

REPORTER

09|16|11 | reportermag.com



COUNTERING CULTURE

From Bohemians to punk rockers
these rebels revolutionized human culture.

THIS MAGAZINE CONTAINS
PUZZLES

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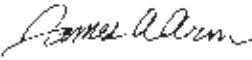
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POWER FROM THE PEOPLE

Last Friday marked the first of **REPORTER**’s weekly staff meetings for the year. As the office filled with new and familiar faces, the room, which sat empty all summer, began to wake from its hibernation. As the staff reconnected, reminisced and began to collaborate on our upcoming projects, an energy that had been missing all summer began to bring our glorified conference room back to life. As everyone else was scurrying around, getting newcomers situated or trying to finalize assignments for next weeks issue, I had the small luxury of stepping back and watching the magic happen. The energy we captured that day is not unique to this office; it can be found all over campus, and it, more than anything else, is the defining aspect of RIT.

At first glance our campus of brutalist brick isn’t much of a looker. Truth is, it continually finds itself on the Princeton Review’s list of the nation’s ugliest college campuses. But what such a cursory examination doesn’t take into consideration is that it’s RIT’s people that make it beautiful. Another small luxury I have is getting to see the academic side of campus at all the odd hours of day and night. While there’s definitely a pleasant quiescence here at three in the morning, there’s also certainly something uncomfortably absent: the energy of the student, faculty and staff that makes the everything tick.

It has become very popular to bash, both publicly and privately, some groups of the RIT community. While it’s undeniably true that some of those ridiculed do live up to some unfortunate stereotypes, it has been my experience that they contribute just as much, if not more, to the energy of RIT than those considered to be in the mainstream. Because for RIT to be the place it is, it needs its people, each and every one of them.


James Arn

EDITOR IN CHIEF

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cover illustration by Justyn Iannucci

BEYOND THE BRICKS

compiled by Vasia Ivanov | illustration by Melissa Huang

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE FACES FINANCIAL RUIN

One of the cornerstones of modern life is “on the brink of default,” according to the U.S. Postmaster General.

The U.S. Postal Service, one of America’s oldest institutions, has been gradually losing money due to the rise of technological communication, and risks not having enough money to pay salaries and contractors as early as August of next year.

“Without the enactment of comprehensive legislation by September 30, [2011]” said Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe, “The Postal Service will default on a mandated \$5.5 billion payment to the Treasury. ...Our situation is urgent.”

Donahoe hopes that Congress will approve cutting costs and restricting certain services, which could lead to layoffs in the hundreds of thousands, as well as completely cutting Saturday mail delivery. These plans are opposed by the American Postal Workers Union. APWU President Cliff Guffey has said that reforms would be a “reckless assault on the Postal Service and its employees.”

The Postal Service, which does not receive tax money to pay for its operation, is not currently seeking federal funds.

RUSSIAN HOCKEY TEAM DIES IN TRAGIC PLANE CRASH

A plane carrying the Lokomotiv Yaroslavl hockey team crashed almost immediately upon takeoff on September 8th, killing all but one of the team’s 28 players, as well as one crewmember.

The international team, a three-time champion of Russia’s Kontinental Hockey League (KHL), was traveling from their hometown of Yaroslavl, 150 miles northeast of Moscow, to Minsk, Belarus for the opening game of the KHL season. The Russian media said the plane struggled to gain altitude and then crashed into a signal tower, shattering on impact. The weather was clear and sunny.

The team was traveling with two coaches, seven club officials, and

eight crewmembers. Among the dead were several NHL veterans, including coach Brad McCrimmon.

NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman said of the incident, “Though it occurred thousands of miles away from our home arenas, this tragedy represents a catastrophic loss to the hockey world — including the NHL family, which lost so many fathers, sons, teammates and friends.”

FORMER SCIENTIST PLEADS GUILTY TO ATTEMPTED ESPIONAGE

Wednesday, Sept. 7, Stewart David Nozette of Chevy Chase, Md. pleaded guilty to one count of attempted espionage. Nozette, a former American government space scientist, was arrested in October 2009 for attempting to sell American secrets to an FBI agent posing as an Israeli spy. Nozette had been incarcerated before being convicted through special administrative measures on the grounds that he was a threat to American security. He was later indicted on four counts of attempted espionage.

Nozette appeared in federal court and admitted to trying to sell information about “U.S. satellites, early warning systems, means of defense or retaliation against large-scale attacks, communications intelligence information, and major elements of defense strategy.” The U.S. Justice Department has agreed to a sentence of 13 years, minus the two he has already served. Had he been convicted of all four of his original charges, Nozette could have been sentenced to death.

“Stewart Nozette was once a trusted scientist who maintained high-level government security clearances and was frequently granted access to classified information relating to our national defense,” U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. said in a statement obtained by NBC station WRC. “He will now have the next 13 years behind bars to contemplate his betrayal.”

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

by Alex Rogala

PRESIDENT PRO-TEMPORE APPOINTED

Addressing the Senate Friday, September 9, Student Government Vice President Phil Amsler expressed the need to select a new president pro-tempore. Following a nomination from Amsler, the Senate unanimously voted to approve CIAS Senator Vincent DiCairano, the only sitting second-term senator, to the position. In the case that either the president or vice president is unable to finish their term, DiCairano, as president pro-tempore, will step in.

GRADUATE SENATOR APPOINTED

In order to replace Graduate Senator Gabrielle Hewson, who resigned for personal reasons during the summer, another vote was called. Amsler introduced Wyatt Strong, a materials science graduate student who had been interested in the position. After a unanimous vote, with no opposing candidate, the senate approved Strong’s appointment.

FALL SENATOR ELECTIONS ANNOUNCED

Director of Student Relations Sarah Thomas addressed the Senate concerning fall elections. During fall quarter, SG will hold elections for two positions: freshman senator and College of Health Sciences and Technology senator. While the freshman senator position is open to first year students, applicants for CHST senator must have completed at least two quarters at RIT. Thomas mentioned that, for any interested parties, application packets will be available in the SG office, in the Campus Center (CPC, 03). Completed packets will be due Friday, September 23 by noon. She also mentioned two meet-and-greets — occurring Thursday, September 15 and Tuesday, September 20 — where potential candidates can meet current senators and learn about Student Government.

BRICK BEAT

by Vasia Ivanov

RIT EMPLOYEE ARRESTED FOR CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Robert J. Fain, an instructional technologist at the Wallace Library (WAL, 05), has been suspended after confessing to charges of receipt, possession and distribution of child pornography.

A complaint was filed against Fain alleging that he used RIT computers and his own personal computer to share explicit images of children as young as five years old engaging in sexual activities. He has allegedly been doing so since October 2010.

The complaint stated that RIT contacted the FBI and the Monroe County Sheriff’s Department after learning of a San Jose, Calif. police detective investigating someone using the RIT internet connection to view child pornography. The subsequent investigation implicated Fain, who later appeared before a U.S. magistrate to face charges. He was put on home detention until his cell phone is embedded with a tracking device that will keep track of his location at all times.

