IN MAYOR’S RACE, AN RIT PROFESSOR
Professor Bill Johnson enters the election.

EXPLAINING AN ENIGMA: DR. HEATH BOICE PARDEE
Administrator pens mystery novel.

THE MURDEROUS END OF ALEXANDRE RICHARD
How to plan a murder mystery party.
RIPPLES

Your presence changes things. For this week’s feature (see “Explaining an Enigma: Dr. Heath Boice-Pardee” on page 16), I spent days shadowing the associate vice president of Student Affairs. Soon, I began to notice that the longer I hung around Dr. Heath, the more unwarranted attention I drew to myself. Although my intention was merely to observe how Dr. Heath conducted his business, it was proving near impossible to maintain my role as an innocent bystander.

My presence usually confused the next person coming in for his appointment with Dr. Heath, making him think that he was intruding. At the very least, I sensed a different tone or attitude as the person spoke to Dr. Heath; students, staff and faculty were a little more defensive, a little more guarded. On a few rare occasions, I even overheard stabs on what potential negative situation Reporter might cover as applicable to the current topic. The fact that I was in the room changed things.

These experiences really made me think about the effect a single person could have on a larger group, an entire community. One comedian during the peak of winter quarter may ease your stress for a short period of time (see “Aziz Ansari: Laugh or Die” on page 16). One athlete may make or break a team’s dynamic (see “Three Stars” on page 23). One friend may have the uncanny ability to bring unexpected groups of people together (see “Adam Childs: The Memory Maker” on page 7).

In a way, the people in your life, whether they’re recurring characters or unnoticed extras, are kind of like ripples in a pond. They help you mold your foundation. Over time, they can smoothen out your rough ages. And sometimes they just make waves.

Madeleine Villavicencio
EDITOR IN CHIEF
In a packed conference room in the downtown Rochester Rudis, a former three-term mayor, Bill Johnson, addressed the party faithful. “Fellow Democrats, today I ask you to support my candidacy for mayor,” his amplified voice told the room. But in the caucus vote that followed, they didn’t. The Democrats assembled on Saturday, Jan. 5, instead nominated former deputy mayor Tom Richards to bear their party’s standard.

RIT, moved a scant eight miles away from downtown when the current campus was built in the 1960’s, but, to students struggling through winter quarter, Flower City politics seem a million miles away. Still, however much RIT students like to forget it exists, Rochester politics doesn’t forget RIT.

In a pregnant reminder to this fact, a special election on March 29 will pick a successor to Mayor Bob Duffy, an RIT alumnus who left the mayor’s office to serve as lieutenant governor. The most viable candidates are Richards, an RIT trustee and Duffy’s handpicked successor, and Johnson, currently an RIT professor of Public Policy.

Though acknowledging he faces “daunting odds” running as a third-term candidate in a fourth-term election amid a controversy surronding the failed Fast Ferry project, he says. The main challenge, he hopes, will be educating the public on the importance of a special election in helping to forge the general election in the fall and to create this disadvantageous situation by having a winter election, Johnson said in a recent interview. “And when those protests fall on deaf ears, and when I couldn’t persuade other people to run, I was almost put in a position by a group of supporters, that said, ‘Well, we’ve gone this far, somebody’s got to step forward.’”

And so, reluctantly, the mayor-turned-professor sought to turn mayor again. “I’ve been teaching this stuff on a theoretical basis, so it was time to really get out there, [get] back into the saddle, and see if we could make something happen,” he said.

But, in theory or reality, this city is no place. Johnson teaches a community economic development course located on Rochester where students try to tackle the challenges of declining cities. Since the 1950’s, residents have streamed to the suburbs and businesses have gone with them, leaving vacant housing, abandoned stores and less tax money to deal with these problems. “We’re looking at cities that have matured, that are essentially beyond their prime, but have the built environment already there, and they’ve got to contend with it,” Johnson said.

It sounds intractable: a downward spiral that has continued ever since the 1950’s, a course focused on Rochester, where residents have streamed to the suburbs, businesses have gone with them, leaving vacant housing, abandoned stores and less tax money to deal with these problems. “We’re looking at cities that have matured, that are essentially beyond their prime, but have the built environment already there, and they’ve got to contend with it,” Johnson said.

Bertram Rogers, a first-year Mechanical Engineering major, arrived in Erda Commons on Feb. 9 prepared for a study session, and then planned to head back to the dorms. Instead, he overhead fourth-year Mechanical Engineering majors, Andy Birkel and Dom Lucas talking to this reporter about their failed attempt at turning the RIT Firearms Community into a campus-recognized club. After eavesdropping, he approached. “I’m sorry to interrupt, but I’m really interested. I shot, but I’ve never been to a legitimate range before — only backyard stuff. I really want to go with you guys some time,” Birkel leaned back and laughed. “Well, what are you up to tonight?”

