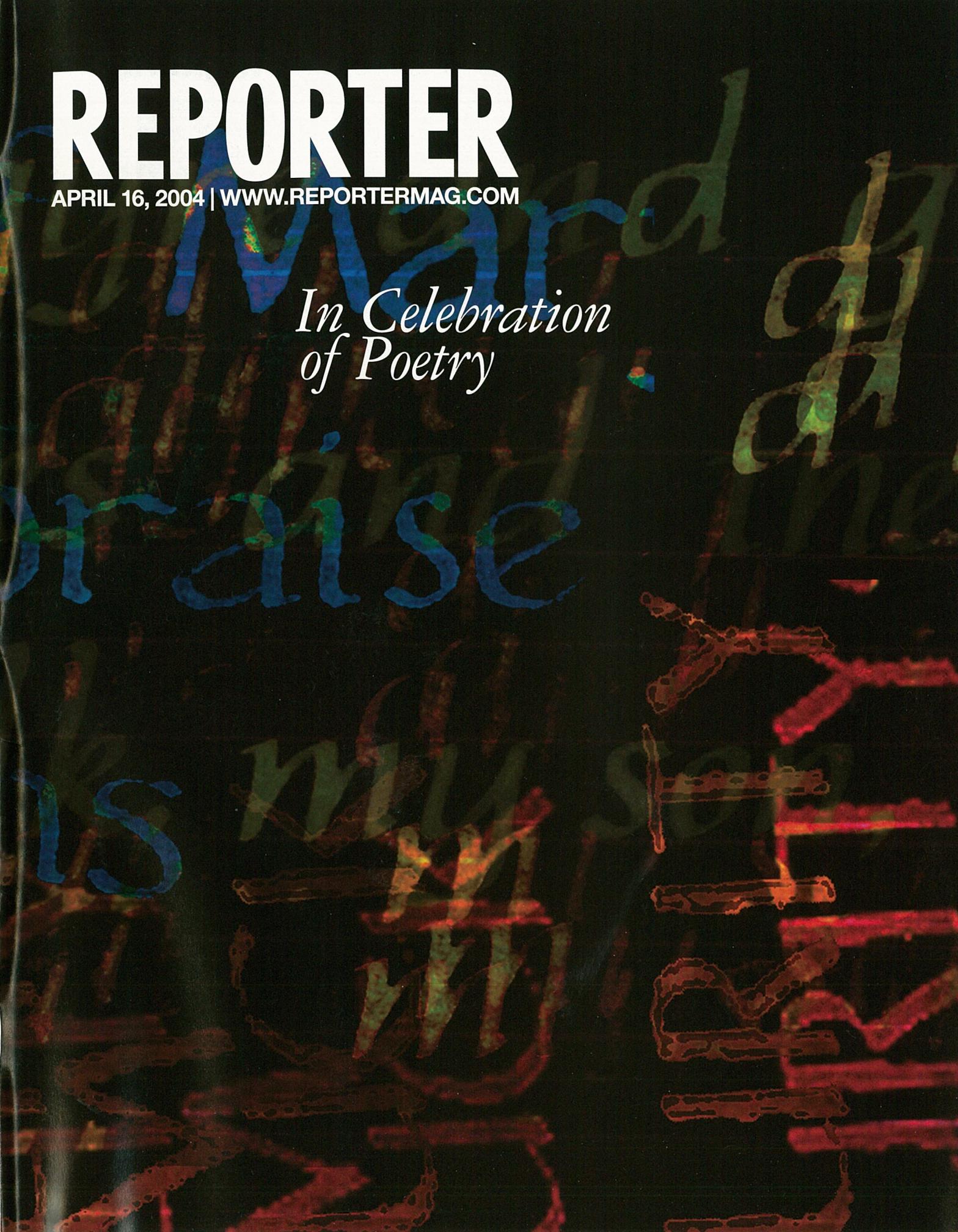


REPORTER

APRIL 16, 2004 | WWW.REPORTERMAG.COM

*In Celebration
of Poetry*



3 New Initiatives for Fall Quarter Registration

Coming soon! A new website where you will be able to view and do the following:

- 1.** Beginning April 19, in addition to viewing Summer (20034) and Fall (20041) courses, you will be able to preview anticipated Winter (20042) and Spring (20043) courses online. This should help you (and your advisor) plan an annual schedule.
- 2.** Beginning April 26, and for Fall quarter registration, if you are not able to schedule all of the courses you *need* to maintain progress toward completion of your degree, you will be able to notify the Institute of the courses you could not obtain.
- 3.** In response to the scheduling issues you identify through the new system, the college/department offering the course, or your program advisor, will work with you to resolve them. This may include creating additional sections (given sufficient demand), arranging overloads, and/or advising about alternative choices.

**These new services will be accessible soon via:
www.rit.edu/sis or my.rit.edu.**

Summer Registration Dates April 19 - June 14, 2004

Begin Date		*Year Level
April 19	Graduate	6, 7
April 20	Honors & NTID Cross-Registered	5, 4
April 21	Undergraduate	5, 4
April 22	Honors & NTID Cross-Registered	3
April 23	Undergraduate	3
April 26	Honors & NTID Cross-Registered	2
April 27	Undergraduate	2
April 28	Honors & NTID Cross-Registered	1
April 29	Undergraduate	1, 0

Fall Registration Dates April 26 - September 13, 2004

Begin Date		*Year Level
April 26	Graduate	6, 7
April 27	Honors & NTID Cross-Registered	5, 4
April 28	Undergraduate	5, 4
April 29	Honors & NTID Cross-Registered	3
April 30	Undergraduate	3
May 3	Honors & NTID Cross-Registered	2
May 4	Undergraduate	2
May 5	Honors & NTID Cross-Registered	1
May 6	Undergraduate	1, 0

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LITERATURE



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EDITORIAL

Glimpses

"I know who I am when I read what I write."

I saw that quote on the side of a bus in Washington DC one summer while I was waiting for the Fourth of July parade to start. For one reason or another, I remember exactly what it looked like and exactly where I was standing and exactly what it made me think and feel. I wrote it on the back cover of one of my mom's checkbooks, but it wasn't necessary. That phrase, penned by Ben Bradlee, former Executive Editor of *The Washington Post*, stayed with me through the hot dogs and fireworks of a hot DC summer day and through the past ten or so years of my life.

"I know who I am when I read what I write."

I think it stuck with me because there are so few things that I have read over the years that are quite so true.

The first poem that I remember composing was for a writing competition in the fifth grade. I wrote a poem about my very encompassing definition of "family." It was cheesy and it rhymed and it's the kind of thing that my mother loved enough to keep safe, tucked away. That poem catapulted me into what I consider a slightly prolific body of writing for a twenty-one year old. Looking back, I realize that I didn't continue to write at an ever-increasing pace because I won the competition, rather, because I found something in writing that I didn't find in any other setting—I found significant parts of myself.

When I look back at the past fourteen years of writing, I get a completely holistic picture of who I am and how I function within the complicated spectrum of emotional experience that we all encounter in one way or another. I see how I am when I'm in high spirits and when I'm pained, when I'm at my strongest and at my most weak. I see the times that I've been swelling with so much joy that I can barely get it down on paper fast enough and the times that I've been heartbroken to the point where my chest gets so tight that it hurts to breathe. Looking at the evolution of my writing reveals a very direct evolution of the way that I handle conflict, confusion, and change.

My writings have proven to be more than milestones of important moments, however—I find that I write more about the commonplace and the observational than about the significant and grandiose. My writings have become a clear map of the development of what I now consider my value system—what I consider important enough to warrant significant study and reflection. The way that the air smells right before a storm—the way that my mom and I would sit out on the front porch watching it. The way that my best friend casually shakes his hair out of his eyes before he says something important. The way that calm blankets everything in the morning and I can wake up early to the sound of nothing.

