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REPORTER

APRIL 6, 2007 | WWW.REPORTERMAG.COM



A Constellation of Stars

RPO principals



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Melissa Matson (viola)

World renowned pianist

Jon Nakamatsu



•8pm Ingle Auditorium
•Friday, April 13, 2007

www.davidigital.com/concert

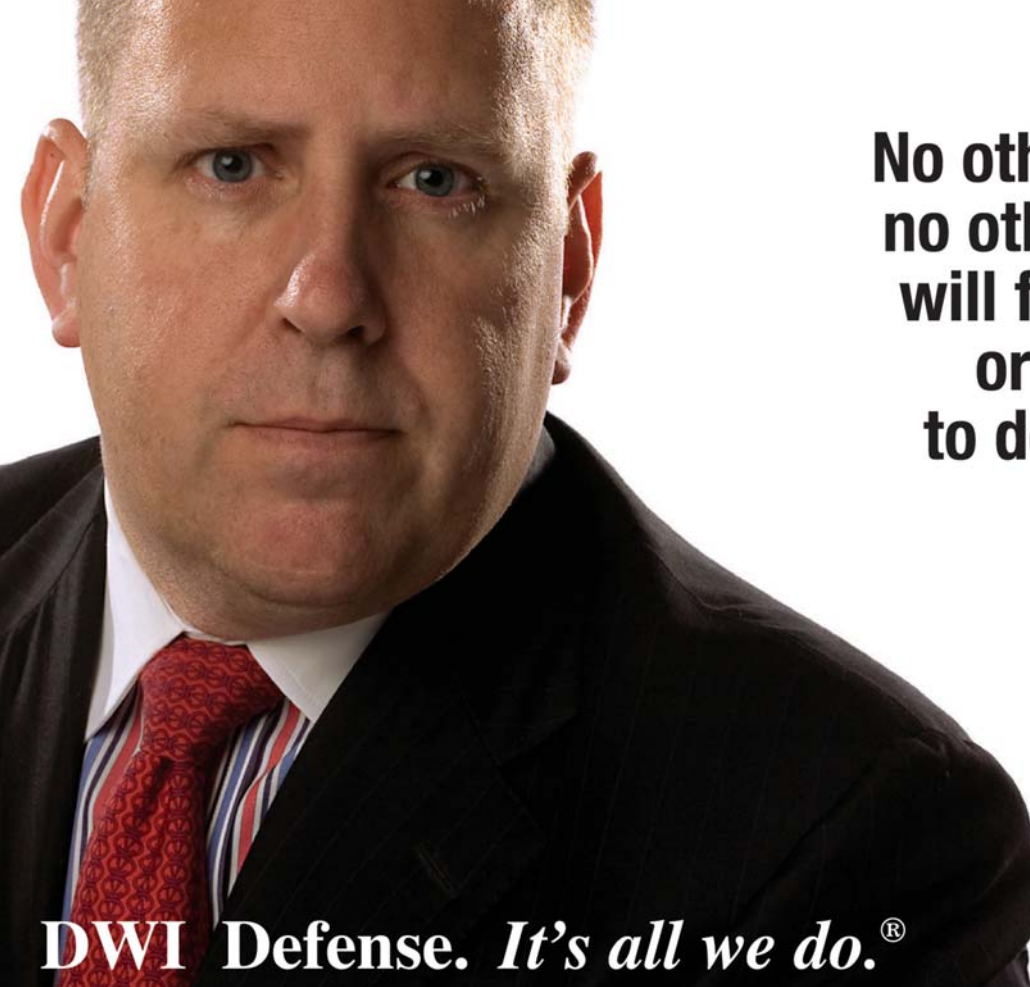
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Editorial

Reporter: Your Weekly Magazine

It's difficult to weigh the worth of a free publication. After all, there's no price tag, no dollar amount to reference. You, the reader, pay nothing for this rag each week. Common sense tells me that *Reporter's* worth can't be expressed in dollars, but in readers' reactions. So, perhaps it's not *worth* that I'm looking to weigh, but *success*.

But here's my problem: It's difficult to weigh the worth of a free publication, but it's even harder to gauge its success.

If you didn't like the last issue of *Time*, you'd stop buying it. Maybe you'd pick up *Newsweek* instead, or go nuts and give *Rolling Stone* a whirl. But what would happen if you detested the last issue of *Reporter*? You'd simply stop picking it up off the stands. How would we, the staff of this magazine, ever know? It's not as though you have a subscription to cancel.

Sometimes, I get a little jealous of organizations like the College Activities Board (CAB). The model for feedback seems so straightforward, and works a little like this: CAB brings a performer to campus. You pay money to see him. If the act's good, you clap; if it's bad, you boo; if it's ugly, you paint signs and protest, much to the delight of the local news stations. What's more, all of this happens in real time. The fine folks from CAB can actually see your reaction to the performance; can see the acceptance or rejection of their hard work as *it's coming to fruition*. It wouldn't surprise me if they had a guy stationed at the show, taking notes on the situation as he surveys the crowd: "Insult comedian ill-received. Next year, go with slapstick."

Of course, I'm oversimplifying the problem. RIT has a very diverse student body; I'm willing to bet that every entertainer hosted here on campus has received mixed reviews (and, from the looks of things, Robert Yee agrees with me—see page 10).

Still, I find myself quite envious. CAB, like many of the other student organizations on campus, focuses on providing services to students at pre-defined times. CAB's Major Concert will occur when the ticket stub says it will. They set the time, they set the terms. You show up when they tell you, and consequentially, they can see the look on your face when the band's lead guitarist strikes his first chord. *Reporter* should be so lucky. Were it possible, I'd like a member of our staff to be looking over your shoulder right now, ready and willing to take notes on the situation: "Views piece ill-received. Next time, go with full-page cartoon."

Then again, maybe that's the fundamental difference. When you buy your ticket to one of CAB's shows, you're just buying a piece of the action. The show doesn't belong to you: it belongs to the performer. You only sit and watch. Your feedback to CAB may influence future bookings, but it won't affect the next performance.

It's different with *Reporter*. You don't pay for this publication because you already own it. See something in these pages you don't like? Write a Letter to the Editor. Peeved that *Reporter* failed to cover an event on campus? Call Rings. Know of an issue that *Reporter* should cover in the future? March yourself right down into this office and tell me about it in person. I'll even introduce myself now, to get the conversation started. My name's Jen Loomis; I'm the new Editor in Chief of this publication, and I'm intensely interested in your opinions.

Like it or not, this magazine is YOUR weekly magazine, not mine. The unassuming and slightly ruffled paper sign on the door to this newsroom says as much. My signature at the bottom of this page is merely a humble pledge to steer the ship. You're the one who gets to draw the map.



Jen Loomis

Editor in Chief



During the annual Love Day event put on by The Center for Campus Life and CAB, about one hundred fifth and sixth graders from Rochester City Schools participated in group activities, but first enjoyed a presentation put on by the Seneca Park Zoo in the Fireside Lounge, March 28, 2007. Photography by CoCo Walters. Cover by Tom Schirmacher & Stephen Miller

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor and Readers,

On behalf of the entire Greek community, I hope you all enjoyed the recruitment events hosted by our chapters in the first week of spring quarter. We hope that you had the chance to experience some of the food, fun and spirit that Greeks have, as well as the opportunities that the RIT Greek system has to offer.

In week one's edition of *Reporter*, there were two articles published that were meant to help students better understand what the process is for 'going Greek'. Unfortunately, there were some minor errors in the article, "Greeks at RIT: Ready to Rush" that I would like to clarify at this time.

To begin with, the article scrutinizes the seriousness of Greeks Advocating the Mature Management of Alcohol (GAMMA). While it is true that the organization's president has recently been removed, the fact of the matter is that GAMMA is a very serious organization. It is responsible for bringing year-round alcohol education to the RIT populous through the Bader Speaker Series and other programming events. One of GAMMA's most recent events was 'Safe Spring Break,' where students were encouraged to learn about how to have a safer spring break. In the week leading up to finals, Greeks were in the SAU to advocate the mature management of alcohol through this program. At the end of the week, hundreds of pledges were signed and students walked away educated about alcohol and drug abuse. As you can see, GAMMA is indeed a very serious organization.

In another instance, the article pointed out that "16 of RIT's Greek chapters failed to organize a single leadership event, while 12 neglected to hold a single 'campus involvement' event." While these numbers are verifiable through the Center for Campus Life, they do not reflect the fact that

many organizations sometimes choose not document such events. In another instance, the article stated that "Four Greek houses spent nine hours or fewer engaged in philanthropy work during fall quarter." While this number is also correct, the article fails to mention that 13 of the 29 Greek organizations have fewer than seven members in them and average three members. All these factors help to account for the seeming low numbers reflected in the article.

Lastly, the article went on to call out three of our organizations for their low GPAs. Unfortunately, the article also failed to mention how these chapters have been working to improve their grades. For example, since fall quarter, Triangle fraternity has taken steps to help improve their GPA and help their members succeed academically. They have increased their scholarship budget by 50%, implemented an internal early alert system, mandated study hours for both new and current members and now work more closely with their advisor on academic advising. These steps have been taken with the intent to improve grades, but also to show the leadership Greeks take in continually bettering themselves.

In close, I hope that these clarifications help you to better understand the Greek system. We have a lot of events scheduled for the upcoming months, so be sure to come check out the fun and friendship that Greek life has to offer!

Sincerely,
Ed Wolf
efw6415@rit.edu
Vice President of Public Relations
Greek Council

Dear Editor,

Today when walking down the quarter mile, I saw a [Public Safety] Officer riding a \$5,000 Segway. They are buying these expensive, useless

devices, and this after a 5.9% tuition increase. It's good to see the money going nowhere.

