

# REPORTER

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# FINAL CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

*Signatures* is celebrating its **25th** birthday!

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DEADLINE:

# JANUARY 31

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*Signatures* is an annual literary and art magazine showcasing the creative works of RIT students.  
Not all submissions may be published.

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Cartons of frozen grapes to be used in making ice wine are loaded onto a trailer at an Ed Hughes vineyard in Beamsville, Ontario. | photograph by Steve Pfost

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Cover photograph by Trevor Reid

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# EDITOR'S NOTE

## THE LAST VARIABLE

At the last Student Government meeting (see pg. 5), the Great Calendar Debate seemed to finally be drawing to a close. When the process started months ago, I could see the road ahead would be long and miserable, as student representatives began digging trenches on the front lines of the quarter/semester battlefield.

When I last wrote about this, I predicted that RIT would remain on the quarter system if for no other reason than a fear of change. I may soon be proved wrong. That's fine, I don't mind being wrong. However, it seems I wasn't aware of the entire reasoning behind the switch.

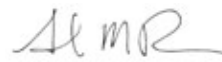
According to Matt Danna, our esteemed SG president, the semester switch comes at the end of a long line of changes designed to halt RIT's hemorrhaging of students. It is the last variable that can be changed keep students from transferring or dropping out of the university. It's the last light switch to try before realizing the bulb has burnt out.

What worries me is this: What happens if this doesn't change anything? Where does the university stand if the quarter system isn't to blame? Evidently they've tried everything else. Could issues of school spirit, lack of retention, and a general distaste for the school all be fixed by updating the calendar?

Sadly, I won't be around to find out. But Dr. Destler will be. Regardless of what Student Government, Academic Senate and Staff Council decide they want in an institute calendar, Banjo Bill is the man who will ultimately make the call. If RIT does wind up on a semester system, the results will walk hand in hand with his reputation, his legacy.

If things change, fantastic. I'm always for having an alma mater that people enjoy attending. Although, if things don't, then what? RIT isn't a horse that you can just take out behind the barn and put it out of its misery. This brick city will continue to live on, bleeding students.

Whatever happens, happens. All we can do in the meantime is cross our fingers and hope. Because, in 10 years, when I come back to campus for an alumni event I paid too much to attend, maybe the faces around here will be a little bit brighter. I'd like that.



Andy Rees

**EDITOR IN CHIEF**



CARTOON by Jamie Douglas and Andy Rees

"Happy Martin Luther Day."

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# SG UPDATE

by Chelsea Watson

## RETURN OF THE LOUNGES

Recently, many of the dorm lounges have been outfitted to serve as quads and quints. However, Mary Niedermaier, director of Housing Operations, had "great news" to share about the state of lounges. "RIT will begin to undergo converting 10 percent of the original lounge rooms back into lounges and the doing the same for next year." This will cause space issues, but the effects have yet to be determined.

## GLOBAL VILLAGE ROOM PLANS

Kurt Ingerick, associate director of Facilities in Housing Operations, showed a model of a basic Global Village suite, which features bedrooms that are more spacious than a typical RIT dorm room. Along with the room being much wider, it will contain a bed with drawers underneath, a built-in closet and shelves for open storage above the bed. Most suite configurations will include four singles and one double, and about half the suites will have kitchens and half will not.

According to Ingerick, they are about "a month and a half from making a final decision." One of the issues that must be settled is whether "the chair has arms or not."

It was reiterated that "freshmen are indeed prioritized for housing," however, there will be some space set aside for upperclassmen.

## CALENDAR CHANGE TESTIMONY

Brennan Coon, a graduate of Hobart and William Smith Colleges (HWS), was invited to speak about his experiences with changing from quarters to semesters. When HWS first informed students that they were changing the academic calendar, Coon expressed, "I didn't really like it, I was very comfortable with the quarter system." However, the transition was smooth, and Coon ended up liking the semester system.

"We were given the 'T' book outlining everything we needed to know about transitioning," said Coon. For him, the shift was generally a positive experience. "It just worked out really well ... I didn't have to take any extra classes to catch up." He also appreciated the fact that because he was able to stay with the same class longer, he was able to get to know his classmates better. All that aside, Coon realizes that the change still must have been difficult. "I'm sure there was a lot more going on behind the scenes ... but it all worked out."

The question of how relatable this experience would be to RIT was brought up by Philip Amsler, a third year Mechanical Engineering major and representative of Resident Hall Associate. Although Coon agreed that the two were very different colleges, Karey Pine, director of Center for Campus Life and advisor of Student Government, warned Senate "not to get caught up on the differences between the schools" and focus on finding an ideal model for the change. Instead, use Coon's experience as an example of how the change from quarters to semesters turned out all right.

While many agreed that changing to semesters may not necessarily be a bad thing, SG representatives acknowledge that many of their constituents prefer the quarter system.

# ACADEMIC SENATE

by Justin Claire

## CREATION OF GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

A new subset of the Academic Senate is being created. The proposed General Education Committee will address concerns with classes that don't satisfy a major requirement for a specific major but may still enrich a student's experience and fill the electives he or she might need for graduation. The GEC must first be created and there must be a revision of current policies to make room for the GEC's new duties.

## DESTLER ON CALENDAR CHANGES

President William Destler opened the discussion on the calendar changes stating, "There seems to be an undercurrent that there's a possibility that this decision has already been made." Destler wanted to take the time to emphasize that, although he did have the final say, the debate and discussion, the opinion of each college, and the general feeling amongst the student body are all factors that he would like to take into consideration. "The input really does matter to me," he said.

To conclude, Destler also stated that any conversion would be expensive.

## COLLEGES VOTE FOR SEMESTERS

To get a better idea of which colleges supported which calendar, a vote was held. Although many voted, others opted to abstain and discuss the issue further with their staff. The Saunders College of Business, Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences, College of Liberal Arts, College of Science and National Technical Institute of the Deaf were the dominant voices in the discussion and showed favor for semesters. The Kate Gleason College of Engineering, on the other hand, expressed a preference for the current, unchanged quarter system with a staff vote of 47 to 18. The remaining colleges are scheduled to discuss the issue further at the next Senate meeting.

In the event that RIT sticks to quarters, SCOB showed a preference for either the split winter or late start. GCCIS, on the other hand, disagreed and expressed a definite dislike for both aforementioned options. However, there is one thing that every speaker seemed to agree upon: how little information was given about the changes. Most speakers also had similar concerns about how the conversion would impact the co-op program and studying abroad.

A final decision will be made in February, and if the Institute moves to semesters, it will take three years to completely transition.



# PLOWING THE WAY TO SAFETY

Starting with a few inches on the ground and more to come in the forecast, it seems as if it's constantly snowing at RIT. No matter how hard we try, we step in deep slush; our shoes are covered with salt; snowflakes fall in our eyes; and, no matter where we are on campus, the wind gusts in our faces. Another exciting day in a city enduring *Lake Effect Snow*, due to its proximity to Lake Ontario.

The Lake Effect is a weather phenomenon that occurs when a considerable amount of cold air crosses over a body of warmer water. According to the Weather Channel's Storm Encyclopedia, this creates an unstable temperature profile that causes clouds to build snow and dump it on land downwind. Due to this excess flurry, RIT must work harder to clear walkways and roads for the safety of its students, faculty and staff.

There are two departments responsible for snow removal and maintenance on campus: Facilities Management Services and Housing

Operations Facilities. FMS is in charge of the academic side of campus while the Housing Operations manages the walkways, parking lots and roads around the residence halls, apartments and the current "work in progress," Global Village. A company contracted by Wilmorite manages Park Point.

Housing Operations does not have the manpower to clear the snow themselves, so they contract the work to Boon & Sons, Inc., which is a property maintenance company based in North Chili located less than 10 miles from campus. Kurt Ingerick, associate director of Facilities in Housing Operations, said their standard has been to eliminate ice on the walkways. So far, their efforts have been successful.

Perkins Green and Colony Manor Apartment complexes have traditionally been the most difficult areas to clear. Perkins is notorious for its small walkways with 90 degree turns, making it an arduous task for small plows

to effectively clear them. Colony's issues are caused by the smaller parking lots making it tricky for plows to navigate and remove snow. Residents have a tendency to park their cars over the sidewalks, allowing less room for the small plows to do their jobs.

"We haven't had complaints this year. If we see areas that they're missing, certainly we reinforce it with [Boon & Sons]," said Ingerick. "From a sustainability stand point, we look for excessive salting and reassess so that they don't dump so much in certain areas." Ingerick is glad to hear students' feedback so that snow removal can be improved.

