

First Year Student is Like, So Poor Right Now

by Isabel O'Brien

Grace Mullen, CC '23, knew New York was an expensive city when she moved here a little over a month ago. Yet, the amount of money she has spent so far this semester has truly shocked her — so much so that she's basically shouting it from atop John Jay.

“Last night, we went to get Shake Shack together for dinner because we were getting tired of the burgers at John Jay,” her roommate, Kiersten Morales (CC '23) claimed, “and when we were in line she was telling me how we had to stop eating out so much, because New York has made her super poor. I was really concerned for her and was going to offer to buy her burger, but then she pulled out a Louis Vuitton wallet and charged it to her parents' credit card. What the hell?”

“I just can't believe how much things cost here,” said Mullen, who was found grabbing a smoothie between classes at Café East in Lerner Hall. Her voice trailed off as she gazed at the ground forlornly, staring at her Nike sneakers and playing with the hem of her Lululemon tennis skirt. “It's hard to keep track of what you spend. College is so expensive nowadays. It's not right.”

When asked if the high cost of living at Columbia has added additional stress on her student loan payments, Mullen responded that her parents cover the entirety of her tuition, but that they “might have to apply for financial aid next semester.”

“This is why I'm voting for Elizabeth Warren,” Mullen stated, her eyes ablaze. “Her policy proposals really connect with average Americans like me.”