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### Reporter - April 12th 2013

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# REPORTER

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

11. Rochester Erotic Arts Festival  
Eroticism and art converge at this festival.

12. Allies and Accesability  
The Northeast LGBT Conference Comes to RIT

**19. Roc City Thunder Storms RIT**  
**Football comes to the Brick City.**



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CENSORSHIP, INSENSITIVITY AND INDIVIDUAL OPINION

Because of the recent controversy surrounding the blog post entitled “Censorship, Environmentalism and Steubenville” by University of Rochester economics professor Steve Landsburg, many organizations and individuals have taken a stand against what is believed to be the promotion of rape. His blog post posed three questions, the last stated: “Let’s suppose that you, or I, or someone we love ... is raped while unconscious in a way that causes no direct physical harm ... Despite the lack of physical damage, we are shocked, appalled and horrified at the thought of being treated in this way, and suffer deep trauma as a result. Ought the law discourage such acts of rape? Should they be illegal?” Landsburg goes on to ask how this is different from the first two questions which asked if the psychic harm that someone may hypothetically endure from the thought of others viewing pornography or harming the environment is cause for legal action, either through regulation or taxes. He also compared the situation to a neighbor turning on a porch light, causing “trillions of photons [to] penetrate my body” and stating that “even if those trillions of tiny penetrations caused me deep psychic distress, the law would continue to ignore them”. Many people thought that his point was to promote non-physically damaging rape. However, in a recent addition to his blog post Landsburg clarified that he was only posing the question to encourage discussion about what should and should not be considered when making public policy. He stated that when “looking for a rule about what should be legal,” a logical conclusion would be that “you can do anything you want as long as you’re not causing anybody direct physical harm” and pointed out that that would allow for the rape of an unconscious victim, thus rendering this school of thought invalid. “It was a post about where to draw lines between purely psychic harm that should receive policy weight and purely psychic harm that shouldn’t,” the professor stated in a follow-up blog post on April 3.

“In response to Landsburg’s horrifying comments and the University’s lack of meaningful action, WORD [Women Organized to Resist and Defend] issued a Call to Action ... demanding that he be fired” stated a press release issued April 3. Additionally, according to the Huffington Post, an online student petition to censure the professor had over 500 signatures by April 4. These movements were highlighted by both the Huffington Post and Gawker in recent articles that show bias against the professor and his controversial statements.

In my opinion, Landsburg’s presentation of the question of public policy was sophomoric. By comparing the very real trauma of the Steubenville rape victim to the fictitious trauma sustained by pornography antagonist “Farnsworth McCrunkypants” and environmentalist “Granola McMustardseed,” he belittled the deep psychic harm that rape causes. I also find it hard to believe that someone who defended Rush Limbaugh’s assessment of Sandra Fluke as a “slut” is truly an advocate for laws that protect women. However, the political correctness and morality of his statements should be judged by each individual, not by the source of information.

As the leader of a news organization it is not only my goal but also my responsibility to promote free speech and meaningful conversation. This responsibility extends past college magazines to professional publications — such as the Huffington Post and Gawker — and in this instance, has not been upheld. Reading the title of an article published on Gawker: “Rochester Professor Wonders Why Rapists Shouldn’t Be Allowed to ‘Reap the Benefits’ of Passed Out Girls,” one would assume that Landsburg is encouraging the rape of an unconscious victim. Though the title is technically accurate, it creates bias against the professor’s question of public policy and the blog’s creation of important discussion. Any reputable news source would take many precautions to state the facts and to let the readers make their own opinions. Because these precautions are lacking, it is up to the individuals to seek out primary sources and form their own beliefs on the subject at hand while ignoring the bias inserted by some news organizations.

Amber  
W-D

Amber Wilson-Daeschlein  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Reporter Magazine is published weekly during the academic year by a staff comprised of students at Rochester Institute of Technology. Business, Editorial and Design facilities are located in Room A-730, in the lower level of the Campus Center. I didn't know hip-hop was a fighting style. -W.H. Our phone number is 1.585.475.2212. The Advertising Department can be reached at 1.585.475.2213. I don't give a shit about Tiny Type. -A.W. The opinions expressed in Reporter do not necessarily reflect those of the Institute. Letters to the Editor may also be sent to reporter@rit.edu. Reporter is not responsible for materials presented in advertising areas. No letters will be printed unless signed. All letters received become the property of Reporter. Reporter takes pride in its membership in the Associated Collegiate Press and American Civil Liberties Union. Copyright © 2013 Reporter Magazine. All rights reserved. No portion of this Magazine may be reproduced without prior written permission.

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Attendees wait in line for a book signing from Laurie Halse. | photograph by Jonathan Foster

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Cover photograph by Griffin Moores

## NEW HENRIETTA HOUSING ORDINANCE AFFECTS STUDENTS

After June 1, no more than three college students that are not related will be allowed to live together in Henrietta. Challenged by a Henrietta landlord, the case went to the State Supreme Court, where the ordinance was upheld by Justice Scott Ordorisi. The ordinance has been in place since 1978. According to lohud.com, 26 homes owned by the companies Atlas Income Housing Inc., Atlas Henrietta LLC and Atlas Cornhill Inc. are under violation for housing four RIT students each. Neighbors of these students reportedly complained that the students were loud and that the neighborhood was designed for small families, not college students. In order for more than three individuals to live together they must be related by marriage, blood, adoption or otherwise be a traditional family.

Brody Smith, the individual who represented Atlas, argued that the ordinance was unconstitutional because it could be discriminatory against nontraditional families and college students. Justice Ordorisi wrote in his opinion, “The zoning ordinance does not exclude all students, or even all non-traditional family units, from residing in Henrietta, just groups of over three who are not the functional equivalent of a traditional family.”

## APPLE APOLOGIZES TO CHINA ON WARRANTY DISCONTENT

Apple’s chief executive, Tim Cook, apologized to China on Monday, April 1 after the country’s media targeted their warranty rules. China’s biggest television network, China Central Television (CCTV), issued a broadcast against Apple’s one-year warranty; in China the law requires a two-year warranty on phones, according to the New York Times. The allegations against the corporation were ignored initially, but unrest related to the issue continued to grow as Chinese celebrities spoke out. It has not been determined if CCTV paid individuals to express dissatisfaction with the company.

According to Reuters, Cook stated in his apology, “We are aware that owing to insufficient external communication, some consider Apple’s attitude to be arrogant, inattentive or indifferent to consumer feedback. We express our sincere apologies for causing consumers any misgivings or misunderstanding.”

Apple plans to extend the warranty of its products in China and offer a new warranty with phones that need to be replaced due to major repairs. The apology given by Cook exhibits the importance of China’s market to Apple. China is currently the second biggest market for Apple, behind the United States.



## NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA ON SHAKY GROUND

On Monday, April 1, South Korea’s president, Park Geun-hye, stated that there will be an immediate military response against any North Korean provocation. According to Mirror News, the response of South Korea came after the North claimed that it was in a “state of war” a few days previous. Geun-hye has updated the South’s rules of engagement so that the military can respond immediately to any attack North Korea may pose.

Since Kim Jong-Un rose to power in North Korea, the country has “launched a three-stage rocket, tested a nuclear device and threatened to hit major American cities with nuclear-armed ballistic missiles,” according to the New York Times. These threats have largely been ignored until this point.