Bradlee's quote may be true but it doesn't go far enough, deep enough. I believe that it should be expanded to encompass all works of art or expression—Bradlee's use of the word "writing" can be substituted with photograph, paint, draw, sing, etc. In no other place that I've encountered is this as apparent than here at RIT where the artistic spirit is so heavily fostered.

In no other way than through a person's writing or artistic work do I get as clear a picture as to who they are, what they value, and in many cases, what they take notice of. Many people write when they are at their most vulnerable, in the quiet moments between the public and private. Many write at the moments that give them pause, and the context and composition of those moments can be incredibly telling. The good poems don't lie—the subtlety of the human experience that reveals itself in the telling of these moments can't be fabricated or rehearsed.

In celebration of National Poetry Month, *Reporter* spent some time talking to some of the faculty poets who contribute a great deal to the culture of poetry on this campus about their own work, what inspires them, what they value. We also solicited the poetic works of our peers—I hope that you find as much inspiration and enjoyment from both of these pieces as I have.



Ren Meinhart
Editor in Chief

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RIT's #22 Josh Molinari defends the ball against an Alfred University's Saxon in last Saturday's home game win. Kim Weiselberg/REPORTER Magazine

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Tuition Assistance in Jeopardy

by Adam Kriedman

Hot on the heels of RIT's five percent tuition hike is a proposal in the New York State legislature to reduce the awards granted by New York State's Tuition Assistance Program (TAP). TAP, which gave grants to approximately 4,000 students during the 2002-2003 academic year, is a financial aid program provided for students who are New York residents. Last year, New York Governor George Pataki proposed cuts to TAP in the state budget, but the cut was averted when the outcry from students dissuaded the New York State legislature from including the cuts in the budget. In lieu of a TAP cut, other cuts were made to the budget last year. However, Governor Pataki has proposed cutting TAP funds again this year.

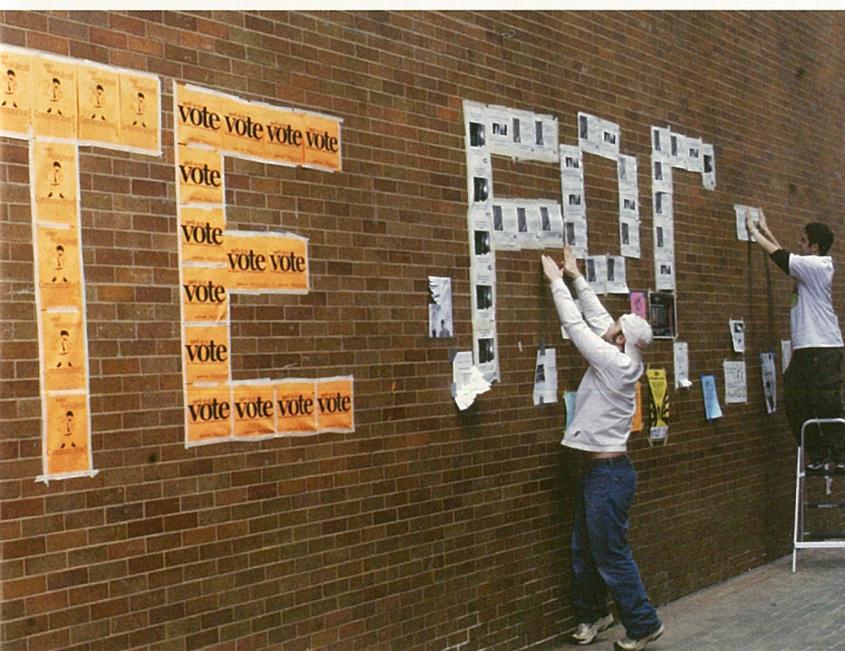
Like last year, there has been an outcry against the proposed cut. Verna Hazen, Director of RIT's Financial Aid Programs and Services, has been a fervent supporter of students in taking action to demonstrate to New York legislators that TAP is important to them. Hazen noted that there has been a "tremendous" response to the proposal, which would defer one third of TAP payments to students until they graduate, with the other two thirds delivered immediately. According to Hazen, students would be allowed an "excess capacity to borrow," which she clarified as simply being an "extra loan." This loan would be converted back to a grant after students graduate, but only if they graduate on time. Legislators have said that the TAP proposal would give incentive to students to graduate on time. Hazen disagrees: "I don't think it (deferring payment) provides any incentive to students," she said.

Hazen mentioned that, in order to raise awareness of the TAP situation, Financial Aid Programs and Services worked with Student Government earlier this year. Flyers were spread across the campus that said "Bring TAP Back," along with the address www.cicu.org. This address leads to a

website that gives students an easy way to contact their state legislators regarding the TAP proposal. By clicking the "Bring Tap Back!" link on the website, students can quickly send an e-mail that informs state legislators of the grievances they have regarding the proposed cuts. Hazen is thrilled about the student response thus far, which has been so significant that the "local press wrote articles" about the TAP controversy. Before the TAP cut was taken out of the budget last year, RIT presented the idea to New York State that students would be credited for TAP, and RIT would essentially give the state a loan by deferring the state payments until a later time. Whether RIT would propose this idea again if the TAP cut is not eliminated from the budget remains to be seen.

Originally, the proposal to lessen TAP was included in a 2004-2005 budget that was created in response to an expected \$4 billion to \$5 billion dollar budget deficit. Instead, a \$260 million surplus was reported. Hazen believes this should dispel any notion that TAP still must be cut. Nonetheless, students are encouraged to continue to petition state legislators to remove the TAP cut from the budget.

This year marks the twentieth straight year that New York Legislators have failed to pass a state budget on time. The New York State constitution calls for a due date of April 1, but the state legislature has not yet reached an agreement on all of the budget's proposals. Last year, the budget was not completed until June. This tardiness means that there is still time for students to voice their opinions on TAP to the state legislature. At the moment, the state legislature is in recess, and Hazen hopes that students will use this time to voice their opinions. "It means much more when it comes from students," said Hazen. "The state needs to realize that TAP is a good investment." ■



Rock the SG VOTE

by Kathryn Nix

Tom Scharing (left) and Chris Nasser (right) hang signs next to those posted by David Blonski and Shelia Sarratore on the quarter mile as part of their Student Government election campaign. Nasser and Scharing ran for President and Vice President, respectively, against Blonski and Sarratore. Voting took place April 12 through April 15, and winners were to be announced April 16. Visit www.sg.rit.edu for results. ■

BrickBeat

by Justin Mayer

Conference Explores Imaging Revolution, Today

A multidisciplinary conference will explore the impact of the imaging revolution on Friday, April 16, from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science. The one-day conference will be Rethinking Theories and Practices of Imaging: Technology, Representation and the Disciplines.

Panels and sessions will cover such topics as technologies for representing the brain and "human nature"; the role of computer graphics and cinema in knowing and representing ourselves; and the ways in which science and engineering are transformed by new technologies. The conference will also involve general philosophical concerns for how best to understand the impact, opportunities and challenges of new imaging technologies.

Panelists include scholars from Harvard University, Iowa State University, RIT, Stony Brook University, University of California at Los Angeles and the University of Pittsburgh. RIT's Department of Philosophy, College of Liberal Arts, College of Science, College of Imaging Arts and Sciences, Office of the Provost and the RIT General Education Honors Program sponsor the event. The event is free and open to the public.

Phi Sigma Pi To Hold Karen's Heart Walk Fundraiser

Phi Sigma Pi will sponsor Karen's Walk, a fundraiser for cardiomyopathy—a rare heart disease that affects the functioning of the heart—on May 1.

