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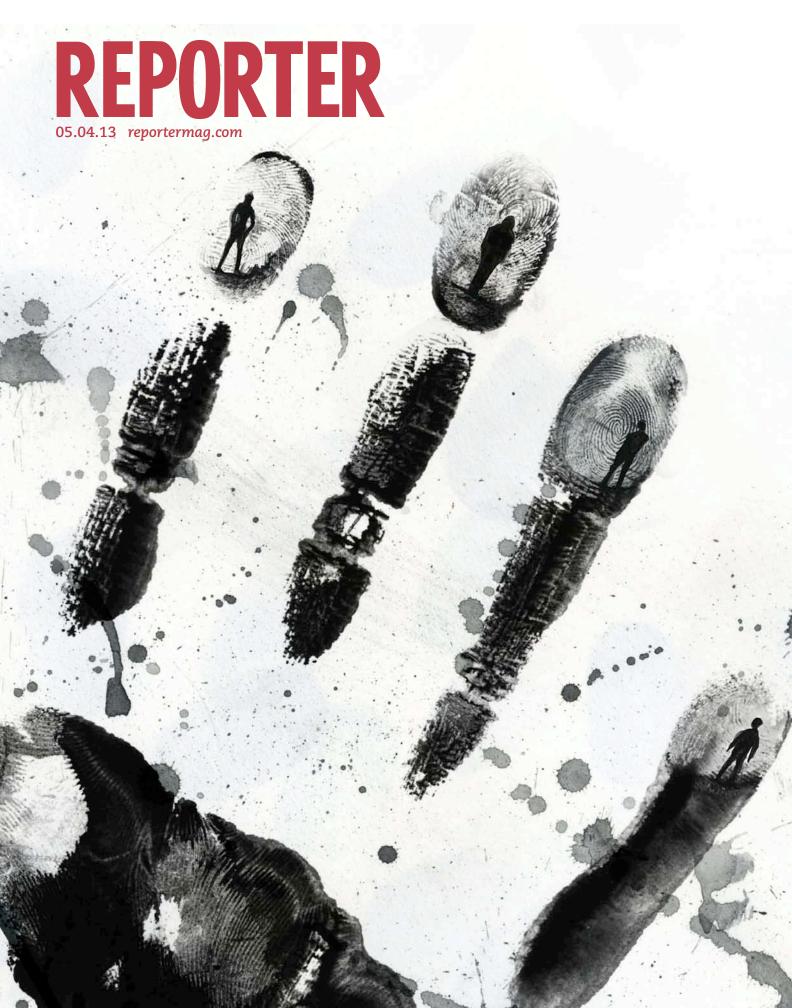
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REPORTER

ADVANCING IN THE DIGITAL AGE OF JOURNALISM

A special report by The Center for the Digital Future titled "America at the Digital Turning Point" stated that "twenty-five percent of [internet] users in 2010 who read newspapers stopped reading a print edition because they found the same or related content online." Additionally, from 2004 to 2011, the advertising revenue from newspapers has dropped by around four thousand million dollars while online advertising revenue has been slowly increasing. Smartphones and tablets have replaced newspapers and magazines while technological advances allow us to receive news almost instantly, rather than wait for the daily paper to be delivered to our doorstep. With the invention of the internet, we have been witness to the slow, painful death of print media and Reporter Magazine has been caught in the crossfire.

Following the May 2012 sale of the Goss Sunday 2000 press that was once used to print these very pages, the transition to an updated web presence and less-frequent publication was initiated. Though this somewhat sudden and unexpected change was prompted by a lost resource, the increased focus on online publication has been on its way for quite some time. Because of this, my staff and I now have a great opportunity to reflect on and improve some of Reporter's strengths and try to fix the weaknesses.

During a TED Talk in March 2012, Brené Brown, a research professor at the University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work who studies vulnerability, courage, authenticity and shame stated that "Vulnerability is the birthplace of innovation, creativity and change." This can be applied both personally and professionally, individually and as a greater group. Confucius advised, "When you see a good person, think of becoming like her/him. When you see someone not so good, reflect on your own weak points." When working towards self-improvement we must look to our own vulnerabilities and weaknesses as areas for growth. In many cases, this system is already in place; before a big exam we forgo the study questions about introductory materials and basic concepts in order to review the more advanced topics where our knowledge is lacking. Other instances, however, might not be so simple. In many cases it can be hard to intentionally highlight our shortcomings. On a larger scale, it is even more difficult to point out flaws in an organization, an institution or even a nation with loyal supporters.

"We're seventh in literacy, 27 in math, 22 in science, 49 in life expectancy ... We lead the world in only three categories: number of incarcerated citizens per capita, number of adults who believe angels are real, and defense spending, where we spend more than the next 26 countries combined. 25 of whom are allies ... So when you ask, 'what makes us the greatest country in the world?' I don't know what the fuck you're talking about ... First step in solving any problem is recognizing there is one. America is not the greatest country in the world anymore." From the 2012 TV series "The Newsroom", this statement amplifies the need for large-scale introspection and with hundreds of thousands of YouTube views, it seems that many people agree. No matter what we want to improve — whether it is a country, organization or ourselves - fixing our weaknesses will increase our strength.

Though painful at times, my staff and I have looked at our organization's weaknesses as a starting point for such improvement. We have had long discussions about what we liked and disliked about the weekly format and have tried to guess what our readers would say if they were offering some constructive criticism. So that's where you come in; when you're done reading our very first monthly issue, let me know what you think. Send me an email or comment on the new website (reporter.rit.edu) to let us know what we're doing right and more importantly - how we can improve.

Amber W-D

Amber Wilson-Daeschlein EDITOR IN CHIEF

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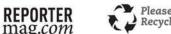
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Your crush explains why you should not be anonymous.

It's that time of the year again, RIT.

Cover illustration by Elisa Plance

Corrections: In last week's article "Giving Back After Graduation," it was stated that Alicia Stern signed up for her Peace Corps assignment while, in reality, she had to go through an extensive application process before being accepted into the program and receiving her assignment. Also, Stern did not work as a recruiter for the Peace Corps after her assignment; she worked for their headquarters in Washington DC for a year.



FOOD VIOLATIONS AT RIT

EDUCATION & PREVENTION

by Juan Lachapelle | illustration by Erica Landers

When an inspector calls for a food inspection, one might imagine a man blending in at a restaurant trying out all the food he can and looking for everything and anything to get the place in trouble. That's only half true. In the case of the eateries on campus like Grace Watson, Ritz Sport Zone and The Commons, inspections are much more organized and unlike anything one might have seen on television.

The New York State Department of Health gives the general guidelines and rules for inspectors while counties can vary the levels of strictness and frequency of inspections. Generally, inspectors look for two types of violations: critical and general. Critical violations are incidents that are more likely to cause food-borne illness and sickness to customers. A general violation refers to situations like mislabeled or misplaced foods and slight damage to ceilings and floors. After the inspection is done, whoever is in charge of keeping the restaurant up to standard is given a copy of all the violations found on site. Any critical violations must be resolved before the inspector leaves and a grade is given to the establishment based on what the inspector found.

In March, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo launched open.ny.gov, which according to the website was designed to offer "user-friendly, one-stop access to data from New York State agencies, localities, and the federal government." Here, one can look up inspections completed since 2005. In 2012 there were 97 violations at RIT, 24 of which were critical.

For example, searching for Grace Watson brings up the most recent inspections done on Nov. 11, 2012. Some of the violations described that day were: "Floors, walls, ceilings, not smooth, properly constructed, in disrepair, dirty surfaces, lighting and ventilation inadequate." These violations are not considered critical. Reading this may seem concerning, but as Stacey Clements, the Safety, Training and Compliance manager for all dining locations on campus, explained; "If maintenance comes in and moves a ceiling tile, that falls under a violation."

