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REPORTER

01.14.11 reportermag.com

FROZEN SKY: A GUIDE TO WINTER'S CONSTELLATIONS
It's a bird! It's a plane! It's a unicorn?

EVENTS ON THE HORIZON
A supercomputer simulates black holes.

CHASING GHOSTS: STARGAZING AT THE RIT
OBSERVATORY 20
What's in your backyard?



Monoceros

Monoceros

REPORTER

EDITOR IN CHIEF Madeleine Villavicencio
| eic@reportermag.com
MANAGING EDITOR Emily Mohlmann
| managing.editor@reportermag.com
COPY EDITOR David Peter
| copy.editor@reportermag.com
NEWS EDITOR Chris Zubak-Skees
| news@reportermag.com
LEISURE EDITOR James Arn
| leisure@reportermag.com
FEATURES EDITOR Alex Rogala
| features@reportermag.com
ONLINE EDITOR Brendan Cahill
| online@reportermag.com
WRITERS James Arn, Christina Belisle, Emily Bogle, David Gasser, Aracelis Guzman, Matt Herrington, Jeff McKinzie, Patrick Ogbeide, Alex Rogala, Michael Roppolo Maureen Sedlak, Robert Shook, Michelle Spoto, Amanda Szczpanski

ART

ART DIRECTOR Jena Buckwell
| art.director@reportermag.com
SENIOR STAFF DESIGNER Cassie Angerosa
STAFF DESIGNERS Brittany Colton, Nick Law
PHOTO EDITOR Chris Langer
| photo@reportermag.com
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS Robert Bredvad, Joi Ong, Rob Shook
CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS Jonathan Foster, Joshua Kuckens
STAFF ILLUSTRATOR Griffin Moore
CONTRIBUTING ILLUSTRATORS Joanna Eberts, Melissa Huang, Lee Fitzgerald, Ko Kawazoe
CARTOONIST Justyn Iannucci

BUSINESS

PUBLICITY MANAGER Abraham Gil
AD MANAGER Alecia Crawford
| reporterads@mail.rit.edu
BUSINESS MANAGER Tom Sciotto
| business.manager@reportermag.com
PRODUCTION MANAGER Nicholas Gawreluk
| production.manager@reportermag.com
ONLINE PRODUCTION MANAGER Madeleine Villavicencio
| webmaster@reportermag.com

ADVISOR Rudy Pugliese
PRINTING Printing Applications Lab
CONTACT 1.585.475.2212

GOING VIRAL

On the evening of Jan. 3, I received an email from Karey Pine, the director of the Center for Campus Life. The email’s subject title had span over two lines and, with my mind still running on autopilot due to pulling a *Reporter*-related all-nighter, I was just about to trash it. However, the word “Freezefest” caught my eye, and I decided to skim the email just in case it held any interesting tidbits that I could pass onto one of my editors. After quickly going over the email a couple of times, I discovered that a viral video featuring members of the RIT community lip-syncing to “Eye of the Tiger” was in the works. In fact, Karey needed help spreading the word and generating hype for the filming on Jan. 9.

Honestly, I was feeling a little unsettled. Although I had passed the information on to my eboard, I knew that email wasn’t going to be the end of it. And lo and behold, Karey and Dr. Heath Boice-Pardee, assistant vice president for Student Affairs, prodded me for the reason why I didn’t raise my hand with the rest of the confirmed attendees at last Friday’s Senate meeting. I couldn’t help but smile; I knew it was coming.

Every week at Student Government’s (SG) Senate meetings, I find myself in a powerful, but somewhat awkward position. As editor-in-chief, I sit in on Senate but do not hold a voting seat. Being a part of Senate meetings means I can share my opinions if I choose and have the capability of getting the inside scoop from the major players on campus. It also means that SG can request *Reporter* to help them with certain projects by requesting man power, event coverage, advertising or what have you. This is where things start to get a little sticky.

A journalist’s job is to observe government groups and play watchdog. As such, it is my duty to report on and, yes, sometimes criticize the different groups on campus, especially the administration and SG. It is *Reporter*’s duty to hold these groups accountable because their choices and decisions impact the RIT community. A reporter cannot cover something if he is involved with and actively participating in it. That would be irresponsible.

Some of you may think I’m a school spirit grinch, especially after a few of you may have misinterpreted a previous editor’s note regarding a certain fountain on campus. However, that is hardly the case. I applaud Karey Pine and her team for a pretty good turnout last Sunday. It’s good to know that there are still people out there actively trying to raise school spirit, and I certainly think this is better than dumping orange dye in water. Unfortunately, I still have a few issues with the viral video’s execution. Mainly, why the rush?

With Freezefest taking place three weeks from now, why didn’t the viral video team take an extra week to raise awareness and approach the different organizations on campus to really get them invested? Giving students time fit you in their schedules and figure out what unique aspect they could bring to the project can only make it better. The Facebook event for the filming hadn’t been created until Friday afternoon, and the only reason I was aware of the effort was because of my affiliation to SG — something that doesn’t apply to the majority of the students RIT. There’s still room for improvement.

In closing, I want to refer to an editor’s note entitled “Gimmicked Out,” which was written roughly two years ago. At that point in time, President William Destler had just emerged from his second Orange Hair Challenge without a carrot top and the administrators were preparing for SG’s Dorm Challenge. The editorial stressed how the novelty of gimmicks eventually die down. It even caused a discussion during the next Senate meeting. If you really think about it, what would a viral video achieve? Would it improve and maintain attendance for RIT athletics (not including hockey)?


Madeleine Villavicencio

EDITOR IN CHIEF

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RIT students sing “Eye of the Tiger” during the filming of Student Government’s *FreezeFest* viral video on Jan. 9. | photograph by Chris Langer

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cover by Ko Kawazoe

FROM OUR READERS

RINGS OFFENDS TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY

As you may know, OUTspoken is a Major Student Organization on campus that advocates and educates for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) community. OUTspoken seeks to create an environment within the RIT community that is inclusive to all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions, and to eradicate heterosexism, homophobia and transphobia within the Rochester area.

The issue of *Reporter* that was distributed on 12.10.10 contained a transphobic remark. In the “RIT Rings” section, Reporter published the following statement:

TUESDAY, 11:02 A.M.

If you are going to be a crossdresser, at least have the decency to shave your beard. Mini skirts and mustaches don't work. Just sayin'.

A cross-dresser is a person who sometimes wears clothing that is generally associated with a different gender than that with which the individual regularly identifies. This is only one subsection of the larger transgender community. Transgender is an umbrella term for a person(s) or behavior(s) with tendencies that deviate from typical gender roles. Partially because the transgender community at RIT is large enough to be seen but small enough not to be heard, there is an ever-present inclination to ridicule trans-identifying individuals. Recently, when a new transgender group began to hold meetings, almost all fliers publicizing their meetings were vandalized. Additionally, OUTspoken is familiar with multiple incidents of verbal harassment that the trans community endures on a daily basis. There have even been instances where transpeople have been impenitently disrespected by RIT faculty and staff. Although RIT has been accepting of the gay community, it seems that the trans community on campus has not been shown the same level of respect.

OUTspoken respects the right of *Reporter Magazine* to publish content that they deem acceptable. We also understand that not everything the *Reporter* publishes represents the views of the entire staff. However, we believe that an organization as influential as the *Reporter* has a responsibility to the RIT community to print responsibly. When

insensitive remarks about the trans community are printed, it sends a message to every reader that it is okay and even appropriate to ridicule an already oppressed minority, affirming an already malignant trend in aggressive behavior.

While we realize that it may have, unfortunately, been natural for your organization to overlook this error, we do believe that some attention should be paid to its correction. Though it did not say anything negative about transitioning, the quote sets an unfair expectation for those individuals; it ranks their progress, and it ridicules them for not being able to present as they would like to instantaneously. Seeing as how a number of transgender people have been personally offended, though none of them were singled out, it would seem prudent to apologize for publishing the antagonistic remark, and perhaps for being regrettably unaware of its indecent nature.

-OUTspoken

IN SEARCH OF SCHOOL SPIRIT

At the beginning of Winter quarter, Student Government decided to kick off the new academic cycle by having Dr. Destler and members of SG dye the Campus Center fountain orange in order to promote school spirit. As far as I have heard from close friends, few were aware of this event, and personally, I find it both stupid and a waste of time and resources (not to mention that the chemicals involved in the dyeing do not really strike me as environmentally friendly). My sentiments were not of a lone wolf, for in that week's issue of the *Reporter*, the editor expressed a similar opinion. Some say they overheard Dr. Destler sneer at the *Reporter* for dismissing the dyeing of the fountain as a mockery; whether this is true or not, I would challenge the administration to ponder to why some of us see this as ridiculous.

I have been at RIT for almost five years, and as an international student, I have always been amazed at the multitude of student clubs, the leadership opportunities and the many chances to make a difference whether varsity, club or intramural. However, I have never been infected or allured (to use a less harsh word) by the idea of school spirit. I sometimes think it is cultural because in my country, the traditional idea of school spirit seems more of something you see in an American movie. Nevertheless, as I look back at my own experience and the different moments of 'school spirit,' I believe that part of it is that the administration is trying to apply a traditional formula to a non-traditional school.

I will elaborate my theory and let you make up your mind later. RIT is no traditional school, which is both what makes us great and stereotypes us. While some schools rally under a sport to showcase their sense of pride, RIT does not truly possess that. Even though some will argue that we have hockey and speak highly about our participation in the Frozen Four tournament, the truth is that we experienced a fluke. I should state that in no way I am trying to undermine our team or last year's great accomplishment; I simply want to make the case that the traditional view of school spirit is where the student population rallies behind their varsity sport to show pride and support for their school. Here is where administration has become near-sighted.