For the rest of the campus, FMS clears the parking lots, roads and walkways so that faculty, staff and students safely access the academic side. They do most of the work themselves, but they contract a company to clear the bigger lots on campus, including E, G, S and U lots. There are approximately 14 people on staff who maintain the campus

24/7, and up to 12 students are employed to supplement the work when they are available.

Chris Furnare, the Grounds Foreman at FMS, says that in the morning, they usually start clearing snow at around 4 a.m. He notes that ramps and stairs are the most difficult areas to clear on campus, but they also require the most attention because people run a higher risk of falling them. "The more condensed the area is with buildings and landscaping, the more intricate the job is."

These condensed areas are especially difficult when the snow is falling during the day and FMS has to compete with foot traffic when clearing. Furnare says that the staff tries to be as courteous as possible, but it is frustrating when students, faculty and staff are walking or standing directly in front of the plows. If people take a minute to step to the side they "would have a clear path and [FMS] could clear the snow effectively," he says.

Furnare says that RIT is utilizing the best technologies and strategies for snow removal.

by Emily Bogle | photographs by Steve Pfost

His objective is to make the campus as safe as possible for people to get around in an effective way. "Since I've been here we have been smarter about it [the way we do things]. Instead of salting, we plow ... Salt is very corrosive for metal, concrete and paver stones [small, decorative bricks or stones on walkways]." When possible, FMS now uses an agricultural pot ash that isn't as harsh on the walkways and the ground surrounding it; it is also more environmentally friendly. He insists that while new technologies can help snow removal, it's the diligence that makes it effective rather than trying new chemicals that may hurt more than help.

Students' reactions were mixed when asked how they feel about snow removal on campus. "The walkways don't seem to be in terrible shape," said Eric Tripp, a third year Electrical Engineering major. "Sometimes it's hard for them [to plow] because cars are parked in the way," said Leah Andrews, a fourth year Mathematics student.

"It makes me mad when they don't plow in Rochester. They don't really do much about [snow] on campus either," according to first year Biomedical Photographic Communications student, Lynne Adams. "They don't do a good job salting," said Kylie Madigan, also a first year Biomedical Photographic Communications major. "And when they do salt, they over salt and your shoes get all gross," Adams added. "They just seem to wait for [the snow] to melt," said Madigan.

While there is no quick solution to snow removal, it is important to be prepared for what the weather might bring. Things you heard when you were little still ring true whether you are a student, faculty or staff member. Wear warm coats, hats, gloves and boots. Many falls can be attributed to inappropriate footwear since high heels, Vans and leather soled shoes do not provide much traction. "Just wear boots and winter isn't so bad," said Furnare. **R**

# Here is a synopsis of the brewing process:

illustrations by Maria Vallese



1. Malted barley is soaked in hot water to release the malt sugars.



2. The malt sugar solution is boiled with Hops for seasoning.



3. The solution is cooled and yeast is added to begin fermentation.



4. The yeast ferments the sugars releasing CO2 and ethyl alcohol.



5. When the main fermentation is complete the beer is bottled with a little bit of added sugar to provide the carbonation.

## RIT FORECAST

## ROC FORECAST

compiled by Chelsea Watson

FRIDAY	<b>15</b>	<b>CAB'S COUCH POTATO</b> SDC Lobby. 9:30 p.m. Need something fun and worth your while this Friday? Win up to \$200 dollars in prizes by answering trivia questions. Food will be available. Cost: \$1.
SATURDAY	<b>16</b>	<b>MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING TRIPLE MEET</b> Judson Pool. 1 - 4 p.m. Come show your team spirit. They're up against SUNY New Paltz and SUNY Geneseo. Now, that's three for the price of... none! Cost: Free
SUNDAY	<b>17</b>	<b>SWING DANCING</b> Student Life Center. 8:30 - 10:30 p.m. Walking the Quarter Mile doesn't constitute as enough exercise. Get your body moving and learn a few dance moves to impress your friends. Cost: Free.
MONDAY	<b>18</b>	<b>SECURITY CLEARANCE WORKSHOP</b> Building 77-A190. 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Back again, Jon Roberts (class of 1970) is a Senior Partner with a local law firm and was formerly employed by the CIA. He will conduct a workshop on the security clearance process and how it factors in the federal job search process. Seating is limited! Contact: Sharitta Gross at sfgoce@rit.edu to register. Cost: Free.
TUESDAY	<b>19</b>	<b>CAROLINE WERNER GANNETT LECTURE SERIES: MICHAEL SINGER</b> Carlson Auditorium. 8 - 10 p.m. Learn something new. Artist and architect Michael Singer comes to speak on "Regenerative design in the public realm." Cost: Free.
WEDNESDAY	<b>20</b>	<b>OASIS INFORMATION WEEK</b> SAU lobby. 12 - 2 p.m. The Organization for the Alliance of Students from the Indian Subcontinent is holding an information session about each of the seven countries it represents. Cost: Free.
THURSDAY	<b>21</b>	<b>CAB'S THURSDAY NIGHT CINEMA: GHOSTBUSTERS</b> Ingle Auditorium. 10:00 p.m. Who you gonna call... Ghostbusters! Get your fill before the next installment comes out. Cost: Homework productivity for a night.

### COMEDIAN EARL DAVID REED

The Comedy Club. 2235 Empire Blvd. Webster. 10 p.m. Comedian Earl David Reed is a radio host, amateur body builder, and one-time opener for Jay Leno. Check out his stand up, and maybe he'll show you his six-pack. Cost: \$9.

### THE BOOK OF ELI

Regal Henrietta. 525 Marketplace Dr. Denzel Washington stars in this futuristic post-apocalyptic America thriller about a man who must protect a book that may hold the key to saving humanity. Of course, it's never that simple. Also starring Mila Kunis and Gary Oldman. Cost: check with your local movie theater.

### SUNDAY NFL TICKET AT PANORAMA

Panorama. 730 Elmgrove Rd. 7 p.m. There are other sports bars besides the RITz. Explore Rochester and cheer your team on. Or, if you have the guts, try some karaoke. Cost: Your drink of choice. (21+)

### MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY DANCE LESSONS

Garth Fagan Dance Center. 50 Chestnut St. 11:30 a.m. - 3p.m. Honor Martin Luther King by busting a move. Lessons are taught by actual members of the world-renowned Garth Fagan dance troupe. People with or without dance experience are welcome. Cost: Removing the Macarena from your repertoire.

### OPEN MIC NIGHT

lovin'cup. Parkpoint. 8:30 p.m. Do you sing, play an instrument or think you can? Show the world your talent. Cost: Free.

### JEFF DUNHAM

Blue Cross Arena. One War Memorial Sq. 7:30 p.m. You've probably seen him on comedy central. Now, see the comedian and ventriloquist with his twisted puppets live. Cost: \$42.50.

### THE MANHATTAN PROJECT WITH DJ NAPS

Dub Land Underground. 315 Alexander St. 10 p.m. Using keyboards, synths, and electronic and acoustic percussion, this duo brings you the dance music of the future. Hip-hop, reggae, dub, and electronica are just some of their many eclectic styles. Cost: \$3. (18+)

SHAMPOO | \$7.49 PER 10.5 OZ. BOTTLE  
**AVEENO'S ACTIVE  
 NATURALS NOURISH +  
 VOLUMIZER SHAMPOO  
 AND CONDITIONER**



In a sea of vibrant haircare bottles, Aveeno's new hair care line, "Nourish," preaches the all-too-familiar promise of repairing damaged hair. In this case, however, the shampoo gods have delivered. "Nourish" features different sets of shampoos and conditioners that are designed to hydrate and strengthen color treated, fine and normal hair. The products come in tall, cylindrical bottles that are great for cramped bathrooms

Aveeno's website, the "Wheat Complex and Anti-Oxidant Blue Lotus Flower is designed to feed your hair by replenishing moisture to protect fine, fragile hair." The shampoo is thick but easily mixes in one's hair with a light, flowery fragrance, leaving washed hair smelling clean without a distinct musk. The conditioner has a thinner consistency but takes longer than usual

or shower caddies. For a dry and fine mane like mine, Nourish + Volumize with Wheat Complex and Blue Lotus Flower is a good choice.

According to

to wash off the scalp completely. Once I dried my hair, I noticed it was smoother and straighter, and my split ends were less noticeable. The sheer scent lasted throughout the day, and even on to the next morning. After three washes, my hair was smoother and shinier than before, but the effect of the first day's wash remained the most dramatic.

