

The Marginal

'18-'19 Alumni Newsletter

WATERMARGIN



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Dear Watermargin Alumni,

we're happy to share some updates from the past year in our good old house.



Dear Watermargin Alumni,

My name is James, I'm a rising junior, and I will be an Education Co-Chair in the Fall. I love all my housemates, and that includes you all, whose faces I see in a quotidian manner, while I wait on line for house dinner. I don't know you, but I feel like I can look to you for guidance because we share Watermargin's values. The question that adults have been lobbing my way ever since I stepped foot on this campus is "what you want to do after graduation?" Answering is simultaneously easy and yet impossible.

My response would be twofold:

I'd like to continue my education in the best way that I see fit, whether it be going to graduate school or finding an alternative way to learn about the world- to diligently and critically pursue actionable steps that reflect my values.

In addition, I want to live in safe and affordable housing, to eat healthy food, to stay fit, to live in a healthy environment, develop meaningful relationships... I could go on and on.

Upon initial thought, they seem to be pretty reasonable requests. One is a way of actuating my ideals, and another is to claim my right as a member of society. Upon closer inspection, these two desires actually conflict. I find no value in the wanton accumulation of capital. As described by Gavin Mueller, "Gentrification has always been a top-down affair, not a spontaneous hipster influx, orchestrated by the real estate developers and investors who pull the strings of city policy, with individual home-buyers deployed in mopping up operations." Not that I can even fathom buying a home, but gentrification affects every aspect of my life and the lives that I have the potential of displacing. Am I going to suffer the fate of all university students? To either move back into my parent's home or to contribute to the tech bro-ification of every city in the state?

As an Education co-chair, I'd like to explore the difficulties in post-graduation living with my housemates, with your help. I'd like to know your experiences with housing,

living, food, and people after you graduated from Cornell. Below are a few guiding questions; we'll use your answers with those from our housemates to determine topics we might want to learn about in the Fall semester. I've tried to make the questions broad to accommodate for a diverse audience, but feel free to rephrase them to fit your circumstances, or even develop your own questions. Please email your answers to jz447@cornell.edu. Thanks!

Housing:

Where am I living, and who is living around me?
What is the local history of the place that I am living in?
How is this place changing, and am I a part of that change? (i.e. development, class, race)

What is the political landscape with regards to affordability?

Organization:

Is there a neighborhood/community that organizes, and if so, should/can I participate? (i.e. town halls, community boards, housing associations)

Who participates in those events?

What does the organization want? Is it reflective of what I want?

Consumption:

Who shops at my local food vendor?

What are the options? What do people buy? What do I buy?

Does the geographical locus of the store indicate anything about the area around it?

Where is the produce sourced from, and how does that affect me and the producer?

What do I do about food/material waste? How is the area structured to deal with waste?

Transportation:

What kind of transportation am I taking and where am I going?

Who is taking the transportation with me?

Why do I choose not to take other types of transportation- is it inaccessible? Why?

What is the political attitude regarding different modes of transportation?

The various contingencies that come to shape our lives may bring us to spaces and people with whom our worldviews diverge: anything from our new neighborhoods being dizzyingly culturally-diverse, to moving back home and discovering our years in college have unwittingly moulded us to a point of extreme dissonance. This section will remain as anonymous as you'd want it to be, but your reflections on the following points will also be deeply appreciated.

Interpersonal relations:

To what extent do the worldviews/mindsets of people around you diverge from each other, and from you?

Are there differences you disagree with? Are there differences you're learning from?

What determines how involved/invested you are with people (resonance? circumstance)? To what extent are you, or do you foresee yourself, becoming so with people in your new environment?

Thanks to Viri, Greg, Jordan, and Kristi for looking at this.