The walk is held in honor of Karen Decker—a friend of a fraternity member—who passed away two years ago at the age of 22 from postpartum cardiomyopathy. Last year, Phi Sigma Pi

raised \$4,200 for the Karen Decker Cardiomyopathy Fund at the University of Rochester Medical Center. All proceeds from the walk go towards research for the prevention and treatment of cardiomyopathy.

Registration for this year's walk is May 1 from noon to 1 p.m. in the field behind Grace Watson Hall. The walk begins at 1 p.m. Pledge forms are available at the Student Volunteer Center in the Student Alumni Union or online at www.myphisigmapi.com/karenswalk.

NTID Receives \$1.26M to Expand Global Network

The Nippon Foundation of Japan has awarded NTID's Postsecondary Education Network-International (PEN-International) \$1.26 million to help fund a worldwide network to improve education and career opportunities for deaf men and women. To date, the Nippon Foundation has awarded PEN-International more than \$4.5 million.

Deaf college students in Japan, China, Russia, the Czech Republic, Thailand and the Philippines will continue to benefit from PEN-International's expertise through improved curriculum, increased access, new technology, multi-media labs, and trained faculty members.

"Perhaps our most important achievement is the growing number of faculty members who are successfully sharing their newly developed expertise within their respective countries," said James DeCaro, Ph.D., director of PEN-International.

DeCaro said significant inroads have been made with associates at Tianjin University of Technology in China, De La Salle University-College of St. Benilde in the Philippines, and Bauman Moscow State Technical University in Russia, who have added more than 20 additional institutions to the network. For more information about PEN-International and its global partners visit www.pen.ntid.rit.edu. ■

HistoRIT

Get your current events elsewhere

by Jeff Prystajko

Care for a Martini with that Hot Burger?

The Ritzskellar, traditionally a focal point of social activity on campus, opened a new bar area in early spring quarter, 1982. Besides the typical selection of beer still found today, mixed drinks were also an option for students—but only during evening hours or while social programming events occurred. The College Activities Board (CAB), which fought for the change, discovered during a trial run in January that it was a huge success. Jim Bingham, Director of Food Services, said that, "For a three hour bar, it was unbelievable how much money was taken in."

Despite the positive reaction from students, there was agreement between Bingham and CAB that the Ritz was primarily a food services and social events facility, and shouldn't become a true "bar." Bartenders were not allowed to take tips, and doing shots was prohibited.

Have a Cold One on Us...

Residence Hall students who enjoyed their morning hot showers in April, 1984 were left out in the cold—literally—as the building boilers failed to provide enough hot water to meet demand. When the campus was built in the late 60s, RIT had not predicted the eventual large capacity of students living in the dorms, and thus showers were often excruciatingly painful most mornings. Compounding the problem, an automatic shut-off safety mechanism meant to prevent students from getting scalded was triggered when too much cold water was being used (as this water would help regulate the hot temperatures). As such, not only were most morning showers frigid, there was also a significant loss of water pressure. Until a suitable upgrade could be found, students were advised to take showers at non-morning times.

Getting Older Just Got Tougher.

Come April, 1989, all student identification cards were printed without students' birthdates. What warranted the change? Administrators discovered that students of legal age were claiming lost ID cards, purchasing new ones from the Registrar, and then were selling them to underage students—who could then purchase alcohol at on-campus distributors. Nearly as implausible though true, underage students found that they could claim they lost their ID, provide the registrar with a false birth date, and still receive a valid card. ■

CrimeWatch

compiled by Andrew Bigelow and Justin Mayer

April 5 - Ellingson Hall

Auto Stripping

A student reported that his or her vehicle was broken into parked in L Lot. One of the vehicle's windows was smashed, a lock was damaged, and the stereo was stolen. No suspects have been reported

April 5 - B Lot

Auto Stripping

A student noticed the trunk and passenger-side door locks of his or her Chevy Cavalier had been punched out, and the stereo was stolen. The Monroe County Sheriff's Department responded

April 6 - J Lot

Auto Stripping

An unknown person punched a hole directly underneath the lock of the passenger door of a student's 1998 Jeep Cherokee. The in-dash stereo and speakers were removed. Monroe County Sheriff's Department was notified and responded to the scene.

April 7 - B Lot

Auto Stripping

A student's 1997 Ford Escort was broken into and audio equipment valued at \$50-\$200 was stolen. The Monroe County Sheriff's Department responded to the scene.

April 8 - Jefferson Road

Trespassing

Two students were driving their vehicles on RIT farmland north of Jefferson Road when their vehicles became stuck in the mud. The vehicles were later recovered by Action Towing.

April 9 - Colony manor

Public Lewdness

An individual reported that a student living in the apartment above him was urinating off his balcony. Upon speaking to the individual, he claimed his bathroom was occupied.

April 9 - C Lot

Auto Theft

A student parked his 1991 Ford Probe in C-Lot on April 8 and returned the following day to find that it had been stolen. A report was filed by the Monroe County Sheriff's Office. There are no suspects in the case.

April 9 - Fish Hall

Harassment

Several residents of Colby Hall reported being harassed by students living in Fish B. An internal report was filed to Residence Life by a Resident Assistant. Attempts to reach the victims failed and the investigation continues.

The Week Submit your events to reporter@rit.edu

4/16 8 p.m.-10 p.m.

Horton Speaker Series

Webb Auditorium. Sponsored by the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship. Renowned chemist Henry Schaffer speaks on "God and Science." Contact: Melissa Genovese: mmt6177@rit.edu.

7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Crimes of the Heart Performance

LBJ-1510 Lab Theatre. See Beth Henley's comedy about a dysfunctional Southern family. Also showing on 4/17, and 4/18. Performed in ASL and English. Free. Contact: Jim Orr: jmo@rit.edu, V/TTY 475-2239.

4/17 2 p.m.-5 p.m.

Gold Rush

Clark Gym. Alpha Phi Alpha presents Gold Rush, the biggest step show in upstate New York. teams from all over the eastern U.S. will perform. Students-\$10, Other-\$15. Contact: Richard Morrison: musigma1977@yahoo.com.

7 p.m.-11 p.m.

Rock Fest

Fireside Lounge. Sponsored by Sigma Alpha Upsilon. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Children's Miracle Network. \$4. Contact: Marc Antony Arena: maa9833@rit.edu.

4/19 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Yom Hashoah Field of Flags

Administration Circle. Sponsored by Hillel. Free. Contact: Andrew Siegel: president@rithillel.org.

4 p.m.-6 p.m.

"Managing Technological Innovation"

Golisano Auditorium. Talk by Clark Bullard. Contact: Jeff Wagner: mjwgse@rit.edu, 475-5289.

7 p.m.-10 p.m.

Take Back the Night

Sun Dial (march residence hall area). Sponsored by the Women's Center. Free. Contact: Jes Miller: jmearth@hotmail.com.

4/21 1:30-3 p.m.

"Meet the Authors" at RIT Library

Idea Factory. Professor Sam Abrams discusses his book *The Old Pothead Poems*. Contact: Sarah Reynolds: srrwml@rit.edu, 475-2613.

3 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

Gosnell Lecture Series

Xerox Auditorium. Dr. Kaja Lahiri of SUNY Albany discusses "Recent Challenges to America's Disability Programs." Contact: Cass Shellman: cls3740@rit.edu, 475-2057.

4/22 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Canon Lecture

8-1250. Photographer Eric Meola will show images from his new book *The Last Places on Earth*. Contact: Carol Lindquist: cjlpph@rit.edu, 475-2884.

