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### Reporter - February 15th 2013

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# REPORTER

02.15.13 [reportermag.com](http://reportermag.com)





REPORTER

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Sometimes the news hits way too close to home.  
Last Friday, students, faculty and staff in the School of Media Sciences (SMS) learned of Professor Edline Chun’s passing. A friend and mentor to many, her death left an indelible mark on the RIT community.  
After learning of the incident, Reporter quickly worked to develop a story on the matter, which we published online later that evening. As a student in the SMS, it’s an incredibly emotional story to watch develop: The subjects involved were all my professors and peers.  
Covering a death is one of a writer’s most challenging tasks. It’s an emotionally challenging time to conduct interviews, and reporters must take extra care to address the bereaved’s special needs. These sort of interviews may be fraught with ethical conundrums — but they are also essential. This is journalism in its purest form.  
First and foremost, Reporter’s job is to disseminate information. Especially in such a situation where rumors may spread, it’s important to ensure information is verified.  
But especially in a situation like this, Reporter has the opportunity to capture the zeitgeist and help the RIT community as a whole unite in the honor of the dearly departed. While the Institute’s official emails do express their heartfelt sympathies, these sorts of stories allow the people they lived, socialized and worked with to pay their final tribute.  
At its core, Reporter is community focused. We’re there on the sidelines of every major event, reporting RIT’s happenings, raising important questions and, in cases like this, memorializing those who have left a powerful impact on Brick City.  
To Benjamin and Edline: May you rest in peace.

Alexander W. Rogala

Alex Rogala  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

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Rachel Zoyhofski, fourth year Environmental Science major, hugs Amanda Dole, second year ASL-English Interpretation major, after finishing the 5000 meter run at the Liberty League Indoor Track and Field Championships at Gordon Field House Saturday, Feb. 9. The two had run the race mostly together finishing a little more than a second apart, with both of them achieving the qualifying standard for the ECAC Championship meet to be held March 1-2 in New York, N.Y. | photograph by Josh Barber

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Cover photograph by Jonathan Foster



## SG UPDATE

by Alex Rogala

### ASKSG UPDATE PRESENTED

At the February 8 Student Government (SG) Senate meeting, a team of Software Engineering students presented an update on the development of the AskSG information inquiry system.

Once completed, AskSG will quickly answer questions about SG or RIT in general. Students will be able to submit questions via text, email or social media. Then, an on-duty representative will provide an answer or consult with other representatives to determine one.

Led by Director of Student Relations and second year Mechanical Engineering major Anthony Hennig, the team will develop the system as part of their senior project. This past quarter, they completed a basic prototype. At present, it has been designed and accepts questions via text message or email.

During spring quarter, the team will further expand their prototype, implementing compatibility with popular social media sites. They hope to complete usability testing in anticipation of a fall 2013 release. **R**

## CORRECTIONS

**The January 25 article** “The Debit Debate” incorrectly identified Student Government Director of Student Relations Anthony Hennig as a third year Mechanical Engineering Major. Hennig is a second year Mechanical Engineering Major.

**The January 25 editorial** “A Show of Hands” incorrectly referred to RIT’s Digital Media Library as the “Digital Media Archive.”

**The February 8 edition** of “Word on the Street” mistakenly credited Jonathan Foster as the photographer. Elizabeth Stallmeyer took the photos featured. **R**

## FORECAST

compiled by Crystal Mendoza Paulin

### FRIDAY 15 CLUBS GOT TALENT

**Ingle Auditorium. 6 - 8 p.m.** RIT’s diverse clubs battle to show off their talents, snatch the winning title (it’s all about the bragging rights, you know) and the grand prize of \$500! *Cost: Free.*

### SATURDAY 16 ACAPOP4

**Al Davis Room, SAU. 7 - 9 p.m.** Join Proof of Purchase for a night of a cappella fun! Guest performers the Pow Arrangers and Dynamic Intonation join RIT’s only co-ed a cappella group. With friends like these, who needs superheroes? *Cost: \$5.*

### SUNDAY 17 SHEN YUN 2013

**Rochester Auditorium Theatre, 885 East Main St. Starts at 2 p.m.** Ancient legends and 5,000 years of Chinese culture are sure to impress during this powerful performance. With nearly 100 artists, 400 handcrafted costumes and a live orchestra, you’re sure to delve into inspiring lands of old. *Cost: \$60+.*

### MONDAY 18 RHA END OF THE QUARTER SMORES

**Sundial. 6 – 8 p.m.** Lost in the cold and dark despair known as finals week? Making your own chocolaty s’mores will bring some light back into your week! *Cost: Free.*

### TUESDAY 19 OPEN MIC NIGHT

**lovin’cup. 8:30 p.m.** Singers, and poets, and comedy — oh my! Witness local musicians band together for your amusement. *Cost: Free.*

### WEDNESDAY 20 LITTLE SPOON /W EYEWAY, JOHN VALENTI AND ADAM CLARK

**The Bug Jar, 219 Monroe Ave. Doors at 8 p.m., Show starts at 9 p.m.** Mellow out with the electro pop group Little Spoon, performing with such local acts like John Valenti and Adam Clark. *Cost: \$6 for 21+ with valid I.D., \$8 for 18+.*

### THURSDAY 21 2300° AT THE CORNING MUSEUM OF GLASS

**Corning Museum of Glass, 1 Museum Way in Corning. 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.** The Kelly Bell Band, one of the best blues bands on the scene, will perform alongside the best glass artisans in the area. Watch glass makers in action or partner with a glass blower to make your very own snowman! *Cost: Free to get in, \$29 to make a snowman. **R***

## BENJAMIN ZUKOFF, A TREE STILL IN BLOOM

by Juan Lachapelle

photo taken from Facebook

“God causes a tree to grow overnight, to grow and to give shade to Jonah. And then as suddenly as the tree had grown, it suddenly disappears. It was there one moment, with its life affirming vitality and energy and Jonah got to see it grow, its branches to spread out and leaves to flourish. It was something Jonah expected to be there, but then just as suddenly it been there, so just as suddenly it was gone.”