Best,
James

NEW MEMBERS



Kristi



Zoe



James



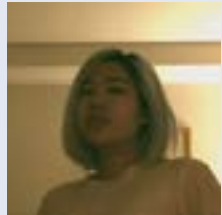
Katie



Vivian



Zoya



Amber



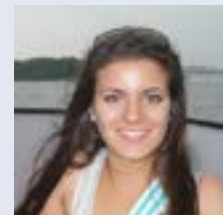
Avi



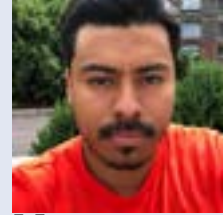
Sam



Molly



Nelly



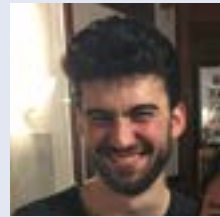
Marco



Yongyu



Ruby



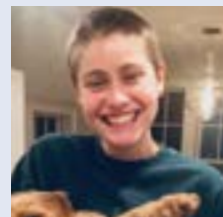
Matt



Victoria



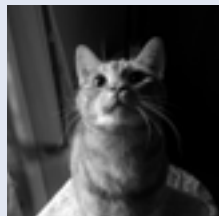
David



Emma



Kiran

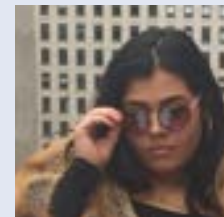


Pancho

GRADUATING MEMBERS



