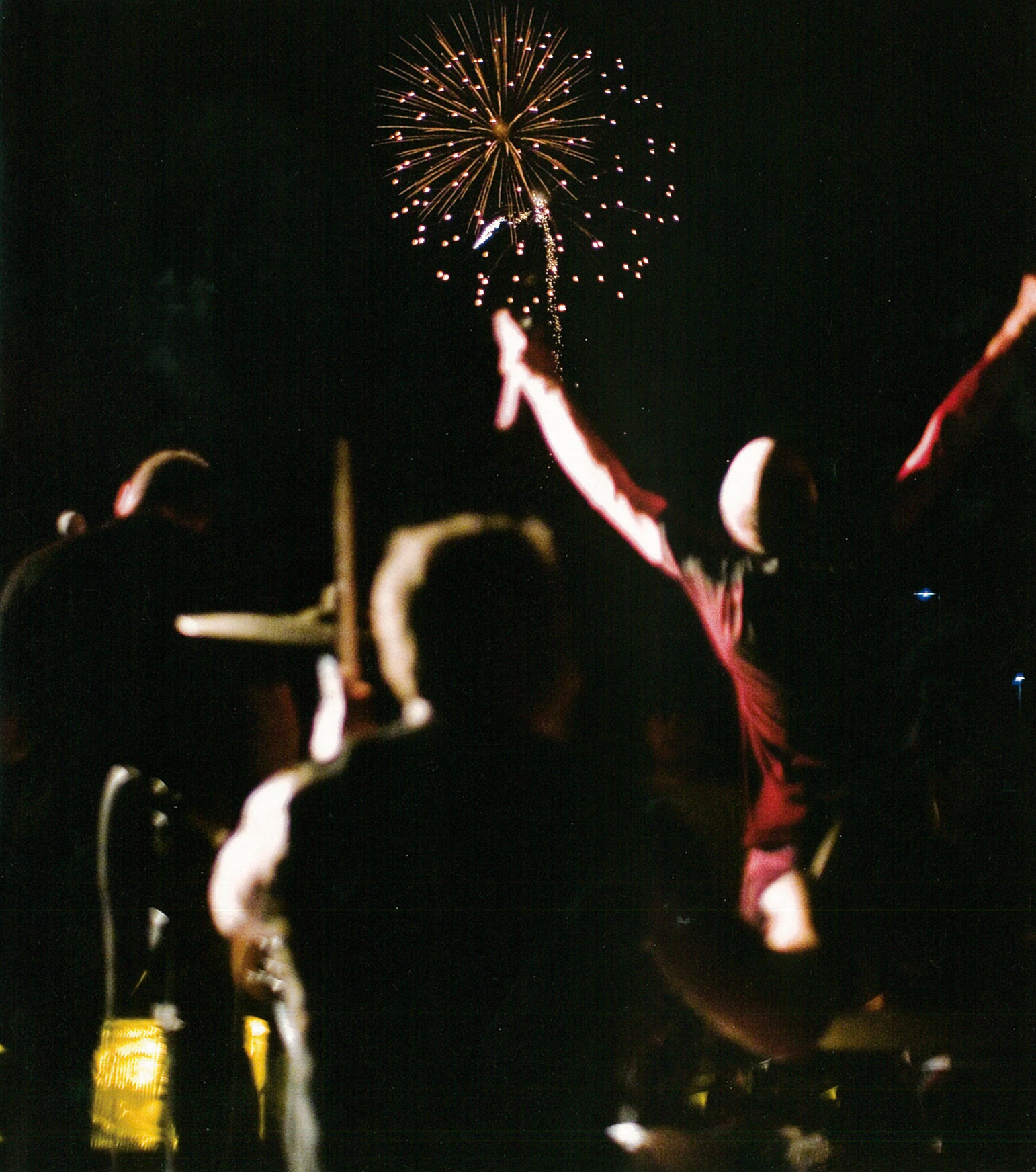


REPORTER

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EDITORIAL

Gas in the Syringe

Tighten the tourniquet, you're addicted to gas.

The good thing about addictive drugs like heroin, cocaine, nicotine, and Red Lobster cheese biscuits is the fact that you can quit them. It's about as painful an experience as they come, but you can say "no more" and truly be done with them. Gas is another story. You can't even financially deter people from the stuff. Even cigarette smokers start laying off whenever the taxes rise. If only cars could run on cigarettes.

Every visit to the pumps I wish I could say "Okay, gas. If you ever hit three dollars and nine tenths of a cent, I'm calling it quits!" Say that to a pack of cigarettes and you can throw it on the ground and stomp on it and wag your finger at it and spit on it to show that you mean business. Gas station attendants look down upon doing these things to a gas pump, even though they probably sympathize.

Face it; you don't have any sort of escape plan. Maybe you pay attention to speed limits when gas hits the three dollar mark. Maybe you car pool. You're still driving an SUV, though, and I can't see the stoplights over your monolith of a vehicle when I pull up behind you at a red light.

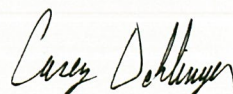
It's easy to concede. It's easy to go to the pump and lash out. If you're liberal, you point to corruption in politics and business ethics inspired by Scrooge McDuck's pool of money. If you're conservative you probably say some unkind things about the Middle East and OPEC and keep whining about the oil in Alaska that would run so smoothly through the pipeline that's in worse condition than what's left of the Roman viaducts.

Stop pointing the finger and start looking at yourself in the rearview mirror (hindsight is 20/20). Who fills their car up for fifty bucks and decides he'll buy the cheaper chicken that he needs to pick the bones out of, and the cheaper toilet paper that he used last spring to sand the paint off his walls? Who fills their tank and screams about it, but buys the filet mignon, anyway?

Once the pumps hit six dollars a gallon, we'll pay it. Once they hit nine dollars a gallon, we'll pay it. There's no methadone for gas. If you want to do something about it, you're going to have to get angry. And what do angry people do? They write letters. Politicians might not listen to anyone under 50, but car companies do. The way they see it, you've got about six more cars to buy in your lifetime.

Write a letter to Ford. Tell them that you're a college student who has been saving up for his/her first car and that you took the [random car] for a test drive and loved how it handled, but when you heard the gas mileage you vowed to never buy a Ford as long as you live, nor let a single one of your 300 Facebook friends buy one without having their toilet filled with clear Jell-O. But, when Ford doubles their miles per gallon or goes electric (boogie woogie woogie woogie), you'll reconsider. Change the name of the car to another one you never test drove and send it out to a different car company. Make another thousand people do it.

Gas junkies unite.



Casey Dehlinger
Editor in Chief



First year Biotechnology students Nurul Hawa Ahmad, Nur Fauzana Mohd Kasim, and Nooraisya Mohamad Nor watch a movie on a PSP in the SAU on Sunday, September 10. Dave Londres/REPORTER Magazine

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From hole in the wall to national recognition, this frat has shown a pretty positive delta.

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Time to tell them what you want to see in RIT's next President... or else the process won't work as smoothly as E-dating.

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A bit of trivial trivia.

09 RIT Forecast

Because shit happens.

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I really don't know what you've all been doing without our Sudoku.

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Because there are really only four ways you can squeeze what's left of your dignity into your measly dorm.

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Fireworks, a coverband, and a singer that people think looks like me, but actually more closely resembles Satan.

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Not only do you have a Student Government President, but also several senators that are supposed to be looking out for your interests. Hear their thoughts.

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Where else can you take pride in losing a game of dodgeball to a downed unicorn?

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Jen Loomis' Facebook cherry is popped for the sake of what some might consider journalism.

Cover photo by Dave Londres. The Taint performs on the greek lawn as fireworks explode overhead on Friday, September 8.

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at 7PM

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\$30

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Major
Comedian

GARRETT



October 7
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8pm doors open
at 7pm

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maximum)

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public:
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The brothers of Phi Kappa Psi congregate on the front lawn of their house on greek row. Dave Londres/REPORTER Magazine

PHI KAPPA PSI MAKES A COMEBACK

by Carl Westgren

With movies like *Old School* and *Sorority Boys*, it is hard to understand what Greek life is about. Despite all of the Deltas and Tri-Lambdas, RIT fraternities and sororities try hard to make an impression. In Phi Kappa Psi's case, that impression involved a hole in a wall, sanctions, and work that led to national recognition.

At midnight on August 13, the Phi Kappa Psi chapter at RIT was awarded the Grand Chapter Award at the annual Grand Arch Council. In other words, of all the Phi Kappa Psi chapters in the country, RIT's was deemed the best. "When they started reading the bio of this year's winner, we recognized the Academic Improvement Plan (AIP)," said Chapter President Brian Lindquist. "[Winning] was probably one of the most amazing experiences for Phi Kappa Psi." The award was based on various factors: campus leadership, philanthropy, pledging, good campus standing, and the use or introduction of programs.

