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# REPORTER

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



OPPOSITES **DON'T**  
**Attract?**

The dating research of one professor says so.

See page **16**

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## UP IN SMOKE

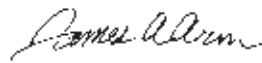
Late last week several members of the administration met with the Student Government Senate to discuss a proposed change to RIT's smoking policy. (see "SG Update" pg. 7.) The new policy would ban outright all smoking on campus, with the possible exception of a few of the more remote parking lots. While it's easy to see where the administration is coming with this one, I can't say it's a decision I support.

The decision to smoke is a personal one, and while it is not one that I have a great deal of respect for, I do not believe that it should be the non-smoking majority's prerogative to ban the activity wholesale. Yes, it is frustrating to have to walk through a cloud of smoke to get into the library, but there has to be a solution to that problem that does not unduly punish those who choose to smoke. In this particular situation the Institute has decided to use a hatchet to remove a splinter — opting for a sweeping ban when a gentler, more reasoned approach could have just as much success, without alienating a substantial portion of the RIT population.

The foundations for such an approach are already in place in the residential areas of campus. According to the current smoking policy, smoking is prohibited within 25 feet of any residential building. Adopting a similar policy towards the academic buildings would immediately fix the biggest problem areas that non-smokers complain about. Such a policy would effectively — or could explicitly — eliminate all smoking along the quarter mile, the most densely trafficked outdoor area of campus. This policy would also prevent arrant smoke from wafting indoors through buildings' ventilation systems and doorways.

Some will argue that a wholesale ban would be easier to enforce than this more flexible policy, citing residence advisors who anecdotally complain of constantly asking smokers to move the full 25 feet from the residence halls. These people should consider the fact that as the academic side of campus sees significantly higher foot-traffic throughout the day, enforcement of the ban would be considerably easier. And if a sneaky smoker finds a secluded, unvisited niche being a building in which to steal a few puffs, who is his smoke then offending?

As Karen Pelc, a health education coordinator and a leader behind the proposed policy change, gladly told the Senate, this proposal is just as much about convincing smokers to kick the habit as it is about clearing the air in RIT's outdoors. While I admit I see this as a valiant goal, I disagree with the means being used to achieve it. Rather than try to force change through an overbroad ban, RIT should offer incentives to students who decide to quit of their own accord. Because the adage holds true: you'll catch more bees with honey.



James A. Arn

EDITOR IN CHIEF

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*Second year Chemistry major Katie Valentine squints as “Leslie” licks her nose at the “Food, Music, Puppies” event during Freezefest, Friday, February 3. The College Activities Board brought in puppies from the Scottsville Veterinary Adoptions. photograph by Jonathan Foster*

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*cover photograph by Thomas Newton*

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# Letter to the Editor



## SO YOU CALL YOURSELF A HOCKEY FAN AT RIT? I'M CALLING MOST OF YOU OUT ON BEHALF OF THE WOMEN'S TEAM.

For the past two years, I have been at a number of the women's games, and I was STUNNED to find out that despite all of their success, they've only managed ONE full capacity crowd. During the Friday night game against Chatham, the Corner Crew was so short the band had to do the starting cheer. We didn't have the letter signs either.

Most of you have no clue what these women have gone through to just to play, and I want to relate a story about the REAL first capacity crowd they played to — in 1981.

In their second season at RIT, I found out by accident that my RA was one of the goalies on the team. I was appalled by the fact I didn't know it, and I felt bad for not supporting her, so I went to the next game. You would have thought that they had declared a ban on the game itself. There were maybe 50 RIT fans there, and the Corner Crew and Pep Band were a long way from being around. They also had to fight just to get alternating practices as ice time was at a premium due to the Genesee Figure Skating club calling the shots on ice time and late night practices were many and often.

They weren't as good as the men's team, but they really played hard and they tried. In one of the last games that season, they were tied 5-5 at the end of the third period. In one of the most blatant anti-woman moments I've ever witnessed anywhere, the ref (back then there was one ref and 2 linesman) went over to the scorer's table and attempted to end the game because "the men's team had a game to play". Oh really, and what were the women out there doing? Playing hooky? The roughly 50-100 RIT fans immediately started to protest (thank you fans!) and started an "Overtime overtime: We want overtime," chant. I personally went to the glass and yelled at the ref that if he called the game I was calling the NCAA for a Title IX violation. I almost got thrown out for that one.

What happened during all the arguing and talking was that a sellout crowd filed in and found out what was going on and quickly joined in on the chants. Soon the entire rink was filled, and LOUD — back then the rink had hanging baffles and they were swaying to the loud cheering and foot stomping. It was as loud as I've ever heard it there.

The ref finally relented and let the women play their five-minute overtime period to a sellout crowd. The women's team did not disappoint; they were totally energized by the crowd, and I don't think the puck ever got out of the other team's end as RIT scored with about 1:34 left in overtime to win it when one of our players stuffed in a rebound. I don't even remember who scored it, but I believe she also

lived on my floor as well. If you were there, you'd remember this.

The looks on their faces after the game said it all — they had never played to a crowd that large. I was happy for them that after all that time they finally got a capacity crowd.

But what has been bugging the heck out of me the last two years was to find out that their first official sellout was only after begging the fans to show up last year. You do know the games are free, don't you? It's not like you need any money to show up.

So here's my challenge to all of you so-called hockey fans at RIT: support the women's team and show up for the games. The rink wasn't even half filled for the Friday Chatham contest and you missed a heck of a game for RIT: 15-0. It was so bad I honestly think our goalies could have taken the entire night off and still won. RIT called off the dogs with over 10 minutes left in the third period and only tried to score again after a few Chatham blatant penalties and a scary injury to one of their players who looked to me like she tried to run one of our players into the boards.

Many of you may also not have noticed that the women are playing a very unbalanced schedule this year with 11 home games and 19 road games. If they go undefeated in that, can you say that you showed up and supported them? Can you say you were part of the corner crew and waved the flag and sang the national anthems? Can you say you said, "Make me a sandwich?"

This team deserves a lot better support than what they've been getting, and frankly I'm disappointed in many of you fans who show up and sell out the men's games. Make the effort and support both teams — they both deserve it. **R**

by Bruce Hartley

*Editor's Note: The opinions expressed are solely those of the author. REPORTER reserves the right to edit submissions based on content, length, grammar, spelling and style. Letters are not guaranteed publication. Submissions may be printed and reprinted in any medium. REPORTER will not run responses to letters.*

## Police Arrest Hundreds in Occupy Oakland

On Saturday, January 28, Oakland, Calif. saw one of the largest clashes to date between Occupy Oakland protestors and local police. By the end of the day, Oakland City Council Member Ignacio De La Fuente accused the protestors of engaging in “domestic terrorism” in response to various acts of vandalism and trespassing that occurred around the city. Over 400 protestors, as well as several members of the press, were arrested by the end of the night.

At various points in the day, protestors attempted to gain access to a vacant building, with the intention of turning it into a community center. A few hours later, they successfully entered the Oakland City Hall and overturned several trash bins and other objects. On all occasions, the protestors were successfully repelled by police using tear gas, rubber bullets, bean bag projectiles and flash grenades.

By the end of the day, three police officers had been injured — one received a cut to the face after being hit with a bicycle, while the other two experienced bruising. The number of injured protestors is unknown, though paramedics removed one pregnant woman from the plaza in front of City Hall after she was struck in the kidney by a police baton.



## US Sends Aircraft to Persian Gulf Despite Iran's Warnings

The U.S. has sent aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln to the Persian Gulf, despite direct threats from Iran. The U.S. claims it has no ulterior motives behind sending the carrier, pointing out that it has always maintained a presence in the Gulf.

The Abraham Lincoln is replacing the USS John C. Stennis, which departed the Gulf in late December. The Abraham Lincoln sailed through the Strait of Hormuz on Sunday, January 29, assuaging fears that it might be fired upon by Iranian forces.

Iran has threatened to close the Strait in response to the American presence, a move which would cut off much of the oil imported from the Middle East.

