

REPORTER



11 13 09 | reportermag.com

Open Mic: On and Off-stage

Hot coffee, soft lights, good tunes.

Crafting a Symphony

Not your average fiddle shop.

3 Stars

Three of RIT's top athlete's get the Star treatment.

The Bruce R. James '64

Distinguished Public Service Award

HEROES AREN'T MEANT TO BE ~~HIDDEN~~

We invite the RIT Community to uncover the hidden heroes among our student population.

Z N C Z R E R U T N E V D A Q Z A C O C
 E C O P P O R T U N I S T D R I Z T H K Y
 P S D U Y A I G B R D V I E T W U Z I Y
 G H Y G A J H N I L U L N I H T K Z K O V
 I Q H K O W P L R V T T Q T O G T I E V
 E V M R O Y H E N T R E P R E N E U R J
 C H X R B R U F A A O R T W G S N U D E
 H C I E W L M Q P Q U Q T L V H L C M B
 A A C F L E A D E R T L O Q F X A K H T
 M O U P W B N T R L Z E K L G L X V Z H
 P C T G T S I P O R H T N A L I H P H S
 I N G W E F T D O P K R U Q O J K A F R
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 N O W B R U C E J A M E S N U O C E J E
 S C A I O V A I L A W S C H O L A R N N
 T U F H V M N H H S I K Z V U A E L J T
 X U R G D Q P D V L D N T J B H A Y E O
 R E H C A E T G W V P T E L M T P L C R
 N L O R E R U T N E V K Z R Z V I U H O

- volunteer ally champion tutor
- venturer leader ~~opportunist~~ partner
- teacher counselor humanitarian entrepreneur
- bruce james philanthropist coach mentor
- advocate teacher scholar trainer

Do you know a student who is making a meaningful difference in the lives of others? We want to hear their story! Please help us identify candidates for the 2009 Bruce James Public Service Award.

- There are two locations where you can tell us a students story
1. Old information desk in the SAU lobby
 2. Lobby of the SDC Student Development Center

To nominate a student, stop by either location on December 3rd between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm. We invite you to come tell us about the heroic student and how they are involved in assisting others. Help us discover our unsung heroes!

If you cannot physically make it to a location, please contact Kim Vent (recvsa@rit.edu, 5x2265) and we will come to you!

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EDITOR'S NOTE

LASTS

This is the last issue to be produced in this office. Starting next quarter, our headquarters will move from one basement to another. The Campus Center renovations are on track to be finished by the time we take off for Thanksgiving break.

Dozens of editors in chief have sat at these desks and put their signatures at the end of hundreds of editor's notes. The walls of this office are covered in the fragmented history of this magazine. Relics. Heritage. All of it is about to be torn down, boxed up and moved.

It's sobering to think about. We are on the brink of creating new heritage, new relics. For our readers, this might seem like a self-serving note, so I apologize. But it needs to be said. To ignore this transition would not do justice to the 40 years of magazine production that has taken place down here.

Perhaps this new office will help deal with the perception that *Reporter* is written by a bunch of kids who hang out in the basement of the SAU. Instead of being hidden away next to the Model Railroad Club, we'll be a little more visible. While the windowed walls of our new digs will be frosted, it'll still give the impression that we can see outw them.

In any case, so long A-426. I'll miss you.



Andy Rees

EDITOR IN CHIEF



CARTOON by Jamie Douglas and Andy Rees

"Senator A.C. Fairbanks Banjo, would you like to say grace?"

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ACADEMIC SENATE

by Viktor Nagornyy

SEMESTERS AT RIT

Eileen Feeney Bushnell, Academic Senate Chair, opened the meeting with a brief report. Bushnell remarked that senate will begin discussing the semester system during the winter quarter, giving the senate members enough time to review information that will be provided to them. They expect to vote on this issue in January. The proposed plan includes a three-year transitional period with the semester system commencing in fall of 2013. The RIT Semester Conversion Report can be found on Academic Affairs website at http://rit.edu/academicaffairs/priorities_initiatives.php

SENATE APPROVES NEW SUSTAINABLE SYSTEM M.S.

The Golisano Institute for Sustainability proposed a new graduate degree in Sustainable Systems. Agamemnon Crassidis, chair of the RIT Graduate Council, stated, "Graduates of this program will be prepared to undertake or continue careers in their chosen fields with an understanding of basic sustainability principles and the expertise to analyze and help solve complex sustainability problems."

The industry is growing, and graduates from this program will be in high demand. According to Paul Stiebitz, associate academic director for GIS, one of the goals of the new programmed is to "introduce students to the complex sustainability problems residing at the interface of industrial, ecological and social systems." The new program will strengthen RIT's portfolio of programs in sustainability, and will serve as "an exit ramp" to the Ph.D. program.

RIT COMPLIANCE POLICY AND CODE OF ETHICAL CONDUCT

RIT's Compliance Policy has been renamed and redesigned to incorporate other institute guidelines while reflecting some changes to federal compliance. The institute plans on revising other policies in the future. The main discussion among the senate members revolved around the inclusion of "strong moral character" in Section 3B, Standards of Ethical Conduct. Tim Engström, vice chair of Academic Senate, noted that the institute is not in the business of judging what is and what is not "strong moral character." The senate members agreed and motioned to remove these words. The senate approved the motion after a the compliance team accepted a few minor changes.

SG UPDATE

by Sam Angarita

VOTING SEATS

The revision of current Staff Council and Academic Senate representatives voting abilities in Student Government meetings was discussed after taking into consideration that SG members have voting seats on both councils. It was argued that, as a result, both governing groups would be better represented in SG and that the decision would be more symbolic — it would not dramatically affect the decisions being made during the meetings.

The debate ended when a move by COLA Senator Alecia Crawford, suggested the any final vote be postponed until the both Academic Senate and Staff Council discuss the issue in their respective meetings to see if they are interested in a voting seat.

The right of Student Service Organizations such as Reporter to hold a voting seat was also discussed. However, SSO representatives were left as non-voting members with a majority against giving them a voting seat.

GAMBLING POLICY

RIT's gambling policy was also brought up. Gambling-related events such as senior night or Vegas nights may be beneficial as fundraisers considering how successful the President's Alumni Ball was. The question was raised to receive feedback from SG members on whether to change in the current policy.

RIT's current policy simply coincides with the general New York State law. It does not outlaw gambling directly, but it does count the promotion of "games of chance," participation in them, and the possession of gambling devices as illegal.

After discussion among the members, the issue was brought to the attention of Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, Dawn Soufleris, who commented that recent statistics show a 10 percent increase in addiction to gambling by young adults 18 to 24 years-old. "For 90 percent of the students, it won't be a problem," said Soufleirs. She then commented that for some students, gambling activities — even fake-money gambling — "may be sending somebody in a direction you don't want to."

A "MYTH BUSTERS" CAMPAIGN

A new campaign is under way and is currently in its planning stages. SG's "Myth Busters" campaign will consist of gathering, presenting and confirming general myths and rumors that are being spread within the RIT community. One example is the discussion of the RIT academic calendar's change into a semester system.

The aim of the campaign is to post specific myths and then hold different interactive information sessions where students may be better informed on the issues that directly affect them.

Members brainstormed on the different possible types of "myth busting" sessions and the different methods of informing and promoting that could be utilized. The specifics of all these suggestions have yet to be fully laid out.

THE SEARCH FOR GRADUATE AND FRESHMAN SENATORS

Two weeks ago, applications for the positions of Graduate and Freshman Senator were reviewed, and the candidates had the chance to present their ideas and goals to Senate. Each candidate had two minutes to speak and answer any questions. Voting took place, and the winners were announced. Christopher Scott was elected as Freshman Senator and Pavan Puttaswamy Geetha was elected as Graduate Senator. **R**

THE HOUSE THAT RIT BUILT

JUST WEST OF DOWNTOWN, along Jay St. between the intersections of Whitney and Orchard streets, almost every house has a sign. “Take Notice,” a bright green placard from the City of Rochester reads, “Not to be occupied.” “No Trespassing,” and, “For Rent,” others read. At Orchard St., a police surveillance camera watches silently from high atop a pole.

On this stretch, they appear: a familiar white-haired university president accompanied by his wife, Rebecca Johnson, both astride red-and-yellow-triangle-adorned bicycles. Their destination has a different sign, “RIT: Proud Sponsor of this Habitat for Humanity Home.” It is 167 Whitney St., the site of a half-assembled house meant to provide a model of how sustainability can be affordable. When completed, it will feature energy-saving design improvements and most notably, solar panels.

“This is really just a chance to bask in the reflected glory of the students,” said President William Destler, speaking to a crowd composed of many of those students and volunteers present at the wall raising ceremony on Nov. 7. He made a few brief comments and then turned the wooden-house-frame-turned-stage over to April Randall, the future homeowner, who said she was “trying to fight back the tears” before thanking RIT and Habitat for Humanity.