At the April 5 Student Government (SG) meeting, representatives from the Division for Diversity and Inclusion gave a presentation on improving the diversity of RIT campus, the student government bylaws were approved and the election results were announced.

## PRESENTATION ON IMPROVING DIVERSITY

Director of Diversity Education Michael D’Arcangelo and Director of Assessment and Research Management Laurie Clayton presented the framework to improve diversity on campus. They focused on four areas: access and success, campus climate and intergroup relations, education and scholarship and institutional infrastructure. They also talked about the Presidential Task Force for the GLBT populations on campus whose purpose was to “review the climate, study data and create a list of recommendations that addresses them.” These recommendations were centered on organizational structure and governance; infrastructure mirroring the four GLBT populations; curriculum; policy review and implementation; and education and development of key administrators, leaders, managers and supervisors.

## BYLAW APPROVAL

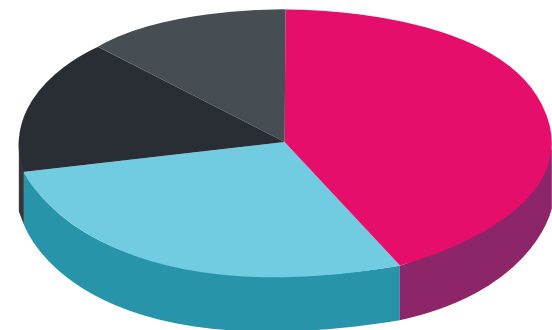
The bylaw changes were presented by third year Finance major and SG Vice President Sarah Thomas and were all approved without discussion.

## ELECTION RESULTS

Director of Student Relations Anthony Henning reported the election results.

**Paul Darragh/Nicholas Cifranic- 872 votes, 39.02%**  
**Tegan Spinner/Laura Arciniegas- 578 votes, 25.86%**  
**Alex Van Hook/Timothy Holmes- 319 votes, 14.27%**  
**Shannon Harrington/Lauren Brockbank- 251 votes, 11.23%**

*\*\*This information only looks at the main candidates for the SG President and Vice President positions. Full election results are available on <https://apps.rit.edu/its/vote/viewresults.php?electionid=75>*



**FRIDAY 12 PITCH A TENT**  
Grace Watson Field. 4 p.m. – 12 a.m. Phi Delta Theta is hosting a concert to raise money for amyotrophic lateral neurodegenerative disease (Lou Gehrig’s Disease). Cost: Free

**SATURDAY 13 REALLY BIG SHOW VIII**  
Webb Auditorium (BOO 1350). 8 – 10 p.m. Come listen to some barbershop music courtesy of RIT’s only barbershop a cappella group, Surround Sound. Cost: \$4 for students, \$5 for others

**SUNDAY 14 RIT/NTID DANCE COMPANY PERFORMANCE OF ASTRODANCE**  
Rochester Museum and Science Center, 657 East Avenue. 12:45 – 2:30 p.m.  
Produced by RIT’s College of Science, NTID’s Performing Arts and the Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences, this will be an interesting show bringing together technology and the arts. Cost: Free

**MONDAY 15 CLUB BASH**  
Ingle Auditorium. 5 – 7 p.m.  
Student Government and Club Center are putting on a ceremony for RIT clubs and student organizations. After the ceremony a reception will take place in the Al Davis Cafeteria. Cost: Free

**TUESDAY 16 “WHO CARES ABOUT KELSEY?”**  
The Strong National Museum of Play, One Manhattan Square. 7 p.m.  
Dan Habib’s documentary about the difficult life of Kelsey Carroll, a girl who suffered from homelessness, self-mutilation, abuse and ADHD, will be screened Tuesday night — adult discretion advised. Cost: Free

**WEDNESDAY 17 DIRT CHEAP TRAIL SERIES 2013**  
Mendon Ponds Park, 95 Douglas Road, Honeoye Falls. 6:30 p.m.  
If you’re looking for a race and want to enjoy the long-awaited spring weather, enter this four to six mile trail run. Register online or at the event. Cost: \$12

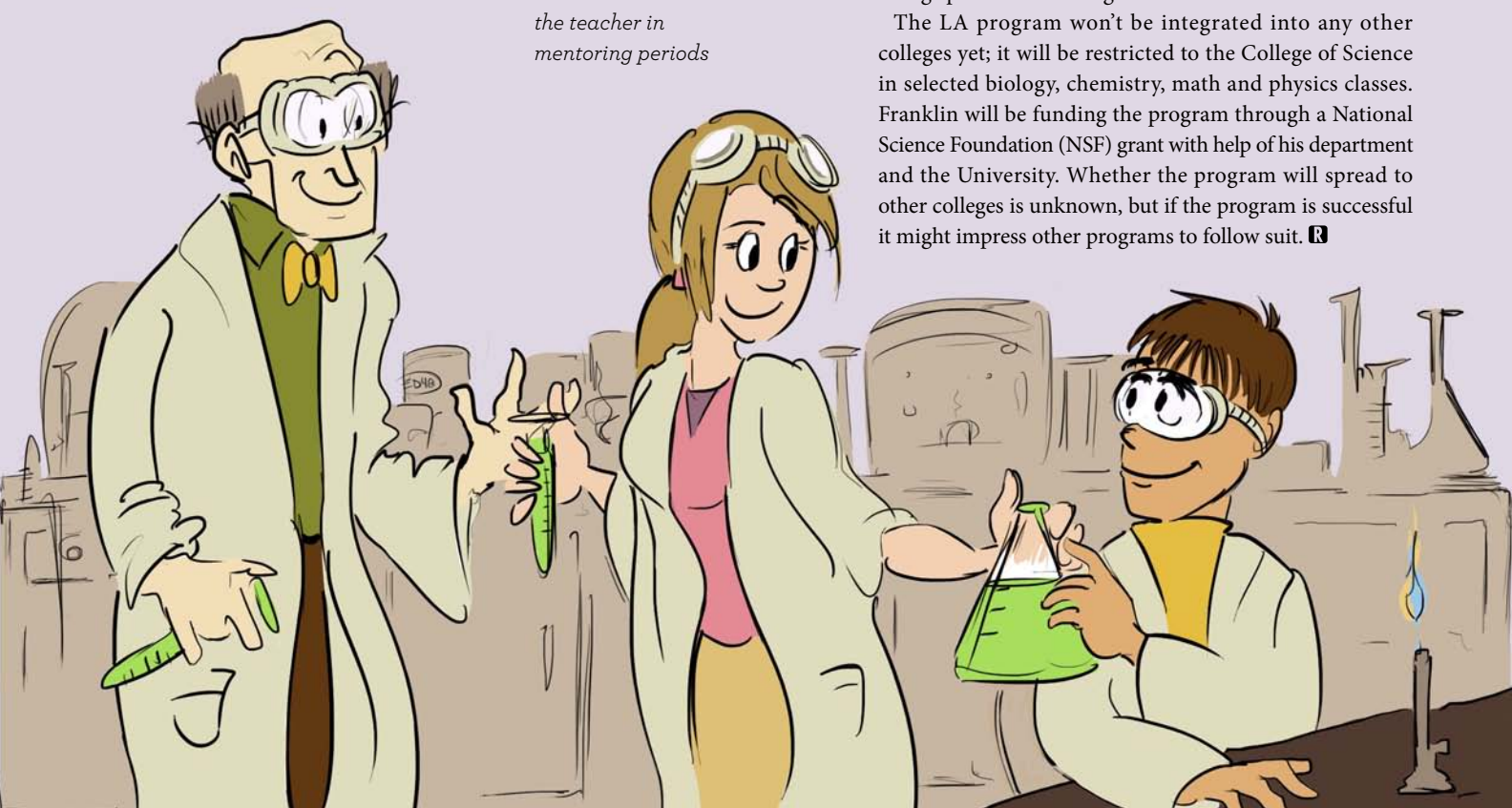
**THURSDAY 18 CULTURE AND SOCIETY: THE PHILIPPINE FIESTA TRADITION**  
Otto Shults Center Forum, Nazareth College, 4245 East Avenue. 7 p.m. Learn about Filipino celebrations from Marlon Pura’s undergraduate sociology thesis centered on food. Cost: Free

