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# REPORTER

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



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## COMMUNICATION

Late last year, RIT unveiled plans to develop a late-night coffee shop. This past Monday, the Institute debuted Midnight Oil, the fruit of its efforts.

Unfortunately, late isn't quite the right word; Midnight Oil closes at midnight. That's earlier than the Corner Store or several local restaurants that deliver to campus.

In an interview (See "Midnight Oil Opens" on page 5.), Manager Paul Maushart has stated that he's open to change hours to later, so it's likely these initial hours are a test run. Still, it raises a larger topic: the disconnect between students and administration.

RIT's administration is focused on student needs. However, there is a communication breakdown. Often, the results of projects wind up feeling like crude and sanitized imitations of their intended goal.

The idea of a late-night coffee spot is fantastic; such a gathering place is sorely needed on a campus with virtually no few lounges available on the academic side. Midnight must have seemed like a reasonable time to the administration, and for any off-campus business, it would be. However, it's common for students to stay up until two or three.

Both Park Point and Global Village have tried to add a new, town-like social experience decidedly suburban campus. But each felt too clean-cut and antiseptic.

Likewise, consider RIT's newfound obsession with fountains. While they're aesthetically pleasing, they don't exactly fit the frigid Rochester climate, where they'll only be powered on for several months each year. Also, why does RIT need so many?

These are the sort of things that look good on an admissions web site. But after four years, the novelty begins to wear thin.

College is often seen as a sort of sandbox where students discover themselves develop into professionals. But that doesn't mean they should be sheltered from the outside world.

Let's see some grit and grease. Break the rules a bit. Infuse some more local Rochester cuisine. At the very least, don't organize and structure projects to the point that all their vitality vanishes. Allow for students to build some of their own culture. It may give risk management a heart attack, but it will go a long way towards quelling student discontent.



Alex Rogala

EDITOR IN CHIEF



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A charred bike rests among the flames of a bonfire at a church in entral Pennsylvania Monday, November 18. | photograph by Jonathan Foster

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Cover illustration by Elisa Plance

# FORECAST

BY KRISTA BELLARDO

30  
FRIDAY

## ROCHESTER AMERICANS HOCKEY GAME

*Blue Cross Arena. 1 War Memorial Sq. 7:05 p.m.*

Does the NHL lockout have you craving more hockey? Come get your hockey fix by watching the Amerks take on the Toronto Marlies.

**COST: \$15-\$20.**

1  
SATURDAY

## YULE BALL

*Fireside Lounge, SAU. 8 p.m. — 12 a.m.*

Dance the night away at this Harry Potter-themed semi-formal. Proceeds from the event will be donated to charities.

**COST: \$12 GENERAL ADMISSION: \$20 FOR COUPLES.**

2  
SUNDAY

## SWIMMING AND DIVING LIBERTY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

*Judson Pool, Gordon Field House. 10 a.m. — 3 p.m.*

Cheer on RIT as they show off their swimming and diving skills in this competition.

**COST: FREE**

3  
MONDAY

## AMERICAN GREETINGS EMPLOYER PRESENTATION

*Room 1400, Golisano Hall (GOL, 70). 6 p.m. — 7 p.m.*

An RIT-only event, American Greetings will be presenting on their company and current job opportunities.

**COST: FREE**

4  
TUESDAY

## RIT ALUMNI JOB CLUB MEETING

*Room A-100, Bausch & Lomb Center (BLC, 77). 8:30 — 10 a.m.*

If you're seeking a job and want advice on job-related issues, or just want to gain some useful contacts, the Alumni Job Club might be the perfect place. Free food is available at the meeting, but be sure to RSVP in Job Zone.

**COST: FREE**

5  
WEDNESDAY

## TRANS SIBERIAN ORCHESTRA

*Blue Cross Arena. 1 War Memorial Sq. 7:30 p.m.*

Get into the Christmas spirit with Trans-Siberian as they present the live debut of their 2004 album "The Lost Christmas Eve."

**COST: \$30+**

6  
THURSDAY

## 8 BEAT MEASURE

*Lovin' Cup, 8 p.m. (Doors open at 7 p.m.)*

Come watch one of RIT's all male *cappella* groups perform a variety of songs ranging from pop to metal.

**COST: \$3 FOR STUDENTS, \$5 FOR EVERYONE ELSE. R**

## SG UPDATE 11.09.12

### IMAGINE RIT PLANS UNVEILED

BY WILLIAM HIRSH

At the Student Government (SG) Senate Meeting, Dr. Barry Culthane, Executive Assistant to President Destler, and Heather Cottone, Manager of Special Projects, gave a presentation on this year's upcoming Imagine RIT festival. Culthane announced at the meeting that the sixth annual Imagine RIT will take place on Saturday, May 4, 2013 and is expected to draw over 30,000 people.

Culthane presented specific ways in which RIT will improve the event from last year. For the next festival, RIT is increasing the number of shuttles from Monroe Community College (MCC) up to 10. Along with asking exhibitors to stay open later, till 5 p.m., events will be slightly adjusted. Plans are being made to introduce a cheaper alternative to the E-Dragester race called Power Wheels. According to Culthane, Power Wheels racers only cost around \$500 to develop and would enable more RIT students to participate. Companies that sponsor Imagine RIT will now be able to exhibit current technology they've developed at the festival as well.

Culthane's chief concern was ensuring new students are aware and excited for Imagine RIT. According to Culthane, a quarter of RIT students are new to the event each year. Senate representatives suggested the idea of choosing student community reps to canvas RIT — specifically for freshman, commuters and individual clubs — to help drum up interest with students and encourage participation. Senate members also suggested that individual clubs record two-minute videos to post online so parents and students can see what they have to offer. R



# MIDNIGHT OIL OPENS

by Alyssa Jackson | photographs courtesy of Melissa Frey

**M**idnight Oil, a coffee shop in Global Village which opened on November 26, is a place for students to relax in comfort. The atmosphere is warm, with large, comfortable chairs, calming lights and a cozy fireplace.

