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REPORTER

02.18.11 reportermag.com



IN MAYOR'S RACE, AN RIT PROFESSOR
Professor Bill Johnson enters the election.

EXPLAINING AN ENIGMA: DR. HEATH BOICE PARDEE
Administrator pens mystery novel.

THE MURDEROUS END OF ALEXANDRE RICHARD
How to plan a murder mystery party.

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RIPPLES

Your presence changes things. For this week's feature (see "Explaining an Enigma: Dr. Heath Boice-Pardee" on page 16), I spent days shadowing the associate vice president of Student Affairs. Soon, I began to notice that the longer I hung around Dr. Heath, the more unwanted attention I drew to myself. Although my intention was merely to observe how Dr. Heath conducted his business, it was proving near impossible to maintain my role as an innocent bystander.

My presence usually confused the next person coming in for his appointment with Dr. Heath, making him think that he was intruding. At the very least, I sensed a different tone or attitude as the person spoke to Dr. Heath; students, staff and faculty were a little more defensive, a little more guarded. On a few rare occasions, I even received stabs on what potential negative situation Reporter might cover as applicable to the current topic. The fact that I was in the room changed things.

These experiences really made me think about the effect a single person could have on a larger group, an entire community. One comedian during the peak of winter quarter may ease your stress for a short period of time (see "Aziz Ansari: Laugh or Die" on page 14). One athlete may make or break a team's dynamic (see "Three Stars" on page 23). One friend may have the uncanny ability to bring unexpected groups of people together (see "Adam Childs: The Memory Maker" on page 7).

In a way, the people in your life, whether they're recurring characters or unnoticed extras, are kind of like ripples in a pond. They help you mold your foundation. Over time, they can smoothen out your rough ages. And sometimes they make waves.

Madeleine Villavicencio

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cover by Joi Ong and Joanna Eberts

IN MAYOR'S RACE

AN RIT PROFESSOR

by Chris Zubak-Skees | photograph by Katie Thompson

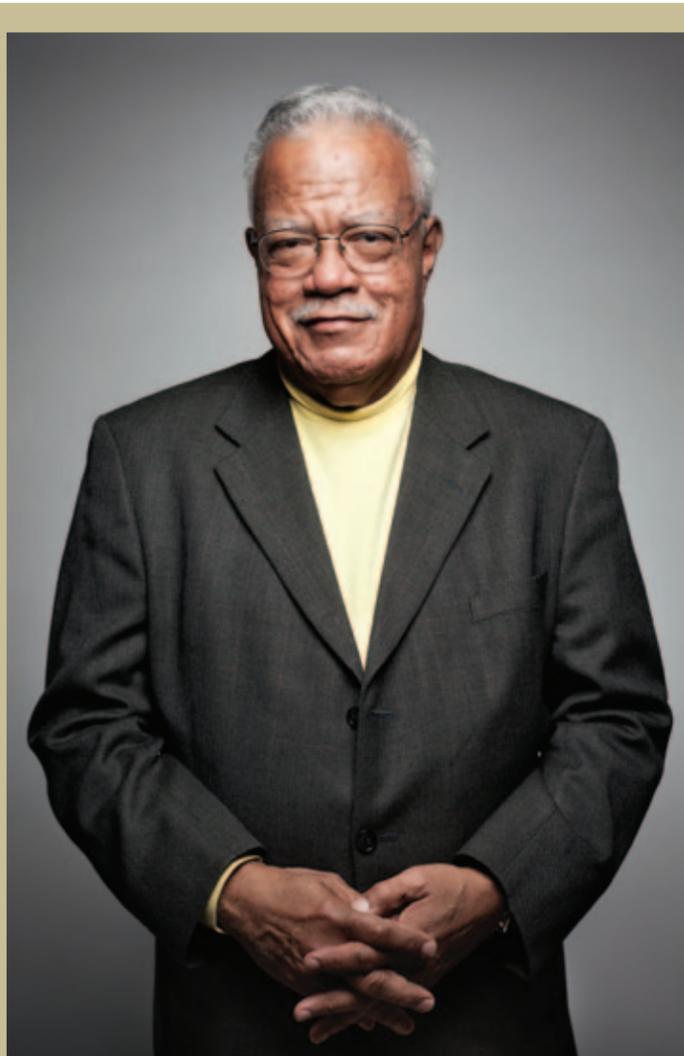
In a packed conference room in the downtown Rochester Radisson, a former three-term mayor, Bill Johnson, addressed the party faithful. "Fellow Democrats, today I ask you to support my candidacy for mayor," his amplified voice told the room. But in the caucus vote that followed, they didn't. The Democrats assembled on Saturday, Jan. 5, instead nominated former deputy mayor Tom Richards to bear their party's standard.

RIT moved a scant eight miles away from downtown when the current campus was built in the 1960's, but, to students struggling through winter quarter, Flower City politics can seem a million miles away. Still, however much RIT students like to forget it exists, Rochester politics doesn't forget RIT.

In a poignant reminder to this fact, a special election on March 29 will pick a successor to Mayor Bob Duffy, an RIT alum who left the mayor's office to serve as lieutenant governor. The most viable candidates are Richards, an RIT trustee and Duffy's handpicked successor, and Johnson, currently an RIT professor of Public Policy.

Though acknowledging he faces "daunting odds" running as a third party candidate in a city used to punching the Democratic ticket, Johnson offers the most serious challenge to Richards' inevitability. His biggest asset is name recognition, gained from serving three terms as mayor from 1994-2006. "I'm a Democrat; most people know I'm a Democrat," he says. The main challenge, he hopes, will be educating voters to look farther down the ballot.

In 2006, when Johnson chose not to seek re-election for a fourth term amid a controversy surrounding the failed Fast Ferry project, he started teaching in RIT's Public Policy department,



which was happy to have him. That cleared the way for the Duffy, the city's chief of police, who served from 2006-2010.

In November 2010, New York voters elected Duffy to lieutenant governor. City Council had a choice: it could hold a special election in March, or appoint an interim mayor and then hold a September primary and a November general election. The special election's shortened campaign period, critics said, would essentially hand the job to Richards. In a decision that sparked controversy, the council chose

to hold the special election.

"We started out protesting the decision of City Council to forego the general election in the fall and to create this disadvantageous situation by having a winter election," Johnson said in a recent interview. "And when those protests fell on deaf ears, and when I couldn't persuade other people to run, I was almost put in a position by a group of supporters, that said, 'Well, we've gone this far, somebody's got to step forward.'"

And so, reluctantly, the mayor-turned-professor sought to turn mayor again. "I've been teaching this stuff on a theoretical basis, so it was time to really get out there, [get] back into the saddle, and see if we could make something happen," he said.

But, in theory or reality, this city is no picnic. Johnson teaches a community economic development course focused on Rochester, where students try to tackle the challenges of declining cities. Since the 1950's, residents have streamed to the suburbs and businesses have gone with them, leaving vacant housing, abandoned stores and less tax money to deal with those problems. "We're looking at cities that have matured, that are essentially beyond their prime, but have the built environment already there, and they've got to contend with it," Johnson said.

It sounds intractable: a downward spiral that has inspired a movement to shrink or downsize cities. In an interview, Johnson laid out a familiar battle plan: sprinkle business incentives here, revitalize nightlife there, and try to retain what's left. These are tactics he tried during his 12 years as mayor. But in his speech at the Democratic convention, four days earlier, he endorsed something grander: a partnership between area colleges and citizens. RIT, he said, could now help transform the city. **R**

A FIREARMS COMMUNITY

story & photograph by Rob Shook



Members of the RIT Firearms Community look on during skeet shooting at Rochester Brooks Gun Club.

Bertram Rogers, a first year Mechanical Engineering major, arrived in Erdle Commons on Feb. 9 prepared for a study session, and then planned to head back to the dorms. Instead, he overheard fourth year Mechanical Engineering majors, Andy Birkel and Don Lucas talking to this reporter about their failed attempt at turning the RIT Firearms Community into a campus-recognized club. After eavesdropping, he approached. "I'm sorry to interrupt, but I'm really interested. I shoot, but I've never been to a legit range before — only backyard stuff. I really want to go with you guys some time." Birkel leaned back and laughed. "Well, what are you up to tonight?"

The Community is a group of students that began meeting about a year ago out of a common interest in shotgun, rifle and pistol sports, as well as a desire — born out of an article on the 1950's Rifle and Pistol Club in a December 2009 issue of **REPORTER** — to go through the club approval process. The group drafted a constitution, appointed officers and started the necessary paperwork. When Public Safety Investigator Anthony Yazback mentioned his interest in the potential club to Lucas, they made him an advisor. They also began scheduling meetings and going to Rochester Brooks Gun Club every Wednesday night to practice. Anywhere from five to 10 people showed up to shoot regularly, and their Facebook page ("RIT Firearms Community")

generated a lot of conversation. That momentum, however, hit a speed bump early this school year, when the school denied them club status.

Though Mary-Beth Cooper, senior vice president for Student Affairs, was impressed with the presentation and attention to detail the Community's leaders exhibited, she says she couldn't support their approval as a campus organization.