Across eateries at RIT, some of the more common critical violations include improperly labeled or stored toxic chemicals, potentially hazardous food not being kept at or below 45 degrees Fahrenheit and a lack of hot or cold storage equipment.

Though inspections aim to solve and prevent problems, Clements said they can often lead to some misunderstandings and exaggerations. "What you have to remember and what the health inspector always has to remind me of is that a health inspection is a snapshot in time," said Clements. Because of this, the inspections and what is actually reported may not always accurately portray the conditions of the establishment year round.

In addition to working with state inspectors, Clements does her own inspections to make sure that the establishments on campus are up to standard before the state inspections are done.



Both follow the same procedures, but state inspections happen twice a year. "We then take it a step further beyond what [the inspector] does and says, 'Why was that that way and how can we make sure that never happens again," said Clements.

An anonymous dining services student worker described his experience concerning health issues. "Most things are pretty well-kept and [the managers] are pretty good about training," he said. "Every once in a while, I go to the back to get a pot and the pot I just grabbed is a bit dirty. The people who are supposed to be cleaning it are doing a very poor job." He said he didn't really notice any serious violations at the workplace. "The managers are pretty good at making sure it doesn't happen again or the person gets fired," he explained.

The perspective of students who eat regularly on campus is also important. Second year Mechanical Engineering major Charles Krouse did not have any negative opinions of the dining places on campus. "Nothing ever really stood out to me as in, 'Oh I'd never eat there or eat that.' I've heard people say they had a hair in their food or a bug but I never experienced that," he said.

Clements noted that student opinion is varied and cited Gracie's as the place with the most complaints. "When we keep asking a person what they don't like about [Gracie's], they can't even specifically say what it is or they haven't eaten there in a year or so," she said. Still, dining services tries to consider every opinion when making changes to the eateries on campus.

"We are continually trying to change and improve all perceptions whether they are currently good or currently bad," stated Clements. Beyond preventing violations, dining services is always looking for ways to upgrade while taking student opinion into account.

Violations for any dining establishment in New York State can be found at health.data.ny.gov/. \blacksquare

WHAT'S NEXT IN SUSTAINABILITY

by Alyssa Jackson | photo by Matthew Burkhartt | illustration by Emily Gage

t's hard not to understand what sustainability is on a campus like RIT. Our president is known for his green initiatives, we have a sustainability building and there are almost as many recycling signs around campus as bricks. Recent advances in sustainability include the movement to end the selling of plastic water bottles in vending machines on campus and the opening of Institute Hall and the Golisano Institute for Sustainability buildings, which each have eco-friendly features.

A new academic year is approaching, and with it will come more changes and advancements in sustainability. Enid Cardinal, senior sustainability advisor to President Destler, states that many of these changes will focus more on policy and less on tangible advancements like buildings.

For instance, there will be more steps towards eliminating the use and sale of bottled water on campus. To begin the year, incoming first year and transfer students will be given reusable water bottles, much like the ones received by students who came to RIT in the 2012 fall quarter. Cardinal also hopes that more buildings on campus will have hydration stations for these water bottles so that students are more likely to choose tap water over soda. Cardinal predicts that bottled water will disappear from vending machines within roughly two years; however she cautions that the number is not set in stone.

A new project that Cardinal hopes will be ready in the coming fall is a composting area. This is an idea that was presented at ImagineRIT as an attempt to educate individuals on how much waste goes to landfills and where it can be composted or recycled.

"I think the RIT community is pretty intelligent on sustainability, but the exhibit at ImagineRIT will help educate others too," says Cardinal. "People know that when they throw something out it goes away, but they don't realize where away is."

Some students are taking their knowledge on sustainability and working to apply it in action. Marcela Gallo, a second year Fine Arts Photography major, says that she tries to reuse everything from napkins to grocery bags from the store. She also looks at the chemicals in the cleaning supplies that she uses to find products that won't negatively impact the environment.

"I think RIT is already better than other campuses [in sustainability] because they do so much with recycling. I think they should have more attention grabbing posters with tips for students though," Gallo says.

Cardinal recognizes these concerns and explains that she has been working to come up with games and informational posters to keep students active with the process beyond the ImagineRIT exhibit. Some of these ideas include posters by light switches reminding students to turn them off when they're not in use, stickers for laptops that remind individuals to unplug chargers when they're finished

and a game that would involve students putting signs on professor's doorways when they find classrooms left in a way that is not sustainable.

The new buildings on campus will also encourage increased awareness of sustainability issues through their energy dashboards. These devices will display how much energy the building is using in different units that any student can understand, from kilowatts to hamburgers. Cardinal explains that there are plenty of little things that students and faculty at RIT can do to help in reducing their impact.

"Electricity emits carbon and commuting uses natural gas," she says. "One way to offset that on campus is the amount of natural area we have around the campus, which helps absorb the carbon. As for reducing and offsetting, we're still figuring out how to do that."

Cardinal also mentions plans for reducing the campuses carbon footprint through the implementation of a bike program. Students would be able to rent the bikes out for free or for a small fee, and then would be able to get off of campus in an environmentally friendly way or just get to class more quickly.

Cardinal also hopes to eventually focus on the apparel industry. Students may not realize that some of the RIT apparel they are buying was made through inhumane means. RIT wishes to look into the human rights concerns in making these products more sustainable. "The majority of our clothing products are in line with this idea, but we haven't standardized it across the board," Cardinal says.

For now, RIT is working towards carbon neutrality by 2030 and is currently leading other universities in an environmentally friendly attitude and in sustainability. While there is more that needs to be done, the efforts currently being planned or implemented, as well as student and teacher's contributions, are putting RIT on the right track. As far as this portion of the process goes, "We want to make it as fun and positive as possible," says Cardinal. "There are 20,000-plus people on campus, the good things and bad things add up." [1]



6 News | 05.04.13





The label "psychedelic" is tricky. It requires being experimental without becoming pretentious and it promotes eccentricity while shunning attention-seeking stunts. For years, The Flaming Lips have tap-danced along these lines. Undoubtedly, 2002's "Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots" cemented The Lips into rock legend, excusing such antics as Wayne Coyne — the lead singer, guitarist and songwriter for the band — rolling around a Coachella crowd in a giant plastic bubble.

The Lips are owed respect for their constant evolution. For nearly 30 years, The Lips have been constantly experimenting, growing and pushing the boundaries of Psychedalia and "The Terror" certainly is a step — if an offbeat one — in the right direction.

Opening with "Look ... The Sun is Rising," a dark, ominous and arrhythmic tone is presented that will stick around throughout the album. A helicopter-pulsed static beat lies as the backdrop for a creepy synth atmosphere, making way for industrial-styled drumbeats and spacey vocals that are mostly coherent. A frantic, grungy guitar rhythm plays alongside, gluing all of the components together into an intense, dissonant mass.

Sliding into "Be Free, A Way", the tone is brought down a bit into a mellower, yet intensely sorrowful drag. The vocals now become fairly unintelligible, carrying a vibe of "Loveless" era My Bloody Valentine. Straying from classic rock formations, these tracks lack true rhythm sections, opting for synthesizer loops and glitchy drumbeats that create a powerful and endlessly dim vibe.

Yet the trouble with "The Terror" is that, through all of its darkness, its ingenious use of synthesizers, its abandonment of classic rock song progressions to make for an entirely unique listening experience, it is endlessly boring. The pinnacle of the album is reached on "You Lust," a collaboration between The Flaming Lips and Saratoga Springs duo Phantogram. It is an epic, beautiful, unique ballad, but with a 13 minute run time, it is nearly impossible to listen to straight through. The problem is not as that 13 minutes is especially long, more so that it is the sort of length where something has to happen and in "You Lust," nothing does. It's like a Michael Bay movie where nothing ever explodes.