Sean Cassidy

Dear Reporter,

In regards to the article about the Iraq War in your March 23rd edition, do you think it would be possible to spell someone's name correctly the entire article? Also, it would be nice if the first paragraph was not about people who "have already acted to put a stop to the war" when they said or did no such thing. I have no problem with the gentleman who interviewed me, just the way this was written. I'd rather not have my friends' deaths be used for an agenda.

Sincerely,
Adam Kreuz
Mechanical Engineering Technology 2008

Dear Adam,

It was certainly not *Reporter's* intention to suggest that your friend was protesting the war. Rather, the writer was attempting to say that your friend was helping to end the war by fighting it. In retrospect, it's easy to see how the meaning was lost.

The staff at *Reporter* is deeply sorry for any offense this lack of clarity has caused you.

To Send Letters Email: reporter@rit.edu. *Reporter* will not print anonymous letters.

Note Opinions expressed in *Letters to the Editor* are solely those of the author. *Reporter* reserves the right to edit submissions on the basis of 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 that have responded to a letter.



Congratulations



National Honor Fraternity

on winning the Best in Region - North East award

The Delta Alpha Chapter of Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity at the Rochester Institute of Technology recently won the 'Best in Region – North-East' award at their National Convention held in Washington D.C. This award recognizes their outstanding efforts in scholarship, leadership and fellowship at a chapter, regional and national level.

The Delta Alpha Chapter is a diverse co-ed organization with 52 active members and over 100 alumni, representing every college at R.I.T. and the National Technical Institute for the Deaf. Their leadership on campus is seen through their numerous community service projects, most notably Karen's Walk / 5K Run that benefits cardiomyopathy research at the University of Rochester Cardiovascular Research Institute.

For more information visit:

{ www.myphisigmapi.com (Chapter Website) }
{ www.phisigmapi.org (National Website) }

BIAS, ANTI-SEMITISM, & HARASSMENT AT RIT

by David Spiecker

photography by Andrew Ong



For most students at RIT, the mass e-mail sent out on February 7 from Dr. Mary-Beth Cooper was the first time anyone heard about an anti-Semitic incident on campus, though several other, isolated incidents have been happening for some time. They hadn't gained much attention, however, until a bigger incident occurred within the dorms.

Justin, RIT freshman and victim, speaking through Assistant Director for the New York region of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) Yael Mazar, has agreed to share his story.

The harassment began around October, with some jokes exchanged between peers living on the floor, and lasted for five months. It wasn't until a swastika appeared on Justin's door that he contacted his RA, who held a floor meeting to discuss the issue. Things quieted down for a while; then the jokes resumed and the harassment took the form of anti-Semitism and general bullying. During the course of this bullying, a website aimed at making fun of Justin was created. The harassment reached a point where it was severe enough for Justin to feel unsafe and forced him to go back home.

At this point, the dominos began to fall.

Justin's parents, obviously upset about the situation, contacted Public Safety, the ADL, and Residence Life. Dawn Soufleris, Assistant to the Vice-President of Student Affairs, mentions that when the harassment first happened, Public Safety wasn't informed, and that was a mistake. When Justin's parents called Public Safety, a report was made. A meeting was called and many people attended: the ADL, Public Safety, Residence Life, counselors, lawyers, the Center for Religious Life, University News, Student Affairs, and various administrators, among many others. They discussed what should happen next, and it was decided that changes were needed.

Dr. Cooper sent out the email regarding RIT's policy against bias-related harassment and an initiative was taken to educate students about anti-Semitism. Four people were charged, and it was through the investigation that a fifth person was uncovered. Soufleris couldn't comment on the consequences given to these students because of privacy laws, but said that the students were given severe punishments. The accused students are currently going through the appeals process. Soufleris added, "I feel bad for the victim; he's at home. We're helping him finish his winter quarter. He's not coming back for the spring, but he's thinking about coming back for the fall quarter."

So now what?

The ADL has been working with RIT to help it respond to the situation, as well as to develop a working plan to prevent this from happening again. "The ADL has been great to work with; they gave us training and support. They never thought badly of RIT; they just offered to help us," says Soufleris. Dr. Katie Terezakis, assistant professor in the Department of Philosophy,

Jack Zaccara, an Anti-Defamation League representative, speaks to Resident Advisors on March 18.

Incidents Each Year

2002–3: 2

2003–4: 2

2004–5: 7

2005–6: 3

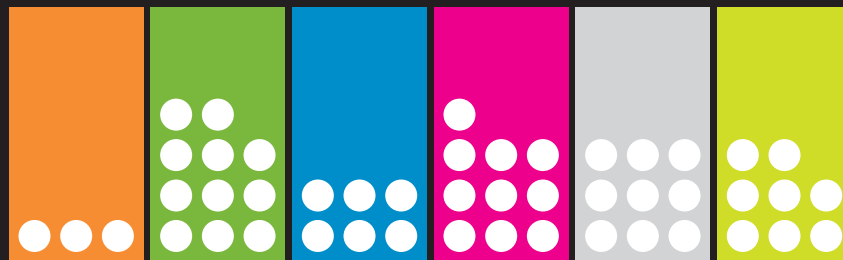
2006–present: 7

Twenty-one of these incidents were categorized as bias-related harassment, with 25 students involved.

18 students were held accountable by Student Conduct.

● 1 student

- Suspended or dismissed
- Placed on deferred suspension
- Required to attend a counseling session
- Made to write letters of apology
- Made to write research papers
- Required to complete community service



Note that 'hate crime' is a term used by the penal code and 'bias-related harassment' is a term used by Student Conduct for tracking purposes.

organized a panel on anti-Semitism as part of the Hale Chair Ethics Series, where the ADL was invited to discuss responses to anti-Semitism and how technology can be misused to spread it.

Dr. Terezakis opened up the panel with a reading of her essay on how important it is to recognize hate and to actively confront it. Brian Marcus, director of internet monitoring for the ADL, presented on various ways bigotry is present on the internet. One example would be a Google search for “Martin Luther King” returning a hit that ranked about sixth, but claimed that Dr. King was a fraud. The panel discussed the importance of free speech, but also debated that not all speech is acceptable. Najeebullah Bieg, a second year international studies flex major who attended the panel, said, “anti-Semitism may be a fact in this society, so these kind of panels and discussions are always helpful for educating people. [This issue] is important in the sense of educating people about the facts and trying to change their perspectives.”

Perhaps the most difficult question raised during the course of the panel was “what do I do if someone makes an inappropriate joke at a party, and I want to stand up against it?” An eloquent answer came from audience member Vincent Golphin, assistant professor in the Department of English. “The most important element in the fight against anti-Semitism, or racism, is not what we say. It is what we do. The eradication of

hate in the world depends on the actions of each individual.” Golphin recommends four actions that an individual can take: opening your mind to different perspectives, opening your eyes to how your language can affect others, opening your hearts to understand how victims of hate-language may feel, and learning to vote with your feet and stand up against hate speech.

As part of an initiative taken by Residence Life, the ADL gave training to all RAs. During the course of the training, various preconceptions and assumptions made about values and cultures were examined. The goal of the session was to increase awareness, educate, and enable the RAs to serve as role models. A piece of advice in the session that stuck out was, “do not ask one person to express an opinion on behalf of an entire group or culture.” A short film titled *Eye of the Beholder* was shown about an experiment conducted by a teacher who tried to make the children in her classroom understand what discrimination felt like. She divided her predominantly white, Christian, middle-class third graders into groups based on their eye color and told them one color was superior to another. The results were shocking: the children’s academic performance was visibly impacted during the course of a day.

Now goodwill emerges from adversity.

RIT Hillel, the Jewish life organization at RIT, has been trying to better reach out to the commu-

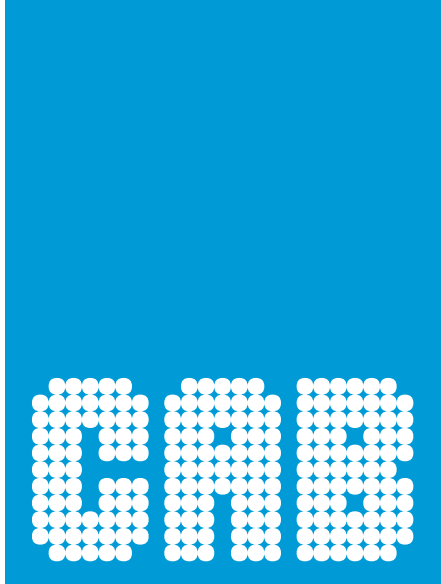
nity. “We didn’t know about the incident until the general email was sent out; we then followed up with Student Affairs to find out more,” says Rabbi Dr. Jennifer Gravitz, the director of Jewish Education at RIT Hillel who also teaches criminal justice at RIT. “I feel very sad—on many levels. First, that there is still hate, misunderstanding, and meanness in the world. Second, that this incident scarred the victim—probably for life. Third, that RIT, and the rest of the world, still has far to go in terms of developing a diverse and accepting environment to live, work and play in.” But the ADL, Gravitz and Souferlis agree on one thing: RIT has responded well to the situation as a whole.

Gravitz closes with a hopeful note, “[...even] from such a tragic situation, several good things came from it. Most of all, good people stepped up and realized the situation needed to be changed...We hope to begin to incorporate diversity training into the Week of Welcome and into a variety of curricula with the ultimate goal of changing the climate here at RIT. At Hillel, we hope to improve our efforts to reach out to unaffiliated students and make sure that they know we are both a personal support service as well as an Institute advocate to help students deal with the problem.” •

Anti-Defamation League: www.adl.org

Hillel: www.rochesterhillel.org

Student Conduct and Conflict Management Services: www.rit.edu/~301www/



Photograph by Ryan Randolph

Members of College Activities Board hard at work in their office.