It was Destler who, at a meeting with the RIT Habitat for Humanity chapter in the fall of 2008, proposed that they should sponsor a house, and that the design should incorporate sustainability. Kaity Werner, a third year Marketing major and fundraising coordinator for RIT Habitat, was at that meeting.

According to Werner, the club typically works with the Habitat for Humanity affiliates in Livingston County, Batavia and Flower City Habitat for Humanity in Rochester. They work on homes being built or renovated by those affiliates on Saturdays, and raise money and awareness. However, sponsoring a home and making it sustainable was a new challenge. “This is something we’ve never done before,” says Werner.

To help tackle this challenge RIT Habitat approached the RIT student chapter of Engineers for a Sustainable World in November 2008. “[They] want to put RIT’s signature on

it,” said Alex Ship, a sixth year Mechanical Engineering major and vice president of ESW. The student chapter’s task was to design sustainability into the house while also keeping it affordable.

ESW assigned each system of the house — plumbing, heating and cooling, windows — for members to research. Changes were suggested by members and evaluated on initial cost and payback period. If the suggested change didn’t pay back within 10 years or the initial cost was too high, it was unlikely to make it into their recommendations.

Many of the changes were what Victor Sanchez, a fourth year Civil Engineering Technology major and president of ESW, terms passive design. One such passive element was southern facing windows. They were suggested to collect heat from sunlight in the winter and to provide natural light. To prevent adding additional heat in the summer, the windows would be protected by overhangs. The sun is higher in the sky in the summer than in the winter, so the overhangs would prevent heat collection in one season and permit it in the other.

Other ESW accepted modifications included insulated pipes, a tankless water heater and moving from two-by-fours to two-by-sixes to give more space for insulation.

Despite this success, some examined changes did not pan out. One idea was to build passive solar heating into the house. By pouring lots of concrete, the house could then soak up and retain the sun’s heat. “What we found was that Rochester wasn’t sunny enough,” said Ship. For the amount of sun Rochester gets, the technique would be on the border of effective, which would translate into a payback period that was too long. That, coupled with a high upfront cost, killed the idea.

At the wall raising, Ship said he believes these changes will reduce dependence on energy provided by Rochester Gas & Electric and “lower the monthly RG&E bill.” However, he and ESW couldn’t say how much those bills would be reduced.

ESW’s ideas were integrated into the house design by Todd A. Marsh, AIA and associate professor of Architectural Design & Drafting at Finger Lakes Community College. “[He made] the final plans that we’re not licensed to do,” says Ship.



The “sustainable house” sits proudly with walls erect on Whitney St., a “blighted” part of the JOSANA neighborhood.

One addition that did not come from ESW was the solar panels. They didn’t pass the affordability test. Others solicited donations and O’Connell Electric — a company that owns local solar panel installer Rochester Solar Technologies — agreed to contribute them.

This is the second sustainable house that Flower City Habitat and Marsh are taking on this year. The first home, dedicated in September, was sponsored by Architects Collaborating with Engineers for Shelter, and is a short distance away.

Green houses are only part of Flower City Habitat’s extensive plans for the neighborhood

centered at Jay and Orchard streets, referred to as JOSANA. Diane Walker, communications manager for Flower City, says there are 24 blocks in the neighborhood and “blight is on every block.” It has become the focus of a multi-year project intended to reshape it, which, according to Walker, includes the planned building of 100 Habitat homes. Close to 15 are complete so far.

Homeowners, such as Randall, moving into those Habitat houses are asked to complete 450 hours of work on their own and other’s homes, and pay a 20- to 25-year, zero interest mortgage of roughly \$61,000 to \$65,000 owed

to Flower City Habitat. “This is not a free house for April,” said Destler, who will be chipping in \$10,000 himself.

The cost of the house, however, will be almost entirely paid for by donors. RIT Habitat and RIT must raise \$75,000 in cash or gifts to cover a chunk of the \$90,000 to \$95,000 total price tag. The proceeds from the mortgage are in addition to the \$75,000 amount and will be returned to Flower City Habitat.

According to Sharon Lonthair, managing director of Development and Alumni Relations, a little over \$15,000 in cash and several thousand in gifts in kind have been given or

pledged. According to Walker, \$25,000 was due when the foundation of the house was laid about a month ago, but she says it’s not unusual for fundraising to continue even after due dates.

“RIT, in many ways as an institution, grew out of the needs of the community,” Destler said, after helping raise a wall, “This is another way for all of us in the RIT family to give back.” **R**

BY CHRIS ZUBAK-SKEES

PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVE PFOST

BRICK BEAT: NTID SEARCHES FOR PRESIDENT

by Justin Claire

After 40 years of dedicated service to the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, Alan Hurwitz is leaving. The current president of NTID was one of four finalists to become the next president of Gallaudet University, an all-deaf college located in Washington, D.C., beginning in fall of 2010.

Hurwitz joined NTID in 1970, just two years after it began accepting its first students. He was a teacher as well as an administrator, finally rising to the position of dean in 1998 and president in 2006.

The position will not be left entirely vacant. The day after Hurwitz announced his resignation, it was revealed that James DeCaro, the current dean of NTID, would be serving as interim president

of the college. DeCaro will fill the position for one full year while a nationwide search will be conducted to find a new, permanent president for the institute.

In an article from NTID News, President William Destler expressed his confidence in the transition, saying, "Jim has the institutional knowledge from the nearly 40 years he's spent at the college and has devoted his career to the betterment of deaf and hard-of-hearing students around the world."

Like Hurwitz, DeCaro joined NTID in 1971 as an Engineering Technology professor, and DeCaro has been the dean for the last 14 years. After completing his interim year, DeCaro will return to his duties at the NTID Center on

Access Technology and Postsecondary Education Network. This international partnership is dedicated to improving secondary education for deaf and hard-of-hearing students across the world.

As much as everyone at NTID will miss Hurwitz, the feeling is surely mutual. "It is with mixed emotions that I accept this new challenge," he said in a release from NTID. "I look forward to helping Gallaudet continue to serve its students ... Yet I am saddened to be leaving Rochester, the home my wife Vicki and I have known for the past 40 years ... The RIT/NTID community will always have a special place in our hearts." **R**

RIT on Social Networking Sites

Compiled by Emily Bogle | illustration by Jack Reikel (All information as of 11/02/09)



Most Number of Fans:
RIT Information Security

0 fans

Least Number of Fans:
RIT Office of
Faculty Recruitment

Number of official RIT pages

RIT -1 (NTID)
Events - 1 (Imagine RIT)
Alumni -1 (RIT Alumni Association)

Total: 3
Most Friends:
NTID - 343 friends
Least Friends
Imagine RIT -1 (Tom)



Most Number of Followers:
Reporter Magazine
Least Most Number
of Followers:
RIT SHCM



RIT (orange square) Alumni (brown square)
Events (black square) Food (grey square)

1-FACEBOOK
Number of official RIT Pages, excluding sports and clubs on Facebook
2-TWITTER
Number of official RIT twitter accounts, excluding sports and clubs
Source: <http://bookmaid.com/blog/list-of-rit-twitter-accounts/>
3-MYSPACE
Number of official RIT pages

RIT FORECAST

13
FRIDAY

KDR Food Drive

Nathaniel Rochester Hall. Outside the Corner Store. 9 p.m. - 2 a.m. Before you head out tonight, don't forget to stop by the KDR food drive. Bring your non-perishable food to donate to the local food bank. Cost: Leftover debit.

14
SATURDAY

Anime Club's "Evangelion" Charity Showing

Ingle Auditorium. 8 - 10 p.m. Enjoy a screening of the film "Evangelion: 1.0 You are (Not) Alone." Brought to you by the RIT Anime Club, there will be a door raffle as well as a buy-in raffle. Proceeds will benefit the Golisano Children's Hospital. Cost: \$2.

15
SUNDAY

Gymnastics Club

SLC Upper Dance Studio. Zenith Center. 2 - 2:30 p.m. Join the gymnastics club on Sunday afternoons and Friday evenings to work on your skills. Brush up on your flexibility and build up strength! Cost: Free.

16
MONDAY

Empty Sky Go Club

Java Wally's. 6 p.m. Are you interested in playing or learning to play the board game "Go"? Hang out in Java Wally's with the club and play some games until late. Cost: Free.

17
TUESDAY

Women's Basketball vs. Hilbert

Clark Gym. 6 - 8 p.m. Cheer on our RIT girls who will be putting up their best fight against Hilbert College! Cost: A foam finger... or paw.

18
WEDNESDAY

Rotaract Meeting

Nathaniel Rochester Hall 1250. 6 p.m. Interested in leadership positions? Rotaract was created with the purpose of inspiring leadership and community. Get involved! Cost: Free.