"The risk associated with condoning a club where individuals may be transporting firearms in their vehicle on their way to the off campus Firearm Club, seemed high," Cooper said in an e-mail response. "In light of Virginia Tech and other shootings, I spend a great deal of time worrying about what could happen on our campus. I am concerned about improper use of guns or unintended consequences of guns on our campuses. I am not sure that the conversation on this topic is over, but for the foreseeable future, we are not in support of a Firearms Club at this time."

Some members of the community are not sure the conversation is over, either. They still hold out hope for club approval. For the most part, though, the members are okay with the decision. "We're just a group of students that gather and enjoy what we do together. That will happen regardless of our status as an RIT-recognized club," said Birkel.

"I give Dr. Cooper a lot of credit," said Lucas. "There wasn't any 'not at this time,' or 'I'll think

about it.' She gave us plenty of time to talk, and was honest about the problems the university had with it." He mentioned other roadblocks like having a substantial part of the campus against firearms and a group organized around their use, as well as creating the image of a college campus that is pro-gun. "They're all legitimate concerns. We can't argue against them. We just think the pros outweigh the cons."

The denial of club status, members say, limits their ability to inform fellow students of their group. While Birkel, Lucas and quite a few of the founding members were raised around firearms, "Most people don't know how to get into the sport safely," said Birkel. "We shoot at a New York state approved range."

The group continues to meet Wednesday nights at Brooks, and most weekends as well. After going to Brooks once, Rogers plans to keep going back. "I was very intimidated at first. I was afraid the gun club would be snobbish and exclusive, like a country club; and that I'd make a fool out of myself. I didn't want to make a mistake." But under Birkel's direction, his fears were quickly eased. He broke his first two clay pigeons, and with the rest of the group laughing and cheering about the new guy beating the regulars, he continued to shoot well. "I had a blast," he said. **R**



go orientation

Orientation Assistant Information Sessions

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday, Mar 8, 2011	6:00-7:00pm	Campus Center, Room 2650
Wednesday, Mar 9, 2011	7:00-8:00pm	Campus Center, Room 2650
Saturday, Mar 12, 2011	3:00-4:00pm	NRH Room 1250
Monday, Mar 14, 2011	7:00-8:00pm	Student Alumni Union, Room 1829
Wednesday, Mar 16, 2011	8:00-9:00pm	Campus Center, Room 2650*
Saturday, Mar 19, 2011	3:00-4:00pm	Kate Gleason Hall Room A055
Sunday, Mar 20, 2011	4:00-5:00pm	NRH Room 1250
Monday, Mar 21, 2011	7:00-8:00pm	Campus Center, Rm 2650*

RIT New Student
Orientation



*Interpreter Requested

Adam Childs: *THE MEMORY MAKER*

by Madeleine Villavicencio



Adam Childs (left) with Adam Shevins (right) at a Disco Biscuits show in Buffalo. | photograph taken from Flickr

“This is pretty much the greatest kid in the world. You’ve got to sum it up like that,” said Bob DeWitte, a fourth year Electrical Engineering major, about his roommate. “He had a natural talent for music, art and documenting anything that we did.” He was a “memory maker.”

Adam Childs, a fourth year New Media Publishing major with second year status, passed away on the evening of Thursday, Feb. 10 in his off-campus apartment. A roommate found him the next morning, said Mary-Beth Cooper, vice president for Student Affairs during a brief interview. Details about his death were unavailable at the time of writing; the cause of death is pending an autopsy report.

DeWitte first met Adam on the second floor of Residence Hall B, then known as Building 30. “He lived two doors down from me,” said DeWitte. “We would pass each other in the hall until one day, he said, ‘Hey I’m Adam.’” The two have remained friends ever since.

Adam had a passion for music that was infectious.

“He was always the one who came into our rooms and asked us to jam,” said Andy Krall, a recent graduate of the Mechanical Engineering program and another of Adam’s roommates. Together, the roommates formed a band they dubbed “The L-Block” in tribute to their Winton Village apartment building. Adam recorded every session.

Never without his camera, Adam documented everything, from nights hanging out with friends to concerts and music festivals. Eventually, bands began to notice his talent. “We went to a couple of shows, and then out of nowhere, he started getting photo passes and whatnot to go to the shows for free,” said DeWitte.

Adam’s creativity didn’t end there. “When you had an idea that he got into, his eyes just glowed.

He would get so excited,” said DeWitte, before recounting several unfinished projects: a stop motion animation featuring an animal cracker and a commercial for a fake news broadcast. “He was always so excited when you got an idea going. He would go grab everything you needed and say ‘let’s go!’” said DeWitte. It’s this enthusiasm that his roommates will miss the most.

Adam’s roommates held a candlelight memorial in his honor on the evening of Friday, Feb. 11. There, close friends could talk about their experiences with Adam and give examples of “what a great kid he was.” “I don’t know anyone else who people would gather that quickly for,” said Krall.

Last week, RIT lost a beloved friend, but Adam Childs’ memory will live on. **R**

BEYOND THE BRICKS

compiled by Christina Belisle

"GUITAR HERO" SERIES ENDS

The popular rhythm game "Guitar Hero" is no more. Game development giant Activision announced in a press release that it has stopped working on the "Guitar Hero" game to be released this year and that the development unit for the series would be disbanded, leading to layoffs.

Activision, the distributor of the game, said in the press release that they would lay off workers at Vicarious Visions and "DJ Hero's" Harmonix. The falling popularity of the music game genre is a reason for "Guitar Hero's" cancellation, though the series brought renewed interest in the genre when it was first released five years ago.

Activision also announced that "True Crime: Hong Kong" would no longer be developed, though at the E3 video game expo there were hints it was close to completion.

FUTURE WITHOUT CELL TOWERS POSSIBLE

Whether or not cell phone service is available is easy to see when large towers loom, but this may no longer be the case. Advances have made it possible to broadcast cell phone signals from devices so small that they could be placed almost anywhere.

The lightRadio cube, an invention from the famous Bell Labs, is an antenna around the size of a Rubik's cube. It was unveiled at the Mobile World Congress in Spain on Feb. 14.

Such devices can be placed anywhere throughout a city and only need an electrical source and a connection to the carrier's network cable. This can allow for smaller broadcast radii, or cells, which will help eliminate dead zones, allow for faster data speeds, and accommodate more users.

DO NOT TRACK INTERNET BILL

A bill introduced in Congress Feb. 11 may make it harder for advertisers to track users, giving users more peace of mind.

The bill is similar to the 2003 Do Not Call registry, which established a list of consumers that elected to stop the receipt of soliciting calls. The Do Not Track bill would require the Federal Trade Commission to write regulations that force advertisers to implement a method to enable users to opt out of online tracking.

The teams behind Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox and Microsoft Internet Explorer 9 already plan to release their own features that allow users to signal that they don't want to be tracked.

NOKIA, MICROSOFT TEAM UP

Finnish cell phone maker Nokia has teamed up with American software giant Microsoft. The two companies dream of making smart phones that could rival those made by Apple and Google.

Microsoft recently released their Windows Phone 7 operating system, and Nokia, the world's largest cell phone manufacturer, hopes to use it with their hardware to create smart phones that would take market share from the Apple iPhone and phones using the Google Android operating system.

Analysts think that the deal will be more helpful for Microsoft, as it would get their software into the hands of more customers, while Nokia's stock dropped 8 percent after the announcement. The company currently holds a meager 3 percent of the smart phone market in North America.

Nokia CEO Stephen Elop said that the deal would "combine our strengths to deliver an ecosystem with unrivaled global reach and scale." The future of Nokia's Symbian operating system is still in question, but Nokia expects to mostly phase it out over two years.



illustration by Joanna Eberts

ACADEMIC SENATE

by James Arn

CALENDAR CONTROVERSY CONTINUES

The primary topic of conversation at the Feb. 3 meeting of the Academic Senate was the 2012-2013 academic calendar.

There are two calendar options on the table. The first, known as Calendar A, is fairly traditional with three weeks of classes between Thanksgiving Break and Winter Break, followed by three weeks of Winter Break. The other option, Calendar B, is more controversial; with four weeks of classes between the two breaks, followed by two weeks of Winter Break.

Both calendars present challenges to faculty and staff. Calendar A leaves only three days between the end of Summer Quarter 2012 and 2013 Orientation, but Calendar B would force faculty to redesign their curricula to account for the four weeks of classes between breaks.

Andy Phelps, GCCIS senator, stressed that there will likely be an uptick in enrollment during the summer as students try to finish out their degrees before the semester transition. Because of this, grading and administration will already be under strain at the end of summer quarter. Calendar A would add to that strain.

Among other concerns brought up with Calendar A: starting summer quarter on Memorial Day would cause travel problems for faculty and students, and staff would be overburdened trying to deal with wrapping up summer quarter and beginning Orientation in such a short span of time.

Thomas Cornell, COLA senator, recommended extending the Thanksgiving Break to two weeks and maintaining three weeks of classes followed by two weeks of Winter Break. The calendar committee had previously rejected this plan because they felt that students didn't like having too much time off at Thanksgiving.

A straw poll taken at the end of the discussion was split 14-13 in favor of Calendar B.

FORECAST

compiled by Chris Zubak-Skees

FRIDAY 18

Winter Research Symposium
CSI. 4 - 8 p.m. Learn a thing or two from your fellow students as they present the fruits of their hard scientific labors. Cost: Free.

