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LOOKING BEYOND

Looking Beyond

“Hey you! Yeah, that’s right, I saw you! Come back here and pick that up!”

I was walking to the Reporter office last week when I heard someone yelling. Though he wasn’t talking to me, I was inclined to stop texting and listen, if only to see what all the fuss was about. “You can’t do that, I’m a witness!”

The culprit? An unknown figure in a large, dusty pick-up truck. The crime? Littering. And the loud man on the street? Just a nameless passerby fighting for some eco-justice, standing up for what he believed in with enough passion to yell at a car, now halfway down the road with the windows rolled up; a man who cared about something bigger than himself and had the integrity to do something about it.

Most college students tend to be a bit selfish. “You’re twenty years old! You haven’t done anything,” ranted comedian Louis CK on “The Tonight Show with Jay Leno”. “You’ve just been sucking up resources. You’ve just been taking food and love and education and iPods ... If you’re twenty, you definitely have never done a %thing% for anybody.”

As a twenty-year-old myself, I reluctantly have to agree. Although some members of our generation are feeding the homeless (see Recover Rochester, page 11) or traveling to underprivileged countries to volunteer (see Filling in the Gap, page 16) many of us are pretty apathetic. Most of us live in a world focused on individual success. We strive to build up our resumes and professional networks in order to earn a socially acceptable salary and focus on our futures without thinking about the bigger picture.

In many ways, it is important to focus on oneself during college. This is the time we invest in ourselves through our academics and extracurricular activities. In many cases our top priority is, and should be, ourselves. But after two decades of “sucking up resources” — and the occasional iPod — we owe it to our parents, friends and the rest of society to realize what else is out there.

The outspoken environmentalist on the street attempted to dissuade a stranger from littering. Seemingly unsuccessful, his words caused me to throw my empty water bottle into a recycling bin instead of a trash can. If you had encountered such an activist, what might he yell at you to change? Alternatively, what would cause you to yell at a total stranger? You don’t have to volunteer your time or donate what little cash you have left after spring break, just look beyond the collegiate microcosm and educate yourself; find something to care about.

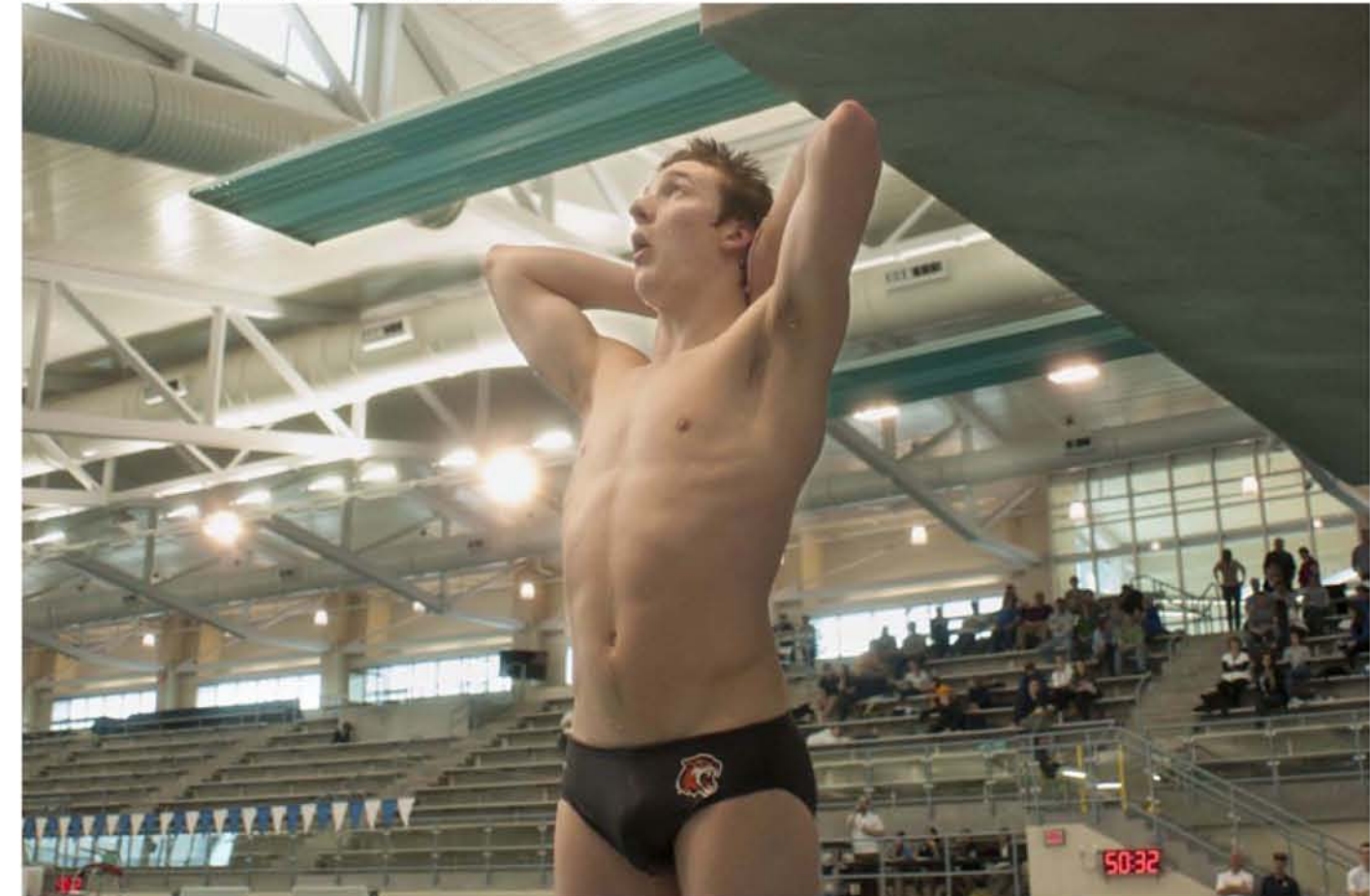
Amber W-D

Amber Wilson-Daeschlein

EDITOR IN CHIEF

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John Tellgren, a second year Advertising and Public Relations major, looks surprised after drawing a 10 from one of the judges on his way to winning the 3-meter championship on the second day of the NCAA Division III Region 4 Diving Qualifier at Ithaca College’s Athletics & Events Center on Saturday, March 2, 2013. Tellgren clinched the title by .05 of a point over Ithaca’s Matthew Morrison to qualify for the NCAA Championships in Shenandoah, Texas on March 20-23. On the first day of competition Tellgren placed 3rd in the 1-meter championship. | photograph by Josh Barber

