

REPORTER

02.04.11 reportermag.com

THE INFINITE CIRCLE
RIT's transgender community.

MINDS OVER MATTER:
THE EFFECTS OF MASS PSYCHOGENIC ILLNESS
Would you dance 'til you drop?

TEAM REVIEWS TROUBLING STUDENT BEHAVIOR
Detecting potential threats to campus.

REPORTER

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REPORTER
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FLIPPING THROUGH HISTORY

For over 50 years, *Reporter* has provided the students, faculty, staff and alumni of RIT with countless pages of news and entertainment. The publication began as a newspaper in the 50's and changed into a magazine format in 1969. Some believe the change was brought about by the desire to showcase the talents of the art students. Whatever the reason, *Reporter* has had quite some time to develop a rich history.

If you explore the nooks and crannies of our office, you'll find more than an archive of issues dating back to 1958. Look a little closer and you'll discover boxes of awards, a drawer filled with movable type, and even a fake whale bone used in a former editor-in-chief's film project. (Don't worry Carol Reed, we got rid of the queen-sized bed.) While the state of a seemingly perpetual move-in sometimes makes me feel like the caretaker of an abandoned storage locker, I like to think that I'm the gatekeeper of some of RIT's best kept secrets.

Yes, it's very likely we have a collection of all the Rings ever printed; but it's really much more than that. *Reporter*, if anything, is a record of what students are capable of. Where else would you find a photo essay featuring a U.S. soldier embracing a woman partially dressed in a red, white and blue bunting? Sure, the spread landed a few staff members in jail for defiling the U.S. flag, but the case was overturned. *Reporter* pushed boundaries; there's no question about it. But in case you were wondering, former editor-in-chief and author of "Wonder Woman Meets G.I. Joe," Neil Shapiro, become an editor at "Popular Mechanics" and the founder of "MacUser."

And Shapiro is in good company. *Reporter* alumni have moved on to bigger and better things. A former illustrator just published his own graphic novel (see "RIT Grad Illustrates Graphic Novel" on page 12). William Snyder won four Pulitzer Prizes before returning to RIT as a professor. Former production manager Mitch Klaif is now the senior vice president of Information Technology at Time Inc. While I'm proud of being a part of the same organization, it's a little intimidating.

This weekend, I spent several hours reflecting on my time at the magazine, and I quickly realized how perfect my timing has been. In 2008, I was the Features Editor for "The Me Issue," which used variable data printing to make 10,000 unique magazine showcasing 431 different portraits of RIT community members on its cover. "The Me Issue" holds the record highest pick-up rate to date. In 2009, I worked on the infamous "Distorter" that was pulled from both the stands and Reporter Online. Finally, my first issue as editor-in-chief was produced the same weekend that the RIT Tigers dominated against the University of New Hampshire Wildcats, earning a spot in the 2010 Frozen Four. I think it's safe to say I've seen my share of *Reporter* and RIT history.

Madeleine Villavicencio
EDITOR IN CHIEF

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cover by Joi Ong

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BURST PIPE FLOODS GLOBAL VILLAGE SUITE

by Tia Long | illustration by Griffin Moore

On Jan. 18 at around 2 a.m., Casey Schaertl, a second year Computer Engineering major, was in her first-floor room in Global Village building D (GVD, 404), when she thought she heard a noise coming from her laptop. She walked over to her desk to turn off her computer, but it was already off. That was when she noticed she was standing in a puddle of water.

Schaertl grabbed her power strip off the floor and started moving her belongings to her bed. Soon after, a hole approximately 1.5 inches in diameter burst open in the wall above her head and started spraying freezing water into the room, soaking her from head to toe.

"At that point, I just started scooping everything up and ran into the living room," Schaertl said.

Schaertl woke up her suitemates, who all started moving their things to safer places. "Fortunately, one of my roommates who wasn't there left her door unlocked. She's an art major so all of her art on the floor would've gotten wet," Schaertl said.

Sheila Kaufman, a second year Industrial Design major and one of Schaertl's suitemates, was in her room sleeping when she heard the rushing water. "I just assumed someone was taking a shower," Kaufman said. "I heard people yelling, and I walked out of my room; and there was just water coming from the last room. The water pressure was really high so it was spraying everywhere."

Kaufman put all of her belongings on top of her

bed and pushed her sheets and towels against the doorways to prevent water from entering her room. "It worked for awhile, but then the water started seeping from under the walls," Kaufman said.

The cause of the flood was a frozen pipe. Kurt Ingerick, associate director of Housing Operations,

"There was just water coming from the last room. The water pressure was really high so it was spraying everywhere."

said that when the pipe was installed, it was not surrounded by the proper insulation. That caused the pipe to split in the cold.

Public Safety arrived less than 30 minutes after Schaertl called them. They asked the suitemates if they had somewhere they could go for the night

and told them they would receive an e-mail in the morning about temporary housing.

Housing Operations repaired the pipe and called in a company to clean the suite. By Friday, Jan. 21, the girls were allowed to move back into their suite. Kaufman, however, did not return to the suite; instead, she moved in with a friend who also lived in GV.

As far as damage done, nothing was ruined, according to Schaertl. She was able to dry all of her electronics with the exception of her phone. "My Droid stopped working," she said. "I think I will have to get a new one. Fortunately, that's it."

Ingerick said that RIT Risk Management works with students to file damage claims. The claim would either be filed with the student's insurance company or, if they didn't have insurance, with RIT.

Despite the apparent error, Ingerick said he was very happy with the construction of GV. Housing Operations checked the rest of GV and found no similar lapse.

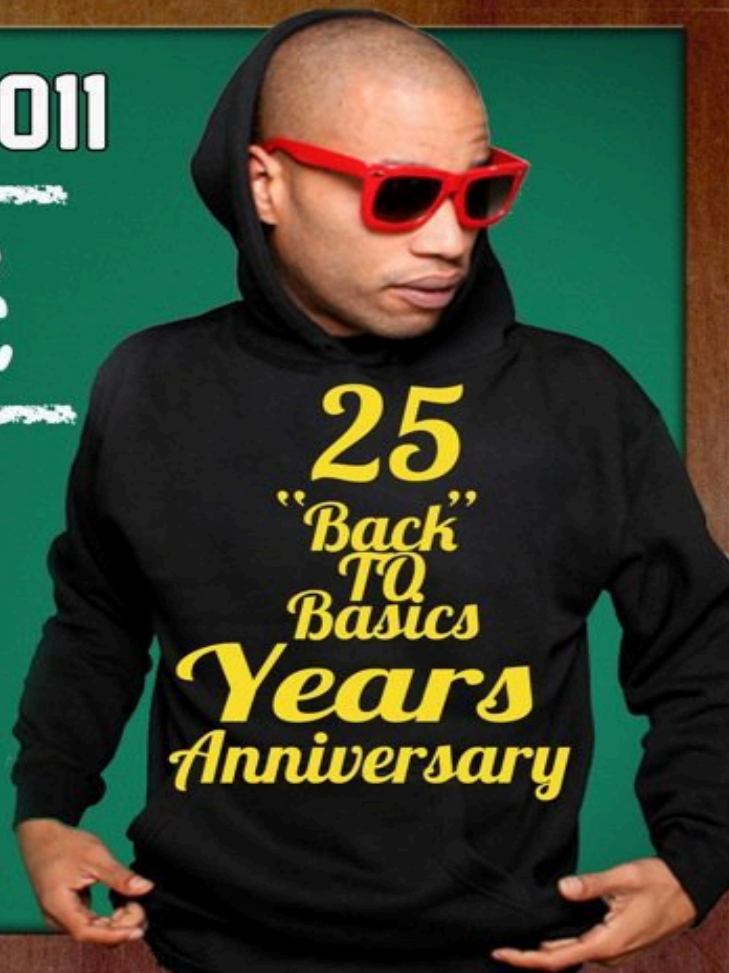
"We certainly don't want this to happen any more than the students want to experience it," Ingerick said. 



FEBRUARY 13 2011

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TEAM REVIEWS TROUBLING STUDENT BEHAVIOR

by Chris Zubak-Skees | photograph by Jonathan Foster

One Friday in February 2010, a dean at Pima Community College (PCC) called the campus police to report a disturbing classroom performance by a student. The student had reacted strangely to the reading of a poem, the dean told an officer, and had said things about abortion, wars, killing people, and “why don’t we just strap bombs to babies.” Another student thought he might have a knife.

That disturbing tale, recounted in a police report, documented the first in a series of troubling incidents involving a single student: Jared Lee Loughner. A year later, he would become the sole suspect in the shooting of U.S. Representative Gabrielle Gifford and 18 others in Tucson, Ariz.

Loughner quickly joined Seung-Hui Cho, who killed 32 people at Virginia Tech in 2007, in a growing handful of students scrutinized in the wake of atrocity for their odd, erratic behavior. The schools that catalogued their behavior, but were slow to put it together, have been criticized.

