

# REPORTER

01.21.11 [reportermag.com](http://reportermag.com)

## HELPING THEIR HANDLERS

Engineering student Elizabeth Khol trains service dogs.

## CLIMBING AND PARTYING ALL NIGHT LONG

A rave takes over the Red Barn.

## WORD ON THE STREET

If you were an animal, what would you be?



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### CHALLENGES

I used to carry an extra long ethernet cable everywhere I went. The year was 2008, and I couldn't even get a decent WiFi connection while working my shift in the Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences Dean's Office. Back then, students living in the apartments had to purchase their own wireless routers, and the WiFi stability on the academic side of campus changed almost as often as I changed my clothes. Today, that blue 15-foot tangled mess is stuffed in a drawer somewhere, and Cisco wireless access points provide reliable connections throughout the entire campus. This is one direct outcome of 2009's RIT Dorm Challenge.

In January of 2009, 19 administrators faced the challenges of late bedtimes and midnight fire alarms. And as a result of their three-day, two-night "getaway," these school officials gained insight on potential improvements for RIT, namely Gracie's menu, overcrowded rooms, cramped lounge sizes, inconvenient bus routes and poor internet connectivity. Most of these issues have been addressed since then. The completion of Global Village has lessened overpopulation in the residence halls. Designated shuttles for each apartment complex have replaced the single bus route that looped around the entire campus. Gracie's, however, continues to deliver the same old meals.

Honestly, only one of those fixes still applies to me today. I don't take the shuttle. I no longer eat at Gracie's. And, I spend most of my free time hanging out in the Reporter office. I still have problems connecting to the RIT network from time to time, but in true RIT fashion, I have moved on to complaining about other things. Someone must have caught on because SG issued another challenge to our beloved school officials. This time, it will focus on on- and off-campus housing for upperclassmen.

The Real RIT Challenge may have begun as a gimmick, but I think it has the potential to become a real RIT tradition. What makes the challenge more successful than things like orange dye and viral videos? Not only is the idea of throwing a group of adults in with a bunch of college kids greatly entertaining, but it also shows you how committed to the development of the university the members of the RIT community are. More importantly, the challenge brings everyone together to identify problem areas and come up with specific and measurable goals that will make RIT a better place. After all, you can't hit a target if you don't know what exactly you're aiming for.

*Madeleine Villavicencio*

Madeleine Villavicencio  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

## TABLE OF CONTENTS 01.21.11 | VOLUME 60 | ISSUE 17

### NEWS

#### 4. News Desk

RIT Professor may run for mayor. Triangle national charter removed. Two more students dead.

### LEISURE

#### 7. At Your Leisure

When maple syrup doesn't agree with you.

### FEATURES

#### 8. Helping their Handlers

Engineering student Elizabeth Khol trains service dogs.

### SPORTS

#### 11. Climbing and Partying All Night Long

A rave takes over the Red Barn.

### VIEWS

#### 13. Word on the Street

If you were an animal, what would you be?

#### 15. Rings

Taking on taxidermy.

cover by Griffin Moore

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## BEYOND THE BRICKS

compiled by Christina Belisle

### CES SHOWCASES NEW ELECTRONICS

Over 2,700 technology companies scrambled for attention at the the 2011 Consumer Electronics Show (CES), which took place in Las Vegas, Nev. between Jan. 6 and 9. The trade show is produced by the Consumer Electronics Association, and vendors exhibited everything from cars to paper shredders in hopes of becoming the next big thing in consumer technology.

Apple launched its Mac App Store, which provides a single source for purchasing and downloading applications for Apple computers. Companies including Samsung and Sony presented television sets featuring direct connections to online content providers such as Hulu Plus and Netflix. Polaroid unveiled a product line that was designed in collaboration with pop superstar Lady Gaga. Polaroid's new products include a ZINK (zero-ink) mobile printer, a digital remake of their classic wedge-shaped instant camera, and a large pair of glasses that have an integrated camera and LCD display.

### CONGRESSWOMAN, OTHERS SHOT IN ARIZONA

A gunman shocked the nation on Jan. 8 when he opened fire outside of a Safeway grocery store in Tucson, Ariz. during a "Congress on Your Corner" event. Thirteen were injured, and six were killed, including U.S. District Judge John M. Roll and a nine-year-old girl born on Sept. 11, 2001. Among the injured was U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords, who was shot in the head. Jared Lee Loughner has been charged with the shootings.