SG to Lead Discussion of Diploma Redesign

by Kunal Sharma

Student Government will launch an initiative this fall to gather a campus-wide opinion regarding the redesigning of diplomas awarded to RIT graduates. "This is one of those recurring topics like quarters versus semesters," said Student Government President Steve Shapiro, referring to the debate over RIT's academic quarter system. "Every year it is looked at by a committee somewhere on campus and accordingly, it is brought up with almost every Student Government administration. This year wouldn't be complete without a diploma investigation."

The RIT diplomas are smaller than what other top universities and colleges award, have a small left indented font, and show the name of the graduate on a small scale, which some consider unattractive. While some at RIT say that the diplomas should be left the way they are, others feel the current design is outdated, unsightly, or both. Those in favor of keeping the current design believe that just as the education students receive varies between each university, so should the diploma.

"The problem is that there is no consensus on campus regarding this topic," said Shapiro. "A lot of students like the diploma exactly as it is right now—left-aligned and very unique. At the same time, many students would like to see a more traditional diploma—one that resembles the diplomas of other universities. Since neither side prevailed as a strong majority in previous research initiatives, nothing has been done."

This coming fall, Student Government will work towards

finding a consensus on this topic through a series of polls, both online and manual. Once the preliminary opinions regarding the existing diplomas are collected, other facets, such as changing the format to make them diplomas bigger, left-indented, right-indented, or centered for example, will be studied.

The students will be shown several diploma designs of other top universities. If the greater opinion is to change the design, a university-wide contest will be launched to redesign the diplomas and the best entries will be chosen as finalists. "We have put together a committee to coordinate a diploma design competition [if, indeed, that's what it comes down to]. Candidates will be able to submit their designs online," said Shapiro. "Then, the Senate will discuss and vote on finalists. We want to make the final round an online poll so we can open it to the entire student body." After selecting these final designs, the recommendations will be made to Mary-Beth Cooper, Vice President for Student Affairs, to discuss with other administrators. "We will likely first ask students whether they want to change the diploma, the next part would be choosing their favorite design. The committee will then prepare a recommendation for RIT administrators based on the findings, and finalists in the design competition will receive a prize," said Shapiro. The purpose of the contest is about making the diplomas look more contemporary, appealing, and engaging to the graduating students. ■

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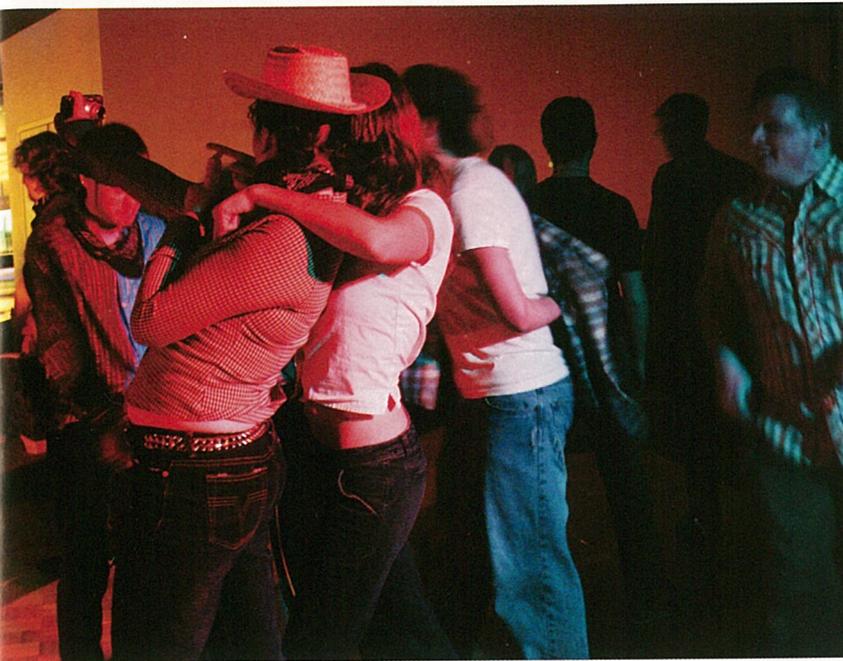
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e-mail: reporter@rit.edu
visit: room A-426, below the SAU



Cowboy DISCO

by Ren Meinhart

First year Graphic Design major Laura Walczak (left) and first year Illustration major Rachel Gottesman take a photograph of their groovy selves during Art Houses's Cowboy Disco dance party, Friday evening in the Fireside Lounge. This party is an annual event for the Special Interest House, according to House Manager Mike Salkewicz— "for the past three or four years we have gone with an unlikely pairing of a pop-culture revived figure and a type of party..." Salkewicz went on to say that, "despite an unfortunate 'disappearance' of promotional advertising prior to the event, we still drew a big enough crowd to keep the energy going for quite a while, and everyone who was there seemed to enjoy the unusual theme." ■

Haiku News > News Short and Sweet Just how we like it.

by Kate Bloemker

Some people call it elegant. Others say the haiku was invented for lazy poets who didn't have the attention span to write even a sonnet. This ancient Japanese poetic structure is simple to grasp: The first line is five syllables, the second is seven, and the third, five. Japanese courtesans, warriors, and scholars who entertained the haiku in their writings way back in the day generally wrote placid, contemplative poems about cherry blossoms, meandering rivers, and absent lovers. Here at *Reporter*, though, we have discovered a new function for this trusty device—a creative presentation of current events.

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
shoved out the door. Make way for
the Gospel of Mel.

The court says Martha's
a liar; the Donald would
just tell her, "You're fired!"

Iraq had nukes, the
war is over, and behold!
Miss Piggy has wings.

Chief Justice shuts out
cameras, recorders; so
much for a free press.

Bob Dylan, the new
V.S. pitchman; oh these times
they are a'changin'.

Jesus breaks own record
for rising from the dead.
No steroids involved.

Janet shown live on
SNL; will Will Ferrall
now flash the nation?

Third *Kill Bill* in the
works; now we must wait fifteen
years for sweet revenge.

Strategy proves
faulty; can Bush cover his
own gigantic ass?

Atkins makes millions
as bread gives its last gasp. Re-
member the Wonder?

Kerry criticized for
f-word; poverty proceeds
to go unnoticed.

Video Game Review > Hellish Island Proves a Paradise for Gamers In *Far Cry* for PC

by Nathan Liebold

All the sights you see—the trees, tall grass, and cool, welcoming water—call for a leisurely stroll, but you're off the beaten path. It's safer that way. Washed up on this island, you remember an attack on your boat by brutal mercenaries. Men hunt you still, never wavering until you are dead, while you just try to stay one step ahead. You keep going, knowing that you must put a stop to the insidious experiments of an evil scientist residing somewhere past the island's sandy shores. Your name is Jack Carver, and the island is no paradise. This Eden hosts a hellish game of cat-and-mouse.

Far Cry is one of the newest titles from publisher Ubisoft and obscure German developer Crytek. It immerses players in a carefully crafted world that surrounds and envelops them, forcing them to think only of survival. The sheer visual scale of the island will hold even the most veteran gamer in awe, as players are actually able to see clearly up to one full kilometer away.

This vast, open quality of the environment produces something great: more than one clear way to handle almost any obstacle in *Far Cry*. Take for example a thatched hut at the end of a pier, guarded by a wealth of mercenaries. Dive into the pristine water and take them out from underneath, firing headshots through floorboard cracks. If a more over-the-top maneuver is desired, hijack a speedboat from the shore and head straight for the pier, firing all the while, then ship before the boat becomes a missile. If the Jeep you have commandeered has taken almost all of the damage it can take, simply aim it at the mercenary regiment ahead and jump out, ending this explosive situation in your favor. That's the beauty of the game. Almost anything instinct tells you to do to survive will keep you alive on the island, if only for the next fight.

