

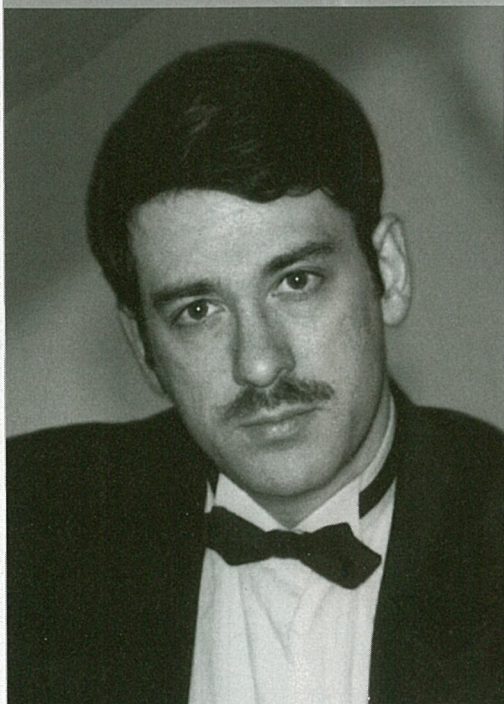
REPORTER

MARCH 15, 2002 | WWW.REPORTERMAG.COM



Tara Noval
violin

Josef Verba
piano



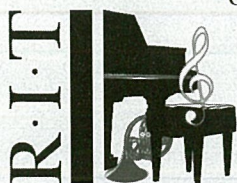
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Jeffrey W. Prystajko

Jeff Prystajko
Editor-in-Chief

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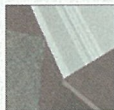
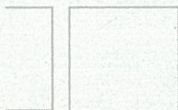
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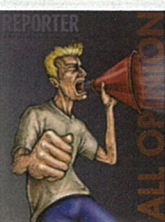


Brian Marcus / REPORTER

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Cover Illustration by Philip Montelone



WHA
TSWR
ONGA
TRIT

by Aaron Gaudio Fifth Year Computer Science

About two years ago, the administration here at RIT decided to look into the growing problem of the Institute's poor student retention. Opinions were solicited, discussions were conducted, and committees were formed. Two years later, little, if any, real substance has been done to correct the problem.

In February, RIT President Al Simone informed the full faculty, and then the students, that the director of the CIA, George J. Tenet, was being invited to speak at commencement, and furthermore that he would be receiving an honorary degree from RIT. This decision, apparently was made without the input of all faculty departments, and with no input from the students at large. The decision turned out to be quite controversial, given RIT's past controversy surrounding our dealings with the CIA (a controversy for which, I believe, Simone was hired to put behind us). Simone patiently accepted the input of the understandably upset faculty members, and then ignored it all, continuing what he set out to do in the first place.

This is why we have a student retention problem at RIT. The administration at RIT has proven itself to be completely uninterested in the desires of its student or faculty population. Simone and his cadre have not only proven their [apathy] toward us, they have at times displayed open hostility and leveled scathing insults at students and colleges deemed "less important" at the Institute. This managerial [apathy] trickles down to the faculty and finally to the students here at RIT. Why should the faculty care about the students when the administration doesn't care about them? Why should the students care about RIT when RIT couldn't care less about the students?

RIT is slowly turning from an Institution of higher learning into a gang of self-righteous and squabbling toddlers, each screaming for attention from their neglectful guardianship.

Why can't RIT retain its students? Perhaps it has something to do with the students being completely neglected and outcast by the Institute's leadership. Maybe it is because the students, although they form a significant majority of the Institute's population, have no real power to make any decisions affecting them whatsoever.

Simone and his pals have derailed the train, and are only now asking the passengers where they'd like to go. After many years of this irrationality, they now wonder why the passengers are all jumping ship.

For thousands of students and faculty, RIT is not just a business, it is a community. RIT is the place where many students have spent or will be spending four to five years of their adult life, and where they and their families will spend tens of thousands of dollars each. RIT is to be the capstone of our education and the foundation of our professional lives. A diploma from RIT will be the crowning achievement in most of our academic careers. We are not here just to obtain a piece of paper

so we can get a job. We are here to get an education. We are here to begin our entry into adulthood. We are here to become productive members of our society, and we are here to learn how to be leaders amongst our peers. To fulfill this, we seek sober yet caring guidance toward those aims, not oppressive autocracy.

Every day, this administration erodes the value of each and every one of our educations. They are turning what should be a proud occupation into a shameful experience for many of the faculty. Simone and his administration are steadily chipping away at the ideals of this Institution, for the sake of personal pride and glory. All students, faculty, and alumni are their victims.

It is high time that the students, as well as the entire faculty here had a real voice in our school. It is time we have the power to do more than throw homecomings to a disaffected audience. It is time that we had the power to make decisions that actually affect the quality of our

education. If we can't get those concessions here, then the administration will continue to watch helplessly as more and more disillusioned young men and women find it elsewhere. Let Simone and the trustees perform their precious "applied" research by themselves.

I will be graduating from RIT soon. I hope that I will one day be proud to call myself an alumnus of RIT. I hope that one day I will be able to, in good faith, recommend this Institute, and all it stands for, to the generations that will follow me here. •





CROWD SURFERS CAN GO TO HELL

by William Huber

So you like to go to rock shows, eh? That's cool. You like to be down in the pit—that's ok. So you like to mosh and throw yourself around—that's ok too. You can yell and scream and whistle all you want.

And then you go and do something stupid.

"I think it would be fun to climb up on top of some of these people and let them carry me from person to person! Furthermore, I also believe that I shall wear my heaviest Doc Marten steel-toed boots while I participate in this crazy sport! I'm so smart!"

Let me tell you this, you stupid bastards.

I hate you.

Having somebody land on the back of someone else's neck is probably one of the most painful and downright dangerous things that can be inflicted on a human, especially while they're in the crush in front of the stage and can't protect themselves because their arms are trapped by their sides.

Even if you are only a 94-pound little girl, that is still 94 pounds of thrashing, squiggling meat and bone coming down on top of my head. Throw in belt buckles, piercings, jewelry, and the aforementioned six-pound boots, and you've got an incredible bludgeon with all sorts of sharp pointy things that are perfect for ripping open a scalp.

At this point, it's important to note that I am six feet, four inches tall. This means that I'm usually the tallest guy down in the crush, which usually means that my head is sticking up out of the sea of people like the Rock of Gibraltar. For some reason, crowd surfers see my head as a kind of landing place, a shore on which to rest their weary crowd-surfing boots, and they make beelines for the back of my skull.

Now, I bet you're going to argue something along the lines of, "Well, if you're going to be standing in the crush, then you should expect to get your head bashed in blah blah blah."

I will stand where I want, when I want, when I go to a show. I'll get as close to the stage, in the crush, as I want. And it's my right to be able to do so without being beat on the head by some idiot with glorified visions of the concert experience.