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Cover illustration by James Lecarpentier

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Six Strikes and You're Fined

Originally set to roll out last November, the Copyright Alert system, aka "Six-Strikes," was officially implemented on February 25 by AT&T, Cablevision, Verizon, Time Warner and Comcast in coordination with the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) and the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA). The system is described to not only counteract illegal downloading of media but also to educate consumers on the dangers and issues surrounding it.

According to CNET, the consumer is given a strike for every offense caught. The company of the copyrighted material sends a notice to the internet service provider (ISP), which then sends notices warning the customer about the consequences for these offenses. Torrents, direct downloads and the like are the prime targets for these offenses; other sharing methods such as e-mail attachments and Dropbox downloads do not count.

Each ISP has their own plans for punishing offenders as their notices increase. Some punishments included being forced to watch a video about the dangers of piracy, having your internet speed throttled or even cut off completely. Although details and documents are still being sorted out and revised, according to Forbes, some people have already started to receive notices.

Effort to Repeal Gay Marriage Ban in California

The Obama administration is now challenging Proposition 8, a Californian law passed in 2008, in an effort to protect gay rights. According to the New York Times, the Obama administration claimed that Californian voters had no right to vote a ban on same-sex marriage after the "state's Supreme Court ruled that same-sex couples could marry."

The Supreme Court will not only hear the case for Proposition 8 but will also hear possible arguments for Defense of Marriage Act and its revisions. The California case is to be argued on March 26 with the Defense Act to be argued on March 27. Both cases will likely be presented by Solicitor General Donald B. Verrilli Jr., representing the government.

The Pope Resigns

As of February 28, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI has resigned from his position as the pope of the Roman Catholic Church. The shocking news of his resignation was announced on February 11 during a routine meeting with other church members. According to the New York Times, the Pope saw himself unfit to lead the church as he was "subject to so many rapid changes and shaken by questions of deep relevance."

The sudden absence of the pope has drawn the attention of cardinals and bishops worldwide wondering who will take his place. The process, as explained by CNN usually takes 15-20 days to complete after the position is vacated. A unanimous vote by the cardinals on a single candidate is necessary. Until then, the former pope will be living a calm life of prayer and rest in Castel Gandolfo, a papal palace outside of Rome, and will later move to Vatican City. In his final words as pope, Benedict XVI said, "I thank you most sincerely for all the love and work with which you have supported me in my ministry and I ask pardon for all my defects." **R**

Friday

08

Rudicon 2013

Student Alumni Union (SAU). Starts at 5 p.m.
Gamers, Geeks, and Guilds Oh My! The annual gaming convention is back running Friday to Sunday. Convention events include open gaming tournaments, showcases, workshops and more.
Cost: \$5

Saturday

09

The Hot Sweets ft. Tood East

lovin'cup (300 Park Point Drive.) Doors at 8 p.m, starts at 9 p.m.
From soulful jazz to rock that pulls on the heart strings, The Hot Sweets with Todd East plan to bring a fresh mix of Stevie Wonder to Sinatra for all music lovers to enjoy. *Cost: \$10*

Sunday

10

Sunday Rage Day

Greek Lawn. 1 - 4 p.m.
Greek Lawn. 1 - 4 p.m. Take a day off to relax outside and play some games with Pi Kappa Phi and Phi Sigma Kappa. Try your hand at games like KanJam, Frisbee, and more while enjoying free food and music.
Cost: Free

Monday

11

Is Your Resume Ready for Career Fair?

Bausch & Lomb Center, A100. 1 - 2 p.m.
Get ready for the spring career fair and summer co-ops by building up your resume. Receive helpful basic and advance resume writing tips from experts who know what to look for, making sure that you to put yourself at the top of any interviewer's hiring list. *Cost: Free*

Tuesday

12

RIT Baseball vs. Brockport

Tiger Stadium. 2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
The RIT tigers face off against the Brockport Golden Eagles in their first home game of the season. Cheer on the team to make sure their first game home is a success. *Cost: Free*

Wednesday

13

Master with Sacrificial Slaughter, Fisthammer and Abdicate

The Bug Jar, 219 Monroe Ave. Doors open at 8 p.m., Starts at 9 p.m.
Embrace your inner metalhead at the visceral, thrashing performance of the Chicago band, Master. Featuring Sacrificial Slaughter and other guitar grinding acts, this is a night of head banging to remember. *Cost: \$8 21+ with ID, \$10 18+*

Thursday

14

Carnival on Campus and Prize Auction - RIT United Way Campaign Event

SAU Lobby. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Support the United Way Campaign by playing games, trying your luck in a prize auction and enjoying free cotton candy and popcorn!
Cost: Free to get in.

SG Update: SIS Committee Results by William Hirsh

At the February 15 Student Government (SG) Senate meeting, the Student Information System (SIS) committee gave a presentation detailing student feedback on the state of SIS. SG Vice President Sarah Thomas and Assistant Vice President and Registrar Joe Loffredo, led the presentation which focused on the results of a student survey.

