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REPORTER

05.18.12 reportermag.com



REPORTER

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SPARE CHANGE

This past weekend, while walking to the Reporter office, I passed by an event called the Quarter Mile Challenge. As explained on the event’s official Facebook page, the goal was to line the walkway with donated quarters. With a hopeful goal of \$2,500, these funds would then be used to improve the Quarter Mile.

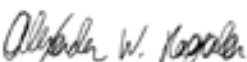
When the idea was first presented at Student Government in late March, I found it ludicrous. But when I observed the student response it gathered, I was impressed.

On the whole, it strikes me as uncharacteristic for RIT, which has a largely lukewarm sense of school spirit. Prior efforts, while noble, have not enjoyed widespread success. As a freshman in January 2009, I remember the second annual Orange Hair Challenge. In an effort to improve presence at campus sporting events, President Destler had pledged to dye his hair orange if the stands were full for Men and Women’s basketball games. Despite the promise of free pizza and T-shirts, the men’s game was only moderately full. During the women’s, organizers were giving away leftover pizzas to an empty audience.

This challenge departed from previous efforts in two key ways. First, it rallied students around a cause with a tangible benefit for them. Second, it provided participants a visual representation as to how their individual contributions fit in.

Does RIT seriously need to focus on campus beautification? Probably not. While I personally feel there are other ways the money could be better spent, I applaud the student effort involved in gathering it.

Ultimately, the challenge succeeded in uniting students. However, that’s only the start. Gathered together, you have strength in numbers. Figure out how to maintain that strength, set a firm goal and together you can leave a lasting impression on the Institute.


Alex Rogala
EDITOR IN CHIEF

cover by Rob Shook
The Brick City singers perform on the Greek Lawn during RIT Roots.

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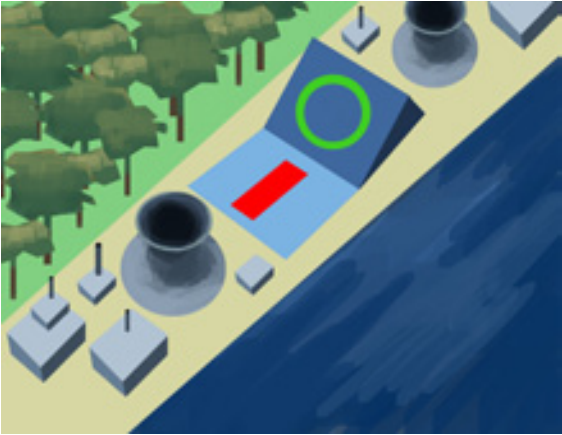
Portraits taken after the RIT Color Run Sunday, May 6. The race, a 5k road race around campus, was sponsored by Residence Life, RHA, the GLBT Center, ritGA, Spectrum and the RIT Running Club. Proceeds raised during the event were donaed to the Trevor Project, an organization that provides support and suicide prevention services to young members of the LGBTQ community. | photographs by Drew Swantak

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BEYOND THE BRICKS

by Adam Balbi | illustration by Shin Wakabayashi

TOMARI POWER PLANT SHUTDOWN LEAVES JAPAN WITHOUT NUCLEAR POWER



In response to a meltdown at the Fukushima nuclear power plant last March, Japan has shut down its last remaining reactor. According to a Saturday, May 5 BBC article, this leaves the nation without nuclear-generated power for the first time in over 40 years.

On Saturday, May 5, engineers inserted cadmium control rods into the reactor, part of the Tomari power plant, to halt the fission process. This absence of atomic power has prompted the mass import of fossil-fuels in order to reconcile the energy shortage. Previously, 30 percent of Japanese electricity came from nuclear energy.

The BBC states that businesses and ministers have warned of negative repercussions in manufacturing and infrastructure associated with the decision to permanently abandon nuclear power.

The government could force plants back into action if necessary, but long-term effects of the meltdown are still unknown. Presently, a 12-mile exclusion zone remains in effect around the Fukushima plant.

Hundreds of protesters waving carp-shaped banners have marched through the Japanese capital to protest further reactor operation. If Japan can meet its energy needs through summer, nuclear power may be ousted indefinitely.

SG UPDATE

by Peter LoVerso

RECENT PROPOSALS APPROVED

During the Friday, May 11 meeting of the Student Government (SG) Senate, representatives voted to officially enact several changes proposed at recent meetings.

As the current Off-Campus and Student Apartment Association (OCASA) will be refocused to represent students living in RIT apartment complexes, a new Major Student Organization was created to represent off-campus students. The motion carried 16-4, with one abstention.

In addition, the senate voted 17-4 to pass a bylaw which grants SG the ability to discount election write-in votes which are against the Student Code of Conduct or are obviously not for RIT students. They also passed a provision which would make it the responsibility of the Election Committee to provide an alternate method of voting to students unable to access the voting website. **R**

FORECAST

compiled by Amanda Imperial

- Fri. 18

TigerFest

Sundial. 4 – 6 p.m. Residence Life wants to celebrate the end of Week 10 with you! Come out to enjoy inflatables, dunk people and score free food! *Cost: Free*
- Sat. 19

Saturday Evening Telescope Viewing

Rochester Museum and Science Center, 657 East Ave, Rochester. Dark – 10 p.m. Want to see the stars and constellations up close? Visit the RMSC to view the jewelry of space for free! *Cost: Free*
- Sun. 20

2012 Walk to Cure Cancer

Gordon Field House. 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. In support of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, RIT’s very own Tiger Team will be walking together to help raise money. *Cost: Free*
- Mon. 21

Zumba Fitness with Melissa Aubin

Rhythm Society, 179 Paul St. 5 – 6 p.m. Get your body in shape for the summer in a fun and active form of expression. Zumba is a wildly popular fitness program that involves all forms of dancing and cardio goodness. *Cost: \$8*

GREENING NEW YORK’S MOST ICONIC SKYSCRAPER

Owners of New York City’s Empire State Building have retrofitted the insides of the symbolic structure to be more eco-friendly. Though it is no longer the tallest tower in the Big Apple, the Empire State Building’s historicity and iconic status have put it the spotlight among the many buildings undergoing the retrofit process.

According to a Sunday, May 6 Reuters article, the three-year makeover has cut energy costs; introduced modern, high-tech office spaces; and attracted more high-profile tenants willing to adopt a higher rent in exchange for the new amenities.

In a Reuters interview, architectural expert Bill Worthen, stated that for the next half century architects will cater mainly to works already built, instead of imagining new structures. The retrofitting industry promises yields of up to \$6 billion for projects completed in public sector buildings alone, with the commercial industry possibly having double that measure of potential. The industry is also estimated to create 100,000 jobs. **R**

Rochester Out of Recession

Leading Upstate N.Y. in Job Growth

by Peter LoVerso | illustration by Adrian Yablin

Virtually every part of the economy was shaken in late 2007 with the onset of the Great Recession, an economic downturn that would cost the United States 8.8 million jobs. However, according to a study released by the New York Department of Labor Tuesday, April 24, Rochester has rebounded and by the latest counts now has more jobs than before the recession. With over 12,300 jobs created in the last year, an increase of 2.5 percent, Rochester is the fastest-growing city in upstate New York. After the fall of local industry giants, smaller business have been exploding upwards to fill the gaps in the most prosperous sectors of the economy.

N.Y. State Government findings have shown that some of the fastest-growing local industry sectors are business, education and health services. The University of Rochester and RIT employ a total of 1,600 graduates combined. The Rochester General Health System and Bausch & Lomb Corporation are not far behind. Eastman Kodak also remains one of the largest employers in the area, and approximately 52 percent of its workforce is RIT alumni; it is the largest employer of alums in the world.