Bringing some fun to an otherwise "dry" campus

There are many things that you can count on here at RIT: that Gracie's will never change, that Rochester will never give into spring without a vicious and bloody battle, and that, sometime in the near future, the College Activities Board (CAB) will host an event to take your mind off both of the above. It sounds like a pretty tall order, but CAB does their best to rise to the challenge.

One of the nine Major Student Organizations (MSOs), CAB tries to enrich student life on campus. Its mission: to bring and provide quality entertainment to all of RIT. But exactly what constitutes "quality entertainment" is inherently subjective, especially when dealing with a student population of over 15,000. CAB's director, fourth year marketing major Robert Yee, recognizes that any given event can't satisfy everyone. "With music, comedy, and cinema tastes being so widespread, CAB tries to get a good mix of everything," Yee says. "We may not be able to hit everything in a year, but over the span of a few years you can see a broader picture that most can consider successful for a campus that's as diverse as this one."

But it's not as simple as merely picking the right entertainer or set of entertainers—restraints like finances, booking difficulties, and RIT and entertainer availability put a big strain on what CAB can and cannot do. This, inevitably, leads to sub-optimal Plan B, or C, or even D.

Finding an entertainer who meets all of CAB's criteria is an intensive process. Ryan Giglia, CAB advisor, explains, "for major concerts and comedians, CAB uses a booking agent to find artist availability and general pricing. For major weekends like Brick City Homecoming and Spring Festival, the dates are less flexible and the choices become even more limited. Price and availability are a major factor in booking shows."

So how does CAB get from a potential date on a calendar to a Brad Garret or Lupe Fiasco on stage? CAB's staff of fewer than 20 organize all of the events—from the four to five major concerts and performances to the 78 other events that CAB puts on each year. Like any other organization, the staff is broken apart into sections with different tasks. The director manages the staff, speaks for CAB whenever it needs a voice, and meets with the heads of the other MSOs monthly. The advisor takes care of all the contractual work, monitors the staff, and helps out the director when in need. There's a technology coordinator, a marketing coordinator, and an event coordinator, who each manage their specific departments. They streamline CAB's functioning by reducing the amount of paperwork, supervising the publicity staff, or working through all the logistics of a planned event, respectively. In addition, CAB's two graduate assistants manage their own departments: late night programming and

specialized events. The general staff works under the department heads. Last but not least, the finance coordinator and secretary act as a lifeline for CAB, managing all the paperwork, checks, and billing arrangements.

Beyond CAB's normal events, the organization tries to reach out to the student body by co-sponsoring events hosted by or offering financial assistance to other student organizations and providing a forum for student input to continually refine the entertainment that they bring to RIT. CAB is concerned about the student body as a whole, and when a situation arises such as the Lisa Lampanelli show, CAB responds by seeking out the opinions of the student body. "The issue raised regarding Lisa Lampanelli led to a lot of positives," said Yee. "After the opinion piece in *Reporter*, a lot of controversy was created and therefore much discussion was made. Through the various meetings and forums that were attended in the following weeks, we were able to get a better impression of how the student body felt. CAB is an organization based on the student body, one that has a constructive use in positive feedback from students," Yee said. •

To check out upcoming CAB events (including the May 5 Ben Folds show), photos from events held this year, or to voice your input on the forums, check out cab.rit.edu

RITFORECAST

compiled by Casey Dehlinger

SG SENATE WEEKLY UPDATE

by Casey Dehlinger

Saturday 7 APR	Spring Egg Hunt 3 p.m. – 4 p.m. Infinity Loop and Kodak Quad. The College of Business hides eggs for children. Just because you're a child at heart doesn't mean you can partake. Africa Week 6:30 p.m. – 10 p.m. SAU: lobby, Fireside Lounge, 1829 room. The last day of the week-long celebration put on by the Organization of African Students. Pesach Challenge SAU Cafeteria. 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. Passover cook-off for students from U of R, RIT, and SUNY Geneseo. Sponsored by Hillel. Cost: Free.
Sunday 8 APR	Easter American Easter traditions are relatively non-violent. In Scandinavia, it is common to solve murder mysteries on Easter.
Monday 9 APR	Student Government Presidential Debates 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Fireside Lounge. Hear what your SG Presidential Candidates have to say so that you know where they stand on all the hard issues.
Tuesday 10 APR	Caroline Werner Gannett Project 8 p.m. – 10 p.m. Webb Auditorium. Dr. Daniel Dennett (author of <i>Darwin's Dangerous Idea</i>) discusses "Meaning and Morality: Darwin's 'Strange Inversion of Reasoning.'"
Wednesday 11 APR	Student Government Presidential Debates 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. Fireside Lounge. Your second and last chance to hear what your SG Presidential Candidates have to say so that you know where they stand on all the hard issues. Block Party 6 p.m. – 10 p.m. Greek Lawn. Food and fun for free. And music.
Thursday 12 APR	Premedical Student Association Annual Banquet 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. Fireside Lounge. Dinner and dancing to celebrate PSA members and advisors. Free. CAB's Thursday Night Cinema Series 10 p.m. – 12 a.m. Fireside Lounge. <i>Trainspotting</i> .
Friday 13 APR	A Constellation of Stars 8 p.m. – 11 p.m. Ingle Auditorium. Classical music for part of the Performing Artists Series. Students: \$6. Faculty/Staff: \$14. Other: \$20 CAB's Friday Night in the Ritz 9:30 p.m. – 12:30 a.m. Ritz Sports Zone. RIT students compete to be the last comic standing. \$100 for the best act; \$50 for the runner-up. Cost: \$1.

Improving Bus Routes

GCCIS Senator Damian Kumor suggested that SG Senators ride the RIT buses and tally the patrons getting on and off at each stop to compile data for Parking and Transportation Services so the bus schedule can be improved. Kumor hypothesizes that the data will reveal that a stop or two can be removed, making the route more efficient.

Beautification Project

GLBT Senator Jenn Kolling shared her discussion with Jim Yarrington, the campus architect, about possible projects to beautify the campus and promote orange and brown, including paving molds of tiger paw-prints into the quarter mile and putting the RIT logo on benches and trash cans.

Recycling

Guest Megan Soriano from the FMS Recycling Department announced FMS's upcoming April events, including a show collection drive, a campus clean-up, a "waste audit," and a screening of *An Inconvenient Truth*, to name a few. SG expressed interest in purchasing the first of the new series of trash/recycling combination bins that Recycling is encouraging because the quarter mile lacks recycling receptacles.

Club Recognition

KGCOE Senator Adam Weissman asked for SG's blessing to create another tier of SG-recognized clubs. Clubs that apply will be listed on the Center for Campus Life website, maintain financial independence from SG, and gain an RIT e-mail account for the club, as well as photocopier access. Weissman felt that this option would attract clubs that have refrained from becoming SG-recognized because of the accompanying requirement that all finances go through SG. Thus the "maintain financial independence from SG" stipulation.

A Visit from Student Conduct

Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs Dawn Soufleris from Student Conduct (SC) spoke about the changes and progress made in the last year. SC handled 1,578 student cases year. Seventy-seven percent of students who go before SC are male, and 3.1 is the average GPA of those who have a hearing. Student employees made up 29% of all cases, 27% involve students in student organizations, and athletes and Greeks made up 7% and 12% of cases, respectively.

Of last year's cases, 614 were alcohol-related incidents (up 94% over the previous academic year). Breaking RIT Policy, breaching fire safety regulations, and possession of drugs made up 558, 220, and 84 cases, respectively. Drug-related incidents dropped by 45% from the previous year.

Student Conduct showed a draft of a Gambling Policy they are looking to implement in light of a national surge in gambling addiction (Associate Director Jean Griffin cites that nearly 20% of students from eighth to twelfth grades meet the criteria of compulsive gamblers, and that 75% of college students gamble). If approved, the new policy defines gambling as "any activity in which a person bets or risks something of value on a future outcome that is not within his or her control or influence, or a sporting event, or a game of skill or chance...."



Chris Buchar, of "The Noise, on Vinyl" performs at the RITZ during the WITR Charity Concert on May 31, 2007.

WITR BOYSKOUTS RUN WITH SCISSORS ● ● ● ● ● CONCERT

BY CHAD CARBONE WITH CASEY DEHLINGER / PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANDREW ONG

"It took around four months total. Scissors for Lefty contacted our MySpace and asked if we were interested in doing a show. This was the first time we thought about doing a concert and so we got back to them. Boyskout we got because I was talking to Scissors for Lefty's manager and they offered to have Boyskout open," says Michelle Comeau, WITR's music director.

The show began an hour and a half late with The Scratch Dirty, a band with two WITR members and a vague sense of rock. The band had some interesting songs, covering the Hives and the Ramones, but they ultimately lacked cohesion; their set attempted to be danceable, but just didn't do a very good job of it.

The Noise, on Vinyl of Canandaigua, New York, was the next band, opening strong even in the absence of their drummer, who was at a girlfriend's senior ball. A synthesized MIDI drum track was the replacement. The memorable song they played was their cover of Haddaway's "What is Love?", made popular by "A Night at the Roxbury."

The five-women band Boyskout, hailing from Brooklyn, NY, performed and put on a slightly sexualized show, with a punkish, flannel-wearing Scarlett Johansson look-alike Christina Stanley on keyboard, violin, and the occasional vocals. Stanley consistently upstaged front-woman Leslie Satterfield, who was often willing to let her accompanying ladies steal the stage. They describe their music as abstract punk and have been referenced as a girl version of the Cure, which is a very apt description. I'd consider them a switch-hitting band, with a shared sense of governance on the stage. They share and take turns, as was demonstrated in the performance of the song "Girl on Girl," their provocative finale where Stanley finally got out from behind the keyboards to spend a bit of quality time with the audience.