The committee emailed the survey to a total of 10,000 students and received 1,059 responses. The survey asked students to rate priorities from satisfied to dissatisfied; the top two were to improve navigation and the ease of search on the site. 70 percent of respondents cited navigation as the key feature to improve and 65 percent of respondents cited the search function. Other priorities include collecting class information for students such as course prerequisites from academic departments, the future addition of iCal functionality such as notifications for scheduling changes and an assessment of the current waitlist cap of 15 students to see if it should be adjusted.

Following this survey, the goals of the SIS committee include releasing a finalized report on the matter and beginning to work with Information and Technology Services on implementing these changes. Loffredo commented that these improvements will be completely in place by fall but that some updates like improvements to search should surface in the next few weeks. With confusion still surrounding the new course catalog system, Loffredo has decided to begin an information campaign on semester enrollment for students starting this spring. **R**

Wind Power: It's Closer Than You Think

by Alyssa Jackson with contributions from Crystal Mendoza

On February 11, students within the College of Applied Science and Technology debated the nation's shift to wind energy. The debate was the brainchild of Professor Larry Villasmil from the Department of Mechanical Engineering Technology and Professor Ron Hira of the Department of Public Policy. It also served as a final project for Villasmil's Wind Power Systems course, a technical elective open to both engineering and non-engineering students. The students were tasked with representing different stakeholders involved and discussing whether or not a switch to 20 percent wind energy by 2030 was feasible or the correct direction for the USA. The stakeholders represented included the wind power firms, other energy sources, taxpayers and consumers, utility companies, environmental groups and the Obama administration.

Each team of presenters had the chance to make a four minute opening statement explaining the people that they represented and their argument. The wind power firm representatives opened the debate by stating that wind is the healthiest option of energy for individuals as well as the environment and that transitioning to 20 percent wind energy by 2030 is monetarily feasible. This group also stated that the noise of the wind turbines, a common complaint among those who object to them, would be muffled by the background noise of everyday life and is not a valid point of concern.

The group representing other energy sources argued that the cost of creating windmills and the labor needed to do so were too high to be able to reach 20 percent by 2030. These students also argued that research is ongoing for the current energy methods. Finally, the students argued that wind turbines are not a consistent source of energy because it is not always windy.

The taxpayers harbored negative feelings toward wind power, stating that the building of turbines will increase taxes by \$12.1 billion as well as electricity bills for the common people. The students representing the taxpayers agreed with the group representing other energy sources and stated that the effective area for wind generation is too limited.

The students representing the utility companies argued in favor of wind energy as long as they were given incentives for investing in this form of power. The students stated that the utilities would have to expand their transmission network and upgrade, which would be costly.

The environmental group argued that although wind power is not the cheapest option, it's the best option for human health because there are no emissions. When asked about the birds that may be killed because of an increased number of turbines the group argued that there are many other factors that contribute to bird deaths.

To end the opening arguments, the students representing the Obama Administration stated that they were very supportive of the idea that the nation switches to 20 percent wind energy by 2030. The students argued that this would increase job production and that an energy policy is vital for the future.

After their opening arguments the expert panel asked questions of the individual stakeholders. Villasmil and Hira were members of the panel, as well as James

Winebrake, the dean of the College of Liberal Arts (COLA) and Eric Hittenger, an Assistant Professor at COLA. These questions generally involved the cost of wind power, the taxes it would create, and the jobs it could possibly create.

Following the questions from the expert panel different stakeholders were allowed to ask each other questions concerning their arguments. Much of these questions involved the cost of tackling such a big goal of switching to 20 percent wind energy. The expense is due to the cost of materials to make the turbines and the manpower needed to construct them. The students representing the taxpayers were worried that the burden would fall on them and hurt those who couldn't afford tax increases.

"At some point we're going to need all of these technologies working together to generate electricity," said fifth year Electrical/Mechanical Engineering student, Sean Gaskill. He is a member of Villasmil's Wind Power Systems class and represented the taxpayers in the debate.

Third year Mechanical Engineering Technology major and student of Villasmil's, James Brunhuber expressed less positive feelings toward wind power and the debate in general. Brunhuber explained that he did not like the public policy, which he felt was a strong aspect in the debate. He said that he did not support wind energy or the idea that the nation could achieve 20 percent by 2030 when we currently utilize less than four percent now.

"Wind power is significantly more expensive than almost any other source of energy," stated Brunhuber. "It's great renewable energy, but unfortunately it would raise your tax dollars."

Overall, the students representing the wind firms, utility companies, environmental groups and the Obama administration argued that it is feasible for 20 percent of our nation's energy to come from wind power by 2030 both economically and mechanically. Groups of students representing other energy sources and the tax payers argued that this idea is not feasible for disparate reasons. The students representing other energy sources felt that the cost of wind power was too great for something as inconsistent as wind. This argument was similar to the taxpayers, who were concerned that they would get stuck paying the bill to set up turbines and upgrade the power grid. **R**

AT YOUR LEISURE

by Michelle Spoto

STREAM OF FACTS

ENAMEL, which coats and protects the teeth, is the hardest substance in the **body**.

When laid end to end, the human **body** has about 60,000 **miles** of blood vessels.

According to the Guinness Book of World Records, Steven and Suzanne Eltis of Australia ran 62.22 **miles** in a 24 hour three legged race.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"WHATEVER IS WORTH DOING AT ALL IS WORTH DOING WELL." - LORD CHESTERFIELD

COMIC by Emily DeVault

REPORTER RECOMMENDS

GETTING A HEAD START

A NEW QUARTER MEANS A FRESH START. STRIVE TO GET AHEAD OF— or at least keep up with— **YOUR SCHOOL WORK EARLY IN SPRING QUARTER,** so that you can enjoy the weather once it finally begins to warm up. Finding the motivation to stop procrastinating can be difficult once you're already into Week Five, but falling into a habit of productivity and efficiency right away can set the pace for your entire quarter.

Part of getting ahead means getting excited. This feeling can come from the anticipation of an upcoming class you've always wanted to take, or, for me at least, from the simple joy of a new pack of really sweet pens. Find whatever it is that gears you up and get ready for a fantastic spring quarter.