Many of what were once Rochester’s largest employers are no longer primary players in the local economic community. Kodak, Xerox, and Bausch & Lomb all no longer employ the sizable workforce they once did. “Rochester lacks big companies” says Manny Contomanolis, the associate vice president and director for RIT Co-op and Career Services. “There’s not as much of a draw anymore.” He says that over the last five years, between 34 and 38 percent of RIT graduates have stayed in Rochester each year. Currently, Rochester is home to over 32,000 Institute graduates, which is more than one fourth of all RIT alumni currently living in the United States, according to statistics compiled by the RIT alumni assoaciation.

With the collapse of many of these huge corporations comes a surge of start-ups and small businesses, which are eager to take advantage of the experienced labor and cheap infrastructure which become available as larger companies fade. According to the Democrat and Chronicle, Rochester has suffered from what is known as “Brain Drain,” where educated young people will leave the area after graduation, leaving the area without new or skilled workers and reducing the total population. This trend, which has plagued

Rochester for years, is starting to reverse itself. Numerous job fairs, aimed specifically at recruiting young new graduates, have cropped up all over the area, and the demand for workers has skyrocketed.

The growth of local industry is reflected in the number of RIT graduates in those careers. According to statistics provided by RIT Alumni Relations, one of the most alumni-heavy fields in Rochester is business, with over 7,300 Saunders College of Business graduates in the area, more than any other RIT college. This is despite the fact that SCB only has about 800 total students enrolled, making it one of RIT’s smallest colleges. Engineers are the second most represented field, widely employed at major corporations and small businesses alike.

Local businesses and philanthropists have been quick to invest in new workers needed in these prosperous fields. RIT’s life and medical science programs, as well as its rapidly growing business college, have each received millions of dollars in local donations over the past several years, and are using the money to expand their programs. These are virtually the only academic programs to receive sizable donations in the last few years.

The low commercial land costs and an abundance of skilled labor may cement the Rochester area as one of the strongest economies in the state, which in turn will bring even more people and money to the area. Current RIT students are key sources of talent, in high demand by the growing local economic atmosphere. As small businesses trend upwards, so do employment opportunities for RIT graduates. **R**



WATER FOR THE PEOPLE

by Stephanie Beach

When third year International Studies major Angela Stallone spent a year in Brazil, she was surrounded by poverty. She saw people who didn't have clean water to drink, and wanted to help. "I was interested in the water crisis," she explained. "I saw how water was fundamental for life but also sustainable development." Together with third year Industrial Engineering major Anna Allen, she began the RIT Wells project to do more for those who did not have the luxury of clean drinking water.

The club spent most of its first year getting on its feet. Once established, its members did everything they could to keep it going by planning events around campus and spreading the word about their project. One of the major events they held this year was a powderpuff flag football game. Last fall, the organization teamed up with Alpha Sigma Alpha to run the event, in which about eight teams participated.

"When it comes down to it, I wanted to get people who care" said Stallone, "and oftentimes the majority of [our members] are female. So we wanted to cater an event towards women that people would be interested in going to." This is where the powderpuff football idea started. After the success of the fall event, the Wells Project returned during Spring Fest for a second powder puffgame. Between the two, they have raised over \$500.

With this money, they are now able to afford to build a well in Haiti through Reach Out to Haiti, a Christian non-profit. Originally, the Wells Project worked with an organization called Living Water International. Through this group, building a well cost around \$3,000. Working with Reach out to Haiti, and raising money through their powder puff games, they are one step closer to their goal.

"Each year we try to focus on a country or area of the world that needs critical attention and access to water," says Stallone. Last year they concentrated on Haiti, but since they were unable to raise enough money to build them a well, they continued to focus on Haiti this year as well.

To help raise more money in the future, the group hopes to set up a

If you have the energy and the will power, you can do a lot.

benefit concert where people can listen to music and hopefully make donations. "If you have the energy and the will power, you can do a lot," says Stallone. That is what the group hopes to accomplish with all of their will power; helping as many people as possible.

With over 200 clubs on campus, Stallone comments on the challenge of standing out among the crowd and getting people excited about what they are doing. "We try to create really awesome fun events that draw a lot of people to raise awareness and create interest," said Stallone. With all of these new events, the organization is definitely on their way to helping people across the globe. **R**

WHO IS SEAN HANSEN?

by Evan Williams | photograph by Harry Yatkowitz

"Twenty-first century Tony Awards. That was the one I was avoiding like the plague."

Sean Hansen, an assistant professor in Management Information Systems, recalls his experience finding a way to pull off his last-minute, come-from-behind victory during the December taping of his episode of "Jeopardy!"

"My thinking was 'The game's almost over, I might as well go for it. I didn't come here just to lose. And I won by one dollar.'"

It was Hansen's third attempt to get on the legendary game show that resulted in the Cleveland native making a two-game run on "America's Favorite Quiz Show" Wednesday, April 11.

The dream goes back to watching the show with his grandmother as a child. "At 7:30 every night she'd yell upstairs and say 'Come on down,'" he recalls. "I already had head full of useless information at that point in my life, so I got enough of the questions right that she enjoyed watching it with me."

At the age of 16, Hansen auditioned for "Jeopardy! Teen Tournament" back when auditions were held face-to-face, but didn't make it to the next stage. "I blame the opera question," he joked. "I didn't know anything about opera at the time."

Five years ago, Hansen took the newer, online version of the test and passed, making it to live auditions. These featured a written test, then a practice game and interviews. After that, contestants are told that they

are "in the hopper," meaning they could be called any time within the next 18 months. But the call never came.

Finally, another stab at the online test last year landed Hansen a spot on the show. He wasn't allowed to tell anyone besides his wife and his kids, and in December he flew out to Culver City, Calif. to tape the show. He didn't do any studying to prepare for the show — unlike a number of his competitors. "I figure either I know it or I don't," he explained.

Once on the show, it took a while to get used to the spotlight. "I was a nervous wreck. It was a great experience. I had a good time, but I was very nervous," he said. "Which is funny to me, because I get up and talk in front of people four times a week at least." Initially, his hands were shaking so bad that he had to hold the clicker with both hands, but as the game went along, he grew more comfortable, winning his first game.

After the first win, he came up just short during the "Final Jeopardy!" question on his promising second show, tripped up by a question on Shakespeare. "When [the category] first came up I remember thinking 'I'm going to have 58 grand in five minutes,'" Hansen recalls. But then he drew a blank on a question about which of Shakespeare's plays had a word repeated in the title ("All's Well That Ends Well"). "I probably didn't deserve win the first game, and I did deserve to win the second," says Hansen. "But without the first game there is no second, so you have to look at it as a wash."

Before the show aired on April 11, he actually lied to the rest of his family, telling them he lost the first day. "My rationale for telling them that I lost was that it would make it more fun for them, and it was," Hansen explained. And considering that he was behind the whole game it wasn't a stretch. "So when I did win, my phone was ringing off the hook. They were happy for me, but they were like 'I can't believe you lied to us,'" he said with a smile. "And then after I lost the second day, it was like somebody had died. But I'll take my one win and be happy about it."

The family appreciation that Hansen tracks back to watching the show with his grandmother seems to have blossomed into a full-on family tradition. His cousins have auditioned, and his nine-year-old daughter can't wait until she's old enough to try. His son has already made it past the online test to the auditions for the kids' version of the show. Though he didn't get the call back, he hasn't given up. "I'm sure he'll keep plugging away," said Hansen. **R**





Film Review: “Bully”

Film | Documentary | 94 mins.
by Nicole Howley



For fans of: “Jesus Camp”, “Bowling for Columbine”, “This Film is Not Yet Rated.”