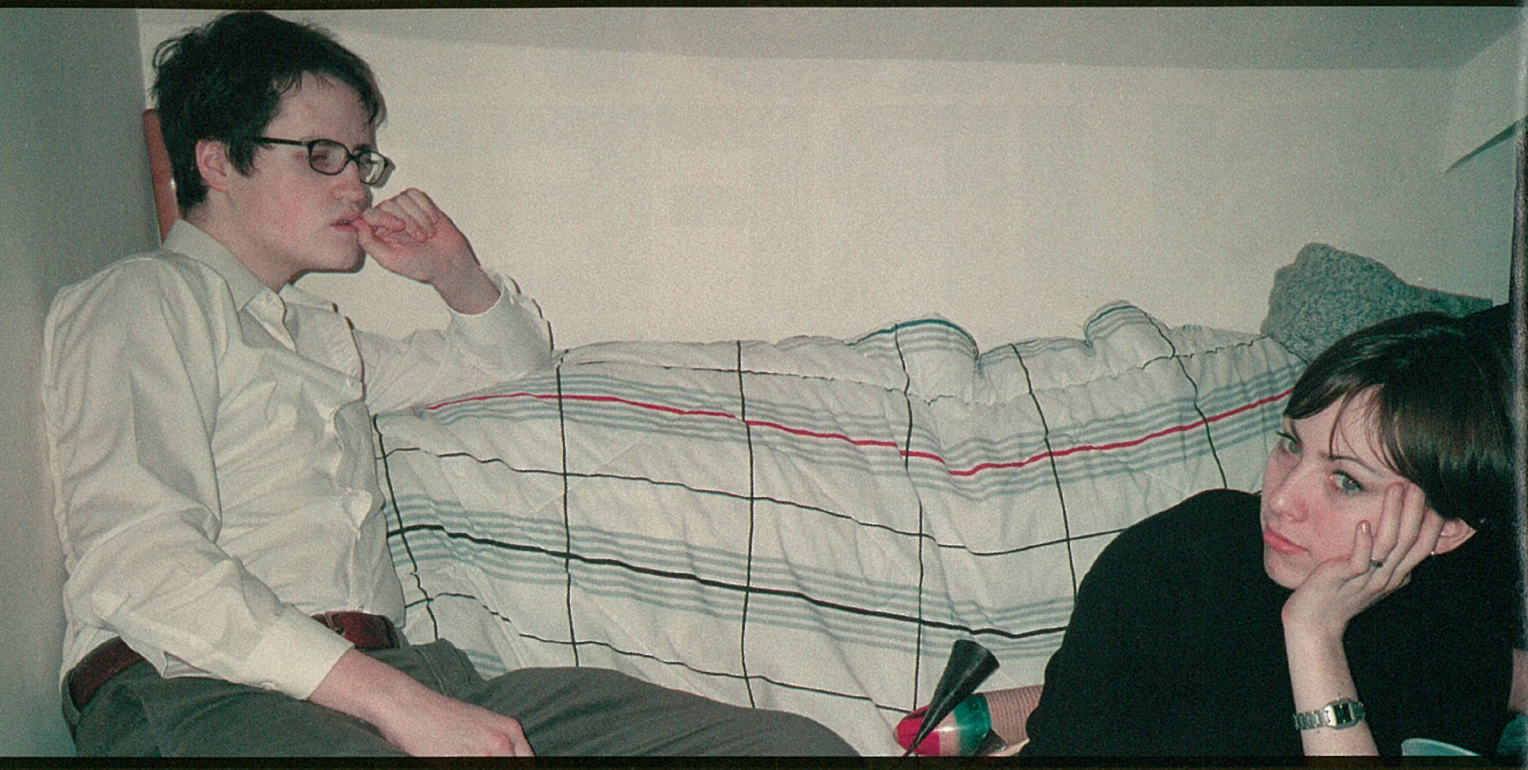
The thing that really burns me is that there are some people who just keep doing it, over and over. I'll see this person or that person go over my head maybe six or eight times a night. There are some people who use crowd surfing to get to the mosh pit, because they've got a few dozen layers of people between them and where they want to be. This is not as bad as surfing over and over, but it's still retarded.

One thing that I've noticed is that any particular "adventure" by a crowd surfer has three outcomes: first, a good deal of surfs are incredibly short—mostly what happens is the surfer finds a few people to hoist them in the air, on top of the people in front of them. These people have no idea that there is a person coming at them from behind. Therefore, the surfer crashes immediately to the floor, usually and hopefully headfirst. Second, if their goal is to make it to the front of the stage crush, they make it to the barricade, and the security guys catch them and send them to the back of the audience, where presumably, they try it again. Third, sometimes a crowd surfer will kind of drift around for a while without ever getting pulled in by the security guys. Suddenly, they disappear, as gravity takes control. Usually this means that the surfer will land on their head or neck, which is ideal for me, but probably bad for them.

Unfortunately, nobody is going to ever stop crowd surfing. I know the Beastie Boys try to discourage it at their shows, with varied levels of success.

Maybe I'm just getting old. •

WHY **YOU** SHOULD...



You probably think that your body has just enough flaws that getting naked would be embarrassing. Well, everyone else does, too, so take off your damn clothes.

No, folks, this isn't about sex or boners. It's about shedding the filthy garments that manipulate us into feeling dirty *without* them. Once they're gone, and you realize that nobody is going to laugh at your perfectly normal body, it's like having taken your first shower. It's like wearing glasses for the first time without having known you needed them. It's like cutting your arm on an old desk and finding out that anesthetic chocolate-covered hundred-dollar bills flow through your blood. It's like remembering that you're just a human.

How easily we get absorbed into daily bullshittings. "It was good to see you!" "That Pontiac looks like a good choice!" "You mean so much to me!"—all nonsense. So many people are faking that it doesn't even seem strange. Call us what

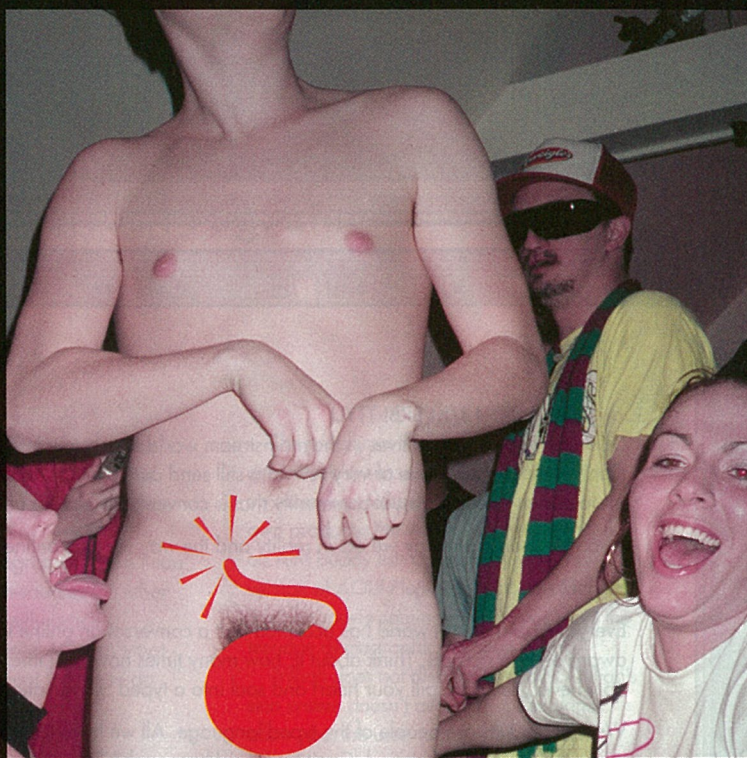
you want—socialized, domesticated, assimilated—if it's a synonym for "irrationally restrained," it fits.

Before you know it, you're going to have graduated, be driving a sensible Toyota with a kid in a car seat, and thinking about upgrading to a better lawnmower. You will then realize that the past is gone and the only things you regretted were missed opportunities. Your memories of good college times will be vague flashes of crowded, boring parties where red plastic cups spilled out cheap yellow beer onto sticky, dirty floors. You'll suddenly ask yourself, "What about my college highlight reel?" Well, don't even bother looking for it. Because without nudity, there are no highlights. And without highlights, there can be no highlight reel.

The experience of getting naked can seem intimidating, but taken step-by-step, it really isn't that harsh. Before you get

GET NAKED

by JAKOB LODWICK
photo illustrations by BRIAN MARCUS



started, you feel comfortable only clothed, but taking off your shirt isn't exactly nerve-racking. After a few minutes of shirtlessness, is walking around in your underwear really so weird? And once you've grown accustomed to that, is hanging around with your junk partially hidden inside a single shoe such a stretch? Now, just take a few breaths. Think about how strange our culture really is and how society—NOW! DROP THE SHOE!!!

Oh, if you're female and the idea of hiding your junk in a shoe doesn't really make sense, just imagine the same thing but you're wearing a necklace or a dress or something.

I'm not going to pretend that nudity is appealing solely on the philosophical level. For example, girls are barrels of fun to look at. Seriously—they all look good. Also, the bragging rights that stem from naked parties are unbelievable. Also, threesomes