This reading from the Book of Jonah 4:6 was recited during the beginning of Benjamin Zukoff’s memorial service on January 30. A third year student in the Woodworking and Furniture Design program, Zukoff passed away on the morning of January 28 after a nearly yearlong battle with a very rare form of cancer known as Desmoplastic small-round-cell tumor. After the battle began last spring quarter, he underwent through various treatments and surgeries until his sudden death last month.

Ever since he arrived on campus, Zukoff was a very active member of the on-campus Jewish organization, Hillel. “He was definitely a known face at Hillel,” said Kourtney Spaulding, the current Hillel program director. “When he got here, it was a very natural fit for him to just go find the Jewish community and get involved.” Even when he wasn’t on the Hillel student board, he helped in whatever way he could, whether it was using his truck to get the kosher grill from the University of Rochester to designing a bookcase for the new Hillel office space.

His passion for his Jewish religion and Israel led him to visit the country over three times during and before his arrival at RIT. He went as



part of the Diller Jewish Teen leadership program and on a trip titled “March of the Living,” which sent students to visit the concentration camps in Poland, speak to Holocaust survivors and make a final trip to Israel.

“He convinced us we should let him make this trip by telling us that he needed to be personal witness to what happened to our people so he could speak out when needed” said Paul Zukoff, his father, at the memorial service via a live stream.

Aaron Jackendoff, fourth year Industrial Design major, and Steve DuBois, a third year Computer Science major both met Benjamin through Hillel and its various events like the Shabbat dinners. “I remember he was always really friendly,” said DuBois. “I can honestly say he was one of those few really genuinely nice people you meet. I’ll always remember him for that.”

Zukoff was not only known in the Jewish community but created very close bonds within his major and actively worked with the Tech Crew. “The wood majors are in their studios 24/7, and it was a very small program so they were pretty close,” said Jackendoff.

The sudden death and funeral did not allow many of his friends to arrange a visit. Some were able to go and offer rides to others that were interested while some stayed and viewed a live stream of the funeral in the Religious Life Center.

Zukoff’s influence on the people in his life and at RIT will not be easily forgotten. “His great attributes and characteristics that people have written on Facebook and messages, they want to carry on because he’s not going to be there,” said Kourtney. “We all need to take in a little bit of who he was since he won’t be here, to treat people the way he treated people.” **R**

# UNITING THE COMMUTERS

While most college students opt to live in the dorms or on-campus apartments during their years at RIT, a select group of students choose to live at home or in their own apartments. To combat some of the specialized issues that commuters may face, the Institute began a Commuter Outreach Initiative earlier this academic year.

BY ALYSSA JACKSON



This program, run by Assistant Director for Clubs and Community Outreach Sarah Griffith, works closely with the Association for Commuter Engagement (ACE) to provide get-togethers and information sessions for commuters and students looking to live off campus. Tamara Orezner, a fourth year Marketing Major and ACE vice president, experienced many of these same problems when she began looking at living off campus as a student from Croatia.

“When I came to RIT I was an international student and I wanted to live off campus,” Orezner said. “I didn’t know anything about laws and contracts because it’s different here than in other countries.”

Griffith explained in an email interview that the initiative serves only commuter students. This focus allows them to seek information from commuters themselves and find out what they can do to help.

“The ACE is located in the Campus Center and provides a lounge location for commuter students, information about living off campus, computer usage for commuter students, locker storage, free coffee, etc.” Griffith stated.

The initiative looks to reach students who commute from all over Rochester, not only those who live near campus. ACE hopes to learn where commuter students live in order to better service their individual needs.

“We are researching what communities have mostly RIT students,” said Orezner. “We are hoping to provide barbecues in those communities to help students engage in their community and meet people, even before they start living there.”

Orezner stated that ACE is determining which apartments are available for students in the process of living off campus. She said that ACE hopes to help locate good neighborhoods for students to live in.

“We are also organizing a ‘Landlord 101’ where we will invite landlords from different communities and to discuss what kind of options students who live off campus have,” Orezner explained.

Some of the issues that the Commuter Outreach Initiative and ACE look to fix are not the issues commuters are thinking about. Monica Rodriguez, a second year Psychology student who commutes from Greece, stated that many of her issues are problems unable to be addressed by the Initiative and ACE.

“In bad weather, no matter how early I leave, I always get to school late,” said Rodriguez, who had not heard of ACE or the initiative. She also explained that finding parking is a recurring problem. “I feel like that should have more parking spaces that are not reserved. They should have parking that’s not for students with reserved spots closer to the school.”