Scissors for Lefty (who confessed to having a crush on Boyskout) finished the show off right, proving their worth as a headliner. For an introduction, lead singer Bryan Garza exclaimed, "Wow, I can't believe so many of you stayed out for a band like us." In light of their modesty, I'll leave it to a member of the WITR staff, Amar

Boghani, to describe their music: "It's very accessible. They aren't specific to one musical taste. They're just likeable and catchy."

And catchy they were, finally bringing that sloppy reckless dancing that can only happen at the most gratifying of venues. You know the kind: the woman in the corner that looks like she's self-flagellating with one hand, scolding a puppy with the other, and swatting flies with her hips. "That guy" in the middle of the dance floor who could be trying to use his head to pound in an imaginary nail while flapping his arms around in an attempt to protect himself from an imaginary onslaught of poison-tipped paper airplanes. And maybe he has to pee. I don't know what his legs were doing, but it was proof of the success of the overly-modest Scissors for Lefty.

The crowd was put in a craze when Garza took a field trip to the dance floor to sing the eccentric calypso Private Hotcha, a song that, inexplicably, led audience members to demand that the band remove their pants—the RIT equivalent of a standing ovation.

Boghani alludes to the future by saying, "This is the first time we've done anything like this, and depending on how it goes tonight, we may want to turn this into a yearly thing. Some people complain that CAB doesn't cater to the students and they're not really tuned in. We feel like, being the pretentious indie kids we are, we know what good music is. Very few people have heard of bands like this, and we get stuff like this every day. There's something about small venues that are a bit more responsible." You'd be hard-pressed to find something better to do for two dollars on a Saturday night.

All proceeds from the concert went to the Golisano Children's hospital. •

Check it out for yourself:

<http://www.myspace.com/scissorsforlefty>

<http://www.myspace.com/boyskout>

<http://www.myspace.com/thenoiseonvinyl>

<http://www.myspace.com/thescratchdirty>

5 FT 3 1/2

COLOSSUS MARGARET ATWOOD COMES TO RIT

by Laura Mandanas

photography by Katharine Sidelnik

"There's no real relation in the world to the excellence of your art and whether you're going to make money off it. *Moby Dick* bombed when it came out...That could happen to you." She paused before adding, "Unless you're prepared to work hard, don't go there."

Fortunately, this particular author's hard work *did* pay off. There were full houses at both of her appearances on March 26, though the mean age of the overwhelmingly female audience was approximately two and half times my own—students were few and far in between. Earlier in the day, Atwood appeared at the University of Rochester for a solo lecture; later that night, she joined the audience at RIT to watch the Rochester premiere of some of her poetry set to music. Afterwards, she went up on the stage to discuss it with the composer, Tania León.

At 67 years old, Margaret Atwood is one of the most world's most renowned authors—though I have yet to talk to more than two RIT students in a row who recognize her name. As it was so eloquently put in the introduction at the U of R, "[Margaret Atwood] is a giant of a verbal artist, a superstar, a literary colossus...Combine the fierce satire, the lyrical poetry, the bold questions, the mysteries and paradoxes of Margaret Atwood's writing and the result is a set of truth so expansive that no room can contain it."



Literary star Margaret Atwood (center) and composer Tania León (left) engage in a question and answer session about *Atwood Songs*, a performance of the two's music and literary fusion, at the Rochester Institute of Technology on March 26, 2007 in Ingle Auditorium.

That's a hard act to follow, but Atwood managed to pull it off with wit and charm. Frank and unpretentious, she began by saying, "Wow, after all of that, you're probably surprised I'm so short. It's hard to be a colossus when you're 5'3 and a half. I used to be 5'4"—I shrank."

She went on from there to talk about what is probably her most famous work, *The Handmaid's Tale*. You may have seen the screening of the movie adaptation the week before, or studied the book in one of your classes. Even if you're not familiar with it, I bet your mother is—ask her if you can borrow her copy of it sometime. It's a good read.

The Handmaid's Tale is a work of "speculative fiction," heavily drawing on historical events to shape an imagined, dystopian future. Professor John Roche, one of the organizers behind Atwood's visit to RIT, noted, "It's a kind of literature that warns people about the directions that things might be heading in. [*The Handmaid's Tale*] is a warning sign."

Atwood read a short excerpt of the book and explained it by saying, "This takes place in the future, but I took care not to put anything into it that human beings have not already done somewhere, at some time, at some place. Nothing in it came from my deep dark, baroque, strange imagination."

Atwood also read from *The Blind Assassin*, *Oryx and Crake*, and the first few sentences of the novel she is currently working on: "Beware of words. Be careful of what you write. Leave no trails."

A couple hours later, Atwood appeared at RIT for the "Evening of Music and Dialogue." The music was...tolerable...although to be honest, I can't say that it's something I'd willingly subject myself to again; poetry framed as opera music really just doesn't do anything for me. Judging by the thunderous applause after the performance, I was the only one in the theatre that felt this way.

Roche laughed good-naturedly as I noted my reaction to the music, saying, "It's challenging music because it's basically atonal. It takes a certain familiarity." He was very pleased with the events both at U of R and RIT. "I thought the music brought out the emotion of the poetry. I really loved the soprano. I thought she brought passion to the performance...It was wonderful that we could get both [Tania León and Margaret Atwood] here together. [Atwood is] important as a novelist, as a poet, and also as a person who is calling us to be aware of what we're doing in the world and to each other."

And heaven knows, we could all use a little more of that. •

The Old Soul - The Old Soul

by Evan McNamara

All music must have a purpose. Whether it is to inform, rebel, proclaim love, deliver hate, let loose angst, or just to have fun, there is an intention that lies at the heart of every great band.

After repeated listens of their self-titled record, I am convinced that The Old Soul is a band with no purpose at all. Each song jumps styles and genres without explanation. It sounds as if the 10-person band were let loose in the high school band room and this is what popped out after 48 hours of no sleep and plenty of hallucinogenic drugs.

Trying to find any sort of meaning in the lyrics of frontman Luca Maoloni is an uphill battle. Anyone who can find purpose or meaning in such lyrical gems as "Take that jackknife to the protein shake, I know you same. You bleed through your eyes like the first one fallen over" deserves



the Nobel Prize for code-breaking. Perhaps it's just me, but I have trouble relating to lines such as "And it don't cost much when you're made of spades. You'll eat out of the freezer."

Distorted punk power chords in one song are traded for mariachi horns in the next. Accordions swap with harpsichord. Piano does the tango with synthesizer and an entire saxophone sec-

tion. Vibraphone and violin run amok. Sound clips of chickens are morphed inside-out. I may have heard a spaceship, but it seems doubtful. On the other hand, it wouldn't surprise me in the least.

Perhaps the purpose of this record is to completely confuse the listener. If that was The Old Soul's aim, then bravo, they hit it right out of the park. Whether or not that constitutes good music is for you to decide. •

Book Review

Jared Bieberich's "Beer Pong Isn't a Job?" Finding a Career for Generation Y

by Brian Garrison

illustration by Greg Caggiano

Just to get it out of the way, this book offers very little mention of drinking other than its attempt at a catchy title.

On the spectrum between *Fight Club* and corporate propaganda, I'd rank this book about a 75% on the side of propaganda. Author Jared Bieberich graduated last year with a B.S. in informatics, a general enough degree to do business-y-type stuff. He'll tell you how to fit in enough so you can get a job you kinda like to buy things you may find useful.

Most of his advice is simple and obvious, like keeping your résumé updated on the school's job search site. It's helpful if you have too much anxiety or not enough motivation to talk to someone in the co-op office.

At the same time, it may be the perfect way to dangle your toes in the cold water before trying to keep afloat the swimming pool of careers. His writing is clear and occasionally funny-ish, if you can get past his occasional tendency to talk like *Austin Powers*, baby.

And if your starting wage doesn't satisfy your American lust for money grubbing, Bieberich says implicitly, you could try writing a trite 85-page book. Further advice is offered—free of charge instead of the \$18.50 you'd pay for a new copy of the anorexic book—on his cleanly designed website www.mylife-mycareer.com. He's not on Facebook or MySpace though... anymore.

Despite the lack of positive things I have to say about this book, it is nice to have someone our age with experience and advice. Searching for a job isn't *entirely* common sense, and questions do creep up here and there.

Maybe your academic advisor sucks. Maybe your friends suck. Jared is there for you... at least until he gets tired of promoting his book. •



AT YOUR LEISURE THINGS, STUFF, AND PEOPLE, TOO...

STREAM OF FACTS

APRIL 6

April 6, 1930 – Gandhi starts the Salt March to Dandi by raising a lump of **mud** and salt, declaring, “With this, I am shaking the foundations of the British Empire.”

Mud wrestling was invented by mistake when too much water was mixed with the dirt for a “Hindu Match” between Prince Phu Pinder and former World Champion, Gus Sonneberg. It then spread to California and **rose** greatly in popularity.

In color theory, **rose** is defined as the color halfway between red and **magenta**.

Astronomers have reported that spectral class T brown dwarves are actually colored **magenta** due to absorption by sodium and potassium atoms of **light** in the green portion of the spectrum.

The speed of **light** in a **vacuum** is exactly 299,792,458 meters per second.

About two million personal robots (robots that perform domestic tasks, eliminating the need for people to mop or **vacuum**) were in use around the world in 2004, and another **seven** million will be installed by 2008.

Seven is the smallest happy number (not counting one). To find happy numbers, take the sum of the squares of any number’s digits; repeat. If the answer eventually reaches one, it is a happy **number**.

To find the **number** of periods required to double any amount money at a given interest rate, you can use this simple trick: divide **72** by the interest rate, and there’s your answer. As long as the interest rate is less than 20%, this is remarkably accurate.