Death can come in a matter of seconds in the twenty levels, often and frustratingly. Enemy A.I. mercenaries that act like the real deal swarm upon you like vultures, or scurry away to sound the alarm. Simple rifle-toting merc's are the first mosquitoes



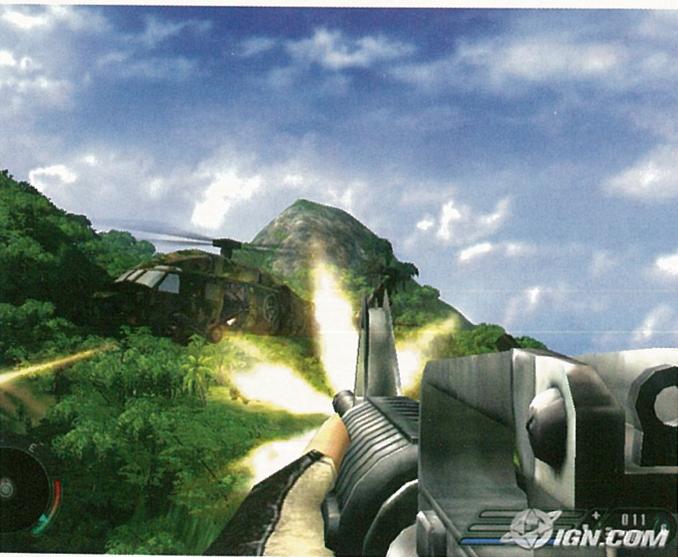
buzzing in your ear, and larger, faster, deadlier enemies appear on the scene as the game progresses. Their origin is a secret, but I'll just say that running and gunning will keep you alive against them; stealth will get you killed. Fast ammo-loading times make death's frequency a little more bearable, and are a welcome feature of the game.

Drawbacks and flaws in *Far Cry* are scarce, and barely take anything away from the game's majesty. Some worth mentioning include the game's annoying auto-save system, and a number of other glitches that poke their ugly heads up during game play. One design flaw makes enemy bodies sluggishly slide down hills unaffected by friction, not stopping until they hit a tree.

Far Cry succeeds at giving players a wonderful game comparable to only a handful of other recent games. It achieves this without even giving players much of a good story. Personally, I think this is very funny, and it just goes to show just how amazing the rest of the game is. The game makers have succeeded in creating a beautiful world with intense graphics and great game play. At moments, the act of survival really does make players feel like they are surviving in a game of life and death.

Alas, *Far Cry* is like the sweet head cheerleader or prom queen of the game world. Everyone wants a date, but only one is lucky enough to play. *Far Cry* so far only appears on the PC, leaving Xbox and PS2 dateless on a Friday night. This beautifully-made, large-scale game was a risky endeavor for Crytek, but it paid off. If you're lucky enough have a PC that can handle it, I would most definitely suggest *Far Cry*. ■

> Rating: ★★★★★



No Not Nothing

by Erhardt Graeff | illustration by Sean Carner

You're brilliant, creative, innovative, luminescent...and imaginatively broke. Whether you juxtapose images, words, or sounds, lack of inspiration will inevitably creep up from behind and pluck any and all ideas from your clever skull, exactly when you most need them. This is one of the most debilitating things for any artist or student. Personally, I find myself in a state of perpetual loss of inspiration. Where can I go? Where can you go to hop on a jet stream straight into the brainstorm?

The quintessential no-brainer for many is drugs. Pot, whisky, acid, ecstasy—they have all been used to some capacity by famous and not-so-famous artists alike. The Lost Generation artists went to France and sucked back copious amounts of absinthe, awaiting wormwood's fantastical ride. The Beatles smoked most of South America while making beautiful music. But, sometimes these controlled yet inspirational substances are ethically and/or fiscally inaccessible.

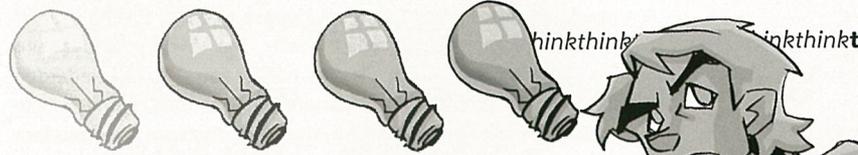
I have used several less-than-illegal-and/or-damaging tactics over the years, including such activities as meditation, long quiet walks, cooking/eating, sleeping, reading, and film—all with little to no avail. When it finally reaches absolute zero, then I must leave my little vacuum and solicit others for ideas. On principle, of course, I really can't stand the thought of taking someone else's thoughts. I am a creative and proud individual, albeit morbidly uninspired. In eventual surrender though, I go and ask a friend what he thinks. Here is a representative script:

Me: Hey man, I am working on this advertising copy project, and I need to develop a campaign for selling plastic window pane inserts.

Friend: Hmm...that's a tough one. How about pitching them as a great way to segment boring flat glass?

Me: Well, that's kind of mundane. I want something that is really going to excite the customer about the product.

THE LIFE WHERE YOU BELONG



Friend: OK. You could always talk about how window pane inserts, like, improve the quality of life for the onlooker or something.

Me: Yeah, I want to incorporate that idea somehow, but it needs to bring out the true essence of windows and their relation to community.

This scenario proceeds in a similar cycle of me comprehensively eliminating each and every possibility suggested by my helper. During the process though, I am able to get closer and closer to what I believe to be the right thing for the project with each of their ideas I constructively shoot down. By the end of a session, I usually find the perfect direction, that great perspective on plastic window pane inserts which sells itself by espousing the metaphoric necessity for breaking up one's view of the world to promote both an abstract and socially conscious focus. The beauty of this inspirational tactic is that you come away with such solid ideas, and they are your very own originals. Of course, this does occur slightly at the expense of another, but I believe that I am mature enough at this point to deal with that.

I do understand that this strategy will not work for everyone, but it's one more tactic to try and battle a late dose of inconvenient tabula rasa. Now, you may wonder, "But what if I have no one to use as a sounding board, what then?" Well, I would first try another popular source of inspiration, and then, if necessary, succumb to working with whatever has been the most prominent thing plaguing your mind of late. That's what I did. And look, it's done. ■



seven
stereotypes
of the # seven

Snow White had this number of little friends. Supposedly there are this many deadly sins (there have to be more deadly sins than that). There's no way you can spend that many years in Tibet and still make as many movies as Brad Pitt has made.

The Beatles would argue that there aren't this many days in the week.

Like Leprechauns and Rabbits feet.

Reporter's lucky number is three. So there.

My bathtub is the eighth sea.

There isn't always seven of something. 8

The-Underdogs.org: Money for Nothing and the Games for Free

by Sean Hannan

Everyone loves a non-favorite. This aspect of the human condition, the unquestioned willingness to cheer for the against-all-odds protagonist is what made *The Mighty Ducks* film franchise so successful. That is not to say that the underdog is relegated to the world of amateur sports; hell, some people make a lifestyle of seeking out the obscure, independent establishments for the express purpose of giving props to the little guy. In fact, this compassion for the good guy down on his luck also translates into the too-often cheap-thrill world of video games.

The Home of the Underdogs (www.the-underdogs.org) caters to those who root for Rocky, as well as prefer to interact with their entertainment through a keyboard. As a home for otherwise forgotten video games, the site offers an extensive collection of reviews and inside information about these digital diversions. Remarkably enough, it also offers downloadable full versions of many of the titles for free. In today's world of hotly contested copyright law, this action is very illegal. The problem, however, is not with the site maintainers and their act of digital disobedience, but rather with United States copyright law. Initially conceived as a means for creative folk to be compensated for their

contributions, the 70-year copyrights of today do not take into account profitability in the cutthroat business of video games. As a result, these so-called "abandonware" games stagnate in bargain bins, failing to find an appreciative audience.