“If convicted, Fain faces a maximum penalty of up to 20 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, and lifetime supervised release,” said Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard Resnick in an article for the “Democrat and Chronicle.”

Fain also anchors a weekend news show on Rochester radio news station WHAM under the name Rob Jason.

Fain allegedly admitted to the charges, claiming his acts to being an error of judgment, and that he was “trying to impress other people online.”

FORECAST

compiled by Steven Markowitz

16
FRIDAY

CAB Friday Night Live Presents: Micah
Grace Watson Hall. 9 – 11 p.m.
Come relax at Beanz, grab a cup of coffee and listen to the music of Rochester native Micah, who has just completed a national tour.
Cost: Free

17
SATURDAY

Rave Climb
Red Barn. 9 p.m. – 12 a.m.
Grab your friends and head to the Red Barn for a rock climbing party with host DJ Cynosure. Make sure to bring a bundle of glow sticks.
Cost: \$5

18
SUNDAY

Annual Wet Down
Grace Watson Fields. 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Relax and wash away the stress at Lambda Alpha Upsilon’s 19th annual water balloon tournament.
Cost: Free

19
MONDAY

Festival of Food
Public Market, 280 North Union St. 6 – 9 p.m.
Come to upstate New York’s largest tasting event and experience the food of over 100 local restaurants, wineries, breweries, bakeries and farms.
Cost: \$50

20
TUESDAY

RIT Welcomes Julio Saenz
Campus Center. 12 – 2 p.m.
Come see a presentation by keynote presenter Julio Saenz, author of “Rochester’s Latino Community,” as he discusses Hispanic heritage in Rochester.
Cost: Free

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WEDNESDAY

Book Reading and Signing
Writers & Books, 740 University Ave. 7 p.m.
Author Martin Naparstek reads his recently published novel “Richard Yates Up Close: The Writers and His Works.”
Cost: Free **R**

GET *to the* GAME

TIGER DEN EVENTS

MEN'S SOCCER

9.24.2011 | 12 p.m. | vs. Union

WOMEN'S SOCCER

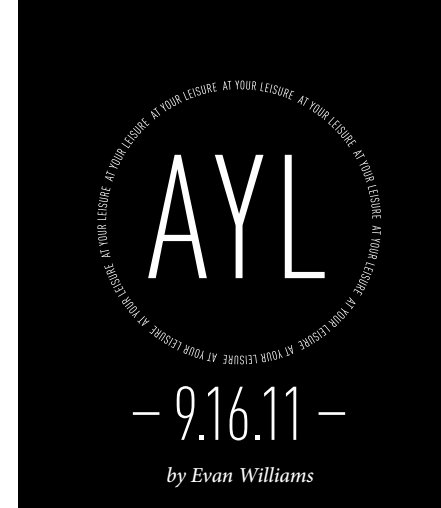
10.1.2011 | 2 p.m. | vs. Skidmore

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

10.1.2011 | 7 p.m. | vs. University of Rochester

MEN & WOMEN'S CROSS-COUNTRY

10.15.2011 | 11:15 a.m. | Yellowjacket Invitational
Genesee Valley Park



REPORTER RECOMMENDS

Writing for Reporter

Ever dream of having your name in print? How about getting access to star-studded concerts, FOR FREE!? What about getting paid to hang out at all the coolest events at RIT or travel the country to conventions and world news headquarters? How about constantly being high-fived everywhere you go by your adoring fans?

Okay maybe not the last one, but writing for Reporter is still a pretty sweet gig. Think about it. You get to address the whole campus, you can express yourself through the written word and most importantly, it's a way to earn a paycheck on campus without wearing a hairnet. It looks great on a resume, you find out all the good gossip before anyone else, and you can subversively stick it to the man with your witty commentary on university policies. Plus you get to hang out with me. Which is awesome, BTW.

WORD OF THE WEEK

Vitriolic adj. – Very caustic, scathing.

The freshman film student was deeply scarred by his peer's **vitriolic** criticisms of his final project.

QUOTE

"Good timber does not grow with ease; the stronger the wind, the stronger the trees."

– J. Willard Marriott, founder of Marriott International



STREAM OF FACTS

The number one movie on this weekend in 1991 was "Freddy's Dead: The Final Nightmare." Grossing just shy of 13 million dollars domestically, the film was the sixth film in the popular "Nightmare on Elm Street" franchise that began in 1984. "Freddy's Dead" featured a **CAMEO** by Johnny Depp, whose screen debut was in the original "Nightmare" back in 84.

The word **CAMEO** comes from the cameo brooch, a brooch or pin that featured the likeness of an individual. The cameo is a carving usually designed to have two colors, though more than two are acceptable. Stones and seashells that naturally feature two colors make good bases. Dyes and bleaches are then often used for **ENHANCING** the carving's colors.

The most popular performance **ENHANCING** drugs among athletes are anabolic steroids, which commonly injected into the muscles to facilitate quick growth and increase strength.

The use of performance enhancing drugs dates as far back as ancient Greece, where **WRITERS** mentioned what were known as "performance potions".

In 2007, the **WRITER'S** Guild of America East and the Writer's Guild of America West united with a strike of radio, television and motion picture writers. Over 12,000 writers joined the strike to protest the wide gap between the pay given to writers and the profits by large studios. The strike started on November 5, 2007 and ended **FEBRUARY** 12, 2008.

FEBRUARY is the shortest month and the only month with less than 30 days. This is because the Roman calendar started with month of March. Their attempt to synchronize their calendar with the crescent moon resulted in a shortened period for the last month, which left February a little short. The name February comes from the Latin word februum, meaning "purification". **R**

HAIKU

*All new professor,
With monotone speaking voice.
I guess its nap time.*

OVERSEEN & OVERHEARD

*"No parking means no parking
douche!"*

- Student reacting to a Golden Memories bus being towed in Gleason Circle.



illustration by Justine Raymond

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~ Packaging Material

Creative uses for
REPORTER

3 of 6

“Virgin” Summer:

BEN DISINGER

The end of summer is bittersweet. As students mourn the loss of blissful freedom, they also look forward to seeing their friends again and trading stories about their unique summer experiences. But one would be hard-pressed to outdo the summer of Ben Disinger, a third year film production major.

Anyone who has watched MTV, VH1 or Fuse over the last month should recognize his name: He's listed as the director of the music video for indie rock group Manchester Orchestra's "Virgin." But what's more remarkable than a 21-year-old student directing a widely distributed music video for a nationally known band is the fact that he had no contact with the musicians until the video was in its final stages. In fact, it began as a school project.

"It originally started off as a seven to eight minute short film for an experimental filmmaking class I was taking this past spring," says Disinger. "There was absolutely no intention of it ever becoming a music video at the time."

