

REPORTER

12.04.09 | reporter.com



Geocaching

Using multi-million-dollar satellites to find tupperware in the woods.

Warning: Unwanted Knowledge

The surprising ingredients in personal care products.

WITR Mired in Controversy

Student radio under fire from alumni and community members.



Performing Artists Concert Series

Presented by The Center for Campus Life

Jazz Impressions of The Beatles

Created by Rod Blumenau

8pm Ingle Auditorium
Friday, December 11, 2009

www.davidigital.com/concert



Gabe Condon
guitar



Jeff Campbell
bass



Brad Paxton
drums



Rod Blumenau
piano

Unreserved seating: \$5-Students; \$15 Faculty/Staff/Alumni; \$20 General Public. Tickets may be purchased at Bytes on the Run in the Student Union and the Field House box office, or at the door on performance night, if available. For VISA/MC, call (585) 475-5210 or (585) 475-4121.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

12 04 09 | VOLUME 59 | ISSUE 11



A Rock Band 2 competitor rocks out during the October 24 tournament. Photograph by Shinay McNeill.

NEWS PG. 06

SG Update

Destler to deliver verdict on semesters in spring.

Staff Council

Of the 14,000 ordered, RIT only receives 300 H1N1 vaccines.

RIT/ROC Forecast

Holiday Songs and Skies Planetarium Show is the new hot date spot.

WTR Mired in Controversy

Student radio leadership under fire from alumni and community members.

LEISURE PG. 10

Warning: This Product May Contain Unwanted Knowledge

The surprising ingredients in personal care products.

Interview With Adam Frank

Reporter sits down with the author of "The Constant Fire."

Reviews

Why John Mayer's 4th album might not be worth a listen.

At Your Leisure

Reporter recommends: Sporcle. The dude abides.

FEATURES PG. 16

Geocaching

Using multi-million-dollar satellites to find tupperware in the woods.

Alternate Reality Gaming

Fiction never felt so real.

SPORTS PG. 22

Winter Sports Preview

The snow's falling and winter sports are taking the field.

VIEWS PG. 27

Artifacts

Remember Windows 95?

Grandpa's Garbage Plate

One man's trash...

RIT Rings

Seriously, why does Lady Gaga have a [disco stick]?

Cover illustration by Jamie Douglas

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EDITOR'S NOTE

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE

When I was in high school, I took a lot of history courses. One of the things that struck me was that regardless of what time period or country or community you studied, there were always repeating patterns. Russia would always seek a liberal society and wind up under a conservative autocrat. The white man would always put down the “savages.” Oceania is always at war with Eastasia.


Even in RIT history, you can see patterns. Whether its the rugby team getting suspended for unruly behavior or its the sorry state of aging student apartments, RIT history constantly repeats itself. We deal with the same things over and over again, presumably taking steps forward, but never truly moving away from the pattern.

Currently, we are looking at the debate between quarters and semesters (see “Staff Council” and “SG Update” on pg. 6). This is not a new debate — not even close to a new debate. In fact, it was a hot button issue even in the early 1990s. Set against a photograph of RIT students trudging down the quarter mile, the January 14, 1994 issue of Reporter bears a familiar title: Quarters vs. Semesters.

In an editorial, the managing editor at the time noted that RIT was one of the few schools left in the country to still be on the quarter system (having switched from semesters in 1954). The estimate at the time placed us among the minority of schools (around 24 percent) using quarters. Now it seems we're in an even smaller pool (best estimates place us among less than 80 other schools).

There are benefits on both sides of the fence. With quarters, we avoid a nasty process of rewriting curriculum, co-ops remain undisturbed, and students can take a variety of classes throughout the year. On the other side, RIT becomes more attractive to transfer students, professors have a longer amount of time with their students, and RIT joins the ranks of the majority of universities.

Will RIT ever change back to the semester system? I honestly doubt it. While there is definitely support for the change, the process may appear overwhelming. I thoroughly expect that in another 15 years, we'll be back here, having the same conversation. As the old adage goes, “The more things change, the more they stay the same.”



Andy Rees

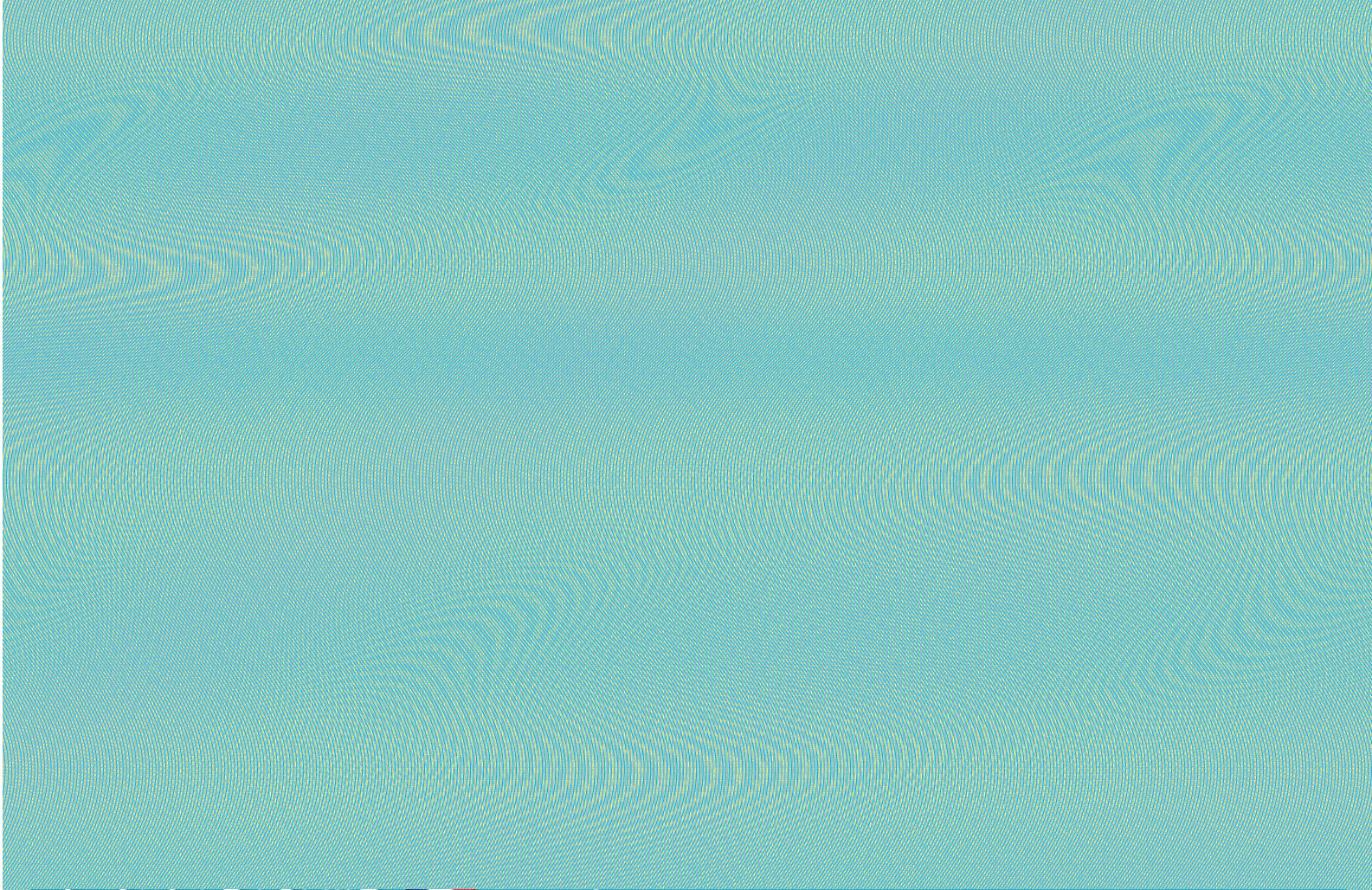
EDITOR IN CHIEF



CARTOON by Jamie Douglas and Andy Rees

“Well, its a step up from Maroon 5”

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Deaf International Student Association



Holiday Dinner

FREE ADMISSION!

December 6th 2009 6-10 PM
SAU AI Davis Room

We will be having an International Fashion Show, so please feel free to wear your cultural yet unique clothing!

International Food will be provided!

Much more!

Any Question? Please contact at disa@rit.edu

Sponsored by Student Government



SG UPDATE

by Caitlin Shapiro

STAFF COUNCIL

by Chris Zubak-Skees

SEMESTER SYSTEM UNDER MICROSCOPE

The question posed to Student Government: Should we move from the quarter system to the semester system? Those in favor of the change believe it will bring new opportunities to the RIT community through integration, collaboration and research. According to Joe Loffredo, registrar and assistant vice president for Academic Affairs, if the proposed transition is approved, the calendar changes would start during the 2011-2012 academic year. However, complete migration to the semester system wouldn't be planned to take place until the 2013-2014 academic year.

While other schools such as Northeastern and Georgia Tech are said to have undergone a successful transition from quarters to semesters, the question remains: will this be a good idea for the RIT campus? The plan for a successful transition would lead to the creation of a Central Conversion Office.

NEW OFFICE, NEW EMPLOYEES

This office would have a Calendar Conversion Director, a full-time administrative assistant to the Director, a Communications Director, a full-time assistant to the Communications Director and two to three student workers. Phil Amsler, president of the Residence Halls Association, questioned how this new office and full staff would affect our tuition. "The process entails significant funds," said Loffredo, promising that the Committee on Semester planning is "sensitive to the rise of tuition."