Commuters and students who are looking to live off campus are encouraged to visit the ACE office in the basement of the Campus Center at A650 for more information or to relax between classes. **R**

# AYL

by Michelle Spoto

## REPORTER RECOMMENDS

As the quarter comes to a close and stress levels are soaring, taking a personal day to relax and center your focus can help to alleviate some of the pressure. Your personal day should be productive, but not stressful, and give you time to enjoy your own company.

Find a day when you have nowhere to be, even if there are a few items on your to-do list. For many, that probably means a Saturday or Sunday, unless you don’t have class or work sometime during the week. Start off the day right with a healthy breakfast and some early

## TAKING A PERSONAL DAY

morning productivity. Now, that doesn’t mean you need to wake up at 6 a.m., but getting up just a few hours earlier than you normally would on a lazy Saturday can give you a couple extra “free hours” to utilize. Use these few hours to tackle some items on your to-do list.

Often times, it’s easy to spend the entire day anxious about all the work that needs to be done, while procrastinating your time away, leaving you stressed and unproductive. Instead, focus on being useful for just a few solid hours, and you might be surprised how much you can

accomplish. Plus, crossing out some of your major projects early in the day can keep looming assignments from stressing you out.

Once you’ve had the morning to be productive, it’s time to do whatever it is that makes you happy. That could mean giving your apartment a good clean — an organized living and working space can help de-clutter your mind — going for a run, or simply relaxing with a glass of wine and reruns of “Grey’s Anatomy.”

## STREAM OF FACTS

Christopher Columbus introduced oranges to North America in 1493 **WHEN** he brought seeds along on his second voyage.

The circumference of the world is 24,901 miles **WHEN** measured about the **EQUATOR**.

At the **EQUATOR**, there is very little variation in the lengths of days and nights, whereas locations near the Earth’s poles can experience extended periods of **DAY** or night.

On this **DAY** in history, February 15, 1968, Henry Lewis was elected the conductor and music director for the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. According to the New York Times, Lewis was the first African American to lead a symphony orchestra in America. **R**

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“LEND YOURSELF TO OTHERS, BUT GIVE YOURSELF TO YOURSELF.”

- Michel de Montaigne

## WORD OF THE WEEK

# Imperturbable

- marked by extreme calm, impassivity, and steadiness: serene

Knowing she studied her hardest, Lily walked into her final exam with an imperturbable attitude that even the most difficult question couldn’t shake.

Definition taken from <http://merriam-webster.com/>

## COMIC by Ethan Thornton







## reviews

### COMEDIANS IN CARS GETTING COFFEE

Show | Comedy | Online



by Madelaine Britt



Although I may not be from the same era as “Seinfeld,” there was no way to escape its constant weeknight re-run marathons. Even as a 10-year-old, the wit of convulsive dinner party dancing and the gentleman’s puffy-sleeved blouse taught me the idiosyncrasies of good humor writing. How could I forget those ruby pantsuits, denim slacks and crazy-eyed tenants that would, much like in the dorms, bust neighbors’ doors open without even knocking?

Therefore, when I stumbled across a New York Times article on series co-creator Jerry Seinfeld, I couldn’t help but be interested in the writer, actor and comedian’s newest endeavor.

“Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee,” a commercial-free online show created and hosted by Seinfeld himself, is as simple as its title

suggests. In its second season, according to the New York Times, the suspected 24 webisodes are unscripted, and at times seemingly unedited.

Each of the series’ 15-minute episodes gives viewers a taste of comedians ranging from recent RIT guest Alec Baldwin to three-time Golden Globe host Ricky Gervais. Shown in an obscure NYC café booth, their interactions with Seinfeld and true personalities are both inviting and charismatic.

“Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee” exposes the natural jocularity that radiates from the professional “funny talkers.” From the way Carl Weiner asks for his bacon extra-crispy to Michael Richard’s obsession with challenging the homeless to chess matches, the show is better seen than told. It makes you laugh, keeps your interest and drives you to think.

However down-to-earth the comedians come off, nothing is more obvious than Seinfeld’s somewhat flamboyantly showcased wealth. It was apparent that both he and his comedic constituents were by no means facing hard times. Congrats, gentlemen, on reaching stardom, driving Porsches, and parking your cars in garages as big as my house — just don’t flaunt

it as explicitly as you do here. It creates a stilt between you and viewers.

With the ramming engine of a Rolls Royce and a cup of fresh-brewed coffee, Seinfeld’s newest endeavor reveals the natural talents possessed by comedians both young and old. Yet the show doesn’t fail to unmask the true ingenious ability that Seinfeld himself has for creating entertainment with value.

Despite his oblivious tendencies to forget the common man, one thing is for sure: Seinfeld’s artistic potential continues to expand. Whether chatting it up with Larry David under the hatch of an old Volkswagen bug or beneath the New York City skyline, he continues to make a name for himself. **R**

#### Check out

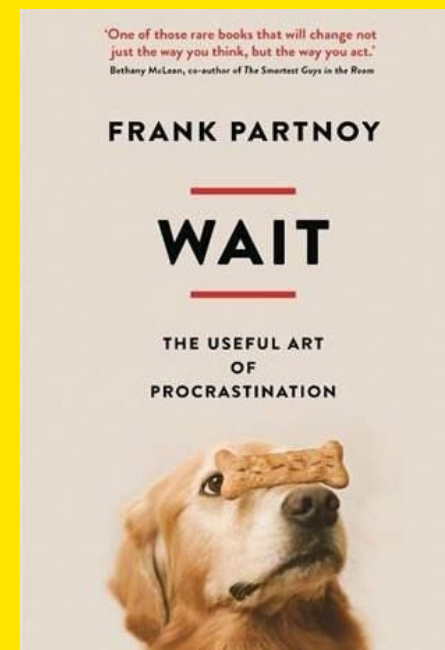
“Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee” online at <http://comediansincarsgettingcoffee.com>.