19
THURSDAY

French Club

Building 87. Room 1100. 7 p.m. Parlez-vous français? The French club offers opportunities to learn about French culture and participate in French cultural activities. Check out their weekly Thursday meetings. Cost: A beret.

ROC FORECAST

compiled by Jill McCracken

13
FRIDAY

Soul Dancing/Swing Dancing

Rochester Museum & Science Center Eisenhart Auditorium. 657 East Ave. 7:45 - 9 p.m. Crave an evening of dancing? Stop by for a soul dancing workshop, where no experience is necessary. Then, stick around to swing dance to the John Seiger Sextet from 9 to 11:45 p.m., hosted by Juice Groove Swing. Cost: \$20.

14
SATURDAY

Serani with DJ Willie Daniel

Water Street Music Hall. 204 N. Water St. 10 p.m. Serani hits Rochester after the new release of their album "No Games." If you're into reggae music with hip-hop style vocals, then this show is for you. Cost: \$30.

15
SUNDAY

"Chicago"

Rochester Auditorium Theater. 875 E. Main St. 7 p.m. Don't miss out on your opportunity to see "Chicago" here in Rochester. Sunday night is the finale of this Broadway show. Cost: \$30 to \$57.

16
MONDAY

Eastman Wind Orchestra

Eastman Theatre. Kodak Hall. 60 Gibbs St. 8 p.m. Unwind with some beautiful classical music provided by the Eastman Wind Orchestra. Dress up, look snazzy and perhaps take a date to let the orchestra entertain you. Cost: Free.

17
TUESDAY

Bonnies vs. Red Storm Basketball

Blue Cross Arena. 1 War Memorial Sq. 7 p.m. Think you could use a break from the stress of finals week? If you can afford it, take some relaxation time to go to the St. Bonaventure Bonnies vs. St. John's Red Storm basketball game. Cost: \$8 to \$48.

18
WEDNESDAY

Umphrey's McGee

Water Street Music Hall. 204 N. Water St. 7 p.m. This well-known jam band is a favorite of many. Catch them in concert, where they truly shine. Cost: \$20.

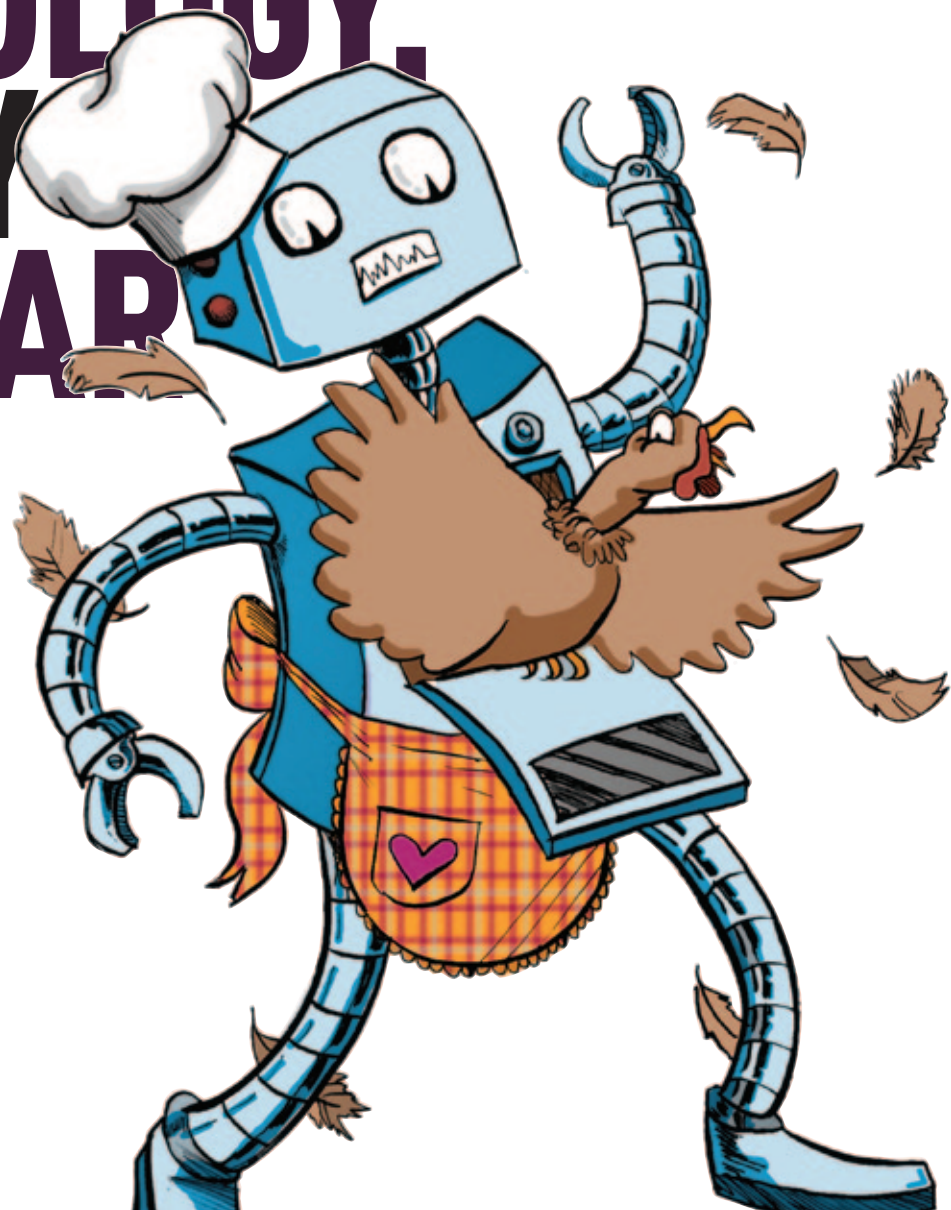
19
THURSDAY

Diane Ford

The Comedy Club. 2235 Empire Blvd., Webster. 7:30 p.m. What better time than now to have a good laugh? Let Diane Ford amuse you with her hilarious commentary on men, women and other relatable parts of life. Cost: \$12. **R**

ALL'S FAIR IN TECHNOLOGY, TURKEY AND WAR

Every year, just as the weather grows cold and the year draws to an end, Thanksgiving swings through town, and with it comes a warm camaraderie as millions of Americans unite over mountains of turkey, stuffing and cranberry sauce. The steady march of technology, along with sudden flares of progression made possible by times of war, has changed how we celebrate Thanksgiving, and possibly why we celebrate.



by Alex Rogala | illustrations by Joanna Eberts

This may not be the common idea of technology — there are no robots, no crazy computerized machines or mad scientists involved. But real life often fails to fit into the mold of science fiction, and although these advancements may not be as glorious as their sci-fi counterparts, they are nonetheless worthy of acknowledgement.

TURKEY

Turkey is generally considered to be a staple of any Thanksgiving meal, as well as the food most commonly associated with the holiday. Yet, the birds currently adorning kitchen tables are barely related to their wild ancestors.

Wild turkeys come in a variety of sizes and colors, many native to North America. Unlike their domesticated cousins, they can fly and contain considerably less meat. By the dawn of the 20th century, however, overhunting left numbers dwindling. And slowly, wild turkeys were replaced by their domesticated peers.

Then, after World War II, there was something of an agricultural boom. As farms commercialized, farmers experimented with various methods of efficiently raising turkeys, typically through a process known as *selective breeding*. Essentially, if two turkeys display favorable traits (i.e. meatier, less susceptible to disease) then they were bred together, potentially leading to their offspring with similar traits.

Large-scale selective breeding only kicked off in the 1950s when farmer, George Nicholas, pioneered the large-scale industrial turkey farms of modern times. Most of these massive farms produce a variety of

domesticated turkey known as the Broad-Breasted White, which accounts for the majority of U.S. turkey consumption. Bred for food, these turkeys are massively overweight, plagued with health problems, and even require artificial insemination because their size and lack of mobility prohibits mating.

However, many consider the rise of these farms a technological waste, citing an ethical priority over a technical one. These people are part of a growing contingency known as the “slow food” movement which advocates more natural and humane farming processes. Many smaller farms are bringing back varieties of wild turkey in response to this movement, citing both ethics and taste; wild turkeys are known to have a “gamier” flavor.

Regardless of breed, massive amounts of turkeys being processed leads to massive amounts of leftover feathers. Although these were previously ground up into animal feeds, recent studies (especially those linked with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Philadelphia University) have been searching for textile applications. Techniques have been devised to remove the stems effortlessly, and experimentation is being performed on nylon-turkey feather hybrid threads. Currently, there are problems with the threads being too weak when large amounts of turkey feathers are used, yet the turkey feathers added increased insulation and warmth, opening possibilities for future applications.