“Everyone had a strand of a thread of what was going on,” said Mark Allen Miles, director of Clinical Services at the Counseling Center, in a recent interview. “It wasn’t until they were all put together that the spider web became evident.”

Once a week, a team of RIT administrators meets in a room on the second floor of the Student Alumni Union. The 11 members of the Student Behavior Consultation Team (SBCT) include representatives from the Student Health Center, Counseling Center, Residence Life, the Center for Women and Gender, Public Safety and Student Conduct. They review students who have exhibited troubling behavior, gather strands of information, and together, they plan a response. In extreme cases, their intervention could save RIT from tragedy.

Students can come to the SBCT’s attention after being detained by Public Safety, after being transported to a hospital, or after a staff member, professor or another student becomes concerned. In an average week, the team discusses 14 students; 200 in total last year.

“The number grows weekly,” said Dawn Souferis, assistant vice president for Student Affairs and an SBCT co-chair.

The circumstances vary widely: some students are flagged when they disappear, threaten harm, exhibit signs of depression or even break a window. The



Members of the SBCT meet weekly to evaluate referrals. They receive eight to 14 new and follow up cases on average, but this week was the year’s high at 22.

team reads the initial report and reviews grades, patterns of absence and other reports. Then, they figure out what to do about it. The responses range as much as the circumstances.

Sometimes, the student’s behavior doesn’t warrant intervention. Sometimes, the response is just to have a resident advisor check in with the student. The resident advisor and the student may be oblivious to the extent of the SBCT’s concern. Sometimes, a representative from the SBCT will meet with the student to discuss their behavior. The representative can provide referrals to the Student Health Center, the Counseling Center or the Center for Women and Gender. Occasionally, the response leads to a withdrawal from RIT, a required leave of absence or a hospitalization.

Miles, who is a member of the team, recalls a student who displayed troubling signs during Orientation. “Based on complaints from his roommate, the Residence Life staff and Public Safety about behaviors he was showing, we had him brought over,” Miles said. “And, sure enough, he was indeed a paranoid schizophrenic who needed hospitalization. He was not willing to go, so we had him involuntarily committed.”

Teams like the SBCT have spread to other campuses, and some of them have followed RIT’s roughly 15-year-old model. Around the time that

Loughner withdrew from PCC, in September, the school set up a three-member Student Behavior Assessment Committee. That was just four months before a shooting stopped the pulse of a nation. **R**

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”



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BEYOND THE BRICKS

compiled by Christina Belisle | illustration by Joanna Eberts

OBAMA DELIVERS STATE OF THE UNION

President Barack Obama gave his yearly State of the Union Address on Jan. 25. In it, he asked the nation to transcend political parties and work together. The President also noted the improving economy.

Despite his praise, Obama pressed the need for improvement. He said one of the reasons there are fewer jobs in America is because other countries stress teaching their children math and science. America, he said, must win the future.

“We need to out-innovate, out-educate, and out-build the rest of the world,” Obama said to an applauding audience. America, a “nation ... of Google and Facebook,” has reached this generation’s “Sputnik moment.” Obama called for a level of research and development comparable to the Space Race, with emphasis on biomedical research, information technology and clean energy.

MOSCOW AIRPORT BOMBED

A suicide bomber walked into the Domodedovo Airport, the busiest airport in Moscow, and detonated in the international arrivals hall Jan. 24. At least 35 people were killed and over 100 injured. Rebels from the Caucasus region are the suspected culprits.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said that those responsible would be punished. President Barack Obama called the event an “outrageous act of terrorism.”

BRICK BEAT

by Robert Shook

STUDENT STREAMS PUBLIC SAFETY CHATTER

While making a routine of listening to Public Safety’s radio communications may not sound exciting, those who do are sometimes privy to dramatic events unfolding on campus.

“I was scanning when someone tried to steal something from a car in a University Commons lot. They broke a window, and took off on foot. I listened while Campus Safety pursued them to Riverknoll; they found him and called the Sheriff,” recounts Dave Snyder, a graduate student in Imaging Science. Snyder is an amateur radio operator who has a ham license.

Most of what goes out over the radio is much less exciting; there’s a lot of talk about unlocking rooms,

EGYPTIANS PROTEST DICTATORSHIP

Anti-government protests wracked Egypt for days. Echoing protests in Tunisia, dissidents denounced President Hosni Mubarak’s autocratic government. Protestors initially organized by using Facebook and Twitter, but the government blocked those sites. Cell phone and internet access was disrupted as well.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said Egypt should bring about democratic reforms and should

not violently crack down on protestors. Police equipped with tear gas and batons tried to suppress the protests, but with little apparent success.

Mubarak, who has led the country for nearly 30 years, appeared on television to dismiss the governing parliament, but gave no indication that he’s willing to step down.



assisting people with car trouble, and locking up at the end of the day. Any critical information is communicated by cell phone. Officers know that their frequencies are open and that the public is listening in.

Still, Snyder says that he finds listening to RIT’s frequencies interesting. If there’s a bad situation, like an alleged gunman on campus, radio information could be faster and more informative than the RIT Alert system or social media. That’s why he used radio equipment in a lab left over from a defunct Electrical Engineering project to stream Public Safety’s scanner feed on <http://radioreference.com>, a web site that hosts user-submitted feeds.

Scanning police frequencies is common and legal. Anyone who wants to tune in needs only to buy a scanner, find the frequencies online, and program their radio. Scanner feeds on the web make it even easier; listeners can tune in on their laptop or mobile phone.

But a system administrator in charge of the EE lab quickly put an end to Snyder’s streaming setup, citing a campus rule against running unauthorized servers using RIT computers.

When the feed came down, Snyder received requests to put it back up, including offers to help with equipment and a location. He thinks it should be back up soon.

SG UPDATE

by Madeleine Villavicencio

CALENDAR DELIBERATIONS CONTINUE

Mary-Beth Cooper, vice president for Student Affairs, and Greg Pollock, Student Government (SG) president, spoke at the SG Senate meeting on Jan. 28 to present two proposals for the 2012-2013 academic calendar. Cooper and Pollock wanted to collect student opinions to share with Institute Council, which has final calendar approval.

CALENDAR A features a three-week winter break beginning on Dec. 16, 2012 and a winter/spring break (Mar. 3 to 10) that is aligned with the spring breaks of other universities. The major catch is that the summer quarter will end on Aug. 17, leaving only three days before Fall Orientation and very little preparation time for resident advisers and orientation assistants.

CALENDAR B features a two-week winter break beginning on Dec. 23, 2012. By shortening the break to two weeks and holding four weeks of classes before the holiday, the rest of the academic calendar will move back a week, and only six weeks of winter quarter would remain after the holiday. Spring break would be scheduled for Feb. 24 to Mar. 3; summer quarter would end on Aug. 10, leaving 10 days before Fall Orientation.

SG discussed the pros and cons of both calendar proposals. One major point of discussion was the winter break. Teraisa Chloros, director of Student Relations, said a longer holiday break could cause students to lose momentum in their studies. In response, Christopher Schauerman, graduate senator, stated it is a full-time student’s responsibility to keep up with his own work. Michele Caporali, vice president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, added that students who have projects due directly after or during the break could use an extra week.

A straw vote to visualize the preference between Calendar A and Calendar B resulted in a 15 and 13 tally, respectively. SG decided to discuss the issue further at the next meeting before recommending an option.

Institute Council will decide which calendar to implement at their Feb. 16 meeting. **B**

FORECAST

compiled by Michael Roppolo

4 FRIDAY

Comedian Aziz Ansari

GOR. 9 - 11 p.m. The comedian, featured in “Funny People” and “Get Him to the Geek,” is bringing his laughs to RIT as part of Freezefest weekend. Cost: \$17 for students; \$26 for faculty, staff and alumni; \$41 for others.

5 SATURDAY

Unification

Ingle Auditorium, SAU. 8 - 10 p.m. A talent show that allows students to educate their fellow Tigers about other cultures. Past performances have included dances, skits and musical performances. Cost: \$5 for students, faculty and staff; \$8 for others.

6 SUNDAY

SG Super Bowl Party

GOR. 5 - 10 p.m. Come cheer on the Steelers, root for the Packers, or just eat free pizza and watch commercials. Cost: Free.

7 MONDAY

Ossia

Kilbourn Hall, Eastman School of Music. 26 Gibbs St. 8 - 10 p.m. Take a break from studying to enjoy an eclectic mix of contemporary music by Berio, Lachenmann, Takemitsu, Pope and Davies. Cost: Free.

8 TUESDAY

Tiger Basketball vs. St. John Fisher

CLK. 6 - 9:30 p.m. Come out and support the men’s and women’s basketball teams as they take on St. John Fisher’s College. Cost: Free.

9 WEDNESDAY

Swing Dancing

Tango Café Dance Studio, 391 Gregory St. 8:45 - 11:00 p.m. Whether you’re a beginner or have been swing dancing for years, head to Tango Café for a full night of dancing and fun. Cost: \$4; first time is free.