Having finished shooting, he poured through his footage and started compiling a rough cut. "[Manchester Orchestra's] new album was streaming online a week early for the fans, and I had it playing in the background and then I noticed that the beat of 'Virgin' matched up with the cuts of my rough edit. From there I started to pay more attention to the lyrics. The song knocked me backwards; it was absolutely perfect."

As luck would have it, the band was scheduled to play a show in Rochester later that week. Disinger sat outside the venue before the band went on, waiting for them to come out of the tour bus. After a few hours, they did. "I only wanted [permission] to use their music as a part of my film. I had no intentions whatsoever of it becoming a music video." After the band gave him their blessing, he offered to show them his work in progress. "They were blown away and proposed that I made it into their official music video."

Over the summer, Disinger negotiated a deal with Sony Music Entertainment, and on August 2, the video premiered to the world. The video's special effects were provided by his roommate, Bogdan Ciornei, a fourth year new media design major and all of the talent, minus one Chris Montgomery, was provided by modeling agency Mary Therese Friel, LLC.

Additionally, Disinger has submitted the video to many film festivals under the title "Liberty/Virgin." It has made the official selection of seven festivals around the country, and has won awards at three of them, most notably "Best Director" and "Best Cinematography" at the Los Angeles Reel Film Festival.

"It's definitely been a launching pad for my career," noted Disinger, "I've gotten a few phone calls and emails from people out in the industry. I'm going to be moving out to L.A. upon graduation and I've already got some offers waiting for me."


Disinger has remained in contact with the band since the video's premiere, particularly Andy Hull, the band's lead singer. Speaking about the video, Hull said, "This is that rare moment when art expands further than first intentions or expectations — where two different inspirations can coincide to create something better."

by Vasia Ivanov

R



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MIND OVER MATTER

A NIGHT WITH A MINDFREAK
by Evan Williams | photograph by John Foster

Security. Divorce. Milk. Those three words by themselves probably don't mean much to you, unless you were at Banachek the Mentalist's performance in Ingle Auditorium Friday night. Those in attendance know that those were the three words selected by random audience members from a random page from three different books. They also know that Banachek was able to predict what word each of the three audience members would stop on as he flipped through the three hundred plus pages in each book. Security. Divorce. Milk.

In a criminally under-filled Ingle, Banachek, who created Penn and Teller's famous bullet catch and wrote the first four seasons of Criss Angle's "Mindfreak," pulled off a number of unbelievable acts that even the most hardened cynic would be hard-pressed to explain away. But it's not magic. It's mentalism, the practice of using highly tuned intuition and nonverbal cues to pull off feats that appear to border on clairvoyance and telepathy. "I read thoughts, not minds," he says. I had to get in on this.

Banachek's first trick involved asking four people to stand up in the crowd and each think up a card. He used their body language to predict the color of the card, but as he moved on to suits and numbers, he was one for four. It was a rough start admittedly, but redemption came swift and often.

After the card act, he sent a young woman to pass out ten pieces of paper and ten pencils throughout the crowd. Ten people, including myself, wrote down an interesting fact about ourselves and a number of some significance to us, and placed it in an envelope. They'd come into play later.

Next up he used three random audience members to settle on one phone number in one column, on one page of a phonebook. The number was read aloud to the crowd as Banachek walked over to a white board that had been untouched during the show and flipped it

over to reveal all seven digits of the phone number. He then explained how he used non verbal cues to guide each audience member to that particular number in that particular column on that particular page. The trick wasn't that he knew the number, it was that he managed to steer the students to that same number.

From then on things went from head scratching to mind blowing. From duct taping coins into his eyes and guessing what random items had been selected from audience members to pushing a pin, balanced on the edge of a table, to the ground without touching it, Banachek impressed.

He even called my number and guessed my random fact, which I won't reveal because I think my mom reads this. But that was nothing compared to Banachek using a voodoo pin to make a girl start bleeding from her palm without touching her. In another interesting moment, he picked three random students that had selected a cartoon character, a method of assassination and a date. Tom the cat, with a Spirit Bomb, on 12/12/2012. Then a girl took a stapled piece of paper out of his zippered wallet from inside his coat. On the paper, word for word, was the assassination selected by the crowd.

He ended by putting his life and reputation on the line. His final trick involved five knives placed in envelopes, three with blades in and two with blades out. He then had five people take a knife and asked three of them stab him in the stomach. Had he been wrong, I would be writing a very different article.

Whether you think that Banachek's acts were gimmicks or the real deal, the show was remarkable either way. The man has an extraordinary set of skills that deserve recognition. The only disappointment from that night was that there wasn't more of an audience to have their minds freaked. **R**



illustration by Jai Kamat



COUNTERING CULTURE

by Evan Williams

WHO ARE YOU? NO, REALLY. WHO ARE YOU?

The ways we conduct ourselves, the decisions we make, the things we want from life are, for the most part, predicated on our place within the culture we're born into. The way we talk, the way we dress, what we eat, the way we love, who, if anyone, we pray to; they're all determined either in accordance with, or in spite of, the ideals and will of whoever ushered us through the formative years of our lives. Even as adults, most of us will continue this trend. In some ways, the paths that many of us find ourselves on are ones that were picked out for us before we were even born. While the specifics like where we went to school or where we were raised will undoubtedly vary, the general life path is the same for almost each and every one of us.

It should be explicitly stated however that this is by no means a bad thing. In the whole of human existence, the ability to cultivate societies is perhaps the most impressive and

resounding trait of our species. It has given us written word and oral history, music and art, math and science, love and sport. But as long as there have been societies standing shoulder to shoulder together, there have been individuals set on standing apart. But what turns social dissent into a full-blown movement? What motivates a counter cultural movement to make the effort to separate themselves from the norms of the cultures that gave birth to them?

There have been several significant counterculture movements throughout history, beginning with the Bohemians of the 1800s. The blueprint instilled by the Parisian Bohemians has been followed to the letter by every major countercultural movement of the 20th century. In America, perhaps the three most important movements have been the beats of the 50s, the hippies of the 60s and the punks of the 70s and 80s.

FROM MISFITS TO MOVEMENTS

In early 19th century Paris, a group of artists and writers began to separate themselves from the working people to focus on their passions. Named the Bohemians, they are widely recognized as the first group of individuals to form a community based around the idea of living outside the constraints society; in this case, the deeply materialistic one of France. Comprised of a diverse collection of writers, artists, actors and students, they rejected private property and permanent residence, living where they could and surviving on very little material wealth. They rejected strict moral values, actively engaging in drug and alcohol use and practicing open sexual freedoms. The goal of the Parisian Bohemians was simple: art above all.

In the morning, they typically rose early to work on their novels, plays or whatever inspired them at the time, and by night they would descend upon the city of lights. “We never dined at home. Like a flock of birds of prey we descended upon the Palais-Royal, or the cabarets in the Rue de Valois, or the various restaurants in the arcades, according to our whim,” said author Henry Knepler in one of his accounts of the Bohemian lifestyle. The wild nights were usually spent drinking, dancing and cultivating the company of women. The late evenings would turn into early mornings and the whole thing would begin again.