Everyone knows bullying from at least one of three perspectives: the victim, tormenter or onlooker. No matter which we have experienced, we tend to suppress our memories of it; it’s not a pleasant topic to think about. And that might be why it has been avoided for so long, hasn’t been dealt with and is still going on today.

“Bully,” directed by Lee Hirsch, is a powerful documentary unafraid to bring the topic of bullying into the public’s view. This movie presents the stories of five families affected by bullying using nothing more than interviews and footage of their daily lives. Though the parents of some victims are highly opinionated, the movie’s main strength is its accumulation of real and subtle moments. Kelby, one of the subjects, rides in the back of a pickup truck, laughing with her friends. Alex tells the audience his sister is annoying, but that’s how sisters are supposed to be. Through these moments, Hirsch shows how these kids are like any other and how none of them deserve the harassment they face every day.

This movie really strikes home for anyone watching it. It brings to light the suffering that people face as a result of bullying and how little is done about it. Some scenes evoke anger; an assistant principal forces a student to shake hands with his tormentor, reminding him that he is just as bad as the bully if he doesn’t extend his hand. Others are painful; see David Long’s reddened, tear-filled eyes when he remembers the tragedy of his son Tyler’s suicide. This movie is heavy, and may leave you weeping, but the best part is that it spurs conversation and motivation to end bullying once and for all. **R**



Lords of Waterdeep

Board Game | 2-5 Players |
60 minute playtime
by Brett Slabaugh



For fans of: “Carcassonne,” “Settlers of Catan,” “Monopoly.”

The city of Waterdeep is filled to the brim with intrigue and adventure. Heroes are born every day, but who gives them their quests? Who is *really* in control of the shady schemes that make the city tick?

Enter “Lords of Waterdeep,” the latest game published by Wizards of the Coast. Set in their popular world of Forgotten Realms, players take on the role of cunning puppet masters vying for control of the titular city. Over the course of eight rounds of play, players deploy agents to key locations around the city, acquiring gold and hiring adventurers. These adventurers are sent out to complete quests, which in turn build notoriety. After eight rounds are finished, the player who has accumulated the most points is the victor.

The rules are simple, though the gameplay is refreshingly unique. Each player has a hidden identity card that gives them bonus points at the end of the game based on a variety of unique secret goals. Turn order is vitally important since players can block each other’s agents from locations they know will be valuable. While each player’s options are limited early on, agents can pay to construct new buildings that open new pools of resources. This creates a system where the layout of the city is different by the end of every game, leading to an impressive replay value.

There are certainly more complex games, but it will still take a play or two to learn the best use for your fighters, rogues, clerics and wizards. If you’re looking for a deep strategy game with a dash of “Dungeons & Dragons,” you may find what you’re looking for in “Waterdeep.” **R**

Overseen and Overheard

“How naked am I allowed to be under my gown? I feel like just showing up, tassel swinging. Is that cool?”
- *Impending wardrobe malfunction.*

Send your Overseen and Overheard entries to leisure@reportermag.com with “Overseen and Overheard” in the subject line, or tweet with #OnO to @reportermag.

Scholars’ Quotes on College

“Commencement speeches were invented largely in the belief that outgoing college students should never be released into the world until they have been properly sedated.” - *G.B. Trudeau*

“A man who has never gone to school may steal from a freight car, but if he has a university education he may steal the whole railroad.” - *Franklin Delano Roosevelt*

Cold Hard Stream of Facts

Unemployment for young people aged 20-24 is around 15 percent, creating what have been dubbed “boomaranggers.” An alarming 85 percent of college graduates plan to move back home with their parents after finishing **SCHOOL**, similar to a boomerang returning to its thrower.

Student loan debt amassed while paying for **SCHOOL** in the United States is increasing at a rate of approximately \$2,853.88 per second, according to student loan guide FinAid. The total cost of college is 400 percent more **EXPENSIVE** than in 1982.

According to Chronicle of Higher Education, loans have become so **EXPENSIVE** that of as of 2010, 360,00 Americans with advanced degrees such as Ph.D.s have had to apply for food stamps, welfare or **SOME** other sort of financial assistance from the government.

But there is **SOME** upside to going to college. According to Newsweek, college graduates are more likely to get married and stay married than those without a college degree. Mazel tov!

Comic by Emily DeVault



Haiku

Once out of College
I will lose all use for these
Goddamn Tiger Bucks.

Mixtape Therapy

It’s here. Four (Or five. Or six. Or seven.) years in the making, and you’ve finally earned your coveted RIT degree, the piece of paper you’ve been scratching and clawing to get for what seems like a brick-laden eternity. As you say your goodbyes and pack up your glow-in-the-dark posters, give these tracks a listen as you bid farewell to the only time in your life where you’re allowed to be an adult and a child at the same time. And none of that Vitamin-C nonsense here. That song always makes me cry.

Alice Cooper - “School’s Out.” No more pencils. No more books. No more teachers’ dirty looks. Unless you’re going to grad school. In which case, all of these things will only get worse.

Kanye West - “School Spirit.” It’s no secret that school spirit isn’t exactly at a premium at RIT, but if you had soul beats and 808s playing behind you every day, getting stoked for Radiometry would be a hell of a lot easier.

Skid Row - “Slave to the Grind.” Let’s face it; a lot of you are going to be hopping from classroom desks to office desks. And while there’s nothing wrong with this, being in a famous 80s hair metal band is also an option. Just keep it on the table.

Jay-Z - “Heart of the City (Ain’t No Love).” The Big Apple is a hot destination for a lot of grads. And if you can make it in New York, you can make it anywhere. Hov gives you a little bit of hustler’s motivation to survive the concrete jungle.

He is Legend - “Future’s Bright, Man.” It’d be fair to say that RIT is like the Marine Corps of educational institutes. Or the Alcatraz of higher learning, depending on your outlook. Either way, post-grunge gurus He is Legend want you to know that the world is your oyster. Knock ‘em dead, killer.

Word of the Week

Metathesiophobia
n. – Fear of changes.

Despite the fact that he was going from undergrad to graduate student at the same school, Tonto couldn’t contain his **metathesiophobia**.

Definitation taken from <http://socialsciencedictionary.com>. **R**

KAP SLAP

MAN BEHIND THE MASH-UPS

BY AMBER WILSON-DAESCHLEIN
PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM INGALLS

The atmosphere was electric. A crowd filling more than half George H. Clark Gymnasium (CLK, 03) was pulsing to the beat of Kap Slap's first mash-up, and I could see the bright stage and colored spotlights. Throngs of people were buying tickets at the last minute, and many others were waiting in line. As I was getting my purse checked by security, she looked at me: "You wouldn't bring a dangerous weapon into a concert, right?" Of course not. But apparently by 10 p.m., she had already confiscated three knives.

Once inside, I searched the less dense areas for my friends. Unsuccessful and not wanting to go any further into the mob, I texted one of them to ask where they were. "Front and center," came the response. With a sigh, I attempted to push my way through the mass of rowdy drunk undergrads. After several elbows to the face, a few unwanted advances from men and a particularly gross encounter with a taller co-ed's armpit, I made it. From our spot I had a clear view of the stage.

Behind a computer and turntable, DJ Kap Slap stood with his iconic pinny and blue sweatband. He was energetic and captivating, pumping the crowd up by spraying water and occasionally shouting into his microphone. Jumping and swaying to the music, the students were tightly packed and dangerously active. And as my toes were

being stepped on and I was being sweat on, I could only wish I was as drunk as everyone else there.

But I was not. I skipped pre-gaming to hang out with Jared Lucas, more widely known as Kap Slap, before the show.