Leta



Jax



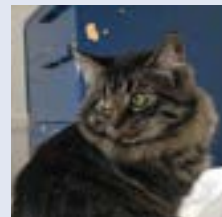
Jeremiah



Viola



KT



Cricket



Nelly



Annie



Franklin



Jamie

OUR EVENTS: FALL 2019

HALLOWEEN



above: Viri and Jeremiah
below: Jamie
courtesy of Ruby

MATT & VIOLA'S BIRTHDAY



HOLIDAY DINNER



OUR EVENTS: SPRING 2019

PROFESSOR NIGHT

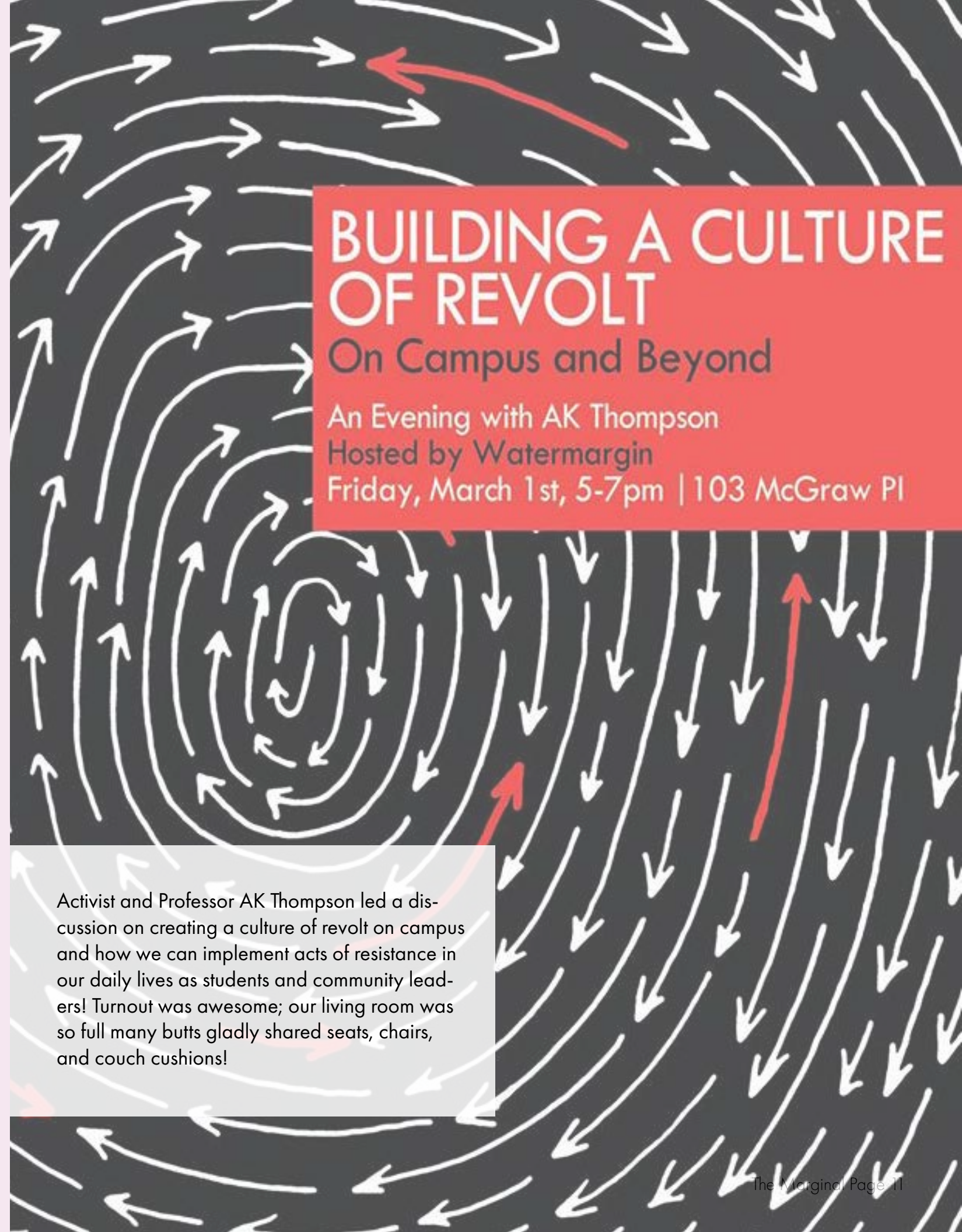
An enchanting night of wine, food, and lovely conversations with our lovely professors! The best game was to guess who was who: student or professor?