What's worse is that there's plenty of space for something

great to take place. At varying points, Coyne angrily whispers the phrase "Lust to succeed" in repetition, which has plenty of potential to build up to a great, cataclysmic psychedelic breakdown. But it doesn't. In fact, there are at least five other synth phrases that are played on a loop for the entirety of the song that are nothing more than uninteresting atmospheric pieces that somehow become the focus as the lyrics fade away. There is no true substance to it and it can't help but feel like filler.

"The Terror" is a unique album and a stellar experimentation by The Flaming Lips. It goes into boundaries that most bands haven't come close to and hits on a solemn emotional level in a way that is as innovative as it is touching. That all being said, it just is not easy listening. The vocals are entirely forgettable on most tracks, the drumbeats are minimalistic in a place where they could benefit from being more complex, the guitar riffs are nearly indistinguishable from one another and most apparent, the synthesizers are as repetitive as they are bleak.

All of this combines to make an album that blends together into an indistinguishable blur of monotonous songs. "The Terror" carries plenty of lovely stuff to the table but, like much of the inspiration for these psychedelic endeavors, is best enjoyed in small doses.

For fans of: My Bloody Valentine, The Jesus and Mary Chain and Pink Floyd

REVIEW SCALE

5 STARS: Nearly flawless. The best of the best in its type or medium.

4 STARS: Has one or two minor flaws, but still greatly recommended.

3 STARS: Contains some major flaws. Rough around the edges but

2 STARS: Prone to minor and major flaws. Hard to recommend.

1 STAR: Plagued by many flaws both major and minor. Skip it.



NORD OF THE WEEK

TEMERARIOUS (ADJ): RECKLESSLY RASH OR BOLD.

SENTENCE: Aaron, in a temerarious funk, pulled together his 30-page thesis in a span of 24 hours.

OUOTE OF THE WEEK

"FROM SMALL Beginnings come great Things."- Proverb cartoon by James Lecarpentier



REPORTER RECOMMENDS

ELECTROSWING

As a music lover, I'm always sifting online for my next musical kick. Recently, I've taken a liking to Electroswing, which is the meshing of two very distant sensibilities. It combines the music of 30's and 40's like Jazz, Big Band, Blues and more with the modern electronic genres such as House, Dubstep, etc. What I would call the steampunk of the musical world, Electroswing is one of the only genres to have the frantic singing style of swing legends in conjunction with heavy electronic beats, bass and industrial sounds. If Swing continued in popularity to the present, it would probably resemble what Electroswing is today.

The genre should appeal to those who have a fondness for the past and an excitement for the sounds of today. As a huge fan of hip-hop and rap that samples jazz, Electroswing has become my go-to listening playground this month.

Check out the playlist and song descriptions online: *reporter.rit.edu*

LIMERICK

There once was a mag called Reporter
That almost was undone by Distorter
With their press repossessed
And their staff so depressed
The mag's going monthly next quarter

STREAM OF FACTS

The Ise Grand Shrine is a Shinto shrine in Japan dedicated to the sun goddess Amaterasu. Once every 20 years, the shrine's main HALL and its relics are relocated and rebuilt on the property next to it. The former shrine's location is covered in stone until the next ceremony.

Sweet's hit song "The Ballroom Blitz" was inspired by a performance they had at the Grand HALL in Scotland, where the band was booed off STAGE and had to dodge bottles thrown from the crowd.

Playwright George Bernard Shaw titled one of his plays "Closed for Remodeling." Theater owners who were perplexed by the short turnout for the STAGE production soon realized that the way they advertised confused the PUBLIC into thinking that the theatre itself was closed for renovation. The play returned under the name Heartbreak House and has been known by that name ever since.

Since 1974, the National Council of Teachers of English has given out the Double Speak Award to a PUBLIC speaker that has used DECEPTIVE, evasive, confusing or self-centered language. Winners include the likes of Glen Beck, George W. Bush and NASA, among others.

A false friend is a **DECEPTIVE** word in a foreign language that might resemble a word from your own but has a different meaning. Words such as the French verb demander, which means to ask a question rather than to **DEMAND** an item, are often confused.

In 1996, a man in New Zealand stormed a radio station with a bomb and held the manager hostage. His only <code>DEMAND</code> was for the Muppets' song "Rainbow Connection" to be played on air and that he be allowed to speak with listeners afterwards. Before the song was able to play or the man could detonate his bomb, the police nabbed the man. The bomb was found to be a fake. \blacksquare

8 Leisure | 05.04.13



S'MORE

and William Hirsh | photograph by Kyle Jackson

Reporter's back again with another round of taste testing strange food combos! This time, a group of three writers took it upon themselves to try three unique s'mores recipes to get you ready for the summer. Each recipe was created with the use of a microwave but can be made by campfire as well.

DARK CHOCOLATE BACON S'MORE

How we made it:

- 1. Put dark chocolate inside marshmallow.
- 2. Place between two graham crackers.
- 3. Microwave for 15 seconds.
- 4. Place cooked bacon around or on top of marshmallow.

INITIAL IMPRESSIONS

Angela

A "hot mess." Stuffing the candy into the marshmallow only caused it to slide back out while cooking in the microwave.

Crystal

Placing the chocolate inside of the marshmallow was much more difficult than expected. The end result involved chunks of marshmallow clinging to the chocolate, ruining the appearance from the very start. To make matters worse, the oil from the bacon made the marshmallow slide off so a chocolaty goopy mess ends up on your plate that needs to be scooped back onto the cracker. Ugh.

Will

This was completely messy. Trying to wrap the bacon around the s'more was a lost cause for sure.

TEXTURE

Angela

The combination of crumbly graham cracker, crunchy bacon, gooey marshmallow, and melted chocolate with caramel was a bit odd. Double the crumbs and double the stringiness of a regular s'more.

Crvstal

Goopy+chewy+crunchy=Fail! Perhaps if the bacon had been fried, the crunchiness would have worked with the graham cracker.

Will

The inclusion of bacon was odd taking into account the other ingredients yet added an extra dimension to the s'more. Who would have thought that chewy and crisp bacon would add such a great contrasting texture to the marshmallow? It had its own eclectic quirk.

TASTE

Angela

Delightful blend of sweet and savory though not for anyone with an aversion to strong flavors. This s'more needs a drink to go with it.

Crvstal

It's salty! The dark chocolate emphasized the bacon because it wasn't as sweet as milk chocolate. Interestingly enough, the saltiness of the bacon, dark chocolate, caramel and cracker complimented the super sweetness of the marshmallow.

The chewy bacon compliments the caramel dark chocolate oh-so-well. Coupled with the sugary marshmallow, this s'more is definitely for anyone that has a craving for a salty-sweet treat! It is a tad on the salty side though so it would be wise to have some refreshments on hand.

DARK CHOCOLATE **BACON S'MORE**

Angela: 4/5 Crystal: 3/5

Will: 3/5 **10** Leisure | 05.04.13

PEANUT BUTTER OREO S'MORE

Angela: 1/5 Crystal: 4/5 Will: 4/5

HAWAIIAN S'MORE

Angela: 2/5 Crystal: 2/5 Will: 3/5

PEANUT BUTTER OREO S'MORE

How we made it:

- 1. Separate Oreo cookie.
- 2. Spread peanut butter on crème side of cookie.
- Place marshmallow on top.
- Microwave and top with other Oreo Cookie.

INITIAL IMPRESSIONS

Angela

This s'more won the award for leaking the most all over the plate. First thought: "Crap, I have to eat this."

Crvstal

Oh God. Marshmallows and oils do not work well together.

The peanut butter made my marshmallow slip off, almost as if they had opposing polarities.