This is a great product for anyone with damaged or dry hair, especially in the wintertime. Without adding extra steps, Aveeno Nourish + Volumize keeps your hair looking and feeling great throughout the day. The increased combing and primping is a small sacrifice for the product's benefits.

BY EMILY BOGLE

ALBUM | SOUNDTRACK | 61 MINS  
**GLEE: THE MUSIC  
 VOLUMES I AND II**



The director's cut of "Glee's" pilot aired last May, and by mid-September, you were hooked. With every passing week, you were in a little deeper. Now, you're a self-proclaimed Gleek and waiting for the next episode just isn't going cut it. Have no fear, "Glee: The Music" is here; but before you shell out \$12 (per disc), consider this:

With any soundtrack (or album) purchase comes a number of expectations; a high replay value, a set of tracks that can stand alone without visuals, and more than a handful of songs worth owning. Many of the tracks of "Glee: The Music" do these well while others simply don't.

The soundtrack is built upon a very strong set of performers. Lea Michele (Rachel), Matthew Morrison (Mr. Shuester) and Amber Riley (Mercedes) bring the album to life. Morrison's theater experience shines through with each verse and chorus, emitting a sense of liveliness and emotion in every line. Although he'll never win a rap-off with his versions of "Gold Digger" and "Bust A Move," Morrison's mash-up of "Don't Stand So Close To Me" and "Young Girl" is the epitome of the show's creativity and charm. Michele's "Don't Rain On My Parade" will likely ensure that her stint on "Spring Awaken-

Unfortunately, even with all that talent, the soundtrack definitely has its weaknesses.

For one, the vocal abilities of Cory Monteith (Finn Hudson) and Dianna Agron (Quinn Fabray) are nowhere near their co-stars', and the producers' choice to highlight them on certain tracks is somewhat questionable. Agron's "You Keep Me Hangin' On" is one of the weakest songs of the soundtrack, leaving the listener an "I've had better" feel, and her predominant backing vocals on "Bust A Move" is almost a distraction. As for Monteith's three solo tracks, they are entirely skippable.

Being the show's supposed male (teen) superstar, Monteith's talent is undeniably underdeveloped and weak without Michele or the rest of the cast to bail him out. (And he's featured in 14 out of the 34 releases, second only to Michele's 19!) His vocals may fit classic rock songs such as "Don't Stop Believing," but other than that, they are suited for little more than an autotuned and robotic backing vocal track. I'd rather hear more from the cast's underrated members: Jenna Ush-

ing" simply cannot be her last time on Broadway. And, the power in Riley's "And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going" will send chills down your spine.

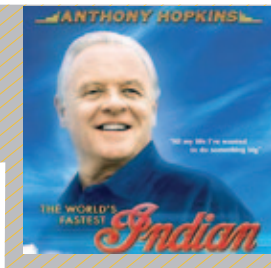
Like the show, "Glee: The Music" is sickeningly sweet yet charming, but surprisingly, one of the soundtrack's downfalls is believed to be one of the show's strengths: it's underproduced. Although the unpolished arrangements are effective when accompanied by visuals and amusing story lines, the simple and all-too-clean instrumentals don't leave much for musical depth.

And while we're on the subject of "clean," songs like "Gold Digger" undergo massive omissions. Isn't that what Disney Channel is for? This only reinforces the kiddie bop impression that resonates when combed with the co-ed choruses. (Doubtful? Just listen to "My Life Would Suck Without You.")

This soundtrack is a must-have for hardcore Gleeks who plan on collecting every track with a dedication that would put Star Wars memorabilia collectors to shame. (By the way, bonus tracks are available for download on iTunes.) For those of you with a mild appreciation, just wait for the DVD release to experience the full entertainment value; and, in the meantime, a few music downloads may suffice. Or, if you're like me, you could just wait until a family member purchases the complete soundtrack.

BY MADELEINE VILLAVICENCIO

FILM | MOTIVATIONAL | 127 MINS  
**THE WORLD'S  
 FASTEST INDIAN**



Burt Munro was 63 years old when he set the motorcycle land speed record of 205 mph with an engine less than 1000cc. Thousands of miles from his New Zealand home, Munro was in the Bonneville Salt Flats, Utah with only pennies and 41-year-old modified Indian Stout to his name.

If you just had a strong urge to call bullshit, you are far from alone. Munro's own neighbors, the workers at his shipping company, the bureaucracy of U.S. Customs and even the organizers of the Bonneville speed week all discouraged him. But somehow, through sheer determina-

Burt's warmhearted, yet stubborn and fiercely independent soul to life. Hopkins' is likely the only face you'll recognize in this film, though the acting is excellent even throughout the most minor of roles. Munro's Invercargill neighbors are even portrayed by local Kiwis, bringing authenticity to the 1960s New Zealand opening.

The film is shot beautifully. The first-person perspectives speeding down the sands and

tion and strength of character, Munro succeeds, and journey there is quite a ride.

Anthony Hopkins, sans Hannibal Lecter mask, is able to bring

across the salt flats are stunning, giving the viewer a very real sense of speed. Even during the more mundane moments in the film, the cinematography beautifully complements the themes of the film, managing to be simplistic and clean yet so full of life at the same time. While the score is nothing special; it does what it needs to do, nicely reinforcing key plot moments.

Overall, this is an inspiring story of sacrifice, adversity and overcoming obstacles. Like its subject, it is a roaring success. If you are looking to be inspired or are just hoping to find a soul to commiserate with as you trudge through winter quarter, be sure to check out "The World's Fastest Indian."

BY JAMES ARN

LAURA VEIRS | INDIE/FOLK | 38 MINS  
**JULY FLAME**



Opening for Colin Meloy, lead singer of the Decemberists, on a solo acoustic tour, I discovered Laura Veirs in high school. She had just released her sixth album, "Saltbreakers" (2007), following two recent albums, "Carbon Glacier" (2004) and "Year of Meteors" (2005).

Right away, I found it the perfect kind of music to accompany schoolwork. Something about her tunes playing in the background made it easier to focus on the task at hand, helping me get work done more efficiently than before. The indie/folk blend is easy on the ears without the

repeat but can, instead, enjoy hours of diverse tunage.

With her latest release, "July Flame" (2010), Veirs adds over a dozen new songs to her repertoire. For most of this album, she returns to her roots. Shedding both her record label and her usual ensemble, "July Flame" is self-published

overpowering instrumentals or the distinguished voices of similar artists that can be distracting. Additionally, her wide catalog means you don't have to put the album on

—like her first two works— and features only subtle accompaniment. She has wrapped all of her experience up into an original package: simple guitar and a soft voice conveying observations of the world.

As a test, I listened to the record while doing some research, editing a few photographs, and even writing this article. Like its predecessors, this album is an easy listen and very enjoyable. It stands on its own as a great addition to her music career and is certainly up for the task of the "homework" playlist. Try it free by streaming it from NPR and look for the release later in January.

"July Flame" is available on Amazon MP3 at a discounted price starting on January 12.

BY ALEX PAGLIARO

**STREAM OF FACTS:**

A study on mice found that the effects of beta amyloid plaques, the culprit of Alzheimer's disease, can be reduced by the microwave radiation exposure of cell **PHONE** use.

If you thought your blackberry **PHONE** was expensive, consider comparing it to the 20K diamond studded GoldVish 'Le Million' Piece Unique, which retails at **\$1.3 MILLION**.

Thirty-four percent of American men, with a net worth of \$20 **MILLION** or more, admit to having paid for sex in their lifetime; Twenty percent of similarly well-off **WOMEN** have done the same.

**WOMEN** living within 32.5 degrees latitude of equator are more likely to give birth to females over males, which researchers attribute to the constant **SUNLIGHT** of the region.

The amount of **SUNLIGHT** hitting the Earth's surface every second in pounds is more than the **WEIGHT** of a MacBook Air (4.3 lbs).

Research shows that a newborn's **WEIGHT** is a key indicator for that person's life success; babies born under 5.5 lbs are 15 percent more likely to drop out of high **SCHOOL**.

One hundred percent of the West Virginia public **SCHOOL** system offered "Dance Dance Revolution"

as an option in their physical **EDUCATION** classes in 2008.

An RIT **EDUCATION** in the year 1886 cost \$8 per term for students studying drawing and \$12 per term for students studying **PAINTING** and modeling.

Professional face **PAINTING** is part of the eight clown commandments of the Clowns of America International, a gathering place for serious clown performers\*\*.