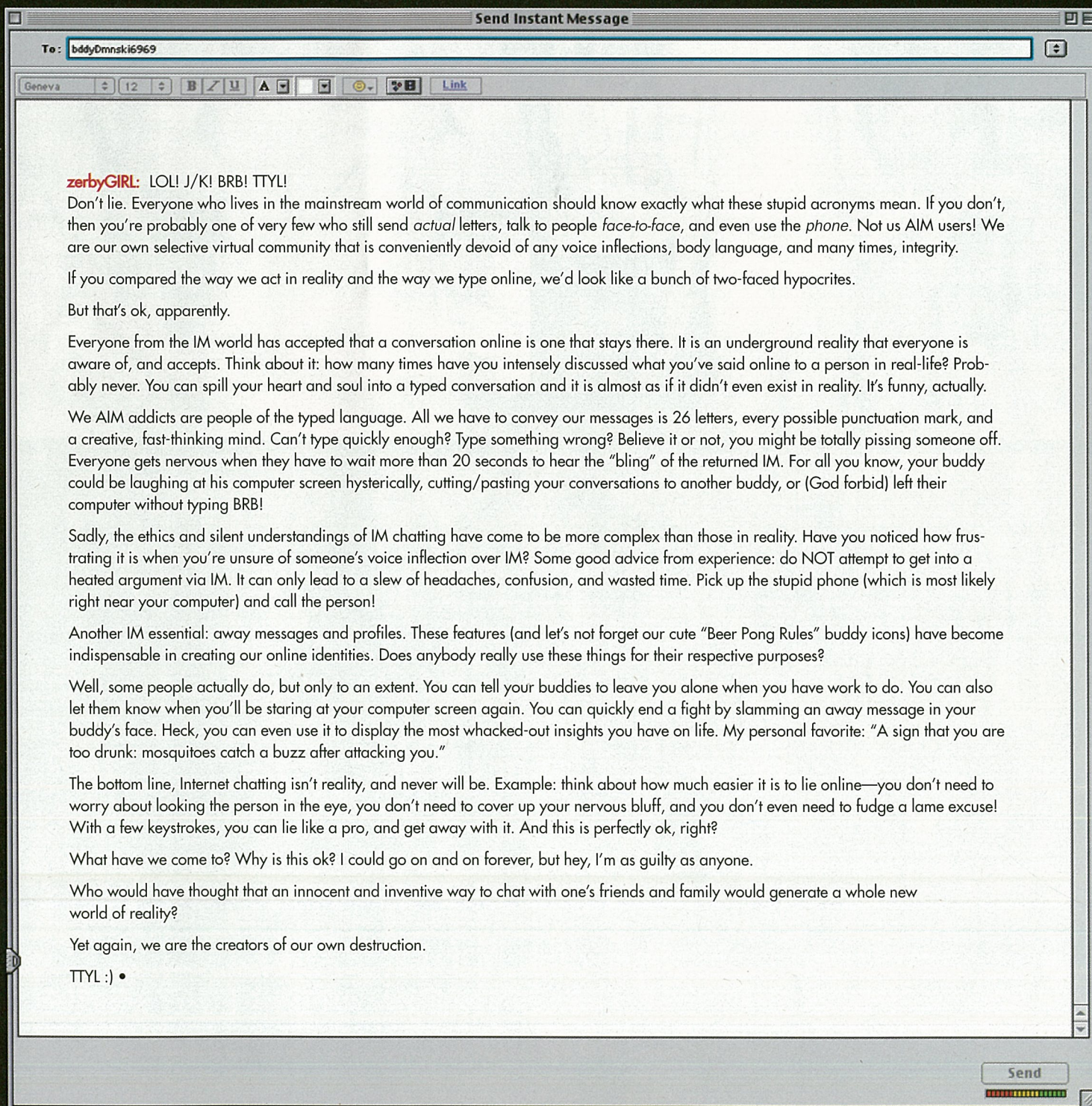
happen. Also, when they become outnumbered, the clothed people start to feel out of place, which is hilarious. Also, sixsomes. Also, appreciation for life. But, at its roots, public nudity is a philosophical concept whose very ponderance elicits enough enjoyment.

In conclusion, get naked. Get very naked. If you love America, you'll get naked. Nobody is going to make fun of your penis and breasts. You'll be fine. Except for that short Film guy with the stupid beard who always gives me dirty looks at parties. That guy is probably really embarrassed of his penis for a good reason.

Nah, I'm just kidding about this whole thing. What you should really do is spend hundreds of dollars on mall clothes and never surprise anyone. That's the ticket to feeling satisfied on your death bed. •

DO YOU LOL?

by Kayla Zerby





Trillian Users Given the Boot

AOL Forces AIM Users to use Inferior Program

by Peter Gravelle

I, like most everyone else on campus and off, use AOL's Instant Message service (AIM) often. But, unlike many AIM users, I found a great program for accessing the AIM service. It is called Trillian (<http://www.trillian.cc>) and it's produced by Cerulean Studios.

The Trillian client is an extremely powerful Instant Messaging client, allowing users to connect to five of the major IM providers: Yahoo!, Microsoft Network Messenger (MSN), Internet Relay Chat (IRC), ICQ, and of course, AIM. But on February 15, 2002, AOL knocked Trillian users from the service. Only recently, on February 22, 2002, were Trillian users able to log on again, due to the release of a new version of the program.

Needless to say, this cycle of patch, kick and patch again has severely bothered me in the past, and continues to bother me to this day. I use AIM to talk to my parents back home, my friends from high school who are now scattered across the country, and my friends and study groups here. That's a whole bunch of things that I can't do any more when AOL blocks Trillian.

Now, why shouldn't I stop using Trillian? Because the Trillian program is more stable than AOL's program, and it takes up less or equal resources while performing five times the functions. Granted, I only use AIM, IRC and MSNM, but even using this portion of the program

is superior to my other clients. I can use it to check my AOL and Hotmail accounts for new e-mail, because I get alerts when new mail comes in.

I used to use three programs, where I can now use one, and save resources for other things, like writing these silly articles.

But my real problem with AOL isn't that they made it less convenient for me to do instant messaging.

It is that they lied.

Everyone knows how AOL and Time-Warner merged to create the new AOL-Time-Warner last year. Well, this mega-conglomerate asked the Federal Communications Commission what they had to do to avoid anti-trust prosecution. The FCC said that the corporation had to release the AIM protocol for groups like the IM Unified Coalition to create a unified instant messaging protocol for all to use.

But AOL-T-W negotiated. They said they would release the new AIM protocol as soon as it came out. Both sides agreed, and all was reconciled, until AOL said, in essence, "The AIM protocol is fine as it is, we don't need to upgrade it."

By nixing the protocol upgrade, AOL kept IM unification at bay indefinitely.

Why does AOL go through all this trouble to keep hundreds of millions of AIM users using their program?

Eyeballs.

Ever notice those little ads on your buddy list? That's why AOL is pushing other AIM compatible clients off the 'Net.

The problem with that rationale is that it doesn't make sense. AOL Time-Warner puts up more than 95 percent of those ads for their own products. New show on the WB? Plug it on AIM buddy lists across the world. New version of AOL? Plug that too. New Warner Brothers movie coming out and you want the teenage demographic? Put that up too!

Trillian does not display these ads. Trillian's skin system doesn't allow for it. The skins allow you, the user, to make Trillian look however you want it to.

AOL claims that Trillian and other AIM compatibles are security risks because they store your username and password. If storing your username and password is a security risk, then AOL's software is a risk too!

I know many people will argue, "It's AOL's network, so they have every right to force their users to use whatever program they want!" Imagine if the phone company did that. You would need a phone *and* phone line for every tiny little phone company across the world!

Or maybe if the World Wide Web took on that stance? You'd get messages all over the 'Net saying, "I'm sorry, your browser is not produced by Sprint (or Globix, or Alter.net, or a hundred other companies), the owner of the network between your computer and here. I cannot display the requested page."

Go to AOL's customer response page (<http://www.aim.aol.com/cgi-bin/bugs.cgi?ver=beta&plat=nl>) and report the bug that AOL has—intolerance and incompatibility. •

Acquaintance Rape, Date Rape: It's All the Same

by Madeline L. Chinn, Third-Year Technical Communications
Illustration by Catherine Lee

I recently heard of an incident that took place on the RIT campus: A young woman attended a party with friends and acquaintances. The next morning, she couldn't remember anything and believes she may have been raped.

No one admitted to any wrongdoing. Still, the young woman was convinced that she was raped, specifically by someone she knew. Her paranoia led her to drop out of college altogether.

I was sorry to hear she chose that alternative instead of forcing the issue with her fellow partygoers, but I understood her reluctance, as our society tends to blame the victim.

We put the victims on trial and make them accountable for the actions of the attacker. Women's groups across the country are pushing for stricter laws for punishing rapists, but the myths of why rape happens stonewall any progress:

Myth: A woman who gets raped usually deserves it; especially if she has agreed to go to a man's house, or park with him.

Reality: No one deserves to be raped. Being in a man's house or car does not mean that a woman has agreed to have sex with him.

Myth: If a woman agrees to allow a man to pay for dinner, drinks, etc., then sex is implied.

Reality: Sex is not an implied payback for dinner or other expense, no matter how much money has been spent.

Myth: Men who are known as rapists commit acquaintance rape.

Reality: Women are often raped by "normal" acquaintances who resemble "regular guys."

Myth: Women who don't fight back haven't been raped.

Reality: Rape occurs when one is forced to have sex against their will, whether they have decided to fight back or not.

Myth: Intimate kissing or certain kinds of touching mean that intercourse is inevitable.

Reality: Everyone has a right to say "no," regardless of the activity that preceded it.

Myth: Once a man reaches a certain point of arousal, sex is inevitable and he can't help forcing himself upon a woman.

Reality: Men are capable of exercising restraint in acting upon sexual urges.

Myth: Most women lie about acquaintance rape, because they have regrets after consensual sex.

Reality: Acquaintance rape really happens—to people you know, by people you know.

Myth: Women who say "no" really mean "yes."

Reality: This notion is based on rigid and outdated sexual stereotypes. "No" means "no."

Myth: Certain behaviors such as drinking or dressing in a sexually appealing way make rape a woman's responsibility.

