

REPORTER

DECEMBER 12, 2003 | WWW.REPORTERMAG.COM

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16 Avoiding the Debt Trap

21 Our Gift to You





Pedestrians have the Right of Way

Vehicles are now required to stop in both directions to allow pedestrians to cross the roadway.



A Message From RIT Campus Safety



It's a Boy!

“And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)

Nearly 2,000 years ago, God became one of us in the person of Jesus Christ. If you have any questions about this incredible event or its implications for your life, see **EveryStudent.com**

Celebrate Christmas with us!
Thursday, December 18 - 7:30 pm - SAU Cafeteria
www.RochesterCCC.com

© Ask President Simone

Back Forward Stop Refresh Home AutoFill Print Mail

Address: http://www.rit.edu/askthepresident/ go

Office of the President

Ask President Simone

Did you really jump into a swimming pool with Vice President Mary-Beth Cooper? How many miles do you run per week? What size shoe do you wear? What's your stance on file sharing? Why did the Tiger get moved? When will the artificial turf field be finished? I heard we weren't picked to host the 2004 Presidential Debates. Is that true? What does it mean to be a back-up site? Is our Web site ADA compliant? Is RIT changing its colors from orange and brown? How did you get Tom Golisano to wear the Tiger suit in SportsZone? Who usually wears the Tiger suit, anyway?

Got a question of your own?

www.rit.edu/askthepresident

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EDITORIAL

Destined For Confusion

Last week the president sent me a letter about destiny that I'm not sure I understood. Destiny? Task force? High level environmental scan? Did I miss something? Are we going to war with another university? I read the four paragraphs of buzz words and immediately became concerned about the priorities of the people calling the shots.

For those of you who do not know what I am referring to, on December 4, Dr. Simone sent out an all-student e-mail with the subject heading of "Strategic Planning Progress Report." The e-mail detailed, or more appropriately, sort-of-talked-about a committee formed with the goal of discovering the reason for RIT's existence. It went something like this: "Hi everyone. I got some people together, and they're going to look at some stuff. Then they're going to tell us what they think... you know... about the stuff. Because if we don't do this... well, I think we'll be kaput."

According to the letter, this Strategic Planning Steering Committee (SPSC) is "made up of faculty, staff, a student and senior administrators." That sounds like a lot of important people, yet there is a red flag stuck right in the middle of that list: "a student." One student. Common sense tells me that it will take more than the help of one student to find RIT's "destiny."

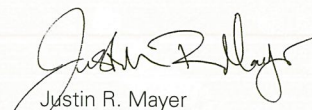
While Dr. Simone said that more students will be asked to volunteer later, for now we are represented by one student who, I'm guessing, isn't your average student. The right person for that job would be someone with no vested interest in RIT other than attending classes, receiving a degree, and having a pretty good time along the way. This individual should ideally have a lot say about this place, and be able to convey those sentiments with words longer than four letters.

So now we know that there's a strike force in place, looking to make RIT go from "good to great." And so far this committee of shadowy figures has prepared a draft of a "Vision/Mission/Values statement." This, however, doesn't sound promising to the average student. That said, if Dr. Simone's vague email is any indication of this committee's plan of attack, which I imagine it may be, then the RIT community can expect something like: "We'll get down there, check it out, and get back to you." If last year's Diversity Climate Survey findings set any precedent for what we can expect from a committee guided by a Vision/Mission/Values statement, we can expect the results to be inconclusive and, above all, misrepresentative of the student body.

Here is what I recommend to Dr. Simone, if I may. Don't spend any more time or money on strike forces, tacticians, or high-powered destiny machines. Get some random students together from each college and each graduating class and listen to what they have to say. Ask them specific questions and see how they react. If most of them are angry about something, then you've found a good place to start.

Don't worry about RIT's destiny, because the idea of us scoring some sort of academic touchdown in the next ten years is ludicrous. Universities don't have destinies, they have students. Let's worry about them one graduating class at a time and stop trying to be something we are not. RIT will grow on its own without buzzwords and half-baked ideas.

All this overly official letter says to us is that you are going to start listening to our complaints with the help of a committee. That shouldn't need to be announced with this sort of pomp and circumstance because you should have been listening all along. The next time you wish to address the student body about improving RIT, come heavy or don't come at all. We have a lot of problems and we don't need fluff that makes RIT sound like a Dilbert comic cluttering our inboxes.



Justin R. Mayer
Editor in Chief

Cover photograph by
Christopher Zajac

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Junior Luis Villalongo stretches before basketball practice on Thursday, December 4. Johanna Miller/REPORTER Magazine

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Case in Point

As a lefty myself, I appreciate Justin Mayer's editorial (A View From the Left, 12/5) on an often-ignored subject. However, on behalf of GLBT students, I request that the *Reporter* refrain from using the phrase "sexual preference," and opt for "sexual orientation" instead. While this may seem trivial to some, much like the editorial may seem trivial to some right-handed people, the term "preference" perpetuates an ill-founded stigma that GLBT people face daily. GLAAD has an excellent media reference guide available (www.glaad.org/media/guide) which includes a glossary of preferred GLBT-related terms. Thank you.

Derek Shockey
President, RIT Gay Alliance

Too little, too late?

This past Saturday (November 30) night I returned home to my Racquetclub apartment to find an expansive sheet of ice in place of where the entire parking lot used to be. This happens every year at Racquetclub, but as I observed the practically empty parking lot and baby-stepped across the slippery means of reaching my building, I mused in my own disbelief. I would actually have to call RIT the next day and *ask* them if they could please salt the dangerous parking lot before the majority of students returned from break. I made my way up to my apartment, thinking this a terrible neglect for our safety. It was upon reaching my door that my concerns became no longer so important. On the doorknob, a home-coming notice that a girl had been sexually assaulted in my building over break, with some vague language leading me to conclude that the culprit was still on the loose.

I thought how disgusting and horrible that this happened to another human being, no less a student of an institute of higher learning living in institute-owned housing; an environment that should promote a higher standard of safety for students than our impoverished and crime-ridden society alone affords. A university should be the type of institution that actively seeks to improve social ills through its students, not leave students victim to them. While winter comes and goes, and the parking lots demand some minor reactionary measures- a little salt here and there- the safety of a women should always involve serious preventative measures. This crime should have never happened.

No doubt this kind of atrocious "incident" doesn't happen every year. But how many of us have thought about it happening for years? How many of us have thought about how the safety measures at this campus leave us sitting ducks, vulnerable and waiting for crime to descend upon our unlocked building doors, unmanned entrances, unpatrolled lots, and unlit campus? How many of us have felt the fear for our own safety, realized that our safety in a particular situation was all left to chance, as I have several times? In fact, the difference between reactionary

safety and preventative is exactly chance; our safety has been left to the chance that things won't happen.

A girl was killed last year, struck by a car in an area that had many problems with delinquent speeding due to insufficient speed controls. University Commons students were clearly crossing these non-pedestrian marked areas long before Desiree Briggs did to get to classes, and one death later, her death, we get speed bumps and signage moving almost immediately. Crime in the form of Robbery had already descended upon the dorms, leading finally to the reactionary new policy on key locked entry. Now, RIT has allowed sexual predators to descend upon its students before the right measures were made to prevent it, measures which I know have been addressed by students as a member of an MSO and participant in Student Safety Week last year. The decision to start locking the Racquetclub entrances as of Friday, December 5, following yet another tragic event is another case of too little, too late.

And what other reactionary measures will RIT be taking in light of this horrible crime? Well, the notice on my door reminded me of what I can do. I can lock my doors. I can lock up valuables (which in this case would be my body. I am still up for suggestions on how I can do that). Meanwhile, I am still waiting for some notice; some reassurance on what RIT can do to improve the preventative safety on this campus. I'm waiting for them to establish the safety measures, such as adequate lighting, door staff, patrols and guest sign-in that typify every other college I have visited (including Syracuse University and University of Pittsburg). Sure, this is a suburban campus- outside of the city deemed the "Murder Capital of New York." Rochester's homicide victim rates were also higher than Pittsburg and New York City in 2000. Or didn't you know?

Action needs to be taken immediately before more preventable crime occurs. I ask this for the safety of myself and everyone else on campus and especially for the female who was sexually assaulted in her apartment on November 26. I am asking for RIT to at least afford us, as students, some knowledge that they are honestly working on a program for our overall safety right now. Really, I shouldn't have to ask for that.

Fearfully female at RIT,
Jennifer S.

If you have feedback regarding letters to the editor, op/ed pieces, or any article in *Reporter*, don't hesitate to send us a letter! Submissions via e-mail are preferred.

Legal File Sharing? RIT Considers Adopting New Service

by Patrick Rice

The institute is considering the possibility of setting up a legal file sharing program for students, which would be similar to programs that other universities are already implementing.

A December 11 group presentation that took place discussed the issues surrounding file sharing on campus, and ways that the RIT community, and all universities, can combat the problems that face occasional and habitual offenders of policies regarding sharing copyrighted information. Emilio DiLorenzo, Director for Technical Support Services with Information Technology Services (ITS) at RIT, led the presentation.

Dealing with these problems does not mean protecting students from the RIAA and other associations who are prosecuting offenders, but rather finding different means of allowing students to share files legally. The issue ultimately comes down to, primarily, sharing music. On November 9, Penn State University became the first university in the nation to provide free music sharing to its students when they signed an agreement with Napster. The program currently involves a focus group of students testing the program, which will expand to several thousand students in the spring, and eventually institute-wide, according to Penn State's ITS department.

Other universities are following the lead of Penn State. Locally, the University of Rochester has also been discussing the possibility of signing with a music downloading service, though not necessarily Napster. University of Rochester Provost Charles Phelps sits on the Joint Committee of Higher Education and Entertainment Communities board as a higher education representative. He is leading the university's attempts to locate a preferred downloading agent, according to the University of Rochester *Campus Times*.

Issues of concern that surround the sharing music through an outside party include cost and availability of songs. While the use of Napster is free at Penn State, U of R officials can't promise that the program will be free to its students. Some concern has also been raised over the availability of songs in each program, Napster currently shares approximately 500,000 songs, Apple iTunes Music Store (the most popular of online music retailers) shares around 200,000 songs, and other companies such as BuyMusic, eMusic and MusicMatch each have approximately 250,000-300,000 songs available for purchase.