Angela

TEXTURE

The marshmallow seemed...overcooked. It took on the consistency of used chewing gum, coated in grease from the peanut butter. Everything became slimy. And using the Oreo cookies instead of graham crackers made this s'more too crunchy for my liking.

Crystal

The molten marshmallow mess was melting everywhere. You'd take a bite and this string of marshmallow unfurls, sticking to fingers, the plate everything!

Will

Be careful when eating this s'more. While tasty, it sort of imploded on itself and went all over my plate. The marshmallows solidified a little, having this gummy, spaghetti texture. It was probably the most unwieldy s'more of the bunch.

Angela

TASTE

The addition of the Oreo crème was nice. The peanut butter and marshmallow went together harmoniously. In retrospect, though, I would have preferred graham crackers to the Oreo cookie outer shell.

Crystal

Ah, chocolate and peanut butter, how I missed you! The Oreo filling and marshmallow combined perfectly into a sweet piece of paradise. Paired with the Oreo cookie and peanut butter, this s'more made for one formidable confection!

Will

The peanut butter and marshmallows melded extremely well with the Oreo crème! The taste was fairly close to the peanut butter found in Girl Scout Tag-along cookies.

HAWAIIAN S'MORE

How we made it:

- 1. Split pineapple ring in half.
- 2. Place between two graham crackers.
- **3.** Place ham on top of pineapple, followed by marshmallow.
- **4.** Microwave for 15 seconds and place other graham

INITIAL IMPRESSIONS

Angela

Hesitant. Deli meat on a s'more? The ham actually smelled like bacon though, which was slightly reassuring. It's deceptively normal. Nothing leaking out. A very neat, clean and easy-to-consume s'more.

A Hawaiian sandwich? The s'more was very compliant, remained standing on its own and almost looked a little inviting.

Like the pizza right? For such a weird mesh of ingredients, this one actually came out rather normal looking. Taste buds away!

TEXTURE

Angela Soggy graham cracker, cold pineapple

and hot ham? Ew. Easier to chew than the Oreo s'more though

Crystal

Stable. It's not falling apart, the marshmallow is not trying to eat my hands, eating it wasn't a struggle and that's to be appreciated.

Will

Easy to eat. Some may find it better as the ham isn't as chewy the bacon. The best quality of this s'more is the graham cracker. When eaten with the pineapple it sort of makes it damp, giving it a sort of pie crust texture to it. Great for lovers of soggy cereal or those with a penchant for dipping cookies in milk!

Angela

TASTE

The flavors were harmonious. The ham and pineapple worked well together as a classic combo, but the marshmallow's sweetness surprisingly took a backseat.

Crystal

The first bite resulted in an oddly wonderful mix of pineapple juice and graham cracker. The sweet and sour combo certainly offers the courage needed to continue exploring this bizarre idea. I couldn't detect the ham for a while and then there was too much of it compared to the other ingredients. It took a while to perfect the ratio of pineapple to ham per typical s'more. Unfortunately, the combination of flavors is tiring after a few initial bites.

Will

It's hard to make heads or tails of the this s'more. No matter how many bites I took, I would always have either pineapple and marshmallow or just ham and marshmallow. This quality was interesting but left me wanting a more uniform taste. I will say that the pineapple and marshmallow went surprisingly well together. R

ANONYMOUS PERSPECTIVE: WHY WE LIKE BUT DISTRUST ANONYMITY

by Angela Freeman | illustration by Elisa Plance



"Anonymity is really one of the hallmarks the internet's biggest strengths," said Patrick Scanlon, chairman of the Department of Communications at RIT. Websites that highlight tend to provoke strong reactions from their

A brief survey of RIT students revealed mixed the consequence-free conversation atmosphere

BEING ANONYMOUS

Increased capacity for reporting and sincerity sans embarrassment is a frequently cited benefit of internet anonymity. Michal Ostaszewski, a second year Chemical Engineering major commented, "I think people choose to be anonymous because it makes them feel like they have more freedom to say what they want. They can post whatever they want without fear of repercussions because it can't be connected back to them."

When students were randomly surveyed about online avenues for anonymity, such as RIT Crushes and RIT Compliments, one male student responded: "I think they're pretty cool. Nowadays, for whatever reason, it isn't cool to be sincere with someone. It's a really nice thing to do but it's hard to just go out and do it." He went on to say that spontaneous interactions with strangers in person are often met with skepticism, and so people become afraid of coming across as awkward, or sending the wrong message. While impulsively walking up to a stranger to compliment his attire or hairstyle, for example, is socially acceptable, it is not always perceived as having an innocent or harmless intent.

Chad Krohn, a fourth year Packaging Science major, also cited one's fear of openly acting upon their emotions as the primary reason that internet users choose to hide their identities when communicating with others. "If something they say is taken the wrong way," Krohn said, "they don't have to own up to their response."

Several anonymous student sources likened the potential repercussions of total honesty to "whiplash" and praised identity-hiding options over the internet for their ability to protect web users. Personal online accounts and profile

pages often allow users to select whatever exact degree of anonymity they desire, while options for online avatars and pseudonym usernames abound as ways to hide both face and name. A student source commented. someone different. Someone that maybe you'd like to be but aren't ready to bet your real life on yet. You can just try it with an expendable username. If it goes well, keep

"People choose to be anonymous because it makes them feel like they have more freedom to say what they want. They can post whatever they want without fear of repercussions because Americans feel distrustful of information on it can't be connected back to them."

OTHERS' ANONYMITY

Not all RIT students, however, possess an appreciation, or even an amused tolerance, for usage of anonymous websites to communicate crushes, compliments, and stories. One female student pointed out flaws inherent to anonymous interaction, using RIT Crushes as an example. "I think it's a nice gesture, to know that someone is attracted to you. Oddly, though, unless the person mentions who it is, how in the world will the people ever have a connection? That is where it is flawed." Another student, however, displayed contempt for the 'drama' that ensues from anonymity in social media.

Facebook's Honesty Box, an optional profile addition launched in 2007, sought to create a specific place for anonymity

by allowing users to give compliments, confess crushes, or confront others without revealing more than their own gender. Not long afterward, however, its use became a concern in the fight to end cyber-bullying, "The internet is just a good place to try being and the application quickly faded out of both popularity and use.

> Anonymity-promoting websites continuously spark the question of whether or not truthfulness is being maintained by their users. Trolling — the act of deliberately baiting others with controversial remarks or actions online — is a frequent occurrence when anonymity is presented as an option in internet forums. Because these bids for attention are a recurring issue online, people take their accuracy with a grain of salt.

Many people hold an inherent mistrust for anonymous sources as opposed to openly named ones because they are unable to gauge the credibility of the anonymous person posting. In the words of Jeff Hancock, a communications professor at Cornell University who studies deception and information technology, "Most people believe that given the opportunity, everything else equal, people will lie more online than they would face to face." In a recent survey conducted by Harris Interactive and published by the Huffington Post, it was revealed that approximately 98 percent of

"The internet invites a lot of anonymity, but people are actually pretty uncomfortable with the concept," said Scanlon. "People want to know who the communicator is and have the assumption that [anonymous practices] are unethical."

ACCEPTING ANONYMITY

Attitudes of suspicion have contributed have to be a bad thing." to the "mixed reviews," so to speak, that anonymous forums encounter on a regular basis. In reality, though, there are countless everyday examples of anonymous authors in action that people rarely give a second thought.

Scanlon has personal experience with anonymity over the internet due to his work as a ghostwriter — an uncredited author who sells work to other sources for publication. Anonymity in this case becomes linked with invisibility, as many sources of information are created though ghostwriters or

crowdsourcing, a method by which multiple writers collaborate on a piece.