I believe that school spirit is a combination of two things: the pride one has for his or her institution, and the desire to give back to the community behind this institution. I believe varsity is a piece of school spirit, but not the entire pie. If anyone wants to see school spirit in its raw form, go to the Campus Center and visit the different MSO offices that are there. You might be pleasantly surprised at the different programming events CAB does, the sweet beats humming from WITR, and the many advocacy efforts from organizations like Global Union (GU) and AALANA Collegiate Association (ACA) are spearheading. These are organizations with students who volunteer and dedicate their time to give back to the institution, the RIT community, and in some occasions, even the Rochester Community. The examples I could give would make this a more dense reading from Pulse Happy Hour hosted in NTID, to A Capella groups such as Encore and 8-Beat Measure, to community service and environmental awareness clubs, and many more.

I like to take the Orientation program as an example of true school spirit. The program gathers 180 students, plus faculty and staff, who dedicate a part of their time to create a meaningful first impression for parents and first-year students. Here, we see a group of energetic and passionate students who come back early to school, sometimes leaving jobs, internships and co-ops, to help first-year students have a smooth transition to college life. Some cynics may say that they return because you get paid, but if you do the math, the amount paid versus the hours dedicated to training, preparation, and orientation activities would put you well below the minimum wage of some developing countries. Here is a group that shows pride for its institution and gives back to the community.

To conclude, I want to challenge the view we have of what school spirit is and the way we try to force it into some traditional notion of what it should look like in RIT. Often, I hear Student Government encourage and even try to reward students with

prizes if they wear orange and brown on Fridays. Once again, the system fails to understand that even monkeys can wear orange and brown (not to mention that a good amount of people do not have class on Fridays). Next time, rather than having a challenge where Dr. Destler dyes his hair, why not challenge the man himself to attend a cultural event on campus, a drag show or even a CAB event. I will say it again, I am not trying to bring down our varsity groups, I even encourage going to some of the games, especially the women teams who tend to be underestimated but put on great games. My point is that we have focused so narrowly on our varsity teams that we fail to imagine the possibilities that lie outside. For a school that prides itself in being innovative, we should probably take our own advice if we really want to see an increase in school spirit (shouldn't every day feel like Imagine RIT!). I know some might criticize my opinions, but I welcome different views to come up with better solutions. To those who wish to be stuck in their ways, I feel they will miss the sea of opportunities that could lie ahead.

Diego Guzman Valle

Industrial Engineering, Fifth Year

Director for Internal Relations for Global Union

BRINGING BRANDING BACK HOME

I love all the things RIT tries to do around here to better the campus as a whole, but hate that they hire outside companies to do it... We have very talented people graduating every year into design, marketing, and all these fields. Why are seniors not designing all the spaces, bus stops, being built on campus, as well as the brand for our school? We know what RIT is about and we will be working as professionals doing just what RIT is hiring people to do a year from now. Design collaborative? Senior projects? Even Graduate Projects. Be the leaders in innovation RIT. Let us design our own school.

*A comment left on a Facebook regarding **REPORTER's** poll on rebranding.*

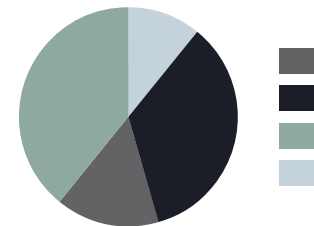
Mike McInally

Industrial Design

Fourth Year

POLL

RIT'S REBRANDING EFFORTS:
WHAT DO YOU THINK?



39.14%

I'm all for it. A school is a business, and needs a strong brand.

34.78%



I like the idea, but none of the concepts pitched so far appeal to me.

15.22%

This is a learning institution; corporate-style branding has no place here.

10.86%

I'm indifferent. As long as RIT keeps being RIT, it doesn't matter.



introducing

WITR WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26th

**COME TO THE STATION WEARING A WITR SHIRT
AND GET FREE STUFF**

{ PINS, BUMPER STICKERS, CDS }

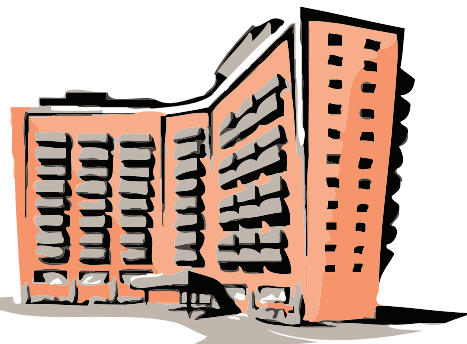
**DON'T OWN A WITR SHIRT?
COME BY THE STATION ANYWAY**

streaming live @ WITR.RIT.EDU | call or text requests 585.475.2271

the REAL RIT CHALLENGE



Wednesday, January 19 –Friday, January 21



RIT administrators and staff are participating in a **3 day, 2 night immersion experience in the RIT community and transportation system!** Participants will be living in different apartment complexes on and off campus while experiencing the challenges of transportation to various locations around the area **without using a car.** Each participant will be keeping a blog of their experiences, so be sure to check it out and make comments of your own at

sg.rit.edu/challenge

RESEARCH TAKES FLIGHT ON A COLUMN OF LIGHT

by Christina Belisle | illustration by Lee Fitzgerald

Though the lab looks bare, nestled in the basement of the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science (CAR, 76) is something microscopic that's very big. So big, in fact, that the results could enable space travel powered by the sun and manipulate the very building blocks of life.

Alexandra Artusio-Glimpse, an Imaging Science graduate student, explained the discovery with a smile. She and other researchers on the project have successfully built and tested an optical wing — a small device that generates lift from the energy of a laser beam.

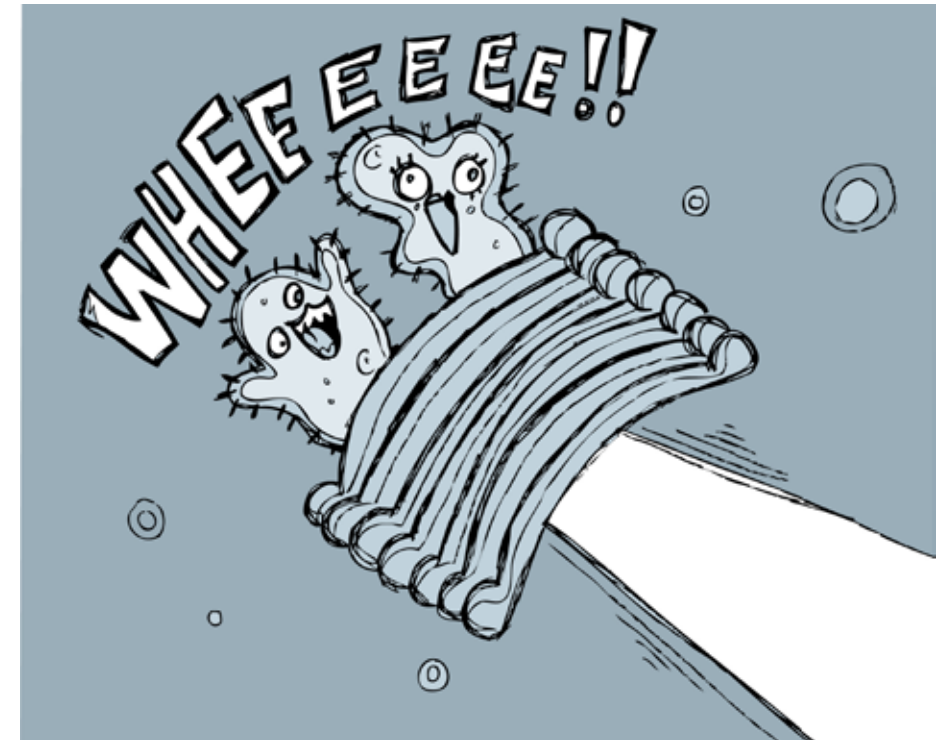
"Light has momentum," she explained. If you hit a stationary golf ball with a club, the ball goes into motion; this is because some of the force of movement (*momentum*) from your swing is transferred to the ball. The same principle applies to particles of light, called *photons*. Because photons have momentum, light can transfer energy.

In Artusio-Glimpse's experiment, tiny plastic semi-cylindrical rods, thinner than a strand of human hair, are immersed in water and hit with a beam of laser light. Initially, the rods simply rotate in the water, but soon find stability and begin move forward and up.

This works because of the rod's carefully crafted shape. When a beam of light hits the rod, the rod's shape bends it, much like the way a prism or the lens of a magnifying glass does, and forces it out of the bottom of the rod. This is where Newton's Third Law — every action has an equal and opposite reaction — comes into play. The light hitting the rod gives it a forward push, and the light exiting downwards propels the rod upwards.

The project is credited to a team of four researchers at RIT. Grover Swartzlander, a professor of Physics and Imaging Science, headed the experiment. Timothy Peterson, a student pursuing a master's degree in Computer Science, modeled what would happen. Alan Raisanen, associate director of RIT's Semiconductor and Microsystems Fabrication Lab, was responsible for making the tiny rods. Artusio-Glimpse took the experimental measurements.

The roots of the experiment began when Swartzlander and other researchers at a symposium




at Sandia National Laboratory started pondering the momentum of light and the force obtained when that momentum is changed. If that's true for forces such as kinetic energy, they reasoned, why not with light? "Can it exhibit the same lift as an air foil, an aerodynamic wing?" Swartzlander, appearing on a Canadian science podcast, recalled thinking. "When you do science, no matter what you calculate, you're always surprised by the experimental result." And no one expected this result.

Creating movement from light's momentum isn't new. NASA tried to use a similar technology for moving in a vacuum late last year with technology known as a "solar sail." The theory was that momentum from light would push the sail forward in the same way that wind pushes a sailboat forward. The momentum of photons would reflect off the material and then bounce backwards, imparting twice the momentum forward and resulting in forward motion. Unfortunately, the experiment ended inconclusively when the sail went missing. Unlike the optical wing, a solar sail can only travel in one direction.

Artusio-Glimpse said that a solar sail could be made out of billions of optical wings arranged in vast arrays. One array would control right and left movement, while another would control up and

down movement. This way, the sail could move in any direction. With large enough arrays, it might even be possible to make flying carpets or saucers.