Before RIT students get too anxious, it should be pointed out that the university is not currently in talks with any music sharing services. However, Dr. Mary Beth Cooper, Vice-President of Student Affairs, stressed that this doesn't mean that it might not be a possibility in the future. Cooper explained that students at schools like RIT are often more at risk to be caught breaking copyright infringement laws because of the student body's interests and abilities. Schools such as RIT, MIT, and RPI are

made up of students that "are very savvy when it comes to computers, and the RIAA is aware of this," she said.

Although RIT has no immediate or concrete plans, the university is in constant search of ways to combat copyright infringement. Currently, ITS and Campus Safety receive anywhere from twelve to twenty subpoenas a day relating to copyright infringement. When a subpoena is given to Campus Safety, they control the investigation and handle the situation through outside law enforcement, and ITS is responsible for the technological end by means of extracting only information regarding the investigation according to an IP address.

DiLorenzo also explained that no names are revealed in the investigation process until conclusive evidence is found, and that only the IP address is used in gathering information. Though there are many high profile cases of students being charged with copyright infringement, DiLorenzo is unable to reveal whether any student from RIT has been prosecuted. One reason the issue is coming to the forefront on university campuses is possible legislation that would hold universities accountable for the actions of its students.

Currently, if a student is charged with copyright infringement, that individual is held responsible for their actions. Legislators, however, are seeking to also hold the institute that the individual attends responsible, to some extent. DiLorenzo said that "in sixteen years working in the information technology field, this is the first time a problem of this size has arrived that I don't see an end to." DiLorenzo called to the point that it has become so common to take advantage of this technology, that it is very difficult to tell people that they can no longer have this free service. In agreement with Dr. Cooper, he said that the RIAA is targeting colleges that produce "high quality technological students." Visit www.RIAA.com for more information on this topic. •

BrickBeat

by Pat Villacin

Kwanzaa Founder Visits RIT

Dr. Maulana Karenga, creator of the African American and Pan-African symbolic holiday known as Kwanzaa, will be joining the Rochester community this Friday, December 12, for a candle-lighting ceremony to open the holiday observance at RIT. The ceremony will begin at 6:00 p.m. inside the Student Alumni Union Cafeteria and will be followed by a free, communal harvest dinner open to the general public.

Karenga, a professor and chair of the Department of Black Studies at California State University in Long Beach, created Kwanzaa in 1966 during the civil rights and black power movements in an effort to unify Africans on the home continent as well as other blacks across the globe. Kwanzaa runs from December 26 to January 1. The holiday was founded on the seven basic values of African culture, called The Nguzo Saba (Seven Principles in Swahili), which serves to reinforce and enhance the building blocks of family, community, and culture of the African people. The word Kwanzaa is derived from the phrase "matunda ya kwanza" which means "first fruits" in Swahili, the most widely spoken African language today.

The event will be limited to 450 people. Call 475-4704 for reservations.

A-6 Fighter Plane Unveiled at RIT

Last Wednesday, December 3, Senator Charles E. Schumer visited RIT to unveil the A-6 Intruder Fighter Jet, which recently arrived from the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, AZ.

RIT researchers will be working on the A-6 with the Naval Air Systems Command to develop remanufacturing techniques

for the reuse of parts of the plane on the EA-6B Prowler, used by the Navy and Marine Corps. This research program will be receiving \$2 million for the 2004 fiscal year under the Defense Appropriations Bill, through the efforts of Schumer, as well as Senator Hillary Clinton and Congressmen Tom Reynolds and Amo Houghton. This additional funding will bring the total federal investments for military research at RIT to \$17 million over a seven-year span.

"We're looking at yet another example of a world-class facility right here in Rochester, a home to some of the best and brightest scientists in the world, who are conducting groundbreaking research right under our noses," said Schumer. "The projects that RIT's experts are working on will not only make our military stronger, but save our taxpayers millions."

RIT Formula Team Competes in Australia

For the fourth consecutive year, RIT's Formula SAE Team goes down under to race in the annual Formula SAE Australasia event from December 4-7, in Tailem Bend, South Australia. RIT is competing against 20 other teams and is one of only three teams from the United States.

Formula SAE was originally formed in the U.S. as an event to give the Society of Automotive Engineers' student members a chance to conceive, design, fabricate, and compete with small formula-style racing cars. Its sponsors include Holden Ltd., Toyota, Mitsubishi, and Ford.

The RIT team captured the first place finish during the 2001 event, but only came in 3rd overall in 2002. •

HistoRIT

by Jeff Prystajko

Get your current events elsewhere

An oven light at the end of the tunnel.

Revised New York alcohol laws in 1985 had a profound effect on beer and liquor sales on campus shortly thereafter. While the Ritskeller and the SAU Dining Room were able to retain alcohol licenses, Grace Watson Hall, the Corner Store, and an area in the residential tunnels called "the Cellar" were subsequently banned from selling alcoholic beverages. To compensate for the lost revenue, "Nathaniel's," a pizzeria open until late at night, was to occupy the area where the Cellar was closing. With its long hours, delivery to all of RIT, and competitive prices, Nathaniel's became immensely popular with the picky campus population. After its unfortunate demise in the late 1990s, however, no similar venues were built to replace it.

Mary Jane, always the center of attention.

In 1967, Reporter conducted a survey of 2,000 campus students in an attempt to pinpoint opinions on marijuana usage. Back then, one-third stated they had tried it; furthermore, one-half of those claimed to be regular users. With regards to legalization,

beliefs were evenly split on whether to decriminalize the drug. Interestingly, presuming pot was legal, the survey discovered that while current smokers would smoke more, non-smokers were unlikely to start (a major complaint was that the average price range of \$15-50 per ounce was too expensive to consume in the desired quantities).

Get rich quick scheme #592:

On December 10, 1974, the RIT bookstore embraced a radical new program – book buyback. Depending on the demand for a book, students could get a percentage return based on what they originally paid. Books that were planned to be reused the following quarter provided a 50 percent return (approximately one-third of the bookstore's selection qualified). Books that were not scheduled for immediate restocking but were in demand elsewhere could offer the student a 10-30 percent return. Coincidentally, winter quarter ushered in another first – the sale of used books (at 25 percent off!). Farewell, expensive texts...•

CrimeWatch

compiled by Hope Kendrick

December 1 – Gannett Building

Larceny

A laptop computer was reported missing from a locked office on the second floor of the Gannett Building. Campus Safety and the Sheriff's Office are investigating the theft.

December 1 – RIT Inn and Conference Center

Vandalism

An unknown person pried open two vending machines at the RIT Inn & Conference Center. An undisclosed amount of cash was taken.

December 1 – Campus Safety Office

Larceny

An unknown person stole a handicapped parking hangtag from an unlocked vehicle while it was parked in a residence hall parking lot.

December 4 – Raquet Club Apartments

Larceny

A window was smashed and stereo equipment was stolen from a parked vehicle. The Campus Safety Department and the Sheriff's Office are investigating the theft, and additional security patrols are being conducted at Racquet Club.

December 4 – Ellingson Hall

Burglary

Cash was taken from an unlocked apartment in Ellingson Hall on Thursday afternoon.

December 4 – College of Science

Larceny

Two laptop computers were reported missing. The computers were seen last on Monday morning and the investigation continues.

If you witness suspicious behavior, theft, etc, please call Campus Safety immediately at 475-3333(V-TTY).

The Week

Submit your events to reporter@rit.edu

12/12 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.

RIT Model Railroad Club Winter Open House

SAU, A420. The RITMRC will open their room to display their model of Rochester railroads. Free.

3 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Gosnell Lecture Series: "Nature and the Marketplace"

Carlson Auditorium. Presented by Dr. Geoffrey Heal, the Paul Garrett Professor of Public Policy and Business Responsibility at Columbia University. Reception to follow. Free.

6 p.m. – 11 p.m.

Karaoke Contest

SAU Cafeteria. Sponsored by the Taiwanese Student Association, Chinese Student Association, and Asian Cultural Society. Choice of Chinese or English songs. Chinese food and drinks will be available. \$2 for contestants and audience members.

7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Beast on the Moon

Through 12/13. 1510 Lab Theater. LBJ Building. Presented in a mix of ASL and English. A young Armenian couple comes to the U.S. to escape genocide in their country after WWII.

12/13 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

ITSO and Golden Key Charity Bowling Tournament

Olympic Bowling Alley. \$30 for a team of three. Contact: Derek Anderson, dpa3851@rit.edu.

8 p.m.

Asian Culture Society Fashion Show

Webb Auditorium. \$4 in advance, \$5 at the door. Contact: acsrit@hotmail.com.

12/14 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

RIT Singers Service Lessons and Carols

Allen Chapel. Free.

12/15 12 p.m. – 1 p.m.

NTID Brown Bag Research Seminar

LBJ, 2590. "Effects of Early Deafness on Visual and Short Term Memory," presented by Dr. Daphne Bavelier, Associate Professor of Brain and Cognitive Sciences at U of R.

12/16 12 p.m. – 1 p.m.

Google Tips, Tricks, and More

Wallace Library. Second floor. VIA Lab. Learn something new about the popular search engine. Free.

12/18 9 p.m. – 11 p.m.

CAB Karoke Night

The Ritz. Food will be served. Free.

Taking Flight: Professor Pilots 100th Anniversary of Historic Flight

by Kunal Sharma

Dr. Kevin Kochersberger has always had an affinity for flying. He began experimenting with working gliders at the age of 15 with the *Wright Experience*, an organization dedicated to reconstructing the Wright Brothers' plane. The original plane was destroyed by the Wright Brothers themselves, in an attempt to preserve the secrecy of their research.

Today, as a result of many years of his own research and the collaboration of many, Kochersberger is one of two pilots selected to fly a reproduction of the 1903 Wright Flyer, which will mark the 100th anniversary of the flight that changed the world.

The year-long countdown to the First Flight Centennial and week-long celebrations at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, will come to end on December 17. The reconstructed plane will take off for the "First Flight" at Wright Brothers National Memorial Park at 10:35 a.m. – the exact time, to-the-minute, of the first powered flights. There will be a second re-enactment at 2:00 p.m. that day. The event is sponsored by Experimental Aircraft Association and Ford Motor Company.