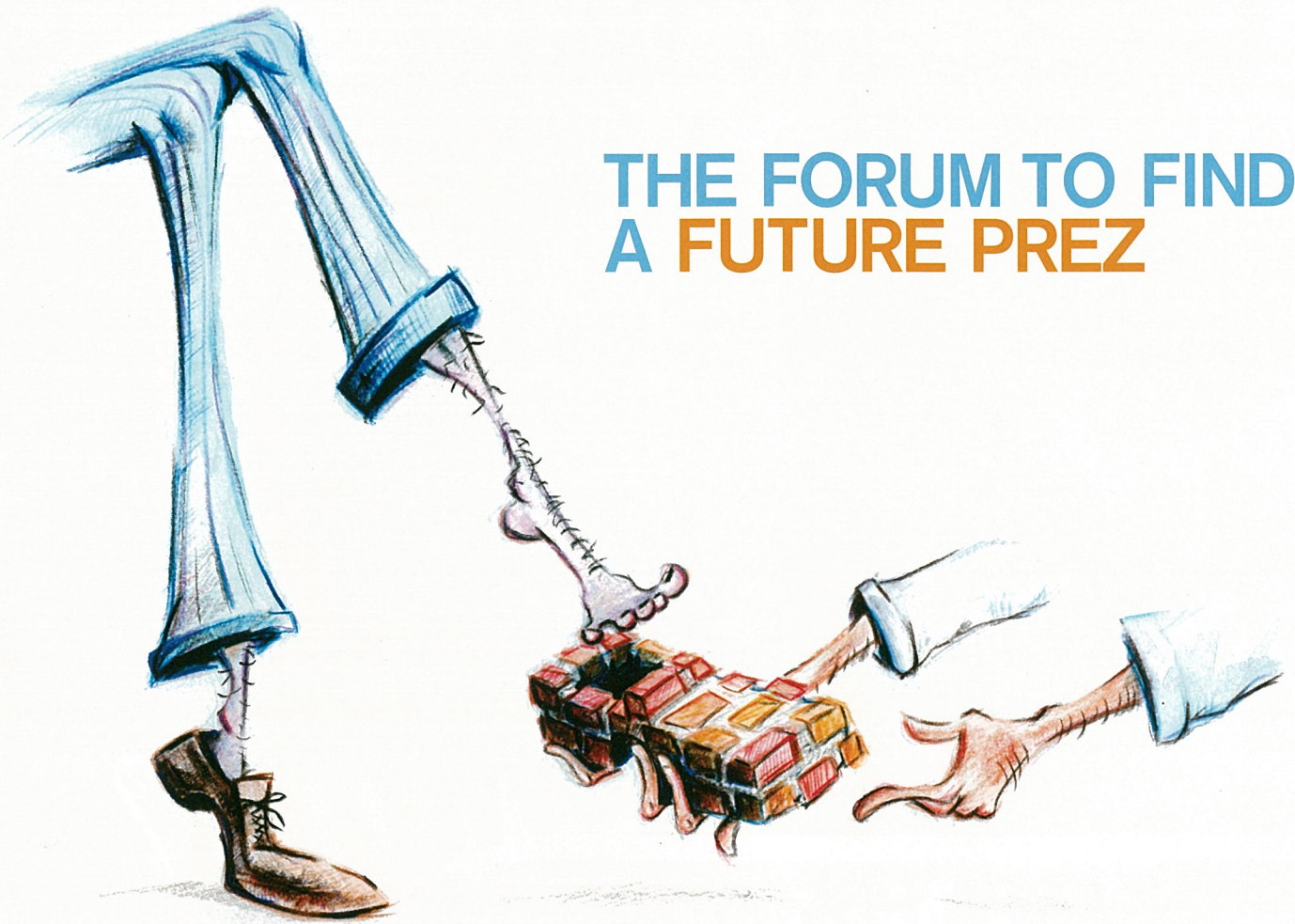
One of the chapter's greatest accomplishments was the development of the AIP, which involved the making of a mandatory GPA of 2.75 or higher. If a member fails to achieve that goal, he would be placed on a study program within the fraternity. The idea of having to attend study hours to keep grades up helped the chapter's average GPA jump from a 2.8 to a 3.1. To complement that, the chapter had raised thousands of dollars while each member averaged fifty hours of community service per quarter.

Phi Kappa Psi was not always on good terms with RIT, however. In spring of 2003, a Phi Kappa Psi party led to a hole in the wall of a Colony apartment. As a result, the frat was put on a two-year probation with strict sanctions. Though the fraternity completed all the required work to regain its merit on campus, there was one sanction that proved problematic. "We couldn't pledge anyone for an entire year," stated Jon Romanowski, a current Phi Kappa Psi brother. "After that, we were only able to pledge upperclassmen for two quarters."

The fraternity, once over sixty members strong, experienced a generation gap. Since then, it's recovered some of its numbers. "Now, the ramifications that were felt for one or two years on missing out on potential new brothers are finally dying down. Our brotherhood is stronger than ever, more amped than ever, and winning the Grand Chapter Award only gave us more motivation to continue to our success and reach higher goals than we ever have before," said Romanowski.

Although the fraternity had planned to improve its reputation before becoming the Grand Chapter, the award has reinforced much of the chapter's ideals. "It's basically a recognition award—a figurehead," noted Lindquist, "We're the role model for the rest of the chapters in the nation." Next April, the chapter turns fifteen. From a hole in the wall to being the "best" (and youngest) chapter, Phi Kappa Psi has truly made an impression. •

THE FORUM TO FIND A FUTURE PREZ



by Chad Carbone | illustration by Kristen Bell

Last Friday, the RIT Presidential Search Committee held an open forum to discuss the selection process for filling Dr. Simone's shoes when he retires at the end of the year. Ingle Auditorium was scattered with faculty, staff, alumni, and a handful of students ready to give their thoughts on the ideal replacement for our campus head.

Comprised of 21 members, the committee includes faculty, staff, students, alumni, a dean, and the Vice President. At the forum, the committee explained that they were looking for a president that has the students' interests at heart and will work as a collaborative leader, not as a "king or queen" of the school. In addition, they emphasized the need for RIT to become more nationally and internationally recognized as a means of increasing the level of endowment and funding toward the school.

Donald Boyce, Committee Chair, asked the audience to "do some fishing" and nominate qualified, potential candidates by providing the committee with names. A few weeks back, the committee created an online survey for the RIT community. Though the survey is now done, the Committee is

encouraging the RIT community to share comments and questions via their website. Once they gather enough information, the Committee will develop a position description, which will illustrate the most valued leadership characteristics for the future president. Through student feedback, the

Committee hopes to understand the necessary presidential qualities as well as the goals that will help take RIT from "good to great" and make it a "category one" university.

The committee plans to take résumés beginning in October, with a goal to narrow down the list to three candidates by February. The RIT community will then have the opportunity to truly get to know the candidates as the top three make multiple visits to campus. If all goes well, March will be the magic choice month. Despite this timeline, however, the Committee vows not to be hasty with the decision. "We're not going to settle just to get it done," emphasized Michael Morley, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, "If needed, an interim president will be elected until the most suitable person for the job is found."

The search continues here: www.rit.edu/~newpres or email the Search Committee: ritbot@rit.edu Go online and share your thoughts. •

OFFBEAT QUIZ

by Elsie Samson

- A burlesque half-strip show just performed at a conference for**
 - Gay, lesbian, bisexual, transexual (GLBT) rights
 - Alternative energy resources
 - Endangered species
 - Global warming
- Which Auckland event drew in more people than its Santa Parade?**
 - Porn Parade Down Under
 - Annual Kanga Convention
 - Film shooting for the fourth *Lord of the Rings*
 - Opening of an exotic bird aviary
- RIT's Bevier Gallery had an opening reception last Saturday, September 9 for**
 - Architecture in the Frank Lloyd Wright collection
 - Original books by Guttenberg printers
 - Scandinavian furniture design
 - American posters from the 19th-21st century
- A woman in which position was just given a \$10,000 tip?**
 - Secretary of State
 - A Trump hotel maid
 - Applebee's bartender
 - Violinist at a celebrity wedding
- The next season of Survivor will divide their tribes based on**
 - religion
 - race
 - age
 - relationship/marital status
- In the Netherlands, the platform of the Charity, Freedom, and Diversity party calls for changing the age of consent to**
 - birth
 - 12
 - 21
 - the choice of the parents of the individual
- Heath Boice-Pardee, the Associate Vice President of Student Affairs at RIT, does which of the following in his spare time?**
 - Sings in a local cover band under the stage name Heath Boyz-Party
 - Defends his title as chess master of New York State
 - Writes mystery novels
 - Ceases to exist; there is no such position on campus
- Which dorm building is named after the only RIT President to serve a longer term than Dr. Simone?**
 - Ellingson
 - Sol Heumann
 - Gleason
 - None. No one has reigned longer than Al.

ANSWERS 1) d 2) a 3) b 4) c 5) b 6) b 7) c 8) a

RIT FORECAST

compiled by Jen Loomis

Friday
15
SEPT

Hispanic Heritage Month Kickoff BBQ

2 p.m. – 5 p.m. Greek Lawn. Celebrate the anniversary of independence for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Celebrate the almost-independence day of Mexico and Chile (on September 16 and 18, respectively). Hosted by LASA and Lambda Upsilon Lambda. Cost? Nil.

