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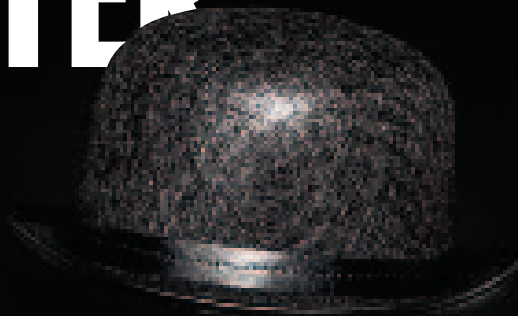
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REPORTER

12.16.11 reportermag.com



An anonymous donor gave RIT \$3 million.

See page 8 to find out why.



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SENSING THE SEASONS

As I sit here writing this, my last editorial of 2011, Christmas is a mere two weeks away. Somehow, it doesn't feel that way. All the pieces are in place, the Hickory Farms kiosk is set up in the mall, the trees have dropped their leaves and there's even been snow on the ground. But for some reason, the season's cheer has not made its way to campus.

This isn't a unique occurrence. Seasons and holidays, with the general emotional tones that accompany them, seem to blow right by RIT without giving the campus so much as a nod. The brick city apparently bypasses autumn completely: the sunshine and warmth of summer skips, rather than fades, directly into the frigid bluster of winter.

I still haven't pinpointed the cause behind this odd phenomenon. Maybe it's because we're so focused on rushing from week to week, counting the days until the end of the quarter that we forget look outside. Maybe it's because I spend the majority of my weekends in the bunker of the **REPORTER** office. Or maybe it's because, as a New Englander, I've been spoiled by the autumnal foliage displays that the region is known for. But somehow, I think it's something more than that; I just don't know what.

James A. Arn

EDITOR IN CHIEF

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cover photograph by Katie Thompson

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LAW REDEFINING FAMILY Passes In Henrietta

by Chris Zubak-Skees

During a meeting held the night of Wednesday December 7, the Henrietta Town Board unanimously voted to reword the town's legal definition of family. The new definition allows Henrietta to enforce its code, and effectively bans students from living together with three or more unrelated housemates in single-family neighborhoods.

The law was passed in response to resident complaints that landlord Michael Spaan packed students into 22 buildings in the Preserve neighborhood, located southwest of RIT. Residents complained of loud parties, dangerous driving and lewd acts.

The town and Student Government (SG) moved quickly to assure students concerned about the immediate effects of the law, which seemed to be few.

Speaking before the vote, Henrietta Supervisor Michael Yudelson said the Board has no intention of forcing students to move in the middle of a school year. He repeated that assurance in an open letter addressed to the RIT student body.

Shortly after the vote, SG Vice President Phil Amsler, who attended the meeting, sent an email to SG senators, asking them to help keep the RIT community calm.

"The rumor mill will be in overdrive once word becomes widespread," he said. "NO ONE living on a lease signed before today will be evicted or forced to leave their residence while on their current lease."

However, the long-term impacts, amid potential legal and political challenges to the law, are not yet clear.

Several hundred students will be in violation of the law when it takes effect, according to an estimate by RIT's Office of State & Local Government Relations.

Dawn Soufleris, assistant vice president of Student Affairs, chairs a task-force set up to address resident complaints. "I don't know [what the impact will be]," Soufleris said. "It's going to be interesting to see how the town is going to enforce this."

Yudelson, the town supervisor, said the Board tried to find a balanced response that considered the needs of residents, students and the school. The next step is to develop procedures to enforce the law to address the most egregious violations.

The intent is to target landlords, not students, said Town Attorney Daniel Mastrella. "This is not something that is aimed to be punitive," he said.

The law had to be reworded to be enforceable, said Mastrella. Sections of the town code hadn't been enforced for years, because the prior definition of family — one or more people related by blood, marriage or legal adoption; plus one or two unrelated boarders — wasn't broad enough for modern courts, which have held that there is no legitimate reason for local governments to exclude other groups that function as a family.

The new law considers any three people living together a family, and then, for four or more residents, applies a set of criteria to determine if they constitute the "functional equivalent of a traditional family." The criteria include the group's structure, stability and whether they share expenses.

The town inspector has discretion in applying those criteria, and there's an appeals process for those who want to contest a determination. But year-to-year students wouldn't qualify.

The law is designed to pass legal challenge, says Mastrella, and similar laws have held up in courts elsewhere in the state, including an identical law in Brockport.