“The Community is a group of students that began meeting about a year ago out of a common interest in shotgun, rifle and pistol sports, as well as a desire — born out of an article on the 1996 Rifle and Pistol Club in a December 2009 issue of REPORTER — to go through the club approval process,” Birkel said. “It sounds intractable: a downward spiral that has continued ever since the 1950’s, a course focused on Rochester, where residents have streamed to the suburbs, businesses have gone with them, leaving vacant housing, abandoned stores and less tax money to deal with these problems.”

The group drafted a constitution, appointed officers on our campus. I am concerned about improper use of guns or unintended consequences of guns on our campus. I am not in support of a Firearms Club at this time."

Some members of the community are not sure. “The risk associated with condoning a club where individuals may be transporting firearms in their vehicle on their way to the off campus Firearm Club, deemed high,” Cooper said in an e-mail response. “In light of Virginia Tech and other shootings, I spend a great deal of time worrying about what could happen on our campus. I am concerned about improper use of guns or unintended consequences of guns on our campus. I am not in support of a Firearms Club at this time.”

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“Most people don’t know how to get into the sport safely,” said Birkel. “We shoot at a New York state approved range.”

The group continues to meet Wednesday nights at Brooks, and most weekends as well. After getting to Brooks once, Rogers plans to keep going back. “I was very intimidated at first. I was afraid the gun club would be snobbish and exclusive, like a country club; and that I’d make a fool out of myself. I didn’t want to make a mistake.” But under Birkel’s direction, his fears were quickly eased. He broke his first two clay pigeons, and with the rest of the group laughing and cheering about the new guy beating the regulars, he continued to shoot well. “I had a blast,” he said.
Adam Childs, a fourth year New Media Publishing major with second-year status, passed away on the evening of Thursday, Feb. 10 in his off-campus apartment. A roommate found him the next morning, said Mary-Beth Cooper, vice president for Student Affairs during a brief interview. Details about his death were unavailable at the time of writing; the cause of death is pending an autopsy report.

DeWitte first met Adam on the second floor of Residence Hall B, then known as Building 30. “He lived two doors down from me,” said DeWitte. “We would pass each other in the hall until one day, he said, ‘Hey I’m Adam.’” The two have remained friends ever since.

Adam had a passion for music that was infectious. “He was always the one who came into our rooms and asked us to jam,” said Andy Krall, a recent graduate of the Mechanical Engineering program and another of Adam’s roommates. Together, the roommates formed a band they dubbed “The L-Block” in tribute to their Winton Village apartment building. Adam recorded every session.

Never without his camera, Adam documented everything, from nights hanging out with friends to concerts and music festivals. Eventually, bands began to notice his talent. “We went to a couple of shows, and then out of nowhere, he started getting photo passes and whatnot to go to the shows for free,” said DeWitte.

Adam’s creativity didn’t end there. “When you had an idea that he got into, his eyes just glowed. He would get so excited,” said DeWitte, before recounting several unfinished projects: a stop motion animation featuring an animal cracker and a commercial for a fake news broadcast. “He was always so excited when you got an idea going. He would go grab everything you needed and say ‘let’s go!’” said DeWitte. It’s this enthusiasm that his roommates will miss the most.

Adam’s roommates held a candlelight memorial in his honor on the evening of Friday, Feb. 11. There, close friends could talk about their experiences with Adam and give examples of “what a great kid he was.” “I don’t know anyone else who people would gather that quickly for,” said Krall.

Last week, RIT lost a beloved friend, but Adam Childs’ memory will live on.

Adam Childs (left) with Adam Shevins (right) at a Disco Biscuits show in Buffalo. [photograph taken from Flickr]

“This is pretty much the greatest kid in the world. You’ve got to sum it up like that,” said Bob DeWitte, a fourth year Electrical Engineering major, about his roommate. “He had a natural talent for music, art and documenting anything that we did.” He was a “memory maker.”

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"GUITAR HERO" SERIES ENDS

A bill introduced in Congress Feb. 11 may make Vicarious Visions and "DJ Hero"’s Harmonix, the popular rhythm game "Guitar Hero" is no more. The development of the game was disbanded, leading to layoffs. Game development giant Activision announced in a press release that it has stopped working on the "Guitar Hero" game to be released this year and that the development unit for the series would be closed down.

The popular music rhythm game "Guitar Hero" was first released five years ago. The series brought renewed interest in the genre when it was first released five years ago. As the genre fell out of favor, the development unit for the series would be closed down over two years.

FORECAST

FRIDAY 18

Winter Research Symposium
Grow 4 - 8 p.m. Learn a thing or two from your fellow students as they present the fruits of their hard scientific labors. Cost: Free.

SATURDAY 19

The American Violin
Ingle Auditorium, SAU. 1 - 4 p.m. The RIT orchestra explores the American influence on folk and sacred music. They’ll be presenting the world premiere of Frederick Lesman’s “Concerto for Violin.” Cost: Free.

SUNDAY 20

Banff Mountain Film Festival
Webb Auditorium, BOO. 6:30 - 10 p.m. The wildest places will be served up during day two of a three-day selection of movies from a festival dedicated to the great outdoors. Cost: $10 for students, $12 for faculty and staff; $15 for everyone else.