Residence Halls Association BBQ

2 p.m. – 9 p.m. Near the sundial. Free. Presence of either chili or Chile is unconfirmed.

Saturday
16
SEPT

Dr. Simone's Twelfth Annual Softball Saturday Tournament

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Baseball fields. Cheer for his Tiger Team. Pray that he wears that orange bandana under his cap.

Rides for Life Car Show

3 p.m. – 8 p.m. H lot. Vroom vroom! Cost: \$1. Or \$5, if you wanna show your own ride. Sponsored by Rally Enthusiast Club. Benefits MADD.

Lambda Upsilon Lambda First Annual DJ/Dance Party

10 p.m. – 2:30 a.m. Gracies. Get your party on with the Latino frat. Students: \$3. Faculty: \$5. Other: \$3.

CAB Saturday Night Stand-Up Presents:

Jeremy Schachter and Ryan Belleville

11 p.m. – 1 a.m. Ingle Auditorium. Two comics. Battle to the death? Probably not. But a girl can dream, right? \$1.

Sunday
17
SEPT

Citizenship Day

This is a pretty lame holiday. It's worse than that day you're supposed to check the batteries in your smoke detectors. I mean, I guess you could check to see that you're a citizen, but, c'mon, you have better things to do.

Monday
18
MAY

Scott McCloud on Comics and Technology

3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Ingle Auditorium. See the guy that revolutionized the comic industry. Alternatively, see the guy that Penny Arcade makes fun of relentlessly. Free.

Tuesday
19
MAY

CRL Pasta Nite

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Skalny Room. Eat some pasta. Er, let me revise that. Eat some *free* pasta. Courtesy of the Center for Religious Life.

Wednesday
20
MAY

Community Service Fair

11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. SAU: Lobby. Make a difference. Cost? Free. Benefit? A few good karma points.

Cosillience: The Cognitive Revolution Lectures

8 p.m. – 10 p.m. Ingle Auditorium. Learn why evolution is important to biology. Wear intelligent design paraphernalia. They'll just love you.

Thursday
21
MAY

Turnitin Exposes & Curbs Plagiarism

9 a.m. – 10 a.m. RIT Library Via Lab- 2nd floor. Learn to use Turnitin, an online site used to identify plagiarism.

CAB Thursday Night Cinema Series presents: Vanilla Sky

10 p.m. – 1 a.m. Ingle Auditorium. You might prefer *Top Gun* or the jumping on Oprah's couch, but this Cameron Crowe flick takes you through the emotion spectrum. Free.

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STREAM OF FACTS SEPTEMBER 15

September 15, 1949: The Lone **Ranger** airs for the very first time on ABC. Heigh-ho Silver, away!

Ever wonder why the scenes with Rita from *Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers* looked...off? Turns out, they were taken directly from the **Japanese** episodes and were dubbed over. Poorly.

Ichi-go ichi-e, the underlying concept of the **Japanese** Tea Ceremony, is the Zen-like belief that every meeting should be cherished because it **cannot** be replaced.

Elephants **cannot** jump, as their weight makes it physically **impossible** to do so.

The Ollie **Impossible** is the semantically-incorrect skateboard trick in which the rider gets the board to flip end over end around his **back** foot.

Have unexplained **back** pain? Don't carry your wallet in your back **pocket!** It puts unequal (and undue) pressure on your muscles.

The **Pocket** Cube is a 2x2x2 version of the original Rubik's Cube. It is considerably easier than the **behemoth** Professor's Cube, which is 5x5x5.

BEHEMOTH, an acronym for Big Electronic Human-Energized Machine...Only Too Heavy, is a computerized recumbent bicycle invented in the late 1980s. The intent? To make "nomad" a viable life choice in **America**.

The farthest Eastern city in **America** that predominantly uses the word "pop" as the name for soft drinks is **Rochester**, New York.

September 15, 1613 – Thomas Overbury, an English poet and essayist, was murdered for making unseemly comments about the Viscount **Rochester's** wife, Lady Essex.

QUOTE

"From infancy on, we are all spies; the shame is not this but that the secrets to be discovered are so paltry and few." – John Updike

HAIKU

by Brian Garrison
Smash. Crash. Bang. Boom. Bash.
Goes the barrel of monkeys
O'er Niagara Falls

REPORTER

RECOMMENDS

Live flamingo webcasts. Yes, you heard me correctly. **LIVE FLAMINGO WEBCASTS**. The Smithsonian National Zoological Park has a bunch of tiny cameras situated all over their zoo, spying on all sorts of different animal habitats. Perhaps the most entertaining instance of this espionage is the Flamingo Cam, which lets you gaze upon a whole flock's worth of that stretch-necked, long-legged, and horrifically pink bird: the flamingo. Trust me, those birds can be downright hilarious. I like it best when they fight. You can check out the neon-colored carnage at nationalzoo.si.edu.

CARTOON | by Alex Salsberg



SUDOKU

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

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

JUMBLE

Elements

unlumima
melryiubl
nmirebo
nhrilcoe
nneuimittse
horygend
pktynro
nigammeus
rcemuyr
srhspouhpo
uptminoul
oliiscn
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iczn

Aluminum, Barium, Bromine, Einsteinium, Fluorine, Hydrogen, Iridium, Krypton, Magnesium, Mercury, Phosphorus, Silicon, Tungsten, Zinc

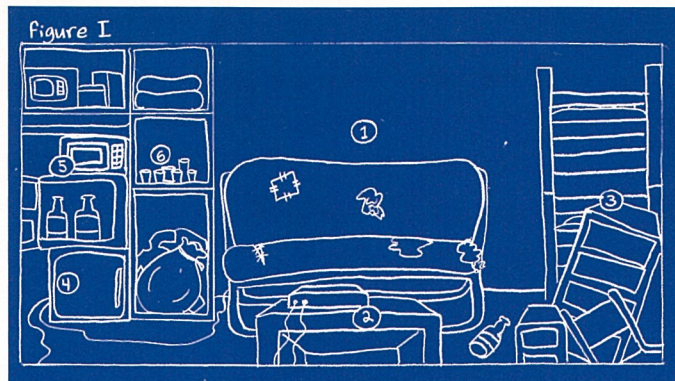
BY ALEX SALSBERG

Cramped

STYLE

The standard RIT dorm room is 10 feet by 18 feet. You might ask: how can two people coexist in a place the size of the handicapped stall in the Applebee's bathroom? How can you, a new freshman, unlucky sophomore, or loser upperclassman, best arrange the stackable furniture (generously provided by Lunchables) to best fit your pathetic needs? Now that I'm done insulting you (as I loom over you from my spacious Perkins apartment), I will let you in on some secrets that will make your year in a literal closet more livable.

The truth is, it's easy to pick the setup that's right for your dorm room. It just has to be based on your identity. Luckily, there are only four possibilities, which coincidentally fit on this two-page spread:



DRAWINGS BY ALEX SALSBERG



THE COOL KID'S HANG-OUT PAD

(figure I)

You and your roomie are the coolest. Yeah, he's a little creepy around girls, but he's still cool. That's why everyone is going to want to hang out in your room. You've got that sweet futon[1] that your parents wanted to get rid of anyway and a big TV[2] that you bought instead of books. Sure, you had to shove the beds and everything else into a big pile near the window[3], but it's worth it. Now all your friends can be comfortable while they relentlessly watch Family Guy. To nourish these guests, you have two mini-fridges stacked up[4], filled with root beers shaped like beers (so cool). And no cool room is complete without an illegal microwave[5], because you're so rebellious. You have to cover it with a pillowcase when the RA comes in! But you don't care if the RA sees your large collection of shot glasses[6], which show that you drink things from shot glasses sometimes (in reality, putting a shot glass on display is not unlike putting out a fork).

PROS: At first, everyone will hang out in your room. It will be fun.

CONS: Everyone will continue to hang out in your room, causing you to fail school, or, everyone will stop hanging out in your room, leaving you embarrassed as people glance pityingly into your empty hang-out through your ever-open door.

POSTERS: M.C. Escher, degrading poster of chicks making out.

THE GAMER'S HOVEL

(figure II)

You live in a virtual online medieval fantasy world, so your room should be set up accordingly. The most important element is your computer[1], which includes a video card designed by NASA, under lighting, and a flux capacitor. The rest of your room just falls into place. The growing pile of Mountain Dew bottles and Gracie's take-out trays[2] makes a lovely centerpiece, but it's not all a mess. Your clothes are neatly folded[3], though only because your mom did it when you moved in, and you haven't changed since then. On the shelf is a neat pile of all of the previous versions of the game you have currently pledged your soul to[4], because you're that hardcore. I've included you[5] in the room arrangement as well. You haven't moved in so long that you're practically a piece of furniture. Beneath you is a pile of your own hair[6], because you are slowly balding, mostly due to the nuclear reactor in your computer.