A WEIGHTY DECISION

Sometime this coming spring between April and May 2010, President William Destler will make the decision whether or not to migrate from the quarter system to a semester system. Depending on the decision, RIT is predicted to start staffing the Central Conversion Office sometime between July and August. During the 2010-2011 academic year, new course numbers will be applied to classes, and the SIS system will be upgraded or replaced. There are many questions that surfaced during Friday's meeting, including how it would affect the hockey season, co-op blocks, and credits. Loffredo promises that a driving principle of the conversion is to do no harm.

CALENDAR PROPOSALS

Three new proposals for academic calendars were presented to the council, bringing the count to four potential options. Option A would keep the current quarterly calendar. Option B would move the start of classes back to avoid splitting winter quarter with a holiday break. Option C would split winter quarter into two segments. Finally, Option D would be a complete change to semesters.

Specifically, Option C would split the winter quarter into two discrete five-week blocks with a half week for finals. According to Joe Loffredo, registrar and assistant vice president for Academic Affairs, a four credit course would meet for eight hours a week. "Students, we think, would take two courses per block," said Loffredo. A full load would be considered twelve credit hours.

During the discussion on Option D, Amit Ray, associate professor of literary and cultural studies and chair of the President's ad hoc Committee on Semester Planning, presented that committee's report. According to the report's timeline, President William Destler will make a decision in April or May of 2010. According to Ray, if approved, the semester system will be under way by the 2012-2013 academic year, following a three-year transition period.

THE POTENTIAL CHANGE TO SEMESTERS

The model for conversion to semesters favored by the Committee on Semester Planning would retain four courses per semester as the standard load, each with four credits. One benefit that this model would bring, as cited by Ray, is that faculty would have to deal with one-third fewer classes per year compared to the current system. As a result, it is "possible there would be fewer adjuncts," said Ray. However, the same number of class hours would be taught in a year. Other benefits cited include easier transfers, better compatibility with study abroad, and the removal of winter quarter.

One of the major arguments against the change toward a semester system is the potential effect it may have on co-ops. Manny Contomanolis, associate vice president and director of Cooperative Education and Career Services, downplayed the effect such a conversion could have. "The vast majority of co-op schools are on the semester system," he said.

H1N1

Over the past few weeks, an outbreak of flu-like symptoms has taken over the campus, but the worst is over. "We've hit the peak, and it's now declined," said Josh Bauroth, First Year Enrichment instructor and Staff Council chair, relaying information from the Student Health Center. According to Bauroth, the SHC received 300 doses of the H1N1 vaccine, but they were already administered. "They ordered 14,000 doses; they got 300. Someday, they will get more," said Bauroth.

A VOTE IN STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Student Government is considering giving Academic Senate and Staff Council representatives voting seats. Academic Senate and Staff Council currently allow the representatives from the two other governance groups (including SG) to vote in their meetings, but neither have been given the privilege to vote in SG affairs.

Staff Council members were asked whether they support receiving such a vote. Although the council was initially split on the issue, a second vote passed with only two members opposed. Bauroth framed receiving the vote as a matter of reciprocity. "Speaking personally, it is blatantly unfair," he said of not being given a vote. **R**

RIT FORECAST

04
FRIDAY

CAB Poetry Slam

Java Wally's. 9 – 11 p.m. Come on in to Java's to recite your favorite poetry or your own originals. If you're not into performing, kick back with a delicious drink from Java's coffee bar and enjoy hearing others' poetry. Cost: Potentially Emo Poetry and a black coffee.

05
SATURDAY

Chocolate on Ice

Ritter Ice Arena. 10:30 p.m – 1:00 a.m. What could be better than a chocolate festival on ice? You'll enjoy free ice skating as well as chocolate giveaways all night. Just bring a donation for Foodlink! Cost: Non-perishable food items.

06
SUNDAY

Holiday Dinner and Fashion Show

SAU Cafeteria. 6 – 10 p.m. Deaf International Student Association presents a fashion show and delicious holiday dinner to strive to embrace the diversity in culture, traditions, religions, and languages in the student body. Cost: \$7, \$5 with student ID.

07
MONDAY

Intramural Sports Registration

Intramural Office. SLC 1217. 9 – 11:45 a.m. Time to gather your friends and compete against other RIT teams in leagues for sports like dodgeball, indoor soccer and badminton. Cost: Getting your friends off the couch.

08
TUESDAY

Imagine RIT Info Session

Center for Student Innovation. 10 – 11 a.m. Do you have ideas? Questions? Stop by the Imagine RIT Info Session to hear about the news and how you can get involved. Cost: Innovation.

09
WEDNESDAY

OCASA's Miracle Berry Party

OCASA. 6 – 8:30 p.m. Here's something wacky for your Wednesday evening: eat a tablet that causes your taste buds to freak out a little. Everything that tastes sour now tastes sweet. Then, eat a bunch of sour food and watch "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory." Cost: Control of your taste buds for an hour.

10
THURSDAY

On Separation of Church and State

Xerox Auditorium. 8 – 10 p.m. This lecture is sponsored by the RIT Skeptics. It will give you something else to think about this holiday season. Cost: Free.

ROC FORECAST

compiled by Jill McCracken

04
FRIDAY

Dark Star Orchestra

Harro East Ballroom. 155 N. Chestnut St. 8 p.m. Don't let Dark Star Orchestra's name fool you, they're a happy-go-lucky jam band out of Chicago. Cost: \$24.

05
SATURDAY

Dane Cook

Blue Cross Arena. 1 War Memorial Sq. 8 p.m. You're still not over those Christ Chex jokes, huh? That's okay. Here's the opportunity to feed your laughter while Dane Cook is in town. Cost: \$35 - \$100.

06
SUNDAY

Holiday Songs & Skies Planetarium Show

Rochester Museum & Science Center Strasenburgh Planetarium. 657 East Ave. 11:30 a.m. If you're starting to get in the holiday spirit and looking for something fun to do, check out this show. It comes complete with corny space jokes, winter constellations, and holiday songs. Cost: \$10 or \$9 with student ID.

07
MONDAY

Holiday Pottery Sale

Firehouse Gallery at Genesee Center for the Arts. 713 Monroe Ave. 11 a.m – 5 p.m. Looking for a nice little gift for mom or dad? Head out to the pottery sale and support local artists. Cost: Whatever you're buyin'.

08
TUESDAY

Matisyahu

Main Street Armory. 900 E. Main St. 7 p.m. Don't miss out on the Matisyahu experience, combining orthodox Judaism and classic reggae to form a hypnotizing sound that is beloved by millions of fans. Cost: \$26.

09
WEDNESDAY

Cirque Holidayze

Auditorium Theatre. 875 E. Main St. 7:30 p.m. This musical adventure is filled with acrobats, aerialists, singers, dancers and musicians, and it is sure to leave you with that warm and fuzzy holiday feeling. Cost: \$25 to \$50.

10
THURSDAY

Bobby Slayton

The Comedy Club. 2235 Empire Blvd. Webster. 7:30 p.m. Feeling like you could use a laugh? See if Bobby Slayton will hit your funny bone. Cost: \$6 with student ID. **R**

WITR MIRED IN CONTROVERSY

STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS CLASH FOR CONTROL OF STUDENT-RUN STATION

by Viktor Nagorny

"THIS IS A MOVEMENT to protect WITR from itself." So says the description of the Facebook group "Modern Music No More: Save WITR." WITR has been undergoing major changes since the new executive board (e-board) started this year. Controversy began to snowball when Save WITR published an excerpt from the executive

WITR during their time at school. These community members became a vital part of the station by lending their experience to mentor new DJs or providing help around the station. Some community members were also able to keep their shows after they graduated.

In an interview with WITR's general manager Greg Keyzer-Andre, a fifth year Information

"Community members look down on students and see them in a 'Oh, you will be gone in four years type of way,'" said Keyzer-Andre. Keyzer-Andre may be receiving harsh criticism in the WITR community, but "the changes had to be made."

According to Keyzer-Andre, WITR received an unprecedented amount of student applications this quarter. The station helped train 20 new DJs, all wanting air time. The only way to make more room for them was to reduce community members' airtime. "We are not getting rid of community members, but they will have to give up some of their time for the students," Keyzer-Andre reiterated.

On November 17, Carol Reed, WITR's administrative advisor, held a private WITR community member meeting. There were 23 community members present with 13 former WITR DJs, five of which were former WITR general managers. When asked if they were willing to reduce their time to give more room for students, no one objected.

"PEOPLE COME AND GO, BUT WITR IS ALWAYS THERE."
Carol Reed

The next day, Ron Bauerle, 2004 RIT alumnus, host of WITR's weekday metal show "Sudden Death Overtime" and a group administrator for Save WITR, indicated that not all was settled at the station. Through a message he sent to the group: "The WITR executive board members and RIT students all need to hear our side of the story, and our individual stories. We will need your help in order to help them understand why WITR is important and means so much to so many."

According to Reed, one of the main catalysts in this issue is a lack of communication from both sides. "I haven't received one email from anyone in the community about this," said Keyzer-Andre. However, the group says that the public has not heard anything from the executive board of WITR.