Reality: Drinking or dressing in a sexually appealing way is not an invitation for sex. It's fashion.

Women need to be responsible and become aware who is close to them. We need to also pay attention to some of the characteristics of a potential rapist:

Men who use emotional intimidation in the form of belittling comments.

Men who ignore, sulk, and are dictating to friends and family.

Men who project an overt air of superiority or behavior that is overly familiar, especially in a new relationship. This may be associated with coercive tendencies.

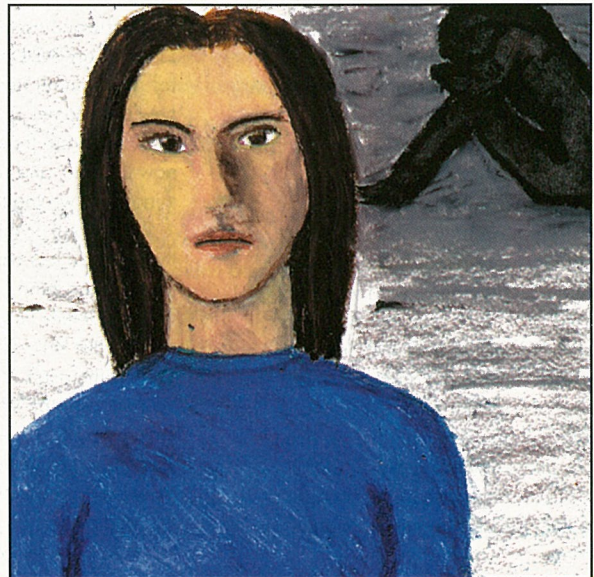
Body posturing such as blocking a doorway.

Men who derive pleasure from physically startling or scaring. These are forms of physical intimidation.

Men who harbor negative attitudes toward women in general. This can be detected in the need to speak derisively of previous girlfriends or relationships.

Men who exhibit extreme jealousy and an inability to handle sexual or emotional frustration without anger may reflect potentially dangerous volatility.

As RIT students participated in anti-violence V-Day, let's hope the administrative powers that be, including Student Government, are paying attention to the needs and concerns of all students. Providing date and acquaintance rape education and awareness programs for both female and male students can only foster responsibility in all parties concerned. •



Things you should know

A well-known psychologist conducted a national survey and found that:

1 in 4 women surveyed were a victim of rape or attempted rape.

An additional 1 out of 4 women surveyed was touched sexually against her will or was a victim of sexual coercion.

84 percent of those raped knew their attacker.

57 percent of those rapes happened while on dates.

14 percent of male students surveyed had committed acts that met the legal definitions of rape or attempted rape.

84 percent of those men who committed rape said that what they did was definitely not rape.

16 percent of the male students who committed rape and 10 percent of those who attempted a rape took part in episodes involving more than one attacker.

The Garden State: Land that I love.

by Justin Mayer

Illustration by Anna Griniuk

I'm from New Jersey, born and raised 20 miles outside of New York City, and proud of it. I always knew that my state had a bad reputation, but it didn't really get my attention until I moved to RIT and became surrounded by people from central New York State. Pretty much everyone who ever made a New Jersey joke to me has never actually been there. I've lived there and I fail to see what makes it so different from any other state.

When you say New Jersey is dirty, the portion of New Jersey you are most likely referring to is a stretch of industrial complexes along the New Jersey Turnpike. Do you know why New Jersey is a prime spot for industrial development? New York City. The turnpike is only a few miles from the greatest city in the world, which isn't any cleaner than New Jersey, by the way. Do you think your state has any less industrial development? It doesn't.

The reason why we don't pump our own gas is we're smart. There are too many people in New Jersey and none of them want to wait in line to pump gas. Don't tell me you actually enjoy getting out of your car in the winter and paying before you pump. What if you want to fill up your tank? Are you going to do the math to figure out how much that's going to cost? You people are lucky the pumps take credit cards. Don't call us lazy, either, because you're the ones who don't want to do the math to fill up your tank—we actually made a law so we wouldn't have to worry about it.

And then there's the Meadowlands; an area that you say was at one time landfills? There's a simple answer to that too: New York City was dumping your NY garbage on us. If the Meadowlands is such a crappy area, then why do two of New York's three football teams play there? If this area is so bad, then why would anyone who didn't live there go there for recreation? Those are questions that you probably think you have an answer to, but they're rhetorical questions, so keep it to yourself. This is my turn to talk.

I'm not blaming all of New Jersey's problems on New York. What I mean to say is that New York City is more a part of New Jersey than it is upstate New York. People in



the City probably complain about those damn commuters coming in from New Jersey to go to work, but people who come from one of the other boroughs to go to work in Manhattan live just as far, so I don't see the difference. It's just because they're from Jersey that those commuters take heat. Why don't they make fun of the Connecticut commuters? Because they're not from Jersey.

I think the New Jersey joke phenomenon is a contagion spread by word of mouth. For instance: you hear a New Jersey joke from somebody who says they've been to New Jersey and then you automatically assume that "Hey! New Jersey **does suck!**" A similar thing happens at RIT. An upperclassman makes an RIT joke to a freshman, and since the upperclassman has been here longer, the freshman assumes that they know what they're talking about. That sounds like a dumb way of thinking, right? It is. People need to make decisions for themselves instead of close-mindedly accepting the

first opinion they hear on TV or from their neighbor.

There's a lot of stuff I didn't go into, so here's just a quick once-over: our beaches are beautiful, it only smells in seven percent of the state (I checked), the name "The Garden State" **is** appropriate, and as for the Mafia... people seem to love the Sopranos, so there's no problem there.

That's all I have to say about the place I love and the place I'm glad I grew up in. New Jersey is probably a place you can only appreciate if you live there all your life and then leave like I did. So make fun of it all you want; just realize that you're being ignorant when you do. I bet I could find more than enough to make fun of about your state.

I bet this article makes me sound like a real jerk, right? Or do you think that just because I'm from Jersey? •

Where you from?

New Jersey.

Really? You don't look trashy.

I Miss the Early 90's

A memoir of the best years in music.

by William Huber photo by Edmund Fountain

The state of music has been decaying at a steady, violent rate for a good while now. It seems to me that since about my junior year in high school, the music industry as a whole (with a few notable exceptions) decided to take one giant sweltering dump on the entire listening public. As a matter of fact, I'd go so far as to say that I haven't heard a really great album since around 1995 or so. Going back even further, I'd say that I didn't hear a really great album until 1989 or 1990. There are exceptions, of course, but bear with me.

We had previously been stuck in the 1980s, which were basically split into three categories: the rapidly-stagnating punk scene, which was a revolutionary force from about 1977 to around 1983; the hair-metal crowd, a bad idea of such grand proportions I can only describe it on a cosmic scale; and the quasi-androgynous New Wave movement, which tried desperately to involve some sort of electronic influence in its music and only ended up sounding castrated. It's like we spent the larger part of the 80s trying to dig the stinking tar of disco out of our ears and eyes, and when we finally figured out what was going on, we were stunned to discover that we were standing hip-deep in porcine offal.

Then, this great thing came along. Music came into its own, and for this period of about six years, musicians became true creative forces, churning out a vast amount of actual musical material.

But then, as always, people (most notably those in the administrative end of the music business) decided that they liked this feeling of being able to sell lots of records and make lots of money. They decided that if one great album could sell x-amount of copies, then producing a huge amount of piss-poor records would sell at least the same amount, if not more. Enter boy bands and teen-pop whores, and the rest is history.

You might argue that since the music that I'm talking about (see below) came about while I was in junior and senior high school, supposedly the most formative years of my life, my rose-colored glasses are distorting my view, making music released back then seem better than it was. This is not true. My high school days were just as harrowing as anyone else's. This is not to say that I liked the music because I could identify with the bleak lyrics and music due to the normal psychological mutilation of those days, either. What it all comes down to, when you get right down to the core, is that it's just good music.

Maybe in another dozen years or so the cycle will come around again. Otherwise, go back into your collection, and listen to the classics.

What Happened to Rock?

Korn's self-titled 1994 debut introduced the mass market to a musical style that can only be described as pseudo-hardcore: bass-heavy rock, with no guitar solos and emotionally crippled lead whiners/singers. I'm not arguing the quality of that debut here; instead, it's necessary to talk about what that album brought on.

It's almost too easy to trace the decay of modern hard rock through a family tree which has Korn at the root. This splits out into the Incubus branch, the Limp Bizkit branch, and the System of a Down branch, each of which splits out into a myriad of other diluted branches, such as Linkin Park, Staind, and Hoobastank (which, incidentally, has to possibly be the stupidest band name I've ever heard). It's a whole pathetic tornado of putrid rap-rock, nu-metal defecation, and shapeless howling. Admittedly, there are the odd albums here and there that are pretty good, but they're flukes, and few and far between.