CRANBERRIES

Somehow turkey goes hand in hand with the slightly bitter taste of cranberries, balancing the earthy flavors of stuffing and bird. It's not surprising that cranberries have their origins in the original Thanksgiving; they were widely used by the Native Americans, and these small red berries quickly gained popularity with the Pilgrims.

Yet, for all the ways to eat cranberries, one of the most popular is cranberry sauce, which was popularized as the result of a wartime food shortage. At the tail end of the Civil War in 1864, Union troops surrounded Petersburg, Virginia in what later become known as the Siege of Petersburg. To feed the massive numbers of troops, General Ulysses S. Grant ordered cooks to prepare oversized vats of cranberry sauce. As cranberry sauce entered the public consciousness, the Cape Cod

Cranberry Company saw the potential market for it, releasing the first canned cranberry sauce under the Ocean Spray brand in 1912.

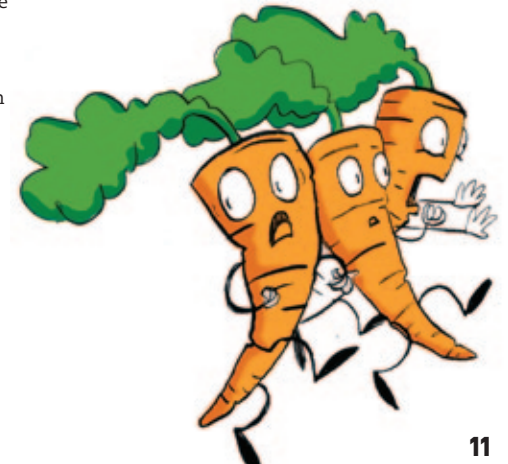
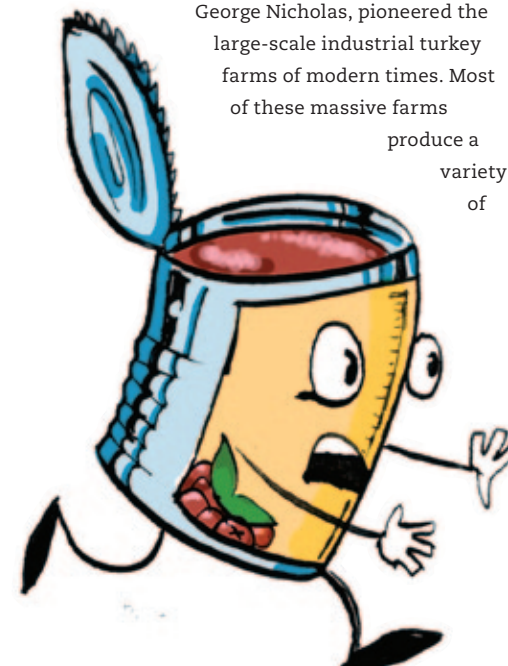
In the same vein, canning was a relatively recent development beginning in the early 20th century. By canning a food product while it is being heated, bacteria will be effectively sealed out, and the product will be stored in a safe and sterile environment.

MICROWAVES

When Thanksgiving is over and the guests have left, there is always a plethora of leftovers that the holiday is infamous for. Whether it's turkey soup, sandwiches, or some more bizarre Thanksgiving garbage plate concoction, chances are it'll have to be heated.

The year was 1945, and WWII was in its final stages. Engineer Percy Spencer was experimenting with a magnetron, a device used to generate microwaves for use in radar, when he noticed a chocolate bar in his pocket melting. Lining up popcorn kernels in front of the magnetron, he watched as they popped. Further experimentation with this particle speeding technology eventually led to the development of the microwave oven, allowing generations of Americans a quick and easy way to heat their bird meat.

So as we gather from around the country, transported by exploding pieces of metal and chairs that fly through the air, we will give thanks by consuming an animal inflated with drugs and other turkey bits. Later we'll accelerate some particles and enjoy some more. I doubt the first Americans would have conceived of our modern thanksgiving, a certain sci-fi departure from the days of Plymouth Rock. But sitting together over dinner, considering what we've been through to get to this point, it almost seems worth it. **R**



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December 3rd

Student Alumni Union Lobby

10 am - 4 pm



FILM | DRAMA | 105 MINS
A SERIOUS MAN



"When the truth is found to be lies, and all the joy within you dies..."

Bleeding through a single earbud into Danny Gopnik's skull, the Jefferson Airplane lyrics not only set the timeline for this story, they set the tone for the tale that unfolds.

It's 1967 in Minnesota. Danny (Aaron Wolff) is a young teenager growing up in a Jewish family. Approaching his Bar Mitzvah, Danny attends a Hebrew school, watches "F Troop" on the static ridden television in his bedroom and has a slightly concerning obsession with marijuana. His father, Larry, (Michael Stuhlbarg) is who you would call the main character of the story. Other than being a professor of physics, you can describe this poor

fellow simply by listing his problems. Meanwhile, he's trying desperately to keep his composure to earn tenure at his university. When Larry turns to his religion for guidance, he finds little more than comic relief. This is a story about men. Larry and Danny

take us to the place and time of the filmmakers' childhood and show us what growing up Jewish in Minnesota meant.

As the 15th installment to their legacy, this story seems a bit unorthodox for the Coen brothers' style. For one thing, there are no handguns and little blood is shed. Yet somehow, it is authentic Coen brothers. Maybe it's the subtle, dark humor cross-stitched throughout the exposition, or the planned randomness of scenes tirelessly working at a common theme that signals their

collaborative seal. And this review would not be complete without mentioning the dynamic imagery of cinematographer Roger Deakins; a match made in heaven with the Coen brothers brand.

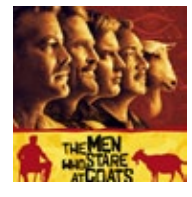
A serious film? After getting a lot of beef for moving away from the "serious" tone of "No Country" with "Burn After Reading," "A Serious Man" would certainly appear to be a shift to what the critics want. But everything in "Burn After Reading" is in attendance for "A Serious Man." The balance between the comedy and seriousness of storytelling is simply shifted. "A Serious Man" proves that the Coen Brothers are masters of

both. More importantly, they are masters of cinema, and no film of theirs should be overlooked.



by John Howard

FILM | COMEDY | 93 MINS
THE MEN WHO STARE AT GOATS



If you wanted to see this movie because of the trailer or because you wanted to discover the sym-

bolism behind staring at goats, don't. The movie is just as complex as the title suggests: soldiers staring at goats. The two main characters, Bob (Ewan McGregor) and Lyn (George Clooney), are out in Iraq in search of a top-secret target. While on their quest, Lyn decides to explain to Bob about a special unit he was in with the army. And thus, the goats ensue.

The film leads you through the story of the special unit called the "New World Army," which was based around the ideas of love and peace. Many of these soldiers were believed to

possess supernatural powers (or so they think) and were slowly training themselves to be the secret weapons of the U.S. military.

Bill, played by Jeff Bridges as "The Big Lebowski," is the leading officer of the special unit. He convinces the army to let him attempt to find soldiers who can open their minds and become "super soldiers."

After being granted the proper funds, he proceeds to teach his men telepathy and how to control objects with their minds. The powers of these special soldiers whom Bill calls %Jedi% are enhanced through yoga, dancing and LSD. Lots and lots of LSD.

For a solid set up, the ending leaves you hanging. The only thing you can take away from this

movie is how much fun it'd be to take a lot of acid and go crazy around a military base in the middle of Iraq. There is no deeper meaning behind the super powers Lyn possesses or the belief that he has them. And there is no resolution for Bob as he returns to his hometown and continues being a reporter.

This movie is a good thing to go see if you have nothing else to do - or if you have a fascination with LSD - but, other than that, I'd probably pass. **R**



by Leanne Cushing

UNLUCKY

AYL FRIDAY THE 13TH EDITION

by John Howard

11.13.09

“Being slightly paranoid is like being slightly pregnant – it tends to get worse.” -Molly Ivins

PHOTO CONTEST GIVE-AWAY: It's week 10, and that means vacation is right around the corner. If you're heading somewhere exotic (a.k.a. anywhere but Rochester), take an issue of Reporter with you and snap a photo of yourself and the magazine in frame. The best pic will be published in our Dec. 11 issue, and the winner gets to select from our mystery Reporter prize pocket. Good luck, and bring some sunscreen!

CARTOON by Ben Rubin



SUDOKU

Difficulty Rating: Hard

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

OVERSEEN & OVERHEARD

"Your little brother is on his period right now."
Male student in the Idea Factory

"I am the master of the buttons."
-RIT staff member in George Eastman Building

ASL Interpreter playing Farmville in CIAS computer lab.



-NRH Elevator

Send your Overseen and Overheard texts or emails with the phrase "Overseen and Overheard" in the subject line to leisure@reportermag.com. Or submit them via Twitter by directing submissions @reportermag with #OnO. **R**

NOW ACCEPTING CELL PHONE PICS!

