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REPORTER

EDITOR IN CHIEF Alex Rogala
| eic@reportermag.com
MANAGING EDITOR Amber Wilson-Daeschlein
| managing.editor@reportermag.com
COPY EDITOR Nathaniel Mathews
| copy.editor@reportermag.com
NEWS EDITORS William Hirsh
| news@reportermag.com
LEISURE EDITOR Michelle Spoto
| leisure@reportermag.com
FEATURES EDITOR Nicole Howley
| features@reportermag.com
SPORTS EDITOR Kayla Emerson
| sports@reportermag.com
VIEWS EDITOR Peter LoVerso
| views@reportermag.com
WRITERS Nick Bovee, Garrett Chase, Danielle Delp, Kayla Emerson, Jonathan Foster, Angela Freeman, David Keith Gasser, Amanda, Imperial, Alyssa Jackson, Amy Sanderson, Brett Slabaugh

ART

ART DIRECTOR Jon Lavalley
| art.director@reportermag.com
SENIOR STAFF DESIGNER Jiwon Lim
STAFF DESIGNERS Michaela Jebb, Autumn Wadsworth, Theresa Garritano
PHOTO EDITOR Juan Madrid
| photo@reportermag.com
CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS Jonathan Foster, Josh Barber, Mackenzie Harris
STAFF ILLUSTRATOR Emily Gage
CONTRIBUTING ILLUSTRATORS Corinne Newbegin, Erica Landers, Elisa Plance
CARTOONIST James Lecarpentier

BUSINESS

PUBLICITY MANAGER Nicholas Gawreluk
AD MANAGER Julia Morrow
| ads@reportermag.com
BUSINESS MANAGER Christina Harawa
| business.manager@reportermag.com
PRODUCTION MANAGER Nicholas Gawreluk
| production.manager@reportermag.com
ONLINE PRODUCTION MANAGER Jake DeBoer
| webmaster@reportermag.com

ADVISOR Rudy Pugliese
PRINTING Printing Applications Lab
CONTACT 1.800.970.5406

BOUNCED CHECKS

Following last Friday’s tragic school shooting in Newtown, Conn., a statement allegedly issued by actor Morgan Freeman spread across Facebook. In it, Freeman criticized the media for sensationalizing and glorifying mass murderers. The message rapidly spread around Facebook, as users could relate with his sage, snappy insight.

Except Morgan Freeman hadn’t said anything regarding the incident; the statement was either falsely attributed or intentionally fabricated to deceive readers. By Friday night, the myth-busters at Snopes had already reported they could not definitively link the quote to Freeman. Last Sunday, according to Yahoo News, Freeman’s publicist debunked the rumor that the statements had originated with the actor.

In our November 30 issue, Reporter’s James Lecarpentier wrote a views piece on anti-intellectualism in America. He hit on some fantastic points about willful ignorance and distain for science. Mulling his arguments over in the weeks since, especially after reading “Freeman’s” post, I’ve come to realize a parallel problem: widespread general apathy towards factual accuracy in day-to-day life.

After four and a half years in the newsroom, I’ve become accustomed to skepticism; as a writer and editor, I’ve been trained to fact-check thoroughly. Each article Reporter publishes goes through a chain of four editors. If we can’t verify something, we don’t print it. And in the cases where we are mistaken, we hold ourselves accountable to our readership by publishing corrections.

Off-duty, I’m inclined to apply this skill to my everyday life, and I sometimes find the results alarming. For example, weeks ago, software engineer Nolan Daniels uploaded a photograph to Facebook several weeks ago of himself allegedly holding a winning Powerball ticket for \$239 million jackpot. He pledged to give \$1 million randomly to someone who shared the image. Despite rather crude image manipulation — and an incorrect sequence of “winning” numbers — the image has since been shared over two million times.

Our generation has a tendency to rely on false credibility. “Freeman’s” statement was a reasonably well concieved, well-argued message. Had it been posted under any other name, I wonder if it would have reached or resonated with quite as many people as it did. Would anyone have cared? Sadly, I doubt it. Morgan Freeman has quite a persona built up in the public consciousness — much of it based more around the characters he’s played, I’m sure, than his actual personality. His familiarity and popularity inevitably helped this recent statement spread.

Fortunately, much potentially inaccurate information is easy to review — a simple Google search can debunk some of the mankind’s most pervasive rumors. All you need is an open mind and a critical eye.

Our world is grounded in fact. Failing to actively question our surroundings is an incredible waste of the knowledge we have. Especially as the sheer amount of information available to us grows, the need for accuracy will grow ever more critical. The internet holds endless amounts of information, but if we continue to apathetically spread rumor and hearsay, what value will that information truly retain?



Alex Rogala
EDITOR IN CHIEF

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RIT sophomore goaltender Ali Binnington takes a quiet moment before returning to the ice for the third period of RIT’s 5-1 win against Lindenwood University at Ritter Arena Saturday, December 15. Binnington made 19 saves in the win. | photograph by Josh Barber

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Cover: Cattail tubers can be harvested for food. This one, taken near Park Point, served as breakfast. | photograph by Jonathan Foster

BEYOND THE BRICKS

by Amy Sanderson

SYRIAN PRESIDENT WARNED NOT TO USE CHEMICAL WEAPONS

According to BBC News, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon of the United Nations and President Obama both have issued warnings to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to refrain from using chemical weapons in conflicts between rebels and regime troops. The civil war, which started in 2011, has been edging ever closer to Damascus, Syria's capital and Assad's stronghold. Syria is speculated to have hundreds or possibly thousands of tons of chemical weapons, including Sarin and VX, which are highly toxic nerve agents.

During a visit to Turkey's refugee camps, which border Syria, Ban spoke out against the chemical weapons, according to the Wall Street Journal. "The violence must stop," he stated, also saying the use of these weapons would be "an outrageous crime against humanity."

According to the BBC, President Obama warned that, "there will be consequences" if Syria resorts to these weapons and that Assad "will be held accountable."

Damascus continues to deny the allegations that it will use chemical weapons according to the Associated Press. A foreign spokesman was quoted saying, "Syria confirms repeatedly it will never, under any circumstances, use chemical weapons against its own people, if such weapons exist." The U.N. and U.S. officials are nonetheless concerned, and are developing emergency plans.

CURIOSITY DISCOVERS CARBON

On December 3, NASA announced that its Curiosity rover had discovered traces of carbon compounds in Martian soil according to the Telegraph. Scientists are still unsure if the carbon originated on Mars, as it could have arrived as contamination from Earth or from meteorites and asteroids that crashed onto the planet's surface. The rover has already found evidence that water once existed on Mars when it landed in an impact crater in August. Though the discovery of carbon could be indicative of life, their presence alone is insufficient to support it.