SATURDAY 19

The American Violin
Ingle Auditorium, SAU. 3 - 4 p.m. RIT's orchestra explores the American influence on folk and sacred music. They'll be presenting the world premiere of Frederick Lesemann's "Concerto for Violin." Cost: Free.

SUNDAY 20

Banff Mountain Film Festival
Webb Auditorium, BOO. 6:30 - 10 p.m. The wildest places will be served up during day two of a three-day selection of movies from a festival dedicated to the great outdoors. Cost: \$10 for students; \$12 for faculty and staff; \$15 for everyone else.

MONDAY 21

The Indras
Bug Jar, 219 Monroe Ave. 9 p.m. For an eclectic but satisfying take on rock, listen to these cats jam. Cost: \$5.

TUESDAY 22

"A Prophet"
Dryden Theatre, 900 East Ave. 8 - 10:30 p.m. A North African youth shuffles through the French penal system in this Oscar-nominated, subtitled Bildungsroman. Cost: \$6 for students; \$8 for everyone else.

WEDNESDAY 23

Dirty Bourbon Blues Band
Dinosaur BBQ, 99 Court St. 9 p.m. Enjoy slow, righteous blues while chowing down on some famous barbecue. Cost: Ribs.

THURSDAY 24

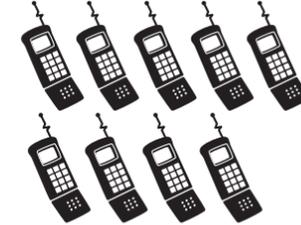
"Dreamgirls"
East End Theatre, 727 E. Main St. 7:30 p.m. The Rochester Association of Performing Arts performs this famous musical about the early days of rhythm and blues. Cost: \$15 for students; \$20 for everyone else.

CRIME WATCH: JANUARY

compiled by Chris Zubak-Skees | graphics by Ko Kawazoe

INCIDENTS

HARASSMENT 9



THEFT 8



ALCOHOL 5



VANDALISM 5



MARIJUANA 4



SUNDAY 2

Fairwood Dr. 5 a.m. After a student withdrew money from an ATM, someone robbed him. Monroe County Sheriff responded.

WEDNESDAY 5

NRH. 10:15 p.m. A student reported his wallet and cell phone stolen from an unlocked locker. The case is closed, pending new leads.

FRIDAY 14

From Jan. 9 to Jan. 14, students sent harassing messages through Facebook postings. The investigation remains open.

SUNDAY 16

S Lot. 2 a.m. A student verbally harassed another student. The incident was logged as bias-related. The case was referred to Student Conduct.

MONDAY 17

NRH. 9:50 p.m. A student possessed a pipe containing marijuana residue. The case was referred to Student Conduct.

TUESDAY 18

UCS. 2:45 p.m. While conducting fire and safety inspections, housing staff found fireworks, knives and a pellet gun. The case was referred to Student Conduct.

THURSDAY 20

GV. 7 p.m. A student employee gave her friend several items of food without paying for the items. The case was referred to Student Conduct.

FRIDAY 21

Nature Trails. 4 p.m. Several students were discovered in possession of marijuana. The case has been turned over to Judicial Affairs.

WEDNESDAY 26

Peterson Hall. 3 p.m. A student reported his ID card missing. Someone else used his card to purchase items. The investigation continues. 

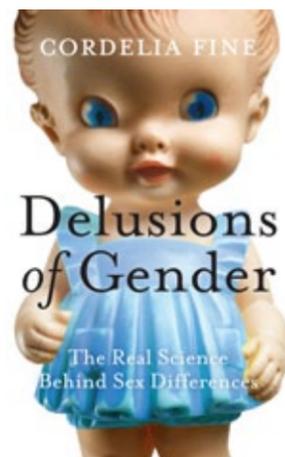
Reviews

02.18.11

“DELUSIONS OF GENDER”

Rating: Dig It!

by Cordelia Fine



Book | Non-Fiction | 338 Pages

by Michelle Spoto

In her book, “Delusions of Gender,” Cordelia Fine looks at the real reasons behind the differences between men and women. Surprisingly, these have less to do with innate neurological differences than they do with our own implicit gender stereotypes. Implicit attitudes are those that are, according to social psychologists Brian Nosek and Jeffrey Hansen, “without the encumbrances of awareness, intention, and control.” These ideas, attitudes and motivations are like cultural sponges, soaking up any and all information regarding the society in which they exist. Formed by many aspects of a culture, thoughts existing on an implicit level often disagree with consciously held beliefs.

Fine spends a good third of the book discussing these implicit attitudes and how they’ve come to impact our culture as a whole. While her review is thorough and interesting, she spends so long discussing these behaviors that the first half of

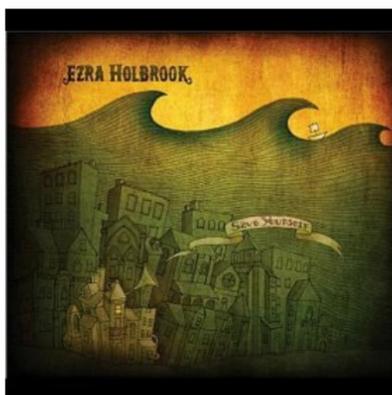
the book gets repetitive. This discussion does, however, set up the second half of the book nicely. What Fine describes as “neurosexism” is the idea of using neuroscience to justify gender roles in society. While the field of neuroscience is still in its infancy and not without flaws, many popular writers have started to exaggerate and twist these findings for their own means. Fine critically analyzes several of these studies, bringing readers to the conclusion that, even if neurological differences do exist, these differences are less significant than the similarities between genders.

While informative and scientific, Fine’s casual and, at times, humorous style of writing makes “Delusions of Gender” accessible for anyone. In a book that’s enlightening as it is entertaining, Fine pushes readers to think critically about the world in which we live.

“SAVE YOURSELF”

Rating: Dig It!

by Ezra Holbrook



Album | Folk Rock | 42 Mins

by Brendan Cahill

Week 10 has come to an end. An avalanche of deadlines has passed and hard work has given way to more hard work as finals week brings new challenges. Relief is a scant few days away, but surviving to see it seems doubtful. It is with a sigh I take a moment to pause and say, “Ezra Holbrook, wherever you are right now, you are my hero.”

Holbrook, operating out of Portland, Ore., is something of an enigma. He is a singer-songwriter, producer, indie label owner, Capitol Records artist, and former drummer for the Decemberists, but in spite of it all, you’ve probably never heard of him. Information on the man is scarce, beyond the fact he is an active member of the Portland music scene. “Save Yourself” is the folk rock cornerstone’s most recent solo effort, and offers a stark contrast to the hectic burden that college life can be. Marked by slow, dreamlike rhythms and melodies that mix

traditional folk sounds with hints of jazz, blues and indie rock, Holbrook’s strength is in his eclectic sound and his intelligent lyrics. “Another Light off in the Distance” and “Collide-oscope” will quickly become my favorites, blending unique technique with introspective lyrics.

“Save Yourself” is good, pure and simple. It’s music that helps you slow down. Holbrook helps you consider every snowflake and appreciate every sunbeam. This is sunrise music, crisp and clean, bursting with hope and light. In a fast-paced world where I often stay up too late and sleep in too long to appreciate the sunrise, Holbrook gives me something almost as good, and just as intangible. It makes me happy. Thank you, Ezra. You are my Week 10 hero.

At Your Leisure

02.18.11 by James Arn

QUOTE

“Human salvations lies in the hands of the creatively maladjusted.”

– Martin Luther King Jr.

WORD OF THE WEEK

Dactyliomancy *n.*

- divination by means of finger rings.

RIDDLE

I have seas without water
I have forests without wood
I have deserts without sand
I have houses with no brick
What am I?

Riddle Solution: A map.

STREAM OF FACTS

The *turritopsis nutricula* is a species of immortal **jellyfish**. After reaching maturity, they are capable of reverting to their polyp stage and redeveloping into adults.

During the first stage of their lives **jellyfish** are capable of reproducing asexually through a **process** called budding.

Early solvents in the **process** of coffee decaffeination included benzene, chloroform and trichloroethylene, all of which were later discovered to be potent **poisons**.

Heroin is one of the world’s most deadly **poisons**. Its ability to suppress the central nervous system, which causes the euphoric high that **heroin** is known for, can also induce seizures, comas and respiratory failure.

When it was first introduced, **heroin** was sold as a pain reliever alongside **aspirin** and as a way of stepping down from a morphine addiction.

The first uses of **aspirin** trace back to ancient Egypt around 1550 B.C. Infusions of dried myrtle leaves — which contain salicylic acid, aspirin’s primary ingredient — were used to relieve **pain**.

The human nervous system is capable of reacting to **pain** before the brain has a chance to interpret the sensation. This can be observed by touching something very hot. You will actually pull your hand away from the heat source before your **brain** registers the pain.

While awake, the human **brain** can produce roughly 20 watts of electricity, enough to power a small light bulb.