10 THURSDAY

“Danser et Voler”

Panara Theatre, LBJ. 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. French for “to dance and fly,” the RIT/NTID Dance Company presents a show incorporating modern dance, flying and performance arts. Cost: \$5 for students; \$7 for faculty and staff.



Renee Cook, College of Science senator, looks on as Teraisa Chloros, director of Student Relations, explains why she disagrees with her about why students should have two or three weeks for holiday break. | photograph by Rob Shook

by James Arn

“SUDS!”

by W.H. Walker



Album | Pop | 23 mins

by Patrick Ogbeide

RATING: DIG IT!

Music can be taken very seriously. When artists put their hearts and souls into the music they create, it seems disrespectful to take it as anything but serious. But what happens when the artist's soul is playful and full of youth? We get Oregon-based W.H. Walker's "Suds," an EP that exudes happiness and embodies the spirit of doo-wop pop.

As soon as you slip "Suds" into the stereo, your ears become overloaded with a sense of nostalgia. The band has a sound that is very similar to feel-good groups like the Beach Boys and is reminiscent of bathing in the summer's carefree light. The title track, "Suds," is pop in its purest form. It's armed with an infectious beat and a chorus to brighten up any smile: "There better be suds, all over me/ Suds, I wanna be clean!" While "Suds" is more pop-oriented, "Saying Every Secret" has a more exotic

sound, further enhanced by the "na-na"s and "ooh"s flooding the melody.

The second half of the EP is more rock influenced, but still manages to keep the pop elements from the first half. "The Untold Death of Grady Jones" exemplifies the band's storytelling capability and is very similar to the 1974 hit "Billy Don't Be a Hero" by Paper Lace. The final track, "Second Hand Store," is just as poppy as the title track and ends the album on a very positive note.

"Suds" is exactly what it tries to be — fun, free and exciting. With a listen of each song, W.H. Walker's spirit of happiness is further exposed, adding an interpersonal feel to the EP. If the rain has you gloomy or the snow has you cold, give "Suds" a listen and you're guaranteed to have a good time in whatever situation you may be in.

“VALHALLA DANCEHALL”

by British Sea Power



Album | Post-Punk | 60 mins

by Alex Rogala

RATING: DIG IT!

If the afterlife sounds like this, then count me in.

For nearly a decade, British Sea Power has dished out heaping platters of high-energy pub rock to a small yet loyal fan base. They're known for elaborate live shows featuring extensive foliage, marching drums and plastic birds, yet they've continually struggled to convey this same energy through their studio albums.

Now they're back with a fresh approach. Their first album in three years, "Valhalla Dancehall" provides a sweet soundtrack for the most groove-tastic Ragnarök ever. After the sprawling arena rock of 2008's "Do You Like Rock Music?" this long-awaited follow-up finds the Brighton-based sextet emerging with a leaner, more refined sound.

Where "Do You Like Rock Music?" was a reverberated, washed out arena rock dream, "Valhalla Dancehall" turns everything down to a dull roar. This newly discovered subtlety speaks volumes.

The album kicks off with "Who's in Control" and "We are Sound," two tunes that, while enjoyable, bring nothing new to the table. Roughly halfway through, the album finally catches its stride with "Luna," a melancholy ballad awash with sweeping guitars and lush strings. Consider it the musical equivalent of Ziggy Stardust's post-prom hangover.

Other, more aggressive tunes such as "Mongk II" and "Thin Black Rail" harken back to the band's punk roots.

But the album's true climax is "Once More Now," an 11-minute epic that swells to a bombastic apex before, with one final crash, collapsing into a warm, fuzzed-out drone. It's a picturesque, emotive snapshot that captures what British Sea Power is truly about: loud guitars, cheap beer and late-night loneliness.

The album is not without its flaws however; the dizzying array of styles, which are well executed individually, often fail to merge cohesively. While each song can stand on its own, it often feels as though the band tried to cram too many ideas into one album.

While not as immediately enjoyable as "Do You Like Rock Music?," "Valhalla Dancehall" still brings a lot to the table. Some will certainly dismiss it, preferring the band's earlier, more cohesive efforts. While this may be true, they're certainly missing out on what makes this album great: an adventurous spirit. I'm sure Odin himself would agree. **R**

Recommended for fans of Arcade Fire, Wolf Parade and the Pixies.

QUOTE

"As far as the filmmaking process is concerned, stars are essentially worthless — and absolutely essential."

— William Goldman

WORD OF THE WEEK

window *n.*

An opening in the wall of a building for the admission of light, and of air when necessary. This opening has a frame on the sides, in which are set movable sashes, containing panes of glass. In the United States, the sashes are made to rise and fall, for the admission or exclusion of air. In France, windows are shut with frames or sashes that open and shut vertically, like the leaves of a folding door.

"To prevent eavesdropping, the members of the Continental Congress had to keep the windows closed during the summer heat."

Definition taken from the 1828 edition of Webster's English Dictionary.

RIDDLE

What English word retains the same pronunciation even after you take away four of its five letters?

Riddle Solution: QUEUE.

REPORTER RECOMMENDS

BLACK & WHITE

Any artist will tell you that color is one of the principle aspects of design. Color can bring our world to life in incredible ways, and every color has its own symbolism. The proper use of color can give us an almost unconscious insight into the emotion of an image, but, just as often, color can obscure the truth of what we're looking at. Looking at an image in black and white allows us to see its true form. Sometimes, that's all you really need. **R**

OVERSEEN & OVERHEARD

"Apparently once you turn 50 all you want to do is suck cock."

— Female student in Grace Watson Hall.

"Just because you have a Pulitzer doesn't mean you're not an asshole."

— Female student in the residence hall tunnels.

STREAM OF FACTS

The market value of the world's annual **COCOA** crop is roughly \$5.1 billion.

COCOA butter melts at just below human body temperature, which is why chocolate **CANDY** melts in your mouth.

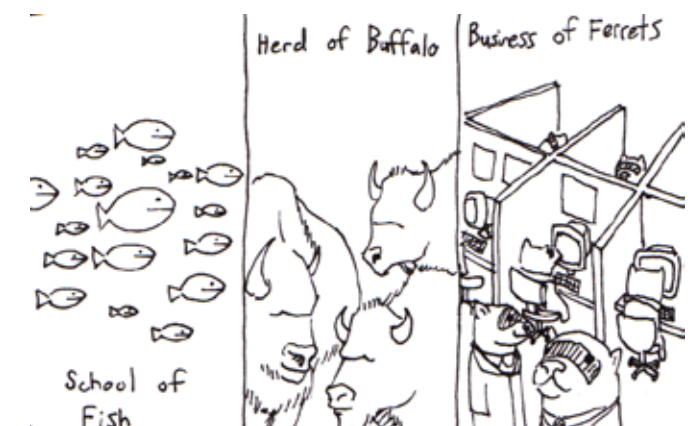
Cotton **CANDY** is 100 percent **SUGAR** mixed with minute amounts of coloring.

Brown **SUGAR** is brown because it is produced in the presence of **MOLASSES**, which also contributes to its distinctive flavor.

MOLASSES gets its name from the Latin *melaceres*, which translates literally to "HONEY-like."

HONEY is one of a very few foods that can never spoil. Although it has very high sugar content, its unique chemical composition and acidity prevent bacteria from growing in it. Jars of honey that are 2,000-year-old and still fit for **CONSUMPTION** have been found in Egypt.

Over the past 20 years, sugar **CONSUMPTION** in the United States has increased from roughly 20 to 135 pounds of sugar per person per year.



cartoon by Will Lawson

RIT GRAD ILLUSTRATES GRAPHIC NOVEL

by Ali Coladonato | photography by Joi Ong

FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Jeremy Sniatecki, a 1995 RIT graduate and illustrator of "3 Degrees," sees his graphic novel as the completion of one of his life goals. Growing up in North Tonawanda, N.Y., during the mid 70's and 80's, Jeremy remembers seeing "Star Wars" for the first time when he was four years old. Even at that young age, something about it sparked his interest; and when he got home, he tackled his coloring books and started drawing. From there, it was just a matter of "working really hard to get butt-kickingly good at art stuff," said Jeremy.

A first generation college student, Jeremy started at RIT in a major he thought would pay well: medical illustration. But two years and one encounter with a bag of dead cats later, Jeremy rethought his career path. He switched majors and joined the Illustration program, hoping to acquire the necessary skills to break into the growing field of graphic design. As Jeremy put it, "Learning to see as an artist — that was like a super power I got from RIT, and that set me apart. Every year, colleges churn out thousands of kids who can draw; but if you can come up with new ideas and see things at a different angle, if you have that creative firepower, it's like nuclear fuel."