But perhaps a more practical use would be to improve so-called optical tweezers, which are focused laser beams that trap and move particles by moving the beam. Already, lasers control particles that move small biological structures like DNA and single cells. But with optical lift, the "tweezers" could be easier to use and more precise. This could greatly simplify microbiological research and could be used to manually manipulate genetic code.

Swartzlander said the results of the experiment were "almost like the first stages of what the Wright brothers did." The ability to use light as a mechanic for flight needs to be further tested in air with other materials and other types of light. Optical lift then, clearly has a bright future ahead of it. 

BEYOND THE BRICKS

compiled by Christina Belisle

COFFEE SPILL CAUSES EMERGENCY LANDING

The friendly skies turned a little scary on Jan. 3 when a United Airlines flight made an emergency landing in Toronto, Canada after experiencing problems with their communications equipment. The pilot of Flight 940, slated to fly from Chicago, Ill. to Frankfurt, Germany, spilled his coffee on a panel in the cockpit during turbulence. The spill interfered with the plane’s radio equipment and possibly caused several distress signals including Code 7500, which means hijacking or unlawful interference.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is investigating the cause of the communication problems, which is not known for sure. It is looking into whether it was the coffee or another factor that caused the alarm.

Pilots are allowed to have beverages in the cockpit of planes but are not allowed to engage in distracting activities, such as eating meals. A United Airlines spokesman said the pilot was in contact with air traffic control during the incident and followed standard operating procedures.

SPACE TAXI RULES RELEASED

Astronauts and supplies will need a means of transport to the International Space Station after NASA retires its space shuttles in 2011. NASA will either rely on other countries’ spacecrafts or hire a space “taxi” owned by a private company.

In a 39-page document entitled “Commercial Crew Transportation System Certification Requirements for NASA Low Earth Orbit Missions,” NASA outlines the certifications requirements for a commercial transport system. The chance of the crew being killed during a launch or landing cannot be higher than 1 in 1,000, or 0.1 percent. The taxi would also need a manual override system and the ability to be operated remotely.

The FAA regulates space travel when NASA is not involved. It plans on making its own set of regulations based on NASA’s.

INFLUENTIAL AUTISM STUDY CALLED A FRAUD

An article published in the “British Medical Journal” (BMJ) claims a study that linked autism with vaccinations was an “elaborate fraud.” Dr. Andrew Wakefield’s 1998 study falsified and altered the medical history of all 12 patients in the study, the investigation in the BMJ said. Brian Deer, the investigative journalist who authored the BMJ article, believes Wakefield should face criminal charges for this.

Wakefield defended himself, saying that he is the target of “a ruthless, pragmatic attempt to crush any attempt to investigate valid vaccine safety concerns.”

The editor-in-chief of the BMJ, however, says the study attempted to “create an impression that there was a link by falsifying the data” and the study has done real damage. Parents, worried they were giving their children autism, kept them from being vaccinated. Since the original release of the Wakefield study, the incidence of measles sharply increased, and 90 percent of those who fell ill had no records indicating they had received the vaccine.

Last year, the Wakefield study had been retracted from “The Lancet,” the journal in which it was published, and Wakefield’s co-authors removed their names after discovering in 2004 that Wakefield was partially funded by a law firm that planned to sue vaccine manufacturers.

MASS BIRD DEATHS CONFOUND SCIENTISTS

Pointe Coupee Parish, La., became the latest locality to suffer a scientific mystery on Jan. 3 after hundreds of dead birds littered the ground, an event akin to a mass bird kill on New Year’s Eve in Beebe, Ark. The red-winged blackbirds and starlings in Parish were found near a high school along Louisiana Route 1. State biologists have collected the birds for testing.

The blackbirds related to the incident in Arkansas were found to have suffered from blunt force trauma. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission said it was likely that the birds were scared by a loud noise and were flying at a low altitude due to fireworks, which caused them to fly into houses, vehicles and trees. Pest control experts believe the mass kill in Louisiana could be due to legal pest control, as they are considered pests by farmers.



illustration by Melissa Huang

SG UPDATE

by Chris Zubak-Skees

REAL RIT CHALLENGE DETAILED

Although Student Government (SG) dedicated relatively little discussion to the Real RIT Challenge, a document distributed at its Jan. 7 Senate meeting, provided fresh details of the upcoming event. Seventeen key figures have volunteered for the challenge, designed to expose administrators to the rigors of student life; participants include President William Destler, Provost Jeremy Haefner, NTID President Gerard Buckley and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Mary-Beth Cooper.

The administrators who agreed to take part in the challenge will live in on and off-campus student housing for two nights and complete tasks that simulate the student experience. The challenge will start on Wednesday, Jan. 19 with a presentation and a catered dinner. Participants will then be driven to their housing assignment and will be expected to complete a blog entry by midnight. The next day, they will be required to buy food using debit, take a bus to and from a designated location — the list includes Park Point, the RIT Inn & Conference Center, Wegmans and downtown Rochester — and complete another blog entry.

The challenge will end on Jan. 21 at 4 p.m. with an open forum where participants will share their experiences.

NEW CAST SENATOR

After taking 30 minutes to interview three candidates and 10 minutes to decide on one, SG chose Timothy Maher, a third year Mechanical Engineering Technology major, as the new College of Applied Science and Technology (CAST) senator.

Maher serves as a First Year Enrichment peer mentor to 25 freshman students, raises money for cancer as a Livestrong area leader and helped build a playground in downtown Rochester. His goal as senator is to increase the sense of community in the college by holding and encouraging people to attend special events.

CRIME WATCH

compiled by Michael Roppolo

DECEMBER 2

Thomas Gosnell Hall (GOS, 8). At 10:45 p.m., someone broke the glass of a vending machine. This case is closed, pending further information or leads.

DECEMBER 3

Facilities Management (FMS, 99). At 8:30 p.m., a student reported that his bike was missing its tires and seat. This case is closed, pending further information or leads.

University Commons Suites (UCS, 300-330). Between 8 p.m. on Dec. 2 and 3:35 p.m. on Dec. 3, officers responded to an apartment for a covered smoke detector. There, they found illegal drugs. This case has been turned over to Student Conduct.

DECEMBER 12

Colony Manor Apartments (CMA, 97). Between the hours of 1 and 3 a.m., a student reported his laptop and PlayStation 3 missing from his apartment. This investigation continues.

DECEMBER 14

K Lot. Between 2 a.m. and 6 p.m., someone stole the wiper blades off a vehicle. This case is closed, pending new information or leads.

DECEMBER 15

CMA. Between 11:00 and 11:58 p.m., two outsiders were witnessed placing a straw hat, which was on fire outside an apartment. A ban notification was issued and the case was closed by Student Conduct.

DECEMBER 20

FMS. Sometime in the last 20 days, someone stole spruce trees off the RIT grounds. This case is closed, pending new information or leads.


In case of emergency, contact Public Safety at 585.475.3333 or Monroe County emergency services at 911. You can also contact a public safety officer via AOL Instant Messenger (AIM) at RITPublicSafety. 



illustration by Lee Fitzgerald

FORECAST

compiled by Michelle Spoto

14 FRIDAY

Transmogrification
Ingle Auditorium, SAU. 8 p.m. Prepare to be amazed at this exciting and unusual piano recital. Listen as Dariusz Terefenko, an Eastman School of Music professor, brilliantly transforms Chopin into jazz and shows you how he does it. Cost: \$5 for students, \$15 for faculty/staff, \$20 for the public.

15 SATURDAY

Frozen Frag Fest: The Promised LAN
CSD-1300/1310. Saturday 10 a.m. - Sunday 3 p.m. Game to your heart’s content during this 29-hour LAN party. There will be tournaments, open gaming, prizes and more. Cost: \$15.

16 SUNDAY

HvZ Mini Game
GOR. 4 - 6 p.m. If you didn’t get enough Humans vs. Zombies (HvZ) this fall, participate in an indoor two-hour mini game. Cost: Free.

17 MONDAY

International Folk Dancing
Jewish Community Center, 1200 Edgewood Ave. 7:45 - 9:45 p.m. Come to just one lesson or attend weekly. Offered each Monday, folk dancing is a fun way to kick off your week. No partners or experience necessary! Cost: First time free, \$5 after.

18 TUESDAY

RIT Men’s Wrestling vs. Morrisville
CLK. 7 - 9:30 p.m. Cheer on the Tigers as they wrestle against Morrisville. Cost: Free.

19 WEDNESDAY

Ceramic Work by David MacDonald
Genesee Center for the Arts and Education, 713 Monroe Ave. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Enjoy the beautiful ceramic art of New York native David MacDonald. Cost: Free.

20 THURSDAY

“Prelude to a Kiss”
Lab Theatre, LBJ-1510. A touchingly romantic comedy, “A Prelude to a Kiss” chronicles what happens when the soul of a young bride is switched with that of dying old man. The play will be performed simultaneously in sign language and spoken English, a truly unique experience. Cost: Free.

QUOTE

“There’s something about nipples you hate.”
-Peter Molyneux

WORD OF THE WEEK

catatonic *adj.* – of, relating to, being, resembling, or affected by schizophrenia characterized especially by a marked psychomotor disturbance that may involve stupor or mutism, negativism, rigidity, purposeless excitement, and inappropriate or bizarre posturing.

The patient’s severe case of schizophrenia caused her to be in a permanent **catatonic** state.