But at a forum last month, Mark Greisberger, an attorney who claimed to represent Spaan, disputed this. "I've read the same cases as Mr. Mastrella," the town's minutes quote him as saying. "They are cases that say what you're proposing is not, per se, unconstitutional. We get to do hand-to-hand combat on every single case, as you try to enforce it."

Besides legal challenges, which Amsler thinks could keep the law tied up for months or years, the SG leadership is contemplating challenging the law politically.

"We are in damage control mode, but the fight is not over," Amsler wrote in his email to Senate. It may be SG's role to "have students register and vote in Henrietta to elect different officials."

Assuming the law holds, SG is working to educate students on the implications, and hopes to stop students from signing illegal leases. **B**

NASA FINDS POTENTIALLY HABITABLE PLANET



During a press conference on Monday, December 5, NASA announced that it had discovered what is believed to be an “Earth-like” planet. The planet, named Kepler 22-B, resides in its star’s habitable, or “Goldilocks” zone. This small area around a star is just the right temperature to allow for the presence of liquid water and the potential to support a climate much like that of Earth.

Scientists are calling it a “Christmas planet” because of the timing of its discovery. The last sighting of this planet was during 2010’s holiday season, making it a great gift for astronomers everywhere.

FRANCE AND GERMANY WORKING TOWARDS TREATY CHANGE

Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany and President Nicolas Sarkozy of France met in the first week of December to discuss ways to remake the European Union into a more debt-conscious federation.

Sarkozy and Merkel want to see amendments to the treaties that created the EU that would include limitations on how much debt countries may issue. These changes would embody some of the largest economic reforms in Europe since the end of World War II.

“We want to make sure that the imbalances that led to the situation in the euro zone today cannot happen again,” Sarkozy said at a news conference on Monday, December 5. He went on to say that the new treaty would communicate to European citizens that changes must be made. “We want structural changes that go beyond agreements,” Merkel said. “We need binding debt brakes.”

The goal is to have changes drafted and agreed upon by members by the end of March, though ratification would take much longer.

IRAN IN POSSESSION OF DOWNED US DRONE

A remote-controlled U.S. spy drone is now in the possession of the Iranian government. Iranian reports state that the RQ-170 unmanned U.S. spy plane was shot down by the Iranian military. Though the U.S. would not say how the drone was downed, a NATO official said that it could be a drone that had gone missing during a mission in Afghanistan the week prior.

Both Russian and Chinese officials have approached the Iranian military to inspect the drone. Recently, the Iranian government released a video allegedly showing the remote controlled RQ-170 surveillance drone on display. U.S. military officials are worried that information on the classified surveillance drone program could be in jeopardy.

Though a military operation to retrieve or destroy the drone was in the works, it was decided that such a mission would only serve to increase tension between the U.S. and Iran.

TWO DEAD AFTER VIRGINIA TECH SHOOTINGS

On Thursday, December 8, Virginia Tech was rocked by the presence of a gunman who killed Officer Deriek Crouse of the Virginia Tech Police Department before allegedly taking his own life. The shooter was later identified as Radford University student Ross Truett Ashley. Though Crouse and Ashley were both killed with the same weapon, there were no eyewitnesses to Ashley's alleged suicide. It remains unclear why Ashley was on the Virginia Tech campus that day.

Virginia Tech made the news four years ago when student Seung-Hui Cho killed 32 people before taking his own life during a shooting rampage on April 16, 2007. After that incident, Virginia Tech administrators were criticized for their poor response to the situation — the first wave of alerts wasn't sent out until nearly two hours after the shots were fired. By contrast, the school was praised for its quick response to last week's shootings.

PUTIN WINS ELECTIONS, PROTESTS ENSUE

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and his ruling party were once again victorious in the Russian parliamentary elections, angering many.

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe said that there were "severe problems with the counting process," including stuffing ballot boxes. Russia's sole independent election monitoring group, the U.S.-funded GOLOS, found 5,300 incidents of voting violations.

On Sunday, December 4, GOLOS' website was hacked, and the head of the organization was detained. The group was fined \$958 for "violations of the electoral law."

Citizen anger has manifested in protests in the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg. The number of protestors in each city is rarely higher than 300 — anything larger would lead to police action. **R**

FRIDAY 16 VIETNAMERICA

Mercer Gallery at MCC, 1000 E. Henrietta Rd. 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Come check out the graphic memoir of Brooklyn cartoonist and illustrator Gia-Bao Tran as he details his family's struggles through the Vietnam War and their migration to the United States.

Cost: Free.