The Bohemian lifestyle wasn’t simply about the instant gratification of pursuing ones passions, however. Almost everything they did was in an effort to undermine the mainstream culture of the time. Sometimes that meant sitting in a coffee shop all day and only ordering one cup of coffee; or setting up an easel and a nude model in front of a restaurant. The Bohemians would scrounge together whatever clothes they could find, in staunch opposition to the meticulous fashion standards of the bourgeoisie, members of the wealthy social class. What better way, they thought, to make a statement against the excess of society than to wrap themselves in the garb the rich throw away? They looked at the artifice of the social classes and material wealth and boldly flaunted their disregard for it. They were viewed as lazy by those who worked all day to make ends meet. This lifestyle of the Bohemians, however, set the stage for the beat movement of the 20th century.

HOMELAND BOHEMIA

The beat generation wasn’t originally considered a movement. They were a tight knit group of friends, who used their lifestyles and literature to challenge what they saw as a vapid mainstream culture developing in America. In the atomic age, America was experiencing a great deal of growth. Suburbs and interstates turned America into a sprawling empire, and rampant commercialism was beginning to develop. Coined by poet Jack Kerouac in 1948, the phrase “beat generation” referred to the upbeat, musically inclined anti-conformist youth movement growing in the underbelly of New York City. In many ways, the beats were mobile bohemians, traveling and spreading their message from coast to coast. Through their literature and activism, they created a lasting effect on the American way of life, inspiring a number of folk and rock musicians and changing the way Americans dealt with censorship, drug use and sexuality. They were the frontrunners of many of the civil and social revolutions to occur over the next several decades.

Hippies are perhaps the most famous of the American counterculture movements. They’re most commonly associated with drug use, bright colors and free love, but there was far more than that to the flower power generation. Many of the ideals of the adopters of hippie culture came from a feeling that there was a lack of purpose in their lives, an idea common to the Bohemians. Many hippies left their middle class lives to experience what they hoped would be a more fulfilling way of life, beside people who shared a desire to escape the confines of nine-to-five jobs and 2.5 children. They peacefully rebelled against authority and conformity and opted to live in poverty for the freedom and community it invited. There was a great deal of social and political change in the 1960s, and the hippies embraced causes like civil rights, feminism and sexual liberation. Like the bohemians, they rejected the comfort of what they thought was an empty existence and chose to replace it with the experience of seeing what the world had to offer.

THE VICIOUS CYCLE


But just as the Bohemians were the first to unify social dissent and craft it into a separate culture, they were the first to begin the self-destructive cycle that has befallen all countercultures from that point forward. As a counterculture grows in size and exposure, it grows in acceptance and more and more members of the dominant social order “descend” into it. It becomes cool, it becomes chic and it becomes trendy. At the same time, more prominent members of the counterculture often find some level of success or recognition through their counterculture works, which propels them into the realm of the mainstream. History has shown that the most surefire way to crush a counterculture is to let it destroy itself. Every major countercultural movement has become a caricature of itself, as it grows too big for its own identity. This is often the case when you can no longer separate those who are committed to the way of life from those that are simply attracted to it. But this distinction is often made too late.

This brings up another major factor in the way that countercultures falter over time: the lack of “lifers.” Being a part of a counterculture is one thing, but maintaining that lifestyle, particularly in America, is exceedingly difficult. For many, the need to find some sort of stability in life, financially and socially, eventually becomes too pressing to ignore. In some cases — usually in the second and third generations of various countercultures — many young people enter the lifestyle knowing full well that they can drift back into the fold of the mainstream when the time is right.

In our particular generation, downward mobility has become increasingly popular, with some middle and upper class young people going as far as living on the street or hopping train cars to experience a carefree, unemployed lifestyle with little to no responsibility, up until the mood strikes them to return to their suburban homes and get on with their “real” lives. They get the excitement of vacationing as part of a fringe lifestyle, while also having the security of

knowing they can whip out their iPhones at any minute and move back in with their parents. Even Henry Murger, who many consider to be Paris’ original Bohemian, was determined to move out of the counterculture lifestyle he helped cultivate, and used his short plays, ironically about the Bohemian lifestyle, to elevate his status and move up among the bourgeoisie. He saw Bohemia as a temporary state of existence, and those who could not move on to the next phases of their lives would inevitably destroy themselves.

Ultimately, World War I brought the Bohemian lifestyle to an end. With the French people facing the horrors of an unprecedented global war, art and literature were put on hold and the counterculture never quite regained its footing. Before its demise however, it had already begun to show signs of degradation. Author Gabriel Guillemot was very critical of the later stages of Bohemia, stating “few men of talent, let alone men of genius, remained Bohemian throughout their lives. The vast majority of those who did were men who lacked the talent to make a lasting reputation, and men who lacked the moral fiber, the sense of responsibility, to lead a satisfactory adult life.” Many Bohemians found it necessary to move on to more suitable and socially acceptable lifestyles, while others found success for their works and moved up in the world.

Countercultures will continue to exist, and will continue to reflect the cultural atmosphere of whatever situation they stem from. They are perhaps the most eye-opening gauge of where a culture stands, and by resisting the status quo, they force people to examine different aspects of their society. They are as important and vibrant as the cultures they clash with. The only question left: where do you stand? 



HISTORY OF US

The driving forces behind the evolution of culture

by Michelle Spoto

Defined as “the behaviors and beliefs characteristic of a particular social, ethnic or age group,” the culture of any group is as rich and complex as the traditions and values they hold.

What exactly creates a culture is a hotly debated topic, but music, art, language and other traditions are regarded as key components to a community’s way of life. With all its facets, the culture of any society is extraordinarily intricate and complex. Simply by virtue of this complexity, it becomes almost impossible to define the culture of any group without making broad generalizations or excluding several types of social sub-culture. For example, if you tried to define what exactly “American culture” is, there may be stereotypes that come to mind, but certainly these attributes don’t accurately portray, or apply to, each member of our society. Trying to define what constitutes “human culture”

then, is a seemingly impossible task, as there is a richness and intricacy in every aspect of our culture. The complexity of our culture, though it makes it hard to define, can be attributed to how our customs, rituals and traditions evolved with the human species. The development of culture can be largely credited to three prominent factors: language, the formation of a higher consciousness and the biological adaptations that made these possible.