While this event may commemorate the first flight and honor the first men to ascend to the skies, it won't be Kochersberger's first time in the air. Far from it. Kochersberger, who has a PhD in Mechanical Engineering, is a 1400-hour pilot. At 22, he earned his glider rating and two years later his power rating. He currently owns and operates a Piper Arrow and is an active flight instructor with the Blue Ridge Soaring Society.

This is not Kochersberger's first historic flight, either. In 1996, Kochersberger advised a group of students on the construction of a replica of the historic 1896 Chanute-Herring hang glider. Before it went on display at the National Soaring Museum in Elmira, New York, Kevin had the chance to fly the glider at the site of the original flights—the south shore of Lake Michigan. Earlier this year, the Experimental Aircraft Association named Kochersberger as 'The Pilot of the Century.'

Kochersberger will fly with Terry Queijo, a pilot who was part of American Airlines' first all-female flight crew in 1986 and also named a Pilot of the Century. They will flip a coin to decide who will fly first. "We have 800 feet diameter circle at the Memorial, there is a track laid out and we are intending not to go more than 200 feet and I don't think its going to be more than 200 feet or in air for about four seconds. We are trying to prove only what the Wright Brothers were trying to prove and we are trying to show that they had solved all the problems around

100 years ago," said Kochersberger. "Not only were they great engineers and scientists, but they were extremely capable of sensing their environments. It is a marginal airplane and it has all the key ingredients."

Kochersberger is emotionally moved by the opportunity of this magnitude. "It has been a very emotional experience and it is a great honor to be taking the flight from the same location as Wrights Brother were at, and experiencing the way they did. It makes me understand in a much bigger way the accomplishments they made in solving powered flights," said Kochersberger.

As a pilot, Kochersberger has respect for the Wright brothers, not only for their invention, but for their skills as pilots. "These airplanes were actually low powered and flying on low winds, therefore, it had to be very in tune with the environments and the pilots needed to be very skilled at handling them," said Kochersberger. "The Wright Brothers did not know that the engines were more powerful than they had thought them to be."

Kochersberger is appreciative of RIT for all the support he has received. "I am certainly grateful to RIT and I think the benefits that will come out of this for the school will be long term. My students have also been very excited about this achievement and the class last quarter was also very accommodating, as I was in and out pretty frequently."

In the time leading up to the centennial, Kochersberger worked at NASA's Langley Full Scale Tunnel in Virginia, concentrating on wind-tunnel testing of the replica aircraft, a topic on which he has published several technical papers. He had previously tested a 1910 Vertical 4 aircraft engine, and he and RIT graduate engineering students researched and supported reverse engineering of Wright propellers, airframes, and engines at Delphi Automotive Systems in Henrietta.

Data from the tests Kevin is coordinating with the Wright gliders at the Langley Full Scale Tunnel will be used to provide realism to the 1902 Wright Glider flight simulator and estimate handling qualities of the Wright aircraft. •

You could Always Hitch-hike !?!

Getting Around this Winter

by Elliot Jenner



1

sideways



2

wave down



3

wave up



repeat

It's time for us to hit the typical Rochesterian weather pattern: snow, ice, freezing rain, and bone-chilling cold. One of the worst things about winter just might be trying to get around in the midst of it—particularly, getting to class. Difficult enough for those of us with out cars in the civil months, getting to class in the winter becomes downright unbearable. Have no fear. Read on for some advice on how to get to class—regardless of the weather.

There are several methods you could use to make your way across campus in icy, snowy, rainy, windy, and altogether *bad* conditions. There is the old standby, the shut-up-and-slough-through-it method. I think that one is self-explanatory. Then, there's the bus. Unfortunately, the buses here suck, so we are going to pass it over in favor of more interesting methods. After all, you should be creative if you intend to get anywhere in life, so be creative in getting just a short distance.

Creative Solution 1: Hijack a tractor and make them drive you to class. This is not very practical and will probably get you arrested shortly after you arrive at class, so it pretty much defeats the purpose. I for one would rather lose a toe to frostbite than spend a few years in jail.

Creative Solution 2: Construct a tunnel to the academic side. This one assumes that you live in the dorms. People have been whining about it for years. If you want to try, be my guest, but don't be shocked when you wind up in an asylum. That is, if you don't hit a hot water pipe and fry yourself first. Not recommended.

Not-So-Creative Solution 1: Get a bunch of people together and construct some sort of teleporter to the other side of campus. If you can do this, congratulations, you are the new most famous scientist ever. Otherwise, you're a loony who will probably fail to graduate for a lack of contact with reality.

Creative Solution 3: Ice Skates. This only works in certain conditions, and is more than a little likely to get you in trouble when you get where you're going and carve up the carpet just by walking. Since it's nearly impossible to skate with any kind of

weight, you'll need to leave all your books and supplies behind. This is not too practical, especially if you're an art student. Oh, and then there's what happens if you hit a dry spot. Student health insurance ain't gonna cover that.

Creative Solution 4: Move to a warmer climate. Then you'll only have to deal with flooding, drought, and the occasional tornado or monsoon.

Not-So-Creative Solution 2: Magic (Not the card game, the real stuff). You should only attempt this if you are very good. Teleportation spells should not be used lightly. The smallest mistake could land you in another reality, a nuclear reactor, or just splattered across half the state of New York ("splinched," as they call it in *Harry Potter*. Or worse, you could end up like me friend Sarah. She now has way too many arms, has to walk backwards, and molts. I take no responsibility if you go this route.

Creative Solution 5: Cross Country Skiing. You might have a problem with the hill between the SAU and the Library, but otherwise it's a pretty good idea. Campus Safety doesn't like it, but unless they commandeer a tractor (or, duh, use their cars), you shouldn't have any problem out-running them. As long as you are wearing a ski mask, you can probably fight them off even if they do catch up with you, since we all know that ski masks immediately endow the wearer with super kung-fu powers. Once you get to class, you can just say that you're in one of the Wellness skiing classes. I would try this myself, but I can't ski.

There you have it, some tips on how to get to class. Don't let these limit you, though. Expand your horizons. Reach for the farthest star. "Be all that you can be" and all that. But, in the meantime, stop stalling and finish your homework! It won't do you any good getting to class if you get an F anyway. •

Holiday REPORTER

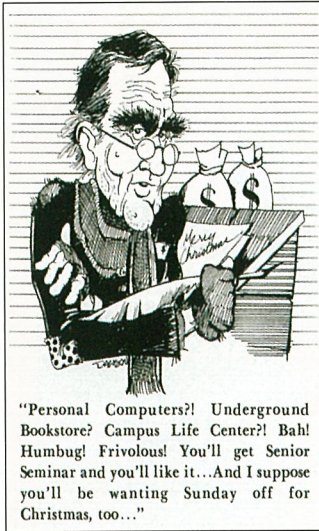
MAD LIBS

arranged by Kate Bloemker

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Adjective _____ | 13. Favorite song _____ |
| 2. Quirky relative _____ | 14. Person _____ |
| 3. Noun _____ | 15. Plant _____ |
| 4. Favorite winter holiday _____ | 16. Drink _____ |
| 5. Place _____ | 17. Adjective _____ |
| 6. Color _____ | 18. Noun _____ |
| 7. Article of clothing, plural _____ | 19. Animal _____ |
| 8. Place _____ | 20. Adjective _____ |
| 9. Person _____ | 21. Misbehavior _____ |
| 10. Type of food _____ | 22. Place or thing _____ |
| 11. Movie _____ | 23. Noun _____ |
| 12. Body part, plural _____ | |

My family has many (1) holiday traditions. The worst one is that I always have to give my bed up for (2) and sleep on the (3). Everything gets better, though, because the night before (4) my whole family goes to (5) wearing new (6) (7). At (5) we celebrate the birth of (9). Afterward, at home, we eat (10), while watching (11). Then we hold (12) and sing (13). While we are all asleep, (14) comes with gifts for us and leaves them under the (4) (15). The next morning, we run downstairs and open our presents while drinking (16). The best present I ever got was a/an (17) (18). This year I want a pet. I hope I get a/an (19)! (14) said that he/she would only give me a (19) if I was a (20) and didn't (21) too much this year. Otherwise, he'll be putting coal in my (22), not a pet or any of the other (23)'s that I asked for!

From the Archives



"Personal Computers?! Underground Bookstore? Campus Life Center?! Bah! Humbug! Frivolous! You'll get Senior Seminar and you'll like it... And I suppose you'll be wanting Sunday off for Christmas, too..."

Former RIT president Dr. Rose.

7 holiday gifts everyone returns

Big Mouth Billy Bass. Someday the person you give it to will think back on their memories of you. Don't let Big Mouth Billy Bass be one of them.

The Breadman TR2200C Ultimate Bread Machine. Who has time to make second-rate bread? Get the **Toastmaster 1148X Fast Bake 2-Pound Horizontal Bread Machine** instead. A hug (aw... that's cute).

A salad spinner. It's more of a birthday gift. Any CD with the words "Now that's what I call..." in the title.

A used mustache trimmer (available at amazon.com). You can save 50 percent on this item, but you must take into account that it has been in somebody else's mustache.

HOME ALONE songs to dance to in your underwear



- A Ha- Take on Me
- Andrew WK- She is Beautiful
- Outkast- Hey Ya
- En Vogue- Never Gonna Get It
- The Rentals- Friends of Pete
- Cat Stevens- Here Comes My Baby
- Cake- Let Me Go
- Elvis Costello- No Dancing
- Outkast- Bombs Over Baghdad
- Black Eye Peas- Weekeend
- Q-Tip- Vivrant Thing
- The Cure- Mint Car
- 50 Cent- In Da Club

RIT

3 minute interviews

compiled by Hope Kendrick and Eileen Baumgartner



Kate Motter

First Year, New Media Publishing

Hometown: Syracuse, NY

Greatest ambition: I think I'd like to work for Adobe some day.

Extracurricular activities: I do a lot of photography that's not related to my major at RIT, so I do that when I go home on breaks and stuff. I have access to my high school darkroom.