Curiosity is able to test the soil because it is equipped with a small-scale chemistry laboratory, unlike previous rovers sent to Mars. The carbon was discovered using Curiosity's Sample Analysis at Mars (SAM) instrument. The rover will continue its search for traces of microbial life over a two-year period. Next year, Curiosity is expected to reach Mount Sharp, a mountain emerging from a crater with layers of sediment for the rover to dig deeper, according to Discovery News. Here, scientists hope to find more evidence of organic compounds.

NOVEMBER ADDS 146,000 JOBS

Contrary to economists' predictions of a modest 88,000 increase in jobs during November, businesses continued to hire despite the impact of Hurricane Sandy and the economic threat of the fiscal cliff. Of the 146,000 new jobs, retail added the most positions with 53,000, followed by employment gains in professional and business services according to the Associated Press. Unfortunately, the overall number of manufacturing jobs was cut by about 7,000, reflecting a slowdown in exports because of an economic downturn in Europe. However, economists maintain the necessity of adding 200 to 250 thousand jobs per month for healthy economic growth.

According to the Wall Street Journal, the unemployment rate dropped from 7.9 to 7.7 percent, the lowest it has been since 2008, mostly due to the people who have given up looking for employment and no longer are considered as unemployed though they remain jobless. The shrinking workforce can also be attributed to the retirement of baby boomers, which may not be good for the economy as retirees and the unemployed have a decreased spending power. Though Sandy's effect on employment was not as major as predicted, it is still estimated to have stunted job gains by approximately 86,000. The storm also diminished spending and income for the month of October — two factors that help determine economic growth. **R**

FORECAST

by Angela Freeman

21
FRIDAY

Quidditch Club Fundraiser

SAU Lobby 10 a.m. — 4 p.m.

Help propel the RIT Quidditch team to Kissimmee, Fla. to compete in World Cup VI! Support the players and show your team spirit by browsing their wares at the SAU.

Cost: Three Galleons (\$15).

22
SATURDAY

Holiday Ice Show

Frank Ritter Memorial Ice Arena
Starts at 5:30 p.m.

Watch the Genesee Figure Skating Club members perform, then chill with them on the ice after the show! Skating is open to the public, and refreshments will be available.

Cost: \$3 skate rental.

23
SUNDAY

A Christmas Carol

Geva Theatre Center. 75 Woodbury Blvd.
Shows at 12 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Don't miss the closing night of this Christmas classic! Relive Charles Dickens' heartwarming tale of a miser's change of heart. Know someone who needs help rekindling the holiday spirit? Bring a friend!

Cost: Tickets start at \$25 .

24
MONDAY

Memorial Art Gallery: 100 Years of Art for the Community

Rush Rhees Library, University of Rochester
10a.m. — 5 p.m.

Pay a visit to the U of R for this Memorial Art Gallery showcase, which traces its connections to the campus over the past 100 years! Featured items include historical photographs and documents, architectural plans of buildings, and rare books from Rush Rhees Library's collection.

Cost: \$8 for college students with ID.

25
TUESDAY

The UV Rays with Rational Animals & Flip Shits

The Bug Jar. 219 Monroe Ave. Starts at 8 p.m.

Is Christmas Day leaving you yearning for punk? Come by the Bug Jar and listen to the punk rock stylings of UV Rays! Also including performances by Rational Animals and the Flip Shits.

Cost: \$6-8.

26
WEDNESDAY

Founders of American Studio Glass

Corning Museum of Glass. 1 Museum Way. 9 a.m. — 5 p.m.

Take a trip to Corning to view a multitude of pieces ranging from prints and photographs to abstract sculpture and traditional vessels, as well as the seasonal Glass Wonderland holiday collection.

Cost: \$12.75 for college students, \$15.00 for adults

27
THURSDAY

Holiday Blood Drive

Canandaigua Fire Department. 335 South Main St.
1p.m. — 7p.m.

Why not continue giving past Christmas? Support the American Red Cross by donating blood at the Canandaigua Fire Department. Walk in or make an appointment, but don't forget to check the requirements first!

Cost: As much as you want to give. **R**

CORRECTIONS

The infographic featured on page 14 of the Friday, December 14 issue was printed incorrectly. To see a corrected copy, visit <http://reportermag.com/article/12-14-2012/the-institutes-dough-and-where-its-baked>.

Also in the December 14 issue, "Tigers Snap Winless Streak" incorrectly defined the term "penalty kill." The correct definition is a "one-man disadvantage." The penalty kill percentage cited gives the number of times RIT prevented the other team from scoring during a penalty kill divided by the total number of RIT's penalty kills. **R**

CONFLICT IN GAZA



by Kayla Emerson

Gaza is a disputed region about a quarter of the size of New York City, located in the west of Israel. For decades, Palestinian militant group Hamas has launched rockets into Israel from Gaza, and the Israeli government has responded in kind. According to CNN, a 2009 U.N. fact-finding mission declared that both Israel and Gaza had committed war crimes. To some observers of this conflict, the Israeli embargo against Gaza and the wall it is building around the city amounts to a “one-sided war.” There is a movement, both in Gaza and abroad, to end this war: “It’s about the struggle for freedom.”

These were some of the opinions spoken by attendees of “Gaza and the New Middle East: The Struggle for a Free Palestine Continues.” The event was held on Thursday, December 13 at 7 p.m. in the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science (CAR, 76). Two panelists shared their views of the sociopolitical motivations behind the Israeli-Gaza conflict, as well as the implications of Israel’s treatment of Gazans and Palestinians. The discussion was sponsored by RIT Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), Rochester Against War (RAW) and the Rochester branch of the International Socialist Organization (ISO).

Muna Taha, the first panelist of the evening, opened with a personal narrative: her family was trying to visit extended family in Palestine, but they experienced opposition at every step once they entered Israel through Tel Aviv Airport. She admits to never having been to Gaza, but she shared about the daily struggles of the people of Gaza through online videos from non-profit and news organizations. The Israeli government has restricted movement in or out of Gaza, and has difficult for supplies to get in. The regular rocket attacks by Israel against Hamas can destroy civilian homes and lives as well.