Early reports said Giffords had died, but at the time of writing, she is currently able to open her eyes and move on command. The congresswoman's condition is said to be improving.

Public defender Judy Clarke was appointed to represent Loughner in his trial. Loughner is charged with a count of attempted assassination of a member of Congress, two counts of killing a federal employee, and two counts of attempting to kill a federal employee. Clarke is well-known among defense attorneys for keeping the Unabomber and the 1996 Atlanta Olympics bomber from receiving the death penalty.

### RIT PROFESSOR CONSIDERING MAYORAL RUN

William A. Johnson, Jr., a distinguished professor of public policy at RIT, revealed his plans of running for Rochester mayor once again. Johnson, who served three terms as Rochester mayor from 1993 to 2005, stated that his candidacy would depend on whether Thomas Richards, acting mayor, remains unopposed in next month's special election.

Due to City Council's decision to hold a special election, there will be no time for primaries and very little time to establish a credible challenge to replace the former mayor, Lieutenant Governor Robert Duffy. Johnson says that holding a special election is an "affront to democracy" and would essentially be handing Richards the position.

### VERIZON WILL CARRY THE IPHONE

On Jan.11, Verizon Wireless announced that it will start carrying the Apple iPhone 4 on Feb. 10. The phones will only work on the Verizon network and will not have high-speed 4G LTE access. Due to the difference between the technology used in Verizon and AT&T phones, Verizon's iPhone 4 antenna had to be redesigned. As a result, the volume and mute controls are located slightly lower. The Verizon iPhone will be able to act as a mobile Wi-Fi hotspot for up to five devices; AT&T iPhones may eventually have this capability with a software update, if AT&T decides to allow it.