April 6, 1992 – Isaac Asimov dies of AIDS at the age of **72**.

QUOTE

“One day our descendants will think it incredible that we paid so much attention to things like the amount of melanin in our skin or the shape of our eyes or our gender instead of the unique identities of each of us as complex human beings.”

Franklin Thomas

HAIKU

by **Brian Garrison**

In four hundred years,
who’ll be our era’s “Shakespeare:”
Spielberg? Disney? Brooks?

REPORTER

RECOMMENDS

Congratulating the nine floormates on Sol 6 for their win. These super sleuths stayed up all night Thursday and cracked the *Distorter* code in approximately eight hours. For those of you who are wondering, the locker was on the third floor of building 7A, locker 315, combination 3-17-11. The total prize money was \$300. Congratulations, guys!

CARTOON | by Alex Salsberg



SUDOKU

Difficulty: Medium

2			3	8				6
	8							
3	1			4	2			9
	2				6		8	
	5	3		2		7	1	
	9		5				6	
9			4	6			3	1
							9	
1				9	7			8

If you’ve never done one of these, this is how it works: each row and column should contain the numbers 1-9 once and each of the blocks should contain each number once too. The answer is on the website, go check it out!

JUMBLE

NHL Teams

xihpeno toosyce
maitnones idwl
rcouvaven snauckc
ataotw nsoartes
hiurtgbpst eunsnpqi
folardi prasneht
vlihneas spdtrearo
ts uosli busel
cioghac waakshskblc
loradoco aaeachvln
osl elnaseg gkins
nwe oyrk rnsrgea
ahliilhedapp lrsfey
atnwhgnsoi astlciap

ers, Philadelphia Flyers, Washington Capitals
Colorado Avalanche, Los Angeles Kings, New York Rangers,
Nashville Predators, St. Louis Blues, Chicago Blackhawks,
Ottawa Senators, Pittsburgh Penguins, Florida Panthers,
Phoenix Coyotes, Minnesota Wild, Vancouver Canucks,

BELLY DANCERS DR. SIMONE AN OPEN BAR OH MY! THE RITZ

puttin' on

2007

by Erhardt Graeff
photography by Megan Rossman

A “Rob Roy” is a cocktail featuring scotch, sweet vermouth, and biters. I drank two of those. Then there was just the scotch on the rocks. Still nursing this third helping of scotch, I was presented with a flute of champagne at my table setting, and an endless flow of chardonnay and chianti thereafter.

“[There’s] an open bar—that’s where a lot of the cost comes from,” said Lisa Hessley, a senior in the hospitality and service management program at RIT and Chair of the Puttin’ on the RITz committee.

No kidding. At 6:30 p.m., an hour into the event at the DoubleTree Hotel, they started to run low on vodka.

But the bar, managed by fourth year hotel and resort management major Matt Kasperski, was only one element in the intricate pageant-gala that was the 22nd annual Puttin’ on the RITz dinner. It was a black tie affair. But there were far fewer men wrapped in tuxedos than I had expected; then again, there were far more students as guests than I had expected. A few of our peers had apparently ponied up the \$75 (discounted from the \$125 for a simple guest) to take advantage of the high-class cuisine, bottomless bar, under-the-columned-temple photo op, and DJ’d beats with a shiny dance floor.

Overall, there were 260 guests in attendance,

being attended to by approximately 180 students. And according to Michael Dulac, a third-year Food Management student and the assistant dining room manager, “most of the volunteers [were] from all of the other colleges on campus; engineers, [etc.].” Lori Harris, the committee’s staff advisor, reflected, “I just think that that speaks a lot to the collaboration across the campus of RIT and how much students will come forward to help.” The volunteers receive one credit for their training and performance in serving etiquette—remember, label out and twist the bottle as you complete the pour.

In their rented formal trousers and pressed shirts; maroon, gold, and black waistcoats; and bowties to match, the volunteers looked spiffy as they greeted guests under the glass roof of the atrium and recited the names of country-specific hors d’oeuvres to the dulcet plucking of the hired harpist.

One by one, I learned about and enjoyed the hors d’oeuvres they were serving up via Greece, Morocco, Turkey, France, and Italy. Morocco was my favorite station. The spicy sausage cuts and pan-seared rare tuna with olive relish made my face squeeze itself softly, eyes to lips, in a visual “mmm.” A close second would have to be

the roasted vegetable bruschetta of Italy, which was both tangy and refreshing.

The overarching theme of the evening was “Mediterranean Mirage,” a decision made by the student committee during the first week of September. As Hessley pointed out to me, “that is one of the biggest decisions [they] have to make because the dinner is based off of that whole theme.” The cuisine, the decorations, and the entertainment were all *del Mediterraneo*.

In keeping with the theme, the entertainment went beyond the standard DJ and romantic Harpist to include...belly dancers! At 8:45 p.m., just before the third course was served, a Middle Eastern twang echoed from the speakers and the first of a bevy of buxom beauties strutted across the dance floor. In a blur of hips and bangles, the guests were treated to a dynamic expression of femininity embraced by five Rochesterian women as their Whitmanesque ‘barbaric yawp.’

We, the guests, were momentarily distracted from our plates, mesmerized by the undulating torsos before us, but that was only temporary, since what is a magnificent dinner-event without magnificent food?

Five courses were served. First was France, which easily stole the crown for best dish from Morocco’s hors d’oeuvres. The crepes were sublime—both supple and subtle in the way the



01 // First year nutrition major Yoonzi Na (left) prepares the French crepes, along with third year hotel management major Meg Allas (far left), first year new media IT major Justia Cox (right), and fourth year food management major Sharda' Beverly (far right).



2 // Stephanie Noel, first year nutrition major (right), prepares another piece of bruschetta, while fourth year bio med photo major, Alycia Yee, waits to assist another guest. The menu included dishes from France, Morocco, Greece, Italy, and Turkey.

3 // Leonardo Gala, a second year industrial engineering major, pops open a bottle of Chardonnay during cocktail hour.



flavors of the chanterelle and lardon with the black truffle oil produced layers of delectability for one's palate. I must admit that in two instances—Morocco's couscous and Turkey's semolina coconut—the flavor was a bit dry. But in general, the dishes were excellently prepared and presented. And I supremely enjoyed the cute and scrumptious coup de grâce by Turkey's cream-filled poached apricots.

The final element to interpose the drinking and dining was the speeches. In front of a throng like that, there is *and was* plenty to say. Dr. Francis M. Domoy, director of the School of Hospitality and Service Management, kicked off the podium-work by introducing Eric Wendorff of "Foods of the World" fame and the faculty advisor for *Puttin' on the RITZ*. Wendorff (who, along with advising, also created the ice sculpture perched near the hors d'oeuvres) emphasized, "this is 100% student-run." Next was Hessley to introduce her co-chair Mai Hosoe, a senior travel and tourism major. Then it was time for the guest

of honor, *il presidente* Dr. Simone. Hessley explained to me why Dr. Simone was chosen as the guest of honor, a title traditionally given to an alumnus: "It is President's Simone's last year and we wanted to honor him in that way because he has been such a great supporter of the Ritz dinner...Every year I have been here, he has been at the Ritz dinner." In his speech, Dr. Simone confirmed that he has indeed attended 14 out of 15 times; furthermore, his wife Carolie has perfect attendance.

Before the dancing were the awards and recognitions. The Student Recognition Award for an Outstanding Senior was bestowed upon Hessley. The Drew Montecucollo Memorial Award was presented to Hosoe, her assistant. In the

end, everyone who was anyone was recognized. The chefs paraded. Student servers Mirta Pađen and Emil Bakev, here from the American College of Management and Technology in Croatia, were introduced.

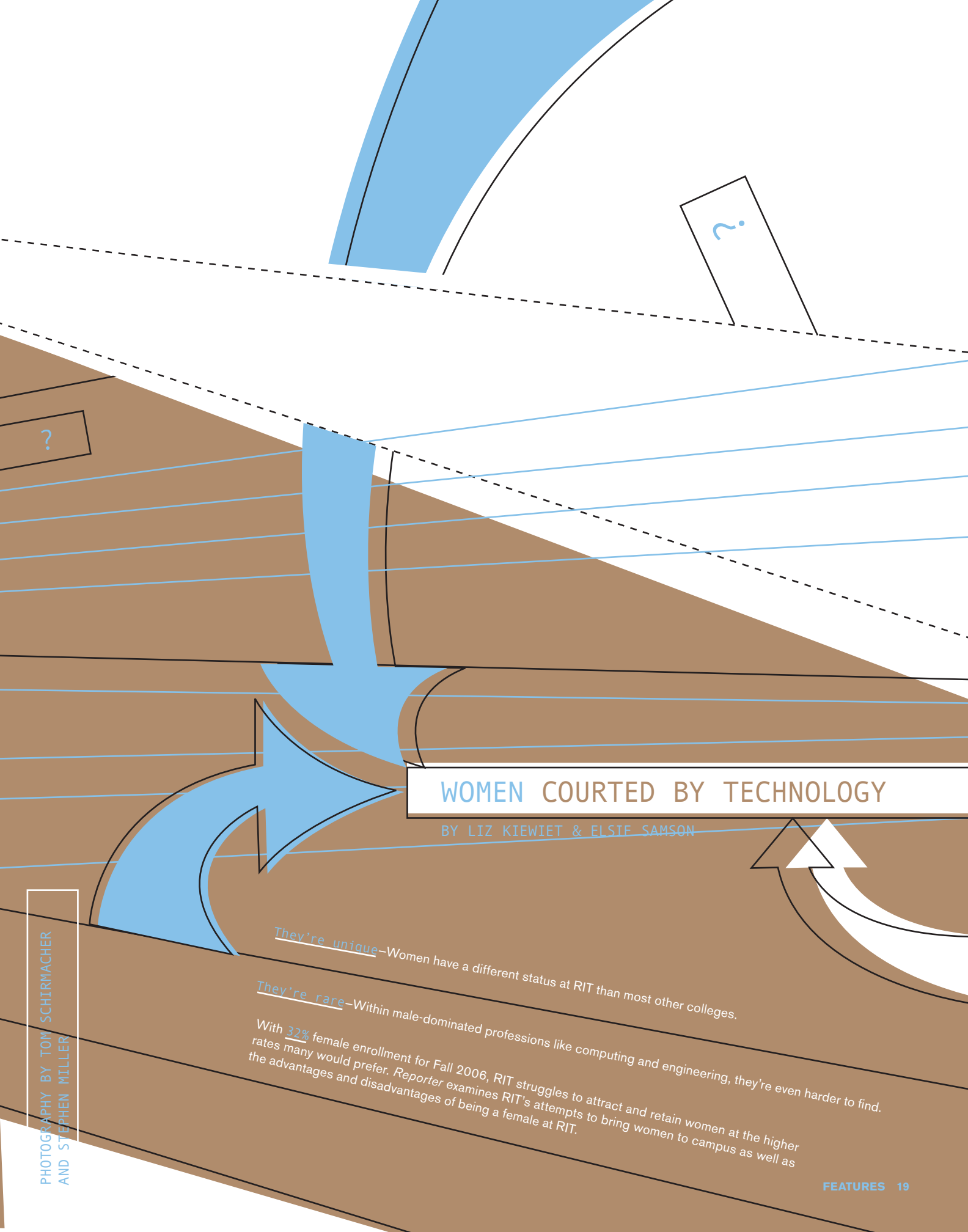
We offered due applause to the hardworking students at every opportunity, our cheeks red with wine, our stomachs pleased by the Mediterranean feast. I walked out about 10:45 p.m. grateful to the RIT students who were *Puttin' on the RITZ*; by the expressions I saw on the faces of my fellow guests, I'm sure they experienced a similar satisfaction. •