Sherry Wolf, the second panelist, described herself as a Jewish-socialist-lesbian. She joined the panel via Skype. Commenting along the lines of the videos presented by Taha about the conditions of life in Gaza, she said, “This is life under occupation.” She described the November 2012 Operation Pillar of Defense, where the Israeli military launched rockets into Gaza, as “in some ways, a defeat for Israel,” because it forced the military against their will into not pursuing a ground invasion.

Wolfe then expressed her disapproval of what she perceived as America’s reason to support Israel, as well as the corrupt but

capitalist-friendly Middle Eastern regimes: to keep “the flow of profit and oil continuous.”

As her speech came to a close, Wolf said that concerned citizens in the United States can “throw themselves in wholeheartedly” to the political struggle, through the Boycotts, Divestments, and Sanctions (BDS) campaign against Israel. Wolfe described these as “the same tools used against apartheid in South Africa.

During the discussion, those present became aware of dissenting opinions. Some members of Roc Israel attended and encouraged those present to look at the issue from the point of view of the Israeli government as well. Some present described Israel as a “democracy for Jews, apartheid for everyone else.” Others pointed out that not just Muslims, but also Christians and Jews identify as Palestinians — they share the political and social identity and struggle.

In an attempt to explain the constant conflict within Israel, some advocated that we should leave religious considerations out of the discussion and consider this solely as a political issue. But one voice said, “Don’t try to separate religion from the discussion,” because, for those involved in the conflict, religious considerations are serious motivators they said. The moderators successfully kept the discussion civil and orderly, even though opinions on both sides were strongly held.

At the end of the night, Taha stressed that, “We really need to look at this as a human rights issue.” **R**

**“IT’S ABOUT
THE STRUGGLE
FOR FREEDOM.”**

STREAM OF FACTS

The world’s largest snowman, built in the **WINTER** of 2008 in the town of Bethel, Maine, measured in at 122 feet tall and was made out of 13 million pounds of snow.

Each **WINTER**, the Eiffel Tower shrinks about six **INCHES**.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, about 10 **INCHES** of snow is the equivalent of one inch of rain.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“If we were honest with ourselves, then, for example, books on optical illusions would really be called brain failures.”

-Neil Degrasse Tyson

WORD OF THE WEEK

Obdurate (adj): resistant to persuasion or softening influences

The **obdurate** professor remained steadfast in his “no-make up exams” rule.

Definition taken from <http://merriam-webster.com>

COMIC

by James Lecarpentier



AYL
at your leisure

by Michelle Spoto

REPORTER RECOMMENDS FINDING YOUR PERFECT STUDY SPOT

It might seem pretty obvious — finding an ideal place to study — but I recommend doing it now. Finding your spot early on in the quarter will reap the most benefits; you’ll have several weeks of quality study-time, and you won’t be left scrambling around campus Week 10.

The trick to securing a great study location is figuring out what environment works best for your study habits. Say you like to study while simultaneously listening to loud music, chatting with your friends and consuming a large, five-course meal, the first floor of the library might just be the perfect spot for you.

For the rest of us, I have one piece of advice: avoid the library at all costs. You might think that venturing up to the third (or even fourth) floor guarantees that you’ll get the peace and quiet you need. But you’d be wrong. We’ve all experienced it: that guy or gal who doesn’t seem to understand the concept of “quiet floor.” Whether he’s chatting on his cell, snacking on a crunchy bag of chips or just breathing too loud (for us neurotic types), he’s really impeding your study efficiency. In the middle of a frantic Week 10, you might try and convince yourself that *this* time will be different, hoping and wishing that everyone will be perfectly quiet and studious on those upper library floors. Maybe they will, maybe they won’t. Finding your perfect study spot early ensures that you won’t ever have to suffer from this kind of stress ever again.

Chances are, you’ve spent some time exploring your own academic building and if you can find a prime study spot there, great! However, if your college doesn’t offer an environment that works well for you, branch out. I know it can be scary at first to venture outside of the brick-encased comfort zone that is your academic building but mingling with a few liberal arts kids won’t kill you. I promise. With several weeks left in the quarter before you’ll actually start studying, you have plenty of time to find a building that feels just like home. **R**

REVIEWS

KE\$HA'S **WARRIOR**

Album | Pop | 44mins.

by Garrett Chase



Ke\$ha has become an instillation in the modern movement of freedom, both sexual and spiritual. Her new album, released December 4, follows this expectation to a tee.

Before the initial release, we got a taste of her album with the radio hit “Die Young.” The single flooded the radio with an anthem-like chorus that we are accustomed to hearing in Ke\$ha’s music. “Warrior” comes with a plethora of songs like this.

“Warrior”, the song that so aptly reflects the album’s title, is the perfect example of that type of melody. As with almost every album released by Ke\$ha, or any other modern artist, we have an underdog song. The audience is conditioned to like the “leaked” song, which in this case is “Die Young”. It’s played on the radio and in the club until you either love it or hate it. When the album was released it was easy to see what the better song actually was. “Warrior” blows “Die Young” out of the water. The verses follow Ke\$ha’s usual “live it up” tone, but when the chorus comes, the drop forces you to pay attention.

Unfortunately, as is the case with Ke\$ha’s debut, there are only a few songs that stand out; the rest is simply some of the same unnecessarily inappropriate content. Songs like “Dirty Love (feat. Iggy Pop),” “Wonderland” and “Gold Trans Am” should be avoided.

Fortunately, there are songs in this album that break the Ke\$ha mold. “Love Into the Light ” is a great example of Ke\$ha breaking outside the “screw you” rhymes and exposing more of her actual voice.

Overall, the album is up to par to Ke\$ha’s unique sound of music. I believe that more success will come from her one-hit-wonders like “Tik Tok,” “Blow,” “Die Young” and now “Warrior” than her lengthy albums. **R**



MOSH'S **MONARCHY**

Album | Electrohouse | 56mins.

by Nick Bovee



There are three things you can find out about Mosh online. His name is Adam Bignell. He’s from Edmonton, Canada. Also, he’s way too good for someone new. His album, “Monarchy,” is equal parts dark and aggressive, with heavy ‘80s overtones on some tracks and modern electronica influences elsewhere.

One of “Monarchy’s” largest strengths is genre. “Kingpin” is an amazing song, but the album would be lackluster if every song brooded like that. Instead, tracks jump around between genre and energy level, making sure to keep that aggressive edge. “McQueen,” the opening track, has strong influences from Justice, and uses distorted guitars and synths to set up the high/low energy balance that’s found throughout the album. Immediately after, “Collapse” and “Taurus” peak out that balance with their dance stylings.

Like most albums, there’s unfortunately that one song that gets too experimental, or is just too out there to be enjoyable. On Monarchy, “Leopold” is that song; it is far too repetitive and abrasive to fit with the rest of the album.