PROS: You are a level 19 elf warrior.

CONS: Your room smells like moose crap.

POSTERS: Led Zeppelin, Stairway to Heaven lyrics next to a wizard.

THE GIRL'S ROOM

(figure III)

So you're a girl. There's only one arrangement that you and your roommate (whom you refer to as your "girlie," "lover," or "sex partner," all jokingly of course) will ever adopt. Your beds are both low[1], because girls like to pretend they're not strong enough to climb ladders. The shelves are very organized, as is the space under the bed, which houses a box of gifts from your mom[2] (who is like your best friend!) No girl's room is complete without Christmas lights on the ceiling[3] year-round and a beta fish on the desk[4]. Also, above the desk is some sort of bizarre-shaped frame with pictures of all of your high school friends at the beach[5]. Above the bed are more photos, comprising a photo collage of your hideous boyfriend from home[6] that you stare at as you go to sleep. Your guy also gets some face time on your Apple laptop's[7] screensaver, compiled with the program iHaveaboyfriend.

PROS: Low beds are more convenient and comfortable.

CONS: That creepy guy from the "cool kids' hang-out pad" will sit on your bed and make fun of your hideous boyfriend.

POSTERS: Van Gogh, movie posters, that sailor and nurse slobbering on each other after WWII.

THE THINGS ARE TOO AWKWARD BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR ROOMMATE TO EVEN BEGIN TO DISCUSS REARRANGING THE ROOM, SO IT'S EXACTLY HOW IT WAS WHEN YOU MOVED IN ROOM

This one is pretty self-explanatory, so my deepest apologies for reminding you that you live your life in a constant state of low-grade discomfort with a growing mutual hatred flourishing in the silence of your tiny abode.

PROS: You won't have to move any furniture back at the end of the year.

CONS: Why doesn't he SAY ANYTHING???? WHAT IS HE THINKING RIGHT NOW????? RRRRRRRRRGGGGGGGGGGHHHHHHHHHH!!!!!!!

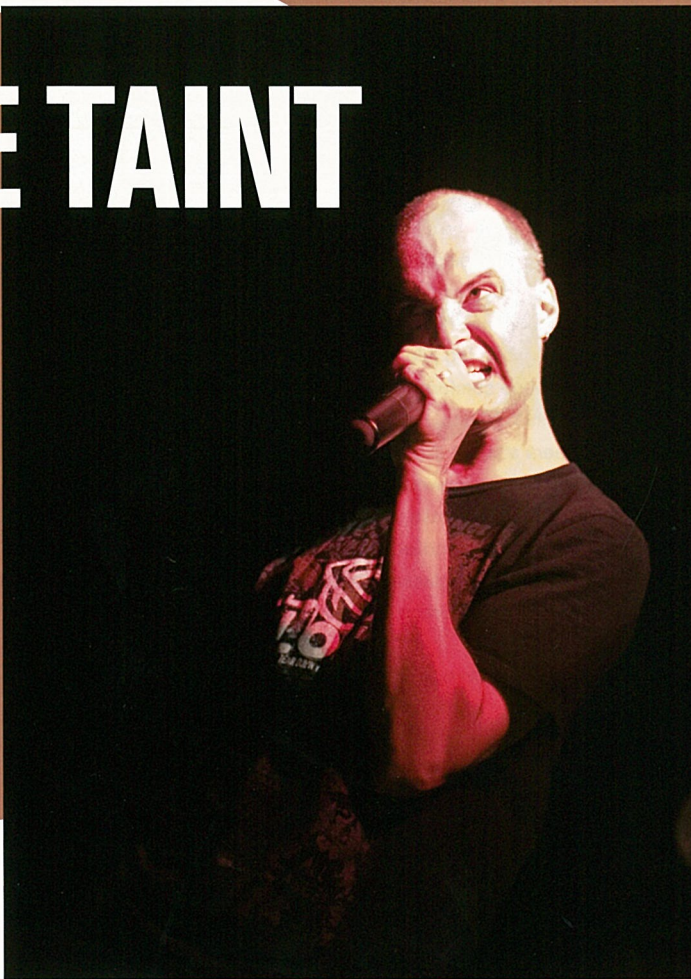
POSTERS: The "Make Friends, not Drinking Buddies" poster that was there when you arrived.

Now that I've sorted thousands of you into four neat categories, you can easily find the arrangement that's right for you. So love your tiny space, because there's a good chance housing will screw you over and you'll live there for the rest of your life. Meanwhile, I'm going to go run around my apartment, spinning and waving my arms, because *I can*.

CAB THE TAINT

FRIDAY NIGHT
NOT AT THE
RITZ
PRESENTS:

by Kelley Piering and Angela Tam



If you were wandering around the Greek Lawn from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on September 8, you may still be wondering “who was playing the radio so loud all that time?” Well, in fact, you were tricked; that was not the radio at all—it was music from a band called The Taint who performed for nearly three hours straight.

This rock cover band entertained the crowd with non-stop, vastly familiar music. They played everything from “Vindicated” by Dashboard Confessional to “California” by the Red Hot Chili Peppers. Hell, they even threw in “Wonderwall” by Oasis for good measure. For the last hour, the band ran out of ideas for songs to play and was taking requests from the decent-sized crowd of people.

The Taint is a band based right here in Rochester, New York and is comprised of four performers: Apostoly (guitar), Johnny (vocals), Erik (drums), and Anthony (bass and vocals). Keep in mind; this is not your normal rock band hoping to make money off their performances. These four artists just put together this band to play for fun. By day, they each have their own jobs. By night, they are The Taint. We were fortunate to have them come to RIT and perform; they usually prefer to play the 21 and over club scene.

The four members you may have heard last week are not the original four that started The Taint. Apostoly and Anthony came in when previous band members left. And, by came in, we mean “charged in with guns a’blazing.” Anthony joined with just three days notice before his first show and Apostoly joined up with the group *the day* of his first show.

If we only had one word to describe this performance, that word would be “fun.” The band was having fun, the crowd was having fun, and the music was just that: fun. Even Johnny, the vocalist, was obviously having fun, with his dance moves that reminded us of a chimpanzee on drugs trying to impersonate the Charlie Brown Christmas dance scene. People were bobbing their heads to the music, and some were dancing around a bit.

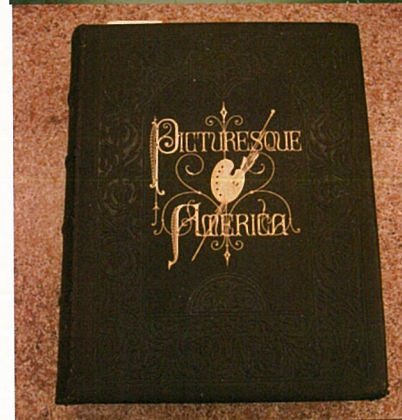
The thing that stood out most about The Taint was their way of closely copying the original songs. The vocalists would change the way they sang to fit the current song, while the rest of the band almost perfectly mirrored the original instrumentals.

At 9 p.m. the fireworks display started. As part of the Sigma Alpha Mu Pole Sit, the fireworks filled RIT’s night sky with bright and vibrant colors. No one could have missed it. The show lasted a half hour. It started a little slow, with the fireworks going up one by one. It then sped up, with fireworks exploding continuously in succession. Many people laid down on the grass, and admired the beautiful explosions. It was a colorful end to a very colorful evening.

To find out more about The Taint and upcoming shows, visit their website at <http://www.ticklethetaint.com/> or check out their MySpace at <http://www.myspace.com/ticklethetaint>

A LITERARY FREAK'S GUIDE TO: USED BOOK STORES

by Casey Dehlinger



BROWNBAG BOOKSHOP

Location: 678 Monroe Ave.

If this place ever catches on fire, I might actually cry, and I'm a fairly insensitive bastard. I had a stack to the ceiling I wanted to take home, like saving puppies from the pound, but I limited myself to five.

Old ratty oriental rugs cover the floor of what looks like it's supposed to be an apartment. The man running the place is small, quiet, and keeps his calm even when a disgruntled woman complains that *The DaVinci Code* made her head hurt. She gets even more upset when he only offers her a few bucks for the hardcover she spent \$27 on, but it's a buyer's market. You can pick up gold in paperback for three to five bucks. Start browsing hardcover and you'll near the double digits, but rarely hit them. The shop is very well-organized, but if you know what you're looking for, it still doesn't hurt to ask. The guy knows what he has.

Seeing as the shop runs on the almost communal recirculation of books, it might be hard to find a great author's masterpiece or any books that you could expect a reader to hold onto for sentimental value, but if you know your literature your jaw will drop at what you can find for less than a gallon of gas.

RICK'S RECYCLED BOOKS

Location: 739 Monroe Ave.

This place isn't stocked with books so much as it is infested with them—they're scattered on the floor and falling off the shelves. Sounds of the PGA Tour emanate from a back room through the bookcases, where Rick sorts through used DVDs and old SNES cartridges. A big sign says, "There is no DVDs in the cases." He's nice, though. He even offers to hold the books I've plucked off the shelves at the front counter to free my hands up. Rick's antics aside, the selection is pretty phenomenal if you're willing to do a little hunting.