"My main goal currently is to make music people can party to," says Lucas. "[Good party music] involves two things. One, the girls sing along ... And two, I want people to be moving, dancing." Lucas first started making mash-ups as a second year student at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania, where he is an Honors Integrated Business and Engineering major.

Lucas initially got the idea of making mash-ups while hanging out at his fraternity, Kappa Alpha's parties. "People would change the song a minute or so in, so I saw that almost as a business opportunity." Lucas continues, stating, "I want to have an album where when you press play, nobody wants to change the song." After seeing mash-up artist Milkman perform, he thought it "couldn't be that hard," and with the aid of his "mash bible" and some a capella tracks, Man Speak was created. "Instead of Girl Talk, *Man Speak*," says Lucas, laughing. Though funny and creative, Man Speak was short-lived. "People gave me so much shit for it, so I had to get a real name." Because of that, Kap Slap was born.

The name Kap Slap refers to a family drink Lucas's big brother in his fraternity created. The moment a beer is funneled, a shot of Bacardi

151 is added at the end to give the drinker a "slap in the face." After checking Google for "Kap Slap" and finding sparse results, Lucas decided it was the perfect name and made the gold block letter logo by "fooling around on Photoshop." Now he has a professional designer working on a new logo for his originals and wants to use this to go in a new direction. "Taking people's stuff was college," he states. Lucas wants to leave the "fratty mash-ups" behind and create an album of his own music, possibly called "Graduation."

After his college graduation, Lucas wants to focus on his music full time, "I'm looking to be more of an EDM [Electronic Dance Music] producer." When asked what he would do with his degree, he didn't say much but noted that he did plan to finish school. "You never know how long the EDM wave will hit America. I've learned a lot from the [business and engineering] program, it's very entrepreneurial. If I didn't have that, I wouldn't be where I am today."


When asked if he listened to his own music, Lucas replies "I actually do. I'm forced to while making it to make adjustments. I have to listen to it in a party setting." Once a new song is completed, Lucas doesn't tell anyone and plays it at a party to see how it sounds. "A Kap Slap original!" his fraternity brothers yell once the song is recognized. And though Lucas has to endure some friendly teasing from party-goers, this sort of trial run is essential to the music making process.

Halfway through the interview, Lucas remembers meeting an RIT student at a previous show. This particular student was dressed in an orange jumpsuit, carrying two handles and kept repeating "I will get you to RIT!" Lucas fondly described him as "shithoused" and told the students from the College Activities Board to make sure he was on the backstage pass list.

Getting back on track, I ask Lucas how he spends a typical week. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning are for studying and doing homework. Wednesday is trivia night at the bar, Thursday is reserved for hanging out with friends and Friday through Sunday is usually spent across the country playing shows. "So are you good at trivia?" I had to ask. He replied, "At first I wasn't ... then I started following random facts on Twitter." Lucas proudly tells us that he and his team won for the first time last Wednesday and makes sure to point out, "Our group never cheats. Everyone else cheats."

After pulling out his phone, Lucas shares a fact about scientists currently working on research that would allow people to download information into their brains, "Matrix"-style. "I would download the music theory of a classical pianist. Second would be taekwondo." Or, upon further thought, he says he would download the information of "the world champion parkourist." This spurs another deviation from the interview questions, and by the time everyone has finished discussing brain information downloads, I have time for one last question.

"What advice do you have for aspiring DJs and mash-up artists?" I ask. Lucas's response is automatic. "I would say if you're in it because you want to be famous, stop. It never works out for those people." He goes on to say "If you're really serious about producing, one of the biggest things is to have musical knowledge and to love music... Second thing would be to put your heart and soul into it ... don't put anything out that you're not proud of."

Throughout the concert, I had been hit, pushed, elbowed and stepped on. Lucas sprayed water on the crowd while the sweaty student in front of me contributed to the mist with some intense head banging. During the performance, I was both exhausted and dehydrated, but the energy of the crowd and beat of the music kept me dancing long after I had planned to leave. As a performer at the forefront of the Electronic Dance Music scene, Lucas brought new life to the typical DJ image of a man with a turntable bobbing his head. 

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THE ART OF AD-LIB

by Nilan Lovelace | photograph by Matthew Burkhartt

Preplanned sets, position markers, premises and scripts? Who needs any of them? And what's the point of a director? With the art of improvisational theater, the acting, singing, dancing and anything else the performers can come up with are combined in an unconventional way. On a dime, they can do anything, and they can say any word at a moment's notice.

In these performances, the audience is pretty important when it comes to interaction. With improv, there isn't much of a fourth wall and the performance is as much for the performers as the audience. “When someone in the audience laughs, I know that they're having just as much fun as we are on stage,” says second year Biotechnology major Louis Moskowitz, a member of the BrainWreck comedy troupe. “Because it's improv, the audience can get really involved.”

Made up of student performers, RIT Improv is combination of two RIT troupes: BrainWreck and the Improvessionals. The group holds two workshops per week. The first class is focused on short form. If you've ever watched improv shows such as “Who's Line is it Anyway?,” you may already be pretty familiar with this style of improv. Short form is a series of generally unrelated games that are more gimmicky and are usually based on the construct of a preexisting game.

From there, the actual content of the game is rigged to fit around an idea or suggestion given by the audience. The last class focuses more on long form. Long form is a sequence of short scenes somehow related to another, whether characters, storyline or overall themes are strung together.

If you've ever been to one of their workshops or shows, you'll notice that RIT Improv can bring the drama, the laughs, sorrows and pretty much everything else (mostly laughs) on the fly. According to fourth year Computer Science major Donald Mitchell — the president of RIT Improv and co-founder of the Improvessionals — when the workshops are first offered in the fall, most of the quarter is learning the guidelines of the stage and differences in forms. By Week 7, students get the chance to put what they've learned to the test.

Individually, the troupes like to have a solo performance at least once each quarter. Many of the other shows involve other troupes, and not just the ones at RIT. Each year, RIT is host of Improvamonium when a multitude of improv troupes, including those from the University of Rochester, SUNY Geneseo and SUNY Buffalo come to perform with one another, both individually and between troupes. Another event, the Harold — three beats of separate long form scenes with an opening based on the audience's suggestion — was held at RIT in May 2012.

For students who have seen a bit of improv and are interested in BrainWreck or the Improvessionals, many members of RIT Improv would encourage coming to a workshop or two. While some members have been involved with improv since high school, there are quite a few who hadn't heard of improv until getting to RIT. According to Mitchell, if he knew they could put on a great show, he'd work with any of the students who consistently came to RIT Improv workshops. **R**

FROM TABLES TO TRACKS

by Joshua Kuckens

Tucked away underneath the Student Alumni Union, the Model Railroad Club’s room contains an impressive model layout, which is loosely based on Rochester and the Rochester Yard at Goodman and Main Street downtown. I decided to go downtown to the Rochester Yard and witness firsthand what club members really have in mind when building layouts and operating model trains.

Some in the Model Railroad club have watched trains their whole lives and dream to someday work in the industry. Club member Max Lucieer has been involved with trains and model railroads since he was two years old. He has applied to work at the rail yards several times and hopes to someday work in the railroad industry.



- 1 | Rochester CSX Train employees on a break at the Rochester Yard.
- 2 | Lucieer controls the path of a model train through the layout in the basement of the SAU.
- 3 | First year Charles Rothbart examines the wirings underneath the Model Railroad Club’s layout. The layout has existed in its current form for 12 years, with minor additions every year from different members.
- 4 | RIT Model Railroad Club members maintain the model train layout in the club room.