The Meaning of Life: Hanging out with friends and eating lots of chocolate.

Last dream you had: I had a dream this morning that my alarm clock wasn't going off, and I was adjusting the sound, and I finally got it adjusted and it went off. Woke me up.

What would you do if you were a ghost? Probably make messes in places. That would be

kind of fun, like a poltergeist.

What is your pomstar name (first pet's name plus the street you grew up on)? Cassie Carlton

Greatest invention: I'm gonna have to go with the flow here and say computer because I live on mine. Probably Instant Messenger. I'll go with that.

Favorite word: I've always thought "onomatopoeia" was a cool word.

If you could trade places with someone for a day, who would it be and why? Probably a movie star of some sort – go down the red carpet, you know, that whole deal.



John Martellaro

Second Year, Computer Engineering

Hometown: Clay, NY

Greatest ambition: Doing well in school.

Extracurricular activities: I help make a web page for online entries. It consumes a lot of my time.

The Meaning of Life: To try to understand it.

Favorite word: Wicked.

Least favorite word: Blah.

If someone were forcing you to get a tattoo where would it be and what would it be of? It would be on my forehead. No wait, never mind. It would be Popeye on my forearm.

Last dream you had: I dreamt I was PeeWee Herman once.

What would you do if you were a ghost? I'd spy on people—famous people.

What is your pomstar name (first pet's name plus the street you grew up on)? Doggie Seymour.

Haha. You named your pet, Doggie? I think it was Sandy. Sandy Seymour. But we called it Doggie.

Greatest invention: Calculator.

If you could trade places with someone for a day, who would it be and why? Somebody poor, from a different country, just to see what they feel.

DEMOCRATIC BY DESIGN

threadless.com
by Sean Hannan

What better way is there to share your art with the world than to plaster it all over a stranger's body? Threadless.com allows you to do just that. Similar sites such as cafepress.com and customink.com have offered personalized printing for many years now, but Threadless turns t-shirt design into a Cannonball Run-style competition.

After registering for a free membership, you can post t-shirt designs, vote on submitted designs, and comment on the submissions. The site receives about two hundred t-shirt designs per week. Of these two hundred submissions, four to six are chosen for printing. In order to continue the contest and bring fresh designs onto Fruit of the Loom cotton, each printing run is a limited edition. When an entry is chosen for printing, the designer receives \$100, three t-shirts of their design, and a \$100 gift certificate to threadless.com.

In order to decide which shirts are printed, threadless.com employs a voting system similar to hotornot.com. Members have up to seven days after a design is submitted to rate the design on a scale from zero to five. This is not to say that every high-scoring design will become the next 'Make 7 Up Yours'. SkinnyCorp, the firm behind the concept, picks the final designs based on user ratings, printing feasibility, and profitability. This oversight is necessary to sell the t-shirts for only \$15.

Well, what happens to the losers? If a design is not chosen for production, it is archived in a separate area of the site so that members may still address constructive criticism to the designer. From this feedback, designers can tweak and re-submit their designs for another round of voting.

Threadless.com has something to offer nearly everyone. For fifteen measly dollars you can purchase a limited edition t-shirt for that hipster on your holiday shopping list. Or, if you're handy with Adobe Illustrator, there may be a few Franklins in your future.

Design ☆☆☆☆ A gaggle of graphic designers conceived this concept; thus, it has an exceptional layout. The site, however, suffers from some funky positioning bugs in non-Internet Explorer browsers.

Content ☆☆☆☆ It has t-shirts. That you can buy. And critique.

Safe for Work ☆☆☆☆ This is art, so some designs may have a stray nipple here or there. It's all about context.

Not a Fad ☆☆☆☆ Limited edition printings make it unlikely that you will find someone in your particular postal district with the same shirt. •

Glad to see **GLADIUS**

by Winson Shuen

Whenever someone mentions the RPG genre in the video game world, most people think of the *Final Fantasy* or *Dragon Warrior* series. However, just as the video game industry has been changing fast, so have the genres themselves. RPG genre games can have a battle system based on active battles *Crono Trigger*, taking turns *Lufia*, or even trading cards *Yu-Gi-Oh* anyone?). The possibilities are endless. A fine example of this creativity is *Gladius* (released on PS2, XBOX, and Gamecube), a refreshing title from LucasArts that combines the many forms of RPGs into one.

Gladius takes place in medieval times, during which kingdoms are fighting for power. The player controls one of two main characters, each inhabiting a separate storyline spanning over forty hours of gameplay. Trying to gain recognition and power on behalf of their respective kingdoms, the characters duke it out in gladiator arenas around the world.

Gladius is presented wonderfully, as cut scenes are filled with both still paintings and occasional animations (such as candle flames and weather conditions), creating a well-illustrated mood for the game. Music is also carefully orchestrated to drive the player's mood at certain points in the game.

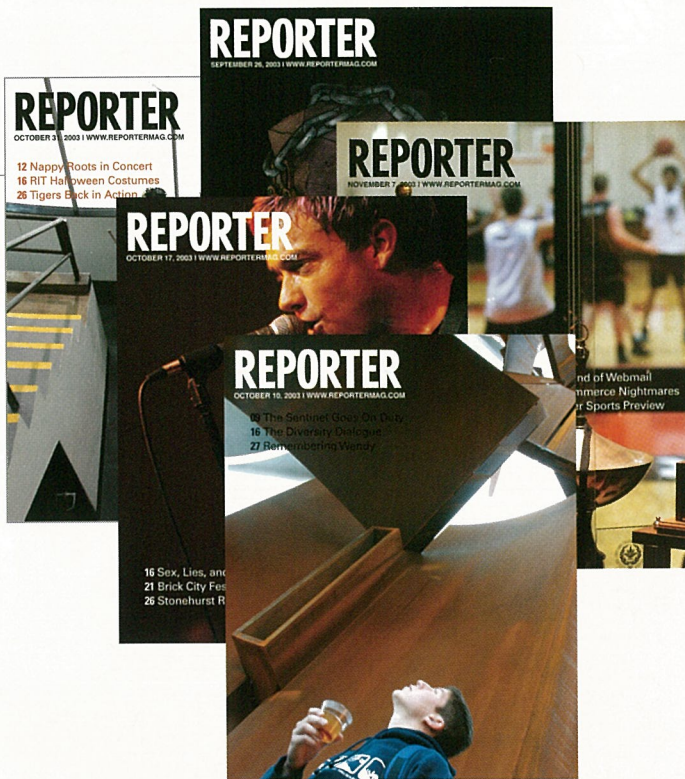
The fighting portion of the game is half strategy, half action-based. Inside the fighting coliseums, players control the many

fighters through grids on a map, much like the now-classic *Final Fantasy Tactics* or *Vandal Hearts*. However, the game is also intuitive in the sense that every time a character attacks, the swing meter allows players to control how much damage the opponent takes. Furthermore, instead of using traditional MP (or Magic Points), the magic system uses affinity points, which recover gradually after each turn.

However, the rest of the game just doesn't live up to the battle system. While the fighting part of the game is half strategy, half action, the rest of the game is a full snore. With heavy load times, players often find themselves waiting whenever they are caught in a battle. The story is carried by page after page of sans-serif text, which might as well be as boring as sitting through a history class typing up this article.

Overall, *Gladius* is a good game to rent. The battle system is deep enough to keep the game interesting, but the rest just doesn't hold up. With low-polygon graphics and blurry textures, I personally don't see the point of creating a 3-D environment. If you're a fan of tactical RPGs, give this game a try. Otherwise, it might be better to go with *Final Fantasy Tactics*, or the newly-released *Final Fantasy Tactics Advance* for the Game Boy Advance. • ☆☆☆☆

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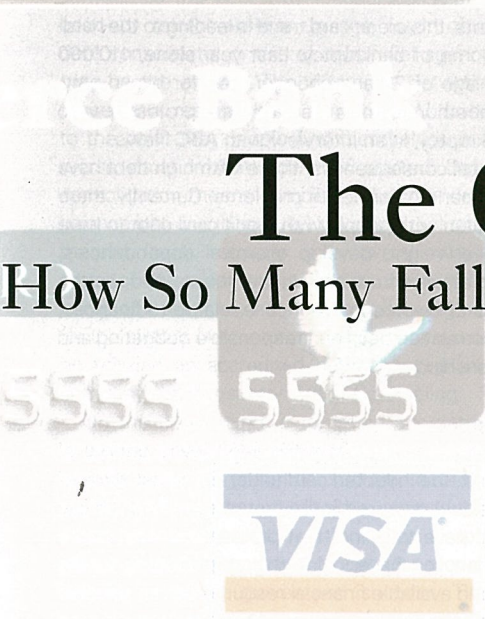
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Card



The Credit Conundrum

How So Many Fall into the Debt Trap, Claw to Get Out

by Becky Ruby with Ren Meinhart
photo illustration by Matthew Appgar

Third-year Information Technology major Jordan (name changed at student's request) found himself in debt. "(Last year, I got a platinum card when I opened a checking account at Key Bank. I lived off campus that year so I didn't have a meal plan and I had to drive, so the card mostly covered food and gas and any other household needs. Sometimes when I was strapped for cash, I charged the month's bills and just kept the money my roommate gave me.

"I think I got up to around \$2,000 on the card at one point and since I wasn't working it was pretty hard to pay it off. I've had credit cards since I was sixteen...I used to be pretty good with them but in college its more about eating than good credit."

Jordan's story is not unique. Credit card debt among college students has reached an all-time high, with balances soaring to alarming sums. According to Nellie Mae, the nation's largest student loan provider, the average undergraduate owes \$2,200 in credit card debt. That figure jumps to \$5,800 for graduate students. With over three-quarters of students

owning at least one credit card (a 24 percent increase since 1998) and two-thirds of those getting them at the ripe age of 18, credit card companies have reaped the benefits of low-income, undereducated customers. With the average debt of undergraduates rising on a yearly basis, it becomes apparent that not only are more students getting credit cards, but more are not paying them off each month.

