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REPORTER

01.28.11 reportermag.com



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SOCIAL EXPERIMENTS

It’s no secret that I have used my different positions at *Reporter* to do things that I normally wouldn’t. As a result, I’ve had my butt kicked by a group of fencers, planned and participated in a speed dating event, and spent a day busking in the subways of New York City. Also as a result of my own silly suggestions, I, as well as four other staff members, ended up going on a blind date in the name of journalism. This week’s feature is no different. Luckily, I wasn’t the one participating in it.

In “The Great Accessibility Challenge,” our Features Editor Alex Rogala wrote about his one day traversing campus in a wheelchair (see page 16). While *Reporter* had run articles on the topic before, this article offers a unique take on accessibility. Unfortunately, one of the strongest parts of that story didn’t make it into print.

Alex’s journey was supposed to be a two-day affair, but on the first day, a bus driver, who seemed to be having a bad day, yelled at Alex in front of a crowd of passengers after realizing that he wasn’t really injured. The driver, it turned out, had a handicapped son. Embarrassed and afraid he would get the magazine in trouble, Alex abandoned the experiment and stashed his wheelchair in the *Reporter* office, where I eventually found it. To make the long story short, I forced Alex back in the wheelchair and told him not to stand up again until he had to return it to the rental shop. Still, Alex’s experience is probably nowhere near what others have to go through everyday.

Don’t get me wrong. I’m happy with the resulting article, but our plan did have its flaws. We could have done better. Students aren’t exactly flocking on campus on a Friday, which is when the experiment took place. The wheelchair was only in *Reporter*’s possession for a limited time, and for obvious reasons, we ended up letting Alex forego the bus experience.

Interestingly enough, many of the criticisms I have with *Reporter*’s execution of “The Great Accessibility Challenge” are similar to the criticisms I have with the execution of Student Government’s Real RIT Challenge (see “The Real RIT Challenge” on page 8). The timing of the administrators’ bus rides didn’t exactly line up with a typical student schedule. Certain housing options were underrepresented probably due to limited availability, and the participants, though willing to attempt to return home using public transportation, were driven home by SG after their Thursday night excursions to Dinosaur Bar-B-Que and Wegmans.

Both experiments by *Reporter* and SG have areas that need improvement, and that’s where my one true concern with The Real RIT Challenge comes into play. Having heard a number of students comment on how much help the participants received from SG, I asked the panel of participants a single question during the open forum: “Do you think that the level of assistance that you received from SG interfered with the reality of the challenge?” In response, I was told that SG found a unique way that didn’t involve petitions and protests to communicate concerns, and that due to the nature and length of the challenge, one couldn’t expect to simulate the true student experience. I agree with both statements, but that wasn’t exactly what I was asking.

I can understand the hesitation to give negative feedback, especially in a public setting; but sometimes it’s good practice to take a step back and analyze what could have been done better.

In hindsight, maybe I should have rephrased my question.

Madeleine Villavicencio

EDITOR IN CHIEF

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The rock along the Quarter Mile, spray-painted in memory of Ryan Phillips. | photograph by Jonathan Foster

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cover by Robert Bredvad

The Women’s Hockey Team congratulates Kristina Moss after her goal, RIT’s first of the night, in the second period.

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with the subject line "Variable Valentine."

Submissions will be accepted until Feb. 3, 2010.

FROM OUR READERS

DEFINING RIT SPIRIT

This letter is in response to the *Reporter* editorial of January 14 in regards to forced school spirit at RIT by participating in the lip dub. I have worked at RIT for over 18 years and have seen innumerable changes in this great university and its environment. Does RIT have the kind of school spirit that is displayed at a Big East basketball game or a BCS championship football game? No. Does RIT do anything like any other college or university in the country? No. We are a unique place. And, our definition of school spirit should match how we go about our daily activities. Do we have school spirit? Yes, we saw it during the Frozen Four Frenzy last year and it was very exciting. But we also see it during Imagine RIT, at a SOFA graduate thesis showing, in Computer Science House, and in a research lab in the College of Science. We see it in the *Reporter*. School spirit is what makes you proud about RIT. It's what makes you smile when you tell someone you go to school, work or teach at RIT. Is it rah, rah, rah, sis boom bah? Not usually. I participated in the lip dub with my 6 and 8 year old sons. They loved the experience. They met new people, learned some sign language, participated in something that they never had experienced before, and ate free pizza! They had a blast and got a glimpse of what college life can be like. They think RIT is the best place to go to college in the world. That's what spirit is about, and there is plenty of that to go around here at RIT.

Bernadette D. Lynch

Director, TRiO Student Support Services

CARTOON CONTROVERSY

On behalf of the whole RIT Newman Catholic Community, we are writing to you to express our disappointment in a crude cartoon, which was recently published along with an editorial in *Reporter* (12.03.10). This cartoon pictured a disgruntled Pope Benedict XVI with a condom on his head. We take great offense at this profoundly disrespectful illustration. Not only is this man a head of state, but as Catholics we believe him to be the vicar of Jesus Christ. Because of our belief and view of the pope, this illustration not only was insulting to our leader but to many of our religious beliefs as well.

As a whole, we understand that all people have a right to their own opinion. The author portrayed professionalism in her response on the Catholic Church's view on the legitimacy of condom use but this professionalism does not excuse or nullify the accompanied mocking portrayal of the pope.



Fifth year Computer Engineering major Andrew Hoag's favorite *REPORTER* cover, which ran on June 5, 1964. Submitted via Facebook.

We understand that there will always be matters that will be met with disagreement we just ask that these disagreements not be fueled by disrespectful portrayals of misunderstanding and intolerance of another's point of view.

We are sending this letter because we believe that these differences, disagreements, and misunderstandings should be handled more carefully. They are not trivial to us, or to many other readers who have been insulted by past content. We are confident that you will recognize that this continual intolerance is not in the best interest of the RIT community and that actions should be taken to remedy this problem in the future. Please consider what we have said and take steps toward improvement in the future.

Josh Marrah

Visioning Team President, RIT Newman Community



An illustration that accompanied a news brief in "Beyond the Bricks" on Dec. 3.

BEYOND THE BRICKS

compiled by Christina Belisle

SONY SUES GEORGE HOTZ

George Hotz, world-famous hacker and once an RIT Biotechnology major, is being sued by Sony. Geohot, as Hotz is known in the hacker community, cracked the PlayStation 3 video game system to remove protection that prevented software not authorized by Sony from running on it. Sony argues that software could include pirated video games.

“If you want your next console to be secure, get in touch with me,” Hotz wrote in a post releasing the crack.

In papers filed with the resulting lawsuit, Hotz is described as “a computer prodigy ... well-known for his accomplishments in the field of iPhone development,” a reference to when he hacked the Apple iPhone so that it could be used on carriers other than AT&T.

Hotz announced the hack three days before coming to RIT in 2007. He was the first person in the world to unlock the phone, causing a media frenzy during Orientation Week. The then 17-year-old had already caught the media’s eye by winning a \$20,000 Intel science fair prize for making a holodeck-like 360-degree display.

While at RIT, Hotz told “The Bergen County Record” that he had figured out a cheap way to reprogram ID cards and could open any door on campus protected by a card reader.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT PROSECUTES IPAD HACKERS

Two iPad data hackers are being dragged into court, courtesy of the U.S. Department of Justice. Daniel Spitler and Andrew Auernheimer are accused of stealing personal information from over 120,000 Apple iPad users in the AT&T network. They were charged with one count of conspiracy to access a computer without authorization and one count of fraud. Spitler was charged in New Jersey, while Auernheimer was charged in Arkansas.

