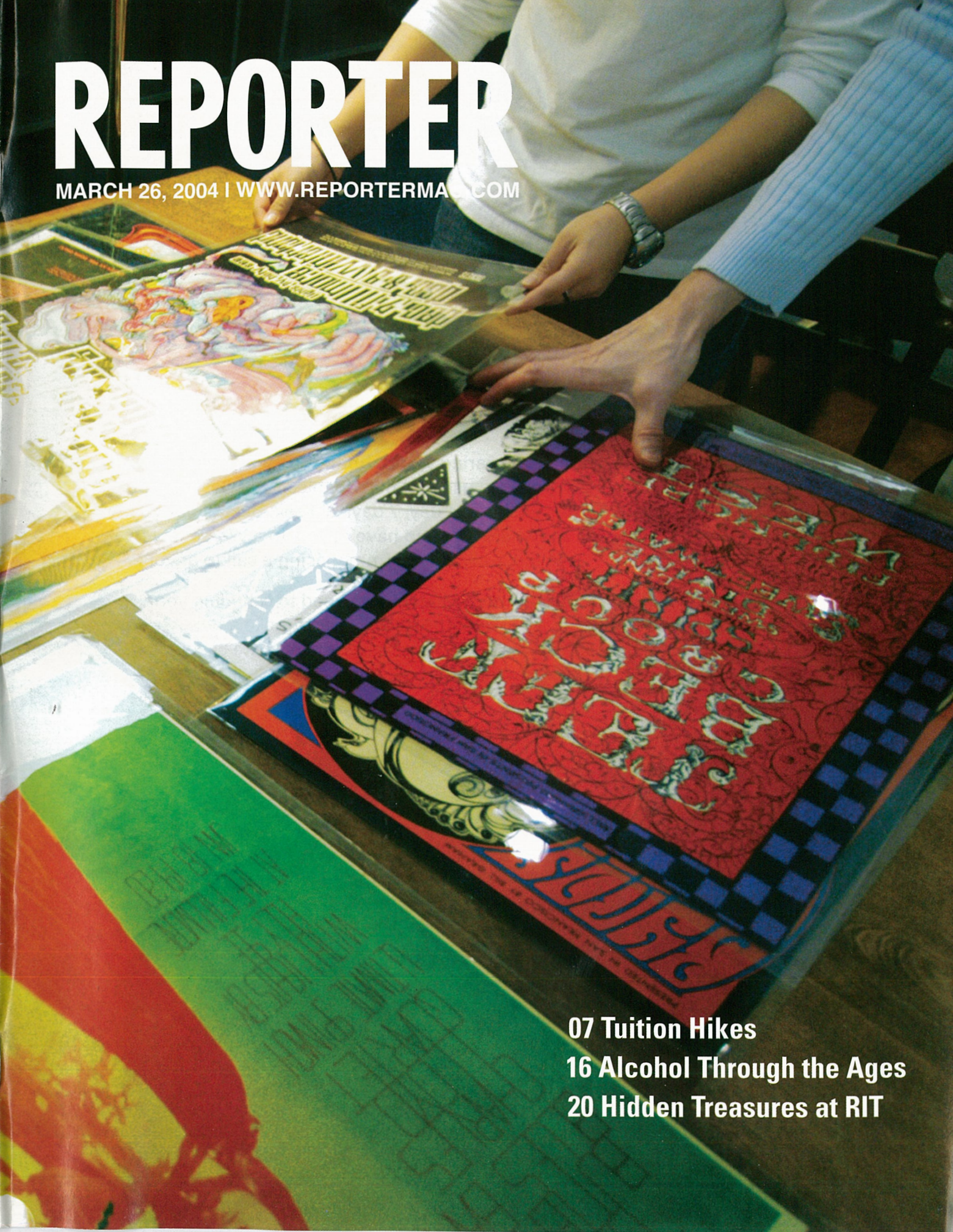


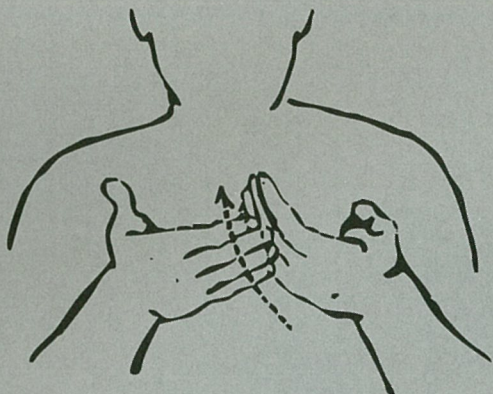
REPORTER

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EDITORIAL

Museum Musings

Cornell has one. University of Rochester has one too. So does MIT. However, RIT, a university that could perhaps benefit from one more than any of these schools, doesn't. The "it" that I'm speaking of is a university museum and the fact that RIT doesn't have one strikes me as unfortunate.

This week's features section centers around the RIT Special Collections and on the Cary Collection—two of the university's most valuable and underappreciated resources. The impressive collection of work by some of the finest graphic designers, bookmakers, printers, photographers, and artists should be celebrated, enjoyed, and studied extensively, rather than simply sitting quietly in boxes, stored away in a climate control vault. The under-utilization of this rare and special resource is most regrettable, and I can't help but wonder if their value would be better honored in a museum setting.

There is a casual, comfortable anonymity to going to a museum that the current set-up at the Archives and Special Collections doesn't support. There's a certain charm to spending an afternoon going through an exhibition at a leisurely place with few distractions, pressures, or intimidating factors. Again, this is something not possible currently. The Archives and Special Collections are intimidating—despite the pleasant, welcoming nature of those who work there. The Archives, (and the Cary Collection for that matter), is a place where you have to ring the bell and make an appointment and know what you want to see. There is little room for discovery, for exploration—the unexpected surprise isn't something that these rooms foster.

A college museum also has the potential to foster a greater connection to the community surrounding the college it directly serves. The establishment of a cultural and historical icon within the Henrietta campus, would increase the draw from the Rochester community exponentially, making the campus not simply a place that Rochestarians send their children to receive a college education, but also a place where they educate their children from day one. Additionally, the presence of a university museum denotes a certain level of prestige, permanence, and class, while expressing the Institute's educational goals in yet another forte.

A thirty-thousand dollar education should be holistic and wide-reaching. The need for students to branch out beyond their individual majors is something that the Retention committee is starting to address; the presence of a museum is yet another way to achieve this objective. We have this amazing resource at our disposal, and yet so many students don't know about it, let alone take advantage of it. I say, bring it to the forefront, give it room to breathe, and make it the focal point that its worthy of being.

The educational value of a university museum is bottomless, especially at a place as dynamic and rich as RIT. According to Cathy Rosa Klimaszewski, Curator of Education at Cornell's Herbert F. Johnson Museum, a museum has an amazing potential to link the artistic and the academic. "A museum becomes a learning laboratory of sorts, a place where people not only go to see things but a place where they can go to do things."

At Cornell, the museum provides a place for inter-curricular and cultural study—a place where engineers, writers, anthropologists and art historians link their classroom study to the exhibitions on display. Again, this kind of joint-study seems to embody the very nature of our Institute. Klimaszewski also noted that the museum proved to be a "wonderful forum for discussion—a place where people with different ideas come together to discuss their views through art." I believe that this sort of dialogue would greatly benefit the RIT community.

I'm sure that there many logistical and financial reasons of merit behind the absence of such a place at RIT. However, I believe that a museum's potential to enhance the cultural experience of RIT students is reason enough to give the matter serious consideration.



Ren Meinhart
Editor in Chief

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Brian Chesbrough, first-year IT major, takes advantage of the day's nice weather, albeit with snow on the ground, and attempts some kick flips off the loading dock behind the SAU. "It's the nicest day we've had in a while, so I had to get out and do something," said Chesbrough. Christopher Znac/REPORTER Magazine

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Ticketing Tirade

Why is morale and support for RIT so relatively low? Well, I'd like to think it's because RIT tries to make money off of the students anytime and anywhere. Here it was, Friday night—I decided for the first time in about a month to not go out off campus or to a different school, and to party right here at RIT. Honestly, I had a great time, until, as usual, RIT Parking Services came to the rescue to ensure that everyone here at RIT is indeed serviced—with a smile and a ticket.

Now, I completely understand why RIT would hand out tickets. It is hungry for money, and for every ticket they give out, they stand to make a lot of free money. I also understand why they would ticket certain cars in the academic lots during the day in order to ensure that commuters get a spot to park. What I don't understand is why RIT would ticket cars at 11:55 p.m. on a Friday night in Colony. I'm so very sorry if we do decide to go out once in a while and have a get together at one of the on-campus apartments, but apparently if you don't live there you

shouldn't be there. Way to promote community, RIT.

And yes, I know there are visitor spaces, but they're really not much good when they're placed as far away from the apartments as possible and you have to walk from one side of the apartments to the other in the barren tundra which is Rochester. I'm sure even the guys writing the tickets would've done the same thing.

I guess the only thing left for me to do is just grin and bear it, and pay the ticket. You may be laughing now RIT, but I'll be laughing all the way to the shredder when you send me letters asking me to donate to my alma mater. As far as I'm concerned, consider these tickets my future donations.

Alex Ludwinek

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Tuition **Up** 4.9 Percent for Second Year in a Row

by Becky Ruby

According to an all-RIT email sent on March 17, tuition for the 2004-2005 academic year will raise 4.9 percent, the second raise in the past two years. The email cited "the initial resource assessment for the early stages of this [strategic] plan," as the impetus behind the hike. This percentage translates to an additional \$1000 of tuition for all students—the same rate of increase that the RIT community had to endure last school term. Though still below the national average for private university tuition increase (six percent), Finance and Administration's decision has been met with the same gasps and complaints as in previous years. "The fact that tuition moves up over time is a common trend—the exact amount you never know ahead of time" said Dr. James Watters, Vice President of Finance and Administration. "We are not atypical as far as what's going on in the entire industry of higher education."

The administration decided the final 4.9 percent figure in February, after the Finance and Executive Committees calculated the needs for next year's budget. "Believe me, they [the committees] go through all the financial data exhaustively, and the justifications for those rates. We have a number of trustees who are great advocates for students to make sure that we're charging only that amount necessary to run the place," Watters said.

Tuition money largely drives the operations of RIT, accounting for 60 percent of the operating budget. When the committees considered possible sources of increased revenue to increase employee benefits and reestablish the contingency account after it was completely wiped out this year, there were not many places to turn besides students' pockets. Taking into consideration the additional 100 students Enrollment Management foresees for the 2004-2005 academic year, along with the current student population, RIT is expected to take in \$14 million from the new tuition dollars.

This year's hike is based on three necessities: "it's the need to increase the compensation structure of the employees; it's the need to increase student financial aid; and, it's to restore a contingency level inside the operating budget that was completely wiped out this year because of the drop in enrollment," according to Watters. The drop in enrollment Watters referred to was this year's miscalculation of students: RIT had budgeted for 350 more students than the previous school year's enrollment, but found they had overestimated by 240. According to Watters, had the enrollment hit its expected total, "It absolutely could have been a different number. How much? I can't tell you, because the dialogue would have changed as to what people were looking for."

With the additional \$14 million, RIT plans to tackle the three areas on large scales: \$5.8 million directly deposited to financial aid, \$3.2 million to incremental compensation (benefits and raises for RIT employees), and \$5 million to aid in restoration of the contingency fund. The increased level of financial aid will bring the total amount of aid up to approximately \$64 million.