Administration decided to build Midnight Oil, which is located next to Crossroads, approximately a year and a half ago. Paul Maushart, manager of Midnight Oil, and Melissa Kara Frey, Crossroads assistant manager, expect a large turnout because the Global Village plaza does well daily, and they believe Midnight Oil has more to offer.

When Global Village opened in August 2010, RIT's HUB moved its print and postal services out of Crossroads and into a new building. RIT debated turning this empty space into a barbecue joint, a pizza parlor and a late-night vending area before settling on a coffee shop.

"We needed something later at night," Maushart stated. "Our business has grown and we needed to dedicate a space for coffee. It seems like the right thing to have here." Midnight Oil opens at 7:30 a.m. on weekdays — 10 a.m. on weekends — and stays open until midnight.

"We will change as business dictates. You never know what's going to happen."

Midnight Oil has taken over production of the breakfast sandwiches formerly served by Crossroads. Its menu will also offer more choices in terms of coffee and food, including chai tea, Italian sodas and pastries. The hours will allow for the shop to be open later than the rest of the shops in the plaza to cater more to students.

Maushart and Frey seemed to look forward to changing the menu to better fit student needs. They explain that students play a huge roll in what they serve, especially the student employees.

"Students are always a decider," stated Maushart earnestly. "If it's possible, we can make it happen."

"It's a little more than what you expect from a traditional coffee shop," said Frey. "I think we can offer more."

Maushart and Frey are hoping to involve the student body with this coffee shop as well. They eventually aspire to hold more community events in the shop, for example art shows or entertainment. Midnight Oil will also accept all forms of money, including food debit, credit cards, Tiger Bucks and cash at all times.

"I think it will be nice to see a late night operation that's not, 'Get them in and get them out,'" said Frey warmly. You can still expect fast and friendly service though. "One of our baristas worked at the Times Square Starbucks. We've got a lot of experienced students."

Maushart and Frey seem excited about the opening of Midnight Oil. They plan on having prizes and giveaways announced on their Facebook page over the next few weeks in hopes of spreading the word of their opening.

"When we interviewed one of our baristas, she said it should be an essentially be an extension of your living room," said Frey. **R**





# HOME AFTER THE STORM

story and photos by Elizabeth Stallmeyer

**S**taring at the weather channel for hours, watching the destruction Sandy was causing, I decided that being in Rochester was not right. I needed to see this for myself. I needed to go home — to the Jersey Shore. I left at 4 a.m. Wednesday, October 31, less than 48 hours after the surge had hit, in order to see my family and spend a full day photographing. In my trunk were batteries, water, and 10 gallons of gas. I would trek through the wreckage until November 5.

When I finally pulled up to my home in Monmouth County, my mom greeted me at the door, crying and hugging me and saying, “It was bad; it was really bad,” and that our beach was gone. I delivered to my family the much needed gas and batteries, which were scarce, if not impossible to find.

I knew I had to get out and shoot that day. I had my camera and emergency supplies and I drove about 10 minutes down the road to a small beach community called Highlands. I wandered down the familiar streets, watching and documenting as families emptied homes of all their contents.

I came across one woman filtering through a box of her grandmother’s belongings. She pulled out an old photograph, framed and covered in sludge. She began to cry. “It’s ruined!” she said as she looked it over and added it to a pile on the ground. At this point, I had to put down my camera. I walked over to the frame and looked it over, deciding that Sandy would not be able to claim this casualty. Ripping the saturated cardboard backing off, I slid out the glass and excavated the image. Using my pointer finger as a squeegee, I was able to slide all the water off. “Here,” I said as I handed it back, “it’s not ruined.” She looked at the photo, then at me, with tears in her eyes again.

I spent every day in the wake of Superstorm Sandy journeying through different sections of my hometown. One street in Union Beach stood out distinctly — the dark clouds hanging over it dulled the sunlight. It was cold and damp. Houses, if they were standing, had furniture, clothing and debris filling their lawns. A bus rolled slowly by me, with a loudspeaker blaring, “We have hot food and cleaning supplies,” in a monotone voice. People were crying on what once were sidewalks, covered in mud and sand and hugging each other. It all seemed so unreal. I had never witnessed destruction like this first hand, let alone in my



own community and on streets that used to be familiar. The first roller coaster I rode in Seaside Heights is now floating in the Atlantic Ocean. The boardwalk in Point Pleasant I used to walk down was in pieces, scattered along the beach. The beach club in Sea Bright where I spent long lazy summer days was condemned and policed by the National Guard.

When my day ended, I knew I was lucky to be going home to a house that was intact, where the tree only fell through the deck, not through the kitchen. But my family and my neighborhood were struggling, too. I came home to no power, no heat and hurting hearts. We listened to Governor Christie tell us that the Shore we knew was gone. We would rebuild, but it would never be the same, and everyone seemed to feel that weight. “The magnolia tree in the front yard is broken,” my mom texted me after the nor’easter hit, “...and I’m broken too.” **R**





▲ Family and friends of the Keelan family clean up TJK Stadium in Keansburg, N.J. The Keelan family has owned the Stadium since 1969 and it was one of the many places devastated by Hurricane Sandy.

The Trivetts' family photos are laid out to dry in Highlands, N.J. after Hurricane Sandy wreaked havoc across the coast. The Trivetts were able to salvage just a few photos and personal belongings from their house. ▶







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REPORTER



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## QUOTE

“A wise man can learn more from a foolish question than a fool can learn from a wise answer.”

- Bruce Lee

## DEFINITION

**Ersatz** *adj.* – Made in imitation of some natural or genuine product; artificial.

The **ersatz** coffee didn't taste as to Daniel as the original.

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

## HAIKU

OH THANKSGIVING FOOD,  
NOW I AM TOTALLY STUFFED!  
HERE COMES THE SELF-GUILT.

## OVERSEEN AND OVERHEARD

“There were so many girls at the club, and all of them were ready like spaghetti.”