Auernheimer found out in June that the AT&T website revealed the email and SIM card serial number of iPad users. By using an automated computer script, Aurneheimer was able to collect the information, and he then brought it to public attention. “What we did was right,” he said about the hack, claiming he did it to help AT&T improve its security.

The prosecution was announced on Jan. 17 by the U.S. Attorney’s Office in New Jersey.

TUNISIAN LEADER FLEES

After violent protests that lasted for days, the president of Tunisia fled the country. President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali had ordered a price increase on essential items, and along with lack of employment, alleged corruption and limited basic freedoms, protesters had many reasons to be angry. One protestor set himself on fire, inspiring outrage and riots.

A provisional government led by the Prime Minister crumbled when several members resigned hours after it was created. On Jan. 18, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said that all efforts should be taken to restore peace and stability.

JOBS TAKES MEDICAL LEAVE, AGAIN

Apple CEO and co-founder Steve Jobs announced on Jan. 17 that he will be taking another medical leave of absence. The famed turtleneck enthusiast says he wants to focus on his health, which has been threatened by a rare form of cancer. This is the third medical leave Jobs has taken since 2004. He still plans to be involved with the company’s major decisions.

Worries of poor performance from Apple because of the leave were solved by the announcement of first quarter results. The company had \$26.7 billion in sales with \$6 billion in profit.



illustration by Melissa Huang

INSTITUTE COUNCIL

by James Arn | photograph by William Ingalls



President William Destler and Provost Jeremy Haefner at the Institute Council meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 19th.

CALENDER CONUNDRUMS CONFOUND COUNCIL

Institute Council discussed potential solutions to calendar problems at their Jan. 19 meeting.

The first problem: New Years Day of 2012 falls on a Sunday. As the 2011-2012 Academic Calendar stands, classes resume on Jan. 2. The calendar committee was concerned that this schedule would force students and professors to travel on the New Years Day holiday.

To solve the problem, the calendar committee recommended that Winter Break be extended by one week so that classes would start on Monday, Jan. 9, 2012. This would push the rest of the schedule for the year back by one week. Commencement would then fall on Memorial Day weekend. That’s not unusual; RIT made the same change the last time New Years Day was on a Sunday. The council voted to recommend this change in the schedule to the Institute’s governance groups.

Another calendar problem: the current schedule leaves one week between the end of summer quarter and the beginning of fall semester 2013. The alternative would be to have four weeks of classes between Thanksgiving break and the winter break.

Andy Phelps, a professor in the Interactive Games and Media Department, was concerned that the short turnaround between summer and fall would cause difficulties for residence advisors and orientation assistants, who need to move into housing before the start of freshman orientation.

On the other hand, many faculty members were concerned that having four weeks of class before break would force them to revise their curricula. A straw vote of the council tied 10-10 with one abstention. The final decision was to send both versions of the calendar to the governance groups and let them voice their concerns. **R**

FORECAST

compiled by Michael Roppolo

28 FRIDAY

Soul at the Cup
lovin’cup. 9 p.m. If you like listening to blues, hip-hop and soul music, head down to lovin’cup. Mark “Boxman” Bader and Renee Anderson are scheduled to perform. Cost: Free.

29 SATURDAY

Men’s and Women’s Basketball vs. Ithaca
CLK. 2 - 5:45 p.m. Cheer on RIT basketball as they take on Ithaca College in this men’s and women’s double header. Cost: Free.

30 SUNDAY

“Love, Luck and Laughter”
Hart Theater, Jewish Community Center of Greater Rochester, 1200 Edgewood Ave. 2 p.m. A revue featuring the music of Broadway songwriters Frank Loesser (“Guys & Dolls” and “Hans Christian Andersen”), Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe (“My Fair Lady” and “Brigadoon”). Cost: \$24; \$16 for students.

31 MONDAY

Eastman Philharmonia
Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre, 60 Gibbs St. 8 - 10 p.m. Enjoy a night of Astapov, Scriabin and Tchaikovsky played by Eastman School of Music students. Cost: Free.

01 TUESDAY

“I’ll Be Geneseeing You”
Geva Theatre, 75 Woodbury Blvd. 7:30 p.m. Go see the famed Second City’s comedic take on the Flower City. Cost: \$22 - \$59.

02 WEDNESDAY

David Liptak Talk
Ingle Auditorium, SAU. 8 - 10 p.m. What does it mean to create “new” music? David Liptak, a professor of composition at the Eastman School of Music, will be exploring how composers create new and original music as part of the Caroline Werner Gannett series. Cost: Free.

03 THURSDAY

“Continuum”
CIAS Dean’s Alumni Gallery, GAN. 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. RIT graduate Jean K. Stephens’ artwork is displayed. Cost: Free.

THE REAL RIT CHALLENGE

THE EXPERIENCE

by Tia Long | photograph by Jonathan Foster

Colette Shaw and Kelly Redder’s experience at the Perkins Green Apartments began with a temperature of 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Redder, assistant vice president for Alumni Relations, lowered the thermostat, and after 10 minutes of struggle, she and Shaw were able to open the windows and let the cold air filter through the room.

Redder and Shaw, a First Year Enrichment teacher,

Day One: Wednesday, Jan. 19

Redder and Shaw arrived at their assigned Perkins apartment around 7 p.m. and settled in immediately. Besides the temperature control, both had nothing but good first impressions of their housing.

Redder and Shaw’s new roommate came home late after an exam and liked that she had roommates waiting for her. “It’s kind of nice to see the lights on when I get home,” Campbell said.

The three stayed up for an hour in the living room talking about cakes, candy and apartment living before heading to bed.

Day Two: Thursday, Jan. 20

In the morning, Shaw arrived several minutes early for the bus. She talked to students as she boarded her first shuttle. Upon her arrival at Gleason Circle, Shaw said, “It was so easy! I feel like a chump for not using it when I used to work [in Grace Watson Hall] and when I would go to lovin’cup.”

After work, Shaw was challenged to find her way to the Inn. Instead of waiting around campus for an hour, she decided to take an earlier shuttle. As she walked by the Tiger Statue, Shaw saw the shuttle she needed pull into Gleason Circle. She had to run to catch the bus.

Eventually, SG members and three other participants joined Shaw at the Inn for dinner. She ate toasted ravioli and a salad while the group discussed several student issues, including how isolated the Inn felt and how limited the food choices were.

“Students at the Inn are required to have a meal plan. On campus, there are more dining options that

chose to participate in Student Government (SG)’s Real RIT Challenge, which landed them in an apartment together with student Rose Campbell, a second year double major in Management Information Systems and Criminal Justice.

Two years ago, 21 administrators moved into the dorms for two nights as part of the SG Dorm Challenge. The experience involved late-night fire

the Inn kids don’t have, yet they are held to the same standard on meal plans,” Shaw said.

After dinner, Shaw had to make a decision. She could either stay at the Inn and participate in a Rock Band competition or take the shuttle back to campus to meet up with her roommates for a game night at GV. Shaw chose the latter.

A group of Shaw’s roommates and friends met up in GV building C. They were joined by more students and Cha Ron Sattler, associate director of the Center for Residence Life, who was assigned to GV for the challenge.

The game of choice was “Would You Rather?” Players must choose between two scenarios. When Redder was asked if she would rather be invisible or fly, she chose invisibility.

The administrators mostly listened to the students make their choices and watched them interact. Sattler then posed a question that took over the rest of the evening’s conversation: Where were you on the high school food chain?

Redder said she floated between all groups. Sattler said she was known as a musician and played the French horn. Shaw admitted that she hadn’t changed. “I was a nerd,” Shaw said, “the same as I am now.”

The students reminisced about high school while the administrators looked on.