After graduation, Jeremy worked at a number of different design firms before health problems forced him to give up a steady paycheck and start work as a freelance designer. Terrified, he quickly learned how to promote his own work and has since done design work for companies like Smucker's, Pillsbury and Wegmans. He has also produced several

pieces of public art including a "Benches on Parade" bench and a pair of lighthouses for the Irondequoit Lighthouse Trail — all from the humble beginnings of a "Star Trek" mural in the RIT tunnels.

A STORY IS BORN

Nick and Jeremy always wanted to create a book together, but life had just kept getting in the way. Then, five years ago, Nick came to Jeremy with a story: a series of interrelated vignettes that he thought would make an interesting comic. Jeremy, realizing that he was "a professional high-falootin' illustrator designer guy," asked, "Why not do that thing we always wanted to?"

Beyond the completion of a lifetime goal, the novel was created as something of a social experiment. The title "3 Degrees" refers to the concept of six degrees of separation, which states that the average person is only six interpersonal relationships away from

any other person on Earth. With the way technology is steadily shrinking our world, Nick and Jeremy figured that three degrees of separation was a more accurate title. Just as in real life, the stories don't all come together at a single earth-shattering point; instead, they illustrate the daily connections we make that lead to a fulfilling life, and the links that leave us wondering.

The primary story line follows Pete and Jeff, two ordinary friends dealing with relationships, job dissatisfaction and a changing world. In fact, their lives would be completely ordinary if not for a few bizarre quirks — most notably, Jeff's roommate, Death.

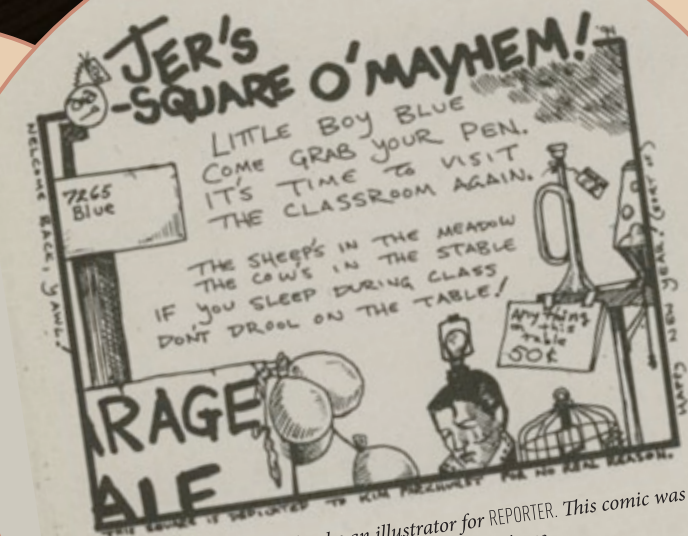
The novel has been described as a kind of a "Twilight Zone"/"Seinfeld" episode. It looks at uneventful, but still believable things that have a heavy dose of quirkiness to keep things interesting. The book is filled with everyday humor: conversations you find bizarre until you're in them; the silly worries we have that seem life-shattering

until you voice them; and little inside jokes you don't have to understand to giggle at. (Shave the whales? There's no reason, it's just fun.)

And the entire novel is just that — fun, but it's the kind of fun that might make you think a little deeper. There are tons of reasons to go through and really study the pages of "3 Degrees," aside from ridiculous, unshaved whales. Look closely into the background of any frame and you're certain to find something you missed the first time around. There are even cameo appearances from some of Jeremy's celebrity friends including Harry Knowles of "Ain't It Cool News," Aaron Ruell (Kip from "Napoleon Dynamite") and his wife Yuka, Weird Al, Robin Goldwasswer, and John Flansburg of "They Might Be Giants." There's something for everyone to enjoy, even if you just want to see Death dressed up in a powder-blue leisure suit.

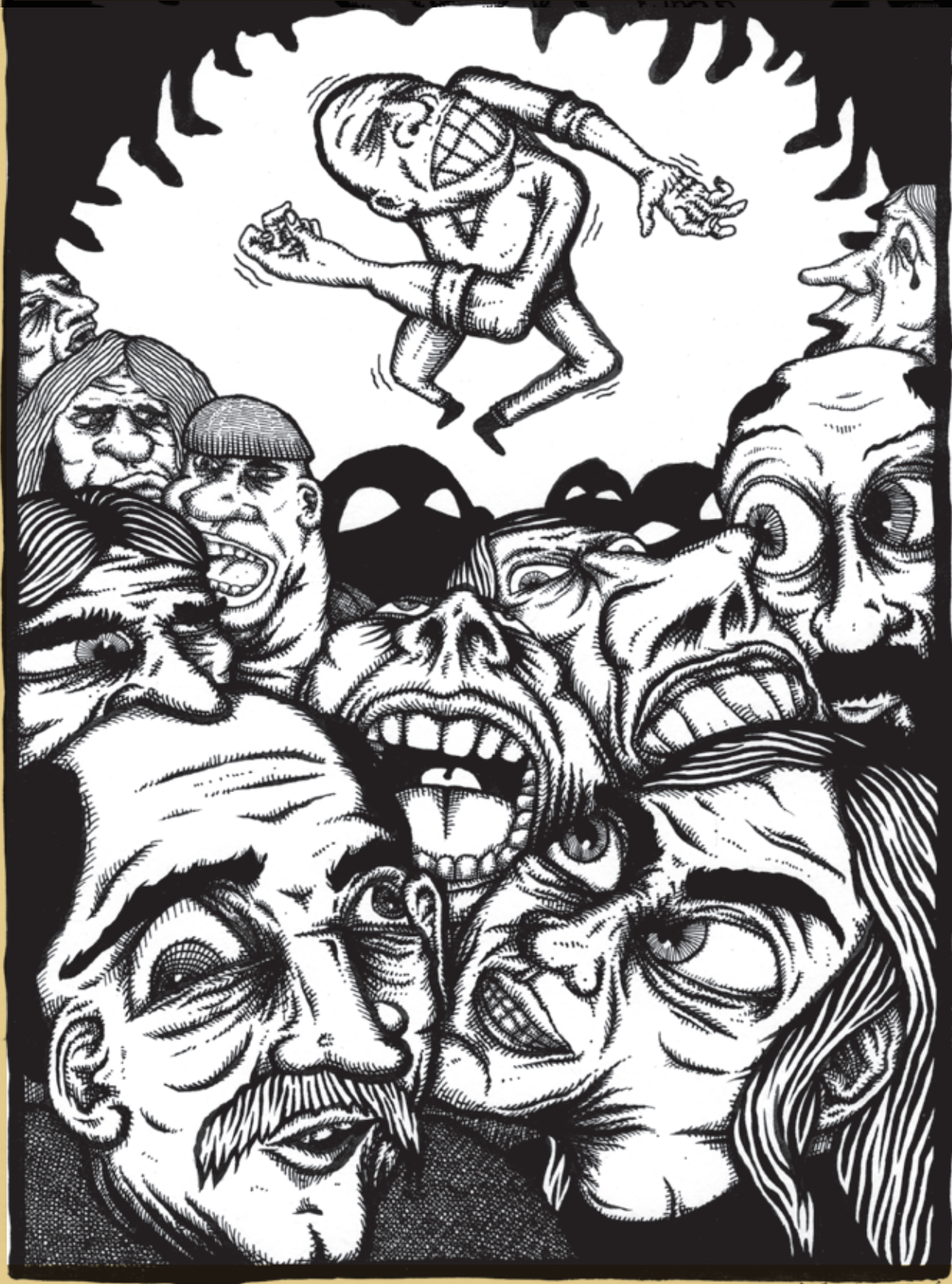
So whether you fancy a quick read or want to muse on how Death connects us all, "3 Degrees" is worth a look. And while you flip through the illustrations by a man who once stood in your shoes, reflect on that thing you've always wanted to do. Think how it will feel, four years or 40 years from now when you say, like Jeremy, "It's really cool that I could do that." **R**

If you're interested in picking up a copy, limited editions of "3 Degrees" are being sold at Park Avenue Comics and Games on Rochester's Park Ave. A portion of every sale will be donated to local Boys and Girls Clubs.



Jeremy Sniatecki used to be an illustrator for REPORTER. This comic was taken from the Sept. 24, 1994 issue.

MINDS OVER MATTER: THE EFFECTS OF MASS PSYCHOGENIC ILLNESS



justyn iannucci

Mob mentality, or “group think,” can be an immensely powerful and visible force. Often, we see its capacity for destruction in the form of violent riots that rip through the world’s cities or in mobs of Black Friday shoppers who mercilessly trample one another in the name of holiday cheer. Other times, however, its effects stray from the insidious and into absurd and bizarre.

DANCE ‘TIL YOU DROP

Close your eyes and imagine the following. (If you’re having trouble reading this magazine with your eyes closed, ask a friend to read it aloud to you.) The year is 1518, and you’re standing in the center of the small town of Strasbourg, France. You are surrounded by a group of 400 dancers. It’s the middle of summer and you’re not particularly familiar with the traditions of Renaissance France, so you might assume that these people are carrying out an ancient ritual. On that account, you’d be wrong. The thing about these dancers is that they’ve been dancing for over a month straight and before they’re done, many of them will literally dance themselves to death.