- Regretful male to a group of friends

## WHAT'S ON YOUR IPOD?

Kanye West feat. Young Jeezy – Can't Tell Me Nothing (Remix)

*The best anthem about getting money and doing whatever the hell you want. Jeezy and Ye team up to rap about success, females in sexy clothes, and being prejudiced against the white keys on a piano.*

**Favorite Lyric:** *But (If I had a billion dollars, yeahhh) / I'd cop more pink polos and pop those collars / Misery loves company, her nickname sorrow / My Benz need company, her nickname Tahoe.*

## REPORTER RECOMMENDS

### WINDOWS MEDIA CENTER

Each time you buy a new computer from the store, you see all types of junk on your desktop and in the start menu. No one wants a free month of NetZero internet access, and no one definitely wants a free trial of Norton Antivirus. Chances are you usually delete all these programs, but there's one you should keep: Windows Media Center. For those who don't know what it is, Windows Media Player is basically a program that allows you to organize your illegally downloaded movies and watch them all from one piece of software. Sounds boring, right? Well the best part about media center is the ability to connect to your Xbox 360 and stream your movies to the game console. Computer isn't in the same room? That's perfect — all you need is to have both the computer and the 360 connected to the same network and follow some simple instructions. Before you know it, you're in the living room watching a movie from a computer 20 feet away.

## STREAM OF FACTS

Hallmark cards are published in 30 different **LANGUAGES**.

Romance **LANGUAGES** are languages that are derived from the Latin language used by the **ANCIENT** Romans.

The Hanging Gardens of Babylon, one of the seven **ANCIENT** wonders of the world, was the only one to be based on **LEGEND** — there isn't actually any evidence suggesting that the gardens existed.

In the Nickelodeon game show “**LEGENDS** of the Hidden temple”, the Shrine of the Silver **MONKEY** was the only room to appear in every temple run. The show ran for 120 episodes.

On May 28, 1959, two **MONKEYS** became the first living creatures to survive a space flight.

## COMIC by Maggie Nielson





Reporter, badass and stylish.



# REVIEWS

11.30.12



EP | Rock | 12 mins.

The Gaslight Anthem  
"Hold You Up"

by Juan Madrid



Album | Country | 65 mins.

Taylor Swift  
"Red"

by Alyssa Jackson



On this EP, the Gaslight Anthem willfully proves that they can do no wrong. With a hefty history of albums under their belt, "Hold You Up" is another notch in it, adding a little bit of surprise and a stripped down sound with a bigger focus on the vocals.

The EP starts with a cover of Bon Iver's classic "Skinny Love." It is by no means a bad cover, but it can't touch the original. The use of echo on the vocals is a nice touch, if not a bit odd at first because of how Bon Iver-esque it sounds. Gaslight does manage to dodge the trap of just making a straight cover of the song, injecting its own personality into it.

The title track is solid, yet unremarkable. The pace slows down after the first track, though Brian Fallon's vocals retain a sense of restrained urgency. The guitars sound sadder, something apparent in varying levels throughout the entire EP.

"Misery" is the release's best track. Fallon's vocals are more laid back for most of the song. Yet after a refreshing harmonica break about three-fourths of the way through, he begins to vary intensity between calm and emotional singing. This song completes the EP on a perfect note, ending a melancholic and contemplative set of songs with the repeated line, "Making misery so proud," and a final, "While you waited me out."

This EP is a more mature musical output for the Gaslight Anthem, similar in many ways to their latest full-length album and Fallon's other band, The Horrible Crowes. The biggest differences from Gaslight's full length albums is the focus on the vocals and the slower pace, as the instruments on "Hold You Up" play up the vocals instead of being a part of the whole package. This makes a lot of sense though, as this EP is a somber and reflective set of songs that breaks away from their usual rocking, upbeat sound. This is the kind of album you listen to when you're alone and want something to listen to for company. **R**

For fans of: City & Colour, The Horrible Crowes, Neverending White Lights

Everyone knows that Taylor Swift's new album "Red" came out recently. If the overemotional tweets and Facebook statuses comprised of Swift's lyrics weren't a sign, then you're either living under a rock or way too busy with "Halo 4." So what's the big deal? A few more breakups, and we have another Taylor Swift album that is remarkably similar to past ones, right?

Not exactly. This album includes some new styles of music that Swift hadn't really dabbled in before. "I Knew You Were Trouble" includes some elementary dubstep — if one could really call it that — and seems more pop-friendly in comparison to her usual twangy country sound. Don't get your hopes up, though; the lyrics are still basic and, quite honestly, not that great.

Other than some new sounds, the album is basically the same as her previous albums. Take "We are Never Getting Back Together" as an example. It's the same repetition and whiny lyrics with the exception of a talking part that is, honestly, incredibly annoying. And good luck attempting to find a song on the album that's not about a boy or a broken love. "22" is the closest, and the narrator still alludes to being broken and miserable while talking about exes with her friends.

Overall, the album is typical and obnoxious. What's the appeal? Taylor Swift harps on the one thing that all girls have in common: heartbreak. The average girl doesn't want to come across as whiny, clingy and obsessive over their love, so Taylor Swift does that for us. We can turn her on and everything feels a little better as we let our insecurities out. **R**





**THE**

**INTERNATIONAL**

**STUDENT**

**EXPERIENCE**

**BY NICOLE HOWLEY**

**ILLUSTRATION BY KATHERINE DAYTON**



# \$1566.

This is a likely price for a round trip to India over Thanksgiving break. For winter break, the cost is even higher; a plane ticket then can cost an extra \$1000 or more. In addition, the travel can take a full day or longer taking away from the already limited time students have for break.

According to the International Student Services website, 595 students on RIT's campus during fall 2011 were from India. An additional 1,236 students were also from different countries; many of them face similar challenges. A majority of them do not go home over breaks.