SATURDAY 17 RIT PLAYERS PRESENT: MRS. BOB CRACHIT'S WILD CHRISTMAS BINGE

Ingle Auditorium. 2 – 4 p.m.

Ingle Auditorium. 2 – 4 p.m. Come see the final performance of the RIT Players' satirical twist on "A Christmas Carol" that sees Bob Crachit's wife, Mrs. Bob Crachit, traveling alongside Mr. Scrooge to find the meaning of Christmas.

Cost: Students: \$5, Public: \$7.

SUNDAY 18 ROCHESTER HOLIDAY MARKET

Rochester Public Market, 280 N. Union St. 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

This event has holiday arts and crafts, decorations, gifts and more, as well as the largest selection of Christmas trees in Western New York and horse-drawn carriage rides.

Cost: Free.

THURSDAY 22 DOLFISH, TIM AVERY AND THE BRANCH DAVIDIANS

The Bug Jar, 219 Monroe Avenue. 7:30 p.m. – 2 a.m.

Charming and comical folk singer Dolfish is supported by The Branch Davidians and Tim Avery. Dance music DJs will follow the performance.

Cost: \$6 over 21, \$8 under 21.

FRIDAY 23 EXTREME MAMMALS: THE BIGGEST, SMALLEST AND MOST AMAZING MAMMALS OF ALL TIME

Rochester Museum and Science Center, 657 East Avenue. 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Rochester Museum and Science Center, 657 East Avenue. 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Take a tour of the biggest, smallest and most bizarre mammals to ever walk the Earth. Touchable fossils and reconstructions make for an exciting journey through the evolution of mammals.

Cost: \$14 with college ID

SUNDAY 25 IRISH MUSICIANS' LAST SUNDAY SESSIONS

Johnny's Irish Pub, 1382 Culver Rd. 3 – 8pm.

Enjoy the sounds of traditional Irish music in a pub setting.

Cost: Free.

SATURDAY 31 OFFICIAL PLAYBOY NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

Main Street Armory, 900 E. Main St. 9 p.m. – 2 a.m.

Head to the Armory for a casino night and erotica ball hosted by Miss September, Olivia Paige, with music spun by DJ Turbulence.

*Cost: \$14.85. **R***



INHERITANCE

L CHRISTOPHER PAOLINI

Book | Fantasy | 880 pages

For fans of: "The Ranger's Apprentice," "Pendragon" and "The Heroes of Olympus"

by Stephanie Beach

After eight years of work, Christopher Paolini's "Inheritance" is the fourth and final book in the "Eragon" series. It revolves around Eragon, a country boy turned dragon rider, and his quest to overthrow an opposing dragon rider and dictator, Galbatorix. Like the previous 3 books in the cycle, this one has the usual ingredients that make a good fantasy story: a quest, a journey, some action, romance and a world of unknown possibility.

When comparing "Inheritance" to the first few books in the series, Paolini's improvement is quite apparent. He moved away from making obvious references to such works as J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings" and explored more original possibilities for the world he created. He includes more information about the battle between the riders, which allows the reader to better distinguish why an uprising is necessary. He also expands on Eragon's

romantic relationships and the trials that come with them.

Like its predecessors, "Inheritance" is full of action. Almost every chapter includes an epic battle of some sort. Whether it's Eragon himself or other more minor characters, you are sure to get your fill of fighting and damsels in distress. At points, however, all of this fighting gets tedious and it seems as if there is no plot development going on at all. Paolini suddenly addresses this problem toward the middle of the book, but compensates too much. It seems as if in just a few pages he goes from being obsessed with putting in as many battles with as much detail as possible to dissecting every one of Eragon's relationships. Despite some minor flaws, "Inheritance" was an enjoyable read. Paolini was able to end the book in a way that felt real and stayed true to his character. It justly proves that his eight years of work was well worth it. **B**

Rating: Dig It!



BLUE SLIDE PARK

L MAC MILLER

Music | Hip Hop | 46 minutes

Try instead: Kid CuDi, Drake and Snoop Dogg

by Nick Bovee

"Blue Slide Park" is Mac Miller's debut album, but his primary claim to fame is his mixtape, "Best Day Ever." It was produced by well known producers, but the true success of it came from Mac's heavy use of social networking to promote himself.

This album has one persistent and unrelenting flaw: Mac Miller doesn't have anything to rap about. He writes lyrics about what he knows,

— smoking, drinking and partying. Now, that doesn't need to be a bad thing, artists before him have done similar and still created solid albums, but there's no secondary element to his lyrics. The album is merely a testament to how cool Mac's persona is. There's at most a single song that even mentions anything besides his partying, and the album feels hollow without that additional element.