"This institution, as big as we are, can't operate without any sort of flexibility in the operating budget," Watters said. In order to achieve this desired flexibility and bring the contingency budget back to the \$7 million mark, the Institute has been working to cut costs in areas and departments around campus. Unlike other prestigious private universities such as Yale and Boston University, who have laid off 730 and 450 employees respectively, RIT has no plans of reducing its staff or faculty, but rather has been in a hiring freeze and putting a hold on pay raises. By waiting to increase wages until October 1, rather than the traditional July 1, the Institute will save \$600,000.

Other departments aiding in contingency restoration besides tuition money include three major areas of saving: RIT's electronic salary payment system (Oracle) allows for a savings of \$50,250 on paper and postage alone; Facilities Managements Services (FMS) received a state grant for energy management—a savings of \$200,000 for the Institute; and, all equipment budgets will run at 90 percent next year, as opposed to this year's 100 percent—an \$800,000 savings.

According to Watters, had the enrollment hit its expected total, "[the raise] absolutely could have been a different number. How much? I can't tell you, because the dialogue would have changed as to what people were looking for."

Unlike last year's consideration for construction debt when raising tuition, no new allocations have been made for construction—major projects that have already been approved will run on their schedule. Much of the total costs for new buildings, such as the Center for Biotechnology Education and Technology (CBET) and expansion to the Kate Gleason College of Engineering (KGC OE), have received prior grants from the state and private donors that will compensate for the costs.

Overall, though students may not be pleased with the Institute's final decision on the tuition raise, Watters was confident that the students' best interests were at heart: "We just don't sit back and say, 'Ok, how much do we need? Let's just charge the students more.' We are really trying to manage everything while maintaining quality." •

BrickBeat

by Andrew Bigelow

RIT Cut Day With Locks of Love

RIT's "cut day," sponsored by Locks of Love, will be held this Sunday, March 28, between 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. at Pharaoh's Hairum, 4112 West Henrietta Road. Locks of Love is a not-for-profit organization that provides hair prosthetics to financially disadvantaged children with medical hair loss. Sign-ups for cut day were held on Monday, March 22, but walk-ins will be welcomed if there is room. Transportation will be provided from campus to the salon, and participants are welcome to arrive on their own at the salon. Locks of Love accepts ten inches of hair or more per donation, or, for shorter length hair, anything over three inches. Prizes will be awarded to the person who donates the longest amount of hair and the organization with the most members making donations. Refreshments will be provided. Contact: Lizzie Sorkin at eds3409@rit.edu.

RIT Professor to Receive Polk Award

Robert Manning, RIT professor and Special Assistant to the Provost, will be awarded the George Polk Award for magazine reporting, a highly coveted prize in journalism. Manning will share the award with his co-authors (Michael Hudson, Mary Kane, Taylor Loyal and Bill Barrow) for their investigative report "Banking on Misery: Citigroup, Wall Street and the Fleecing of the South," published in the magazine %Southern Exposure%. The report brought to light the procedural oppression of mostly low-income, African-American, and elderly southerners by large corporate banks, including Citigroup. The report also proposed an approach for those at risk on how to avoid such predatory lending. The George Polk Award is named in honor of the CBS reporter who died covering Greece's civil war in 1948. Manning considers the award "very significant because it demonstrates that academic research can have an important impact on public policy and the larger society."

Fuel Cell Researcher Earns High Award

RIT's own Ramseh Shah has recently earned the honor of an American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Distinguished Lecturer Award. Shah, an RIT professor since 2000, is a mechanical engineering research professor and the director of the Advanced Fuel Cell Research Laboratory, located at the Kate Gleason College of Engineering. The ASME names only 16 Distinguished Professors, one to each of the 16 fields of mechanical engineering, and will support Shah for three years on domestic and international presentations beginning July 1. Two Chinese institutions have decorated Shah with Honorary Professorship and Guest Professorship awards (from Xi'an Jiaotong University and Tsinghua University, respectively) for lectures on fuel cell technology and compact heat exchangers.

Interactive Craft Fair at Wallace Library

RIT's Wallace Library is hosting their 2004 Book Arts Fair this Friday, March 26. The fair promises to be an exciting day-long event, running from 11 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. The day will be split into four sessions, with craftspeople in the fields of calligraphy, pochoir illustration, screen printing, photopolymer printing, papermaking, paste paper, bookbinding and non-traditional books simultaneously demonstrating their trade. This free to all event will take on the first floor of Wallace Library in the Idea Factory. After the fair, there will be a lecture, "Handwork: The Evolution of Shanty Bay Press," starting at 7 p.m. Following the lecture, there will be a social hour, sponsored by the library. The 2004 Book Arts Fair is sponsored by the Cary Graphic Arts Collection's Book Arts Lecture Series. The Cary Collection is one of the country's premier libraries on the history and practice of printing, and is located on the second floor of the library. •

HistoRIT

Get Your Current Events Elsewhere

by Jeff Prystajko

Helping to reduce underexposure.

One apparently genuine advertisement in the March 29, 1974, issue of *Reporter* announced the availability of hot, limited edition *Streaker Kits*. For \$2.95, you could announce your newfound pastime to the world via an "American Streaking Society" (A.S.S.) T-shirt. Just in case no one believes you, though, toss in another buck to get a "Charter Membership Card" with your name printed on a "buff"-colored background. Lastly, only you should be naked, not your car—slap on an A.S.S. bumper sticker for just another dollar, and let everyone know that you mean business.

Sexual Healing.

Long before *Loveline's* "Dr. Drew" or the Oxygen Network's *Talk Sex* with "Sex Lady" Sue Johanson hit the airwaves, the infamous Dr. Ruth Westheimer stunned American radio listeners with frank discussions on human sexuality—a topic once considered taboo. As part of RIT's Human Sexuality Week 20 years ago, Dr. Ruth visited the campus on March 30, 1984, to enlighten a large crowd of students about the role of

sex in everyone's lives. She questioned the logic of parents avoiding the topic, which she feels contributes to sociological repression and other problems. Covering the gamut from planned parenthood (she's against the pill, as it could dangerously alter a woman's body chemistry), to oral sex ("oral sex should not be forced"), Westheimer helped to promote the ideal that "sexuality is the realm of everyone. The elderly and handicapped have good sex. It is okay to get horny."

"No, it doesn't mean that" begins.

RIT's late-night escort service, long the victim of its unflatteringly misunderstood name, had its humble beginnings back in late March, 1980. Developed in response to an unusually high number of sexual offenses on campus, the plans were in the final stages of readiness; all that remained was the hiring of applicants, who were required to undergo a test to determine attitudes towards violence, theft, and drug and alcohol abuse. The officers would be assigned to each parking lot, remaining there until all night classes were well over with. Protective Services director John Yockel said, "If security becomes the concern of everybody in the community, we could very easily provide a better sense of it." •

CrimeWatch

compiled by Hope Kendrick

March 13 – University Commons

Weapon Possession

A shotgun was observed inside a student's parked truck, and the gun was removed from campus. The student is referred to Student Conduct for appropriate disposition.

March 13 – M Lot

Petit Larceny

A student reported two unattended sleds (orange and red) were taken.

March 15 – Student Alumni Union

Forgery

A staff member reported counterfeit currency was used in a campus transaction. The Sheriff's Office is investigating the incident.

March 20 – Ellingson Hall

False Reporting

An unknown person discharged a fire extinguisher causing the fire alarm system to activate. A witness described a person who may be responsible, and the investigation continues.

March 20 – Lyndon B. Johnson Building

Petit Larceny

A non-member reported an unattended neon T-Mobile sign missing from the LBJ box office. The sign was found inside a student's room, and the student returned it to the owner. The case is referred to Student Conduct for appropriate disposition.

March 20 – RIT Inn

Auto Stripping

A student reported that while parked in front of the Corner Store an unknown person stole the gas cap from his vehicle.

The Week Submit your events to reporter@rit.edu

3/26

All Day

Last Day to Submit Feedback on the Strategic Planning Website

Online. Provide comments on preliminary reports, or make general comments.

Contact: Strategic Planning Steering Committee: sp2004@rit.edu.

11 a.m.- 6:30 p.m.

Book Arts Fair

Wallace Library's Idea Factory. Visitors can try their hands at calligraphy, papermaking, bookbinding, and other decorative book arts techniques at this interactive exposition. Demonstrations will be presented in 90-minute segments. Free.

Contact: Laura DiPonzio Heise: lmdwml@rit.edu, 475-2199.

6:30 p.m.- 9:30 p.m.

Global Union Gala

SAU Café. Global Union presents its annual gala to commemorate its founding and give recognition to its affiliates. \$3. Contact: Manaal Eisa: mlclass@aol.com.

8 p.m.- 10:30 p.m.

Performing Artists Concert Series

Ingle Auditorium. Members of the Rochester Philharmonic and the Finger Lakes Chamber Ensemble Perform Viennese classics. Students- \$5, Faculty/ Staff-\$12, Other- \$18.

Contact: Game Room: 475-2239.

10 p.m.- 2 a.m.

Global Union Creative Outlet After Party

SAU Café. Global Union and Creative Outlet present a joint social event featuring dance music.

Cost TBA. Contact: Manaal Eisa: mlclass@aol.com.

3/27

12 p.m.- 5 p.m.

Ronald McDonald High School All-Star Basketball Game

Clark Gym. Friendly competition between local high school basketball players benefits charity.

\$5. Contact: Michael Palermo: 467-4848.

7 p.m.- 10 p.m.

Creative Outlet Dance Performance

Ingle Auditorium. Global Union sponsors a showcase of RIT's own dance group, Creative Outlet.

\$3. Contact: Manaal Eisa: mlclass@aol.com.

9 p.m.- 2:30 a.m.

12th Annual Mi Tierra Dance

SAU Café. Sponsored by Lambda Alpha Upsilon Fraternity. Enjoy Spanish and English music.

\$5 before midnight; \$7 after. Contact: Orlando Ortiz: landolau@yahoo.com.

3/28

9 a.m.- 5 p.m.

GLBT QA Advocacy Conference

SAU 1829, Clarks, 6-A201/A205. Sponsored by GLBT RIT Gay Alliance, the Center for Religious Life, Res Life, SG, and the Women's Center. Cost TBA. Contact: Katie Harte: krh5657@rit.edu.

3/29

12 p.m.- 1 p.m.

Islam 101: Women in Islam

16-Skalny Room. Dr. Aly Nahas leads the final session of a 3-part series.

Contact: Dr. Jeffrey Hering; jphcpm@rit.edu.

4/01

TBA

April Fools Party

Fireside Lounge. Cost TBA. Contact: Christopher Samp: nsc@rit.edu.

5:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.

Outstanding Undergraduate Scholar Reception

Ingle Auditorium. Outstanding students will be recognized. Reception

beforehand. Contact: Susan T. Arovenzano: stp1031@rit.edu, V/TTY 475-5572.



RIT E-mail System “Exchanges” Old for New

by Adam Kriedman

Webmail is finally getting the boot after years of crashing, slow speed, and low reliability. The concerns of students who felt the system needed a major overhaul have finally been addressed, as RIT's Information and Technology Services (ITS) introduced the new RIT e-mail system, based on Microsoft Exchange, on March 16.