For the full dinner menu and short biographies of some of the hospitality and service management students, go to www.rit.edu/~ritzwww/.

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WOMEN COURTED BY TECHNOLOGY

BY LIZ KIEWIET & ELSIE SAMSON

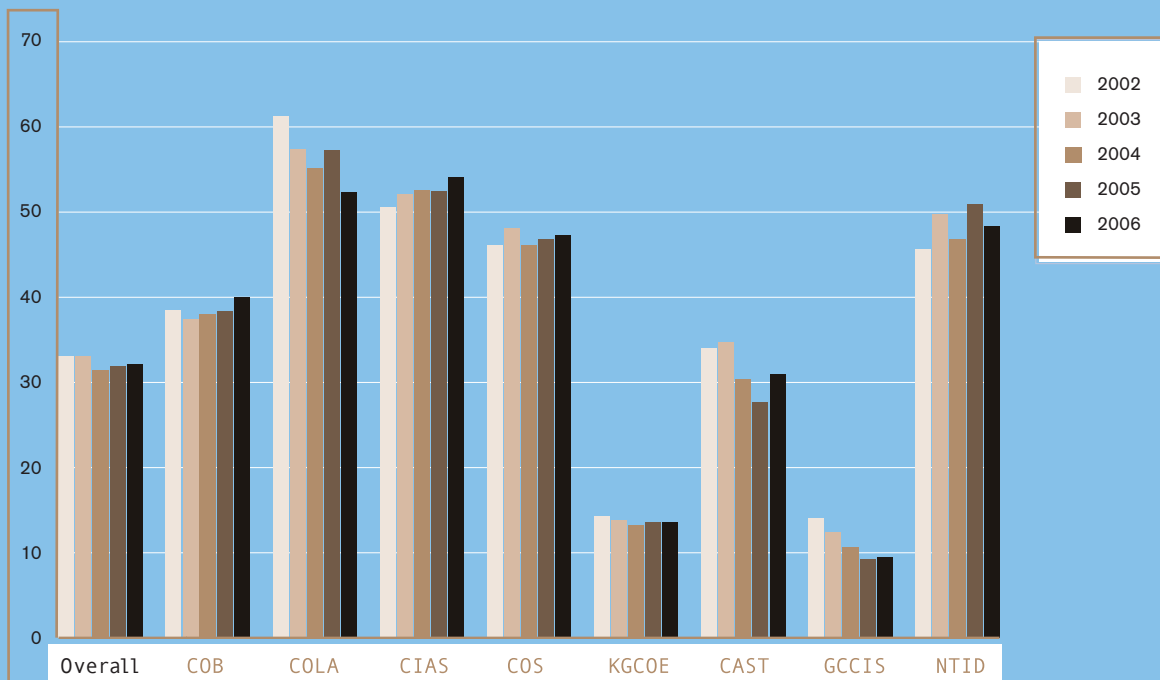
They're unique—Women have a different status at RIT than most other colleges.

They're rare—Within male-dominated professions like computing and engineering, they're even harder to find.

With 32% female enrollment for Fall 2006, RIT struggles to attract and retain women at the higher rates many would prefer. *Reporter* examines RIT's attempts to bring women to campus as well as the advantages and disadvantages of being a female at RIT.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY TOM SCHIRMACHER
AND STEPHEN MILLER

Recent History of the Percentage of Women Enrolled at RIT



What's in a name gender?

RIT's gender disproportion is also evident in the dedication of its colleges: the *Kate Gleason* College of Engineering, the *B. Thomas Golisano* College of Computing and Information Sciences, the *E. Phillip Saunders* College of Business. One female for every two males is a ratio RIT wishes it could boast. Instead, males outnumber females 3:1. Low female enrollment, however, is not out of the ordinary for technical schools. The Florida Institute of Technology also has a close ratio of men to women in its student body—35% female, 65% male.

One of the main reasons for this gender gap in enrollment is the fact that computing and engineering fields are traditionally viewed as male occupations. Often seen as “geeky” or anti-social professions, how is a woman to fit in? While there may be some women who fit this stereotype, it's not always true—whatever the gender.

Sara Bayerl—RIT graduate, Community Enrichment Coordinator (CEC) for the Mark Ellington Hall area, and First Year Enrichment teacher for B. Thomas Golisano College (GCCIS)—expressed her views about women's issues on campus.

Bayerl, in conjunction with CEC Paula French, is responsible for planning “Women's Week,” a Center for Residence Life women's programming week that was started last year to bring women on the residential side of campus together.

Bayerl is motivated by the fact that women are a minority in GCCIS. Part of the reason she is involved in women's programming is to “allow women to keep their femininity and do everything they want to do as females, but to also work in a man's world. That's really what they're doing—getting into fields that are typically male-dominated.” But before they can be considered for a job, they have to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with male counterparts.

The Odd Woman Out

Women who enroll in majors from engineering to computer science to information technology stand out from the crowd. On average, classes contain only one or two women; any more is out of the ordinary.

Christine Lowry, a second-year mechanical engineer, works in the Women's Engineering Office.

From her perspective, in a class with only two girls, it's not hard to get noticed. While that is sometimes beneficial, she points out, “When you're having an off day, and you don't do something quite as well as you could have, the professors know that and become very concerned.”

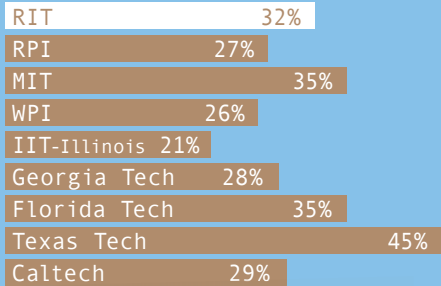
Bayerl adds, “Out of my 28 [FYE] students, I had one female in the class. It was awkward for her; she didn't really feel like she fit in, and with the groups she's always the odd person out, because she's female.”

No one can deny that being a minority gets you noticed. One of the biggest advantages for female engineers and computing majors is that people know you. “I think those are the advantages; people really remember you, and professors remember you easily,” said Lowry. Stereotypes exist, however, when a female first enters the classroom. “A lot of the time, you'll find that the engineers think that RIT just lets anyone into engineering; that if you're a woman, you'll get in. There's a little bit of animosity from some of the male students because they think they got in because of their merits and I got in because I'm a woman,” said Lowry.

By the time the second year rolls around, there's a lot of mutual respect. "We've all been through the same things and we've all proven ourselves," explains Lowry.

Bayerl indicated that the CEC specifically plans women's programming because, "We're really trying to put the resources out there for women at RIT... they are at a disadvantage. I think they're under a lot more pressure and stress than the normal male RIT student."

Percentage of Women Enrolled in Technology Schools Across the U.S. (Fall 2006)



The Women's Engineering Office conducts outreach to let women know that engineering is not the stereotypical major everyone thinks it is. It continually puts on programs with different target audiences – fourth through eighth grade or high school students. The goal of WE@RIT is not to increase enrollment at RIT, rather to empower girls and to ultimately get more women in the field. The Society of Women Engineers is also a big contributor, helping out at WE@RIT events and hosting an overnight event for junior high school students. At this event, the students get to explore various engineering disciplines, as well as experience what college has to offer.

GCCIS is following in the WE@RIT's steps, but progress has been slow. Formed just over five years ago, GCCIS has been focusing on enlightening the public to all the different degrees available. It offers many non-standard computing degrees; RIT claims to be the first college to offer a complete degree in information technology. The college has been focusing on letting students know there are many different degrees for students interested in computing technologies.

The AWC has also been trying to increase interest in computing among female high school students. They will be visiting high schools around the Rochester area to give presentations on computing. The group hopes to show female students that computing is not for the stereotypical "geek" and that computing is a viable career for anyone.