# Learning Assistants

## and the Year to Come

by Juan Lachapelle | illustration by Emily DeVault

Teaching Assistants:	Similarities:	Learning Assistants:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Helps with grading of exams and assignments</li><li>Approachable for one on one time and help</li><li>Helps organize assignments and assign assignments</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Both are paid positions used to help teachers</li><li>Both work with students to help them</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Paid more than TA's due to bigger responsibilities and work load</li><li>Are required to take a course during their time as an LA</li><li>More focus on working with groups of students and understand why they need help on certain topics</li><li>Work inside the class with students and outside with the teacher in mentoring periods</li></ul>



The newly created Learning Assistants (LA) program is composed of a group of undergraduate students that will participate in the teaching experience in College of Science classes beginning fall 2014. Scott Franklin, associate professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy and director of the program, defined LA as “...undergraduates who are helping faculty either in the classroom or in other outside activities focusing on helping students working in groups learning material.” Though they may seem similar to Teaching Assistants, they will serve their own purpose and have their own goals. “Their primary purpose is not to work one on one with the student; it really is to help a collaborative working process,” Franklin explained.

The idea of Learning Assistants is not new; Franklin adopted the idea from the University of Colorado after their success with it over the past 10 years. “There’s a lot of good evidence out of Colorado that classes with Learning Assistants have done a lot better on a number of tests,” said Franklin. “Classes with Learning Assistants have learned more of the content than classes without.” It’s not just a learning experience for the students but for the LA’s as well. Franklin believes that they will come out with a better understanding of the material they teach and how a student thinks.

Franklin explained that he has a couple of goals for the program. The first is to give students a good experience with teaching. Though they may not necessarily want to be teachers, Franklin hopes to spark some interest so that the LA’s may pursue another exposure to teaching in the future. The second is to help faculty transform classes. LA’s will not be there to just answer questions from students but to figure out what is the “right question to ask the student.” The third goal involves encouraging students to teach long term as a college professor or in high schools.

The LA program won’t be integrated into any other colleges yet; it will be restricted to the College of Science in selected biology, chemistry, math and physics classes. Franklin will be funding the program through a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant with help of his department and the University. Whether the program will spread to other colleges is unknown, but if the program is successful it might impress other programs to follow suit. **R**

# Laurie Halse Anderson

## Speaks at RIT

by Alyssa Jackson  
photograph by Jonathan Foster



“I don’t know many people who get through adolescence without something terrible happening to them,” said Laurie Halse Anderson, renowned author of popular books such as “Speak” and “Winter Girls,” during her visit to RIT on March 3.

Anderson started her career by writing children’s books before writing her most well-known book “Speak,” the story of a girl, Melinda, who is sexually assaulted a few weeks before entering high school. The book draws from Anderson’s own high school experiences. She stated that she was also sexually assaulted before beginning ninth grade and, like the main character of her story, she didn’t tell anyone about the incident.

“‘Speak’ is not a memoir,” Anderson explained. “It’s a borrowed emotional experience that can apply to anyone who had something terrible happen and doesn’t feel like they can talk about it.”

The author draws her inspiration from the many individuals she has talked with and heard from since writing her books. For example, she says her book “Twisted” was based off the reactions she saw from boys after they read her book “Speak.” According to Anderson, many of the boys didn’t understand why Melinda’s sexual assault was bad. Before writing “Twisted,” she said she asked a lot of boys what made their lives difficult, to which most responded girls, bullying and, in the event of the lack of a father figure, loneliness.

Anderson’s other books also focus on the difficulties of being a teen. In “Winter Girls” she explored the feelings and emotions that come with suffering from an eating disorder. Another book, “Catalyst” is a story the author said was inspired from a newspaper article on a girl who was the perfect student and athlete, but only got four hours of sleep each night from the stress.

The book focuses on the pressure that many students are under.

The major focus of Anderson’s talk was sexual assault, although many questions were asked about her other books. Anderson spoke of the difficulties she had with writing on the topic, including the movement to censor her novel because of its touchy subject matter. She felt that despite the fact that 44 percent of rapes occur to victims under the age of 18 and that every two minutes someone is sexually assaulted, many parents have difficulty exposing and informing their children of the subject.

“America’s parents are failing men because they are never told not to rape or how to get consent,” said the writer. “If every man who had sexually assaulted someone was put in jail and boys were taught correctly there would be less sexual assault in the world.”

After a discussion where members of the audience were seen laughing, smiling and crying, Anderson requested that the audience ask her questions. When asked how she was able to write difficult scenes, such as Melinda’s sexual assault, Anderson explained that she spends a lot of time sobbing while she’s writing

her books. In fact, the rape scene in “Speak” was actually made less graphic during the revision process so that students in seventh and eighth grade could access the book.

“Scenes are more dramatic if you leave some things out,” she said.

Another student asked Anderson what her feelings on the Steubenville case were. This event took place in Ohio and involved a few high school football players raping a girl while she was unconscious and shooting a video of the act. Those responsible have since been convicted in juvenile court for the rape of a minor.

“People who commit rape need to go to jail,” Anderson said, stating her feelings on the subject and also expressing her anger at the kids who stood by while the crime was being committed. “This is still happening because people don’t have the balls to talk about it.”

At the end of the night Anderson reminded individuals that April is Sexual Assault Awareness month. She stated that she has joined forced with Rape Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN) to raise awareness and funds for victims of sexual assault. **R**

REVIEWS



God, Forgive These Bastards: Songs From The Forgotten Life of Henry Turner

Artist: The Taxpayers

XXXXX 5/5

by Gino Fanelli

The Taxpayers are one of the most unique bands to come out in the past ten years, and “God, Forgive These Bastards” may be one of the most objectively perfect albums ever. Period. A mash-up of jazz, American folk and the undying presence of hardcore punk, “God Forgive These Bastards” shows the experimentation of elements that just don’t seem to fit. Yet, it just works so well.

Sold coupled with a book written by lead singer, guitarist Rob Taxpayer, the two chronicle the life of Henry Turner, a recently deceased 1970s Georgia Tech pitcher, who threw his arm out before getting his big break and slowly fell into a pit of homelessness, substance-abuse and insanity. This sort of story is the only kind that could match the subtle sense of despair found throughout the album. On “Hungry Dog in the Streets,” a mellow, jazzy acoustic ballad, the pain of Turner’s struggle shines through in Taxpayer’s endlessly dark lyrics, crooning “my heart is a cancer, radiation wouldn’t help a thing.” Taking a twist on a love song that could only come from the broken down and beaten, “I Love You Like an Alcoholic” plays out as a soft duet between accordion player Danielle Steal and Taxpayer, who sing a harmony of “I need you like I need a gaping head wound.”

