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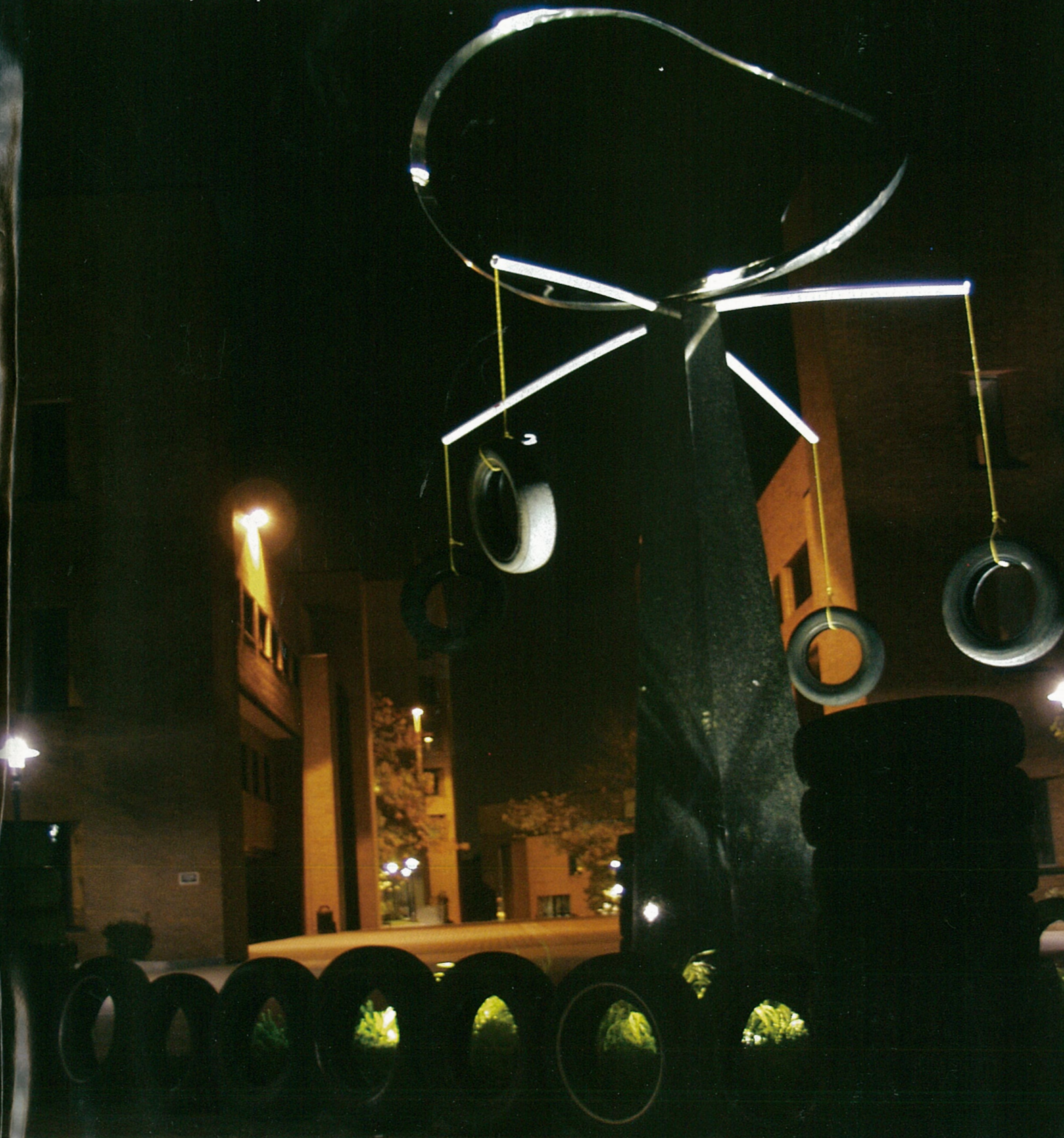
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REPORTER

OCTOBER 15, 2004 | WWW.REPORTERMAG.COM



RPO

Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra

Michael Buttermann, cond.

Mozart

Overture to *Così fan Tutte*

Featured work:

Oboe Concerto in C Major
with principal oboist

Andréa Banke

Stravinsky

Suite from *Pulcinella*

Brahms

Variations on a Theme by Haydn

Dvorak

Slavonic Dances Nos. 1 and 8

Ingle Auditorium Student Alumni Union
Rochester Institute of Technology
Friday, October 15, 2004 at 8pm

Unreserved seating: \$5 Students; \$12 Faculty/Staff/Alumni; \$18 General Public.

Tickets may be purchased at the Student Alumni Union Candy Counter
or at the door on performance night, if available.

Phone for VISA/MC orders: 475-5210.



Performing Artists Concert Series

Affiliated with the Center for Campus Life Rochester Institute of Technology

ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GOSPEL ENSEMBLE

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Annual Brick City Concert

Saturday, October 23rd Concert Starts at 7:30 pm Doors Open at 7:00 pm Allen Chapel of the Interfaith Center Special Guest Sandy Jackson

Admission is free
ALL ARE WELCOME

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Come join us as we "Lift Our Voices in Heavenly Praise"
Let's celebrate the wonders of the heavens
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For details on the RIT Gospel Ensemble please visit
<http://www.rit.edu/~ritgwww>
GospelEnsembleRIT@yahoo.com



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EDITORIAL

Saying No to Joe Schmoe

I don't want my president to be a regular guy.

I want him to be more than that.

However, both presidential candidates seem hell-bent lately on convincing me that they are just that—normal guys who like assuming the role of couch potato and kicking back with a cold American brew to watch the big game. Between appearances on talk-shows, interviewing over a few beers at a sports bar with reporters from trendy magazines, tossing a football while exiting a plane, and reverting to local slang to get their points across, both candidates have been locked in a competition to see who can be more like Al Bundy with dignity.

To be fair, it's not really Bush's or Kerry's fault. They're campaigning to a public that wants to see a bit of themselves in a president. We live in a country where a president's sense of humor is as important as his intellect. A place where what sports they play and what beer they drink and how they like their Philly cheese steak sandwiches prepared (Kerry with swiss cheese and Bush with cheese whiz) are more important character traits than their propensity for telling the truth. At this point, Bush and Kerry are playing the game, giving the American people what they want.

And I wish that weren't the case. I wish that we as a society valued the strengths of a candidate's politics and plan over his personality. I wish that we didn't feel like we had to see him joking around with Regis and Kelly or opening up to Dr. Phil to feel that he has the capacity and fortitude to rule the free world.

I can't help but remember that favoring the average guy who misspoke and made us laugh got us into this mess in the first place. When I really think about it, I continue to be shocked that in our last election, Gore didn't win by a landslide. Gore was smart. He was prepared for the debates, and on knowledge alone should have blown then-governor Bush out of the water. Instead, he was widely perceived as arrogant, a know-it-all, a geek. He was smarter and more knowledgeable about the ways of the world than the average person he was speaking to, not to mention the average reporter covering his speeches, and they lambasted him for it. Bush even used the fact that Gore was incredibly intelligent against him, and was quoted as saying that he was running for president to "keep intellectual pretentiousness out of the White House."

And people bought it. I don't know about you, but if there's anyone at all in the entire United States, or in the entire world for that matter, that I want to be a "know-it-all," it's the president.

If the recent debates have shown me anything, they've shown me that I really don't want a president who is accomplished at making mistakes or making mistakes look good. Every time one of them slips up, I groan and yell at them through the television in my living room.

I don't want a president to be constantly explaining errors in judgment, mixing up facts, or stuttering over rhetoric. Average people make mistakes—lots of them, some embarrassing, some harmful—but few people are in a position where these mistakes will have as wide-reaching effects as the mistakes of the President. I'm not even going to touch on how Bush frustrates me in this regard. For this reason, the president should be above average, above making crucial errors in judgment.

This is why the whole Clinton/Lewinsky debacle upset me so much. Not because I felt like Clinton's screwing around was screwing with America's moral compass—I feel that it's up to parents to set those sorts of examples. No, his actions and the fact that, in the end, they detracted from valuable time which he should have spent saving the world, upset me because messing around and getting caught was so *average*. Thousands upon thousands of people jeopardize or ruin their marriages every year—I just wanted him to be more than that, better than that. He was exceptional at so many other things and instead will be remembered more for cigars and stained dresses than for balancing the budget and leading America into an economic boom. He'll go down in history for being an ordinary man when really, he should have been "the man."

It's hard for me to see either Bush or Kerry as "the man" when they continue to try so hard to be the every man, while they try so hard to come off as ordinary. I don't want my president to be ordinary. This is a complicated country facing complicated problems in complicated times and there's nothing ordinary about any of it. Why then, should I hang my hopes for peace, diplomacy, and safety on any one who is anything less than extraordinary?



Ren Meinhart
Editor in Chief

cover photograph by Justin Harsch



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Credit Where Credit is Due

It was great to see the photos of Mud Tug in your September 24 2004 issue. The photographers on your staff consistently provided outstanding images of life at RIT. However, I was disappointed that the captions lacked a recognition of the individuals and groups who worked tirelessly to put on the event.

As a founder of a similar student run event, The RIT DodgeBall Derby (www.RITDodgeBall.org—a shameless plug for my progeny), I know how hard students must work for these events to be successful. They start working months ahead of time to secure funding, supplies, location, entertainment, sponsors, volunteer workers and participants. And unlike the student leaders in Student Government (which I was) and other Major Student Organizations the students who run events like Mud Tug are not paid and more notably organize these events without the support of full time professional advisors. Just the fact that a handful of students are able to successfully pull off these events by themselves and in their spare time is nothing short of astonishing.

Truly, pages of praise should be given to each who sacrifices to make these events possible. But, I'm sure they'd blush at just a simple mentioning. As such, I would like to recognize Jess Backer, Maria Taylor (both of Zeta Tau Alpha), Steve Coucharia, Sandy Budd, and Pat Helms (all three of Phi Kappa Psi) for their hard work in pulling off another great Mud Tug. Fun was had by all and (I'm told) over \$2,000 was raised for the Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. If you see them on campus, thank them.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Maloney

P.S. *Reporter* readers, who want to, may turn to the front inside page to see the names of those who work hard every week in putting out this great student publication.

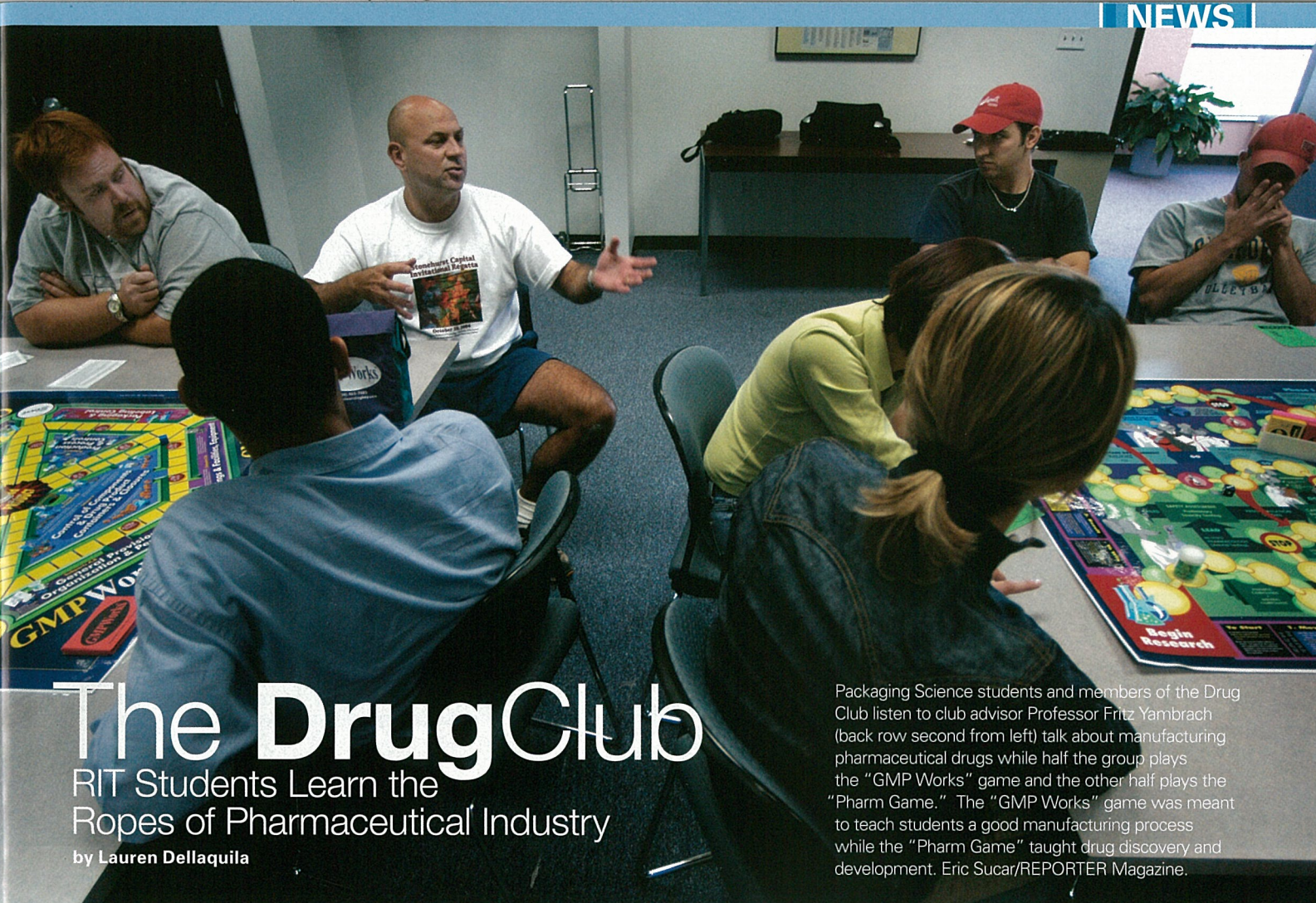
CORRECTION: In last week's Three Stars, we incorrectly identified women's tennis player Aimee Homberg. Sorry Aimee! Good luck with the rest of your season.