## Russia Threatens Veto of U.N. Resolution

For the last few weeks, the United Nations has been working on a resolution regarding the riots in Syria, which are now in their eleventh month. The resolution, among other items, calls for President Bashar al-Assad to step down and hand his power over to the U.N.

On Wednesday, February 1, long-time Syrian ally Russia announced that it would veto any proposed resolution that it found “unacceptable.” The resolution has already undergone a number of rewrites at Russia’s request, dropping a provision requiring member countries to stop selling weapons to Assad’s regime. Russia holds veto power on the U.N. Security Council, and can single-handedly stop the resolution from condemning its decades-old ally.

## Violence Worsens in Tibet

Chinese police in the province of Sichuan have had at least three conflicts with local Tibetan protestors since Saturday, January 14. At least one person has been killed in each of these shootings, and dozens more have been wounded.

The protests began when a Tibetan monk immolated himself on the streets of the town of Aba. This was the first monk to have committed self-immolation in 2012, but the 16th in the past 12 months.

Chinese forces are not allowing foreign journalists into the area, turning back New York Times reporters at a checkpoint 60 miles from where the violence broke out. **R**

## SG UPDATE:

### SG Opposes Smoke-Free Campus Proposal

by Amanda Imperial

Health Education Coordinator Karen Pelc spoke to Student Government Friday, February 3 about a proposal for a smoke-free campus. RIT's current smoking policy states that a person smoking outside must be at least 25 feet away from a residential building, and smoking inside is strictly prohibited. Resident Advisers argue that they are constantly asking students to adhere to this policy, but that it is broken every day.

There is no rule regarding the academic buildings. Staff, faculty and students have all complained about walking through clouds of smoke near entrances.

The proposal discussed by Pelc encouraged a completely smoke-free campus, allowing students to smoke only in designated parking lots. If passed, the proposal would take effect in August 2013, to ensure that the RIT community has the opportunity to adhere to the policy.

SG discussed the proposal with Pelc, and officially declined it. They concluded that a completely smoke-free campus is unfair and inconvenient to RIT's smokers — roughly 8 percent of the RIT population, according to Pelc. SG specifically noted that no party should be discriminated against, and that telling students who made the choice to smoke to leave campus is unfair.

Despite their opposition, SG strongly encouraged Pelc's suggestions to create more ways to educate the community about living smoke-free lives, including more wellness classes and activities to get involved in. Giving students the ability to fulfill a wellness requirement gives them the potential benefit of not only a healthier lifestyle, but also a healthier campus for the RIT community. **R**

## 10 FRI "Off the Wall"

Panara Theater, Lyndon Baines Johnson Hall (LBJ, 60). 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Come see the RIT/NTID Dance Company's newest routine, featuring an emphasis on the integration of visual media and special effects with dance.  
*Cost: Students: \$5, Others: \$7.*

## 11 SAT Fellacappella II

Ingle Auditorium. 4 - 6 p.m. Brace yourselves, ladies: Once again, all of RIT's male a capella groups are coming together for a musical performance!  
*Cost: Presale: \$5, At the Door: \$6.*

## 12 SUN Rochester Polar Plunge

Ontario Beach Park, Charlotte Beach. 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. There's no better way to spend a Sunday morning than to throw yourself into Lake Ontario in the middle of winter - for charity! Proceeds go towards Special Olympics New York.  
*Cost: Free, but minimum pledge per plunger is \$10.*

## 13 MON Plush Microbe Sale

Student Alumni Union. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Still looking for a gift to get your sweetie on Valentine's Day? Give them mono ... in cuddly plush form!  
*Cost: \$5.*

## 14 TUE Valentine's Day Dating Game

Webb Auditorium, James E. Booth Hall (BOO, 07). 7 - 9 p.m. Nerd love will run wild in this improv dating game with cosplay characters. Come prepared with questions you've always wanted to ask your fictional soul mate!  
*Cost: Dignity.*

## 15 WED "The Courageous Heart of Irena Sendler"

Nazareth College Shultz Center Forum, 4245 East Avenue. 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. Presented by the Polish Heritage Society of Rochester and the Polish Falcons, this film stars Anna Paquin as a young social worker in World War II Poland who is captured while attempting to flee the Nazi regime.  
*Cost: Free.*

## 16 THUR "The Glass Menagerie"

1510 Lab Theatre, Lyndon Baines Johnson Hall (LBJ, 60). 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Love to act? NTID will be hosting auditions for a performance of Tennessee Williams' classic "The Glass Menagerie."  
*Cost: Acting chops. **R***



## Obama Lays Down Tuition Gauntlet, RIT Responds

by Chris Zubak-Skees

If you want results, it helps to have a presidential threat on your side. An election-year push by President Obama to make college more affordable has elevated the importance of a new set of RIT committees tasked with cutting costs.

On Tuesday, January 24, Obama included the issue of college affordability in his State of the Union address, calling it an economic imperative. “Let me put colleges and universities on notice: If you can’t stop tuition from going up, the funding you get from taxpayers will go down,” he said. Within a day, RIT President Destler responded to the address, promising to look for ways to reduce tuition increases and find more financial aid.

Three days later, Obama expanded the threat in a speech to the University of Michigan. He called on Congress to reduce federal aid to schools that didn’t reduce tuition increases or deliver value. Four hours later, RIT issued a press release announcing a “formal inquiry”

into controlling tuition increases.

The inquiry, currently in its infancy, has long been in the works — in fact, Senior Vice President of Finance and Administration James Watters discussed the idea at a December 2010 Staff Council meeting. More recently, he laid out a specific structure at a November Institute Council meeting. According to the minutes, he said that it was not the Institute’s intention to cut staff, and he encouraged participation in the process.

The inquiry will be built around four new committees tasked with finding savings in procurement, information technology, organizational structure and employee benefits. According to the release, administrators, faculty, staff and even alumni will be represented — although students were not mentioned. “I anticipate that Student Government may place some students on these committees,” Watters said by email.

The Institute leadership plans to bring ideas to the committees, but members will be free to propose their own. “My impression

is that they’re looking at everything,” said Judy Bender, assistant vice president and director of Human Resources. A call for volunteers to join the committees had just been sent, she said on February 2, and until a first meeting had been held she could not predict what they’d do. Human resources staff will sit on the committee looking at employee benefits, she said, but they will not lead it.

Destler hopes to cap future tuition increases at a maximum 4 percent, which would result in a maximum \$1,263.36 in additional tuition next year on top of the current \$31,584. That would be down from last year’s 4.3 percent increase — an additional \$1,302.13. That’s \$39 less in additional tuition — an undeniably small sum — but when paired with increased financial aid (which Watters expects to increase by at least 6 percent), then compared to rising tuition nationwide, it could represent a fair-sized victory. **R**

## NY Supports RIT with Grant for Minority Students

by Danielle Delp

On Tuesday, January 31, it was announced that RIT had received a grant from New York’s Department of Education to help fund programs for under-represented ethnic groups. The goal is to promote college attendance in ethnicities who, nationwide, represent the smallest proportions of students in American colleges. Although several minorities are of particular concern to the newest grant, the groups of greatest interest are Native Americans, Latino Americans and African Americans.

RIT has been working to boost minority attendance for several years now, mainly through its Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP). CSTEP provides New York resident students from minority groups or low-income households a chance to further their studies in a variety of majors offered at RIT. The new grant was provided to RIT in the hopes that it will be able to provide further aid to CSTEP and similar programs. **R**



# Knowing Where Your Mind Leads You

by Nilan Lovelace | photograph by Neal Danis

**T**he human genome carries roughly 2.9 billion base pairs that comprise the human genetic code. The genome is responsible for genetic differences between each individual human — however, each individual genome differs only by 1 percent. Nevertheless, that pales in comparison to the 100 billion neurons in a single human brain. Neuroscientists are given the responsibility of creating a map of various synapses — known as a “connectome” — in the same way that researchers map the human genome.