Reporter consulted Dr. Robert Manning, assistant to the provost and humanities professor, and a leader in the field of credit research. He accredited these new credit trends to two central issues. "In the past, public schools used to promote for financial education. And, now students are being offered credit before they have their first full-time job," Manning explained. "[Credit responsibility] is given to you before you've learned how to use it." Manning's personal research has shown that even the few grade schools that have offered financial training have been inconsistent; some schools would offer class every day, while others were once every other week.

Because schools have not exposed pupils to the pitfalls of mounting credit debt, it has become more and more imperative to educate students, including the RIT community, about the hows, whys, how-to-get-outs of debt issues.

Put it on the gold card, my good man.

The idea of “plastic money” has enticed unsuspecting consumers to spend, spend, spend, and then pay back slowly with huge amounts of interest attached, along with possible fees. “It’s like driving a high performance sports car: you don’t want to walk to work, but if you don’t know how to drive it, you’re looking at a potentially very serious accident,” Manning said. The question lies within why people feel this need for the “high-performance car” that credit cards have come embody.

The allure that Manning has found within credit cards is a maturing, right-of-passage feeling. As students reach the age of legal adulthood, the pursuit of emulating parents and peers through the tangible use of something as small as a gold card puts many in the position to spend just because they can. Rather than a wallet that physically lessens in size, the lack of a solid limit allows credit card holders to swipe away beyond what they realize they’re doing. “It’s kind of like being a kid in a candy store. All these things people wanted to do and BOOM, they can’t believe they spent \$1,000,” according to Manning.

In addition to this underlying emotional current and sticker shock, others fall into the pattern of spending time with social circles that simply come from more affluent backgrounds. In a younger version of “keeping up with the Joneses,” credit card holders get into the mindset that they have more resources than they actually do. “The students aren’t empowered unless they use it; it’s a greater sense of social status,” said Manning.

Falling Behind

One of the ways that credit card companies ensnare their clients has to do with the interest rates and fees associated with paying off purchases. If Joe Cardholder makes \$100 purchase and pays it off in full immediately the date of his billing, the total stays at \$100. On the contrary, if Joe misses his deadline, the company applies an interest, or finance charge. This is the first step in credit card company profit. As Joe continues to miss payments or not pay in full, the outstanding balance keeps getting compounded, thus leading to increased debt. In addition to missing deadlines, spending over the line of credit warrants late fees. And, yes, interest is applied to those fees as well. Essentially, as put by Dr. Manning, “You can be paying interest on your interest and your fees for being over the limit and late.”

According to Deborah Thorne, Assistant Professor of Sociology at Ohio University, it would take thirty years to pay off a \$2,000 credit card bill making only the minimum payments every month. Often times, the money owed in interest and fees exceeds the initial amount spent.

Another tempting but risky habit is using credit cards for cash advances. Unlike debit cards that draw directly from bank accounts, cash advances are equal in theory to spending credit. However, most companies have exorbitant, higher interest rates on such uses. As Joe Cardholder realizes that his owed balance has increased to the point that he needs to start paying above the minimum each billing period, his money will first go towards

paying off the portion of the balance with the lower interest rate, such as his regular purchases. After those are finally paid off, the billing will start to affect the higher balance portion, such as the cash advances. “A lot of times, people will actually send their payment and say they want it to go to their 25 percent [interest portion of the bill], but that’s not the way the banks handle it,” Manning explained.

Long-Term Effects of Major Debt

Because personal finance is such a vital facet is everyday life, it comes as no surprise that major debt can affect many future endeavors concerning money. “For the first time, credit scoring is becoming more and more important in all aspects of one’s financial life,” Manning said. An individual’s credit score has the potential to have an impact on everything from renting an apartment to buying a house, getting a mortgage to purchasing insurance. Having a poor credit rating could even lead to difficulty in obtaining graduate school loans.

For some students, this credit card trend is leading to the hard-to-overcome outcome of bankruptcy. Last year alone, 110,000 people under the age of 25 and younger filed for bankruptcy, according to Elizabeth Warren, a Harvard Law professor who specializes in bankruptcy, in an interview with ABC News.

In addition to fiscal consequences, those with high debt have shown to be at higher risk for health problems. Currently, there is a strong association with people with credit card debt to have depression, be overweight, develop chemical dependencies, or turn to drinking alcohol from the undue stress. And, as the number one cause of divorce in America is related to finances, there is a strong correlation between responsible budgeting and maintaining relationships.

Catching Back Up

There are two pit stops to hit when deciding how to get out of mounting debt. First, the indebted cardholder has to ask himself or herself how the debt occurred in the first place. “Why did you get into debt? You have to follow that problem on why you’re spending more than you have,” Manning said. Getting to the root of going beyond available financial resources gives valuable insight into coming up with a more appropriate budget, and hopefully avoiding the problem in the future.

While this can be challenging, simply cutting down on what you charge is a good way to start. “One thing I found is charging little things doesn’t seem so bad, but they add up *fast*” said Jordan.

Secondly, the cardholder needs to establish a plan to reduce the debt itself. While this concept seems more like common sense than educated advice, being organized and steadfast in a pay-off strategy becomes key. “You don’t want further debt, you want to reduce what you have,” Manning said. At this stage, the cardholder is faced with a hefty to-do list. In terms of spending, a cut-back in expenses, if possible, along with fewer charges on the card both aid in keeping impending debt down. With spending down, paying back must go up. Rather than continuing in a trend of paying a monthly minimum, which adds to debt rather than pays it off, an increase in what the cardholder puts down will start to positively affect the balance. “Anybody who’s implying they can get you out of debt quickly isn’t telling

the whole story; the quick fix doesn't exist," Manning continued.

Jordan found this out the hard way. "Over the summer I put almost all the money I made into paying off the card. I think it took me about 3 months of working plus some money I had saved up to pay it off," citing complications with finance charges and company procedure as well. "I paid the last of it off when I got back up here but ... the woman somehow entered my payment wrong and she didn't credit me for \$0.13. Then they billed me a finance charge of almost \$2 on my \$0.13. They wanted their \$0.13."

"It's really, really easy to get into debt, and it's really, really hard to get out of debt on your own," Manning said. With that in mind, sometimes the best way to out is to call in back-up; reinforcements in the form of a debt consolidator or use of debt relief agency may be the answer. The difference between these two resources is sometimes blurred to the point that people find themselves in a worse situation than how they started. Debt consolidation means combining the total debt balance into one (hopefully) lower interest rate, thereby lower monthly rates overall. While many of these debt consolidators claim to be non-profit, they may not always be looking out for the client's best interest. A good bet would be utilizing an accredited debt consolidation company like Consumer Credit Counseling.

On the other hand, a tempting alternative is getting debt relief. While this sounds like a good solution, going on such a "debtor's strike," when the cardholder completely stops paying, is incredibly risky for the simple reason that the negotiating process for a lower balance is not a guaranteed success. This gamble not only ruins the cardholder's credit, but puts him or her at risk for bankruptcy, in the event that the credit company does not grant a lower balance.

What RIT Has in the Works

While other educational institutions have become lax in their financial teaching, RIT along with the guidance of Dr. Manning have set up a variety of initiatives to keep the community in the know. In an integrated long-term program stretching from orientation to graduation, students will all have the opportunity and sometimes the requirement to become more aware of the rising problems of debt, and how to stay away from them. These programs will be flexible to suit the needs of different financial issues as students mature.

Examples of programs to come include seminars with a variety of departments on

campus. Currently in contact with NorthStar Center, the FYE and Orientation Department, Campus Life, Student Affairs, Financial Aid, Co-op Internship Office, and the Credit Union, Dr. Manning is pushing to create a variety of workshops. "As [students' financial] questions become more complex, answers are going to be more readily found through required things such as classes like FYE and other departments on campus," Manning said. "As needs mature, I want to set up programs in the dorms so people can sift out what's most appropriate for their financial needs." For instance, freshmen will go through two financial modules during their FYE instruction in January. Also, in a pilot program with the NorthStar Center, there has been a start to a series of workshops dealing with an opening review of the good's and bad's of credit and debit.

Other possibilities for the future on campus include courses offered from the College of Business, offering positions in Co-ops and internships to learn more about these issues, and consciousness-awareness workshops. Topics for these discussion groups would hit a number of different topics, including the following: obtaining credit reports, developing a budget, understanding credit contracts, knowing the differences between credit and debit, and understanding financial aid.

According to Dr. Manning, "The goal is to empower people and have their money working for them instead of their debt working against them. That's what we're here at RIT for, so that people can have successful careers and families. The sooner we help people with money, and have them learn that money can be a very positive force, the better start they're going to have when they leave RIT. Their lives are going to certainly be more satisfying and productive."

While Jordan found his way out of the debt trap quicker than most of his peers, he's now taking every precaution to ensure that he doesn't fall back in. "I have an AT&T Platinum Universal card that I haven't used yet. I just keep it behind my debit and PayPal cards and forget about it. I've kept it around in case I really need it, but I just got to the point where I'm sick of every company in the world wanting a piece of my money."

For more information and resources regarding debt and debt management, consult Dr. Manning's website at creditcardnation.com. •

Student Loans: How One Alumnus Keeps Up

Student loans have taken off in amounts and number of participants both nationally and around the world. According to numbers posted by The College Board, college students in the United States borrowed almost 47 billion dollars in student loans during the 2001-2002 academic year. Nationally, students borrowed an average of \$16,100 for public four-year schools and \$18,000 for private four-year institutions, like RIT, according to numbers researched by Sallie Mae, a Virginia-based student loan provider.

In a brochure published by the Institute, titled *RIT: An Expectational Value, An Affordable Choice*, placed the average charges for full-time undergraduate resident students during the 2003-2004 school year at \$29,217. That's 9,739 a quarter, and approximately 116,868 over the course of four years. The average amount of financial aid? That's where it gets tricky.

Financial aid awards are broken down by the family income brackets, therefore, because of the diverse nature of RIT's student body, any average that we could give you would be inconclusive. However, more than seventy-five percent of full-time undergrads at RIT received financial aid awards or academic scholarships this year, totaling in over \$130 million dollars in financial aid from federal, state, and institutional resources.

Alan Evans, an RIT alum who graduated in May, 2002, from the IT program, was hit with a total between \$19-20,000 of loans to repay for the Perkins and Federal Direct loans when he left the Brick City. Because his loans did not require payment until six months after commencement, Evans was able to "stay on top of it. I haven't really done anything actively to take care of it," he said.