Aimee Holmberg: Tennis

Aimee Thompson may be known as the "quiet one" on the women's tennis team, but her performance on the court speaks volumes about her athletic ability. Aimee's current record is 6-2 in singles play and 5-3 in doubles, and she was recently named RIT Female Co-Athlete of the Week for the week ending September 26. Coach Ann Nealon said of Aimee that she "comes out here [to the tennis court] and has an inner composure about herself that is like a quiet lion, and then she hits that ball and she attacks it." Coach Nealon emphasized the deceptiveness of Thompson's quiet nature, pointing out that once she gets on the court she plays a very

explosive tennis game. Nealon made it known that although Amy has a quietness about her, "she manages to get the job done that way." Aimee is extremely dedicated to the team, doing whatever it takes to make it to all the matches, even if that means leaving early or arriving late to class. Scheduling conflicts make it impossible for Aimee to play doubles with the same teammate every week; yet, she is still able to win matches with whoever is available to play. Aimee's flexible nature and dedication to tennis has been influential in her development into a top-notch tennis player.



The Drug Club

RIT Students Learn the Ropes of Pharmaceutical Industry

by Lauren Dellaquila

Packaging Science students and members of the Drug Club listen to club advisor Professor Fritz Yambrach (back row second from left) talk about manufacturing pharmaceutical drugs while half the group plays the "GMP Works" game and the other half plays the "Pharm Game." The "GMP Works" game was meant to teach students a good manufacturing process while the "Pharm Game" taught drug discovery and development. Eric Sucar/REPORTER Magazine.

Students in all academic programs have been given the opportunity to learn the basics of the ever growing pharmaceutical industry by joining the brand new pharmaceutical club. Along with basic club meetings and getting to know the industry inside and out, the groups plans to take field trips to pharmaceutical manufacturing firms, trade group functions, and invite guests lecturers to RIT. Just this past week, Pharmaceutical Club advisor Fritz Yambrach took a group of ten students to New Jersey and New York City for Food and Drug Administration (FDA) conferences. Students experienced actual negotiations between the FDA and high level directors from the pharmaceutical industry. "It was an experience that they won't realize the full value of until they are at least five years into the workforce," says Yambrach, who plans on taking trips such as these quite often. However, when students aren't able to make it events such as these, they find themselves learning on campus.

When not attending such conferences or lectures, member of the Pharmaceutical Club spend their meetings together playing "The Pharm Game." The board game they play is not your average Chutes and Ladders, however. It was initially developed by a consulting group as a human resource training tool for pharmaceutical industry employees. The subjects covered range from research to product launch, and game questions concentrate on the industry regulations,

research, chemistry and the typical jargon of the pharmaceutical industry. The club's group of twenty-five, and growing, is still in the very developmental stages of learning the Pharm game. Chris Robinson, an RIT lab coordinator and club vice president, says it will take a considerable amount of time to become familiar with the game and its deepest intricacies. Robinson says they will initially start with a smaller "test" group to begin playing the game and eventually branch out to the rest of the members of the club when they have a better handle on the material.

To get the group started, Yambrach, an RIT professor of packaging science since 1983, wrote a grant last January to RIT's "Provost's Learning Innovations," a program geared towards grants for faculty projects. The organization loved the idea of extended learning beyond the classroom for an extracurricular group and granted Yambrach the funds needed to purchase two of the Pharm games. One of Yambrach's reasons for starting the club was that he wanted to give students in packaging science and other related fields of study an edge in "the interview." Just being on the official list of members helps to add to a resume, but being an involved member and possessing the knowledge and experience of the industry will put the students ahead of others who haven't had the same experience. The central point Yambrach stresses is that the club is industry centered; not purely academic learning. Coming from a background in the pharmaceutical industry, Yambrach realizes the importance of being knowledgeable and aware of one's future industry, and also the value of a good academic background. For more information on or to join the Pharmaceutical Club contact club vice president Chris Robinson at cqrmnet@rit.edu. ■



Buddhism Sangha Enlightens RIT Students

by Patrick Kelley

(from left to right) Student John Wong, and Instructors Lee Twyman and Patrick Walsh demonstrate how to meditate before class starts on Friday. The meditation group meets every Friday at noon and is open to any students who wish to come. Jacob Hannah/REPORTER Magazine.

RIT's Student Government supports a diverse body of clubs and organizations on campus. Included in this list is the RIT Buddhist Sangha, a ten member group who come together in formal meditation and fulfillment of the Buddhist principles.

"The Buddhist Sangha at RIT practices that the enlightened mind is no different than the ordinary mind," club member Chuck Kushla said. "There is nothing we lack." The Sangha are a community of followers of Buddha who have maintained his teachings through the centuries. They are considered companions on a journey to liberate themselves from suffering. They believe, as Buddha himself stated, "Not to do evil; to do what is good. To cleanse one's own mind; this is the teaching of the Buddha" (Dhammapada v. 183).

Buddhism teaches that there is an element of faith in the experience of enlightenment. Sharon Bennett, the club leader, said "Try to explain to someone who has been blind their entire life what colors look like, and you'll find it is the same sort of thing... there aren't any words that can explain to such a person what the color blue looks like." Enlightenment is something that cannot be expressed in words, and yet is possible for everyone. She adds one of the main goals of the group is to introduce Buddhism to those who are interested and offer as much support as possible to their members, both through meditation practices and reading. The group has also focused on introducing members to the off-campus Buddhist community, both in Rochester and beyond.

According to the Tripitaka, the recorded teachings of the Buddha, the Sangha are "worthy of gifts, hospitality, offerings and reverential salutations, and who are the unsurpassed field of merit in the world." Kushla said, "Although there are many strains of Buddhism throughout the world, each with their own distinct practices, the main focus of our Sangha is to provide instruction, guidance, and a place to practice a form of meditation known as Zazen. Sitting with our legs folded and the back in an upright position, we place our hands in our laps and follow the natural process of our breathing. Thoughts will come and go as they please, so long as you don't entertain them. As one ancient Buddhist said, "Imagine your mind is a house with its doors open. Allow your thoughts to come in the front and leave out the back, just don't invite them to stay for dinner."

"In the beginning it is easy for the mind to wander and think about other things," explained Kushla. "It is sometimes better to count the breaths from 1-10, and start again. For anywhere from 25-35 minutes we sit and concentrate solely on our breathing. Sitting single-mindedly on following the breath, slowly the mind will settle down. The study of Buddhism is the study of what it is to be human. It harmonizes the body and mind. It helps increase concentration and alleviates stress. Sitting during finals week is a wonder[ful] aid to studying, as long as you're able to put all of your troubles down and sit single-mindedly for a few minutes. Prolonged meditation practice has been known to reduce blood pressure, and increase brain productivity."

Meetings of the RIT Buddhist Sangha are open to all members of the community and you need not be Buddhist to attend. The group meets on Wednesday nights at seven o'clock and Saturday afternoons at one o'clock in the Jones Chapel of the Schmitt Interfaith Center. ■

Tom Golisano Stops Signing the Chex

by Casey Dehlinger

B. Thomas Golisano, namesake of the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences (GCCIS) at RIT, stepped down from his position as President and CEO of Paychex on Monday October 4. Golisano was immediately replaced by Jonathan J. Judge, a twenty-five year veteran executive from IBM. Golisano started the payroll service in 1971, and since then the Rochester based Paychex has evolved from a company with a single employee and forty clients into a massive business, dealing with a half million clients and nearly ten thousand employees nationwide.

Under Golisano, Paychex garnered a number of prestigious awards including being named to Fortune magazine's "100 Best Companies to Work for," and was also named one of the most admired companies in America. In addition, Paychex was also named to the Forbes magazine list of the best managed companies in America, a direct effect of Golisano's leadership. Golisano, an active political and financial leader in upstate New York, has run for Governor of New York three times through the New York State Independence Party, which he founded himself. At RIT, Golisano has been an active philanthropist, donating \$14 million for the creation of GCCIS, the eighth college at RIT. In addition to his role as a financial supporter of the institute, Golisano also sits on the RIT Board of Trustees. Though he

will no longer lead Paychex as President and CEO, Golisano will continue with his position as its Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Golisano cited his decision to step down from his position for both family and political reform reasons, noting that his health was not a concern. Golisano urged employees and community members that Paychex stands financially sound and should continue a success under the new leadership of Judge. A recent expansion into the European market, no debt, and over \$600 million in cash all solidified Golisano's statements concerning the well being of Paychex.

As for his post-Paychex days, the 62 year old Golisano mentioned he would spend more time on his responsibilities with Buffalo Sabres hockey team, which he purchased in 2002, and family-wise, he wishes to spend more time with his new wife, two children, and six grandchildren. Politically he plans to continue spending time working with the Independence party, but has made no decisions on whether he will run for Governor of New York in 2006. Golisano also plans to further his philanthropic endeavors. In the past he has donated over \$50 million to Rochester area groups, including the B. Thomas Golisano Children's Wing at University of Rochester's Strong Memorial Hospital. ■

BrickBeat

by Patrick Rice

Gallery r Exhibit Focuses on Humor in Art

RIT's student run Gallery r will hold an opening reception for "Humor in Art," a juried exhibition of student works from 7:00-9:30p.m. on Friday October 15. The works on display all contain the common goal of representing humor, though students created works with the media of their choosing. The exhibition will be judged by RIT faculty members including printmaker David Jay Reed, advertising photography chair Denis Defibaugh, and cartoonist Bill Jankowski. The reception is the first of the season for Gallery r and is free and open to the public. The student works will be displayed through Nov. 6 at the gallery located at 775 Park Ave. Hours for the gallery are Thursday-Sunday 3:00-7:00. For more information on the show and the gallery, visit www.galleryr.org.

Cite it Right!

Wallace Library staff members will hold annual Cite it Right! sessions throughout the Fall Quarter. The sessions are meant for students to bring current Works Cited Pages to clarify, correct, and answer questions concerning citing sources. Library staff will offer tips using both MLA and APA formats.

The free sessions will take place on October 20 and 27 and Nov. 2 and 8 in the IDEA Factory on the first floor of the Wallace Library from 12:00-1:00 p.m. For more information contact Wallace Library Reference Department Head Margaret Bartlett at mbbwml@rit.edu.

Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra to Perform at Gordon Field House

As part of the year long events celebrating RIT's 175th Anniversary, Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO) will present a pop's concert at the Gordon Field House and Activities Center. The performance of popular works from feature films such as Star Wars and Harry Potter will take place on Thursday October 21 at 7:30 p.m. and is free and open to the public. Those wishing to attend are asked to pre order tickets from the RPO box office by mailing a self addressed, stamped envelope to RIT 175th Anniversary Concert, Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, 108 East Ave, Rochester, NY 14604, or they can be picked up at box office. For more information contact Silandara Bartlett-Gustina at 475.4948.

CrimeWatch

compiled by Patrick Rice

October 1

Dispute—Campus Safety Office

A student reported that he is being harassed via email by another student on co-op. A vulgar, bias-related message was posted on the student's website journal. Follow-up to continue.

Auto Stripping—University Commons

An unknown person smashed the windshield on a student's 2000 Mitsubishi Eclipse behind University Commons building 14. Nothing was reported missing from the vehicle. An area canvas was done and Crime Alerts were posted in the area.

Auto Stripping—University Commons

An unknown person smashed the windshield of a student's 2001 Subaru Legacy behind University Commons building 14. Nothing was reported missing from the vehicle. An area canvas was done and Crime Alerts were posted in the area.