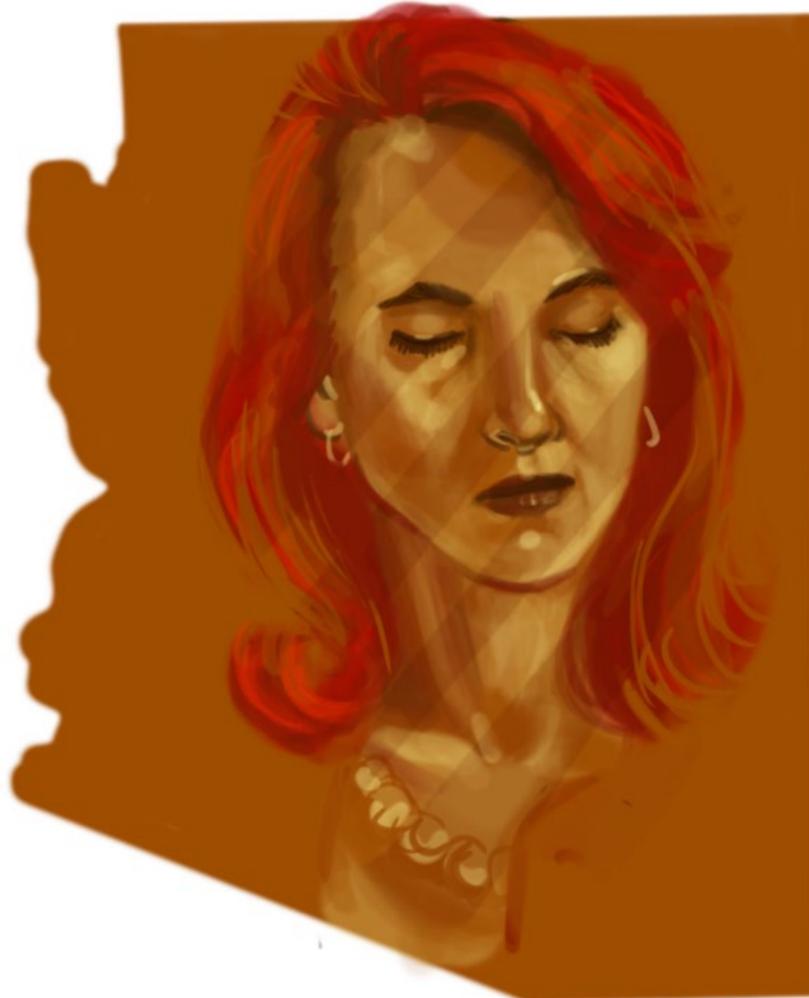


illustration by Joanna Eberts

### ENGINEERING DEAN DENOUNCES HARASSMENT

by Christina Belisle

On Jan. 6, Harvey Palmer, dean of Kate Gleason College of Engineering (KGCOE), sent an e-mail to the students, staff and faculty of the college to address an incident of "inappropriate and harassing language" directed at a female student.

The incident has been investigated and referred to Student Conduct.

Palmer said this is about disrespect. "It's all about people being disrespectful to one another," he said. Palmer explained that students are changing from adolescents into young professionals, and they need to learn how to respect each other while in college.

Jodi Carville, program manager for WE@RIT, said by e-mail, that she was unaware of any incidents of sexual harassment. WE@RIT is a KGCOE organization that aims to increase the representation of women in the engineering field through outreach and community building. Julie Olney, a former program manager for WE@RIT, indicated that she was also unaware of any incidents.

There was some confusion when the e-mail initially did not reach students of the Chemical or Biomedical Engineering programs. The omission occurred because those students were not listed as members of KGCOE in the Information & Technology Services mailing list. They have since been added and received the e-mail.

Palmer believes people of all types should respect and support each other in the engineering community. "We want to set the standard," he said. The purpose of the e-mail was to give students the power to speak up when harassment occurs. "Even if this is a single incident, we should call these people out," he said.

### TWO STUDENTS PASS AWAY

by Chris Zubak-Skees

Paul J. Haase, a fourth year Applied Arts and Sciences major, and Ryan P. Phillips, a fifth year Computer Science major, died one week apart.

Haase, 51, from Rensselaer, N.Y. was a reliability specialist with Sabic Innovative Plastics in Selkirk, N.Y., according to an obituary published in the Albany Times-Union. He was a husband and a father to three daughters. He died at home on Saturday, Jan. 1, after a brief illness.

Phillips, 21, from Vineland, N.J. was on co-op as a software engineer at Thomson Reuters in Rochester. He was a member of Computer Science House and a friend to many. He died Sunday, Jan. 9, after going home to New Jersey. 

Read more about Phillips at <http://reportermag.com>. Learn more about Haase in next week's issue.

### VICTORY FLEETING FOR TRIANGLE

by Jacqueline Connor

Triangle Fraternity's RIT chapter celebrated a successful appeal reversing their suspension on Dec. 8, but that celebration would turn out to be short-lived. "We're back!" said Nate Polselli, a Triangle member, in a comment on the *Reporter* website. The tribulations of the fraternity appeared to be over.

Then on Jan. 3, the National Council of Triangle Fraternity suspended the RIT chapter, citing risk management violations — a broad category in the fraternity's bylaws that covers everything from buying alcohol with fraternity funds to neglecting housing fire codes.

Jessica Berner, assistant director for Campus Life and Fraternity & Sorority Life, said in an e-mail that RIT removed the organization's recognition. As a result, any group under the name of that fraternity cannot apply for Institute funds.

The former members of Triangle are no longer considered active members of the organization. They are now considered alumni.

### CORRECTION

A photo caption in the Jan. 14 issue's "Table of Contents" page incorrectly attributed an effort to create a viral video for FreezeFest to Student Government. Karey Pine, director of the Center for Campus Life, asked an unaffiliated group of three students to organize the video: Tracey O'Dowd, a third year Hospitality and Service Management major; Victor Santiago, a third year Graphic Design major; and Mark Leonardo, a third year Packaging major. Another student, Tony Mitton, a third year New Media Design and Imaging major, filmed the video.

### FORECAST

compiled by Michelle Spoto

#### 21 FRIDAY

*Liberal Arts Minor & Concentration Fair*  
CLK. 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. The fair features faculty representatives for over 40 minors and concentrations from the College of Liberal Arts. Advisors will be on hand to assist students in declaring a minor or concentration. Don't miss out on the food, raffles and more. Cost: Free.