poster by Nicole Oliveira



House members Avi, Amber, Vivian and Maya at the event.



BUILDING A CULTURE OF REVOLT

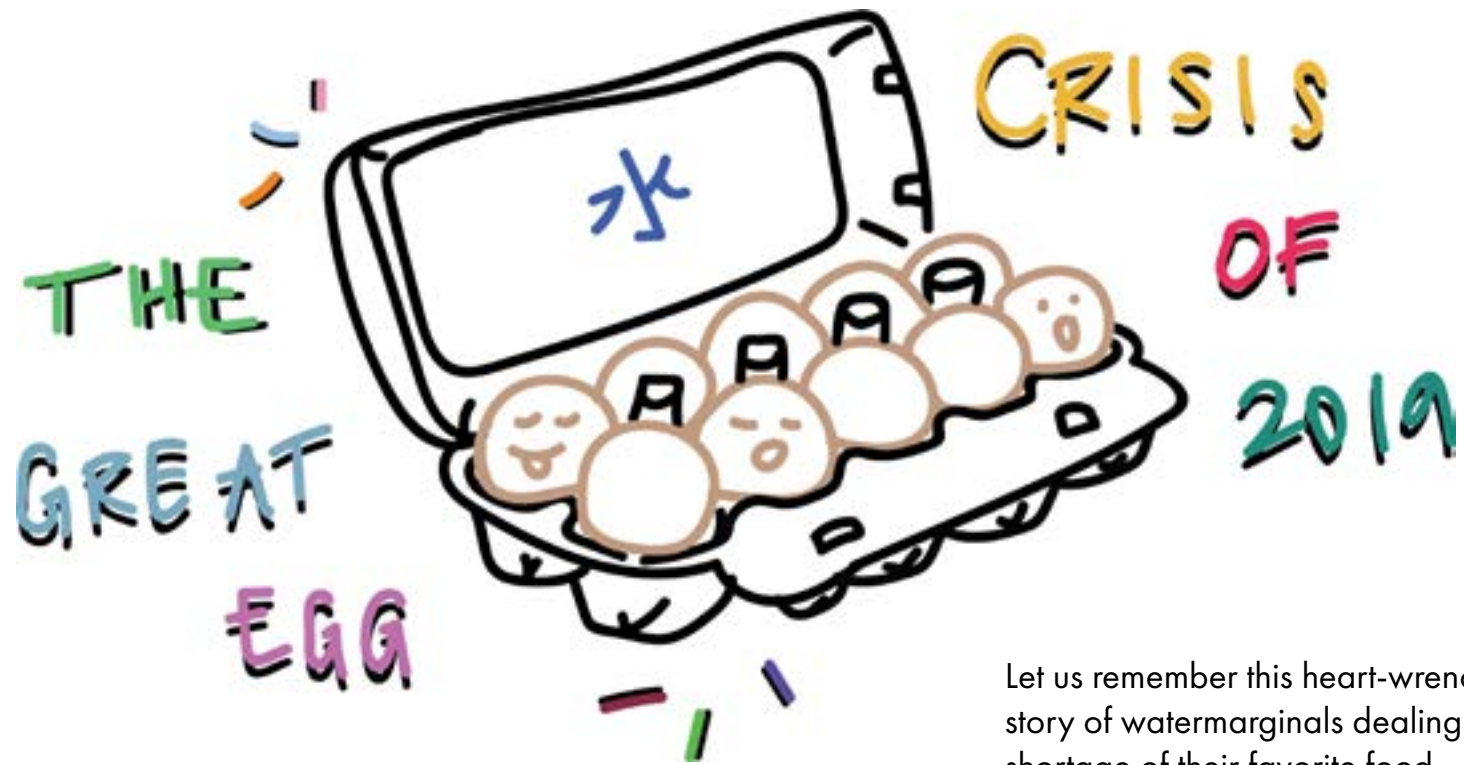
On Campus and Beyond

An Evening with AK Thompson

Hosted by Watermargin

Friday, March 1st, 5-7pm | 103 McGraw Pl

Activist and Professor AK Thompson led a discussion on creating a culture of revolt on campus and how we can implement acts of resistance in our daily lives as students and community leaders! Turnout was awesome; our living room was so full many butts gladly shared seats, chairs, and couch cushions!



Let us remember this heart-wrenching story of watermarginals dealing with shortage of their favorite food.

David chu
Hate to be the guy, but are eggs on the way

Vivian Jiang
EGGS

voldemort
eggs-
as in i miss the days when there were eggs

shit pizza
Just want someone to look at me the way david looks at eggs

PSA 660 is offering us 1-2 trays of eggs for free, they have extra
If anyone wants to pick them up



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illustration by Nicole Oliveira

MURDER MYSTERY

Halloween who? This past winter we hosted a lively, spooky night featuring an ominous body outline (made of masking tape, outlined from Sam), bloody warnings on our windows and cobwebs that might've been naturally-sourced from our attic!



COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEMS BOOK LAUNCH

Housemate Maya Chang Matunis illustrated a book published by a team from Community Food Systems minor and invited us to the launch.



House members Viola, Vivian, Maya, Zoya and Nadya at the event.

KARAOKE NIGHT



Maya, Nicole and Amber; courtesy of KT.

DIVERGENT DIALOGUES: RACE + CLASS THEATER WORKSHOP

In collaboration with an Ithaca-based theater company Civic Ensemble, we hosted a workshop devoted to exploration of race and class through body and performance.



Godfrey L. Simmons of Civic Ensemble, and housemates Carlton and Jeremiah perform during the workshop.

CATCHING THE STARS:

A LIGHTING, MUSIC & DANCE EXTRAGAVANZA

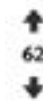


Viri, Carlton and Nicole

A few of our fellow house members and alumni participated in a nighttime performance that included improv dance and music.