While they are fighting the good fight, the Home of the Underdogs is not set out to ruin those who most bring enjoyment into other's lives. Per site policy, the download link will be removed if a concerned game designer or publisher contacts the site administrators. This aggressive push into the public domain, while maintaining respect for the countless hours spent pushing pixels and blitting bits (bit blitting is the process of compositing two separate graphic images on the fly, which allows for character-based movement in video games), makes it better for both video game enthusiasts and game designers.

On the whole, the games featured are of better quality than what passes for interactive entertainment these days. Sure, they may not be as flashy, and your enemies won't explode into beautiful geometric viscera, but they are more fun to play. They are the sorts of games that seep into your lifeblood to the point that when you close your eyes, you continue to move falling blocks into horizontal lines in a futile attempt to beat the game. ■

the verdict

Design ★★★☆ A beautifully organized site in subdued purples makes for a pleasant browser trek.

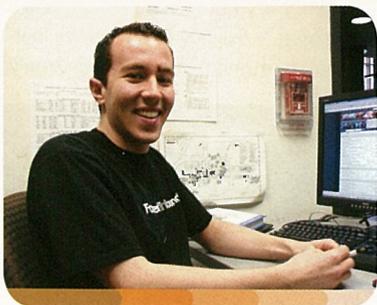
Content ★★★★★ On a scale from one to ridiculous, the Home of the Underdogs gets "obscenely ridiculous."

Safe for Work ★★★★★ The only questionable content on the site is that of countless hours of lost productivity.

Not a Fad ★★★★★ The existence of high school reunions, classic cars, and this summer's blockbuster Aerosmith and AC/DC co-headlining tour show that nostalgia may grow up, but it never grows old.

RIT 3 minute interviews

compiled by Becky Ruby



Matt Kent

2nd year
Software Engineering
Hometown: Springfield, MA

What is the meaning of life? To enjoy yourself.

Do you have any tattoos? No, I wish I did though. If I could get one, first I'd go work out more, then I'd get some barbed wire or some spikes around my bicep, something like that.

Is the glass half full or half empty? Empty.

What's your favorite cheese? Sharp cheddar.

When you were little, what did you want to be when you grew up? You'd probably have to ask my mom, but I probably wanted to be a fireman.

What's the one thing you think should happen before the world ends? World peace would be nice—everyone would be happy when they die.

If you could trade places with someone for a day, who would it be and why? Probably a rock star, so I could go on tour around the world.

What's the greatest invention? Sliced bread.

What would you do if you were a ghost?

Scare people, isn't that what you're supposed to do?

Favorite word: Soliloquy.

Least favorite word: Like—people say it too much.

What do you remember about third grade?

Next to nothing. Actually, I think it was third grade that we had to write a biography about ourselves, and stuff about what we thought our future was going to be like. I found it about ten years later—it was ridiculous.

What was the last dream that you had?

I never sleep long enough to dream.

What's your greatest ambition? To make a significant contribution to the world.

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Exp: 12/31/03



by Erhardt Graeff
with Tim Johnson
illustration by William Robinson

RIT'S BARBARIC YAWP:

THE FOLLOWING FACULTY MEMBERS, POETS IN RESIDENCE, LOVERS OF LANGUAGE LENT US THEIR VOICES TO HELP CELEBRATE HOW THE UNTAMED INFLUENCE OF POETRY SOUNDS OVER THE ROOFTOPS OF THIS CAMPUS.

JOHN ROCHE

Dr. John Roche is a true scholar of poetry—a man who absorbs as much as he can by reading works from the classical canon, the beat poets he grew up with, and as much cutting-edge contemporary work as he can get his hands on. His teaching style is highly influenced by Walt Whitman, as were the rest of his beat contemporaries. One of the principles Whitman upheld was a poet's responsibility toward himself or herself as an individual, as well as to a civic society, which is something Professor Roche stresses.

He reflects on his classes saying how they, "spend much of the time workshoping, which means exchanging copies of each other's work and commenting on it, making suggestions, and so forth. It's a matter of trying to create a kind of sense of respect, of courtesy, of appreciating that other people may do things differently than you do. They may come to poetry from different places, they may perhaps write in different forms, prefer different forms, but we should all give each other a certain level of respect and from that, I guess, try to build out from there [into] something like a sense of community." One community he has immersed himself in is that of Conesus Lake. After living there for six years, Roche has accumulated large amount of poems, reflections, and musings about the area and is nearly complete with a volume of them entitled *On Conesus*.

Recently, his academic and curricular focus has been on *digital poetics* as a new avenue of poetic expression. This has influenced him to the point of two of his favorite poets to be multiple-medium artists William Blake, and the more current, Jim Andrews. Roche finds himself constantly distracted by the stylistically diverse and breathtaking poetry emerging from the poets of the world, and he wants to share the joy of such novel works with anyone willing to lend an open ear.

MARY LYNN BROE

Dr. Mary Lynn Broe is the Chair of the Language and Literature Department at RIT. She came here just two years ago after holding the inaugural Louise Rosenfield Endowed Chair at Grinnell College for 14 years. During her stay there, she founded and directed the Noun Program in Women's Studies. Her work with breakthrough feminist writers is well published, beginning with a book on Sylvia Plath's work; after which, she wrote multiple essays based on Plath, and the artists inspired by her work. Broe's scholarly activity is primarily focused on such literary critiques of famous female poets, but especially on lesser-known and vastly underappreciated contemporary poets. She cites one of her current favorite poets as one of Ireland's treasures, Maeve McGuckian, who Broe has introduced at several readings.

For her, the change from a canonically focused liberal arts college to an institute of technology was a very freeing experience. She is intensely devoted toward the cultivation of a strong departmental culture and far-reaching goals stretching to the RIT community at large through increasing the number of poetry readings and sessions available to all students. Broe's aspiring commitment to promoting creative writing is of a particularly infectious nature—she manages to indirectly invigorate others around her, giving them reason to push their own limits of poetical immersion.

ANNE COON

Dr. Anne Coon has a passion for writing, and for writers. She is influenced by the small things in life, which she says always give her something to write about. A favorite quote by Henry James sums up both her advice to young poets and her approach to her own work: "Be the kind of person on whom nothing is lost."

Anne Coon is that kind of person." Both for living, and for writing, I think [it's valuable] to see things in the details, in the gestures. I think that there is always something to write about—there's always a wealth of ways that the world around us gives us material," she said.

Whether it's her own material or the work of the contemporary poets discussed in her Creative Writing: Poetry class, Coon reads poetry in a richly toned, elegant voice that pauses at all the right places, reverberating with an ingrained passion for her craft. To Coon, poetry is just that—a craft, an art form, a holistic, breathing entity. She talks not just of what poems mean on a micro-level, but of that we can learn from them as poets and people. She relishes in every detail, every descriptor.

When she was living in Italy two years ago, the focus of her writing became living in another culture. "I try to write every day, and I try to find a way to draw on the experiences around me, and on my reading," said Coon. She has been writing poetry for 20 years, and has recently published a book of poems, titled *Deadleasus' Daughter*, due out this spring. As a result of writing every day while in Italy, she compiled another book that is currently waiting for a publisher.

SAM ABRAMS

On this campus, Professor Sam Abrams' reputation for being a politically charged, slightly off-beat, outspoken individual and poet precedes him. Over the past 50 years, Abrams has been published on a regular basis, the most recent of which, a book titled *The Old Pothead Poems*, is a collection of poems inspired by events in his dynamic life.

Abrams has been around the block a time or two, experienced that which the rest of us look to Tom Wolfe novels to catch a glimpse of. His travels have left him with a weathered sort of wisdom; he carries with him a unique perspective and a deep pool of opinions—he isn't hesitant to share any of them.