"Ghostwriting is something that's been around for a long time," Scanlon said, although it often goes unnoticed. "Anonymous authors are already pretty commonplace." As an example, Scanlon referenced official statements from politicians that were more than likely written by an anonymous team of writers. And on a more everyday level, "Every time someone buys a greeting card, they are hiring a ghostwriter."

"Most people believe that given the opportunity, everything else equal, people will lie more online than they would face to face."

In his analysis of the anonymity trend, Scanlon commented that future generations are going to have to grow up with increasing levels of ghostwriting present in the media. "We already rely on people we don't know for information", Scanlon pointed out, calling it "unrealistic" to attribute all information to the people that present it.

Overall, Scanlon is "optimistic" on the topic of anonymity's acceptance in modern media use — although he realizes that his view is not shared by many. Scanlon believes, "We all use ghosts." But, as he also stated, "It doesn't

Rochester Anonymous:

A CLOSER LOOK AT

RIT'S FACEBOOK PAGES

by Ali Coladonato | illustration by Stevie Thompson



Recently, the RIT community has seen an exponential growth in anonymous pages dedicated to complimenting, admiring and laughing with (or in some cases at) fellow students. Each has its own focus and each has pros and cons both for the readers and those who run the pages.

WHERE IT ALL STARTED

RIT Compliments was among the first anonymous pages to garner attention at RIT, followed by RIT Confessions, Overheard at RIT and RIT Crushes as some of the more popular. Lesser known pages have also followed in the wake of the trend, including RIT Missed Connections, RIT Shoes, You Know You Go to RIT When... and RIT Rage.

To date, RIT Confessions is the most popular of these pages with over 4,000 likes. The page was inspired by the University of California Santa Barbara's Confessions page, which currently has over 10,000 likes. RIT's other pages have similar origins, with RIT Crushes stemming from an initiative by Queen's University

Hamilton College, a small liberal arts school located in central New York, was one of the first colleges to adopt the idea of these anonymous Facebook pages. In speaking with one of the two co-administrators of the page, who wished to remain anonymous, she described how people with no association to Hamilton

will message her complimenting their Compliments page and saying how it has helped their impression of the college.

These and other pages have become prominent in many college and even high school communities. And with a large and creative enough population, there is near endless material to work with.

RUNNING A PAGE

Each page is run by one or two administrators who set their own guidelines as to what will and will not be posted. According to their Facebook page, RIT Crushes promises to remove any post that makes someone uncomfortable, but will largely accept most submissions. RIT Confessions has to be more discerning as to what will and will not be posted, and has made their general guidelines public. As written on their Facebook page, the inclusion of personal information, incomprehensibility or simply not being a confession are all reasons why an individual submission might not be put up on the page.

In an interview in which the RIT Confessions administrator chose to remain anonymous, he elaborated on these rules: "The definition of a confession is it's something about you, and something that you feel embarrassed or guilty about, not 'oh I donated 300 dollars anonymously."

Another constant problem is intelligibility. Many submissions are received that cannot be understood, though the administrator has said that he will make minor corrections if the content itself is worth it. "If it's bad I can correct it. But I do get a lot that I can't read. They're legitimately not legible even in electronic form."

Should the confession be obviously about a well-recognized student, it won't be included. The administrator does this to keep any type of bullying or directed hostility from entering the page. In addition to some of these more obvious

rules, the administrator has since stated in the page's 'about' section that a confession might not be posted if, for example, "it's about masturbating (we get too many... seriously...)." There is one other confession he gets at least one a day: "'I look through RIT Crushes and hope to see my name.' That's not a confession."

As for the content of the posts, the administrator recognizes that people are generally more intrigued by funny posts than sad ones. However, he has also noted that they don't post the confessions that are "depressing" as often, "Not that they aren't valid — some are funny, but they always bring it back to 'because of RIT."

While some might say that these rules are keeping many funny posts from being put on the page, the administrator recognizes the problems that could arise from simply allowing everything to get through. "[If I were to accept all posts], in that case I'd simply automate it. But once people realized that was what was happening they'd lose interest or really start messing with it."

At this moment in time, he believes that he posts roughly one in ten submissions, sometimes even as few as one in fifteen whereas, when the page was first created, about a quarter of the submissions were posted on the page. There has been a decrease in submissions according to the administrator, recalling that the page would get up to 50 submissions in a single day when the page was first gaining recognition. Now it's down to about three a day.

SUCCESS

There is no question as to whether these anonymous pages are successful. Many students, as well as alumni, have found the pages enjoyable, and as the administrator said, "it's nothing more than entertainment." Hamilton's administrator has gotten a more positive idea of her campus from running the site as well. "I've found there are so many people I don't

know but have gotten impressions of from compliments and it makes me excited to meet and reach out to more people on campus."

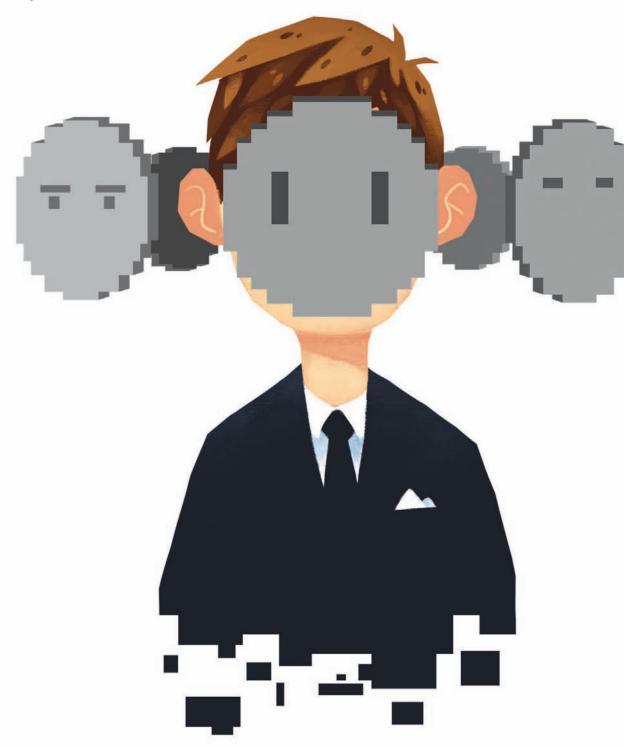
The RIT Confessions administrator has gotten a lot of enjoyment out of running the page too, citing his favorite part as "the satisfaction that I get to let other people enjoy it, or whatever [they] get out of it. It's like a giving thing, not power... I'm just that invisible god hand hitting submit." However, his second favorite part is seeing the messages from the people who don't read the information on how to submit their confessions. He laughed, "It's fun to message them back. I've gotten a few that ask, 'so how is this anonymous, you can see my name."

When asked about why she believes these anonymous pages are so popular, the Hamilton Compliments administrator cited the difficulty of complimenting someone face to face. The administrator of RIT Confessions pointed to both the anonymity and the immediate response possible when posting to the pages. "People get to see what other's reactions are, like 'Oh you're not an awful person' or 'oh eff that guy' or 'Hey if you need a friend,' that makes someone feel great. Whether you post good or bad you get to see what people think."

For many, these pages can be a fun way to express themselves and their thoughts to the RIT community at large, and to see who is like-minded or feels similarly. These pages, each in their own unique way, bring the community together.

ANONYMITY'S PROGRESSION

by **David Utt** with contributions by **Nicole Howley** illustration by **Ethan Thornton**



"It's not who I am underneath. It's what I do that defines me." In the 2005 film "Batman Begins" Bruce Wayne (Batman) discloses to his longtime friend his explanation for not revealing his identity. Batman, along with other superheroes. chooses to separate his identity from his actions because he does not want to have his afterhours activities affect his daily life. For the rest of us. the internet provides the same option for anonymity as the possibilities for separation between our online persona and our daily lives continues to expand.