Fortunately, after “Leopold” the album is very nearly flawless for 40 more minutes. “Kingpin,” as mentioned, is a slower, brooding song, while “Misbehavior” kicks back into dance music. Gritty and mellow, “Silence of the Swans” gives listeners a chance to catch their breath and enjoy the next song, the rock-influenced “Cruella”. From there, the album goes into the denouement, mellowing out over the course of “Odyssey XIX,” “Judgment,” and the titular “Monarchy.”

Each song on “Monarchy” is extremely powerful when played separately, but the attention to competition makes this album rise above the pack. Structured to keep interest through the duration of the album, similar songs are spaced out evenly where they do not compete with one another. For a “pay what you want” release, Monarchy seems an almost mandatory listen.

Check out “Monarchy” at <http://iammosh.bandcamp.com/album/monarchy>. **R**



FOR FANS OF: Havana Brown, LMFAO, and Ciara

FOR FANS OF: Boys Noize, Justice, Daft Punk

SOCIAL ANXIETY

by Alyssa Jackson | illustration by Corinne Newbegin

You’re in class and suddenly the teacher calls on you. Your heart speeds up and the blood rushes to your head. It’s a simple question; you know the answer, but what if you mess up. What if you say something wrong, what if they laugh?

Social anxiety is a condition in which an individual becomes excessively nervous in social situations. This may include eating in front of others, being the center of attention, interacting with others, using public toilets or talking on the telephone. This can interfere with a person’s daily schedule, activities and relationships.

In terms of prevalence, social anxiety is only preceded by depression and alcohol dependence. According to the Anxiety and Depression Association of America, approximately 15 million American adults suffer from social anxiety. There is no clear-cut cause for social anxiety, but research suggests that the disorder could stem from psychological, biological or environmental factors.

Many who suffer from this disorder also experience anticipatory anxiety, meaning that they worry about social events that may be weeks or months in the future. The anxiety of facing such an event can cause a panic attack and result in the avoidance of certain social situations. People who experience social anxiety often understand that their fears may be irrational and distorted, but are unable to overcome it.

Social anxiety is not always believed to be a bad thing. The Social Anxiety Support states that it “helps us to remain sensitive to the feelings and needs of others.” The site goes on to explain that social anxiety becomes dangerous when it prohibits individuals from participating in normal aspects of life, such as going to social functions and building relationships.

The Anxiety and Depression Association of America states that most cases of social anxiety become apparent at the age of 13, but that many individuals admit experiencing symptoms of social anxiety for 10 years before seeking treatment. Treatments options are largely varied to better fit the specific needs of each individual. Treatments can range from medications, such as antidepressants, to cognitive-behavior therapy, which guides the individual to think more rationally about social situations.

RIT works with students who suffer from social anxiety through the counseling center by offering group therapy sessions to help with the symptoms and create safe social events. The RIT website also offers links to a Student Counseling Virtual Pamphlet Collection that has hints and tips for reducing social anxiety. The RIT website suggests the self-esteem section of Psych Central, a website devoted to helping those with psychological disorders.

Group therapy offered by RIT occurs for an hour and a half each week, utilizing two trained group leaders for every eight to 12 members. Upon joining group therapy, members are asked to commit for at least a quarter to ensure that they receive adequate counseling. Group therapy is ideal, especially for social anxiety, because members can build relationships with each other and learn from other’s reactions. The group members decide what will be discussed each week, making it highly interactive.

Some anxiety is normal, but when it is excessive it can cause an individual to miss social events and prevent him from forming relationships with others. While social anxiety, depending on the severity, may be debilitating, it is important to remember that it is also a common condition. Sufferers may feel alone in their anxiety, but there are millions of other Americans who also have faced the same issues, a reassuring thought. Whether at RIT or beyond, an individual with social anxiety can help to overcome his anxiety through group therapy sessions with others who also suffer from the condition. **R**





A HANDFUL OF
cranberries carried from home, an empty bag found
that can be used to hold water, a half eaten bag of
Doritos to be eaten. ▼



▲ **A SALMON HEAD**
remains from a kill along the Genesee
River Sunday, December 9.

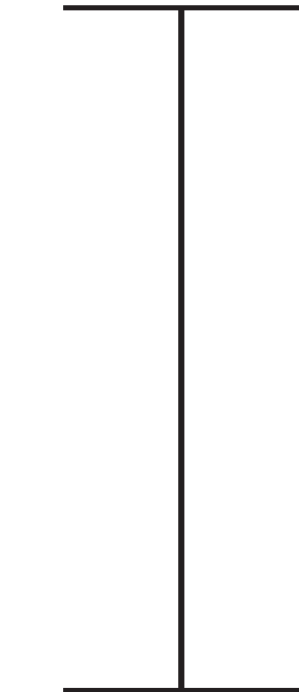
[“IN THE TRUE MAD NORTH...”]

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY JONATHAN FOSTER





A PIGEON LAYS DEAD ▲
near the I-490 Bridge in Downtown Rochester,
Sunday, December 9.



f you are reading this, I congratulate you. You have survived the predicted apocalypse thus far. I can only guess as to the condition in which my words find you, but I hope that they may give you hope and direction in the post-apocalyptic world in which you must now live.

In anticipation for this time, I went on a walk of survival to learn about what survival techniques are most effective in order to pass along this information to you. It is important to remember that survival is a means to the same end as anything eventually: death. But hopefully it will give you more time, and for now, I am here to help. I don't want you to die before you absolutely must.

As I left for my journey that Sunday morning at 7:15 a.m., I noticed the lights fading behind me through the swamp. When you start your journey, the world may have begun slipping into chaos. You may see lights and you may hear the alarms of people who are no longer there to be woken up; you will see the signs of their absence — cars parked, doors open along the highway. You must not let this fray your nerves.

You must always be scanning the ground; the trees; the roads: all around you. Your life will depend on how well you develop the ability to detect danger and to see resources. You must learn to read the signs, both literal and figurative. Walking along the path just off the utility lines between here and the Institute, I saw different types of flagging tape — the kind I am familiar with, the kind that have arbitrary meanings, signs marking the start of a trail. These signs will help keep you alive. Even having the ability to make reasonable guesses as to their meaning might be able to help you.

Being resourceful is extremely important for survival as well. The first items I found in the swamp were two golf balls and two railroad spikes. The golf balls would serve as means to stun squirrels, fat from winter, and the rail spike could be used to pry locks, break glass, or fashion tools from some types of stone.