Cooperative Opportunities

Co-op is an essential component of most majors, especially engineering and computing. A company looking for diversity is more likely to hire women, but that doesn't mean it's easier for women to find jobs. Lowry puts it well, "Most of the companies trying to hire co-ops and permanent positions understand there is a need for diversity.

It's easier to remember, 'Oh, Christine, one of the three women engineers who stopped by'... rather than 'Jim and Jack and John.'"

Bayerl agreed, "Sometimes [women] have the advantage of getting a co-op because a lot of companies think that females have better interpersonal skills...and [the companies] aren't just looking for people sitting in front of their computers all day."

Lowry mentioned the fact that because women have a harder time getting involved in technical areas, there is a need for more support. Bayerl explains, "I think that there hasn't been [a] long enough time for women to have an opportunity to be in [certain] fields...to gain the mentors, and the background, and the knowledge that they need [in order] to be as successful as men."

A Time for Change

The support network to increase the presence of women in technology fields is still being built. However, women who have enrolled in the computing and engineering majors enjoy what they are doing. Lowry mentioned that when she was unsure about coming to RIT, the "overwhelming sense of support for being a female engineer" made her feel comfortable enough to make that decision.

Empowering Women on Campus

Computing and engineering colleges have difficulty enrolling women because there isn't much interest generated. Offices like the Women's Engineering Office (WE@RIT) exist to remedy that problem, as well as student clubs like the Society of Women Engineers and the Association of Women in Computing (AWC), which put on programs for students from fourth to twelfth grades.

It is widely believed that women are attracted to nurturing careers, whereas men go into technical fields. By changing this misconception, one hope is the gender imbalance will start to correct itself and RIT will see an increase in women. Until then, RIT will have to rely on the art majors within the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences and on NTID—so a woman is still spotted at least once or twice per day. •



BY ELSIE SAMSON
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MEGAN ROSSMAN

There are 4,974 women enrolled at RIT and a single woman to represent them all—*Reporter* spoke with RIT Women’s Senator Denise Herrera about the state of women on campus, creating a Women’s Lounge, and the possibility of an eventual Men’s Senator.

REPORTER MAGAZINE: So, some students wonder, ‘Why does our school have a Women’s Senator?’

DENISE HERRERA: [RIT] wanted women to have a voice; a representative that would represent them and their ideals. President Simone came up with that kind of idea of having a women’s representative for all colleges and the RIT community as a whole.

RM: Since your freshman year, has there been a visible change in the gender ratio?

DH: It’s a higher percentage of women on campus, which is great...A lot of men are like, ‘Well I need a representative too...Why can’t I have a senator?’ and I’m like: ‘Well you have a lot of representation on campus.’ Think of all the different organizations, mainly represented by men. Having a Women’s Senator gives us a voice and a way of channeling women’s feelings and issues that are happening now.

RM: What are your responsibilities as Women’s Senator?

DH: I work closely with the Women’s Center...we just had “Feel Good in Your Jeans” [a body image program]. *Vagina Monologues*...I was part of the production team. It’s not required, but it helps with running the show smoothly...That’s really what we want to do—promote the Women’s Center and make people aware of it.

I helped the Women’s Center put themselves on Facebook [laughs]...I said: ‘You guys aren’t on Facebook. That means not a lot of people know who you are’ [laughs] because Facebook seems to be running a lot of the PR [Public Relations] for campus...It’s great—more connection with the student body. That’s kind of the work that I

do—setting up programs, like “Friends with Benefits”...which was a large debate with a variety of women, very multicultural. Also, every week I have two hours working in the SG office. Sometimes I just go there, randomly, to help out. They need help with volunteers.

RM: How has the Women’s Senator position helped to make this campus more female-friendly?

DH: I always search for more suggestions...stirring up more connections within women because the campus has so many men and a lot of women don’t see each other...I just wish that there was one location where women could go and meet—a women’s lounge. I just need to go somewhere that’s different, not my college, and just go. That’s one of my goals for the rest of this quarter.

RM: Has having a Center helped female students receive greater accessibility to certain needs?

DH: A lot of women don’t know about the Women’s Center. They offer information, not only about sex, but just about gender issues. There’s a CARES program if you’re unfortunately a victim of sexual assault or harassment or abuse, services for females on campus—and for males. If you were to become pregnant, ‘Who do I go to?’ You think the Student Health Center (SHC). What about emotional support? ‘[SHC is] telling me about the medical stuff, but I’m not okay.’ [Women] might need support in that way.

RM: What still needs to be improved on this campus, in terms of women’s issues?

DH: We want to be kind of like ‘one of the guys,’ especially if our field is mainly men. We want to be one of those guys and sometimes there are comments that are kind of offensive—reducing that kind of offense and just having more respect for each other between the sexes.

RM: Have you seen disrespect towards women lessen, or does it still seem as common?

DH: Sometimes it’s not even intentional. Women tell me: ‘I’m in my class, I’m the only girl, but my teacher will start talking, ‘Hey, did you see that woman over there? She had a really hot body.’

And she’s just sitting there thinking ‘Am I even here?!’ Then the teacher will look at her and be like ‘Oh...sorry.’ That’s not something that just happened five years ago; that happened just this year. So I think not only the students—the teachers need to also become more aware of women’s roles.

At the Women’s [Career] Achievement Dinner...women come back and they share their stories and their experiences and how they got to where they are. They see that now a lot of women are here in the sciences, in technology, in languages, in liberal arts, in business, in anything; there’s nothing that can really stop us. That’s the main thing: women not backing down and feeling. ‘Hey, I’ve got to be treated like an equal.’ It’s our part as well to say something and not just expect it.

RM: Do you see a future where RIT no longer needs a Women’s Senator, or when it will need one for men?

DH: That might happen. More women are going to college. It would be great if things were more equal and the awareness is there. If my position is not needed, then that’s great. That means that we’re not a minority and we’re equal and majority and we have rights and we have a say. Problems might come up, but at least the need for a representative, I feel, is still kind of [there]. But if men are the minority, then I would say that men need a senator. Maybe the world will shift in that kind of direction; one never knows. You gotta keep an open mind about things.

RIT HAS A WOMEN'S SENATOR!?

A CHAT WITH DENISE HERRERA



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WORD ON THE STREET

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Q: What do women want?



"Attention and Care."

Seth Cho

Alumni Mechanical Engineering
Technology



"Money."

Steve Hoover

Fourth year Criminal Justice



"A shorn scrotum."

Sam Brenner

Second year New Media Design



"Noah J. Stupak."

Becca Swanson

Barista



"They want what they
can't have. Me."

Christopher "Woody" Wooden

Fifth year Industrial Design



"Wrestling and massages."

Kevin Thomas

Third year New Media Design



"Everything plus me."

Hisham Almashal

Second year Finance



"A honeymoon in Hawaii."

Fendi Fabregas

Third year Bio Technology



"A cup of coffee."

Gazali Karim

Second year Bio Technology



"They don't know."

Jack Swift

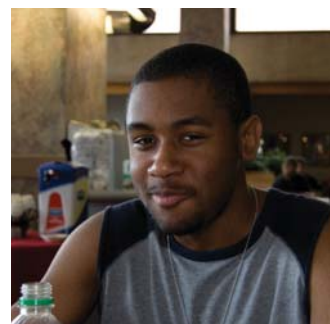
Second year Communication



"They want too much."

Darryle Brown

First year Business Management



"They want drama."

Andrew Skinner

First year Mechanical Engineering



01



02

MEN'S TENNIS

RIT vs. Nazareth | 03.29.07

*photography by Todd Carlson***SPORTSDESK**

01// Brennan Dugas and teammate Jose Guzman, celebrate after scoring a point in their doubles match. Dugas and Guzman lost 5-7.

02// Brennan Dugas, first year agriculture engineer, returns a serve in his singles match against Nazareth. Dugas lost, 1-6 and 5-7.

03// Jose Guzman, second year agricultural engineer, returns a serve in his match against Nazareth March 29, 2007.

04// Tom Fountain, fourth year mechanical engineer, returns a serve in the doubles match against Nazareth. Fountain and teammate Erik Larson won their match 8-4.



DIVISION I WISHES AND NHL DREAMS: PINIZZOTTO GOES PRO

by Geoff Shearer

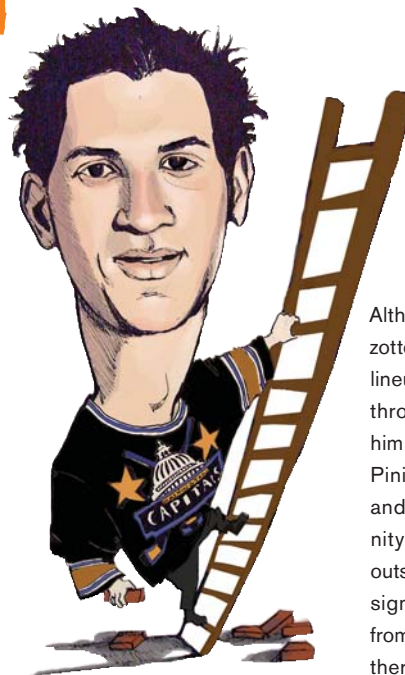
illustration by Caitlin Yarsky

The dream to go pro has rung in the minds of countless child-athletes since the dawn of professional sports. For most of us, that dream becomes clouded and fades with the constant antagonism from parents, teachers, and the world, beating us into more realistic goals. This makes sense for most of us, but for the chosen few, the almost mythological world of professional sports is fully within their ability, if given the opportunity to prove themselves.

Scouts from professional teams keep in contact with coaches and athletes throughout the season, watching the progress of certain individuals who try not to get their hopes up. Nevertheless, Steve Pinizzotto, RIT Men's Hockey's leading scorer in the 2006-07 season, has received his chance to rumble with the big dogs of the NHL. On March 12, Pinizzotto officially signed with the NHL Washington Capitals, making him the first player to sign a pro contract and leave school early since the Tigers went Division I in 2005.