Like those comic book heroes, there are many people who perform radical tasks and use anonymity to avoid persecution. Now with the computer generation, the ability to share more information more quickly and easily has led to new methods of anonymity, even if the purpose remains unchanged.

"Saying whatever you like, I think, is powerful. Doing whatever you like is now crossing the line"

OF THE PAST

If someone back before the computer era wanted to declare something radical, they usually used a false name. One of the earliest examples of this can be found in the early age of our country. In 1776, Thomas Paine, a political activist, author and revolutionary created the pamphlet "Common Sense," a 48-page script giving the argument that America should separate itself from the British and becomes its own nation.

Paine knew that an action like this would immediately be met with the reaction of a quick execution, so instead of using his own name he used anonymity to his advantage. The pamphlet, which was "written by an Englishman," did two profound things. The first is that it allowed people to focus on the facts. Additionally, because Paine was anonymous, he could continue to work on documenting ideas for shaping our nation without the complete fear of the militia knocking down his door.

About 200 years later, Mark Felt, former associate director of the FBI, became one of the most important people in the world of anonymity through journalism. Despite his role in history, he is better known by his alias, Deep Throat. During the Watergate Scandal, where President Richard Nixon was accused of abusing presidential powers, Mark Felt, under the pseudonym Deep Throat, provided information about the illicit actives being conducted to journalists Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein. In spite of fear of persecution, political suicide, jail time or the very real possibility of death he still acted against the president. To limit the possibly of those repercussions, Mark Felt used an alias to make sure that the information would not be traced

From the court invoking witness protection rights to a priest's responsibility to protect confessions, anonymity has been built into our society and its governing rules. It is pretty simple to say that there are some things we do that are better left unsaid. On a larger scale, anonymity plays an important role in the creation of new radical ideas.

OF THE PRESENT

Today, anonymity can play a similar role; however, it can also take a variety of different forms — especially given the range of forums, social networking sites and Facebook pages that encourage anonymity's use.

Whether proposing radical ideas or making unpopular statements, the growing interconnectedness of the world through the internet makes it easier for the information people share to affect both their social and professional futures. With the use of anonymity, people can keep some of the information that they share separate from their reputation and from both their lives online and in the real world. This freedom comes with the confidence and the ability to be more open and honest.

However, this freedom can also lead to dishonesty in the information people share. From false social media profiles to cyberbullying to trolling, the ability to maintain anonymity becomes less appealing and some of the reasons people choose to remain anonymous can start to appear quite petty. But even if we wish others would stop abusing their anonymity, it seems like a privilege and a freedom that few are willing to give up themselves. Many choose to hide what they post now in fear of persecution even if it's on a different level than those in the past, e.g. Thomas Paine and Deep Throat. That fear of being persecuted and having our entire lives defined by a single moment or action drives the desire for anonymity.

In a 2010 TED talk, Christopher "moot" Poole, creator of the forum site 4Chan, finds that, "[Using anonymity and] saying whatever you like, I think, is powerful. Doing whatever you like is now crossing the line. But I think it's important to have these places." These sites allow people to express themselves and their views of the world without fear of affecting their future. This purpose for anonymity appears consistent throughout history and, from looking at modern trends, seems unchangeable.

PEOPLE WHO STAND OUT

by Madelaine Britt and Nicole Howley | photographs by John Foster

You've got to admit, people at RIT stand out. And even within our ranks, there are people who are well known for anything from their unicycle to their daily donning of a My Little Pony hat.

We interviewed some of the people on campus who caught our eye for similar reasons to find out more about their motivation and style. Whether they stand out because of their uncommon hobby, their mode of transportation or their desire to dance, these people have the confidence to do something different from the rest.



THE FORAGER



THE RIDER



THE DANCER

THE FORAGER

"I didn't have a car at that point. I wanted to eat a salad and the grocery store was like miles away and then the woods are right next to me," says fourth year Industrial Design major John Zakrzewski. Instead of buying salad that day, Zakrzewski went into the woods by his apartment and found ingredients there instead. "It's free and better for you" says Zakrzewski.

Zakrzewski started scavenging when he was twelve but recently started searching for pure, natural food more regularly. "I go mushroom hunting a lot, fishing, a little bit of hunting," says Zakrzewski. "I'm kind of interested in being able to survive in the wilderness."

For the moment, Zakrzewski doesn't scavenge enough food from the woods alone but can enjoy a free salad about once a week. He predicts that as the weather gets better, he will be able to find more edible food.

Despite scavenging more often than most, Zakrzewski still believes that he has more to learn. "I know enough to be able to pick berries and know which mushrooms are good and how to make a salad but I'm still passing by a lot of good edible stuff."

He started learning more about scavenging during his time in the Boy Scouts, but also gained some practice while mushroom hunting on family trips to Poland and from books on the topic. However, he cautions that illustrations and pictures of the plants are not always clear enough. "Certain plants, they will stick out like a sore thumb and you can recognize them but other plants, they are kind of iffy if they are young."

His suggestion: "I would definitely go out with a guide, someone who knows." Zakrzewski hopes to explore the woods with an expert so he can find more of the foods nature has to offer him as well.

"I think it's kind of ridiculous that people go to school for so many years and learn all sorts of stuff but as soon as you put them in the woods or in a field, they'll starve to death but be completely surrounded by food," says Zakrzewski. "I think it's important to know."

THE RIDER

As the skies clear and the campus quads become a bit more crowded, RIT students start to see the university in full spring. Yet flying kites riding the breeze, bandana-wearing zombies and sunbathing studiers are not the only things worth noticing on the quarter mile. You might just find a certain double-decker bike catching your eye and its owner, maker and rider — fourth year Industrial Design major Dave Buchanan — doesn't mind.

"It does get a lot of attention. The girls seem to love it, for some reason. I get a lot of 'I Love You's and 'Will you marry me?'" says Buchanan.

Made out of two stacked bike frames welded together, the monumental, dualistic bike started out as a fun project between Buchanan and his roommate and has since escalated to become a unique form of transportation. People wonder how he gets on and off his bike and whether it's possible to stop. But, according to him, it's fairly easy to ride with getting on top being the biggest challenge.

After that, Buchanan says it isn't hard to ride at all; it's like any other bicycle. The main difference is the responses he receives when riding

"When I'm on my bike I get a lot of compliments. I get some hate too sometimes," says Buchanan. "Today I was riding to class and somebody called me a damn hipster and I just had to laugh out loud. Any response is a good response, I guess."

Despite mixed reviews, Buchanan seems confident in his creation and is looking to the future of stacked bikes. Even now, he is busy working on a second. For the moment, however, his two story bike is just a way to get to class.

Buchanan, scheduled to graduate this year, says that he will continue to ride his bike until then. "There's no reason to stop," says Buchanan. And fans of his double-decker may find no good reason either.

THE DANCER

"I don't always dance between classes but generally speaking I often feel inclined to," says first year Computer Science major Ben Walton. Despite describing himself as shy, Walton is pretty well known around campus for his modern improvisational dancing to and from class on the Ouarter Mile.

"I think at the beginning of the year, I was looking for opportunities to dance here at RIT because I did not want to lose that aspect of my life," says Walton. "So I kind of just found that I could dance on my own on campus and in that way I would never have less dance then I wanted to."

Walton first discovered his passion for dance in middle school and attended all of the social dances he could. He believes that his experiences at those dances contributed to his confidence in dancing today. "When I first learned that I could dance, it was in front of other people so that probably has something to do with it"

Once he reached high school, Walton began taking modern dance classes, which has been his favorite dance style ever since. "I definitely feel that my dance style is rooted there."

The improvisational aspect of his dancing is part of what gains attention too. "When I'm at my best in dancing, I'm never thinking about what I'm going to be doing in a couple of seconds," says Walton. "I'm thinking about what I can be doing right now to make this more interesting."