#### 22 SATURDAY

*Ice Disco*  
RIA. 10:15 p.m. - 12 a.m. Head down to the ice arena for a fun night of ice skating, disco hits and embarrassing moments. Hosted by the College Activities Board, this blast from the past is sure to amuse. Cost: \$2.

#### 23 SUNDAY

*Turning Point Park Hike*  
Turning Point Park, 260 Boxart St. 1 p.m. Join the Genesee Valley Hiking Club for a moderate 5- to 6-mile hike in this scenic park. Cost: Using your leg muscles.

#### 24 MONDAY

*"Reflections on Simplicity"*  
Genesee Center for the Arts, 713 Monroe Ave. 9 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. "Reflections on Simplicity" is an exhibit that features the work of several local artists and their photographic interpretation of what "simple" means. Cost: Free.

#### 25 TUESDAY

*Little Theater College Night*  
The Little Theater, 240 East Ave. Head down to The Little Theater for their first college night. Live music, discounted alcohol and movies await. Cost: \$5 for students, \$8 for everyone else.

#### 26 WEDNESDAY

*Women's Swimming and Diving vs. William Smith*  
GOR. 7 - 9 p.m. Cheer on the women's swimming and diving team as they compete against William Smith College. Cost: Free.

#### 27 THURSDAY

*"Profiles in Glass"*  
Renaissance Art Gallery, 74 St. Paul St. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Wonder at the amazing glasswork creations of local artists Leon Applebaum and Peter Secrest. Cost: Free.

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\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ BE WITH YOU.”

## AT YOUR LEISURE 01.21.11

by James Arn

### QUOTE

“Never forget me, because if I thought you would, I'd never leave.”

-A.A. Milne

### WORD OF THE WEEK

**anthropomorphic** *adj.* - described or thought of as having a human form or human attributes.

“The young boy liked to play with his **anthropomorphic** stuffed tiger, which he had named Hobbes.”

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

### OVERSEEN AND OVERHEARD

“Does this bus only go to Perkin's restaurant?”

- Female student to the Perkin's apartments shuttle driver.

“It's not a person... It's a machine thing...”

- Female student on cell phone in the Wallace Center.

### SUDOKU

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Difficulty Rating: Easy

### STREAM OF FACTS

The George Bush Presidential Library in College Station, Texas contains a model of the ancient Saudi Musmak Fortress made of solid **GOLD**. Its estimated value is in the millions of dollars.

Winning combatants could earn up to 1,000 **GOLD** pieces for a fight in the gladiatorial games of the **ANCIENT** Roman Empire.

In **ANCIENT** times, people used **LEMONS** as bleach and an astringent.

Though they taste very sour, **LEMONS** actually have higher **SUGAR** content than strawberries.

It takes 30-50 gallons of sap from a **SUGAR** maple tree to make one gallon of **MAPLE SYRUP**.

**MAPLE SYRUP** Urine Disease is a rare genetic disease in children. The effects of the disorder cause the sweat, **EARWAX** and urine of the afflicted to smell like maple syrup.

The color of human **EARWAX** varies depending on the proportions of sweat, **DEAD SKIN** and oils of which it is composed.

**DEAD SKIN** cells comprise 70 percent of the dust in an average home. Other components include soil and fiber particles from clothing.

### REPORTER RECOMMENDS

“Techno Kitten Adventure”

What do you get when you mix terrible 90's techno, a generic helicopter game, and what basically amounts to a 12-year-old Flash developer's vomit? Stuningly, you get one of the most entertaining Xbox Live Indie titles of last year. The premise of the game — if you can even call it a premise — is to guide your jet pack-equipped, techno kitten through a tunnel of seizure inducing array of shooting stars and rainbows, while dodging obstacles in your path.

By all standards of judgment, this game should be an abomination. The music is terrible; the color palette and background animations are horrendous; and the game flashes so violently that it is nearly impossible to accurately guide your techno kitten on his adventure. Somehow though, all of these faults are what make “Techno Kitten Adventure” so absolutely magical. It is literally impossible to play this game, or even be in the same room with it, without a giant grin of utter satisfaction and glee stretched across your face.

“Techno Kitten Adventure” is available for 80 Microsoft points (\$1.00) on the Xbox Live Indie Games Marketplace.