On top of this, he very clearly has not found his sound yet. The album is full of raucous beats and samples, and while it has sometimes worked for Mac in the past, no good sound or hit song seems to coalesce out of the cacophony. This problem lies in his vocal style. He doesn't have a loud voice, and his choice of backing tracks often overpowers what he's saying. Were he to tone down the backgrounds, his songs would be considerably more understandable, and maybe even pleasant to listen to.

Luckily, the last few songs on the album seem to take this advice. The tracks and samples become second to Mac's voice, and are actually enjoyable to listen to. Some of the later songs, "Missed Calls" for one, actually drop the player facade and seem to actually come from the artist himself, rather than some persona set up to sell albums. **B**

Rating: Skip It!



AT YOUR LEISURE

by Evan Williams

QUOTE

"You don't need to worry what foreigners think about you; that's your birthright as an American." - Shirley, "Community"

FIRST WORLD PROBLEMS

Pressed wrong button on vending machine. Now I have to drink a Mountain Dew *and* a Diet Mountain Dew.

Got citation for public intoxication and lewd behavior while urinating on the Sentinel at 5 a.m. Fascists.

STREAM OF FACTS

The Nazis were responsible for the explosion of the raccoon population in Germany. In 1934 future top Hitler aide Hermann Goring approved the release of the non-indigenous critters into the wild for breeding and hunting. Since then, their **RESILIENT** population has exploded into the millions.

A **RESILIENT** Japanese man named Mitsutaka Uchikoshi survived 24 days in the cold without food or water by falling into a state of hibernation. After getting lost on a rock climbing trip, the 35-year-old was found with almost no pulse, organs that had shut down and a body temperature of 71 degrees. His case is being regarded as "**REVOLUTIONARY.**"

REVOLUTIONARY leader and former Cuban dictator Fidel Castro has outlived at least ten U.S. presidents. There were a number of assassination plots aimed at Castro, including a proposed exploding cigar, poisoned fountain pens and a lethal wet suit, yet he **SURVIVED.**

A Japanese soldier from World War II **SURVIVED** 29 years in the jungle during and after the war. He adhered to the Japanese Army's policy of never surrendering and was informed that the war was over upon his capture in 1972.

REPORTER BLACKLIST

Show World

The Blacklist is a section reserved for institutions at and around RIT that have worn out their welcome. This week, we look at Show World.

Located on Brighton Henrietta Town Line Road, this shady, adult entertainment warehouse seems like a fun place to goof around when there's nothing else to do late at night. It's not.

Every "marital aid" in there feels like it would be better marketed toward your parents than your peers. The dead-eyed staff eyes you down while slurping Chinese food. And honestly, how many flavors of personal lubricant are there? It's not candy for Christ's sake.

Depending on how well you know the friends you went with, uncomfortable elements of their sexuality can come to light once eyes start lingering on certain DVD titles. And forget about having some goofy, free-spirited date. Once you and your significant other end up in the dildo section, things will undoubtedly get uncomfortable.

So for being an awkward merger of capitalism, human sexuality and plastic-wrapped sadness, Show World, you've been blacklisted.

HAIKU

Full three weeks of break
Get back home safe everyone
Happy holidays

WORD OF THE WEEK

Lethologica n. - The inability to remember or recall the correct word.

Bubba's lethologica was becoming a major problem; he could never remember the right word to describe not knowing the right word to use. **R**



illustration by Zac Retz




\$3 MILLION AND CHANGE

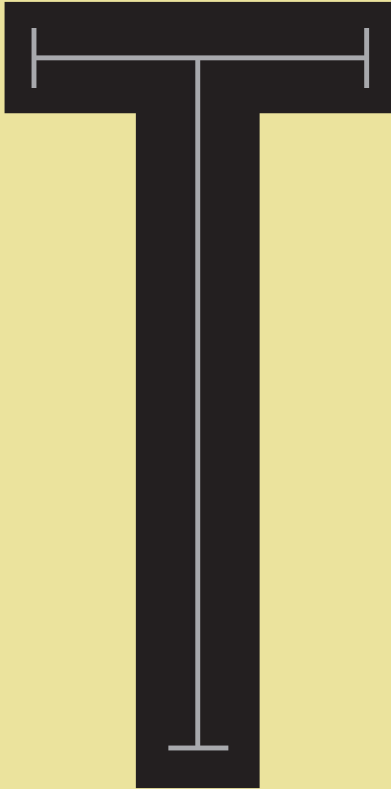
RIT's Critical Thinking
Chair and the Donation
that Makes it Possible.