It all started with one woman, who historians believe was named Frau Troffea, who stepped out of her home into the narrow streets of Strasbourg and started dancing. Within a week, Troffea was joined by dozens of her neighbors. At this point, the local doctors decided that the best remedy for the emerging dance fever was to have the afflicted continue to dance until they got over their hysteria. Shockingly enough, this solution had absolutely no effect on the dancers.

As the weeks passed, more and more people joined in the massive hoedown. By month’s end there were 400 previously sane citizens of Strasbourg dancing themselves to death in the city streets. General lack of eating and exhaustion notwithstanding, the principal causes of death among the dancers were heart attack and stroke caused by overexertion.

Since the events in Strasbourg, there have been at least seven distinct incidences of so-called dancing plagues taking place across Europe. As late as 1840, a similar craze took hold in Madagascar. Medical reports from the time depict “People dancing wildly, in a state of trance, convinced that they were possessed by spirits.”

ROFL

Now you might be sitting on your big, comfy couch thinking to yourself, “That’s kind of weird, but 1840 is almost 200 years ago, craziness like that doesn’t happen anymore.” If so, feast your brain on this little morsel of knowledge: in 1962, in a small village called Kashasha in the Bukoba district of what is now Tanzania, an entire village was overcome by a fit of laughter that lasted for nearly two years.

This particular bout was started, much like its Renaissance relative, by a relatively normal occurrence. On Jan. 30, 1962, three young schoolgirls got a case of the giggles. What was unusual about this occurrence was that they just didn’t stop. Over the ensuing months, the laughter spread to many other schoolchildren. By the beginning of March, so many students were affected that the school was forced to close. Once the girls were taken out of school, the laughing epidemic spread to the rest of the village and then throughout the entire region. When the incident was over, nearly 1,000 people were affected by the hysteria, which had forced the closure of 14 schools.

CONFOUNDING SCIENCE

These are far from the only examples of such inexplicable behavior. Koro, the irrational fear that one’s genitals have been stolen, or are fatally retracting into the body, has swept various parts of the world for over 2,000 years. Scientists are at a loss for an explanation of how and why events like these occur. One of the most popular theories has been that a form of food poisoning caused these isolated incidents of insanity. This explanation holds that the afflicted ingested ergot, a rare form of mold that grows on damp rye stalks and has hallucinogenic effects similar to LSD.

But ergotism can’t actually explain all of the symptoms of these episodes of mass hysteria. As Ivan Crozier, a lecturer in the Science Studies Unit at the University of Edinburgh explains in regards to the Strasbourg dancing plague, “Ergot gave people visions, not energy to dance.” Scientists and psychologists are at such a loss to explain events like these that they have coined a specific term to classify them. That term is Mass Psychogenic Illness, a nondescript name for the unresolved puzzle of contagious insanity. **R**

BEFORE THEY’RE DONE,
MANY OF THEM
WILL LITERALLY
DANCE THEMSELVES
TO DEATH.

INFINITE CIRCLES: RIT'S TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY

BY MICHELLE SPOTO | PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOI ONG

WE LIVE IN A WORLD DEFINED BY GENDER. FROM THE CRADLE TO THE GRAVE, GENDER PLAYS A CRUCIAL ROLE IN SHAPING OUR LIFE EXPERIENCES AND HOW WE PERCEIVE OURSELVES.

Although it may be difficult to define what gender actually is, it's easy to explain what it isn't. Despite common belief, it is not a two-dimensional spectrum with "woman" on one end, "man" on the other, and a grey area in between. Rather, it could be conceptualized as an infinite circle of many different identities, expressions and orientations.

AN IMPORTANT DISTINCTION

While sex is clearly defined by a person's reproductive organs and functions, the definition of gender is a bit hazier. Gender refers to the behavioral, cultural or psychological traits typically associated with one sex. Therefore, while sex is purely biological, gender is a personal construct that is heavily dependent on the specific environmental and cultural factors a person experiences. When one's sex and gender don't align, they are classified as transgender, an umbrella term for anyone with a non-normative gender. Many different subgroups classify as transgender, including transsexuals, cross dressers and bi-gendered people. But since most of these terms are self-applied, there is no true definition.

During middle school, Melissa Maron, a fifth year Information Technology major, began to feel her gender didn't quite match up with her sex. Initially, these feelings were difficult to quantify, but they steadily grew stronger over time. A little under a year ago, Maron began identifying herself as trans woman, undergoing a male to female transformation.

When considering the concept of gender transformation, many people have predefined expectations of what the term means. The term "transformation" is a vague one and can include anything from cross-dressing to sex reassignment surgery. For this reason, Maron believes the terms "pre-op transgender" and "post-op transgender" to

be highly offensive, as terms like these perpetuate the idea that one isn't a successful transgender until after surgery. She says that many people don't even want to undergo sex reassignment surgery due to its high risk and huge costs, which can range from \$7,000 to \$50,000 depending on the operation.

A NEW START

In order to feel more comfortable with their gender, some transgendered people use hormonal supplements. While there are several different options available for hormone intake, such as pills — common in estrogen treatments — or patches, testosterone injections are the least expensive and the fastest acting. These injections are usually taken once every one or two weeks, depending on the dosage. While testosterone injections produce clear physical effects such as increased body mass, a deeper voice and reduced body fat, they can also affect emotions and memory retrieval.

WHILE SEX IS PURELY BIOLOGICAL, GENDER IS A PERSONAL CONSTRUCT THAT IS HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON THE SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL FACTORS A PERSON EXPERIENCES.

Tristan Wright, a first year Interpreting major, has recently started testosterone injections as part of a female to male transformation. For Wright, the decision to participate in hormone treatments came after a long and difficult journey with gender identity.

Entering SUNY Buffalo at 17, Wright perceived himself to be a straight female, but throughout his four years there, he began to identify as gay. During this time, he struggled with his changing identity. "I

had to go through a series of individuating myself before I could reach a certain level of stability," he recalls. After several years and a move to Rochester, Wright identifies as a gay trans man, a decision that just "felt right." After his transformation, Wright realized that his self-harm ceased without any conscious effort, saying that this was an "obvious indicator of what was right." Still, here at RIT, Wright, Maron and the entire transgender community face several major roadblocks.

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

RIT policy makes it extremely difficult for students to have their name changed on any school documents such as ID cards, transcripts and diplomas. Before RIT will honor any name change, the Institute must receive court certification of a legal name change, which is a lengthy process in itself.

In order to change his name, one must first submit a petition to the court. Once this petition has been reviewed, he must meet with a judge to discuss the change. If the petition passes, the legal name change must be published in the newspaper for a certain amount of time in an effort to notify anyone who may need to get in contact with this person. This process, which can take up to several months, is complicated by time commitments and legal fees. Transgender students, who may see choosing a name as a significant step, are left with little choice; they must either legally change their name or be officially recognized by a name they no longer identify with.

In addition to this challenge, transgender students on campus face another, slightly more irritating problem: a lack of gender-neutral bathrooms. While gender-neutral bathrooms, which usually also serve as handicapped bathrooms, must be installed in new buildings, many older buildings on campus are exempt from this rule. This proves to be an issue for transitioning students who, in some cases, may have to travel to an entirely different building just to use the bathroom. By reserving even one gender neutral bathroom per building, these problems can



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be easily avoided. Although this may seem like a minor change, it is certainly a large step in fostering a sense of acceptance between transgender students and the rest of campus.

BUILDING A COMMUNITY

Despite these challenges, the sense of community between transgender students has certainly strengthened this year thanks to Maron's work. Last fall, she created Tangent, a student organization aimed at bringing transgender students together. Tangent, which works closely with the GLBT Center, OUTspoken and ritGA, is the only transgender group on campus. She describes the organization as "more of a social group, not a support group" but also mentions that "if someone needs support, they're welcome to bring it up." Meetings are held weekly, and the group is looking to hold more social events such as bowling trips or clothing swaps.

While transgender people are looking to make some headway here at RIT, they are still denied basic rights by many facets of society. One of the biggest hurdles they face is workplace discrimination. A transgender person, or even someone suspected of being transgender, may legally be fired, often without any repercussions for the employer, as no federal laws prohibiting such discrimination exist. Still, while several states have recently enacted laws prohibiting discrimination based on gender expression or identity, transgender people are still at a significant disadvantage. Transgender people also face severe discrimination when it comes to healthcare coverage. Many doctors and hospitals will refuse to treat transgender patients, even those with life-threatening conditions. Some of this inequality stems from transphobia, the irrational fear of transgender. Wright believes transphobics feel as though the idea of transgender is "a challenge to their own identity."