MONDAY 21

The Indras
Bug Jit. 219 Monroe Ave. 9 p.m. For an eclectic but satisfying take on rock, listen to these cats jam.

THURSDAY 20

Theft

CRIME WATCH: JANUARY

INCIDENTS

THEFT 8

ALCOHOL 5

VANDALISM 5

MARIJUANA 4

INCIDENTS

THEFT 4

ALCOHOL 5

VANDALISM 4

MARIJUANA 4

INCIDENTS

THEFT 4

ALCOHOL 4

VANDALISM 4

MARIJUANA 3

WEDNESDAY 26

Peterson Hall. 3 p.m. A student reported his wallet and cell phone stolen from an unlocked locker. The case is closed, pending new leads.

FRIDAY 16

From Jan. 9 to Jan. 14, students sent harassing messages through Facebook postings. The investigation remains open.

SUNDAY 16

5 Lot. 2 a.m. A student verbally harassed another student. The incident was logged as bias-related. The case was referred to Student Conduct.

MONDAY 17

NRE. 9:50 p.m. A student possessed a pipe containing marijuana residue. The case was referred to Student Conduct.

TUESDAY 18

UCS. 2:45 p.m. While conducting fire and safety inspections, housing staff found fireworks, knives and a pellet gun. The case was referred to Student Conduct.

THURSDAY 20

GV. 7 p.m. A student verbally harassed another student. The incident was logged as bias-related. The case was referred to Student Conduct.

FRIDAY 21

Nature Trails. 4 p.m. Several students were discovered in possession of marijuana. The case has been turned over to Judicial Affairs.

WEDNESDAY 26

Sanctuary Hall. 3 p.m. A student reported his ID card missing. Someone else used his card to purchase items. The investigation continues.
Reviews
02.18.11

“DELUSIONS OF GENDER”
by Cordelia Fine

In her book, “Delusions of Gender,” Cordelia Fine looks at the real reasons behind the differences between men and women. Surprisingly, those have less to do with innate neurological differences than they do with our own implicit gender stereotypes. Implicit attitudes are those that are, according to social psychologists Brian Nosek and Jeffrey Hansen, “without the encumbrances of awareness, intention, and control.” These ideas, attitudes and motivations are like cultural sponges, soaking up any and all information regarding the society in which they exist. Formed by many aspects of a culture, thoughts existing on an implicit level often disagree with consciously held beliefs. Fine spends a good third of the book discussing these implicit attitudes and how they’ve come to impact our culture as a whole. While her review is thorough and interesting, she spends so long discussing these behaviors that the first half of the book gets repetitive. This discussion does, however, set up the second half of the book nicely. What Fine describes as “neurosexism” is the idea of using neuroscience to justify gender roles in society. While the field of neuroscience is still in its infancy and not without flaws, many popular writers have started to exaggerate and twist these findings for their own means. Fine critically analyzes several of these studies, bringing readers to the conclusion that, even if neurological differences do exist, these differences are less significant than the similarities between genders. While informative and scientific, Fine’s casual and, at times, humorous style of writing makes “Delusions of Gender” accessible for anyone. In a world that is often left to survive to see it seems doubtful. It is with a sigh I take a moment to pause and say, “Ezra Holbrook, operating out of Portland, Ore., is a singer-songwriter, something almost as good, and just as intangible. It makes me happy. Thank you, Ezra. You are my long to appreciate the sunrise, Holbrook gives me a sunbeam. This is sunrise music, crisp and clean, bursting with hope and light. In a fast-paced world where I often stay up too late and sleep in too slow, dreamlike rhythms and melodies that mix traditional folk sounds with hints of jazz, blues and indie rock, Holbrook’s strength is in his eclectic indie rock. Holbrook’s strength is in his eclectic

Week 10 has come to an end. An avalanche of deadlines has passed and hard work has given way to more hard work as finals week brings new challenges. Relief is a scant few days away, but survival to more hard work as finals week brings new challenges. Relief is a scant few days away, but surviving to see it seems doubtful. It is with a sigh I take a moment to pause and say, “Ezra Holbrook, operating out of Portland, Ore., is a singer-songwriter, something almost as good, and just as intangible. It makes me happy. Thank you, Ezra. You are my long to appreciate the sunrise, Holbrook gives me a sunbeam. This is sunrise music, crisp and clean, bursting with hope and light. In a fast-paced world where I often stay up too late and sleep in too slow, dreamlike rhythms and melodies that mix traditional folk sounds with hints of jazz, blues and indie rock, Holbrook’s strength is in his eclectic indie rock. Holbrook’s strength is in his eclectic

At Your Leisure
02.18.11

by James Arn

I have seas without water
I have forests without wood
I have deserts without sand
I have houses with no brick
What am I?

