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REPORTER

09.28.12 reportermag.com

Experiencing Color

Award-winning student film explores emotion.

Muddy Tradition Breaks Record

Getting dirty at Mud Tug.

REPORTER

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HOME

During the 2008 presidential election, I eagerly boarded a shuttle to the nearest polling station. I was excited to vote in my first election. Despite my general interest in politics, however, I don't remember anything about my choices for the non-presidential candidates. Rochester wasn't really my home, so I hadn't bothered to research them. Besides, I was totally going to transfer.

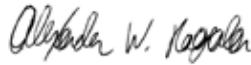
From the beginning, my freshman year was marked by loneliness. The Drum Corps Association was holding a national championship downtown during orientation, and the rat-a-tat of snares ricocheted off the brick walls of the residence halls. As a long-time bandie, it made me hopelessly homesick for the life I had left behind. Throughout my freshman year, I entertained the idea of transferring. When considering local elections, I failed to see the point.

There are two weeks left to register to vote in the state of New York. And this year, I've done my research. After four years, Rochester feels like home; I feel a duty to leave my impact.

Early last winter, the RIT community was forced to acknowledge its surroundings when Henrietta residents angered by student partying pushed town officials to restrict the definition of family. For the first time, many students paid attention to local politics. They attended town hall meetings to defend their freedom of housing. While the circumstances were far from ideal, they got a taste of something larger. Now, I only hope we can maintain this momentum.

Rochester is your home, and you have immeasurable power to change it. If voting isn't your style, volunteer. Join a band. Create art for a gallery.

The four (or five) years you spend at RIT are not simply a transient period in your life. You may be an RIT student, but you're also a member of the Rochester community. Embrace it.



Alex Rogala

EDITOR IN CHIEF



Students prepare outside Gracie's for the first mission of *Humans vs. Zombies Monday*, September 17. | photograph by Max Hautaniemi

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If you were played by a famous actor, who would it be?

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Will funding the space program revitalize our economy?

30. Rings

Meet your new best friend.

Fourth year Film and Animation student Mark Davis poses with a set of colored lights. Davis helped create "Color," an experimental film which has recently won numerous awards.

Cover photograph by Drew Swantak

MISSILE DEFENSE STATION STRAINS CHINESE TIES TO JAPAN, US

U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta announced Tuesday, September 17 that the U.S. had reached an agreement with Japan to deploy a missile defense radar installation on the island nation, increasing American and Japanese tensions with China. The Chinese government criticized the deal, seeing it as a show of support by the U.S. to Japan in the recent conflicts over small resource-rich islands between the two Asian nations.

The U.S. has sought to end the dispute over the islands, hoping to avoid an armed conflict. According to the Vancouver Sun, Panetta has warned that if the spat led to war, it would draw in other countries, and advised them to show restraint in the matter.



US REPEALS DOCKING BAN

On Friday, September 20, the U.S. lifted a 26 year ban, allowing New Zealand naval ships to dock at American ports and military bases.

The ships were banned in 1986, when the Australia, New Zealand, United States Security (ANZUS) treaty was suspended in retaliation to the ban of many U.S. Naval ships from New Zealand. In 1984, the N.Z. capital banned all ships “carrying nuclear explosive device[s]” from entering New Zealand ports or waters in 1984, to a radius of 12 nautical miles from the island nation. New Zealand has strengthened this stance in the time since the ban was enacted, and its stance has not been affected by the reversal of the U.S. snub.

The move came from U.S. officials hoping to strengthen relations with the nation. They hope to bring about a “new era” in relations, according to comments made by U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta at a New Zealand news conference. He described the changes as in the interest of both nations, as he announced that restrictions on military exercises and meetings between officials had also been lifted, as reported by ABC News. Jonathan Coleman, Panetta’s New Zealand counterpart, says that the two nations have moved past their dispute about nuclear ships, and have recently worked for close military cooperation. According to the Chicago Tribune, it had been 30 years since a Pentagon chief had visited New Zealand before Panetta’s trip last week.

ANTI-ISLAM FILM, CARTOONS CAUSE WORLDWIDE RIOTS

An anti-Islam video posted on Youtube Monday, July 2 sparked global protests after being dubbed in Arabic in early September, depicting the Prophet Muhammad as a womanizer and child abuser. American flags were burned and at least three U.S. Embassies were bombed in the following riots, necessitating an increase in security at many other Middle Eastern embassies, such as Egypt, reports the BBC. According to a Thursday, September 20 article in the State, the U.S. Government has denounced the film and has spent \$70,000 to run ads in Pakistan showing President Obama rejecting the contents of the video, in an attempt to quell rage.

The situation worsened Thursday, September 19, when a French magazine published cartoons mocking Muhammad, according to Reuters. The highest-ranking Islamic official in Egypt, Grand Mufti Ali Gomaa, urged the population to endure the insults peacefully, reminding them of the Prophet’s example to endure personal attacks without any kind of retaliation. The Grand Mufti said that the publication of the cartoons showed how opposed the Western and Muslim worlds were, saying that they were an attempt at incitement. **B**

28**WOMEN'S HOCKEY VS. MERCYHURST**

Ritter Arena (RIA, 02) 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

FRI

Come support the RIT Women's Hockey team in the College Hockey America Contest as they face off against Mercyhurst, the defending champions.

Cost: Free for students; \$4 for faculty; \$5 General Admission

29**20TH ANNUAL RITMO LATINO DANCE PARTY**

Al Davis Room, SAU. 10 p.m. – 2 a.m.

SAT

A dance party shall be held in the SAU cafeteria, displaying Latin and Contemporary music and dance styles in a celebration of culture.

Cost: \$5.

30**ROCHESTER PARKOUR COMMUNITY JAM**

Manhattan Sq Park, 353 Court St., Rochester. 2 – 5 p.m.

SUN

Whether you're an experienced traceur, or just learning to jump, there will be plenty of people of all skillsets at this jam who are happy to play and share their knowledge with you.

Cost: Free.