Things are stocked quasi-alphabetically. You're likely to find a masterpiece, but you need to find a shelf or floor pile with scattered clues of authors having similar last names. Then envision the book in your mind's eye and start digging into the shelves with indomitable confidence. A lot of books have free bonuses. Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* was hiding a business card with a personal message for Wendy (Wendy, if you're reading this, reclaim it at our office). I ended up getting five books for \$16.20. Rick's pocket is apparently the cash register, as that's where my change came from.

YANKEE PEDDLER BOOKSHOP

Location: 274 Goodman St.

Hidden away inside Village Gate, Yankee Peddler is the place to go to find something rare. If you can imagine it being coated in dust, you can find it here. Although it only offers three shelves of fiction, the Peddler's reference sections are teeming with tomes. If one of your classes prescribes a text that's older than you, it's worth hunting for to the sound of classical music in this quaint little shop.

Buyer beware: this place gets a little pricy, with explanations like "out-of-print" and "early edition" penciled in on the inside covers. Checking out with three books, one an early hardcover of Norman Mailer's *The Naked and the Dead*, the Peddler's meticulous hand-written receipt came out to a little over twenty bucks (don't get caught in line behind anyone). Better deals can be found elsewhere for fiction, but check this place out before wheel-barrowing in triple-digit sums at places like Borders and Barnes and Noble.

IDENTIFY

How Lizzie Sorkin Plans to Transform RIT

by Ryan Metzler | photograph by Chris Felber



“Why should we expect the students to know who SG is if SG doesn’t even know who the students are?”

As I walk into the quiet RITreat, I notice Lizzie Sorkin passing through the several offices and try to stop her. I wave and call for her—forgetting for a moment that she can’t hear me—and finally gain her attention. With a smile she introduces herself, and we continue into her office for what promises to be an interesting look inside her mind and vision for RIT. The first major surprise: she likes the bricks. “They give RIT *identity*,” she says. I’ve heard that word before, and I get the sense it’s about to be used a lot over the next 30 weeks.

Path to the Presidency

Sorkin, a 7th year film student who hails from California, has been very busy during her stay here at RIT, and that doesn’t look like its going to change in her new role as RIT Student Government President. A Resident Advisor for three years, she’s tutored ASL (American Sign Language), served as President of the NTID Student Congress (NSC), worked in the bookstore, sat on SG Committees, and, just last spring, organized a silent protest in the Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ) Building—and that’s just the beginning. Each of these roles and experiences have prepared her, she feels, for one of her biggest challenges yet—leading a diverse student body 15,000 strong toward a unifying identity.

During her tenure as NSC president, an idea was born—unity of the clubs, staff, faculty, and students. The picture Sorkin recalled is an ideal one: The Student Congress Pulse Happy Hour occurred every two weeks and 14 or 15 NTID clubs were involved, taking turns occupying a fund raiser.

Faculty and staff were invited and many attended. Everyone was socializing and communicating, bringing the community together. People became comfortable with the environment and helped the NTID students feel like this campus was their second home. That’s something, Sorkin asserts, which doesn’t happen enough at RIT: the forming of a community.

As NSC President, Sorkin organized a silent protest among deaf students. In the beginning, Sorkin sat down with Dr. Alan Hurwitz, Dean of NTID, to discuss this issue, mainly because she felt troubled that she was being left out of hallway conversations in LBJ. Sorkin began to realize that other students were feeling the same way and gathered students to take shifts occupying a booth in the entrance of the LBJ building. The protesting students also took a vow to not communicate with others during that week. “It made me feel very political,” Sorkin comments, “even though I understand I am not a political person, because it wasn’t just me. There were many others who felt the same way.” This event brought Sorkin a newfound feeling of political character and helped spark her desire for the presidency.

Launching Her Campaign

Originally, Sorkin felt very intimidated by the presidential position. Though James Macchiano and Cory Hoffman, last year’s respective President and Vice President, encouraged her to run, Sorkin was still unsure. Fifteen thousand RIT students seemed like an intimidating number to represent. “I realized I had a lot of ideas and motivation to get involved with the community. It’s just a bigger community; I’m used to 1,200 at NTID,” said Sorkin.

She began looking for a Vice President to run with her, and found one in Dan Arscott, who had served on the Greek Council. After they won the SG election later that year, Arscott resigned. For her new Vice President, Sorkin selected Dave Blonski, who had heard she was looking. On Friday, September 8, Blonski was installed as SG Vice President by the Senate. The two instantly clicked, explains Sorkin. "Dave served as Vice President two years ago, so he knows SG inside and out. He really grounds all my ideas because he knows the procedures and what is and isn't possible."

With every Student Government, there are problems the administration will face and, in some cases, fall victim to. Sorkin specifically hopes to avoid a lack of partnerships between colleges and clubs. While Colleges and clubs run specific programs for their students, they seldom become intertwined with other clubs or colleges. "Eight expectations, but who focuses on RIT in general?" Sorkin asks, "Why aren't they considering all of RIT? The College of Liberal Arts, for example, has a public speaking contest; we want to help advertise for them. In addition, the Black Awareness Coordinating Committee has an annual fashion show and NTID Student Congress wants a fashion show as well. Perhaps both groups can host one together."

Sorkin cites the benefits of last year's NTID Student Congress lottery. Each month, two clubs were selected to organize and carry out a program together. This same model, Sorkin feels, can be applied throughout the RIT campus. Clubs are always hosting events, but usually alone. She hopes to encourage unification in the same way the lottery "made the [NTID] community more cohesive, rather than having separate isolated clubs."

Black and White, Orange and Brown: The Plan

Last year's push to increase RIT colors and school spirit on campus was a very good idea, Sorkin says, but one that needs to be taken a step further. "I want the community to own RIT...to make a connection between themselves and RIT." By fostering this community spirit, Sorkin hopes to even impact retention rates, but students are only one part of the equation. "The staff and faculty shouldn't be left out—get them involved, also, so that they can have the pride. That, 'Yes, I work at RIT,' attitude." She explains how she attended a committee retreat and one professor said, "Do you know what RIT really needs? A big sledding hill, so during the winter students will have something to do." His comment showed Sorkin that he's not 'just a teacher,' but is involved with and cares about RIT.

Though SG has pushed for greater student involvement, it hasn't always been involved with what the *students* want. Sorkin summarizes this by asking, "Why should we expect the students to know who SG is if SG doesn't even know who the students are?" She hopes to improve this relationship by running more student and faculty polls and weekly surveys "even with random questions, just so we can get in touch with the student body." In addition to helping SG keep in touch, Sorkin anticipates the accumulation of greater credibility going to RIT Administration with actual student concerns and opinions.

Looking ahead, Sorkin readily admits that she expects some problems, though she aims to avoid them. "I don't always articulate my thoughts well. I really have to figure out what I am looking for, and set everything out clearly," she explains. Sorkin will also make sure that SG never loses focus. In creating programming, she wants to always ask: How valuable is this concept and how valuable is this issue? If her administration can "clearly understand what our values are and then clearly describe them to the student council, higher administration, and most importantly the students in the community," Sorkin believes that misunderstandings can, for the most part, be avoided.

Shaping the Future

Sorkin has a hope for RIT that doesn't end with this year, but continues for years to come. "The whole reason why I got involved in SG is to link faculty, staff, students, and people in general. It's not just about wearing orange and brown on campus, but to have inside pride [for] RIT...If all the students are wearing the colors, when people visit they see our unity. That reflects us as a community."

This overall goal may seem very general, but she breaks it down into several specific programs to accomplish this year. Firstly, Sorkin wants to bring back the yearbook, but in a new fashion. This yearbook would do away with conventional head shots and instead, be a collage of things representing RIT—newspaper articles, photographs of events, and more. She hopes to have more orange flowers around campus. In the past, bracelets were given out, but how about giving brown rubber bracelets saying "identify" across them to faculty and staff? Sorkin also would like to use orange and brown caps and gowns for graduation.

New programs, however, don't mean the end of old traditions. She wants to keep alive events like Tiger Idol and the Super Bowl party. In putting on these events Sorkin will seek to "incorporate other clubs instead of every event being SG running everything." Most of all, it's important to keep in mind her overarching theme that "All of the programs will come back to *identify*: our key word for this year."

Sorkin's final comment was an anecdote relating to her past and her vision this year for RIT:

"My dad graduated from here and he used to talk a lot about his RIT experience here. I didn't think I would ever leave my parents and travel 3,000 miles to attend RIT. But I came for a summer program during my junior year in high school, and I met—for the first time—deaf peers. From that I learned so much; I found my identity. Once you're involved, you stay on campus; you stay and you believe and you graduate. I think that's what's important. Once you identify yourself with this whole community you're bound to stay and finish." •

SENATORS **SPEAK OUT**

The Student Government Roundtable

by J. S. Ost | photograph by Dave Londres

As part of the kickoff to a new school year, Reporter sat down with the new SG senators to discuss their goals, hopes, and confidence in newly elected president Lizzie Sorkin. Representing RIT's eight colleges were: Damian Kumor (GCCIS), Gina Macchiano (CIAS), Dieter Laskowski (KGCOE), Adam Botzenhart (COLA), and Jonathan Berman (COS). Jimmy Ichihana represented the Residence Halls Association (RHA) and David Guetzlaff filled in as representative for the Gay-Lesbian-Bi-Transgender (GLBT) community.