The turritopsis nutricula is a species of immortal jellyfish. After reaching maturity, they are capable of reverting to their polyp stage and redeveloping into adults. During the first stage of their lives, jellyfish are capable of reproducing asexually through a process called budding. Early botanists in the process of coffee decaffeination included benzene, chloroform and trichloroethylene, all of which were later discovered to be potent poisons. Hansen is one of the world’s most deadly poisons. Its ability to suppress the central nervous system, which causes the euphoric high that heroin is known for, can also induce seizures, coma and respiratory failure. When it was first introduced, heroin was sold as a pain reliever alongside aspirin and as a way of stepping down from a morphine addiction. The first uses of aspirin trace back to ancient Egypt around 1550 B.C. Infusions of dried myrtle leaves — which contain salicylic acid, aspirin’s primary ingredient — were used to relieve pain. The human nervous system is capable of repressing the brain to the pain before the brain has a chance to interpret the sensation. This can be observed by touching something very hot. You will actually pull your hand away from the heat source before your brain registers the pain. While awake, the human brain can produce roughly 20 watts of electricity, enough to power a small light bulb.

QUOTE

“Human salvations lies in the hands of the creatively maladjusted.”
– Martin Luther King Jr.

WORD OF THE WEEK

Dactyliomancy n. - divination by means of finger rings

RIDDLE

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REPORTER RECOMMENDS

Twistshift
Time travel is awesome. And while you’re going to need to invest in a flux capacitor to traverse the space-time continuum, your Twitter account can do it right now, for free. Enter Twistshift, a service that allows you to follow your past self. The service is simple; log into Twistshift using Twitter’s API, create a new handle for your past self (awful puns are highly encouraged), and link the two accounts. Then hold on for a blast from the past. To check our Twistshift for yourself head to http://twistshift.com.

OVERSEEN & OVERHEARD
A student-built igloo in University Commons

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To check out Twitshift for yourself, head to http://twitshift.com. With it, you can basically travel back in time by following your past self. The service is simple; log into Twitshift using Twitter’s API, create a new handle for your past self (awful puns are highly encouraged), and link the two accounts. Then hold on for a blast from the past. To check our Twistshift for yourself head to http://twistshift.com.

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This was the first lesson of the 2011 Etiquette Dinner, which saw some 50 students enjoying a night of conversation, learning their manners, and sampling that glorious staple of college life — free food.

Stapf explained that she began conducting the Etiquette Dinner as an annual event for graduating students just over a decade ago. Her entrance into the world of etiquette actually came from her time as a resident advisor when a friend enlisted her into a program to teach manners to the boys on their floor. When she first came to RIT, she did a similar program for various sororities and other organizations on campus; and eventually, it evolved into the annual campus-wide event it is today.

One of the most basic things to know about etiquette is the general set-up of a formal place setting. Forks are to your left, spoons and knives to the right. It’s important to keep the tines (the sharp or serrated edge) of your knife facing towards your plate, lest your dining partners feel threatened. Furthermore, Stapf explained, in older times, when people would wear large cuffs and sleeves on their shirts, outturned tines could catch and rip the clothing. Above the plate should rest the dessert fork and spoon, heads of each in opposite directions. The various glasses used in the meal should rest above the spoons, and the bread plate should lie above the forks.

From time to time, Stapf would highlight the differences in the expected etiquette of different cultures. For instance, there is the well-known “European” manner of cutting and eating food where the knife is kept in the right hand and fork in the left, without any switching of utensils. This is in contrast to the American style where the utensils are switched back and forth throughout a meal. Another difference is the placement of hands when not actively eating. Throughout most of the world it is considered very rude, and even threatening, to rest your hands in your lap; while in the U.S. it is rude to have your hands on the tabletop.

One of the points that Stapf seemed most keen on getting across is that a good dinner or banquet is not about dressing up and going out, or even about the food. “It’s all about the conversation and getting to know the people at your table.” Customs such as taking more than one spoonful of soup at a time, or cutting more than a single bite with your knife at a time, are based around this fact. They force you to slow down and shift your focus away from the food and towards the people you’re sharing it with.

And never forget, salt and pepper travel together.

This was the first lesson of the 2011 Etiquette Dinner, which saw some 50 students enjoying a night of conversation, learning their manners, and sampling that glorious staple of college life — free food.

Stapf explained that she began conducting the Etiquette Dinner as an annual event for graduating students just over a decade ago. Her entrance into the world of etiquette actually came from her time as a resident advisor when a friend enlisted her into a program to teach manners to the boys on their floor. When she first came to RIT, she did a similar program for various sororities and other organizations on campus; and eventually, it evolved into the annual campus-wide event it is today.

One of the most basic things to know about etiquette is the general set-up of a formal place setting. Forks are to your left, spoons and knives to the right. It’s important to keep the tines (the sharp or serrated edge) of your knife facing towards your plate, lest your dining partners feel threatened. Furthermore, Stapf explained, in older times, when people would wear large cuffs and sleeves on their shirts, outturned tines could catch and rip the clothing. Above the plate should rest the dessert fork and spoon, heads of each in opposite directions. The various glasses used in the meal should rest above the spoons, and the bread plate should lie above the forks.