01**BACK TO SQUARE ONE WITH TRISTAN O'TIERNEY '08**

Center for Student Innovation (CSI, 87). Noon – 1:30 p.m.

MON

Tristan O'Tierney, RIT alum and cofounder of Square, Inc. will be giving a talk on what he learned while creating a billion-dollar mobile payment-processing company.

Cost: Free.

02**WOMEN'S TENNIS VS. SUNY CORTLAND**

RIT Tennis Courts. 3 p.m. – 4 p.m.

TUE

Come cheer and support RIT Women's Tennis against SUNY Cortland.

Cost: Free.

03**OPEN MIC COMEDY**

Boulder Coffee, 739 Park Ave., Rochester 7:30 – 10p.m.

WED

Come to Boulder Coffee's Park Avenue location for the comedy, the atmosphere and the coffee!

Cost: Free.

04**ALTERNATIVE COMICS IN FRANCE, 1990 TO NOW**

Golisano Auditorium, Golisano Hall (GOL, 70). 3 p.m. – 4 p.m.

THU

French comics have a long and complex history, creating their own traditions and styles. Come discuss how "Tintin," "Persepolis" and others have affected their own culture.

Cost: Free **R**

OCASA SPLIT FINALIZED

At the Friday, September 21 Student Government (SG) meeting, Senators voted to admit the On-Campus Apartment Student Association (OCASA) and Association for Commuter Engagement (ACE) as Major Student Organizations.

The Senate had discussed the matter after OCASA, then the Off-Campus and Apartment Student Association, formally requested to split itself into two branches last year. It passed a bylaws revision allowing the split last spring.

SPENDING REDUCTIONS DISCUSSED

Lyn Kelly, controller and assistant treasurer for Finance and Administration, reported on the RIT First plan to reduce spending around RIT's campus. Currently, the committee is trying to find ways to keep RIT's revenue on-campus and better utilize existing resources to keep costs down. She emphasized that tuition increases are not a sustainable, long-term method of supporting the university's endeavors.

Kelly focused primarily on how much money that the university spends on food from off-campus locations. The team discovered that pizza, subs and catering are the items bought most frequently when the campus hosts large events. Since those three items together account for over \$500,000 of the university's yearly expenditures, the group is trying to find ways for RIT to make enough of them during events.

Kelly explained that the university's other goal is to encourage students to buy popular food items like pizza from on-campus locations instead of taking their business elsewhere. SG Director of Student Relations Anthony Hennig pointed out that the poor quality of pizza on campus is a frequent deterrent to students. Other points offered by SG included the high cost and limited variety of on-campus food, and suggested that RIT offer better food at more competitive prices if they want to reduce long-term spending. Kelly decided to consider the suggestions in her research, which will be used when considering changes to RIT's dining options.

In her concluding remarks, Kelly announced plans to open a new dining location on campus called "Midnight Oil." It is being designed specifically to accommodate late-night dining. Though nothing has been firmly planned for the menu yet, it will likely include coffee and light meals as its primary fare. **R**

CORRECTIONS

The Friday, September 21 issue mistakenly omitted several image credits:

Photographs for the cover and "Marketing Yourself" were shot by Kyle Jackson. The photograph for "Women's Soccer Nears 'Trifecta' with 2-0 Win" was shot by William Palmer. The illustration for "Choose Your Weapon" was drawn by James LeCarpentier.



REPORTER





WORD OF THE WEEK

Enervate v. – tire, wear out.

*“Jane’s battle with calc homework **enervated** her, though the pirate onslaught beforehand certainly didn’t help.”*

Definition taken from <http://dictionary.com>

REPORTER RECOMMENDS

Reverend Bizzare
“Pyramids of Mars”

“Doctor Who” is back in full swing with a new season, and you’re super stroked. All your friends have packed into your lounge-turned-dorm, and you’re ready to watch the Doctor hurtle through space and time on a series of wacky adventures. However, in some alternate, darker timeline, things aren’t so joyful.

Recorded in the 90s by Finnish doom metal band Reverend Bizarre, “Pyramids of Mars” is a slowed-down version of the show’s iconic title track. Featuring heavy guitar riffs and a fantastically cheesy synth, it’s a refreshing take on a classic theme. It harkens to a universe where, regeneration gone awry, a raging alcoholic Doctor is drunk-driving his Tardis chaotically through all of existence. And, surprisingly enough, it sounds pretty sweet. **R**

QUOTE

“You don’t have bad luck. Bad things happen to you because you’re a dumbass.”

- Red Forman,
“That 70’s Show”

STREAM OF FACTS

Westchester County Jail in New York is being sued for \$500 million by Santiago Gomez and 10 other inmates who claim that “depriving inmates of the use of dental floss ...is causing us cavities,” according to a quote in the Journal News, putting them at risk of tooth **loss**. The Texas national guard is currently investigating the **loss** of a seven-inch radioactive rod. Used to identify the best spots for fracking, it was lost in a Texas desert by Haliburton employees, according to the Guardian.

OVERSEEN AND OVERHEARD

“Food that does not stick to pizza cheese is inedible.... You can always pick mushrooms off pizza and when you throw them they will stick to walls”