Dr. Sebastian Seung, a former member of the Theoretical Physics Department at Bell Laboratories, discussed his research on Thursday, February 2 in Webb Auditorium. Seung is Professor of Computational Neuroscience in the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences and the Department of Physics at MIT, as well as investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. He has been a Packard Fellow, Sloan Fellow, McKnight Scholar and PopTech Science

Fellow. He also studied theoretical physics at Harvard University and completed his postdoctoral training at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

An easygoing Seung kicked the lecture off with an anecdote about 19th century poet and Nobel Prize for Literature recipient, Anatole France, and his apparent genius — though his brain was 20 percent smaller than an average human’s. Following some technical difficulties that Seung wittingly played off, RIT’s guest began to discuss the mysteries of human nature and neurological factors that makes us who we are.

Using *G. elegans*, the nematode, as an example of what a completed connectome looks like, he compared the map of 300 neurons with a flight schedule map with thousands of variations between 300 destinations. And though the nematode’s 300 neurons are nothing compared to the human’s 100 billion, the nematode connectome took twelve years to map out. Seung also stressed that each neuron’s ability

to hold 10,000 synapses would differ greatly from person to person, with individual changes occurring with every action any person makes. This change in neural activity inspired Seung’s mantra, “You are more than your genes. You are your connectome.” This suggests that even though genes can affect one’s personal appearance, biology and personality, the connectome and the wiring of the brain are what makes us who we are. His mantra also inspired the title of his new book, “Connectome: How the Brain’s Wiring Makes Us Who We Are.”

Realizing that explaining the exact science that is involved in mapping a connectome is very complex and would be hard for most to understand without prior study of brain and cognitive sciences, Seung began to discuss the importance of being able to see neural connectors. It would take one researcher more than 80 years to map out a single connectome by himself: that doesn’t include bathroom breaks, bathing, eating or sleeping. And while Artificial Intelligence is an option that can speed the process up significantly, it can’t catch everything that a human eye can. So Seung introduced the audience to *eyewire.org*, a website that allows people to playfully interact with computers while correcting the computer’s premature termination in mapping neural connectors in the retina.

Seung ended the night with a Q&A. Though many of the questions were just extensions and misunderstandings from the lecture, some tested the boundaries and limitations of connectome research with the use of glial cells and other biological focuses that had been discussed. **R**

*“Connectome: How the Brain’s Wiring Makes Us Who We Are” is available at Barnes and Noble @ RIT.*



- 1. Giving us a ring! - 2. Submitting to "Overseen and Overheard" - 3. Commenting on the website -
- 4. Voting in our online polls - 5. Sending us an email - 6. Becoming our friend on Facebook -
- 7. Following us on Twitter -



## QUOTE

*"I was about half in love with her by the time we sat down. That's the thing about girls. Every time they do something pretty... you fall half in love with them, and then you never know where the hell you are." - J.D. Salinger*

## WORD OF THE WEEK

**Lascivious** adj. — inclined toward lustfulness, arousing sexual desire

Günter was trying to behave himself while his girlfriend was out of town, but the low cut top on the girl at the hot dog trolley wasn't helping his lascivious nature.

## OVERSEEN & OVERHEARD

"Diamonds are forever. So are kids. *Put a jimmy hat on it, cowboy.*"

- Guy who clearly hates the joys of parenthood

## FIRST WORLD PROBLEMS

Why don't they make any of those candy hearts that say "Thnx 4 last nite. Have you seen my underwear?"

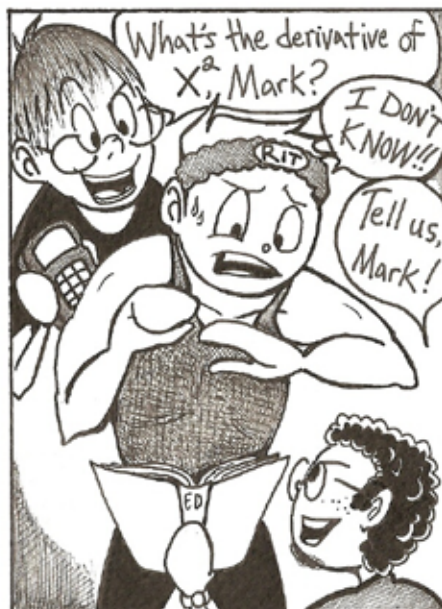
## RIT BLACKLIST

### Playing the Field

Like in the old Smokey Robinson song "Shop Around" where Smokey's mom tells him he should bang a bunch of chicks instead of getting tied down to just one, it's never a bad idea to keep your options open while in a relationship. Now, this works for both men and women. Why have just one partner when you could have two? Or three?

In all fairness, this might not go over so well with your significant other, so you'll probably have to conduct your business in secret, but that's cool. All it does is add a new dimension to your life. Part-time boyfriend/girlfriend, part-time spy/criminal mastermind. Alibis, secret meetings, even a funny disguise or two all make cheating the most exciting live-action game of all time. It's way more fun than just having a boring old normal relationship. So go out and pick up as much strange as you can get. You can even treat them like baseball cards. Collect as many as you can, and you can even trade with your friends if you want. Mix it up. What have you got to lose?

## COMIC by Emily DeVault



Bullying at R.I.T.

## MIXTAPE THERAPY

Not getting any this Valentine's Day? It's cool, neither is *Reporter*. (Spin won't return any of our texts.) To ease that throbbing in your heart (and other organs), we've put together a mixtape of the perfect bittersweet, not-quite-love songs to ease you through the shittiest made up holiday of the year. Seriously. Hallmark invented it to sell cards and chocolate.

**Andrew Jackson Jihad- "Heartilation."** 90 percent of AJJ's discography could be RIT theme songs. Unleash your inner nerd-rage with this ball of folk-punk fury.

**Blind Lemon Jefferson- "Black Snake Moan."** This song is not about a snake. I repeat, *do not* attempt to catch Blind Lemon Jefferson's black snake.

**The Gaslight Anthem- "Here's Looking at You Kid."** A Springsteen-esque ballad so good it'll actually make you wish you were born in New Jersey. Yeah, that good.

**Murder by Death- "As Long as There is Whiskey in the World."** The two best remedies for heartache: whiskey and music. This song, conveniently, has both.

**The Descendents- "Hope."** The ultimate friend zone anthem. But don't worry, your day will come.

**Alkaline Trio- "Radio."** Nothing says "we need some time apart" like wishing your lover a violent death by electrocution. Accidentally of course.

**Every Time I Die- "I've Been Gone a Long Time."** Planning a drunken one night stand full of shameful hate-sex? Just put this bad boy on loop. And no, you can't sleep over.

**Sam Cooke- "A Change is Gonna Come."** This is the greatest song of all time. It should be on every list of everything.

## HAIKU

Baby making sounds  
Coming from my neighbors' place.  
These walls are so thin. 🗣️



# Graduation Fair

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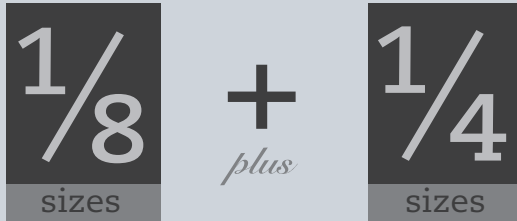
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**DIG IT!**

*by Lino Alvarez*

The platformer has seen a rise in popularity as of late. With titles like “Super Meat Boy”, “Cave Story” and the upcoming “Fez”, the field is ripe for fresh new titles looking to make their mark, or in “Dust Force”’s case, wipe that mark away.

“Dust Force” is the story of a group of four house cleaners tasked with dusting, sweeping and vacuuming their way through a variety of levels within a mansion as quickly and stylishly as possible. The style points come with the ability to keep up a combo score that builds as you sweep away the dust and defeat enemies throughout the level. You will notice quickly that this is no easy task. The game requires timing and mastery of the controls. Speaking of the controls, the default keyboard layout leaves something to be desired and doesn’t afford the kind of precision needed for the later levels. I recommend plugging in a gamepad.

The most captivating elements of “Dust Force” is the environment. From run-down libraries to aging dining rooms, “Dust Force” throws you into a dead world, but manages to make it seem as if you are bringing life back into it with every sweep. The smooth animations of each character and enemy coupled with the unique hand-drawn art style make it so that each new level is a character all its own. Add in the soundtrack and you have a living, breathing – albeit a bit dusty – world that never fails to surprise you with its clever level design.