The development of language proved to be a huge step in creating a distinct human culture. Language first began as a form of rudimentary communication via grunts and other sounds. Slowly, however, language developed to include words and sentences, making it possible for humans to communicate more effectively. This complex language is thought to have first appeared around 100,000 – 200,000 years ago and proved to be a huge step in the evolution of culture. As language became more sophisticated, humans were able to relay stories and experiences to each other, creating further cooperation between individuals and tight-knit communities. In addition to spoken language, the written word was also instrumental in creating

a complex culture. Writing is believed to have developed sometime in the third millennium BC in Egypt and Mesopotamia. The creation of the written word allowed humans to pass down knowledge to subsequent generations. This facilitated the increasing growth of traditions, in the form of music, art, and storytelling, to create rich cultural groups. Arguably, however, the most important use for language is that it was used to convey the newly emerging human consciousness from one individual in a community to others in that community.

Human consciousness, or the idea of being aware of one’s own thoughts, feelings, or emotions, also proved key in the development of human culture. While it is commonly believed that many animals possess some sort of consciousness, it’s also thought that humans possess a higher level of awareness; we’re able to feel complex emotions and produce rational thought. Consciousness

is believed to have formed in humans as a way for our species to create intelligent and reasoned solutions for environmental challenges. When coupled with the

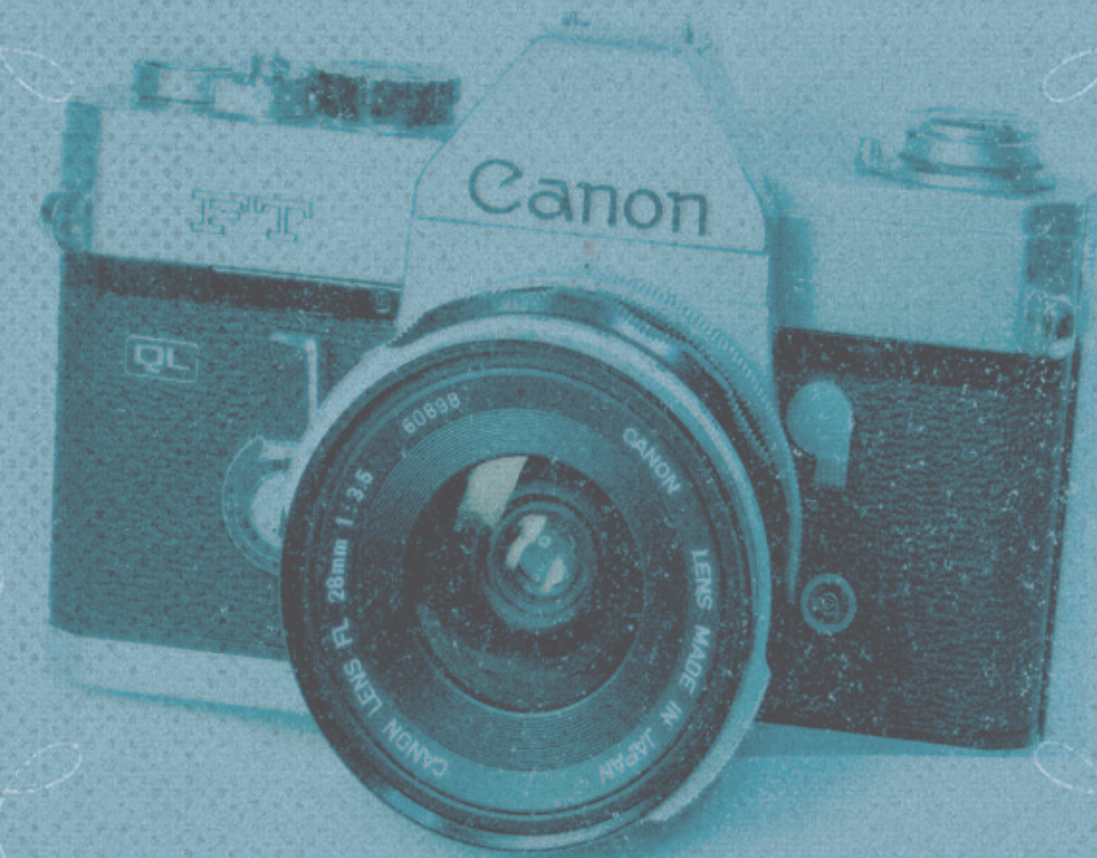
formation of language, consciousness had a drastic impact on the creation of a human culture. As language provided a way for individuals to communicate ideas of consciousness and emotion, intricate societies began to form. Equipped with language and consciousness, human communities developed laws, traditions, and cultures of their own.

Differences in culture between communities, however, inevitably lead to clashes between societies and also to the meshing of different customs. The blending of cultures can be seen time and time again throughout history, even in our own country where immigrants brought with them their own traditions to help create the melting pot that America is today. The wealth of human culture that exists today can be attributed to the fact that these traditions accumulate from generation to generation and become combined with the

customs of other cultures.

While the creation of language and the rising of a consciousness proved to be pivotal points in the course of human development, they would not be possible without the biological evolution that arose alongside them. The increasing complexity of language was made possible though the physical evolution of the human species. It’s believed that language was formed as a response to humans’ evolved brain, around 100,000 – 200,000 years ago. Developments in the vocal tract of humans, although making choking on food more likely, were critical in facilitating the formation of language. Without the evolution of vocal tract, complex sounds (the basis for language) couldn’t be made. In addition to the development of voice, the development of a cognitive brain was also key to the creation of both language and a higher consciousness.

Given the discovery of language, the formation of a higher conscious and the biological adaptations that allowed for these to occur, humans began to develop the rich cultures that we see today. The ending of the last ice age, around 12,000 years ago, left behind fertile land and large bodies of fresh water, setting the stage for a major transition in human history. Around 10,000 years ago, humans began to shift from a primarily hunter-gatherer society to an agricultural one, planting seeds and domesticating animals. This shift allowed for a prominent change in culture that has lasted even into the 21st century, providing the foundation for extraordinary cultural growth and development. Since then, traditions and cultures have built upon one another, morphed with time and have created the many facets of the rich human culture that exists today. ■



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TIGERS TACKLE MUSTANGS

by Evan Williams | photograph by Max Hautaniemi

Gray should be an official color on any RIT sports jersey for teams that play outside. Wednesday, Sept 7 found the Men's soccer team (currently 2-1 on the season) facing off against the SUNY Morrisville Mustangs (0-2) on a chilly wet afternoon at RIT's field. The setting was almost poetic — the home team wore white while the Mustangs were in black; rain fell from the slate gray clouds while a Hitchcockian flock of seagulls circled unnaturally low overhead. For an early season, non-conference matchup, it had all the makings of a Hollywood championship climax, including the style of play.

In sports, a great deal of emphasis is put on finesse vs. physical play. If one moniker had to be assigned to each team, RIT would definitely be the finesse unit. Executing a much more sophisticated passing game, the Tigers spent a great deal of time hovering around Morrisville's goal, inciting a number of rushed and seemingly panicked defensive plays from the Mustangs. Throughout the first half, the Mustangs failed to operate effectively as a unit, with most of their big breaks coming from individual efforts down the sidelines.