Day Three: Friday, Jan. 21

Shaw said she enjoyed herself throughout the Challenge and found living in the apartments easier than living in the dorms during the Dorm Challenge two years ago, but she found this experience just as educational.

alarms, administrators’ own college nostalgia and the term “sexiled.”

This year, 20 administrators moved into Perkins Green Apartments, Global Village (GV) or the RIT Inn and Conference Center for two nights. SG intended for The Real RIT Challenge, as it was branded, to expose administrators to the rigors of transportation and apartment living.

Before the Challenge concluded with an open forum, Shaw sat in her office thinking of the last few days and why she chose to participate.

“I used to think I was really in touch with students,” Shaw said, “I meet with them every day, but I realized I really hadn’t experienced their world.” **R**



Colette Shaw, a First-Year Enrichment instructor, rides the bus from Perkins to Gleason Circle on the morning of Jan. 20. Shaw was one of 20 administrators who participated in The Real RIT Challenge.

THE OPEN FORUM

by David Keith Gasser | photograph by Jonathan Foster

The completion of this year’s Real RIT Challenge was marked by an open forum held on Jan. 21. Nine panelists shared their experiences and fielded questions from the audience.

The panelists sat in a row in front of a banner for the RIT Challenge that declared, “What happens when RIT administrators and staff have to use public transportation.” But for the Challenge participants, public transportation managed to include Student Government (SG) vans and personal cars. On a number of occasions, the panelists recounted times when they used these resources.

The panelists acknowledged they had little in the way of a true “student” experience in off-campus living and transportation, but the experience they had made an impression.

Provost Jeremy Haefner picked up on the apparent frustration with public transportation. “Students were passionate about the transportation issue,” he said.

Although she loved the experience and had a great deal of fun with her roommates and other students, First Year Enrichment Instructor Colette Shaw also said her enjoyment couldn’t have happened if they hadn’t “cheated” a little by using their student host’s car to drive to Global Village for a planned game night.

Karey Pine, director of the Center for Campus Life and SG advisor, seemed to best recount the truth of the challenge for the participants, citing

it as “more of an adventure than a true experience in [student] shoes.” She said the administrators felt the same cold as students, standing outside waiting for a bus; but they all knew it would end soon.

As the question and answer session drew to a close, Kevin McDonald, chief diversity officer, said, “I recognized there will be some transformational change as a result of this experience.” He continued on, saying students could “rest assured” that things would be improved as a result of what he and the other participants learned. **R**



Destler replies to emails and enters a blog post using his iPad from his Global Village suite on Wednesday, Jan. 19.

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AT YOUR LEISURE 01.28.11

by James Arn

QUOTE

"I cordially dislike allegory in all its manifestations, and always have done since I grew old and wary enough to detect its presence."

-J.R.R. Tolkien

WORD OF THE WEEK

liquor *n.* – A liquid or fluid substance. Liquor is a word of general signification, extending to water, milk, blood, say, juice, etc.; but its most common application is to spirituous fluids, whether distilled or fermented, to decoctions, solutions, tinctures.

"By his 21st birthday, the young man had developed a taste for fine liquor"

Definition taken from the 1828 version of Webster's American Dictionary.

OVERSEEN AND OVERHEARD

"I'd rather have dick in my mouth than soap."
-Male student in Perkins apartment.

"Turns out she had a penis the entire time."
-Male student in the residence hall tunnels.

STUDENT BODY FLOCKS — TO LIBRARY! —



cartoon by Justyn Iannucci

STREAM OF FACTS

Arachibutyrophobia is the fear of getting **PEANUT** butter stuck to the top of your mouth.

A **PEANUT** is not in fact a nut. It is a member of the legume family, making it more closely related to a **LENTIL** or a bean than to a tree nut.

In Ancient Egypt, the **LENTIL** was used as an aphrodisiac. It was also believed to bring **ENLIGHTENMENT** to children, making them better students.

The idea of **ENLIGHTENMENT** exists both in Western science and math, and in Eastern religions such as **BUDDHISM**.

Different sects of **BUDDHISM** have fundamentally different views. Some groups are ultimately atheistic while others are **POLYTHEISTIC**.

Until a few hundred years ago, Europeans classified any and all **POLYTHEISTIC** religions as **PAGAN**, including Hinduism, Buddhism and the religions of the Native Americans that they conquered.

The earliest definitions of the word **PAGAN** meant "country dweller." The word gradually took on its religious meaning as the main practitioners — country-dwellers and farmers — depended on the seasons to survive.

REPORTER RECOMMENDS

"Epic Meal Time"

Are you looking to expand your culinary horizons beyond the frozen mac and cheese from the Corner Store? You could always start by watching the Food Network or looking up a few recipes on the interwebs. But there is a much more interesting and horrifying alternative. It goes by the name of "Epic Meal Time."

The creation of a few meat-loving Canadians, "Epic Meal Time" is a series of YouTube videos whose goal is to make the most fantastic — and often disgusting — food creations possible. In each episode, the show's hosts prepare gallons of meat in the most preposterous ways possible, and then eat it. Recent highlights include a nearly 10-pound egg roll and the TurBaconEpic — a bird in a bird in a bird in a bird in a bird in a bird in a pig. **R**

RIDDLE

The person who buys it doesn't need it.

The person who makes it doesn't want it.

The person who uses it doesn't know it.

What is it?

SOLUTION: A cashier.

SUDOKU

	8			1				
							2	
				9				
			7		2			
4	9							
				6	8			
								1
				3				4
7		6						

Difficulty rating: extreme

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by Michelle Spoto

DIG IT!

“Chelsea Chelsea Bang Bang” is the latest in a series of hilarious autobiographies from Chelsea Handler. The comedian is well-known for her vulgar and controversial comedic style, which her latest book certainly holds true to. More like a collection of interesting life stories than a chronological biography, Handler’s no-holds-barred book includes anecdotes on topics ranging from her sex life, to growing up Jewish, to the misadventures of her decidedly unique family vacations. While her famous — if not infamous — sense of humor certainly comes across in the book, it can’t quite compare to her sidesplitting stand-up act where her facial expressions and body language really add to her routine. Still, the book is chock full of Handler’s unique brand of wit, sarcasm and irreverent humor that is pure entertainment. Each chapter recounts some memory or experience that Handler conveys with much hilarity and hyperbole. Although it seems unlikely that Handler was actually

ying for a dolphin to house in her new eight-foot fish tank, it’s precisely this combination of humor and cutting sarcasm that makes “Chelsea Chelsea Bang Bang” such a success. Throughout the book, Handler describes pranks she pulled on her then-boyfriend and boss, Ted Harbert, who she describes as, “similar to a large toddler, the only difference being he doesn’t cry when he wakes up.” Handler describes her quirky relationship with Harbert in several scenes, interspersed with chronicles of her ridiculous office antics and unusual collection of friends. Aside from its hilarity, the best part about this book is that it can be picked up anytime you’re in the mood for a good laugh and read in bits and pieces. Although the book isn’t exactly intellectual, it’s certainly entertaining and light-hearted, making it a perfect pick-me-up.

EPIC MICKEY



Wii Game | Adventure | \$49.99
by Danielle Delp

RENT IT!

Over the past 80 years, Mickey Mouse has become one of the most recognizable characters in the world. He has made appearances in countless cartoons and movies but has yet to be given a video game incarnation worthy of his iconic status. Disney sought to remedy this with “Epic Mickey,” a new, Mickey-centric game for the Wii. In Mickey’s latest virtual outing, you are given control of the mouse himself as he explores the Wasteland, a magical painted world steadily being corrupted by a creature known as the Shadow Blot. Don’t let the fact that this is a Disney game fool you; it was designed to appeal to any age demographic. The story is a deep, touching and occasionally, humorous tale of redemption and healing. The world is hauntingly beautiful, with designs based on classic cartoon shorts and a graphical style similar to a Disney movie. The Wasteland is a world for the forgotten, with the majority of the characters and levels based on early or obscure Disney works.