Shops and houses will be open supply dumps for finding more resources as well, but these will draw crowds. You must learn to live off the land. Knowledge, here, is invaluable. The first of what scant food I ate on my journey was a short cattail tuber. White, maybe two inches long, it tasted like potato and had the texture of wild chives. This plant can be your greatest asset, from providing fire-starting material, to serving as bedding, food, and camouflage. It, however, is a natural filter and can store heavy metals and toxins.

◄ OLD SHELTERS
like this can provide temporary safety.

Much of the natural food in this area suffers from centuries of industrial residues and haphazard commercial impacts. The salmon cannot be trusted. Salmon in Lake Ontario are laden with Mirex, dioxins and polychlorinated biphenyls. Although the fish are massive and could nourish your body, the remnants of industrialization will affect your reproductive health, cause cancer, weaken your immune system and affect your nervous system. Like salt water, it will eventually do more harm than good. Salt water will leave you more dehydrated than you originally were; do not drink it.

If you can, boil everything, or filter it at least. You are the last remaining hope for humanity. Unnecessary risks will not only threaten you, but the human race and everything that has been learned over millennia of recorded history. It's a big burden, but an important one to understand.

In an effort to find more possible sources of food, I tried to find a free breakfast at a local church on my way through the city, but found that food is only served on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday; this may change after an apocalyptic situation. I called out to a man I saw who looked more approachable than most. His name was Richard, and he helped me in my search by asking the security guard at the parking lot for the oldest Catholic Church in Rochester. You should be open to reaching out to others who do not pose a threat; you could form alliances with them or maybe a survival team. But maintain your focus. Groups become rivals, especially with scarce resources and high tensions.

As I continued walking, my hunger growing, I watched squirrels and pigeons with lustful eyes. After the apocalypse, even feral or abandoned pets will make good sources of food. If you are to hunt, the closer you can get to your prey the less energy you will waste. Learn to predict behavior, to see tracks and scat. Learn to follow animal trails.

Once you do kill a meal, you must find a way to cook without drawing the attention of other hungry, less trustworthy survivors who may be roaming around. If there is electricity, recently abandoned homes with working utilities will provide temporary solutions. Pigeons seem like a slow, tasty target, but I had no means of roasting the one I found on my journey, and avian species can carry mites and diseases. Remember, do not eat scavenged meat. Kill everything you eat and cook it thoroughly. You cannot afford parasites, worms, botulism or any other pestilence the animal could be harboring.

I continued my journey along the gorge behind the old seminary at St. Barnard's Park. The water treatment plant at Hanford's Landing interrupted my walk along the riverbank from Maplewood Park to the Lake provoking an interruption of thought. It is a Kodak facility, and the cattails down river seemed less trustable than the ones



even further inland. The swamp deer had left massive tracks in the soft clay soil providing a trail through the chest-high vegetation. I pushed through to the concrete loading docks, then up the boardwalk to the marina and out to Charlotte. There I was vulnerable. You must always take note of your surroundings and have a sense for what is happening around you.

I was nearly freezing as I sat in the lee of the lighted beacon jutting into Lake Ontario; the wind was blowing 30 miles an hour. Much longer and I would be facing hypothermia from exposure and I was only halfway through my trek. My goal had been to reach the end of the pier at Charlotte Beach via the Genesee River, and then to walk back to my apartment after spending the night outside but I was tired. I had not drunk anything since I set out and would not find fresh water until I returned, some 25 miles later. I carried plastic bags with me to use for water, but had never filled them.

I left little or no escape for myself and I was on my own. I had no cell phone, no lifeline, and no one knew where I was. You must avoid risks like this if you can. I made several mistakes on my journey, and

if it truly was a dire, apocalyptic situation, I likely would have died relatively quickly. You must not repeat my mistakes — avoid exposing yourself, stay hydrated, eat and find suitable shelter. If you can find a safe place where you can defend yourself and where resources are available, build a fortified shelter. If not, keep moving.

After I left the lee of the beacon, I began my haggard walk for home. I set out to the south along Lake Avenue. I had to keep moving through the dark and the rain. The little goals — making it past familiar landmarks — kept me from breaking. I wasted too much time wading through chest-deep cattails and chasing deer on my way out to the lake and now I was paying the price. Somewhere near the courthouse I lost it. I made an error and added a few blocks to my walk. I barely noticed the rain, even as my coat began to soak through. My hamstring was pulled. I couldn't extend my leg. I made it to Mount Hope, walking 100 feet at a time, then sitting, resting. I found an apartment and collapsed on their settee, dozing for 20 minutes before I realized it was the apartment next to one belonging to a friend. I was able to sleep inside that night.

I am sorry if you have to go through worse. Perhaps the end was not as violent as predicted. I wish I could say there was nothing we could do to prevent it, to protect the world we occupy, but that would be a lie. Now you are faced with it and you must survive. Take knowledge with you; let wisdom be your guide. Do not lose sight of the future in the empty halls of once-great universities thrust into these dark ages. Do not abandon what history has taught you to the wind as it passes through the skyscrapers of lonely cities. If you lose this, remember one thing: though the future is undecided, there is always hope. **■**



“IN THE TRUE MAD NORTH OF INTROSPECTION,
WHERE ‘FALCONS OF THE INNER EYE’
DIVE AND DIE, GLIMPING IN THEIR
DYING FALL, ALL LIFE’S MEMORY OF EXISTENCE.”

-Lawrence Ferlinghetti, “A Coney Island of the Mind”

THE APOCALYPSE, RIT AND YOU

BY DAVID KEITH GASSER
ILLUSTRATION BY EMILY GAGE



The End is nigh. No seriously. Why are you laughing? Oh, fine; I guess you're right. We've all made it through the December 21 apocalypse mostly unscathed, or else you wouldn't be reading this... Well, at least, we've made it thus far; the post-apocalypse party could always do us in.

On a more serious note, many things going on in our world threaten life as we know it. The issue of global warming sitting on the back burner to a mind-numbing number of revolutions and chemical weapons headlining the news; mass shootings in schools and public places around the country; and new and mysterious virus strains appearing sporadically across far reaches of our planet. All this can beg the question, "Are we, the denizens of RIT, safe?"

Lucky for us, there is an entire organization here on campus devoted to just that: Public Safety. Within that organization is the Business Continuity Office, which aims to plan and prepare the campus for, well, just about everything. From plans that cover the possibility of an earthquake to detailed guides outlining the procedures to take during the H1N1 breakout a few short years ago, it seems nearly every detail of any emergency situation has been identified, quantified, and accounted for by Director Lynn Daley and her fellow workers.