Despite the heartfelt, soft vibes found on a few tracks, it can’t be shaken that this is an endlessly dark album. The jazz presence found across the album serves a near bizarre, dark backdrop to the horror stories playing out. On “The Businessman,” a soft, light-hearted acoustic, horn and harmonica jam serves as a backdrop to Taxpayer’s distorted voice telling a story of Turner biting a man’s ear off, while the music transforms into cacophonic blasts accompanying screams of “I thought he was the devil!”

“Goddamn These Hands of Mine,” a reference to Turner’s crippled hands that came as a result of a bad cut on a broken beer bottle, plays as a blasting punk and dark jazz fusion that joins Steal and Taxpayer yet again, this time harmonizing in distorted screams of “Goddamn this city, goddamn these people, goddamn this weather, goddamn these broken down hands of mine,” making a break for a strangely captivating horn solo.

“God, Forgive These Bastards” is not like anything you’ve ever heard. It’s dark, it’s twisted, it’s depressing and at times it hits you dead in the gut. And it’s just absolutely beautiful. Its jazz sections meld seamlessly with the bits of hardcore punk, which blend just as well with portions of folk. There is something for everyone, and each something tells the same story, one that is as relatable as it is heart-wrenching.



Sleep If U Can

App/iOS & Android

XXXXX 4/5

by William Hirsh

If you’re like me, you’re a compulsive night owl. You enjoy the somber hours of productivity that are available to you each night. Sooner or later though, you realize that it isn’t what it’s cracked up to be. The less than five hours of sleep you experience each night will begin to take a toll on you productivity during the day and affect your overall drive to do well here at RIT. When looking introspectively at my own performance, I decided to give “Sleep If U Can” a try.

“Sleep If U Can” is an app designed specifically for the heavy sleeper. If you are autonomously pressing snooze till five minutes before class, this is the app for you. At a glance, it resembles the onboard clock and alarm apps that come pre-installed on most phones, but it has a devious twist: the only way to hit the snooze button is to recreate a photo saved to the app. With three accuracy settings ranging from Low to High, this app can challenge how much you want to use your motor skills each morning. Where in the past I would have placed my phone somewhere far from my bed and still found a way to silence the snooze, this app presented me with a way to move my alarm outside my room by forcing me to take a picture of the TV in my living room. The app provided a sort of negative reinforcement that incentivized getting out of my bed and jumpstarting my mornings.

With that being said, the app was mostly effective, although there is a cheap way to sidestep it. During my trial, I had once or twice given in to just turning off my phone in order to quiet the droning alarm. To be transparent here, I was having difficulty both times with figuring out how to take a picture in my drowsy stupor. If you are of weak will or lack discipline, this might undercut the efficacy of “Sleep If U Can.”

Beyond this minor kerfuffle, when you find the need to restructure the way you sleep and wake up in your routine, “Sleep If U Can” is a great app to get you started on the path to proper sleep schedules, or at least get you up in time for class.



AT YOUR LEISURE

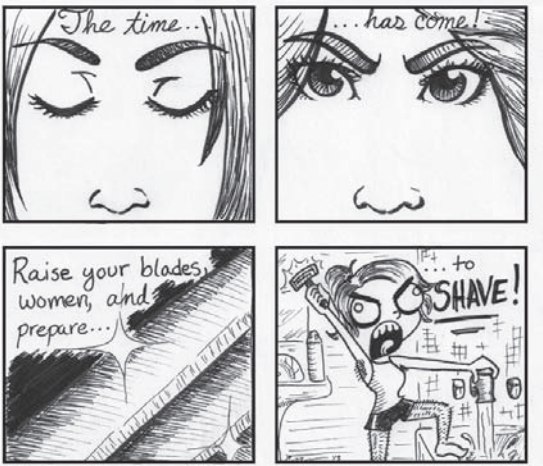
..... by William Hirsh

WORD OF THE WEEK

**Resistentialist** (noun)- A person who believes the theory that inanimate objects are out to get you, causing problems in your daily life.

Tom became a **RESISTENTIALIST** one day when he lost his favorite socks, found his keys hiding behind his bed and had his only pen stop working during a test.

COMIC by Corinne Newbegin



REPORTER RECOMMENDS

Pixel Art

In class, you’ll find me doing one of the following: paying attention or doodling. There’s just something gratifying about the no-rules-bar drawing mood. This is a part of the reason why I have been so drawn to pixel art.

Having played all kinds of games from the 8 and 16 bit eras, pixel art has become my new doodling obsession. Starting off by recreating simple sprites from games, I quickly transitioned into drafting my own unique characters, logos and surreal artwork. Just like other art forms, there are always new techniques and complicated approaches to your designs.

The best part: pixel art can be created from a variety of applications. From simple programs like MS Paint to online tools like piq.com to even Photoshop, it’s an accessible art style that is fulfilling as it is boundless.

Trust me, give it a go. You might find yourself tooling around with your bizarre creations at 3 a.m.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“If your mind is empty, it is always ready for anything, **it is open to everything**. In the beginner’s mind there are many possibilities, but in the expert’s mind there are few.”

—SHUNRYU SUZUKI

HAIKU

Quarter system woes.  
Will I be able to sleep  
During semesters?

...

STREAM OF FACTS

Bananas as we know them today originated from a strain that was discovered in 1836 by Jean Francois Poujot. Noticing the yellow fruit growing from one of his trees, Poujet quickly found that, due to their sweetness, these bananas didn’t require cooking before consumption. Before that point, red or green bananas (now known as plantains) were not the **FASTEST** food to enjoy, as they needed to be cooked prior to being eaten.

According to the Guinness World Records, the **FASTEST** bathroom was created in Milan, Italy and traveled at about 42 miles per hour. Called the “Bog Standard,” the toilet was a makeshift bath set fitted on top of a motorcycle and side car. The “Standard” consisted of a bathtub, sink and **LAUNDRY** bin.

The word **LAUNDRY** has a winding etymology. The phrase as we know it today derives first from the Old English word lavendrye, which in turn originates from the French word lavanderie. The root meaning is from the Latin **PHRASE** lavō which means to wash.

A pidgin is a simplistic form of communication that is established in the absence of a common language between groups of people. Specific **PHRASES** to denote tenses, a lack of tonality and uncomplicated clause structures are qualities of a **PIDGIN**.

Once a **PIDGIN** is learned by a generation of children and becomes the main language of a community, it becomes a creole. With unique grammatical structures, creoles are as functional as other languages that exist today. **R**

.....

# Deaf Perception of Music

by Nadia Pierre-Louis | illustration by Elisa Plance

Music is highly influential to young adults. Students walk down the quarter mile with their giant headphones on. They dance at parties to — sometimes — good DJ's. And they attend concerts where the bass is so strong it hurts your chest. Now think about what these normal daily activities would be like if you couldn't hear the music.

Of course, the musical experience for the Deaf and hard of hearing community varies from those who only listen occasionally to others who consider music to be a significant part of their lives.

Sadie Kulhanek, a first year Psychology major found that it depends on the individual. "Some deaf people don't see the point of music, some only listen to it for the beat, and some love it and can't live without it," she said.