A feeling of sadness and decay plagues the game’s soundtrack, reinforcing the player’s motivation to heal the broken world. Gameplay is based around the concept of using paint and thinner to alter the world by either creating new areas or erasing obstacles. Combat can be approached in two ways: using thinner to destroy the opponent or paint to purify them. A morality system is included; Mickey’s reputation with the denizens of Wasteland and the overall difficulty of the game changes based on his use of paint or thinner to solve puzzles and defeat enemies. These aspects, while creative, get old after a while and tend to be extremely simplistic and straightforward. The platforming aspects of the game can also become frustrating due to Mickey’s awkward and occasionally unresponsive jump mechanic. Overall, the game’s story merits a rental, but beyond that, the repetitive game play and frustrating controls make “Epic Mickey” a bit of a disappointment. **R**

SURVIVING THE ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE

by Brendan Cahill | illustration by Stephen Kelly



Wake up. It's a normal morning. Too early, but that's how a normal morning goes. Brush your teeth. Get dressed. Walk outside. Still normal. But then, everything changes. The sidewalks are deserted, and the bus never comes. It's quiet, too quiet. Suddenly, you see them: zombies. These are not your playful if annoying Human vs. Zombies variety; you have a class-A end-of-the-world scenario on your hands.

Thankfully, you've come prepared.

PICK YOUR POISON

In any zombie outbreak, the first thing you need to do is identify what kind of zombies you're dealing with. "Slow" zombies are your classic "Dawn of the Dead" style, shuffling creepers. They may be slow, but they're incredibly resilient. Invulnerable to pain, the only thing that can truly kill them is the destruction of their brain. Slow zombies travel in hordes, wandering aimlessly until they find a source of their preferred food (brains). If you find yourself up against slow zombies, discretion is definitely the better part of valor. While they can be killed, the difficulty in doing so will waste valuable time, energy and most importantly, ammunition.

At the other end of the spectrum are your "fast" zombies. These nasty buggers are agile, clever and

squishy. While slow zombies are like herd grazers, fast zombies are more like pack hunters; quick and deadly. Their squishiness is their downfall, however. Your average fast zombie has a high tolerance for pain, but they are no more resilient to blunt trauma than the average human. This makes open combat a valid option. But, remember: zombies tend to travel in groups; where there is one, there will be others. Wasting time fighting is not always the best idea.

Regardless of what type of zombie you face, remember they are infectious beings. Hand to hand combat is only to be used as a last resort. Killing zombies may be fun, but preventing zombie bites is far more important than adding to your kill count. In the event of a zombie apocalypse, survival is key.

THINGS TO DO AND PLACES TO BE

Now that the end of life as we know it has begun, you're going to need a safe place to ride it out. On campus, your options are limited. Most of the buildings at RIT have only a few stories and a multitude of entry points, making them very difficult to secure. While it may be tempting to try and take advantage of the food stores in the SAU, its open spaces and multiple entrances make it one of the worst places to go. Try turning to George Eastman Hall instead. The narrow stairways provide natural choke points, and, as zombies don't know how to operate elevators, its upper floors will be a natural haven. Plus, the building's top floor, and little-known restaurant, Henry's, could be a food source in a pinch.

On the residential side of campus, consider exploiting the tunnels. Sol's Underground and The Corner Store can offer supplies, and the tunnels themselves are a natural choke point for zombies. Best of all, the tunnels have fire doors that could be closed to section the tunnel system off into individual segments, making defense even easier. Of course, you should never overlook the option of barricading yourself in your room. In the dorms, you and your floor mates can pool resources and see how long you can last, but the lack of a full kitchen may become a problem. In the apartments, on the other hand, a well-stocked pantry can be the difference between life and death.

Now, let's say you've survived the first few weeks. Food is short, and it's getting more difficult to avoid direct combat with the zombies. You need supplies, ammo and medicine. The good news is that Rochester has plenty of places to get these things. The trick is knowing where to go. Consider the following options:

BJ's

Warehouse club stores offer a wide variety of goods in huge quantities. With lots of open floor space, though, you can easily be surrounded should zombies take hold of your position. These stores are also designed with large front entrances, numerous loading docks and emergency exits, making defense even more difficult. On the plus side, a place with that many supplies is sure to attract a large crowd of people, so you'll have plenty of friends to lend a hand. On the down side, if your new friends don't feel like sharing, you may want to try your luck with the zombies instead.

WEGMANS

There are numerous locations in the Rochester area, one of which is a short distance from campus. If you get a chance, you're better off making your way to the "Super Wegmans" in Pittsford Plaza on Monroe Ave. Either way, you're looking at aisles and aisles of crucial food and medical supplies. The store is also much smaller and easier to manage than your average warehouse store, but as with those stores, expect a lot of people to be congregating there, for better or for worse.

GANDER MOUNTAIN

This should be your primary objective. The camping equipment, supplies and weapons they have in stock are the holy trinity of any zombie survivalist. Go to Gander Mountain, or another sporting goods store, and either camp there or gather supplies for an extended stay in the wilderness until the whole thing blows over.

WHAT NOT TO DO

Short answer: drive. Long answer: Driving will get you picked apart by zombies while you're stuck in gridlock. The unwashed masses will be making a mass exodus from the city. The streets will be stopped up, and the highways will be stalled bumper to bumper. If you need to move fast, two wheels are your best bet.

Avoid traveling alone, but don't travel with people you don't know. Less scrupulous survivors will try to use you for your superior knowledge and supplies. Keep an eye out, know what you're up against, and be ready to go at a moment's notice. Follow these simple guidelines and you'll ensure your survival and the survival of humanity. **B**



THE GREAT ACCESSIBILITY CHALLENGE

by Alex Rogala | illustration by Joanna Eberts

It's a realization every RIT student reaches, sooner or later: We're trapped inside a brick prison. Combine a sprawling suburban campus with bleak Rochester winters, and the result can all too quickly become a transportation nightmare. It's a situation that can wear on even the toughest student, but what about those for whom the campus poses a particularly difficult challenge? What if, having broken my ankle, I had to cross the Quarter Mile on crutches? In order to get a first-hand feel for accessibility on campus, I voluntarily confined myself to a wheelchair one Friday. Over the course of the day, I explored various locations on campus, getting a unique glimpse at the challenges of navigating this brick wasteland.

SET AND SETTING

Although my approach is likely controversial, I firmly believe that experience is often the best teacher. I establish two ground rules for my experiment in order to not disrupt campus: I will not do anything that puts myself or others in harm's way, and to avoid diverting services from students with actual needs, I will not use RIT's accessibility services.

As RIT does not stock spare wheelchairs on-campus, my search leads me to Monroe Wheelchair, a wheelchair retail and rental store in Rochester. Settling on a simple manual chair, I sign the rental agreement and leave, wheelchair in tow.

Later that night in my apartment, wheels glide over soft carpeting as I begin to adjust to using the chair. Even here, the difficulties of navigation quickly become apparent. The narrow bedroom door is joined to a wall, and the steep angle of exit proves challenging to escape. It's here that I learn my first lesson of accessibility: *Not all problems are structural*. Although my apartment's living room is large and open, tables, chairs and various other obstacles prove impossible to navigate around.

THE RIDE BEGINS

I begin my journey in the *Reporter* office. Almost immediately, I learn my second lesson: *Persistence is key*. I find that many of the paths I'm accustomed to taking out of the Student Alumni Union (SAU) are difficult — if not impossible — to follow now. As a result, I'm forced to backtrack several times before finally discovering a successful path. Taking an obscure basement elevator out of Eastman Hall, I head towards my class in Gosnell Hall .