*\*\*Then called Rochester Athenaeum and Mechanics Association.*

*\*\*Visit <http://coia.org> for more info.*

**REPORTER RECOMMENDS:**

WEGMAN'S ONLINE SHOPPING LISTS

You know what the worst part of grocery shopping is? Realizing you forgot the eggs when you're already halfway home. Enter curse word of the week. Wegman's website has a shopping list feature that is quite possibly the best thing to happen to the supermarket since the leg holes in the pushcart baskets. Not only does this tool organize and sort your selections in terms of food departments, but it also offers a floor layout of your selected store location to maximize shopping productivity. What's next? A Wegman's iPhone app? Check out the "Shopping" link at <http://wegmans.com> and get your produce freak on.

**WORD OF THE WEEK**

**OGRESS:**  
n. a female ogre.  
The fourth installment of the "Shrek" series, "Shrek Forever After," which features the familiar green face and his lovely \_ogress\_ voiced by Cameron Diaz, is set to release late in May.

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

**Winter Driving Hazards to Avoid**

CARTOON BY BEN RUBIN AND JAMIE DOUGLAS



Dog-Sled Bandits



Runaway Snowballs



Snow Bunny Sirens



Kamikaze Deer



Ice T



Tauntaun Riders

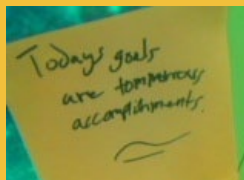
"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

**SUDOKU** Difficulty Rating: Medium

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

**OVERSEEN & OVERHEARD**

Sticky note posted on Marketplace Mall map. "Today's goals are tomorrow's accomplishments."



"Last time I sweat this much was when I saw my first boob." MALE STUDENT TO FEMALE STUDENT, STAIRWELL OF WALLACE LIBRARY

**NOW ACCEPTING YOUR TWEETS!** Send your Overseen and Overhead texts or emails with the phrase "Overseen and Overheard" in the subject line to [leisure@reportermag.com](mailto:leisure@reportermag.com). Or submit them via Twitter by directing submissions @reportermag with #OnO.

"Uh... School bus crashed. Seven kids dead. Raptors." RANDOM EDITOR IN CHIEF WITH FAKE POLICE RADIO VOICE

"I don't really remember my first wife." FACULTY MEMBER NEAR VISITOR LOT.

WHAT MONSTER ARE YOU? by Emily Bogle

Have you ever noticed that something isn't quite right with you? Have you ever felt rotten inside, but not exactly sure how much? Then this quiz is for you!

**How would people describe you?**

- a. Singing diva with a bite.
- b. Party animal that stays up all night.
- c. A big guy/gal with an eye on the prize.
- d. A true fire-breather.
- e. Rotten sense of humor.

**Where do you feel the most comfortable?**

- a. Surrounded by terracotta with partial sunlight.
- b. A good suburban sprawl outside of London by day; the woods by night.
- c. On an island with a lot of space for my work and my goats.
- d. Caves. The more stalagmites, the better.
- e. Wherever people are just standing around, like waiting rooms or cemeteries.

**How are your classes this quarter?**

- a. I try to take classes that allow me to express myself so that I can get graded for being me.
- b. I make up for my restless nights during class.
- c. I'm still having trouble with scissors, and they won't let me move up.
- d. I try to avoid classes that oftentimes involve debates because I tend to get hot-headed.
- e. The only reason I show up is to get cheap laughs by pulling pranks on the teacher and interpreter.

**You are most likely to be watching. . .**

- a. "Glee." I love when the kids belt it. I'm hoping for an agriculture related episode soon.
- b. "New Moon." It's great that the media is finally becoming more open-minded.
- c. "The Princess and the Frog." Finally, Disney has a cartoon for those challenged by depth perception, but the plot is a little tricky.
- d. Anything on SyFy. I'm really at home with the Fantasy genre.
- e. Late night HBO. Sometimes it's funny, and sometimes there are boobs. Win-win.

**What do you find yourself doing on a typical Saturday night?**

- a. Sitting at home, waiting for something warm-blooded to come my way.
- b. Typical bro stuff - Howling, shape shifting, and looking for women.
- c. Hammering away and scaring people off my property.
- d. Just flying around, burning up the pavement.

e. Playing pranks on the living, and maybe some standup.

**How do you act at parties?**

- a. I try to be the center of attention and upstage anyone who tries to outshine me.
- b. Usually, I'm fairly reserved, but I tend to go into "beast mode" at night.
- c. Despite my size, I'm a bit of a lightweight and end up trashing the place.
- d. I prefer parties outside because I can be a bit of a fire hazard indoors.
- e. I take as much as I can get for free and hit on every girl. I usually get into fights, but my wit always triumphs in the end.

**What do you look for in a companion?**

- a. Obedience, warmth and a love for show tunes.
- b. Someone willing to hold me down when I get too rough.
- c. Someone with a kind eye and isn't afraid of heights.
- d. Someone who likes a little heat but won't provoke my temper.
- e. Looks that kill, and someone who doesn't mind dirt under my fingernails, or anywhere else.

**You meet someone you're interested in. What do you do next?**

- a. Entertain them with a song and then if he/she's willing, maybe a little nibbling.
- b. Ask him/her out on a date coinciding with the next full moon.
- c. Ask him/her to step closer so I can get a better look.
- d. Barbeque a feast for him/her without starting the grill.
- e. Don a tacky suit and charm him/her with crude jokes.

**What gift would you love to receive?**

- a. A little more sun.
- b. Clothes that stretch.
- c. A monocle.
- d. Golden jewels.
- e. Attention.

**What is your biggest weakness?**

- a. I'm very sensitive to the cold and weed killer.
- b. Silver bullets. And I don't know where people keep finding them.
- c. Faulty depth perception and slow speed.
- d. Missiles and the scent of a virgin. (But who could be immune to that?)
- e. Hearing my name three times. I have to tell the ladies/fellas that twice is more than enough.

**How do you react when you get angry?**

- a. I pull out all of my diva moves. Scream, cry and threaten.
- b. I become an animal.
- c. I start smashing things.
- d. I'm definitely a hot head, and I can't seem to keep my mouth shut.
- e. Get revenge.

**What is your beauty secret?**

- a. Singing while eating keeps the tentacles young.
- b. Hours of combing and the moon's glow keeps my fur shiny.
- c. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.
- d. Minty gum to keep my breath "fiery fresh."
- e. Allowing nature and worms, to cover me when I sleep.

**RESULTS**

**Mostly As:** Audrey II from "Little Shop of Horrors"

You've got a beautiful voice and an insatiable hunger. You prefer others to do your bidding, but you're very particular about what you want. Easily jealous, you need someone that will always care for you and supply you with fresh blood

**Mostly Bs:** Werewolf

Do you tend to blackout each month? You might want to be wary around full moons because you tend to lose control, ending up with tattered clothes and bloodied hands. While some may dig your late night habits, they probably aren't too keen on the howling or mauling.

**Mostly Cs:** Cyclops

You may not be at the top of your class, but you are in tune with your feelings. Your good eye helps you see simplicity and beauty everywhere, but a little depth perception could help. Sometimes your size gets in the way; it's not easy for someone to love a person who is more than three stories tall.

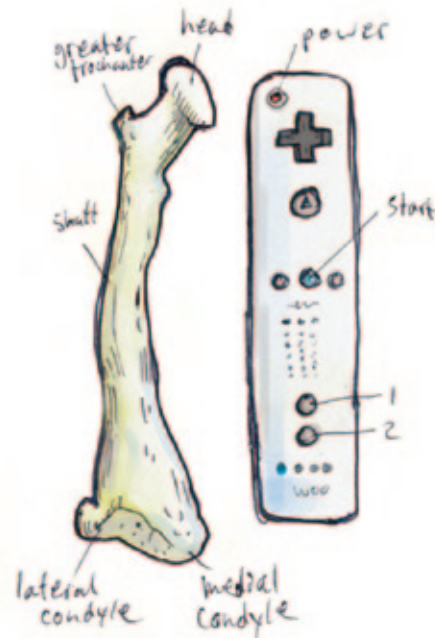
**Mostly Ds:** Dragon

Known for your short temper and fiery outbursts, you tend to want things done your way. Burning bridges, hillsides and townspeople is not the easiest way to meeting new people. Be wary of princes, because they often lead to an unhappy ending.

**Mostly Es:** Beetlejuice from "Beetlejuice"

You're used to being the center of attention, willing to do anything for a laugh from the living or the dead. Always showing off your (scaring) abilities, you make a lasting first impression. But deep down inside, past the ugly suits and crudeness, there is a sweet side dying to get out.