This year, the Tigers clinched the Atlantic Hockey Association regular season title during RIT's first season in the league. Pinizzotto finished the season out with 0.91 assists per game, ranking him at fifth in the nation—surely adding to the factors leading to his professional contract.

Pinizzotto is currently training with the Hershey Bears of Hershey, Pennsylvania, a farm team for the Washington Capitals. The Bears, a member of American Hockey League (AHL), will enable Pinizzotto to continue playing and training until July of this year, when his contract with the Capitals begins. The Hershey Bears won their ninth



Calder Cup championship—the equivalent of the Stanley Cup for AHL Hockey—in 2006.

So what would *you* do if you were given the chance of a lifetime, but had to give up school to fulfill it? To some degree, a lot of students experience this scenario, whether through a co-op at an engineering firm or apprenticeship under a leading advertising photographer—the choice is often somewhere in the grey. Ok, granted, professional sports may be a league of their own (no pun intended), but the decision for any early twenty-something student to up and leave behind what has been beaten into our heads since pre-school is never an easy one.

Speaking from experience, Pinizzotto understands the fleeting opportunities for athletic prowess, as he missed the first half of the 2005-06 season due to a serious knee injury. "It's all about opportunity; if the opportunity is there, you got to take it. If I stick around next year...you never know what's going to happen injury-wise. I figured it was best to leave now, I have a couple years now to get some pro experience and get better at my game."

Although this contract does not guarantee Pinizzotto appearance on the Washington Capitals's lineup for the 2007-08 season, it does train him through the Capitals's training camp and sets him up with the Hershey Bears in the meantime. Pinizzotto stated, "When you sign a contract and it gets you in the door, it's a big opportunity. Rather than just being a walk-on [for try-outs], you'll get more notice when you're actually signed with the team. They have expectations from me...It's a stepping stone, but once you get there, you have to make the best of it because they are signing guys all the time that will take your spot in a heartbeat."

The news comes bittersweet to the Tigers, as Pinizzotto's remarkable talent will certainly be an unfortunate loss for the squad. Head Coach Wayne Wilson said, "We are surely going to miss [Pinizzotto's] contributions here at RIT, but we fully support his decision and wish him the best of luck. [Pinizzotto] leaves RIT in great academic standing and will always be a part of the RIT Tiger hockey family."

For those that reach the prestigious realm of professional sports, their standing at that level is far from guaranteed. As Pinizzotto put it, "Signing the contract...It's getting you in the door, but once you get there, you have to work your heart out to get to the NHL." Pinizzotto's professional contract marks the beginning of things to come with having a Division I athletic team. Losing a clutch teammate, whether due to graduation or a professional contract, is never easy, but the glory of competing with the best of the best is a sentiment understood by any athlete who has dared to live that dream. •

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compiled by Ryan Metzler

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Friday 10:56 p.m.

Hey, I just switched to an all-debit meal plan and I am so excited to spend my entire debit. I'm telling you because I'm going to be buying up all the condoms. I just thought I'd let you guys know.

Friday 6:39 p.m.

Hi, we're just calling because we were at Arby's the other day and there was a Public Safety vehicle there. We were just wondering why we're paying for their gas to drive there?

Friday 6:45 p.m.

So, you guys wrote a nasty article about Greeks, well, you actually wrote two, but that doesn't matter. Well, when you write articles about Greeks that are nasty, that's great, but try writing good ones like when we raise money for Katrina or Alzheimer's.

Friday 6:58 p.m.

Yes, so, your article about Greeks, you already made one mistake in the first paragraph: Mike McGovern is a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon, not Alpha Sigma Epsilon. Get that right.

Friday 9:24 p.m.

Hi *Reporter*. In my last call about the chick embryo thing I said that it was offensive, not sexist. Get it right. Pay attention.

Friday 11:24 p.m.

Hey, RIT Rings. So I was reading your last article about why not to see Lisa Lampanelli. Well, I was reading it and when I was finished I thought "yeah, I shouldn't go see her," but then I turned the page and there was an advertisement for her show. That kind of confused my sexuality

because being gay, you know it's hard to deal with. You guys are telling me to not see Lisa then on the next page telling me to. I just don't know what to do anymore. Should I be gay or not? I just don't know; please help me in this dilemma.

Saturday 12:28 a.m.

Hi! I live at the RIT Inn and Conference Center and I was taking a little rest on top of my chair when I realized the tags had fallen from underneath it, stating that under penalty of law this tag is not to be removed except by the consumer. I'm not sure if I'm the consumer or if there is someone higher up on the food chain like some kind of RIT Inn and Conference Center god. *Reporter*, if I'm arrested, will you be my lawyer?

Saturday 12:37 a.m.

Hi, RIT and *Reporter*. I just want to let you know that there is a big Puerto Rican taco out in my hallway and that he is doing a big gay dance. That is all.

Saturday 1:04 a.m.

Reporter, I just wanted to weigh in on the chick embryo debate. I want to say that after ten days, you can't tell a chick embryo from a human embryo. So, the fact that it may or may not have a soul is a moot point because anyone who is killing a chick embryo could be killing a human embryo. You just can't tell the difference.

Saturday 1:16 a.m.

Alright, it's 3:30 in the morning and whoever is blasting Beyonce's *Bootylicious* should not be doing that. Honestly, no one at RIT is *Bootylicious* and they should just stop.

Saturday 1:42 a.m.

Dude, I just pulled out of UC and there is a Beemer going at least 65 around the corner coming towards the speed bump. He doesn't slow down a bit and you know what he does? He flies, baby! Flies!

Saturday 5:01 a.m.

Hey *Reporter*, I'm calling to complain about your March 16th issue. I'm really disappointed by it. The articles are well-written, it's good, it seems to be proofread. This is not the unproofread, fourth grade [four-letter word] I have come to expect from a magazine of your quality. Ryan, good job, the only person who censors anything in the entire [four-letter word]ing magazine, I have to commend you for that. Oops, I guess you will have to censor that. Especially with the profanity all over the editorial, I have to say wonderfully written editorial. It's exactly the kind of [four-letter word] I have come to expect. The author, she does a wonderful...he or she? I can't tell.

Saturday 9:58 p.m.

Hey *Reporter*, it's St. Patty's day and I am having a great night. I would like to declare that I have been to three parties so far and there were girls. None of them were fat hoes or fugly [five-letter word]es either. I would also like to declare that I am drunk.

Saturday 10:34 p.m.

Hey *Reporter*, this is T.S. Eliot calling again and I was asked today if I would suck a [four-letter word] for a million dollars. People have sucked [four-letter word] for coke; who am I to say that I wouldn't do it for a million dollars?

NO WORK FOR YOU



by Antonio Castillo

illustration by Bryan Williams

The sharp breeze offered no comfort for the lightly dressed, single-file line of aspiring professionals. All were waiting to gain entrance to RIT's Career Fair on March 28. Outside of the Gordon Field House, students and alumni steeled themselves against the wind, soon to be met by the cutting questions of employers.

Job hunting might as well be considered an actual sport. Like hunting or fishing, the success of the adventure depends on the tools you take with you and the path that is taken. There was an array of students and alumni in attendance, from bow ties to no ties. Perhaps it is less like hunting and more like a dog and pony show—grossly embarrassing and with little hope for a second act.

Once inside, the number of people packed into the normally generous space indicated I should have checked-in sooner. I anticipated that my peers would be my biggest threat. It turns out I was wrong—my worst enemy was myself.

The first table I stopped to visit was a company unknown to me—as well as everyone else, it seemed. The booth had no line, no take-away gifts, no reason for being there except to make the career fair look successful. I greeted the attendant with a smile and followed it with the truth: I was not qualified to work for them,

but I was curious about their company. The conversation turned icy without missing a beat—she gave vague answers and tactfully looked over my shoulder as much as possible, redirecting her attention to the nonexistent person behind me. After five minutes, I excused myself.

Not to be discouraged, I tried the same tactic on two other companies, Wegmans and the pharmaceutical manufacturer Johnson & Johnson McNeil. My interest was met with the same dismissive attitude. It was not until I stood in line to talk with RIT's Human Resources representative that things changed—mainly with my story.

I posed as the ideal job applicant, casting aside my own major for whatever they were hoping to find. I gave my word of having IT training and rambled off my interest in computer programming languages. I learned that 19 positions in various departments were open on campus and exactly how to apply.

If you believe the other employers were right to ignore me, you share my feelings. Clearly I was not qualified, and only a qualified person gets hired, right? Wrong. I spent two hours at the Career Fair, half standing in line, half observing other people stand in line. In that time,

I witnessed women getting more talk-time than men, jeans and a t-shirt surpassing an eight-piece suit, and the jokester landing an interview over the intellectual. So, do companies want credentials or personalities these days?

Clearly, a way of life exists at Boeing, Microsoft, and NVIDIA, each seeking new hires that day. Maybe the jeans-and-a-t-shirt programmer demonstrated greater acumen than the button-down shirt and khakis. While talent is undeniably a factor, the recruiters were looking for people they could relate to as well.

Every booth I visited had a company spokesman fresh out of college who determined whether or not I measured up. Where does that put our generation of job applicants? I would say that the academically-driven RIT culture is only half-prepared to enter today's work force. Learning will continue after college, except this time it will be from colleagues instead of professors. If your people skills are insufficient, it might not matter that you know all the digits of pi.

As I left the job fair, another student just arriving took in the atmosphere for the first time. "Man, I'm not going to get a job," he muttered. I decided against advising him to lose the tie if he wants to keep NVIDIA's ear for more than a minute or two. •



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