What if this whole apocalypse thing had gone some other way, though? Would RIT's business continuity plans have been able to stand up to the best that world-ending prophecies could throw at us?

FIRE

Let's start out simple. We've got a fire! Well, to be more precise, lots of fires. The Mayan doom has rained hellfire from the sky, and numerous campus buildings and grounds are alight in flame. Those few areas that aren't blazing are the only shelter from the storm of searing heat that assails those who step foot outside of shelter.

It's only logical that the tunnels would be a source of refuge; located a bit further underground where it is cooler and safer, students will naturally congregate there for security. The fountains all over campus begin to make a bit more sense as a safety cordon as well. The swimming and hockey teams will probably fair the best, as the onslaught luckily occurred mid-practice and they were all safe in their respective playing "fields." Not so lucky for most of the other sports teams.

Given all of this, how does RIT respond? Reassuringly well.

There are five main elements to any business continuity program: pre-incident planning, emergency response, crisis management, operational recovery, and crisis and emergency risk communications. The pre-incident planning tries to account for situations, either in specifics or more general terms. Most students have been through at least a few fire drills in their days here. Emergency response begins at the onset of the situation as affiliate organizations and entities that are emergency responders are contacted to assist. Crisis management

begins with the mobilization of the RIT Critical Incident Management Team and engagement of RIT leadership. Finally, operational recovery aims for the restoration of normal operations after the danger of a situation has passed.

A fire is one of those high-danger, high-probability occurrences that warrant great attention, so there are a number of clear and specific outlines for what actions need to be taken and by whom. In contrast something like a thunderstorm, which might be even higher probability, doesn't pose much danger in the vast number of cases. As a result, it is not nearly as much of a risk. Going the other way, consider an on-campus gas tanker explosion, which could be much more dangerous than either a thunderstorm or a fire, but also less probable than either of them.

So, while the vast scope of our fantasy situation here might be bit overwhelming, there are certainly a number of clear and specific roles and duties defined for individuals and organizations to make sure that the school population is protected. The proper people would be contacted, and calm would pervade.

LET'S RAMP IT UP A LEVEL...



ZOMBIES

Clearly there are a number of students who have been training for this all their young adult lives. I suspect about half them will die out though, after standing around doorways in some misguided belief that it would protect them. The other half will evolve to utilize their other training in this new world and perhaps usher the campus body into a new era of academia.

Months into a zombie invasion, food supplies and electricity would become scarce, but luckily (and truthfully) RIT has a pair of heavy duty and mobile generators capable of supplying emergency power to the critical areas of campus. The circuits have been analyzed and recorded meticulously so that those areas that need power will get it, regardless of what may have befallen sections of the electrical grid or infrastructure. As a commuter myself, I asked Daley about the school's willingness to care for those students that live in nearby off-campus areas like Province and Park Point, and she assured me that they would not be left out to dry. Student, staff and faculty lives would always be the number one priority.

Strangely, discussing this possibility of phenomenon with Daley, it seemed that the school really would be able to properly and adequately respond even in such a bizarre scenario. Pandemic Influenza plans for medical care of the student body could easily be modified to help quarantine and (vaccinate for, if possible) the zombie virus. Armed intruder protocols for locking down the school and alerting the school population could just as assuredly apply to the undead as the living.

LET'S GO ONE STEP
FURTHER; A COMPLETELY
INSANE SITUATION...

MAN-EATING PLANTS HAVE OVERGROWN THE CAMPUS, EATING ALL THE ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT, BREAKING PIPES AND...

Now I'm impressed. Even this falls within some of the wider planning arcs for emergency situations that the Office of Business Continuity has prepared. Daley amazes me as she goes into planning mode. Contingencies are outlined almost before I've finished my thought. Plans are brought forth, ideas for fighting back are proffered. The concept, she explains, is just identifying a specific hazard and then developing a capability to address, mitigate and protect against that hazard.

Daley jumps right into crisis management, working to quantify the exact hazards involved to mitigate the problem. "Are [the plants] susceptible to certain types of insecticide?... But they eat flesh, so maybe something more like a rat poison would work, if they are more mammalian in nature..." She's explains that no matter how bizarre the circumstance, the methodology they utilize to plan will work. "You take the hazard, analyze it and develop mitigation."

With man-eating plants invading the campus, I think most people would be reeling in confusion and trying to stay away. Then, after a while, for the most part being bored as the internet stopped working and all their electronics died. One would imagine that we would be left alone and isolated, unable to leave or communicate with the outside. Fortunately it seems, even with a loss of all telephone- and internet-based communication, there are contingencies. Daley was more than happy to show me the handheld radios they had available for emergency and crisis communications. Apparently each building has a marshal designated who also has one, and there are a number more available in storage for distribution in an emergency.

One thing that is clear and impressive is the amount of cooperation and greater community involvement that has been planned for in emergency situations. With capabilities for interfacing with other counties, all the way up to the state level, it seems clear that RIT would not be left on its own at all in a truly dangerous situation. For instance, what if the Genesee river floods? Neighboring counties have already agreed and indicated their ability and willingness to help us fight back the waters and protect RIT persons.

I think we'll be alright when the next apocalypse rolls around. **R**

KNOW YOUR OPTIONS *by Nicole Howley*

RIT has plans for a multitude of situations. Here are summarized instructions for a few of them adapted from the descriptions on RIT's Emergency Information web site.

FIRE: Most students have experienced a fire drill at one time or other. Just a reminder: In the case of fire, vacate the building through the nearest exit. Use stairs and avoid the elevator. Pull the fire alarm if one is not already activated. Move away from the building where the fire is located.

ARMED INTRUDER: Your response to this emergency depends greatly on the exact nature of the situation. If the intruder is nearby, the best choice is to evacuate this area. Once you do, do not reenter the area until it is safe and make sure others avoid the area as well. Wait in a safe location for emergency responders.

If this is not the safest option, the next choice is to hide in a protected location out of the intruder's view. Lock and barricade doors and windows and make as little noise as possible, turning off sources of noise and silencing alarm clocks and cell phones. Taking action against the intruder is the last resort.

MEDICAL EMERGENCY INVOLVING

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL: Like in most emergency situations, it is important to call Public Safety. Describe the situation, what happened, what injuries were sustained, the symptoms being exhibited by the effected person(s) and the location. If known, name the hazardous material as well. Report the spill even if it has been cleaned up so that the residue from the spill may be removed as well. If necessary, evacuate the area where the spill took place.