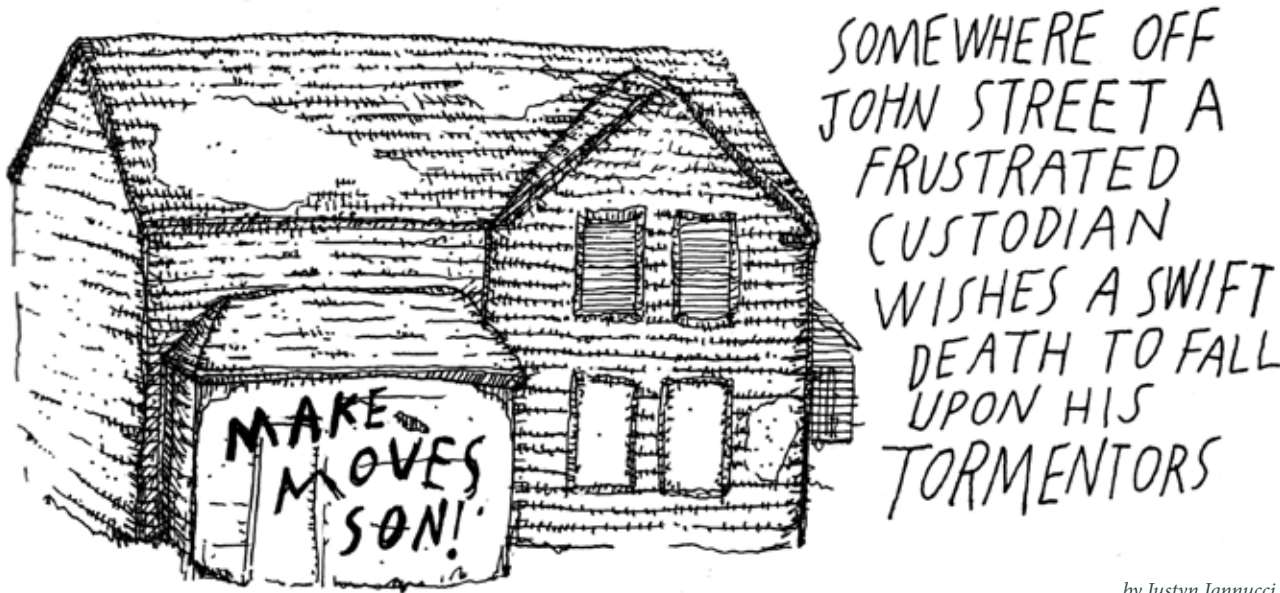
Definition taken from <http://merriam-webster.com>.

OVERSEEN AND OVERHEARD

“How did I just miss my mouth? I just shoved a goldfish into my chin.”
-Male student in Campus Center

“I’m at the model railroad club, can’t you hear the fun?”
-Student on cell phone outside model railroad club

CARTOON



by Justyn Iannucci

STREAM OF FACTS

The show’s producers, not the losing litigant, pay plaintiffs who appear on TV court shows such as **JUDGE JUDY** their winnings.

JUDGE JUDY earns \$45,000,000 per year, more than 200 times the salary of **U.S. SUPREME COURT** Justices who make \$213,900 each year.

A recent ruling by the **U.S. SUPREME COURT** decided that juveniles who committed crimes wherein no one was killed couldn’t be given **LIFE SENTENCES** without the option for parole.

In 2007, more than 300 prisoners serving **LIFE SENTENCES** in Italian prisons signed a letter asking to receive the death penalty. **ITALIAN** law forbids capital punishment, and Italy is spearheading a movement to ban it among members of the United Nations.

In 2009, while many of the world’s governments were bailing out mega-corporations and banking institutions, the **ITALIAN** government spent €50 million to bail out makers of parmigiano **CHEESE**.

An annual **CHEESE** rolling competition in Gloucestershire, England, sees competitors racing down an incredibly steep hill after a wheel of **DOUBLE** Gloucester cheese. The winner of the race wins the cheese.

A study performed by Clemson University found that the act of **DOUBLE** dipping a chip can have a noticeable effect on the amount of **BACTERIA** found in the dip. The results also varied based on the type of dip used.

The U.S. Department of Naval Research discovered a strain of **BACTERIA** found in mud that could potentially be used to power fuel cells and give off as much energy as a D-cell battery for as long as nine months.

REPORTER RECOMMENDS

Making Mistakes
Presumably, we all strive to do our absolute best all the time. We pressure ourselves to attempt a sort of near unachievable perfection, and we punish ourselves whenever we screw up. It’s time to lighten up. Making mistakes isn’t such a terrible thing. Sure, you’ll disappoint yourself and maybe a few others for a little while; but in the end, no one really remembers those little goofs you make along the way.
Besides reducing stress, making mistakes provides an opportunity for education — the kind of education that you’ll never get from a lab or lecture. By making mistakes, we discover what our true strengths and weaknesses are, which allow us to change the things about ourselves we find most disappointing. **R**

OUTER SPACE WORD SEARCH

XMETSYSRALOSDDDEBLWW
SYMONORTSASMKDRLTLPN
PUXBLACKHOLEGICBDNPZ
AVONREPUSFOKDDIBQOOH
CCFAMAMPDCDREWBZUPIUB
ETFWSCLNVAALTIRHZTNW
SEVENTHORIZONQDPWADT
TCMVLSROWPEHCGRSILGA
AQDGVISOSXLMWHFRQLTT
TOVTBLJSNXLRXLI ALEEW
IGMPRNVWKAPOVD DTM TLQ
OPEMWSAXELUWFNZSPSEC
NYBOEPRYMTTCNQLVNSB
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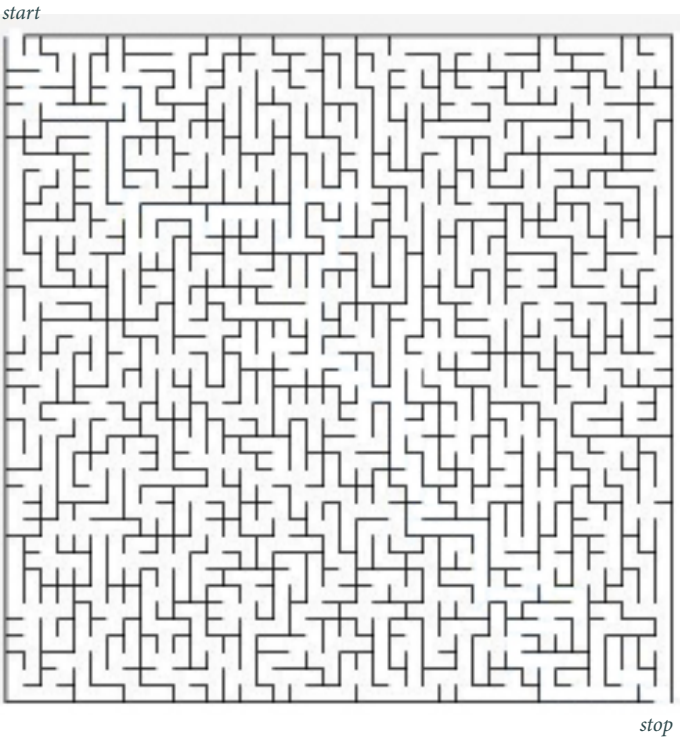
- Blackhole
- Eventhorizon
- Astronaut
- Hubble
- Stars
- Spacestation
- Galaxy
- Constellation
- Gravity
- Supernova
- Telescope
- Martians
- Intergalactic
- Quasar
- Wormhole
- Solarsystem
- Astronomy

SUDOKU

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Difficulty Rating: Medium

MAZE



stop

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DANCE ALL NIGHT: AIDS BENEFIT DANCE-A-THON

by Emily Bogle | photograph by Jonathan Foster

The AIDS Benefit Dance-A-Thon started like most school dances. Music remixes blared and colored lights flashed on a dance floor filled with balloons. Around 50 participants stood around in a semi-circle, waiting for someone to start dancing. At 9 p.m., an hour after the event started, one couple finally took the floor, and soon others followed suit, dancing until after 1 a.m. The small groups that arrived together began to co-mingle, switching partners and forming circles to highlight dance solos. All forms of dancing were embraced, from club grinding, to break dancing, to more interpretive movements. Competition seemed to be an afterthought to interacting and having fun dancing with new people.



Jarod Salton, third year Advertising and Public Relations Major, dances with Clint Miller, a first year Psychology major, at the RIT Gay Alliance's Dance-A-Thon, on Jan. 6.

The Dance-A-Thon, held on Jan. 6, was sponsored by a variety of groups and organizations on campus, including the GLBT Center, The Center for Women & Gender, The BADER Group, ResLife, OUTspoken, RIT Gay Alliance and Spectrum, NTID's Gay and Straight Alliance. The event's proceeds went to AIDS Care, a Rochester-based organization that provides HIV/AIDS testing, prevention and outreach as well as care, nursing and health services. Dancers were identified by paper numbers pinned to their backs by small rainbow flags. Most of these were crinkled by the end of the night, and a few dancers removed them altogether.

"It was something different that we hadn't done before. Something fun," said Patrick Villaume, a fifth


year Mechanical Engineering major. Villaume is one of two student coordinators at the GLBT Center. When he first came to RIT, the GLBT Center was just an idea; and since then, Villaume has watched it grow and has become involved in promoting the center as a safe zone for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and straight-ally students.

The GLBT Center and OUTspoken had a strong presence in the Brick City Café-turned-dancehall with tables set up where they spoke to students and gave out freebies like magnets, rainbow flags and condoms. The Rochester Victory Alliance, which conducts studies and tests on HIV vaccinations, also had a table where it provided outreach and glow sticks at the event.

Local and student drag queens were the designated judges and also provided entertainment during breaks. The performance breaks allowed dancers to sit back and rehydrate as Samantha Vega, Jizzabella, Victoria Versai, Angel Broadway and Tasha Brooks performed. RIT alum, Samantha Vega, was the hostess of the evening, where she quipped with the other drag queens and participants.

"At a school you have to behave a little better," Jizzabella, a second year Political Science major, said. "You can't be as vulgar as you can at a club." Jizzabella, who has performed at previous RIT Drag Shows, does not reveal her real name when she's in drag. She donned a long black wig and wore a tight black dress when she performed Cher's "Strong Enough." She and many of the other drag queens were often seen dancing with the participants, both during and after their performances.

The evening ended with a mix of tired and energetic dancers when Vega announced the winners. David Yip, a graduate student double majoring in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, won best single dancer. Clint Miller, a first year Psychology major, and Jarod Salton, a third year Advertising and Public Relations major, won in the couple category. Jasmine Tompkins, a second year Mechanical Engineering Technology major; Sadé Holley, a second year Psychology major; Deirdesha Wint, a third year Political Science major and Jesica Pichardo, a first year student at Monroe Community College, won for best group. The program ended with the drag queens joining the participants and dancing to "Wannabe" by the Spice Girls.