Since coming to RIT, his dancing has inspired some of the posts on RIT's anonymous Facebook pages including RIT Crushes. "I have changed people's outlooks on how weird it really is," says Walton. "I've come to accept that some people might think it's weird but whatever. And other people are actually really interested in it and because of that, I have an obligation to continue."

Since he started dancing at RIT, Walton reports seeing other people dancing on the Quarter Mile as well which he finds to be pretty cool. And that's part of the goal. "I think that part of my job is to surprise them with who I am," says Walton. "And then that might affect their day – hopefully positively – or their outlook on what people can do."

TIGERS LEARN TO BE MORE FIERCE

by Kayla Emerson | illustration by Katty Dayton



"My complements to [the RIT Women's Hockey team]; they did a great job. Any given night that we played, of the five games, those games could have gone the other way. We understand that, we respect that and I think they're a great addition to our league," said Paul Flanagan, Head Coach of Syracuse Women's Hockey team, who defeated RIT this year in the semifinals. Praise and respect from rivals is difficult to earn, but RIT's Women's Hockey team has worked hard for it.

THE DECISION TO TRANSISITION

This past hockey season, the RIT Women's Hockey team transitioned from playing in Division III, a less competitive group of schools, to Division I, made up of the top college teams in the nation. RIT Athletic Director Lou Spiotti said this transition was intended to complement the transition of the Men's team to Division I in 2005, since "both of them deserve to be there." He said having both teams at the Division I level "was about gender equity, and some of it was about positioning RIT, our athletics and our hockey programs for bigger and better things."

But not the whole transition went according to RIT's original plan. Ordinarily, when a team transitions to a higher division, there is a year of independent play, where the team belongs to neither division. However, when Niagara University disbanded their women's hockey program last year, a spot opened in the College Hockey America (CHA) conference. The Tigers, who were looking to join this conference after a year of independent play, had an opportunity to move into the CHA immediately.

The Tigers jumped feet first into a new, tougher division with more competitive teams that they had never played against before. They played Niagara's planned games, a more grueling schedule than the team was used to in Division III. But the quick move did have its advantages: "It actually worked out in our favor," said RIT Women's Hockey Head Coach Scott McDonald. "We were eligible for playoffs right away. That was a huge bonus for us." Usually, an independent, transitioning team would not participate in conference playoffs. The only question was: Would the Tigers make it that far?

GROWTH DURING THE SEASON

Flanagan did not know what to expect when facing the Tigers, but he was sure of one thing: "First and foremost, I felt that RIT had a real good sense of how to win — because that's about all they did the previous two or three years. Whether that's DI or DIII, if you know how to win and you have that culture in your locker room, that's a huge bonus."

The RIT players were not initially sure what to expect, either. Ali Binnington, second year Finance major and Tigers goaltender, said, "I was definitely nervous that I didn't really know what to expect. We all knew we were transitioning and everything, but we weren't really sure how different it would be." For the fans that watched the Tigers' first minutes in Division I, the scene is a painful memory: two goals scored against RIT in just 18 seconds. Tigers forward and first year University Studies major Katie Hubert recalled, "It was a huge wake-up call with our first game against Mercyhurst. The speed was just crazy."

The Tigers had tapes of Division I opponents to help them prepare for the season, but they had never experienced the size, speed or intensity of Division I play firsthand. The players took this as an opportunity for growth and improvement. Fourth year Biology major and former captain Tenecia Hiller watched her team rise to a higher level of play this past season. "Especially as a captain, you can see that the girls are growing, the team is growing. As the year went on, our chemistry just got so much better, especially with us getting used to the speed and all of that too. I think we got a lot stronger."

Along the way, RIT gathered some big wins. In January, the Lady Tigers traveled to Moon Township, Pa. to face Robert Morris University, the defending CHA champions. RIT proceeded to sweep the weekend series, winning both games 2-1. Binnington said, "I think that was the first time I really realized that we did belong at this level, and we were starting to develop to play with those teams."

Despite — or perhaps because of — the unique challenge of the season, RIT's coaches and players alike enjoyed the experience of learning how to play against new teams. "Throughout the entire season, there wasn't a point really where we were upset with our play," said Hubert. "That really helped us continue to grow, knowing that we're moving in a positive direction." The Tigers ended the season with a record of 16-16-1.

TO THE PLAYOFFS AND BEYOND

After the regular season had finished, the Lady Tigers won their first two playoff games against the newly-formed Penn State team. They then lost narrowly to Syracuse in the semifinal game. The Tigers did not win the tournament, but they definitely exceeded expectations. Hiller said, "We knew people thought of us as the underdog. But it's kind of fun coming in as the underdog, because then you can prove everyone wrong. I feel like we did that, too."

The other coaches in the league are looking forward to the battles that RIT will have for them next season. Mercyhurst Women's Hockey Head Coach Michael Sisti said, "I know just from the men's side, our team has had some great rivalries with RIT and with the proximity of the team and the schools, it's just nice to have [the RIT Women's Hockey team] added to the league. It should be a real good, healthy rivalry over the years." Despite not losing to RIT once, Sisti added, "I think they did a great job, we're glad to have them in the league, and we look forward to some great competition down the road."

Many RIT players also have high expectations for next season. Second year University Studies major and captain-elect Celeste Brown expects big things from her team next year: "I definitely think we have the ability to win our conference. I think we shouldn't set our goals any lower than that."

20 Sports | 05.04.13

3 STARS ★★★



BRIAN BRAZEE

by Steven Markowitz | photograph by Max Hautaniemi

"If I can be the leader that brings us all together, that's going to go way further than what my batting average is or how many hits I have," said Brian Brazee, fourth year Finance major and captain of the Men's Baseball team.

Brazee has been playing baseball since the age of eight. When he joined the RIT team as a freshman, only about 10 players showed up to off-season practices. However, the team has made great strides from that point. Now, the group consistently receives full attendance, and for the first time the men walked away from their annual, seasonopening trip to Florida with a winning record of 4-2.

For the past two years Brazee has served as team captain. His primary responsibilities include running the pre-season training program and mentoring underclassmen, just as the upperclassmen did for him when he entered the Institute. Brazee wants new students to feel they can approach him about any subject, not just baseball, but also other problems such as relationships and academics. With his personal connections to his team members, Brazee says he leads the men to work as a unit, as opposed to 28 individuals.

While Brazee said that balancing school and baseball can get hectic during the spring when the team has doubleheaders every weekend, it is worth it to experience "the grind of the season," which he describes as the sensation of going through the best and the worst every week with loyal teammates. Brazee loves every bit of the experience: building comradery, watching the underclassmen grow and realize their potential, putting on the uniform and pretending to be famous Major League

"The relationships you make with guys you've been on the team with, it's something that can't be replaced," said Brazee. "The friendships I've made, that will be the one thing I take away from RIT."

After graduation, Brazee plans to work for M&T Bank and play in a competitive summer league in Buffalo. He is considering coaching baseball someday.



captain Elliott Cowburn says with a wry smile. "Both of my parents are from England, so of course soccer was a big deal in our family."

Cowburn stands at 6 foot 3, considerably taller than the average soccer player. "Because of my size, I wanted to play something more physical," Cowburn explained. "One day I went to a friend's house and saw him messing around with a lacrosse stick. The rest is history."

The Men's Lacrosse team welcomes freshman in the "Fall Ball" with physical tests followed by off-season fitness challenges led by senior captains. In January's pre-season the team is swept

May. "It is difficult to organize your time," Cowburn says, "I take things on a day-byday or week-by-week basis."