For more information, visit <http://emergency.rit.edu/>.



RIT forward Jess Patton celebrates her second period goal that increased the Tiger's lead to 2-0 over visiting Lindenwood University Saturday, December 16 at Ritter Arena. It was the first career goal for the first year Nutrition Science major. RIT's 5-1 win broke a five game losing streak for the team who returned to home after seven straight games on the road.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY ANNIHILATES LINDENWOOD *by Danielle Delp photograph by Josh Barber*

Ritter Arena was full of energy the evening of Saturday December 15, when the Lady Tigers of RIT took on the Lindenwood Lady Lions on their home ice at Ritter Arena. The game was the Tiger's first at home after a month-long touring period, as well as their first game in history against the team from Lindenwood University.

The game started out strong for RIT, with five shots on the Lindenwood goal within the first five minutes of play. The pressure had the Lady Lions on the defensive for the entirety of the first period, and RIT nailed their first goal with 7:40 left on the clock. Near the end of the period, however, things took a turn for the worse when third year Journalism major Melissa Bromley had to be helped from the ice after suffering a serious leg injury. A penalty near the end of the period only served to worsen the Tiger's situation, but the team managed to close the first period ahead with a score of 1-0.

During the second period, the Tigers continued to face difficulties. Less than 3 minutes in, another player collapsed and had to leave the ice after receiving an injury. The furious Tigers immediately began assaulting the Lindenwood goal with numerous shots, with two goals nearly scored within the next few minutes. Finally, at the 10:44 mark, first year Nutrition Management major Jess Paton managed to score RIT's second goal of the game, her first goal in college hockey. The remainder of the period would prove challenging for RIT, however, when the home team received three consecutive penalties within two minutes. To add insult to injury, Lindenwood also managed to score their first goal with less than three minutes left in the period. The Tigers salvaged the game in the final minutes of the period, however, when they slipped in their third goal of the game with just 1:31 left in the period.

With their two-goal lead over Lindenwood firmly established, RIT dominated the ice in the final period. The Tigers clawed their way to two more goals and continued to seriously out-shoot their competition. Unable to break their opponent's defense, the Lions would not score again for the remainder of the game. When the buzzer announced the end of the game, the women had won a decisive victory, having outshot their opponents 40-20 with a final score of 5-1.

The victory broke the Lady Tiger's month-long losing streak. After the game, the players and fans were clearly energized by the long-awaited win. Fourth year Criminal Justice major Ellesha Fortuna noted how difficult the women's first Division I season has been: "It was a little bit of a tough transition at first, but I think we definitely have a really skilled team. It's really nice to play at home, since we just finished a really long road series." Her teammate, first year Diagnostic Medical Sonography major Casidhe Kunichika agreed that the home-ice advantage had been a huge help: "Just being home is a big difference because, being on the road is kind of rough with driving and stuff. Energy was high today, and we kind of played with an edge. I felt like after Mel got hurt we just wanted to take it to them."

The Lady Lions faced the Tigers again Sunday, December 15, tying 1-1 in overtime.

With the exception of a few games in Pennsylvania, the women's hockey team will be playing at home for the next few months. If Saturday's game is any prediction for the future, we can expect to see more victories from the Tigers before the season is over. **R**

A DOWNHILL BATTLE: ALPINE SKI CLUB

by Amanda Imperial | photograph courtesy of Adrienne Sherman



I recognized my interview subject right away by the gray “Alpine Ski” sweater she was wearing. I was in my rugby get-up, she and her companion casually dressed. From the beginning to the end of the interview, second year Biomedical Sciences major Stephanie Beneduci and I had made several connections as avid members of club sports: Beneduci is the secretary of the Alpine Ski Club. Finding an empty and unreserved classroom in the Gordon Field House, the conversation commenced.

Racing through the snow in a mad dash towards victory, RIT’s Alpine Ski Club is a coed group made up of 27 mixed-age members who gather together to slice through the slopes of various mountaintops. This number is comprised of 10 Recreational Ski/Snowboard Club members and 17 RIT Alpine Ski Team members. Recreational members only participate in practices together — and even then travel elsewhere on the slopes away from the ski club — whereas team members actually travel to compete against other schools.

“We’re never on campus,” Stephanie Beneduci. With her was Vice President and Applied Network and System Administration fourth year Tim Swierad. “We’re always at ski mountains,” Beneduci continues. For weekday practices, Swierad adds that the team generally leaves for Swain Mountain around 4 p.m., and does not return until 10 p.m. Of course, this only applies to winter quarter, when there is a good chance that there will be snow in any of the five regions the club competes in.

Five energy-consuming weekends during winter quarter comprise the ski club’s regular season. The RIT Alpine Ski Team is a member of the Mideast Conference of the United States Collegiate Ski Association (USCSA). The five mountains they compete at are: Swain, Greek Peak, Toggenburg, Bristol

and Labrador. Each weekend, there are two events: Slalom, and Giant Slalom. Slalom involves shorter turns and is raced at a slower pace, whereas Giant Slalom is at a quicker pace and involves wider turns.

The way the competition works is, first and foremost, that races are not co-ed, right along with most sports and club sports. The top three competitors from each gender-based race have their times combined, and the team with the slowest total time wins for their division (gender). All competitions in that manner are strictly time-based, and do not account for individual victories. The Alpine Ski Club at RIT ranked in the top 12 in the regional competitions last year. And, if they compete and place high enough, they also have the opportunity to face Division III teams.

When not practicing until all hours of the night, such as in fall and spring, the club holds casual meetings, which include working out in RIT gym facilities and a general aura of close team bonding. Beneduci says that not much gets done during casual practices, due to the teammates spending most of that time talking to each other.

The team has considered doing fundraising events in the spring quarters, and to this end set up a successful bake sale last year. But what these passionate skiers look forward to every year is their annual Fun Race, which is the last race of the year. The club members get dressed up in silly costumes and race against each other in a hectic ski match. **R**

WORD ON THE STREET

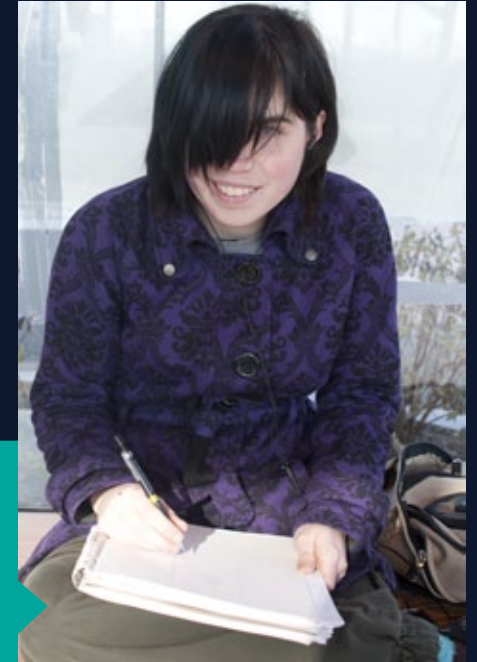
photographs by Mackenzie Harris

HOW WOULD YOU WANT THE WORLD TO **END** AND WHY?