- 5 | Lucieer sits in a life-size locomotive at the Genesee Valley Railroad Museum in Scottsville, N.Y., where he works on restoring old trains and locomotives on the weekends.
- 6 | The Model Railroad club’s layout is loosely based on Rochester, with some fictional variations based on the space provided.
- 7 | Rochester Yard Master Dan Manero supervises the movements of trains in and out of the Rochester Yard.



rising voices

the a capella community



You hear them at odd times when wandering underneath the Campus Center. Their voices echo through the halls, carrying the hauntingly raw energy that comes with the expression of the purest form of music: voice.

They are a **cappella**, and their voices carry across the entire campus.

When you boil songs down to their roots, everything returns to the simple power of the human voice. The musical scale itself is rooted in the range of tones we use vocally, and musical structure is similarly influenced by our voices. Taking advantage of this, a cappella, a style of music involving singing without instruments, brings music back to where it started.

The a cappella scene on campus has seen a massive rise over the last decade. Prior to the late 90s, according to information from the groups' web sites, the only group on campus was the male-only 8 Beat Measure. The first female-only group Encore, has existed from 1996, but was not purely an a cappella group until 2003. The all-male Brick City Singers (BCS) started up in the late 90s and Surround Sound brought their barbershop musical styling to RIT in 2002. Vocal Accent re-grouped in 2009, proving that the growth evident in the community from nearly a decade ago still persists today.

Proof of Purchase (PoP) is tied with Vocal Accent for RIT's youngest a cappella group at three years old, and the only one allowing both male and female members. Lauren Comes, a second year Advertising Photography major and music director of PoP, said that this was one of her reasons for joining. "Being in an all-girls group or an all-guys group would be really hard," she says. "It just seems like a different dynamic." She joined PoP because of their specific dynamic, where conflicting musical taste in the members just brings more variety, which to her is "absolutely amazing."

Jace Curran, a second year Game Design and Development major, has been a member of BCS for two years and holds the official title of fun director. "All fun has to come through me," he jokes. "But unofficially, I'm taking over with poster design and that kind of stuff."

Although Curran had good opinions of each group during auditions, he decided to go with BCS. As he put it, the groups are all similar; "but all the groups have their own quirks." It's the group atmospheres that set them apart. "I chose Brick City because of the way they presented themselves; they had a very kicked-back atmosphere."

What's really important to members of the groups is that "you get to do something that you love, surrounded by people that you love. It's been my family for the last few years," says Curran. "We all love each other," agrees Comes.

Their other draw to a cappella groups has been the freedom of choice that the groups allow. Even as music director, Comes says she keeps her hands free and just runs the practices. "If someone really likes a song, they arrange it," she states. "It's not

like a bizarre hierarchy." These qualities seem universal between the groups, as Curran mentions that their process is also "very individually driven, and it gets every member involved in the group."

According to Comes there's been an increasing amount of applicants each year, especially since this is the first year they can be considered an official a cappella group at RIT. "More people want to be in it, and more people try out," says Comes. With the increased competition of that recognition, "everyone cares a lot more, and there's much more people stepping up, so more ideas get brought up."

Despite the rising interest, admission isn't as intimidating as it seems, says Lauren. "We get a lot of people," she laughs, "who say they love to sing but have never done anything like this, and they just want to see if they could make it in a group." Tryouts are a joint effort between the a cappella groups, and although there's a healthy amount of competition for members, everyone ends up somewhere they're happy with.

A major part of all the a cappella groups is the amount of work done for causes and for charity. Both PoP and BCS have done concerts for Red Cross and DoubleTree Hotel. One of PoP's major efforts was a concert for a paraplegic boy. "Payment isn't an issue," Curran says. "We sing for whoever wants to hear our music ... and the charity concerts are where we get the best reaction, because it's all people that care about the music."

On Sunday, May 20, in the Center for Student Innovation (CSI, 87), the a cappella groups will come together at Acapocalypse, the biggest a cappella concert of the year. Each group gets exactly the same amount of time on stage to avoid competition and keep emphasis off of any particular group. "Everyone gets to show off what they've been working on that year, what they've been striving towards," says Curran. On that Sunday, all the a cappella groups will gather and sing until the end of the world, with their passion for the power of raw music fueling their voices.

top right - Alex Hogue, a third year Game Design and Development major, and Jon Lavalley, third year Graphic Design student, sing during RIT Roots.

bottom - Kurt Venezuela, second year Game Design and Development, sings a solo during practice.



THE LIFE OF THE DJ

After hours of setup, everything is ready. The lights, the machinery, the dance floor — it's all set for partygoers. The setting could be an art gallery, a club or even someone's basement. Wherever there is a demand for music, there is demand for a DJ. Yet what exactly it's like to be the man behind the music remains a mystery to most. Two RIT students, second year Motion Picture Science major Mike Richos and 2011 RIT graduate Naim Hakim, helped provide some insight into the world of the DJ.

R

ichos is fairly new on the DJ scene; though he has always loved music of all varieties, he never really thought about making his own mixes until last year. At that time, he became interested in mixing after hearing music at parties and events and thinking, "What if this happened?" He got his hands on some hardware and began experimenting with making mixes in his free time. Nowadays, he is frequently hired to provide music for events, both on campus and in the Henrietta area.

In contrast to Richos' relatively newfound talents, Hakim grew up surrounded by music, and learned how to make mixes on a classic turntable when he was 12. Two years ago, he helped popularize the idea of having a DJ for house parties here at RIT; before fall 2010, it was rare for DJs to get hired for private house parties. Now, RIT is hiring them to perform at public functions and fundraisers. Since graduating, he has been keeping up his DJ work on the side in his hometown of Brooklyn, N.Y.

Hakim stressed that a DJ must "play to the crowd, and find the best middle path between what you want to play and what the crowd wants to hear." When he works, he makes sure to keep an eye on the crowd. The music sets the mood, and he sets the music.

Both Hakim and Richos prepare for their shows with a large amount of research, which can make preparing for a single gig take hours. Picking out music, preparing mixes beforehand and making sure all of the equipment is working right must be done carefully. The type of music the crowd wants varies based on the location of the venue and the demographic of attendees. The popular music of the time must also be taken into account. If a certain song or style has been getting a lot of attention, it should probably be included in the mix if it fits the party.

Trends change as well, which means the DJ needs to keep his music up to date. When Hakim began getting involved with the performance world, dubstep was the most popular sound. "The main vibe that people are looking for now is that 'jump up and down' kind of music," Richos notes.

The crowd will almost certainly request songs, said Richos. He tries to incorporate these if he can find them and blend them into his mix. He recognizes that getting a request played will make the crowd happy, but if he can't make it sound good, he won't use it.

Hakim stresses that a DJ must "play to the crowd, and find the best middle path between what you want to play and what the crowd wants

to hear." When he works, he makes sure to keep an eye on the crowd. The music sets the mood, and he sets the music. If he wants people jumping, his tunes need to have a good beat.

Hakim also plans the order in which he presents mixes. The most energetic mixes are typically saved for a little ways into the performance so that the crowd has time to warm up. If the crowd looks like it's getting bored or tired, it may be time for a calmer mix. Riding the swells of the crowd's mood and occasionally nudging it in a new direction is what he aims to do.

According to Richos, the DJ also needs to be creative about what they play. People will love new and unique versions of the songs they know, so Richos says he tries to find "something they can sing along to that sounds a little different."

Richos considers the biggest challenge of working as a DJ to be the misconceptions people have about the job. The amount of preparation takes time to do right, and most people don't realize that. Sometimes, people will call him and ask for a show to be prepared immediately. "If you want that," he says, "just plug in your iPod." Misconceptions aside though, the work has brought good memories to those who do it.