WORD OF THE WEEK

NEBULOUS

Adj: Indistinct, Vague

The instructions for the DIY table were so nebulous, the final product looked more like a bookshelf. **R**



REVIEWS

ALL THESE EVOLUTIONS - MRS. SKANNOTTO



by Gino Fanelli



Local bands come and go. It's a fact of life; members go their separate ways to start families and careers, and usually all that's left behind are some fond memories and bootleg CDs. But every once in a while, a group hits the scene and sticks around against all odds. Starting up in 1998, Mrs. Skannotto is one of those bands, and on their fifth release, "All These Evolutions," the six-piece ska outfit doesn't seem to be showing signs of slowing down

The album opens with a powerful, hyper-distorted guitar riff on "Just As Well," reminiscent of Keasbey Nights-era Catch-22. The horns soon kick in, and the guitar drops into the high-speed reggae beat, signature to Third Wave ska. It has high energy, is insanely danceable and carries an all-around great vibe.

However, "All These Evolutions" suffer from a common affliction found on many ska albums. Nearly half the tracks seem to blend into an unidentifiable blob of slightly varied guitar riffs, horns and hi-hat heavy beats. On "Free Speech Zone," vocalist Joe Harmon utilizes a distorted voice filter to add a unique vibe to the track, which is otherwise identical to "Just As Well."

This is not to say that there is nothing new going on here. "The Blame" carries a laid-back, reggae vibe mixed in with the upbeat ska sound, carrying a Second Wave ska feel similar to The Specials. "Every Day" is a funky, wah-pedal filled ballad that sounds like some kind of frantic mix-up of Frank Sinatra, Jimi Hendrix and The Grateful Dead, with an absolutely tremendous buildup into one hell of a psychedelic breakdown.

All in all, "All These Evolutions" fantastically represents Third Wave ska. It may seem like the CD is on a loop at points, so it may not be best listened to in its entirety. However, when it hits its high points, you'd be hard-pressed to find a more energetic, danceable and downright feel-good album.

FOR FANS OF: CATCH-22, STREETLIGHT MANIFESTO, THE MIGHTY BOSSTONES, THE SPECIALS, BIG D AND THE KID'S TABLE

TROEENATOR BEER



by Justin Claire



Troegenator has something of a reputation to uphold. As one of the more noteworthy creations from the up-and-coming Troegs Brewing Company in Hershey, Pa. this doppelbock beer implicitly invites comparison to its more seasoned brethren from Germany, Belgium and the rest of the Old World.

The doppelbock, or double bock, is a heartier style of bock, which is in turn a stronger version of pale lager. Folk history says that monks would drink doppelbocks when they were fasting, thus giving the style the nickname "liquid bread." Whether Troegenator could serve as the staff of life remains to be seen, but its deep color of toasted grain is a promising start.

Troegenator pours richly, like maple syrup straight from the tap. A squat, sparse head of foam quickly gives way, but each sip reveals a sticky lacing on the glass that slowly melts back down to the beer. The smell is somewhat thin and almost absent — the lack of something bolder is perhaps the beer's only misstep. However, don't be fooled by its timid nose. Troegenator coats the tongue and fills the palate with a strength and depth that belie its reserved appearance. The taste demands comparison to a rich port wine, with its heady flavors of dark red fruit, caramelized malt and a bare suggestion of peppercorns.

At 8.2 percent alcohol by volume, this is a beer that might catch you off guard if you give it the chance, but don't be intimidated; Meet its challenge. Grab a bottle. Pour it with authority into that long, dusty stein you keep in the back of the cupboard. The one you got from your German uncle, the one that has long suffered to bear milk and juice and inferior corn water masquerading as beer. Raise cup to lips, take a stiff drink, and do your vessel — and your taste buds — proud. **R**

FOR FANS OF: SMUTTYNOSE SMUTTONATOR AND ANCHOR BOCK



RECOVER ROCHESTER

by Madelaine Britt
photograph by Jonathan Foster

As the Gracie's afternoon crowd shuffles out, the campus eatery is a silent hall. All that remains are several hundred skewed chairs, fry crumbs and the reminiscence of excitable chatter still hanging in the rafters.

Behind the counters, however, there is work to be done. In the kitchen, dirty dishes may need attending to, but a few select students have a bigger agenda: serving up the Rochester community.

"Recover Rochester," RIT's new student-run organization, is an expanding coalition between students, eateries and the RIT administration. Breaking barriers between Lomb Memorial Drive and the surrounding Rochester areas, "Recover Rochester" is composed of 15 active volunteers who mix sustainability with humility, delivering unused packaged meals from select RIT cafeterias to soup kitchens across the county.

Wai Hon Chan, a fourth year Bio-Infomatics major, is the president of "Recover Rochester." Chan, a former employee of campus food service, witnessed first-hand the opportunity held within the kitchen walls.

Cafeterias, including Gracie's, Midnight Oil and Crossroads, are the first of a growing list of involved organizations donating prepared meals four times a week to "Recover Rochester." To Chan, the expansion not only means great things for RIT,

but also for local food pantries and those whom they serve.

"The principle behind the organization is to recover production food. The mission is to help those in need of food and food security," said Chan. "This is an existing problem both on the community and industry sides. Reducing waste for one, helping many on the other."

For "Recover Rochester," student involvement has been the driving force behind the young organization. In its meager 11th week of activity, it has had profound effects on the local areas.

"We have a lot of opportunity. I won't take all the credit for it," said Chan, "There are a lot of people in the background. This project would not have happened without my dedicated volunteers. Without our volunteers, it would not have expanded."

Reaching out to local charity organizations, such as Food Link, has gained "Recover Rochester" the attention of soup kitchens, local news organizations and colleges across the surrounding areas.

Its growth has made the organization turn to the university for financial support, according to Chan, which was a contentious idea for some "Recover Rochester" members.