# Preserving VIRTUAL WORLDS



**IN THE PAST**, people took the most significant parts of their lives: photographs, jewelry or music, put them in a capsule, and buried them. Eventually, this capsule would be dug up and act as a snapshot into life 50 years ago for a new generation. In our time, however, many aspects of our culture, like pictures, news and music are all contained in the virtual world. How will this affect future generations looking back on our time and how we lived?

BY LEANNE CUSHING  
ILLUSTRATIONS BY JAMIE DOUGLAS

The Preserving Creative America program is addressing such an issue by deciding what parts of our society we want to document for future generations. By having media stored in various forms, it will ensure that the cultural content will be available to pass on to future generations. The program is a project devoted to recording and storing digital files such as motion pictures, television, news, video games and art.

With video games being such a dominant force in the daily lifestyle of students, it is no surprise that RIT's contribution to the project involves the preservation of the gaming world. By helping create the means to preserve video games, the project, known as Preserving Virtual Worlds, aims to apply it to turn dying digital formats into documented, archival evidence.

In 2007, the Digital Preservation Program of the Library of Congress created eight partnerships for part of its Preserving Creative America initiative. Along with RIT, the University of Illinois, Stanford, and the University of Maryland gathered to create a proposal for the Preserving Virtual Worlds Project. The study received one of the Preserving Creative America's Congressional grants given as a smaller part of the National Digital Information Infrastructure Preservation Program. The NDIIPP is a collective effort in the Library of Congress to develop a strategy to collect, preserve and make available digital material and documents.

"We're trying to research how you store a game, or [what to do] when you decide to make a game a part of the collection for future generations," explained Andrew Phelps, chair of the Department of Interactive Games & Media at RIT and head of RIT's portion of the study. RIT's purpose in the project is to try and develop a process for saving programmed information and video from video games to preserve them for future generations. By having this kind of data stored, future generations can see the earlier stages of video game development and determine trends in what was popular when.

"I think it's defined and understood by pretty much everyone I sit down with. They sort of get, 'oh yeah, that is a problem' and so I think that it fits with RIT's vision of being somewhat applied. It gives us a wonderful set of partners to work with," said Phelps. If video games aren't preserved, a big part of what the college-aged generation did will be lost.

Since being assigned to the research project, Phelps, along with faculty and student help, have been determining ways to save the video games details. "I'm doing a lot of the grunt work, making sure everything is able to be video captured and taking screen shots," said Eric Moreau, a Game Design graduate student. Over the summer, the team set up a series of computers that had different operating systems, which included Windows 7, Windows Vista, and even Windows XP, and tried a variety software and operating system combinations to learn which was the optimal combination to preserve old games and run them at their fullest potential.

For the video capture portion, the study featured a test pool of five games used to build tests for



matrixing out what worked for recording video and sound. To record the video being captured and store it on the computer's hard drive, the team came up with a program called "Fraps." Classics like Atari's "Star Raiders" were strung through a camcorder from the platform's line out, recorded, and then displayed on the TV so that the test team could see what they were playing. Moreau explained, "it was just a matter of editing down the video that we did capture to a point that was presentable, so you would just be getting the game."

Aside from recording gameplay, there are a number of details that the team needed to log and couldn't get straight from the game. Things like how it was played, in what atmosphere you could find the game, what system was needed to play, and the complexity of code needed to develop the games are all important topics to present to a later

generation who potentially may be seeing it for the first time.

"You pay attention to the little details like if this game was in color," Moreau said. "In the future, if an emulator was done up for this game, then you want to preserve that original feel to it."

Communication with the other universities involved with Preserving Virtual Worlds wasn't too much of a challenge. Phone conferences are scheduled, emails and Google documents are sent back and forth, updates are made to the project's Wiki, and face-to-face meetings happen when needed.

"The other university students [who] are on the project are doing a lot of library stuff and certain kinds of metadata," said Heather Arbitter, a Game Design and Development graduate student who is also working on the project. With new video games coming out every week, the process needed to store data on the whole game must be easy and consume only a small amount of time per game. "What we were trying to come up with is best practice, not a full fledged implementation. What we're exploring is what needs to be stored and how could it be coded," Phelps said.

Currently, the project is still in progress and will be wrapping up at the end of spring quarter. All of the partners on the grant are trying to get together another proposal to continue this work. The RIT team has also been communicating with the people at the Strong Museum of Play, looking into a possible partnership on their efforts of digital preservation. After the preliminary research and set up is done, RIT may help in providing support to developing the software and systems needed to record current and future video games.

"It's a nice project to be involved in, in the sense that usually we're making games in this department," said Phelps. "It's a chance to do something that could have a much larger impact on the gaming community as a whole."

By helping lay down the foundations for a system to preserve the virtual world, RIT is helping save the most addicting aspect of our culture since Willy Higinbotham, the American physicist who created one of the very first video games, "Tennis for Two." Pending on what the Library of Congress decides, RIT may continue developing a system to save virtual world media. **R**





# UNDERSTANDING YOUR MEDIA SHELF-LIFE

by Brendan Cahill | illustrations by Stu Barnes

**If** you're anything like me, you have a shelf at home stacked with all those old Disney movies you watched as a kid and they're probably all VHS tapes. Possessed by feelings of nostalgia, you dig out the dust-covered VCR stored in the basement, plug it in, and pop in a tape. But as you sit there watching, you notice that it's not the same movie you saw 10 years ago; perhaps the audio isn't as crisp or the picture is a little fuzzy.

Media of any kind, not just VHS tapes, have a shelf life. All the CDs in your collection, all the vinyl LPs in the attic, and all the VHS tapes on your shelf will one day succumb to the ravages of time unless you're careful. While nothing lasts forever, you can take measures to protect your media and ensure that it lasts as long as possible.

Not sure how to go about that? We at Reporter have done the appropriate research. Here's how you can keep your media safe for the many years to come.



## VINYL LPS

**VINYL RECORDS** have been around in their current form since 1948. They never really went out of style as audiophiles have always preferred the analog sound of a vinyl LP to the digital recordings found on CDs. In fact, 33 1/3 rpm vinyl LPs are most commonly used as music media.

The nice thing about vinyl is that, since it's simply a piece of plastic with grooves cut in it; if properly cared for, the recording can last as long as the plastic; potentially thousands of years. Here's what you can do to make sure that your records survive to see the next millennium:

- Do not touch the playing surface because the oils on your hands can damage the surface layer.
- Store records in their dust jackets when not in use.
- Always store in an upright position, not leaning to either side.
- Keep records in a controlled environment. Low humidity and a moderate temperature will keep records from warping.



## VHS TAPES

**VHS TAPES** have been in use since 1977, and already, the oldest examples are almost unusable. Videotapes use a magnetized ribbon to store their information, and as time goes on, the tapes lose their magnetism. The binder that holds the magnetic material to the plastic ribbon is worn away. This could be bad (or good) news for all those home videos your parents shot when you were growing up. Data loss is usually observable as early as 15 years after the tape was made; and after 25-30 years, they can become unwatchable.

Tips to protect your videotapes include:

- Don't expose tapes (or any magnetic media) to strong magnetic fields. This brings the risk of losing data.
- Keep tapes in a low humidity, room temperature environment to prevent excess wear.
- Keep the tapes clean and free from dust and mold.
- If data loss becomes apparent, consider having a professional transfer the data to a DVD. Home kits are available.



## OPTICAL MEDIA

**CDs, DVDs AND BLU-RAY** discs are "optical media." These are very versatile and can be used for a variety of uses: audio, video, video games, data storage and backup, and so on. The surface of the disc is read by a laser. As such, surface scratches can make serious damages. A significant drawback of using optical media is their relative newness. CDs can wear out after as few as 20 or 30 years, but can last as long as the plastic they're made of. Still, it's better to be safe than sorry. These tips can keep your discs as good as new:

- As with records and VHS tapes, keep optical discs in a controlled environment. This keeps the plastic from warping, rendering the disc unreadable.
- Avoid touching the surface of the disc. The oil on your fingers can etch the plastic.
- Buy quality discs. Low quality discs have been known to come apart where their layers are joined together.
- Be careful when writing on discs with markers. Some markers will bleed through the top layer of the disc, altering the way the laser light reflects off it. Consider investing in non-toxic or non-abrasive markers such as TDK's disk safe markers.
- Glue can also have the same corroding effects as markers; therefore, use caution when applying homemade disk covers.