RIT's previous e-mail system was created in the early 1990s, during a time when e-mail was more of a novelty than the widespread communication tool it has become. The VAX system, on which RIT's Webmail is based, was the first made during this time and was meant to be an all-in-one solution. Later, though, there were other systems—the POP/IMAP and OSF systems—that were small upgrades, but only temporarily sufficient. It was not until June 2001 that ITS decided it was time to upgrade RIT's e-mail. “Basically, the way the university had grown, the population for both of those systems had gotten to the point where the infrastructure behind them wasn't able to handle the volume of mail,” said Dave Pecora, Operations Manager in ITS.

The first step was to create the proposal that ITS would deliver to RIT management in order to acquire the funds necessary for the project. After receiving permission to go ahead with its plans in late 2001, ITS organized a team meant to examine all of the possible e-mail solutions and ultimately choose the best one for RIT. This team, which was assembled in 2002, “consisted of over 30 representatives from the different colleges and divisions across the university,” according to Shannon Robinson, the project manager.

ITS's extensive search eventually produced a candidate that was superior to all of the others considered. A year after ITS began the project, it became apparent to Robinson that, “Microsoft Exchange was the solution we were going to move forward with,” because “it met over 95 percent of the requirements.”

With the selection of Exchange, ITS focused on the implementation of the new e-mail system and its testing with RIT students. ITS started its pilot program for the Exchange system late last year, and 373 students participated in the test. Finally, after months of verifications and reassurances, ITS proclaimed that the Exchange system was ready for all of RIT on March 15.

Students can expect two main features from the new e-mail system (as well as others as described in the sidebar, %Functional Features%): a calendar feature, and a massive speed boost. Speed “was the biggest complaint,” said Pecora. “RIT is a tech. school, so I expected that we would have the advantage in technology, but I was surprised to see how slow the e-mail was,” said first-year student Jun Li.

ITS knows that many students may not have the know-how to switch their e-mail to the Exchange system or to transfer their old e-mails to their new account. To solve this problem, ITS is taking steps to ease the transition. One of ITS's efforts will involve helping students directly. Pecora described this idea, saying “we'll have a laptop in an area, and a person there who will help answer questions.” ITS hopes that by having many of these stations, they can make the switch to Exchange easy for everyone involved. New students won't have to worry; Pecora also mentioned that “if you get a brand new account, it goes on Exchange [straight away].”

As for what's next for the RIT e-mail system, the latest version of the Exchange software—Exchange 2003—will be implemented soon. With the Exchange system already in place, the update will be quick and easy, providing further functionality. But for now, ITS wants to focus on a positive introduction of Exchange to RIT students and faculty. •

FUNCTIONAL FEATURES

As described by Project Manager Shannon Robinson, there are a variety of new features that students can expect from the Exchange e-mail system. These new elements all refer to improvements over RIT's previous Webmail service:

Faster internal message delivery (incoming and outgoing messages).

New web access, Outlook Web Access (OWA), that is superior to today's Webmail. OWA provides increased online functionality and faster access.

Calendaring functionality. Faculty, staff, and students will share the same calendar space, contributing to a positive learning environment. Users can share calendar content and free/busy times, and have the ability to manage who can view and write to their calendar.

Students can set a customized message that automatically replies to incoming email stating you are not available; this feature is called the Out of Office Assistant.

Students Present Proposals for Potential Campus Benches

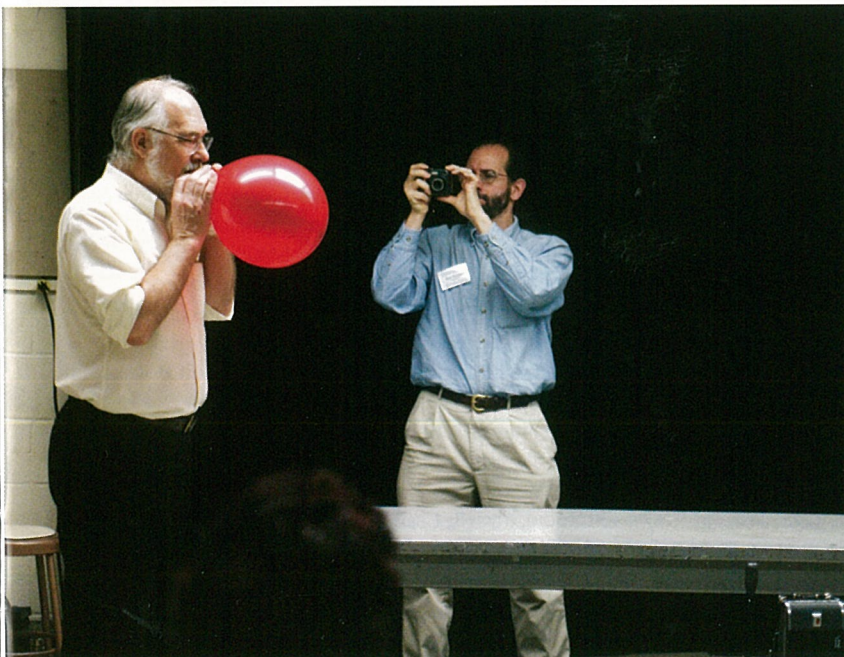


by Christopher Zajac

John Kim, a graduate student in Furniture Design, presents his proposal for a new bench that might soon be seen in the RIT landscape. Dr. Jim Watters, VP of Finance and Administration, James Yarrington, Director of Campus Planning and Design, Michael Rogers, Chairman of the School of American Crafts, and Professor Rich Tannen listen to the presentation and ask questions to determine if the bench design should be accepted.

Those participating made models and sketches of their design ideas to present to the selection group. Students receive two thousand dollars if the selection group accepts their bench design. Several student-designed benches are already in place in the quads on campus. •

School of Photography hosts Imaging Workshop for Educators



by Christopher Zajac

Professor Andrew Davidhazy inflates a balloon in preparation to photograph it at the moment that it bursts. Behind him, a photo-educator takes a picture of Davidhazy preparing the props for his special effects demonstration.

Twenty-five photo-educators from high schools and community colleges attended the 2004 Basic Photo/Imaging Workshop for Educators hosted by the School of Photographic Arts and Sciences and coordinated by Davidhazy.

This annual event, begun in 1996, is designed to introduce teachers to new photographic technology, techniques, and educational philosophy. Sixteen professors from the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences volunteered their time to give presentations, lectures, tours, and demonstrations to the attendees. Topics ranged from special effects to Adobe Photoshop to high magnification photography.

About three quarters of the attendees were from out of state, and some came from as far away as Florida, Texas, and Oregon. The teachers are hoping to go back to their schools and reenergize their photography programs with information learned at the workshop. •



FE FROM Z WAY O BACK:

BOOZ

A Brief Catalogue of Historic Alcoholic Drinks

by Kate Bloemker
illustration by William Robinson

In the beginning, alcohol was more celebrated than water.

Today, we hear about Bacchus and Midas way more than we hear about any river gods. Ever wonder why? It's quite simple: Clean water is a more recent innovation than even the printing press. Before the widespread introduction of filtration during the Industrial Revolution, waterborne diseases like cholera kept people living in fear of the now clear, harmless stuff. Thanks to the process of fermentation, though, billions more of us have survived to crowd up our planet. We've all heard of fermented grapes (wine) and fermented barley and hops (beer), but what else has there been along the way?

Mead

Mead, the product of fermented honey, is thought to be the oldest alcoholic drink, having been consumed before recorded history. Because of its substitution for water as a beverage, it is possible that a normal state of existence for our ancestors was one of constant, mild inebriation. The favorite drink of Vikings, monarchs, and mythological heroes unfortunately went the way of Marie Antoinette in the 18th century when sugar replaced honey as the beverage sweetener of choice.

Nickname: "Ambrosia."

Appearance: It is similar in color to a white wine or pale ale.

Flavor: My tasting committee, passing around a bottle of Chaucer's Mead, discovered that it doesn't exactly match up to the macho Viking image, being about as cloying sweet as Jessica Simpson eating pink cupcakes.

How to Serve: Mead should be served chilled in place of a dessert wine, or mulled with spices like cider.

Effects: Just about the only benefit you'll receive from mead is a killer hangover, reportedly due to the natural preservatives in honey. I got a headache from about a teaspoon of the stuff.

Where to Buy: Mead has been enjoying a renaissance in the past few years, so I was able to find it at our very own Marketview Liquor. Beware, though, of honey-infused white wines trying to pass themselves off as true meads.

Famous Drinkers: Beowulf, Attila the Hun, Eric the Red.

Notable Quotes: "Interesting." Me. "Interesting." Person next to me. "Interesting." Person next to person next to me

Absinthe

It makes you see dancing fairies! It will make beautiful people want to sleep with you! It drove Van Gogh crazy! A lot of myths have been told about the drink that was invented in 1792 by Pierre Ordinaire, a French doctor (probably not a very good one). The process involved soaking wormwood in grain alcohol. Mmm, wood. Ordinaire's creation eventually caught on with the Moulin Rouge gang and the rest of the Paris bohemians, garnering a reputation as an aphrodisiac and method of artistic inspiration. Such "inspiration" may have been caused by thujone, the primary active ingredient in wormwood, the effects of which have been compared to that of "a very small dose of acid." Needless to say, it is illegal to sell absinthe in the U.S.

Nickname: "The Green Fairy."

Appearance: If the label on a bottle of absinthe were switched with one from a bottle of Sour Apple Pucker, no one would be able to tell the difference.

Flavor: Although I've never tried it myself, I can assure you that no one drinks absinthe for the flavor. My friend Pete put it best when, in the words of Ralph Wiggam, he said simply, "It tastes like burning."

How to Serve: Because of its dangerously high alcohol content (about 75%), absinthe is usually served Mary Poppins-style, poured over a spoon full of sugar

and then diluted with water. When served in such a manner, the drink immediately turns from bright green to milky white.

Effects: Possibly waking up with a pounding headache and not remembering what you did the night before, then realizing that you slept with someone you didn't know and wrote an entire not-very-good book all in one night.

Where to Buy: Although it is illegal to sell absinthe in the U.S., it is not illegal to buy or possess it. It can be found online and through the mail from countries where bright green hallucinogens are still considered a-okay: France, Spain, Portugal, Denmark, and Germany. Absinthe substitutes, Pernod and Herb Sainte (using anise instead of wormwood), are readily available in most U.S. liquor stores.

Famous Drinkers: Vincent Van Gogh, Oscar Wilde, Ernest Hemingway. Henri Toulouse-Lautrec supposedly carried a hollow cane in which he kept his "green fairy."

Notable Quote: "What difference is there between a glass of absinthe and a sunset?" –Oscar Wilde

Moonshine

Making moonshine is as American of a tradition as baseball and back-stabbing foreign politics. Farmers in Appalachia were brewing corn whiskey "by the light of the moon" long before Prohibition, in order to escape high liquor prices. When alcohol was finally banned in the U.S. in 1919, the moonshine business began to boom. A thirsty backwoods customer could find his way to a secret "bell tree" (a tree with a bell attached, duh),

where he would ring the bell and wander off for a short walk. Upon returning, the customer would find a cup of liquor waiting, empty his glass, and leave a few coins in payment. Moonshine wasn't restricted to small-time operations, though. By the time the U.S. government realized that it had constitutionally shot itself in the foot, the Mafia as we know it had developed around liquor-smuggling. Prohibition was ditched in 1933, and most people went back to drinking plain old beer.

Nickname: "Mountain Dew." It must be noted that moonshine has never been shown to reduce sperm counts.

Appearance: Moonshine is said to come in a variety of translucent shades of brown.