With the help of Tangent, as well as other GLBT organizations on campus, the transgender community at RIT has emerged with a newfound voice. While Maron wants to encourage transgender members to stop by Tangent for one of their meetings, she has a different message for the rest of the RIT community. Although Maron admits that people are "often uncomfortable with things that they are unfamiliar with," she says that she wants everyone to "treat [transgendered people] like normal people." **R**

Right: *Melissa Maron, a fifth year Information Technology major.*

Previous page: *Tristan Wright, a first year Interpreting major.*



REPORTER


WOMEN'S SWIMMING VS. WILLIAM SMITH

by Evan Williams | photograph by Prisca Edwards



RIT's Sarah Kelso competes in the Women's 1,000 yard-freestyle event against William Smith College on Jan. 26.

Valentine's Day
open skate
Feb. 13th
Ritter Arena
10:30 pm - 12:00 am

sponsored by 

Bring one canned good for entry.

WHEN RHA BEGAN RENTING DVDS...

HOW ARE WE GONNA GET RID OF ALL OF THESE 'OLD TECHNOLOGY'?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!

THWAP!

HEY MAN... SO I HEARD YOU GUYS WERE SELLING 'OLD TECHNOLOGY'!

I'LL TAKE EM OFF YOUR HANDS FOR YOU!

THANKS DUDE. THAT WAS THE BEST \$5 I EVER SPENT. MAN, WE'RE GONNA HAVE SO MANY MARATHONS WHEN WE GET BACK.

With equal parts power and grace, the women's swim and dive team soundly defeated William Smith College on Jan. 26. The Tigers leapt to an early lead and never looked back as they secured a 126-110 victory over the visiting Herons. For what Head Coach Mike Cahill referred to as "a building year," the young team displayed a great deal of confidence and poise, making the win feel like a given early in the meet.

With Wednesday's victory, the Tigers improve to 4-6 for the season. Despite the losing record, Cahill said he's very proud of the team and the effort they've put forth this season. "It's been a good season; the girls have worked very, very hard," he said.

Cahill's faith in his team echoed before the meet began. "This should be a good meet; we're anticipating some good races," he said. And there were plenty of good races to go around.

The Herons entered the Judson Pool in the Gordon Field House more than ready to compete. Brimming with energy and bouncing along the sideline, the Williams Smith team seemed to be firing on all cylinders, making their presence known with pre-match team chants and huddles.

While the Herons hyped themselves up, the Tigers took a more measured approach. They remained focused, warming up in the pool and along the bench before their huddle. After that, it was off to the races.

The first event was the 400-yard medley relay. RIT narrowly secured their first victory of the night with a winning time of 4:20.90 to William Smith's 4:21.51. The winning team consisted of Jenna Hoffman, a second year Illustration major; Taylor Whalen, a second year Accounting major; Molly Woods, a second year Graphic Design major; and Co-captain Sara Kucsan, a third year Criminal Justice major. RIT also took the third place spot in the race.

Next was the 1000-yard freestyle. Though the Tigers didn't take the top spot in this grueling endurance race, first year New Media Publishing major Jocelyn Bade and first year Photojournalism major Brooke Van-Derpoel came in second and third with times of 11:38.88 and 11:54.54, respectively. Van-Derpoel managed to pull past William Smith's Sally Storch to claim third.

RIT took three of the top four spots in the 200-yard freestyle. Third year Graphic Design major Courtney Schwarting took first with a time of 2:02.65; fellow third year Graphic Design major Brittany Schlunt came in third at 2:08.16; and

second year Interior Design major Rachael Redfearn came in fourth at 2:10.06.

For the rest of the night, the Tigers hung around the top spots in all events but one. They took first place in six of the 10 remaining events. In the 50-yard freestyle, first year Engineering Exploration major Katie Baldwin won with a time of 25.13. Baldwin also claimed first place in the 100-yard freestyle. Team co-captain and third year Mechanical Engineering major Melissa Harrison took the 200-yard independent medley at 2:23.80. Second year Ceramics major Laura Garland got her first career win in the 1-meter dive with a score of 164.10. Hoffman also won the 200-yard backstroke at 2:21.92, and Schwarting added to her first place finishes with another in the 500-yard freestyle.

As the season draws to a close, the 126-110 win over William Smith was a good way to kick off the final four meets. Cahill saw this as an opportunity for his swimmers. "We're just getting to the part of the year where we start tapering down to the end, but they're a good group of girls to work with and we're looking for some good things in the next few weeks."

Catch the Tigers in action next against Nazareth on Feb. 5.

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AN UNFORTUNATE END: RIT TIES AFTER HOLDING LEAD

by Jeff McKinzie | photograph by Rob Shook



RIT's Chris Saracino reacts after his last-second shot missed the net at the end of the game against Mercyhurst on Jan. 29. The game went into overtime but ended on a tie.

If there was one word to describe a home game tie for RIT, it would be bittersweet. And that's exactly what the men's hockey team got on Jan. 29 — a 3-3 tie against Mercyhurst. When the final buzzer sounded in the Frank Ritter Arena, the sellout crowd left somewhat disappointed.

A slow game to start, both teams went scoreless in the first period. But RIT gained an early lead in the second period when third year Business major Tyler Brenner scored the first goal on a power play at the 12:07 mark. Brenner faked out a defender and tipped off the puck to first year Business Management major Ben Lynch, who then passed it back to an open Brenner. Lakers' goalie Ryan Zapolski failed to block Brenner's shot, giving the Tiger his 19th goal of the season. The second goal for the Tigers came from second year Hotel Management major Adam Hartley just over two minutes later.

Unfortunately, in those two minutes, Mercyhurst shot back with a goal of their own. Their goal came 42 seconds after the Tigers' first, as Paul Chiasson was able to beat two defenders with an assist from Scott Pitt. Taylor Holstrom also assisted on the goal, which was Chiasson's 13th of the year. The Tigers almost responded again late in the period, when second year Business major Chris Saracino took a shot, but it rang off the crossbar.

There were also several altercations by players during the game, including one that had RIT goalie Shane Madolora, a second year Business Management major, shaken up for a few minutes. Despite this, Madolora had a great game with 44 saves by the end of the third quarter. During this game, third year Biomedical Sciences major Taylor McReynolds became the first Tiger since moving to Division I in 2005 to top 100 penalties in a season, with 115 penalties in 26 games.

Mercyhurst's second goal of the game came at the 11:55 mark in the second period, when Phil Ginand scored assisted by Ryan Raven and Jeff Terminesi. The goal was Ginand's 10th of the season.

The game came to a thrilling close as both Brenner and Chiasson scored their second goals of the game in the third period. Brenner's goal, the 20th of the season, came at the 4:19 mark and was assisted by first year Packaging Science major Greg Noyes and Saracino. The goal prompted the ever-traditional chants of "It's all your fault" and "Hey, you suck" toward Mercyhurst players.

While RIT had trouble scoring in power play situations (of the six power plays the team attempted, the Tigers only scored during one), their defense on the other end of the power play was excellent.

Out of the eight power play situations that Mercyhurst was in, they managed to only convert one to a goal as well. It must have been a scary sight for Head Coach Wayne Wilson when Mercyhurst was able to kick out 10 shots in one power play.

His real thoughts on the game? "Well, it was a hard-fought game. I thought it was an entertaining game for both teams, but I was disappointed that we had the lead and we gave it up at the end. [Mercyhurst] was a very resilient team and we kept fighting back, and that's just the way the game went." **R**

The next time you can watch the Tigers play at home is on Feb. 4 as they take on the Air Force.

FROM OUR READERS

Editor's Note: The opinions expressed are solely those of the author. **REPORTER** reserves the right to edit submissions based on content, length, grammar, spelling and style. Letters are not guaranteed publication. Submissions may be printed and reprinted in any medium. Reporter will not run responses to letters.



The photograph that accompanied the article titled “Trouble at Triangle” in the Nov. 11 issue of Reporter | photograph by Chris Langer

REPRESENTING A BROTHERHOOD

Dear Reporter,

I am a (now) current alumni of Triangle Fraternity from RIT. At the time of our house's demise I was serving on the executive board and worked closely with Ms. Conner to make sure what was presented to the student body was accurate to avoid adding insult to injury. Ms. Conner was kind enough to supply me with her personal edits prior to publishing to be sure she wasn't being fed with the false information unfortunately prominent during this ordeal.

Imagine my surprise when each and every draft I was sent was altered prior to publication. The level of disgust I have for your atrocity of a publication is near equivalent to that of Faux News. I don't know what beef your editors have with the Greek Community, but it's groups such as yourselves that perpetuate the awful stereotypes that run rampant through this campus.

“...risk management violations that can be anything from buying alcohol with fraternal funds...”

I don't know where you get off adding a little tick like that, but its clear to me that you have little care for the facts when you let your personal biases become involved. Come to think of it, you guys do a great job emulating the modern media reporting style.

Thanks for the misinformation,
Proud to be Greek.