REPORTER RECOMMENDS

Twitshift

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comic by Amber Gartung

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A NIGHT OF *ETIQUETTE*

by David Keith Gasser | photograph by William Ingalls



There I sat, in the Al Davis room of the SAU doing my best to act lady-like while having my chair pushed in for me by a kind young man named François. As Wendy Stapf, assistant director for Residence Life, delved into the finer details of how a man should push in their partner's chair, I had done a mental assessment of the people present at my table. As is often the case at RIT, with its well-known "ratio," I quickly realized there weren't enough ladies to accommodate the men. "Oh well," I thought to myself. "Here goes nothing."

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This was the first lesson of the 2011 Etiquette Dinner, which saw some 50 students enjoying a night of conversation, learning their manners, and sampling that glorious staple of college life — free food.

Stapf explained that she began conducting the Etiquette Dinner as an annual event for graduating students just over a decade ago. Her entrance into the world of etiquette actually came from her time as a resident advisor when a friend enlisted her into a program to teach manners to the boys on their floor. When she first came to RIT, she did a similar program for various sororities and other organizations on campus; and eventually, it evolved into the annual campus-wide event it is today.

One of the most basic things to know about etiquette is the general set-up of a formal place setting. Forks are to your left, spoons and knives to the right. It's important to keep the tines (the sharp or serrated edge) of your

knife facing towards your plate, lest your dining partners feel threatened. Furthermore, Stapf explained, in olden times, when people would wear large cuffs and sleeves on their shirts, outturned tines could catch and rip the clothing. Above the plate should rest the dessert fork and spoon, heads of each in opposite directions. The various glasses used in the meal should rest above the spoons, and the bread plate should lie above the forks.

From time to time, Stapf would highlight the differences in the expected etiquette of different cultures. For instance, there is the well-known "European" manner of cutting and eating food where the knife is kept in the right hand and fork in the left, without any switching of utensils. This is in contrast to the American style where the utensils are switched back and forth throughout a meal. Another difference is the placement of hands when not actively eating. Throughout most of the world it is considered very rude, and even

threatening, to rest your hands in your lap; while in the U.S. it is rude to have your hands on the tabletop.

One of the points that Stapf seemed most keen on getting across is that a good dinner or banquet is not about dressing up and going out, or even about the food. "It's all about the conversation and getting to know the people at your table." Customs such as taking more than one spoonful of soup at a time, or cutting more than a single bite with your knife at a time, are based around this fact. They force you to slow down and shift your focus away from the food and towards the people you're sharing it with.

And never forget, salt and pepper travel together. **■**

***Pictured above:** Students at the Etiquette Dinner finish the dessert course.*



AZIZ ANSARI: LAUGH OR DIE

by Patrick Ogbeide | photograph by Robert Bredvad

When life's got you gloomy, rely on laughter to warm your spirits and work your abdominal muscles. Students all throughout RIT need a few chuckles, especially with the frigid temperatures and the building pressures of winter quarter's climax. Enter FreezeFest, a white wave of hope providing students with a temporary reprieve from academics in the form of numerous wintry events. Riding this wave of jollity was the harbinger of comedy, Aziz Ansari. People flocked to the Gordon Field House, hoping for the "Community" star's jokes to melt the final sheet of ice that encased their shivering hearts.

The night started off early with a voice eerily similar to Ansari's echoing through the loudspeakers. After reciting the usual forewarnings, the voice — which belonged to "Bomb Zamboni" — began playing with the captionist by yelling out gibberish for him to write in the on-screen closed captions. After a few harmless insults, Bomb Zamboni's voice disappeared and Dan Levy walked on stage.

Levy's stage presence was commanding. He wanted all eyes on him, and the enthusiasm behind his performance warranted the attention. With an opening the likes of "Every time I enter a RadioShack, it looks like it was robbed," you couldn't help but sit on the edge of your seat, hoping for his next joke to be just as funny as his last.

As expected from a comedian living in L.A., Levy had numerous stories of awkward celebrity encounters. One he shared with the audience was his run-in with pop superstar Justin Timberlake. After a quick mention of Justin's "Whatever whatever shoes" and his discovery of the most awkward line one could say to a celebrity — "congrats on your success" — Levy spoke of his childhood, which involved smoking marijuana, a desire to be a professional inline skater and a Kris-Kross concert he attended with his father. Yes, Dan Levy was very much your average 90's teenager.

Levy's act truly shone when he read aloud a letter from his former roommate who unknowingly ate some cookies baked with marijuana. With each line, laughter echoed through the field house. Apparently, the roommate was high for nearly 30 hours and didn't even know it. He described it as a "haze" and spent most of the letter arguing with himself about whether or not he was actually high. Without giving the audience time to recover, Levy recalled an encounter with a man who shared the spelling of his last name but didn't see eye-to-eye on the pronunciation. The onslaught of jokes ended when Levy brought back the most awkward line, "Congrats on your success" and left the stage to a roar of applause.

After the applause subsided, Lil Wayne's new single "6'7" began to play, and Aziz Ansari strolled

onto the stage full of life and energy. As the song ended, Ansari started things off with a compromise: He would pose for pictures, allowing the audience to take as many pictures as they wanted, as long as they refrained from taking them during the standup. The audience gladly obliged, and flashes flared all over the room for minutes on end.

Once the photo shoot ended, Ansari immediately began his routine, ruminating about that single friend who always suggests you talk to girls. Ansari is not a fan of this friend, mainly because the one time he took his advice, the girl verbally assaulted him. In retaliation, Ansari stole her purse, because "it looked good."

Aziz Ansari's talent lies in his ability to interconnect his jokes, adding to the hilarity and weaving an outlandish story guaranteed to make people smile. When he compared having dinner with a girl to having a gift DVD player sent to the wrong person, he factored in the recurring theme of Brian, a friend who is supposedly there for support whenever Ansari is rejected by a woman. Brian's name would occasionally pop out after a joke, and the crowd would respond with unadulterated laughter.

Ansari, like Levy, had a commanding presence. His vocal affectations, vulgar humor, and facial expressions all demanded the audience's attention. No face was turned away as he transitioned from racial slurs to jokes about his chubby cousin, Harris. The Harris routine was especially great as Ansari pulled out Harris' college application to read to the audience. The letter, while similar to Levy's, was just as hilarious, especially once Ansari added his own alterations, making the letter what he truly wanted it to be.

Once Ansari's routine ended, applause roared through the winter wind. The crowd shuffled out of the Gordon Field House, undoubtedly satisfied with the performance. Both Ansari and Levy captured the audience with unrelenting grips of hilarity, and both were clearly having fun as well. It was truly a wonderful way to warm the hearts of Rochester — with drunk quesadillas and teaching 50 Cent about grapefruits. 🍷



Explaining an Enigma:

DR. HEATH BOICE-PARDEE

by Madeleine Villavicencio | photographs by Joi Ong

Unexpected Roots

*We had been sitting silently in the office for nearly two hours. As Dr. Heath Boice-Pardee worked quietly behind his desk, I was busy turning the contents of his office inside out, rummaging through his belongings, and ransacking his personal files — mentally, of course. Determined to unravel the mystery behind the author of the *Mystery 101* series, I had been studying the man's every move, hoping for a glimpse of what he was like outside his role as associate vice president of Student Affairs at RIT. Finding little of interest, I moved my search to his surroundings. It was then that I made my breakthrough.*

<< Opposite page: Dr. Heath Boice-Pardee, associate vice president of student affairs, looks out of his office window on the second floor of the Student Alumni Union.

Sitting on his shelf amongst a number of communications books was a framed photograph of a much younger Heath Boice. The 20-something-year-old wore a pair of rather large '80s style glasses and sat atop a desk in front of what looked like a map.

"Is this you?" I asked, my voice a little raspy from disuse.

"Yes. That was maybe 1988," he responded.

"So, the year I was born," I said, trying to hide my grin.

"That is so sad!" Dr. Heath replied, laughing loudly before continuing. "I was an intern at a television news station in Albany."

Ages before Dr. Heath became a school administrator, he attended The College of Saint Rose in Albany, N.Y., where he studied Public Communications. Back then, Heath had a much different dream. "There was a time that I wanted to be a television news anchor," he said. Pursuing that career path, Heath got his first real job anchoring the weekend newscast at a small radio station in Saratoga Springs before eventually interning at WTEN-TV.

Heath served as a news writer for the ABC-affiliated television station while he attended grad school. Every day, he woke at precisely 3:52 a.m. to make it to the station by 4:30. He worked until 9 a.m., took a short nap, had some lunch, then went to class — only to do it all again the next day. "It was a miserable existence, but I enjoyed it," he said. That is, until a car accident changed everything.

During one news broadcast, a young girl had been hit by a car and her life hung in the balance. Heath was tasked to write about it. "I decided to write the story both ways so that if we got word she had died, I could feed in that story; and if not, I could just keep the regular story," Heath explained. Reflecting on how morbid it was for him to so easily craft a story about a child's death for his own convenience, Heath realized that the job wasn't quite the right fit for him. "That was a turning point for me," he said. Heath abandoned his dreams of becoming a television news anchor, but his passion for writing remained with him.

Fueled by the desire to write daytime soap operas, Heath drafted up a 10-episode screenplay, which he registered with the Writers Guild of America. Nothing ever came of the script, and soon Heath's focus moved from media and communication to education.