For more information about the GLBT Center, go to SAU-A452 or visit <http://campuslife.rit.edu/GLBT>. For more information about AIDS Care, visit <http://acrochester.org>. 

FROZEN SKY: A Guide to Winter's Constellations

compiled by Alex Rogala | infographic by Ko Kawazoe

January. By now, any trace of fall's vitality has vanished into mere memory. As snow blankets the ice-slicked ground, one thing is clear: winter is in full bloom. As the weather changes, so does the view. And the sky is no exception.

Humanity has always held a deep fascination with the sky. Whether it's discovering planets or naming stars, people have always felt an urge to explain and classify the glowing orbs in the sky.

There are 88 officially recognized constellations. Many of these are restricted to specific latitudes and seasons. At its dawn, winter brings its own unique mix of constellations to the table. So take a break from the chaos of Week 6, step outside, and see what the sky has to offer.

Suggested viewing time for listed constellations is 9 p.m.



Gemini

Best Visible: February

Another of the better-known constellations, *Gemini*, features a pair of twins, once thought to be gods by the Babylonians. The mythical twins are joined by *Castor* and *Pollux*, two especially bright and easily noticeable stars named after a set of legendary Greek heroes.

☆ - Pollux ★ - Castor



Monoceros

Best Visible: February

Freakin' sweet! *Monoceros* is the sky's only — and perhaps coolest — unicorn. A rather mysterious creature, it consists entirely of nameless stars, many of which are extremely dim. If you're looking for a challenge, ride the unicorn east of *Orion*.



Canis Major

Best Visible: February

The great dog, *Canis Major*, contains *Sirius*, the brightest star in the sky, and can be found right beside his trusty hunting partner *Orion*. As March rolls around, *Major*'s smaller cousin *Canis Minor* will join the pack.

☆ - Sirius



Lepus

Best Visible: February

The hare, *Lepus*, is often a subject of *Orion*'s hunts. To find it, look for the trapezoid formed by the four main stars.



Camelopardalis

Best Visible: February

A relatively new constellation, very little is known about *Camelopardalis*, the giraffe. Earlier this month, a supernova was discovered within the constellation.



Auriga

Best Visible: late February, early March

Although there are some discrepancies to this constellation's exact mythological subject, *Auriga* rides his chariot across the celestial highway.

☆ - Capella ★ - Menkalinan ★ - Alnath

How to Use a Star Chart

Star charts, like the one here, are a common way to showcase the nighttime view. To use the chart, orient the page with the direction you are facing pointed towards the ground. For example, if you are facing west, orient the page with the western portion of the chart facing downwards.

As the night progresses, different constellations will appear; the ones listed here are merely peak viewing times.



Taurus

Best Visible: January

Right around the Crab Nebula lies *Taurus* the bull, locked in eternal battle with *Orion* the hunter. He's a tricky character, and rumor has it he just might be Zeus in disguise. Keep a special eye out for *Alpha Tau*, a red star that represents *Taurus*' glowing red eye.

☆ - Alpha Tau ★ - Alnath

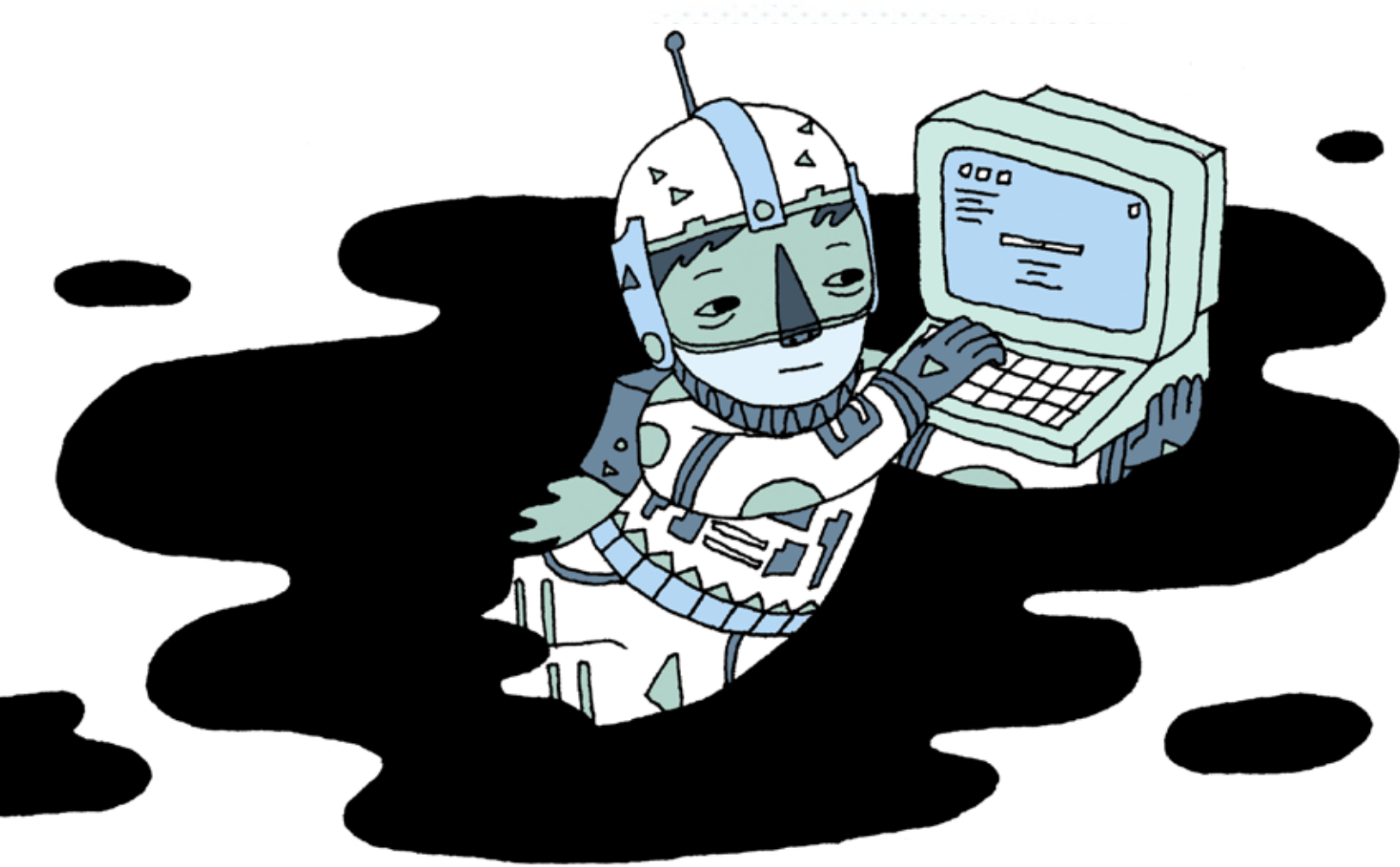


Orion

Best Visible: January

The famous hunter, *Orion*, is one of the most visible constellations in the night sky. Flanked by his trusty dogs, *Canis Major* and *Canis Minor* — who doesn't fully appear until March — *Orion* hunts his way through the heavens. To quickly locate him, find the three incredibly bright stars on his belt.

☆ - Betelgeuse ☆ - Rigel ★ - Bellatrix
★ - Alnitak ★ - Alnilam ★ - Mintaka



EVENTS *on the* HORIZON: *RIT's Black Hole Simulator*

Dr. Carlos Lousto has always been captivated by space. A child of the space race growing up in South America, he remembers watching Neil Armstrong's historic first step onto the moon. As he recalled, "This event triggered the imagination of a whole generation and made us feel that the secrets of the universe were reachable." From

that point on, he knew that studying space and its myriad of mysterious phenomena would be his life's work. Lousto earned his doctorates in Physics and Relativistic Astrophysics from the University of La Plata and the University of Buenos Aires respectively. Since then, he has spent nearly 20 years studying space and relativistic physics,

specifically black holes. His work has taken him across the globe, from his childhood home in South America to Paris, France, Germany, Utah, Texas, and finally, a small office across the hall from a massive computer room at RIT's Center for Computational Relativity and Gravitation (CCRG).

The Team and Their Tech

The team at the CCRG is made up of 20 researchers, who are a mix of professors and associate professors like Dr. Manuela Campanelli, the CCRG director; Dr. Yosef Zlochower and Lousto, as well as several grad students and even undergrads. The group got its start nearly a decade ago at the University of Texas at Brownsville (UTB). Past students working with the CCRG have moved on to obtain their doctorates from prestigious universities such as Northwestern, where they made their initial 2005 breakthrough in modeling black hole collisions. Then in 2007, they packed up and moved to RIT, where they have made their most recent breakthroughs.

The team is based in the Laboratory for Applied Computing (LAC, 74), which is little more than a hallway between Thomas B. Golisano Hall (GOL, 70) and Louise Slaughter Hall (SLA, 78). But in this hallway rests the heart of the CCRG's operations.

In a room with sleek glass walls sits the CCRG's main simulation computer. This computational powerhouse, a beast three years in the making, consists of some 500 processing cores, 50 terabytes of hard drive storage and nearly 2 terabytes of RAM. To put that in perspective, today's high-end personal computers typically have four processing cores and 8 gigabytes of RAM. In order to model the team's most complicated simulations, this machine will run continually for up to three months straight.

A Cosmological Conundrum

Black holes have fascinated astronomers and sci-fi buffs for decades. To many, they hold an aura of mystique and mystery that few other astronomical phenomena could ever hope to garner. There is a kind of grim fascination to be found in an astronomical vacuum so powerful that not even light can escape its grasp. But now, the team at the CCRG are shining a light on the unseen.