In the end I keep finding myself going back to “Dust Force” to better my time or score. The smart level design, quirky characters (especially the old man with the vacuum) and awe-inspiring environments bring on hours of pure joy and provide any gamer with a unique experience that only comes around once in a long while. **R**



## KEY & PEELE

TV SHOW | COMEDY CENTRAL | 30 MIN.

**SKIP IT!**

*by Evan Williams*

On the eve of the 36th Black History Month, Comedy Central unveiled its latest sketch comedy show, “Key and Peele”. Helmed by biracial comedians Keegan-Michael Key and Jordan Peele, the show makes no bones about discussing race, but also shows that it is about much more than that. A more prevalent theme through the show’s skits is the issue of identity. Not just racial identity, but gender identity, celebrity identity and so forth. Whether or not that theme was intended to be is telling, as it would require more episodes, but based on the pilot, the idea of things not being what they seem is an interesting one. But comedy of this sort is nothing without the proper execution. So how did “Key and Peele” stack up?

The first skit is quick and quite clever, and plays off the contemporary theme of what it means to be black in America. It depicts two men changing how “black” they speak when in the presence of the other, but as great an idea as it is, it fails to truly resolve on a great note — a problem shared with many of the show’s other skits. Another interesting one is about two men who pretend to be more dominant towards their wives than they actually are, but whenever their women are present, they become sheepish and timid. It’s a smart, simple look at the role of men in this post-feminist era, but once again fails to resolve. It’s just a gag that runs along until they don’t know what to do with it anymore.

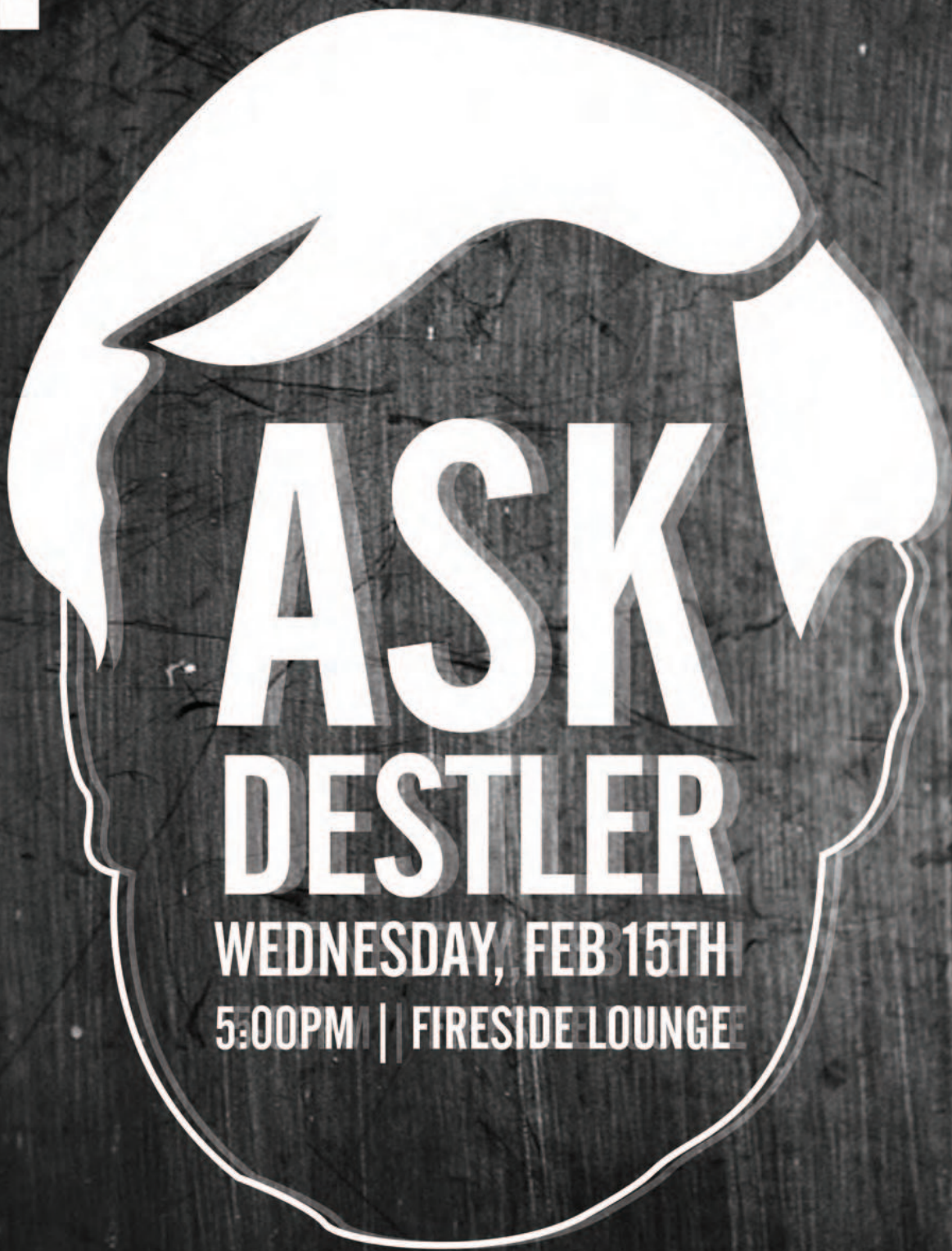
There are several funny bits including a “Hell’s Kitchen” style reality show and an attempt to get a medical marijuana prescription that work great, but throw in a terrible Lil Wayne impression and a misguided parody of Barack Obama and things grow cringe-worthy. There’s a lot of potential, but in the end “Key and Peele” needs to go back to the drawing board. **R**

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“HEY BABY, WE  
ALL GOT MONEY”

## DONALD GLOVER COMES TO RIT

by Vasia Isanov | photographs by Marcus Elliott



Forget that he stars as Troy Barnes on NBC’s cult classic “Community.” Forget that his music, under the moniker of Childish Gambino, is some of the bravest hip-hop of the decade. Forget that, at just 28, he has written for an Emmy-winning series and made a successful film with his friends. Because when Donald Glover came to RIT on Saturday, February 4, the only thing that mattered was the rap battle.

After roughly forty minutes of performing his original stand-up material, Glover got real. While initially trying to instigate a Q&A session with the audience, Glover got distracted when he was loudly challenged to a rap battle by fourth year Hospitality major Melanie Brown-Lane, calling herself “Chauncey McFalcon” onstage. Brown-Lane had gotten her tickets to the show by winning the CAB-sponsored Freestyle Friday rap battle on January 27.

After Glover gladly accepted the challenge, his Derrick Comedy partner DC Pierson, who had done a surprise opening set for him earlier in the evening, resurfaced to judge the battle. Shortly after, they found their beatboxer: first year Computer Science major Andrew Athias. With all the players present, the battle could begin.

Although Brown-Lane’s courage was on display throughout her performance, it couldn’t match Glover’s flow, vocabulary or experience. After calling off the competition portion of the battle, Glover asked Athias for a “sex beat,” then performed a clever, seductive rap for Brown-Lane about her charm and bravery. While not exactly a Childish Gambino performance, it was about as close as he could have gotten and the audience ate it up.

But of course, there was comedy too. Opening the show was Pierson who, with his hippie-esque appearance and moderately unkempt beard, resembled an RIT student with a decent paycheck. He had a tendency to frequently

veer off topic, commenting on anything from RIT’s recent “PuppyFest” to “The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim.” He even went so far as to create a fictional film plot about him and his interpreter going on manic adventures — a positively appropriate opening for the absurdity that was to follow.

Shortly before 10 p.m., Pierson introduced his friend and writing partner to the terrifically warmed-up audience, and the energy in the room immediately changed. With Pierson, the audience felt like they had found a comedic, semi-famous avatar — someone who could make them laugh because of how relatable he was. But when Glover took the stage, the audience was in awe: before them stood a comedic wordsmith; a personable genius.