Outside, poor weather conditions only add to the challenge. Light snowfall has made the ground slippery, and my wheels slide, repeatedly catching on a gap between merging brick and concrete walkways outside Liberal Arts Hall (LBR). I sit, trapped and frustrated, until a girl hesitantly approaches me. “Would you like help?” she asks tentatively. Surprised and grateful, I accept, explaining my inexperience.

Although it feels as though the campus is peppered with blue buttons and automatic doors, their numbers appear to wane now that I need them. My normal entrance to Gosnell Hall is lacking, forcing me to travel to the next available door. This may appear to be a relatively minor complaint, but cold weather and melting snow compound to make even the shortest trip outside challenging.

Even with the convenience of automatic doors, many access buttons aren't arranged intuitively. Throughout the day, I must back up in a race against time, hoping to successfully navigate a door before the timer resets.

Once inside, I rest for a minute while waiting for the elevator. After some delay, I catch it, making my way up to the second floor. Looking down, I'm glad

I chose to leave my coat in the office. My hands, coated in a thick layer of muddy sleet, are numb and frozen. One of my sleeves, which became unrolled during the journey, is soggy and soaked. Before entering the classroom, I decide to take a brief moment to wash up and hit up the bathroom.

Although all the bathrooms in Gosnell Hall have handicapped stalls, only certain, high-traffic ones feature automatic doors. Forced to cope, I awkwardly manage to inch open the door and shimmy my way in.

If entering the bathroom proved to be a challenge, exiting proved even more difficult. Since the door pulls inwards, I'm grappled for a moment with conflicting ideas of how to leave. Fortunately, a student entering the bathroom at that moment holds the door for me, and with a little effort I slide through.

Class passes uneventfully, and I once again head for the doors. With the slew of students leaving class, I make my way outside reasonably quickly. My editing duties have piled up, and I decide to return to *Reporter's* office.

AFTER-CLASS ADVENTURE

Reluctant to snag my wheels near Eastman Hall again, I head towards the SAU, deciding to try the ramp near Artesano's. The pathway, wide and not too steep, appears to be a good choice. As I approach, I discover, rather unfortunately, a large drainage strip spanning the entrance. My wheels catch, stopping me abruptly. While this would have brought me to a complete standstill an hour ago, my navigational skills are improving. With a forceful push, I hurdle myself over the barrier. But greater problems loom ahead. Despite my initial judgment, my wheels lack traction and I slowly slip backwards. A student catches me just in time, offering to push me inside.

If there's any particular obstacle I face during my day, it's the SAU. Initially, I fail to find the SAU's elevator, nothing but two chairlifts.

After fumbling for a few minutes with one chairlift, I decide to bypass the stairs entirely and exit through the Schmitt Interfaith Center, where, unfortunately, the elements are not in my favor, leading to my only truly dangerous experience throughout my experiment. A slick coating of snow and ice sends me sliding downhill. Frantically pulling at my brake, I begin to drift, landing violently at the foot of the incline. My confidence shaken, I enter the Campus Center, quickly returning to the office via elevator.

During the rest of the day, I remain primarily in the Campus Center. Although I suffer minor inconveniences, nothing compares to my journey outdoors. As is customary, I learn to adapt. Whether visiting a vending machine or simply crossing the building, I find myself planning ahead, mentally tracing the route beforehand.

A BRIEF RECAP

Slowly, my experiment comes to a close. Standing for the first time in seven hours, I load my wheelchair into a friend's trunk and return to the store. Though I expected it to be difficult, nothing truly prepared me for the physical experience of being confined to a wheelchair.

If anything was pleasantly surprising about the day, it's certainly the interactions with staff and other students as I traversed the campus. While most seemed relatively ambivalent — with the exception of one group I had to dodge — many students were quicker to help than I expected. Several, based on prior experiences, recognized my inexperience and gladly leant advice.

For my experiment, I simply spent a day in a wheelchair. For many students, it's a way of life. So the next time I see a wheelchair-bound student struggling to open a door, expect me to be the first to lend a hand. I've been there, if only for a day, and they're certainly built from stronger stuff than me. **R**

EASING THE TROUBLES

Although they certainly help illustrate the difficulties of navigating campus, my experiences aren't entirely typical. RIT's Disabilities Services Office, located in the SAU, provides a resource to ease the daily life of nearly 800 students.

The Disabilities Services Office does not follow a specific set of guidelines for accessibility requests, choosing instead to work on a case-by-case basis. Students apply, stating their accommodation needs. After passing a verification process, the necessary accommodations are made.

In conjunction with Disabilities Services, RIT's Parking and Transportation Office operates the accessibility vehicle (AV) service, providing on-demand transportation to students with unique transportation needs.

“ALTHOUGH IT FEELS AS THOUGH

THE CAMPUS IS PEPPERED WITH

BLUE BUTTONS AND AUTOMATIC

DOORS, THEIR NUMBERS APPEAR

TO WANE NOW THAT I NEED THEM.”

BUILDING A BETTER CHAIR

by Evan Williams | photographs by Michael Conti

Most of us are born into a world crafted for our ease of use. Almost everything we touch and operate is modeled for our comfort, and is derived from the assumption that most people in this world are built similarly. But not everyone lives under the same circumstances. Some, unable to utilize these comforts, must overcome a variety of challenges to function in this world. Like wealth, survival and pride, the need to master one's surroundings has proven to be one of the great motivators of humanity. And with great motivation comes great innovation.

Over the past few years, fifth year Mechanical Engineering Technology majors Devin Hamilton and Beth Kiefer developed a deep friendship while working their way through RIT's MET program. Last summer, the two began their greatest project yet: an improved wheelchair design. This is a project that they find important, challenging and deeply personal.

DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Hamilton has cerebral palsy, a condition that requires him to use a power chair and places certain limitations on his physical dexterity. His condition makes speaking difficult, but over the years, Kiefer has become adept at relaying

whatever message Hamilton was trying to express to those having trouble understanding him. This close connection adds a unique dimension to their friendship, as well as their working relationship.

Together the pair has created many devices to assist Hamilton. There's a custom dock for his cell phone charger, a mount for his iPad and keyboard, and even an eye-tracking webcam system that allows him to operate his computer. But as impressive as these examples are, their newest endeavor is poised to push their creative and technical boundaries even further.

Currently, they have been collaborating on a power chair featuring a new ergonomic design. By allowing the operator to kneel forward slightly, the

chair is intended to redirect some of the pressure from the operator's back. "In a standard 'captain's chair' wheelchair, all of your body weight is pushed down to the bottom of your spine and hips. This can cause pressure sores and back pain," explained Kiefer. "The kneeling style seating distributes body weight throughout the hips, thighs and knees, alleviating pain and reducing risk for pressure sores."

A completely new design, the chair is designed with Hamilton in mind and is deeply personal to him. "I always knew I wanted to design a chair here at RIT," he said. After about a year of drafting different designs, he reached out to Kiefer this past summer to begin fleshing out these ideas.

A sponsorship by the Center for Student

Innovation (CSI) provided the funding for Kiefer and Hamilton to begin designing a prototype. When drawing up these prototypes, they tested two main approaches. Initially, they began building their new design using components from existing electric wheelchairs. While having pre-existing parts was convenient, the duo felt limited by design compromises that restricted their ideas. Instead, they decided to build the chair from scratch.

Design is a shared process for the two, and Hamilton, with his familiarity with power chairs, brought a range of ideas to the table. They ran all ideas by each other and shared the work in the machine shop. They began to track their progress on a blog as part of their agreement with the CSI. Over the course of the summer, the two contributed up to 80 hours a week. By fall, there was still a long way to go, even with all the time they had already invested. However, the two were able to secure something they had never imagined: a buzz.