A Representative Library

Continuing my study of Dr. Heath's office, I eyed the bookshelf lining the north wall, and took note of another two bookshelves on the east wall and adjacent to his desk. The books were arranged in arbitrary groups relating to topics such as student affairs, conduct, philosophy and mass

"When you hang out with Dr. Heath, you just want to get to know him more. His character, his charisma, in many ways, is like gravity. He has a magnetic pull that draws you closer."

— along with some Rutgers scarlet — added a splash of Dr. Heath's school pride into the mix. "I'm attached to all of my books," he told me. I could tell. These books are the souvenirs of roughly a decade of administrative student affairs experience. "It's sort of like a history of where I've been in my career," he said thoughtfully.

As Dr. Heath gave me the rundown of his books, his story began to form more clearly in my mind. A fresh graduate entering the workforce, young Heath found himself working for his alma mater's Office of Campus Ministry. The position lasted for two years before he moved on to serve brief stints at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and several different offices at Centenary College in New Jersey. In 1996, Heath was hired by Monmouth University, which became the inspiration for the setting of his mystery novels. During this time, he also taught introductory philosophy courses at another New Jersey community college. In 2001, Heath moved to Rutgers University while pursuing his doctorate in education, which he received in 2002.

Then serving as the assistant dean of Student Development and College Affairs at Rutgers, he had been working as a school administrator for over 10 years. In March 2006, Dr. Heath would make his way to RIT. "There was a creative need I needed to fulfill," Dr. Heath said. He knew that he wanted to write a novel, but he wasn't sure what kind.

After some research, Dr. Heath realized what he wanted to do. "I found out that if I wrote a mediocre mystery novel or a mediocre romance novel, I could still get published," he explained, adding that romance writing was likely not a good fit for him anyway.

Dr. Heath stressed that he didn't want to write a book about a private eye or detective. "I don't know anything about being a private eye," he said. Instead, he wanted to draw from the world he knew: the world of student affairs. Drawing from his own

experience, he crafted the tale of Douglas H. Carter-Connors, Dean of Students at Westmire College. He completed the first book in the series, "Missing Persons 101," in 2003, but it wasn't published until 2007.

Student Relations

As I continued to shadow Dr. Heath, I watched him interact with many different students. Sometimes, he would let me sit in on their conversations; other times, he would ask me to wait in the lobby. He did whatever he could to make his students feel welcome and comfortable. It reminded me of a specific anecdote in his book. I asked him whether this was based on an actual experience.

"There was this professor who, I just got the impression that he didn't like me," Dr. Heath explained, walking to his door to demonstrate. Dr. Heath leaned into the room and knocked lightly. "May I interrupt?" he asked no one in particular.

Dr. Heath stood up straight to act out his professor's response. He clasped his hands together as if to place them on his desk, and said, "You already did," in a tone that I could only describe as arrogant and condescending. "I just thought that was the rudest, most snarky thing to say to someone coming to you for help or guidance," he said. This experience stuck with Dr. Heath, motivating him to make sure he never put down a student asking for help.

One of his students, now an alum residing in California, can attest to this. "[Dr. Heath] was just kind of my go-to person for advice ... I never felt that I was in the way or inconveniencing him. I never ever got that impression that, if we were talking, he wasn't anything but 100 percent interested in our conversation." This particular student was Matt Danna.

Going The Extra Mile

While there are many photographs of students in Dr. Heath's office, Matt Danna's is one that stands out. The former Student Government (SG) president's Alpha Sigma Lambda certificate remains on display on one of Dr. Heath's bookcases.

Danna first started working with Dr. Heath in 2006, after being appointed Freshman Senator. Dr. Heath, who is one of SG's co-advisors, still remembers Danna's speech. "He just sort of had this likeable affect," Dr. Heath said. The two continued to work together as Danna moved on to different positions in SG, eventually becoming president for the 2009-2010 academic year.

In their time together, Danna says that he learned many things from Dr. Heath, but the greatest lesson he ever learned was to stick up for what he believed

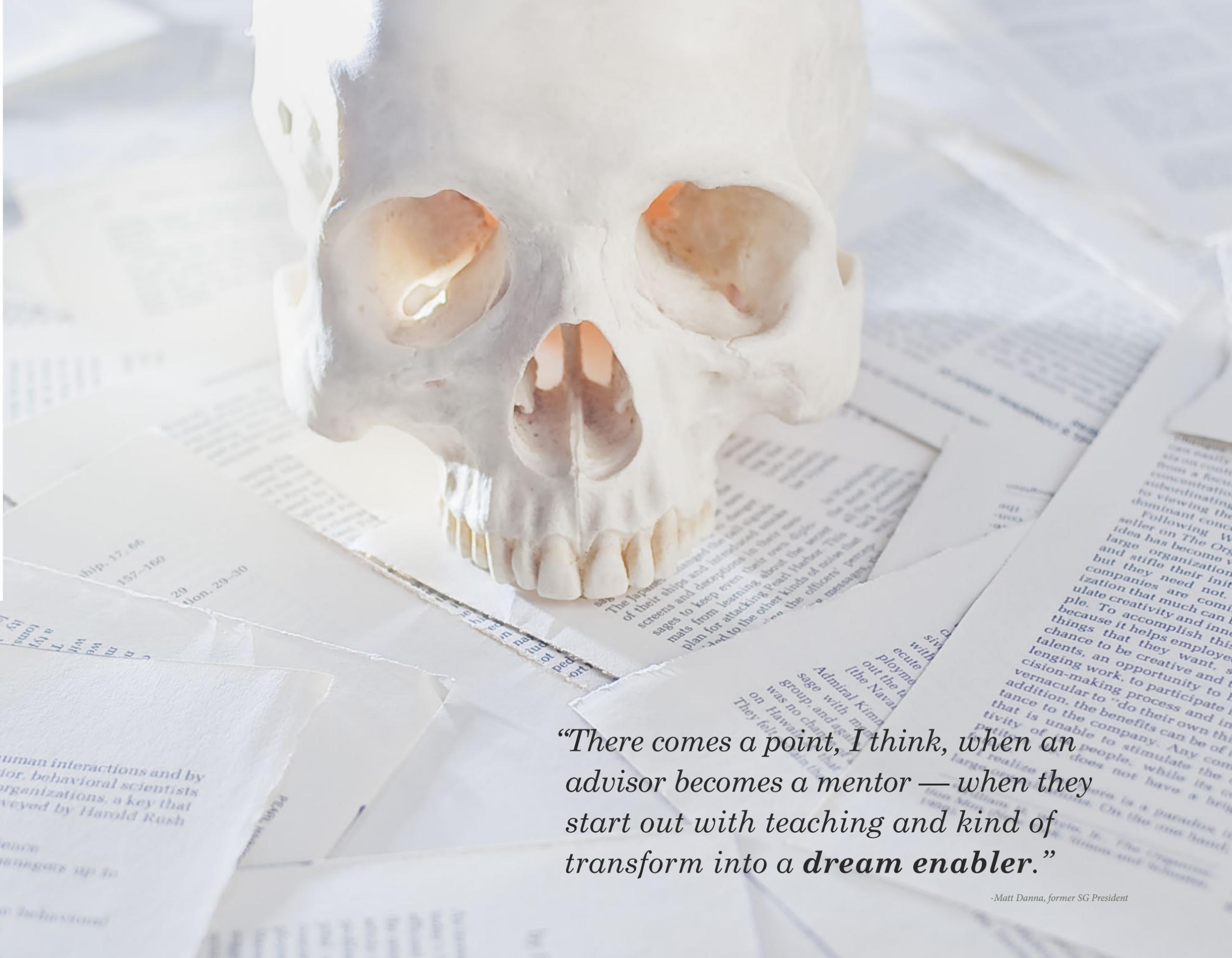
in and put the effort into getting others to understand where you're coming from. "There comes a point, I think, when an advisor becomes a mentor — when they start out with teaching and kind of transform into a dream enabler," Danna said.

Dare To Dream

Taking one final look around Dr. Heath's office, I couldn't help but notice the apparent influence of Walt Disney. From a "The Incredibles" jar on his desk to the framed photo of the original Imagineer above his computer, Dr. Heath's appreciation for Disney is evident. It is also quite fitting.

Walt Disney once said, "If you can dream it, you can do it," and many of Dr. Heath's actions embody this message, whether he's encouraging a student to pursue an idea or participating in a student event. And it probably helps that he's been to Disney World eight times in his lifetime.

As we sat, assembling the all-too-complicated valentines that Dr. Heath had bought for the members of SG, we began to drift away from the interview questions I had prepared. We talked about Disney movies, favorite television shows, and how his posie ring is now permanently attached to his right index finger. It was then I knew I had cracked the mystery that was Dr. Heath, and Matt Danna couldn't have said it better. "When you hang out with Dr. Heath, you just want to get to know him more. His character, his charisma, in many ways, is like gravity. He has a magnetic pull that draws you closer." 



*“There comes a point, I think, when an advisor becomes a mentor — when they start out with teaching and kind of transform into a **dream enabler.**”*

-Matt Danna, former SG President

The Murderous END

— of —

Alexandre RICHARD

by James Arn | illustration by Joanna Eberts



Eva Abernathy stood over a pool of blood, the stained lead pipe still in her arthritic hands. Alexandre Richard had an unusually thick skull, and the numerous blows it took to bash it in had caused an unfortunate amount of blood to splatter across the dining room. Luckily, Eva had come prepared. She ducked across the hallway into the bathroom, ripped off her blouse, and put on a spare she had stuffed into her bag. With a quick glance in the mirror, she left the bathroom and made her way to the now-empty parlor, where she tossed the soiled blouse into the roaring fire — all evidence linking her to the crime vanishing with the smoke.