- Professor walking by students eating by MET office

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

HAIKU

*Quarter is half done.
I forget what sleep feels like.
Red Bull’s my lifeblood.*

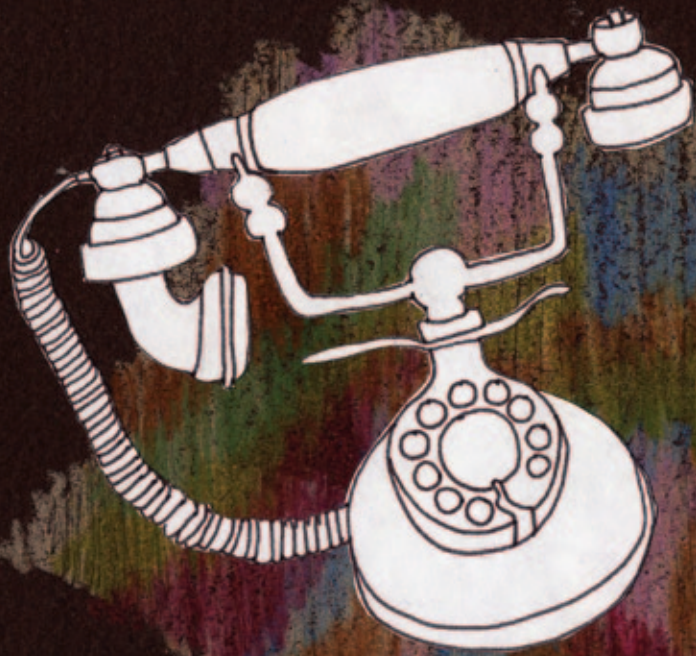
SUDOKU

Difficulty Rating: Easy

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COMIC by James LeCarpentier





RIT RINGS

585.672.4840



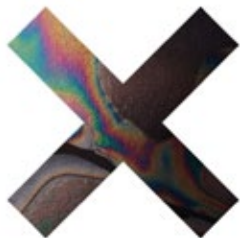
BEFORE
LOOK
SHARP!



AFTER

Guaranteed
to give you the
maximum results!
Our product can
turn you from
ordinary Larry
to HAIRY!





The xx – “Coexist”

Album | Indie | 37 mins.



by Nick Bovee

The xx are a British pop duo well known for their self-titled debut album. Released in 2009, it went platinum in the UK, winning them the 2010 Mercury Music Prize. Despite this success, they’ve maintained a distinct musical style, avoiding the imitators that try to follow rapid fame. This style takes musical minimalism to its extreme, often cutting their songs back to the two singers with a single backing track. Somehow, the xx still gives an impression of much broader and encompassing music, but maintains the intimacy their softer style allows.

“Coexist” maintains the xx’s unique style, but is by no means a repeat of their success. The apathetic and melancholy aspects are there in some capacity, but “Coexist” comes across as a much happier and lighter album. The heavy bass is far less prevalent, and that does make the album sound weaker, but it’s a characteristic change for the new tone. Some very powerful songs are still brought out, namely “Chained,” “Angels” and “Unfold.” If you were to try for a comparison, “Coexist” is the spring to “xx”’s winter.

This release still does have its flaws, however minor. It lacks the bass backbone that tied their first record together. Most songs seem more standalone and fragmented. Still, they are unique and avoid the depressing similarity between songs which artists like Mumford and Sons or Bon Iver are prone to. Simply put, the songs just don’t coexist within the album. Aside from those small issues, this album is just as enjoyable as their first.

For fans of: Bon Iver, Florence and the Machine, The Temper Trap.

Brownie in a Mug

Recipe | Dessert | \$1–\$10



by Adam Balbi

Ingredients:


- 4 tablespoons flour
- 4 tablespoons sugar
- 2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa
- dash of salt
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 tablespoons water
- 1/3 teaspoon vanilla

Put all ingredients in a large mug and mix well. Microwave 60-90 seconds.

Recipe adapted from <http://squidoo.com>.

It certainly won’t win any fine cuisine awards, but for the random late-night chocolate cravings of a college student, the Brownie in a Mug does its job well. This quick and easy recipe makes a single serving of warm and gooey desert for the individual who isn’t looking to wait half an hour for an entire batch of brownies.

While microwaving, make sure to monitor the cup, as the brownie mixture can overcook and turn into a hard and tough semi-solid if heated for too long. Besides the possible mess, the only danger possible with this cooking adventure is ruining your cup or mug by leaving it in the microwave too long.

The whole operation runs about \$10 dollars for supplies at the Corner Store. Depending on the cocoa powder mixed in and the type of oil used, flavor may vary. Feel free to get creative with your microwave dessert endeavors. 



EXPERIENCING COLOR

by Peter LoVerso | cover and photograph by Drew Swantak

Do you remember your first kiss? Think back to the thoughts that ran through your mind as your lips touched those of another for the first time, imagining different futures, possibilities or even a life together. The moment seemed to stretch on and on as her face approached yours, eyes locked together, as the world froze in place around you.

This feeling is exactly what Mark Davis, a fourth year Film and Animation student, has recreated with his new experimental film, “Color.” Tired of watching dull, boring experimental films, many of which were either figuratively or literally watching paint dry, Davis set out to create a short experimental film that people would genuinely enjoy. Combining cutting-edge technology and an emotional story with a perfectly synchronized light show, he created something more than a film. “Color” is an emotional experience that others have noticed; over the past several months, it has won numerous awards for its quirky, innovative style.

Describing himself as a bit of a romantic, Davis says he modeled the film after his own fantasy and experience of a first kiss, recalling the emotions he felt at that moment and stretching it out into a six-minute narrative, expressing those emotions through the film. “He likes the over-the-top, the cheesy, the greatness that movies can have, the way they emote emotions,” says fourth year Film and Animation student Katie LeVander, the art director for “Color.” She worked to make the colors fit the tone of the film as best she could. “It’s called “Color,” so obviously it had to be bright and great, everything that jumps out at you about color,” she says. “How fun it can be, how sad it can be — the emotions that range along with it.”

The plan for the movie was that each room would be one color, something that necessitated a great amount of detail, planning and expense. Davis and LeVander reached out to people they knew in the Rochester community, finding monochromatic kitchens and bedrooms they could use to film. Other areas were created in a studio setting, which needed even more detail in order to ensure the rooms had a lived-in feel to them, rather than appearing flat and lifeless.

“It was the most expensive six minutes of my life,” says Davis, who had to pay for all of the props, furniture, and costumes. LeVander, who selected each item to be bought, says the studio shoots were the hardest, because each room had to be constructed from scratch. According to her, they were also the most fun, because she had complete creative and imaginative control over the room. The hard part was finding and executing the items to go along with those plans. “You can design it all you want, and make it awesome and cool, but it’s just finding those items, and executing them, where the ‘from scratch’ really turns around and bites you in the back.”