Laskowski
 One of the most important things is to relate to the group we're representing. If we can establish good communication from the ground up, we get the greatest diversity of ideas.

Reporter Magazine
In your opinion, what is the role of an SG senator?

Kumor
 I see the senator as being the leader for the people in the Colleges. A senator should provide representation to Student Government, through their votes [on issues] and through their activities.

Ichihana
 A lot of [residence hall] students' interests build off of the other senators' ideas, because each College has students in the residence halls. Ultimately, we try to combine views and ideas and see how other people can help us and how we can create joint efforts to move in the same direction.



The SG Senators huddle before their round table discussion. (Clockwise from left) Adam Botzenhart (COLA), Jonathan Berman (COS), Dieter Laskowski (KGCOE), Gina Macchiano (CIAS), Damian Kumor (GCCIS) and Jimmy Ichihan (RHA).

RM: *In trying to operate together as one larger body, how difficult is it for you to unite your different populations? What's the compromise?*

Guetzlaff: That ties into the senator's role as a leader. As senators, we need to make choices for our respective groups so we can make progress. We can't reach everyone, but we're elected with the trust that we know our group's best interests. And it's much easier to collaborate with other members of the senate to find a joint view than it is to do the same with thousands of RIT students.

Berman: When you're working with a small group of people, self-interests need to coincide. I don't see [unity] as a problem. When there is an issue, people talk about it and reach a conclusion.

RM: *What are some initiatives that each of you are trying to bring about in your respective colleges?*

Kumor: My initiative will be focused on bringing together students from different majors in the College. There's a lot of separation because of the specific classes they take—CS, IT, SE...so I'd like to create more intermixing outside of class.

Laskowski: Most of my goals involve increasing communication between students. In my previous years I didn't know how SG affected me. What I really want to do is make newsletters about what's going on in SG and what that means for KGC OE students; I'd like to hold town hall meetings where we can get their input.

Guetzlaff: In the GLBT community, we're working on initiatives that unite people. We're going to focus more on the campus community and show that there is a GLBT community at RIT.

Berman: My goal for COS has a lot to do with research. Many students think that science is something you learn about, not something you do. I plan to try and bring out the practical aspect of scientific research. I'd also like to institute a Darwin Day celebration on February 12—Charles Darwin's birthday.

Ichihana: At RHA, we want students more involved in activities. We need them to attend, but it'd also be nice to see more students involved in *putting on* the events. During Orientation Week, we had a lot of floors that were really excited about the events, so to get that kind of excitement and that kind of manpower into working the events would draw even more people.

Macchiano: One thing that's important to CIAS, as an arts college, is to have more art on display around the building. Another thing that'd be fun to do is to have competitions between the art students, with actual judges and maybe monetary prizes—just something to bring students together, but not in a 'formal' way.

Botzenhart: It's difficult being a liberal arts major and finding your identity on a technical campus. This year, we definitely need to work on finding and facilitating that identity.

RM: *Do any of you think it'll be a challenge to create an identity for your respective groups and simultaneously unite students as part of the greater RIT community?*

Botzenhart: [Creating an RIT identity] is really the job of the President and Vice President. I see my role as being dedicated to the students of COLA. If I can assist [the President and Vice President], I will, but creating an RIT community is largely their job.

Ichihana: While there are activities each College has that create its identity, there are so many larger events—like hockey games and the push for school colors—that are already so universal. They're associated with the school, and bring people together automatically, without us doing much.

RM: *One could argue—since Lizzie ran unopposed—that students are fairly disinterested. Does she have the power as President to bring RIT together?*

Botzenhart: Yes, Lizzie ran unopposed, but I think [the President and Vice President] are a perfectly capable duo and will do a fine job.

Ichihana: Both [Lizzie and Dave] come from very strong backgrounds and both definitely have the ability to pull this through. They've been with SG in the past and know what they're doing.

Guetzlaff: I've seen Lizzie working hard all summer. I think she'll do some great things.

RM: *What about Lizzie's plans—the RIT Yearbook, orange and brown tassels or robes—should she be focusing on other areas?*

Kumor: I work in the SLC, and my uniform just changed to orange and brown. I don't like the new one much. Some of these goals seem sort of trivial, but if [Lizzie] believes it'll bring about more school spirit, I'll support it.

Botzenhart: Orange and brown—on its own—can be pretty superficial. As a starting point for unity, it's good, but there needs to be more to it than that. There needs to be something behind it.

Guetzlaff: I think it's good to start off with very visual changes. Then you can get into more detailed stuff.

Ichihana: That visibility [of school colors] creates awareness; awareness brings in involvement; and that involvement is what'll get things moving in the right direction.

Macchiano: While colors aren't the solution for everything, it's a great springboard to get people talking. When they see [the colors], they'll think 'RIT.'

RM: *What is one problem with RIT that needs to be addressed?*

Berman: The judicial system. It's as if people are assumed guilty until proven innocent.

Laskowski: When I was applying to RIT, the *Princeton Review* ranked the campus as the 'second most unsightly.' It's great that we've made some progress with our landscaping—we need to keep that going.

Macchiano: I'm going to be specific to my College, but in CIAS, there's no common area for students to hang out. Especially since it's one of the older buildings, it'd be nice to have an update done.

Ichihana: One problem I see is people not knowing who they can come to when they have an issue. I'd like to encourage people to come out and voice their ideas.

Guetzlaff: SG is one major resource for students, but we could use more. I would like a GLBT resource center on campus.

Botzenhart: One of the problems I see is that RIT can be almost too practical and too utilitarian. Everything has such a planned purpose, so a little more creativity might be nice. •

For more information on SG, or to contact your senator, visit www.sg.rit.edu.



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*vindictive rant about how that professor of yours gave you a 15 page paper on the first day and hit on your girlfriend and ran over your cat after stealing your lunch and judo-kicking you in the testicles, after which you spent 3.1214 hours waiting to get it checked out at the clinic where you caught the avian flu from that girl in the waiting room with the tattoo just before giving yourself a really nasty papercut on the forms you had to fill out, which made you late for class...or whatever's on your mind.

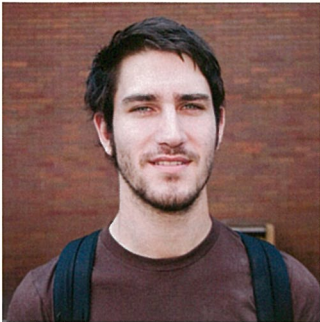
RITRINGS

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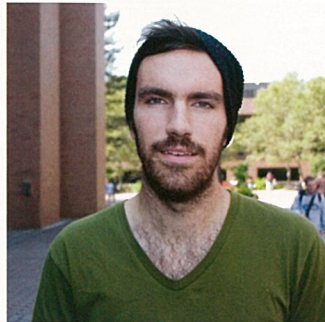
WORD ON THE STREET

COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY BELVEDUDE

Q: What are you waiting for?



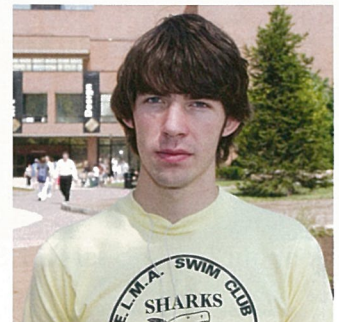
"The Summer."
Jonathan Knobel
Second Year
Fine Art Photo



"To exhale!"
Paul Nelson
Fourth Year
Fine Art Photo



"For you to leave me alone so I can finish my sandwich."
Lindsay Tendler
Fourth Year
Advertising Photography



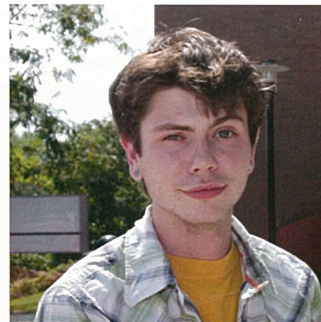
"Marriage."
Ryan Scott-Davis
Third Year
New Media



"I don't wait for anything."
Maria Papaleo
Second Year
Graphic Design



"For my brain to finally start working again."
Sean Mcmanus
First Year
Graphic Design



"For your mom."
Stephen Morse
Third Year
Biomedical Photography



"Food. That's where we're going!"
Rachel Poullins
First Year
Graphic Design



"Nice days like this."
Claudia Palmeter
First Year
Illustration



"For my R.A."
Mel Miller
First Year
Civil Engineering Technology



"The rest of my career at RIT, 'cause I'm pumped to be here."
Michael Franklin
First Year
Biomedical Photography



"For you to tell me that you're straight."
Andrea Donadio
Third Year
Visual Media



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SECTION 25

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SPORTSdesk



Peter Frandina of RIT defends the ball from Hamilton College's Greg Rogan during the first half of Saturday's match. The game ended in a 1-1 tie. Matt Bagwell/REPORTER Magazine

by Frances Cabrera

MEN'S SOCCER

September 1: Despite several close kicks to the net by Geoff Schmidt and Mark Frisciano, the Tigers weren't able to overcome Washington and Jefferson's initial offense. The Tigers lost in their season opener, 1-0.