Hakim recalls the house-shaking parties he used to throw at his apartment back when he lived on-campus. Once the room was so crowded that he couldn't reach his equipment, so he crowd-surfed across his own house to get to it.

Richos' favorite memories deal with the people he has met through his work. The loud, the funny, the slightly tipsy — he has seen it all. He loves weird requests too. "I get Spice Girls requests all the time," he says.

If you ever visit a Brooklyn venue with a DJ, take a good look: it may be Hakim up there. Richos gives a performance around RIT practically every

weekend, so keep an eye out for him too; his next big event is a Phi Kappa Tau fundraiser this weekend.

For Richos and Hakim, the job of the DJ is to connect people to music. A lot of work goes into every show but, for them, the fun that everyone gets out of it makes all the effort worth it. **R**



the movement of music

THE RISE OF DEAF PERFORMERS

by Steven Markowitz | illustration by Amber Gartung

From the tiniest movement, from sign to sign, Jason Listman, a lecturer in American Sign Language (ASL) and interpreting at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID), engages all his emotions and power in each moment of his performance. On the surface, Listman is translating a song; in reality, he feels every word, and constructs his interpretation to the flow of the rhythm to present music in a whole new language. It is a language that is as much about movement and timing as it is lyrics.

Listman, as well as many other musicians and performers, is working to create an accessible medium for the expression of music. From the artful interpretation of pre-existing music to original content, an evolutionary front of music is growing, the goals of which are to be both accessible and enjoyable to everyone, deaf and hearing.

Sean Forbes, a 2008 graduate, and Listman are just two members of this expanding collective of performers. Both deaf from an early age, the two have produced highly acclaimed music videos in which they adapt modern songs into ASL. Forbes, a Deaf musician who raps and drums, is currently producing his first record with Bass Brothers, the record label which first signed Eminem.

“There is a misconception out there that Deaf people don’t enjoy music, but they do,” says Listman. “The Deaf community is very diverse. Some Deaf people don’t hear the sounds, but maybe they enjoy the poetry of it, other people enjoy the rhythm of the sign and enjoy listening to it.”

For Forbes and Listman, music has always been a part of their lives. Listman, born deaf, received a CD player at the age of 13 and he has loved music ever since. When he came to college, Listman began signing music to his friends at parties, where he was told he should pursue performance.

Forbes, who went deaf at the age of one, grew up in a household of musicians and songwriters. Living in Detroit, Mich., his father knew the big name producers who could take a nobody and make him or her famous. Music runs in Forbes’ family and is in his blood.

Yet growing up, there were less resources commonly available for the Deaf community, such as closed captioning. “My brothers would stand next to the TV or radio and lip

sync for me, just so I could enjoy the music,” says Forbes.

When in college, Forbes also began signing music at parties and on road trips. His interpretations became extremely popular, and encouragements from the Deaf community lead him to make his first ASL music video. Upon completion, he sent the video to Bass Brothers.

“I remember standing in a room, showing off my video ... Eminem himself was there, singing along to his own song,” recalls Forbes. “When it was finished, they were all stunned. They hadn’t seen anything like it, and demanded more.”

In 2010, Forbes produced his first original song “I’m Deaf.” Working with fellow RIT graduate Adrean Mangiardi, who shot and edited the video, the two wanted to make a music video which would be accessible to all. From signing ASL, to singing the lyrics, to animated captions incorporated into the video, the two ensure anybody can find enjoyment in the video, regardless of

THERE IS A MISCONCEPTION OUT THERE THAT DEAF PEOPLE DON'T ENJOY MUSIC, BUT THEY DO.

language barriers.

Forbes has released two other original singles. “Let’s Mambo”, his second single, features Marlee Matlin, the only deaf actress to win the Academy Award for best actress in a leading role. Forbes’ third single “Hammer,” is about a fellow RIT graduate and legendary fighter Matt Hamill.

In June, Forbes will be releasing his first album “Perfect Imperfections,” along with music videos to accompany each track. Forbes will also be appearing in the documentary “Motor City Rising”, in which he discusses the Detroit music scene as well as his own experiences as a deaf musician. Mangiardi, who now works as the producer of all of Forbes’ music videos, will also appear in the film, which premieres Friday, June 1 on the Audition Network.

Listman has a similar goal of portraying a universal language through music in his videos. For the Deaf community, he tries to translate the poetic meaning of the lyrics rather than just a straight interpretation. For the hearing community, he matches the movement of his hands to the rhythm for a visual performance.

“It’s really important to me to follow the rhythm. Some translations don’t follow the beats and so I want to express the ASL that is conceptually correct and also has the beat in there,” says Listman.

To date, Listman has produced three videos: “Firework” by Katy Perry, “Just the Way You Are” by Bruno Mars, and “The Best Thing about Me is You” by Ricky Martin. His first music video took him a month to perfect, with constant practicing, and a full weekend to shoot. Due to timing constraints, Listman has not produced a video in about a year, but is looking for a song that inspires him to make a fourth video.

Taking inspiration from the students he met at RIT, and people like Listman, Forbes established the Deaf Professional Artists Network (DPAN), a non-profit organization that helps Deaf artists be connected and find a home for their work.

Currently, DPAN consists mostly of music videos; however Forbes wishes to expand the organization to include all types of artists. “DPAN is about bringing together Deaf artists, but Sean Forbes is about accessibility,” explains Forbes.

Both Listman and Forbes, who have received 300,000 and 450,000 YouTube views respectively, have seen their work inspire many people through the comments alone. Moving forward, both wish to expose more of the Deaf community to this new way of experiencing music.

While Forbes wants to see more deaf performers, he believes that in order to be truly passionate about sign language music videos, the videos should be produced primarily by deaf musicians performing for a deaf audience. With that in mind, Forbes still encourages the videos to represent a universal language.

Listman’s dream project is to perform an original song, starting with the ASL sign and finding music to match what he is signing. To go further, Listman might have a singer standing behind him, translating his sign. He also wishes to use his videos as models to show RIT what he thinks ASL music videos should be. He has considered teaching a course on the subject and has even thought about forming an ASL glee club, though the project is currently on hold.

Regardless of where their futures lead them, Listman and Forbes will continue to bring the joy music has brought to them to people worldwide. Their goal is accessibility to everyone. Their medium: the movement of music. **R**

It might be difficult for all the goalies who have watched fourth year Business Management student Tyler Russell send the ball into the back of the net to imagine, but out of high school the Tiger's leader in goals was a walk-on try-out for the RIT Men's Lacrosse team. Since then, the Livonia, N.Y. native has become the most recognizable name on the roster thanks to the astounding 69 goals he scored this season.

Now a fourth year, Russell still considers his proudest moment not the individual success that he saw last year, setting the program record for most goals in a season, but what the team has accomplished in his four years here. Before Russell came to RIT, the last time the team had made it to the NCAA tournament was in 2000. The Tigers have ended this drought, making trips to the tournament for the last three years.

The last two years have brought a lot of change for Russell and the program. Even though the team's run in the NCAA Division III Tournament was cut short during the semifinals by Tufts University, the accomplishment was a sign of the team's talent "Last year it was nice to get to prove to everyone that RIT has got it" said Russell. It was Russell's break out year as well; he scored 12 times as many goals as he had in his first two years combined.

The success of the team is not the only thing that Russell is quick to mention when looking back at his time at here at RIT. For him, something that stands out is the team's camaraderie. Even off the field a lot of his time is spent with the team, a group he describes as "forty-plus guys who will always be there to have your back."

Speaking about his motivation, Russell declares, "Right now I am playing for the people who are important to me." Specifically, he draws inspiration from his grandmother and uncle, both of whom he has lost in the last five years, and Willie Rago, a team member who passed away in fall 2010 before he had a chance to play.