On December 6, there will be another meeting between WITR and the community members. Here, the executive board will reveal proposed changes. Some changes include revising each quarter's program schedule based on student availability with student shows running for two hours. Reed mentioned that a "menu of options" will be given to the community members; they will be able to pick their role at WITR. Additionally, the station will articulate program standards that will be used to review DJs and evaluate whether their show will be continued in the next quarter. **R**

"AT THIS POINT, WE REALLY NEED THE SUPPORT OF THE RIT STUDENT BODY TO MAKE SURE THAT WITR DOESN'T END UP IN TOTAL DISARRAY BECAUSE, IN MY OPINION, WITHOUT THE CONTINUITY PROVIDED BY COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, THE STATION WILL SIMPLY LOSE ITS IDENTITY."
Ron Bauerle

board's September 27 meeting that read, "The e-board agrees community member interests are not compatible with student interests. The e-Board voted to begin the process of changing the station to an all-student station." In other words, WITR would be repositioning themselves to prioritize student needs over non-student members.

The Save WITR Facebook group, which is controlled by former WITR's executive board members and RIT alumni, has grown to over 900 members, many posting comments that are against the current executive board's proposed changes. Many are WITR community members, who are RIT alumni and were part of

Technology major, he talked about proposed changes and his goal to make WITR a predominantly student-run radio. "Students pay fees and tuition, so they are paying for the station. Community members don't bring in any money," Keyzer-Andre commented.

In 2009, WITR received a \$57,737 budget from RIT, according to WITR's finance director Ben Isserlis, a third year Computer Science student. This budget comes from student activities fees. Therefore, every student has a right to be part of the WITR — they paid for it.

Community members, however, do not share this right.



Get Lucky.

The 7th Annual Winter Ball

"A Night in Vegas"

a semi-formal ball with music, dancing, and prize raffles

December 12th 2009

8:00 PM - 11:00 PM

GCCIS Atrium at RIT

\$15/person, \$20/couple

Get a \$5 discount!

Come by the SE Office (70-1690) to get advance tickets.

WARNING: THIS PRODUCT MAY CONTAIN UNWANTED KNOWLEDGE

THE SURPRISING INGREDIENTS IN PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS

by Laura Mandanas

NEAR THE END OF HER LIFE, Queen Elizabeth I of England is said to have banished all mirrors from her private chambers. Despite the diligent application of numerous beauty products day after day, the notoriously vain ruler reportedly couldn't bear the sight of her own reflection. With her hair and teeth falling out and ever deepening pits eating into her pale face, it's easy to imagine that these afflictions were to blame for her sudden mood swings and intense bouts of melancholy. In fact, a simple case of poisoning is much more likely the culprit. Though it was her maids who administered the powerful neurotoxin to the queen day after day, it was hardly their intention to cause her harm. The secret assassin? Lead in her makeup.

lead-based cosmetic which temporarily gave wearers the fashionable effect of porcelain white skin. Unfortunately, extensive use more often than not led to the very permanent, unfashionable effects of lead poisoning.

Venetian ceruse, needless to say, is no longer in use as a cosmetic. Beauty standards have changed and so have the products used in pursuit of those standards. Today, there are numerous practices in place to protect consumers. Government agencies such as the Food and Drug Administration inspect cosmetic manufacturing facilities and strictly regulate the use of color additives to keep harmful products off the market. Consumer advocacy groups also keep a vigilant watch, lobbying for the banning of hazardous

During Queen Elizabeth's time, it was common practice for upperclass women to paint their faces with Venetian ceruse, a

chemicals, improved labeling information, and greater oversight of the industry. As a society, we've come quite far since Elizabethan times. But on an individual level, are consumers today any more knowledgeable about the ingredients in their personal care products?

The next time you pick up a stick of deodorant, tube of lip gloss, or bottle of shampoo, take a minute to turn it over. Pull out your smart phone and do a quick search. Check out the list of ingredients before you head to the checkout counter; from aluminum to whale blubber, bug juice to mercury, the items you're putting on and into your body every day may surprise you.

ANTIPERSPIRANT/DEODORANT

ANTIPERSPIRANT and deodorant products today are a mixture of active ingredients and waxes, oils, or silicones that are gelled into a solid stick. Deodorants work by creating underarm conditions unfavorable to sweat-eating, odor-causing bacteria, using ingredients such as triclosan to make the skin too salty or acidic to support them. Antiperspirants, on the other hand, are technically classified as a drug and contain active ingredients, which are controlled by the FDA. Approved ingredients for antiperspirants include aluminum chlorohydrate, aluminum chloride, aluminum sulfate, and aluminum zirconium complexes. Aluminum ions from these ingredients are drawn into the cells that line the eccrine gland ducts, causing them to swell; when the cells have swelled enough to close the ducts, sweat is no longer able to escape the body.

Although there are many rumors circulating on the internet that antiperspirant use causes breast cancer, researchers have found no scientific evidence to back this claim.

LIPSTICK

THE BASIC RECIPE for lipstick is a tube of fat or wax with some oil and color in it. Until 1982, whale

blubber and oil extracts were common ingredients; since the global moratorium on commercial whaling by the International Whaling Commission went into effect, however, they have been replaced. A very common pigment used to get deep red color is cochineal, a chemical extract of carminic acid from the bodies of squished female scale insects. Other pigments may include refractory minerals such as alumina, silica, titanium dioxide, and mica. Extracts from fish scales are also sometimes used to give a frosted or pearly look.

One issue that seems to rise to public attention every few years is the debate about lead levels in lipstick. This past spring, under pressure by the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics, the FDA released information from their investigation of lead levels in lipstick. Of the 23 samples tested, all contained trace amounts of lead, ranging from 0.09 to 3.06 parts per million. According to the FDA website, "Lipstick, as a product intended for topical use, is only ingested incidentally and in very small quantities. FDA does not consider the lead levels that it found in the lipsticks to be a safety concern." At the present time, the FDA has not set specifications for lead in cosmetics, except that color additives permitted as ingredients are usually limited to 20 parts per million. Manufacturers are not required to declare lead or any other contaminant on a product label unless it is an "intended ingredient."

MASCARA

MODERN DAY mascara was invented in 1913 when American chemist T.L. Williams concocted a mixture

of coal dust and petroleum jelly to darken lashes. His product's name, "Maybelline," is a portmanteau of the inventor's sister's name (Maybel) and the product's main ingredient (Vaseline).


Interestingly, it was public concern over the ingredients in mascara that helped shape the modern FDA as we know it. In 1938, an eyelash-dyeing product called Lash Lure was found to be damaging the eyesight of many women. After one woman was blinded and another woman died, Lash Lure became the first product seized under new FDA authority.

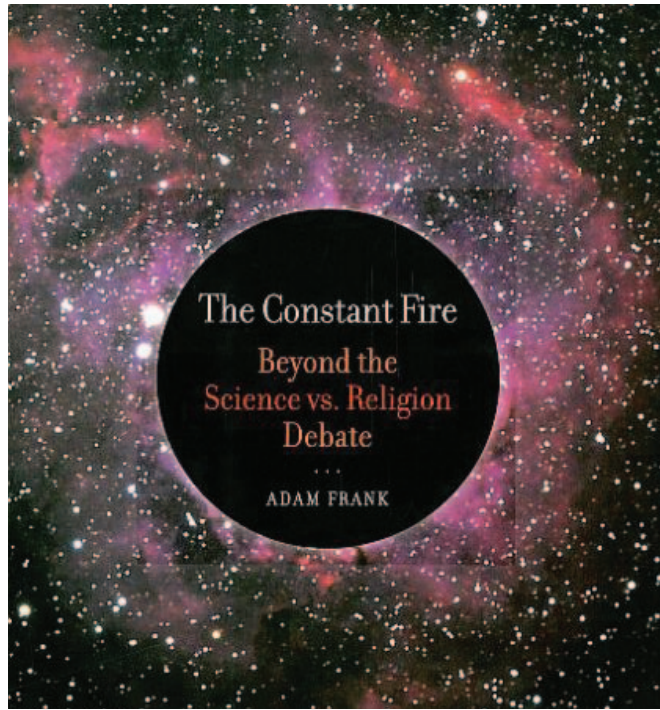
Today, mascara is built upon a base of either water or lotion in which oil, pigment, wax, and a mixture of chemicals are added. Oils used include sesame oil, linseed oil, lanolin, mineral oil, castor oil, turpentine oil, and eucalyptus oil. In black mascaras, pigment commonly comes from carbon black; in brown mascaras, iron oxide is typically used. Waxes include beeswax, carnauba wax, and paraffin. Beyond that, alcohol is also a common additive, as is stearic acid. Thimerosal, a mercury-based compound, is allowed by the FDA in eye-area cosmetics in concentrations of up to 65 parts per million if no other effective preservative is available.

SHAMPOO

IN COMMERCIAL shampoos on the market today, water actually composes up to 80 percent of the

mixture. Sufactants, the next largest part of the mixture (and the part that does the actual cleaning), work by stripping hair shafts of sebum, dirt and oil; commonly used surfactants include sodium lauryl sulfate and ammonium lauryl sulfate. Foaming agents such as cocamide or cocamidopropyl betaine produce the suds we've come to expect when we lather, but actually serve no purpose in the shampoo other than to provide consumers with that experience. Acidic items such as sodium citrate or citric acid are used to smooth the cuticle of the hair. Beyond that, silicones such as dimethicone deposit a lightweight coating on the hair to create smoothness and shine.

