many of my favorite films contain imagery that enhances the themes or subtext at play. Long story short, behind the camera is my happy place!

What are some of your most notable works?

Currently, My most recent film is a documentary short titled “Reaching Out.” It was completed in October of 2022 as an assignment for my COM1600 class. It's an essay film that deals with man's parasitic relationship with nature and the abuse of power we have on the planet, while also showing some of the ways that nature starts to fight back.

What are some of your proudest achievements in filmmaking and what do you hope to accomplish in the future?

Although my ventures into filmmaking are brief and in a fairly infantile state as of now, I'm really proud of my recent short and some of the buzz that my associates have given it. In early March 2023, “Reaching Out” was screened at the Ann Arbor Film Festival as part of their New Voices program. That alone was a huge honor, and frankly my imposter syndrome still has yet to wear off! Also, my film has been accepted into the Ypsilanti Film Festival, where it will play during the week of April 19, 2023, as well as at the FREEP Film Festival, where a screening will be held on April 28, 2023, at the science center downtown. Never in a million years did I think that any work of mine would receive any sort of festival attention this early into my career but I'm eternally grateful, nonetheless! My aspirations for the future would be to become as thoroughly studied as I can within the realm of cinematography and hopefully work up to a Director of Photography position on film sets. Collaborating with filmmakers that I admire and developing a unique, interesting visual language for a film is all I could ever ask for.

What do you want students to know about being a filmmaker?

Independent student films are, in many cases, the jumping off points for so many of the world's most brilliant artists and filmmakers. Making independent films while at school allows so many people to explore their creative horizons, figure out techniques and hone their skills, as well as build up a portfolio of work to show to their cohorts. If any WSU student is interested in helping a fellow student's film get made, either as a crew position or actor, I implore them to go for it! It's a great opportunity for both parties, and more often than not, seeing the film all finished and edited is a wildly rewarding feeling.



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Administrative changes leave unanswered questions

by **Amelia Benavides-Colón**

Editor-in-Chief

Wayne State's Athletics Department has faced a series of administrative changes after former Athletic Director Rob Fournier was mysteriously placed on leave in November 2022.

According to an anonymous letter obtained by The South End via FOIA request, a tip was sent to WSU's Office of Internal Audit on Oct. 26, 2022, citing a hostile work environment under Fournier.

The hand-written letter was addressed to WSU Chief of Staff and VP of Marketing and Communications Michael Wright, and said the employee actively feared for their job.

The letter accuses Fournier of running a dishonest and mis-managed workplace.

"I'm telling you Rob is losing it. Rob is extremely forgetful. Rob leaves meetings and tells other lies about that meeting," said the letter. "If Rob doesn't like someone he makes it hell for them and they leave. Rob is hurting (WSU) and the Athletic(s) department."

The only information redacted from the FOIA'd letter is the length of employment the employee has had with WSU. The employee said they've seen fluctuations in Fournier's management style over the years.

"Rob run's the office like he is a dictator. Rob is also very good at playing the role," the letter said.

Fournier was placed on administrative leave on Nov. 1, according to reporting by TSE, and on Nov. 23, 2022 the Athletics Department announced Fournier's status changed to retirement.

WSU alum and host of "The Warrior House" podcast Mike Sangster said attending football games was a major part of his college career as a member of the Warrior Marching Band.

"I've been a fan of (WSU) sports since I started attending in 2013," Sangster said. "That has translated to our friend group being football and basketball season ticket holders, W Club donors, and providing Warrior fan content on(line)."

Sangster said he doesn't recall Fournier being an active member of the campus community.

"I don't recall him visiting or speaking to donors in the W Club tent," he said. "And as a donor, I never felt that Rob was accessible."

Serving as WSU's Athletic Director since 2000, Fournier played a role in the department's new \$28.5 million basketball arena in partnership with the Detroit Pistons and the installation of a new infield at Harwell field.

Chief of Staff Erika Wallace, who assumed responsibility since Fournier's placement on leave, was named interim director on Nov. 26, 2022.

The Athletics Department declined multiple requests for comment.

TSE will continue reporting on this ongoing investigation.

A new era for Warrior Football

The departure of Fournier was only the beginning with an announcement that head coach of 19 years Paul Winters would no longer be leading the Warrior Football team as of Dec. 9, 2022.

Winters joined WSU Athletics in 2003 and started the team on its first winning-streak in decades. In 2011, the team lost the

National Championship Game to Pittsburg State, setting a program record of 12 wins.

No reason was given for Winters' departure, who finished his career with a 94-105 record.

Michigan-native and 16-year coaching veteran Tyrone Wheatley was chosen by Wallace to lead the team.

According to a Jan. 26 press release, Wheatley was selected because of his commitment to student-athletes.

"His ability to mentor men, develop talent, and recruit will elevate our football program," Wallace said in the release. "I'm looking forward to watching his leadership as he guides our Warrior student-athletes into a new era."

Wheatley was welcomed to campus with a press conference at the WSU Fieldhouse on Feb. 2, attended by local press and members of the campus community.

Sangster said the addition of Wheatley is a motivating step in the right direction.

"His mantra of 'It's time' makes me believe that there is so much potential at (WSU) that hadn't been tapped the past several years... the vibes are just different," he said. "There's that feeling of something new and exciting coming to Wayne State Athletics."

The Warriors finished the 2022 season 1-9, a fourth losing record in five seasons, which Wheatley said he's prepared to rebound from.

"We're going to play like we love Detroit," Wheatley said at the press conference. "We're going to win with pride."