The entire film was created last winter and spring. Davis first approached LeVander during winter quarter, and they had the entire film laid out by spring break. The pair met nearly every day to discuss the production, and they shot the film over five weekends during spring quarter.

The variety of locations proved to be a challenge for scheduling; during a usual movie, a set is prepared, which takes several hours,

and then the scenes are shot there for 12 hours or more. Due to the continuously scrolling, one-shot per short scene style of “Color,” though, after two hours of setup, each of the film’s nine sets were only used for at most an hour of filming each. The post-production process took three weeks.


To film “Color,” Davis used a special camera called an ARRI D-21, an experimental camera that will output video at a resolution of 2880x2160 pixels. The high quality came with its own challenges: The camera had to be connected to its own set of hard drives, to store the 300 megabytes of data the camera produced each second. Maneuvering this camera, along with the power and data cables coming out of it produced its own challenges, especially in a movie like “Color,” which relies heavily on smooth horizontal movement.

In order to produce the consistent, coherent shot needed for the film, Davis constructed his own motorized motion control system that would always move at the same speed. The equipment was manned by Alex Pagliaro, a Motion Picture Science major who graduated last spring.

Davis says the film was a combination of his two favorite hobbies: light shows and filmmaking. He has been putting on complex Christmas light shows at his home for years, and has been making movies since the sixth grade. Davis also recently worked with fellow RIT students on “Call me Batman – (Call me Maybe Parody Rises),” which currently has over one million views on YouTube. He says he has known for close to a decade that he wanted to do cinematography for a career, and credits the experience he has gained through his hobbies for the past few years to enable him to make “Color” the way that he did.

Davis’ hard work has paid off. “Color” has recently received a growing list of awards. The film was an official selection at both the Chicago Reel International Film Festival and at the New York City Riverlight Film Festival. It has won Maverick movie awards for Best Student Picture and Best Production Design. It also won Best Student Experimental Film at the Independent’s Film Festival in Tampa Bay, Fla.

Davis and LeVander are both pleased with how the film turned out. LeVander says one of her favorite moments was when the actors “freeze” near the beginning of the movie. The human error involved was huge, to get all the actors to freeze at the same time, but it wound up being almost perfect. She also likes the way the film as a whole came out, despite having her doubts about the story at first. “I think it came out really well, actually. The more I see it the more I like it, which usually doesn’t [happen] with a film.”

Davis wanted to give his audience one of the best screening experiences of RIT, even bringing in his own projector to allow for a larger screen, and staying up until dawn to get the light timing correct. He says that if he were to make the movie again, he would want to make the production larger, with more lights. He would want a bigger story and crazier camera moves, scaling the entire movie up, and increasing the audience’s interaction with his screen. 

Watch “Color” online at <http://vimeo.com/43225078>.

DIGITAL DONATIONS

by Christina Belisle | illustration by Maggie Neilson

You have a brilliant idea: an app that keeps track of all the alcohol in the fridge. It can make a menu of potential drinks and communicate with a camera in your fridge to track any unauthorized drinking. There is only one problem: Banks and investors do not want to loan you the money to fund your product.

Today, there is a new way to raise capital. The concept is called crowd funding, and works by people contributing small amounts of money towards projects, as opposed to businesses, that are in the completion, prototype or planning stage. If an idea has a strong enough base, people will support the project to make it possible.



The Best Projects

The two biggest contenders in crowd funding websites are Kickstarter and Indiegogo. To promote your idea, the sites give you a page to show off your idea and they let you offer rewards depending on how much people pledge. With both sites, you are competing against hundreds of other projects for funding, and only the most popular or successful projects are shown on the home page. According to Kickstarter's statistics, 12 percent of projects do not receive any pledges for money, and there is a 42 percent success rate.

Kickstarter does not allow users to raise money for charity, for maintenance of already existing projects or to fund life activities such as buying personal products and paying tuition.

In the end, they each take out their own share once you are funded. For Kickstarter, if you do not make the goal, you earn nothing, making the marketing campaign crucial. Indiegogo, though, also lets you receive the money even if your project does not reach the goal amount, though they take a higher commission for themselves.

An example of a wildly successful crowd funded project is "Let's Give Karen – The Bus Monitor – H Klein A Vacation!" Front and center on the project's page is a YouTube video showing a bus monitor being bullied to the point of tears by the kids she is tasked to monitor on a bus for Athena Middle School in Greece, N.Y. The project aimed to raise \$5,000 by Friday, July 20 to give Klein the "vacation of a lifetime," but the project soon went viral as people were outraged by the behavior of the children on the bus and by her perceived inaction in disciplining the children.

The project quickly reached their goal and ultimately raised over \$700,000. According to a Democrat and Chronicle article, Klein pledged to use \$100,000 of the funds to start an anti-bullying foundation and to use the rest to retire.

Another successfully funded project is was the "HvZ at RIT" documentary. Launched in March 2012, the project aimed to raise \$400. The goal was to create a movie chronicling all that takes place to create a "Humans versus Zombies" game at RIT. When the Kickstarter page was created, the team already had a crew and equipment. According to the project's page, its goal was to raise money to purchase the hard drive space necessary to store the raw footage for editing the final documentary.

With this in mind, the campaign focused on how the hardware would allow them to make the documentary the best it could be, as it was the biggest limiting factor to the success of the project. By using the rhetorical strategy of offering the audience the clear cause and effect relationship that more hardware space equals more footage, people can see how their money is directly influencing the production of the film and are more willing to donate. The project received five donations of at least \$50 and ultimately raised over \$600.

When Projects Go Wrong

The legality of crowd funding sites is up in the air, since they are such a new concept. There is not much sites can do from a legal or ethical standpoint if a project never comes to fruition, and much of crowd funding relies on good faith and philanthropy to keep money moving.

Ideas need to be shared on these sites early on in their development

cycles, which can lead to ideas being stolen and copied. Backers of projects can also alter their amount funded or can back out before a project is closed, which can upset a project at the last minute.