As the first period progressed, the physicality of the two teams really began to take center

stage. The wet conditions and Morrisville's inability to put a threatening play together seemed to augment the number of collisions, falls, and sliding tackles that began to accrue. With 21:35 left in the first, a player from each side collided at midfield, resulting in a stoppage of play as the players were attended to. They would both be fine.

Eight minutes later, RIT found the goal for the first time off of a high arching header from fifth year international business and accounting major Dan Holowaty, with an assist from first year computer technical engineering major Danny Bloshkin. The ball was perfectly placed as the goaltender tumbled into the back of the net desperately leaping to keep the ball out of the upper ninety. It was the first goal in what would be a record setting performance for Holowaty. Fifth year finance major David Vogt, back from clavicle surgery, scored the team's second goal with an assist from fifth year chemistry major Kyle Grimaldi just two minutes into the second period. Only three minutes later the tandem of Holowaty and Bloshkin struck again, as Holowaty's shot skirted past the goalie, who looked like he expected the ball to miss the goal all together,

and bounced off the right post before tucking itself into the net. But it wasn't until Holowaty pulled off the hat trick from a quarter of a field away in the 68th minute that the Mustangs and their fans began calling his number. "Get number four", the Morrisville defenders shouted. "Someone get four!"

With the desperation brought on by the impending shutout, the last minutes after the Tiger's fourth goal were filled with what must have been nearly a dozen penalties including hits and tackles, as well as some decidedly poor sportsmanship from the Mustangs (number eight Andrew Stein, I'm looking at you). At the final buzzer, Dan Holowaty walked away with the dirtiest jersey on the team and a career-high three goals. Despite being the only RIT player to score a hat trick in over a decade, Holowaty still felt like he left a few opportunities on the field. "I'm kind of a perfectionist," he said after the match. "We had a few more quality chances that we could have put away, but overall I think we had a very good showing." When asked about the number of times he was taken to the ground during the match, he smiled. "It gets your adrenaline going. It makes you want to get right back in there." **R**

Above: Matt Broedel, a third year new media design major, slots through a gap in wednesdays game against Morrisville.

BRINGIN' BACK THE PUCK & BROOM

by Jeff McKinzie

Good news for all those who love to play on ice: intramural hockey and broomball are back. Students will get a chance to face off on the same rink where the beloved Division I Tiger hockey team plays. This fall broomball and hockey will be offered along with indoor soccer, softball, dodgeball, pickleball, and flag football.

Ice hockey has been noticeably absent from the intramural roster since 2009. According to assistant director of intramurals and club sports Brennan Coon, the decision to remove ice hockey came after some students began regularly showing up to play while intoxicated. Coon believes that enough time has passed that students can now enjoy the sport appropriately and without any more issues of this kind. He also believes that it will be one of the most popular sports, expecting a turnout of close to 150 students, or about 12 teams worth of players. He says the “season” will go on for six or seven weeks, with two weeks for play-offs.

Broomball, while not as popular as ice hockey, is another favorite intramural. While similar in many ways to hockey, broomball is played with a rubber ball roughly the size of a soccer ball. Instead of hockey sticks, players use a stick with a rubber triangular head akin to the shape of a broom. Players do not use skates, so if you’re looking for the fast pace of hockey but aren’t confident enough in your skating abilities, broomball is a sport worth looking into.

Another sport being offered by RIT intramurals this fall is pickleball. For those not familiar with the game, it is a racquet sport that shares elements of badminton and tennis. It’s played on a court that has the same dimensions of a doubles badminton court, with the same net setup as tennis. The ball used in game is actually a whiffle ball, and players use a hard paddle to strike it. The object of the game is similar to that of ping-pong, and first to 11 leading by a two-point margin wins.

Registration for fall sports was Sept. 12-13, but all are still encouraged to join. Intramurals are open to both men and women, and no experience is necessary. It’s free, it’s fun, and it’s a great way to socialize and pick up a new sport along the way. **B**

combating the FRESHMAN FIFTEEN

By Ali Coladonato | illustration by Amber Gartung

We’ve all been warned of the rapidness of college weight gain, citing unhealthy food options, eating meals irregularly and at odd hours, and the tendency to reach for a Mountain Dew and a bag of chips to fuel late-night studying as simply part of the college lifestyle. And while many laugh it off as a worried parent’s extension of “eat your vegetables,” it’s a reality a lot of college students face throughout their time at school. Unfortunately it’s usually not until the weight is already there that thoughts of diet and exercise cross one’s mind.

Many students may find themselves gaining weight due to poor eating habits — and with fewer and fewer healthy options available it’s become important for students to find ways to get active. This doesn’t have to mean going out for three different varsity sports or working out five times a day. There are a lot of simple ways to help keep from falling victim to the pattern of weight gain that so many college kids experience.

Of course, one of the easiest ways to get moving is by going to the gym. Still, gyms can often conjure up images of machines designed for pain more than anything else and the insecurities of sweating in front of others. A lot of times, finding someone to accompany you is a great way to check decide if the gym has what you’re looking for, as well as to prevent you from feeling uncomfortable or self-conscious. The great part about having a gym buddy that you can practically yell out your door to find one; there are a lot of people who simply don’t like exercising alone.

Another way to meet new people and get an athletic fix is by trying out a new sport or club. There are tons of club sports on campus and all of them are interested in gaining new members regardless of experience. If it’s something you’ve always wanted to try, or just have a passing interest in, there’s no better place to do it than at school where it’s all so easily accessible. Plus, these kinds of extracurriculars will get you moving and interacting with people in new and different ways.

If working out or playing sports aren’t your cup of tea, RIT’s often annoyingly large campus and collection of out-of-the-way buildings pose great opportunities for exploring. Walking is one of the easiest ways to get exercise, and in strolling through different buildings you learn your way around and get the added bonus of coming across some pretty interesting areas and maybe even a few clean bathrooms. An even better way to enjoy your exercise is to get outside while the weather is still nice. The nature trails behind Gracie’s offer a fantastic way of getting away from the stress of bricks and term papers to stretch your legs and your imagination. The trails are best explored in the daytime and with adequate footwear, should you want to stray from the path to get a better view of a deer or try to scramble up a low-hanging branch.

Of course there are plenty of resources on campus should you want a more personalized or structured way of approaching the ways you keep fit. A fitness lab in the Student Life center recently opened and is designed to assist anyone interested in understanding their personal health needs and implementing safe, effective ways to begin an exercise program.

What it all comes down to is taking the time to think about your health; it’s up to you to recognize your habits and whether you think they need changing. Whatever your thoughts on exercise, getting out and moving is something your body will thank you for and something you may even have fun doing. **B**



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THE PERKS OF BEING A DORM-DWELLER

by Amber Wilson-Daeschlein | photographs by Neal Danis

Dorm life was once described to me as “the best experience you’ll never want to repeat.” I found that to be mostly true. Though the dorms get a bad rap, I quickly came to realize that participating in dorm life can be an enriching experience.