Before launching into the aforementioned rap battle, Glover shone on stage with his energetic delivery and perfect comedic timing, entertaining the audience with his excitement about Rochester’s abandoned subway system and surreal stories of celebrity encounters. Of particular note was a story about former New Orleans Saint Reggie Bush buying Glover’s glasses off of him at a party with a smile, a hundred dollar bill and the absurd logic of “Hey baby, we all got money.”

But where Glover truly excelled was his off the cuff conversation with assorted students in the audience. While hecklers and excited fans can be a nuisance for most performers, Glover ate it up, interacting with someone he thought would be “the guy who rapes and murders me tonight,” as well as RIT’s most embarrassed Gym Class Heroes fan.

When Glover left the stage an hour later, he received an adoring standing ovation and thousands of smiling faces. He smirked. Just another item on his list of successes. **R**



# The Science of **Attraction**

## The Relationship Research of John Edlund

*by Steven Markowitz | photographs by Thomas Newton*

**T**ired of searching for love? In 2008, several researchers at ScienceMatch.com conceived an easier way. Just send them \$2,000 to receive a DNA kit and a survey. Collect a saliva sample, fill out the personality survey and send the samples back to a biology lab to be linked to a partner scientifically guaranteed to find you sexy.

The process is based off of the research of biologist Claus Wedekind, who determined that humans give off pheromones that potential mates can unconsciously detect and analyze for information on immune system DNA. People are attracted to those who possess different immunities than them, since their children would have a greater chance of survival.

However for those sane individuals not willing to shell out \$2,000, understanding the psychology of relationships can help you find that special person. That's where the research of John Edlund, evolutionary psychologist and assistant professor in RIT's Department of Psychology, comes in. Over the course of several years he has surveyed hundreds of people of all ages to assess mate value, which he defines as "how good a catch someone is." His studies detail how this applies to the beginnings of relationships, as well as the darker issues of established relationships, such as infidelity and jealousy.



# The Short Term

Edlund began researching mate value with his dissertation, and since then he has continued to study the concept through an evolutionary lens. “[For my dissertation] I was pondering looking at mate value, to help me look at mate preferences and jealousy, and one of the things I realized when I was looking at the literature was that there weren’t any good measures of mate value,” says Edlund. “They pretty much all sucked.”

To determine mate value, Edlund has created a five item self-report scale where one evaluates his or her own attractiveness, personality, humor etc. “I have had to look at the more objective marks since people lie to the researchers,” he says. “There are very few people who say they are awful catches, but a little inflation of everybody saying they’re a little better than they actually are is perfectly fine.” For control, Edlund then takes photos of the participants and has others rate them.

His studies have found that what constitutes a good catch remains relatively consistent across all cultures and generations. Some of these overarching factors include niceness, a sense of humor, and a good personality. Edlund suggests that while attractiveness may be more important for men, it is a significant influence for both genders. On the other hand, financial resources are usually a more important factor for women, but both genders include them in their decisions.

One popular rumor is that people date others who are similar to their parents. Edlund explains that this is usually because as people grow older they adopt the morals of their parents. Since people desire a degree of

similarity in a relationship, they look for others who possess the same morals as their parents.

The most essential factor to being a good catch and maintaining a long, healthy relationship is similarity with one’s partner. Contrary to popular belief, Edlund’s research has shown opposites do not attract. In the short term, it may work, however eventually — be it six months or a year — the couple will rarely succeed and be happy together.

Small differences, such as varied levels of neatness, can be easily be overcome in the relationship, but the couple must share fundamental similarities such as social standing, religion, economic status and political orientation.

These fundamental personality traits give an individual a set of assumptions based on experiences. When shared with a partner, Edlund says, these experiences strengthen the relationship by, for example, providing the couple a variety of topics to discuss after many dates.

A factor which may play a role in mate value in college is major; however, Edlund says he has conducted no solid research on the subject. In addition to providing additional similarity, Edlund theorizes that a shared major would increase propinquity, a term for how physically close two people are in everyday life. Being the same major would increase the time the potential partners are together, increasing likelihood of attraction.

According to Edlund, the concept of propinquity is the reason why social networking will make it easier to find a date, but not form a long lasting relationship. For that, he says, use a dating site. Dating sites that match people, such as eHarmony, use personality tests to determine mate value, like the surveys used in Edlund’s research. People are then matched based on their similarities and characteristics deemed important by the individual.

Sites where the individuals do the matching, match.com for example, do not work as consistently, since sites like eHarmony take into consideration unconscious needs including proximity and many of the other factors that define a good catch. There are also niche sites such as Christian Mingle and JDate, which are more effective if a niche trait is considered crucial to the relationship.

Not only has modern research proven that these sites actually work, especially sites that

match people, but the amount of people meeting through the internet is increasing. Since the early 1940s, friends have been the most influential method of meeting romantic partners, according to a 2009 study by Stanford University researchers. Today however, they have found that 30 percent of relationships start online, and conclude that meeting over the internet could eventually become more common than meeting as friends.

While Edlund agrees that this number will only go up in the future, he says the majority of relationships will always be established through physical proximity.

Currently, Edlund is looking to expand his research by studying the ideals of mate value in smaller groups like the GLBT community. Edlund believes that the concept of a good catch and the factors associated with it will generally remain the same, regardless of gender or sexual orientation.

The fact is what constitutes a good or bad catch stays relatively the same after teenage years. Some research suggests mate value changes, such an article from the Journal of Social, Evolutionary, and Cultural Psychology that states that mate value changes based on relationship status, number and age of children, et cetera. However, Edlund states that any potential changes, which he says will probably occur after child bearing years, are not significant.

Whichever is correct, Edlund believes that mate value, being an evolved instinct, will not change much over the years. Even a hundred years from now, Edlund believes little will change in how one chooses a mate. People will still be attracted to those around them, and opposites will still not attract.

“Go back to the ‘50s, that whole thing of dating the kid from the wrong side of the tracks, short term that is successful,” says Edlund. “But if you look at who they are marrying, generally it isn’t the kid from the wrong side of the tracks; it’s the kid who lives five miles away.”



## The Long Term



Once one has acquired a mate, it is on to part two of Edlund's research, which he refers to as the darker side of relationships: infidelity and jealousy. Since there are few people who have been cheated on in a variety of ways, Edlund uses men and women's reactions to imaginary infidelity to test his theories.

The traditional research scenario, which is just one of the 18 hypothetical scenarios that Edlund is using, asks which is worse while in a committed relationship: sex with someone else or falling in love with someone else? For women, 90 to 95 percent say falling in love is worse, but men's answers are divided evenly.

While Edlund believes that many researchers simply agree women care more about the emotional side and men care more about the sex related with an infidelity, he is specifically trying to discover the reason behind the percentages.

Edlund says men care more about sex because of paternal uncertainty. Men can never be 100 percent certain that they are the father of their child. Therefore, any evidence that a man who is not raising his own child, a difficult and expensive task, would make him incredibly upset and jealous.

For women, since paternal uncertainty is not an issue, they believe emotions for another woman are worse since any evidence that the man is not pulling his own weight in child bearing, due to sexual distractions or the chance of him leaving her can cause jealousy.

A difficult aspect of researching infidelity lies in defining what is cheating in a relationship, which changes from person to person. Some believe kissing is cheating, and just as bad as sex, while others believe vaginal intercourse is the only type of sex and that other activities, such as oral sex, are not real sex and thus do not lead to jealousy. Edlund suggests that the media may influence this definition through events which challenge how viewers perceive sex, like Clinton's impeachment trial.

Observing connections between personal definitions of infidelity and personality traits could lead to a further understanding of jealousy patterns in different groups of people. In relation to match value, Edlund has discovered that for people who consider themselves a good catch, if their partner has sex with a bad catch, this causes extreme jealousy. On the other hand, if one's partner has sex with someone he



considers above his level, he will not be as jealous.