Poorly run projects can also cause public relations nightmares and kill a project before it even begins. "The Arkh Project," for example, was to make a game about queer characters of color to give a voice to the underrepresented through Indiegogo. However, when investors discovered racist and bigoted remarks by project leaders, the project quickly went downhill and the damage could not be reversed.

How to Use Crowd Funding

Crowd funding is growing in popularity as a way for young innovators to get the help they need to realize their projects. Just like pitching an idea to a loan officer, projects are more likely to be funded if the audience can see a prototype or demo. Working demos for games, behind the scenes for films, or a 3-D printed model for a physical product gives future investors an idea on whether your project is worth it.

Offering suitable rewards for pledging can help drive people to give more. A common, no-cost approach is to list the investors in the credits of a movie, game, or album. Pre-orders for media copies or the finished product are also very common. Investors can also be given special editions of products for a higher price, which let them show off their investment in the product as a collector. High-level rewards can include input on the final product or invites to a launch party.

The most successful campaigns happen because they reach virality, and usually because the proof of concept is so strong that people want to see it happen. The worst thing you can do is to sit idle. Get others to talk about your project, make social media accounts, hit the street and tell people why your idea is worth their time and money. **R**

History of Crowdfunding

1997

Fans raise \$60,000 through an Internet campaign so rock group Marillion can tour in the US

2003

ArtistShare becomes first crowdfunding site for music in the US and launches its first project

2012

President Obama signs the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Acts, which removes a ban for private companies asking public for capital, making crowdfunding easier for established studios.

Game studio Obsidian Entertainment creates a Kickstarter page for the game Project Eternity, breaking \$1.1 million in 27 hours and continuing to grow.



MUDDY TRADITION BREAKS RECORD

by Danielle Delp

photographs by Jonathan Foster and
William Palmer

The morning of Saturday, September 22 was as cold and cloudy as any other. Instead of the usual early-morning weekend silence, however, people in matching T-shirts and varying shades of RIT colors were slowly filtering towards the dorms. Loud music pulsing from behind Grace Watson Hall (GWH, 25) could be heard across the entire campus. To those experienced with RIT's fall traditions, this could only mean only one thing: It was time for the Mud Tug.

With 10 bodies and \$5 per person, you can register a team to compete at the Mud Tug. The event features five mud pits over which teams compete at good old down-and-dirty matches of tug-of-war. The event's official web site states that all proceeds were to go directly to the Hillside Family of Agencies for troubled youths.

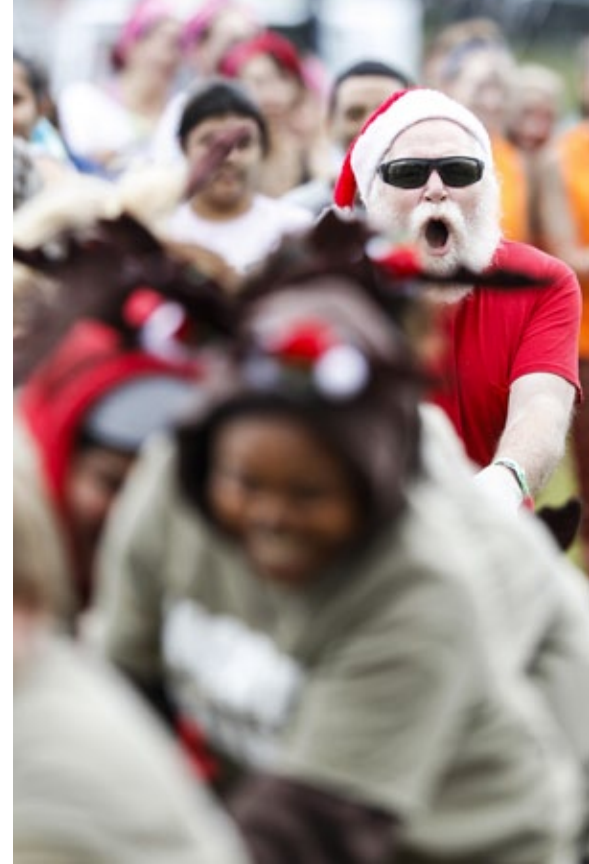
According to third Year Film and Animation major Phi Kappa Psi President Trevor Mazzaglia, 1,600 attended, unofficially breaking the Guinness World Record for largest tug-of-war tournament. A school in the Netherlands set the record in 2010 with 1,290 competitors, according to the Guinness World Records web page.

Clean bodies were few and far between, with many wearing their filth as a sign of pride. Only 10 teams participate at any given time, so the fields around the pits were packed with those waiting for their turn at the rope. Even during downtime, there was plenty to do on the sidelines: upbeat music, free food and team photos meant teams on standby could stick around and have a good time while they waited. The rather soggy field and piles of mud from the graciously wet weather meant there was plenty of mess to go around for those who couldn't wait to get a little dirty.

The participants themselves were a rather diverse group consisting of clubs, athletic groups, fraternities and random groups of friends. A good number of alumni teams also participated. Some teams were there solely for the charity, but many were also in it for the fun and team-building opportunities posed by the events.

Fourth Year Advertising and Public Relations major and Zeta Tau Alpha President Jenna Deutch explained it takes a lot of work to prepare the Mud Tug each year — planning typically begins in spring and extends through the summer. Efforts must be made to coordinate with Facilities Management Services and Student Government for setup and supplies, and the Henrietta Fire Department needs to be contacted to help prepare the mud pits.

Mazzaglia remarked that RIT Ambulance and other emergency care providers must also be contacted, since the nature of the event



presents a large risk for injury. With the success of this year's event, however, he expressed a sense of fulfillment; "Breaking the world record really made this unique, even with all of the risk management involved."