Evans accredited his success to not let it get "at all out of [his] control" by sticking to a manageable payment plan. With a variety of options like paying over a five to ten year period, ten to twenty, or over fifteen years, and enjoying benefits for being on time with his payments, he has been responsible about his loans from the start. People paying off such debt can also take advantage of an interest point reduction of .25 points for paying automatically online. At this point, the consideration of consolidation seems tempting for its reduction in interest rate and benefits being consistently on time. While some students are biting their nails in anticipation of getting through paying off loans, Evans' story shows that getting buried in bills is not an inevitable outcome. •

Q: What is your favorite holiday memory?



- 1** I have a twin sister and my mom's birthday is close to ours, so it's one big celebration.

Philip Boykin
Fourth Year
Biology

My senior year of high school, my friend Richard came home for two weeks from being stationed in Korea.

Ana Zangroniz
Fourth Year
Photography



- 2** Christmas in Australia four years ago.

Matt Nicole
Fourth Year
International Business

The year I became a Christian and the church I went to held a midnight Christmas service. My family wouldn't go, but my best friend was there, so we went together.

Erin Skirment
Fifth Year
Computer Science



- 3** Sitting by the pool watching other people trying to get darker so they have something to brag about when they go home.

Mike Robinson
Fifth Year
Packaging

Watching people's faces light up last year as I passed out Easter eggs. It's really nice to make people happy.

James Tuttle
Third Year
Computer Science



- 4** On my twentieth birthday I fell in a puddle of mud.

Wendell Smith
Third Year
Mechanical Engineering Technology

I like it when it snows on Thanksgiving.

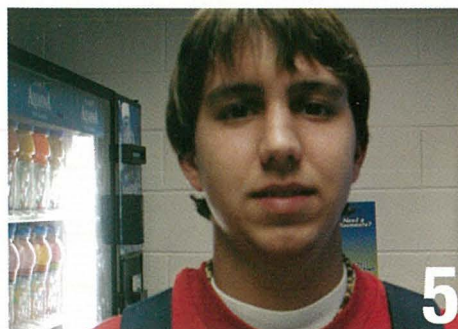
- 5** For New Years in Brazil, they go to the beach dressed in white and throw a flower in the sea at midnight.

Alberto Samper
Second Year
Industrial Engineering

Sara Bavis
Fourth Year
Psychology

Birthdays with my family

Ntongho Amin
Second Year
Electrical Engineering



Generally Christmas morning, running downstairs; Thanksgiving dinner—you can't have just one.

Sarah Smith
Third Year
Marketing

I like it when my birthday falls on Thanksgiving.

Maria Orsino
Fourth Year
Biotechnology

I love Christmas. Christmas is my favorite holiday. It's the closeness of my family during that time of year.

Hysha Robinson
College Liason for the North Star Center

My fifth birthday, my sister and her best friends dressed up as Santa and his elves. My birthday is close to Christmas.

Lei Lani Stelle
Professor, Biology

Waking up Christmas morning and looking through my stocking before everyone else.

Lisa Fraser
The Learning Development Center

Since my family lives on the other side of the state, I look forward to going back and visiting them.

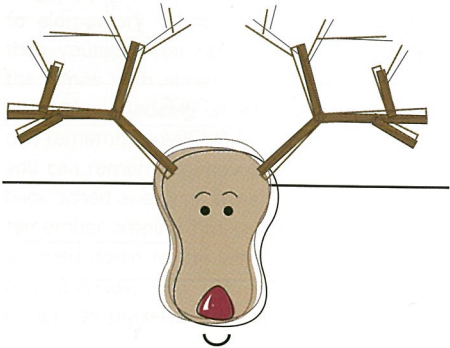
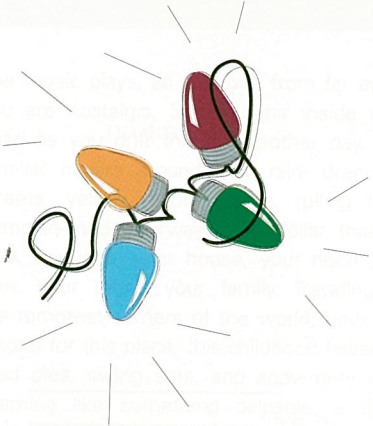
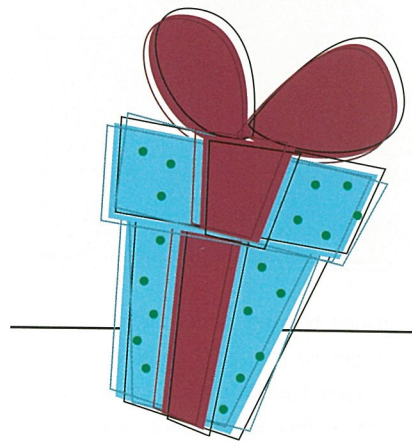
Roman Koshykar
Librarian

Once, my dog ate a plate of fudge.

Al Bersch
Fourth Year
Photography

winter greetings

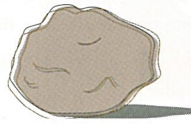
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Happy Holidays from all of us at *Reporter*.

i'd like to unwrap you.

to _____
from _____



rock.

to _____
from _____

merry christmas,
cookie.

to _____
from _____

you light my night.

to _____
from _____

you make me melt.

to _____
from _____

turn me on.

to _____
from _____

you top my tree.

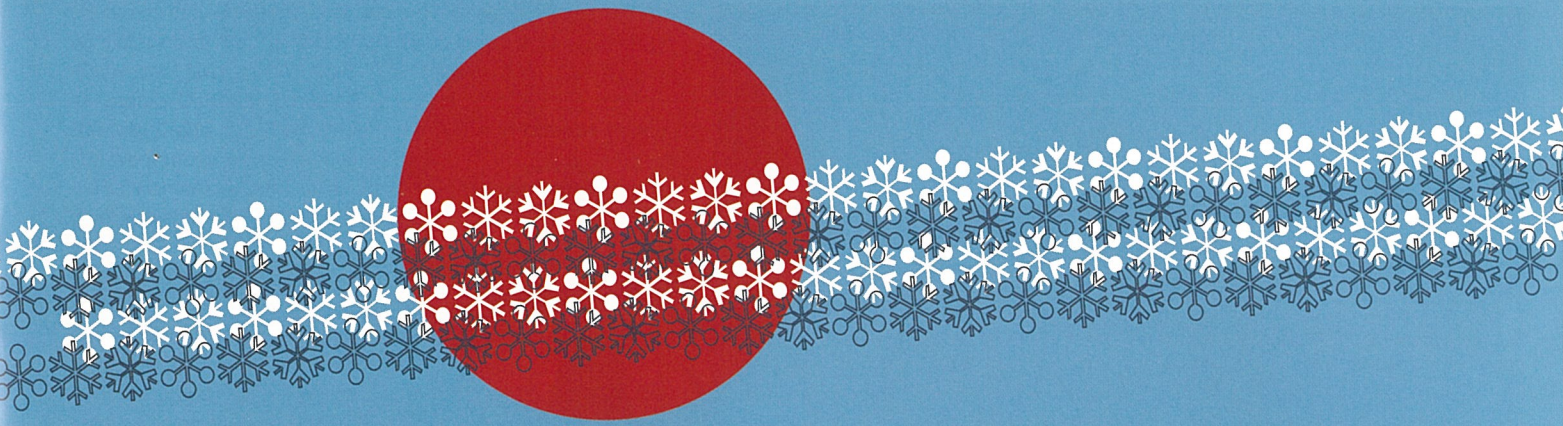
to _____
from _____

your roof,
or mine?

to _____
from _____

ring my bell.

to _____
from _____



Meeek, Mild Rochester Winters

by Sujata Gupta

From 2001 to 2003, I lived and worked in Ina, a small town in Nagano, Japan. As Ina is surrounded by the Japanese Alps, it is both incredibly beautiful and incredibly cold. Most of Japan, with the exception of Hokkaido, relies on kerosene heaters and what is known as a kotatsu or heated coffee table to keep warm during the long winter months.

For those of us spoiled by central heating, the cold adjustment process is arduous to say the least. Thus, this writing hinges around two primary themes: the culture shock I experienced when I moved to Japan and the reverse culture shock I experienced when I returned home from Japan.

The music plays, an old tune from far away. You are nostalgic. Stories whirl inside your head as you drift through another day. The familiar hovers around you: rain-drenched streets, yellow maple leaves, rolling hills, pumpkin-lined doorways, the dollar theater, brick buildings, your house, your neon pink bike, your room, your family. Traveling to the remotest corners of the world, how you longed for this place, this childhood haven of mud pies, swing sets, and snowmen, your yearning like something palpable, a thing you could touch, hold, caress, curl up inside, a thing that could keep you safe and warm and whole.

The music plays; a drumbeat reverberates inside your heart. You are in another place, another moment. You remember: winter sings a melancholy tune in the Japanese Alps, tiptoeing into the inner folds of your flesh, into your bones, your heart, your soul. Day after day, the sky opens before you, a perfect picturesque pastel blue. From your apartment you see nothing but valleys and mountains. It is awesomely beautiful. You shiver in the chill morning air.

Alone, you learn: wet clothes hanging in the sun will dry within a day, milk left on the

kitchen counter will stay fresh, the fridge is a good place to keep your toothpaste from freezing, and the toilet seat can heat up to 70F. You take to sleeping in four layers of shirts, three pairs of sweatpants, wool socks, and a woolen ski hat. You think this must be as bad as it gets when you wake up one morning and see your breath. Of course, you are wrong. You begin to consume copious amounts of wine and write long loopy journal entries about your feelings of isolation and disorientation and how much you miss your mother, clinging to the memory of home as if your giant window of longing will keep you warm.

You've called Rochester your home forever; your father has worked at RIT for an equal length of time. You can remember walking to elementary school in snow drifts higher than yourself; you can remember delivering the Times with numb, blue fingers; you can remember sledding at Mendon Ponds; you can remember making snowmen in the yard; you can remember shoveling snow until your back ached and your arms throbbed; you can remember sipping hot chocolate after being stripped down to the last layer of long johns and spandex; you can remember opening Christmas presents next to the old fireplace;

you can remember snuggling up inside a fleece blanket to watch reruns of *Full House*; you can remember a time when it was cold outside and warm inside.