"We took pride in what we started on our own. The idea of not having RIT involved, how could we make this work? That has been our mentality?"

said Chan. However, with the cost of transportation and the growing list of soup kitchens running an effective, expansive operation on a college budget is impractical.

What's next for the growing organization? Continuing to aid thankful soup kitchens across the city, said Chan. They also plan to increase the number of volunteers and get the word out about "Recover Rochester."

"This is a very big field. Everything is going green. There is a lot that can still be done," said Chan, "We are only a small part of this, and if we are only a small part of this community, imagine what else we can bring to the local areas."

To do that means driving up involvement, interest and initiative from the RIT campus, according to Chan.

"The goal within the next year is to recover every dining hall on campus," said Chan, "The other neighbor colleges would have joined us at that point. SUNY Geneseo as well as University of Rochester has [sic] contacted me."

For now, however, "Recover Rochester" continues to expand and establish itself on the university's grounds. **R**

For more information, email Recover Rochester at recoverrochester@gmail.com

Developing a Sense of Direction

by Ali Coladonato | illustrations by James LeCarpentier

What makes you an adult?

Being 18? Going away to college? Looking towards a future? It is **unlikely** that there is any **one marker for adulthood**. But for many, there are **several common aspects of adulthood** for measuring one's progress in life such as: **leaving home, graduating school, achieving financial independence, getting married and having children**. While a life with all of

these elements may not be for everyone, there are **many who seek** out these aspects or some equivalent standards as **measures of their success**. But at present, we as 20-somethings must face some **harsh realities** about the success we hope to find.



FRESHMAN



SOPHOMORE



JUNIOR



SENIOR

To obtain a decent standard of living, a college degree can be a necessity in many fields, and to reach the level of employment and financial success our parents have achieved often requires a professional degree. Not only has going to college become necessary, it has also become increasingly expensive. So as students are staying in college longer, they are spending more and more on an education that may or may not lead them to the career they desire. There are dozens of figures illustrating the economic implications of a college education, enough to make many anxious about the choices they've made and uncertain about what they should do next. This is such a widespread phenomena that this period of time has been labeled the quarter-life crisis.

Quarter-Life Crisis

Simply speaking, a quarter-life crisis refers to a transition into adulthood that often occurs in one's twenties that can be stressful and even traumatic. The phrase is attributed to psychiatrist Abby Wilner, co-author of "Quarter-life Crisis" and "Quarter-lifer's Companion." She coined the phrase in 1997 after she graduated from George Washington University in St. Louis, moved back home and, in her words, "couldn't figure out what to do with [her] life." On her companion website, <http://QuarterlifeCrisis.com>, Wilner briefly describes a quarter-life crisis as "a period of anxiety, uncertainty, and inner turmoil that often accompanies the transition to adulthood."

Experts have begun recognizing this transition period as a legitimate stage of development during which feelings of doubt and fear often arise. A study led by psychologist Oliver Robinson of the University of Greenwich at London found five distinct phases for those experiencing a quarter-life crisis:

Phase one is a feeling of being stuck or confined to a path dictated by life choices. It includes the sense that one isn't in control of one's own life.

Phase two is the realization that changes at this stage in life are possible, and a sense of needing to reevaluate.

Phase three is making the change and retreating to a period in which one attempts to discover or re-discover passions and values.

Phase four is rebuilding a new life based on the realized ideals.

Phase five is the development of this life being more aware and invested in individual interests and values.

Robinson also found that those who were most likely to experience a quarter-life crisis are those that desire conventional success (high-paying career, family, house, etc.) and have a strong sense of idealism as to what their life should be like. One area in which this idealism runs rampant is romance. In a national public opinion Marist poll, 80 percent of those under age 30 believe in soul mates and, in a poll conducted by the Gallup Organization, 94 percent of never-married singles stated that their future spouse must be their soul mate; 87 percent believe they'll find that person. However, marital statistics have changed greatly in the past years, with the average marrying age increasing; the average age to get married is currently about 28 for men and 26 for women. The percentage of adults who are married is also continuing to decline.

All of these numbers show our generation reaching 'adulthood' later and later. Perhaps the most telling, the number of 20-somethings still living at home: 56.8 percent of men and 43.2 percent of women ages 22-31 still live with their parents. These numbers have been steadily rising since 1981, with the total number of young adults living at home doubling since the 1970s.

Causes of Quarter-Life Crises

So what is causing these quarter-life crises? For many, it might be that college will leave them with mountains of debt. For others, the uncertainty of what their field of study holds outside the classroom and where it might lead can be stressful. The statistics only further elevate this insecurity.

Over 40 percent of college students graduating this year will owe more than \$20,000 in student loans.

39 percent of all students graduate with what is deemed "unmanageable debt," referring to loan payments greater than eight percent of one's monthly income.

Half of all students graduate with college debt, with the average at roughly \$12,000.

In terms of job prospects, the fact that more and more well-educated students are looking to enter the workforce means much higher competition. Furthermore, the belief among most students is that careers will begin soon after college.

In a poll of university seniors, the majority believes they will have their first significant job within months of leaving school and two-thirds believe they will remain at their first job between one and five years. However, the average American aged 18 - 30 has held eight different jobs, which illustrates the struggle many face finding a long-term occupation.

For many however, this is just a part of the transition, with no crisis involved. In Robinson's study, 80 percent of the interviewees looked back on their 'crises' positively.



Keeping It Cool

Several offices and programs are in place at RIT to ensure that students are able to handle this move toward maturity and independence with as little anxiety as possible. For those with an already uncertain view of their future, several undeclared and exploration options exist in RIT's colleges, including undeclared art/design and computing, liberal arts, general science and engineering exploration. For those whose interests lie across several different colleges, there is the University Studies Program (USP).

USP is an exploratory program designed to give undecided or questioning students a chance to explore the various options available at RIT. The program largely caters to new RIT students in helping guide them toward a major while allowing students of any year level to meet with an advisor to talk about options regarding majors and minors at RIT.