To learn more about the ingredients of a particular product, <http://cosmeticsdatabase.com> offers a large, searchable database pairing ingredients in over 52,000 products on the market today against 50 toxicity and regulatory databases. The database is maintained by the Environmental Working Group, a nonprofit research organization. 



INTERVIEW WITH ADAM FRANK

by Jessica Hanus

ABOUT ADAM FRANK

As a professor in astrophysics at the University of Rochester and author of the book, “*The Constant Fire*,” Adam Frank has a deep interest in science.

“I went into science because I was interested in the idea of the truth,” Frank said. “You do science because supposedly it shows you the fundamental nature of the world.”

The question remains as to whether science can provide this fundamental truth. Growing up in Newark, NJ, Frank was raised in a very Roman Catholic community. However, his family was not religious.

“The idea of a personal God didn’t make sense to me then and still doesn’t make sense to me now,” Frank said. However, he has always believed that science brings the same sense of awe and wonder about the world that religion does. This drove him to wonder about and study religion, along with its relationship to science.

“I was always interested in how people understood what they thought was true and what their personal response to it was,” Frank said.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON THE SCIENCE VS. RELIGION DEBATE

“A new perspective cannot emerge in this setting until the fog of tired definitions, outdated perspectives, and stubborn bloody-mindedness is burned away,” stated Frank in his 2009 book, “*The Constant Fire*.”

Frank does not like to use the word religion. He explained that it creates an image of institutionalized worship that is often about power, privilege, prejudice and real estate. Instead, Frank focuses on one’s original impulse to be spiritual, religious or to hold things as

sacred.

“I’m really just not interested in the usual debates between one particular religion and its interpretation of its scriptures and the results of science,” Frank said. “Any discussion about this [is] going to be fruitful [and] has got to be about religion as a human phenomena.”

Both science and religion share the aspiration to sustain human culture. While each has caused a certain degree of harm to society, Frank explained that you can’t point to science or religion and say they are the source of all evil. To Frank, it is more important to focus on the good that science and religion can offer.

“The impulse for religion is not going away,” Frank said. “So the question is which parts of it and science come from a common root and which parts of it can be marshalled for wisdom?”

THE IMPACT ON YOUR LIFE

There are people who choose to ignore the relationship between science and religion. Frank does not recommend this. One reason Americans should be interested is that evolution can not be taught in many public schools. However, Frank pointed out that biology cannot be taught without evolution.

Frank fears that the debate between science and religion may lead to a lack of scientific advancements.

“Because they [fundamentalist Christians] all have certain religious ideas about what science should or shouldn’t say, they’re going to limit what science we do,” Frank claimed. “The countries we are in economic competition with don’t have this issue going on,” Frank said, noting Europe and China as examples. He then went on to explain that Americans are “living in a country where a very vocal religious minority is in a position to control the evolution of the United States scientific

endeavor.”

LONG-TERM IMPACT

Frank believes there is an essential need for science and religion to work together in the long term. “Basically the whole species is passing through a bottleneck in the next 100 years, and it’s not clear that we’ll make it with the project of civilization intact,” he explained.


Many scientists acknowledge this bottleneck as impending competition for dwindling resources endangered by human progress. Decisions must be made to ensure humanity’s survival amidst climate change and shortages of food and water.

Frank claimed that the decisions that must be made during this time are not purely technological. They are guided by what society holds to be true, sacred and valuable. “You cannot get an entire planet’s worth of people moving in one direction through technical arguments alone.”

ADVICE FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Frank’s suggestion for students who are searching for answers in this debate is to read beyond their own tradition. Specifically, read William James, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Harry David Thoreau. These are all men who respected science and understood the spiritual response to the world. He also suggested that students think more broadly about religion and refrain from putting blinders on.

Our country has unconsciously built a technological society – saturated by the fruits and poisons of science – over the past 200 years and is only now realizing the consequences.

“Now we have got to take that society while it’s still operating and rebuild it in a way that is sustainable,” Frank said. “That’s going to really require people to be generalists.” 

Fri., Dec. 04	12:00 PM	SDC - 2445	Thurs., Dec. 10	5:30 PM	47-1016
Sun., Dec. 06	9:00 PM	35- A055	Fri., Dec. 11	1:00 PM	Bldg 1 - 3355
Mon., Dec. 07	7:00 PM	50B - A159	Sun., Dec. 13	8:00 PM	50A-1058 (TV Lng.)
Tues., Dec. 08	8:00 PM	RIT INN/ Treaty Rm.	Mon., Dec. 14	7:00 PM	43-1250
Wed., Dec. 09	4:00 PM	Idea Factory	Tues., Dec. 15	9:00 PM	43-1250
Wed., Dec. 09	11:00 PM	43-1250			



Name: Brett Wilson
Major: Film & Animation
Year at RIT: 4th
Year as an RA: 2nd
Personal Fact: In my troop I am the eagle scout who holds the record for most merit badges earned to this day - 46.

Name: Ryan Garrod
Major: New Media - Publishing
Year at RIT: 2nd
Year as an RA: 1st
Personal Fact: I'm a super beach bum and just love to relax!

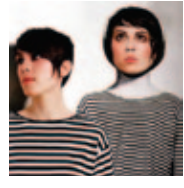
Name: Emily Howe
Major: Packaging Science
Year at RIT: 3rd
Year as an RA: 2nd
Personal Fact: I love to ski, swim, and work on art.

STAND OUT. BE AN RA.

Name: Laura Crowder
Major: Administrative Support Tech.
Year at RIT: 5th
Year as an RA: 3rd
Personal Fact: I laugh really easily at funny jokes and expressions.

Name: Jason Schwebke
Major: IT - Web and Database Integ.
Year at RIT: 4th
Year as an RA: 2nd
Personal Fact: I Went to Alaska for Christmas break 08'-09' - Very cold

ALBUM | INDIE POP | 37 MIN
SAINTHOOD
 TEAGAN & SARA



Teagan & Sara have been around for nearly a decade, but only recently have they really entered the lime-light. Their album *"The Con"* (2007) was their first major success and was heralded by the addition of Chris Walla, guitarist for Death Cab for Cutie and part-time producer for similar groups. Coming on as producer and breathing new instrumental life into this musical sister duo, Walla has aided this group to finally come into their own.

Their new record *"Sainthood"* combines every-

thing great about their previous albums and adds energy previously unknown in their music. Mixing modern rock with their unique vocal sound and standby use of synthesized instrumentation makes for a great blend that will capture new fans without abandoning old ones.

The album seems to have two distinct halves. Most everything up to *"Northshore"* has heavy guitar and driving drums. From *"Night Watch"* on, however, the exclusive Teagan & Sara sound is recognizable from earlier albums. And with all the heavy stuff



MySpace site. The rest can pick up a copy in stores or as a digital download thanks to Vapor/Sire records.

FOR PEOPLE WHO LIKE:

METRIC, AN HORSE AND NORTHERN STATE

by Alex Pagliaro

JOHN MAYER | BLUES ROCK | 47 MINS
BATTLE STUDIES
 JOHN MAYER



For the majority of new musicians, selling albums is the most difficult thing to do. For artists like John Mayer, releasing your fourth studio album means it'll probably sell itself. The challenge then becomes creating music that still resonates with your fans the way that first album did.

The tracks *"Assassin"* and *"Crossroads"* offer a glimmer of hope that the second half might try and offer up something new. However, listen-

ing on makes it clear that there's nothing to find. You might as well dust off *"Heavier Things"* (2003), his sophomore album that came with a unique, fresh sound (in its time) with hit tracks like *"Bigger Than My Body"* and *"Daughters."*

One of the things about John Mayer that is easy to like is how he almost effortlessly blends rock, R&B and jazz into an emotional fusion that many listeners find instantly appealing. His hit single *"Gravity"* is a good example, with it's crooning guitar and steady



beat. *"Battle Studies"* almost seems to take a leaf from a few pop albums while attempting to rehash a few Mayer classics, ending on *"Friends, Lovers or Nothing,"* a track that sounds like we've heard it a thousand times before.

Don't mistake this critic. It's a good album, an easy listen and sure to be favorite for Mayer fans.

Perhaps, it was simply wishful thinking that a three-year wait would warrant something new.

FOR PEOPLE WHO LIKE:

JASON MRAZ, JACK JOHNSON AND MATT NATHANSON.

by Alex Pagliaro

OPERATING SYSTEM | \$119.99 - \$219.99
WINDOWS 7



The following is an actual fake conversation between a Windows Vista user and Windows Visa:

"Oh boy! A new Windows OS! You're real pretty, plus you're telling me I can play all of my games *and* download porn on you? I'm never leaving my house again!" *Don't trust me, Sam. I'll only let you down.* "What do you mean, super-sexy-new-software?" *It's not my fault. Microsoft half-assed my development, so I freeze, I have bugs, and I boot as slow as sweet Portuguese molasses.* "Well what do I do now?" *That's an easy one. You get Windows 7! It's so good, it completely makes up for the abortion that is my existence.* "Thanks... Oh, and formerly-sexy-software?" Yes? "You suck." *I know.*

To put it simply, the seventh incarnation of the Windows operating system is everything Vista should have been; stable, functional, quick, sexy, and silky smooth. You'll be won over instantly by the sleek graphical Aero feel and the new intuitive taskbar, which easily gives Mac's dock a run for its money. Libraries are a welcome re-hash, as is DirectX 10, and the new Shake and Peek features are surprisingly useful.