As for the future, the first thing Russell says he will do is take a few weeks off after the long season. He plans to remain in the Rochester area where he has made a few contacts in the business community. His future in lacrosse is complicated by the sport's lack of a highly developed professional league like hockey or baseball, but there are opportunities out there. Russell says he may try out for the Rochester Rattlers who are part of the Major League Lacrosse.



3 STARS TYLER RUSSELL

BY JOSHUA BARBER — PHOTOGRAPHS BY JUAN MADRID

3 STARS MICHELLE TABISZ

BY BRENDAN CAHILL

If you've seen RIT's women's softball team recently, you've probably seen Michelle Tabisz. The fourth year Biology major has been a constant presence on the field since joining the team during her first year. Now in her final year, Tabisz can't help but comment on how quickly the time has passed. "I remember my first practice, my first game and how nervous I was," she says.

Her competitive career has its roots back in the second grade, when her father put her on a softball team for the first time. "He was an avid baseball fan," Tabisz says. "I wasn't really thrilled with it when he put me on the team at first," she recalls, but she enjoyed the sport enough to want to play again the next year. After the second year, things clicked; "it was like, 'softball, softball, softball' all the time." According to RIT Athletics, that drive to succeed in softball brought her to be three time captain of her high school team. "I'm a really self-motivated person," she says. "I don't need other people to challenge me. I do really want to see other people working hard, and that makes me work just as hard or harder." Once arriving at RIT, there was no doubt in her mind that she would immediately seek out the softball team.

For Tabisz, softball is more than just a game to play; it's a life to lead. "My best friends from home would be the girls I played softball with in the summer," she says. "I didn't see myself doing anything else every weekend." That attitude hasn't changed with time. When asked what about being part of a team is most rewarding, Tabisz pauses to consider the question. Eventually, she responds, "When everything clicks. When you ... know that if you do poorly, the next girl in the batting order is going to get that hit. ... That cohesion inside that everyone is feeling at one time."

Unfortunately, this chapter of Tabisz's life is coming to a close. "It's still sinking in that my competitive softball career is done," she says. Ultimately, she wants to be a coach for younger girls, in an attempt to instill in a new generation the love of the game that her coaches instilled in her. That's the eventual goal, anyway; Tabisz will be going to veterinary school after graduation, and her long-term plans for softball are taking a back seat to her school work for the time being. She still plans on playing, though. "I'm playing in [recreational] leagues and weekly leagues," she says. "I can't not play."



3 STARS REBECCA LAMPSON

BY WILLIAM HIRSH

Fourth year New Media Marketing major Rebecca Lampson has been a key player for RIT Women's Lacrosse since her first year. Now in her final year, the varsity midfielder is ranked eighth on RIT's all-time scoring list with 110 points, second in assists with 40, tenth in goals with 70, and fifth in draw controls with 98, according to her profile on the RIT Athletics page.

Lacrosse was one of the first sports that Penn Yan, N.Y. native Lampson played in her early years. "I played box lacrosse when I was around five or six" said Lampson. From lacrosse, Lampson also participated in basketball and soccer when it was in season.

When she was a student at Penn Yan Academy, her hometown high school, Lampson was an active member of the varsity lacrosse team. In 2005, Lampson worked with her teammates to make it into the New York State semifinals. In 2006, Lampson helped propel her team into the state championship game.

After graduating high school, Lampson did not initially want to join the RIT Lacrosse team. "Coming in, I wasn't going to play lacrosse," said Lampson. "But then a coach contacted me and told me to tryout." From there, Lampson tallied 21 points on 10 goals and 11 assists in her inaugural year. Those 11 assists would tie her for sixth most in one season at RIT. The following years, Lampson snagged All-Empire 8 honorable mentions twice in a row.

This season, Lampson and fellow Varsity Women's Lacrosse players took on a new challenge: competing in the Liberty League. "We were in the Empire 8 league last year, but they moved us into this league because the team has grown a lot these past few years," said Lampson. This transition was not without its difficulties within the team. Starting out with 30 players at the beginning of the season, the team was scaled down to only 15 players after cuts, people quitting the team and injuries. Endurance was a challenge for Lampson and her teammates, with many of them having to play through an entire game.

In spite of this, Lampson and her teammates worked hard throughout the season and made it into the semifinals. Although they eventually lost to William Smith College in the semifinals, Lampson is confident that the team can rank higher next season. "It was our first year in the Liberty League. We weren't familiar with the teams," said Lampson.

Despite graduating this year, Lampson isn't sure what the future has in store for her. She's planning on returning home, where she will plan what comes next while working her eighth year at Seneca Farms, a local Penn Yan ice cream stand.





of winter. Weighing options of heading out west to train with her coach and other race walkers or finding a co-op someplace warmer, she eventually ended up in Kentucky working at Toyota’s North American Headquarters. Though it was easier to focus on training without classwork, it was still a challenge to muster up motivation for conditioning after the workday.

While at RIT, both athletes find a similar way of weaving classes and multiple workouts into the day in a way that allows enough time for both activities. The key to making it work, said Mallory, is concentrating on the task at hand “Training time: Switch off school. School time: Switch off training,” she commented.

Zoyhofski’s strategy is to plan her schedule to get in 65-75 miles of training in a week. During the week she spends a mid-morning break and time after classes to get in a mix of race walking and regular running. The mileage she gets in during the school week is mostly walking, and she supplements it on weekends with long 12-15 mile walks on both Saturday and Sunday.

For Mallory, a general day of training and school starts with lifting early in the morning before classes, and ends late with a workout on the water. Starting around 5 or 6 p.m., she spends up to two hours on the Genesee River in her kayak. The schedule leads to some paddling in dark she said, especially during the short daylight of the winter, and is always followed by the same routine of dinner and studying.

To get to such a place in their sport, both women have been working at them for a while. Mallory had been on the water since before she could walk, and initially completed in a canoe marathon. In search of something shorter, she took up kayaking at age 12,

following in the footsteps of her friends and her father, who had competed internationally.

Zoyhofski stumbled across race walking as a freshman in high school, breaking the school’s class record for the event in her first race. Splitting her time between walking and other track races, she raced a couple of seasons for the RIT Track and Cross Country programs before deciding during her freshman year to focusing on the race walk. Within a year of dedicating herself to walking she had captured a Junior National Title at the U.S. Word Cup Qualifiers.

In April Mallory competed in the U.S. Olympic Team Trials in Oklahoma City, Okla., where she took fourth place in the Women’s 500m Single Kayak competition. Although the placing was short of qualifying for the London Games later this summer it didn’t mean the end of her Olympic Dreams. After graduation next May, she says she plans on continuing competing with world championship teams and maybe a trip to the 2016 Olympic games in Rio in a double or quad kayak.

It won’t be until the beginning of July that Zoyhofski knows if she will be headed to London. She will face off against about 15 other athletes vying for a spot on the Olympic team at the Trials in Eugene, Oregon where she will be competing in the 20k Race Walk.

In the end all the work and sacrifice is a struggle of determination. As Mallory said, “You get something in your head,you decide you want to do it, and you will do anything to get there.” **R**

TIGERS ON THE PODIUM

story and photographs by Joshua Barber

Only a handful of athletes can count themselves among the top in the country. These few can compete for a chance to represent their home in the Olympic games. A pipe dream for many, a dream for some and a goal for few, there are two RIT athletes who hope to get there.

Third year Environmental Science major Rachel Zoyhofski and third year Physician Assitant major Nicole Mallory have both reached Olympic trials in their respective sports of race walking and flat water kayaking.