Marty Burris is the director of the University Studies Program and the USP Honors Program advocate. For her, what makes USP stand out is the advising. Those who are in the program meet with their advisors an average of three to four times a quarter for at least an hour. "We talk to them about their interests, their goals, likes, dislikes, strengths, weaknesses," says Burris, "and then help figure out a pathway for them throughout their time with us."

Students are encouraged to move out of USP after a year, though there isn't a strict deadline and time spent in USP can vary with the individual. Still, it isn't a possibility to graduate with an 'undecided' major.

USP seeks to provide students with as much information as possible about potential majors and career options. Through very active advising, a required career exploration seminar and personality assessments, the program helps students discover what they value. Says Burris, "What we are hoping is that by starting undecided, [the students] are not jumping around from place to place and losing time, losing track of their course sequences and losing money."

For students looking towards the next phase of adulthood, graduating and finding a career, there is the Office of Cooperative Education (OCE) and Career Services. Carolyn DeHority is the assistant director of career counseling. Her primary responsibility is truly that of a counselor; speaking to students and learning about their likes, dislikes and any concerns they have with their major and how it will

translate into an eventual career. The office itself has many factions to it: working to set up interviews with potential employers, hosting career fairs and providing students as well as employers with information.

Also in the OCE and Career Services office are numerous program coordinators. Each program at RIT has a program coordinator, housed somewhere in the Bausch and Lomb Building (77) where DeHority works closely with them. They meet with students to go over interviewing strategies and help prepare résumés, establish relationships with employers and involve students in career-planning workshops. Program coordinators often work with students who are secure in their major and have been out on co-op but are having trouble imagining a life in their chosen industry.

DeHority works with students in much the same way an advisor of USP does, the major difference being that she is not an academic advisor, and therefore not apt to recommend specific courses. Still, she gathers information about career and life values, personality, academic ability and, if deemed appropriate, may even administer an assessment such as the MBTI. "We're here for idea generation, to be a springboard, then we help [students] find resources," says DeHority. "They go off on their own and come back with more questions, better informed. We work with them on how they go about making decisions, and what might be making them feel stuck."

Many of the people DeHority sees are struggling academically which causes them to rethink their choice of major. Others are concerned about what they will do after college, having taken a co-op and not experiencing the kind of work they thought they were getting into. While some will take these as opportunities or signs to try something new, many instead swallow their uncertainty and go on despite feeling anxious about the next phase of their life. For many this is the only option, often due to financial reasons. Some of these people may continue to feel uncertain as they grow and change, leading to the idea that a quarter-life crisis is something that can affect the whole process of transition. For DeHority, it's all about perspective: "People have transitions at many different times at their lives. There's nothing necessarily magic about the quarter life. I see people in transition points at all times here... Those times can be seen as crises or adventures, it's how you approach it in your mind."

Despite all the statistics and despite all the fear, we as a generation are growing up. Challenges will be faced through every stage of life, and a healthy dose of inquiry and reflection is good for anyone. DeHority explains, "It's a brave thing to say 'I'm not sure'... to say 'I'm going to give myself the space and opportunity to explore.'" **R**



FILLING THE GAP

TAKING SOME TIME TO 'FIGURE IT OUT'

by Nolan Harris, Jr. | illustration by Emily Gage

Commencement season is upon us, and students everywhere — both high school and university upperclassmen — are finalizing their plans for the coming year. Some will matriculate to their dream colleges this fall. Others will enter the workforce, stepping into their new career fields, eager to begin this next, exciting stage of their lives. And for those who just can't get enough of school, graduate programs wait with open arms.

However, there is an alternative group of students who will not go straight to work or college after receiving their high school or college diplomas. The students of this cohort break away from the commonly accepted timeline for work and education by taking a gap year.

II

THE CONCEPT

Many students follow the same path: there's pre-school, elementary school, middle, then high school, right on through to college and optionally, graduate school. Peter Van Buskirk, founder of academic consulting firm The Admission Game writes, "It's as though kids are placed on a conveyor belt that moves them through a series of prescribed exercises ... fills them up with the things they 'need to know,' tests them and ... stamps them as fit for promotion."

However, Buskirk appreciates that the "one-size-fits-all" approach is seldom sufficient to meet students' diverging needs, goals and intentions. Thus, for the transition from high school to college, or college to grad school, there's a more nuanced assessment that must be engaged. This appraisal of a student's goals — personal, academic and professional — might conclude in the intentional delay of the student's undergraduate or graduate career for one or more years.

The gap year serves as a window of time wherein, ideally, a student seeks some personal enrichment and development through volunteer work or other service projects, travel, or various other work-related opportunities. RIT Career Counselor Janine Rowe says "wanting to take a break from the academic treadmill ... in terms of fatigue, and a want for rest and relaxation," can be a motivating factor. Finding something else to focus one's attention, to help a student decompress and reorient his or herself, is sometimes best served by a gap year scenario.

Ultimately, there is a myriad of reasons that might prompt a student to consider and take one time off. The most important things to keep in mind are the student's return to school (if such a return is the student's final intent) and making sure that the time away is well-spent.

THE PERKS

"The times when I think that it works the best, is when [a student] has an idea of what it is that they want to pursue," Rowe says. Once a student has resolved to take some time before beginning their undergrad or graduate experience, that time can be used as effectively or ineffectively as the student likes.

"Volunteering and travel are probably the [most common reasons]," reports Rowe. These exciting opportunities enable the student to experience different countries and cultures. Students are also able to serve in different communities as an exclusive commitment, sans the pressing academic and social demands of the graduate or undergraduate experience. The freedom from these demands can be useful in many pursuits that a student taking a gap year may choose to undertake.

THE DRAWBACKS

While the openness of a gap year experience can be liberating, it can also be fraught with uncertainty. While traveling is great for the gap year student, without some pre-considerations, Rowe admonishes, the thrills and enrichment of such an experience can be adversely affected.