From time to time, Stapf would highlight the differences in the expected etiquette of different cultures. For instance, there is the well-known “European” manner of cutting and eating food where the knife is kept in the right hand and fork in the left, without any switching of utensils. This is in contrast to the American style where the utensils are switched back and forth throughout a meal. Another difference is the placement of hands when not actively eating. Throughout most of the world it is considered very rude, and even threatening, to rest your hands in your lap; while in the U.S. it is rude to have your hands on the tabletop.

One of the points that Stapf seemed most keen on getting across is that a good dinner or banquet is not about dressing up and going out, or even about the food. “It’s all about the conversation and getting to know the people at your table.” Customs such as taking more than one spoonful of soup at a time, or cutting more than a single bite with your knife at a time, are based around this fact. They force you to slow down and shift your focus away from the food and towards the people you’re sharing it with.

And never forget, salt and pepper travel together.
The night started off early with a voice eerily similar to Ansari’s echoing through the loudspeakers. After reciting the usual forewarnings, the voice—which belonged to “Bomb Zamboni”—began playing with the captionist by yelling out gibberish for him to write in the on-screen closed captions. After a few harmless insults, Bomb Zamboni’s voice disappeared and Dan Levy walked on stage.

Levy’s stage presence was commanding. He wanted all eyes on him, and the enthusiasm behind his performance warranted the attention. With an opening the likes of “Every time I enter a RadioShack, it looks like it was robbed,” you couldn’t help but sit on the edge of your seat, hoping for his next joke to be just as funny as his last.

Dan Levy had numerous stories of awkward celebrity encounters. One he shared with the audience was his run-in with pop superstar Justin Timberlake. After a quick mention of Justin’s “Whateva whateva shoes” and his discovery of the most awkward line one could say to a celebrity—“congrats on your success”—Levy spoke of his childhood, which involved smoking marijuana, a desire to be a professional inline skater and a Kris-Kross concert he attended with his father. Yes, Dan Levy was very much your average ’90s teenager.

Levy’s act truly shone when he read aloud a letter from his former roommate who unknowingly ate some cookies baked with marijuana. With each line, laughter echoed through the field house. Apparently, the roommate was high for nearly 30 hours and didn’t even know it. He described it as a “haze” and spent most of the letter arguing with himself about whether or not he was actually high.

Once the photo shoot ended, Ansari immediately began his routine, ruminating about that single friend who always suggests you talk to girls. Ansari is not a fan of this friend, mainly because the one time he took his advice, the girl verbally assaulted him. In retaliation, Ansari stole her purse, because “it looked good.”

Aziz Ansari’s talent lies in his ability to interconnect his jokes, adding to the hilarity and weaving an outlandish story guaranteed to make people smile. When he compared having dinner with a girl to having a gift DVD player sent to the wrong person, he factored in the recurring theme of Brian, a friend who is supposedly there for support whenever Ansari is rejected by a woman. Brian’s name would occasionally pop out after a joke, and the crowd would respond with unadulterated laughter.

Ansari, like Levy, had a commanding presence. His vocal affectations, vulgar humor, and facial expressions all demanded the audience’s attention. No face was turned away as he transitioned from racial slurs to jokes about his chubby cousin, Harris. The Harris routine was especially great as Ansari pulled out Harris’ college application to read to the audience. The letter, while similar to Levy’s, was just as hilarious, especially once Ansari added his own alterations, making the letter what he truly wanted it to be.

Once Ansari’s routine ended, applause roared through the winter wind. The crowd shuffled out of the Gordon Field House, undoubtedly satisfied with the performance. Both Ansari and Levy captured the audience with unrelenting grips of hilarity, and both were clearly having fun as well. It was truly a wonderful way to warm the hearts of Rochester— with drunk quesadillas and teaching 50 Cent about grapefruits.

When life’s got you gloomy, rely on laughter to warm your spirits and work your abdominal muscles. Students all throughout RIT need a few chuckles, especially with the frigid temperatures and the building pressures of winter quarter’s climax. Enter Freezefest, a white wave of hope providing students with a temporary reprieve from academics in the form of numerous wintry events. Riding this wave of jollity was the harbinger of comedy, Aziz Ansari. People flocked to the Gordon Field House, hoping for the “Community” star’s jokes to melt the final sheet of ice that encased their shivering hearts.
Unexplained Roots

We had been sitting silently in the office for nearly two hours. As Dr. Heath Boice-Pardee worked quietly behind his desk, I was busy turning the contents of his office inside out, rummaging through his belongings, and ransacking his personal files — mentally, of course. Determined to unravel the mystery behind the author of the Mystery 101 series, I had been studying the man’s every move, hoping for a glimpse of what he was like outside his role as associate vice president of Student Affairs at RIT. Finding little of interest, I moved my search to his surroundings. It was then that I made my breakthrough.