Should any compatibility issues arise (which they probably won't), 7 wields not only an awesome compatibility emulator, but an all-out virtual XP mode. Thankfully, Windows 7 has been designed to run and work perfectly with pretty much any kind of



hardware you can throw at it. That is, with the exception of a monkey wrench or maybe the kitchen sink.

Despite these vast improvements, the control panel could still use some tightening up, and Microsoft still insists on releasing 80 bajillion versions for you to choose from. Besides that, there really isn't much to complain about because no one really uses Internet Explorer anyway.

If you liked XP or gritted your teeth through Vista, then Windows 7 is your godsend. Windows 7 is here to give you some firepower to fight back against all of the smart-ass Mac users who don't know they're using Linux. **B**

by Sam McCord

AT YOUR LEISURE

12.04.09

by John Howard

REPORTER RECOMMENDS

SPORCLE

If you have yet to be de-virginized to this massive time-wasting website device, the best thing you can possibly do for yourself (and for your grades) is to stay the hell away. But, at the same time, what harm could one little game do, right? Wrong. They said it couldn't

be done, but the creators of this fiend-forming site managed to transfer the cocaine-esque addictive nature of the contents in a Cheetos bag to pixel form. No, you can't just have *one*. You'll be playing the endless, timed trivia fill-in-the-blank-list styled games over and over. The categories range from entertainment, to geography, to religion, to literature, with a variety of time limits for quick or long-lasting highs... I mean games. At the end of the day, when your time seems as absent as Steve Tyler's drug money, their slogan "mentally stimulating diversions" will offer you some piece of mind. Try it today! The first hit is free, and so are the rest.

You've been warned. Visit <http://sporcle.com>.

WORD OF THE WEEK:

QUOIN:

n. a solid exterior angle (as of a building).

Because of the sculpture's intense quoins and lack of edges to grip, few RIT students have claimed the honor of successfully climbing the Sentinel.

Definition taken from

<http://merriam-webster.com>

“The Dude abides.”

Jeff Bridges, as "The Dude" in *The Big Lebowski*

STREAM OF FACTS

The Mekong Giant Catfish lives up to its name with records including the nine-foot specimen netted in Thailand in 2005, weighing in at 646 pounds.

In 2008's *"Seven Pounds,"* the character of Ben Thomas, played by Will Smith, stays in the same hotel featured in *"Memento,"* a Travel Inn in Los Angeles.

Travel in the United States, both residentially and internationally, accounts for the spending of \$23,500 daily; the worldwide daily number equals \$2 billion*.

One billion frogs, according to rising United Nations data, are harvested annually as human food; among the leading populations for this demand are the U.S., France and Asia.

In Southern Asia, the riel is the root of Cambodia's currency, a country whose economy is based on agriculture and consists of 75 percent of the workforce.

The workforce portion of males over the age of 65 in America during 1950 was 46 percent, which has dropped to just over half that amount a half-century later.

The phrases, "later, alligator" and "in a while crocodile" started catching on when Bill Haley's lyrics lit up the radio waves with his 1956 hit, *"See You Later, Alligator."*

The female alligator, according to a study at Louisiana's Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge, when it comes time for mating season, will likely return to the same sexual partner.

During football season, despite the name "pigskin," 3,000 cows are sacrificed to supply the 22,000 cowhide-covered footballs that the NFL goes through each year.

Beginning at the age of 13, Xie Qiuping has been growing her hair out since 1973 and has set the record for hair length in 2004 when her locks stretched out 18 feet, 5.54 inches.

*Numbers as of December 2007.

SUDOKU

Difficulty Rating: Hard

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

OVERSEEN & OVERHEARD

"You wikipedia'd walking!?" STUDENT TO FRIEND IN ASL LAB.

"You have have boobs, and I hate you." FRUSTRATED GIRL AT THE IDEA FACTORY IN WALLACE LIBRARY

New bike rack at Perkins. ▶



"They thought I was lying when I told them I've made love to this song." STUDENT IN REFERENCE TO MILEY CYRUS'S "PARTY IN THE USA" PLAYING ON THE SPEAKERS AT JAVA WALLY'S

Send your Overseen and Overhead 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.

NOW TWEETING YOUR OVERSEEN AND OVERHEADS!



GEOCACHING:

USING MULTI-MILLION-DOLLAR
SATELLITES TO FIND TUPPERWARE
IN THE WOODS

by Chris Zubak-Skees | illustration by Jamie Douglas

Hidden all around us – in trees, under bridges, and in lamp posts – is the evidence of a worldwide, modern treasure hunt. Armed with global positioning satellites, the web, and their wits, players scour the landscape

for a sometimes-elusive quarry. This secretive search for caches of items, often only identified by a geographic location, is geocaching.

The game starts when somebody hides a cache. They take an ammunition box, Tupperware-like container, or some other weather-resistant enclosure and insert log books, odds and ends, or uniquely identifiable items that can be tracked later. Then they hide the cache, get as accurate a global positioning (GPS) reading as they can, and post the coordinates on the web along with a cryptic title, description, and perhaps even a hint.

Players, commonly known as geocachers, then visit the website (<http://geocaching.com> is popular), choose a cache description, and head out into the wild with a GPS device. Their task seems simple: go to the coordinates and discover the stowed item located there. The seeming simplicity, however, is fiendishly deceptive.

Spoiler alert and disclaimer: This article may ruin some geocaches. Additionally, there is comparatively little risk in most geocaching, but Reporter still reminds you not to do anything dangerous.

PLAYING HARD TO GET

Brian Tomaszewski is an assistant professor in the Center for Multidisciplinary Studies. He's new to RIT and so is his field. His Ph.D., awarded earlier this year by Pennsylvania State University, is in geography and much of his focus is in geospatial technology. "This is a recreational GPS device," he says, pulling out a \$100 device from a box. "GPS units like this are not super accurate." He's not kidding. Depending on the number of satellites within range of the device, an error of 20 meters (65 feet) can be normal.

Beyond the relative inaccuracy, it's sometimes difficult to conceptualize an item's hiding place. Tomaszewski references one of his classes, Introduction to Geospatial Technologies, to illustrate this point. In this

class, he has students try to locate a geocache. "I take this thing – this is a magnetic key holder," he says as he attaches a small, black magnetic box to a metal surface with a click, "and I put it out underneath the table out in the courtyard there." The table, visible from his window, stands between the Lewis P. Ross building, the Hugh Carey building and the Color Sciences building. "When I watch students, they will go all around and look at every possible space, but they won't be able to think to look under the table."

Sometimes, there is the pure deviousness of those who hide the cache. Chris Tomkins-Tinch, a third year Bioinformatics major, regularly geocaches. He spoke with me about geocaching in Wallace Library's Idea Factory. Near his summer co-op at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee, he tells me, he encountered a particularly difficult cache.

"They took a machine bolt, hollowed it out, rolled up a piece of paper for the log book, inserted it into the bolt, and then installed the bolt into a pavilion," he says.

"WE HAD A TEAM OF PEOPLE
LOOKING AND IT TOOK US ABOUT
45 MINUTES TO FIND IT."

TENNIS, ANYONE?

N 43° 04.930
W 077° 40.418
Type: Micro
Difficulty: 2/5

With that cache in mind, I ask Chris if he had tried the geocache near the RIT tennis courts. He has not, so we abandon the library for Gleason Circle. He hands me a \$400 GPS device (a Garmin GPSmap 60CSx) and says, since it is my first cache, I can navigate. The device is made of solid plastic, and on its face a blue screen displays a symbol with a red arrow like a compass (called a bearing pointer), a distance in meters and an accuracy reading.

The arrow points towards the end of the tennis courts, and we head off through a parking lot. It is barely five o'clock, but already it is dark outside. Luckily, anyone who might have been playing tennis had retired for the day. This is good because geocachers prefer to keep their operations semi-covert and refer to people not in the know as "muggles" who they try to avoid. Muggles might misinterpret the hiding

and seeking of objects. At the very least, this misunderstanding might result in awkward looks, or worse, a bomb squad.

We reach the end of the courts, and the distance drops to 25 meters. A graphic indicates we have reached the waypoint. At 15 meters, the display indicates roughly a 20-meter accuracy. This is about as close as the GPS could get us.

Chris asks me what size this cache is, and I tell him it's a "micro." Micro-sized caches, like the bolt in Oak Ridge or a film canister, usually just contain a paper log recording those who found it. Cachers are often reminded to bring your own pen (BYOP), because the cache doesn't have room for one.

I have no idea where to look, but Chris has a few hunches acquired through long practice. We look under the metal housing at the base of a light stand and under a bridge over a trickling stream. We find it on the third try. Chris stands up holding a plastic prescription bottle.

He squeezes the lid open and takes out a folded sheet of paper encased in a small plastic bag. The paper explains geocaching and lists all those who found it. We add our nicknames. Then, I re-fold

the paper, stuff it back in the plastic bag, and put it back in the bottle. Chris returns the bottle to its hiding place.

Some 281 people have found this cache. Chris says this is normal for a cache so close to a parking lot. "This is what they usually call a park n' grab," he explains. "That's one where you can just drive up and have a short walk to find the cache."

RIT CHIC

N 43° 05.052
W 077° 40.532
Type: Webcam
Difficulty: 1/5

The next cache I take on is categorized as a webcam cache. The objective here is to use a public webcam to take a picture of the geocacher. "Visit the famous tiger of Rochester Institute of Technology, the RIT Chic," the cache description invites. I simply have to stand in front of the tiger and get someone to take my picture using the webcam.