"I think some students may neglect the need for their social network during their gap year," says Rowe. The desire to independently and freely explore what's out there can tilt toward a more solitudinarian posture that minimizes the need of robust social support from family and friends.

Gap years can be expensive as well; Depending on how one intends to spend the time away from the academy, the costs can add up. "If you're going to do a service project in New York City, D.C. or Boston, that could end up costing you a lot of money versus if you went to a rural community," explains Lynne Mazadoorian, Director of RIT's Institute Advising Office. Financial considerations should figure prominently in the planning process.

There is also the chance that a student does not return to the classroom. There is serious apprehension about this eventuality because the goal of attaining a formal education is often the supposed end. However, "while research is scant, anecdotal evidence suggests that students return to school more focused and mature and ready to start their college career," writes higher-education journalist and consultant Lynn O'Shaughnessy. Those who don't return, do so for various financial, personal and professional considerations.

IT'S ALL ABOUT PLANNING

In the final analysis, planning the gap year — though never perfect — is critical. Insofar as a student has a vision, they are on the right track. From an advising perspective, Mazadoorian agrees: "At the end of the conversation, what I want a student to know is, we want their best interests, and if they've made a decision ... that's going to propel them towards their goals, we support them in that."

In the end, a gap year experience is a viable and productive alternative to the chronological advancement to the next level of education. However, as with many significant decisions, the gap year option is not for everyone, and does require the counsel of academic professionals, family and friends.

For Buskirk, if a student feels that a gap year may help them, the choice is very clear: "Take the time off! Invest in yourself. Do what you need to do so when you enter college [or graduate school] you are ready to embrace the experience with focus and determination." ■

III

LADY TIGERS DEFEAT PENN STATE AND ADVANCE TO SEMIFINALS


by Crystal Mendoza Paulin

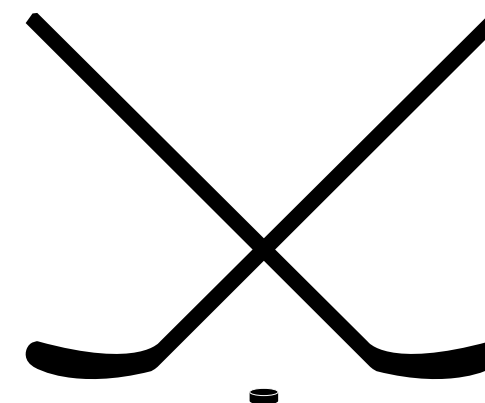
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The RIT women's hockey team faced Penn State in a best two out of three CHA Division I quarterfinal series last weekend, March 1 and 2.

Friday was RIT's fifth confrontation with Penn State. Ritter Arena boasted a 10-member pep band and an equally sized Corner Crew with Tiger fans sprinkled throughout the rink. The game began quietly as fans patiently waited for the Lady Tigers to do business. AT 9:22 into the game the pompoms, cow bells, and foam paws burst forth from sweaters and jackets as second year Psychology major Marissa Maugeri scored the first goal for RIT with an assist from third year Media Arts and Technology major Erin Zach. This score also clinched the 150th goal for head coach Scott McDonald who has been working with RIT since 2006. The first period ended with a shot count of 13-5 RIT. The Nittany Lions served two penalties in the second period and only managed one shot toward RIT's goal. In the final period RIT served two penalties and Penn State tried to swoop in for a tie. Two minutes left in the game, Penn State called a timeout but to no avail as RIT locked them out of the goal, winning the game 1-0.

On Saturday, attendance in Ritter Arena nearly doubled and so did the confidence level. As the first period began the audience sat back and watched the Tigers outperform their competitors with six shots on goal in the first two minutes forcing Penn State to call a frantic timeout. The game resumed with RIT dominating the puck until 10 minutes into the game when Junior Taylor Gross scores for the Nittany Lions. The Lady Tigers responded quickly by pressuring Penn and scoring five minutes later. The goal was made by second year University Studies major Celeste Brown with an assist from captain and fourth year Diagnostic Medical Sonography major Ariane Yokoyama. "I scored using a face off play," Brown said with a smile, "Yoko and I practice that play all the time." Then, 1:30 minutes into the second period first year Nutrition Management major Jess Paton broke the tie with an assist from Zach. In spite of several penalties against them, RIT beat off Penn for the remainder of the period. However, 57 seconds into the final period, Freshman Hannah Hoenshell scored for the Lions bringing the score to 2-2. The Tigers had several opportunities to score again but were shut out by Penn's goalie for the remainder of the period, much to the groans of the audience. Ritter didn't have to hold its breath for long: 47 seconds into overtime captain and fourth year Biomedical Sciences major Kim Schlattman scored handing RIT a 3-2 victory with 57-19 shots on goal.

Coach McDonald was happy with the final results. "We've been on campus training and practicing all week for these playoffs. I didn't see any difference in Penn's performance but give credit where it's due: their goalie (Junior Nicole Paniccia) is an extremely strong player. The number of shots we get against Penn is typical, but she kept us out." Paton also explained that the number of shots on goal increased for Saturday's game because there were more open plays and lanes. "Penn is a hardworking team, and it was close, but in the end I don't think they knew how to handle the pressure," Brown added. "We've gone to playoff games and always have so we know what to do and do it. So we had that advantage over them." Looking forward to next week's opponent, Syracuse University, Coach McDonald is eager to see how things play out. "We've played four games against Syracuse and the last two were really close: we lost by a goal in overtime. I'm excited for next week's game because it will be two really strong teams who don't want to go home facing off." Team captain Schlattman is also looking forward to the confrontation: "We've played Syracuse very hard and always lost by one goal so now we have something to prove. It's a bit of a rivalry now." The semifinal game against Syracuse will be held on Friday, March 8. 



WOTS WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST REGRET ?

photos by Will Palmer



Tim Zwicky | Recent Alumni | Advertising Photography
/ Eating too many **cheeseburgers**.