TOP TIER CO-OP

WATERMARGIN GETS DUE RECOGNITION ON REDDIT



Posted by u/6x9BigGrumpyTitanium 1 month ago

Getting a bid at a top tier Co-Op

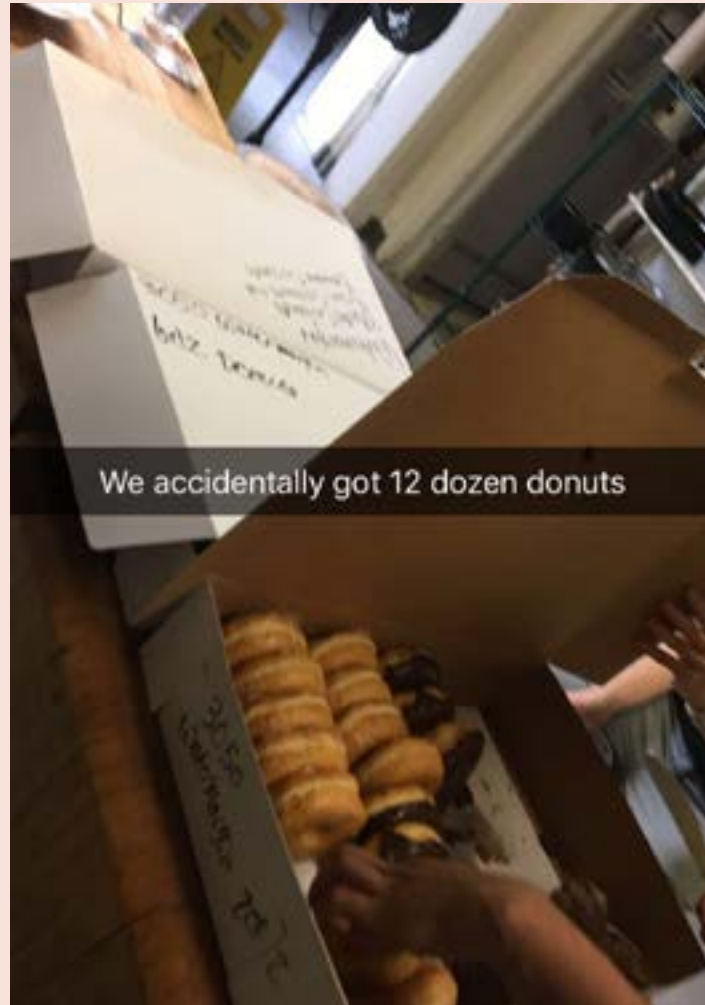
Hello friends and redditors of the Cornell community.

I am writing to you because I am in some desperate need of advice. As a member and active participant of greek life here on campus, I've seen my fair share of keg kills, shotguns, barton pulls, and other "frat" behaviors over the past two years. At this point in my Cornell career, I've realized that I have fulfilled my potential as a frat star, and am now interested in earning similar prestige in other organizations throughout campus. That is why I have set my sights on earning a bid to the WaterMargin Co-Op, which as we know is the most prestigious and crunchiest of all co op communities.

I am looking to trade ruthless hazing rituals for circular discussions about the patriarchy over a nice home grown kale salad. Killing kegs for diligently pruning the tomatoes we grow in our backyard. Bartons pulls for respectful swills of our home brewed moonshine. To this end I am willing to undergo a complete transformation - thrifting an entire wardrobe, growing my hair out (everywhere), and becoming irate at the very institutions I once professed to love.

My question is this: Does anyone have any experience rushing a co op or have any tips about how to behave so that I can ensure myself a bid? I am planning on talking about how I am a socialist, love to compost, and enjoy only indigenous authors. Will this be enough? Should I join a punk band before trying to make the switch? Any insight would be appreciated, as I hope to end my college career perfectly balanced, as all things should be.