Flavor: Flavor supposedly ranges from a rubbing alcohol taste to that of a smooth glass of Jack Daniels.

How to Serve: Moonshine-drinkers have never been big on the etiquette of serving.

Effects: Although meant only to induce drunkenness, moonshine has been known to cause blindness and/or partial paralysis, due to having been brewed in old fuel drums, car radiators, and makeshift containers sealed with lead solder. Moonshine-induced paralysis, called "jake leg," usually results in the locking of the knees.

Where to Buy: Just say no.

Famous Drinkers: Al Capone, Brad Pitt in *Legends of the Fall*.

Notable Quotes: "They jest hain't nothin' wrong with makin' a little 'shine." –anonymous moonshine-making website •

Butterfly Boucher: *Flutterby*

by Justin Mayer



Solo artists these days are having difficulty achieving originality, not because the artists themselves are unoriginal, but because the audience they are attempting to please is quick to compare them to the roster of twentysomething singer/songwriters who are already dominating the charts. As if they are aware of this, A & M Records is promoting new artist Butterfly Boucher, a young lady from Australia, with the concept that "she did it all by herself." On her debut release *Flutterby*, Butterfly does it all—she plays all of the instruments, wrote all of the songs, wrote and directed the video for her first single "I Can't Make Me," and, according to the liner notes, even designed the CD packaging. But this touting of Butterfly's genuine talent by the record label works against her, because she will still be compared to her peers in the music industry and, unfortunately, will be overlooked by the audience she is trying to please.

The album starts off well with "Life is Short," a track driven by a solid beat and an effective use of one chord on an out-of-tune acoustic guitar. The outcome is interesting, but then the song degrades into a pile of noise. A variety of percussion, synthesizers, and guitar pedals swoop in behind Butterfly's vocals and set the generic tone for the rest of the album.

In the middle of all of this over-production, though, we do have one song that stands out. Butterfly's first single "I Can't Make Me" is a good balance of vocals and instrumentation in about six layers of sound.

In the press release that accompanied our advance copy of the CD, it is written that Butterfly has been concentrating on simplifying her songs. This is something she has not yet mastered, and she will not be able to distinguish her sound until she does so. There is something to be said for an artist who makes the music she feels like making, but there is also something to be said for an artist who strives to set herself apart. Butterfly has difficulty setting herself apart from herself. On *Flutterby* it is difficult to tell one track from another. Each track starts off differently, but thirty seconds into the song we find ourselves back where we started, lost in the middle of over-produced optimism.

Through all of this, it is difficult to focus on the lyrics, which are worth paying the most attention to. Lyrics such as "The tree that wanted to be a beautiful book/It would die if that's what it took," are profound, yet lose their meaning in the wash of instrumentation.

The frustrating part of *Flutterby* is that an enormous amount of work had to have gone into it if Butterfly truly did perform and produce the entire album herself. The end product is too elaborate, too generic, and too consistent. Should Butterfly produce a follow-up entirely on her own, hopefully it will exercise her restraint as well as her vast talent. ★★

OrigamiUnderground.com: Insert Tab A into Slot B

by Sean Hannan

In my fourth grade class, we read Eleanor Coerr's classic children's story *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*. In it, a young girl copes with terminal leukemia by focusing her energies into folding one thousand origami birds. While the book was quite a downer, especially for a nine-year-old audience, it kick-started a paper-folding fad among my classmates. Not long after finishing the novella, paper animals of all shapes, sizes, and genres bedecked desks, lockers, and crevices all across the school. Once everyone could fold the basic origami box, though, the fad died out and everyone went back to playing four-square on the asphalt and perfecting their penny drops from the monkey bars.

OrigamiUnderground.com has the power to bring back this seemingly childish art form to those who have gained more adult sensibilities. Featuring a sizeable selection of diagrams and how-tos, the site focuses on erotic or otherwise unsavory

paper creations. The figures range from a dog going number two to two people going at it doggy style. By following simple instructions, you can learn three different ways to turn a dollar bill into a Georgia O'Keeffe masterpiece—that, or a vagina. Another greenback-based creation included is a Playboy bunny, the perfect way to tip the wait staff at Jay's Diner.

Admittedly, some of the figures are quite complex and require some skilled origami-fu, but it is utterly rewarding to giggle like a schoolgirl at a piece of college-ruled copulation.

For those who are willing to expand their paper-folding horizons beyond the wieners and well-endowed fauna featured on the site, Origami Underground hosts an extensive reading list. Divided into simple, intermediate, and advanced categories, the book list also has a brief synopsis to help with further forays into the world of pulp manipulation. •

Design ■■■■ For those that are too young to remember, this is what the web looked like circa 1995: black text on a white background with hastily scanned-in diagrams.

Content ■■■■ While this sort of instructional information is a great rare find, a good many of the diagrams are duplicates and the site is updated only every few months.

Safe for Work ■■■■ Dead trees in the throes of passion may be harmless to most people's eyes, but some people are sensitive to the slightest suggestion of sexuality.

Not a Fad ■■■■ As mentioned before, origami popularity tends to come in waves, but if Origami Underground can teach you one bar trick, then it's all worthwhile.

THE LIFE WHERE YOU BELONG

A Happy Chair by Erhardt Graeff

Sitting on the toilet is often one of the few blissfully private moments in the hectic collegiate day—head resting on hands resting on elbows resting on knees resting on feet resting on the floor. And there was a time, earlier in our lives, in which hours lasted eons and we could trade them with unbridled liberty for whatever we wanted. Do you remember the Great Illustrated Classics series of books? They were the abridged versions of "masterpiece" novels boasting oversized typeface and a picture every few pages. Well, one time I sat down on the old porcelain throne with dual purpose, and read the Great Illustrated Classic version of *Journey to the Center of the Earth* from start to finish. Despite the sensation of peeling my then pressure-sculpted ass from the seat, it was a wonderful thing.

Looking back on that quaint memory, I ponder how the times have changed. I know I still like reading. Yet, I also know my schedule rarely allows me to plop down for a few hours and satisfy my craving for a little literature. (Enter Bathroom) Perhaps for old times' sake we could utilize those 5-to-10-minute pit stops in our day, pants-around-our-ankles, to sneak a few pages in. Anywhere will do, really. Try taking advantage of the library if you can. Right there in the middle of campus are four floors of both reading space and reading material, not to mention bathrooms located on the top three of those floors.

Then again, if you are like me, you prefer to buy your books rather than borrow them from a library. For the hoarder, there are a couple of nice little used bookstores in Rochester. One of my favorites is the Yankee Peddler at Village Gate on Goodman Street. Upon entering the place, your nostrils are filled with the

must of old bindings. After regaining focused sight, you can start browsing through the subject- and genre-categorized shelves for that perfectly crazy-looking, yellow-paged manuscript that will make you the envy of the local book club. On my last visit to the Yankee Peddler, I purchased the complete hardbound works of Friedrich Nietzsche for five dollars. Now, if you aren't interested in adding anything too heavy on top of your required course reading, they have a fun section of old children's books with timeless titles like *Scuttlebutt Goes to War*.

And so it goes: bathroom, library, bookstore, and back again. Now, with something you would actually like to read, simply kick back, relax, and try to burn through as many pages as possible before your next class. If you are worried about missing out on the RIT gossip, just remember you can always catch up with your friends later—I promise they'll still be bitching about RIT and how there is that one dude who walks up and down the quarter mile wearing nothing but a pair of shorts, a t-shirt, and *maybe* a scarf throughout winter. Seriously, I'm there leaning into the wind, face being assaulted by the elements, and he just trudges by in an act of perfect ridiculousness. Gah! Anyways, happy reading. •





Put it in Ha *h*.

photograph by Ren Meinhart

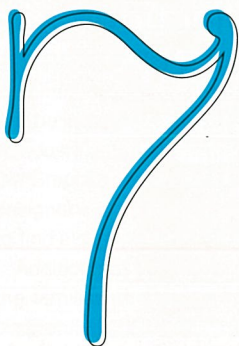
The RIT Comedy Troupe presented an hour of original sketch comedy, on Friday, March 19. The 1989 room of the Student Alumni Room, converted to a lighted mini stage, was filled with a crowd of one hundred-plus RIT community members, who erupted with laughter at the original material more often than the title catch phrase was repeated.

Above, troupe members Tom Starkweather and Mike DeHart perform a sketch in which Starkweather plays "Theme Music Man," ushering in "The Rationalizer," played by an un-pictured Matt Nicole, who swept in to relieve DeHart of any sense of responsibility. Other skits poked fun at reality television, life at

RIT, Arnold Schwarzenegger, the eternal question of "What is Cool?," and, in the spirit of the show's title, the rulings of the rulings of King Solomon. The show proved to be an impressive outing for the group, still in their first year of existence.

Those interested in learning more about the group, which meets bi-weekly to work on material and rehearse, are encouraged to get in touch with Tim Hettler, the group's founder, at teh4196@rit.edu. The RIT Comedy Troupe is hoping to one more sketch show and one more stand-up comedy show before the end of the year. •

books that every RIT student should have to read before stepping foot on campus.



Once Upon a Potty. Either the girl or boy editions will suffice. This is an important one.

The Lorax. If nothing else inspires you to be a little more earth-friendly, this will. Recycle, people.

The Little Engine that Could. Stop your whining and just do your homework. *You can! You can!*

The Berenstain Bears Forget Their Manners. Find out about the havoc that ensues when Sister and Brother forget their "p's and q's." Take heed.

Alice in Wonderland. Everyone should have a sense of adventure like Alice. There would be far less complaining about nothing to do.

Harold and the Purple Crayon. We could all use a little more imagination—or learn how to draw our own imaginary landscape, without bricks.

Where the Wild Things Are. You'll feel right at home.



From the Archives

Enthusiastic student lets it all loose during a 24-hour Dance-a-thon for Muscular Dystrophy on Friday, March 26, 1982. *Reporter, 1982.*



Our Best Kept Secret

Special Collections are Treasures in RIT's Attic

by Patrick Rice and Justin Mayer
photographs by Eric Sucar

Above: Computer Graphics Design major Jeffery Gougler flips through pages of book of original designs. The class of seven MFA's in Computer Graphics Design, spent their session in the archives viewing original sketches and rock concert posters from the '60s.

When you get to Wallace Library, go to the third floor and head east. When you get to the glass doors, ring the bell. When you are admitted, look around. This room you are now standing within, seemingly out of place among the cinder block walls of RIT's Brutalist architecture, is the Institute's treasure vault.

The sign hanging above the doors reads "RIT Archives and Special Collections," yet the students who occupy the nearby tables with their books and laptops see nothing special about the room. To them, the doors lead to a mystery, or rather a secret they are not interested in discovering. To them, the room is a portion of some other student's University experience, but not theirs. Its existence is that of an actor performing in a poorly attended theater, telling stories to an audience who rarely shows up.

The Special Collections are housed along with the Institutional Archives in the same climate-controlled room within the Archives section of the library. The impressive configuration of movable shelves eliminates aisles between each shelf, allowing them to be compacted against one another, thus allowing a large amount of material to be stored in a small space. The rows of shelves contain neatly organized boxes filled with some of the finest graphic design and photography in the world. Within the Special Collections exist the Graphic Design Archives, Periodicals, the Poster Collection, Artists Books and Related Multiples, and Photographic Prints and Reproductions. From rock concert posters to a portfolio of Ansel Adams photographs, the Special Collections have a unique array of works that are largely unknown among the students.