Auto Stripping—University Commons

An unknown person smashed the windshield of a student's Mitsubishi Galant behind University Commons building 14. Nothing was reported missing from the vehicle. An area canvas was done and Crime Alerts were posted in the area.

Auto Stripping—Riverknoll

An unknown person smashed the windshield on a student's 2000 Oldsmobile Intrigue which was parked in Riverknoll apartments R-6 lot. Nothing was reported missing from the vehicle.

Auto Stripping—Riverknoll

An unknown person smashed the windshield on a student's 1993 Infinity G2 while it was parked in Riverknoll apartments R-6 lot. Nothing was reported missing from the vehicle.

Harassment—Ellingson Hall

An unknown person removed a student's whiteboard off the wall on the 6th floor of Ellingson Hall. The board was placed on a chair in front of the student's door. A neighborhood canvass and interviews were conducted. Investigation continues.

October 2

Unlawful Dealing with a Child

A under-aged student was hospitalized after becoming intoxicated at a party in University Commons. The party was shut down and guests were told to leave. Two additional students were confirmed to be underage at the party but had not been drinking. The incident was referred to Student Conduct.

Criminal Mischief—University Commons

Officers observed a damaged light pole on the North side of University Commons building 12. Facilities Management responded and Housing Operations was notified.

October 3

Criminal Mischief—E Lot

Campus Safety observed three stop signs had been damaged near lots E and F, lots G and H at Ward Rd. and at F Lot and Andrews Memorial Drive. Facilities Management responded and removed white paint from the signs.

Unlawful Possession of Marijuana—Campus Safety Office

While on a weekend trip to Massachusetts with two friends, a student left his friends when they reportedly picked up a large amount of marijuana. The students returned to campus and they were contacted by Campus Safety. The students denied the report and a search of their rooms in Ellingson Hall turned up no marijuana. The incident has been referred to Student Conduct.

October 4

Disorderly Conduct—University Commons

Four students were observed drinking beer outside a University Commons building. One student, while urinating, lost his balance and spilled beer on the screen of an apartment. Two beer bottles were also broken on the entranceway to the building. The responsible students were contacted, admitted their involvement, and agreed to clean the area. The incident has been referred to Student Conduct.

Robbery—Crossroads

Three masked subjects entered the Crossroads building early in the morning while staff prepared to open. At least one subject was armed with a gun and demanded money. Two employees were shot and were taken to Strong Memorial Hospital where they were treated and released. There are no suspects at this time; the incident is being investigated by the Monroe County Sheriff's Office.

October 5

Harassment—Student Alumni Union

A student reported being harassed by another student for the past two years. The male student would frequently make passes and flirt with her and the student had sought counseling at the Women's Center. Campus Safety was assigned to follow up on the incident with the male student.

Fraud—George Eastman Building

A student employee submitted work hours for two departments at the same time and date. The student was employed by both departments but did not work for them at the same times. The incident was referred to Student Conduct.

Unlawful Possession of Marijuana—RIT Inn and Conference Center

An unknown person called Campus Safety to report a student in possession of three glass pipes and five grams of marijuana. The student was contacted and the items were confiscated. A Graduate Community Advocate was notified of the incident.

RIT to Modify General Education Requirements

by Patrick Rice | photograph by Matthew Apgar

As part of RIT's Strategic Plan for 2005, students will be able to generate a more flexible schedule of courses to fulfill their graduation requirements. The proposal for the "Curriculum Flexibility" initiative came from RIT President Dr. Al Simone, and is being carried out by Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Stanley McKenzie. Curriculum Flexibility has several purposes, according to Dr. McKenzie which include a greater flexibility in scheduling classes for minors and those who do double majors, as well as extend the amount of time undecided students have to declare their major, reduce the amount of time it takes students to earn their degree, provide students with a wider scale of elective options, and to reduce obstacle for students who transfer programs within RIT.

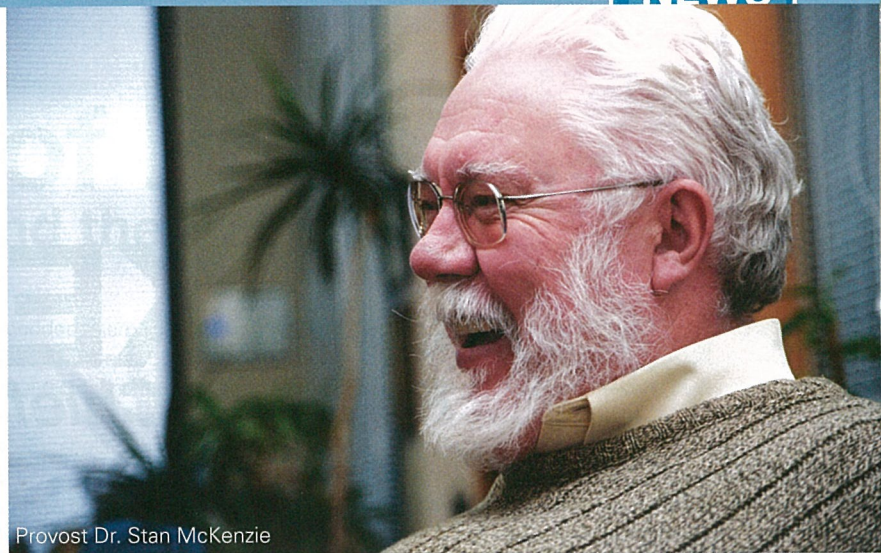
Why the Change?

Each reason for implementing the curriculum flexibility program, however, has a purpose which may not be immediately clear. For instance, the need for students to graduate within twelve quarters is important especially for students who receive financial aid. According to Federal and State tuition assistance programs, most financial aid is only available to students for four years of school. By extending their time at RIT, students may be increasing their financial burden due to the limited supply of tuition assistance available both through government programs as well as from RIT.

Flexible curriculum would also encourage the development between programs in different colleges and even programs within the same college. An example of this would be giving students the ability to minor in a program unrelated to their major, take courses that are cross listed in different colleges, or even decide to pursue a double major. Besides diversifying the classes that students would be able to take, students who are undecided would also have ample opportunities to take a variety of courses that may enable them to declare their major sooner, thus giving students a greater chance to complete their degree in twelve quarters.

How Does it Work?

As it stands, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) requires colleges and universities to meet specific standards depending on the degrees being offered. For instance, students who will earn a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree at RIT are required to earn a minimum of 180 quarter



Provost Dr. Stan McKenzie

credits, of which half are required to be General Education classes in humanities, social sciences, mathematics, sciences, and computing and information sciences. Students who will earn a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree, on the other hand, must earn the same 180 quarter credits, however only twenty-five percent of those credits need be general education classes. From this point, RIT decides how many credits each program is required to fulfill within each general education category.

What the curriculum flexibility initiative will require is that all students in BS programs be required to take ninety credits of general education classes, however twelve of those credits must be open elective classes outside the student's home department. Dr. McKenzie believes this initiative is most helpful for students. "Students who elected to take a course are interested in that course" said McKenzie, pointing out that when the choice of classes is up to the student, they may have a greater interest than in a class which is chosen for them.

What will be the Outcome?

Though the initiative presents the student population with greater choices to take minors, faculty in the College of Liberal Arts are worried that less students would enroll in liberal art classes to complete their minors. Students in BS programs would still, however, be required to take at least thirty four credits of classes through the College of Liberal Arts, which would be thirty four of the required ninety general education requirements requested by the NYSED. Dr. McKenzie pointed out however, that each department also has the ability to assign any additional amount of credits to the required thirty four credits required by NYSED, as long as there are twelve credits to be used as open electives.

Dr. McKenzie hopes the outcome of these new guidelines will further enhance the academic experience of current students and those forthcoming. By implementing this initiative, more than 3,000 students at RIT will have the ability to complete a twenty credit minor and will also give those students better chances of completing their degree in twelve quarters. The new requirements will be implemented in the Fall of 2005. Current RIT students will have the opportunity to graduate under the requirements of either the current requirements, or those of the curriculum flexibility initiative. ■



CAKE

Pressure Chief

by Erhardt Graeff

Since introducing the mainstream to their raucous groove-smithing with 1996's "The Distance," Cake has been riding the fine line between major-label alterna-act and semi-cult superstars. Infusing helplessly funky bass beats with so-much-better-than-ska trumpet and the infectious sing-speak professions of John McCrea, there have not been many acts sitting on a label like Columbia, boasting both airplay and originality. But this is the fifth album, and like a fifth-year senior, *Pressure Chief* has some listeners looking at the future, and others wondering when it will end.

The first three songs of the album brew a strong, medium-dark pulse that bobs your head for you. Complete with clever lyrics and classic, full but uncrowded audio panache, "Wheels," "No Phone," and "Take It All Away" are infectious testaments to Cake's proven style. "...and the muscular cyborg German dudes dance with sexy French Canadians." You are feeling the shadowy audio love flowing by now. Then, "Dime" is flicked at you from across the room, boasting an inane chorus presented in a certainly Cake, but certainly un-amazing fashion. The follow-up is the painful "Carbon Monoxide." Now, Cake hails from California, where the air is quite infamously unpleasant. And yet McCrea feels compelled to exclaim multiple times, "Too much carbon monoxide for me to bear / Where's the air?" All this poetic magic rides atop a take-my-cookie-friends-with-you-to-the-beach kind of rock. Simple subject matter and zany execution can be pulled off without wasting the listener's time on trite non-feelings—for an example of this, checkout the band Of Montreal.

These two mild travesties of song stand as the ugliest mars on the album. Once past them, Cake slowly gets back into the rightful groove. "The Guitar Man" romanticizes about a modern troubadour, then ramps up into "Waiting", a song that hits you like that much-needed breath of fresh air. With a little unrequited love, McCrea is back in his medium, giving us standard-issue Cake clever simplicity like "You can soak your bread in wine/It can seem like you are living like you're having a real good time/And you can do it to your conscience/You can do it all the time." The only negativity forced upon this ballad is synthesizer—just too much; the video game bleeps rolling through the chorus disrupt the scene. *Pressure Chief* ends after less than 36 minutes with quality—a thoughtful tinge and musical message. "Tougher Than It Is" contains the proverbial afterthought: "Some people like to make life a little tougher than it is." Set up with that last-jam feeling, the song features lots of party-esque background noise and a tasteful cowbell in Cake's sayonara.

If you are Cake fan, buy *Pressure Chief*. Get a feel for where they are headed, what they are trying, and of course complete your collection. It is not a "bad" album—just different, which some listeners will inevitably find disappointing. Overall, the effort is very danceable and karaoke would be easy. Perhaps with less synthesizer and carbon monoxide, this plastic disk's potential energy would be a bit stronger; who knows? Recommendation: Listen because it's fun, not because it's revolutionary. ■



ThisWeek

submit your events to reporter@rit.edu

10/15

8 p.m.-2:30 p.m.
Latin Expo Party
SAU Café. Dance party hosted by Lambda Chi.
Contact: Evelyn Plazas: eap8779@rit.edu.
10 p.m.-12 a.m.
Band Camp
The Ritz. Live rock band. Contact: CAB:
cabwww@rit.edu.

10/16

all day
Thought at Work
Webb Auditorium. Second annual student-organized design conference about the transition from being a student to a working design practitioner. Students-\$50; Other-\$100. Contact: Patrick Rice: pat@thoughtatwork.com.

10/17

2 p.m.-5 p.m.
Xi Man Competition
Ingle Auditorium. Beauty pageant for men with karaoke, activewear, and lots of fun. Free. Contact: Caitlin Glegg: angealways44@hotmail.com.
9 p.m.-10 p.m.
Drag Race
Infinity Circle to Sundial. Race down the quarter mile in your best drag get-up. Prizes awarded to male and female racers. Free. Contact: Amy Seger: ams6320@rit.edu.

10/19

4 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
COLA Distinguished Professors' Lecture Series: Liberal Arts and Technology
Carlson Auditorium. Communications professor Diane S. Hope presents on "Communication Technologies and Media Realities: Lines of Inquiry for the Liberal Arts." Free. Contact: Cassandra Shellman: cls3740@rit.edu.

10/20

8 p.m.-10 p.m.
Drag Bingo
SAU Café. Free. Contact: Residence Life: 475-6022.

10/21

7 p.m.-9 p.m.
Photography Lecture: Arno Rafael Minkinen
Carlson Auditorium. The Finnish fine art photographer shows and discusses his work. Free. Contact: School of Photographic Arts and Sciences: 475-2716.
7:30 p.m.-9:45 p.m.
Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra
Gordon Fieldhouse. Celebrate RIT's 175th Anniversary with Jeff Tyzik and the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. Enjoy an evening of popular hits and film music. The concert is free and open to the public, but tickets must be ordered through Brick City Registration. Contact: RIT Events Line: gcr@rit.edu, 475-7814.
10 p.m.-12 a.m.
Breaking Laces
The Ritz. Live rock. Bar and Grill will be open. \$1. Contact: CAB: cabwww@rit.edu.