Taylor Brawn - First year
Interior Design

“It would be **kind of romantic** if it was actually a fluke and not because, you know, mankind completely screwed up. As for how, either some way that’s quick and painless or some way that’s incredibly hilarious.”



Sonia Walsh - Third year Illustration

“Probably with **dinosaurs** because it’ll be a little ironic.”



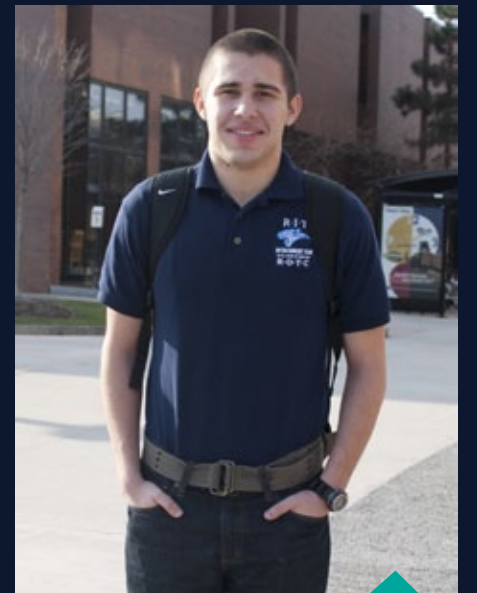
Justin Cha - First year
Criminal Justice

“I would like the world to end with **hordes of zombies** because it would be exciting.”



Kirstie Failey - Second year
Information Security and Forensics

“With a **lightning bolt**, so everyone dies quickly and painlessly.”



Patrick Kerwan - First year
Physician Assistant

“I like the idea of **mass hysteria**. It sounds interesting.” **R**



OWN YOUR INTERNET

by Peter LoVerso | illustration by Elisa Plance

There was a great internet kerfuffle about a year ago, as U.S. House Representative Lamar Smith introduced his controversial SOPA bill to Congress, sparking numerous protests across the internet. Websites, including giants such as Wikipedia and Reddit, blacked out and shut down entirely for a day to raise awareness for a bill that would have changed the web as we know it, allowing government spying on citizens to be institutionalized, compromising the freedom of Americans, the economy and virtually every large technology company. Fortunately, the protest worked, and the bill was successfully shut down. Unfortunately, threats to our online freedom have not been completely extinguished, and new waves of legislation are being written which threaten many of the principles upon which the internet was founded.

The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) is an agency of the United Nations which helps to coordinate information technologies and standards. During their recent meeting in Dubai, a telecommunications treaty was proposed. This treaty would put the future of the internet into the hands of the United Nations, an alarming proposal on a wide scale. Countries such as Russia, China, Sudan and Algeria called for equal rights among governments to manage a number of internet resources. These countries are well known for imposing draconian digital censorship upon their citizens, and this additional control would allow them to do so even more systematically.

Fortunately, the U.S. government has our backs, in this particular case. The U.S. Senate and House both unanimously passed resolutions to keep the internet out of ITU hands, and continue the distributed, multi-stakeholder model of internet that is currently in place. The United States is currently largely in control of the distribution of internet addresses and protocols. Quick to protect its own interests, Congress in this case acted in the interests of us all, but maintaining the current status quo.

A U.N. takeover of the internet could have been catastrophic for the freedom of information as it currently exists. If control of the digital world was distributed among nations, to do with as they pleased, it would cause rifts between various countries, stifle enterprise online across the globe and promote spying and censorship of information. Most of the countries which promoted the U.N. measure likely have motives beyond simply the distribution of control, aiming instead to restrict the freedom of information for their own citizens, and reduce the global communication which has allowed the world to be propelled into its current, technologically advanced state.

RIT, as a technical school with a strong computer science background, would have been harmed by control measures such as those proposed. As protocols and information rules were rewritten by nations with ulterior motives, many software companies which employ thousands of RIT graduates would have taken revenue hits as they were forced to adapt to a changing, more controlled internet with a reduced potential customer base. Power grabs such as this by international organizations should be enormously alarming to anyone entering a technological field, as they will completely change the corporate landscape, making any jobs much harder to find.

Fortunately, the United States is not alone in rejecting these draconian measures. Other first-world countries such as Canada and the UK refused the treaty outright, and others such as Kenya, Sweden and the Netherlands said they would have to deliberate much longer with their governments before considering such an overhaul, according to the BBC. If you are in a telecommunications field, or if you care about maintaining a free and open internet, you should encourage your congressperson to continue to vote against internet regulations, in the interest of us all. 🇺🇸

RINGS

COMPILED BY BRETT SLABAUGH | ILLUSTRATION BY ERICA LANDERS

585.672.4840

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

SATURDAY 11:03 p.m. (TXT)

So a girl got on the TE3 tonight with a balloon that said **“CALL RINGS”** and had a kiss on it. Well played, madam. Well played.

MONDAY 12:21p.m. (TXT)

About to let the vampires take my blood. Don't worry, it's all for a good cause. **These ones don't sparkle.**

TUESDAY 2:23 p.m. (TXT)

Roommates have the weirdest fights at 2 a.m. Latest insult: **“YOUR WATERBENDING SUCKS [AVATAR]!”**

TUESDAY 3:36 p.m. (TXT)

Dear RIT Professors: If you leave your office window open, don't be playing **“Plants vs. Zombies”** on Facebook.

Just saying.

WEDNESDAY 3:57 p.m. (TXT)

Halfway through my marketing class, this guy walks in asking, **“Is this corporate financing?”** It's the **second half of Week 3.**

I **didn't** feel bad for him.

THURSDAY 7:36p.m. (TXT)

RIT is looking for **hidden heroes** among its students. Is this a good time to reveal myself as a **super villain?**

WEDNESDAY 9:52p.m. (TXT)

Someone should send out a memo to the art kids that **weird hats don't increase their creativity level.** 🇺🇸



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