NEWS FROM THE KITCHEN

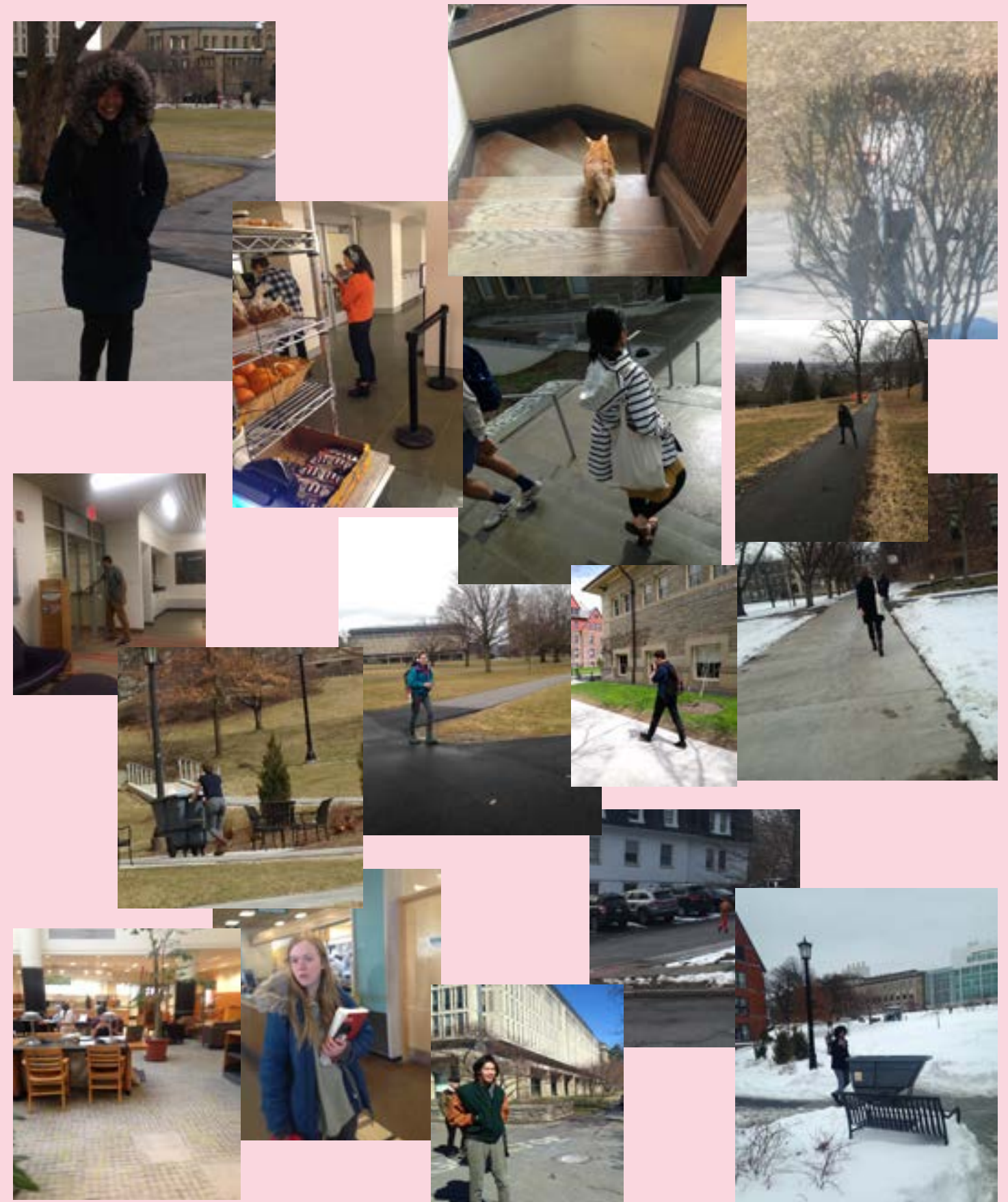


A simple mistake, a typo can lead to a deadly, but delicious outcome! Imagine our surprise when we found 144 donuts in our kitchen one cold winter morning!



Zoe finds new ways to recycle, creates art pieces reusing available materials.

SPOTTING HOUSEMATES: a gallery



Questions? Comments? Updates?

Email our new alumni secretary, Vivian Jiang at vj38@cornell.edu



watermargin.org

 [therealwatermargin](https://www.instagram.com/therealwatermargin)

with love,
Watermargin