SPREADING THE WORD

Word of Kiefer and Hamilton's work spread quickly across RIT and into the *assistive technology* industry, a broad field dedicated to developing devices intended to aid people with physical impairments. The two were asked to present their designs and ideas at several conferences and institutions. They spoke at the Lily Conference on College and University Teaching and at Keuka College, where they discussed previous projects and strategies. When guest speaker Matthew B. Crawford came to campus to speak about "making the case for working with your hands," the two were asked to present during his workshop. This was the kind of networking and support that money couldn't buy.

Kiefer and Hamilton have also had the full support of their faculty advisors and consultants here at RIT. They work closely with their faculty advisor and Manufacturing and Mechanical Engineering Technology professor Carl Lundgren, who Hamilton speaks with almost everyday. The two acknowledge how important it is to have the assistance they've received from Lundgren. They have also received help from MET Professor Dr. Robert Garrick, CSI Director Jon Schull, Engineering Facilities Manager John Bonzo, and even RIT alumni Maynard Kearney. "They kind of keep us in check," Kiefer joked. Jests aside, the experience has given the pair an opportunity to examine RIT's innovation community from the inside out.

THE ROAD AHEAD

Both Hamilton and Kiefer remark that the amount of access, resources and assistance they've received during the course of their project has been



outstanding. "We're getting to see internally how RIT works," Kiefer stated. Hamilton added, "We might not get these resources at other schools." They both joined the MET program because of a passion for creative design and manufacturing. They're passionate about their work, and both love to get their hands dirty. They pushed through a series of setbacks, as several technical aspects of the project stalled work. At one point, Hamilton recalled, "We were doing a lot of learning, not a lot of doing."

By undertaking this hefty task in addition to their normal coursework, they've learned the value of putting their skills into practice. They've also been able to spread the word about the work that RIT and its students are capable of, an act beneficial to students Institute-wide.

Graduating this spring, Kiefer concludes her coursework at the end of this quarter. Although she is still undecided about future work, she has considered the assistive technology field an option due to her experience. Hamilton hopes to begin his own assistive technology business, in addition to developing an assistive technology program at RIT, possibly in cooperation with other Rochester universities. Though the wheelchair is still far from being finalized, Hamilton remains committed to seeing it through to the end, even after he graduates in the spring. Kiefer plans on contributing as much as she can to the project, depending on where her approaching career takes her.

When the pair showed me a mold of the wheelchair's base and models of the motorized wheels they'll use to move it, I couldn't help but notice the same sense of pride seen in their earlier projects. When I first arrived for the interview, they'd been working for hours on end. And when I left, I'm almost positive they went right back to it. **B**

Opposite Page: Devin Hamilton has an upbeat demeanor. He describes his condition with humor, and works late into the night to produce work that benefits others with similar conditions.

Above: Devin Hamilton reaches to control a 3-D printer to build a plastic mold for a cell phone charger he designed. The machine was out of service, and Devin had to drive back to his office.

Below: Devin Hamilton and his friend, Elizabeth Kiefer, work together on a lathe that is changing the shape of a pipe used in the construction of a new powerchair. Building powerchairs is part of Devin's passion to create assistive technologies.

Track the power chair's development for yourself at <http://powerchairsolutions.blogspot.com>



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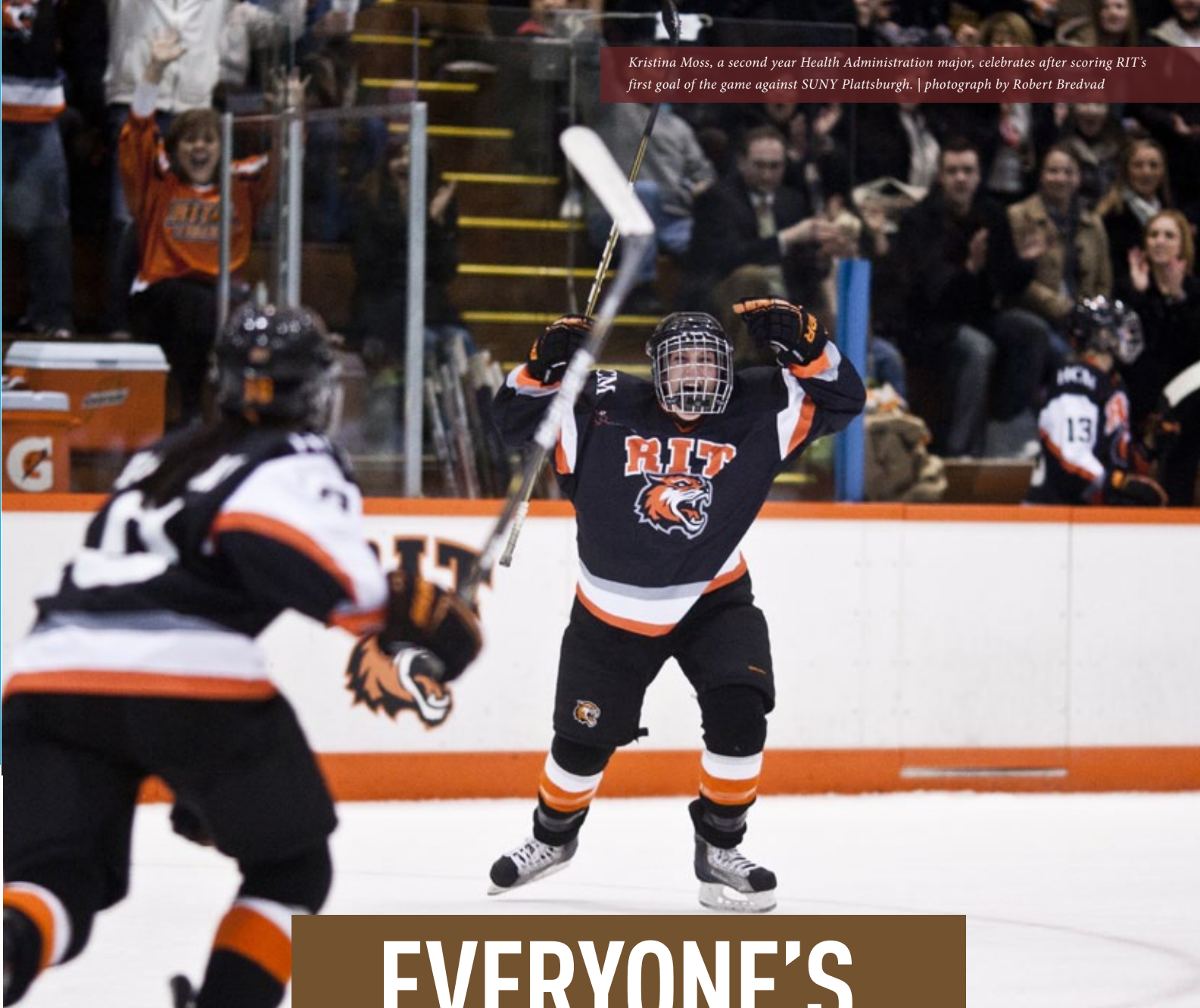
JUST ANOTHER DAY AT THE RHA
(AN RHA COMIC)



Panel 1: RING RING RING. A person is sitting at a desk with a laptop and a ringing phone.

Panel 2: HELLO, THIS IS THE RHA. UHH...IS YOUR REFRIGERATOR RUNNING? ...YES. THEN- PFT- THEN YOU'D BETTER GO CATCH IT! LOLOLOLOL. :click:

Panel 3: GOTTA LOVE LATE-NIGHT OFFICE HOURS...