by Ali Coladonato | illustrations by Justyn Iannucci

A \$3 million donation is no laughing matter. That kind of money may first smell like just another brick-laden building waiting to happen or more funding for an invisible office. However, the \$3 million anonymously donated earlier this year promises to impact the students of RIT in a meaningful and lasting way: by teaching students how to think critically and analytically.







he second largest single donation RIT has ever received from an alumnus, it will aid in the creation of the Eugene Fram Endowed Chair in Critical Thinking, named in honor of former professor Dr. Eugene Fram. The position will be held by a faculty member who will work to carry on the legacy of caring and critical thinking that Fram embodied for the anonymous donor.

The Professor

Fram came to RIT after working as a research director in New York City. He joined the school in 1957, when the campus was situated downtown. The J. Warren McClure Research Professor of Marketing from 1989-2008, Fram worked at RIT for 51 years before retiring. During RIT's 2008 commencement ceremonies, he was honored with the distinction of professor emeritus and awarded the Presidential Medallion. Fram's work has also garnered him attention from such big names as the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, the Associated Press, the Boston Globe, the Washington Post, Money Morning and CNN.com.

Fram's tenure at RIT was well remembered by his colleague and friend Dr. Ashok Rao, dean of the Saunders College of Business. Says Rao,

"He had that ability to relate to people of all ages. He still has a lot of warmth towards RIT." Fram also has fond memories of RIT, explaining that, "My work is ... also my avocation. Some people play golf, tennis, poker — I work. It was always a joy to get up to go to work. So many interesting and different things."

Since retiring, Fram has kept up with his passion, being, as Rao puts it, "very committed to his niche of marketing." He has written five books on marketing, releasing a third edition of nonprofit management book "Policy vs. Paperclips" earlier this year. Additionally, he regularly updates his blog on nonprofit management and is doing some consulting work, all while taking classes at Stanford University on everything from religion to law to mobile technologies. Says Fram, "You've got to keep your gray matter busy. Otherwise it just withers away, and I certainly don't want to do that."

The Donation

The donation, made by a former student of Fram's, was given for the purpose of developing a chair position that will be housed in the Saunders College of Business. The Eugene Fram Endowed Chair in Critical Thinking will serve not only the College of Business, but all of RIT's colleges in an effort to better understand methods of analytical thinking and how to teach them in a classroom setting. Fram recalls his experience in learning that his name would go to such an honored position. "[Senior Director of Development] Mark Boylan called me up and asked, 'Do you remember so-and-so?'" Fram recalled one of the student's nicknames from his time at RIT. "I then got a call from the Provost on March 4th. He asked, 'Are you willing to lend your name to this critical thinking chair?'" says Fram. "It's like saying, 'Do you want the Pulitzer Prize?'"

After being notified of the donation, Fram was able to sit down with his former student and discuss the impact of his teaching. "The donor was a student in only one of my classes; an MBA student," says Fram. "My area was marketing, but he had other interests in more financial areas. He just wasn't really motivated by marketing."

This particular course was one that Fram described as "an MBA course with a critical thinking overlay." Papers that Fram assigned during the course placed a particular emphasis on critical thinking. Students were required to take a statement or issue presented by Fram and respond to it in two to four pages, providing documentation detailing how they came to their reaction. Fram particularly enjoyed this exercise because of what it demanded from his students: thought. "[These

papers] required students to go to the library where they wouldn't find any single answers," recalls Fram. "They'd have to actually think about these issues."

Fram was still able to recall the papers the donor turned in, noting that he got As on the first two despite only "a peripheral interest in marketing." The third paper however, is perhaps where the story begins. "The third [paper] he got busy and he knew he didn't do a good job and he turned it in late," says Fram. Knowing the student was capable of better work, Fram told him so and insisted he redo the paper. It was something that resonated with the student, leading him to honor Fram many years later. "He told me that any time he had a problem in his business life he said, 'I can hear you talking to me, asking if I'm doing the best I can on this particular project,'" says Fram. "Thirty-five years it's been. He says that's really motivated him."

The Chair

What truly motivated the donor was Fram's insistence on teaching critical thinking. According to Fram, "[The donor] claims he uses critical thinking in both his personal and business life and found it was very successful. He said in the business world there were people brighter and sharper than him, but this process [of critical thinking] placed him far above them."

Critical thinking is a phrase that gets thrown around a lot, becoming little more than a maxim without meaning, a buzzword plugged into mission statements alongside "synergize" and "innovation." But critical thinking is a necessary tool, not only in the business world, but in day-to-day interactions as well.