## MAGNETIC HARD DRIVES

**HARD DRIVES** are ubiquitous today. You have one in your computer, and you might have one or two more on your desk for data storage or backup. On the RIT campus, there are tens of thousands of these devices storing vast amounts of data. Hard drive capacity is constantly growing, but that only means that more can be lost if one breaks. To make sure that your hard drives last, following the instructions below:

- Hard disc drives use magnetic discs to store information. Keep strong magnets away from your them or risk data loss.
- The discs inside a hard drive spin very fast. They are read by an arm that hovers just above the surface of the disc. Dropping a hard drive while it is running can cause this arm to gouge the surface of the disc, making it useless.
- Make sure your hard drive has stopped running and locked before moving your machine. (Consult your users manual to know when this state has been achieved.)
- Always back media up!



Through all of this, it's important to remember that there is no "best" format of media; what you should use and how you should protect it from harm depends on a variety of factors. These factors include: what you're doing with your media, how much information needs to be stored, and how much you are willing to spend. As long as you follow these tips, you can ensure that those videos of your fourth grade piano recital will be preserved for posterity.

# BYO3B: Bring Your Own Broom

by Rachel Hart | photographs by Trevor Reid



One cold winter morning after a trip to the Corner Store, I walked out of Nathaniel Rochester Hall with my roommate only to be greeted by a sight I never could have imagined. On a makeshift field, numerous students hopped around with brooms between their legs throwing dodge balls at each other. Questioning my own sanity seemed like the logical thing to do, but one thing was for sure: it was definitely more appealing than going back to my homework. As I approached the field eating my peanut butter cup Christmas tree, the odd scene fell into a reality affirming focus, they were playing Quidditch.

"[It's] one of those things you just have to see to believe," describes third year Computer Science major Mark Oswald. Oswald is one of the three founders of the Quidditch club now forming at RIT. For all you *muggles* (non-wizard folk) out there, Quidditch is a sport played by the characters of JK Rowling's bestselling "Harry Potter" book series, and now, dedicated fans are using their imaginations to bring fantasy into reality.

## Wizard Quidditch

The rules of Quidditch are fairly simple; picture a combination of rugby, lacrosse, basketball, soccer, baseball, and well, mysticism. In the novels, the game is played completely in the air with players riding on flying broomsticks. Each team consists of seven players: One keeper, three chasers, two beaters, and a seeker.

Chasers toss around a red ball called a *quaffle*, trying to shoot it into one of the three

elevated goalposts on their opponents side. The goalkeepers guard these goals to prevent the opposing team from scoring. For each quaffle that passes through the goal, the scoring team is awarded 10 points.

The beaters use special bats to intervene *bludgers*, black homing balls enchanted to distract a player by any means necessary – including severe injury. It is a beater's job to defend their teammates from the bludgers and, ideally, aim them toward the direction



Pennsylvania's Middlebury College have already solved this dilemma. Coinciding with the release of "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" in 2005, Middlebury students founded a mock team and adapted the rules so that muggles could play. Their success helped them create an Intercollegiate Quidditch Association. Based on Middlebury's rules, a guide book for aspiring Quidditch teams at other schools was created. With this guidebook, Mark Oswald, Todd Thieu and Eric Madar have brought a little bit of magic to the RIT campus.

The changes to the rules are simple and clever. Although flying brooms are a physical impossibility as far as we know, riding brooms while running is possible. It may look silly, but wizards don't care about that; so players run about the field with a broom between their legs.

All the positions maintain their duties and responsibilities, but there is a change in equipment. The

of their opponents.

Finally, we have arguably the most important position, the seeker. The seeker's only job is to catch the golden snitch, a small gold winged ball enchanted to avoid capture. Once a seeker catches the snitch, their team is awarded 150 points, and the game is over. As you can probably imagine, the team that catches the snitch often wins the match.

## "Muggle-ing" It Down

After reading this description, one may question how RIT students can even play. Students at

quaffle is a slightly deflated volleyball that can be thrown or kicked through the goals. The quaffle is slightly deflated because Quidditch becomes a one-handed game as each player must be holding his or her broom up at all times. Beaters throw dodge balls instead of bludgers to distract the opposing team members.

The major difference is with the seeker position. In the muggle version, the snitch is no longer an actual ball, but a person. The "snitch runner" wears all yellow and tucks a long yellow sock into the back of his or her shorts. The snitch is "released" before the match and



is allowed to run away from the pitch to hide somewhere on campus. When the match begins, the seekers leave the pitch and start their quest for the snitch. Since the person who plays the snitch must be constantly running all over campus, the guide recommends that former cross-country runners or skiers fill this position. Other than this requirement, the snitch must be a neutral player who should trick and torture each team's seeker equally. Once the snitch is caught, the players at the field are informed, gameplay is ended, and scores are tallied up.

## SG Recognition

The first RIT Quidditch match coincided with the World Cup between the first and second

week of fall quarter. Since then, the founders have been trying to help their club build some momentum. Eventually, they would like to get enough interest to become a Student Government sanctioned club.

At the moment, there is no set timeline for when the club will apply for SG status. "As long as it takes," said Oswald. Beyond getting SG recognition, the founders of RIT's Quidditch club hope compete against other schools, and maybe someday, founding school Middlebury, a team with skill proportional to Gryffindor itself.

Oswald's excitement about the growth of the club is obvious. As a former soccer forward, Oswald prefers the chaser position. "I like to score goals," he says. For those interested in

muggle Quidditch, Oswald has three criteria: first, you should be a die-hard Harry Potter fan; second, you should like team-oriented sports; and third, you should like spending time with friends – unless you align yourself with Slytherin. If that's the case, then you suck.

If you are interested in joining RIT Quidditch, you can join the Facebook group, "Muggle Quidditch at RIT," or email [ritquidditch@gmail.com](mailto:ritquidditch@gmail.com) for more information. To see the team in action, check out their Youtube video at <http://reportermag.com>. During the winter, the team will be playing every Sunday afternoon in Gordon Field House. If you do go, don't forget to bring your own broom. **R**



## THIS WEEK IN ATHLETICS

compiled by Sam McCord | photographs by Chris Langer



The **RIT Wrestling Team (0-4)** will have a busy schedule in the upcoming week. They will be traveling to Pennsylvania for the Bud Whitehill Duals taking place at 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 15. If you don't have a car or a time machine, then don't panic; you'll have another chance to see them tomorrow. These events will likely continue all day, so you've got plenty of time. On January 19, they will travel to SUNY Morrisville.

The puck drops at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 15 for both **Men's (9-8-1) and Women's (7-1-2) Hockey**. The men will travel to University of Connecticut to face the Huskies, while the women stay home to battle SUNY Oswego. Tomorrow, the Tigers will challenge the same teams for a second time. These games mark the beginning

of many Eastern College Athletic Conference games to come.

The **Men's and Women's Track** teams should expect more solid performances at the RIT Invitational Saturday, Jan. 16 at 10 a.m. Exposing yourself to furious athletic activity is a good way to shake yourself out of a mean daze, so hustle down to the Gordon Field House. At least it's indoors.

The Judson Pool is hosting SUNY Geneseo and New Paltz on January 16 at 1 p.m. Take this opportunity to come out and watch the closest thing to Michael Phelps on this campus – ladies. Men's (4-2) and Women's (3-3) won't swim again until next weekend.

**Men's (3-6) and Women's (5-4) Basketball** will be playing in Rochester on January 15 and 16. (At the time of writing, no location was officially announced.)



## THE NEW YEAR AWAY FROM HOME

by Sam McCord | photographs by Chris Langer

As of this issue, there hasn't been nearly enough home games to serve the entertainment needs of all you sports-hungry fans at RIT, and I know there are a lot of you.

### MEN'S HOCKEY

It must've been a rude awakening for Men's Hockey as they played back to back games on the January 1 and 2 against Minnesota State. The Tigers were a little off their game in the beginning of the New Year, having lost both games by a margin of at least three goals. Going 6-1 on the first night of play, fourth year Packaging Science major Stevan Matic was the only contributor, scoring his third goal of the season with 13:19 left in the game.

The next night's game was a shut out by Minnesota State, scoring three goals while preventing the Tigers from making any significant offensive advancements. This was their first shutout in 42 games, the last one being on December 5, 2008. First year Business Management major and goaltender, Shane Madolora couldn't have minded too much; he was challenged and performed brilliantly under the pressure, making a mind-blowing 33 saves.

Despite this, it's time for Men's Hockey to shake these losses because January 2's game marked the end of non-Atlantic Hockey Conference play, which started back up on the 8th against Holy Cross.

### MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Men's and Women's Basketball both traveled to Nazareth on January 5. For the Lady Tigers, the battle began at 6 p.m. RIT had a solid lead for most of the game, making sporadic scoring runs and occasionally creating a comfortable distance. The Lady Tigers' offense was intimidating, consistently wearing down the Nazareth players to the point of futility. RIT dominated the boards and shot well for the entire game, putting the opponent in their place for the first time since the 2007-2008 season. The final score was 72-60, and the win marked the end of the Tiger Tip-Off Tournament that started their season. The Lady Tigers will start competing in the

Wendy's College Classic on the January 12.

Sadly, Men's Basketball wasn't quite as fortunate, losing 58-76 to an intense and unstoppable Golden Flyer offense. RIT tried and failed to match Nazareth's hurried scoring pace. Just like Hockey's Madolora, second year Engineering major Brendan Harder managed to thrive in the face of adversity, sinking a career-high 26 points and pulling down 18 rebounds. He was on fire for the majority of the second half, dropping 14 of his 26 when the game started getting clutch.

Up until the beginning of the second half, the game was pretty one-sided; that's when RIT went on an optimistic scoring run. It didn't last too long, but RIT kept trying to hack away Nazareth's lead until the clock struck zero. The 88-76 loss marked the end of the Harold J. Brodie Tournament, and the Wendy's College Classic started on the 13th in Rochester.

### MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Men's and Women's Swimming both cleaned house at SUNY Brockport, each improving their record to 4-2 and 3-3 respectively. Men's Swimming may have actually mopped the floor, scoring an impressive 165 to a paltry Golden Eagle 65. Events taken by RIT include the 200-yard medley, the 1,000, 200, 500, 50, and 100 yard freestyle, 200 yard individual medley, and 200 yard breaststroke. Not too shabby.

Each Tiger shattered their opponents with exhilarating times in each run. The Men's swim team has a few good seasons to look forward to, as most of the breadwinners are underclassmen. Home games at the Judson Pool resume on the January 16, racing teams like SUNY Geneseo and New Paltz. The Tigers are only halfway through their season, so there will be plenty of opportunities to watch these guys swim.

Women's Swimming had a similarly successful day, taking down the Golden Eagles by a margin of 50 points (143-93). Races won by the Lady Tigers include the 200 yard medley, 200 yard butterfly, 100, 200, 500, and 50 yard freestyle. The Women's Hockey team shares similar roster experience ranges as the Men's; therefore, there is still plenty of room for this clearly talented group of young athletes to develop with RIT.

Fourth year Finance major Caitlyn Burr raised pulses when she broke the pool record for 200 yard backstroke with a time of 2:13:28. If this performance was any indication, the Tigers are just starting to gain momentum, and hopefully, they can use it to their advantage when they return home.

The New Year was a mixed bag in terms of athletic performance, but a fresh start with new resolutions could benefit a few of these teams. A few upcoming contests on more familiar turf could chalk up some easy wins for these hungry RIT teams. **R**

*Mike Janda, #23, greets admiring young fans after winning against Holy Cross Crusaders, 5-2 RIT win on January 8.*



*Scott Knowles, #3, fights for the puck against Kyle Atkins, #5 of the Holy Cross Crusaders.*



*RIT's Sean Murphy, #17, chases after Brendan Baker, #2 of the Holy Cross Crusaders during the January 9 game at RIT vs. Holy Cross.*



# RIT STUDENTS COMPETE IN COLLEGIATE SKYDIVING COMPETITION

by Laura Mandanas  
illustration by Joanna Eberts and Stu Barnes



Some 13,000 feet up, RIT students Dan Schiermeyer and Chris Schuster were barely visible from the ground below. To the casual onlooker, that tiny black dot in the sky would seem entirely unremarkable. In fact, what was happening was anything but that. Schiermeyer and Schuster had just jumped from a plane... on purpose. Now hurtling toward the earth at 120 mph, they scrambled to grab their teammates and move their bodies in a series of formations before their time ran out.

The date was Saturday, January 2, 2010, and it was the fifth and final day of the 2009 United States Parachute Association National Collegiate Parachuting Championships at Skydive Spaceland in Rosharon, Texas. Joining the two second year and third year Manufacturing Engineering Technology majors were University of Connecticut students Cameron Haley, Kalen Lommen, Aaron Cederberg, and Nich Jarlsberg. Together they formed team "Tailgate Approved" and competed in the six-way speed skydiving event.

Six-way speed is a team event wherein six people jump at the same time and combine midair to make a variety of formations as they fall. Though teams are given a list of possible formations ahead of time, they are not told exactly what is required of them until they arrived at the competition. Though this was their first time competing, Schiermeyer and Schuster took it all in stride.

"The first formation was a big round. It's just a big circle where you all link up," explained Schiermeyer. "The second one was called a snowflake,

where it's a round of three people and then the other three people are grabbing onto the back of the three people in the middle. And then the other one was called the dog bone, which is two people side by side and the other people circle around the outside so it kind of looks like a dog bone." Because it is so difficult to see what is going on from the ground, a videographer jumps behind each team and records their performance. This footage is what the judges review.

In the end, the RIT/UConn team placed 10 out of 11. Regardless, Schiermeyer and Schuster were both happy with their score; many of the teams that they were competing against came from military academies with extensive practice every day. "Considering having no practice together we had only two [practice] jumps down there it wasn't bad," said Schiermeyer. He also competed in individual events in the competition, placing 13 out of 17 in individual sport accuracy and 7 out of 11 in two-way vertical free fly.

Schiermeyer began skydiving on the encouragement of his father, who would always hear through his pilot's headset that jumpers were being dropped. After they went to check it out,



Schiermeyer did his first tandem jump in the summer of 2007. The next summer, he went on to take classes and get his skydiving license. He now has 231 jumps under his belt and holds a B license in Accelerated Free Fall.

Schuster got his license the same summer as Schiermeyer and currently has 81 jumps under his belt. "I actually didn't tell my mom until after I came down from my first jump," admitted Schuster. "She's slowly kind of warmed up to it. It's more like the, 'don't tell me about it, I don't want to hear what you're doing, 'cause you're scaring me.'"

"When you tell people you skydive, they either say 'you're crazy' or 'I want to do it.' It's either one of the two," said Schuster with a laugh. Despite all the interest, startup costs can be quite prohibitive for many college students. Schuster estimates that it costs around \$2,000 to get an AFF license; after that, it is \$25 for a jump at an altitude of 13,500. This buys about a minute of free fall before parachutes are deployed.

"I know it's expensive, but it's worth it," said Schuster. As long as money holds out, he has no plans of stopping. "I'll keep skydiving indefinitely."

Schiermeyer agreed. "Til I can't jump anymore."

The two hope to return to the competition next year with a full team of RIT students.

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**SCREENING AT 3:45PM**



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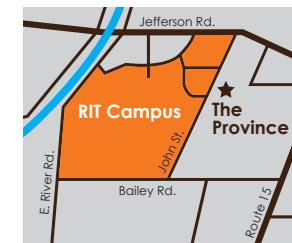
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# RETROGRADE GAMING: CAN IT WORK TODAY?

by Stephen Lejedal | images by Ron White & Evan Anthony



As the onset of both a New Year and decade passes us by, most gamers can easily agree that the past 10 years have brought about some of the most revolutionary, memorable and outright brilliant moments that the gaming industry has ever seen. From the birth of true online gaming via the onset of broadband internet, to the joys of experiencing nearly two whole console life spans, to the debuts of groundbreaking and hugely anticipated games such as “Half-Life 2,” the entire “Halo” trilogy, and “Grand Theft Auto,” today’s gamers should truly be proud of all that has transpired from 2000 to the final moments of 2009.

Unfortunately, the industry is starting to show signs of stagnation. Today’s developers are somewhat hesitant amongst the excellence, especially in the last few years of this decade. Part of the problem is creativity; for example, the developers of almost any shooter title felt that the need to outfit their protagonists with one or more traits from the “staid, badass space marine” school of now-overused character design all in the hope of capturing a fraction of the profit potential of heroes like “Master Chief.”

Other times, mere profitability is to blame, especially with developers like EA and Activision churning out sequel after sequel year after year for series such as “Madden,” “Need for Speed,” “Guitar Hero,” “Call of Duty,” and “Tony Hawk.” The result usually runs said franchises into the ground. As a small but still unwelcome side effect of this, game makers now feel the need to clutter both store shelves and living rooms by bundling their games with expensive plastic peripherals that serve a very limited purpose. Since Activision is now guaranteed to release around three games that include the word “Hero” and some sort of faux instrument every single year, one can likely see, in hindsight, how detestable this practice truly is.