Professor R. Roger Remington, of the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences, knows all about the non-RIT-related pieces of history stored in these rooms. It is his vision that brought a large portion of them, the Graphic Design Archives, to RIT. You could say it started in April of 1983, with "Coming of Age," the world's first symposium on the history of graphic design—a gathering of influential designers and design historians held at RIT.

In his keynote address, Massimo Vignelli said, "As designers, we have to continuously sift the past and the present so that the things on the top are the important ones, and the things which sift down are the gravel. We obviously want the golden nuggets at the top." A year after these words, the Graphic Design Archives began to take shape with the acquisition of designer Lester Beall's personal archives, the first of many gold nuggets to find a safe home in RIT's collections.

Additions to the Design Archives most often come from working with the families of designers after they pass away. "Each collection has its own story," said Remington, recounting the process of acquiring the collections of William Golden, Cipe Pineles, and Will Burtin in the same

trip to New York City. Remington has found that with the reputable amount of material that has been collected over the past 20 years, it is becoming easier to make additions to the collections. Designer Leo Lionni happily donated his life's work to the collection, saying, "All the people in your collections are my friends. I'd like to be with them."

There is a critical mass, however, as the Graphic Design Archives are only intended to preserve the work of designers from the early to mid-twentieth century, the height of the Modernist movement. This avant garde movement, begun in Germany as part of the Bauhaus School, embodied forward-thinking design, and the use of sans-serif typefaces, asymmetry, and primary colors. Remington has already brought the work of some of graphic design's most notable pioneers to the Archives, several of which are the complete record of a designer's career.

The collection of works from individual designers began with the donation of the Lester Beall Collection in 1984 by Beall's children. By far one of the largest of the individual designer collections—with 77 document boxes, 32 oversize boxes, and 15 notebooks of proposals, drafts, sketches, and photographs—the Lester Beall Collection is noteworthy for containing a complete set of posters he designed for the Rural Electrification Administration during the Great Depression. These posters advertised the importance of public programs to bring electricity and modern plumbing to the rural areas of the United States; some examples of these are displayed in the Bibliography Computer Lab, located next door to the Archives on the third floor of the library. Other notable works in these individual collections include the work of William Golden, who developed the corporate identity for CBS in the 1950s, Massimo and Lella Vignelli, who developed the graphics for the Knoll Furniture Company and American Airlines, as well as the graphics for the New York Subway system and the Washington Metro. Massimo Vignelli was also a recipient of an Honorary Doctorate in Fine Arts from RIT in 2002, and sits on the Advisory Board for the School of Design. His wife, Lella, received the President's Medal from the University last year.

Of the Special Collections, Remington said that he has often heard to them as RIT's best kept secret. "I think that some professionals outside of RIT realize their importance more so than members of RIT do," he said. "These designers are the 'movers and shakers' who, as a generation, brought Modernism to America."



First year Computer Graphic Design majors Scott Niejadlik (left) and Neva Corbo-Hudak (right) flip through pages of some of Lester Beall's designs.

Kari Horowicz is the Art and Photography Librarian at Wallace Library. As her title indicates, her primary role is working with the collection of art, design, and photography books at the library, but equally important is her role in introducing the RIT community to the library's collection of art-related materials. Her responsibilities include teaching classes how to take advantage of various online image collections, looking up material available to students throughout the country, as well as using works that are contained within the special collections. The Special Collections are under what Horowicz likens to a large umbrella. The umbrella begins with the library, which contains the Archives, underneath which is the Special Collections. The Special Collections, however, is a whole separate umbrella unto itself.

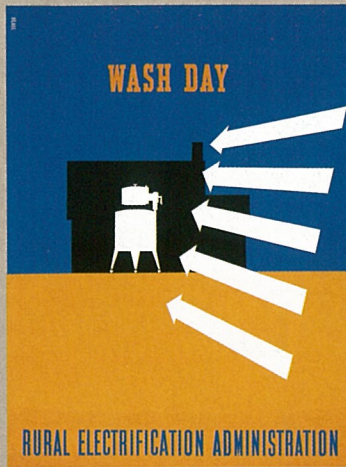
The ability to visit the Archives and access such materials is unknown to much of the RIT community outside the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences, but Horowicz takes pride in the fact that occasionally students studying in fields other than the visual arts do take advantage of the Special Collections. For example, College of Liberal Arts Professor Anne Coon takes advantage of the Travel Poster Collection in her Modern Italian Poetry class, bringing her students to study Italian Travel Posters that are in the collection.

On a recent occasion, Kari Horowicz hosted a graduate graphic design class that was interested in viewing the extensive Graphic Arts works that the collection houses. The tables of the Archives were filled with examples from the collection of psychedelic Rock Posters from the 1960s, many advertising performances by bands like The Grateful Dead and The Byrds at the famous Fillmore Auditorium in San Francisco. The Rock

Concert Poster Collection consists of 58 of these works, all purchased by RIT in 1974. Other works Horowicz brought to the attention of the students included a portion of the 600-piece collection of Polish Posters from the 1960s, donated to the Archives by faculty member Joanne Szabla in 1988. The poster collection further consists of a variety of Travel Posters, World War I and World War II era posters, European Product Advertising Posters, and a collection of works for MIT by Graphic Designer Jacqueline S. Casey.

When a class of students comes to view the Special Collections, typically they are students studying two-dimensional or three-dimensional design. All posters in the collections are contained in a protective Mylar sheath to preserve their integrity, and when visiting the Special Collections, visitors can expect a brief lesson on the proper handling of all archived material.

Horowicz is often called upon to instruct classes on the collection of Artists books, of which there are more than 1,000. She estimates she instructs approximately 30 classes a year on the collection of Artists Books alone. Artists books are books related to, but different than, conventionally published books. Some important aspects of these works are the use of cross-disciplinary media, the production of the work through an accessible, usually inexpensive means, and the reaction against the established art world and art market. Horowicz's



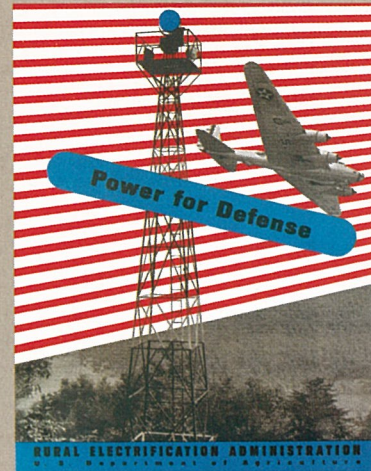
Wash Day, 1937

In 1937, graphic designer Lester Beall became the first American designer to have an individual show at the Museum of Modern Art. The show featured his poster series for the Rural Electrification Administration, three of which are featured above.



Two Kids on a Fence, 1939

The Rural Electrification Administration, which existed under the Department of Agriculture, was created by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in hopes of improving the nation's rural areas, and as part of his initiatives to create jobs during the Great Depression. Beall was one of the first designers to work



Power for Defense, 1941

on these posters—because of the limited literacy of his audience, Beall was challenged to create simple but visually dynamic pieces that would communicate a message in primarily graphic terms. These posters were part of the Lester Beall Archive.

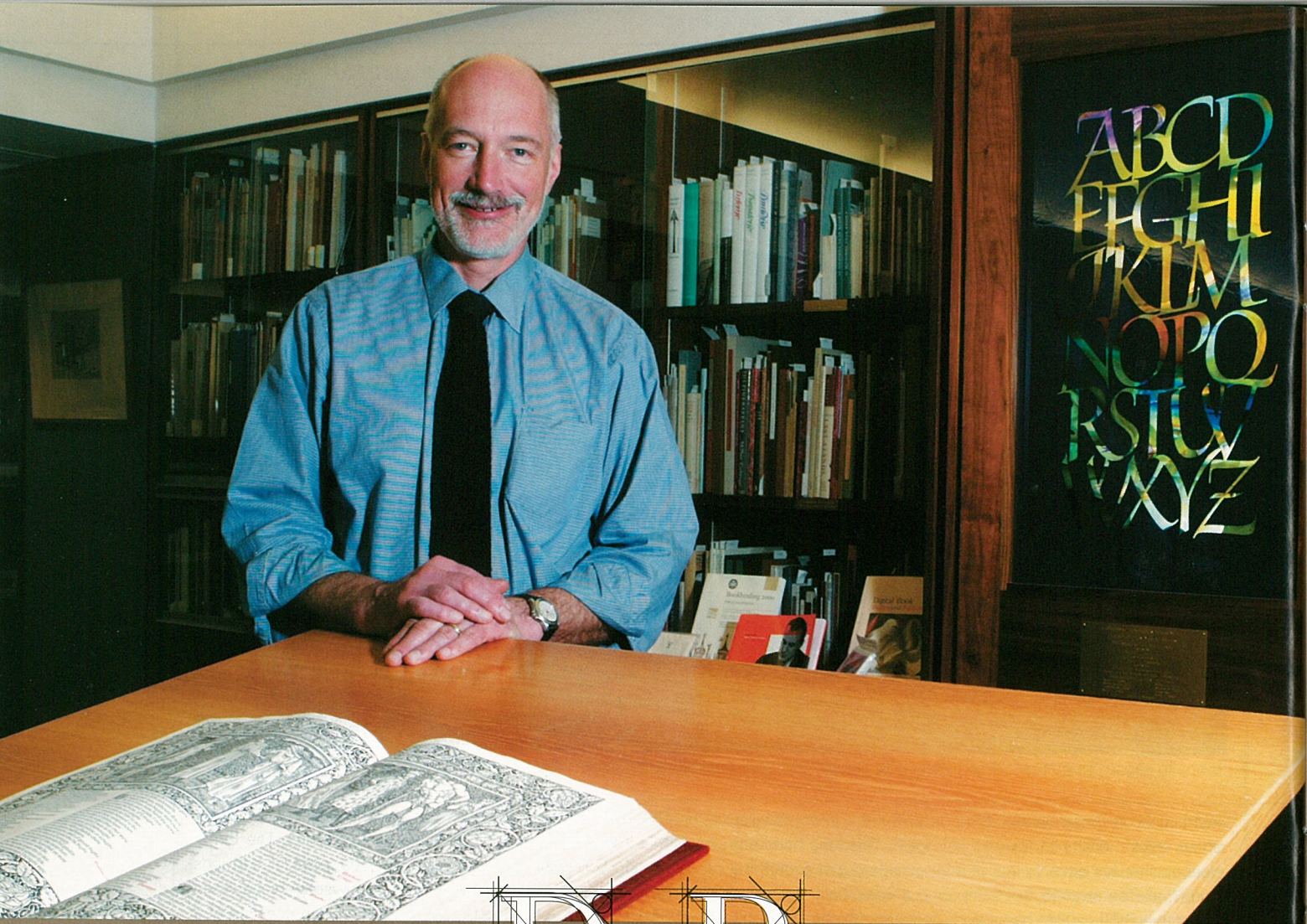
instruction on these unique items stresses the importance in artists books' ability to take on any form. This idea becomes clear as she lays out a variety of books made out of everything from Core-Ten steel to Bees Wax and a wasp hive. Horowicz notes that RIT has also become a repository for the Women's Studio Workshop, a group founded by RIT alumna Tatana Kellner that publishes artists books. Being a repository for the group means the people who run the Archives have the honor of purchasing each book the group publishes at a reduced rate—an honor in itself due to the often considerably small number of copies available of each artists book.