He considers the realm of politics a "deep influence" of his. "I am a writer, and not a literary scholar. As you can see from my work, I'm not afraid of political poetry. I was jailed in the protesting for Vietnam, and I'm proud of it. I think there's

WE CAN WRITE POETRY, TOO

no doubt that the protestors were right as we look at it historically," he said. With his trademark candor he went on to correlate that experience with the current political climate. "I think we're making the same mistakes today in Iraq, and it frightens me."

One influence for Abrams is Walt Whitman—a poet about whom Abrams is somewhat of an expert. Abrams' name graces the bylines of a book and multiple articles about the poet.

Abrams has also been a Fulbright Professor of American Literature at the University of Athens. Also, in the years between 1968 and 1978, he held a number of varied jobs, including that of a film writer, a communal organic farmer, a casual longshoreman, a union laborer, and a public relations flack.

It is the job of poetry to clean up our word-clogged reality by creating silences around things. —Stephen Mallarme

RIT is not a place one might call a natural home for the study and creation of contemporary poetries. Usually, the Institute embodies a harsh but inventive energy that leads to impressive engineering feats. Over the years, however, this trait has elegantly cross-pollinated beyond the gears and chemicals, and out through the pens and pencils of our resident artists.

Helping to push this idea into fruition have been distinguished faculty members such as Mary Lynn Broe, whose personal enthusiasm for poetry couples with the imbued creative energy found in many of RIT's students. She gravitated to RIT, after spending 14 years as an endowed chair at a small liberal arts college, because of what she described as, "Its sheer, exhilarating energy. People in their daily lives, curricular changes, institutional willingness to allow and accept those changes... Sometimes institutional structures, institutional architecture prevents you from going any further, but what I saw in RIT was an amazing kind of exhilaration and energy of moving forward, deliberately, but making sure the changes occurred. That is very compelling."

Similarly, Anne Coon, being a published author and scholar, seems to be a rare avis nestled in the confines of RIT's technical atmosphere. "For me, it was a choice between RIT and a small liberal arts college, and I thought that there might be more opportunities at RIT," Coon said. She was able to identify the flexible academic culture as underlined by Broe, as a great vehicle for cross-disciplinary involvement. Coon went on to say, "I've come to learn more about technology and computers, and the opportunity to collaborate with someone like Marcia Birken would just not have been as likely somewhere else." This refers to her curricular synthesis of math and poetry to create the unique class "Analogy, Mathematics, and Poetry," now offered by the Language and Literature Department.

For Sam Abrams, the move to RIT came several years after wandering and roaming in the vibrant swirls of the beat generation; his name is one that lives on in hearts and archives of other troubadours of the time. His stories and poems are filled with familiar names, Miles Davis and Joe Early to name a few. Abrams commented on this, saying, "Although I don't identify myself as a beat, I'm in the tradition of the beats, particularly Allen Ginsberg, and I was able to bring him to RIT in 1983." It seems surreal that such a person would have stayed at RIT since 1982, with such an impressively free-found poetic existence and prolific body of lifework, which all seems to run completely perpendicular to common mindset here on campus. Yet, he finds a home here, contributing what he can to Rochester's artistic culture and founding a solid curricular base in creative writing and poetry for RIT.

John Roche found RIT by way of sheer geography, with his wife's hometown of Avon just a few miles south of Rochester. Once he committed himself to RIT,

after working at both Emory University and Michigan State University, he was overwhelmed by how rich the environment was for innovation in poetry. This mental attachment that he has formed to the college has come from finding several things he thoroughly likes here, and he expanded by noting, "What's interesting to me about the students here is that they are multifaceted and multitalented. They are not traditional liberal arts students, neither are they completely one-dimensional technology students, but they are really a blend of many things, and many of them seem to really be interested in poetry."

Perhaps no person can be a poet, or can even enjoy poetry, without a certain unsoundness of mind.

—Thomas Babington Macaulay

Broe said, "When you are at a liberal arts college, everyone has read the great authors. They do the periodization of history, and they know Chaucer, Shakespeare, and Milton. Here, students don't, but they know vast numbers of other things I don't know, so the classes become more exciting because you have a variety of majors with varying backgrounds in those classes. The exciting thing to me as a professor is to let them do some celebrant work on their own and get to know each other, and not just have this one-way street."

With such a seemingly powerful level of universal motivation, catalysts forming at the intersection of arts, science, and poetry have resulted in many poetic derivations that are suggesting new forms of expression for students to pursue, as well as new specialty courses that have evolved to react to these opportunities for contemporary study.

Nicely complementing this potent independent learning framework, students in Abrams' Advanced Creative writing class design their own quarter-long creative writing project. These projects often allow students to draw from their respective areas of expertise, interest, and study—this often includes mixed media creative works that incorporate design, photography, music, and motion. Additionally, the class fosters long-term creative endeavors, as Abrams allows students to not only use the class to make significant advancement on works-in-progress, but to embark on new literary endeavors as well.

John Roche has been exploring the realm of digital poetic expressions, a genre dealing with computer-driven poetry, and new applications in juxtaposing visual design and words. On the topic of mixed media, Roche declares how his belief in mixed media being the direction the Language and Literature department is moving in as well as, "... the [Professional & Technical Communication] department, New Media program, the [Information Technology] program. Many people from different perspectives are moving toward something like a synthesizing of different media. I think that more and more readers are open to experiencing words in other than a traditional book format.



We have almost two generations now that are used to computer screens, used to video games, used to now text messaging, used to many other forms of experiencing the world. And, I think at least some of them are eager to see how they can introduce poetry into that mix." His studies in this topic have led to a brand new course on "Digital and Contemporary Poetries," which he is piloting this quarter.

The aforementioned experimental, nearly research-based course entitled "Analogy, Mathematics, and Poetry," has grown out of an over-twenty-years collaboration between Language and Literature professor Coon and Mathematics professor Marcia Birkin. "What we're trying to get students to think about is the way that poetry and mathematics share basic structural patterns, as well as how patterns in how things such as infinity or paradox are explored," explained Coon. "We're doing work with fractals—fractals in mathematics and in poetry." The design of this class allows poetry to be accessible from, at least, one more academic and/or creative perspective, which seems to be the theme of the ever-evolving and ever-growing poetic culture at RIT.

*"A poet is a bird of unearthly excellence,
who escapes from his celestial realm
arrives in this world warbling. If we do
not cherish him, he spreads his wings
and flies back into his homeland."*

—Kahlil Gibran

"RIT has some wonderful student writers. Every year, I'm astonished at the quality of the students that I have in my classes," a sentiment Coon reveals and expands upon. "A lot of the students I have, especially in the Analogy course, are more technically-based students, majoring in fields like computer science. We tend to generalize a lot about what the RIT student is like, and in doing that, sometimes we overlook some of those ranging talents and creativity."

Abrams, who, prior to Roche, was the advisor for *Signatures* magazine, made the comment, "It's very unusual that a college without English majors can publish a magazine like *Signatures* year after year without a break." Taking into consideration the events of Abrams' life, he still finds the creative writing atmosphere at RIT to be better than it could be expected. "I have no doubt in my mind, and I say this as emphatically as possible, that for a school like RIT, the poetry scene is flourishing and booming," he said. "A lot of good work is being done and getting published."

Broe finds the poetry culture here vibrant and exciting as well. "What I see happening is that with increasing visibility, increasing numbers of minors declaring creative writing as their minor, with the links we are establishing in the community we have at least two or three of our faculty actively teaching and writing books, Sam Abrams, Anne Coon, and Todd Beers... We see these community links as alive, vital and growing. We see possibly a major in the future, as we see people continue to show interest."