### WAIT: THE USEFUL ART OF PROCRASTINATION

Book | Self-Help | \$16 (hardcover)



by Michelle Spoto



“Wait: The Useful Art of Procrastination” has a slightly deceptive title. The book touches on the concept of procrastination and the question that researchers, philosophers and self-help gurus have all had their say on: Is procrastination a normal and ancient aspect of human culture, or is it the product of a lazy, technology-laden society? Other than this, however, the book primarily focuses on revealing the essential role timing plays in our lives.

From returning a fast tennis serve to apologizing for cheating on a significant other, timing is everything. Some of the top professional tennis players wait until the crucial moment to hit, delaying their swing until the last possible moment, so they have a few extra milliseconds to get a read on the ball. They don’t swing right away; they wait, and time it out. Likewise, delaying an apology and timing it perfectly can make all the difference. In his book, Partnoy discusses studies which show that a delayed

apology is more meaningful than a quick one. He says that waiting gives the offended person time to understand their feelings and the offender time to explain the situation.

The book is an extremely interesting read, perfect for picking up now and again when you want to learn something new. Though informational and fascinating, the book lacks organization. It feels as though Partnoy skips through topics, connecting information through feeble transitions. Overall, the book was fun to read and worthwhile for anyone interested in quirky nonfiction. **R**





# cuddling:

## not just about being the 'big spoon'

by Amanda Imperial

photographs by Jonathan Foster

The blistering cold wind hits your hands like daggers; you forgot your gloves, and are left without cover. Your partner reaches out to grab your hand, noticing how cold you must be. You see how your hands fit perfectly together. Later, the cold has you two cuddling together in the embrace of a blanket. You lay there, their back forming perfectly to your front, fitting together comfortably, and all you feel is pure bliss.

Various emotions can be painted on a canvas through the type of touch that sends shockwaves through our bodies. The sensation of touch has granted us benefits since birth both in our development and psychologically. The most personal and intimate form of touch is cuddling, and yet today, cuddling is generally reserved for romantic pairs of people.

### the benefits of cuddling

Cuddling is more than just an act of physical emotion. According to Dr. Robert Bowen, a lecturer who specializes in the psychology of infant and child development at RIT, the act of touch is absolutely vital to the development of an infant. He even goes as far as to say that it would be detrimental to an infant to not feel the touch of a mother.

"There's been quite a bit of research on the importance of infants having the right kind and the right amount of stimulation," Bowen says. There has been an extensive amount of experimentation, especially with animals, on the effects and benefits of maternal touch. Psychologist Harry Harlow performed an experiment with young Rhesus monkeys that showed the need for "contact comfort," as he calls it, as a basic biological need. The experiment involved a baby Rhesus monkey that was taken away from its actual mother and given two options for motherly replacements: one was simply made of wire while the other was covered in cloth. Every monkey chose the "mother" covered in cloth due to the contact comfort she provided.



Humans are not too far from the lineage of primates, science shows, so Bowen presumes that this is also applicable to human infants. This tactile stimulation releases healthy amounts of the growth hormone ornithine decarboxylase, and reduces the release of the stress hormone, cortisol. Touching also stimulates the growth and development of the limbic system in the brain in infants which has to do with learning and memory.

The act of cuddling also has its emotional and psychological benefits. Bowen says, “It promotes the development of secure attachment,” which lowers the chance for behavior problems, grows the capacity for empathy, raises self-esteem, and makes it easier for children to form close relationships when they are older. “If [children] can develop this secure attachment, the relationship they develop with the parents is a model for how to relate to other people later in life,” Bowen says.

Jacqueline Samuels, a recent University of Rochester graduate with a degree in Brain and Cognitive Science, says that touch, as a relaxing gesture such as with cuddling, involves a number of neurological responses. Touch can raise serotonin levels, encourage the release of oxytocin and dopamine, and reduce cortisol. “Pretty much all of the chemicals that make us feel happy, connected, relaxed, are being elevated and the stress ones are being decreased,” Samuels says, adding also that intimate touching reduces blood pressure.

“People need human contact,” she says. “Everybody’s different; not everyone can connect verbally ... Touch provides us with something that just verbal interaction can’t. People need to feel connected.” The greatest health benefit that come from touch involves relieving the body of stress and tension, very much like massage does.

### finding the cuddles

Since graduating from the University of Rochester, Samuels has spent much of her time running a business she started called the Snuggery. At the Snuggery Park Avenue location, Samuels and her business partner offer cuddling services to paying clients. That’s right: Samuels is a professional cuddler.

When asked what inspired her to start such a rare kind of business, she responded with, “It’s just something I like to do.” Samuels has gotten much newsworthy publicity throughout the nation and from a few countries over this business. She has even been called a prostitute by some. However, her clients seem to have no problems with the experience.