I walk past the Artesano Bakery & Café, exiting the SAU to stand in front of the tiger. "I'm here," I text message my accomplice. Now, all I have to do is stand there awkwardly and wait. Moments later, my BlackBerry vibrates, and I open an e-mailed picture of me in front of the tiger. Easy.

Perhaps, the best part of this cache is the log. Each cache has a log on geocaching.

com where people can write about their experiences finding the cache and share information about a cache's status. This log has about 185 photos of people standing in front of the familiar tiger.

For a largely pseudonymous hobby that is often conducted in secret, here you can see the faces of geocaching. One of the photos is of a man, a woman, and a dog furiously wagging its tail. Another is a man in a business suit, pen clipped to his shirt pocket. A third entitled "Bud and Lester" is of two grizzled men – one with a trucker hat, and another wearing jean suspenders. It is a surprisingly diverse group of people. In each picture somebody is holding their cell phone, asking someone else to control the camera.

TIGERS' WOODS

N 43° 04.957
W 077° 40.276
Type: Ammo box
Difficulty: 3/5

My third cache lies in the woods between the Student Health Center and Gracie's. It is dark and lightly raining. My shoes crunch on the gravel back road. The arrow on the free GPS app I downloaded for my BlackBerry (called BlackStar) points off into the woods, and I follow.

It is my second attempt of the night. The first one ended after a fruitless search of the ground around the cache's GPS coordinates. Dispirited and soaked, I went back to the SAU to look up the cache's hint. "Don't forget to look up," it said.

Crunching through leaves and small branches I get about 100 feet from the coordinates. Standing there, wondering which direction to go, the bearing indicator on the app spins this way and that. It confuses me, until I remember something Chris said: "The normal GPS bearing is just based on motion. If you're standing still, you can't tell what direction you're moving." He recommends handheld devices that include an integrated compass, which don't have this problem. I don't have that luxury, so I start walking again and the arrow straightens out.

At this moment, a group of students crashes through the woods. Hearing them before I see them, I instinctively stay out of sight until their silhouettes pass. Chris compares geocaching to looking for a cold war-era "dead drop" (a location for exchanging information between spies in public), and it is a good analogy. Every cache

I have attempted so far has brought fresh paranoia.


I get within about 30 feet of the cache and start searching trees. In the pitch blackness, I use my phone's video light, having to switch between that and the GPS app. The light reflects in the moist vapor that pervades the air, and more than once, I have to wipe water off the keyboard. Finally, I find the cache in one of the trees. It is a leaf-covered ammunition box with the word "geocache" scrawled on the side.

I release the clasp. The first item is a poncho. The second is a small ball with a smiley face drawn on it. The third item is a plastic bag containing a pad of paper and a waterproof pen. If I had a small item, I could trade it for one of the items in the cache, but a lack of foresight means I don't. I hurriedly write down the date and my alias, return the items, and hightail it out of the woods. My phone may be permanently water damaged, but I am the 15th person to find this cache.

PUZZLING IT OUT

There are many other types of geocaches. One such cache is a puzzle cache, which requires the cacher to solve a puzzle to get coordinates. A particularly difficult puzzle cache is located in Mount Hope Cemetery. Cachers must find the graves of 24 famous Rochester locals and use information from those to find the cache. There are also multi-caches, wherein one location leads to the next. Tomaszewski set up a multi-cache in Livingston County to teach regional history. Each location is a different historical site and provides further locations.

The hobby is undeniably popular. In a typical week, some 80 thousand geocachers will log half a million finds. "It's a really great activity because it's an excuse to get outside; it's an excuse to go exploring," says Chris. He says there are caches just about anywhere, and the maps on geocaching.com bear him out. All around, there are small collections of items waiting to be discovered.

To try your hand at geocaching or for more information, visit <http://geocaching.com>, <http://navicache.com> or <http://terracaching.com>. 



MOVEMENT TO CONTACT

N 43° 05.072
W 077° 39.751

A camouflaged romano cheese container located in the woods behind the Facilities Management building. It may require wading through soggy terrain.

MISSION CONTROL

N 43° 05.109
W 077° 40.766

This is a micro cache near the Center for Microelectronic and Computer Engineering. The consensus seems to be that this is hard to find.

CIMSAGROY'S GOLDEN MYSTERY

N 43° 05.768
W 077° 38.782

A fairly easy puzzle reveals a location that requires walking or biking about two miles from campus.

SOUTHTOWN: WINTER QUARTERS

N 43° 05.298
W 077° 38.538

This is a micro cache hidden in Southtown Plaza. Not recommended for nighttime caching.

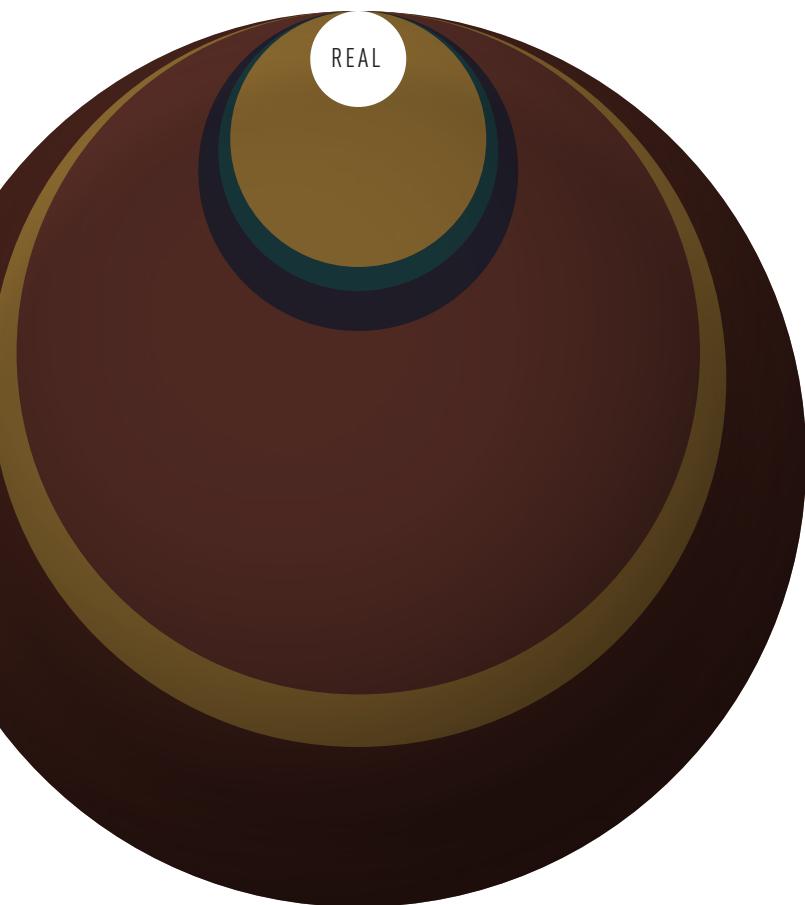
GOLD AMMO 4FUN!

N 43° 03.992
W 077° 37.101

Henrietta Veterans Memorial Park is chock full of caches, and this ammo box cache is one of them.

ALTERNATE REALITY GAMING:

Fiction never felt so



IN JULY, Logan received a notebook in the mail, along with news that his friend Matt Selby had committed suicide. Logan started posting pictures of the notebook's pages to his blog, attempting to decipher its meaning. But in September, Logan disappeared, and now his friends are all trying to find him. There's only one problem: Neither Logan nor his friends exist.

They're characters in the Alternate Reality Game *Just Another Fool*. Alternate Reality Games, or ARGs, blur the lines between reality and the game by telling the stories through various on- and off-line media, such as websites, social networks, mail, video, phone calls, and even real-life events. The players have to solve puzzles contained in these media in order to advance the story.

THE FUTURE OF ENTERTAINMENT

ARGs STARTED OUT as a form of viral marketing for various products. The first big ARG was *The Beast*, set in the fictional world of the movie "A.I." There have been highly successful ARGs for movies like "*The Dark Knight*," "*District 9*," and "*Pirates of the Caribbean*." One of the most famous ARGs was called "*IloveBees*," which was a promotion campaign for the massively popular video game "*Halo 2*." Even though these ARGs were essentially giant advertisements, the players still found them incredibly entertaining.

"If a 'Halo' fan hears about an ARG about 'Halo' or a 'Terminator' fan hears about the ['Sarah Connor Chronicles'] ARG, they would jump at the opportunity to participate in a story," said Tyler Parrott, a first year student at Colby College, who has been playing ARGs for over three years. "ARGs have gotten me in touch with some incredible stories. Enitech got me watching ['Sarah Connor Chronicles'] and now I love the series."

Steve Peters, who has been developing ARGs professionally since 2005, sees ARGs as a new art form. Peters is the Chief Experience Architect for No Mimes Media and has worked on ARGs for "*The Dark Knight*" and "*Pirates of the Caribbean*." "What hooked me was when the game called me while I was at lunch," Peters said. "It's the future of entertainment." In recent months, there has been an explosion of grassroots ARGs run by fans, for fans. These "unofficial" ARGs have met differing levels of

success. This is largely due to the fact that the people working behind the scenes, known as "Puppetmasters" in the ARG community, are required to balance the game with real-life obligations.