To explain critical thinking, Fram invokes a principle often used in understanding learning and development called Bloom's Taxonomy. Often represented as an inverted pyramid, the model ranks different behaviors and skills that we as individuals learn as we develop. Individuals start at the level of remembering, akin to what Fram believes many students prefer to do — memorize. Next is understanding, followed by applying, analyzing, evaluating and finally creating. Critical thinking, as Fram sees it, encompasses these "higher level" skills, taking material beyond a superficial understanding and knowing how to use it.

The person holding the endowed critical thinking chair will aid in this process, looking at ways to teach RIT students across all nine colleges. Dr. Jeremy Haefner, provost and senior vice president of Academic Affairs has been

in contact with the donor to help solidify what the chair position will focus on. An endowed professorship, the chair will be part of a research program on critical thinking. Says Haefner, “We want to see a cutting edge, deliberate way to teach [critical thinking]. And having someone dedicated to this topic will help faculty see how to teach these things.” The chair is a unique position, one of only three in the country, and for Haefner something that’s “even more unique at a technical institute.”

Haefner’s own vision of what’s to come is also unique. “I envision a typical course on a topic of interest on one of the world’s big problems, global warming for example.” He states the course will be upfront. “We’re not going to solve this problem. The course will instead be about how you take a big complex problem and put it all together. It should be a broad topic, one that interests students from all over.”

Whoever is in the position will have responsibilities such as working on developing new theories regarding critical thinking, as well as researching the best practices for implementing and teaching such skills in the classroom. According to Fram, “The donor hopes — and he’s very passionate about this — that RIT students will have a leg up on other students. That RIT students will be recognized for this ability whether in their areas of study or religiously or politically, this technique will help in every phase of life.” Rao corroborates this notion, stating that, “Throughout life you’re constantly trying to analyze and synthesize and convince people.”

Yet despite the obvious importance of being able to apply the concepts and skills that we as students are now learning, there’s a dearth of critical thinking within the classroom. Solutions to homework problems are often just a click away online, and with friends who have taken a class

his own experience with the importance of asking questions. When working for a corporation, he and his team were preparing to take the company public. While they needed vital accounting information from Wall Street, this particular information was historically unavailable for two to four weeks. The donor, curious about this practice, asked why.

“I got no answers that were based on fact. I was able ... to have this information on the day of the close by poking at all the arguments about why they couldn’t do it. They had just fallen into a trap and not considered why,” the donor states. “By showing what they believed wasn’t factually based, we were able to pull off what, outside of the company, looked like a miracle. Inside though, we just saw it as clear thinking.”

The donor credits his appreciation of these skills to Fram’s teaching, citing the same story of his former professor’s infamous papers. In response to his desire to remain anonymous, his reason is simple: “I don’t want my phone ringing off the hook.” Looking instead to honor Fram while also to bringing attention to the need for better reasoning, the donor says, “[Fram] was critical, generous, demanding; he wanted from his students more work. Obviously the memory stayed with me.”

The donor, now retired, was a student at RIT some 40 years ago. Seeing this lack of critical thinking as “an active problem,” he’s seeking to promote what he views as one of three necessary human characteristics, the other two being courage and integrity. “As far as courage goes, I’m not like the Wizard of Oz, so there’s not much I can do. Integrity — family is the origin of that,” the donor says. “But critical thinking, there is something that I can do.” Still he remains modest, saying, “I’ve simply identified an aspect of learning. I don’t know how to teach these things. But kids need these things.”



before or a professor-sanctioned cheat sheet in hand, students can take and pass classes without needing to know anything more than a few mnemonic devices.

Even beyond the classroom, we encounter both groups and individuals who have rejected this idea of higher thinking, opting instead to listen to buzzwords and bullet points without continuing on to a worthwhile understanding. “You open a newspaper and it’s so apparent how polarized this country has become,” says Haefner. “I think we’ve lost an ability to have a meaningful dialogue. We glom on to spin and quick facts because they catch our attention. Then we don’t bother asking the questions.”

Interviewed under the condition of anonymity, the donor explained

While in school, bogged down with homework and supplied with endless resources, there are many reasons why critical thinking may seem like a waste of time to some. Yet it’s a skill that needs to be learned, especially for those looking to enter into a competitive workforce. “What skills do organizations want?” asks Fram. “Two that stand out are communication and critical thinking.” The donor warns of the future as well, reminding, “In your career, you can’t copy.”

