

# CMM Final Blog Project - Sarah Bedore Union College Concordiensis Newspaper



## History -

Concordiensis is the student run newspaper of Union College established in 1877. The newspaper is the 13th oldest in the country and the oldest paper to run continuously in the city of Schenectady. The name of the paper means "of or pertaining to union" and release around 8 articles per trimester.

<https://concordiensis.com/about/>

- Well Organised Layout
- Struggles to find current articles

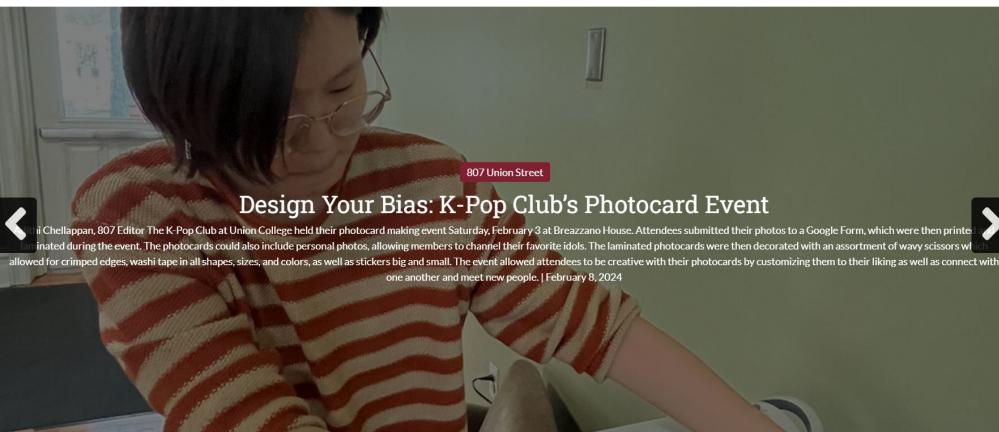
## Type of Articles?

- Sports Coverage
- Student Events
- Residential Life
- World News
- Opinion Pieces

# Concordiensis

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF UNION COLLEGE SINCE 1877

Home News Opinions 807 Union Street Arts Sci-Tech Sports World/Business More



807 Union Street

Design Your Bias: K-Pop Club's Photocard Event

Chellappan, 807 Editor The K-Pop Club at Union College held their photocard making event Saturday, February 3 at Breazzano House. Attendees submitted their photos to a Google Form, which were then printed during the event. The photocards could also include personal photos, allowing members to channel their favorite idols. The laminated photocards were then decorated with an assortment of wavy scissors with allowed for crimped edges, washi tape in all shapes, sizes, and colors, as well as stickers big and small. The event allowed attendees to be creative with their photocards by customizing them to their liking as well as connect with one another and meet new people. | February 8, 2024

**News**

**Students React to New Hockey Rink**  
Allyson Bennett, News Editor  
April 23, 2024 • No Comments

On February 29, 2024, the college announced that the Men's and Women's Division 1 hockey teams will play in

**Opinions**

**SPRING TERM 2024**

Mar. 31	Fri.	Residence halls and houses open
Mar. 31	Fri.	Last day to add a course without instructor's written approval
Mar. 1-3	Mon-Wed	Off-campus and commuter student registration data verification
Mar. 5	Fri.	Last day to add an open course without instructor's written approval
Mar. 5	Fri.	Last day to drop a course without a "W"
Mar. 12	Fri.	Last day to drop a course without a "W"
Mar. 12	Fri.	Last day to finalize spring class schedule, with instructor permission to add a class
Mar. 19	Fri.	Last day to drop a course with instructor permission
May 3	Fri.	Fall term course preselecting information available online
May 8-24	Mon-Fri	Academic advising occurs for fall term courses; students consult their academic advisor

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# Focus Articles -

## Midterm Madness: How Union Students Are Feeling About This Term's Midterms

February 1, 2024

- Opinion Piece
- From Media Responses
- Stats and Quotes of Students

The article reports on a school-wide Instagram survey for midterm preparation. It discusses questions like most dreaded midterms, studying strategies, and best study snacks.

During test season, this is the exact article I'd want to read as it provides advice and reassures students they're not alone in the study process.

<https://concordiensis.com/5391/opinions/midterm-madness/>

### What midterm(s) are you dreading most?

This first question yielded a lot of the answers that I was expecting. Calculus, chemistry, and general math courses were the most dreaded of all, as they would be for myself. Let's just say there's a reason why my chosen extracurricular is writing for the school newspaper and not devoting my time to math tutoring. Due to this fact, I don't have much advice for tackling these midterms, but I'm sure you guys will do great (as I support from a distance)!

Aside from the typical S.T.E.M. subjects, this question did present some surprises in terms of some of the classes respondents were fearing having to test in. Humanities-centered classes like Political Theory seemed daunting for some, while Arts classes like History of Photography concerned others. Now that I reflect on it, none of these classes really seem 'easy' to me, so I don't think I can say that any of these exams will be a breeze, though I do wish these students the best of luck, and, if it's any consolation, I'm sure they would do better than I could!

### What's your best midterm studying tip/strategy?

“ Calculus, chemistry, and general math courses were the most dreaded of all

Studying for midterms in particular is rough for everyone. Unless you're that perfect person that *actually* started studying two weeks before the exam like the professor said to. Regardless, everyone has their own way of preparing for a lengthy exam. My personal favorite, as I've mentioned, is finding a cute, absolutely *silent* study area and forcing myself to stay there until I feel prepared enough.

This sentiment was shared by many of the respondents in my Instagram poll, though there were some strategies that I *hadn't* heard of. For example, one response praised study groups for their studying success. For me personally, they quite literally have *never* worked out well, but I'm glad they do for someone! Another respondent mentioned the whiteboard walls in ISEC, which, again, as more of a humanities girl myself, I can't say I've ever utilized, but I do hope it works well for whoever does!