Putting together a murder mystery dinner party can be nearly as challenging and complex as planning an actual murder — though, hopefully, with dramatically different results. Both endeavors require a fastidious planning process that should begin well before the night of the event.

Choose your Cast

The first thing you're going to want to nail down is your guest list. Establishing this early is crucial, as it will allow you to choose a scenario appropriate for the size of your gathering. If you fancy yourself a literary master, you might want to create your very own scene, but for the less adventurous, a plethora of pre-fabricated situations are available across the internet. Choose one that both piques your interest and fits your group size and you should be good to go.

Now that you have your scenario chosen and your guest list laid out, it's a good time to start assigning characters to your guests. The earlier you choose them, the more time your guests will have to fully research their characters, including finding appropriate costumes. Don't get too attached to your roster, however; you should leave some wiggle room as some of your guests will inevitably end up canceling. Once you have a solid idea of who plays which part, you should send each person an individual profile so that they can get a feeling for who their character is and what their motivations are. For an extra twist, try assigning guests to characters with personalities wildly different from their own. By pulling people out of their comfort zone, you set the stage for a very interesting (and unusual) evening.

Set the Scene

Eva Abernathy had been anticipating this night for months. The night she received the invitation from Miss Rebecca St. Claire, she knew her opportunity had arrived.

Though Miss St. Claire was young and fresh as a daisy next to Eva, she knew how to throw a party with class, something that Eva missed terribly from her childhood on her father's Virginia tobacco plantation. Ever since that French bastard Richard had forced her father's company out of business, leaving her in financial ruin, Eva had been longing for the grand parties of yesteryear. Lucky for Eva, Miss St. Claire had a long, varied list of friends, one that included Alexandre Richard.

Now that you have the major theme of your party down pat, you need to work on the logistics. Many murder mystery parties often take place during dinner, but a sit-down meal can consume time without progressing the plot. One alternative is to provide a large array of hors d'oeuvres or tapas so that your guests can nibble throughout the evening instead of spending too much time gathering for a communal meal. If you choose this route, you might also consider having a potluck and request each guest bring a dish. You're going to have a busy night come party time, and this will help take some pressure off your shoulders.

Focus on the Details

Eva had made her plan right from the start with exacting detail. She had waited in agonizing anticipation of this opportunity for nearly 10 years, and she wasn't about to let it pass her by. As she counted down the days until Miss St. Claire's party, she plotted out every detail in her plan and got her supplies in order. She purchased duplicates of all the clothing she planned to wear, and found a handbag large enough to conceal everything. She stashed a few of her sleeping pills to lure Alexandre into a quiet setting so she could strike. She carefully considered her choice of weaponry before deciding on a lead pipe: silent, simple to acquire and dispose of, and feasible to conceal within the cavernous confines of her bag.

In the days leading up to your party, you should

focus on perfecting all the little details that will set your party apart. This is where you can really go all out. One of the easiest things you can do is remove any anachronistic objects from the venue. Try to hide anything lying around your house that might take your guests out of the experience. If you're going to have a 1920-s themed evening, you ought to stash the lava lamp you inherited from your hippie uncle in the closet. The further you go with this, the more engrossing your party will be. Try to make your venue feel as much like the location described in your scenario as possible.

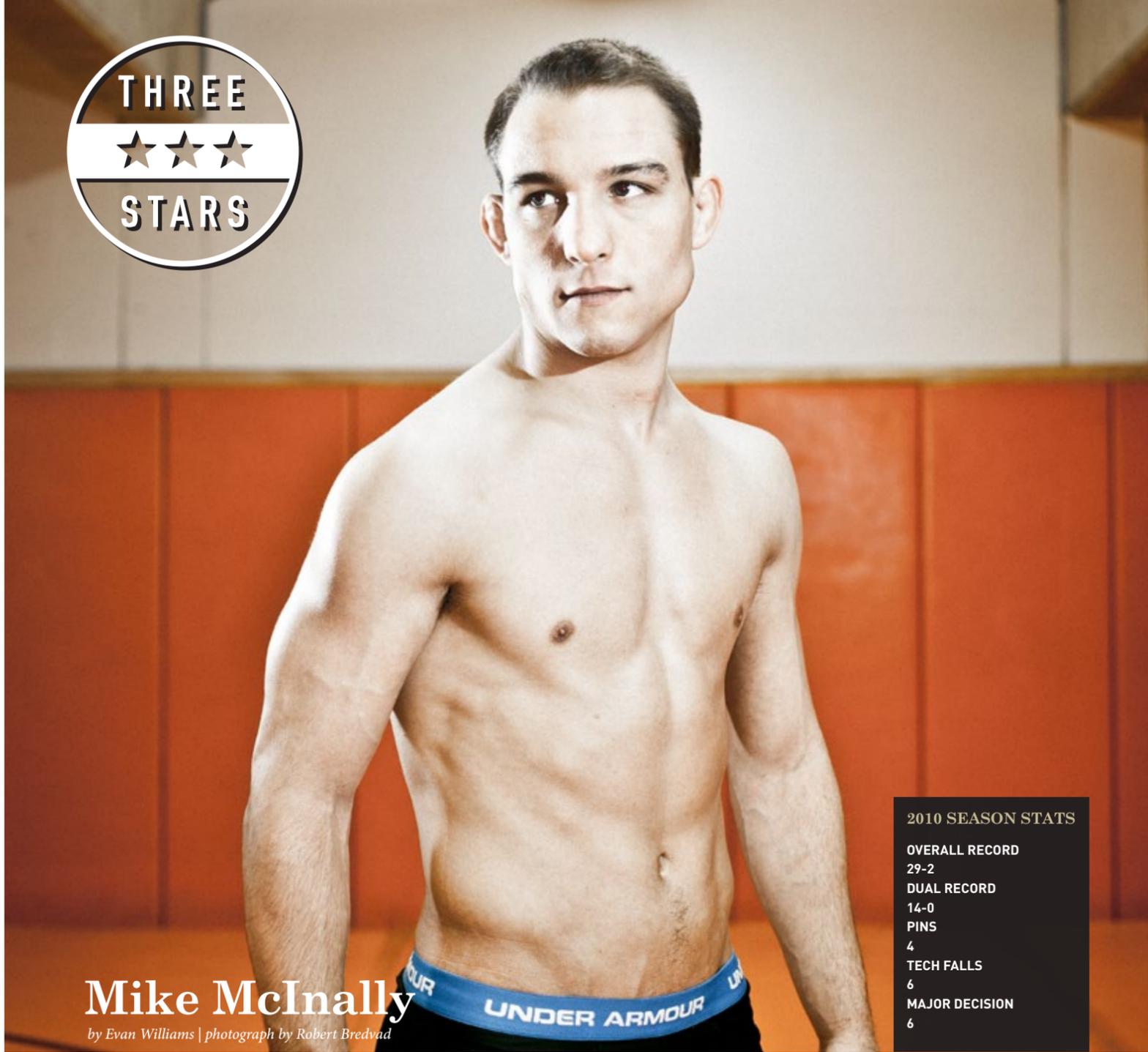
You really have two jobs to play on the night of your event. First and foremost, you are the host to a group of your friends; make sure everyone is comfortable before the formal beginning of the party. Your second job is to provide the exposition to the cast of characters you have gathered before you. Depending on the scenario you're working with and how inquisitive your guests are, you may have to improvise a little in order to keep the evening running smoothly.

*When Mrs. Eva Abernathy walked through the doors of Rebecca St. Claire's Westchester mansion, she was greeted by Miss St. Claire's wide assortment of friends and couldn't have been happier with the turnout. There was Commodore Gleason and his lovely wife Elizabeth; Mr. Drake, Rebecca's servant who had previously done work for Alexandre Richard's family; Amos, Rebecca's protégé, who would go to the ends of the earth to protect her; and most interestingly, a man by the name of Francis Smith, who Eva had discovered worked as an operative for the CIA. Rumor had it he also held a grudge of his own against M. Richard and his family. As she looked around the room, Eva wondered if Rebecca had any idea at all how many of these people would greatly appreciate the work that she was about to do. This was going to be a fun evening. **R***

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Mike McNally

by Evan Williams | photograph by Robert Bredvad

2010 SEASON STATS

OVERALL RECORD
29-2
DUAL RECORD
14-0
PINS
4
TECH FALLS
6
MAJOR DECISION
6

When you step onto a wrestling mat, other sports strategies no longer apply. There's no one to pass the ball to, no one to block for you, and no one to tend goal; it's just you and your opponent. So when I sat in the wrestling room to chat with Mike McNally, I made sure to pay close attention to the man in front of me.

McNally, a fourth year Industrial Design major, has an outstanding record of 29-2, and after taking second place at the NCAA Division III National Tournament in 2009, McNally has proven himself as one of the best wrestlers in his division and an important leader for the team.