The Highs

Arguably the best album of the last 15 years, Nine Inch Nails' harrowing masterwork, *The Downward Spiral*, was released in 1994, the pinnacle of the early 90s movement. Its densely-layered, painstakingly cultivated programming and exquisitely bleak and desperate lyrics make it a modern masterpiece.

Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness, The Smashing Pumpkins' two-CD magnum opus, was birthed upon the world in 1995. Billy Corgan's attention to detail and sheer songwriting ability made this album a fierce and energetic monument.

One of my personal favorites, 1995's *Astrocreep 2000*, from White Zombie, mixed death metal with schlock-horror and industrial dance to create a symphony of glorious violence, mayhem, Satanism, and depraved corruption that has yet to be matched.

There are many more, but for now, let it suffice to say that all those came at the tail end of the period. The stuff that was coming out at the beginning, around 1989–1992, was downright revolutionary.

It's been said a lot, but it's worth saying again: everyone owes Nirvana a great debt. Their album *Nevermind*, released in 1991, broke us from the chains of hair metal once and for all, ushered in the too-short age of taking music seriously, and squeezed the cheesy frivolity right out of music.

1991's *Blood Sugar Sex Magik*, from the Red Hot Chili Peppers, managed to tap-dance around the frivolity but kept the fun of music alive and well, giving us an album that was purely enjoyable, but still smart.

Rage Against the Machine's self-titled 1992 debut was an incredible mix of politically-charged rap backed by hard rock. It's an album that essentially started a new genre, for better or worse.

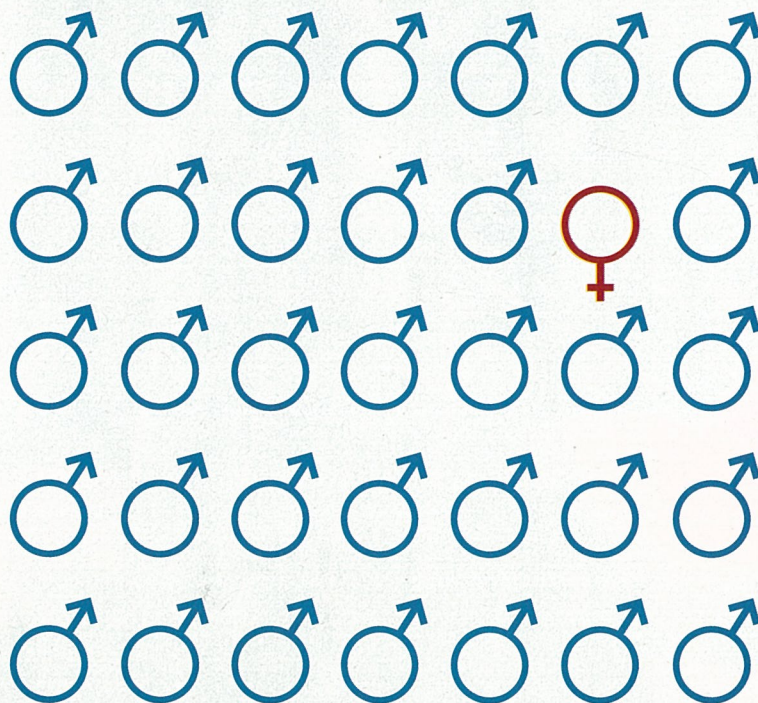
Why are these albums so important? What makes each one worth listening to?

There is a quality to each of these albums and many more released between 1989 and 1995. This quality is something that the cheap, flimsy, artificial musicians of today don't have, and never will.

Each record is a labor of love. Each song is an object of hard work and dedication and true focused effort. These artists sacrificed huge chunks of their own life to produce this music, and it shows. The mass-produced crap of today is only a shadow of what once was. •

The RIT Ratio

by Kayla Zerby



Note to RIT students: do not be fooled by the pamphlets RIT pumps out, picturing more girls than guys on campus. This is a blatant misrepresentation of reality! If you're a female student, you probably can relate: Halloween night, my friends decided on a costume that only RIT students would recognize. We dressed as the "RIT ratio," made up of *eight* guys and only *one* girl. It was a stupid costume, but it definitely represented the truth of student life at RIT.

We all joke about it around campus, but does this ratio of ten guys to every three girls present a problem? Sure, we divas can get into any party free of charge, our dating options are endless, and our competition in the dating scene is about as low as one female in a frat house. It seems as though girls at RIT have got it made.

Or do we?

Now don't get me wrong. The attention is great from the guys who are desperate for

some estrogen influence, but there comes a point where it isn't so great being a girl in a male-dominated environment. Being female is a detriment when surrounded by too many guys. In the classroom, female students feel a sense of frustration. Often, women find themselves competing with males in the classroom, for it takes guts to state your point of view when you know you're outnumbered.

One female freshman said, "It's as though they don't give a shit what I have to say sometimes, because I'm just a girl. It's like my insight doesn't matter to them." Some women even get this from their male professors. One freshman girl said that her professor made her feel awkward when he only asked *her* questions about a story concerning femininity, causing the guys around her to laugh. "It really pissed me off that he thought that it was ok to single me out just because I was the only girl. His questions were only to make the guys laugh."

If you're a girl at RIT, then you're probably used to these situations. Being "used" to it is the problem. No minority, whether it is racial, ethnic, or gender-specific should have to deal with bias. If the few girls at RIT continue to accept this way of life, then the rest of their days at RIT will not be much different. They must learn to be not just girls, but women in this situation. At a technical university, the ratio of guys to girls won't change in the near future. However, women have the power to change their secondary status. Perhaps being a woman at RIT is beneficial. If these women learn to stand up for themselves now in a male-dominated environment, then the pressures that the real world offers for women in the workplace won't be so intimidating.

Simply put: Don't sit back and allow yourself to become a victim of the RIT ratio—stand up for yourself! •

If You Can't **CHANGE** It

CHANGE the way you think about it

don't complain

by Laura Chwirut

It's not that I don't have an opinion—it's that I seriously doubt anyone wants to read through 700 words of my complaints and gripes. Maybe I'm completely content—happy with myself or with my situation? I'm not sure that is entirely true.

I was asked to write an opinion. I do have those, as I'm sure most humans do. But why should my trivial opinion on some miniscule issue be broadcast to more than 5,000 readers when I don't even like to complain over the course of any other given day?

If you have gotten this far without throwing this magazine clear across the room in confusion, I urge you to pick up the issues (the complaints, not the hard copies) and run with them; see what you can fix for what ails these people.

Complaining, while annoying, very well could be a necessary evil. A person who takes the time to complain wants to make their situation better. A person who has never had a problem is not as satisfied as the person who had a problem that was successfully resolved. What good idea materialized without a qualm behind it? And wasn't there some nay-sayer complaining all the way as someone else was trying to achieve something? It's just human.

Let me take you back now to January 11. In his editorial, titled "False Advertising," Jeff Prystajko, Editor-in-Chief of this magazine, urged our readers to take a look at the complaints that resound off the brick walls in

every corner of this campus. The outcry was tremendous, and slightly more far-reaching than Prystajko had intended. While the editorial satirized the gripes he had heard himself, the wording and the context were not evident enough for many readers to comprehend. I myself couldn't make it through the piece before thinking about resigning my position within the magazine. How could he be so disrespectful to the campus that he serves? At the time, I knew it was his own editorial, and I did not play into his opinion. What I did know was that every individual who works on this publication would have to endure the consternation of the entire student body. I didn't want to defend the gripes.

In the next issue, Prystajko issued an apology.

I now realize this simple fact: the organization that doesn't deal with any complaints probably isn't getting noticed by the public. We were, however. I'm pretty certain no one has complained about RIT in *Reporter* since then. I now realize what Jeff did might have been genius (save the weak satire, and the persons and organizations he insulted). What end did it reach? It got all you complainers thinking, didn't it? I hope you take that further and do something about the situation at hand. You are better off than most.

I leave you with an account from the Poet Maya Angelo. She portrays my thoughts more gracefully than I ever could:

Whiners

"When my grandmother was raising me in Stamps, Arkansas, she had a particular routine when people who were known to be whiners entered her store. My grandmother would ask the customer, 'How are you doing today, Brother Thomas?'

"And the person would reply, 'Not so good today, Sister Henderson. You see, it's this summer heat. I just hate it. It just frazzles me up and frazzles me down. It's almost killing me.' Then my grandmother would stand stoically, her arms folded, and mumble, 'Uh-huh, uh-huh.' And she would cut her eyes at me to make certain that I had heard the lamentation.