Kristina Moss, a second year Health Administration major, celebrates after scoring RIT's first goal of the game against SUNY Plattsburgh. | photograph by Robert Bredvad

EVERYONE'S A WINNER

by Jeff McKinzie

With my feet sore from standing in the packed arena, I was not in a blissful mood. My mind bounced all over the place, and my thoughts were anything but positive. Then came the Tigers' game-tying goal, and I never felt better. The sold-out crowd erupted into cheers, and my lingering thoughts began to fade. It was a game that, with one shot, made everything better. I wasn't alone anymore — the vivacious crowd had energized us all. The game ended as a tie in overtime, extending the Lady Tigers unbeaten record to 18 games (17-0-1, 10-0-1 ECAC West).

Kristina Moss, a second year Health Administration major, shoots the puck past Helen Giroux of SUNY Plattsburgh.
| photograph by Robert Bredvad



Sarah Dagg, a fourth year Hospitality major, looks at a SUNY Plattsburgh player between play.
| photograph by Robert Bredvad



SUNY Plattsburgh scored twice in the third period to lead RIT 2-1. Assistant RIT Coach Keltie Jones reacts after another attempt nearly finds the back of RIT's net.
| photograph by Robert Shook

That night, RIT also hosted “Black Out Heart Disease,” an event to raise awareness for heart disease and other conditions that cause sudden death. The players wore special black jerseys that will later be auctioned off to raise money for automated external defibrillators. The team also sold t-shirts in a further effort to raise money for the cause.

Although entering the game ranked at the top of Division III, RIT found themselves playing a defensive battle with No. 4 ranked SUNY Plattsburgh. The first goal didn't even come until 13 minutes into the second period, when second year

Health Administration major Kristina Moss scored on an assist from fourth year Hospitality major Sarah Dagg. Plattsburg responded with two goals in the third period. The Cardinals' Allison Era scored the opposition's first goal five minutes into the period while Chelsea VanGlahn put away the second.

RIT outshot Plattsburgh 42-26, while Plattsburgh was scoreless, going 0-for-6 in power play attempts. Plattsburgh goalie Mandy Mackrell had 40 stops, while first year Business Administration major Laura Chamberlain had 24. Head Coach Scott McDonald, impressed with

SUNY Plattsburgh's performance level, said that the team was lucky to survive the first period without a deficit. “We had great opportunities with the lead and to finish with a win. In some respects, we were fortunate to get out of the first period tied; it was a great game. We did much better as the second and third [period] progressed,” she said.

Third year Psychology major Megan Kobar agreed. “[Plattsburg] is a very physical team and they really tested us; we really had to go hard the whole game. Our team showed a lot of character today.” According to Kobar, the team's nerves were unsettled for most

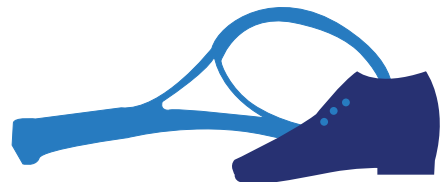
of the game, and the team suffered from penalties and a lack of structure. Nevertheless, she was excited when things started to pull together. “It felt awesome coming from behind, getting those two goals on them, and finally coming together in the third. Our nerves really got to us in the first, you could see that — we were running around and not playing our game.”

As for the record crowd? Kobar said, “It's definitely nice to see the support. We're doing the thing with Black Out Heart Disease, and it's really nice to see that kind of support. It gets everybody going — it was awesome.” **R**

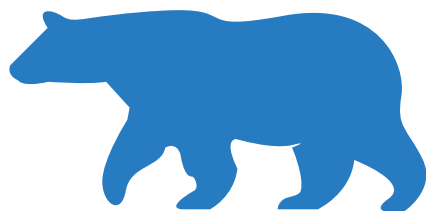
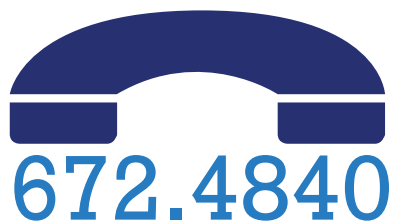
Center for Campus Life presents:

top 10 things to do this winter

to avoid the winter doldrums.



We
the People...



Snuggie



1. Go for a midnight walk in the snow using self-constructed snow shoes. 2. Start a blog. 3. Brush up on the U.S. Constitution. 4. Play “the floor is made of lava” in your living room. 5. Call Rings and talk about how much you love winter. 6. Dress up as a bear in Sol Quad. 7. Make 100 origami cranes and hide them across campus. 8. Wear a Snuggie to class. 9. Learn to skate backwards.

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

campuslife.rit.edu/freezefest & FreezeFest!



TIGERS DEFEAT THE MUSTANGS

by David Keith Gasser | photograph by Michael Conti

Although RIT’s wrestling team has had a less than stellar year so far, they showed a good deal of promise at their recent match against the SUNY Morrisville Mustangs. Having defeated the Mustangs 31-11, the team won its second dual meet and its third overall win of the season.

For a sport not generally known for its large following or high attendance, the Clark Gymnasium was far from empty, even as the meet moved into the last match. While a hockey or basketball game is usually filled with cheering students, the wrestling match seemed to have a predominant following of parents and family. Still, the crowd proved to enhance the atmosphere and excitement of the meet.

The variety and intensity of the matches was a sight to behold. It started at the 125 weight class with the fast-paced match in which RIT’s Shin Wakabayashi, a third year Illustration major, and Morrisville’s Justin Delamothe consistently rolled over one another and moved all across the ring. Moving up the weight classes, Nick Stewart, a first year Engineering Exploration major, and Todd Hall’s fight brought to mind the expression of an unstoppable force meeting an immovable object. Though lacking in the quick

pace and movement of earlier matches, the sheer force, power and leverage these athletes applied to one another greatly amplified the intensity.

The last of eight weight classes to be matched up, heavyweights Stewart and Hall finished off the night with a 4-3 score in Stewart’s favor, adding 3 points to RIT’s total and further securing the victory. Throughout this hard-fought match, the crowd followed along, yelling and cheering with every change in position between the two wrestlers. Among the crowd’s shouts of “More more more!” and “You got him Stewart!” the careful judgment and advice of teammates could be heard. Teammates coached Stewart along, analyzing the match with eyes that knew what he could achieve, shouting such advice as “Get out of that tie-up Stewie!” and “Behind him! You got to ride him!”

While the team as a whole may not be excelling this year, there is certainly an individual star to be found

in Mike McNally, a fourth year Industrial Design major, who won his match against Morrisville’s Joshua Lear. The final score of 17-6 means that McNally continues an undefeated season with 18 total wins. Wakabayashi; Sean Sercu, a third year Criminal Justice major; Tyler Brent, a fourth year Industrial Engineering major; and Stewart were the other Tigers who won their matches at the meet, helping McNally secure the team’s victory.

Your next chance to catch the Tigers in action is Feb. 2 when they take on SUNY Brockport.

Above: Shin Wakabayashi, a third year Illustration major, and Kyle Travers, a fourth year Computer Science major, wrestle during practice.

WORD ON THE STREET

HOW WOULD YOU SURVIVE A ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE?

by Robert Shook

GLENN SWEENEY

IMAGING AND PHOTOGRAPHIC TECHNOLOGY
SECOND YEAR

1



“Definitely tunneling. It’s a more defensible position, and there’s less survive-ability for zombies down there.”

CHARLIE NICKERSON (L)

UNDECIDED BUSINESS
FIRST YEAR

2



PAT SCHAEFER (R)

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY
FIRST YEAR

“We would hole up in the clock tower, defend ourselves, and take in survivors.”

CAITLIN KAVANAUGH (L)

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
SECOND YEAR

3



“I’d follow someone who sounds like they know what they’re talking about.”