Though the claim must be officially validated by Guinness, Mazzaglia stated that the record of 1,290 competitors by a Netherlands school has been solidly surpassed. With a job well done, Mazzaglia and Deutsch now have several months off before preparations begin for the next tug-of-war. With enough support, RIT might even be able to topple the records again next year. **B**





RUNNING DIRTY

by Nicole Howley | photographs by Juan Madrid

If you were standing in the parking lot by Grace Watson Hall (GWH, 025) at 10:30 a.m. last Sunday, you would have seen a gathering of about 129 people covered in athletic wear and mud, greeting the last four people running to join them. It was the day after Mud Tug, and the mud pit was reused as one of the ten obstacles in the 5K Tiger Race held by Delta Sigma Pi. Registration for the race started at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot behind Kate Gleason Hall (KGH, 35), and people were pumped! This was the first race of its kind to be held at RIT, and the brothers of Delta Sigma Pi hope to make it an annual tradition. In addition to running the 5K, participants would have to overcome 10 obstacles along the way. Participants were dancing and running all over the place prior to the race's start; some were focused and warming up for the challenges ahead while some were dancing purely due to excitement.

As the race began, the mob of 133 registered participants ran together across the parking lot to the field behind Gracie's. They met their first obstacle within seconds and began running through the mud pit left over from the day before. Some participants came out covered head to toe in this damp dirt.

The second obstacle was a transverse wall kindly lent to Delta Sigma Pi by the RIT Army ROTC. Everyone reached the challenge at the same time and with only two sides on the wall, the mob quickly became immobile except for the six people climbing at a time. About 50 of the participants decided not to wait for their turn at the wall and instead did 15 burpees (a jump combined with a push up), the penalty for not completing an obstacle on the course.

As the participants became more distributed along the route, they faced fewer setbacks. They rushed to complete the other eight obstacles, which included carrying a cinderblock up and down the hill between Wallace

Library (WAL, 05) and Golisano Hall (GOL, 70), climbing over hay bales, jumping into a dumpster filled with four feet of ice water and flipping a 100-pound tire.

However, not all participants reached every obstacle. At some points along the track, the correct route was unclear. There were no markers along the way, and volunteers were unable to cover the entire area to direct the runners. They headed off in different directions, sometimes missing two or more of the challenges they were meant to face.

Luckily, everyone knew where to meet up at the end, so even the last four people made it back for water and conversation about the new event. People compared their routes and confusions; one person even asked if anyone had found the shoe he had lost in the mud pit. But even with all the confusion and misplaced footwear, everyone seemed to have had a great time. Erika Larssen, a third year Industrial and Systems Engineer, said, "Considering it was their first year, it was really fun and something different. It will definitely get better over the years."

Right after the event ended, Delta Sigma Pi began discussing how the race went and how to improve it in the future. Event Coordinator Ashley Carrington, a second year Accounting Major, admitted that she couldn't have organized the entire event on her own. The team effort of planning the race began last March and continued until just before the race started. Carrington agrees that there is much they can improve, but like the participants, she recognized a nice payoff. "This race was amazing," she said. "Next year it's going to be even better and even more awesome."

Delta Sigma Pi has a lot to plan for their next race and a lot of changes to make but they're ready to take on the challenge. After all, this race wouldn't be nearly as fun without all of the new challenges for organizers and participants alike. **R**



Leading the Roars: RIT's Cheerleading Team

by Jeff McKinzie

In sports, there are certain moments you witness that can be described as extremely tense. Take, for example, the end of a basketball game when the home team is trying to come back from behind to win the game, or a shoot-out in hockey after the end of regulation periods. At certain moments, teams need an audience to help rally them into a win, and there's no better audience than a cheerleading team.

Although the RIT Cheerleading team is better known on campus for performing at sporting events such as basketball games, it competes at up to three different competitions a year, according to the team's Facebook page. Two of the tournaments are in New York state.

The team went co-ed between 2006 and 2009, according to Head Coach Priscilla "Lala" Fitzgerald. The majority of the team roster is female — although it is willing to have more male team members. But making the team isn't easy. There are acrobatics involved, and team members should be in good physical shape.

"We are actually open to being co-ed, and we've had boys previously. [Some people] think it's girly; we do all this catching and throwing and lifting of the flyers," says cheerleader and fourth year Biomedical Science major Kelsey Beyea.

Fitzgerald agrees. This year's tryouts were held September 24-28, and she was looking for new team members. Among the qualities she lists as a requirement for interested students are: "dedication, spirit, and energy — a willingness to try new things."

Fitzgerald, an RIT alumnus, said she made the team as a first year in 2003, and became the captain by 2005. She held the position until 2008. From fall 2008 to spring 2012 she was the team's assistant coach, and she recently replaced Hysha Robinson, who spent a decade in the position, as head coach.

Fitzgerald says that one of her main goals this year is to have the team gain some recognition. "I'm hoping to get out on campus, to have those people go, 'oh, you have cheerleaders?'... To have recognition that we exist with the student body."

The team usually cheers at just basketball games, but Fitzgerald says anytime anybody wants to have the team cheer for them, "We'd love to show up anywhere and everywhere."

Fitzgerald agrees that the team needs more male members. "It's hard when we go to competitions, because there's not enough guys. Teams usually have six to 10 guys, and it's hard to compete at that level when you only have two."

Beyea also says that having more guys will "make flyers more comfortable, so there's not just girls underneath."

"It gives beginner flyers more motivation to learn new stunts," she adds.

This season, the team hopes to do well in a Cheerleaders of America tournament in Columbus, Ohio. The competition season usually runs from January to April, and according to Fitzgerald, the Cheerleaders of America tournament is always held in March. She says that the team has gotten first place in the competition for the past five years.

If all goes well, Fitzgerald is hopeful the team can have a chance at making it to the NCAA tournament in Florida.

Lesea Alexander, a fourth year Biomedical Science major and cheerleader, says, "We hope to get a really solid team this year so we can get there."

Like Fitzgerald, Beyea is also hopeful that the team can make a name for themselves. "We want to establish a persona on campus; 'we are here' — like we exist. A lot of people don't know, they think we just do games, but we do national competitions. The one we've been going to is in Ohio. But we hope to make it to Florida," she said.