While the critical thinking chair may not come to fruition for a while, there is still reason and cause to analyze the way students

approach learning. In parting, the donor reminds students in particular of their responsibility to think critically: “It’s your generation with its hand on the throttle. And goodness knows there’s a lot to be fixed. ... You’re the people who will be making the world now. You have to have these characteristics. You have to drive the conditions of life.” ■

Justin Heisig, fifth year electrical engineering major jumps to make a basket while Sofmore Bob Schuster gets eady for a rebound during December tenths game against York, RIT won in overtime 77-72.



MEN'S BASKETBALL EDGES YORK

by Jeff McKinzie | photograph by Max Hautaniemi

Down by nine points with 4:45 left in the game, RIT was looking at another hard-fought loss. The game had been close up until the last 10 minutes, but the chances of getting the win were starting to slip away. Costly mistakes were being made, and a loss seemed like an inevitability to those in the bleachers. But the Tigers didn't lose hope, battling to the end in what was a thrilling comeback victory for RIT's men's basketball team against York College on Friday, December 9. The victory was the first for RIT in the four-team Harold J. Brodie Tournament held in Clark Gym.

Sparked by a pair of free-throws made at the 3:52 mark by second year Business major Bob Schuster, RIT's late offensive run included a clutch performance by fourth year Electrical Engineering major Justin Heisig, who connected on some big shots to score six of the team's final nine points and led them into overtime tied at 64.

Heisig, who led the team in scoring with 29 points, said that finishing on top was a priority for RIT. "We knew we needed a win tonight, so we just came out and played our game," he explained.

According to Heisig, the Tigers played a very effective zone defense for most of the game. He also said that the 29 points were two points shy of his career high, which was recorded last year.

Also vital to RIT's offensive effort was third year Hospitality and Service Management major Eric Travis, who used his 6'5", 220 pound frame to score some big buckets in the paint, which included a nice slam dunk at the 3:26 mark in overtime. Travis finished the game with 11 points, a career best, eight of which came in overtime.


Travis later said that he had been trying to play at a high confidence level, and that the scoring spurt came once he gained some confidence. According to head coach Bob McVean, Travis is new to RIT basketball and has been struggling with illness, but said that he is starting to get back in shape.

Other players who contributed to RIT's victory were first year Accounting major Desmond Scott, who scored 10 points, and third year Electrical Engineering major R.J. Kalb, who finished with seven points and seven rebounds.

McVean stated that he was pleased with his

team's performance, but it's still early in the season and there is a lot left to do. "I think we've made a lot of progress. We're still finding what we can do on the floor. Tonight we had a good rally; it gave us a lot of confidence." McVean also pointed out that York played competitively the whole game, calling them "very strong and well-coached," as they commanded a strong defensive effort against RIT.

In regard to what RIT could do better for the next game, McVean had one goal in mind: fewer turnovers. "Tonight we handled the ball well, but we've been turning the ball over too much in the last few games." In the two games combined before playing York, RIT had committed 36 turnovers.

With the win, RIT advanced to the championship match. In this rally however, they would fall just short, losing the final match to Gwynedd Mercy 69-66. 

The next time to catch the Tigers in action at home will be at the start of the new year, with cross-town rival University of Rochester coming to Clark Gym on January 3.

WORD

on the

STREET

You're not an RIT student until



"You sit with the corner crew at a hockey game."

Chloe van Eerden, first year
Packaging Science

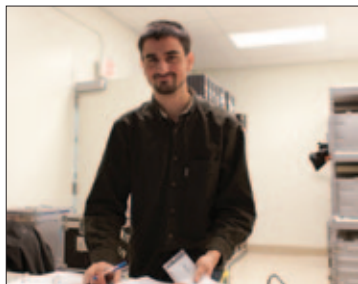


"You've seen the scooter gang on the quarter mile."

Tyler Schrodt, third year
International Business (left)

"You clap when someone breaks something at Gracie's."

Giovanna Patrizio, first year
Mechanical Engineering
Technology (right)



"Until you've drunkenly waded through the fountain in the Campus Center."

Jacob Emery, fourth year
Film and Animation

"You've played HvZ."

Jason Blake, second year
International Business



"People know you are the Big Man on Campus."

Luis Pages, third year Auto-
Technology **R**

Applied Apathy in Graduation

by Phil Huge

I am about to graduate. It seems like a big deal to me, but then I think about the thousands of other students who will also be graduating. Then I think about the thousands of students who graduate each year, or even each quarter. To us — the individual students who have toiled for four or five (or six or seven) years to reach the end — it's a big accomplishment. It's something worthy of celebration!