Instead, they often remain in Rochester. During Christmas break, when campus closes, students who live in apartments are allowed to stay there, but students living in the dorms are relocated to the RIT Inn. There, they pay lower rates than they would at other hotels, but even with lower rates, the cost adds up. Students can stay in a room at the inn for \$27 a night. Campus closes on December 22 this year and reopens on January 5. For 14 nights, the total cost would be \$378.

Even when students are allowed to stay on campus, they still face inconveniences such as lack of transportation and limited on-campus dining options. All bus transportation normally run by RIT is closed during breaks, and when on-campus stores and dining locations close, students are left with a limited supply of vending machine food or are forced to walk to the nearest off campus food source.

Harshita Sood, third year Environmental Science major and the president of Global Union, understands these difficulties as an international student herself who had been away from her home in Calcutta, India for over a year while studying at RIT. She realizes that there are very few options for international students over breaks. "If even one dining place was open, even if it's for limited hours per day, it would be extremely beneficial for all students, especially those living in residence halls, who don't even have kitchens to cook their own food" Said Sood over email.

The last time she had been back to India was the summer of 2011. She had contemplated going back home over Christmas break but chose not to. "I was looking at tickets for Christmas break, but \$3000 is a lot to spend to be home for just two weeks." The two weeks off would also not including the 30 to 36 hours she generally spends traveling from Rochester to Calcutta or the time it takes to overcome jet lag and to adjust to time differences. The summer of 2012, she spent her time working on a research project and was unable to return home yet again.

This fall break, seeing that ticket prices were significantly lower than those during winter break, she decided to save up the money she earned from her on-campus job and put it towards a plane ticket.

In addition to the hours of work she put into saving up for the trip, she decided to coordinate her finals schedule so she could leave campus by the end of Week 10. This involved an extreme avoidance of procrastination as well as help and support from her teachers. "It was stressful to finish all my work on Friday. I had to take two take-home exams from India and email [them] to my professor[s]." Returning home was worth the stress, money, and time though. "The good thing was that I was here for Diwali (a Hindu religious festival) and another holiday called 'Bhai Duj,' which I haven't celebrated in four years."

## WHAT INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS CAN DO TO COPE

For those international students who cannot return home, there are organizations on and off campus making an effort to help them to adjust to the new culture, avoid home sickness, and still enjoy break even if it's far from home. Global Union is a student run organization representing international students on campus. "We have a bunch of events all around the year which focus on helping international students adjust to life in America", said Sood. These include a welcome party for international students when they first arrive during orientation, a Halloween Blowout event to introduce these students to Halloween, a ski trip due to the large number of international students who have never seen snow, a unification event at Freeze Fest for students to learn about new cultures and Grassroots Soccer due to the global popularity of the sport, as well as many smaller events organized in affiliation with other organizations geared towards international students.

Some of these smaller organizations include culture clubs such as the Asian Culture Society, Latin American Student Association, Organization of African Students, and Organization for the Alliance of Students from the Indian Subcontinent (OASIS). With the help of these clubs, Global Union "support[s] a lot of other cultural/religious holidays throughout the year, most of which are not specifically American holidays," says Sood. "For instance, Muslim Students Association hosted a banquet for Eid and invited a comedian for this event. OASIS hosted a Diwali Lunch event for students to celebrate a Hindu holiday during Thanksgiving break"

Global Union often partners with International Student Services (ISS) as well. The department makes a strong effort to provide the international students on campus with some of the resources they need. On their website, they provided information on employment, insurance, citizenship, travel, and other formal procedures involving paperwork and affected by international status. ISS also provides students with information on adjusting to a new culture: "During international student orientation, the International Student Services office has a session to inform students about culture shock and how to cope with it," said Sood. "This fall, ISS along with the Counseling Center did a series of workshops on topics like 'Cross-Cultural Dating' and 'Managing Finances.'"

In their new student orientation guide for international students, ISS also provides a few pages of information on cultural adjustment including the stages that many students face when immersed in a new culture for a long period of time. These are labeled the honeymoon period, culture shock, adjustment, mental isolation, and acceptance/integration. “A lot of freshmen don’t feel [home sick] during their first months here because that’s when they’re making friends and starting to get involved on campus,” Sood observes. During this honeymoon stage, the differences in culture are exciting and new.

After this stage, students may feel the effects of the other stages. “As international students enter their second year and have to start looking for co-ops which are hard for international students because a lot of jobs are reserved for Americans or permanent residents, and start living off-campus. There are fewer people available to knock on their doors and ask them what they need help with,” says Sood. She herself had to deal with the effects of adjusting to a new culture, “For me, homesickness struck during my second year, when academics became harder.”

ISS partners with a group in Rochester called Rochester International Council which is a group that pairs up international students with host families in an effort to help both groups of participants learn more about each other’s cultures. The families invite the students they are paired up with to spend time with them during Thanksgiving, the Fourth of July, and other American holidays. In addition to having the option to spend time with a new family, some international students choose to spend their breaks with some of their family members who live within the United States. “Some students have family in the U.S., and a lot of my international friends visit their family. I often do that as well,” says Sood. She also mentioned that many international students spend time with their friends and roommates over breaks as well.

“WE HAVE A BUNCH OF EVENTS ALL AROUND THE YEAR WHICH FOCUS ON HELPING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ADJUST TO LIFE IN AMERICA.”

With the help of these on campus organizations, international students have more options to help them enjoy their break and adjust to a new culture even if it is difficult to go home. But the Global Union still has plans to improve international students’ experiences at RIT further:

“In the future, we are looking to host more events during the year,” says Sood, “especially to connect with those international students who live off-campus.”

There are some issues that still need to be resolved for students spending the breaks in Rochester. However, one major improvement to the inconveniences is the new break schedule constructed for the semester conversion: “One of the few things I like about switching to semesters is that we have a month for Christmas break,” Sood acknowledged. “A lot more international students will probably go home during that time. This also reduces the burden for those who have to stay here for thanksgiving and spring breaks, since those breaks will be shorter.”