My time living on the fifth floor of Carlton Gibson Hall was one of genuine comradery, new independence, and many memorable experiences. Because of my freshman year dorm adventures, I learned to approach friendships openly, the importance of study buddies, and how to live without parents (and their credit cards).

Initially, I felt apprehensive about going in without knowing anyone. From some sly Facebook stalking I learned that my roommate was from New Hampshire, went to a high school with a name that I couldn’t pronounce, and worked at a taco restaurant. With the email address of a pre-teen girl and “glowsticks” listed as one of her interests, I was a little skeptical about our upcoming nine-month co-habitation. Willing to give it a chance, and not actually having a choice, I accepted her friend request. After a few initially awkward messages, I discovered that she already had a printer, mini-fridge, and coffee maker. Score! I barely had to bring anything.

Moving in was easier than I thought it would be. I arrived first and claimed the side with the bigger closet and view of the quad. When my roommate got there, I found that she was as nice in person as she was on Facebook. And she brought the fridge. Getting all of our stuff unpacked only took a few hours, which gave us time to go to lovin’cup with our families. After my first night in a dorm room, it was time to

say goodbye to my parents and sister. Through the next few days my roommate and I bonded over our similar sense of style, mutual dislike of scavenger hunts, and a trip to Target that ended in a two-mile walk back to campus. Without being forced to spend time with my roommate, I never would have gotten to know one of my best friends on campus.

As classes began, I met many new people and discovered that there were some fellow chemistry majors on my floor. It was pretty convenient when I had a question about the homework and was able to walk twenty feet to find a study buddy. I also discovered that the guy across the hall was a computer science major and could help me with all of the computer issues I would inevitably encounter. After moving eight hours away to go to a college where I knew no one, I had made some solid friends from



classes, extracurricular activities, and of course, Gibson Five. With this great support group, my first year of college was definitely a success.

Looking back, there are certain memories of my freshman year that stick out. One of my favorites was when my roommate and I, in the spirit of Christmas, decided to make cookies for our floor-mates. Being without an oven, we found online recipes for microwaveable treats (which taste better than they sound) and commandeered the dorm kitchen. Our time estimation skills were less than desirable, so we ended up cleaning the dishes from our cookie mission at 3 a.m., even though we had to be up for class in four hours. Though sleep-deprived and a bit grumpy, it was worth it to see a surprisingly good drawing of the cookie monster saying “Thanks for the cookies!” on the white board down the hall. Without parents reminding me to “get to sleep at a reasonable hour,” I learned how to be responsible for my academic, financial, and personal well-being.

Through late night study sessions, laundry excursions, and reverse trick-or-treating on Halloween, I got to know the students who lived on my floor. I had a great time meeting some memorable people who helped me through classes, boredom, and my lack of a can opener. Though listening to the guy down the hall sing “Single Ladies” in an unnatural falsetto at two in the morning did not contribute to an optimal academic environment, it made for a memory that my floor mates and I are unlikely to forget. Unless incarcerated, one doesn’t usually find a community living experience with as much diversity and comradery as dorm life. Though I’m not sure if I would repeat it, living in the dorms gave me an abundance of fond memories and learning experiences; I wouldn’t change it if I could. **R**

ANARCHY IN THE UK

by Adam Watts | illustration by Justyn Iannucci

“We all know the police and the lengths they are willing to go to. We don’t believe their stories about how he died.”

The riots in London began on August 6, two days after 29-year-old Mark Duggan was shot dead by police who were attempting to arrest him. He was carrying, wrapped in a sock, a blank-firing pistol that had been modified to fire live ammunition. Both shots fired were by the police. These are the facts, as reported later by the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC).

Unfortunately, the IPCC didn’t tell Duggan’s family and friends any of this. According to the protesters who gathered outside the local police station two days later, many of his relatives had first learned that he was dead when they saw his picture in the news. They said that Duggan’s fiancée had had to call the IPCC to identify the body, not the other way around. Later that night, they said that the police had attacked a 16-year-old girl who was part of the protest. Two nearby police cars were set on fire. Four days later the riots ended with large sections of London still smoking, five people dead and an estimated \$160 million in property damage.

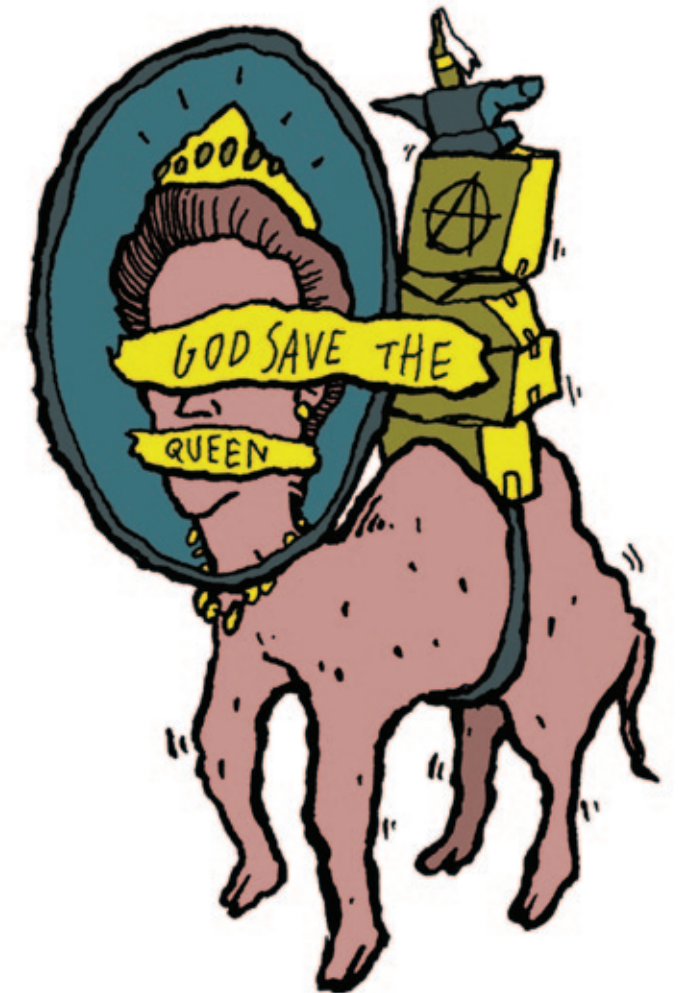
I’m going to be frank here: the police badly mishandled the situation. They shot a man who never fired his gun; they didn’t give the family the information they had a right to know; they didn’t respond to the people who showed up to protest about it. And what’s more, they did this in an area of London where distrust of the police is practically a cornerstone of the culture. As a young man interviewed by “The Guardian” said, “We all know the police and the lengths they are willing to go to. We don’t believe their stories about how he died.”