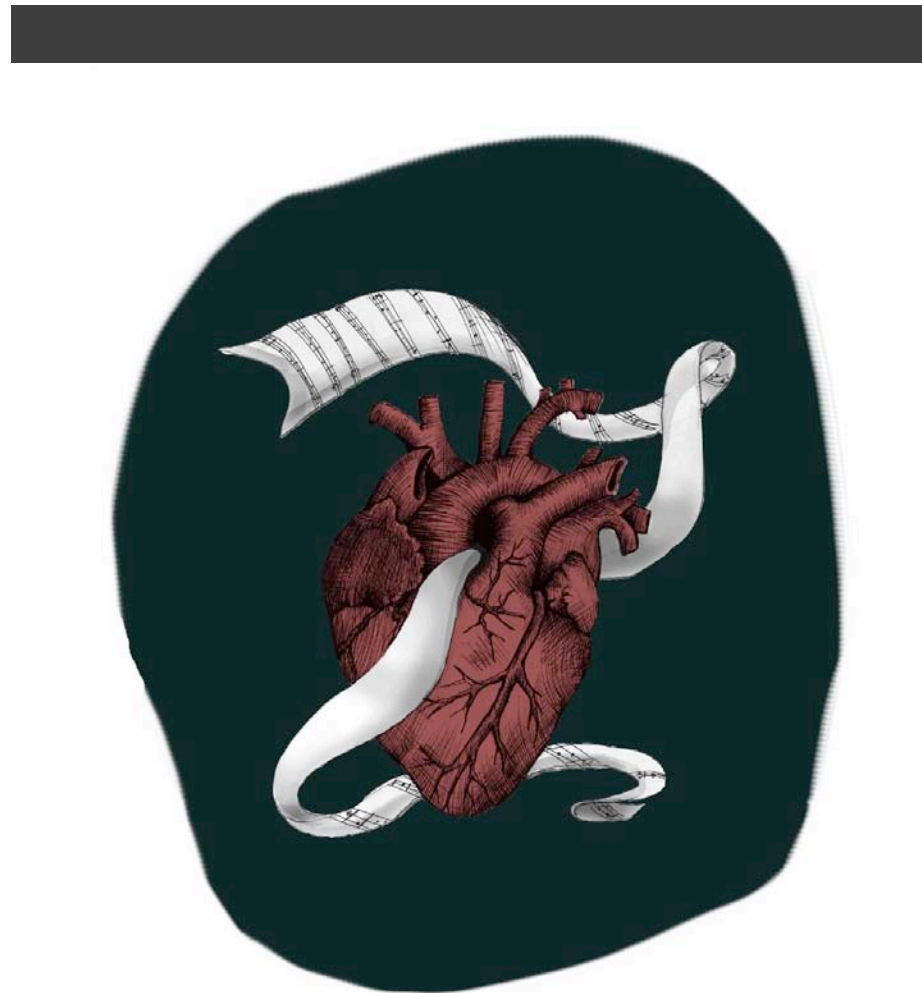
Joshua Williams, a first year Engineering major enjoys music in social settings more than for personal amusement. "I love feeling the bass and vibrations at parties but I never bother to try and hear music when I'm alone," said Williams.

In the Deaf community, the musical experience differs depending on whether they just enjoy the bass and vibrations or listen to it through hearing aids or cochlear implants.

For Alex Saunders, a first year Electrical Engineering major, growing up he always used hearing aids. They allowed him to listen to and enjoy music but it wasn't until he got his cochlear implant that his appreciation for music grew and became a part of his everyday life. He listens to Pandora on his phone while walking to class and turns on Spotify on his laptop when he gets back to his dorm.

"While I'm completely deaf, a cochlear implant gives me what I believe is somewhat close to hearing ability and allows me to enjoy music," says Saunders.


But Saunders says the experience isn't the same for every Deaf person. "As far as I know, completely deaf people can enjoy music too but it is mostly the vibrations from the bass and percussion instruments. Everybody has different tastes."



Kulhanek enjoys all types of music and listens every day. "I'm a sucker for classic rock and old songs that have stories behind them, but I listen to all kinds," said Kulhanek.

Although she thoroughly enjoys music, Kulhanek has trouble enjoying it where hearing people often have the most fun, at concerts. With the overwhelmingly loud crowd and the sometimes not-so-loud microphones on stage, this isn't the ideal situation for someone who is hard of hearing. Kulhanek has been to one concert before, but couldn't enjoy herself because all she could hear was the crowd and not the actual performance.

For Saunders, his experience at concerts, growing up in California, was very different. The big crowds were exciting and he loved going crowd surfing. For a hearing person, the loud bass might be problematic for your ears, but for Alex, it was easy for him to just turn his hearing aids down a notch.

Just like any other community, no two people are exactly the same nor have the same tastes or preferences. In the Deaf community, these preferences extend past what types of music people enjoy to the way they experience music and the setting. 



*Rachele Maier, an instructor at Tangent's Pole Aerobics in Rochester, performs during a bull whip demonstration at the Rochester Erotic Arts Festival held at the Raddison hotel on Main street, April 6, 2013.*

*I saw more boobs last Friday than I have in my entire life.*

While they aren't something I generally seek out, at the Rochester Erotic Arts Festival (REAF) last weekend, there were quite a few exposed pairs. However, despite the slightly higher than normal rate of toplessness, the majority of people at REAF were wearing nothing more unusual than jeans and a t-shirt. It is set up similarly to any other art show — artwork hanging on the walls, people being classy, sipping alcoholic drinks and wandering around — just with a little extra fun and a lot of extra kink.

From talking to Rauncie Ryan, the co-creator and co-producer of the event and assistant dean of Graduate Student Success at RIT, that seems like it was the goal. "I think that once people walk in, they realize that this is a very classy event," said Ryan. "We have a lot of fun and it's just very cool."

Ryan and her friend Susie Scott hosted their first festival just five years ago. "We came up with this idea of having a juried art show where people could show erotic art because there's not really a whole lot of outlet for that," says Ryan.

In organizing the show, Ryan explains that it's not just about finding artwork that would be classified as erotic but also to "look for artwork that makes people think."


This year, the REAF had a variety of pieces in many different mediums. There was everything from explicit nude photography to an artist's collection of "pet" tit, clit and a dick sculptures with googly eyes added. The featured artist for the REAF, a suspension artist named Lew Rubens, came to the event to present a demo on his work. Rubens constructed what he called a puppet suspension technique which

would allow his assistant, wearing no more than a thong, a set of high heels and a pair of nipple rings, to move around once she was suspended in the air. He constructed a harness out of rope and then hoisted her into the air using a pulley. There, she did flips and different poses and occasionally asked Rubens to give her a push. After showing how the knots were done, Rubens gave brief, clothed demonstrations of how the technique could be used for more than just erotic photography as well.

Many of the events also looked at how the average person could use the presenter's artistic techniques for their own pleasure too. "We make sure that our workshops are educating people about positive sex culture," says Ryan.

Every workshop included safety reminders. For instance, at the workshop about fire massage, safety was an important component, both in knowing how to not burn your partner but also in making sure that people would know how to not burn their house down. In erotic photography, the safety portion was less vital but it still provided some tips on how not to get sued.