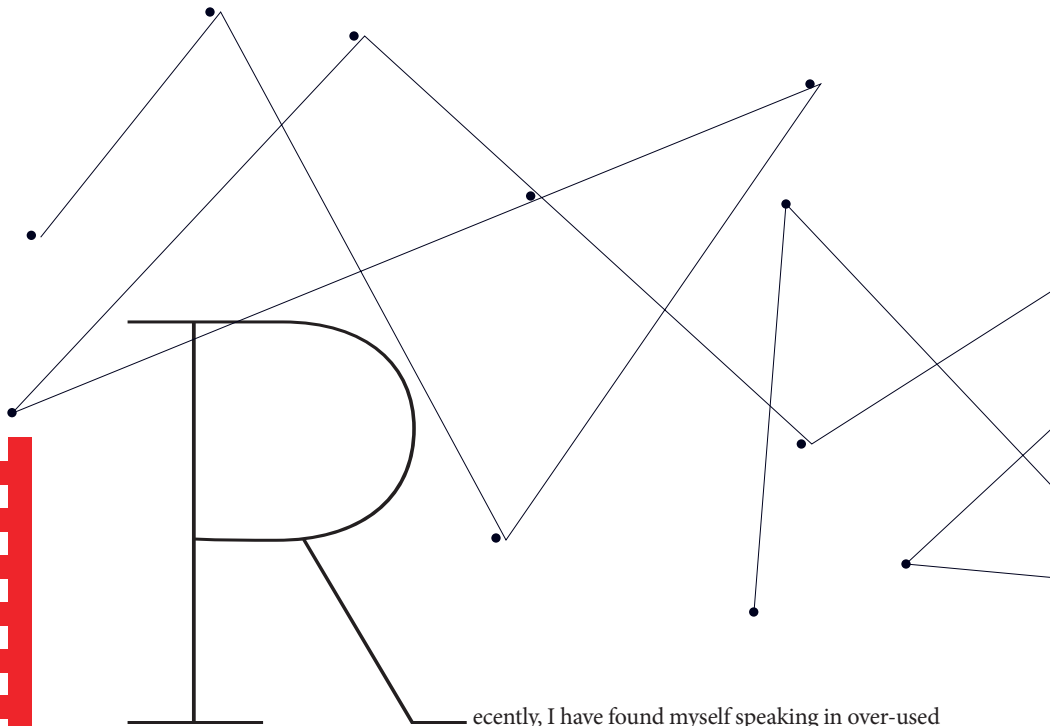
With this change in the break schedule and the efforts made by Global Union, ISS and the organizations they partner with, international students attending RIT will be able to enjoy their time on campus and in a new culture to the fullest. Sood says she doesn’t know when she’ll be home next, but with an extended winter break, she and other students from out of the country may be able to visit home more often. **R**

“HOMESICKNESS STRUCK... WHEN ACADEMICS BECAME HARDER.”



# TRAVELING TO CROATIA

by Michelle Spoto



Recently, I have found myself speaking in over-used clichés. I've been saying things like, "It was the best experience of my life!" or, "It was life-changing."

Normally, I try to avoid these trite sayings in both writing and speaking but, honestly, there is no other way to describe my study abroad experience. I explored old forts used in the World Wars, swam in the Adriatic Sea, and watched a neurosurgery up close, none of which I could have had the opportunity to do without going overseas. Studying abroad in Croatia taught me valuable lessons about appreciating culture by immersing me in one so different than my own.

Living abroad had always been a vague and seemingly distant goal of mine. However, my interest in traveling overseas was solidified after seeing my older sisters study abroad two years ago and listening to what a terrific experience they had.

My freshman year, I heard about a study abroad program headed by an advisor for my major, Biomedical Science. After speaking with my sisters, I decided to apply for the program last winter.

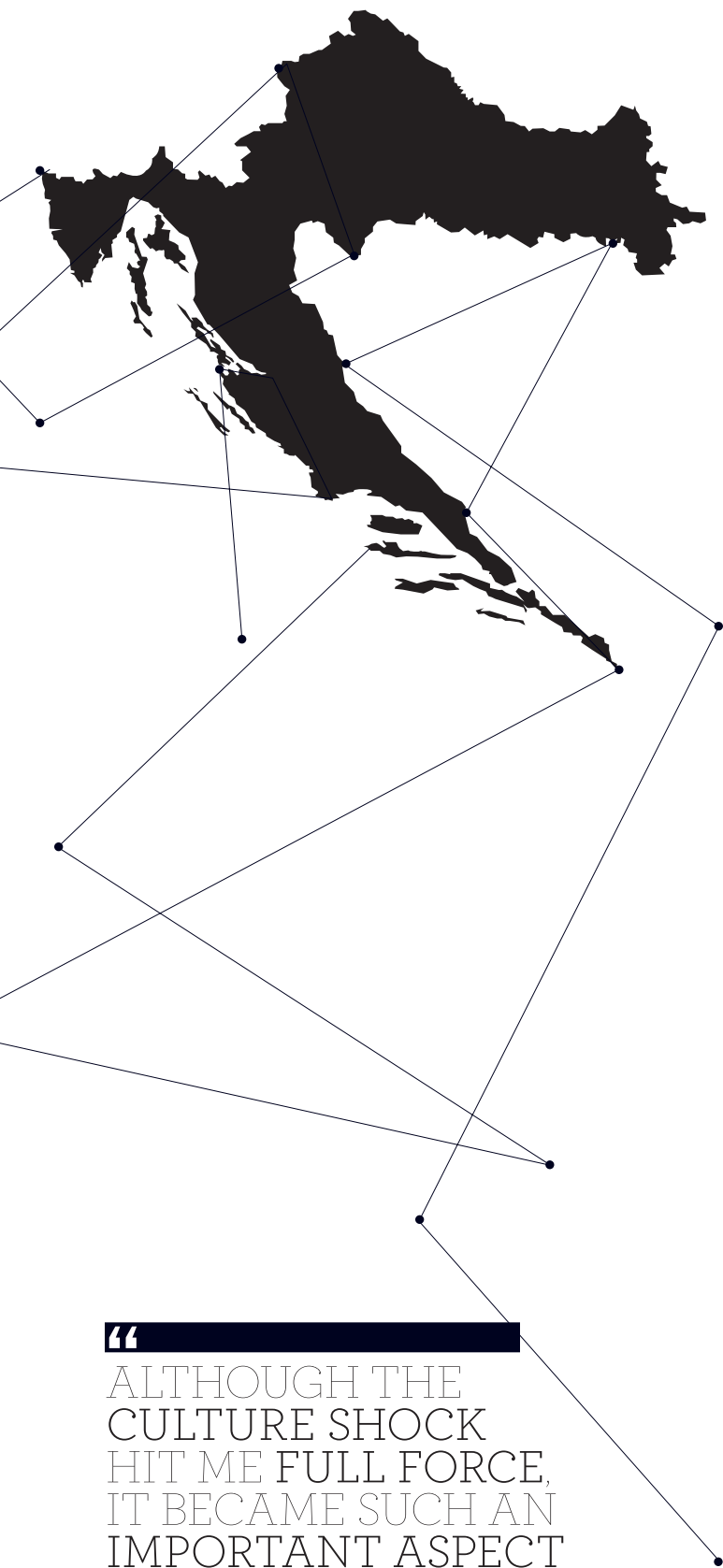
I met with my advisor, talked about the expectations for the program — this was "study abroad," not "vacation abroad" — and was eventually accepted as one of ten students to travel to Croatia for fall quarter. Once a week during the spring quarter beforehand, our group met to discuss how the program was run and what to anticipate about our time in Croatia.