The Photography Collection is an important research tool particularly to the School of Photographic Arts and Sciences. The collection is made up of thousands of photographs and portfolios of photographers, including a 16 page portfolio of Ansel Adams consisting of 8"x10" black and white photographs of the Yosemite Valley, taken in 1960. Besides the work of noted professionals, Horowicz makes note that in an effort to support the work of students, each year the Archives purchases nine photographs from the annual Photography Honors show, held each spring by the School of Photographic Arts and Sciences. By purchasing these works from students, Horowicz adds that this is a crossover to the Institutional Archives, by documenting student work throughout the years. The Photo Purchase Prize, as it is commonly known, began in 1981, and a panel of photography professors, as well as Horowicz, chooses the works. To date, the collection consists of more than 175 examples of student work.

The Special Collections also contains two lesser-known, yet hardly insignificant, groupings of political cartoons. The Elmer Messner Collection is made up of 1,500 political cartoons drawn by the RIT graduate for various newspapers between 1934-1977. The John Scott Clubb Collection also consists of a range of political cartoons, taken from various newspapers in Rochester between 1905-1934. Both of these collections are available by request, as are any of the materials housed in the Special Collections, but are considered to be some of the more fragile works.

The Special Collections are truly a unique and interesting resource for researching topics relating to the Graphic Arts and Photography. According to Remington, the library has been supportive of the continually growing Special Collections. "Our work with the library enhances the students' learning, and that's really what it's all about," Remington said. He is also grateful for the cooperation of the Melbert B. Cary Collection who has helped him publish several books based on research conducted with the Special Collections.

Though many may think of the Archives as an underutilized aspect of the Wallace Library, according to Kari Horowicz, there were more than 1,400 visitors to the Archives in 2002-2003, and those who visited checked out more than 2,800 works from the Special Collections. Materials in the Archives and Special Collections cannot be removed from the library, but students are often able to obtain digital files of works, though only usable for educational purposes. *Those interested in learning more about the Special Collections can visit <http://wally.rit.edu/collections/special.html>.* •



DAVID PANKOW

FACES OF RIT

BY TIM JOHNSON
PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHEAL SPERLING

With the paperless methods of conveying information becoming so abundant in this digital age, there are many aspects of traditional bookmaking that are often overlooked and underappreciated. A book represents something more than just a story or information. It entails the tremendous amount of effort that went into the entire process from the author's initial manuscript to the finished bound product. David Pankow, Curator of the Cary Graphic Arts Collection in the Wallace Library, has a passion for the art of bookmaking, and over the past 25 years has developed the collection into one of the most extensive rare book collections in the country.

Pankow graduated from Brooklyn College in New York City with a degree in English and American Literature. He went on to receive his masters degree in English Literature, and began working at the New York Public Library. There, he worked in the Berg Collection—a very famous rare book collection of English and American Literature. During his term at the New York Library, Pankow also received another degree from Columbia University in rare book library administration. “I felt that I really found my calling in a career that I could really be passionate about,” said Pankow.

When the position in the Cary Collection opened up at RIT in 1979, Pankow jumped at the chance and left New York City. At that time, the Cary Collection was located in the school of printing, and had been part of RIT’s library system for ten years. “It seemed from the beginning like it was going to be a perfect job for me,” said Pankow. “It was a position that allowed me to work with all of the literature and resources that were connected with how books were made, how they were designed and manufactured.”

It did seem like a great place for Pankow, but he never intended to become as permanently involved with the university and the Cary Collection as he has. He only thought that he would be here for about five years, but he “found RIT to be an incredibly stimulating place.” Pankow has seen the collection of books grow from 7,000 volumes when he started to its current state of over 50,000 books, as well as manuscript materials and printing artifacts. “I never got bored at my job, and I’m still not bored,” said Pankow. “There’s always been a new challenge or a new direction to take the collection in.”

Since the collection has grown in size, it has also moved from its former location in the school of printing in Building 7. Pankow was very satisfied with the fact that he was able to design the new facility where the collection is housed currently on the second floor of Wallace Library. The move was part of a library restructuring in 1991, which brought several satellite libraries into one building. “When we were right across from Webb [Auditorium] it was great because it was a very heavily trafficked area,” said Pankow. Students waiting for classes in the area would have a chance to see what was on display, and they were often students not directly involved with a printing or art program. “Our location in the library is more of a destination location—you have to specifically come to this part of the building,” said Pankow. He added that the nearby periodical department has helped to expose the collection.

Pankow not only curates the collection, but delivers talks and lectures, and often holds classes in the Cary Collections. Right now, he is teaching a course in the graduate Print Media program on contemporary publishing. The class meets to discuss various publications in the collection, and Pankow also holds an online version of the class. Originally, he never thought that the online version could possibly compare to meeting in the collections, but he’s since found that it has allowed him to incorporate different types of discussions and interactions that he has used in the classroom setting as well. “I can’t actually share physical items online with students, such as a medieval manuscript page or some nineteenth century color printing which is really spectacular that you can only appreciate by looking at it first-hand,” said Pankow. “But in other ways, the online environment makes student and instructor think a lot more, and participate in discussions on a common ground.”

One of Pankow’s biggest goals for the near future is to begin the construction on a permanent home for the RIT Press. Right now, most of the work that the Cary Collection has done with publication has been done out of one of the side rooms, but plans are in place to construct a new room which will add on to the existing facility. The room will take on the shape of a spiral, which, in a certain shape, represents a formula dealing with how text is placed on the page. The wall of this spiral type room will consist largely of glass, and will have offices for editing and a large meeting area. “With the design of the facility, we’ll be able to say that it is based fundamentally on the highest ideals of bookmaking,” said Pankow. He added that because of RIT’s budget situation, most of the funding for this project will have to come from outside fundraising, and that he would like to see it start sometime within the year.

Concerning the Wallace Library, Pankow is thrilled to be part of “one of the most incredible resources in any university: bar none in the United States.” He said that many rare book collections are only open to graduate level students or faculty, but that the Cary Collections are open to the entire RIT community. “It would be a shame if people in their time at RIT didn’t visit us at least once, and hopefully visit over and over again,” said Pankow. “There is a lot of information you can get from the digital resources, but there is nothing like coming into a library like this and actually being able to examine great treasures of bookmaking and that will always be the case.” •

Motto: Enjoy your job, because you’ll spend a lot of time on it.

Food: Mexican food.

Biggest Influence: The woman I worked for at the New York Public Library, in the Berg Collection. She was one of the first woman curators of a rare book collection, and she was a Hungarian refugee with a doctorate from the University of London. She was incredibly intelligent, motivated, and a person who really inspired me to become involved with this profession.

Biggest Adventure: Two summers ago, my son and I hired a sea-plane to fly us into a remote lake in northern Ontario with our canoe and our gear, and we had to canoe out. My big hobbies are white water rafting and canoeing.

Last museum visited: The last one that made an impression on me was the British Museum. I was there a couple of months ago, and they have completely redesigned some of their galleries. It’s a great place, especially somebody who is interested in the history of communication, and they have pieces such as the Rosetta stone.

Favorite item in the Cary Collection: One of my favorite books, and it’s a favorite of a lot of people, is a book that is printed by William Morris, and it often goes by the title of the *Kelmscott Chaucer*, as printed by William Morris on his private press. Morris was one of the first people in the nineteenth century to try to reawaken people, the reading public, to the idea that books don’t have to be gray and plain, but could be made with high quality materials. They could be given stunning typography, could have great illustrations, and then printed with a kind loving care that made you want to own this book, made you want to read it, made you want to come back to it time and time again. And so, it wasn’t the first book that he printed, but it was the culmination of his career, 1896, and it’s one of the treasures of the Cary Collection.

His Favorite Typeface: Optima—designed by Hermann Zapf.

His Least Favorite Typeface: This could get me into trouble, but I’m very tired of seeing Times Roman. It’s a great typeface, but it’s been used so much that it’s just boring. Another great typeface is Palatino, but it’s been used so many times, because it was one of the first typefaces made available for desktop publishing.

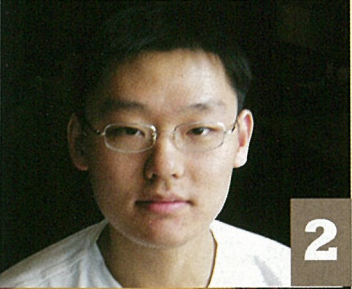
Last Book Read: *The DaVinci Code*—Dan Brown

Last Movie Saw: *Lost in Translation*

Pets: I have a very large golden retriever.



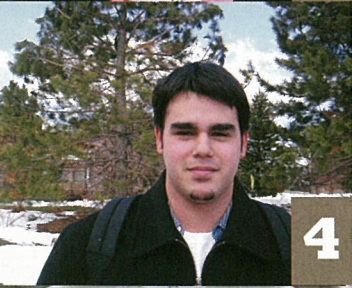
1



2



3



4



5



6

Q: If you could bring one structure or piece of art to campus, what would it be?

1 "The Toronto CN Tower. Kids can go up to the restaurant and look at the bricks. They can use debit to get a bird's-eye-view. It would put Henry's [6th floor, bldg.1] to shame."

Xavier Samperisi
Second year
Photography

2 "Any art is good, as long as it's not too explicit."

Myong Choi
Second year
Industrial Engineering

3 "Monet's *Water Lilies*. I would put it on the outside of a building, protected, to break up the bricks."

Petra Stepancik
Second year
Environmental Studies

4 "*David*, by Michelangelo."

Danny DeCecco
Second year
Electrical Engineering.

5 "A totem pole of Geronimo."

Naomi Stern
Third year
New Media Publishing
and
Alicia Stern
First year
Hotel Management

6 "The El Greco painting in Toledo, Spain. I'd put it in my living room."

Christina Robles
Second year
Computer Science

"The *Mona Lisa*."

Gladys Mfofo
Second year
Accounting

"A building like the New York Public Library."

Christian Hanlon
Fifth year
Mechanical Engineering

"Right now, [Pablo] Picasso's *Guernica*."

Babak Elahi
Professor
Literature and Language Department

"They should put a garden somewhere. In the winter time, they should have a green house so people can get away from the winter."

Andrew Chorney
Prospective Engineering Student

"The ceiling of the Sistine Chapel."

Amanda Pawley
Second year
International Business

"The Statue of Liberty, by Andrews Memorial Drive."

Barbara Gerace
Office of Admissions

I would bring the seated statue of Lincoln [from the Lincoln Memorial] here. That icon is a testament to the idea of freedom and equality for everyone."

Vincent F. A. Golphan
Professor
Literature and Language Department

"Solve the housing problem. Bring the Guggenheim to campus."

Merrilee Santoro
Second year
Photography

"Indoor bonsai trees—big ones. Anything to cover the bricks."

David Azer
Fourth year
Information Technology

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Medium

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Deep Dish Extra

Exp: 12/31/03

may apply. Limited delivery areas.



S P O R T S D E S K

by Michael Eppolito | photograph by Eric Sucar

Above: Men's lacrosse midfielder Ryan Neward (right) fights for position against Geneseo defender Steven Loetterle (left). RIT went on to beat Geneseo 14-7 on Thursday March 17.

MEN'S LACROSSE

The men's lacrosse team has started off the 2004 season with an undefeated record after the first three games.

The first win came on March 6 with a 14-10 victory over Endicott College. **David Thering** scored the first goal and later went on to score five more goals. **Ryan Neward** contributed four goals and **Chris Copeland** scored two. **Josh Molinari** also played a large role in the win with six assists.