Sitting on his desk amongst a number of construction books was a framed photograph of a much younger Heath Boice. The 20-something-year-old wore a pair of rather large ‘80s style glasses and sat atop a desk in front of what looked like a map.

“Is this you?” I asked, my voice a little raspy from durée.

“No. That was maybe 1986,” he responded.

“So, the year I was born?” I said, trying to hide my grin.

“That is so sad!” Dr. Heath replied, laughing loudly before continuing. “I was an intern at a television news station in Albany.”

Ages before Dr. Heath became a school administrator, he attended The College of Saint Rose in Albany, N.Y., where he studied Public Communications. Back then, Heath had a much different dream. “There was a time that I wanted to be a television news anchor,” he said. Pursuing that career path, Heath got his first real job anchoring the weekend newscast at a small radio station in Saratoga Springs before eventually interning at WTEN-TV.

Heath served as a news writer for the ABC affiliated television station while he attended grad school. Every day, he woke at precisely 5:32 a.m. to make it to the station by 4:30. He worked until 9 a.m., took a short nap, had some lunch, then went to class — only to do it all again the next day. “It was a miserable existence, but I enjoyed it,” he said. That is, until a car accident changed everything.

During one news broadcast, a young girl had been hit by a car and her life hung in the balance. Heath was tasked to write about it. “I decided to write the story on how ways so that we get word she had died. I could feel in that story, and if not, I could just keep the regular story,” Heath explained. Reflecting on how morbid it was for him to so easily craft a story about a child’s death for his own convenience, Heath realized that the job wasn’t quite the right fit for him. “That was a turning point for me,” he said. Heath abandoned his dreams of becoming a television news anchor, but his passion for writing remained with him.

Fueled by the desire to write daytime soap operas, Heath drafted up a 10-episode screenplay, which he registered with the Writers Guild of America. Nothing ever came of the script, and Heath focused more on media and communication to education.

A Representative Library

Continuing my study of Dr. Heath’s office, I eyed the bookshelf lining the north wall, and took note of another two bookshelves on the east wall and adjacent to his desk. The books were arranged in arbitrary groups relating to topics such as student affairs, conduct, philosophy and mass communications. Nothing ever came of the script, and Heath focused more on media and communication to education.

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in and put the effort into getting others to understand where you’re coming from. “There comes a point, I think, when an advisor becomes a mentor — when they start out with teaching and kind of transform into a dream enabler,” Danna said.

Dare To Dream

Taking one final look around Dr. Heath’s office, I couldn’t help but notice the apparent influence of Walt Disney. From a “The Incredibles” jar on his desk to the framed photo of the original Imagineer above his computer, Dr. Heath’s appreciation for Disney is evident. It is also quite fitting.

Walt Disney once said, “If you can dream it, you can do it,” and many of Dr. Heath’s actions embody this message, whether he’s encouraging a student to pursue an idea or participating in a student event. And it probably helps that he’s been to Disney World eight times in his lifetime.

As we sat, assembling the all-too-complicated valentines that Dr. Heath had bought for the members of SG, we began to drift away from the interview questions I had prepared. We talked about Disney movies, favorite television shows, and how his posie ring is now permanently attached to his right index finger. It was then I knew I had cracked the mystery that was Dr. Heath, and Matt Danna couldn’t have said it better. “When you hang out with Dr. Heath, you just want to get to know him more. His character, his charisma, in many ways, is like gravity. He has a magnetic pull that draws you closer.”

“There comes a point, I think, when an advisor becomes a mentor — when they start out with teaching and kind of transform into a dream enabler.”

-Matt Danna, former SG President
Eva Abernathy stood over a pool of blood, the stained lead pipe still in her arthritic hands. Alexandre Richard had an unusually thick skull, and the numerous blows it took to bash it in had caused an unfortunate amount of blood to splatter across the dining room. Luckily, Eva had come prepared. She ducked across the hallway into the roaring fire — all evidence linking her to the crime vanishing with the smoke.

The night she received the invitation from Miss Rebecca St. Claire, she knew her opportunity had arrived. Though Miss St. Claire was young and fresh as a daisy next to Eva, she knew how to throw a party with class, something that Eva missed terribly from her childhood on her father's Virginia tobacco plantation. Ever since that French bastard Richard had forced her father's company out of business, leaving her in financial ruin, Eva had been longing for the grand parties of yesteryear. Lucky for Eva, Miss St. Claire had a long, varied list of friends, one that included Alexandre Richard.

Now that you have the major theme of your party down pat, you need to work on the logistics. Many murder mystery parties often take place during dinner, but a sit-down meal can consume time without progressing the plot. One alternative is to provide a large array of hors d'oeuvres or tapas so that your guests can nibble throughout the evening instead of spending too much time gathering for a communal meal. If you choose this route, you might also consider having a potluck and request each guest bring a dish.