The cheerleaders said they practice almost year round: every week Monday, Wednesday and Friday from September to January. **R**

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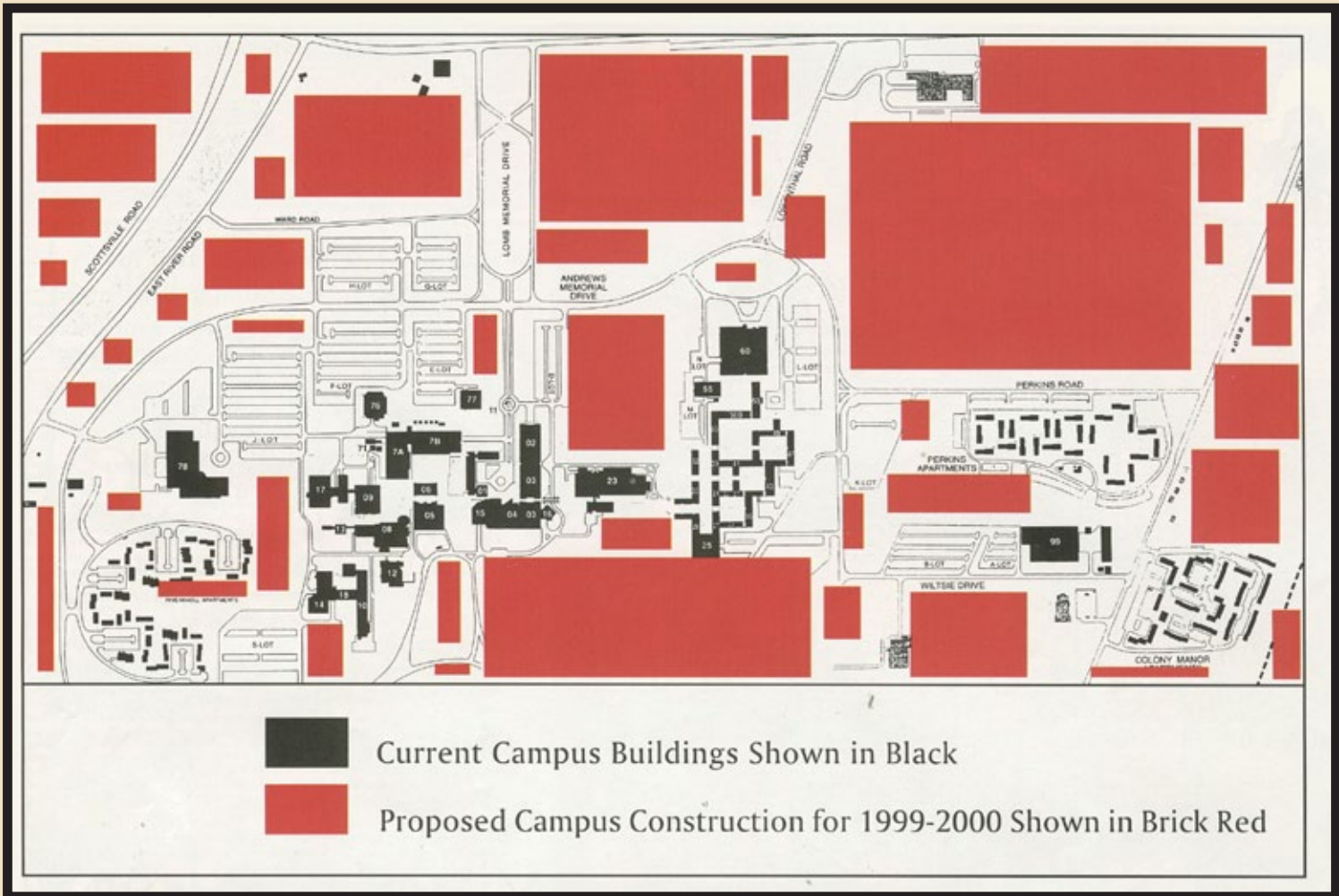
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FROM THE ARCHIVES



DISTORTER 1999

A fake campus map satirizes construction.



WORD ON THE STREET

If your life was a movie,
who would play you?

photographs by Jonathan Foster



1

1

LEFT: TAYLOR WALLACH, FIRST YEAR FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

“Megan Fox, ‘cause she’s **hot**.”

RIGHT: ASHLEY RICHARDS, FIRST YEAR CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

“Ummm, Hillary Duff, because I always watched her when I was little, she’s my **favorite** actress ever, and I love ‘The Lizzy McGuire Movie.’”

2

IAN MCCUNE, FIFTH YEAR MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

“Um, Scarlett Johansson because I’m **super hot**.”

3

PATTIE SCHIOTIS, FIFTH YEAR MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

“Anne Hathaway, ‘cause she’s **awkward** and a horrible actress.” 



2



3

THE CASE *for the* RACE

by William Hirsh

Election year has come around once again. Issues like repairing our economy and concerns over our military involvement abroad have crept into the minds of voters. While the presidential hopefuls walk the popularity tightrope, the solution for expediting our economy might be right in front of them: redistributing the national budget and increasing funding for NASA.

According to usgovernmentspending.com, the focus of the United States' budget is on "defense spending". At a swelling \$902.2 billion this year alone, our defense budget eclipses other areas of spending such as education (\$153.1 billion) and NASA's budget (a mere \$3.8 million.) According to US News and World Report, our gargantuan military expenditure is over five times that of our closest contender: China.

Do we overspend on national security? With a projected defense budget amounting to almost \$1 trillion by itself, according to estimates by the Nation, I'd wager that it is time for budget reform. Rather than making cuts to necessary programs like education, which molds the future citizens of America, and healthcare, which makes sure we're able to afford life-extending procedures, the U.S. should push to downsize defense departments like Homeland Security, which are moderately effective at spotting terror suspects but step on the rights of citizens.