Kevin Albino
*Mechanical Engineering
Third Year*

Kevin Albino,

I assure you that *Reporter* does not hold any animosity towards the Greek Community. In fact, several of our staff members are members of sororities and fraternities. Unfortunately, the text quoted in your letter was taken out of context. The original sentence was: “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.”

This statement was based on “Fraternity Regulation 3.6: Triangle Risk Management Policy,” which is a catch-all for a number of different categories, including alcohol and drugs, hazing, sexual abuse, education and fire, health & safety. “Buying alcohol with fraternity funds” and “neglecting housing fire codes” were meant to provide examples for the different points addressed under that policy. The second bullet point under “Alcohol and Drugs” states “no alcoholic beverages may be purchased through the chapter treasury...” The first bullet point under “Fire, Health & Safety” states “all chapter houses shall, prior to, during, and following occupancy, meet all local fire and health codes and standards.”

Finally, all articles in *Reporter*, just as in any publication, are reviewed by multiple editors prior to printing. This editorial chain checks the veracity, quality and objectivity of each story.

Thank you for your input. For further concerns, my email address is eic@reportermag.com.

Sincerely,

Madeleine Villavicencio
Editor in Chief

RE: “HAS THE TSA GONE TOO FAR?”

I'm writing in regards to the op-ed piece from January 14 titled “Has the TSA Gone Too Far?” Several points come from a speech that Bruce Schneier gave on January 6, 2011.

Last week's opinion article “Has the TSA Gone Too Far” seemingly argues that the TSA is good and necessary. The piece has a general air of fear that permeated this country in the months and years following 9/11. The reality of the matter is that the TSA is not security, it's “security theatre” it doesn't make us safer, it makes us feel safer regardless of reality. The TSA wants us to believe the scanners can catch explosives (they cant), that the TSA can catch contraband (they don't) and that everyone that has access to the plane goes through screening (they aren't). The author, along with the TSA has fallen into the mindset of “terrorism is scary, we need to do something, this is something, therefore we need to do it.”

To understand where we are now, we need to look at the history of incidents involving airplanes and terrorism over the last 10 years. We take away guns and knives, they use box cutters. We take away box cutters and knitting needles, and they put explosives in their sneakers. We screen footwear, and they try liquid explosives. We take away liquids, they put bombs in their underwear. We use full body scanners and they hide a bomb in a printer cartridge. (We've actually banned printer cartridges over 16oz in response to this threat.)

The terrorists will try something else. This is a stupid game that the TSA is playing.

The reason that body scanners are being implemented is to detect PETN. Guns and bombs are passe - PETN is the terrorist tool du jour. The problem is PETN is incredibly hard to detect. Scanners and puffers cannot detect it, but dogs and swabs can. The TSA has started to deploy body scanners not to detect the actual explosive, but to try to detect the bulge in your clothes/body made by the explosives. PETN is stable: you can roll it into any form factor you could want. You can put it in a body cavity, you can make it so that it appears to be part of your skin, you could put it in your mouth. You could put it in your mouth, and go in and out of the secure area 10, 20, however many times you need and you will not be detected. This information isn't new and isn't secret. This is how the terrorists think. (This is also one of the reasons why Israel refuses to deploy these machines. Why waste the money on something that can be circumvented easily, and in a country that attracts more attempted attacks than any other?)

The problem with PETN is that it's very hard to detonate (very stable, remember?) The underwear bomber did not detonate the printer cartridges likely would not have exploded. Terrorism is hard to get right. That's why terrorists go after aircraft - if you do damage to an aircraft, the aircraft crashes and everyone dies.

The issue with the TSA is they have a massive backward bias against what the terrorists did last time. There terrorists are adaptive - the next attack will be different, and will chose their tactics against the security that is in place at that time. Imagine if the liquid terrorist plot from 2006 made it to the airport and the TSA had no idea about the plot. (For purposes let's imagine the plot was originating in the US rather than the UK) They would not have caught the explosives, the terrorists board the planes, and 7 flights explode over the Atlantic. What makes us think that the TSA will catch the next plot that makes it to the airport? It will be something that was never seen before and has been designed from the start to circumvent the security measures in place.

Since the TSA is our (very bad) last line of defense against the terrorists, what would actually stop a terrorist attack in the works? Every terrorist attack is a series of events - planning, recruiting, funding, training, getting to the point of execution, and executing the attack. Every failed plot was caught either in the beginning stages by intelligence and investigation (2006 liquid bomb plot), or at the very end where passengers and crew intervned and subdued the attacker before the attack was successful (2009 underwear bomber). The TSA didn't get the chance to detect these attacks, or failed to detect them in progress.

The TSA has had a very long history of failures. It seems to be every other week news of a passenger accidentally bringing a pocket knife or loaded handgun through security without being caught. Passengers are checked at security, but pilots and flight crew sometimes aren't. (Or more precisely, people that look like they are pilots and crew aren't checked.) The TSA is tested by the Department of Homeland Security regularly (pretend passengers try to sneak contraband through). At some major airports the failure rate is close to 70. The ground crew that has access to the plane and its cargo and holds are routinely not screened upon access to the tarmac.

Screening to the same standards is a good point, but as above not everyone is screened 100 the same 100 of the time. Additionally, we don't need a government organization to do our screenings. Several airports have ousted the TSA in favor of a private company doing the screening, as was similar pre-9/11, but using post-9/11 standards of searching. Just because there is a government agency in charge of screening it does not mean that there is an assurance that everyone is screened to the same standards.

The banning of tweezers, nail clippers, etc is an effort in futility. You can't hijack a plane with nail clippers. Reinforced cockpit doors and the idea that passengers should fight back have made hijacking planes near impossible the idea that someone could take over

a plane with nail clippers is ludicrous. These items should not be banned as all they create is a giant pile of otherwise good tweezers that gets thrown out at the end of the day. There is no reason for this ban other than to create the illusion of safety that we're doing something to stop the terrorists, when all you do is irritate the population at large.

With regards to the liquid banning, in addition to the TSA probably not catching the above plot without prior knowledge, there are still several holes in the rule. While some liquids are limited to 3oz in a clear plastic bag, there are no limits to how many times you go through security, or how many people go through security, or a combination of the both. Additionally, you are allowed to bring several liquids through in as many quantities as you want (within reason). You're allowed to bring in baby formula, medicine such as contact lens solution, saline solution, etc (Or more accurately, bottles labeled as such. Security researchers got two 12 ounce bottles of “saline solution” through security without being questioned or the liquid being tested.)

The last paragraph is the one the prompted me to write this letter in the first place. First, the idea that “the only way to guarantee that no one is going to cause chaos is to monitor the population, strictly control information, and keep people from thinking for themselves. This is not the society that we currently live in. Until then, we're going to have to undergo pat downs and full-body scans.” is totally and completely insane. First and foremost, even if we did monitor the population, control information, and control what people think how is that even possible?, there will always be threats, both from within and without. Even if we did all of the above, that is absolutely no guarantee that there would not be attempted bombings of planes, or lone nuts going after congresspeople. You simply can't guarantee that. Subsequently, we should not and do not have to get groped or have a TSA agent see our genitals in order to be secure. As I hopefully demonstrated above even with all these measures in place there is no guarantee of security. The security we have in place now is not security at all. We need a real change to the way we handle security in this country. Throwing time, effort, and money into unproven technology at the last place it can catch terrorists is a very lousy security model. We should instead continue to support the intelligence and law enforcement communities, whom have stopped more terrorist attacks than an agent looking at an x-ray monitor ever will.

The price of freedom is eternal vigilance it is not getting molested at an airport checkpoint.

Michael Tortora
*Information Security and Forensics
Fifth Year*

Center for Campus Life presents:

top 10 things to do freeze fest weekend



february 4-6, 2011

1. Laugh so hard you can't breathe at Aziz Ansari. 2. Come watch or participate in sick skiing/snowboarding at Rail Jam. 3. Sing your heart out with Gospel Fest. 4. Come get your free t-shirts and pompoms and show off your school spirit at the Men's Hockey Game. 5. Warm up with friends at the Greek Bonfire. 6. Satisfy your tastebuds at the chili cook-off. 7. Enjoy a cultural experience with Unification. 8. Take your significant other on a carriage ride across campus. 9. Bundle up and participate in the 5k run/walk. 10. Cheer on the Packers or Steelers at the SG Super Bowl party!



For a complete list of events, visit: campuslife.rit.edu/freezefest

A HARMLESS THREAT

by Emily Mohlmann | illustration by Melissa Huang



It's been a long time coming, or so it seems, that magazines, newspapers, books and other printed materials would meet their demise during the digital age. After all, records and cassettes fell victim to CDs and MP3s, so it's only logical the written word shares a similar fate, right? While many may think this, I think it's safe to say, "Not so fast."