### RIDDLE

I have holes in my top and bottom, my left and right, and in the middle. But I still hold water. What am I?

Riddle Solution: A Spoon



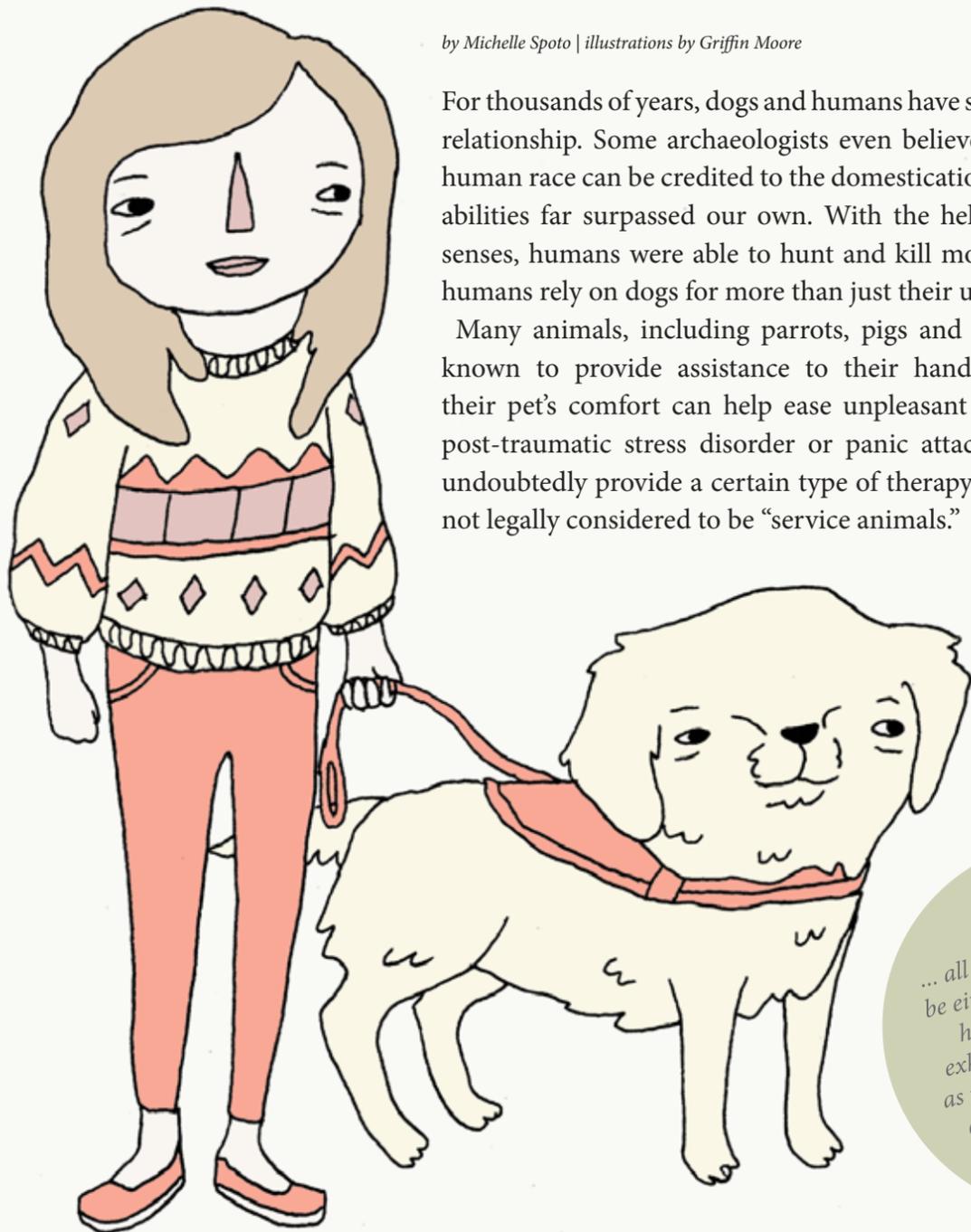
cartoon by Justyn Iannucci

# HELPING THEIR HANDLERS

by Michelle Spoto | illustrations by Griffin Moore

For thousands of years, dogs and humans have shared a special, symbiotic relationship. Some archaeologists even believe that the survival of the human race can be credited to the domestication of dogs, whose hunting abilities far surpassed our own. With the help of the dog's incredible senses, humans were able to hunt and kill more efficiently. Still, today, humans rely on dogs for more than just their unconditional love.