The atmosphere of the room where the cuddling is done is incredibly calm, dim and relaxing. The floors in this small, slightly apartment-looking abode are a dark wood, complemented by a dim-colored green curtain on the windows. All the colors in the cuddling room are earthy and warm. There are unlit candles sitting by the windows, and there is softly playing piano coming from a radio close to what looked to be a double-sized bed.

Samuels spends up to five hours in one day cuddling with people whose ages range between what she estimates to be 20 and 85, and sometimes does no cuddling at all. Either way, she is paid \$60 an hour for her service. And while an extremely large percentage of her clientele is men — some of which are brave enough to pay for the “double cuddle” option of cuddling with both Samuels and her business partner simultaneously — there are women that do it too. She even has regular clients who see her on a weekly basis for up to 90 minutes per session.

“I’m very clear with clients about the boundaries. We go over them — they’re in writing — verbally before we ever cuddle, so it’s very straightforward,” she says. Clients must also fill out a sheet that gives their consent and shows in writing that they agree with the terms on which cuddling is allowed.

There are other ways besides cuddling, however, that will relax and stimulate brain chemicals much like human touch does. Weighted vests and blankets have been used by people with autism and sensory processing disorders to help calm their nervous systems and to help them maintain focus. But the comforting pressure of these coverings can have these effects on anyone who uses them; it’s almost like carrying a person to hold you everywhere you go. For domestic pets like cats and dogs, a similar product known as the Thundershirt can alleviate their anxiety or distress when their owners leave the house. It also works through the pressure that is applied by the vest. To put the two together, humans can acquire the benefits of touch by having pets or interacting closely with an animal. Even if those of us who live on campus cannot own pets, there are plenty of ways to get access to a loving animal. Some friends who live off-campus may have pets, or if you live close by, try going home when you get really stressed for some unadulterated love. Animal shelters also appreciate volunteers and the animals there would appreciate the extra attention.

Animal companionship has been proven to be especially beneficial with sufferers of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). People with PTSD can suffer from extreme anxiety and panic attacks, and can find it difficult to calm down. Animals, however, offer a comfortable presence that reduces stress and calms anxiety. There are a few reasons, according to Elements Behavioral Health, for why this seems to work. Animals have a great need for attention, and can use this

need to draw the PTSD victim’s attention and focus away from traumatic re-experiencing of events. Animals are also non-judging creatures, and will love unconditionally if they’re allowed. Most importantly, some animals, like dogs and horses, are conditioned to be able to detect signs of stress or anxiety being exhibited by a human, and change their behavior to attend to them. Dogs poke gently at their humans for a hug, and horses when being ridden will change their pace to reflect the mood of the human, therefore making apparent to the human how his or her emotions are affecting others. Hugging animals is generally a more acceptable form of cuddling in society’s eyes, and will still give you all the warmth you need.

### why hire a professional cuddler?

As young children, our parents normally cuddled us when we were upset or lonely. Cuddling was an acceptable form of touch and showed an amount of love intangible through other means. Today as young adults, cuddling is often strictly reserved for romance and sexual intimacy in relationships. It seems that cuddling outside of these boundaries, especially between a man and a woman, is unacceptable without romance.

“People are uncomfortable with [cuddling],” according to Samuels, especially in the context in which she sells cuddling as a business. She says that people “make fun” of her business and “make light of it” in order to deal with the discomfort they have with it. “People outside of a relationship are lacking touch and meaningful connection. Not everybody is equipped for relationships ... I think it’s unfortunate that [some people] have limited access to intimate touch to people who are in relationships,” she says. Samuels mentions that she thinks a lot of men are pushed into looking for other ways to be intimate, such as with strip clubs that “aren’t as nurturing or beneficial.”

Cuddling, according to Samuels, is seen as a vulnerability, which scares many of us in society today. When done with someone you trust is unlike any other feeling, and grants health and emotional benefits unique to its act. It’s more than a hug, but less than a kiss, and can — despite what society says — be shared between friends without sexual intent. **R**