Did no one see how this could go wrong? Did no one realize that this is the district of random stop-and-searches by police, of cameras on every corner? This is the domain of Operation Trident, a police unit that deals very specifically with black-on-black gun crime. Did no one think that this might be a district that should be handled very, very carefully?

Apparently no one did, because the riots were inexplicable to the politicians. The deputy mayor of London stated that “Criminal elements were to blame for the trouble,” which to me indicates a remarkable lack of insight. Yes, breaking, burning and stealing are all illegal, but that sort of thing isn’t to *blame* for the trouble. The rioting *is* the trouble. The commentators who declare that these riots were entirely criminal in origin are mistaking effect for cause. The riots weren’t caused by criminal opportunism, and they weren’t caused by Mark Duggan’s death, though that was certainly the catalyst.

The opinions expressed are solely those of the author and do not reflect the views of the **REPORTER**.

As Professor Gus John from the University of London said, “Many of those young people who you’ll have seen in the footage [of the riots] would have been people who have been regularly searched by the police, some of them resenting that massively.” In other words: these riots, while tragic, very much needed to happen. The politicians are very carefully misunderstanding the message here, for their own political reasons. But for the rest of us it’s obvious: a riot is a wake-up call. The fact that this could happen at all — that a police action could lead to such a violent reaction from the community — tells us all we need to know about the relationship between the people and the supposed authorities charged with protecting them. **R**



WORD ON THE STREET

by Joshua Barber

If you could only bring one thing to college what would it be?



“The sun.”
Aylannah Dylag (atop the tiger statue)

“My pet hedgehog.”
Loren Azlein (left), third year film and animation

“Sunglasses: the sun never sets on a badass.”
Spencer Bills, fourth year criminal justice



“Xbox 360: I need something to do when I am supposed to be doing homework.”
Mike “Carmy” Ballow, second year mechanical engineering



“My fish named Arnold.”
Katie Bonfiglo, first year ASL interpreting



“Batman.”
Chelsea Canavan, fourth year graphic design



“Underwear.”
Katie Lamb, first year ASL interpreting



“My cat.”
Amelia Beach (left), second year advertising photography

“My dad: he’s a really good cook.”
Rice Fan, second year photojournalism

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compiled by Victor Group

Monday, 2:07 p.m. (from text)

This kid's shirt isn't large enough
and his stomach keeps hanging out.
I missed you Rings, it's good to be back.

Wednesday, 10:04 a.m.

Today I learned that RIT has cheerleaders.
How did I not know this before?

Tuesday, 12:28 p.m. (from text)

Hey Rings look out for the freshman
swarms; they're like [biblical] locusts...
being in my lines... eating my burritos.

Wednesday, 3:28 p.m. (from text)

Giant spider
at Java's
watches you
sleep...

Monday, 11:57 a.m. (from text)

Just saw a freshman with an
afro, afro pick and high socks.
Winning!

Monday, 5:49 p.m. (from text)

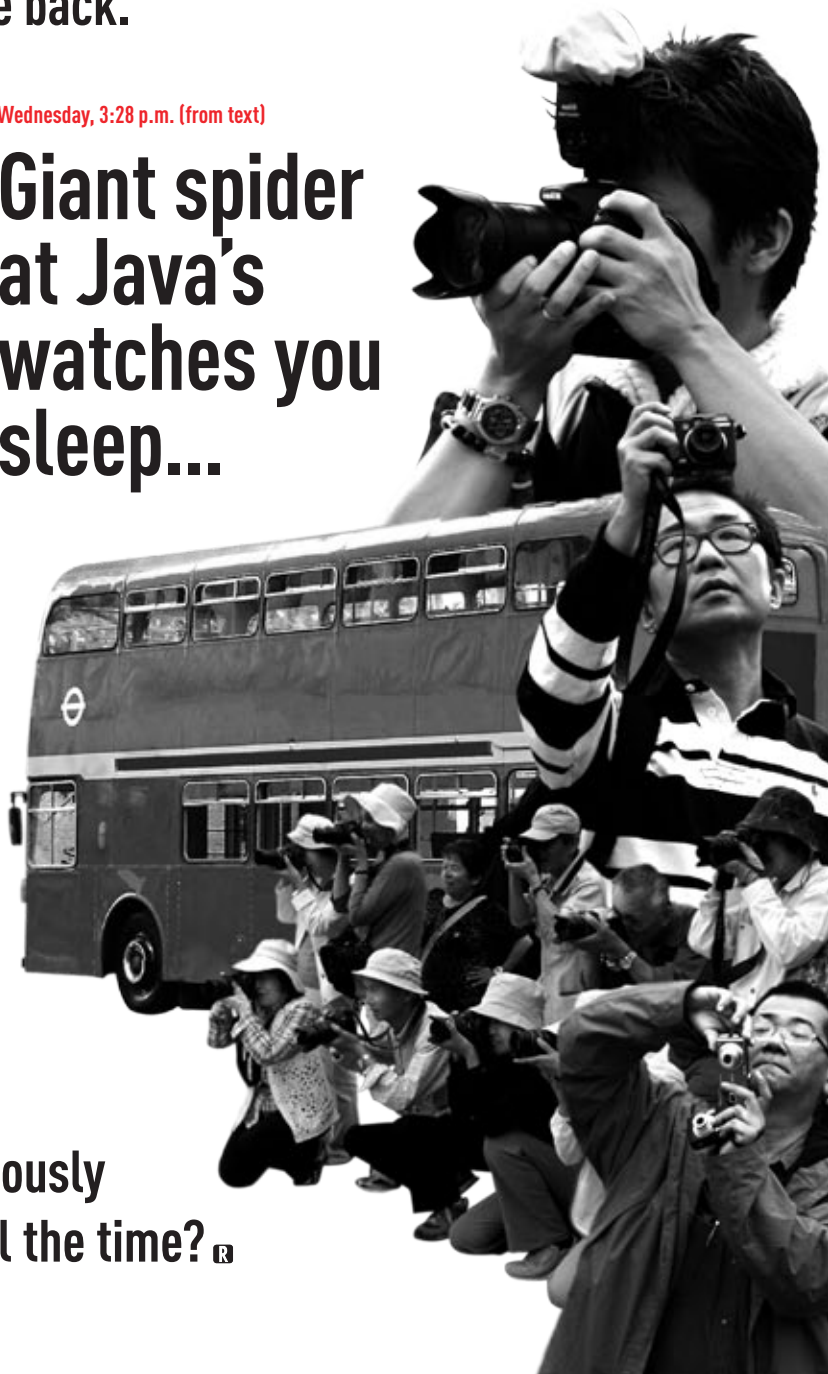
Saw Santa Hat Girl for the
first time this year, instantly
I feel at home.

Wednesday, 8:48 p.m.

Rings, just calling to let you know that it's
not even week one and there already is a
car in the pond by S lot.

Friday, 6:16 p.m.

Is it just me or does Province seriously
look like spring break in Miami all the time? ®



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