Four days later, the Tigers picked up their second victory against Clarkson University with a score of 9-8. Copeland scored four goals and **Zach Bednarz** scored two. With 1:05 left in the game, Copeland scored, giving RIT an 8-7 lead. Just seconds

later, **Colin Jesien** scored a goal that was good enough to hold the lead even after Clarkson put one in with 34 seconds remaining.

On Saturday, March 13, the Tigers defeated Oswego State 12-6. The first two quarters of the game were very close, but RIT broke out in the third quarter and again in the fourth quarter, scoring four unanswered goals at two different times. Thering and Copeland each scored four goals while Neward picked up three.

BASEBALL

The baseball team started off their 2004 season at the Coco Expo in Ft. Pierce, Florida achieving a record of 3-5 over a six day period.

The week started off on Monday, March 1, with a loss to Marywood. The game was scoreless until the second inning when **Matt Singer** and **Jamie Schild** were both brought home courtesy of **Colin Bradley's** triple. In the third inning, **Mark Sapienza** stole home after a wild pitch. Marywood tied the game in the sixth and then stole the game in the seventh, making the final score 4-3. Later that evening, RIT clinched an 8-4 victory against Neumann College, leading the game from the second inning on. **Jeff Ware**, Sapienza, and Singer each contributed two runs to the team.

Two days later, RIT took on Eastern College in what turned out to be a 14-2 blowout. Aside from Sapienza's three runs he also accounted for four RBIs, while his teammates Singer, Bradley, Schild, and Byrne each contributed two runs. **Nick Bell** pitched five innings with two runs allowed, three strikeouts, and one walk.

The following day, RIT returned to defeat Wilmington College by the score of 12-6. RIT already had a substantial lead of 9-0 going into the fourth inning. Schild, Byrne, Ware, and Singer scored two runs apiece.

Later that day, the team was defeated 4-3 by Eastern College. RIT gave up three runs in the first inning, and, after scoring two in the third, was able to tie the score in the top of the fifth when **John Byrne** drove in Bradley with a double. Eastern regained the lead in the bottom of the fifth and held it for the rest of the game. Bradley led the team with two runs, two hits, and an RBI.

The next day, the team suffered another loss to Philadelphia University with a final score of 7-6. Philadelphia took a one run lead in the third but RIT answered back in the top of the fifth, taking a 2-1 lead on a bases-loaded single by Byrne which drove in Bradley and Singer. After losing the lead to Philadelphia in the fifth, the Tigers tied the game up 6-6 in the sixth. Philadelphia drove in a final run in the seventh to win the game by one.

The team ended the week on Saturday with two losses in the same day to both Catholic University and Ursinus College with final scores of 13-3 and 10-5 respectively.

SOFTBALL

The softball team got off to a rough start this season in Fort Myers, FL with a five game losing streak.

The first game of the season, against St. Mary's on February 29, ended with a score of 3-1. **Kelly Iagulli** scored the lone run of the game and **Jessica Fabin** had the only hit (a single) of the game.

The same day, the team dropped another game against Madonna by the score of 3-2. Madonna took the early lead in the first inning, and after RIT tied it up in the second, **Shari McNamara** gave RIT the lead with a homerun in the fourth. In the bottom of the seventh, Madonna scored two runs on an error and a wild pitch to win the game.

On March 1, the team lost to Alma College with a final score of 3-0 in what would be the first of three scoreless games in a row. Later that same day, the team fell again to Capital University with a final score of 8-0. The team's fifth straight loss and third consecutive game being shutout came on March 2 as they lost 3-0 to Augustanna.

Following the loss to Augustanna, the team had a miraculous turnaround, shutting out Johnson & Wales with a final score of 12-0. **Megan Varner**, Fabin, and McNamara all contributed two runs and one RBI to the team. **Mary Keegan** pitched for RIT, allowing only two hits and striking nine people out.

The softball team pulled out their second shutout in a row against **Rose Hulman** on March 4 with a score of 5-0. **Allie Sittion** pitched the entire game only allowing a single hit and striking 12 batters out.

Later that day, RIT broke its shutout streak with a 4-3 loss to Loras College. **Elaine Vonderembse** led the game with one run scored, three hits and an RBI. RIT was down by three in the bottom of the seventh and was able to get two runs, but wasn't able to get a third for the tie.

Ironically enough, the softball team did it again on March 5 by shutting out a third team and making it their third victory this season with a score of 3-0. Keegan pitched a no-hitter and struck out nine batters.

The team was unfortunately in for some bad luck as they went on to play Cabrini College the same day and ended up losing 6-3. RIT's final record for the trip was 3-5. •

The Week at Home

3/27	Saturday	1 p.m.	Women's Lacrosse vs. Buffalo State
		1 p.m.	Softball vs. Elmira
3/28	Sunday	1 p.m.	Softball vs. Cortland
3/29	Monday	1 p.m.	Baseball vs. Hilbert
		4 p.m.	Women's Lacrosse vs. Brockport
3/31	Wednesday	3:30 p.m.	Men's Lacrosse vs. Elmira

TIGER TEAMS SPRING INTO ACTION

SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW

by Rachel Pikus and Matthew Doak



Tiger defenseman Jonathan Manley, #26, runs over the Geneseo attacker during RIT's game against Geneseo. RIT won the contest 14-7. Christopher Zajac/REPORTER Magazine

MEN'S LACROSSE

With 14-10 win over Endicott College, a 9-8 win against Clarkson, a 12-6 victory over Oswego, and most recently a 14-7 win over Geneseo, the men's lacrosse team could not have started their season any better.

Senior Jon Sinclair sees even greater potential in the future. "If all of our great players can come together and play well together, then we can beat anyone," Sinclair said. "Each game, there were times when we could have played a lot better."

A player contributing to the offensive firepower is senior Josh Molinari, who Peluso said, "is a great leader for the offense." Another, sophomore David Thering, has started off right where he left off last year as one of the leading goal scorers this season. Seniors Ryan Neward and Chris Copeland are also stepping up this year to play big roles. "Chris is on track this year to break the goals in a career record," said Peluso. Together, these players pose a threat to contenders. As Peluso pointed out, "I think any time a team plays against us, they have to figure out how they are going to cover us because we are pretty tough."

Defensively, the team is gaining significant depth. Senior Jonathan Manley and junior Ryan Shand contribute a lot of strength and talents to the team. Adding to the success is freshman, John Foley who was recently named the Empire 8 Goalie of the Week.

The team is looking to continue the winning streak, and welcomes the challenges in the season to come. "Our schedule is really filled with a lot of great competitors, and that's what it is all about," said Peluso. "That's how our guys like it, and that's what they want."

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

The women's lacrosse team begins a third consecutive season with a new head coach. Tricia Manley comes to RIT after three years coaching the Keuka College team she founded.

Attacker Kelly Martin and goaltender Laurie Needer are the only two seniors left behind from a team that went 5-6 a year ago. Martin earned Empire 8 Honorable Mention after picking up 12 goals and two assists last season. Needer played well in goal, making 110 saves and giving up 112 goals during the season.

The main concerns for the Tigers this season are their inexperience and lack of depth. Their roster currently has just enough players for a full team, and will rely heavily on sophomores.

BASEBALL

Coach Rob Grow and the RIT men's baseball team got the season started in style with a trip to Florida to take part in the Coco Expo. Despite returning with just a 3-5 record, Grow believes the Florida experience is very valuable to his team. "We get to practice and play every day, and being on break, guys don't have to worry about class," said Grow. "It is a great week for the team to bond and for the coaches to find out how their players will react in certain situations, and who is ready to compete."

The team lost eight seniors who all contributed significantly a year ago. "We have a young team this year and I expect our sophomore class to really pick up the bulk of the work," said Grow.

Dan Philipp, Dylan Rees, Nick Bell, Bo Mahaney, Ian Ammons, and senior captain Dan Weglinski will lead the pitching staff. Jamie Schild, Mark Sapienza, Matt Singer, Colin Bradley, along with captains Jeff Ware and John Byrne are expected to lead the way at the plate.

Grow says the team's main goals are to continue to be a respected program and participate in the post-season. "We will achieve these goals by continuing to work hard and consistently playing good baseball," he said.

SOFTBALL

If there were one thing that softball coach Jack Carpenter would seem to have an overabundance of, it would be pitching. The team returns senior pitcher Shari McNamara, who won the Empire 8 Player of the Year award last season for the second time, following a 17-6 campaign and a 1.16 ERA. Heidi Schille returns for her sophomore season, following a solid freshman campaign. Allie Sitton and Mary Keegan are newcomers to the team, and are expected to contribute on the mound. Keegan has already pitched a no-hitter for the Tigers.

Hitting might be a weak spot for the Tigers, however. During their first five games, the team scored just three runs and was shutout three times. Over their next five games, they scored 26 runs, including a 12-run breakout against Johnson and Wales.

Returning senior outfielder Elaine Vonderembse will lead the way at the plate along with McNamara and catcher Kelly Iagulli. Vonderembse leads the team in runs batted in so far.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CREW

The men's and women's crew teams know how to start off a season: with a spring training trip to Cocoa Beach, Florida. "It was nice weather, but we also got a lot of miles in which is important at this point in the training season," said Coach Jim Bodenstedt. The trip was a great way to kick off the season on the water. The winter season was limited to running, weightlifting, and ergo meter workouts to prepare for the upcoming season.

This year, Bodenstedt was looking, "to increase our numbers and have more competitive athletes on the team." The women's squad is larger than ever before with two varsity eight boats and a varsity four boat. The men's side is "breaking at the seams," according to Bodenstedt, and includes a heavyweight eight, lightweight eight, and three men's novice eights.

"Both squads are trying to improve their two kilometer time, and produce more competitive times than other schools," said Bodenstedt. "Each year, we try to better our average from last year." With strong potential from freshman women including Erin Fredricks, Sara Whitmore, and Diane Seever, Bodenstedt hopes to put together a successful varsity eight boat. Bodenstedt chose to keep the abundance of talented novice men freshmen together in a novice squad to gain experience racing other novice teams.

Upperclassmen who are expected to lead this year are Matt Walter and Brian Hitchcock on the men's team, and Jennifer Angle, Michelle Blondin, and Lindsay Sargeant on the women's squad. All are working to win more dual races than last year, particularly against Ithaca and Hobart William Smith.

"The ultimate goal for both the men and the women is to place at the New York State Championships," said Bodenstedt. "If we place there in the top three, we will qualify for the ECAC championship in Worcester, Massachusetts." The team did not make the ECAC championship last year. "I think we have a really good shot at it this year," said Bodenstedt.

The first race of the season is on March 27 against the University of Rochester.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK

"There are a lot of school records out there that are in jeopardy for the outdoor season," said Coach Dave Warth. The men's and women's track teams ended the winter season on a strong note at the state meet where the men came in fourth and the women came made the top half. With a new assistant coach joining this spring who is geared more towards working with the sprint group, Warth thinks, "it will really help the team be better focused for the outdoor season."

Freshman Danielle Simmons, a 400-meter runner who finished fourth in the state meet indoors, "is going to be even better tuned for outdoors," Warth said. "With the facilities that we have, the work she needs to do indoors to be fast she just can't do—she'd hurt herself. So, we do strength work in the winter, and outdoors she will be doing a lot of speed work."

Freshman thrower Danyelle Yondura is out to expand her talents in the outdoor season. "The outdoor season for throwers is much better because there are more events," said Warth. "Danyelle's a javelin thrower and she throws discs, so she is really looking forward to outdoor."