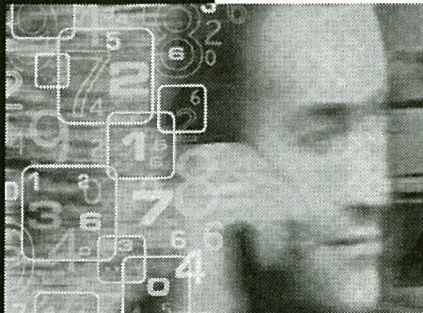
"As soon as the complainer was out of the store, my grandmother would call me to stand in front of her. And then she would say the same thing she had said at least a thousand times, it seemed to me. 'Sister, did you hear what Brother So-and-So or Sister Much-to-Do complained about?' And I would nod. Mamma would continue, 'Sister, there are people who went to sleep all over the world last night, poor and rich and white and black, but they will never wake again. And those dead folks would give anything, anything at all for just five minutes of this weather that person was grumbling about. So you watch yourself about complaining, Sister. What you're supposed to do when you don't like a thing is change it. If you can't change it, change the way you think about it. Don't complain.'

"It is said that persons have few teachable moments in their lives. Mamma seemed to have caught me at each one I had. Whining is not only graceless, but can be dangerous. It can alert a brute that a victim is in the neighborhood."

-Maya Angelou

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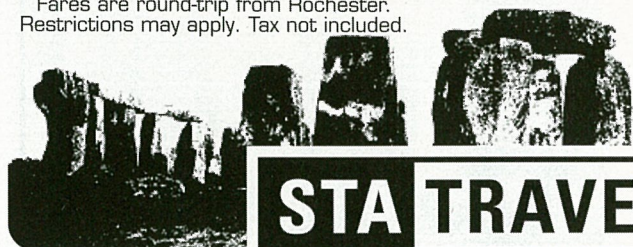
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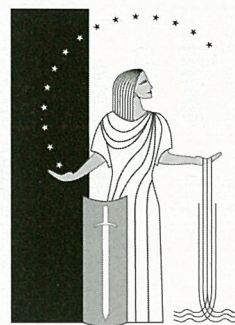
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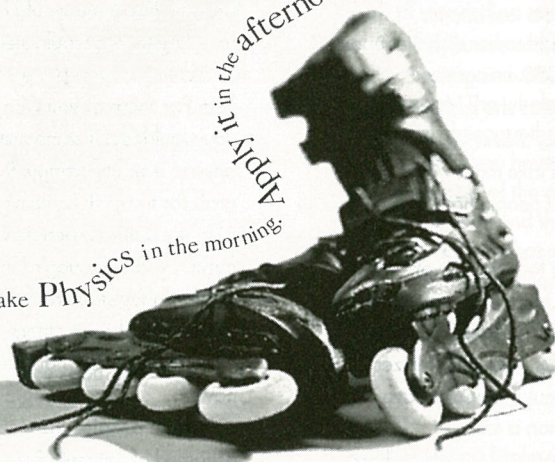
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If It's Not Yours, Don't Touch It!

by Marci Savage
Photo Illustration by Anne Geary

Dear RIT students,

My parents always told me that if it was not mine, I should not touch it. I always thought that this was something everyone learned, but unfortunately this is not the case. An abundance of theft occurs on the RIT campus: students steal from cars, rooms, or apartments, proving that some RIT students think stealing is ok.

I am here to tell you it is not.

A few weeks ago, one of my friends, an RIT student, told me that she had dropped her wallet outside of Gracies on her way to work, and miraculously someone turned it in. To add to her disbelief upon opening the wallet she discovered that her \$50 was gone.

The anger she had inside of her came out as she told the story. How could someone take money that was not theirs? How could anyone think it was ok to open a wallet and take money that obviously belonged to someone? "The nerve that people have these days," she said in an angry tone.

Continuing her story, she told me that the following week, when she went to her car, which was parked in C lot, to get needed materials for work, she accidentally forgot to lock her passenger side door when she left. She came out a few hours later and realized that her case of about 30 CDs was gone. Could someone have stolen from her again?

As her story grew to a close I looked at her with disbelief. Those CDs not only cost my friend her hard-earned money, but they were HERS—not anyone else's to touch or take. Her anger rubbed off on me. If only I knew who did this I would \$#!% (Insert your own profanity here).

People actually told my friend that it was her fault her CDs were stolen because she did not lock her door. This is ridiculous. No one has the right to enter someone else's car or property without their permission under any circumstance. As my friend said, "It doesn't matter if I had a sign on my car that says, 'Come in and take what you like,' people still should know better."

If everyone at RIT had the mindset of the thieves, no one would be safe. Everyone would have to watch their back 24 hours a day, wondering who would steal from them next.

Stealing is wrong, and for the RIT students that know this, I salute you. For those of you who do not, close your eyes and imagine how you would feel if someone stole from you. How does it feel? I bet the answer is pretty crappy. Remember this feeling the next time you grab for the cash or items that are not yours!

In my opinion, people who steal from others are the scum of the earth. I value my dog's life more than theirs, because they have no values if they steal from others.

Don't steal from others.

Remember how hard they had to work in order to gain what they have.

If those people who steal are reading this, you should be ashamed of yourself. Because of people like you, people have to be suspicious and cautious of others. If it is not yours, don't touch it. Earn the money to buy what you want like most RIT students do. •



Elevator Etiquette

by Dara Kallop

photo by Edmund Fountain



Anyone who has ridden in an elevator knows the simple rules that follow. If you do not know, you learn quickly.

Once you step inside an elevator and the doors close, silence occurs. There might be the occasional "Hi, how you doing?" but other than that, it is usually quiet—no matter how many people are along for the ride. Have you noticed that even when you and a few friends step into the enclosed surrounding, conversation seems to die out until the doors open again?

Not only is everyone silent when you get on an elevator, but everyone looks straight forward, at the wall, or the most popular choice, the digital number decreasing or increasing from floor to floor. Have you noticed the little glances from person to person when just two or three people are in the elevator? You can be staring straight ahead, reading some graffiti, or watching the floor number display, and immediately become tense as you feel the burn from a person's stare from the other side, just a few feet away. Inconspicuously, you wait a few seconds and then quickly glance in their direction to see them turn away, as to not be noticed.

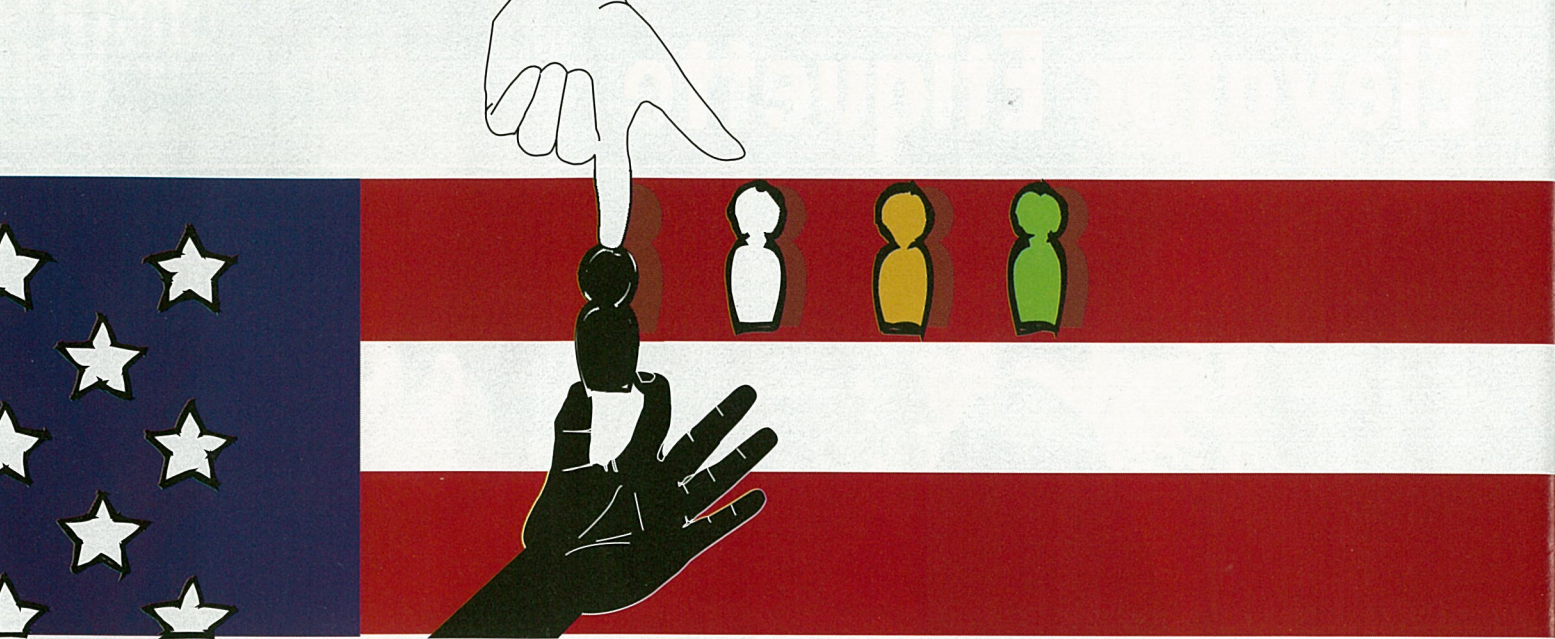
Does it make you feel uncomfortable to know that there is only one other person in the elevator, rather than being crammed into the odiferous confined space with ten other people? While you may see the elevator empty as you get

on and feel a sense of relief, it is ruined as you see someone coming. After all, it's common courtesy to hold the elevator door open. The whole time you're regretting it, not only because they are a floor below you, which means you have to wait longer, but mostly because of the awkwardness now felt. The "Thanks" and the "You're welcome" are over too quick for what seems to be the longest ride to your destination.