REPORTER RECOMMENDS

The Encyclopedia of Superstitions Attention all you paranoid androids out there. This is the book for you; finally a complete compilation of all that makes human existence unstable. Do you

have a superstition that is completely irrational? Maybe you just wonder what the other crazies are suffering from these days. Or, maybe you could just use a good bathroom book to pass some time on the can. Whatever the case, "The Encyclopedia of Superstitions" is definitely worth looking into. Learn about the origins of superstitions such as walking under ladders or crossing a black cat. Worse case scenario: you will discover a new superstition that you never knew about before to occupy all your free time. Lord knows we all have plenty of it with finals week upon us.

WORD OF THE WEEK: DONSIE:
adj. British dialect. unlucky.

Putting it lightly, the Balloon Bot's slip on Larry King was a rather **donsie** misstep for his parents' ongoing media scheme.

Definition taken from <http://merriam-webster.com>

POP QUIZ:

- The scientific name for the fear of Friday the 13th is:
 - zelophobia.
 - paraskevidekatriaphobia.
 - macrophobia.
 - chronomentrophobia.
- Which of the following was the original name given to the character of Jason in the "Friday the 13th" series?
 - Todd
 - Jared
 - Ted
 - Josh
- Before Jason, the paranoia of the 13th falling on a Friday in the U.S. was most closely related to:
 - toaster sales.
 - the stock market.
 - election polls falling on this date.
 - children's nursery rhymes.
- The total business loss in revenue due to people's suppression on this Friday the 13th will roughly be:
 - \$1,000,000,000.
 - \$1,000,000.
 - \$800,000,000.
 - \$19,750.

Answers: 1) c 2) b 3) d 4) a 5) c

Study up and be on the look out for more Pop Quizzes, coming soon from Reporter.



OPEN MIC:

Every Wednesday night Boulder Coffee Co. on Alexander St. hosts an open mic for all to enjoy.

ON AND OFF-STAGE

by Andy Rees | photographs by Steve Pfost

The place isn't packed – for a small coffee house, that's not saying much. Boulder Coffee Co. isn't hopping, yet.

The baristas wipe down mugs idly, waiting for a customer to come along. They recognize the faces here. Regulars. They call me "Connecticut." Each week, with little variation, the same people come for the show.

The coffee shop is eclectically decorated. Paintings of a middle-aged Wonder Woman hang next to brass sculptures of shrimp. Old Zenith televisions, relics of a pre-digital world, play silent static on their screens. The lighting is low and warm to match the conversations throughout the room.

Despite its empty appearance, it's still hard to find a place to sit. The five-or-so tables are

packed with 30-somethings sipping six dollar wine, old men wearing funny hats, musicians poking at each other's instruments, and art students sketching each and every one of them. They're all waiting.

Then, the murmuring is cut short by a sharp buzz from the speakers.

The MC, who until now has been fiddling with equalizers and organizing the night's lineup, takes center stage. Sporting a frizzy goatee and a gaunt face, Ed Klingenberger welcomes the crowd. He introduces the first act and walks off stage to watch.

At a small table in the back of the room, two young musicians sit, waiting for their names to be called. Stephen Bower, 24, and Nate Predmore, 20, look back and forth between the girl on stage and the notebook they're doodling in.

Since there aren't too many acts performing tonight, each performer gets to play three songs instead of the usual two. The wait doesn't seem to bother the two young musicians. Right now, they're just audience members, watching burgeoning talents put themselves out there.

STEPHEN TAKES THE STAGE

A few acts pass and finally Ed introduces Stephen. The audience applauds, whoops from his friends and fellow musicians punctuate the clapping. Getting up from his seat, Stephen grabs his guitar and makes his way to the stage.

The 10-by-15 foot raised platform that passes for a stage looks more like a living room. Another old television sits on the side, next to potted plants and an ancient upright piano.

As he takes a seat in front of the microphone, his eyes barely address the crowd. He adjusts the mic boom and strums his guitar, checking the volume levels with Ed.

Warming up with two cover songs, he gives the crowd a pleasing performance. But that's not why he's here. Pulling the mic in closer to his mouth, he clears his throat.

"This next one is a song I've been working on," says Stephen in a subdued tone. "It's not finished yet, but I like it."

The song begins. In a smoky, gentle voice, Stephen delivers a song about love and loss. Wearing a knit cap and a close-shaven beard, he rounds out the coffee-house style perfectly. The lyrics disappear behind the soulful sounds of his acoustic guitar.

A group of women in their late 20s stare longingly at Stephen, tapping their feet, captivated by both the song and the songwriter. Still, something is missing. The pained expression on Stephen's face speaks more than the music.

With a final pluck from the guitar, he finishes the song. The coffee house gives the young man a heartfelt round of applause as he returns to his table.

Ed takes the stage once again and leans into the mic. "Let's hear it for Stephen," he says in his best announcer's voice. "Alright, up next we have Nate!"

NATE GRABS THE MIC

Armed with nothing but an iPod, Nate removes the mic from the boom and introduces himself. Standing a little over six feet and weighing in at around 300 pounds, he doesn't fit the mold of a coffee house performer — and he knows it.

Computer-generated notes come over the house speakers and Nate begins. His first song, "Six Feet Under," is not his usual fare. This tribute to a fallen soldier friend, hits home and hard with the crowd. Even the art students put down their pens.

Ed stands nearby, dutifully operating the iPod. As Nate wraps up the song, there is a clear sadness in his voice.

Then, with little warning, he perks up. "Does anybody know what the word 'fap' means?" he asks the audience. "F-A-P? Well, it's the sound you make when you masturbate." He begins pantomiming the act. The audience laughs uncomfortably, unsure about this sudden transition.

"This next song is called 'Fap.'" Ed hits the play button and "Fap" begins. This is more Nate's style: unabashedly provocative humor.

The stage lights beat down on him and beads of sweat appear on his forehead. His friends and fans cheer as he finishes the song with a list of "fap" words he found on urban dictionary. His last song is a crowd favorite: "Masochist," a catchy tune about a pain-craving ex-lover. As he makes his way through the second chorus, an expression of surprise runs across his face.

"I'm sorry guys, I forgot the words, so I'm just going to make it up as I go," he says, dancing comically to the music.

The audience gives him a loud round of applause as he finishes out his set. Nate places the mic back on the boom and heads outside for a breather.

OFF-STAGE WITH NATE

Outside the coffee shop, Nate leans against a wall lit by an overhead streetlamp. His breath forms puffs of steam in the cold November air. The bass from another band on stage penetrates the brick building.

"Do you mind if I smoke?" he asks. Upon hearing no complaints from me, he lights up a

cigarette. "I know it's bad, but whatever."

Taking a drag from his cigarette he says, "I've been playing piano since I was three years old, but I stopped taking lessons a long time ago." Now, his computer is his instrument.

"The first time I knew this is what I wanted to do was the first time I was on stage. I was in sixth grade and it was a production of "The Magic Flute" — that feeling of being on stage in front of millions, well not millions, but lots of people."

"I live with my parents, as bad as that sounds," Nate admits bashfully.

Open mics are a way for him to get out of the house. His mother and father, both laid off last year, are in the process of finding new careers. It's a stressful time for his family. His mother is now a midwife and his father is going back to school for tax consulting.

"Sometimes they get on my case about getting a job," says Nate. But finding work isn't always easy. The last interview he had was a few weeks ago. "It was at this place that was kind of like a funeral home. I don't know what the right word for it is. Anyway, they were looking for somebody who was going to school for a degree in like biology, and they didn't hire me."

Whatever he ends up doing, music is always in the equation. Attending Monroe Community College and later Finger Lakes Community College in Canandaigua, Nate studied psychology and music. Someday he hopes to be a music therapist.



Nate Predmore, singer and songwriter, performs one of his songs.

For Nate, music is a method of coping.

"I play music when I'm upset or sad or happy. It helps, it absolutely does," notes Nate. Most of his songs are about love or wanting to be in love, and if nothing else, they're funny. "I guess you could say I have a dark sense of humor ... I see things as funny that normal people wouldn't."

These days, Nate spends most of his days in front of a computer, either trying to find gigs, or a job, or composing music. Hopefully, he says, it'll all work out.

"I always have a backup plan," assures Nate. "If this doesn't work out I have a plan to go back in college."

OFF-STAGE WITH STEPHEN

As Nate snuffs out his cigarette, he gives a wave to Stephen who came outside for some fresh air. The night has only gotten colder, but it is a nice relief from the hot stage lights.

"I got my first guitar from Santa," says Stephen. "When I was a junior in high school I got really into Jethro Tull and started learning a lot of their stuff."

Now, at the age of 24, Stephen hopes to break into the music industry. He's already had an internship with Columbia Records, but is back in Rochester to save up for a move to New York City.