September 2: Still many close calls, but no goals for the Tigers in their second game of the season against Geneseo. Geneseo scored the lone goal of the game during overtime defeating the Tigers.

September 7: Mark Frisciano scored the first goal of the season for the Tigers against Hobart. However, Hobart went on to win the game, 2-1.

Record as of September 8: 0-3

WOMEN'S SOCCER

September 2: At the Rachel Miller Memorial Tournament, sophomores Lauren Tracy and Krystal Adriaansen put up a good fight against the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, almost scoring a couple of times. However, the Tigers were defeated, 2-0.

September 3: The consolation game for the tournament against the College of Wooster the following day proved no more victorious than the day before. The Tigers lost, 2-1. Kristen Denninger and Alaina Chorney scored the Tiger's first goal of the season, and Melissa Pratt was named part of the All-Tournament Team.

September 5: Outshooting Buffalo State, 16-12, and with six saves by Heather Moe, the Tigers were able to end the game tied at 1-1.

Record as of September 8: 0-2-1

WOMEN'S TENNIS

September 6: The Tigers devoured Brockport's Golden Eagles, defeating the team 8-1. The team dominated the doubles competitions, winning every single match.

Record as of September 8: 1-0

VOLLEYBALL

September 1-2: Five straight wins and an invitational championship title, marked the team's fall season opener at the Red Dragon Invitational. The team defeated Russell Sage, U-Mass, Oswego, Union, and Nazareth. Jessica Schaffer was named the tournament MVP with 54 kills and 49 digs in the five matches, and Victoria Petko was later named Rookie of the Week for her performance at the invitational.

September 8: The team's victorious momentum abruptly stopped at the Bomber Invitational hosted by rival Ithaca College. The team lost their first two matches of the season against Brockport and Haverford College.

Record as of September 8: 5-2



RIT goalkeeper Alan Smith dives to beat Hamilton College's Ian Hildebrand to the ball during the first overtime of the match on Saturday, September 9. The game ended in a 1-1 tie.
Matt Bagwell/REPORTER Magazine

Intramurals

no sore losers allowed

by Chad Carbone | illustration by Mike Norton

Standing poised and ready to run. Sweat dripping down cheeks as the game is on the line. The whistle blows. Six compadres sprint towards the centerline to grab one of the elusive orbs to hurl at the other team. This is intramural dodgeball, baby. It may sound intense but like all the other intramural sports, it's all in good fun.

Organized Fun

The organization of intramural sports (or IM as it's called around the water cooler) is handled by Lex Sleeman, the director of intramurals, and his assistant Brennan Coon. They work hard to schedule games and organize over 200 teams per quarter in the various sports that are offered. The sports offered this fall are: flag football, indoor soccer, softball, dodgeball, 3 on 3 basketball, ice hockey, ultimate Frisbee, volleyball, along with individual sports such as tennis, table tennis, badminton, and racquetball.

Most sports involve four divisions based on the competitive nature of each. Division one is more competitive than division three or co-ed divisions where people are there simply to have fun. Intramurals are for those of us who like to simply

play games, and not worry about attending three-hour practices everyday for a varsity team. Then again, there is no varsity dodgeball team so sometimes its intramurals or nothing.

Losing is Fun

Martin Martinez, a Third Year Mechanical Engineering student, started playing intramural division three soccer on the team, "Baker Boyz," when one of his friends from his dorm floor approached him to join the team. This will be the second year this team has gotten together and now they have matured into a truly terrible team.

However, despite the fact that they are not very good, and usually only win or tie when their opposition has fewer men than they do, they still enjoy being the Boyz from Baker. The team is even more anticlimactic since they lack a commonplace dorm hall this year. "We had jerseys made, we're not even that good but we have a lot of fun," said Martinez.

Sleeman commented on a student who graduated and was in the same shoes as Martinez, "One of my favorite quotes is from a graduate who stopped by to tell us in the IM

office that 'they really miss playing.' He went on to say 'we never won a game in the four years I was here, but I had a lot of laughs, made some great friends, and it was a great way to beat the stress of school.' I guess that's what it's all about. Don't be a spectator; participate..."

Get Out of Your Room!

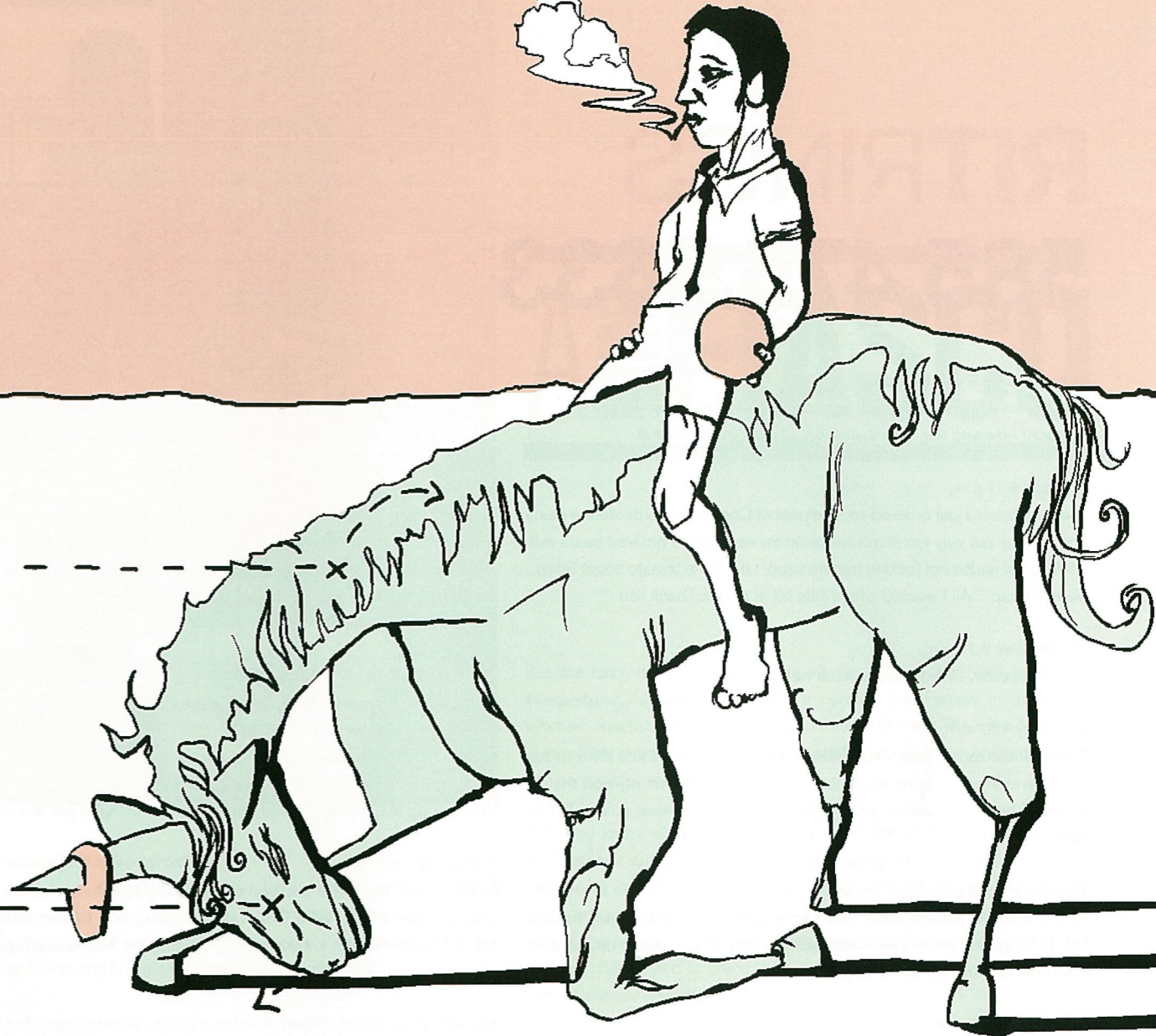
Intramurals are fun. It's a great way to get out of your dorm room and get some exercise. For example, Joe Lancellotti, a third year Civil Engineering Tech major who started the division one dodgeball team Sol Fly, sees intramurals in

a more health conscious way. "Intramurals are very good especially for people who don't like going to the gym, like myself, because exercise can be fun if you start diving around in dodgeball. I love to have a reason to go to the gym," said Lancellotti. His team is comprised of students who resided on Sol Heumann 5 two years prior. The situation behind that was similar but different from Martin Martinez's experience joining a team. In fact, everyone on the team had previously been good friends but it was intramurals that allowed everyone to meet for some fun in the middle of their busy schedules.