Are all the actions we follow considered elevator etiquette? It is not as if our parents taught us this at any time. These rules that we follow in an elevator are assumed by everyone and have become a norm in society. What would happen if you broke these rules and went against the norm? It is unusual when people will look at one another and converse between one another like in any other public place.

Next time you ride in an elevator, enjoy it! Try to strike up a conversation with the person standing next to you. Face the back of the elevator instead of staring forward. Push all the floor numbers as you are getting off on your floor, or ride the elevator for only one floor. You're either to piss off a lot of people, or cause them to laugh, as I have seen when going from the third floor to the fourth. I'm sure you'll cause others in the elevator to comment on the situation. Make it noticeable that you are staring at them. See what their reaction to your break of the norm will be. If you didn't realize that there was elevator

etiquette, take notice next time. •



Back in the 1950s and 60s, blacks were held apart from other Americans. Separate schools, separate churches, separate bathrooms, separate drinking fountains, even a special section on the bus (it was called “the back”). The Jim Crow laws and their convoluted idea of “separate but equal” created a rift between America’s white and black communities. It was a division of black and white rivaled only by the yin-yang and without any of the deeper meaning.

Of course, these laws are gone now. New laws brought about by the constant struggle and protest of the Civil Rights Movement have removed the legal barriers between communities. Today we have freedom of interaction between people of different ethnicities. We even have interracial marriages, something that would have been considered an unspeakable atrocity as little as fifty years ago. The number of births from interracial marriages is at an all-time high. Blacks are free to attend any school they wish, from Howard to Harvard, from Xavier to Yale, and to study any subject. Blacks sit anywhere they want on the bus and are ethically and legally free to eat, drink, and sleep wherever they please.

With such barriers being broken and great strides being made in such a short time, doesn’t it seem like humanity is moving slowly but ever closer to the Global Community that so many optimists visualize? Diversity has become something that businesses and communities pride themselves on. Yes, it is true that racism still exists and race is still a very poignant subject in our society. But

isn’t it also true that relations between blacks and whites are better now than they have ever been? Aren’t blacks more accepted in today’s society than they have ever been? If these things are true, then why is it that many of our nation’s colleges, including RIT, feel the need for African American dorms?

“Unity House provides an atmosphere where all students, African Americans in particular, can live in an environment that fosters racial understanding and awareness of cultural issues...” This is the statement of purpose behind RIT’s Unity House. What came to mind the first time I read this is how strange this whole idea sounded—the idea of a dorm environment centered specifically around African Americans. Of course, the Unity House Constitution plays off the idea of it being an all-black dorm by allowing students of any race to join. I often wonder if the people who founded Unity House in 1986 really intended it to be the haven of cultural awareness and understanding that it makes itself out to be on paper. Just the introductory sentence concerning Unity House and its purpose leave it open to the same legal and philosophical debates that go on around issues from Affirmative Action to the US Constitution itself. To my knowledge, there are only two non-black members of Unity House.

About the time I began writing, I found an article in the Brown Daily Herald (Feb. 6, 2002) about a student gathering to examine Brown University’s Harambee House. Very similar to Unity House and other “Africa Houses” across the country, Harambee House envisions itself

Unity House?

by Chris Wiltz

Illustration by Calvin Gray

"None are more hopelessly enslaved than those who falsely believe they are free..."

—Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

as a way of promoting cultural diversity and understanding among students. Proponents of Harambee House at Brown University argue that rather than being self-imposed segregation, Harambee House serves as a "comfort zone" for African American students. It gives students a sense of community by allowing them to live around people of the same ethnicity. Having this comfort zone to retreat back to supposedly allows African American students to more easily interact with students of other races.

I suppose that makes sense in the Marcus Garvey, Separatist, Bell Curve tradition. After all, blacks are so much weaker and incompetent than other races that they should have some sort of social safety net for them when they venture outside of their own community, right?

Wrong! Black, white, brown, or whatever, people are still inherently people and, socioeconomic factors aside, are fully capable of the same things. The notion that blacks require special places within communities just for them is both highly insulting and degrading. It implies that blacks are unable to stand on their own two feet and that they require social support circles like drug addicts.

Furthermore, one must question the ethics and standards of an Institution of higher learning that would allow such a double standard to exist on its campus. Imagine for a moment if there was a house for students interested in European culture and the white American experience. The purpose of this house would be: "to provide an atmosphere where all students, Caucasians in particular, can live in an environment

that fosters racial understanding and awareness of cultural issues..." Imagine the outcry there would be, the protests, endless debates, the picketing; it would be a miracle if RIT wasn't burned to the ground. But why? The Constitution is exactly the same. Why so much anger at this "European House" but not at a so-called "African House?"

The reality is that just as an Institution would fear having an openly predominantly white dorm, it would also fear saying no to an openly predominately black dorm. The same rage that would accompany whites being set apart would somehow also accompany blacks not being set apart.

It's as though some learned behavior required 50 years ago has been passed down, a behavior based on a distorted belief that equates white separation with dominance, hatred, and racism but black separation with equality. Why is it that blacks see themselves as separate perhaps even more so than other races see them? Many historical and psychological arguments could be made for this, but an argument used as an excuse to perpetuate racial stratification and something as obviously unnecessary as an African House is a worthless one.

Of course there is a great need for black organizations that work towards the interests of blacks. However, something like Unity House is only a sad reminder of days past and is a university's even sadder attempt at giving lip service to the members of its community. What black students feel is their freedom to separate themselves could actually just be the worst type of enslavement and segregation—



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<p>FREE DELIVERY</p> <p>COUPON</p> <p>Couples Combo MEDIUM CHEESE PIZZA & 1 DOZ. JUMBO WINGS \$11.99 + tax</p> <p><small>Not valid with any other store special. Additional toppings extra. One coupon per visit.</small></p> <p>MARK'S PIZZERIA Expires 12/2/01</p>	<p>FREE DELIVERY</p> <p>COUPON</p> <p>LARGE CHEESE PIZZA AND 2 DOZ. JUMBO WINGS \$16.99 + tax</p> <p><small>Not valid with any other store special. Additional toppings extra. One coupon per visit.</small></p> <p>MARK'S PIZZERIA Expires 12/2/01</p>	<p>FREE DELIVERY</p> <p>COUPON</p> <p>Large Pizza WITH UNLIMITED TOPPINGS & 1 DOZ. JUMBO WINGS <small>(extra cheese not available as topping)</small> \$14.99 + tax</p> <p><small>Not valid with any other store special. Additional toppings extra. One coupon per visit.</small></p> <p>MARK'S PIZZERIA Expires 12/2/01</p>	<p>FREE DELIVERY</p> <p>COUPON</p> <p>FAMILY COMBO! LARGE CHEESE PIZZA & 1 DOZ. JUMBO WINGS \$13.99 + tax</p> <p><small>Not valid with any other store special. Additional toppings extra. One coupon per visit.</small></p> <p>MARK'S PIZZERIA Expires 12/2/01</p>



RIT Spring Career Fair 2002

Sponsored by:

Office of Cooperative Education and Career Services

Saturday, March 23, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Student Alumni Union

- ☞ Meet and Talk with companies about Co-op and Full Time Opportunities
- ☞ Workshops starting 3/16 to help you prepare
- ☞ All current RIT students and Alumni are encouraged to attend

For more information, a list of attending companies, and a workshop schedule,
check out our web site: www.rit.edu/co-op/careers,
Or call our office at **475-2301**



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YOUR GUIDE TO SPRING RUSH

Gentlemen, on this page is a calendar listing some of the rush events of IFC recognized Fraternities on campus for the month of March. All men in good standing with the University are welcome to Rush. More information is available from each fraternity. Visit each fraternity's website (accessible from the IFC website) or contact their members for more info. – MP Maloney ...