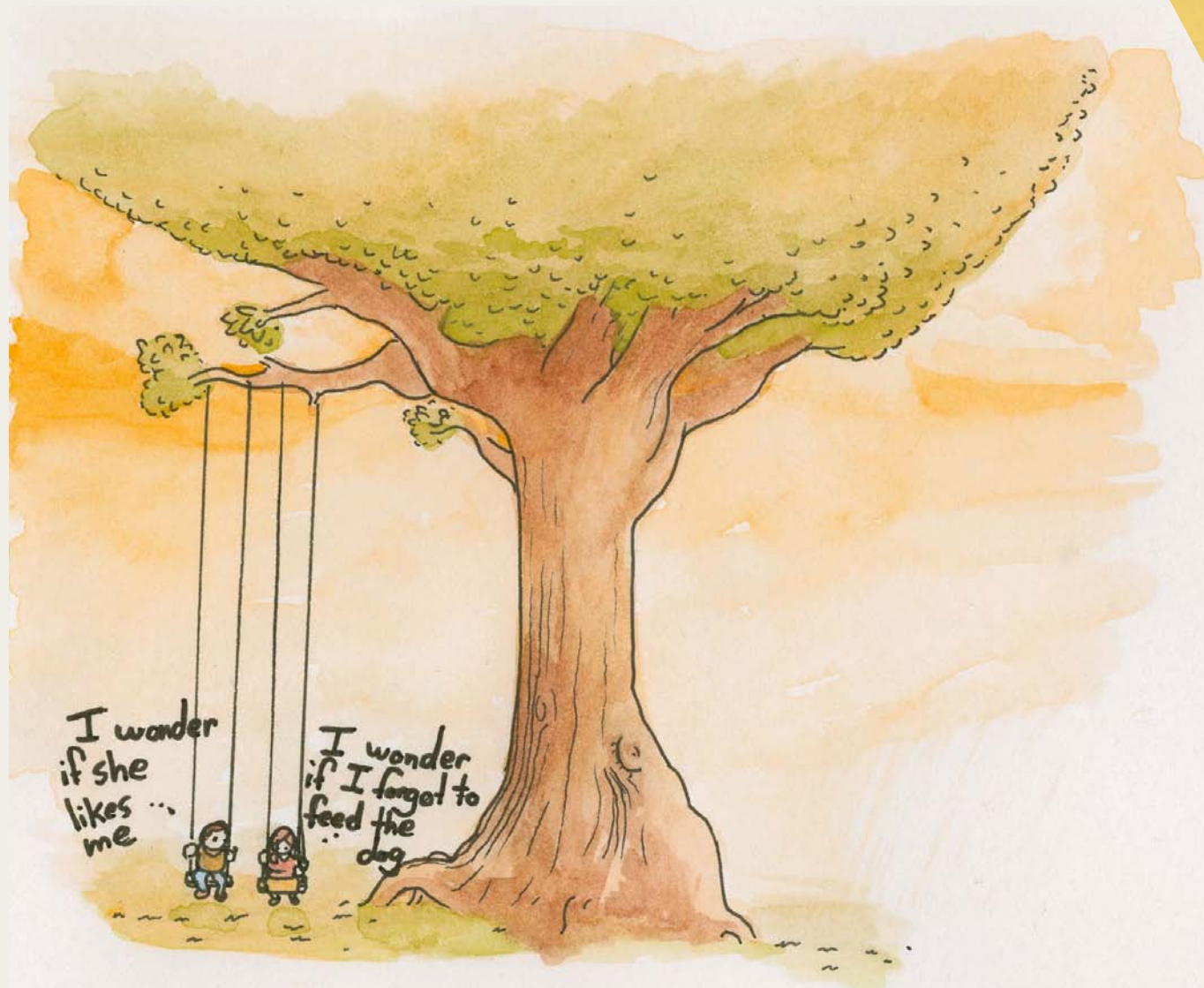


## Can We Just Be Friends?

by Nathan Arrowsmith  
illustration by James Lecarpentier

At the beginning of the year, RIT first year Jenny Schramm was really excited to be making so many new friends. It was Schramm's first time living away from home and, having grown up in a small town, meeting so many new people was a pretty exhilarating experience. Schramm was open about not really wanting a relationship, so she didn't think twice when she noticed that most of her new friends were guys.

Of those Schramm befriended, eight in particular began to form a core clique around her. This new group of friends began to spend a lot of time together, and the fact that Schramm was the only girl didn't unsettle her. Slowly, however, things began to unravel as one by one each of her close guy friends revealed that they had feelings for her — feelings that she didn't reciprocate.



## Being Friends

Prior to women entering the workforce, cross-gender friendships were often considered scandalous and inappropriate. Fortunately we live in an era where such friendships are no longer considered an affront to civil society and cross-gender friendships are becoming quite normal. At the same time however, the things that attract us to potential friends are also often the same things that attract us to potential mates. Shared interests and personality traits can lead to confused feelings when physical attraction enters the picture.

Fear of rejection or of ruining a friendship may be the root cause of this confusion getting out of hand. Communications graduate student Bryan Christiansen often finds himself attracted to his female friends after getting to know them.

"I will tend to create a friendship with a girl who I am initially disinterested in pursuing, then after creating a deep personal bond I'll find myself more attracted to her." Christiansen says via email, "... and when we are legitimate close friends, not just some crush, it becomes difficult to bring up."

As common as Christiansen's experience may be, hesitation and miscommunication may not be the only things to blame. Researchers are beginning to understand that men and women view and treat cross-sex friendships differently.

In an article recently published in the Journal of Social and Personal Relationships, according to Scientific American, a team of researchers interviewed 88 pairs of opposite sex, college-aged friends. The data from this study soundly demonstrated that men report significantly more attraction to their female friends than their counterparts do.

Additionally, when asked to predict how attractive their female friends consider them to be, males consistently overestimated their own attractiveness in the eyes of their female friend. In other words, young men are much more likely to sexualize their cross-sex friendships than women, and they're also more likely to miscalculate their female friend's degree of attraction towards them.

## How to Deal

Considering the differences between how men and women approach cross-sex friendships and RIT's gender gap, knowing how to deal with feelings of attraction for a friend can help make things a lot easier. Whether you're attracted to your friend or they're attracted to you, there are some things that you can do to help mitigate the risk of your or your friend's feelings being deeply hurt.

Cha Ron Sattler, associate director of RIT's Center for Women and Gender and a relationship counselor with the center's relationship counseling service, helps students learn to cope with adult relationship issues every day. These issues range from getting into and out of relationships to coping with sexual assaults.