These factors are exactly why more video game companies should give some serious thought towards making games that pay homage to their earliest works instead of creating derivatives of their existing product portfolio. New sources of inspiration and creativity can be found in examining the grassroots of the culture and interpreting them to new and interesting means. After

all, didn’t older gamers who are likely today’s developers spend most of their childhood raised by the likes of the Nintendo Entertainment System and the Sega Genesis?

Imagine the nostalgic value of being able to play modern interpretations of favorite classics. Additionally, younger gamers would be interested in playing the products that helped their hobby develop into what it is today. Theoretically, any developer who started making classically-inspired, but original games would find profit from both kinds of gamers; thus, everybody wins.

One example of modern developers taking steps in the right direction is with the “New Super Mario Bros” (Nintendo, 2006). In essence, this was a straight-up re-imagination of the 1985 classic that singlehandedly saved and changed the gaming industry while retaining the same iconic 2D platforming structure. The release came with a graphics upgrade, several new suits and power-ups for characters to try, and, as is expected from Nintendo nowadays, mini-games. The game holds an 89 percent review score on Metacritic, and is currently the second-best selling DS game of all time. Not only does this popular re-hash cause an incidental archival of media, preserving the franchise in the process, but it also ensures that this favorite transcends generations and media.

On the other hand, not everyone can hit this same mark. Here are some examples of nostalgic fail, and here I mean the literal Latin translation of nostalgia: “pain from an old wound.” Bionic Commando (Capcom, 2009) was intended to be a 3D revival of the 2D once-obscure, but appreciated series. It involved soldiers with bionic grappling hooks for arms saving the world.

While not outright terrible – proven by its 70 percent grade on Metacritic it had terribly linear gameplay, a script full of unnecessary F-bombs, and an absolutely idiotic plot twist. It sold so poorly that its developer, GRIN, had

Ron White is a fourth year New Media Design Major and currently has a sample of his body work posted on newgrounds.com. Ron was kind enough to allow us use of the main character in his “Black Nights” series. Thanks Ron!



to declare bankruptcy this past year. The developers took too many liberties with the original franchise, thus eliminating even the faintest interest. When it came down to it, it bore no resemblance to its ancestor.

All in all, the consensus one can take from these examples is that, while companies in the gaming industry have the right to remake the classics, they need to do so sparingly and in moderation in order to preserve itself while maintaining some creative credibility. ■



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### WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE VIDEO GAME CHARACTER?

photographs by Aly Artusio-Glimpse



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Tiffany Heyd  
Fourth Year  
Mechanical Engineering



**TOAD**  
Ashlie Formicela  
Second Year  
Civil Engineering Tech



**CHUN LI**      **MARIO**  
Mildred Camilo      Yasser Hernandez  
Third Year      Fourth Year  
Mathematics      Computer Science



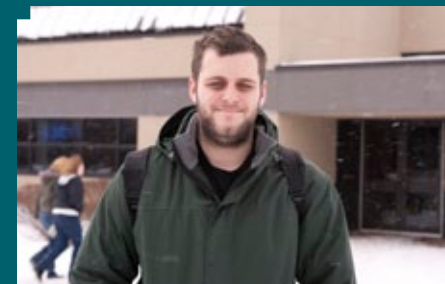
**SOLID SNAKE**  
Billy Byrene  
Prospective Student  
Information Technology



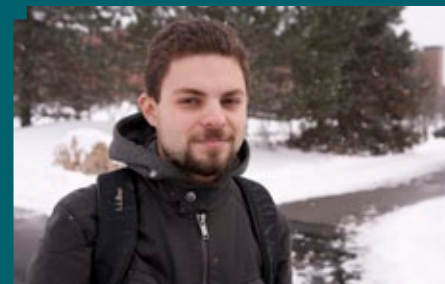
**LAURA CROFT**  
Brian Dominiak  
Fourth Year  
Mechanical Engineering



**BANJO & KAZOOIE**  
Neil Bloem  
Fourth Year  
Visual Media



**DAXTER**  
Charles Negrelli  
First Year  
Chemical Engineering



**SONIC**  
Lenard Levy  
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Mechanical Engineering Tech.



**ROBO 2001 (DDR)**  
Tegan Schuh  
First Year Grad  
Applied Statistics

# RIT RINGS

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UR TXT MSG!

# 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.

TUESDAY, 9:55 A.M.

CAN DESTLER TURN OFF THE SNOW MACHINE NOW? WE GET THE POINT.

from text

SATURDAY, 6:57 P.M.

HEY RINGS, THERE'S THIS ONE BUS DRIVER ON THE PERKINS ROUTE WHO ALWAYS STOPS THE BUS FOR FIVE MINUTES TO TALK ABOUT HER FEELINGS. I MEAN SERIOUSLY, SOMETIMES I'LL BE RUNNING LATE FOR CLASS! THIS ISN'T DR. PHIL- JUST DRIVE THE BUS [MS. FRIZZLE]!

from voicemail

MONDAY 6:47 P.M.

PEOPLE MUST BE VERY COMMITTED TO KILLING THEMSELVES TO HAVE NO GLOVES ON AND TO DO ALL THEY CAN TO KEP THEIR [DARN] CIGARETTE LIT!

from text

TUESDAY, 8:55 P.M.

I WENT TO PAY FOR MY FOOD TODAY AT THE MALL AND PULLED OUT MY STUDENT ID TO USE TIGER BUCKS. WHAT THE [CRAPOLA]? RIT HAS BRAINWASHED ME!

from text

THURSDAY, 7:43 P.M.

DEAR RINGS, I'D LIKE TO ADMIT, WHEN A HOT GIRL GETS ON THE ELEVATOR WITH ME, I ALWAYS PRETEND TO ANSWER MY PHONE SO SHE KNOWS I'M NOT DEAF AND SHE'LL TALK TO ME.

from text

TUESDAY, 12:39 A.M.

SOMEONE IN THE HALL JUST YELLED "DID YOU KNOW THERE'S SNOW OUTSIDE!" WE YELLED BACK, "WATCH OUT FOR DARWINISM!"

from text

FRIDAY, 6:48 P.M.

SANTA SHOULD COME TO GRACIE'S TO FATTEN UP FOR CHRISTMAS.

from text

WEDNESDAY 4:08 P.M.

MY FAMILY HAS BEEN TALKING ABOUT THE DAMN BALLOON BOY FOR A STRAIGHT HALF HOUR AND HOW HIS LIFE IT RUINED BECAUSE OF IT ALL. CAN I COME BACK TO RIT NOW?

from text

FRIDAY, 12:53 A.M.

DEAR RINGS, LAST NIGHT I DREAMT I WAS PEEING ON THE FLOOR. . . WOKE UP THIS MORNING, AND I HAD PEEED ON MY FLOOR. FML.

from voicemail

MONDAY 6:11 P.M.

FREEZING MY [HORSE'S BEHIND] OFF HERE. . . WHERE THE [GLACIER] IS THIS GLOBAL WARMING I WAS PROMISED?

from text

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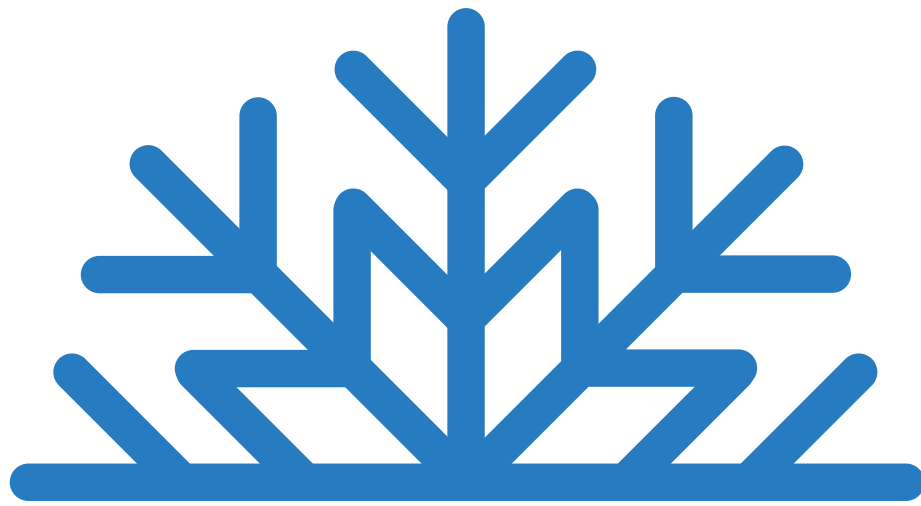
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