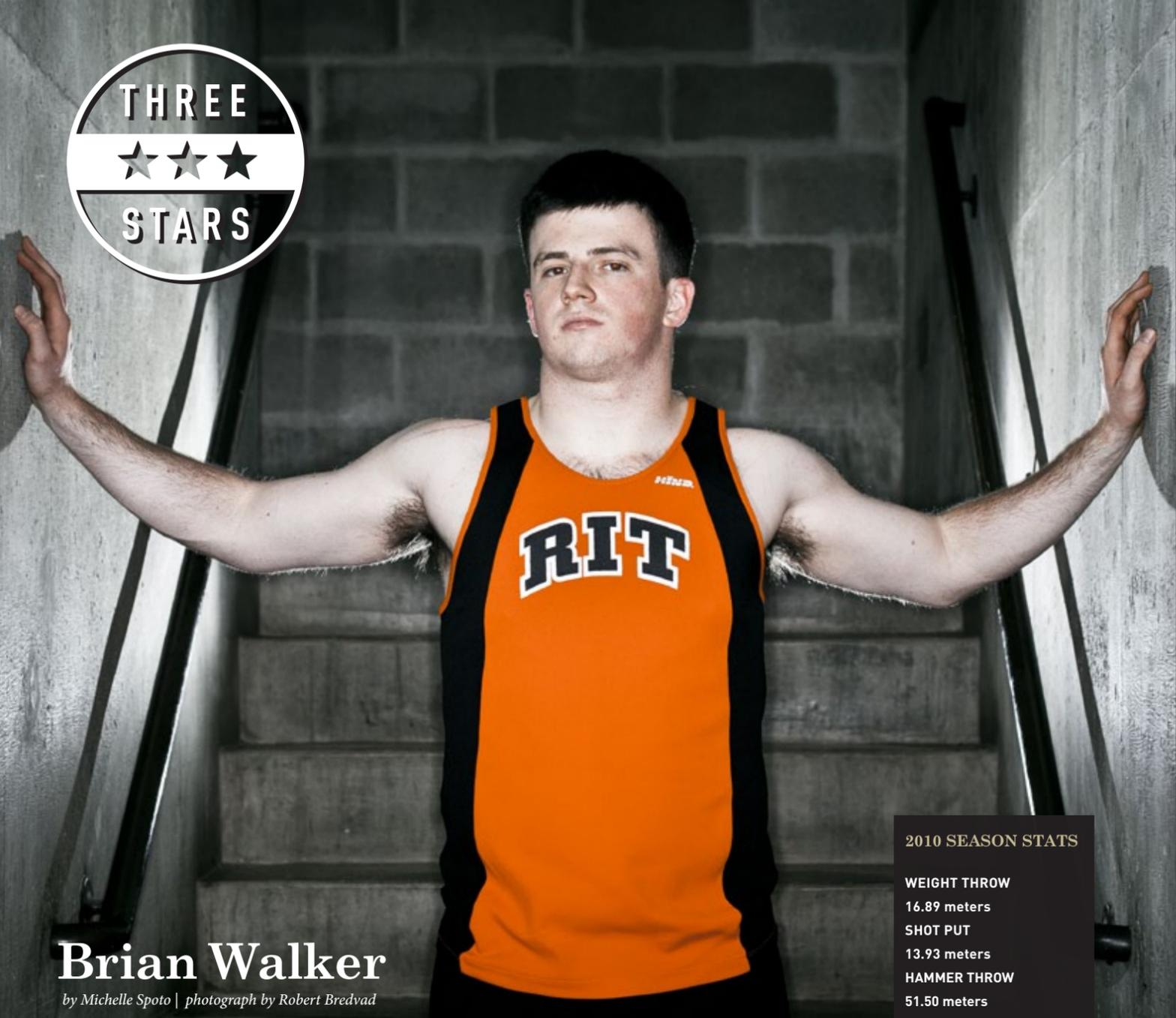
McNally has 13 years of competition under his belt, and when he was looking at colleges, he knew

that a wrestling program was a must. "Not wrestling in college wasn't really an option after winning a state title in high school," McNally said. The combination of a wrestling program and a strong academic background is what drew McNally to RIT, and he's been a force to be reckoned with ever since. His remarkable achievements, however, have not come without struggle.

Last year's season-ending neck injury and its resulting spinal surgery have forced McNally to find new ways to stay motivated. "Everyone says it's hard to come back from an injury; it really is. It's not the same," McNally said. His passion for

wrestling has certainly helped him get past his injury and back into the sport he loves.

As the 2010-2011 season draws to a close with only two tournaments left, McNally is looking forward to another shot at the National Title. But he's also looking beyond that. While his record will no doubt ensure a legacy with RIT wrestling, he also wants to make sure his work ethic rubs off on his younger teammates. He hopes that by making himself better he can help instill in them a winning attitude and a killer instinct, offering these words of inspiration: "You're never done. It's not over until it's over." **R**



Brian Walker

by Michelle Spoto | photograph by Robert Bredvad

2010 SEASON STATS

WEIGHT THROW

16.89 meters

SHOT PUT

13.93 meters

HAMMER THROW

51.50 meters

An intimidating presence, Brian Walker, a fourth year Mechanical Engineering major, puts his incredible strength to use as a thrower for the RIT track and field team. Competing in shot put and weight throw in the winter and hammer, discus and shot put in the spring, Walker loves the individual nature of the sport. He says, "I like how [throwing] is personal — it's all up to you to get the job done." And Walter certainly does just that.

This past winter season, Walker broke his own school record in weight throw at the Empire 8 Championships with a throw of 16.89 meters. Currently, he also holds the school record for shot put achieving a distance of 13.8 m. These achievements did not, however, come without tremendous work,

dedication and passion for throwing, a sport Walker has participated in since high school.

Walker says, "My friend convinced me to do [track] freshman year of high school to stay in shape for football but, by our senior year, we played football to stay in shape for track." During high school Walker only participated in the discus and shot put, getting his first taste of the hammer and weight throws after coming to RIT. Here, he participates in both track seasons, indoor during the winter and outdoors during the spring practicing around two hours each day (in addition to personal strength training). At each practice, throwing coach Sonja Walter (herself a former world-record holder) critiques each

throw, which, according to Walker "has made a world of difference."

While Walker will be continuing his education here at RIT for a fifth year, his athletic eligibility runs out after four years, restricting him from participating in track and field next year. This restriction, however, does not prevent Walker from participating in most track meets unaffiliated from RIT, which he plans on taking advantage of during his fifth year.

From breaking school records to accidentally putting a hole in the wall of the Gordon Field House during a throwing practice, for Walker, these past four years on the RIT track and field team has certainly been an experience he'll never forget. **R**



Katie Stack

by Alex Rogala | photograph by Robert Bredvad

2010 SEASON STATS

GAMES PLAYED

21

GOALS

21

ASSISTS

21

POINTS

30

Katie Stack's fascination with sports started when she began playing hockey at the age of three. By high school, she was playing both soccer and boys' lacrosse, becoming the first female player to make her school's team. At RIT, this fourth year Psychology major is a forward for the Women's Hockey Team. Over the course of her college career, she has accumulated an impressive list of accolades.

Entering college, Stack found herself at a crossroads. Eager to continue playing hockey, she was torn between RIT, Elmira College and Niagara University. Impressed by head coach Scott McDonald, she ultimately chose RIT. "He had the best personality and was the only one that really made me want to come to the school," she says.

Stack quickly rose in the team's ranks. By her freshman season's end, she had garnered both RIT and ECAC West Player of the Week mentions. In her second year, she led Division III Women's Hockey in shorthanded goals. During the 2009-10 season, she earned All-American honors and led the nation with 31 goals, becoming the second all-time scorer for RIT. She was also named Paychex's Female Athlete of the Year. This season, Stack kept up the pace, scoring an impressive 15 goals and 30 points total during the 21 games she played.

Stack feels her most memorable game is the Jan. 23, 2009 match against SUNY Plattsburgh. A fortunate goal scored during overtime launched the Tigers to success in front of a near-record crowd of 1,133.

Yet the game itself is only half of the team experience, especially for a tightly knit community like the RIT's Women's Hockey Team. Stack lives with four of her teammates. "If we're not on the ice together, we're working out together, hanging out in the conference room doing homework."

Outside of the rink, Stack remains physically active. One of her life goals is to become a 46er. "There are 46 high peaks in the Adirondack Mountains, and I want to climb all of them," she explains.

Set to graduate next fall, Stack hopes to pursue a graduate degree in psychology before becoming a high school counselor. She hits the ice once again on Feb. 19 against Elmira, one of the final games of an impressive college career. **R**

FROM OUR READERS

Editor's Note: The opinions expressed are solely those of the author. REPORTER reserves the right to edit submissions based on content, length, grammar, spelling and style. Letters are not guaranteed publication. Submissions may be printed and reprinted in any medium. REPORTER will not run responses to letters.

A PAST EDITOR'S NOTE

I wanted to write to thank you for the mention of me in your Editorial of 2/4/11.

Those times (during the Vietnam War) were some of the worst in our history. I was privileged to be attending RIT with many friends, some who were there on veteran programs as well as others from every background possible. Other schools and universities rioted, had ROTC buildings burned down or shuttered as students came to violent disagreements and physical clashes but that was not the way of RIT or of REPORTER Magazine. Instead we used the American methodologies of political satire and laughing behind tears while keeping our pages open to all other points of view.