“So if Angelina [Jolie] had sex with some random, [unattractive] dork, who isn't a good catch in any way, shape, or form, my research would suggest that Brad [Pitt] would be exceedingly jealous,” explains Edlund. “However, if she had sex with George Clooney, someone who is seen as a good catch, the jealousy wouldn't be as extreme.”

In addition to researching this scenario by interviewing real victims of infidelity, Edlund is also working on confirming a theory he has developed with his collaborators. Take the hypothetical scenario of a couple who has been together for months and has not had sex. If the two break up and the woman moves on to another relationship, current theories would suggest that men have no reason to be upset — if the woman is pregnant, it is not his child.

However, Edlund's theory states that, while men are upset about paternal uncertainty, in this sexless scenario, men are more upset about the lack of parental opportunities. With the ultimate goal of a relationship or sex being procreation, the anger men feel at the loss of an opportunity to father a child is a deep, unconscious desire brought on by evolution.

Consciously, men place this anger on the broken relationship or their partner, representing a case in which the conscious reason for an action does not link up with an evolutionary reason still present on a subconscious level. A common occurrence of this is sex, evolutionarily intended for procreation, yet consciously done for pleasure. As a result, even with protection, men and women unconsciously desire children, just as unconsciously, men are upset at the loss of an opportunity to have children with the ex-girlfriend.


At this time, Edlund is pursuing two projects with students related to jealousy and other issues involved with long term relationships.

The first involves abortion and the factors that go into the decision which is again being conducted with hypothetical scenarios. One such scenario is that the woman is pregnant and the couple wants an abortion, however they discover that due to health issues, the woman cannot have children in the future.

So far, Edlund has discovered that age affects the decision. Younger people are more likely to go through with the abortion due to more perceived opportunities to procreate in the future, while older couples are less likely to have the procedure. Gender also affects the decision. Because men have lower chance to procreate and are upset at a lost paternal opportunity, on an unconscious level men are less likely to endorse an abortion.

Another project of Edlund's is pornography research, and the potential jealousy of one's partner having sex outside of the committed relationship, in this case masturbation to porn. For some, the thought of masturbation causes jealousy, despite its commonality among age groups and

genders. Edlund wants to discover who in the relationship is more jealous and what causes this jealousy. He does not have any findings yet.

With Edlund's research, one does not need pay \$2,000 or send any bodily excretions to a laboratory for evaluation. One must simply look around at those close to her. Find someone with similar interests. Do not be afraid to speak about the unconscious evolutionary desires burning deep within every human being. Use this research to help strengthen a relationship or build future ones, but remember that while attraction can be categorized as a science, it is also a personal experience that every human shares. 





# We Serve Everyone: A Center for Us All

*by Nolan Harris Jr.*

Nestled in the corridor leading from the SAU's Fireside Lounge to the Campus Center is a modest office staffed by just three deeply committed individuals. Despite its name, the Center for Women and Gender (CWG) is open and ready to serve all RIT students. As one might infer, the story of the CWG indeed finds its beginnings as a response to the needs of women students at RIT. However, as the Institute moves toward a more robust model of diversity and inclusion, the CWG stands poised to engage not just RIT's women, but its men and GLBT students as well. Thus, in sum, we're all invited.

## A History of the CWG

The Center for Women and Gender traces its roots back to 1993, according to current CWG director Darci Lane-Williams. Owing to a need for "a place that [could] respond to women's issues," female engineering students called for, and were able to secure, a space then known as the "Women's Resource Center."

Explains Lane-Williams: "Women are [33] percent of the student body right now, so you can imagine back then it was even lower." Thus, the Women's Resource Center was formed by a spurt of coalition work bringing faculty, staff and students together, and it operated merely as "a resource center where a woman could go [to] for referrals and resources and information," relates Lane-Williams.

Over time, however, the "resource-center model" grew outmoded, and female students sought to have the space add a support-oriented facet — which meant a center run by a staff member with whom they could speak. That development came in 1998, when the center brought on "a full-time staff person to actually be in the center [and] have an open, available center during business hours," says Lane-Williams. One year later, the center was awarded a grant from the Department of Justice geared toward stopping violence against women. This grant facilitated the expansion of the center, and when it ended nine years later, "RIT looked at [the center] and said, 'This something we really need to look into keeping,'" says Lane-Williams. And the CWG — which then changed its name to just the "Women's Center" — has remained steady at RIT ever since.

## A Space for Dialogue

The CWG became a space for women to discuss their concerns. “Only about 10 percent of sexual assaults are actually reported ... which is scary to think about,” says Lane-Williams. In fact, she says, most violence against women in general is rarely reported. It’s an inequality the center hopes to change.

The center strives to serve as a place where confidential dialogue can occur and students can address their issues. As Lane-Williams notes, prior to the center’s creation, “there was no place ... that could be identified as a ‘safe place’ for women.”

Today, the CWG continues to serve the needs of students who may struggle with a number of concerns including “grief, stress, boundary setting, self-esteem issues, body image issues, relationship issues ... and of course dating violence, sexual assault, harassment [and] stalking,” explains Lane-Williams. It also offers overflow counseling for RIT’s Counseling Center and never turns away anyone — female or male — seeking support.

## Toward Inclusion

In Summer 2010, the center was still known as the “Women’s Center” and changed its name to its current title: the Center for Women and Gender. This move was made in light of the center’s recognition that names and titles matter, and by simply calling itself the “Women’s Center,” it may have excluded male students who were actually welcome there.

According to Lane-Williams, “At the time when the Women’s Center was formed, [its name] made perfect sense: It was requested by women; it was for women.” However, men sought out the support of the center as well to deal with similar issues that women experience: rocky break-ups, low self-esteem, body image issues and even sexual assault. “Any of those things we could talk to a woman about, we could just as easily talk to a man about,” explains Lane-Williams.

The center also considered how the old name excluded GLBT students, as the GLBT Center falls under the CWG’s purview as well. Lane-Williams explained the dilemma at the time: “What is a way we can incorporate everyone’s gender — because everyone has a gender — into the name?” The name that resulted, the Center for Women and Gender, would be the appellation to represent the center’s more inclusive vision.


However, even with the name change, Lane-Williams admits that it can still be a bit confusing, especially for guys: “I’ll say to guys ‘Do you have a gender?’ and they’ll say, ‘Well, yeah, I’m a dude.’ ‘Ok, well that means you can come here,’” she quips. And the center has seen more male visitors since the renaming and its move from the lower level of SAU to the Campus Center in December 2009.

## Programming at CWG

The CWG is responsible for some staple programming and continues to meet the needs of, and foster a community for, women. Such programs as its annual, “Lighting the Way” welcome ceremony for incoming female students; its “Women’s Career Achievement Dinner,” a celebration of women students’ accomplishments — this year to be held on April 30 — and its production of “The Vagina Monologues” are some of the events the center plays a vital role in coordinating and planning.

In keeping with the inclusive framework, the center is now embarking on planning events and programs for men as well. The CWG has held a few meetings to date to gauge interest in developing an array of services that parallel its current women’s initiatives. Some suggestions have included a mentor program, and the center has already held forums on issues such as the deleterious effect of pornography on men’s emotional and social health and the sometimes lofty ideals and stereotypes that describe “real men,” which can be problematic for males who don’t “measure up.” These programs signal the beginning as “we will be offering more men’s programming as time goes on,” says Lane-Williams.

As Lane-Williams envisions, CWG will continue to serve the needs of all students who seek its resources. While the pioneers of the center sought a place for women to seek support and counsel, as RIT’s campus has changed demographically, the center is on the brink of a new era: one where women and men, gay, straight, bisexual, transgendered and everyone in between, are welcomed and encouraged to stop by and take advantage of the resources and programs there to support our ever-changing community.

“We’re still growing,” said Lane-Williams. And so is RIT. Not just numerically, but also in our drive toward a more pluralist and inclusive community. 

RIT looked at [the center] and said, ‘This is something we really need to look into keeping,’ says Lane-Williams.