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																												
10 th HOW TO READ ME "Name of Fraternity – Name of Event: Location: Time"	11 th ΦΣΚ - Wing Night: House: 8:45pm	12 th ALL GREEK EVENT "Meet the Greeks" at Gracies 4:30 to 6:00 ΦΣΚ - Cook Out: House: 5pm	13 th TKE - Game Room: SAU Game Room: 7pm ΦΚΤ - Dodge Ball: SLC: 8pm ΦΣΚ - Jillian's(Bowling & Pool): House: 8pm	14 th ΦΚΨ - Cookout: Gleason Quad: 12-Noon ΑΕΠ - Wing Wars: Gracies: 5 -> 7pm ΦΔΘ - Dominos Pizza: House: 6pm TKE - Social: Gleason Clock: 8:30pm ΦΚΤ - Bowling: House: 9pm ΦΣΚ - Live Adult Entertainment: House: 10pm ΣΝ - Bowling Night: TowerA: 7:30pm	15 th ΔΣΦ - Disc Golf: House: 4pm ΦΔΘ - Deli Smoker: House: 6pm ΦΣΚ - Social: House: 8pm ΣΝ - Dodge Ball: TowerA: 6:30pm TKE - Meet the Brothers: 165 Colony: 10pm	16 th ΦΚΨ - Football: Behind Gracies: 1pm ΔΣΦ - Softball: House: 2pm ΦΣΚ - TBA: House: 7pm ΣΝ - Build-A-Bridge Challenge: TowerA: 7:30pm TKE - Social: 165 Colony: 10pm																																																												
17 th ΦΚΨ- Basketball: SLC: 5:00pm ΔΣΦ - Flashlight Tag: House: 8pm ΦΣΚ - Formal Smoker: House: 9pm ΣΝ - Formal Dinner: Invite Only ΦΚΤ - Founder's Day	18 th ΦΔΘ - Football: Greek Lawn: 4pm ΔΣΦ - Poker Night: House: 7pm ΦΚΤ - Philanthropy: House: 7pm ΦΚΨ- Dodge Ball : SLC: 8:00pm ΦΣΚ - Interviews: TBA ΣΝ - Interviews: TBA	19 th ΦΔΘ -Hooters: Gracie's Lobby: 5:45pm ΦΚΨ- Hooters: Gracie's Lobby: 7:00pm ΔΣΦ - Press Conference: House: 7pm ΦΚΤ - Dart Tourney: House: 8pm ΦΣΚ - Interviews: TBA ΣΝ - Interviews: TBA TKE - Interviews: TBA	20 th ΦΚΤ - Wings & Pizza : House : 9pm ΦΣΚ's Bid Night ΣΝ's Bid Night	21 st ΦΔΘ - Pool, Darts, Air Hockey: House: 6pm ΑΕΠ - Pool, Darts, Foosball: House: 6:30pm ΦΚΨ - Info Night: NRH room 1250: 7:00pm ΦΚΤ - Casino Night: House: 8pm ΔΣΦ - Interviews: TBA	22 nd ΦΔΘ - Open House/Dinner: House: 6pm ΔΣΦ - Interviews: TBA	23 rd ΦΚΨ - Football then Lunch at Gracies: Behind Gracies: 12-noon ΑΕΠ - Football: RIT -2pm ΔΣΦ's Bid Night																																																												
24 th ΦΚΨ- Open House: Phi Psi House: 12:00pm -> 4:00pm ΦΚΤ - Dinner / Info Night: House : 8PM	25 th ΦΚΨ - Interviews: TBA ΦΚΤ - Interviews: TBA	26 th ΦΚΨ - Interviews: TBA ΦΚΤ - Interviews: TBA	27 th ΦΚΨ's Bid Night ΦΚΤ's Bid Night	30 th ΑΑΥ - Mi Terra Dance Party: SAU Cafeteria: 10pm																																																														
<div>Fraternities</div> <table><tr><th>Letters</th><th>Name</th><th>Nick Name</th><th>Rush Chair</th><th>Phone #</th><th>House</th></tr><tr><td>ΦΚΨ</td><td>Phi Kappa Psi</td><td>Phi Psi</td><td>Sandy Budd</td><td>272-6168</td><td>616 Kimball DR</td></tr><tr><td>ΦΚΤ</td><td>Phi Kappa Tau</td><td>Phi Tau</td><td>Justin Bienio</td><td>272-6129</td><td>604 Kimball DR</td></tr><tr><td>ΦΣΚ</td><td>Phi Sigma Kappa</td><td>Phi Sig</td><td>Brian Heeran</td><td>758-3819</td><td>Dorms</td></tr><tr><td>ΔΣΦ</td><td>Delta Sigma Phi</td><td>D.S.P.</td><td>Nabeel</td><td>AIM: BLscorpZ</td><td>Dorms</td></tr><tr><td>ΑΑΥ</td><td>Lambda Alpha Upsilon</td><td>L.A.U.</td><td>Antonio Guerra</td><td>820-0706</td><td>Perkins</td></tr><tr><td>TKE</td><td>Tau Kappa Epsilon</td><td>Teke</td><td>Justin</td><td>758-3194</td><td>165 Colony</td></tr><tr><td>ΣΝ</td><td>Sigma Nu</td><td>Sig Nu</td><td>PJ Graham</td><td>PGJ9907@rit.edu</td><td>Dorms</td></tr><tr><td>ΑΕΠ</td><td>Alpha Epsilon Pi</td><td>A.E. Pi</td><td></td><td></td><td>Off Campus</td></tr><tr><td>ΦΔΘ</td><td>Phi Delta Theta</td><td>Phi Delt</td><td>Jason Taylor</td><td></td><td>Dorms</td></tr></table>							Letters	Name	Nick Name	Rush Chair	Phone #	House	ΦΚΨ	Phi Kappa Psi	Phi Psi	Sandy Budd	272-6168	616 Kimball DR	ΦΚΤ	Phi Kappa Tau	Phi Tau	Justin Bienio	272-6129	604 Kimball DR	ΦΣΚ	Phi Sigma Kappa	Phi Sig	Brian Heeran	758-3819	Dorms	ΔΣΦ	Delta Sigma Phi	D.S.P.	Nabeel	AIM: BLscorpZ	Dorms	ΑΑΥ	Lambda Alpha Upsilon	L.A.U.	Antonio Guerra	820-0706	Perkins	TKE	Tau Kappa Epsilon	Teke	Justin	758-3194	165 Colony	ΣΝ	Sigma Nu	Sig Nu	PJ Graham	PGJ9907@rit.edu	Dorms	ΑΕΠ	Alpha Epsilon Pi	A.E. Pi			Off Campus	ΦΔΘ	Phi Delta Theta	Phi Delt	Jason Taylor		Dorms
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Election 2002



AVAILABLE POSITIONS:

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Elections Calendar

22 March Candidates invited to SG Meeting at 1pm in 1829 Room, SAU

22 March Applications due by 4:30pm for Pres. and V. Pres. positions

29 March Applications due by 4:30pm for Senate positions

8 & 11 April Debate in SAU Cafeteria at 6pm

15 to 18 April Elections Online

19 April Announcement at SG Senate meeting

Senators:

CAST

COB

GCCIS

CIAS

COE

Liberal Arts

NTID

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Women's Senator

For more information visit

The SG office in the SAU

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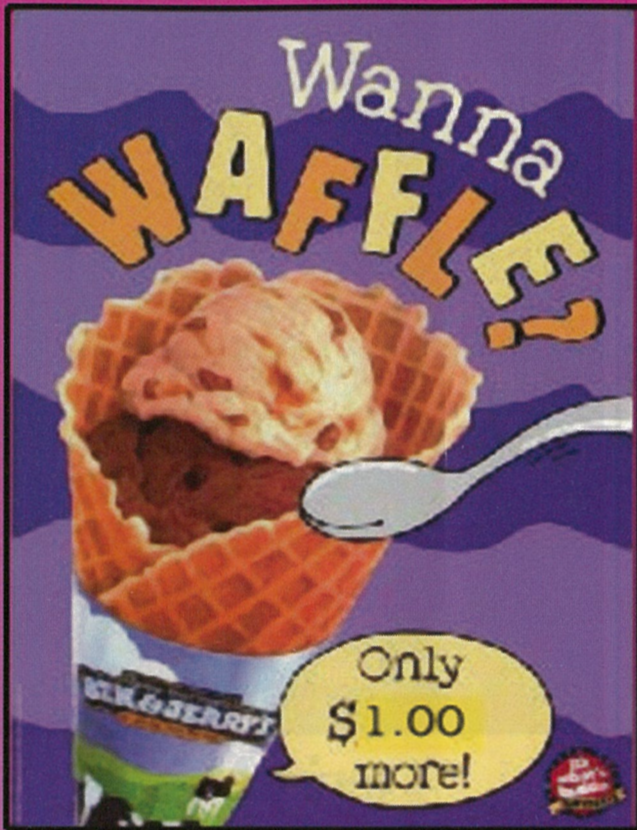
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