So, why should the U.S. take a chance by reducing defense spending and increasing NASA's budget? The research NASA has conducted since its humble beginning in 1958 has contributed to many of the technological advances we take for granted today. In 1977, NASA (through the Lewis Space Center) designed and tested one of the first electric cars, according to the NASA Spinoff web site. For home security, it led the development of fire and carbon monoxide detectors. Even foraying into medical science, NASA researcher Adam Kissiah developed cochlear implants to resolve his own hearing loss.

Overall, NASA has impacted the lives of many, pioneering technologies that we use in our daily lives. While a stronger military can lead to the procuring of goods and economic success, the wars we have endured have only served as a costly, counterproductive exercise of power. By funding more NASA research, it would result in more homegrown innovations that can serve to better the country economically and technologically. Imagine what effect more funding could have on tackling long standing problems like our transportation infrastructure? Breakthroughs in energy and mass transport are likely products of such an endeavor.

Despite the inherent benefits of funding NASA more aggressively, there are some facts that should be considered. Based on projections by the Guardian, NASA's budget is set to increase to over \$4 billion by 2014. As ideal as increased funding would be, the skyrocketing national deficit might render this investment as too risky. The US National Debt Clock currently lists the deficit as over \$16 trillion and rising.

Some may argue that NASA has the funding it needs to persist, while others might decry any sort of defense cuts. However, that might be underestimating the agency's potential. While both Obama and Romney reportedly wish to continue the United States' legacy as a pioneer in space aeronautics and technology, the extent to which either will support it is up to speculation. NASA's value, not just as tech giant but also as a nexus of hope and unity, are invaluable to a country still fumbling its way out of a debt crisis. When deciding who to vote for this November, consider asking the candidate what they will do for NASA because, in turn, you're asking what they will do to better the country. **R**

RINGS

585.672.4840

Compiled by Brett Slabaugh

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

MONDAY

1:48pm (from text)

This kid just asked me if I feel safe walking the Quarter Mile alone at night... Well, **not anymore.**

MONDAY

9:36pm (from text)

Just **poured a whole cup of ginger ale on myself** in Salsarita's... Starting to re-think margarita Mondays.

TUESDAY

12:28pm (from text)

I just high-fived a guy on a unicycle while passing by him on my bicycle. **We were both wearing shades.** I love this school.

TUESDAY

10:25pm (from voicemail)

Some kid is **blasting the bike music from Pokemon** as he rides his bike around campus. I have a new hero.

WEDNESDAY

11:06pm (from text)

The apartment above me is blasting Taylor Swift and singing along. They're all guys... Not sure whether to laugh hysterically or be **deeply disturbed.**

THURSDAY

12:08pm (from text)

I love when I try to enjoy my lunch outside and someone lights up next to me. **I actually wanted my sandwich to taste like cigarettes.** Thanks.

SATURDAY

12:42am (from text)

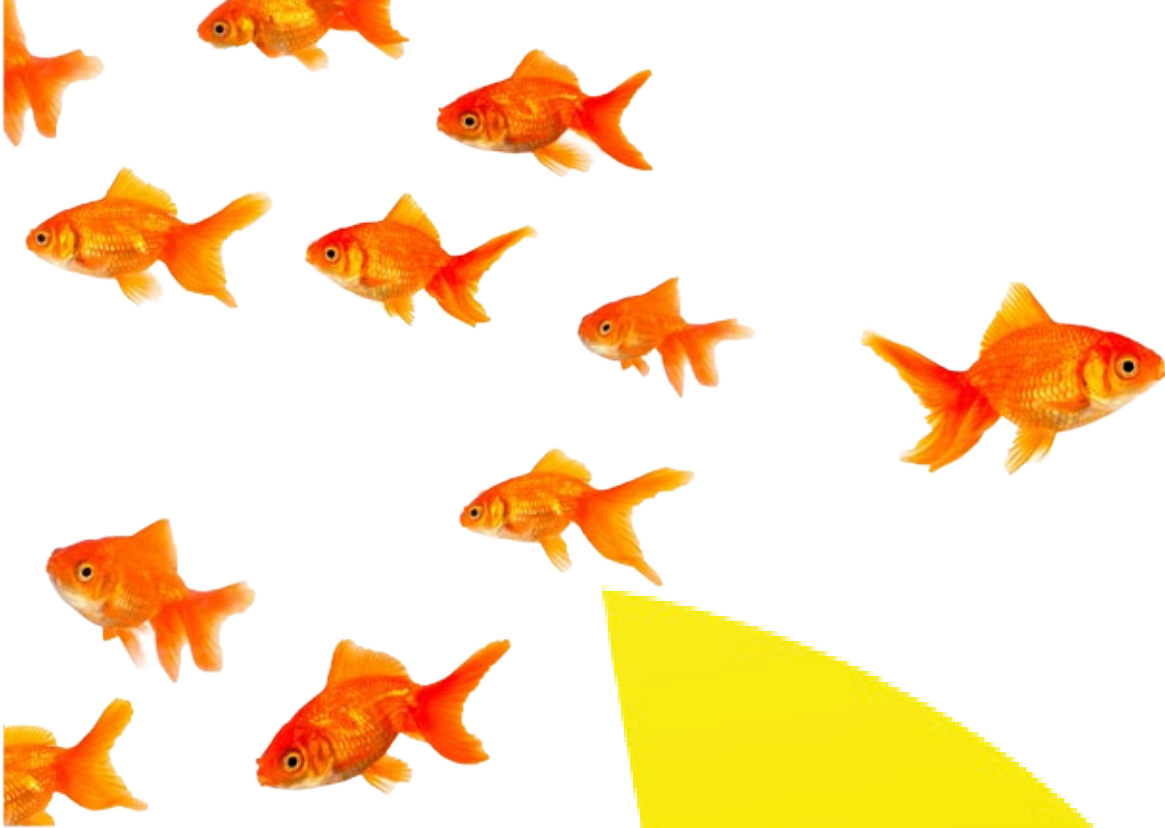
I just got **drive-by complimented...** What?

SATURDAY

11:48am (from text)

The Oregon Ducks made a Gangnam Style video... Methinks the RIT Tigers ought to **show them how it's REALLY done.** **R**





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