Either way, Ryan believes that safety is an important component of each workshop and the festival as a whole. "If people don't talk about things but are interested in doing things, they might not be getting educated about it and they might do things that could be harmful to themselves or others," explains Ryan, "We believe that by having educational workshops, we are helping people to be safe and that's one of the goals of our festival."

Given the high attendance, this important safety information reached hundreds of people. Last year, between 500 and 600 people attended the event and this year, the numbers were even higher. Maybe they can up it next year too. After all, who doesn't appreciate sex? 

# ALLIES and ACCESSABILITY

THE NORTH EAST LGBT CONFERENCE COMES TO RIT

BY NICOLE HOWLEY

## RIT

's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) organizations have worked hard to unite a campus and raise awareness of the issues facing the community today. To further these goals, members of the LGBT groups on campus are hosting the North East LGBT Conference (NELG BTC), an annual convention which is coming to RIT for the first time. From April 12 to 14, the conference will host numerous workshops and speakers lecturing on topics ranging from healthcare to international issues to activism.

The theme for this year's conference is "The Ally in YOU," in an effort to encourage alliance and support both from outside and within the LGBT community. According to the conference's website, "The term 'Ally' refers not only to supportive people outside the LGBT community, but also to those within who make an effort to include and support identities and cultures other than their own."

This idea is the motivation behind the many accommodations that the Conference Host Committee (CHC), a group comprised of a variety of campus representatives, has made for the conference. "One of the values that we have as a committee is that we are inclusive to the greatest extent possible," says Henry Hinesley, member of the CHC and coordinator of the RIT GLBT Center. They have made sure to include wheelchair accessibility to all facilities, both gender specific and gender neutral bathrooms and interpreters proficient in ASL and LGBT terminology, all in the effort of uniting the campus.

# Coming to RIT

After over a year of planning and preparation, NELGBTC is coming to RIT. Since its founding in 1995 at the University at Albany, NELGBTC has gained increasing attention and support and, in 2010, made its first move to University at Buffalo.

Since then, it has taken place in different locations across New York State and next year, they plan to take the conference to New Jersey. In order to maintain consistency at each conference, a Board of Directors works to provide some of the funding and assistance to the campus running the event. “It’s sort of advisory,” explains third year Interpreting major and president of OUTspoken Tristan Wright. “They help in terms of advice and walking us through the process.”

A lot of the organizational work has been done by the CHC, which includes representatives from Access Services, the Student Interpreting Association, Student Affairs, Center for Women and Gender, NTID, Multicultural Student Life, Wellness Education, the GLBT Center and the various LGBTQ clubs around campus (see page 16). “We started out by including everyone who wanted to be involved,” says Hinesley.

About a year and a half ago, Hinesley took up the responsibility for developing the proposal to host the event here on campus. Once their bid was accepted, he encouraged the LGBT leaders from around campus to get involved in the effort. Clubs responded by offering workshops, presentations and volunteers.

“I hadn’t anticipated that we would be quite as involved but it has actually worked out really, really well,” Wright explains. OUTspoken has helped with the conference through their involvement with the welcome reception and some of the other presentations during the event, in addition to helping fund some aspects of the conference.

Other organizations and local companies have been contributing funding as well including RIT’s President’s Office, RIT alumni Frank Selvaggi and Bill Shea, the RIT GLBT Center, the Center for Campus Life/Office of Diversity and Inclusion, ACA: AALANA Collegiate Association, Global Union, the History Department, Residence Life, Student Government, Women’s and Gender Studies Program, Bruegger’s Bagels, the RIT Gay Alliance, Image Out, Spectrum and Wegmans. Gracie’s and Brick City will also be contributing their efforts by providing some of the catering and additional vegetarian and vegan options.

The NELGBTC draws in hundreds of students and advisors from all around the Northeast annually; this year’s conference is expected to reach 500 participants. Last Friday, Hinesley said that they had about 450 people registered and were planning on either ending registration by Wednesday, April 10 or once they had registered 500 people, capping the number in an effort to accommodate everyone in the space they have.

In addition to provided adequate, the committee has made an effort to increase ease of access for everyone wishing to attend.

## Access for Everyone

In order to accommodate all attendees, increasing wheelchair access was crucial, yet was one of the simpler tasks that the committee hoped to complete. “It helps with structural accessibility – ramps and elevators – that we are holding it in spaces that are accessible,” Wright explains, “which was part of the thought process. RIT already has to be accessible which is useful.”

However, the rest of the accommodations have required a little more preparation on behalf of the CHC.

## Gender Neutrality

Gender neutral bathrooms are not something new to the conference. NELGBTC has made a conscious effort to include both gender neutral and gender specific bathrooms at this conference and the past ones as well.

However, there is still a lack of gender neutral bathrooms in most public spaces. Even at RIT, Hinesley predicts that they will need to convert some of the gender specific bathrooms on campus to be all-inclusive.

Hinesley realizes that the lack of gender neutral public restrooms poses a problem to the transgender community who may not feel safe or comfortable going into either bathroom. This has been a problem and a source of controversy across the nation.

A public school in Colorado stopped allowing a six year old student, who was born a male but who is female identifying, to use the girls’ bathroom; instead, she was allowed to choose between the boys’ bathroom, the neutral faculty bathroom, and the nurse’s bathroom. However, her parents have since withdrawn her from the school after filing a discrimination complaint.

In Arizona, State Representative John Kavanagh proposed a bill to make it illegal to use the restroom designated for the biological sex that differs from the one the individual was born with. However, after receiving a great deal of criticism, the bill has been changed to allow the owners of private facilities to make the final call on whether or not to allow this in their facilities.

Despite this proposal, efforts are being made to increase understanding and awareness of the issues that members of the transgender community face. At conferences in the past, Hinesley has participated in this effort through his presentations to advisors on how to make their campuses more transgender friendly.

During these presentations, Hinesley stresses how this can be accomplished: increasing the ease by which a person can change their name and the creation of gender neutral housing and facilities, such as gender neutral bathrooms in dorms and public spaces on campus. Hinesley explains that at RIT, students can change the name on their ID card quite easily; however, changing a person’s name within the different RIT information systems can be quite complicated, time consuming and — in the financial aid arena — impossible unless the change is made legally.

According to Hinsley, gender neutral housing still needs to be addressed at RIT so that transgender individuals can choose which housing to live in based off of their preferred gender.

At this year’s conference, there will be workshops provided on the topic of transgender concerns including Trans 101 and a Gender Neutral Housing Panel.

## The Deaf Queer Experience

The Conference Host Committee has also worked to hire and train interpreters for the event. Hinesley says that the goal of the training was to make sure that they are fluent in up-to-date signs for LGBT terminology. Wright explains that “If an interpreter hasn’t been exposed to that either through their academic preparation or through their life experiences, then they aren’t likely to know that terminology.”

Luckily, some of the interpreters with experience on campus know the terminology well already. “[The LGBT clubs at RIT] have been working with interpreting services ... and the conference is a natural extension of that work,” says Wright. Once the committee started meeting up, interpreting services also got involved to interpret those meetings for the Deaf members.

In addition to providing interpreting for the workshops, the conference will have white boards available to enable conversation between the deaf and hearing attendees. But incorporating Deaf culture into the conference has involved more elements than this alone.