On the Unfiction.com forums, the largest online ARG community, these grassroots campaigns now outnumber the "official" games 2-to-1, and they have a comparable number of players. "ARGs sort of blur the line between creator [and his or her] characters and the players in a way," Regina Erbs, a webmaster from Lima, Ohio said. "Being a part of the action is a lot of fun."

RIDDLE ME THIS, RIDDLE ME THAT

WHEN "LOGAN" DISAPPEARED, his friend Joshua hacked into his blog and started updating on how the search was going. Following Logan's advice, he got rid of the notebook by mailing it to Tyler Parrott, .

Parrott then posted a YouTube video of the notebook's pages. That was when Erbs spotted a pattern of numbers that turned out to be a phone number. When players called it, they heard "Logan." Using the information he gave them, they were able to correctly answer a riddle, and the players were each sent pages of a new notebook. It was through their teamwork that they were able to advance the story.

"Ultimately, the main pull is the interactivity, the challenging puzzles, and the community that forms as a result of these games," Parrott said. Parrott, who goes by the online persona of Dav Flamerock, is a community leader on the Unfiction forums, and a highly prominent player of the fan-created "*Just Another Fool*."

ONLINE FAMILY, FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

ACCORDING TO PARROTT, the large interest in these games is due to the player community's involvement in the story. "I have made some amazing friends through these games," Parrott said. These games are simply impossible to play by yourself, according to Erbs. The community is all-important to figuring out riddles and advancing the story. "So much of these games are about sharing information,"

Erbs said. "If Dav hadn't posted the video of the first notebook, he might not have noticed there was a phone number hidden in it."

But it's not all roses and butterflies. The community can create problems as well, particularly in grassroots ARGs. The stories are often inspired by conversations on other forum sites like *SomethingAwful.com*, which is where "*Just Another Fool*" and a related ARG, "*Marble Hornets*", started. Because these games start in public forums, there tends to be a lot of what ARG players call "gamejacking," which is when people who aren't playing the game attempt to divert the course of the story by pretending to be characters.

When Peters was running a game for Cisco Systems, Inc., they created profiles for several of the game characters on LinkedIn.com. Someone attempted to "gamejack" them by creating a profile on LinkedIn.com, claiming to work at the same fictional company. This person then sent puzzles to players while claiming to be an official part of the game. But despite these annoyances, most players still find the games very rewarding. "Challenging puzzles ... engage players and make them feel accomplished when they complete a seemingly impossible task," Parrott said.

IMMERSING YOURSELF

ARGs ARE ALWAYS EVOLVING, as the Puppetmasters discover new ways to deliver their content. And though the community is much more mainstream than it was ten years ago, Peters says it isn't quite enough yet. "The next step is for [ARGs] to go mainstream in a big way," Peters said. "What does a movie look like when it's not limited to the screen?" But with the amount of media that we are inundated with, it's difficult to tell the difference between a legitimate website and the beginning of a game. The easiest way to find a game to join, according to Erbs and Parrott, is to check out <http://unfiction.com> or <http://argn.com>.

"Go to the News & Rumors section of Unfiction.com and find a trailhead that looks promising," Parrott said. And from there, as ARG players say, go down the rabbit hole. **R**

by ORY BALLENGER

WINTER SPORTS PREVIEW



RIT's Dan Ringwald, Right, catches a mid-air puck while Canisius's Dave Kostuch, Left, gives chase on January 25's game at Buffalo State Ice Arena. RIT won the game 4-3.



Notre Dame's Victor Crenshaw attempts to pin RIT's Jason Wake in the 165lbs championship match of the wrestling tournament on Saturday, December 6, 2008 at RIT's Clark Gym. Wake lost the match 7-2 to Crenshaw.



Athletes compete in the high jump competition at the Rochester Winter Track League Invitational on January 10 at the Gordon Field House.



RIT's Caitlyn Burr in the Women's 800 yard freestyle race on Saturday, December 6, 2008.

Since mid-October, our winter sport athletes have been donning their practice gear to prepare for the upcoming season. This is what Tigers fans can look forward to this quarter.

MEN'S HOCKEY

Winning their second Atlantic Hockey Association league title last season, the hockey team has a lot to be proud of. This year, however, they aim to not only win the league title, but also make a run at the NCAA tournament.

Coach Wayne Wilson feels that RIT's defense will be a major asset to the success of the team. The team is well-balanced, with fourth year Business Administration major Jared DiMichiel continuing to dominate the ice and strengthening the offense.

"They have really brought our team together and make it fun to be around every day," Wilson asserted, going on to highlight the hard work ethic of the whole team and the newcomers in particular.

"We work hard against each other every day, it makes everyone better," Wilson said. Despite injuries that have kept some players off the rink for a game or two, he knows that the team will come together and really push to put together a great season. The Men's Hockey Team's next home game will be against

Niagara University on December 12. The puck will hit the ice at 7 p.m.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

"We've established ourselves as one of the top programs in Division III," Coach Scott McDonald asserted. With several top scorers returning to the lineup and nine freshmen bringing new energy to match the veteran players' work ethic, he feels that RIT will be a force this season.

"We're working on improving our consistency and playing to our full potential, instead of playing to the level of our opponent," McDonald continued. Last year, the women lost in the first round of postseason NCAA tournament play — something that the team aims to avoid this season.

Starting off with three wins and one draw, the talent on the team is crystal clear. In a blowout game against SUNY Potsdam the team scored 17 times, while their opponent only made a single goal the entire game.

The Women's Hockey Team will have a "Pink in the Rink" double header against Utica with the Men's team on January 30. Proceeds will benefit cancer research.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Entering into the 2009-2010 season as defending Empire 8 league champions, the

RIT Men's Basketball team is gearing up for some great conference play this season. Despite a two losses to start, several athletes are feeling their way into the void left by RIT 2009 alumnus Mark Carson, an all-American selection and leading rebounder in the country last season.

"It [combining first and fourth years] doesn't win games but provides a good foundation," Coach Bob McVean said. That foundation is being built upon through hard work, as their agility and speed shows. "Our quickness is the best we've had in a long time, and we want to capitalize on that with pressure defense and an up-tempo offense," he continued.

The Men's Basketball Team's next home game will be against Stevens on December 6 at 2 p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

With their current season starting strong with two wins and a tough loss, Coach Amy Reed is definitely happy with the work her team has put into the program.

"With 17 people on the roster, we're very optimistic about the season," Reed said. Such depth on the bench and the lack of injuries bodes well for the team's chances at a successful season, particularly when the preceding two seasons began with 12 to 15

players and ended with seven to nine able-bodied players.

"We have a lot of athletic guards who can push the ball up the floor," Reed said. Her concern is defense, reflected in the team's goal of holding teams to less than 60 points in every game this season.

The Women's Basketball Team's next home game will be against Stevens, defending Empire 8 league champions, on December 6 at 12 p.m.

INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

With a heartbreaking one-point loss to Ithaca for the men's Empire 8 title last season and a second place finish for Empire 8 for both the men and women, the Indoor Track and Field teams begin the journey to a first place title this season.

"Both the indoor and outdoor track programs have really taken it up a notch; we're more well rounded now," said Coach David Warth. "Our assistant coaches are best in Division III. Our athletes can learn and really improve," Warth continued.

The one weakness he can foresee this season is in the sprint events because other schools have the luxury of recruiting sprinters from their football programs.

"We have a very focused team that is good at setting personal goals and seeing what they

have to do to achieve that bar they've set for themselves," Warth continued. "We see so many people's progress ... It's hard to single out people who have improved the most." The Indoor Track and Field teams will host the Empire 8 Championships at the Gordon Fieldhouse on January 31 at 11 a.m.

SWIMMING AND DIVING

The Swimming and Diving teams are starting their season off respectfully, with the men's record of 3-1 and the women going on 2-2.

With a few returning athletes posting great times last season and even qualifying for the NCAA tournament, the season promises to be one of great potential. Fourth years Accounting major Caitlyn Burr and Mechanical Engineering major Steve Rois return after a great 2008-2009 season under their belts, and they are looking to continue that success. The Swimming and Diving teams have a meet against the University of Rochester at the Judson Pool at 1 p.m. on December 12.

WRESTLING

Ending last season as the 12th ranked team in the nation and losing the Team Academic All-American distinction by .04 of a point, the wrestling team proved their skills. Coach Scott Stever feels that their success will

continue to grow, and he even predicts that a handful of his athletes will qualify for the individual NCAA tournament provided they continue to work to their full potential.

The upperclassmen that continue to impress are fourth year Accounting major Jason Wake, who took first place in the 165 lb. weight class at RIT's last tournament, and second year Computer Engineering major Ben Johnstone, who took second for the 174 pounders.

According to Stever, the team's overall love for the sport and supportive nature give the team the best potential. "Those who really enjoy it work hard to do well," he said.