You've got to get attached to your roster however, you should leave some wiggle room as some of your guests will inevitably end up canceling. Once you have a solid idea of who plays which part, you should send each person an individual profile so that they can get a feeling for who their character is and what their motivations are. For an extra twist, try assigning guests to characters with personalities wildly different from their own. By pulling people out of their comfort zone, you set the stage for a very interesting (and unusual) evening.

Choose your Cast

The first thing you're going to want to nail down is your guest list. Establishing this early is crucial, as it will allow you to choose a scenario appropriate for the size of your gathering. If you fancy yourself a literary master, you might want to create your very own some, but for the less adventurous, a plethora of pre-fabricated situations are available across the internet.

Choose one that both piques your interest and fits your group size and you should be good to go.

Now that you have your scenario chosen and your guest list laid out, it's a good time to start assigning characters to your guests. The earlier you choose them, the more time your guests will have to fully research their characters, including finding appropriate costumes. Don't get too attached to your roster however, you should leave some wiggle room as some of your guests will inevitably end up canceling. Once you have a solid idea of who plays which part, you should send each person an individual profile so that they can get a feeling for who their character is and what their motivations are. For an extra twist, try assigning guests to characters with personalities wildly different from their own. By pulling people out of their comfort zone, you set the stage for a very interesting (and unusual) evening.

Focus on the Details

You've made your plan right from the start with exacting detail. She had waited in agonizing anticipation of this opportunity for nearly 10 years, and she wasn't about to let it pass her by. As she counted down the days until Miss St. Claire's party, she left the soaked blouse into the roaring fire — all evidence linking her to the crime vanishing with the smoke.
When you step onto a wrestling mat, other sports strategies no longer apply. There's no one to pass the ball to, no one to block for you, and no one to tend goal; it's just you and your opponent. So when I sat in the wrestling room to chat with Mike McInally, I made sure to pay close attention to the man in front of me. McInally, a fourth year Industrial Design major, has an outstanding record of 29-2, and after taking second place at the NCAA Division III National Tournament in 2009, McInally has proven himself as one of the best wrestlers in his division and an important leader for the team. McInally has 13 years of competition under his belt, and when he was looking at colleges, he knew that a wrestling program was a must. "Not wrestling in college wasn’t really an option after winning a state title in high school," McInally said. The combination of a wrestling program and a strong academic background is what drew McInally to RIT, and he’s been a force to be reckoned with ever since. His remarkable achievements, however, have not come without struggle.

Last year’s season-ending neck injury and its resulting spinal surgery have forced McInally to find new ways to stay motivated. "Everyone says it’s hard to come back from an injury; it really is. It’s not the same," McInally said. His passion for wrestling has certainly helped him get past his injury and back into the sport he loves.

As the 2010-2011 season draws to a close with only two tournaments left, McInally is looking forward to another shot at the National Title. But he’s also looking beyond that. While his record will no doubt ensure a legacy with RIT wrestling, he also wants to make sure his work ethic rubs off on his younger teammates. He hopes that by making himself better he can help instill in them a winning attitude and a killer instinct, offering these words of inspiration: “You’re never done. It’s not over until it’s over.”

Mike McInally
by Evan Williams | photograph by Robert Bredvad

check out EventsAtRIT on facebook for hundreds of pictures from freezefest weekend! tag yourself and tag your friends!
An intimidating presence, Brian Walker, a fourth year Mechanical Engineering major, puts his incredible strength to use as a thrower for the RIT track and field team. Competing in shot put and weight throw in the winter and hammer, discus and shot put in the spring, Walker loves the individual nature of the sport. He says, “I like how [throwing] is personal—it’s all up to you to get the job done.” And Walter certainly does just that.

This past winter season, Walker broke his own school record in weight throw at the Empire 8 Championships with a throw of 16.89 meters. Currently, he also holds the school record for shot put achieving a distance of 13.8 m. These achievements did not, however, come without tremendous work, dedication and passion for throwing, a sport Walker has participated in since high school. Walker says, “My friend convinced me to do [track] freshman year of high school to stay in shape for football but, by our senior year, we played football to stay in shape for track.” During high school Walker only participated in the discus and shot put, getting his first taste of the hammer and weight throws after coming to RIT. Here, he participates in both track seasons, indoor during the winter and outdoors during the spring practicing around two hours each day (in addition to personal strength training). At each practice, throwing coach Sonja Walter (herself a former world-record holder) critiques each throw, which, according to Walker “has made a world of difference.”

While Walker will be continuing his education here at RIT for a fifth year, his athletic eligibility runs out after four years, restricting him from participating in track and field next year. This restriction, however, does not prevent Walker from participating in most track meets unaffiliated from RIT, which he plans on taking advantage of during his fifth year.

From breaking school records to accidently putting a hole in the wall of the Gordon Field House during a throwing practice, for Walker these past four years on the RIT track and field team has certainly been an experience he’ll never forget.