Currently, several major U.S. book retailers including Barnes and Noble, Amazon and Borders all have e-readers or electronic devices that hold digital "e-books." In addition to these literary powerhouses, many electronics companies have joined the fray including Sony, Velocity Micro, Pandigital and Spring Design. Many of these companies offer several models of e-readers, making for plenty of options (and competition) in this market.


So why don't we see more people walking around with e-readers? For starters, reading on a Nook, Kindle or Kobo is nothing like reading an actual book. I have used several of these devices, and they cannot compare to physically flipping a page, folding a corner or — while bad for your eyes — reading in low light. While e-ink technology and non-backlit screens help reduce eye strain and glare, making it possible to read in direct sunlight, this is about as close to mimicking a real book as e-readers will get.

Some will argue these are minor complaints, given that you can store thousands of e-books in one

condensed digital package. But that's what makes it a lot riskier. One wrong move may send your e-reader into a tizzy. If you drop a paperback or spill your drink on it, all you have to do is pick it up, brush it off or take a blow dryer to it. Books are 100 percent portable without the nagging 20th century worry of, "Where is an outlet so I can charge it?" While most e-readers on the market have options to back up your e-books, not all do so automatically. If you don't ensure this feature is set up, you could be out hundreds of dollars when your device breaks. And how often are you actually reading more than a book or two at once? Unlike a fuel-efficient car, you break even over time; you have to pay for the e-reader and for each additional book you download. You're only saving space, not money, with these devices.

But that is only one part of the cost argument. Every book purchased for an e-read has to be "new" — digital downloads don't come in "used" versions. There is no going to a used book store and scoring a copy of that \$20 hardback for \$0.99. Although some

libraries offer digital rentals, they expire after a set period of time. When your rental is up, the e-book disappears from your e-reader, unlike a physical library book that remains on your coffee table. And while it may rack up late fees, it's still there for you to finish. If you can't finish the book in the time allotted, you have to go through the process of borrowing it again, but you'll be out of luck if another reader scoops it up before you do. As with physical library books, the library can only loan out as many digital copies as they have purchased.

It's clear that the print world isn't in danger yet, and I don't think it will be soon. There was talk that the internet would kill print, and yet papers still show up on millions of doorsteps every morning. E-readers are a fad that will become yesterday's news as technology continues to advance. Besides, what would we do with our bookshelves? 

The opinions expressed in the Views section are solely those of the author.

WORD ON THE STREET

WHAT IS YOUR IRRATIONAL FEAR?

by Robert Shook

1

AMBER SOMMER
PHOTOJOURNALISM
FOURTH YEAR

“I’m afraid of the feeling of towels. It creeps me out.”



2

DUSTIN MCKIBBEN
ADVERTISING PHOTOGRAPHY
FOURTH YEAR

“Sand in my sandals.”



3

GERARDO BARBIER (L)
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS
THIRD YEAR

“Lady Gaga.”

KYLE HORN (R)
PACKAGING SCIENCE
THIRD YEAR

“I’m afraid that I’m not afraid of anything ... and shivering to death.”



4

MEGAN ALDRICH
DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY
SECOND YEAR

“Step on a crack, break yo mama’s back.”



5

PETER ASSIMON
FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY
FOURTH YEAR

“I’m afraid of my teeth breaking.” **R**

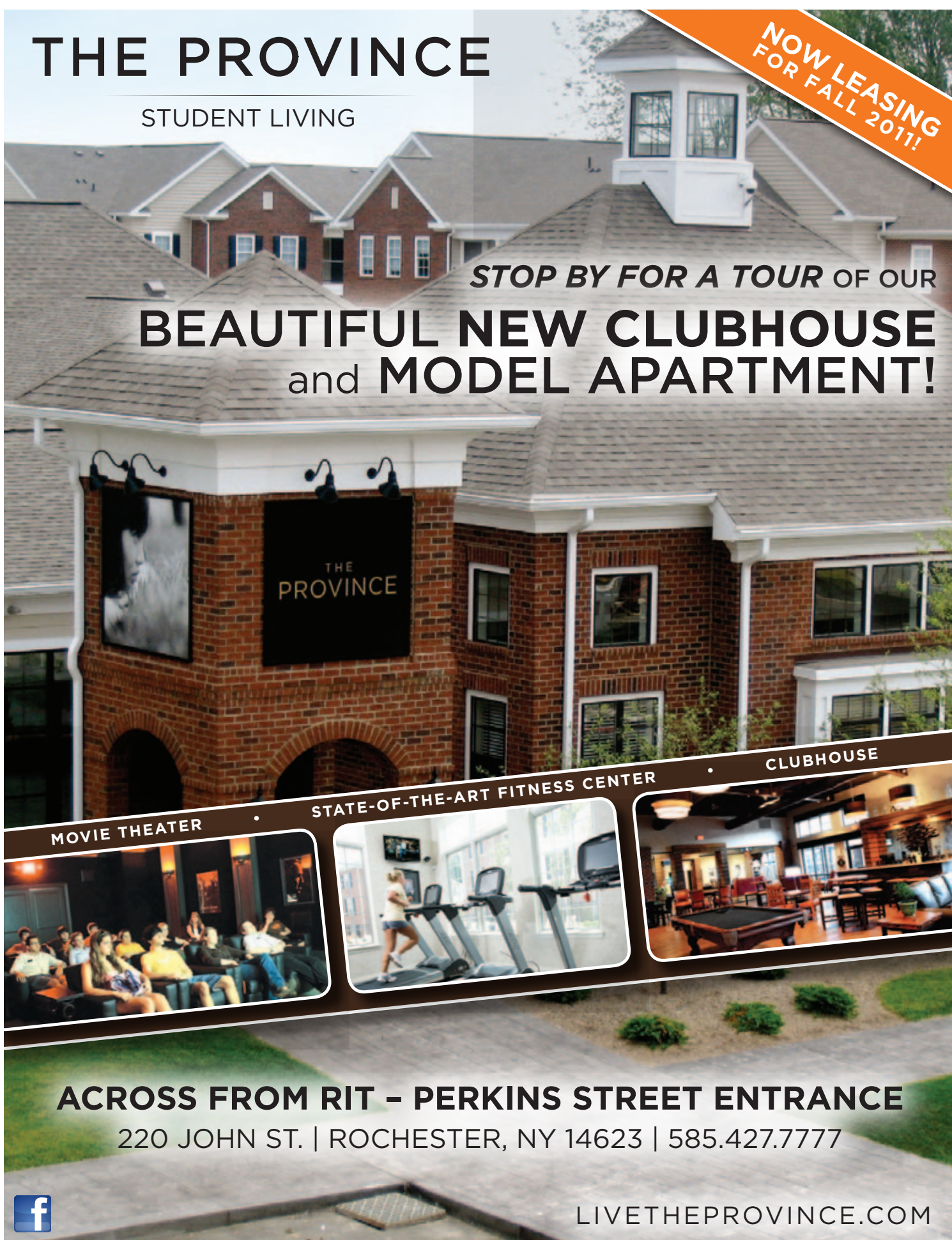


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RINGS *****

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
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585.672.4840

MONDAY, 10:03 A.M.

Since when did M&P turn into home-ec?? Please tell this girl sitting next to me stop knitting her dog a sweater!!

(from text)

TUESDAY, 3:47 P.M.

Breaking vegetarianism is like [cha-cha-ing with] a freshman... You know it's wrong but you just crave that tender flesh.

(from text)

THURSDAY, 12:23 A.M.

My friend just stopped over to Colony to show me a surprise in the back of my apartment. It was a dead deer. What's wrong with these people?

(from text)

WEDNESDAY, 11:43 P.M.

Great recipe **Rings**. Start off with a blackberry, add in two girls from different cities, stir up the convo to a boil, and then send an "I love you Girl A" to Girlfriend B back home. Let sit for 5 seconds and you get your instant relationship status change. Polygamy isn't in my future.

(from text)

THURSDAY, 4:39 P.M.

As an employee of Sol's, I'm pleased to inform you that we will only be playing gangsta rap and heavy metal music from now on.

(from text)

FRIDAY, 1:23 P.M.

So I want to know why The Real RIT challenge wasn't in Colony. Global Village was built a year ago. My high school art teacher lived in Colony when she went here about 30 years ago, and back then they called it "Colony Manure."

(from voicemail)

SUNDAY, 6:46 P.M.

WTF, I just high-fived Ritchie, and he replied with a fist to the face.

(from text)

FRIDAY, 9:15 P.M.

So **Rings**, when they announced obesity was a big problem in America, I thought it was a total bull, but now from what I've seen, we indeed do have obesity — even the cars, they take up two or three spaces to park!

(from text)

SATURDAY, 2:18 P.M.

Dear Spongebob, You're yellow, you do karate, and you suck at driving. Don't think we haven't noticed.
Sincerely, The Asians

(from text)

SUNDAY, 11:04 P.M.

Four-legged shower monster AHH! Oh wait that's just my RA with their boyfriend... normal.☹

(from text)



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