In Japan, you develop elaborate cold aversion strategies. You join the gym and the local tennis and badminton clubs; you sign up for yoga, pottery, and Japanese drumming lessons. You become a regular at a local coffee shop. You switch from drinking copious amounts of wine alone to drinking copious amounts of wine with the locals. One day you realize: you are in excellent shape, you now understand a variety of important Japanese slang words, and you are no longer a closet alcoholic.

Your homes begin to converge. You wander to strange remote places in strange remote countries. The familiar begins to crumble. Time stretches into years and home becomes a dream. This moment becomes reality; time funnels inward like one extended gulp. And then, breathless, you are here. Home. There's a "For Sale" sign in the yard. Things have changed. Things have stayed the same. The music plays a familiar unfamiliar tune. Your yearning magnifies. Winter's knocking on Rochester's door, gentle, meek, mild Rochester winter. You laugh. *Come, you say, at least I've conquered you.* •



Adam Abdelhamed tries to escape from the clutches of his opponenet, Erik Wisecup of Ithaca, during his match at the RIT Invitational Wrestling Tournament. Christopher Zajac/REPORTER Magazine

SPORTS DESK

by Matthew Doak

Wrestling

On November 22, the RIT wrestling team's 50.5 points placed them seventh at the 2003 Red Dragon Invitational hosted by Oneonta State. **Amir Figueroa** earned the best Tiger finish with his second place run at 133 pounds. **Nate Garrels** finished fourth in the same weight class. Both Figueroa and Garrels lost to number one seeds. **Mike Pietrowski** advanced to the quarterfinals at 141 pounds while **Chad Sutliff** made the semifinals at 157 pounds before losing to a number one seed. In the consolation bracket.

This past Saturday, RIT hosted 17 other schools at the 39th Annual RIT Wrestling Invitational. RIT finished ninth overall behind Case Western Reserve University with a score of 51.00 points. Chad Sutliff won the 157 pound bracket after defeating top-seeded Brent Rider from Cortland State in the finals with pinfall at 6:36. Ithaca won the event for the second straight season with an overall score of 140.0

Men's Hockey

Wayne Wilson's young Tiger squad continued to suffer through some early-season hardships as they had a 1-1 week to send their record to 4-3-1.

On November 28, the Tigers took the ice against Williams

College at Ritter Arena. After trailing 2-1 at the end of the first period, RIT took control in the second and cruised to a 6-2 win over the Ephs. **Michael Tucciarone** notched two goals and two assists while **Darren Doherty** also scored two goals to lead the Tigers. RIT also got goals from **Matt Moore** and **Tristan Fairbam**. **George Eliopoulos** had 35 saves on the night.

The following night, the ninth-ranked Tigers came out flat against fifteenth-rated New England College. After being down 4-1 in the second, RIT battled back to tie the score at 4-4 and take the game into overtime. RIT managed just one shot on net during the extra session and the Pilgrims slipped one past Eliopoulos to give them the victory. **Roberto Orofiamma** scored two goals on the night while **Ryan Francke** and **Mike Tarantino** also scored for the Tigers.

The team travels to Ann Arbor, Michigan this weekend for a pair of exhibition games against the USA Under 18 team. The Tigers split with this tough squad a year ago.

Women's Basketball

The RIT women's basketball team looks to improve upon last year's 7-18 record this year.

Their quest began on December 2 as they took the Clark Gym floor against Hilbert. The Tigers placed four players in double

figures as they dominated the entire game on their way to a 76-43 victory over the Hawks. RIT outrebounded their opponents 40-34 and also made more free throws than the Hawks attempted. **Christina Ernie's** 20 points led the Tigers in scoring. **Ramata Diallo** (18), **Karli Couchman** (15), and **Margot Sandy** (13) were the other double-figure scorers.

The women's basketball team hits the road to face Keuka this weekend and will return home to face Cortland next weekend.

Women's Hockey

After getting off to a 5-0 start to the season, the RIT women's hockey team faced a tough battle against second-ranked Plattsburgh State on November 30.

Home standing Plattsburgh dominated the Tigers from the start, winning the shot battle 38-11 and holding RIT scoreless on the power play (0-4). Plattsburgh scored three times on the power play and cruised to the 7-1 win. RIT's only goal came when **Nicole Gedney** took a pass from **Julie Romans** and put it past the Plattsburgh keeper. **Ashley Lotito** also picked up an assist on the play. **Elaine Vonderembse** made 31 saves while playing all 60 minutes in net for the Tigers.

RIT's women's hockey team skates back into action this weekend with two games at home against the University of Massachusetts at Boston.

Men's Basketball

After winning the ECAC Upstate Men's Basketball title last winter, Coach Bob McVean and his Tigers looked to continue their success to start the 2003-2004 season. With many unanswered questions following the loss of star, Mike Stanton, the Tigers took to the floor on December 2 at Hobart.

After being dominated early by the Statesmen and trailing 38-25 at the break, RIT came on strong late, being led by freshman **Kyle Goff**, who went five-for-five in the second half on his way to a game-high 23 points and 18 rebounds. **Fran Snyder** also had 20 points to help the Tigers put away Hobart.

The Tigers hope to build on their success as they take part in the local Brodie Tournament this weekend and hit the road to play D'Youville later in the week. •

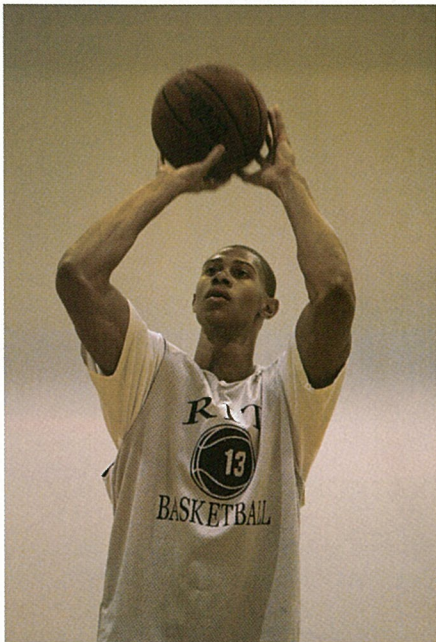


Above RIT's Eric Woodward competes in the high jump competition at the University of Rochester on Saturday. U of R hosted RIT and Brockport in a track meet. The meet marked the start of the season for the men's and women's track and field teams. At the meet sophomore Allison Griggs broke the RIT indoor shot put record for the fourth time by over two-tenths of a meter.

Michael Sperling/REPORTER Magazine

Left RIT Tigers wrestling head coach Scott Stever gave his wrestlers some advice before the RIT tournament on Saturday, December 6th in Clark Gym. RIT placed 9th among the 17 participating schools with a total of 51.00 points, and RIT wrestler Chad Sutliff claimed a victory in the 157 lb weight class. Matthew Apgar/REPORTER Magazine





Johanna Miller/REPORTER Magazine

* Kyle Goff – Men's Basketball

Freshman Kyle Goff has made quite a first impression on coach Bob McVean and his new Tiger teammates. In his first action as a Tiger, the 6-3 forward from Manassas, Virginia scored 24 points on ten of 18 shooting and also grabbed 13 rebounds in an exhibition game against Sheridan College. Goff also scored 15 points in the second half to help the Tigers thwart a bruin comeback. Later in the week, Goff led RIT to a victory over Hobart in their season opener. His 23 points and 18 rebounds were both game highs. Goff also added three blocks and two steals to cap off his night.



by Matthew Doak

3 STARS

* Men's Water Polo Team

The RIT men's club water polo team recently finished their season, earning second place in the Collegiate Water Polo Association's New York State Division Championship. In addition to an outstanding showing as a team, several Tiger Sharks also received individual honors. Seth Sealfon garnered the Coach of the Year award in the New York Division and Josh Nauman captured Player of the Year honors. Nauman was also a first team all conference selection while teammates Scott Strickler and Dave Richardson were second team choices.



Rebecca Lanthorne/REPORTER Magazine



Michael Sperling/REPORTER Magazine

* Alysia Park – Women's Hockey

Junior forward Alysia Park continues to impress as she enters her third season of RIT women's hockey. The ECAC East honored Park as a Female Co-Player of the Week on November 28 after two impressive performances helping RIT to a weekend sweep of Salve Regina University. In the first game, the Dallas, Texas native notched a goal and three assists in a 9-0 Tiger win. The following night, Park was strong again, tallying three goals and an assist in the 9-1 Tiger victory.

Men's Wrestling Schedule

Bold denotes home meet

Date	Opponent	Time	Date	Opponent	Time
12/13	Springfield (Mass.) Tournament	TBA	1/31	Oneonta	1:00 p.m.
1/3	NY/PA Duals at Oswego	TBA	2/4	Brockport	7:00 pm.
1/9	Bud Whitehall Duals at Lycoming	9:00 a.m.	2/7	Baldwin Wallace	8:00 a.m.
1/10	Bud Whitehall Duals at Lycoming	9:00 a.m.	2/14	Case Western	12:00 p.m.
1/16	NYS Championships	TBA	2/21	Empire Conference Tournament	TBA
1/17	Ursinus	10:00 a.m.	3/5	NCAA's at Loras College, Iowa	TBA
1/24	Waynesburg	10:00 a.m.	3/6	NCAA's at Loras College, Iowa	TBA
1/28	Ithaca	7:00 p.m.			



New Season, Fresh Faces

RIT Welcomes New Winter Coaches

by Marci Savage

This winter, the RIT community has welcomed several new winter sports coaches into their positions. These coaches are sure to be instrumental in leading our teams to success both this season and in the winters to come.

Women's Hockey Head Coach Michael Grainsky

Coming to the Tigers from Bates College, Grainsky begins his first year as head coach of the women's RIT ice hockey program and is excited about the opportunities that lie ahead.