A Sign of Pride

The Story Behind the Rainbow

by Lisa Hawver

National Coming Out Day is not only a celebration of diversity, but an opportunity to gain knowledge of ideas that some may not have even tried to comprehend. If someone asked you why a major gay pride symbol is the rainbow and how it came to be that way, would you know the answer? I know that I, for one, would not. Think of how many of us walk around campus with an array of ignorance for environments outside of our own. Maybe it's time we learn about other ways of life, and a national day such as this is no better time.

In 1978, San Francisco resident Gilbert Baker designed and handcrafted an eight-stripe flag in response to community efforts to create a unifying symbol. Baker carefully chose the color scheme with each stripe holding a specific meaning. The top stripe—hot pink—stood for sex, red stood for life, orange for healing, yellow for sun, green for serenity with nature, light blue for art, indigo for harmony, and finally, the bottom stripe was violet, to represent spirit. The flag soon made its debut flying high in that same year's gay pride parade in San Francisco.

The following year, as the popularity of the flag grew, a local San Francisco store called Paramount began to sell the flag in massive quantities. The only problem was it had a surplus of a seven-striped flag made for the International Order of Rainbow for Girls, a Masonic organization, instead of Baker's hand-made eight-striped flag. Baker asked the company to mass-produce the original eight-striped flag, but the hot pink fabric used in his design was not available in large enough quantities, so the stripe was dropped and the flag reduced to seven instead of eight.

If you have ever walked around in a parking lot, or while on a joy ride stared at the cars going past you on the highway, I'm sure you have come across a six-striped rainbow decal on a bumper or two. The transformation from seven stripes to the current six stripes happened again on accident. Baker asked the Paramount flag company to produce vertical flags for lampposts, to hang up during the gay pride parade. Seven was not an easy number to split evenly, so Baker decided to change the flag to six stripes so that three could go on each side of the lamppost, forming a complete rainbow. The final colors that are seen today are red, orange, yellow, green, dark blue, and violet. No longer strictly rectangular, the rainbow has come a long way from its eight-stripe design and its single medium, the flag. Gay pride is also shown through rainbow necklaces, bracelets, rings, bumper stickers, tattoos and posters.

Why did Gilbert Baker choose those colors in that specific order twenty-six years ago? Gilbert never gave a straight reason why, but some historians relate his decision to religious stories and myths. Genesis, in the Old Testament of the Bible, tells how the rainbow was a symbol of promise from God to humanity that the great flood Noah escaped from in his ark would never again occur. Old Indian myths tell of a

goddess named Indra who carried a rainbow as her weapon, and the rainbow has also been called Allah's bow in Islamic tapestry. In each story, the rainbow is a representation of power, promise, and optimism. The different and varied colors come together to create something beautiful and unified.

Symbols are more than just pictures that represent ideas. Whether it be a rainbow, a triangle, a cross, or a swastika, symbols carry with them the powerful property of association. Beliefs, emotions, and instances in history are frozen in time for people to reflect on every day through these compelling signs. ■

RIT CRIBS

by Erhardt Graeff

LOCATION: Winton Village Apartments

DESIGNERS/TENNANTS: Becca Sager (Third year Industrial Design) and Kate McQuail (Third year Graphic Design)

The posh abode in which Becca and Kate swaddle themselves simply emanates with random elegance. First are the walls, all re-painted to cover the homogenous cream wash that is usually yawned throughout a rented apartment.

Arranged against the colorized walls with their tastefully framed art, is loads of handcrafted furniture—mostly handcrafted by Becca. Re-tiled tables, re-painted shelving, and other odds and ends have been found on the side of the road and refurbished for palatial inclusion. This dumpster diving for design geeks has helped offset the real price tags attached to many of the pillows and bedding. At least director's chair legs can be converted into side tables with the help of some driftwood. Becca explains, "We're just bargain shoppers."

This Winton Village estate is in a Walt Whitman state of design, never-ending, always open for garnishing. And Becca knows how to garnish. Lampshades and valances are made with inexpensive materials like placemats sewn together and then adorned with plastic beading. Impressively, with their theme of what ever looks good and is fun to make, a fine cohesive décor has materialized. Unfortunately, the fairy tale will end someday, and foamy greens and mauves will have to go back to beige. "Painting party when we move out. And that is going to be a sad day." ■

Photographs courtesy Kate McQuail



Web Review: Paper Rad

The goggles, they do nothing!

by Sean Hannan | illustration by Brittney Lee

It is pretty well known by now that the Internet, and by extension, the web, started as a government research project. For a while it slowly grew in academia, and then in the mid-90s, it hit puberty. It was a rough time; the web was awkward and confused. Am I academic? Am I a new business model? Why is it that every time a girl walks by, I get some meringue in my Pyongyang? Thankfully, it seems the growth spurts have tapered off and the web is now a slick, happening guy. We now expect websites to be helpful, well maintained, and easy to use. The content of sites has to have a logical, organized structure. If you're making websites these days, and you aren't following the rules, you're antisocial and a threat to the digital order. Well, screw that.

Paper Rad (www.paperrad.org) gleefully breaks every web design convention known to man and is damn proud of it. Billing itself as "art for the three eyes," the site is more accurately described as "psychedelic Atari vomit." Not to say that its seizure-inducing, strobing colors are distasteful, but it requires a certain amount of mental wherewithal to even move past the initial page. If you're willing to undertake the endeavor, though, the site is a trove of mental candy.

A good portion of the site's content is humorous, non sequitur flash movies. The folks at Paper Rad seem to have a sweet spot for Gumby; the adventurous green clay blob from our childhood. He turns up in many of the cartoons, either riding go-karts, huffing spray paint, or being scooped up by the hand of the Notorious G.O.D.

Another large section of the site is devoted to their web comics. "Comics" is being used very loosely here, because most of the cartoons have little to no dialogue and a very loose sense of plot. But hey, if you're looking to see Howard the Duck have sex in a VIP lounge in a disco, Paper Rad's got your back.

Upon first glance, it may seem that the entire site has been made with Microsoft Paint. This could very well be true, but there was a considerable amount of time that went into these abrasively technicolor pages. The illustrative style may seem unrefined and the color choices alone may seem brainless, but the visual style is clearly intended to be that way. While not noticeable on first glance, it's the little touches that show that Paper Rad gave this site some sweet sweet lovin'.

Though usually a detractor for most websites, the mystic navigation and the ability to easily get lost only enhance the fantasticness of the site. Hidden links exist on the site for people to find and enjoy. Even links to sites outside of the paperrad.org domain maintain the "poor design" aesthetic freakishly well. Spend an hour clicking around and you'll discover a "bizarro" internet where proper spelling, punctuation, and color selection have never existed. ■

DESIGN: ★★★★★ Anti-design is the new design. It's time to get naked and start the revolution.

CONTENT: ★★★★★ Despite its confusing layout, there always seems to be something new on each visit.

SAFE FOR WORK: ★★★★★ *Reporter* is not responsible for headaches, scarred retinas, or epileptic fits.

NOT A FAD: ★★★★★ In time, this neon convulsion aesthetic will pass. Hopefully, Paper Rad will be right there with something else to freak out the squares.



Quote

"In each human heart are a tiger, a pig, an ass and a nightingale. Diversity of character is due to their unequal activity."

—Ambrose Bierce

Some Facts

In Honor of Mount Saint Helens' Bowel Movement

- The word "volcano" comes from the little island of Vulcano off Sicily in the Mediterranean Sea. In ancient times, people there thought Vulcano was the chimney of Vulcan, the blacksmith of the Roman gods. They reasoned that the lava and ash from the peak were byproducts from making thunderbolts for Jupiter and Mars.
- The first recorded attempt at volcanology was in 79 A.D., when Pliny the Younger sent two letters to a historian describing the eruption of Vesuvius, "in a very crude, flowery way," said Steve Malone, a volcanic seismologist at the University of Washington.
- The Nespelem Indians who lived along the Columbia River tell about the 3 inches of "dry snow" that fell one summer. Panicked by the fall of ash, the Indians began non-stop prayer and dancing that kept them from their usual tasks of collecting berries, salmon and dried meat for the winter. Starvation followed.
- Volcanic ash can blow over thousands of square kilometers of land, increasing soil fertility for forests and agriculture by adding nutrients, and acting as a mulch.
- The term "pyroclastic"—derived from the Greek words *pyro* (fire) and *klastos* (broken)—describes materials formed by the fragmentation of magma and rock by explosive volcanic activity. Pyroclastic flows—sometimes called *nuées ardents* (French for "glowing clouds")—are hot, often incandescent mixtures of volcanic fragments and gases that sweep along close to the ground.

Cat-sitting for your friends. Feed them. Water them. Mess with their heads. Show them cats some lovin', just don't actually do any lovin'—poofy things are good, pointy things are bad.

> Reporter Recommends

A Haiku

by Brian Garrison:

Commercialism
Buy something for pet peeve week
It would piss me off

The pleated cheerleader skirt...why? Recently, a female fashion craze has taken hold in the form of short skirts with ruffly swaying pleats—similar in design and fluidity to classic cheerleader skirts. This tends to be a preppy look, with prominent designers and lower-priced mimickers stocking the shelves with the wash of fabric. With any fad, there are those who should follow it and those who should not. The cut lends itself to falling well on skinny legs, and in the case of not-so-skinny legs, those pleats get a workout. If this is a statement you wish to make, just be aware of any character connotations and aesthetic taste involved. *Go Team.*

Random REVIEW

Songs you're probably embarrassed to admit you once listened to and enjoyed

Coolio: Gangsta's Paradise

Ace of Base: The Sign

Will Smith: Gettin Jiggy Wit' It

Real McCoy: Another Night

Slayer: Raining Blood

Hootie and the Blowfish: Hold my Hand

Limp Bizkit: Nookie


Backstreet Boys: Everybody

Chumbawumba: Tubthumping

AT YOUR

LEISURE

Things and Stuff, and People too...



S

ecret Lives
OF Professors

by Reporter Staff

Every superhero has an alter ego. Batman is millionaire businessman Bruce Wayne when he's not out fighting crime. Superman spends his downtime as reporter Clark Kent. Spiderman pays the bills by taking photographs. Professors have alter egos too—lives outside the classroom, but a select few take on roles vastly different from the subjects they teach. Some find connections between the two disciplines. Others enjoy the differences. The following five professors are all great teachers, but when they leave the classroom, their alter egos come out to play.



Carl Lutzer

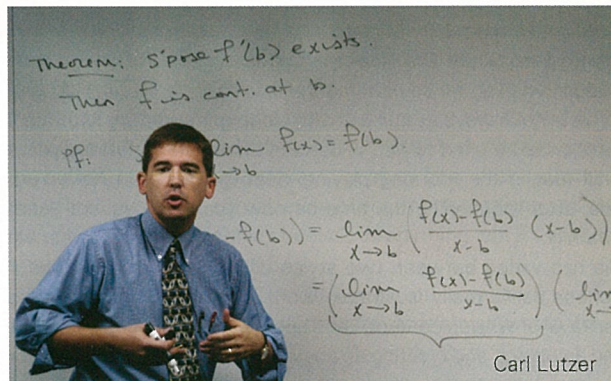
The Fencing Professor

by Casey Dehlinger | photograph by Eric Sucar

After a long hard day of teaching math courses at RIT, Professor Carl Lutzer has a rather unusual way of unwinding; he throws on a plastron, puts on a mask, picks up a saber and sets out to win the touch. If some of those terms seem confusing, try listening to Professor Lutzer talk about math, a subject that he is equally passionate about.

"What set me into math was the fact that I was interested in both physics and philosophy, which is to say that I was interested in not only what is true, but also why it is true. Mathematics has a nice blend of those aspects," Professor Lutzer said, while explaining why he was so enthralled by the mysteries of math. At the same time, math can be extremely mysterious. The mysteries of irrational numbers such as pi still ask the classical question "why?" with mother's old reply of, "because that's the way it is." This duality of logic and mystery intrigues Professor Lutzer. To harmonize the two he enjoys taking his expertise and applying it to practical applications. Currently, he is working on a project with George Thurston that is exploring the fluids in the human eye and how these fluids affect eyesight in general and specifically in eye conditions such as cataracts. In turn, fencers who take Lutzer's Introduction to the Sabre class wear face masks so that their eye fluid is not included in this project. Another of Professor Lutzer's projects deals with alternating harmonic series. As Lutzer specifies, "these series don't necessarily alternate back and forth, but their number of positive and negative terms is roughly 50/50 in some of kind of limiting fashion. The question is whether or not these series converge, and under what conditions." Professor Lutzer refers to this field of study as being more abstract and aesthetic, and due to the intellectual nature of his study, most people simply take his word for it.