In 2005, that team, at that time located at UTB, lead by Campanelli, Lousto and Zlochower, all from the School of Mathematical Sciences in the College of Science, made a breakthrough discovery by using computer simulations to model the behavior of colliding black holes. That technique, known as *moving punctures*, allowed them to use much more accurate numerical techniques in their models.

As it stands, there are two methods for calculating the behavior of black hole collisions. As Zlochower explains, "If the mass ratio is very, very small, it turns out that there are these approximation techniques that one can use that get you everything that you need ... For large

mass ratios, as you get closer to one, you can use what we call fully numerical techniques." Although these techniques work successfully for specific mass ratios, there is a range in between for which neither of these methods is particularly accurate.

Illuminating the Blackness

Lousto and Zlochower's most recent discovery may be the missing piece. Late last year, they were successfully able to modify their models to simulate the collision of two black holes with a mass ratio of 100-to-1, meaning that one black hole was 100 times larger than the other. As this ratio lies within the gap between the two modeling methods, their method may be a building block for eventually bridging that gap. Beyond that, it could be used to directly prove the existence of black holes.

When dealing with the numerical model, the work involved in calculating the result of a collision between two similarly sized black holes is relatively easy. Unfortunately, as the size discrepancy between them increases, the amount of work that the model's calculation requires increases exponentially. What this means is that modeling two black holes whose masses were at ratios of 10-to-1 takes approximately 10,000 times more work than two similarly sized black holes. It had been generally accepted that it would take nearly five years, as well as further developments in computing power, to be able to calculate this model.

What the team managed to do, through clever manipulation of their computer models, was reduce the amount of work to somewhere between the mass ratio and the mass ratio squared. What that means is that that 10,000 times more work was now something closer to 10 to 100 times more work. "It still takes a lot of work, just not an astronomical amount of work, so it was something that was [more] feasible," said Zlochower.

Beyond the Black

The computations done by CCRG are not only useful for modeling black hole collisions, but they can also be used to assist current gravitational wave detectors. The ultimate goal is to directly detect gravitational radiation and, in turn, black holes. "We are on the verge of detecting, for the first time, gravitational waves. When this happens, it will have a big impact on physics and astrophysics," explained Lousto. "A Nobel Prize award is waiting for this first detection of gravitation waves and also of the direct confirmation of the existence of black holes." **R**

CCRG VOCABULARY

BLACK HOLE

Super dense regions of space that create such a strong gravitational field that not even light can escape them. As of yet, there has been no direct proof that black holes exist. They are currently a theoretical construct predicted by general relativity.

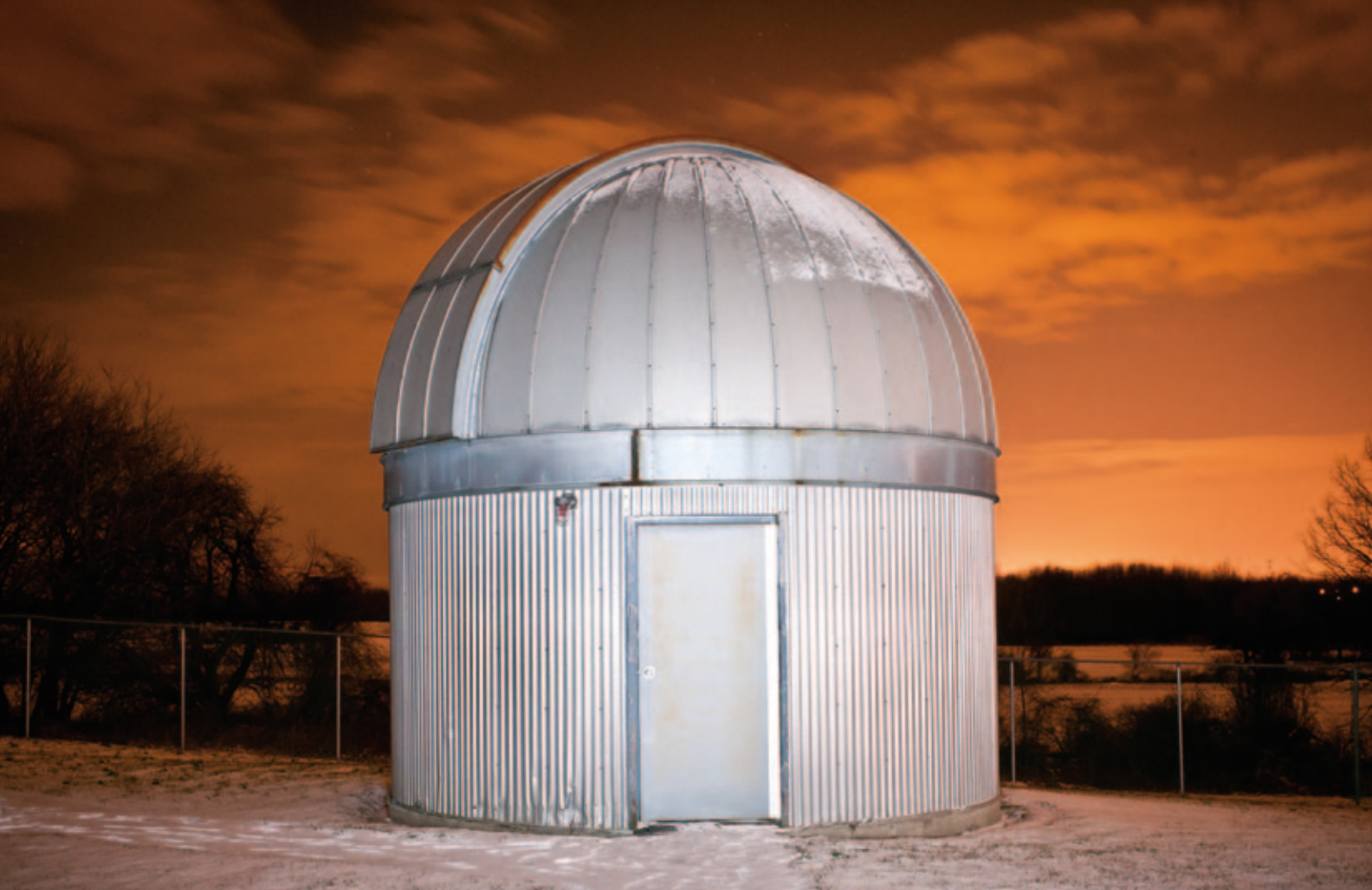
GRAVITATIONAL WAVES

A unique form of radiation that only appears when binary black holes orbit each other prior to colliding. As of yet, they have not been directly observed from Earth.

MASS RATIO

A comparison of the masses of any two given black holes. The smaller the number, the greater the discrepancy between the two masses. A mass ratio of 10-to-1 indicates that one black hole is 10 times heavier than the other.

"This event triggered the imagination of a whole generation and made us feel that the secrets of the universe were reachable."



CHASING GHOSTS:

Stargazing at the RIT Observatory

Just a short trek past Colony Manor lies 645 John St. A rather unassuming building with white siding and matching green-and-white awnings, nothing about it conjures up images of anything particularly extraordinary. But in the backyard is an unusual sight: two large metallic silos enclosed within a large fence. Inside are two telescopes large enough to clearly photograph planets, stars and the occasional supernova.

The RIT Observatory is one of the Institute's hidden jewels. It houses a staff enthusiastic about stars, planets and all other things space. Over the past 19 years, the observatory has provided RIT students with a unique glimpse at the sky above them.

by Alex Rogala | photograph by Robert Bredvad

HIDDEN TREASURE

Just beyond the edge of campus, the observatory remains an obscure destination. "It's not in the middle of campus, you could go right past it without noticing," says Dr. Michael Richmond, a physics professor and the director of the observatory. After joining the physics department in 1997, Richmond quickly became interested in the observatory. "I got a job, and once I was here, I said, 'Oh, you've got an observatory,' he recalls, "and because I'm an astronomer, I wanted to use it."

At the time, the observatory was located in the heart of campus, at a facility constructed in 1992. "It was located in what is now the area of Global Village," says Richmond, "at that time it was still a region with trees and grass." Shortly after his arrival, an expanding campus led to the observatory's relocation in 1998.

The old facility was marred by a light pollution problem. "Observatories require dark skies, and the center of campus doesn't have dark skies," explains Richmond. When choosing a new home, a special effort was made to minimize ambient light while remaining close to campus. After surveying many potential locations, the team settled on their present site on John Street.

AN ACADEMIC AFFAIR

The RIT Observatory consists of three main buildings. The first, a house, serves as classroom space, as well as a means of blocking light from the street. The second, a dome-shaped building, contains a 12-inch telescope; while the third, a longer building, holds a 14-inch telescope.

As Rochester's notoriously bad weather limits research, the observatory's primary focus is education. "The physics department teaches two courses every fall and spring," says Richmond. As RIT requires a lab science, a corresponding lab is taught at the observatory. "There are over 100 students every year who take that lab class, and that's probably the primary use of the observatory," he says.

In addition to RIT students, local schools occasionally schedule group trips to the observatory. In the summer, spring and fall, when weather is optimal, the observatory sometimes holds open houses.

However, it's winter now, and with winter comes poor observational weather. As Richmond explains, "It's one of the features of the Rochester area — that the weather is always cloudy in the winter — so we don't schedule events at night in the winter."

CURSED GROUNDS

Cloudy skies are only one of the many problems that RIT's observatory faces. Rochester's harsh climate is

far from an ideal home for an observatory. Despite the challenges, the crew remains committed.

Although the move has certainly alleviated much of the previous location's lighting problems, they can never be completely resolved. "We are only eight miles or so from the downtown ... so the skies are pretty bright," says Richmond. "It's actually brighter if there are clouds because then all the parking lot lights and city lights bounce off the clouds."

Rochester's geography provides more challenges than bright and cloudy skies. Rochester is a windy city, and turbulent air reduces image clarity. As Richmond explains, "the light gets bent and refracted as it goes through the air currents, and then everything gets blurry."

Despite the environmental complications, Richmond and his crew remain undeterred. "So basically, this is one of the worst places to put a telescope," he says, "yet we have a telescope here ... There's still some research carried out here, even with all [the disadvantages]."