The team is held together with the mindset, "Make today count!" and a close-knit atmosphere that gives them strength during Head Coach Jake Coon's "Hell Days." "Coach says, 'What are you willing to do today to differentiate yourself from any other team?" Cowburn explains that on rough days he thinks back on the loss of his teammate Willie Rago, who passed away Sep, 15, 2010 after a battle with leukemia. "I always wear this wristband with his name on it to remind myself that we just want to make him proud."

college, a multitude of RIT alumni have entered into professional teams. Rather than pursue a graduate degree or a career in lacrosse, however, Cowburn wishes to do humanitarian work abroad. "I'm really interested in the organization Fields of Growth which works to bring the sport of lacrosse to African orphans."

In May, Cowburn will be ready to walk off the field upon his graduation with this thought: "Knowing that I've created a mentality at RIT lacrosse — to establish a close knit atmosphere with other players and help them both on and off the field — is amazing."



SHELBY VALKIENER

by Alyssa Jackson | photograph by Josh Barber

Shelby Vakiener, fourth year Civil Engineering student, is an involved athlete on two RIT sports teams: soccer and lacrosse. She began her lacrosse career in second grade when her parents signed her up for a summer camp.

Vakiener says she loves the atmosphere of her team and the fact that they all hang out together. Her best friends are on the lacrosse and soccer teams here at RIT and she has enjoyed the bonds she has made with her fellow lacrosse players.

"You could walk into the locker room at any time of the day and there are always some of us hanging out. There's always food too," Vakiener says with a smile.

She says her favorite moment in lacrosse was during her senior year of high school when her lacrosse team from Fairport, NY made it as one of the final four teams of the state.

This will be Vakiener's last year on the lacrosse team, where she played midfield, despite the fact that she will not graduate until spring of 2014. This is a result of the rule that members of sports teams can only play for four years, even though Vakiener is enrolled in a fiveyear program. Because of this she plans on coaching a lacrosse team next season and playing her last year of soccer in the fall.

After graduation, Vakiener hopes to combine her major and her love of sport. "My ideal job would be to design sports stadiums and fields," Vakiener says.

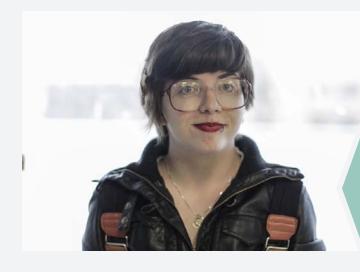
Vakiener retires her lacrosse stick with the school record for the most goals in a single game, now nine after surpassing the 2004 record held by Kelly Martin, and the career record of 230 goals total. She was recognized as the 2012 Liberty League Player of the Year. R

WORD ON THE STREET

"MAKE A CONFESSION ABOUT ANYTHING"

"I've always wanted to eat a worm off the Ouarter Mile."

Jared Rube - fourth year Photojournalism





"I held hands, under the stall doors, with my best friend while pooping."

Hillary Bosy - second year Graphic Design



"I've been called a nympho and I don't always deny it."

Carolina Rago - second year Graphic Design



"I set my brother's bed on fire and blamed it on him ... my parents still believe me.

Samuel Echefu - third year

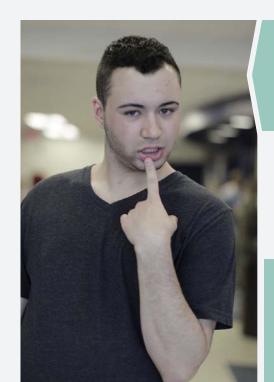
"I let my Magic 8 Ball make important life



"I'm a born again virgin." Alex Bohn - fourth year Advertising Photo

"I'm the reason."

Kelsey Wagner - fourth year Advertising Photo



"I gave a bj in my roommate's chair."

Anthony Bizzarro - first year Interpreting



"I once locked my principal in his office with Gorilla Glue."

Karen Lh - fourth year Advertising Photo





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FROM THE GIRL WITH THE PURPLE SPIKED BACKPACK

by Nicole Howley | photograph by Seth Abel

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or some reason, people are nice.

A few months ago, there was a surge of this niceness and there were three posts about me on some of the anonymous RIT Facebook pages. The first was on the RIT Complements page and that was followed by another two on RIT Crushes. One of the crush writers submitted the message, "I'd sometimes see this girl in the tunnels with the purple spiked backpack. I don't know, but I have a gut feeling and I'd like to get to know her." I am the girl with the spiked backpack, and I'm sorry but the feeling is not reciprocated.

Although posts on RIT Crushes and other similar pages can be flattering, I really don't want to be the subject of them. I'm not really interested in being with someone that I've never actually talked to.

Now, I totally love dating and flirting and meeting people but I am not interested in making the first move on someone who has told me that they are interested in me anonymously. And that's part of where my frustration with these posts stems from. By posting on these pages, a conversation has been started that puts the ball in the crush's corner. The individual reached out to their crush, said the first thing and now, if we follow social norms, the crush is supposed to respond.

Yet even before meeting, the balance between the crush and anonymous poster is flawed. The reason is that, according to the Interpretative and Interaction Communication theory, communication can be symmetrical or complementary. As the website Communication Theory states, "Symmetrical interaction between communicators is grounded on equal power and complementary interaction between communicators is grounded on differences in power."

Posting about someone on one of the RIT anonymous pages is in the complementary interaction category. A person posting on one of these anonymous pages may or may not receive some kind of feedback from the subject of the post, but the crush will definitely not have any information about the anonymous person. All this knowledge is completely one-sided. Generally speaking, it is difficult to have an effective one-sided conversation.

Some of the people who have been posted about on RIT Crushes seem to be flattered and happy for the attention. In this case, the necessary communication balance between complementary and symmetrical isn't off. But for others, including myself, these posts can lead to communication conflict including discomfort and embarrassment.

However, even though either response is possible, I still am not a fan of the posts on these pages. You could argue that maybe the people posting aren't looking for any communication. Maybe they were expressing their feelings without expecting a response; but that does not change the fact that they are

hoping for one. According to the Expectancy Value Model communication theory, people behave in a way that they believe will lead them closer to their goals. They have expectations behind their actions and that's part of their motivation for executing them. They posted for a reason and they know it.

Now that the ball is in my court, I have no expectations or motivation to respond. I might expect the person to see me more as an object of their affection rather than as an individual. Or that they might be obsessive before we have even met. Or any variety of unpleasant possibilities. If I don't know who the person is, it is more difficult for me to come up with more positive and motivational expectations.

Still people have unrequited love all the time. According to a New York Times article from 1993, people report falling into an unrequited feeling of love on average once a year. But the problem with the RIT Crushes page is that many people are choosing to stay there instead of approaching the person of interest and seeing if things could actually work out. Don't do that to yourself and please don't tease your person of interest with anonymous posts. Spread the love. And most importantly, spread it into the real world outside of Facebook, too.







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compiled by Michelle Spoto illustration by Allison Conte

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TUESDAY, 11:39 a.m.

(from text)

Taking shots during my 10 a.m. business class as part of a "sales presentation" ... yep, it's week eight.

WEDNESDAY, 2:00 a.m.

(from text)

Sidenote, "RIT Crushes" is the epitome of creepy Facebook groups. Not flattering at all to see my name appear on it. Just creepy.

THURSDAY, 4:09 p.m.



THURSDAY, 12:55 p.m. (from text)

The wind today is like an eager 18 year old male ... working super hard to try to get my clothes off.

I got [inflate-a-slapped] by the wacky waving inflatable arm flailing tube man today. It's okay though, I'm pretty sure that's how he shows love.

SATURDAY, 2:58 p.m.

(from text)

Is it just me, or does Destler's face always look like Grumpy Cat?



THURSDAY, 6:50 p.m.

(from text)

It was so nice of someone to ask if I needed help finding something on campus during yesterday's open house ... Too bad I'm a third year.



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