Fencing, as many might assume, is quite different from mathematics. Of course the sport is filled with physics; momentum and torque, acceleration and speed; but even Professor Lutzer admits that there is virtually no correlation between his career and his hobby. Fencing wasn't offered at his high school, but nonetheless, he sought after a sport that was challenging and not overridden by the jock crowd. Although Lutzer has nothing against jocks in general, he wasn't particularly fond of the jocks at his high school. Interestingly enough, he was turned onto fencing largely because of the films it is featured in, most predominantly, Young Sherlock Holmes, but also films like, *Dead Poet's Society*. Lutzer also admits having been influenced by some fencing featured in *Star Trek*. In retrospect, he denounces *Young Sherlock Holmes* as being a terrible movie and the fencing in *Star Trek* as equally terrible. Clearly, fencing has an incredibly cinematic quality to it, and that is what sucked Professor Lutzer into the extremely



Carl Lutzer

addictive sport. "It gets into your blood," adds Lutzer, "no pun intended."

Beginner's fencing classes are offered every quarter except for summer. In addition, the RIT Fencing Club meets from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday afternoons. Now may be a good time to start, if you are interested, because fencing is a very difficult sport that requires hours of practice. After fourteen years of fencing, Lutzer admits that he's slowing down and that his students finally have a chance to beat him. The great amount of effort required in fencing is a mixed blessing. All of the work required turns people off to the sport, and makes it very difficult to enjoy at a beginning level, but once a fencer becomes truly proficient with a sabre, all of the sacrifices are worth it. Learning the sport changes the sport, giving the fencer a greater respect for the talent involved in swordplay. Watching a fencing match is fascinating enough as is, whether of the varsity or Hollywood variety, but learning fencing allows the viewer to truly watch the match as opposed to merely seeing it. Interested? A course in fencing can fill in one of those pesky physical education requirements and help fine tune a Captain Jack Sparrow impression. Or, if for no better reason, just see if you can take on your math professor.

Computer Code and Paint Professor

by Pat Kelley

The entire south wall of Andy Phelps' office is covered in computer programming books, hundreds of them. Next to them, is a massive multi-colored painting, half obscured by a large futuristic sketch of what looks to be a structure, possibly a castle.

Andy has been painting since college, and programming almost as long. When Andy was working on a Bachelors of Fine Arts from Bowling Green University, he planned to be painting professionally for life. While he was there the Internet explosion took off. The art department at Bowling Green University decided to take advantage of this great new interest in technology. They pushed the use of programming, digital art, and even some early computer animation.

That is how Andy got involved in programming. Computers sucked him in from the beginning. Since then he has come to RIT, where he now teaches in the information technology department, focusing on video game development. He works on creating, and adapting techniques for programming, and then teaching them to his students.

Andy also loves to play computer games. He likes EverQuest, especially the community of people he plays it with, and he also loves Knights of the Old Republic and is eagerly waiting for the sequel, wishing he could force them to make it faster. Andy says he is not always as current with video games as his students are, or as he used to be. "I just don't have the time to stay up till four in the morning playing video games anymore" he adds, after mentioning the time he now spends with his growing family.

As a painter, he has varied between two styles of painting, one that he describes as "a really illustrative work, a sort of hyper-realistic portrayal of written content," and another, which is based on finding an object, and creating an abstraction based

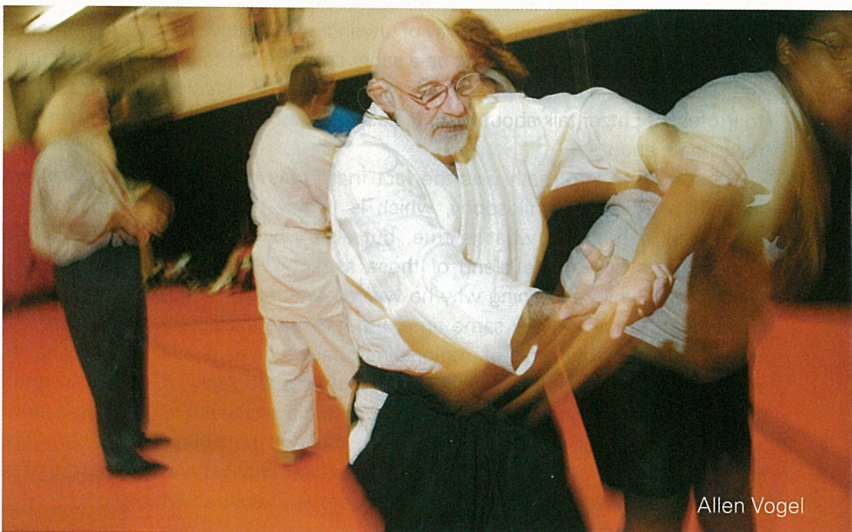
off that. Most recently, when he finds time to paint, he has blended the two into a style that is truly his.

Work during the year, and time spent with his family, have both really cut down on the amount of time he has for painting. He says he cannot spend long hours working with oils anymore, and instead has switched to faster-drying materials and smaller projects. He adds he spends a lot more time painting during the summer.

Andy says he is not working on any traditional artistic projects at the moment, but he does continue to keep up with his programming and his students. Bringing art into game design is quite a habitual occurrence. Students from CIAS are often brought in to help with the design of a game, and to fill the role of Art Director. Andy says this is often a challenge for both groups of students. "It is hard for the programmers to accept that there are no right answers, just things that look right".

Also, Andy and his students have submitted a game to the Independent Game Festival, which they will likely be getting some press about. Because RIT has no way to put the games out commercially they are looking at alternative ways to release their products. "Since we do not have shelf space at Best Buy, and the cost of a license to make PlayStation games is as much as a small sports car, we are looking at other ideas." Andy and his students are considering setting up an online resource where you can play an online demo version of games the students have made, and then you could download and install the full version.

You can tell by talking to him that he loves the students and working with them. He would not give up teaching, but he adds when he retires, he will have more time to paint. He maintains a website that contains samples of both his artistic, and his programming efforts which can be found at <http://andysgi.rit.edu>.



The Aikido Professor

by Monica Donovan | photographs by Kim Wieselberg

Fifteen years ago, Allen Vogel retired from the commercial world of photography in New York City to begin a new career in teaching. He left New York with several years of Aikido training and a lifetime of photography under his belt. Now a 15-year veteran of RIT, Vogel currently teaches both photography and Aikido on campus. He shares some of his reasons and insights for teaching.

"I like to associate with young men and women; it keeps me informed and feeling young," he says, sipping a lemonade in an unusually quiet Java's late in the evening. More importantly, he impresses upon me the importance of influencing

young people. "It's nice to light a spark into a flame every once in a while...to open up a world for somebody." Vogel, however, credits the students. "It's the student, not the teacher, who causes the spark...it depends on student's receptiveness," he says.

Vogel has been practicing Aikido for over thirty years, a fact that he generally does not advertise to others. His teacher, Yamada Sensei (teacher) was a direct student of the founder of Aikido, Morihei Ueshiba. Today, he still belongs to the same dojo (training school) where he first learned Aikido. It was while running his advertising photography studio in New York decades ago that Vogel first took an interest in the art. He had been working out for a while and was looking for a way to put his newfound strength to work. Shortly afterwards a photographer friend, who was a black belt in karate, recommended it because he, "thought that it would suit [him]." The dojo that Vogel found was right down the street from his studio. "It was only natural for it to happen," he says. A 48-year resident of New York, he still calls the city home.

Aikido, Japanese in origin, is primarily based on sword movements. It is a relatively recent innovation in martial arts. In learning Aikido, one learns to combat other swords and weapons such as knives, sticks or staffs, and fists. There are no tournaments, competitions, or contests in Aikido; combative practice, because of the nature of this martial art, is quite dangerous and many movements would have to be barred from competitions. The only real method of practicing is through cooperative training. It is for this reason that Aikido is more a system of self-cultivation and self-improvement rather than one of combat. Interestingly, it is also the martial art practiced by samurais and by the characters in movies such as *The Last Samurai* and *Kill Bill*.

Today, in addition to Aikido, Vogel focuses on his artwork. He had his advertising photography in New York, which focused primarily on food photography, for over thirty years. Eventually, museums and galleries began to carry his personal work and Vogel shifted gears from the commercial to the art world of photography. He "was fortunate enough to be invited to teach at RIT," and came to practice his artwork and to teach.

Katie Koch is a student of Vogel's in both photography and Aikido. "[I take Aikido classes] because I wanted to experience new things," Koch says. "I really get to see more of the type of person that he is," she says. "[Allen] is an instructor in both areas so I still see him as a teacher, but I get to know him better." Chris Hamilton, who also has Vogel for both, says, "I have more respect for him when I see him like this in addition to my photography classes. He is very gentle."

The Aikido Club meets on Wednesdays at 7:30 in the Varsity Wrestling Room of the Clark Gym. Practices are open to all and free to attend.



Allen Vogel



Jack Beck

The Curling Professor

by Nathan Liebold | photographs by Timothy Kulik

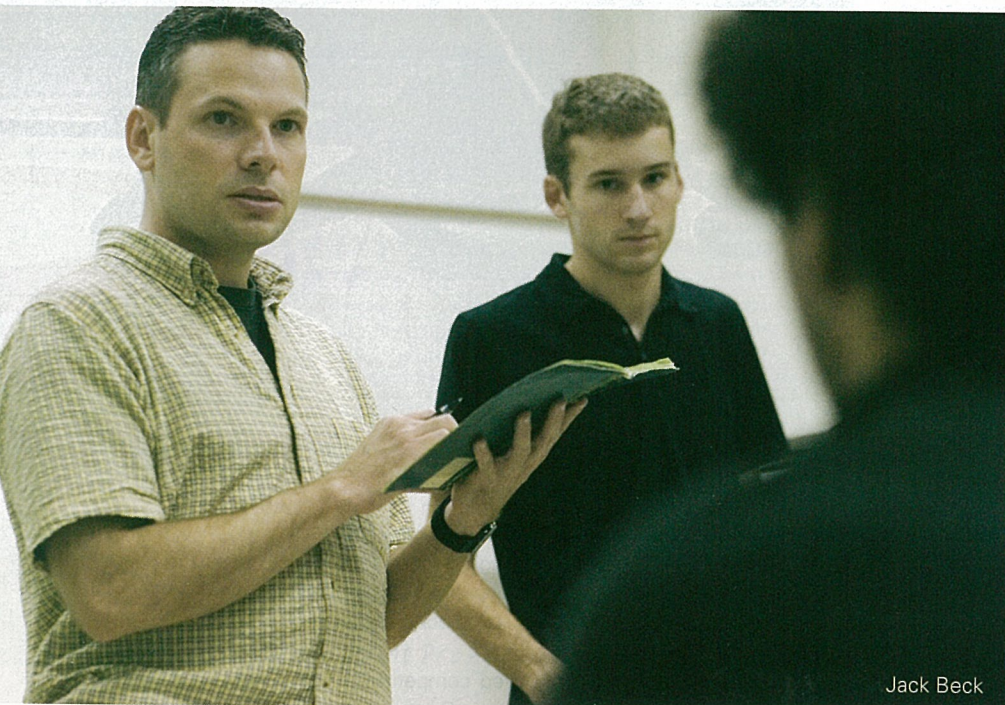
When the word 'curling' floats through a room, or someone sees the game's players with brooms in hand, sweeping the ice front of a stone, usually, laughter ensues. It's something Professor Jack Beck has heard often during his three years of curling, but still, he slides on.

For the past year Beck has played competitively with Team Mantha, who played their first tournament together in Ottawa, in late September of last year. "None of us had thrown a stone in, like, eight months or practiced in about as long, and the first team we were going against was led by a captain who competed in the Canadian Nationals. They took it a little easy on us," recalls Beck. In another Canadian tournament in Grimsby, Ontario, Beck won a frozen turkey as a prize when Team Mantha placed third. "I think it's still sitting in my freezer, but it was a nice gesture," says Beck. Since then, his team has reached the finals in several tournaments, and they won the Gordon Emmet Medal this past January, the second oldest curling trophy in America.

The rules of curling are relatively simple. On a 146-foot long sheet of ice is the "house," which resembles a bulls-eye, with a six-foot wide "button" in the middle. The object of the game is to get your team's stones as close to the center of the button, and to keep the opponents' out. Each team has four players, and each of them gets to throw these 44-pound granite stones twice. A team's captain, or skip, releases a stone on a throw, and then the ice in front of it is swept, melting it and changing the stone's direction. When all sixteen stones are thrown, a game is finished, and a team's closest stone to the center scores, plus any others closer to the center than any of their opponents'. Eight or ten "ends," or games, are played, concluding a match.

"It's a little bit of bowling - a little shuffleboard - and darts, all put together," says Beck. Curling requires strength and finesse, especially when aiming heavy stones over the ice at a six-foot wide circle. The proper placement of stones is key, not only when trying to score, but in blocking the opponent's stones from the center. It may not be apparent, but strategy plays a huge part in curling. "It's actually a mind game, a lot like chess," says Beck. Stones can block others from the button, or be knocked closer to or away from it, and successfully completing these moves needs a combination of near-perfect timing and sweeping. "People may think that the sweeping doesn't do anything, but it can mean a difference of fifteen feet or more," says Beck.