Senior distance runner Heidi Spalholz went into the winter season with mono. She pulled through and ran on three relays during the winter. For the outdoor season, she will be in even better health and is hoping to have a big outdoor season.

Thrower Allison Griggs was injured during the indoor season—a big blow to the team. She had successful surgery on her knee and could possibly compete in the outdoor season.

Freshman middle distance runner Nate Lowe had a breakthrough race in the 1500 meter run at the state meet during the winter season. According to Warth, "he is really a steeple chaser and is looking forward to steeple chasing outdoors—he could really do some damage."

The continued success of runners Curtis Howard, Ryan Pancoast, and Jesse Williamson is predicted for the outdoor season. Warth said, "They all took big steps this winter, and hope to make an impact outdoors as well."

The best hope for the track team during the outdoor season is to maintain and improve upon the abilities exhibited in the winter season.

MEN'S TENNIS

In what seems to be a yearly occurrence in Rochester, the men's tennis team is struggling to get on the court because of weather.

Despite the loss of last year's number one player, Luke St. Georges, the team returns several successful veterans. Leading the way will be senior David Chachu, a player who won the "A" bracket at the St. Lawrence University Fall Classic last season. Also returning will be junior Frank Salome and sophomore Darren Stanly. This pair advanced all the way to the semifinals of the "B" Doubles bracket at the Fall Classic. Junior Elliot Nembhard, who paired with Chachu to advance to the semifinals of the "A" doubles bracket, will also be back for the Tigers.

Now in her eighth season coaching the men's team, Ann Nealon brings a wealth of tennis knowledge and experience to the team. An RIT Sports Hall-of-Famer, Nealon has served for over 20 years as the head tennis pro at Oak Hill Country Club.

Last year's team fell just short of an Empire 8 championship, losing to Ithaca in the finals. Nealon hopes that with hard work and dedication, this team can accomplish more. •



Jessica Fabin hits a ball to Beth Angell (cq.) during a drill at a women's softball practice held in the Clark Gym. Kim Weiselberg/REPORTER Magazine

3

STARS



by Matthew Doak

DAVE THERING – Men's Lacrosse



Christopher Zajac/Reporter Magazine

MARY KEEGAN-Softball



Kim Weiselberg/REPORTER Magazine

CHRIS COPELAND- Men's Lacrosse



Christopher Zajac/Reporter Magazine

Despite being only a sophomore, Dave Thering is a captain on the men's lacrosse team and one of the top players for the Tigers. During a recent game against Endicott, Thering scored six goals to lead RIT to the victory. He was named the RIT Athlete-of-the-Week following his performance.

During his first season, Thering won Empire 8 Rookie-of-the-Year honors after collecting 58 points on 32 goals and 26 assists. He also picked up 50 ground balls for the Tigers.

"Dave is one of the hardest workers on our team," said coach Gene Peluso. "He works very hard to be a great athlete and he is prepared for all game situations." Peluso describes Thering as being very focused and believes that his preparation is a big reason why he is such a great leader.

"Dave will continue to improve as a feeder and dodger and has already made great strides in these areas," said Peluso. "He is his toughest critic, so we hope he can give himself a break at times."

Freshman right-handed pitcher Mary Keegan is looking to give the Tigers an effective one-two pitching punch as she joins senior Shari McNamara, who has picked up 47 wins during her three seasons.

Thus far, this youngster is off to a fine start. She recently pitched a no hitter against Notre Dame College of New Hampshire.

Keegan comes to RIT after a solid high school career during which she went 28-14 with a 0.86 ERA. During her senior season at West Seneca West, she went 8-4 with 109 strikeouts and a 1.20 ERA over 82 innings. She also had four shutouts and one no-hitter.

Coach Gene Peluso describes Chris Copeland as being extremely dedicated. His dedication has been paying dividends early on this season as he has helped the Tigers get off to a 3-0 start.

"Chris is a great shooter and an excellent goal scorer," said Peluso. "He is a big player who draws a lot of attention from the opposition."

Despite all the defensive attention he receives, Copeland was still able to score four goals in a recent victory over Clarkson.

Copeland's coach would like even more from his senior—he would like to see Copeland convert a higher percentage of his shots as he finishes his career. "We tell Chris all the time that we want more goals from him," said Peluso.

In addition to his play on the field, Peluso looks to Copeland to provide leadership in other ways. "We expect Chris to be a leader off the field," said Peluso. "He is a fine motivator and the team rallies behind his lead."

Copeland is on pace to break the decades old RIT record for goals in a career, which currently stands at 154 held by Bill Bjorness who played 1983-1986.

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Family Values 101

by Kate Bloemker

I'd like to talk to you about family values. It is a phrase that is both hugely attractive and vomitously repellent. Republicans are soothed by the sound of it, imagining happy, churchgoing, nuclear families. Democrats tend to run in terror upon hearing the phrase, which, to them, calls to mind images of religious zealots tearing up the U.S. Constitution.

Both sides, however, have lost sight of what the words "family values" actually mean. They have become larger-than-life, political buzzwords that have come to represent the same thing as "conservative Christian values." In fact, in examining the two words for what they are, I realize that the "values of the family" are different for everyone. Each family, whether Muslim, Christian, Republican, or Libertarian, has its own set of moral values. Some families value individuality; some value discipline; most value love. All have different interpretations of what these things represent. States, countries, and giant religious-political associations are not families, and their values should not be labeled as such.

"The funny thing is that when you get right down to it, legalizing gay marriage should not be a religious argument at all... "

This won't prevent the phrase "family values" from being tossed around by Conservatives in the elections this fall, as it is during every election year—remember Dan Quayle and Murphy Brown? We will especially hear it in reference to this year's hot topic, gay marriage. Putting the spotlight on gay marriage is a brilliant strategy of the Bush camp. Since a much higher percentage of Americans (44 percent) oppose gay marriage than support it (35 percent), it could be the issue that convinces swing voters to go Republican. It has also forced Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry to declare that he is against gay marriage, even though his voting record implies otherwise. Here lies the real jewel of this strategy. By declaring himself anti-gay marriage, Kerry will lose support from leftists and the gay community, who, due to lack of excitement for the candidate, may either make a poor showing at the polls or cast their votes for Ralph Nader. Nader, the perennial, no-holds-barred Green Party candidate, has declared his full support for the legalization of same-sex marriage, further contributing to the schism of the Left.

It's no secret that a red herring is exactly what Bush needs right now. The economy is lagging, unemployment is going up, and motives for the war in Iraq are getting sketchier by the day. We can't allow ourselves to be misled, though. I'm sure that if you asked a Rochester family which was more important to them, keeping their jobs at Kodak or stopping Rosie O'Donnell

from getting a marriage license, they would choose the first one. This will most likely be the main point made by John Kerry in response to Republican cries of "Gay marriage! Gay marriage!"

Nevertheless, city halls across the country are plagued by protestors waving Bibles and signs that say "Marriage God's Way: The Only Way." The funny thing is that when you get right down to it, legalizing gay marriage should not be a religious argument at all. The argument is not in reference to church marriages; churches already have the right to choose whether or not to marry same-sex couples. Here we are talking about *legal* marriage, which has nothing to do with God. Legal marriage deals solely with secular partnership: taxes, inheritance, guardianship of children, and so forth. I can't imagine Jesus ever having a problem with two women filing their taxes jointly. (Incidentally, Jesus never even said anything to condemn homosexuality.)

If the fundamental debate is not religious, what then is the real issue? A lot of it is simply people being uncomfortable with homosexuality—the "That just doesn't go *there*" mentality. Then there are the opponents who skirt the issue by saying, "Well, they already have *Will and Grace* and *Queer Eye*; what more do they want?" As a straight person, I know that if someone told me I didn't need to get married because I already had *Friends* and *Trading Spaces*, I would be very confused.

The bottom line is that conservatives are afraid. They are afraid in the same way that Leftists are afraid of the Religious Right: Gays represent a giant, powerful block of voters that can band together in support of liberal causes. Just as Democrats cringe to think of what the Christian Coalition might whisper next into President Bush's ear (and they *do* have his ear), Republicans don't want to have to deal with what will happen if gays are given equal rights. It is said that nearly ten percent of people are gay, and if the political causes of those ten percent are suddenly given value, their voices will have a lot more legitimacy to politicians and the rest of the world. •

"The bottom line is that conservatives are afraid. "

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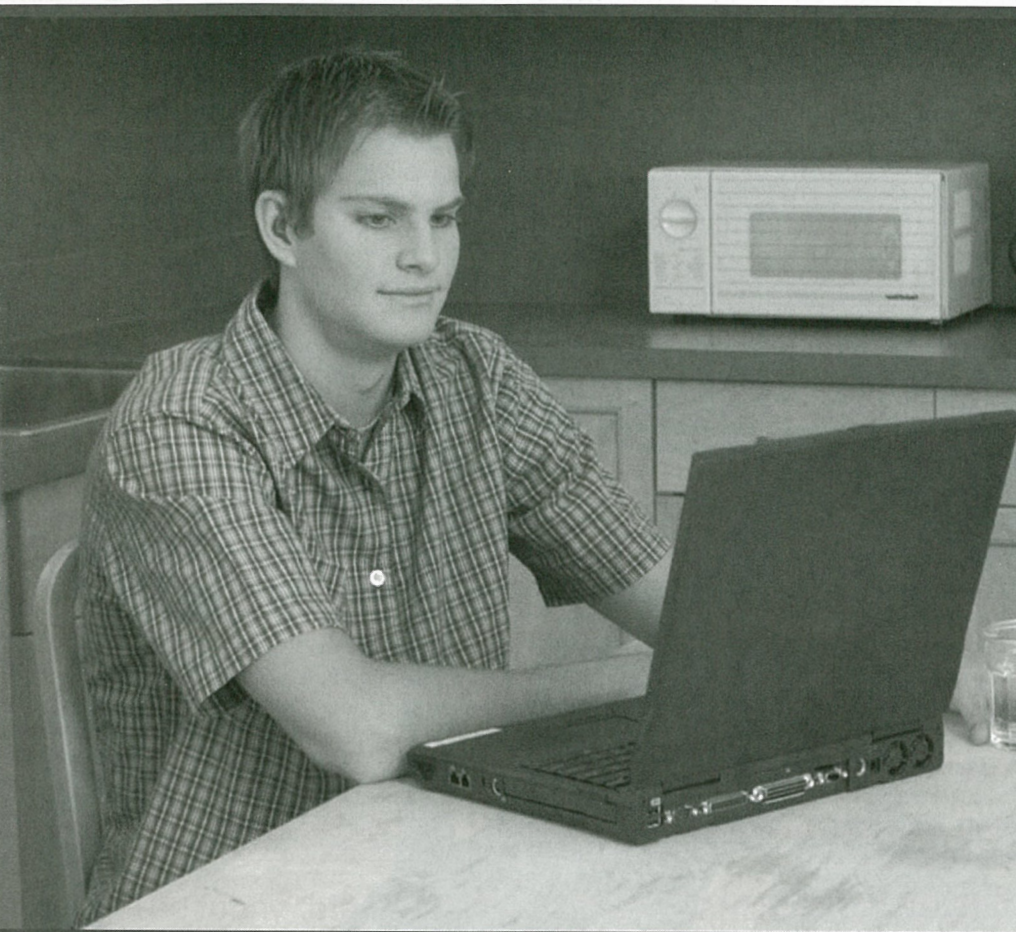
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