The Wrestling team will face off against Ithaca College in Clark Gym on December 9 at 7 p.m. **R**

by Carolyn Dunne
Photographs by Evan Witek

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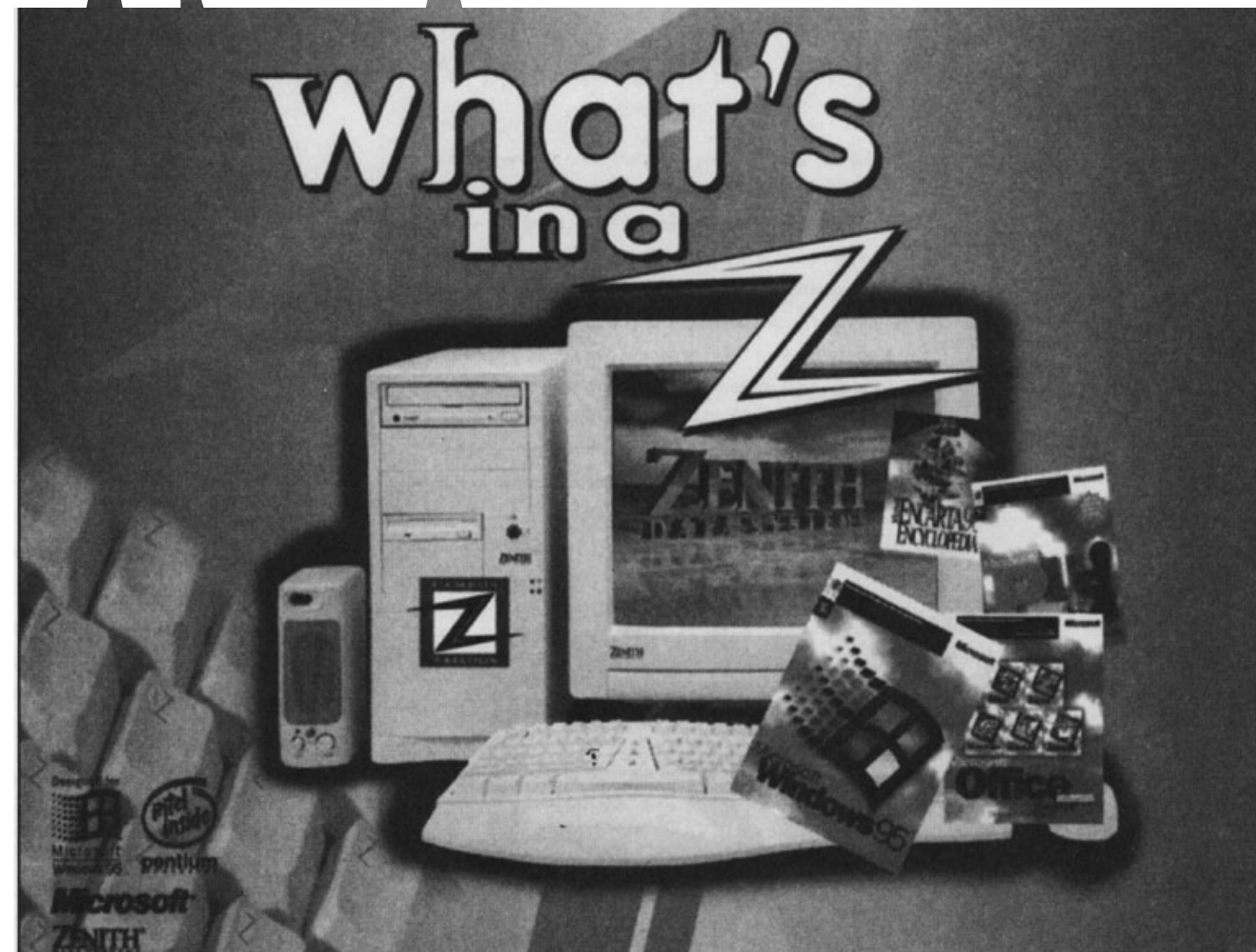
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GRANDPA'S GARBAGE PLATE

by Michael Conti | photograph by David Chow

Grandpa's had this conversation with me at least twice. He's in an "assisted living" complex, and every time I see him, I notice how strange it is to have your living assisted. Someone even unwraps the hard candy. "How are classes?" he asks. "The weather?" I answer him and respond with the same questions. Yesterday he had a drawing class and it was foggy.

"Remind me again," he blinks rapidly, trying to find something that left years ago, "What's the local delicacy of Rochester?" I realize this is my favorite part of the conversation I'm having for the third time, and an oversized grin grows on my face. "Well," I begin, "if you can imagine all of your favorite fast food ingredients in your mouth at one time..."

I've walked these steps thousands of times before. Grandpa has been living with Mom and me ever since his back surgery. It's a one-room apartment, above the horns, the exhaust and the muttering of the bums, but right now the 10 flights of stairs doesn't seem worth it. I just got off of work, a graveyard shift at Sal's, which is a greasy little diner tucked under the overpass.

30 bucks in tips tonight, from 12 cups of coffee and one grilled cheese on rye. But I can't be miserable when the people I hand tepid cups of coffee to look like walking death. The TV stays on and I can hear the late night talk show host pretending like nothing's changed. Time lurches along between the late late late show and mopping the beaten checkered floor. But that's over now, and a walk through the morning air can do a lot for man's soul. I get to the 11th floor, trudge through the hallway, and coax the door open. It squeaks in response, but

gramps is already wide-awake. "Where's breakfast?" he grumbles. Shit. Forgot. Again. "I left it at Sal's," I say, knowing full well it was going to be harder stealing from my own workplace when people started to show up in the morning. Back down the stairs.

My mouth starts to water at the naming of ingredients on the plate. "Well, for starters, you've got your hot dogs, but you can get cheeseburgers, red hots, Italian sausages, some chicken, grilled cheese, fish, ham..." Heart palpitating, my veins harden as I describe the options for the sides. "...home fires, baked beans, mac salad, corn, French fries." Nonno's eyes widen. I'm not sure if he's impressed or concerned.

"Look, I'd like to help you out," my boss says out of the side of his mouth. He's lying. In the seven months I've been working for him, never once has he inquired about why I'm always so tired, or why I sometimes come to work in a uniform from some other crummy job. I'm asking him for food, practically begging for it. "I just can't cut corners this time of year... you know how it is." Can't say that I do. This wasn't a good idea. I hang around a bit, pretending to be waiting for a ride. A customer gets up to go to the bathroom, leaving a half-eaten cheeseburger on the counter. Tempting.

"No, no, no, that's the best part! You've got the mustard, the onions, some catsup, maybe some bread too, just let that all go on top. You gotta eat two of these at once to really prove yourself. This is the kind of meal, well... it's a competition meal, y'know what I mean? Experienced eaters only." With that, I describe to my terrified gramps how you approach one

of these badboys armed with nothing more than a plastic fork and a factory-embroidered napkin.

"Hey! Get the fuck back here!" Too late. I'm halfway around the block, and this guy has had too many cheeseburgers to catch up. Hell, I'm practically doing him a favor, I think. Not only did I grab his meal, but I've got an assortment of other customers' hash browns and grits.

"Doesn't that hurt going down?" my grandfather winces. I'm at the high point of my sermon, and my inner Italian is showing through my hands. With flair, I start reminiscing about the time I ate two and a half plates in one drunken night, leaving out the part I spent hurling outside.

It's not like I'm trying to be a slob. I've got enough on my mind, and five hours to sleep before my next shift at the gas station. Mom hasn't been home in two weeks, and no one's going to bring home enough money to feed Nonno and keep the lights on. "He won't notice anyways," I mutter, assembling the saucy pieces together on the tray paper.

And the best part, Nonno, oh, you won't believe this...is what they call the whole thing!

"It's called a garbage plate," I say, handing breakfast to grandpa.

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SATURDAY, 12:34 P.M.

[KILGORE TROUT] WANTS TO KNOW WHY LADY GAGA HAS A [DISCO STICK]. CAN YOU HELP HIM OUT?

from text

MONDAY, 12:47 P.M.

HEY RINGS, I JUST WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW I CARVED A PUMPKIN DEATH STAR AND IT'S POINTED AT YOU.

from voicemail

SUNDAY 5:27 P.M.

Dear Art Students, making loud noises and being weird for the sake of being weird does not compensate for not having personalities. Learn math or something useful.

from text

THURSDAY 9:42 P.M.

Ring ring. Who's there? I don't know, this is a text message. I'M TEXTING YOU WITH LOVE IN MY HEART AND BOOZE IN MY SYSTEM!! Uhm... I just said the phrase "girl bits" in the last three, well now four, text messages. What the creak, Rings?

from text

TUESDAY, 5:26 P.M.

SO MY FRIEND JUST ASKED ME TO GET BWW WITH HIM. SINCE WHEN DOES THAT STAND FOR BUFFALO WILD WINGS AND NOT BIG WHITE WOMEN?

from text

THURSDAY, 9:57 A.M.

Yup, it's that time of the term again... The time each term when I weigh the pros and cons of dropping out of school and joining the adult film industry.

from text

MONDAY, 6:09 P.M.

Hey Rings, I just saw a girl eating berries off a tree in November, and then she frolicked away with her arms spinning like a windmill. It was not okay. Those berries can't have been berries.

from voicemail

SATURDAY, 12:42 A.M.

RINGS, ITS TWO O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING AND I JUST INVITED A BOY OVER. I WASN'T SERIOUS. OH, BUT HE WAS. NOW I HAVE TO SHAVE MY LEGS. AWESOME.

from text

THURSDAY, 8:12 P.M.

What crack head says that MacGregor's wings are second best in Rochester? My friend worked there and trust me... you don't wanna know how they are made.

from text

SUNDAY, 10:45 P.M.

Hey Rings! I just saw a random person in a sleeping bag passed out in Perkins. He was probably a caterpillar or something sleeping-bag-related for Halloween.

from text

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