Many animals, including parrots, pigs and even rodents, have been known to provide assistance to their handlers. Owners claim that their pet's comfort can help ease unpleasant feelings such as anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder or panic attacks. While these animals undoubtedly provide a certain type of therapy to their owners, they are not legally considered to be "service animals."



... all service animals must be either dogs or miniature horses and they must exhibit certain traits such as temperament, obedience and expected longevity.

## BORN TO LEAD

Introduced in 1990 to define and legislate disability accommodations, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provides a set of standards for service animal classification. Title III of the ADA mandates that all service animals must be either dogs or miniature horses, and they must exhibit certain traits such as temperament, obedience and expected longevity.

While miniature horses with their exceptional vision and a working life of up to 30 years can make excellent guide animals, dogs continue to be the most common type of assistant animal. Given their trainability and excellent sense of smell, hearing and eyesight, dogs make outstanding service animals. Dogs trained in seizure response can assist owners with epilepsy by alerting an individual to an oncoming seizure or maintaining physical contact with the owner until assistance arrives. Although currently inconclusive, some research suggests that a dog's ability to sense minor changes in a person's behavior can help it predict a seizure before it occurs.

In addition, dogs are often used to help the deaf or hard-of-hearing by alerting an them to certain sounds and identifying the source. Service dogs may also be trained for a variety of specific tasks, such as fetching a bag of medicine by remembering the bag's location and retrieving it on command.

## SOME TRAINING REQUIRED

These sorts of tasks make dogs invaluable when it comes to life-threatening situations, but there is a long road from pup to guide. Training often begins when the dog is merely a puppy. "Puppy raisers" teach the animal basic obedience and socialization. Elizabeth Khol, a third year Industrial Engineering major, has been a puppy raiser for over seven years, helping train dogs even during her time here at RIT.

After learning about the puppy raiser program from a camp speaker in seventh grade, Khol fell in love with the idea. With much persistence, she applied to a program run by Guiding Eyes for the Blind, a nonprofit that trains and donates guide dogs to those in need. Since receiving her first puppy in

“

*Sometimes, the dog has been so quiet that when I go to get up from class and they hear the dog jingle its tags, they're startled and caught off guard.*

”

eighth grade, she has trained seven dogs in total. Although convincing RIT to let her train a dog in the dorms in her first year proved to be a bit of a battle, the school was ultimately very encouraging. Khol notes this, saying, "the school has been very supportive, and I am very appreciative for that."

Since her freshman year, Khol has trained three different dogs at RIT, helping them gain the necessary skills as they follow her around campus. During training, she brings the dog everywhere from the classrooms, where they learn to sit still, to the dining halls. Often, Khol says, the dog is so silent during class that most students don't even realize it's there. "Sometimes, the dog has been so quiet that when I go to get up from class and they hear the dog jingle its tags, they're startled and caught off guard," says Khol. "It's funny." In addition to providing the dog with daily human contact, Khol brings the dog to biweekly puppy classes to ensure that it learns to socialize with other dogs. This is an important step in the training process, as it helps develop a dog's calm temperament around other, sometimes more aggressive animals. Throughout this entire process, the dog is evaluated every three months until trainers decide that the puppy raiser's work is complete.

## LEAVING HOME

When the Khol's dog meets a certain standard, it is sent to a specialized training program. By this time, the pup is around 18 months old. At Guiding Eyes for the Blind, the dogs are evaluated using an In-For-Training (IFT) test, during which trainers attempt to overwhelm them with constant distractions. During the test, trainers look for dogs that are calm and confident despite such stimulation. If a dog passes this test, it will be sent for formal harness training, where paid instructors teach the dog how to move left and right alongside a blind person. While harness training takes around six months, service dogs must complete approximately two years of training before they are sent to work.

A service dog is retired and becomes property of its handler after about six to eight years. The handler can choose whether to keep it or give it to a friend.