DOUBLE VISION

Due to these environmental shortcomings, the observatory works under a tight set of technological constraints. "We can't see really faint things, and we can't see really fine detail in stars or planets; but what we can see is the light from relatively bright ... isolated stars," says Richmond.

In particular, they're interested in *binary star systems*, where two stars revolve around each other in a close orbit. "It's easy to measure that change in brightness as one star blocks the other and then unblocks it," he explains.

Although these stars remain relatively normal in their fluctuations, breaks in this pattern can lead to bizarre, unexplainable behavior. "Every couple of years ... one particular star will, for reasons we don't yet understand, shed a whole bunch of mass, [which] will get transferred to the other star," says Richmond. "And for a couple of weeks, there's a whole lot of action."

In order to ensure these opportunities don't go unnoticed, RIT has partnered with a number of institutions worldwide in a massive, collaborative observation cycle. "We have colleagues in Minnesota, Arizona, [and] California who make measurements when we have to stop because the star is setting in Rochester." Richmond lists off other, more distant locations, some as far away as Japan.

To measure these fluctuations in brightness, pictures are taken at regular intervals during an observational period, which usually lasts roughly six hours. "What we do at the observatory probably

won't make any 'National Geographic' articles," says Richmond. "When you say astronomy, a lot of people think giant, pretty pictures taken from the Hubble space telescope, and the research we do doesn't involve any of those."

Back in graduate school, Richmond studied supernovae. In a way, the unpredictability of supernovae defines his current research. As he says, "It's been 500 years since there was a supernova in our own galaxy bright enough to see with the naked eye; it could happen tomorrow."

Perhaps the greatest challenge is the wait. "I can't predict when [this will] happen for any particular star, and neither can anybody else," says Richmond. "We're at the mercy of chance." So for now, Richmond and his colleagues stay diligent, waiting for the next big break in a surprisingly small universe.

“WE’RE AT THE MERCY OF CHANCE.”

Opposite page: *The dome-shaped building that houses RIT's 12-inch Meade telescope on an Astro Pier mount.*

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SWIM MEET AGAINST SUNY BROCKPORT: THE TIGERS OUTSWIM THE GOLDEN EAGLES

by David Keith Gasser | photograph by Joshua Kuckens



Senior captain and fourth year Criminal Justice major Casey Burns shares a moment with a member of the SUNY Brockport team after RIT won, 165-76.

With the first buzzer, the girls sprung off the wall and bolted across the pool to begin the 200-yard medley relay. Initially, the match on Jan. 6 looked grim, with the Brockport Golden Eagles gaining on RIT's Melissa Harrison, a third year Mechanical Engineering major, during the first lap. As the second leg of swimmers leapt into the water, Taylor Whalen, a second year Accounting major, was almost a full second behind. It almost seemed a forgone conclusion, but Whalen would not have it; and by the end of her lap, the Lady Tigers had turned the tables and taken the lead by almost 10 feet. Molly Woods, a second year Graphic Design major, entered with a splash, blasting the competition and extending the relay team's lead to nearly 4 seconds. Katie Baldwin, a first year Engineering Exploration major and the team's anchor, also proved her worth, completing her freestyle run in less than 25 seconds.

The Tiger men and women have definitively debunked the misconception that felines dislike water, with both teams trouncing the competition. The Golden Eagles were certainly not soaring as RIT garnered the win for both the men, 165-to-76, and the women, 128-to-86.

RIT's men's team has been able to establish an impressive record this year, remaining undefeated with a 5-0 season. The women have also worked hard, recovering from a losing streak at the beginning of the season to secure their second win against SUNY Brockport.

Whalen continued racking up accomplishments, winning both the 200-yard individual medley and the 100-yard breaststroke. Not to be left out, Baldwin won her own pair of individual events with the 100-yard and 50-yard freestyle races. In all, three girls were able to take home an impressive three wins apiece.

The Lady Tigers, after starting the night on a high note, held the lead from start to finish. They ended with an exciting race; anchor Courtney Schwarting, a third year Graphic Design major, brought it home in her leg of the 4x100 freestyle relay. Schwarting also added both the 200-yard freestyle and 500-yard freestyle to her small but dazzling list of wins.

The men, not to be outdone, took home 10 wins of their own. Several races pitted Tiger against Tiger, as RIT's athletes fought for first place. Teammates Steve Brown, a third year Mechanical Engineering Technology major, and Austin Lopez, a first year Biotechnology major, took first and second in the

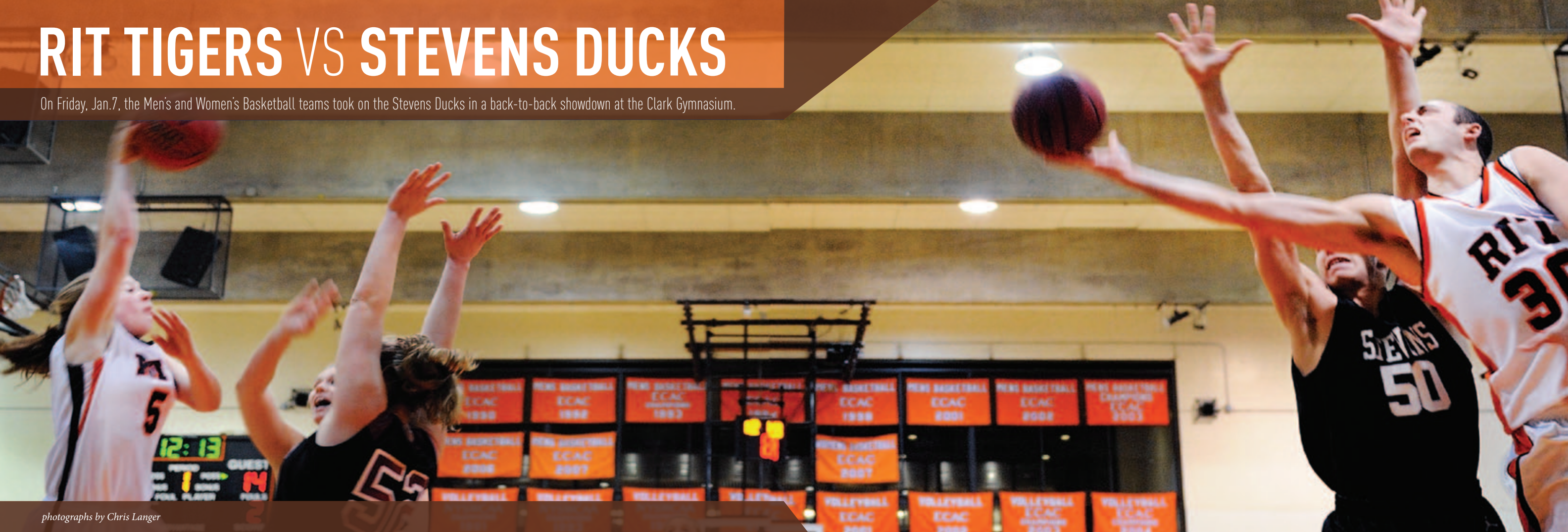
1000-yard freestyle, separated by only 6 seconds in a race that lasted nearly 11 minutes. Bryan Minicucci, a third year Software Engineering major, came out over Peter Coutts, a first year Mechanical Engineering major, by less than a quarter of a second in the 100-yard breaststroke.

Evan Wendt, a third year Mechanical Engineering Technology major, once again proved his talent on the diving board by earning second in both the 1-meter and 3-meter diving events, scoring a slew of points for RIT. Though the men fell one gold short of the women lead scorers, Minicucci; Nate Marshall, a first year Software Engineering major; Ryan Marchant, a fourth year Engineering Technology major and Frank Zelinger, a fourth year Mechanical Engineering major, each took two wins apiece.

Both the Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving teams really showed their skill this meet. If there was any lack in tension or excitement, it was only because of the sheer dominance and superiority both teams demonstrated; an impressive spectacle without a doubt. **R**

RIT TIGERS VS STEVENS DUCKS

On Friday, Jan.7, the Men's and Women's Basketball teams took on the Stevens Ducks in a back-to-back showdown at the Clark Gymnasium.



photographs by Chris Langer

MIGHTY DUCKS

by Michelle Spoto

The atmosphere of the women's basketball game versus Stevens Institute of Technology could only be described in one word: lackluster.

Nearly empty bleachers, combined with a rough start for RIT, called for a disappointing night for the Lady Tigers. The game started with a foul by RIT after only one minute of play. RIT held Stevens point for point in the first few minutes, but the Ducks took a hold and garnered a lead. RIT racked up a total of six penalties during the first 20 minutes of play. By the end of the first half, the Tigers were down 19 points with Stevens leading 41-22.

The second half of the game didn't fare much better; the Tigers' defense was no match for Stevens' offensive power. Although RIT was clearly frustrated, the Tigers never let their energy down, constantly encouraging each other on and off the court. RIT scored consistently throughout the period, claiming the first 4 points of the second half. Kayla Wheeler (#22), a first year Biomedical Engineering major, contributed two of these points by sinking both penalty shots. Still, the Ducks continued to gain

more ground, slowly widening the score gap, much to the irritation of the few RIT fans watching. By the middle of the second period, it was clear that this was going to be a disappointing loss for the Tigers; but the team pushed on and maintained their cool. Despite a last-minute foul shot by Mallory Apperson (#35), a first year Environmental Management major, the game closed with 70-51, Stevens' victory.

The RIT Women's Basketball team will take on the Utica Pioneers on Jan. 14 at 6 p.m. and the Ithaca Bombers on Jan. 29.

Above: RIT's Leslie Havens, a second year Biomedical Engineering major, goes up for a shot in the first half of the game against Stevens on Jan. 7.

SITTING DUCKS

by Jeff McKinzie

It was the game of the man on fire.