### What's your favorite study snack?

To be completely transparent with you all, I was the most excited for the responses to this question. I just think it's a fun little prompt that people can tell a lot about a person actually. For example, if you do like to munch on those sunflower seeds that we have at the campus store, I *will* be judging you. On the other hand, if you're a fan of the Lay's Dill Pickle chips, I'm an even *bigger* fan of you.

# Focus Articles -

## Letter to Editor: Challenging the New ice Rink Plan at Mohawk

- Local News
- Rebuttal of schools plan

The off-campus ice rink would replace the existing Messa rink to fit more spectators and create more parking. The problem with this plan is that the new rink would be off campus, and across a busy road. This creates issues with safety, and accessibility.

The building would be next to the city casino and while it would add more parking, Union explained they might not always be available to students due to fees and reserving availability.

<https://concordiensis.com/5192/opinions/letter-to-editor-challenging-the-new-ice-rink-plan-at-mohawk/>

80 / Union Street | Opinions

## Letter to Editor: Challenging the New Ice Rink Plan at Mohawk

Michael Rosenbaum, Editor-in-Chief Emeritus

November 2, 2023

A plan to build a new ice rink at Mohawk Harbor has taken another step forward, by speaking to the Schenectady City Planning Commission on the merits of their plan. This plan has no merits for Union students, and few merits overall for the broader community of Schenectady.

Since this project has not been advertised too much, it's worth going over briefly what it is. The plan is to construct an arena with an ice rink that Union College can lease for use for ice hockey in the future as a replacement for the existing Messa rink. The stated potential benefits are twofold: first, to expand the capacity of people who can watch the matches and second, to increase the number of available parking spaces so that the increased number of people can potentially come from further away. The existing plan does not adequately solve either of these issues while introducing new dangers to students. We also know, with a great deal of specificity, where the arena is likely to be built. The entire plot of land of Mohawk Harbor is owned by the same holding company, but on October 17, they requested a sublet of a particular part of the property. The only undeveloped part of this portion of the property is directly Northeast of the Rivers Casino's eastern parking lot.

We should first attempt to understand these potential dangers. What are they and is there any way to mitigate them that we may not know about yet? The main danger is geographical, not only to the health of the students but to the health of the business of the arena itself. The proposed spot for the arena is bordered by Erie Boulevard, which separates the arena and the Union College campus. Anybody going to the new arena will have to walk, bike, or drive across this major arterial street. This is a problem for individuals trying to get to Mohawk Harbor. Now imagine a group of thousands of people rushing across a street that has only two pedestrian crosswalks. Only two. And most motorists will have to cross this road anyway to get to their cars since there isn't space at Mohawk Harbor to park them all, but more on this below.

It's difficult to put into words how bad of a traffic solution this is. People leaving stadiums leave in crowds, big crowds. And the developers of this project seriously want these big crowds to march across Erie Boulevard. Somewhere in the world, a traffic engineer woke up from this nightmare.

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\* indicates required

Email Address \*

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1 Freshman vs First-year: why the difference matters



Springfest 2K23 at Union!

3 Union College Admits 44% to the Class of 2027



4 Union College mascot to change, for the better?



5 Endowment Management Costs Union Tens of Millions

Tweets from @Concordiensis



**Nothing to see here - yet**

When they Tweet, their Tweets will

## Focus Articles -

### Theme Houses to be Converted in the 2025-2026 Academic Year

- Student News
- Big Change on Campus

Union will change their 13 Themed Houses to Residential Halls, and affinity houses. The change will open up more independent off-campus living to upperclassmen and offer homes focused around different cultural groups.

This change is coming from inconsistency and a decline of residents applying for the houses.

<https://concordiensis.com/5534/news/theme-houses-to-be-converted-in-the-2025-2026-academic-year/>

### Theme Houses to be Converted in the 2025-2026 Academic Year

5 to Become Affinity Houses, 8 to Have No Theme; No Changes for the 2024-2025 Year

Allyson Bennett, News Editor

February 22, 2024

Starting with the 2025-2026 academic year, Union's Office of Residential Education (ResEd) has decided to make significant changes to Union's 13 Theme House options. Instead of having theme houses, the office plans to transition theme houses to floors of residence halls, have 5 affinity houses, and allow upperclass students to choose the remaining 8 buildings in the general housing lottery. The *Concordiensis* spoke to Catherine Straube, the Director of Residential Education and Housing, about these changes.

These changes will not impact the housing selection process for the 2024-2025 academic year. Currently, there are 13 theme houses: Arts, Bronner (multicultural), Cinematic, Dance, Dickens (literature), Game, Iris (LGBTQ+), Maker (creativity), Ozone (sustainability), Serenity (stress relief), Symposium (politics), Tech, and Wells (community service) houses. However, beginning in the 2024-2025 year, there will no longer be House Managers in each theme house, and Minerva houses will have Community Advisors instead of House Managers. Students who live in the theme houses next year will instead communicate as a house to the Community Director of Theme Houses, Kaitlyn Brooks. House Managers and Community Advisors function similarly to Resident Advisors, in which they are students hired by ResEd to manage residence halls and Minervas.



Allyson Bennett

Seward Place, where most of Union's current theme houses are located.

## Concordiensis Recap -

Overall, I'd like to see more of the students' opinions throughout the articles. All of these articles are written by students but getting an outside perspective from someone not involved with news would help for comparison. Besides the opinion articles, news pertaining to campus was professional and informative.

- Sentence Structure and Grammar
- Making the Articles General
- Add Storytelling Aspect