First, we spent five weeks in a southern city, Dubrovnik, where we took classes taught by our advisor at the American College of Management and Technology, RIT's sister school. Next, we moved up north to two cities where we observed in the hospitals, an experience typically limited to medical students in the United States.

But before we left the United States, our advisor talked about experiencing the culture of Croatia and what he meant by the term "culture shock." There were many instances when I felt the effects of the major culture change.

One frustrating day in the city of Rijeka, Croatia, I dragged my wet clothes back to hang-dry in my apartment. After more than two hours in the dryer, my clothes were still damp and, since I could only get a laundry appointment at 9 p.m. at night, I was tired and irritable. That same rainy night, water flooded our apartment, coming up through a drain in the bathroom floor. After cleaning up the mess and setting out my clothes, I had to take a deep breath and remind myself where I was: the most beautiful country I had ever seen.

As that night is evidence of, things are different in Croatia: from the size of the coffees (tiny cups of espresso!) to the prevalence of smoking, even indoors. Although the culture shock hit me full force, it became such an important aspect of what I learned while overseas.



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The classes we took in Dubrovnik, which were all teamwork based, taught me not only about medical physiology and ethics but also about how to work well in a group. While the aspect of group work was unique to our specific biomed program, I also learned vital cultural lessons that any study abroad student could experience by being away from home.

By being immersed in the country's culture, I learned about the history, the diet, and the lifestyle of the people of Croatia. Croatia, which was part of the former country of Yugoslavia, was rattled by war in the 1990s. While living in Croatia, I was able to see the effects of this conflict and speak with individuals who felt them firsthand. In addition, I enjoyed all the food and drink, from fresh seafood to local brandy, which the country had to offer.

While my cultural experience is unique to Croatia, that's the best part. No matter where you decide to travel, each country will have its own culture of which you can, and should, take full advantage.

In addition to learning valuable cultural lessons, my time abroad also gave me a great appreciation for my own country. Although the United States is certainly not without its flaws, spending time away from home was able to give me a new perspective on American culture.

From my Croatian roommate, whom I lived with for two weeks in Zagreb, I learned that the Croatian judicial system did not include a jury. Decisions are made solely by a judge, a system that my roommate disagreed with. She praised our American system, making me realize, maybe for the first time, how grateful I was for this aspect of my country.

While I gained a newfound appreciation for my country, spending time overseas and observing in the Croatian hospitals also brought clarity to less desirable aspects of American culture.

In America, there are currently about 47 million individuals living without health insurance. In Croatia, where insurance is compulsory, this is an unimaginable number. In the hospitals in Croatia, any citizen, no matter of age or socioeconomic status, could have access to quality healthcare. Experiencing this universal coverage while simultaneously researching America's patchy healthcare system highlighted this vital issue of access to insurance (or lack thereof) plaguing the United States.

From my experience abroad, I was able to learn about the success and failures of the Croatian healthcare system firsthand and come back to the U.S. more knowledgeable. While it may seem that my time abroad was spent solely in educational and cultural pursuits, I certainly had time to enjoy the fun Croatia had to offer.

Whether you're swimming in the Mediterranean Sea or skiing in the Alps, a study abroad experience isn't complete without a little leisure time. With sunny weather and over 1000 beautiful islands, I took complete advantage of the natural beauty of Croatia. Our group visited an island, situated right off the coast, inhabited by wild peacocks with beautiful cliffs, overlooking the Adriatic Sea, which we jumped off of. Making friends with the locals can also lead to recommendations for amazing restaurants and other fun activities.

A lot of school work, a little fun, and incredible cultural experiences became the quarter of a lifetime in the beautiful country of Croatia. For those seeking a similarly amazing and truly unique experience, I urge you to visit the study abroad office to find out what opportunity may await you. **R**



# THE CONS OF CONSUMERISM

by David Utt

illustration by Ethan Thornton

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

It is that time of year again. Leaves are falling, the snow is on its way and the holidays are here yet again. The time for family, food and fun is upon us. But the most important part of the season is, of course, the gifts. People buy everything imaginable and clean out the shelves in pursuit of deals and gifts for exchange. What was a secondary part of the holidays for centuries has after many years finally reached a point where the consumerism of the holidays is now its most important aspect. But the time has come to break away from our massive obsession with buying bigger, shinier things, especially when the holidays come, and return to the roots of our holiday season.