Sattler says that people most often end up infatuated with a friend who doesn't reciprocate their feelings as a consequence of bad communication and bad boundary setting. For people who think that one of their friends may have romantic feelings, Sattler recommends that they "trust their instincts" about whether or not their friend has feelings and "clarify the relationship: where it's going to go and where it's not going to go." Sometimes people misread situations, and by clearly spelling out how you feel, the likelihood of someone mistaking your friendship for reciprocated attraction decreases.

If you find yourself infatuated with a friend, it is important to be open and honest. Asking your friend if they feel the same way can seem daunting but Sattler reminds us that "The worst they can do is say no." And while the disappointment of being rejected can hurt, the agony of not knowing how someone feels can grow excruciating. It's almost always better to be upfront and honest.

Sattler says that being attracted to a friend is okay and part of life but, like most things, it's time to walk away if it begins to limit your opportunities. If you find yourself overly focused on a friend who you are attracted to you may want to back off for a while and get some space, focus on yourself, cultivate your other friendships and work on your own self-fabulousness. By working on yourself not only will you be happier, you'll be more attractive to both the friend you desire and to other eligible people around you who you haven't considered yet. After all, there are plenty of fish in the sea

## And Then There Were Three

Schramm had failed to realize that each of her eight new guy friends was interested in her romantically until it was too late. One by one, she had to reject each of them until only three remained. In the interim, sadly, many of the rejected suitors had faded into the background; their friendships motivated, in part perhaps, by their romantic interest.

By now it was apparent to Schramm that each of her remaining close guy friends had romantic feelings for her in one way or another. She went out of her way to clarify her feelings with each of them. She had some difficult conversations; it would be a lie to say that the whole process was drama-free. But to the happy surprise of one of the three remaining suitors, Schramm had developed romantic feelings for him too, and they're now together. While the other two remaining guys may have drawn the short straws on Schramm's romantic affections, they're all still friends.

In the scheme of things, friendship is what matters. There was never any chance of all eight suitors winning Schramm's heart. But at least some of them were sincere enough to stay Schramm's friends regardless of the outcome. **R**





# THREE STARS

TENECIA HILLER

*by Steven Markowitz*

*with contributions by Kayla Emerson*

*photograph by Josh Barber*

**A**fter a Division III championship last year and the start of the switch to Division I this year, it has been an exciting year to be on the Women's Hockey team. And for fourth year Biology major Tenecia Hiller, the game is her life.

A proud member and co-captain of the team, Hiller has played forward, a primarily offensive position, in all 30 games this season. This has allowed her to rack up points: Hiller is the top scorer on her team with 12 goals. She also tops the list with 22 points (a tally of goals and assists). This season, she scored a hat trick (three goals) against Sacred Heart on January 18. Impressively, that was her third hat trick at RIT.

Hiller has been playing hockey since the age of five or six and has served on the RIT team since she was a first-year. Before coming here, she was the captain of the Brampton Junior Thunder, an amateur women's team in Ontario.

In the 2011-2012 season, Hiller won the All-Eastern College Athletic Conference West honorable mention accolades and RIT Female Athlete of the Week for the week on October 31.

For Hiller, the most difficult part is finding balance between games, practice, working out and schoolwork. Those who do not do well in school do not get to play, she said. This provides motivation for her and her team to do well academically. According to Hiller, they always pull through.

Understandably, her favorite memory of hockey at RIT was winning the national championship for Division III in the 2011-2012 season. Hiller is also happy with the increasing turnouts to the women's hockey games and hopes the trend continues.

Hiller feels that it will be bittersweet to graduate. "Hockey and the team is basically everything. It's my life here. You couldn't really ask for better girls and a better team, and a better sport," she said with a smile. Because of her love for the game, Hiller hopes to continue to be involved in hockey well after college. **R**





# THREE STARS

BRADLEY MAYVILLE

*by William Hirsh  
photograph by Max Hautaniemi*

Throughout the week, Monday through Friday, the RIT Wrestling team practices below the Clark Gym. Among them, you will find Brad Mayville, a second year Criminal Justice student who has just transferred to RIT this year.

Resting on a 28-8 record and with his first Empire Collegiate Wrestling Conference Championship under his belt, Mayville has been a strong addition to the team.

According to Mayville, his interest in wrestling traces back to his family. “My dad wrestled in high school. I have three brothers who also wrestled in high school, so I just continued down the line with wrestling,” he recalled.

Mayville distinguishes wrestling from other team-oriented sports like soccer: While the entire team is collecting points to win, individual members secure the points on their own mats independently. “It’s just you out on the mat, so it’s all up to you.”

Having wrestled since kindergarten, Mayville has played for three different teams over his high school career, going from Marion High School to Bishop Kearney in Rochester to Wayne High School in Ontario, N.Y. While switching schools was a regular occurrence, Mayville was glad to have had the opportunity to play under different schools and coaches, citing the change as beneficial to reaching his current skill level.

Because each of Mayville’s coaches had different styles of wrestling, he was exposed to diverse wrestling moves and techniques. “Throughout my career, I was wrestling with a different aspect of how to win a match,” said Mayville.

RIT’s head wrestling coach Scott Stever, who has played a role in RIT Wrestling for 25 years, had high regard for Mayville when he joined the team.