Grainsky brings with him an extensive love for hockey and a background that consists of thirty years of experience. In 1977, he began as an assistant coach at the University of Connecticut, where he was mostly in charge of recruiting high school and prep school students. This marked the first time they have ever recruited students to play hockey at University of Connecticut.

In the summers of 1976 and 1977 he was selected as the U.S. Group Leader for the Canadian Sports Delegation that traveled to the U.S.S.R. on a coaching exchange program with coaches from the U.S.S.R. Olympic Team.

After leaving the University of Connecticut, he became the goaltender coach at the University of New Haven, and was also the head coach at Rockville High School the same year. While there, he helped lead the team to a league championship.

From 2000-2004 he was the goaltender coach at the Exeter Academy Hockey School, and in 2001 he had the opportunity to be the goaltender coach at the U.S. Olympic training center in Colorado Springs, Colorado. In the fall of 2001, he worked as an assistant coach at Trinity College, working mostly with goalies once again.

Women's Hockey Assistant Coach Colleen Baude

Baude, who was a member of the RIT women's hockey team from 2000-2002, began her first season as assistant coach for the hockey team this winter. In her playing days, Baude was an integral part of the women's program. As a captain, in 2002 she earned All-ECAC and All-American Honors. Throughout the duration of that season, she was also named ECAC Player of the Week a number of times.

Baude also holds several records, which include most assists in a season at 42, most goals in a season with 26, and most points in a season at 68.

Currently, along with her new endeavors as assistant coach, Baude is studying here at RIT to obtain her Master's Degree in Packaging Science.

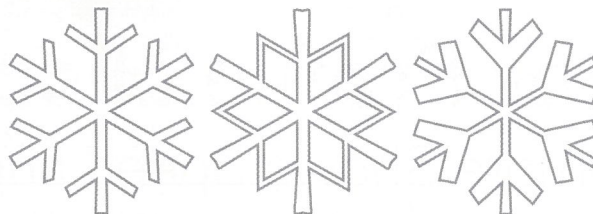
Men's Basketball Assistant Coach Anthony Peppe

Joining already successful assistant coaches Troy Olin and Neil Kromer, is Anthony Peppe who begins his first season as assistant coach at RIT after graduating from Brockport with a bachelor's degree in Physical Education. His experience with basketball includes the one year he played on the varsity team at Brockport.

Before attending Brockport, Peppe earned a scholarship to play basketball at Division II member Molloy College. He is currently working on his master's degree in Business Administration here at RIT, and is in his second year teaching for the Rochester City School District.

Men's Hockey Assistant Coach Scott McDonald

After spending the 2002-2003 season coaching at Utica College, Scott McDonald has joined the RIT Tigers in their quest for the NCAA championship this winter season. McDonald has also had the unique experience of playing and coaching in Sweden. In 2001-2002, he was an assistant coach with the Junior Viking team and a defenseman for the Swedish Professional League in 2001. The team looks forward to the lessons that McDonald has to teach based on his experiences coaching and playing at the international level. •

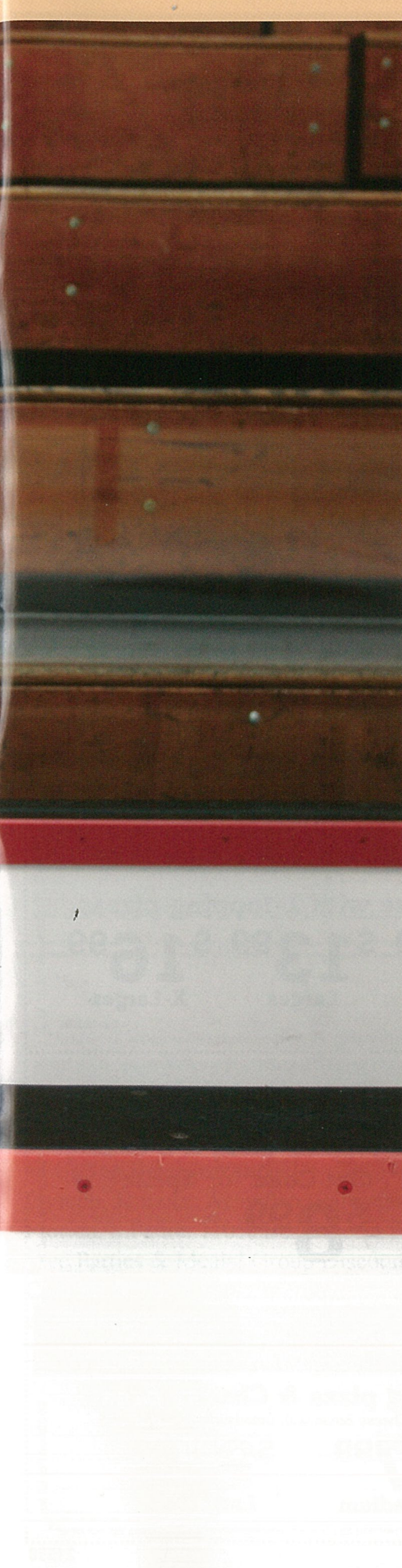




Player Profile: Nicole Gedney

Sophomore Shows Speed and Determination on Ice

by Marci Savage
photograph by Michael Sperling



Sophomore Nicole Gedney has stepped out onto the ice and is encountering nothing but success with the RIT Tigers this season. Still early in her second season as a Tiger, Gedney has so far compiled two goals and four assists, proving she is well on her way to beating her five goals and five assists from last season.

Hailing from Maple Grove, Minnesota, where she played for the Minnesota Thoroughbreds before skating for the RIT Tigers, Gedney has continued to show achievement in her improved play and continued determination and motivation. On December 1, she was named the RIT Athlete of the Week after scoring the only goal against number two ranked Plattsburgh State in a 7-1 Tiger defeat. She has helped to lead the team to a very impressive 5-1-0 record thus far in the 2003-2004 season.

One of Gedney's main strengths on the ice is her speed, which helps her to go after the puck in order to pass to a teammate or shoot the puck. "Gedney has great speed and determination out on the ice," stated first season Head Coach Michael Grainsky. This is just one of the reasons that she is so valuable to this year's RIT team.

Another positive quality that Gedney possesses is her ability to work well with her teammates to get the job done. She is never afraid to pass the puck and does not go for the shot if a teammate is open and has a better chance of scoring. She knows that teamwork is one of the most valuable assets of any team, and gives her teammates a lot of credit in all of their victories.

Gedney and many of her teammates, including Kasie Strong and Alysia Park, play with a gusto and delight that really make the team excel and the games exciting to watch. Her love of the game shows every time her skates hit the ice, and the smile on her face never fades. When Gedney played for the Cardinals her coach Dave Olson stated, "They (the Cardinals) were playing right out of their

hearts," talking about an overtime game in which they were involved. Although high school is long behind her, Gedney still plays with her heart every time she is on the ice for the Tigers.

As in anything one does in life, with experience comes expertise and skill. Hockey is an intense game that even in a lifetime can sometimes not be perfected. Through more college experience, Gedney will continue to grow into a stronger college hockey player. "Experience is one thing that will help Nicole's hockey game," stated Grainsky. Through much practice comes improvement in important skills such as skating, puck and stick handling and passing.

Gedney has been one of the upperclassmen that has been openly welcoming the rookies onto the team, knowing what it was like to be one herself last year. The importance of a team was stated clearly by Park. "The new rookies this year seem to fit right in with the team" says Park. "Not only their personalities but more importantly with their skills." Since the team had practices over Thanksgiving break, the girls stayed in the area and served Thanksgiving dinner to children at Strong Hospital in Rochester.

As the very long and intense season continues on, the Tigers will look to Gedney even more to aid in the team's success. One of the toughest teams that RIT will face is Manhattanville on February 7 and 8. This is a highly anticipated game for Gedney and the team because last year RIT was the first to crush Manhattanville's undefeated record in the regular season, but then RIT lost to Manhattanville in the ECAC playoffs. This year they are looking for revenge.

Through dedication, commitment and practice Gedney looks forward to assisting the team in her remaining years at RIT. Come out and support Gedney and the RIT team as they face the University of Mass. at Boston, an ECAC match up, December 13 at 3:00 p.m. in the Ritter Arena. •

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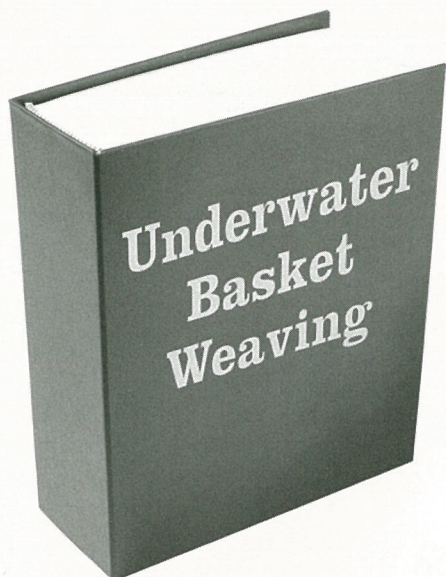
Medium

Large

may apply. Limited delivery areas. Deep Dish Extra


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RITchie's

List



Dec. 12 - Dec. 19

December 12th

- RIT Model Railroad Club Holiday Open House, SAU A420, 11am - 9pm
- TSA, CSA, & ACS Karaoke Contest, SAU Cafe, 6pm
- CAB: Turning Stone Casino Trip, Departs from SAU at 6:30pm, \$10

December 13th

- Men & Women's Swimming/Diving vs. U of R, 1pm
- Men's Basketball Brodie Tournament, Clark Gym, 1pm
- Cultural Spotlight Series: The Nutcracker, performed by Albany Berkshire Ballet Company, Ingle Auditorium, 8pm, student \$5/ Fac/Staff \$12/ Public \$18

December 16th

- Tree Decorating Party, Fireside Lounge, 6:30pm

December 17th

- CAB Talisman Movie: Lord of the Rings, 6pm, \$5. *Two Towers will be shown at 6pm and then bus trip to watch Return of the King at 10pm.*

December 18th

- CAB Karaoke Night, Ritz, 9pm, Free

December 19th

- Club Day, SAU Lobby, 10am - 4pm
- Women's Basketball vs. Cortland, 4pm
- Men's Basketball vs. Cortland, 6pm

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