"Wonder Woman Meets G.I. Joe" was not the best thing I have ever written. I am tempted even to say it was sophomoric but I was in my Junior year (sorry about that)... My point is that I am proud to have been on REPORTER at that point in time and to have been a part of the RIT Community of beliefs and counter-beliefs, an atmosphere that I am sure must still prevail there.

Two things that stood me in good stead through my career, belief in the needful and cherished integrity of the Press and a trust in community. Many times while on publications with circulations in the millions I would think back to REPORTER Magazine and my classes at RIT and from that base be able to take what ever next step was needed and, I hope, always in a positive direction. As I worked on various magazines I also began some of the very first online communities -- Forums on the old CompuServe Network that also reached millions of people. There we did something that was then brand new. We connected people on computers not just by their so-speedy 1200-baud modems but by their hearts and minds.

All in all, REPORTER at RIT was central to shaping my life's work and it was a thrill to see my name mentioned once again in that fine publication. Thank you! Neil Shapiro

LOOKING FOR A BETTER CHALLENGE

As a student living off-campus in downtown, I was quite offended by the "Real RIT Challenge." The challenge's premise was for faculty to experience off-campus living. Where did the faculty involved go?

To the RIT Inn, which is definitely not off-campus. And a few even "cheated," jumping into cars during the "Challenge."

And the results of the "Challenge"? "Hey, we can offer tutorials to RIT students on how to figure out the apparently incomprehensible bus schedules!" If we couldn't figure out bus schedules, why would we be RIT students? The faculty seemed "shocked" that students had to stand outside in the cold.

I guess that's a response I should expect from people accustomed to driving their Priuses and 80,000 lux-boats to and from campus everyday from exclusive enclaves like Pittsford.

Now, I would like them to have a real challenge: live downtown in Rochester while commuting to RIT, without using automobiles.

I live downtown, 4.0 miles north from RIT. Many of my friends live downtown. It's wonderful there. Culture abounds there. It's cheap to live there. Unfortunately, Rochester is an automobile-centric city, which is horrid in itself. Red lights and traffic abound everywhere, with large swaths of time wasted. When the roads are clear and all the traffic lights green (which just about never happens), I can arrive at RIT in a few minutes from my home. But otherwise, it takes me 25-30 minutes to arrive at RIT, wading through the terrible, jammed morass that is Mt. Hope Rd.

Also, automobile transportation isn't cheap. It's expensive to own, maintain, insure, and gas up a car. When I started driving just over a decade ago, I paid 10 to go 350 miles in my car. Nowadays, we pay 12 to go a measly 60 miles. What the hell. And it's only going to get worse, according to luminaries in the oil industry. With students graduating in a terrible economy with massive amounts of loans and facing

stagnant or declining wages, pushing expensive automobile transportation upon them is absurd.

We are in changing times. The current generation is not gonna be as wealthy as the previous generation, which makes up the bulk of RIT faculty. Today, 80 of American college graduates end up moving back home with their parents after graduation, at which they're also dumped into a terrible economy. The "Real Challenge" showed me out quite out of touch RIT faculty were. They might be used to decades of sitting in their cars idling at red lights, and might be just perfectly fine with paying 3.30/gallon with their 100k income. But students won't be, as gas prices again hit 4-5 in the incoming years and push up the cost of everything else.

What I would like to see is valid public transportation connecting RIT and downtown that allows students to preclude dependency on automobiles: a better, more comprehensive bus system and light rail. There are plenty of students who would rather not pay the high cost of living at the cheaply-built Park Point or Province. Downtown is bustling and full of unique dining and entertainment and quality hundred-years-old houses, while the area around RIT is dreary, filled with crumbling shopping centers, chain restaurants, and decrepit suburban houses (just look at the abandoned house at Jefferson Rd. and John St.). If RIT really wants to show insight and innovation, there should be interest in pushing for positive change in Rochester and how students commute to campus. I can see RIT as a strong leader in transforming Rochester from an oil- and car-based city into a greener, more economically valid place to live and attend college.

Do a new "Real Challenge," please. Thanks.

Brian Milburn
Graduate Student in Secondary Education

BLACK HISTORY FOREVER

by Patrick Ogbeide | illustration by Amber Gartung

As you may know, February is Black History Month. That means for 28 (or 29) days, we celebrate black history and culture in the form of movie marathons, 30-second commercials, and for school-aged children, a brief lesson on a few of the more influential people in black history.

After February, the few times we hear about black history is in reference to slavery, the Civil Rights movement and Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. While some people are content with this, I personally am not. Sure, we're given one month to celebrate our culture and the strides we have made in the United States, but does that mean we should confine black history to one person and two big events?

Major societal contributions by black people, such as the invention of the traffic light and foil-electret transducers for sound recording, have been shadowed by our tumultuous past. Sure, our president is black — but does that small victory excuse American schools from teaching that it was a black man who helped survey the boundaries of our nation's capital? Children usually learn these things for 28 days, then March hits and the newfound knowledge is replaced by our forever looming black cloud: slavery and the Civil Rights Era.

The fact that most schools' black history curriculum



is limited to two topics is an example of the acknowledgement from society that black people are still fighting for today. Black history is an integral part of American culture and for such advancements not to be mentioned is a travesty. After all, Alexander Graham Bell and Thomas Edison are household names, so why not Benjamin Banneker and Charles Drew?

With this, I propose a solution: maintain Black History month, for it is a key part of black history, but also integrate it into everyday teaching. There is nothing wrong with mentioning George Washington Carver outside of black history month. If anything, it will further expand our children's knowledge of a culture's major contributions to this country. Information on slavery and the Civil Rights

Era needs to be balanced with other aspects of black culture.

My goal is not to diminish the value of Black History Month. In fact, it's the opposite. I want to enhance the value of Black History Month through a year-round celebration that peaks in February. No longer will Black History be confined to a month of Spike Lee movie marathons and several showings of "Roots." It will be a marking point of a history that is learned about every day. In other words, it will be Black History Forever. **B**

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

THE "REAL" RIT CHALLENGE: HOW "REAL" IS IT?



WORD / ON THE / STREET

HOW WOULD YOU COVER UP A MURDER?

by Tom Newton

ALLISON RABENT
SECOND YEAR
MUSEUM STUDIES

“Bury the body in the fields.”



LAUREN SPINELLI [L]
THIRD YEAR
ADVERTISING PHOTOGRAPHY

“I’d probably just use an icicle and bury the body in the middle of the desert. Done.”

RICARDO RODRIGUEZ-RIVERA [M]
THIRD YEAR
ADVERTISING PHOTOGRAPHY

“Cover the feet with cement and throw the body into the ocean.”

HOPE BAILEY [R]
THIRD YEAR
ADVERTISING PHOTOGRAPHY

“Roll the body up into a carpet.”



JAZZMYN IVERY-ROBINSON [L]

THIRD YEAR
POLITICAL SCIENCE

“If you plan it out right you shouldn’t have anything to cover up.”

DEIRDRESHA WINT [M]

THIRD YEAR
POLITICAL SCIENCE

“What the hell?”

KIRK REDMUND [R]

THIRD YEAR
POLITICAL SCIENCE

“Blame it on someone else.”



BRENNA ROSENTHAL

SECOND YEAR
VISUAL MEDIA

“Clean the body with bleach and then dump it into the ocean.”



JOEL WITWER

FOURTH YEAR
IMAGING SCIENCE

“Cover the body with an invisibility cloak.”

TIKA SIBURT

THIRD YEAR
BIOMEDICAL PHOTOGRAPHY

“Be very careful and be super nice so that no one would suspect anything.”



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RINGS *****

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.

585.672.4840

FRIDAY, 6:20 P.M.

I sometimes fantasize about Destler riding around campus on a tiger. He would rule the jungle and the bricks!

(from text)

FRIDAY, 8:39 A.M.

Oh my god, the deer use the crosswalks here. What the hell? The deer are smarter than some of the students.

(from voicemail)

THURSDAY, 5:21 P.M.

The RIT Santa always has the happiest smile, it's infectious.

(from text)

TUESDAY, 9:54 P.M.

Can you please tell the [hooligans] who drive the graffitied slam van to stop making up their own parking spaces? My grandmother can park a school bus better than those douchebags.

(from text)

MONDAY, 12:52 P.M.

You know a bus stop is badly designed when it's just as effective to stand near it as it is to stand inside of it. (I'm looking at you, Colony Manor bus stop!)

(from text)

THURSDAY, 11:32 A.M.

My calc professor keeps talking about taking the derivative of function w so he keeps saying DW. All I can think of is Arthur the aardvark's annoying little sister.

(from text)

SATURDAY, 4:12 P.M.

Rings, have you ever had sex to the Food Network? It's weird..

(from text)

FRIDAY, 10:09 A.M.

REPORTER please add a notes section. It would help out greatly when I'm hung over and notebookless in my Friday morning class.

(from text)

WEDNESDAY, 12:27 A.M.

This [fake] storm is delaying my Zonies!

(from text)

SUNDAY, 12:27 A.M.

The snow looks like glitter. Is God having a Ke\$ha dance party?

(from text)



~ Packaging Material

Creative uses for

REPORTER