RIT freshman Cory Spado swims to a 3rd place finish in the Men's 100yard Butterfly against Nazareth, Saturday, February 4th, 2012.  
photograph by Jonathan Foster

# Tigers Leave Nazareth in their Wake

◆◆  
by Danielle Delp

Freezefest may have been in full swing outside, but it was nice and warm in the Judson Pool on February 4 when RIT's swimming and diving teams took to the water against the Golden Flyers of Nazareth College. After a fierce meet that lasted almost three hours, RIT's men's team claimed victory with a score of 194-95. The women also put on a good show, winning five swimming events and first place in both the one-meter and three-meter diving competitions. Unfortunately, Nazareth was able to take a wide lead early on, leading our ladies to defeat against their Golden counterparts 111-182.

Energy was running high as both teams practiced in the minutes leading up to the start of the competition. Following a short but emotional ceremony honoring the RIT team's senior swimmers, the meet took off with the 100-yard relay. The women swam first, with Nazareth taking the first victory of the day. The RIT men made up for it, however, taking first place during their turn at the relay. They quickly pulled

ahead, outperforming Nazareth in most of the swimming competitions. In the bleachers, the RIT fans steadily grew more energized with each event. When team captain and fourth-year Physics major Kevin Christiansen took the stand for the 100-yard backstroke, the room practically exploded with excitement. Taking both first and second place in the three-meter and one-meter diving competitions cemented this lead, which eventually led to victory with ten events won by the end of the day.

Meanwhile, RIT's women were suffering after their slow start, and steadily fell farther behind Nazareth. Things began to look up, however, when first-year Engineering Exploration major Sam Husselstein seized first place in both of the diving events. This narrowed the gap in scores somewhat, but wasn't quite enough to take the lead. The Lady Tigers fought till the end, however, and saw some impressive performances throughout the day, including first-place victories by second-year Industrial Engineering major Katie Baldwin and first-





*RIT's Sarah Kelso enters the water for the 100 yard butterfly against Nazareth on Saturday, February 4th at the Judson Pool on RIT's campus. Despite winning five individual events, the Lady Tigers fell to Nazareth 182-111. | photograph by Joshua Kuckens*

year Science Exploration major Jill Sirkis in the 50-yard freestyle and 200-yard butterfly, respectively.

Despite the loss, women's team captain and fourth-year criminal justice major Sarah Kucsan expressed satisfaction with the day's outcome. "A lot of people hit their best times of the season," she noted. "As a captain, I'm happy they did their best." Head coach Mike Cahill expressed similar sentiments: "They all swam very well today, and I'm especially happy for our seniors." As this was the last home meet of the season, it will also be the last time that the team's senior members will compete in home waters before they graduate. For them, this meet isn't just the end of the season. It is also the end of the line for

those who have been with the team the longest. Several of the captains will be amongst those leaving, including Kucsan.

Saturday's meet was also the last meet for the tigers until the New York state championships, which the teams will be working hard to prepare for in their time off. Looming just three weeks away, the competing swimmers will have quite a lot of work to do to make sure they are at their best. For now though, they have good reason to celebrate after their excellent season-ending meet. **R**

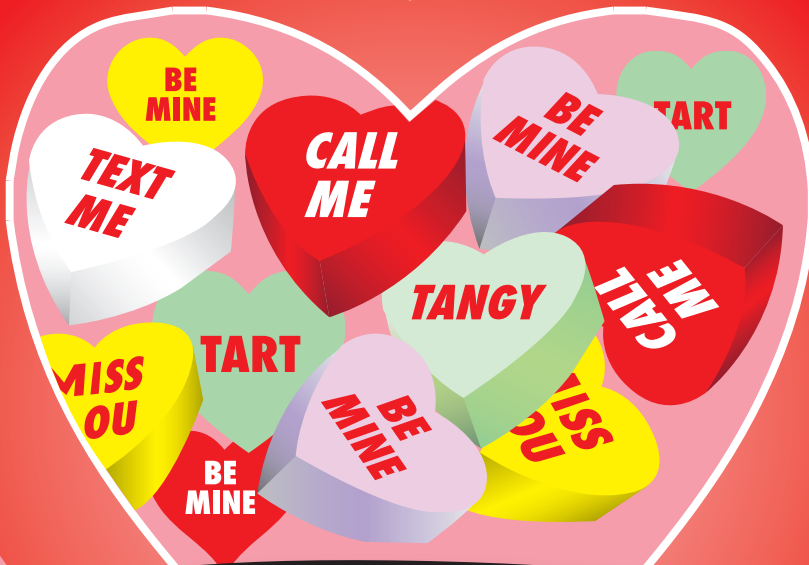


*RIT's Kevin Christiansen Cruises to victory in the 100-yard freestyle against visiting Nazareth College with a time of 48.26 seconds. RIT won 10 individual events and had a decisive 194-95 victory. | photograph by Joshua Kuckens*



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# DEAF BASKETBALL LEAGUE

## PLACE TO PLAY, HANG OUT

by Jeff McKinzie | photograph by Joshua Barber

There are ten of them running down the court, each drenched in sweat from playing intensely for almost thirty minutes. Players on offense call out for the ball, while the defense closely guards their matchups, waiting to snatch the ball away for a score. As the player with the ball attempts to advance for a score, it's knocked out of bounds. The referee, stands nearby and signs the color of one team's jersey, signaling which team gets possession of the ball. No, that's not an error. Instead of using traditional referee gestures, he uses American Sign Language to communicate with the players.

The game being played was basketball, and it was played as part of RIT/NTID's Deaf Basketball League (DBA). Teams meet twice a week every winter for ten weeks, and play almost a dozen games scheduled by the league. The league is geared towards deaf students from RIT and NTID, although hearing students can also participate.

According to DBA Chairperson and fifth year Business and Human Resource major Kara Andrade, the DBA was formed in 1998. In the DBA, a game is played much like in the NBA. Both leagues require a lot of endurance; the DBA plays 40-minute games, while the NBA plays 48. The DBA allows for a longer resting period, however, as they split the games into 20-minute halves. The DBA also has a restriction on fouls much like the NBA does. According to Andrade, if a player acts out with improper conduct, then they will not be allowed to play until they fill out a player misconduct form, which the DBA committee will review before deciding the appropriate action against the player.

Andrade said the DBA has enjoyed success as one of the places deaf students to go to make friends and become healthier individuals. Fourth year Business major Christopher Morgan, the club's referee coordinator and a referee at two all-star games and three championship games, said that the club has had more teams than in the past. "[The] DBA can only hold up to sixteen different teams," said Morgan. "So this year we have nine men's teams and seven women's teams. Seven teams for the women is a record in the DBA." Morgan also noted that one of the women's teams has yet to lose a game.

Morgan, who has been a referee for all four years at RIT, disclosed that he also referees outside of the DBA and has refereed for youth basketball leagues and high school level games in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. He has also refereed for the annual RIT/Galludet sports weekend where students at RIT compete against students from Gallaudet, a top university for the deaf in the United States located in Washington, D.C.

When asked if there were any famous people to come from the DBA, Andrade responded with a laugh, "They're all famous!"

But in fact, one person worth mentioning is former DBA Advisor Marsha Wetzel. According to the Patriot League website, she is a former



*League Coordinator Kara Andrade (right) discusses logistics with other committee members before the Deaf Basket Ball Association's Skills Contest and All-Star Game Night held at the Student Life Center on Friday February 3, 2012.*

wellness instructor for NTID who, in November 2002, became the first deaf female referee in Division I basketball history. During the time she worked at RIT/NTID, she was a student advisor for the DBA.

In a 2006-2007 newsletter for RIT/NTID parents, Wetzel was quoted saying positive things about the DBA. "Even though the DBA is meant for recreational fun and is open even to hoop-shooting beginners, it has some exciting similarities to professional leagues," she said. "The DBA includes events similar to those in the National Basketball Association and the Women's National Basketball Association. For instance, the DBA includes all-star games, a three-point shooting contest, and a free-throw contest." Astrid "AJ" Jones, a 2001 Gallaudet graduate, has succeeded Wetzel as the current DBA student advisor.

The all-star game was Friday, February 3, with some other smaller competitions occurring on the same night. These included a three-point shooting contest, a game of "21," and a skills challenge, which is similar to that of the NBA's skills challenge competition. The play-offs and the championship followed on Saturday. The results of both events can be found under the RIT intramural leagues website.