“We’ve really worked hard to incorporate a lot of the Deaf queer experience which is just something that the average individual does not encounter,” explains Wright. “I’m an interpreting student. They always remind us in the department that we exist in a [community] where it seems like Deaf people are everywhere and they keep reminding us that anywhere else in the country, you aren’t going to find that.”

In order to raise awareness about some of the issues within the Deaf queer community, RIT’s CHC is introducing an element to the conference that has never been included before: “We are the first campus to host [NELGBTC] in its history that is including a Deaf culture track,” says Hinesly.

Each year, the conference has workshop tracks for students and advisors, such as a scholar track for those who wish to gain a more in-depth, historical understanding of the issues. The Deaf culture track, open to both deaf and hearing students, is unique to RIT and includes workshops that specifically look into

## The term ‘Ally’ refers not only to supportive people outside the LGBT community, but also to those within who make an effort to include and support identities and cultures other than their own.

Deaf queer issues, including “It’s a Deaf, Deaf World,” “No voice Zone,” “Mentoring Deaf Queer Students” and “Deaf Queer Culture”.

Wright mentions that the Deaf culture here is “something that’s very unique about RIT and something that is very unique about the queer culture at RIT.” According to Hinesly, this uniqueness is part of what contributes to what he believes to be the main issue that Deaf members of the LGBT community face: social isolation.

The Deaf community is relatively small already but when an individual is also part of a specific sector of the queer community, it can be difficult to find people to relate to the individual’s situation and the issues that they face. Spectrum, one of the LGBT-focused clubs on campus, is primarily focused

on the deaf and hard of hearing queer communities and although Hinesley admits that the club is small, it can help students to feel less isolated. “That’s the whole point,” says Hinesly. “Trying to get past feeling different.”

Belonging to any type or any number of cultural subgroups can lead to this type of isolation. But with the growing prominence and popularity of conferences and gatherings like the NELGBTC, it may become easier to find the support and inclusion that so many seek. With the theme of “The Ally in YOU” for the upcoming conference, this goal may be within reach. **R**

LGBT

club comparison

by Krista Bellardo | infographic by Jiwon Lim

At RIT, there are many clubs dedicated to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities and their allies. The four main LGBT student organizations are OUTSpoken, Tangent, Spectrum and ritGA. According to Tristan Wright, president of OUTSpoken there is also a new club that is in the process of being recognized that will be the "queer women's group," although the name hasn't officially been decided.

While all of these clubs essentially work towards the same goal, each club has its own qualities that differentiate it from the other LGBT clubs on campus.

	WHAT IS IT	HISTORY	MEMBERS	WHAT SETS THEM APART
OUTSPOKEN	OUTSpoken is the Major Student Organization that is responsible for REPRESENTING THE LGBT COMMUNITY in Student Government (SG). Although OUTSpoken has the closest connection to SG, the administration and resources, they work closely with the other three clubs on many initiatives.	Third year Interpreting major Tristan Wright, the president of OUTSpoken, said that the history of the organization is a bit unclear. He said that OUTSpoken was created after realizing that the position of LGBT Senator in SG, originally held by a member of the RIT Gay Alliance (ritGA) E-Board, was too much work for a member of E-Board to handle. He approximates that OUTSpoken has been at RIT for five or six years.	According to Wright, OUTSpoken does not have members, but rather a constituency. Wright estimates that their email list currently has around 80 PEOPLE on it. "We represent the LGBT students, so we estimate that we REPRESENT ABOUT 10 PERCENT OF THE CAMPUS community," said Wright.	Aside from having a constituency rather than a membership, second year Political Science and Journalism major and programming director of OUTSpoken Billy Gerken said that the MSO is more of an "UMBRELLA ASSOCIATION" in that it represents all of the LGBT clubs. He said that they help the other clubs with whatever they need, whether it is funding, advice for their organization or anything else.
SPECTRUM	Spectrum is a club for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning and allies (GLBTQQA), primarily within the DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING community at RIT. Although this club works mostly with NTID, it is open to all students, hearing included.	According to Robb Dooling, fourth year Computer Science major and the current president, the club has existed at RIT on and off FOR DECADES under various names. The last time the club was active was in 2005 but it declined soon after. In 2010 Spectrum became active again and has stayed active since.	Dooling says that there are anywhere from 15 TO 30 MEMBERS in Spectrum. He estimates that there is approximately a 70 to 30 ratio of Deaf and hard of hearing members to hearing members in the club this year. Members attend general meetings, support any club fundraising and attend the major events.	Spectrum differs from the other LGBT clubs at RIT because of their focus on the Deaf community. According to Dooling, Spectrum is part of the NTID Student Congress and works with other Deaf community clubs for events on campus. "The difference between Spectrum and other organizations might be that we have an ASL meeting and the events are all in ASL," said Dooling. "[The other clubs] have interpreters and are open to Deaf people. We have voice interpreters and focus on the Deaf community but are open to hearing people."
RITGA	The RIT Gay Alliance (ritGA) recently changed their name to the RIT GLBTQA Alliance to include gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning and allied in their full title, but they still goes by ritGA for short. The club works to EDUCATE, ADVOCATE AND CELEBRATE the LGBT community at RIT. One of the major events that ritGA hosts during the year is a drag show in the fall and spring.	ritGA became an official club on October 11, 1983 and has been active since then. According to second year Industrial and Systems Engineering major Paul Sira, the club's current president, ritGA EXISTED UNOFFICIALLY BEFORE 1983 as well.	Sira said that the club currently has between 40 and 50 active members. He added that some of their meetings have an attendance of around 100 DIFFERENT STUDENTS. Members help suggest ideas for events, take part in discussions and go to club events.	ritGA is a more social club according to Sira. He added that this club is WHERE MOST OF THE LGBT COMMUNITY AND THEIR ALLIES GO. "Most of what we do is social programming and community building and offering a space for students to talk and form a community," said Sira.
TANGENT	Tangent is the LBGT club that focuses on the TRANSGENDER, GENDERQUEER AND NON BINARY POPULATION on campus. Tangent is a space for this community to hang out, interact and share information.	OUTSpoken president Tristan Wright was one of the co-founders of Tangent. He said the club was created when a young transgender woman, the other co-founder, WAS FEELING ISOLATED ON CAMPUS. When she realized that she probably wasn't the only transgender person at RIT feeling this way, she decided to create the organization.		All of the LGBT clubs at RIT share common goals according to Gerken of OUTSpoken. They are all seeking to INFORM THE COMMUNITY, RECRUIT MORE ALLIES, SPREAD AWARENESS and CREATE A MORE OPEN COMMUNITY. R

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# ROC CITY THUNDER

# STORMS RIT

BY AMANDA IMPERIAL

Over the past few years, Rochester has been unlucky when it comes to the sport of football. But when a pair of determined men put their heads together in fall 2011, the Roc City Thunder Arena Football team was on its way to becoming a new staple of Rochester and RIT culture.

Mike Condello, director of community relations and a current player for Roc City Thunder, tells of the birth of the new team. More than a year after Rochester's previous indoor football team — the Rochester Raiders — folded, a group was looking to form another team, at that time called The Central New York Stampede. This idea fell through, as well as a majority of the group that put it together. But two remaining members, Eric Spaulding and Jeff Teed, put yet another idea together

for the team, which came to be known as the Roc City Thunder. Ex-Rochester Raider Mike Condello jumped on board. With his skill as a graphic designer, he made a logo to represent the new entity.