While Beck attended The University of Iowa as a graduate student, he was a national finalist in the Student Academy Awards for an experimental documentary about frogs in space. Recently, Beck's works have been screened in over twenty festivals held in the North America and Europe, and two years



Jack Beck

ago, an experimental film he made was shown twelve times on the CBS Jumbotron in Times Square. Beck is currently the Live Action Program Chair in the School of Film and Animation, and as an associate professor he teaches film/video production, screenwriting and film sound theory.

Jack Beck and his teammates will compete this season in the U.S. Olympic curling trials, ending in February in Madison, Wisconsin.

The Blues Professor

by Pat Kelley

Joe Fornieri has been teaching at RIT for ten years. He loves teaching political science at RIT. "The students are natively very intelligent, they have a creative aspect, students that [emulate] the proverb: 'think outside the box'". He loves teaching to such a diverse variety of students, being able to teach to students from all over the country and the world, both the freeform artistic students and the more analytical engineers.

He focuses mainly on American Political Thought, and Constitutional Law. He has a specific interest in Abraham Lincoln that has driven him to write three books on the subject, the last of which will be released this June. He is also planning a conference on Abraham Lincoln that will take place at RIT this April.

That is not all there is to this dedicated professor. This biography could have started just as easily: Joe Fornieri plays in a blues band. He sings, and plays some guitar and some harmonica. He was going to go to law school, but at the last minute he ditched out and decided to play blues in the pubs and clubs of London. Yes, a year of living and playing blues, and American style folk, around Europe.

Eventually travel visas expire, and so he returned to America and began graduate school. He continued to play two nights a week in Alexandria, VA, and he still plays here in Rochester. There are different attitudes he adds, "Musicians, have a very high tolerance for anarchy, a certain street-wise

mentality." Academia has a certain order to it. It is two different worlds.

The Dynamics, his current band was formed in 1998 and they play jazzy swing influenced blues. Most people at campus have no idea. He says, "I felt like I was in the closet."

This is changing quickly though. The Dynamics are playing a concert Brick City Weekend, 12:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. on October 23. Joe says he is finally being able to let people know, to let his two worlds collide. He says it is not that he is ashamed of either, it just a change that he has not yet made. Throughout this he adds, "my colleagues have been wonderful, really helpful and encouraging."

You can tell Joe lives two lives and that he loves both. He really cares about the students, and he gets energy from playing music. He would go back to England, back to Italy, but he has teaching and a family here, and so currently, he can't. He says the band only plays about two gigs a month, except during summer, when his schedule opens up a lot. He enjoys teaching though, working with the students, getting such technological and creative people to focus on political thought and modern philosophy. Right now between, being a musician, a tenure-track professor, and a husband, and a father, his biggest trouble is balancing everything he loves. ■



Q: If you could see anyone perform in the new fieldhouse, who would it be?

1 "Halloween, METAL, all I need to say"

Aaron Gabriel

Third Year
Math

2 "Queen, they're amazing; Freddie Mercury is just fantastic!"

Chelsea Killam

Third Year
Professional Communication Technology

3 "James Taylor, he reminds me of my past and is just good, happy music."

Helena Fruscio

Second Year
Ceramics

4 "Usher, he is a good performer and I love his body, especially his abs!"

Hera Yeung

Fourth Year
Graphic Design

5 "Beastie Boys, they epitomize hip hop culture and have a great message!"

Kevin Meredith & Brad Roy

Industrial Engineering & Computer Science

6 "My Chemical Romance, my favorite band; they are a great mix of alternative rock and punk."

Mike St.Pierre

Fourth Year
New Media Publishing

7 "Dispatch, they are amazing live and just put on a good show."

Vince Daneri

Fifth Year

8 "Type O Negative, they're the most awesome goth-metal band ever. The lead singer is plastered all over my apartment walls."

Sonseeahray Gillette

First Year Transfer
Film and Animation

"Frank Zappa, I just like the music; and his mustache!"

Amir Barghi

First Year
Math

"Red Hot Chili Peppers, Flea is the man! They are not only positive and influential in our generation but they are still kicking no matter how long they will be around."

Ryan Tierney

Third Year
Biology

"Bryan Adams, I am a big fan and love his songs. He is on tour now with a new CD and I want to see him again live."

Kit Luscher

Graduate Student
Psychology

"50 Cent, I like rap more than anything."

David Diguardi

Third Year
Graphic Media Marketing

"Lauryn Hill, she is soulful, deep, and just has a great message."

Mimi Osei

Fourth Year
Graphic Design

"Nirvana, the most amazing live band ever."

Poulose Matthen

Fourth Year
Computer Science

"The Beatles, they are the greatest band of all time."

Schmitty

Graduate Student
Photography

"Rage Against The Machine, they have good lyrics, and would light up a crowd."

Julien Hass

Second Year
Hotel Management

"Beck, he's an awesome artist that I have never seen before."

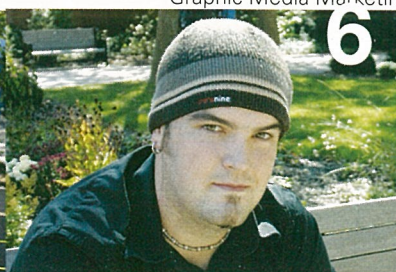
Ream Kidane

Fifth Year
Electrical Engineering

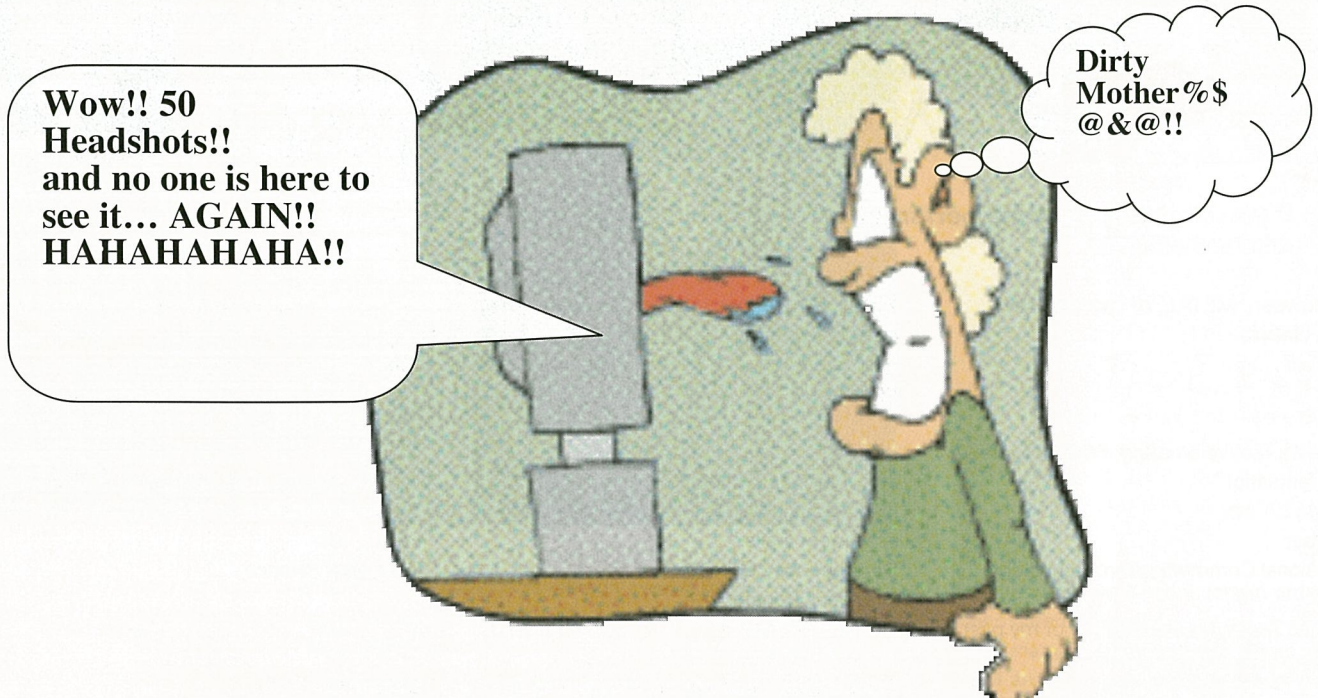
"Flogging Molly, they're music is different and definitely original. They are just insane."

Sachit Bakshi

Second Year
Biomed Engineering



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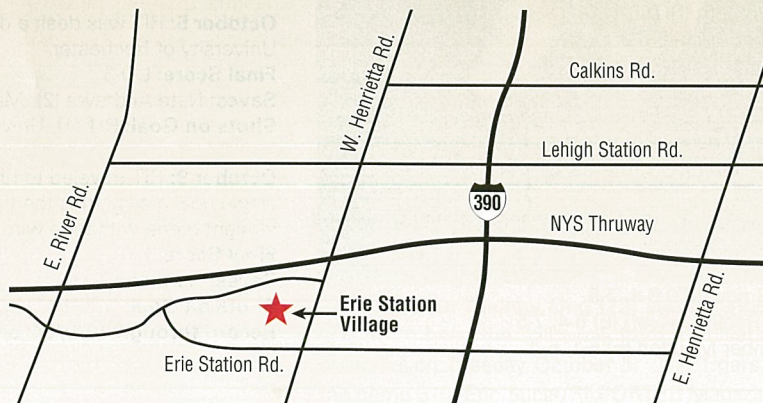
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Thursday
9am-6pm

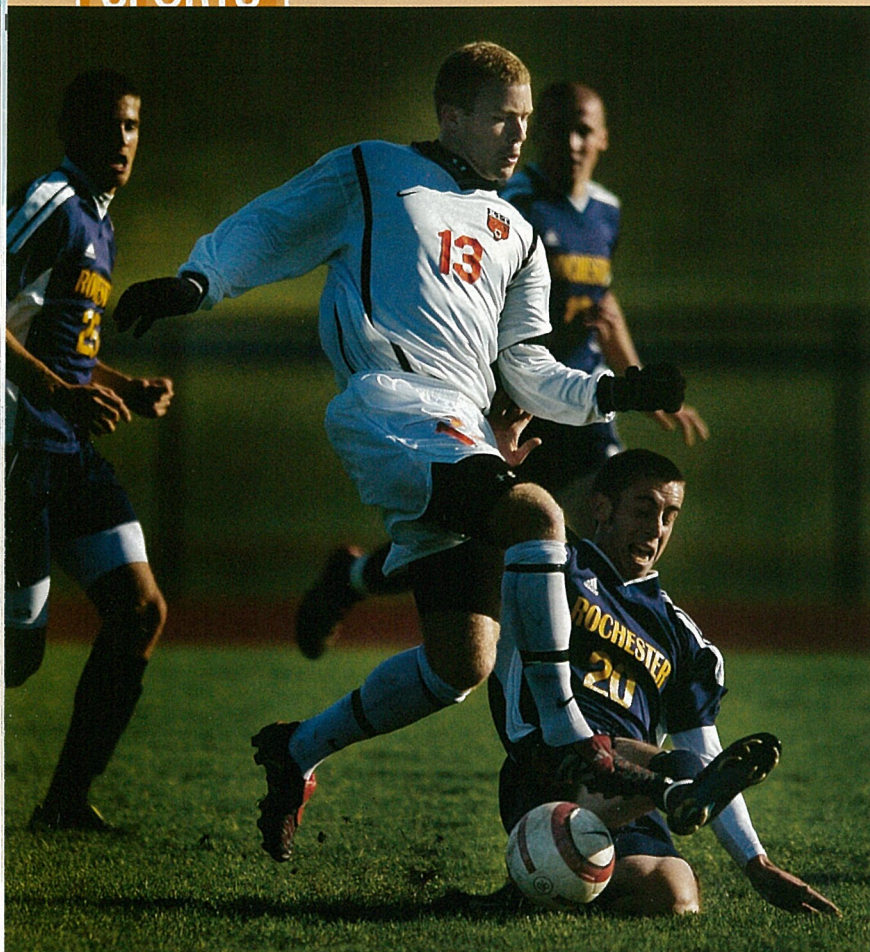
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Sports **DESK**

by Mike Eppolito

Women's Tennis

October 2: Due to rainy weather, the women's tennis team was forced to play inside the fieldhouse for the very first time. It was a relatively disappointing showing against Geneseo, with Melanie Blass and Mehak Suján taking the only victory of the day in their third doubles match.