Young Linus, with his trusty blanket by his side, first introduced me to this issue in “A Charlie Brown Christmas” when he mentioned, “Christmas is not only getting too commercial, it’s getting too dangerous.” The more I think about it, the clearer it becomes that he was right. I would like to think that everyone has a fairly good idea of the Christmas spirit and what it means. We all grew up with lessons learned from old movies, and stories such as “Jack Frost,” “Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer” and “A Miser Brothers’ Christmas Special.”

Those ideas that we know and love have been slowly twisted into some grotesque form — the modern holiday buying spirit. Buying items for family member or friend and then getting a little something for yourself, this seems to have become what’s expected now. Whatever happened to the idea of it being better to give than to receive? I guess they never thought of giving to yourself.

It’s not just the spirit itself that has been twisted; even the traditions of the holidays have been turned into a joke for companies and people to play on. Classic songs such as “Jingle Bells” and “Let it Snow,” which bring back memories sitting with my family

by the fire, are changed into songs like “Jingle Sales” and “Let it Sell” in an attempt to reel in new customers.

Let us not forget that the workers in the stores we shop from also pay the price for the consumerism culture we have created. One only has to look at Black Friday to see the best example. This event has become a symbol of the consumer-oriented nation we are now. Stores purposefully have their stores open at 3 a.m., midnight, or in the case of Walmart this year, 8 p.m. on Thanksgiving day! Thanksgiving is about being with you family and friends, not rushing back to work. I suppose now if you work at a retail store, you will have to spend time with them at the store.

I think that it is time to take a step back from this shopping vortex we are trapped in. When I think of the holidays, I consider it a time to be with those you care about, spending time with them: Have a party. Play a few games. Sit by the fire. Our world now is all about making the most of the time we have on this earth. Some people think it is by doing everything imaginable we accomplish this, but instead it is by slowing down being with those we care about, and making memories with them, and that is what the holidays allow. I think those memories are the greatest gift you can give to someone, and somehow it is the one gift we most forget. **R**





## ANTI-INTELLECTUALISM IN AMERICA

story and illustration by James LeCarpentier

Bags: check. Laptop: check. Toothbrush and toothpaste: check. Plane tickets to a nice vacation in Brazil: check. Necessary vaccinations before out of country travel, che—wait, nope; let's just skip that one. Some people forgo what are often considered necessary steps for general safety, such as in the use of vaccinations. While this may be a case of simple ignorance, depending on the reasons, it could also be a practice of anti-intellectualism, something that is harmful both on a personal and societal level.

Anti-intellectualism is the general mistrust of intellectuals and everything associated with them, including higher education, science, philosophy and the arts. A simplified picture of this would be the practical, hardworking common man pitted against the well-educated elite. This isn't the complete picture of course, and as in most things found in life, it isn't as simple, or as black and white as it appears.

Things such as distrust of the theory of evolution, connecting education with elitism, thinking vaccinations are harmful and trust in homeopathic remedies for serious illnesses are all examples of problems brought on by a degree of anti-intellectualism. While people are free to believe what they want to believe, sometimes it can be harmful to them and the advancement of scientific progress. Such fantastic examples of wildly misguided anti-intellectualism are Jenny McCarthy's fight against vaccinations, the popularity of homeopathic treatments for serious illnesses, and scientifically incorrect political gaffs, notably Missouri representative Todd Akin and his recent comments about "legitimate rape."

McCarthy, a former Playboy playmate, has in recent years advocated a reduction in vaccinations for children, claiming vaccinations were the source of her son's autism. Many who have sided with McCarthy point towards the mercury content found in vaccines more than a decade ago, especially in the MMR vaccine, as a possible source of autism. Though, according to study published in the January 2008 issue of Archives of General Psychiatry, autism cases are continuing to rise even though most vaccine makers have removed the mercury based preservative thimerosal since 1999.

Another example is the use of homeopathic medicine for serious illnesses. Homeopathic medications are substances that are very diluted (often in water) that are meant to let the body heal itself. In a story on the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's website they have a cautionary tale of a man named Tom Miller who took homeopathic medication to prevent malaria before his trip overseas. He caught malaria with a nice helping of, "renal insufficiency, anemia, disseminated intravascular coagulation (can lead to shock and death) and encephalopathy (brain dysfunction)." All of this could have been prevented if Miller had taken approved preventive medicines. It should be noted that homeopathic medicines are not regulated by the FDA.

“ people are more likely to believe items they are familiar with, such as their own beliefs, rather than those of others. ”

Anti-intellectualism is often shown as a conflict between the uneducated and educated, but I don't think anti-intellectualism is really about that; I think it's a complicated relationship of distrust and fear of what is not understood. In his Pulitzer Prize-winning book "Anti-Intellectualism in America," Richard Hofstadter he claims that as village culture shrank with the 20th century, "common folk" started to become suspicious of urbanity. Suspicion not necessarily because of what urbanity was, but because it represented a change in the way of life of many whom most likely feared change. Those parents that are looking at vaccinations as a cause for autism aren't crazy, they have been given a different hand in life and in their search for an answer they've blamed vaccinations; since there is still speculation at the causes of autism, they could even be correct. In a New York Times article, NYU psychology professor Gary F. Marcus states that, "People are more likely to believe items they are familiar with, such as their own beliefs, rather than those of others." Marcus' claim could explain why people are so hard to persuade, even in the face of facts.