Retired dogs that do not find a home are returned to the care of the original puppy raiser. For the dogs that didn't quite pass the IFT test, there is still a happy ending. Often, these dogs are re-evaluated and placed in a different training program, one that is more suited to their behavior. Guiding Eyes for the Blind understands that different dogs have different personalities and tries to match a career for them, stating that "sometimes the temperament traits that make a dog unsuitable for guide dog work are the specific traits ideal for detection or patrol work."

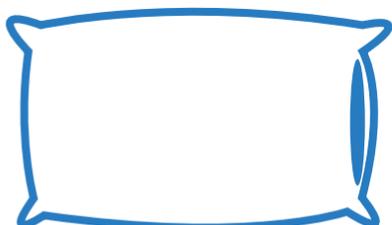
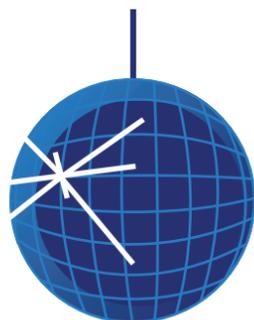
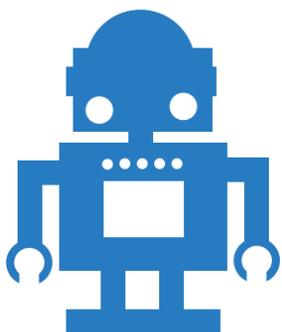
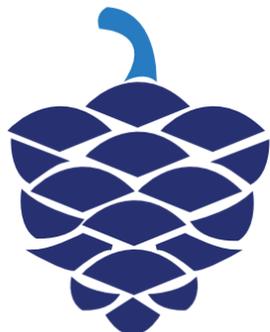
Requiring much energy, effort and time, the cost for a guide dog is valued at about \$45,000. Although policies vary by organization, Guiding Eyes for the Blind offer their dogs to those in need for free. Through the considerable generosity of these programs, individuals like Khol work diligently to make others' lives a little easier. **B**



Center for Campus Life presents:

# top 10 things to do this winter

to avoid cabin fever.



1. Make some of those awesome peanut butter pine cones with birdseed on them. 2. Write a winter Haiku. 3. Spin doughnuts in an empty parking lot. 4. Pretend you're a robot for an afternoon. 5. Learn how to do "The Hustle." 6. Go cross-country skiing. 7. Invent a new board game using pieces from old games you don't play anymore. 8. Take a long winter's day nap. 9. Surprise someone with a random act of kindness.

**10. Put freezefest on your calendar: February 4-6, 2011!**

[campuslife.rit.edu/freezefest](http://campuslife.rit.edu/freezefest) & FreezeFest!



Taylor Rose, a third year Computer Science major and member of both the RIT Rock Climbing Club and the RIT Climbing Team, dances at the Snow GLOBE Climb.

## CLIMBING AND PARTYING ALL NIGHT LONG

by Evan Williams | photograph by Jonathan Foster

The belly of the Red Barn pulsed with music and energy on Jan. 15 as RIT's unique rock climbing gym hosted one of its increasingly popular themed events, the Snow GLOBE Climb. Here, the Rock Climbing Club crew took the opportunity to turn off the lights in the lower level of the facility, break out a few glow sticks, spin some dubstep music, and give patrons a one-of-a-kind climbing experience.

After paying the \$5 cover, and signing a waiver of course, the climbers had access to the entire bouldering area in the Red Barn's basement. Bouldering, a style of climbing wherein climbers are limited to shorter distances and are unassisted by rope, is easily facilitated by the fact that nearly every square foot of the basement's walls are decked out with climbing holds. The labeled paths or problems range in difficulty, from scaling a vertical wall to working your way across portions of the ceiling.

Attendees were encouraged to bring their own glow sticks and headlamps to create the glow-in-the-dark vibe, and many were happy to oblige. With all of the light in the room being generated by hundreds of bobbing, multi-colored sources, it was comparable

to a small basement rave. There was a great deal of lively conversation between climbing enthusiasts as they discussed tips and stories. To add to the party vibe, the event was deejayed by RIT's Naim Hakim, a New Media Printing major. DJ Hakim's mixes of hip-hop, top 40 and bass-heavy dubstep kept everyone dancing when they weren't climbing.