Singles:

1. Kristen Greiner (G) def. Jenn Hume (RIT) 6-3, 3-6, 7-5
2. Krissy Feikert (G) def. Lindsey Brady (RIT) 6-1, 6-0
3. Shalini Sudarsanan (G) def. Leigh Bryson (RIT) 6-2, 6-2
4. Nicole King (G) def. Aimee Holmberg (RIT) 6-1, 6-1
5. Rene Smith (G) def. Emily Ross (RIT) 6-4, 6-3
6. Lauren Eichenauer (G) def. Mehak Suján (RIT) 6-1, 7-5

Doubles:

1. Kristen Greiner/Krissy Feikert (G) def. Jenn Hume/Leigh Bryson (RIT) 8-2
2. Rene Smith/Sudarsanan (G) def. Lindsey Brady/Aimee Holmberg (RIT) 8-4
3. Melanie Blass/Mehak Suján (RIT) def. Nicole King/Julia Serce (G) 8-3

October 3: RIT came back after a painful defeat by Geneseo the day before and put on an impressive show as they defeated Elmira 7-2.

Singles:

1. Olivia Garcia (E) def. Lindsey Brady (RIT) 6-4, 7-5
2. Leigh Bryson (RIT) def. Sasha Robinson-Neff (E) 6-4, 7-5
3. Aimee Holmberg (RIT) def. Amber Moulton (E) 6-1, 6-4

4. Emily Ross (RIT) def. Eliza Cross (E) 6-3, 6-4
5. Mehak Suján (RIT) def. Nikki Tamfer (E) 6-2, 6-2
6. Melanie Blass (RIT) def. Alicia Rhyne (E) 6-3, 6-0

Doubles

1. Olivia Garcia/Eliza Cross (E) def. Jenn Hume/Leigh Bryson (RIT) 8-1
2. Lindsey Brady/Melanie Blass (RIT) def. Sasha Robinson-Neff/Amber Moulton (E) 8-2
3. Aimee Holmberg/Michelle Nicholson (RIT) def. Nikki Tamfer/Alicia Rhyne (E) 8-5

October 9: RIT competed in the 2004 Empire 8 Championships and defeated Hartwick College, which allowed them to advance to the semifinals where they were unfortunately defeated by Ithaca.

1st Round (vs Hartwick College)

Singles:

1. Jenn Hume (RIT) d. Mara Tichy (Hart.) 6-1, 6-2
2. Lindsey Brady (RIT) d. Amanda Gerich (Hart.) 6-1, 3-6, 6-4
3. Leigh Bryson (RIT) d. Kathleen Morgese (Hart.) 6-3, 6-0
4. Julie Scarano (Hart.) d. Aimee Holmberg (RIT) 6-4, 7-5
5. Emily Ross (RIT) d. Liz Green (Hart.) 0-6, 6-2, 6-3
6. Mehak Suján (RIT) d. Katie Petosa (Hart.) 6-3, 7-6

Doubles:

1. Hume/Bryson (RIT) d. Tichy/Gerich (Hart.) 8-6
2. Brady/Blass (RIT) d. Scarano/Petosa (Hart.) 8-5
3. Holmberg/Nicholson (RIT) d. Green Laura Nestor (Hart.) 8-1

2nd Round (vs Ithaca College)

Singles:

1. Jenn Hume (RIT) d. Narguess Arjomand (IC) 6-3, 6-2
2. Melissa Walsh (IC) d. Lindsey Brady (RIT) 6-0, 6-1
3. Erin Chapman (IC) d. Leigh Bryson (RIT) 6-2, 6-2
4. Liz Cohen (IC) d. Aimee Holmberg (RIT) 6-3, 6-3
5. Emily Ross (RIT) d. Katie Dempsey (IC) 6-4, 6-1
6. Mehak Suján (RIT) d. Megan Keenan (IC) 2-6, 7-6, 10-8

Doubles:

1. Arjomand/Chapman (IC) d. Hume/Bryson (RIT) 8-4
2. Walsh/Cohen (IC) d. Brady/Blass (RIT) 8-4
3. Michelle Nicholson/Holmberg (RIT) d. Dempsey/Keenan (IC) 8-3

Record through 10/9/04: 5-5

Men's Soccer

October 2: RIT allowed Alfred to put up two goals before the end of the first half, and even though the Tigers came out fighting in the second half, they were only able to score a single goal.

Final Score: L 1-2

RIT Goals: Jorge Cirulizza (1)

Saves: Nate Andrews (2)

Shots on Goal: RIT (4), Alfred (4)

October 5: RIT was dealt a disappointing 0-3 shutout by the University of Rochester.

Final Score: L 0-3

Saves: Nate Andrews (2), Matt Kosner (1)

Shots on Goal: RIT (1), University of Rochester (7)

October 9: RIT traveled to Ithaca and was unable to score a single goal making this the third straight loss and the fourth straight game without a win.

Final Score: L 0-1

Saves: Nate Andrews (7)

Shots on Goal: RIT (4), Ithaca (9)

Record through 10/9/04: 5-5-1

RIT forward Chuck Marion (12) tries to kick the ball away from University of Rochester midfielder Steve Maltzman (20) on Tuesday October 5. The Tigers went on to lose the game 3-0. Eric Sucar/REPORTER Magazine.

Women's Soccer

October 2: RIT dominated their home field match against Potsdam State, pulling off a 4-0 shutout.

Final Score: W 4-0

RIT Goals: Kate Cassim (2), Anna Kolnik (2)

Saves: Dinah Redhouse (1)

Shots on Goal: RIT (1), Potsdam State (16)

October 6: RIT was able to extend their unbeaten streak to 4 games after a scoreless tie against Alfred University.

Final Score: T 0-0

Saves: Carolyn Yehle (6)

Shots on Goal: RIT (9), Alfred (6)

October 9: RIT was unable to add a fifth game to their unbeaten streak as they fell to Ithaca College.

Final Score: L 0-1

Saves: Carolyn Yehle (7)

Shots on Goal: RIT (3), Ithaca College (8)

Record through 10/9/04: 4-6-2

Women's Cross Country

October 9: RIT competed in the 2004 SUNY Brockport Alumni Invitational and placed second out of four teams with a total of 38 points.

RIT Results (6km Race):

2nd - Trisha Sliker (24:01)

6th - Karyn Lewis (25:38)

8th - Adrienne Gagnier (25:51)

9th - Sara Pancoast (25:53)

13th - Lisa Curtin (26:09)

15th - Danielle Simmons (26:42)

24th - Jessica McCarthy (27:38)

25th - Dana Palmer (28:07)

27th - Julie Morganti (28:13)

29th - Katie Palermo (28:44)

30th - Kimberly Miner (28:46)

Men's Cross Country

October 9: RIT competed in the 2004 SUNY Brockport Alumni Invitational and placed second out of three teams with a total of 40 points.

RIT Results (8km Race):

4th - Nate Lowe (26:32)

5th - Ryan Pancoast (26:39)

9th - Chad Byler (27:17)

10th - Sean McVeigh (27:20)

12th - Andrew Varble (27:25)

14th - Kevin Turko (27:45)

15th - Chris Schauerman (27:49)

18th - Eric Enwright (27:57)

19th - John Phelps (28:08)

23rd - Robert McCoy (28:21)

25th - Chris Kudla (28:24)

31st - Dereck Bojanowski (29:01)

33rd - Maxwell Ferguson (29:10)

36th - Marc O'Donnell (29:33)

38th - Zach Knowlden (30:03)

39th - Peder Johnson (30:08)

41st - Edward Buck (30:22)

47th - Kevin Brusstar (32:16)

Women's Volleyball

October 5: RIT played some great volleyball as they defeated St. John Fisher in a 3-0 victory.

Final Score: W 3-0

Score by Game: 30-26, 30-18, 30-21

Notable Performances: Sarah Ballard (48 assists, 18 digs) - Laura Grell (26 digs) - Christina Anabel (17 kills, 15 digs) - Laurie Underhill (23 digs, 13 kills)

October 8: RIT started off the first day of the NYU Tournament with a 1-3 loss to Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

Final Score: L 1-3

Score by Game: 24-30, 30-20, 30-16, 31-29

Notable Performances: Christina Anabel (10 kills) - Laurie Underhill (10 kills) - Christina Anabel (4 service aces) - Sarah Ballard (38 assists) - Laura Grell (20 digs)

October 9: RIT once again started the day off with a loss as they fell to the eventual tournament winners and tournament host, New York University. RIT bounced back from their defeat and finished off the day with wins against both Adrian College and St. John Fisher. RIT placed second overall at the tournament.

Vs. NYU

Final Score: L 0-3

Score by Game: 30-21, 30-19, 30-27

Vs. Adrian College

Final Score: W 3-0

Score by Game: 37-35, 30-23, 30-22

Vs. St. John Fisher

Final Score: W 3-0

Score by Game: 30-18, 30-26, 30-25

Notable Performance: Christina Anabel was named to the NYU All-Tournament Team.

Record through 10/9/04: 11-9



RIT midfielder Andrew Ong (23) and defender Gavin Thomas (21) try to head the ball away from a University of Rochester defender on Tuesday October 5. The Tigers went on to lose the game 3-0. Eric Sucar/REPORTER Magazine.

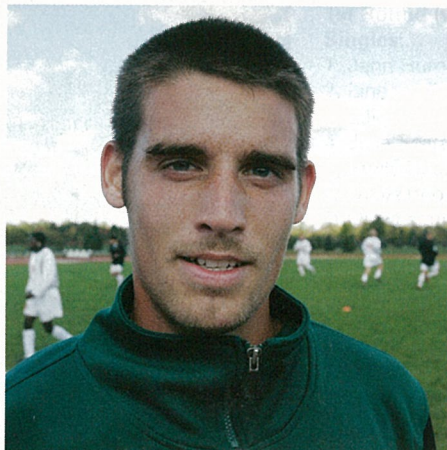
SPORTS | 3 STARS

by Frances Cabrera and Mike Eppolito



Alaina Chorney: Soccer

Size doesn't matter in the case of soccer player Alaina Chorney. Alaina, a second year graphic design major from Manalapan, NJ, doesn't let her petite size get in the way of leading her team to victory. As starting midfielder of the women's soccer team, she has led the team in scoring the most points and played a decisive role in wins over St. John Fisher and SUNY Potsdam a few weeks ago. "[Alaina] brings toughness to the team. At 4'-11" and about 100 pounds, you have to be tough to survive," said Coach Tom Natalie. "She surprises our opponents all the time." In fact, her most valuable skill according to Natalie is her "one versus one attacking." Alaina's skill was recognized a couple weeks ago when she was named RIT Female Athlete of the Week. Natalie said that Alaina's skills are just too good to stop her. He said, "Alaina has great sense, and a great natural ability to read the game." This is Alaina's second year on the team, and Natalie expects her to become as strong a leader on the team as she is a player. Natalie said, "I see her leading by example, hard work, and a great passion for the game."



Nate Andrews: Soccer

With three returning goalkeepers for the men's soccer team this year, Nate Andrews has had to train and play harder to keep himself ahead. Nate graduated from Greece Arcadia High School right here in Rochester, and is in his fifth year of studying Mechanical Engineering Technology. The combination of experience and athleticism has led Nate to his current position of starting goalkeeper. "Nate has been a committed member of the team for four years, and is now, as our starting goalkeeper, enjoying the success of all his hard work," comments Coach Bill Garno. Nate has made a number of crucial saves this year which have allowed the team to defeat their opponents. "To date, Nate has led our defense to four shutouts in eight games," said Garno, "and has saved 75 percent of the shots he's faced." Nate does all he can to minimize his opponent's chances of scoring. "He is a very good shot stopper; he is courageous coming out to meet players if they get through our defense," said Garno. As a result, Nate has constantly been on the field despite the competition from the other returning goalkeepers. He has played 850 out of a possible 920 minutes in the net this year. His achievements were recognized at the beginning of the year when he was named Empire 8 Goalkeeper of the Week.