Matt Zebert | Third Year | Mechanical Engineering
/ Not trying out for **soccer** here. I was set on it during high school.



Ankit Patel | Fifth Year | Computer Science

/ Having **both garbage plate and zonies** in one evening.



Ryan Jena | Third Year | Advertising Photography

/ Drawing a picture of a **Fresh Prince** era Will Smith on the back of my Bible school report card.



Talia McKay | First Year | Biomedical Science

/ Not joining the curling team. **R**

CHECKS AND BALANCES

by Robert Clifford | illustration by Ethan Thornton

The opinions expressed are solely those of the author and do not reflect the views of **REPORTER**.

On January 11th, 2013 the co-founder of Reddit and Internet activist Aaron Swartz was found dead in his New York City apartment. The cause of his death was suicide, and much like any other time when such a death occurs, the most important question we can ask is simply “why?” Unfortunately, in this case answering that question has startling implications for every person in the U.S. who regularly uses a computer.

In addition to having a history of depression, Swartz was contending with a federal trial that would charge him with 13 separate hacking related offenses, with a possible sentencing of 35 years in prison. When one hears such a threat, the obvious thought which comes to mind is that he must have committed a crime like those in a Hollywood film, such as cracking an elite banking institutions security network and stealing millions of dollars. However, the case against Swartz is truly shocking once you take into account the crime that warranted this degree of punishment. Swartz was being charged as a result of using the Massachusetts Institute of Technology computer network, and rapidly downloading a large number of files from JSTOR, a service that is designed to make scholarly papers available to universities, for a hefty fee. Swartz decided to take this action as a protest advocating for people to be able to access this sort of research and academia freely, and without paying a gratuitous amount for either student status at a compliant institution, or for access to the service itself. The result of this protest was that there was a temporary lapse in JSTOR service for MIT, and Swartz being in possession of scholarly journals, which are accessible to any student on the MIT network. However innocuous this crime may have been, the U.S. attorney’s office made the decision to use this moment to make an example out of a person famous for both his contributions to the infrastructure of the Internet and his defiance of the political powers that have sought control of it.

The reason that the prosecutor was able to leverage such a huge case against Swartz, in light of the relatively harmless nature of his crime, is mostly to do with the issues that exist with the current iteration of the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act. The major issue with this piece of legislation is that the amount of detail in what constitutes a malicious act



with a computer is not clearly defined. It ranges from using a computer to cripple a government agency to violating an agreement accepted without reading. In reality, this is all that Swartz was truly guilty of. He violated the terms and conditions of MIT and of JSTOR, and as a result had a grossly inflated set of charges dropped on him in order to set a precedent. It’s not worth discussing whether or not Swartz decided to take his life because of the massive legal threat he faced, it is only relevant to mourn the loss of a great leader in the struggle to free the web, and to search for ways to learn from his death and preceding events.

One such attempt at learning from this event is the introduction by Rep. Zoe Lofgren, a California Democrat and Sen. Ron Wyden a Democrat of Oregon of a proposal being called “Aaron’s Law.” The objective of this proposal is to revise the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act to clearly exclude violations of terms of service from the gamut of acts that can be deemed a federal crime. Such a revision would have made it so that Swartz’ acts were deemed less as being criminal, and more accurately, of being a nuisance. In my opinion, this proposal is part of a long line of necessary changes. It is our duty as citizens of the U.S. to see that the legal system not be abused in such a way that can stifle the freedom of the crown jewel of the information age, the Internet. In turn I urge everyone to make an effort to contact their state senators and representatives, and let them know that you believe in these changes, and that they are crucial to getting your vote. We must learn from cases like this, and always remember that the web will not stay free on its own. We, as its users, must demand to keep it as such, or people like Aaron Swartz will have fought for nothing. **R**



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Compiled by Michelle Spoto | Illustration by Emily Levine

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THURSDAY, 12:51 P.M. (FROM TEXT)

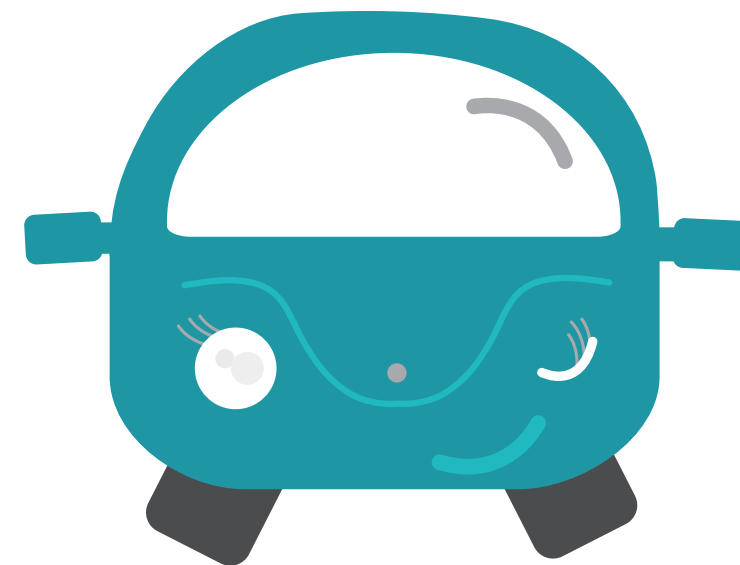
Almost ran over the parking ticket guy today. Could have been a campus-wide hero. Opportunity missed...

SATURDAY, 2:13 P.M. (FROM TEXT)

Either it's snowing, or all of the nerds on campus finally decided to comb their hair.

SUNDAY, 7:21 P.M. (FROM TEXT)

I love the library this time of the quarter. Everyone working together. People working on their dinner. Right. Behind. Your ears.



THURSDAY, 12:17 A.M. (FROM TEXT)

Does the first time the "L" word is brought up in a relationship count if it's in a drunk text? **R**



~ Wallpaper

Creative uses for

REPORTER