“I knew he was a blue chip wrestler,” said Stever. “He’ll make it at the college level since he is very determined, talented, hard-working, coachable and a good student.” While Stever said that Mayville was acclimated to the RIT wrestling community, there are challenges ahead for him.

According to Stever, Mayville will face “a strong field of wrestlers” at the team’s first NCAA Regional Tournament hosted at Ohio Northern University next month, competing against 18 teams. If Mayville places in the top three of his weight class (149 pounds), he will qualify for the NCAA National Tournament at the University of Wisconsin La Crosse on March 15. **R**



# THREE STARS

JOHN TELLIGREN

*by Alyssa Jackson  
photograph by Josh Barber*

John Tellgren is a second year Advertising and Public Relations major, a star diver, a fraternity member and a dancer on the side. Tellgren has been diving for seven years, has gone to nationals and has broken one RIT diving record. While most students might feel juggling school and a sport is difficult, he feels diving is a natural part of his day.

Tellgren says that the Men’s and Women’s Diving and Swimming teams are close-knit. His favorite thing about his team is representing the school at home and away meets. He has fun at every meet encouraging his team members, he states.

Tellgren is not solely a diver. He loves to stay active through playing volleyball and contemporary jazz dancing that he teaches himself. He is also active on campus through his involvement with the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity.

Tellgren feels that the most difficult aspect of being a diver is focusing for each dive. He states that his coach, Cliff Devries, has taught the diving team to visualize going through each dive beforehand. Slowly watching themselves do the dive in their head allows them to prepare mentally.

“Diving is a very mental sport,” said Tellgren. “You dive for two seconds, it’s not continuous action, so when you’re preparing on the end of the board before you do your dive, you have to really pay attention to what you’re doing and what your body is doing.”

Tellgren broke the school’s one-meter record at the Dick Cozmano Memorial Invitational earlier this year. His record stands at 513.40 points, a 25-point difference from the last record held by alumnus Evan Wendt.

“I thought there was a chance that it might have been one of my best scores but I had no idea that it was going to be that high to break the record,” Tellgren reminisces. “My focus wasn’t to go after the record. That’s not my mentality.”

Tellgren is happy with his performance and feels he has improved this year. He is working toward going to nationals at the end of this diving season and says that much of his success in diving is due to Devries. **R**



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## WORD ON THE STREET

*photographs by Mackenzie Harris*

If you could make a cuddling position, what would it be and what would you name it?



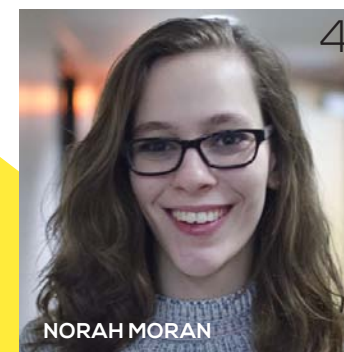
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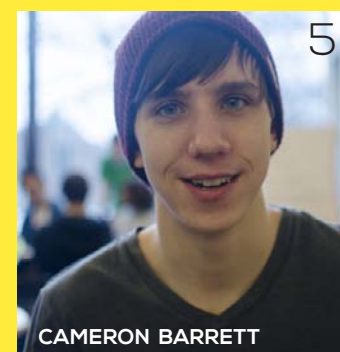
ROB LAW



MAX BROWN



NORAH MORAN



CAMERON BARRETT



RACHEL VOAK

First year Information Security and Forensics.  
"I'm a classic guy. Snuggling in a warm bed,  
drinking hot cocoa with a beautiful girl is  
enough for me."

1

First year Imaging Photo Technology.  
"The 'Teddy Bear' is where you go up to the  
other person and squeeze them as hard as  
you can."

2

First year Advertising Photography.  
"The 'Dual Plank' is where the girl lays on  
top of the guy in plank formation and you  
stay still and silent for as long  
as possible."

3

Second year Advertising Photography.  
"The 'whodie' is where you're  
cuddling while bumping to Lil B. #TYLB"

4

First year Imaging Science.  
"My friend Killian Castner came up with an  
idea where you put your backs together,  
link arms and you carry her on your back  
just like a jetpack"

5

First year Bioinformatics.  
"The 'Cuddle Puddle' is where a group of  
people pile on each other and cuddle!" **R**

6



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585.672.4840

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COMPILED BY BRETT SLABAUGH

All calls subject to editing and truncation. Not all calls will be run.  
REPORTER reserves the right to publish all call in any format.



**Friday, 8:26 a.m. (from text)**  
Dear guy whistling at the Gleason bus stop this **[freezing]** early, thanks for making my day.

**Friday, 12:26 p.m. (from text)**  
Latest theory according to CS majors in 70 is that apparently **Destler is a water elemental.**

**Sunday, 6:30 p.m. (from text)**  
Am I the only one who thinks teachers should post the majority of your grades before the last day to withdraw? I just found out **I'm failing a day late.**

**Monday, 2:00 p.m. (from text)**  
Guess you're in a pretty big **[flagitious]** rush when you **push a kid** with **crutches** out of the way to get on the bus...

**Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. (from text)**  
Do you know how many times I greeted someone with "HAPPY TUESDAY" and a smile today? Do you know how many people responded with even just eye contact? **Zero.**

**Wednesday, 2:42 p.m. (from text)**  
Dear boy in the apartment across from mine, please **close your shades** when you are **fondling yourself.** **Nobody** wants to see that **twinkie.**

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