Christina Anabel: Volleyball

Outside hitter Christina Anabel is currently a junior and has been playing for the women's volleyball team since her freshman year. Christina plays an integral part in the success of the team as a huge contributor all around. She leads the team in kills with 225, which is almost twice as many as any of her other teammates. She averages an impressive 3.69 kills per game. Christina also has the second highest number of digs on the team with a whopping 264. Overall, she averages a team-leading 4.33 digs per game. Christina was recently named to the NYU All-Tournament Team while at the NYU tournament on October 8th and 9th. Christina has been a great contributor to the team ever since she joined freshman year, and this season is obviously no exception. She is an extraordinary asset to the team and is able to put up incredible statistics every time she steps out onto the court.

photographs by Kim Wieselberg, Mike Sperling, Eric Sucar

Women's Volleyball Team Hosts International Guests

by Mike Eppolito

The RIT women's volleyball team was fortunate enough to travel to Tianjin, China this past August, and since then, the players have been eager to repay their debts to the Tianjin University of Technology's women's volleyball team. After the incredible hospitality that RIT received while staying with the TUT women's team, they were adamant that they provide the same once-in-a-lifetime experience for their onetime hosts here in the United States. The women's volleyball team was given a chance to welcome TUT as the Chinese women arrived in Rochester on October 2nd, ready to spend the entire next week seeing the sites and playing volleyball. While in town, TUT competed in a couple different exhibition matches against RIT and a few other local colleges. TUT was given the opportunity to

play matches against RIT and Nazareth College on campus, and also traveled to Syracuse, where they defeated the Syracuse D1 women's volleyball team. Aside from playing volleyball, TUT was given a grand tour of Rochester and taken to see Niagara Falls. TUT rounded out their stay with the RIT women's volleyball team by accompanying them to New York City, where RIT competed in the NYU Tournament on the 8th and 9th. The relationship between RIT and TUT has undoubtedly been beneficial for all parties involved, as it has allowed both schools to embark on once-in-a-lifetime trips to the other side of the world. Hopefully this unique international relationship will continue to grow and foster more opportunities for students of both TUT and RIT. ■



(from left) John Roylance, Dave Lewis, and Bob Underhill paint their chests in support of the womens soccer team and endure one of the coldest and rainiest days yet this year. The team went on to win the game against Postdam 4-0. Kim Weiselberg/REPORTER Magazine

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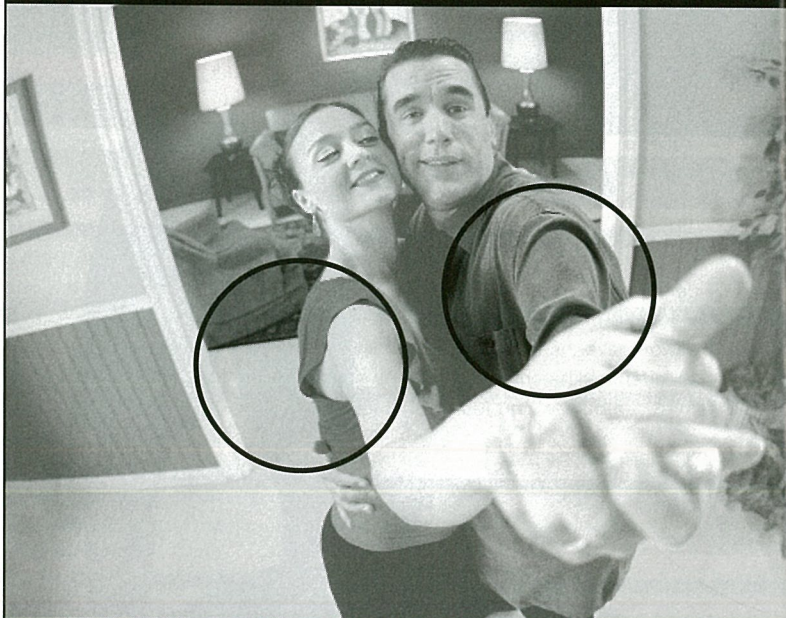
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Medium 2-topping
pizza & 2 cans of Coke®,
diet Coke® or Sprite®

\$8⁹⁹ Plus Tax

Deep Dish Extra.
Expires 12-15-04.



Large Wings Combo

Two Large 1-topping
pizzas, Buffalo Wings or
Domino's® Pizza Buffalo
Chicken Kickers®

\$18⁹⁹ Plus Tax

Deep Dish Extra.
Expires 12-15-04.



Campus Double Deal

Two cheese &
1-topping pizzas

\$10⁹⁹ Plus Tax
Mediums **\$13⁹⁹** Plus Tax
Larges **\$16⁹⁹** Plus Tax
X-Larges

Deep Dish Extra.
Expires 12-15-04.



5 5 5 Deal

Three medium
1-topping pizzas

\$5⁰⁰ Each

Must Purchase 3 Pizzas.
Not Valid with Doublemeat.
Deep Dish Extra. Expires 11/15/04.



359-3330
TTY 359-3333

Sometimes Structure is a Good Thing

by Jonathan Bove

I'm worried. As detailed on page 11, the Provost has proposed a reduction in the number of required Liberal Arts credits that contribute to the overall general education requirement here at our institute. For those of you anti-establishmentarians who refuse to follow the tyranny of "front to back" reading, I suggest you go and read the article. It's only 750 words. You can handle it. You're in college.

Perhaps, however, you don't want to handle it. Perhaps you view it as my responsibility to summarize the content. Perhaps you want your opinion page to be free of prerequisites. Luckily, this is *my* opinion, and I expect more out of you than that.

I began my time here at RIT as a software engineer. I spent my first two years in that major, and I can honestly say that I enjoyed it. The courses I took were mainly general education classes—science, calculus, economics, writing & literature, and computer science. The problem for me arose when I took courses that were actually about software engineering.

I knew I didn't want to be an engineer. I've been told I think like many engineers, and although I found the coursework challenging, it certainly wasn't insurmountable. I just didn't like my job prospects. There were plenty of positions available, but I realized I wanted to work with people, not code. Moreover, I wanted to learn about life—not train for a job.

I'm worried because many people equate RIT's career-focused approach with the absence of liberal arts. RIT is not, however, a trade school. We are an institute of higher learning. Furthermore, we are an institute aspiring to be a "University." Universities are centers for self-enrichment. They seek to combine coursework from many separate disciplines. If you came here expecting to have a job explained to you, and then be sent on your merry way, you are at the wrong school. At the risk of undermining our retention efforts, I must say, this institute is for those who want to learn, not simply take classes.

College, even as it evolves to keep pace with the modern world, is a place of learning, not training. A student takes liberal arts courses to expand his or her mind. This should be an enjoyed benefit, not a burdensome task. Sitting in a class, a bored look on your face, the drool of an oncoming nap gathering at the corner of your mouth, is a waste of your money, time, and potential.

As an employee of Residence Life, it's my job to reach out to students, to assist them in finding connections on campus, and to help them become invested in their own learning. As a student, however, nothing is more irritating to me than

someone who couldn't care less about his or her education. I'm not sure when, exactly, college became "high school part two," a requirement on the road to an entry-level job.

It's your responsibility to shape your education. You made the choice, for better or for worse, to come to RIT, and you best make the most of it. If you want to take the easiest classes, get by with the fewest challenges, and just get your piece of paper, then this proposal to lessen required courses is going to make school easier for you. Then again, if you're looking for the flexibility to frame yourself a double minor, I suppose this reduction of requirements will make your plan easier to execute.

My first point is this: No one is more responsible for your education than you. No one. It's pointless to complain about your required courses. The major may have laid them out, but you choose them. You may not enjoy your housing assignment, but you made a choice to sign that contract. You may not want to pay for your parking tickets, but you must remember that you decided to park wherever you did, and the consequences are yours to deal with.

High school part two, much like part one, is an odd stopping point on the road to adulthood. Along the continuum from raucous ignorant youths to calm wise elders, we go through a number of transitions. College is still a time to enjoy your youth. You've only got it for so long, after all. However, it's also a time to begin acting like an adult, and that means owning your decisions.

If I knew that all of my fellow students were ardent in their devotion to expanding their minds and developing themselves, the Provost's proposal would excite me. I'd be anxious to see the ways my fellow students could shape their learning. But I'm not.

Point number two stems from the first: The College of Liberal Arts has as many requirements as it does for a reason. There exists a portion of students on this campus who couldn't care less about challenging themselves. The college requires them to take courses in the hopes that they will sense an opportunity for self-improvement. Every student who ignores my first point; who ignores his or her own responsibility for learning is another reason to maintain high standards. The Provost's proposal looks like it simply offers more flexibility, but without a method of ensuring involvement on the part of each student, this proposal instead makes it easier to simply get by. Call me a cynical senior, but that's why I'm still worried. ■



by Sean Hannan

Despite being smack dab in the middle of one of the most hotly contested elections in recent memory, and all of the red, white, and blue rah-rahing that comes with the political season, I have a rather disturbing confession to make: I love Canada. That's not to say that I'm Canadian—Pittsburgh, PA born and raised—or even that I've spent extensive amounts of time there. I've just really taken a liking to our northern neighbor.

Have you ever had one of those friends who affects a fake British accent in order to appear cultured? They prefer to wait in "queues" rather than lines and they ride the "lift" and not the elevator. While I find these actions shallow and deplorable, I've inadvertently been adopting Canadian mannerisms and vocabulary on an increasingly frequent basis. That's not to say that I run around calling people "hosers" while kicking them in the shins with my "aboot"; it's that I've come to appreciate the slight cultural nuances. For example, I prefer the Canadian pronunciation of "sorry" (it rhymes with quarry) and I'm of the opinion that all American beer is piss.

My fondness for Canada is actually a rather recent development. I never realized how much I enjoyed the country until this past summer, when I got hopelessly addicted to *Degrassi: The Next Generation*. This Canadian teen melodrama is fantastic. They deal with tough issues like rape, child abuse, drugs, abortion, internet stalkers, and spontaneous erections in neat little 30-minute morsels. While these topics show up regularly on American teen soaps, the manner in which they are addressed on this show are distinctly Canadian. For example, in the four episodes which deal with some form of substance abuse, the characters sought some form of counseling in every case. There weren't swarms of Mounties busting through the door to arrest the girl who took Ecstasy; she just went to rehab. It's through the lives of these teens that I realized that I want to be Canadian.

While my full-blown canadaphilia only surfaced this past summer, the seeds were planted long ago. Like a lot of children of my generation, I grew up watching Nickelodeon. What's not immediately apparent is that a large portion of that network's programming (at least during the mid-to-late 80s) is just re-syndication of Canadian children's television. I can't be certain,

but my gut tells me that subversive canuck content made its way into shows like *Today's Special*, and *Fred Penner's Place*. For all I know, Sharon, Lois, & Bram could have been singing "skid-a-ma-rinky-dinky-dink, skid-a-ma-rinky-do, parliamentary democracy is better for you!"

Canadian cultural pervasiveness is not limited to children and teen television; it's throughout American culture. We see Canadians every day and have no idea. The actors that play Captain Kirk and Anakin Skywalker? Canadians. Teen heartthrobs Joshua Jackson, Jason Priestley, and Devon Sawa? Canadians. ABC World News Tonight anchor and über-journalist Peter Jennings? Canadian. PETA spokesperson and former Baywatch bimbo Pamela Anderson? Canadian. Hell, Toronto has doubled for New York City in so many movies that it might as well get its own Statue of Liberty. While some Americans would view the Canadian influence as a clandestine attack on our morals and values, I don't hold it against them.

Perhaps my Canada fetish isn't actually about Canada at all; it's about what that country represents. To me, Canada is the United States minus everything that I dislike about the United States. More often than America, Canada gets it right. Universal public healthcare? Check. Low violent crime rates? Check. Sensible drug policy? Check. Generally easy-going people? Check.

So, this begs the question: Is Canadian living in my future? Seeing that I will graduate in May, this question is becoming less ludicrous and more a real possibility. Through researching graduate schools, I've selected two Canadian universities that I plan on applying to. Though, if accepted, I'm not sure that I will take the plunge and live in the great white north. I mean, geographically, the climate is about the same as Rochester, but I have this feeling that actually living in Canada will crush my idealized view of the country. Perhaps that's what Canada actually means to me; it's a goal to strive for, the epitome of what is possible. ■

ritchie's list

brick city festival 2004

Thursday, October 21

Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra Concert

Gordon Field House, 7:30 PM; Free tickets available at the Candy Counter

Friday, October 22

Kanye West Concert: Gordon Field House, 8 PM; Tickets available at the Candy Counter

Saturday, October 23

Film Festival Honors Show 2004: Carlson Auditorium, Noon - 3 PM

Electronic Gaming Society Open Gaming Room: SAU Room 1829, Noon - 6 PM

Global Awareness Fair: Eastman Kodak Quad, 1 - 4 PM

Student Government Horton Speaker: **Robert Redford**

Gordon Field House, 2:30 PM; Tickets available at the Candy Counter

Kaleidoscope Concert: SAU Ingle Auditorium, 3:30 - 5 PM

RIT Men's Hockey vs. St. Clair College: Frank Ritter Ice Rink, 6 - 8 PM

Comedian **David Spade:** Gordon Field House, 8 PM; Tickets available at the Candy Counter

Evening Escapades

- **Desserts, Coffee and Jazz:** SAU Cafeteria, 7 - 11 PM; Free with RIT Student ID
- **Karaoke Concert:** SAU RITz, 9 PM - 1 AM; Free with RIT Student ID
- **Interactive Dance Club:** Clark Gym, 9 PM - 1 AM; Free with RIT Student ID

Sunday, October 24

Brick City Festival **5K Fun Run/Walk:** Gordon Field House Lawn, 8:30 AM

Model Railroad Club's Train Show: SAU Cafeteria, 10 AM - 3:30 PM

All events subject to change. Based on information available 10/8/04.
For more event information visit <http://www.rit.edu/brickcity>