"I'm one of those people who believes you should get the money before you go down there," he says. Currently, he works as an administrative assistant for an Off Track Betting district manager.

"I loved it all, Greenwich Village, the indie scene," he says shoving his hands further into his pocket. "It's really competitive in the record business ... but everybody starts out as somebody's assistant."

Growing up, he considered himself the only musical person in the family. Recently, though, a distant relative gave him some startling news.

"She told me that my dad used to sing at weddings," he says. "He's always had a great voice, I just never knew."

When asked about his music, Stephen pauses. "I keep saying that I should get a girl that I'm crazy about and then break up with her."

His music writing has stagnated, but there was a time when the words just flowed: The

year after his fiancé called off the wedding.

"I was still living with her," he says. "I mean, we signed a lease."

Even though they remained friendly, says Stephen, he didn't want it to end. But that was two and half years ago and the inspiration is gone. Now he just wants to get back on the horse. Most of his songs are about love and despair, he'd like to play something a little more upbeat. "I want to change a lot about my music," he says.

In the meantime, Stephen just wants to get out there and perform. After a summer of playing gigs at bars, it's nice to be on a stage and not just be background music.

Rubbing his hands to keep warm, Stephen gets ready to head back inside. Open mic is almost over, but he does have one last thing to add.

"People say I'm lazy," he says, almost speaking to himself. "I know how to write a pop song, I know I can sing... I just need a push from somebody — a producer, a manager, anybody."

CLOSING TIME

The evening winds down as the last act walks off stage. Only a few people are left in the audience, mostly art students putting the finishing touches on their sketches. Ed jumps on the mic for his customary farewell.

"Thanks to those that stuck around 'til the end," Ed says, keeping the announcer's tone. "Have a good night and don't forget to tip your baristas." **R**



Members of the audience cheer on a guitarist on stage



Stephen Bower mingles outside Boulder Coffee after playing his guitar on the Open Mic Stage.

CRAFTING A SYMPHONY



by Madeleine Villavicencio | photographs by Shinay McNeill

A choice musical instrument is like a perfectly-tailored suit or dress. Both need to highlight strengths and downplay shortcomings; both must match the occasion or the environment they are used in; and, both have different types depending on functionality. Whether you want to look cool or play all night long, there's something special for that. And just like in the high fashion industry, no two are exactly alike. Each piece draws its individuality from its size, shape, feel, durability and of course, its brand. But is it the performer or the creator who is the real artist?

A violin begins as a wedge of aged wood, ranging from tens to hundreds of years old. The body's front and back is crafted from a piece of wood (usually maple) that is split in half and glued down the middle. The maker of stringed instruments, a luthier, traces and cuts the body's shape from a mold. He then starts to shape and smooth down the violin's arches, providing the perfect base for the instrument. Finally, the luthier carves out the F-holes, or sound holes.

Downtown Rochester is home to the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and the University of Rochester Eastman School of Music. Within walking distance of these two cultural landmarks, there are a variety of musical establishments, from Black Dog Studios to the Bernunzio Uptown Music store. But off the corner of East Avenue and Swan Street is a hidden gem: Sullivan's Violins, a violin, viola and cello shop founded by Rochester native, Kenneth Sullivan.

The luthier takes a long strip of wood (usually spruce) which will be used as the violin's ribs or sides. Using a machine, he applies a concentration of heat in order to bend and mold the wood to follow the shape of the body.

Sullivan's journey began with the man whom he calls the world's greatest wood shop teacher, Glenn Poseus, who helped mold Sullivan into a "pretty decent" craftsman. "I wasn't a natural woodworker, but I had the best teachers. And that's made the difference," admitted Sullivan,



who still remembers the grandfather clock he built in his senior year of high school. Recognizing the passion that Sullivan had for woodworking, Poseus encouraged Sullivan (who was also taking violin lessons with a member of the RPO at the time) to merge his love for the trade and music. Sullivan, however, did not initially take Poseus' advice.

It wasn't until after two and a half years at SUNY Oswego that Sullivan enrolled at the Chicago School of Violin Making. "[I thought] I would be a wood shop teacher, but I saw that wasn't in the cards. I didn't feel like that was where I really wanted to go," he said. Eventually realizing that something was missing, Sullivan took up his old mentor's advice.

At CSVM, Sullivan honed the skills he needed to produce high quality violin family instruments. Here, he learned, among other things, how to effectively use his tools, how different formulae of varnish affects acoustics, and how to create mechanical drawings of instruments. He attended seminars led by world-renowned luthiers such as Kenneth Warren Sr. and studied repair and restoration techniques.

Shortly after graduation, Sullivan moved to Ithaca, New York to work for Reuning & Son Violins doing repair and restoration work. Nine years later, in 1994, Reuning & Son Violins moved to Boston, Mass. and having learned all he could from the company, Sullivan decided to open a studio of his own. Over the next few years,

Sullivan and his wife traveled around the U.S. before ending up in Phoenix, Ariz. where his wife was transferred for work.

Finally, about four years ago, Sullivan returned to Rochester and settled in Pittsford, where he set up shop. Sullivan knew that if they wanted to succeed, they would have to relocate closer to the RPO and the Eastman School. When a space opened up on 120 East St., the Sullivans jumped at the chance, and they've been there ever since.

The luthier then begins to carve and create the neck and scroll. The scroll itself is purely aesthetic and allows the creator, if he desires, to make his piece even more unique.

Sullivan describes the sound quality of the instruments that he makes as middle ground. Some musicians like a darker, richer sound, while others prefer a brighter, spritely tone. "I can adjust that sound one way or another through different uses of strings,

different setups and different things like that. I think that's one of the important things to do when making an instrument be flexible," he explained. The problem is that "good sound" is subjective, and Sullivan has the perfect example to illustrate that.


"When I was in Phoenix, I had two violinists come in about a half hour apart, and I had just finished a violin a couple of weeks before. I say, 'Hey Bob, I just finished this violin. Can you test it out?' He says okay and picks it up and plays it. He says, 'Well, it's got a great G-string, but the E-string just doesn't have it.' Then the next guy comes in, and I go, 'Hey Dave, what do you think of this violin?' He plays it and he says, 'You know Ken, this has a great E-string, but the G-string just doesn't have it ... There is no one sound that all people like. People have their own prejudices and in most cases, they're all right"

After piecing and gluing it together, the luthier varnishes the completed body, installs the bridge, and strings the instrument. He makes a few finishing touches before finally putting his masterpiece on display.

However, Sullivan's Violins doesn't just make violin family instruments. In fact with a violin or viola requiring about 200 hours to complete (and cello taking at least double that), Sullivan only makes five to six instruments a year. He just doesn't have the time. "Being a full service shop, I can't just devote myself to make all the time. But I do try to," he said. The business survives on income derived from sales, repairs, restorations and rentals.

For repairs and restorations, there must be a lot of collaboration between Sullivan and the musician. "Sometimes it takes a while to develop the right vocabulary to work with certain musicians and to have the right intuition to know what they're looking for," explained Sullivan. The arching may not be right, or there may be a slight imperfection on the fingerboard. These are all things that can be difficult to communicate. Fortunately, through time and the reparation of thousands of instruments, Sullivan's finally got the hang of it.



Having been in the business for most of his life, Sullivan can't imagine himself doing anything else. "I think ultimately, to be able to make a living and make people happy at the same time is really a great thing. Putting beauty into the world is wonderful ... These are like my own little masterpieces and they really mean a lot to me." 

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3 STARS: VICTORIA PETKO

by Sam McCord | photograph by Trevor Reid

Upon first impression, fourth year Environmental Management & Technology major Victoria Petko's unflinching enthusiasm would likely be the first thing to strike you notice. But dig a little deeper, and you'll see where all this energy goes. At 6'1", Petko was made to play volleyball and her stats agree. In her final year of RIT volleyball, she scored a remarkable 456 kills, 127 blocks and 61 aces. As if these numbers weren't impressive enough, she holds RIT's all-time assisted block record of 506 and has the sixth most kills, with 1,631. For the fourth straight season in a row, Petko has been awarded with the All-Empire 8 honors (two of which were for first team honors), which anyone will tell you is no easy feat.

For Petko, her volleyball journey has been a long road paved with hard work and support from her friends and family. Without them, Petko probably wouldn't have even picked up the sport in the first place. She was an avid softball player until seventh grade, when most of her friends started getting into volleyball. When faced with the choice of choosing spiked cleats or spiked serves, Petko's mother told her,

"HONEY, YOU'RE 6'1". YOU SHOULD PLAY VOLLEYBALL."

Petko never looked back.

Unfortunately, Petko was cut from the team in the seventh grade, but she shrugged it off, got to practicing, and chalked it up to a learning experience. Once she made the team the next year, her household caught a bit of volleyball fever. Always incredibly supportive, her father served as her own "superfan," never hesitating to schedule business trips around her games so that he could attend every single one. In Petko's four years here, her father has only missed one tournament.