The Rochester natives, both graduates of nearby Rush-Henrietta High School (Mallory in 2008 and Zoyhofski in 2009), have not come by their success without sacrificing some school time. To deal with training required to gear up for the trials, both have had to take a break from classes to focus on their sport “It’s not something you can

do going to school full time,” said Mallory.

For the Mallory, that meant taking a year off from her studies to train with other high-caliber paddlers. After finishing the requirements for the first two years a quarter early, Mallory left for training with teams in Georgia and later Oklahoma. She returned to school this past fall after competing in the K4 500m, a team race with four athletes per boat, at the 2011 World Championships held in Hungary.

Zoyhofski knew if she wanted to get the most out of her training she would need to get out of Rochester during the cold and short days



TWO YEARS TOO MUCH

GRADUATE SCHOOL

by Nick Bovee | illustration by Jai Kamat

EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT.

This thought has been repeated to us since we were young enough to even conceptualize a life that didn't revolve around recess. So with all that pressure pushing us to college, why do post-graduate degrees get such a bad rap? Books have been published on the subject; it's even a running gag in the Simpsons to joke about destitute graduate students. Entrance into graduate school is mocked as a bad decision, a waste of money and a cop-out on "real life." There isn't a hard and fast rule, but in many cases these criticisms are accurate.

There's been an awful lot of hearsay going around about grad degrees for years, and it doesn't show any sign of stopping. Everyone's got their opinion. Sometimes it's based on stories of a friend who graduated and can't find work despite a Ph.D.; others may base their opinion from hearing about people who make \$30,000 - 40,000 more than they would with a bachelor's. Both the stories are most likely true, but they depend on radically different groundings. Discounting luck, the school ranking could affect them, as well as individual GPA or research or their respective majors. These are all individual factors, and are things you should consider yourself.

The first thing anyone should be considering is the raw cost of higher degrees. Without a degree of any sort, we're practically unemployable in whatever advanced field our bachelor's degrees will give us access to. Account for four years of school, paying about \$35,000 yearly, and we're banking roughly \$140,000 on our decision of major. While quite a sum, it's required for many of us to even start working. Two years minimum for grad school, and you're up to \$210,000, and that's not even considering the loss of an income if you had already begun working. Is that a risk you want to take?

Whatever your major, look up lifetime earnings for the field you'd be going into. Depending on your career path, you could be surprised. Usually humanities majors are on the lower end of the salary spectrum, with technical and business salaries near the higher end. Keep in mind how much of your rough lifetime earnings a higher degree will cost you. It's generally a better metric than comparing entry level salaries, and could give some insight into whether spending another \$70,000 is even possible, let alone a good idea.

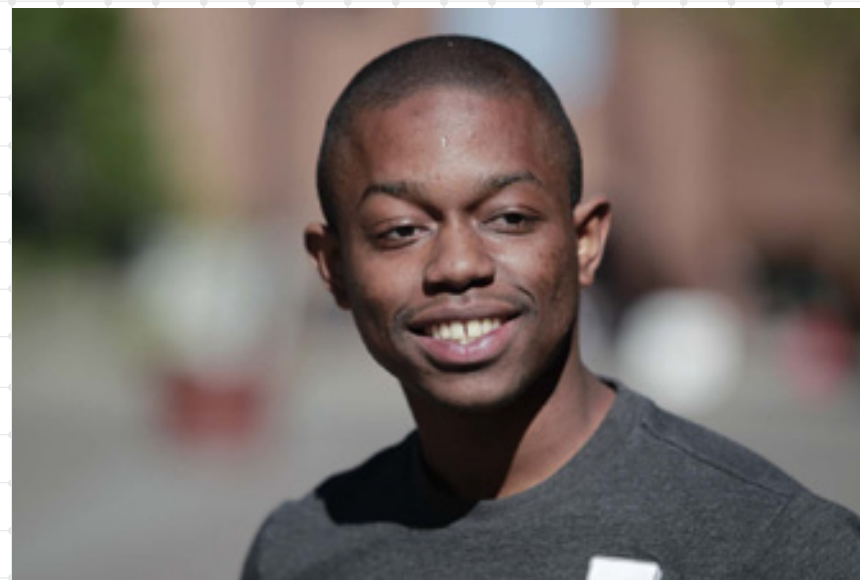
Taking a step like grad school is a major decision, despite how much it feels like a natural continuation of an undergrad degree. And to be honest, at this point we can't know what we want from our future careers. We know what we want now, but if we refuse to take a step outside of college first, our goals could change immediately when we actually take that step. I, for one, would rather not sink more money and time before figuring that out.

The pursuit of knowledge is admirable, and not everything about life or college is about how financially sound a decision is. That said, though, there is a point where you need to get wise. Making a financial mistake this early won't help at best, and at worst it's going to seriously hurt your chances of success later. In the effort to give yourself the best shot possible, work for a few years in your field, then go to grad school. You may even decide not to. If you do want to take that leap, there may be employer assistance to help you, and you'll have some money and experience to help you through the years of study ahead. Just be sure you know what you want before you take the plunge. **R**

WIDIRID ON THE STREET

photographs by William Palmer

IF YOU COULD GO BACK AND CHANGE ONE THING ABOUT YOUR PAST YEAR, WHAT WOULD IT BE?



"AFTER HAVING LIVED IN CROATIA? MY MAJOR, SOMETHING WITH LINGUISTICS."

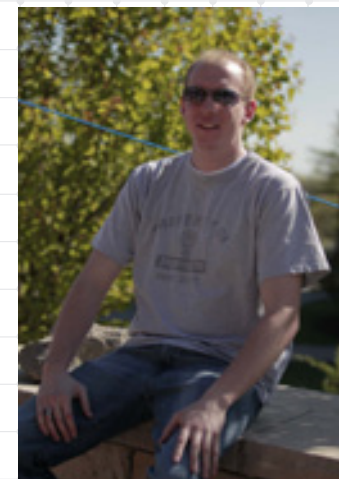
JOSHUA LINDSAY Fourth year Computer Science



"I WOULD NOT HAVE OF EATEN THE "SPECIAL" AT GRACIES"

FABIAN JAMES

Fourth year Computer Engineering Technology



"I WOULD HAVE NEVER CHOSEN TO LIVE AT PROVINCE." **R**

Dan Clark

Fifth year Game Design & Development

RINGS

compiled by Michelle Spoto | illustration by Emily Levine

Sunday, 10:50 p.m. (from text)

Two kids just spent \$115.46 on condoms. Practical joke, or orgy in the laundry room?

Saturday, 10:27 a.m. (from text)

At Imagine this weekend, I overheard a visitor talking about meeting up at “the big ugly iron thing.” Poor Sentinel.

Friday, 2:25 p.m. (from text)

God dammit Rings, where did the swings go? They were the best part of RIT.

Tuesday, 3:11 p.m. (from text)

Rings, take me into the future! I want space adventures and genetic mutations. Muarrrrr

Wednesday, 4:45 p.m. (from text)

Some schools have cigarette butts everywhere. RIT has nerf darts.

585.672.4840

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

Wednesday, 8:52 a.m. (from text)

That awkward moment when your professor tries to turn off the screen saver by shaking the projector screen.

Thursday, 11:34 p.m. (from text)

Public Service Announcement: Check the pressure of a water fountain prior to use. Nearly lost an eye to the one on the third floor of the library.

Friday, 4:10 p.m. (from text)

Rings, I’m watching two photo students compare the size of their men’s [tripods] with their iPhone screens. Guess these girls like more than their lenses big.

Monday, 3:56 p.m. (from text)

Rings, if you steal any more panties out of my laundry, I’ll hunt you down and drown you in detergent. It’s a promise. ®



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