The event itself is the brainchild of Rock Climbing Club President Lindsay Reardon, a fourth year Marketing major, and Vice President Brennah Rosenthal, a second year Visual Media major. The two founded the Rock Climbing Club last year. There are approximately 70 club members: 30 competitive team members, 20 starters and 10 reserve climbers. So far, both the club and the competitive team have enjoyed a great deal of success. In fact, Reardon and Rosenthal took first and second place in the women's regional competition last year respectively.

The Snow GLOBE Climb, whose title was coined by Rosenthal, was intended to welcome climbers of all levels. "We wanted to do something that was beginner friendly. This was the best idea that we had," said Rosenthal. "And people

who don't want to climb can just hang out." Previously, the clubs' most popular event was the Twister Climb, where games of "Twister" were played vertically on a 8-by-10 portable rock wall. Other events include movie nights, game nights and team dinners; and it seems like the interest and support of the organization continues to grow. Reardon and Rosenthal believe this is due largely in part to how deeply the shared passion for rock climbing runs between the Rock Climbing Club's members, as well as the trust they have developed. "You're spotting each other from falling off the ceiling all day," Reardon stated. "It's a huge trust thing."

There's a lot around the corner for the Rock Climbing Club in the near future, including a climbing trip to Toronto, tryouts for the competition team and the beginning of its season in February. Reardon and Rosenthal firmly believe that the support and commitment the organization garners will keep things going smoothly.

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# WORD ON THE STREET

IF YOU WERE AN ANIMAL, WHAT WOULD YOU BE?

by Rob Shook



1

**SU AIDAH (L)**  
BIOTECHNOLOGY  
SECOND YEAR

"A tiger. People want to be close with me, but they have to think twice!"

**NUR NABIHAH (R)**  
BIOTECHNOLOGY  
SECOND YEAR

"A cat. They are lovely. You can be friends with a cat!"



2

**MIKE SEXTON**  
UNIVERSITY STUDIES  
FIRST YEAR

"A bear." 🐻

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# RINGS \*\*\*\*\*

## 585.672.4840

*compiled by Amanda Szczepanski and Moe Sedlak  
 All calls subject to editing and truncation. Not all calls will be run. REPORTER reserves the right to publish all calls in any format.*

MONDAY, 12:24 A.M.

**I just witnessed obesity. A girl eating a McDonald's burger waiting in line to order at Taco Bell. Terrifying... just terrifying.**

*(from text)*

SATURDAY, 12:57 P.M.

Can you tell the workers at Sol's to please keep their [tooty fruity] music to themselves? Thanks!

*(from voicemail)*

SATURDAY, 3:37 P.M.

Hey RINGS, we're gonna get a hold of that bear, stuff it and put it in the Reading Room.

*(from voicemail)*

MONDAY, 8:17 P.M.

Tell those [fun haters] to stop painting over the bathroom graffiti. I don't have anything to read when I take a [load off]!

*(from text)*

TUESDAY, 8:17 P.M.

**Can I take you hostage next Rings? I think that we could have mad sexy babies.**

*(from text)*

TUESDAY, 5:36 P.M.

You know you go to RIT when someone's excuse for not making it to a Humans vs. Zombies event is that they're too tired from Quidditch.

*(from text)*

TUESDAY, 8:55 P.M.

When I was taking a dump, someone managed to write on a stall combining math and Lady Gaga. For those curious cats, Lady Gaga = (RAH)<sup>2</sup> (AH)<sup>3</sup> + [ROMA(1+MA)] + (GA)<sup>2</sup> + (OOH)(LA)<sup>2</sup>. RIT, you continue to surprise me.

*(from text)*

WEDNESDAY, 11:48 A.M.

Look Rings, if RIT is going to make me journey across the frozen tundra in this blizzard I'm going to need to know where to get some cheap Arctic Gear.

*(from text)*

THURSDAY, 12:56 P.M.

Erdle Commons stinks so heavily of armpits that I no longer walk through it. It's the equivalent to Frodo taking the mountain pass instead of going through the Mines of Moria. ■

*(from text)*



# MAGAZINE SIGNATURES

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