Joining a team

Intramurals within RIT are easy to join, since teams are often looking to get a couple more kids to fill out their teams. Looking for people to join your basketball team? I'm sure there's someone in your major/club/floor/shower that has a similar interest. "We have a number of teams that are made up by students in a special house or from the same major," stated Sleeman. Who knows, maybe you'll get a friend.

For more information, check out the intramurals website at: <http://www.rit.edu/~311www/intramurals.php3>.



RITRINGS

585.475.5633

compiled by Ryan Metzler

All calls subject to editing and truncation. Not all calls will be run.

Reporter reserves the right to publish all calls in any format.

Monday 8:47 p.m.

Okay, so listen. I just ordered some dinner at Commons. I ordered the pasta and the guy put way too much sauce on my spaghetti. I ordered pasta with a little bit of sauce not fucking tomato soup! I don't like tomato soup! Soup... Soup? Soup!? All I wanted was a little bit of sauce. Thank you.

Wednesday 9:12 p.m.

Hello, *Reporter*, David killed a crack whore.

Thursday 1:27 a.m.

That's a ridiculously long voicemail you stupid *Reporter*. I just have to say the [University Commons apartment number] girls, like oh my god they're so sexy. They're the sexiest girls in the world and the sexiest girls at RIT for sure.

Thursday 11:08 p.m.

Alright *Reporter* I want to say that I am a gay male and am ready to date. Let the magazine know! I am finally ready to date. I am banging on the table right now to prove my point. Bitches!

Thursday 11:09 p.m.

It's me again, the RIT gay male. You know what bitches? Fornication is good, I am ready to fornicate. If you too are ready to fornicate, call my number now!

Thursday 11:10 p.m.

Hello? Sometimes my dog, he pees on himself, and one time I was tickling his belly and he got really excited. Then he peed on himself.

Thursday 11:14 p.m.

O-M-G *Reporter*, this is the most F-ing hardest phone number to dial ever! One, nine-wait no it's nine, one, and then your number. Whatever, this is way too inappropriate and inconvenient for my drunkenness. Whatev!

Thursday 11:23 p.m.

Hey I just wanted to let you know, by the way this is the RGM (RIT gay male) again, that I have drank a shot every time I have called (going on 10). Well actually I drank 4 before we started. Love you RIT! Love you Al Simone, you're my bitch, love!

Friday 12:05 a.m.

Yo, I just want to tell you about this one kid I know, Steve [last name]. He just told me that he was going to fuck my dog. And he did it. So we're just in here right now and he told another kid that he was going to fuck his cat. So I am sitting here and I seriously think he's going to go fuck this kid's cat right now. Can you help us? Or him?

Friday 12:18 a.m.

Dude, an Art major is doing my Physics homework right now and I'm a Physics major. How sad is that shit?

Friday 12:36 a.m.

She fucking stapled my ground hog! I was just trying to put him away.

Friday 1:45 a.m.

Hi RIT Rings! My friend decided to play water fight in the house and now there's water EVERYWHERE. We're standing in a foot of water. We're out in Riverknoll. Don't make me say the number. We're in a fucking pool out here! Lovesies.

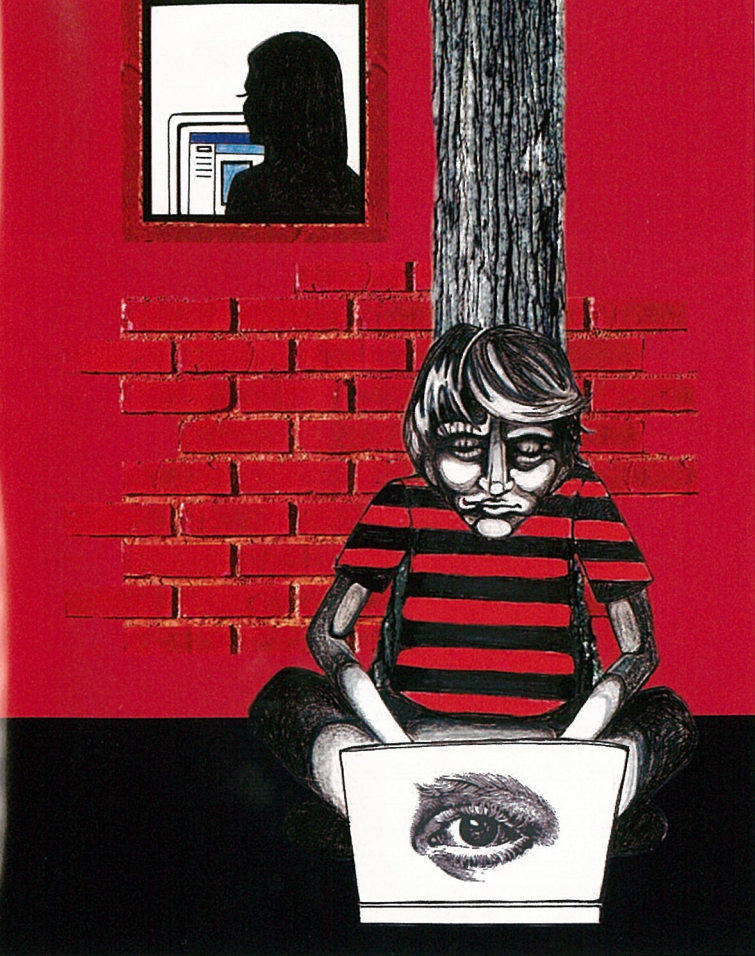
Friday 1:46 a.m.

Hi RIT Rings, my friends are fucking having a water fight and they keep drenching each other. They have gone through like 20 glasses of water from the tap and now my friend Derek is standing there drenched to his underwear and I think there needs to be an intervention. Intervene please.

Friday 8:02 p.m.

I just wanted to let you know that the [players of an athletics team] fucking suck. My friend, about a month ago, went over to their house and had a roofie put in her drink. That's fucking ridiculous and they're fucking douche bags. I totally disrespect the [sports team] players. •

End of messages



A MINI FIASCO

by Jen Loomis | Erin Wengrovius

I have a confession to make: I am one of *those* people. You know the ones that I'm talking about. We, the proud. The few. The people without Facebook accounts. As such, last week was fairly lonely for me. I didn't have an opinion on the Mini-Feed. Ergo, I wasn't important.

I needed to fix this situation, so I concocted a devious scheme. The premise was simple: finally join Facebook. Figure out what all of my friends were talking about when they mentioned that [expletive] Mini-Feed. Write about the experience. Delete the accursed account. Move on with my life.

The execution was also simple. At first, I just logged onto the website, created an account, and went off to the gym. I didn't bother to fill in my profile. I didn't even bother to put up a picture. I just waited for my friends to catch wind of my change of heart and left it at that.

When I got home, I visited my friend Will's wall and posted up a comment: "I love you almost as much as our fat friend Wes loves cake." It was funny. I was happy.

The full weight of my action did not strike me until a full minute later. *Oh no!* I lamented to myself. *The Mini-Feed!* Since the average Facebook user logs in once every 0.125 seconds, I knew that he had already seen my degrading comment. The damage was done. I would have to buy him a pack of Kit-Kats and a Mountain Dew. Mini-Feed: one. Jen Loomis: zilch.

But, the funny thing was, I didn't log off. For reasons that I still don't quite comprehend, I added information to my profile. Sex: Female. Interested in: Women. Relationship Status: Single. Favorite Movies: *The Little Mermaid*. I knew that, even as I was filling out this information, it was being compiled into a veritable rap sheet about me.

And, you know what? I cared. I cared a whole lot. I didn't like the idea of Facebook actively broadcasting my inability to find a girlfriend or my passionate love of a Disney movie starring mermaids. It was bad enough that I broadcasted all of this information on my profile; Facebook didn't need to go ahead and *highlight* my shortcomings as a human being. And it certainly didn't need to place them on other people's News Feeds. That's just plain inconsiderate.

Still steaming over Facebook's rude behavior, I decided to check out my own News Feed. Hypocritical, I know, but I just couldn't resist. And boy, was it just buzzing with activity! About 50 billion people had already joined this group called "Students against Facebook News Feed (Official Petition to Facebook)." I was also about to become a member of this auspicious community when, via the News Feed, I noticed that one of my friends had just broken up with her boyfriend! And then, she'd posted a comment on his wall! This was sick drama; I had to scope it out.

It took me a full half an hour to regain my senses: I was exploiting the very tool that was exploiting me. Furious with myself, I moved to deactivate my account. I came, I saw, I conquered. And now, it was time to get the hell out.


My cursor sat motionless on the screen for several minutes. In the end, I wussed out. I hated this perverse invasion of my privacy, but I didn't hate it enough to actually stop it. The best I could do was create a group called "I Love Jen Loomis' Articles In Reporter Magazine." And you know what? I smiled when it came up on that godforsaken feed. I actually smiled. •

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