Although the DBA season has come to a close, the future looks promising. The 2011-12 season was extremely successful: memories were made, games were won, games were lost and, in the end, there was a champion. But the real champions are all the students who participated. **R**

# WORD ON THE STREET

# WHAT WOULD YOUR RAPPER NAME BE?



## **SWAGGER MCSWAGGERTON.**

All swag. All day.

(Left) Steve Frangk, third year Mechanical Engineering Technology.

**DOGGY D,** because I'm a dawg  
(Middle) Dani Absi, third year Mechanical Engineering.

**PHILLY FILL,** because I'm the swaggy Phil from Philly  
(Right) Phil McKee, third year Mechanical Engineering.

**SWAG DOG,** It's a dog full of swag  
(Dog) Nike, sixth year Glass blowing/Culinary Arts.



**PAPI SAVAGE.** My grandfather's middle name was Savage.

(Left) Lydia Billings, third year Fine Art Photography.

**ALLI JJ.** The name was gifted to me by a fellow rapper.

(Right) Allison Rabent, third year Art Conservation.



**HAMWISE GAMGY.** Spit mad rhymes like I'm dragonborn.

Hammy (John Watson), New Media Interactive Development.





**THE PROPHECY.** I only rap the truth.  
 (Top Right) Pete Soderberg, third year Architecture.

**SIZZLE-STINE,** because I like to cook.  
 (Left) Chistina Ascani, third year Photojournalism.

**BIGGY STALLS.** I got the moves, swag, and flava.  
 (Bottom) Liz Stallmeyer, third year Photojournalism.

**VEGGEE,** because its the fricken weekend baby  
 I'm about to have me some fun. (Middle)



**MCSKITTLES,** 'cuz I make it  
 raiiiinbow!  
 (Left) Laura Collibee, fourth year  
 Multidisciplinary Studies.

**JEW-UNIT,** straight from the  
 mothaland.  
 (Right) Zoë Gaye, first year  
 International Studies. **R**





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## *Embracing the Drunk Bus*

by Chris Zubak-Skees | illustration by Zac Retz

*There is a campaign to deny that the new late-night bus to the East End* — the Tiger East End Express or TE3 — is about drinking, and the level of bullshit required to sustain it is piling up high.

Late last month, a quote from Student Government President Greg Pollock surfaced on the Web: “Everyone, I need your help,” Pollock said. “Please do what you can to avoid referring to TE3 as the party bus. It was not the argument we used to bring it to RIT. We said to the administrators that it is to build a connection to the Rochester community. ... It’s the TE3 express – call it anything, but don’t call it the drunk bus. The media won’t help our cause if we do.”

In other words, the TE3 was born in spin, and Pollock was asking students to help out.

If you want proof of the TE3’s purpose, look at its schedule: Saturday from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. The earliest riders can get to the East End is 9:33 p.m., after most cultural institutions have locked up for the night or started the last show, and well after most people eat dinner – leaving precious few alternatives to alcohol.

Asked for the context of his comment, Pollock responded with sense: “It is inevitable that students will use it to go out and drink – we don’t discourage that in any way,” Pollock said by email.

The time of operation was picked as a trial, Pollock said, one that he hopes will someday be expanded to include the whole weekend. “The time slot was one that Senate believed would attract the most attention,” he said.

And that it certainly did: Pollock has been asked by reporters from five different media outlets how he feels about the image of the bus as a “drunk bus.” He tells them it’s about safety, responsibility and creating a beneficial link to Rochester.

He’s right about that, but dig a little further and you get to the core. The only context in which the word responsibility makes sense, when talking about the TE3, is the kind typically found tacked on the tail end of Budweiser adverts: “Drink responsibly.” Responsibility is the key to understanding the TE3, but it doesn’t make sense if nobody admits to the drinking part.

Pollock isn’t a dupe, and neither is Randy Vercauteren, director of Parking, Transportation and Building Services, who used the word “entertainment” as in “entertainment bus” as an alternative to “drunk bus” five times in *Reporter’s* Jan. 20 story on the TE3. The score is plain, but they’ve chosen to refer to drinking by euphemism, because they believe their role is to plaster an acceptable mask on a somewhat unseemly face. The plain reality is that students drink, and

administrators are more effective if they work to mitigate the consequences.

Last Saturday, on the bus, people passed out fliers for a Bud Light bar crawl. The Upper East End is packed with bars and clubs, and those were packed with revelers. It felt like RIT had officially shown up late to a years-old party. On a return trip at 1 a.m., the floor of the TE3 was littered with Bud Light cans, as riders clutched their own glass-bottled beers.

For all that, the crowd coming back was tipsy, but not sloshed; loud, but not rowdy. If the students on the bus looked underage, there had been bartenders and bouncers to ask for ID; If they had one too many, they had been cut off. If they had gotten in trouble, there had been police officers stationed on every corner to help out. They had the kind of Rochester social experience many students have missed. And they had made the responsible choice not to drive.

Without a schedule expansion, the TE3 will remain mostly about drinking. But the choice administrators face isn’t whether students drink. The choice is how they drink, and what they do afterward. The choice is whether to embrace the drunk bus. **R**

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



# Rings

585.672.4840

compiled by Victor Group

Sunday 12:36 a.m. (from text)

Rings! I finally admit it: I only take ASL to talk to **deaf chicks**.

Sunday 5:00 a.m. (from text)

Just tipped a **Zonies** delivery guy with **vodka**. Winning harder than Charlie Sheen right now.

Sunday 2:02 p.m. (from text)

You know you partied too hard when you are too **Drunk** for **Denny's**.

Wednesday 2:59 p.m. (from text)

Why do people try so hard to be quiet in the bathroom? Call me old fashioned, but when I [am a man and eat some bran], I [**drop the kids off at the pool**] proudly.

Sunday 9:30 p.m. (from text)

I have just marked my territory in the SNOW... **if you know what I mean**.

Sunday 9:33 p.m. (from text)

The pool at the SLC just closed because someone [**made a messy**] in it. It's weird because there were no children present all night. An adult just **shat** in the pool.

Monday 3:34 p.m. (from text)

Just saw three guys rolling a bathtub into the Innovation Center with a **blow up doll** in the tub. I'm not even gonna start asking questions!

Tuesday 2:28 p.m. (from text)

**[Curse you]** RIT. I don't even have time to take a proper **[bowel movement]** I'm so busy.

Wednesday 9:28 a.m. (from text)

I don't know what gluten is, but it must be the tasty part of food cause the gluten-free brownies my roommate made me taste like utter **[feces]**.

Wednesday 3:40 p.m. (from text)

Hey Rings, there's this raccoon with half a leg and half a tail that roams Gleason Circle in the wee hours of the night. That **[mother-lover]** is fast though! I've affectionately named him **Stumpy**.

Saturday 1:40 p.m. (from text)

To the group of storm troopers walking across campus: **These are not the nerds you're looking for.**

Thursday 2:00 p.m. (from text)

The next person to wave a Freezefest hat in my face gets **curb stomped**. **R**



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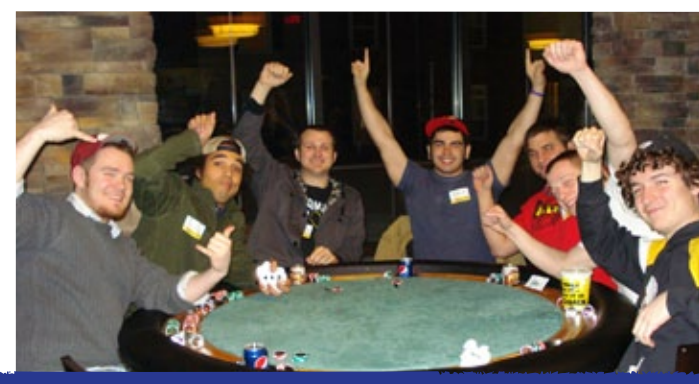
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 BECAUSE THEY ARE ALL GONE.  
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