For 35 minutes, Justin Heisig, a third year Electrical Engineering major, was RIT's star player. Shooting 9-15 from the field and 4-6 from long range, Heisig rode a hot hand and made a game-winning shot with 27 seconds left to help carry the Tigers (5-6, 2-0 Empire 8) past the mighty Stevens Ducks (7-2, 1-1 Empire 8). The shot came after RIT lost their own 15-point lead with 2:54 remaining in the second half.

Heisig, whose previous season high in scoring was 18 points, topped that number during this game, finishing with a career-high 22. He was also a force on the boards, leading the team in rebounds with eight. He also played good defense, garnering a block and two steals. Heisig has also been a consistent scorer this season, scoring in double figures 6 out of 10 games entering the Jan. 7 match-up.

In the first half of the game, the Tigers went on a 15-2 run midway through the opening half, shooting

5-6 from the field with 3 three-pointers. The run resulted in a 23-9 lead. But that large lead didn't last very long, as Stevens used their defensive firepower to cut the lead to four with 5:04 left. The Tigers managed to hold their own for the remainder of the period, leading 36-29 at the half.

Other notable performers for the Tigers include Nate Korinchak, a fourth year New Media Publishing major, who was second on the team in scoring and dropped a season high of 16 points. He also added six boards and two steals. RJ Kalb, a second year Electrical Engineering major, also had a decent game, scoring 10 points and grabbing four rebounds. Marcus Lowe, a third year Business Management major, was also a hot spot on the roster, adding 6 points and eight assists. **R**

The RIT Men's Basketball team will take on the Utica Pioneers on Jan. 14 in the Clark Gym at 8 p.m.

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HAS THE TSA GONE TOO FAR?

by Christina Belisle | illustration by Joanna Eberts

The Transportation Security Association (TSA) is responsible for carrying out security screenings at U.S. airports. Recently, it has stepped up its screening process by utilizing full-body scanners that can see through clothing; they also modified their pat-down procedures, making them more invasive. These changes upset travelers, eliciting cries of, “Don’t touch my junk!” In protest, some people have started wearing special metallic ink-printed Fourth Amendment underwear that shows up on the TSA scanners.

Some take issue with the fact that every passenger is searched. They believe that only certain people should be screened, namely those who fit the profile of a terrorist; but news stories of individuals who converted to Islam and became terrorists are becoming more common. No longer can it be assumed that someone of Middle-Eastern descent will be the one to blow up a plane. The next airplane hijacker could just as easily be a Caucasian kid you went to high school with who learned to be a terrorist through the internet.

Searches and screenings are necessary to ensure the safety of all passengers on mass public transportation. If security were left up to airlines, consumers would be more likely to pick flights with fewer checkpoints in the interest of time and convenience. But this would also make these flights bigger targets for terrorists. With a government organization handling security screenings, it can be assured that each person is screened to the same standards.

I believe in freedom as much as the next person, but I’m also realistic. Some schools have metal detectors for the same reason airports do: to prevent weapons from being brought into what should be secure locations. Sometimes, what’s considered a weapon can be ridiculous, soldiers returning from Afghanistan are allowed to enter a plane while carrying unloaded guns, but they are forced by the TSA to surrender their multi-tools and nail clippers because those could somehow be used to take over a plane.

The banning of liquid containers over a certain size has received constant ridicule. These criticisms, however, miss the point that cosmetics can be used to make bombs. With hydrogen peroxide (your mom probably uses this to clean your cuts and scrapes), acetone (found in nail polish remover), and just a bit of acid (lemon juice, vinegar or a plethora of other common things) as a catalyst, you can create a volatile mixture that could easily explode. These compounds can be secretly made on a plane or in any other public place.

The TSA bans certain items because they know what are potential weapons or explosive agents. It may not be obvious how a pair of nail clippers could be used to hijack a plane, but they do have sharpened edges used for cutting nails, which could also be used to harm others. Much like how anyone with knowledge of chemistry could figure out how to construct a bomb,

someone with enough creativity could figure out new and “better” ways to terrorize, if they so choose.

The only way to really guarantee that no one is going to cause chaos is to constantly monitor the population, strictly control information, and keep people from thinking for themselves. This is not the society that we currently live in. Until then, we’re going to have to

undergo pat downs and full-body scans. Honestly, I’d rather do that than be banned from experimenting with chemicals in my basement. **R**

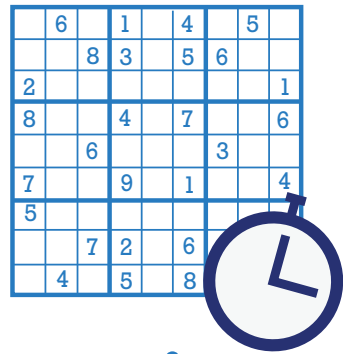
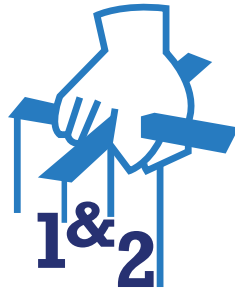
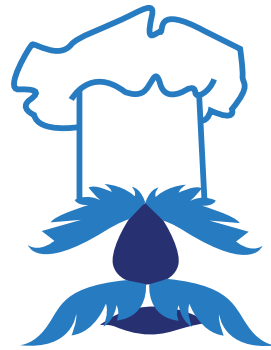
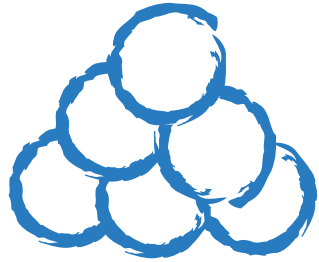
The opinions expressed in the Views section are solely those of the author.



Center for Campus Life presents:

top 10 things to do this winter

to avoid hibernation.



1. Get outside with your camera for some wintry shots. 2. Help dig out your neighbor's car...by hand. 3. Try to make rainbow Jell-o. 4. Have a snowball fight. 5. Talk like the Swedish Chef for a day. 6. Watch The Godfather Parts 1 & 2 (everyone knows part 3 doesn't count). 7. Grow a handlebar mustache. 8. Time how long it takes you to complete a Sudoku puzzle. Then beat it. 9. Learn to love hockey by going to RIT hockey games.

10. Put freeze fest on your calendar: **February 4-6, 2011!**

campuslife.rit.edu/freeze fest & FreezeFest!

WORD ON THE STREET

WHY WOULD YOU SUE RIT?

by Joi Ong

Sharon Edwards is one of three RIT employees to file a discrimination lawsuit against the Institute in 2010. To read more about the case, see Reporter's coverage at <http://reportermag.com>.

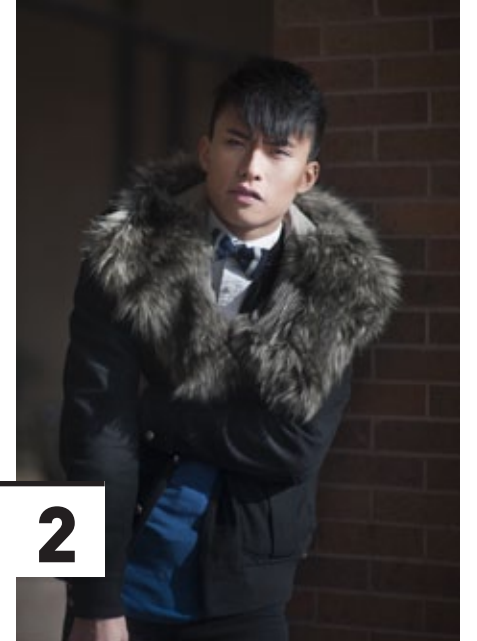


1

JACOB REDDING

BIOTECHNOLOGY
SIXTH YEAR

"Building more buildings without more parking lots."



2

NICKY IP

INDUSTRIAL DESIGN
THIRD YEAR

"Their stupid holiday schedule."



3

LIZ MARCHIONDO

BIOMEDICAL PHOTOGRAPHY
THIRD YEAR

"Only having nice weather during tour days."



4

MAX SCOTT

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
THIRD YEAR

"Lack of females."

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at the Sundial
(Hot cocoa will also be served)



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RINGS *****

compiled by Amanda Szczepanski and Moe Sedlak
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publish all calls in any format.

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FRIDAY, 1:06 A.M.

Who would of ever
thought Jamaica would
have a bobsled team?

WEDNESDAY, 9:00 P.M.

Hey Rings, I named my
roommate's bike today
when I was riding it
into work. I call it the
Womanizer, because it's
a woman's mountain bike,
but when you're riding it,
you sure feel like a man.

(from voicemail)

SATURDAY, 12:45 P.M.

My mom got a shake weight
for Christmas. I had to laugh
uncontrollably in front of
my entire family.

(from text)

TUESDAY, 10:53 P.M.

You know it was a good night when you
wake up the next morning in the bathroom
and your RA is puking next to you.

(from text)

SUNDAY, 1:57 A.M.

I just got my funnel taken
away by campo. I literally
wonder what the [blazes]
they're going to do with it.

(from text)

MONDAY, 1:57 P.M.

A girl just texted me
and said "Let's get it in
soon." And people say
the youth in America
aren't going anywhere.

(from text)

MONDAY, 3:56 P.M.

There's got to be at least one person here that
speaks elf fluently.

(from text)

WEDNESDAY, 5:25 A.M.

I was making out with someone on the subway at
3 a.m. and a homeless guy told us to get a room.
I gave him a dollar and he wished us a good night.

(from text)

RIT Institute Public Speaking Contest



Registration is now open for the Winter 2011 Public Speaking Contest. It remains open now through January 14th

Deliver a 6-8 minute speech commemorating a person or institution of local, national or international significance.

Preliminary Rounds will be held Tuesday, January 18th and Wednesday, January 19th in the Bamboo Room of the Campus Center

Final Rounds will be held Wednesday, January 26th, at 4:00 PM in the Innovation Center

First-place Prize: \$400
Second-place Prize: \$200
Third-place Prize: \$100

Register at
www.rit.edu/cla/communication/publicspeaking/

**If you have questions or would like additional information, please
contact Grant Cos, gccgpt@rit.edu**