PAUL TAYLOR (R)

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
FIRST YEAR

“I’d carry a pledge paddle, drive to BJ’s and hang out. The best weapon is one that doesn’t run out of ammo.”

ZACH MULHOLLAN (L)

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY
FIRST YEAR

4



RYAN BRETON (C)

PACKAGING SCIENCE
FIRST YEAR

DEREK CARBONE (R)

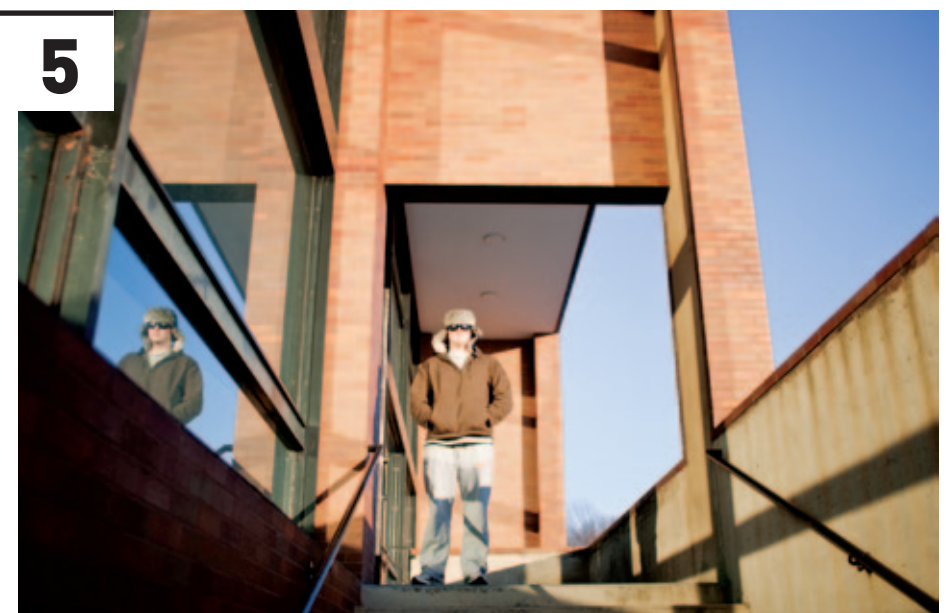
APPLIED MATHEMATICS
FIRST YEAR


“Anywhere with a second story is the place to go, as long as you block the stairwells.”

DOUG NEWLAND

UNIVERSITY STUDIES
FIRST YEAR

5



“I’d be part of a group of four people, ideally. We all need automatic weapons. The best bet is to hide in the subway in Boston for as long as possible; try to hold out until help arrives.” 

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compiled by Amanda Szczepanski and Moe Sedlak
All calls subject to editing and truncation. Not all calls
will be run. REPORTER reserves the right to publish all
calls in any format.

THURSDAY, 11:31 A.M.

Just heard someone yell
"IF YOU DON'T WANNA GET
SHOT THEN DON'T COME
TO MY HOUSE."

(from text)

TUESDAY, 12:00 A.M.

Dear **Rings**, you are right next
to RIT Public Safety in my
contacts. I almost called them
with an incriminating story.

(from voicemail)

WEDNESDAY, 5:15 P.M.

My roommate is making
weird noises, just from a
tickle fight. If this is this bad,
I wonder what it sounds like
when she does the deed?

(from text)

FRIDAY, 3:36 P.M.

Curse you, **Reporter**! I got
all excited a few weeks ago,
thinking you reviewed "WoW:
Cataclysm's" official soundtrack!

(from text)

THURSDAY, 9:56 P.M.

What is it about women wearing
red lipstick that makes them
look like they know how to suck
a [popsicle]?

(from text)

TUESDAY, 9:52 P.M.

Graduating Magna Cum
Laude would be nice and
all, but I'd still much rather
achieve a *Rings* hat trick.

(from voicemail)

MONDAY, 9:21 A.M.

It's so cold out that my hair froze in the
two-minute walk from one building to
another, yet the boys here at RIT still wear
shorts above their knees.

(from text)

THURSDAY, 8:41 P.M.

I'm sitting here in Anime club, and I smell something
distinctly funky. I can't tell if it's a freshman who forgot
about the shower rule, or if someone's getting high. 🐸

(from text)

FRIDAY, 6:52 P.M.

I wanna ride Stu's
zamboni if you know
what I mean...

(from text)

SATURDAY, 10:57 P.M.

Is it proper foursome
etiquette not to outperform
your teammate?

(from text)

WHAT DOES A REPUBLICAN-CONTROLLED CONGRESS MEAN?

by Tom Sciotto | illustration by Joanna Eberts

Republicans will control the House of Representatives during the 112th congress, with Representative John Boehner of Ohio serving as Speaker. Republicans touting this as the people taking back the house and throwing “big government,” aka the Democrats, out of town. However, this is unlikely to be the way things go. The Democrats still control the Senate as well as the Presidency; therefore, any act passed by the House can be defeated in the Senate or vetoed by President Barack Obama. So what will happen?

Looking at the promises that the Republicans, particularly the Tea Party subset, made during the election shows potential conflicts. Similar to the last Republican wave election, Tea Party members have created a Contract from America, similar to the Contract with America. Citing it in every law voted on, the Contract promises that the Republicans will double down on the constitution. In addition to repealing the new health-care bill and creating a new energy policy, Republicans plan to simplify the tax code and promote more fiscal responsibility.

All this Constitutional talk is ridiculous. It is silly to think that the Founding Fathers, who financed the Revolution and War of 1812 with deficit spending, would be so quick to end the practice. Amending the Constitution to make it illegal for the government to overspend its budget is extremely shortsighted. It would never work, and would be especially painful during emergencies when contingency budgets run dry. Something we will probably see during the next two years is a large, bipartisan energy bill. It is probable that Republicans will receive drilling rights for oil in protected areas, while Democrats will get a Cap and Trade system in addition to token funding for renewable energy research.

As every new Congress does, the 112th passed several new rules that bode well for the American public. The package mandates that bills have to be posted online for 72 hours before they can be voted on. It allows everyone easy access to what our government is doing, giving the public time to organize opposition to bills as they are formally written. This may be a token transparency signal though, as most people without law degrees can't make much sense of the wordy laws. It's easy to see political trickery in this, too. For example, the first bill scheduled for voting was titled “Repealing the Job-Killing Health Care Law Act.” Something about that doesn't exactly say conclusively factual.

Also, proceedings of the house will no longer just be cast on boring C-SPAN, but also broadcasted live online. The congressional attendance record is set to

be available to the public, so now we can really see how well our Representatives are representing us. In more tech savvy urban areas, I think we are going to see an increase in some members' attendance rates and the frequency of bills reaching debate. And as a bone thrown to those of us who still remember Casino Jack Abramoff, former congressmen who currently work as lobbyists are no longer permitted to use the gym in the Capitol building.

What we won't see are large comprehensive bills like the financial reform act and health care packages that passed during the 111th congress, with the exception of the new energy bill that both parties are pushing for.

The split of the House and Senate along party lines and the Republican Party's desire to see President Obama have limited political victories and will guarantee that all bills passed will be small and relatively centrist in nature. Emphasis will be placed on jobs and the economy, but little will be accomplished unless both sides of the aisle are willing to concede ground. If the Republicans can put everything on the table and not exclude politically delicate entitlement programs from budget cuts and if the Democrats can give up some federal funding on their key social programs, we may see a relatively productive Congress. We may also see pigs fly. **R**



Aziz Ansari

Major Events

Feb. 4, 2011

9pm

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\$17-Students
\$26-Staff/Fac/Alumni
\$41-General Public

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