Petko unexpectedly assumed a leadership position in the beginning of the season, finding herself starting next to formidable



SEASON STATS:

POINTS: 653
KILLS: 507
BLOCKS: 141
ACES: 65

first year photography majors Christina Worth and Audrey DiPaola. Both freshmen quickly distinguished themselves but were still adjusting to a fast and furious college pace.

Petko came out strong this season when they played against SUNY Oswego (winning with a score of 3-1). She believes that this was one of her most memorable games this fall. She "absolutely killed it," spiking the ball an inordinate 25 times, setting the bar high for her remaining career performances.

The rest of the season evenly fluctuated between wins and losses with a few streaks peppered in. In tournaments, RIT saw varied degrees of success, struggling against teams like Nazareth and St. Lawrence. However, despite the adversity, Petko always found a way to average an imposing 3.38 kills per game. Volleyball ended its season with a final record of 21-20, but Petko sees this as a "growing season," and only wishes she had more time to play with her younger teammates.

Fall season has always been a balancing act for Petko. During all four years, she has been working a part-time job, maintaining a healthy GPA, and juggling daily volleyball practices. Needless to say, she enjoys a little break once in a while. She plans on getting her Masters in Occupational Health and Safety, but as far as volleyball goes, Petko is far from finished. She's looking forward to helping out during the spring season and wants to play on club teams in the future. In the end, however, she wants her career to take precedence. **R**

3 STARS: DOM COLEPRETE

by Emily Bogle | photograph by Trevor Reid

Dom Coleprete, a third year Industrial Design student, started off his first season with the RIT Men's Soccer team as a strong midfielder, forward and team leader. He transferred from Monroe Community College after playing two seasons on their squad to an RIT team filled with newcomers. Even as a recent arrival, and acquiring some preseason injuries, Coleprete played all 16 games and scored seven goals this season.

Soccer is an integral part of the Coleprete family, especially while growing up. "My dad's from Italy, and ever since I was little, he taught me and my brothers the game of soccer. I fell in love with it and it's all that I wanted to do." His father supported Coleprete's soccer career by coaching his teams growing up and attending

his RIT games. Coleprete grew up in Spencerport, and played for their varsity team. In his senior year of high school, he and his team won the Section V Championship.

Coleprete's transition to the RIT soccer team was not immediate. After he graduated from high school, he took a year off to work. He continued to play on a few soccer teams to stay in shape, but soon he realized that he wanted to go college. At MCC, Coleprete returned to schoolwork and soccer, finishing his two years with a 3.0 GPA and helping lead the MCC team to a regional championship in 2008.

Coleprete picked RIT over a larger school because he was concerned about his education. "When you get older, you think about your future and chances

of becoming a professional in any sport is very slim." At 24, Coleprete is a bit older than most of his teammates, but his 20 years of experience has helped him instruct fellow players to perform their best on the field. Coleprete's serious demeanor on the field causes his teammates to joke about his age, a worthy tribute to a hardy contributor.

Only winning one out of the first six games, the team had a slow start to the season. Coleprete believed that since most of the team was still getting used to the college soccer's hurried pace and each others' playing styles, they did not start the season as aggressively as they could have. As the team began to spend time together on and off the field, their camaraderie and wins began to grow. The team finished 8-7-1 overall, but 5-2-0 in the Empire 8 conference, with most of the conference games in the later half of the season.

One of Coleprete's best games of the 2009 season was against Alfred University. It was a conference game where the team was on "their astroturf, which was like a rug, and it was snowing." Alfred was in

the lead for the first half and, a couple minutes after halftime, RIT scored, tying the game. In double overtime, Coleprete scored the winning goal from an assist from Chris Somers, a fifth year Electrical Engineering major and team captain. Winning the game helped RIT earn second place in the Empire 8 standings. They would eventually go on to lose to Stevens 6-0 on November 6.

Coleprete believes that there is always room for improvement. His goals are to improve his speed and control during the game. Now that the team has gotten to know each other, things have changed. It has improved the team's performance and his connection to them.

"MY PERSONALITY AND THE WAY I APPROACH PEOPLE ARE DIFFERENT JUST FROM BEING ON THE SOCCER TEAM."

After college, Coleprete plans on moving to California to experience new things in a completely different environment. He has prioritized getting a stable career over playing soccer, but plans on participating in recreation teams in the future. **R**

SEASON STATS:
TOTAL GOALS: 7
TOTAL ASSISTS: 1
SHOTS PER GAME: 1.81
GOALS PER GAME: 0.44



3 STARS: KRISTEN DENNIGER

by Madeleine Villavicencio | photograph by Trevor Reid

Beneath her shy and kind exterior, Kristen Denninger, a fourth year Environmental Science major, is a soccer-playing fiend. In her time at RIT, she has played 73 games, and just last October 15, Denninger scored two out of the three goals that allowed the Tigers to win against Alfred (3-0), leading to RIT's third consecutive victory in the 2009 Empire 8 Conference. Although they didn't make it to this year's ECAC championships, the lady Tigers played a rewarding season, and this midfielder has proven to be an integral part of the team.

At the impressionable age of four, Denninger started playing on a local co-ed YMCA team, and it stuck ever since. "Starting to play when I was so little instilled in me that soccer was a part of my life. It was always there year after year, and I never really considered not playing." Denninger's soccer career continued throughout her four years at Nazareth Academy, where she played for the Lady Lasers, held team captain for two years, and became Nazareth's Academic Athlete of the Year in 2005. By the time senior year rolled around, Denninger was at a crossroads.

Denninger wanted to invest her time in a valuable degree, but she didn't feel as if she was done playing soccer. Having lived in Rochester her whole life and wanting to see the world outside of New York state, Denninger applied to Michigan State and the University of Delaware (both of which maintain Division I soccer teams), but she kept RIT in her back pocket. In the end, the Tigers won her over. "RIT was the perfect combination of an academic-focused university but at the same time, still had a very good competitive sports program," she reasoned. Once at RIT, she excelled both on the field and in the classroom, and the rest was history.

But there's more to this soccer star than meets the eye. In between soccer practices, a full course load and her part-time job with Environmental Health & Safety, Denninger also keeps a

zookeeping internship at the Seneca Park Zoo. Here, she takes classes and works with the animals for a full day (7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.) every week. Last summer, she worked with Kenny Nelson, an RIT graduate student, by aiding him in his behavior research involving white rhinos and river otters. Currently, Denninger is working on a project to design the ideal river otter exhibit. Denninger's passion for animals was developed at a very young age. "I have just always been really interested in the wild,

natural world, how it works, and why animals do what they do because it's not like you can just talk to them and ask them. It's much more research oriented," she stated, referring to what motivated her to choose Environmental Science as a major.

"I WAS ALWAYS THAT KID WHOSE PARENTS HAD TO WATCH TO MAKE SURE THAT SHE WASN'T RUNNING ACROSS THE STREET TO PET WHATEVER DOG SHE SAW."

Now 21 years old, Denninger has a bigger and better idea of an ideal pet. Without skipping a beat, she confessed that if she could have any animal, it would be an elephant. With a glimmer in her eyes and a wide smile, she explained. "I've been obsessed with elephants my whole life. My dream job would be to do behavior research with them. Everyone thinks I'm such a nut, but I don't care." If she could, Denninger would like to travel to Africa to study how both wild and captive elephants develop their social behaviors.

Denninger will be graduating at the end of fall quarter and isn't quite sure where the road ahead will lead. She is interested in pursuing a doctorate degree in animal behavior, preferably at UC Davis. Although traveling to Kenya to see her ivory-tusked friends may not be in the cards just yet, she is currently saving up for a trip to New Zealand in March. As for soccer, the sport and her teammates remain dear to her heart. "Like I said, I can't imagine my life without playing competitive soccer. Playing my last actual game was a little mind numbing. It's still difficult to process, but hopefully, I will find some kind of competitive physical activity to take its place." **R**

SEASON STATS:
TOTAL GOALS: 4
TOTAL ASSISTS: 0
SHOTS PER GAME: 1.12
GOALS PER GAME: 0.24



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Technology
First year

"GLOBAL DOMINATION"

Composer: Anthony Argen
Lucas

ANN NUNZIATA
Imaging Sciences

MAURA VEBELIUNAS
Chemistry
Second year

"N.W.A. CAPELLA"
Band: N.W.A.