I get the impression RIT doesn't really care.

Let me back up. I like RIT. Frankly, I like RIT a lot more than I thought I would. I grew up in the Rochester area, and in whatever grapevine a Rochester tween suburbanite has access to, RIT had a bad reputation. The reasons were varied: the weather sucks (but what else is new), the people are weird and nerdy (which is true; we're a strange bunch), and there's nothing to do. Being from Rochester, those things didn't really faze me. So when I say RIT doesn't care about my graduation, I don't say it because I harbor resentment toward RIT.

Back when I was looking for colleges, I would go to "The Princeton Review" to look at numbers. How many students? How much tuition? Class size, number of clubs, number of programs... it was hard to understand exactly what was important way back then. Something stuck out about RIT, though — the acceptance and graduation rates.

Our acceptance range is high at around 60 percent, and when compared to some of Newsweek's other "new ivies," it's massive.

However you classify RIT, the real problem lies in the graduation rates, which were an abysmal 28 percent as of this year's report by USNews.

You might be tempted to look at that number and shout, "Ha! RIT doesn't care at all!" But that's not necessarily fair. First consider that the USNews statistic is for graduation after four years, and with co-ops, RIT has many five-year programs. But beyond that, there are several explanations behind RIT's low graduation rate.

Personally, I don't agree with all of them, and none of them are really unique to RIT. Every school has positive points that matter differently to different people. So, sure, there are lots of possible reasons that the graduation rate is low. And here's one more.

RIT lets it happen.

In early October, while I was hard at work in New York City for my fifth co-op, I received an email from student financial services that strongly stated that I must attend "exit counseling" for my student loans, which is standard procedure "anytime you drop below at least half time status or graduate."

What?

As it turns out, I forgot to go through the full co-op registration process and wasn't registered for any classes. Mistakes happen, and it was quickly resolved thanks to the help of my academic advisor. But the more I thought about it, the more upset I got. If RIT thought I was dropping out, why didn't it reach out to me? Why was this the very first notice I received? Shouldn't they care if one of their students just up and leaves? Even a simple "Are you

sure?" would be nice.

On November 23, I received another email, this time from the office of Strategic Planning and Special Initiatives. It read:

"I am sorry to see that you did not return to RIT this fall. We hate to lose good students like you, and if there's anything we can do to help at this point, I hope you'll let us know."

Had I actually dropped out, I would have responded by stating that they could help by *not letting a full quarter pass before contacting me about leaving*. I would have preferred some support, instead of a "don't let the door hit you on the way out" attitude. Again, RIT thought I was leaving and failed to reach out until it was too late.

I'm not actually dropping out, so I can only hope that there are more warnings and support for students who really are in trouble. But I can't help thinking that maybe RIT is too large, maybe it has too much red tape, and maybe some students just fall through the cracks without a second glance. College is the time to learn responsibility, but shouldn't RIT at least check with students who make such a life-changing decision?

Personally, I'm looking forward to whatever logistical hell I'm sure to face when I attempt to graduate if half the school thinks I've dropped out. **R**

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

RINGS 5856724840

compiled by Victor Group

Tuesday 1:52 p.m. (from text)

Fool me once,
shame on me... fool
me twice, [to the
depths with] you!

Tuesday 3:51 p.m. (from text)

Just saw a guy walking around
with a Guy Fawkes mask.

Wasn't that last month?

Wednesday 7:37 p.m. (from text)

I love the NRH computer lab
because you can **FART** and no
one can tell it was you.



Wednesday 10:29 p.m. (from text)

Hey Rings, I heard that you
were whoring yourself out.
You're way too classy for that.

Thursday 1:53 p.m. (from text)

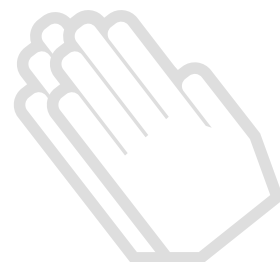
It can **sleet** and **snow**
and be 46 degrees
and those **flip-flop**
kids will forever wear
their flip-flops.

Thursday 6:18 p.m. (from text)


Every time I go to the water
fountain there's always
someone giving it mouth to
mouth and I have to walk away
grossed out and still thirsty.

Thursday 6:46 p.m. (from text)

My biggest fear
is dropping a dish
at Gracie's and
getting **clapped at.**



Tuesday 1:25 a.m. (from text)

1st week in Riverknoll. Can't
lock the back door from the
outside and the
shower won't turn off. 



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