While it is easy to dismiss people who disregard things that are generally accepted as true, it's important to understand they believe what they believe for a reason. Those considered anti-intellectuals don't often consider themselves to be anti "intellect," but that sometimes the truth is not the common knowledge. **R**

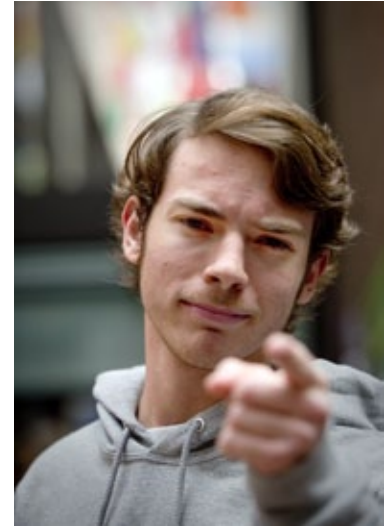




"It's a little bit fuzzy ... I was at a party...and there was this group of what we thought were like deaf girls there ... and we were talking really loud ... and we were like, 'Oh! One of them is pretty cute!' We're just yelling it out, like, 'Oh! We should go talk to them.' We're just yelling it ... and we were just sitting there and they all stopped talking and they all stopped signing and were like, **'We're not deaf.'**

And then, the same party, different set of deaf chicks actually wanted to talk to us. We went up to them later, turns out this group was deaf, and we were trying to talk to us and the girls looked the same ... It was just really bad."

Shane Rand - Second Year | Information Technology



"I just met her and she reached over and **grabbed my boob.**"

Charlene Dimeglio - Third Year | Computer Science

"I was having a **surprise birthday party** for a friend ... a bunch of us were going to hide in his basement ... Everyone had this great idea we were just going to have **me standing with this strobe light, with the balloon.** And he was going to walk in with his girlfriend, and I was going to say 'surprise' in a sad voice ... He's like working with her on the way down the stairs, and everyone can hear it and it's really awkward for everyone. And so he opens up the door and inside it's just me standing there, with the balloon, strobe light going on in the background. I just go 'surprise.' **I get the most confused look I've ever seen on anyone's face.** And then all my friends thought it would be a good idea to wait 45 seconds before coming out, to make him think nobody else was there."

Andrew Bilgore - Third Year | Computer Science



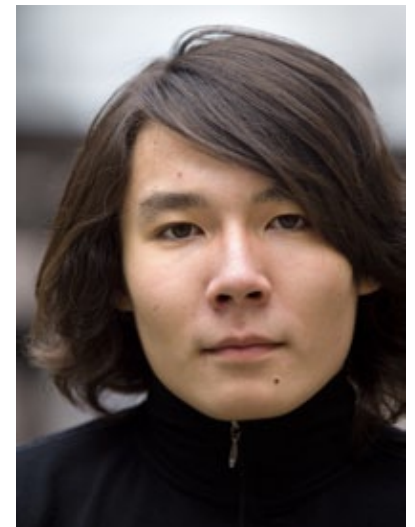
# THING YOU'VE EXPERIENCED?

photos by Juan Madrid



“I went into the bathroom in Gosnell, and there was a guy standing at the urinal, **SHORTS DOWN, EATING A CHOCOLATE BAR.** He looked very happy with himself, so I just walked out.”

Kyle Etter - Second Year | Biomedical Engineering



“Forgetting someone's name, like someone you know.”

Tim Dusenov - Second Year | Information Security and Forensics



Deidre Graham - Second Year | Biomedical Science

Ashlynn Keller - Fourth Year | Biomedical Science and Psychology

## RIGHT

“I got in the **elevator**, and there was this guy, and I said, ‘Hey.’ and he just **made this weird sound** and he was facing me, and he just **turned his back** in the elevator.”

## LEFT

“Mine was also in the **elevator**. I got on the elevator and there was **a girl standing there BUTT-NAKED.** And the doors closed before I could get off. So I rode the entire way, eight floors, it was four o'clock in the afternoon, too.” **B**

# GET \_ to \_ GAME



## TIGER DEN EVENTS

Swimming and Diving: December 8  
Men's Basketball: January 25  
Wrestling: January 30  
Women's Basketball: February 5

## FREE GIVEAWAYS!





# RINGS

compiled by Brett Slabaugh

# 585.672.4839

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

FRIDAY, 1:06 P.M. (FROM TEXT)

DISCOVERED TODAY THAT THERE IS A DIRECT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE QUARTER'S WEEK NUMBER AND THE LIBRARY'S OWNERSHIP OF MY SOUL.

FRIDAY, 1:50 P.M. (FROM TEXT)

IT'S NOT A FLASH MOB IF EVERYONE KNOWS ABOUT IT...

WEDNESDAY, 7:51 P.M. (FROM TEXT)

I'M NOT DOING NO-SHAVE-NOVEMBER; IT'S JUST WEEK 10.

TUESDAY, 10:12 P.M. (FROM TEXT)

I HAVE ACCEPTED THAT I AM AN AVERAGE STUDENT AT AN ABOVE-AVERAGE SCHOOL. C'S GET DEGREES!

TUESDAY, 7:05 P.M. (FROM TEXT)

JUST HEARD SOMEONE SCREAM "OH GOD LEATHER SEATS!" AS THEY SAT DOWN IN A CAR...AND SO IT BEGINS.

FRIDAY, 4:25 P.M. (FROM TEXT)

RINGS, WHY THE [NELLY] DO YOU NOT CENSOR THE [DARNS] IN THE ARTICLES, BUT YOU CENSOR EVERY [FORNICATING] [GOSH] IN THE [CLASSY] RINGS.

WEDNESDAY, 10:10 A.M. (FROM TEXT)

SOMEONE PLEASE TELL THE KID WHO IS ALWAYS RUNNING TO CLASS TO GO OUT FOR THE TRACK TEAM.

SATURDAY, 12:18 P.M. (FROM TEXT)

JUST DID A VICTORY DANCE AFTER FIXING A STAPLER. I LIVE A SAD, SAD LIFE.

MONDAY, 11:19 P.M. (FROM TEXT)

JUST SPOTTED A GUY WALKING IN THE LIBRARY WITH ROSES...! WHAT A CLASSY ACT. GENTLEMEN OF RIT - MAY THIS BE A GREAT LESSON FOR ALL OF YOU. ☹



Pro at **PHP**?  
Skilled with **SQL**?  
Adept at **AJAX**?  
Deft at **Drupal**?

**REPORTER** is hiring a web developer.

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