Katie Stack’s fascination with sports started when she began playing hockey at the age of three. By high school, she was playing both soccer and boys’ lacrosse, becoming the first female player to make her school’s team. At RIT, this fourth year Psychology major is a forward for the Women’s Hockey Team. Over the course of her college career, she has accumulated an impressive list of accolades. Entering college, Stack found herself at a crossroads. Eager to continue playing hockey, she was torn between RIT, Elmira College and Niagara University. Impressed by head coach Scott McDonald, she ultimately chose RIT. “He had the best personality and was the only one that really made me want to come to the school,” she says.

Stack quickly rose in the team’s ranks. By her freshman season’s end, she had garnered both RIT and ECAC West Player of the Week mentions. In her second year, she led Division III Women’s Hockey in shorthanded goals. During the 2009-10 season, she earned All-American honors and led the nation with 31 goals, becoming the second all-time scorer for RIT. She was also named Paychex’s Female Athlete of the Year. This season, Stack kept up the pace, scoring an impressive 15 goals and 30 points total during the 21 games she played.

Stack feels her most memorable game is the Jan. 23, 2009 match against SUNY Plattsburgh. A fortunate goal scored during overtime launched the Tigers to success in front of a near-record crowd of 1,133. Yet the game itself is only half of the team experience, especially for a tightly knit community like the RIT’s Women’s Hockey Team. Stack lives with four of her teammates. “If we’re not on the ice together, we’re working out together, hanging out in the conference room doing homework.”

Outside of the rink, Stack remains physically active. One of her life goals is to become a 46er. “There are 46 high peaks in the Adirondack Mountains, and I want to climb all of them,” she explains.

Set to graduate next fall, Stack hopes to pursue a graduate degree in psychology before becoming a high school counselor. She hit the ice once again on Feb. 19 against Elmira, one of the final games of an impressive college career.
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.
HOW WOULD YOU COVER UP A MURDER?

by Tom Newton

1. ALLISON RABENT
SECOND YEAR
MUSEUM STUDIES
"Bury the body in the fields."

2. LAUREN SPINELLI [L]
THIRD YEAR
ADVERTISING PHOTOGRAPHY
"I'd probably just use an icicle and bury the body in the middle of the desert. Done."

3. RICARDO RODRIGUEZ-RIVERA [M]
THIRD YEAR
ADVERTISING PHOTOGRAPHY
"Cover the feet with cement and throw the body into the ocean."

4. HOPE BAILEY [R]
THIRD YEAR
ADVERTISING PHOTOGRAPHY
"Roll the body up into a carpet."

5. BRENNA ROSENTHAL
SECOND YEAR
VISUAL MEDIA
"Clean the body with bleach and then dump it into the ocean."

6. JOEL WITWER
FOURTH YEAR
IMAGING SCIENCE
"Cover the body with an invisibility cloak."

7. TIOKA SIBURT
THIRD YEAR
BIOMEDICAL PHOTOGRAPHY
"Be very careful and be super nice so that no one would suspect anything."

8. JAZZMYN IVORY-ROBINSON [L]
THIRD YEAR
POLITICAL SCIENCE
"If you plan it out right you shouldn’t have anything to cover up."

9. DEIRDRESHA WINT [M]
THIRD YEAR
POLITICAL SCIENCE
“What the hell?"

10. KIRK REDMUND [R]
THIRD YEAR
POLITICAL SCIENCE
“Blame it on someone else.”
REPORTER reserves the right to publish all calls in any format.

FRIDAY, 6:20 P.M.
I sometimes fantasize about Destler riding around campus on a tiger. He would rule the jungle and the bricks!

THURSDAY, 5:21 P.M.
Can you please tell the [hooligans] who drive the graffitied slam van to stop making up their own parking spaces? My grandmother can park a school bus better than those douchebags.

THURSDAY, 11:32 A.M.
My calc professor keeps talking about taking the derivative of function w so he keeps saying DW. All I can think of is Arthur the aardvark’s annoying little sister.

FRIDAY, 8:39 A.M.
Oh my god, the deer use the crosswalks here. What the hell? The deer are smarter than some of the students.

THURSDAY, 5:21 P.M.
The RIT Santa always has the happiest smile, it’s infectious.

TUESDAY, 9:54 P.M.
Can you please tell the [hooligans] who drive the graffitied slam van to stop making up their own parking spaces? My grandmother can park a school bus better than those douchebags.

SATURDAY, 4:12 P.M.
Rings, have you ever had sex to the Food Network? It’s weird..

SUNDAY, 12:27 A.M.
The snow looks like glitter. Is God having a Ke$ha dance party?

FRIDAY, 10:09 A.M.
REPORTER please add a notes section. It would help out greatly when I’m hung over and notebook-less in my Friday morning class.

WEDNESDAY, 12:27 A.M.
This [fake] storm is delaying my Zonies!

MONDAY, 5:57 P.M.
You know a bus stop is badly designed when it’s just as effective to stand near it as it is to stand inside of it. I’m looking at you, Colony Manor bus stop!}

SUNDAY, 12:27 A.M.
The snow looks like glitter. Is God having a Ke$ha dance party?

(Turn page)
~ Packaging Material