First things first: the team needed to find a place to play indoor football. With the sport requiring a field of specific size, the search was on to find the perfect place. The team originally held practices at the ESL Sports Centre — now known as Bill Gray's Regional Iceplex — until

October of 2012. Around this time, Teed came down with a serious illness, and was unable to continue with the team. With him leaving and Spaulding — the main funder of the team — taking on most of the responsibility, Condello said in a phone interview that, "It started to become clear as months went on

that [Teed and Spaulding] weren't able to handle some the responsibilities of ownership." But as a team was already being formed, this was no time to drop the ball.

Condello was able to set up an agreement with RIT during all of the chaos of the ownership transition. Condello said that RIT's Gordon Field House was chosen for two reasons: because of the size of the arena, mostly due to the large fan base of about 3,000 that indoor football attracts, and RIT's beautiful facilities. Hopefully, the arrangement will be as beneficial to RIT as it is to the new team. "RIT doesn't have any football on campus, so we would love for this to become 'RIT football', so to speak," Condello said. **R**



**1.** Alton Jones (#4) of the Roc City Thunder tackles a Buffalo Celtics player.



**2.** Roc City Thunder indoor football coach Ron Kurimsky confronts one of his players after a small scuffle broke out during their game against the Buffalo Celtics at the Gordon Field House.



**3.** A young fan wears the helmet of Roc City Thunder linebacker Eric Spaulding after a game against the Buffalo Celtics. The Thunder defeated the Celtics 57-6.

Photographs 1 and 2 by Griffin Moores  
Photograph 3 by Tom Brenner



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**WOTS**  
WORD ON THE STREET

PHOTOGRAPHS BY TOM BRENNER



**1**  
First year Computer Science, **James Ward**

WHEN THE MOMENT GETS HEATED, WHAT SONG WOULD YOU PLAY?



**2**  
Staff Librarian, **Margaret Bartlett**

**1** THE STROKES

**“YOU ONLY  
LIVE ONCE”**

**2** PINK FLOYD

**“THE WALL”**

**3** SYSTEM OF A DOWN

**“CHOP SUEY”**

**4** CAT STEVENS

**“FATHER  
AND SON”**



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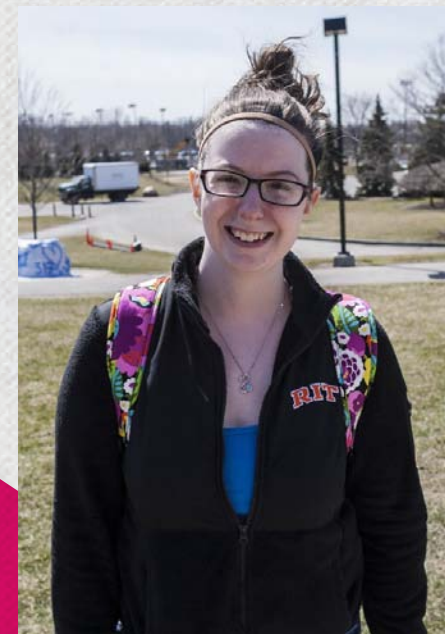
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REPORTER reserves the right to publish all calls in any format.

Sunday, 11:50 a.m. (from text)

*You know you go to RIT when your **Super Mario ringtone** goes off and two different people check their phones.*

Sunday, 1:53 p.m. (from text)

*Overheard a girl on campus talking about how she prefers Internet Explorer to Firefox and Chrome. Not sure if trying to be **ironic or just that clueless?***

Monday, 11:15 p.m. (from voicemail)

*Male Student: I was told I could talk to a sexy kitty lady.*

*Female Student in background: I am very disappointed!*

*Male Student: Yeah, I'm really upset about this. Come on Rings, show me some love and purr for me baby, purrrrr.*

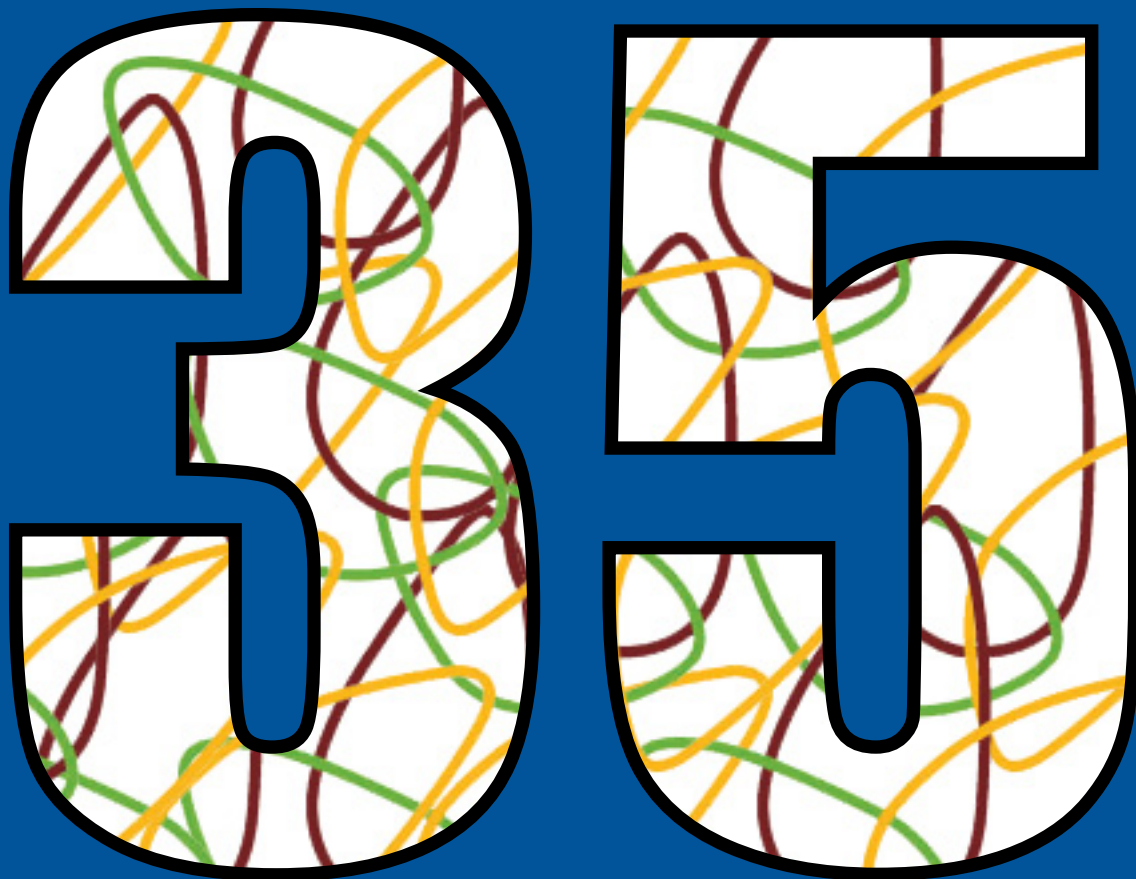
Monday, 7:01 p.m. (from text)

*I just saw a student in a suit with light up sneakers.  
**RIT, don't ever change***



Monday, 10:43 p.m. (from text)

*After trying to fill in this week's Rings: Mad Lib Edition, I think you've **severely over-estimated** our education levels here at RIT. **R***



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