Wheatley signed a four-year contract and will make an average base pay of \$207,500, according to contract details uncovered by The Detroit News. In addition, Wheatley was given the option to hire his own staff of assistant coaches and hiring began immediately.

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Assistant coaching positions quickly fill

by **Amelia Benavides-Colón and Roberto Cuadra**

Editor-in-Chief and Contributing Writer

New Head Football Coach Tyrone Wheatley has dubbed the team as underdogs waiting to prosper, with a new staff of assistant coaches on the payroll Wheatley has marked this season as their comeback.



Rosco Byrd, Jr.
Offensive Line Coach

Rosco Byrd started his coaching career in 2017 at Dougherty High School in Albany, Georgia and Carvery High School for three seasons before graduating to coach at Savannah State University in 2021.

Byrd was a graduate of the University of Alabama at Birmingham and played in 10 games at defensive tackle as a true freshman in 2012. Byrd transferred to Georgia Southern University his senior year and started 29 games on the offensive line.

Since joining the Warrior team in March, Byrd said he enjoys coaching alongside Wheatley and believes they can make the strongest impact together.

Byrd said he is excited to start inspiring and motivating the team to be the best version of themselves.

"You try to be better, you try to be the best that you can, and everything else will fall into place," Byrd said.

Byrd replaces Joe Hensel, who held the position since August 2020 and completed three years with Wayne State.



Glenn Davis
Linebackers Coach

Glenn Davis started coaching as a defensive coordinator in 2006 for the Alabama Steeldogs, one of the charter teams in the Arena Football League.

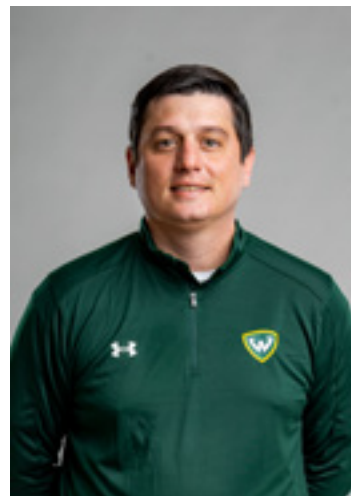
Davis was a student-athlete at the University of South Florida from 1997-2001, where he was a four-year starter at cornerback and earned 42 starts in 44 games. At USF Davis ranks in the school's top 10 history career pass break-ups (24) and passes defended (28) and recorded the first interception in program history.

Davis joined the coaching staff at SSU in 2017 and the following year, the team had 10 interceptions and ranked third in the NCAA D1 Football Championship Subdivision in pass defense.

Davis joined WSU in March and said when he coaches, he likes to leave the team better overall than when he started.

"I (want them) to be the best version of them(selves) every day that they can be," Davis said, "(whatever) aspect that (may be), on the field (and) off the field."

Davis replaces Steve Gardiner who joined the team in the spring of 2021. Gardiner is now the special teams coordinator and linebackers coach at Tiffin University.



Russell DeMasi
**Associate Head Coach/
Offensive Coordinator/
Quarterbacks Coach**

Russell DeMasi started his coaching career in 2013 at Shorter University in Rome, Georgia before moving to serve as a special teams coordinator, quarterback and wide receiver coach at SSU in 2015.

That same year, SSU had their first winning season since 1998 where the team averaged 320 offensive yards per game.

DeMasi said he plans to form close relationships with his athletes to ensure they start on the right foot.

He said he wants to set up his athletes for lives outside of college.

"If we're just coaching you to be the best football player, we're not doing our full job," DeMasi said.

DeMasi replaces Jeff Reardon who joined the Athletics staff in 2008 and concluded his 14th season with the team in fall 2022. Reardon is now the head football coach at Edsel Ford High School.



**Tom Sims - Defensive
Coordinator/Defensive
Line Coach**

Tom Sims started coaching career in 1997 at Western Kentucky University and has since coached at nine other universities.

Previous to coaching Sims played collegiately at Western Michigan University and Pittsburgh University from 1986 to 1990 before being drafted (152nd overall) by Kansas City.

Sims played 47 total games in the NFL; he had a career-best 30 stops while playing for Indianapolis in 1993, finishing his career with 65 tackles and four sacks.

Sims said he wants to see improvement and he's hoping the team's positivity will impact how they play.

"We're going to try and get a little bit better every day," Sims said, "and get to a point where that positively impacts our bottom line."

Sims replaces former defensive backs coach Antwon Robinson and former defensive line coach Frank Espy. Robinson and Espy both joined the team in spring 2022. Espy now serves as assistant coach at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas.



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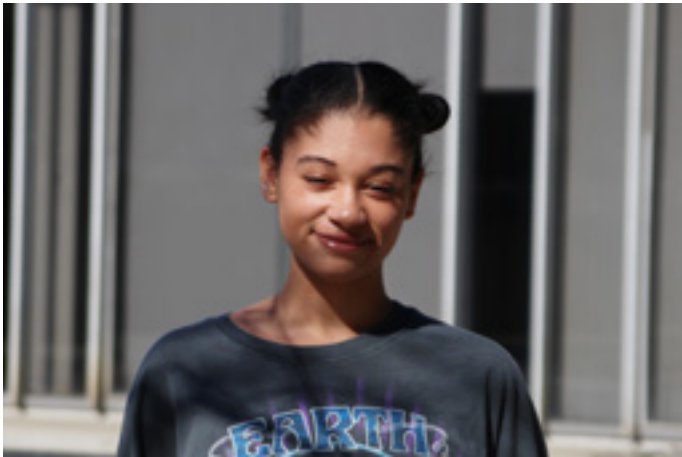
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