BRANDON SBORDONE
Mechanical Engineering
Sixth year

"DUST AND BONES"

Band: Rise Against



WARREN SHEETZ
Second year

"NARCOLEPTIC NYMPHOS"

Band: Pink Floyd



JOSHUA SIGONA
Medical Informatics
Second year

"SATURING MIASMA"

Band: Motion City Soundtrack

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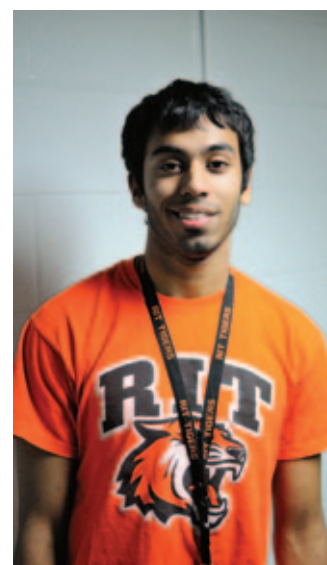


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photographs by Chris Langer

PLUSSES AND MINUSES OF PLUSSES AND MINUSES

ILLUSTRATION BY JAIME DOUGLAS



+ **FOR** Should an institution, regardless of location, population or creed reward laziness? Forgive it? Permit it? What about excellence? After all, who really cares if they're rewarded for their own efforts? The grading system of any school shouldn't be engineered to fit the needs of its students who just want to squeeze by — those who are just biding their time, walking a tightrope of mediocrity while they ride out the remainder of their education in a daze. The hard fact is that the majority of students don't care, or at least don't have a strong opinion one way or the other when it comes to grading systems. They're content just as long as their GPA stays in a safe place and doesn't tempt expulsion.

When confronted, the average student will always tell you that they wished they had more free time, that they didn't need to

work as hard, or their work was easier. Tolerance of this attitude is all that the current system has to offer. I know I may be making some enemies here, but this just seems off, or at the core, dishonest. I understand as well as anyone how easily work can start to pile up, and I get how tempting it is to do it half-heartedly and accept a lower grade just as long as it gets done. That's okay. I can live with that. What I can't live with is a broad grading system that takes near-A work or barely-above-C work and gives them the same label. I would vomit with rage if I got the same grade as someone who clearly worked harder than me. That would mean that either I got lucky, or they had some bad karma. Either way, it wouldn't be by my own merit, and that doesn't sit well with me.

This was never an issue for me prior to RIT because every school I attended simply used a straight-

up, no-nonsense numbers grading system. Why, back in my day, a man was only as good as the grade he received, and everyone knew exactly where they stood. There was none of this ambiguity crap which both penetrates and defines the letter-only system. Pluses and minuses aren't the solution to this problem; they're just a step in the right direction.

Apathetic students aren't the only ones who the current grading system goes easy on; it's easier on professors too. It would be so simple to just glance over an assignment and say that it feels like a C or a B. This treatment only cheats students by not reflecting the effort poured into the final product. Thankfully, most of the professors I've had the pleasure of being taught by spend more time subdividing your grade on any

given assignment, which helps explain how you can improve. In this case, my grade comes to me in number form, not in windows of ten.

I'm not suggesting that adding pluses and minuses to grades is the best, or even the most effective way to solve this issue. No one enjoys being indignant. Instead of complaining until we stop caring and forget, how about we appreciate the steps that are being taken to keep us more honest? Let's put aside the apathy we've all become accustomed to and just work to earn a grade. I know it hurts, but grit your teeth and bear it, dear college student. Things don't always work out the way you want. It's called life.

BY SAM MCCORD



— **AGAINST** When Juliet told Romeo "that which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet," she was getting at something important. Like so many, she knew the substance of a thing was more important than what it was called.

There is a similar conundrum on campus: the Academic Affairs Committee has proposed to change the grading scheme from our "five grade" setup to include +'s and -'s. According to the original proposal, the change was inspired by other institutions and their grading systems. The proposal also states that 75 percent of faculty at the time favored the change.

Regardless of the proposal's support among faculty, the opinions among the student body are mixed. Some, like first year Industrial Engineering major

Monica Moore, feel that the +/- grading scheme doesn't do the student population justice. She feels that the small range differences and, consequently, the even smaller point differences between them aren't good tools for determining a student's expertise in the class. On the other hand, other students such as first year Computer Science major Rob Culp feel that the present system doesn't do enough to acknowledge the significant differences between a student's grades; a student who earns an 88 in a class would get the same grade as a student that only earned an 80; an aggravating experience.

Personally, I am against the proposed change because I don't feel that its results will be significant enough to warrant its approval. New subdivisions may be nice and make us feel better,

but it doesn't in any way address the substance of our education; the more effort you put in and the knowledge you get out of it.

Many are upset with the present system because they feel that it, in some way, rewards a certain kind of laziness. If this is so, would making the subdivisions smaller, and thus easier to get into, really solve our problem? We'd simply be renaming bases we've already covered. While the B+ would make the student with the 88 feel as though he has received more than the student with the 80, this doesn't directly address the latter student's "laziness."

I'm genuinely convinced that what many refer to as the "main problem" with the present system isn't that it encourages some lack of effort on a student's part, but that it doesn't give enough kudos to those who feel that they deserve it. The triviality of this system is only accentuated by the

fact that this grading scheme isn't compulsory.

Some students are likely to be so comfortable with the general +/- grading system that working under RIT's system has them out of their element. I was one of these students, but I recognized that the lack of an academic consolation prize (the + or - grade) doesn't constitute a problem with the system.

Regardless, the gates of thought have been opened and the seas of change will eventually spill. Since the subject has been brought up, action is expected, and it is expected soon. At this point, instead of a complaint, I offer my own solution. It's just something to think about, but instead of the proposed grade scheme, how about we list raw scores on our report cards and let whatever institution or person discern it as they may? **R**

BY ERYC DUHART



RIT RINGS

585.672.4840

compiled by Amanda Szczepanski and Moe Sedlak

All messages subject to editing and truncation. Not all messages will be run. **REPORTER** reserves the right to publish all messages in any format.

THURSDAY, 10:37 P.M.

HEY RINGS, RIT'S 70 PERCENT GUYS. CAN YOU TELL THEM TO FIND THEIR [BABY-MAKERS] AND GET THEIR [FUN-LOVING SELVES] IN GEAR? THERE ARE SINGLE GIRLS HERE WHO DON'T WANT TO BE. THANKS. *from text*

FRIDAY, 2:43 P.M.

COULD SOMEONE DO A STORY ON THE LITTLE ELVES THEY HAVE BUILDING THE NEW APARTMENTS NEXT TO COLONY? I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING GO UP SO FAST... EXCEPT TUITION. *from text*

SUNDAY, 11:57 P.M.

SO THE OTHER DAY, I SAW A GUY IN ARTESANO'S ROCKIN' A STRAIGHT UP HITLER-STACHE... DON'T THINK ANYONE CAN "PULL THAT ONE OFF" ANYMORE. *from text*

MONDAY, 9:50 P.M.

SO SOMEONE JUST TRIED TO PICK ME UP USING THIS LINE: "I LOVE LOOKING INTO YOUR EYES BECAUSE THEY ARE BROWN LIKE THE WOOD YOU'RE GIVING ME." HOW DO YOU EVEN RESPOND TO THAT?

from text

FRIDAY, 10:57 P.M.

HEYA RINGS, I JUST HIT ON A TRIO OF CUTE LITTLE PETITE THINGS HEADING ACROSS THE GRACIE'S LOBBY, BUT TWO STEPS LATER, I REALIZED THEY WERE JUST A BUNCH OF CROSS-DRESSING [LADY GAGAS]. AND THAT HAS COMPLETELY RUINED THE PROSPECT OF ME HAVING AN ERECTION FOR THE NEXT SIX DAYS.

from voicemail

SATURDAY, 12:48 A.M.

IT IS RAINING RIGHT NOW AND FMS HAS A SPRINKLER ON. THAT'S REALLY GREEN RIT. WAY TO GO.

from text

SATURDAY, 12:48 A.M.

RINGS, PLEASE FIND A WAY TO TELL THAT INCREDIBLY SEXY GUY I JUST EYE-[INTERCOURSED] IN SAU TO CALL ME. THANKS A BUNCH!

from text

SATURDAY, 12:48 A.M.

YO, I JUST HEARD A RUMOR THAT [REESE'S PIECES] DID GAY PORN AND LIKE, I LOOKED ON THE INTERNET ... THAT [SPICY MEXICAN FOOD]'S HOT. SO, YO DAWG, IMMA HOLLER AT YOU. WHEN I HOLLER, [MOTHER OF ALL THAT IS HOLY] RESPOND. MY GOD, MAN. WE ARE GONNA DO SOME SEX. YOU WILL HEAR FROM ME. *from voicemail*

MONDAY, 2:02 P.M.

RINGS. I WILL BE GOING ON A SCAVENGER HUNT FOR MARGARET THATCHER SOON. SHE'S ONE TOUGH FOX TO CATCH, BUT I'M GONNA SEAL THE DEAL WITH HER FOR SURE. MARK MY WORDS. *from text* **R**

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