In reference to his Digital/Contemporary Poetry class, Roche was quick to explain how his interest in digital poetries has been expanding through

interaction with students and preparing curriculum for the Digital/Contemporary Poetry class. "I am not a programmer. I am very interested in poets who program and do use [the Internet], but I don't think I'll ever be capable of getting very far in that direction," he said. "I'm trying to come up with ways for a non-programmer of engaging the digital world, which I spend more hours almost than in the physical world—somehow to come to terms with that, somewhat, in poetry."

This mentality forms a reinforcing cycle of interest, study, innovation, and interaction that has established a positive culture for poetry at RIT. This social and intellectual cycle keeps RIT on the cutting-edge of study and expression, providing the means for holding new sessions, lectures, and classes to further our community's poetic ecosystem.

*To have great poets there must
be great audiences too.*
—Walt Whitman

Audiences for poetry have been steadily growing along with the number of such events. Broe relayed one anecdotal litmus for RIT's growing interest in poetry: "When I came here, I went to the first Favorite Passages session by Mark Price. That had 12, maybe 15, earnest people there. Every time I have gone in the last two to three times, there were 40 to 50 people, not all voyeurs, but people who wanted to read either their own poetry, or, in the case of one woman last time, she performed 'Jabberwocky.' And later, a verse was sung from the Koran."

One of Broe's current projects is working with several other professors on what she calls the "Endowed Speakers Task Force." They are preparing a grant proposal to bring poet laureates, and ex-poet laureates to RIT, further develop NTID's Flying Words program, and bring more contemporary poets working in such mediums as digital poetry to RIT. She stressed that, "We need to keep all of these things in the air—increased readings, increased presence on campus through new courses, and revitalized courses—[and] mix with community through [an] endowed speaker series we hope to get funded."

If a student is interested in poetry, Broe had a couple suggestions of how to become absorbed in the poetic culture of RIT: "Walk in by front doors or back doors. A back door would be to come sit and listen to a Favorite Passages session, see the range of voices and the diversity of sound. Take a class; take an art poetry or modern poetry. Then, segway over to take a creative writing poetry class. That's the back doorway. The other way is say to just risk all and take the creative writing class... Every week to two weeks, there is a poetry event on campus, a Poetry slam or an open mic, or a guest speaker in class which is available for anyone to attend." ■

POETS AMONG US

A SELECTION OF STUDENT WRITING

Interviews Three & Four

by Ren Meinhart

My parents were against cable.
And video games.
And videos for that matter.
In fact, the only television programs that I remember watching at home
In my pre-adolescent years were the occasional televised
sporting events—
My dad was a hopeless Red Sox fan
(Not that there are any other kinds of Red Sox fans other than
hopeless ones)—
And the NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw.
I read an article in the *Wall Street Journal* that said that he should be
Kerry's running mate and I cheered
(Because I dislike Bush more than my dad dislikes the Yankees and who
doesn't trust Tom Brokaw?).
But I'm digressing—the cable I could go without
But the lack of videogames in my house was painfully embarrassing to a
ten-year-old boy.
After years of shameless self- degradation and begging on my part,
My parents broke down and bought me an Atari—
Three years after they fell from favor.
And I, ungrateful for what must have been a large concession on the part
of my parents,
Let it sit gathering dust on my bookshelf,
Tossed aside like so many classic things are.

A Geek's Groove

by Kyle Tirak

O great computer, what can I do for you?
A new graphics card? Motherboard?
What will do
To make you cease displaying
That screen so blue?

I find these frequent bouts such a bore.
Why must you fight me so?
You make me mad to the core!
I even threaten you with blows,
Yet, still, you show me "Error 404."

Exfoliate

by Rachel Porter

I have lost myself,
Hidden under someone else.

Over time, layer upon layer was added,
A facade unconsciously constructed.

I was buried far beneath the surface,
Suffocating, needing to be revived.

I am trying to unearth myself,
Searching for the ruins of who I once was.

Tearing off the smothering layers,
One by one.

Powder

by Patrick G. Kelley

when people find the time
to cry about the changing style.
i turn around and remember
why i escaped seclusion.
shadowed
in the corner
i remember when they were distant
and i remember being pulled out
(you will understand this concept)
and shown
displayed over those below
and remember
(i take everything)
the escape felt
when she who found and inspired me
(i called and told her she gave me the ability to push)
left.
there is a feeling i surpassed her control over life
-and she is considering retreat

a retirement for her
that would shatter my style



Sequoia

by Nubia Hassan

So, have you gone to that warm sunny ocean?
I've been there.
It is a massive sphere where elephants are bloated balloons floating
I like my elephants swimming at the surface
Have you thought about visiting lately?
visiting that black sand beach
I have been there
the sand heats up as fast as my heart beating in a coupled bed
I love hot sand and a fluttering heart

But is it never enough to ask for trees to never lose their leaves?
I want to ride one to the bottom of the forest floor
I sleep there until someone soft gently pulls me back up to the top

I told him that he could own my forest
as long as he watered a certain plant that hid under a rock
the ocean sky couldn't reach it there
it needed humanity to rest its struggling leaf veins

I told him he could own my forest
but he never watered my plant
he ate all the plants and berries and sweet crunchy insects
I was left with wonderful forest floor mushrooms
he never once tried to own that
it was protected by lightning quicker than his internal instincts

but it is never enough to see my little weeping eyes
I want to sleep in leafy branches, not alone on the forest floor
at night I lose my senses to you
and never once did I lose my senses to you unwillingly

beautiful sequoia you are
I wish our differences were not so apparent to you
potential war never stopped anyone from lying down
with another kingdom's queen

if I was a sequoia, would you have me?
there is a reason for why I love you...
if you held me in your branches...

I would whisper it to you every 200 years.

Warm washing over

by Erhardt Graeff

Something is perfect, a glass of right—not just for only us tonight.
Stretchable time runs into films
that broadcast a steady stream of love.
These fluid ideas conjured through some aged endeavor
fall like rain upon my inner ears.
In this moment, I am looking forward to nothing new,
just static formulas of me and you.
We can brandish silly foibles against the space—
who bustles life's elbows like some brooding nuisance.
Who can ever get to me because of you?
Twisting this world into a drift of leaves blowing into a placid lake.
A floating sense dabbles upon your mind,
so you pull toward a something from somewhere
That in vigilance would never exist,
but belief makes everything tangible.

Touch me and we can see: purity is nature to kiss our heels.
The mood dances,
a flutter of minutes saved for squirrels who chase tales into moonlight.
Frequent my heart, find it here.
Walk for me.
Trip inside my arms,
spelunk, as excavating solace from generous mines.
The tall grass will be bent for days,
a burst cocoon giving way to wild instinct.
Here, now, Zen meets my earth.
With a fountainhead pouring forth ball lightning
finally encasing this escapist globe.
In a pure instance, individualism will be archaic.
Two souls mark the catalyst of a widening gyre—
apocalyptic freedom swaddles us like a mother.
A clean understanding transcends: we are of Nuwa again.

Untitled 34

by Justin Harsch

Sky divers with the utmost confidence in the manufacturers of the newly constructed, never tested rip chord mechanism secretly whisper prayers to whatever god they never paid any attention to up till this point as they smile and give the thumbs up to the helmet mounted cam of the diver falling right above with the tried and true means of floating to the ground

Sparkling Eyes

by Christian Heine

Sparkle Sparkle
I roll it over in my hand
Sparkle

The chain slides across my palm
Cold steel, warming to my touch
Soft, yet hard

I look into its sparkling depths
It sparkles back
Smiling as I do

It will sparkle on the girl
She will sparkle with it on
My smile smiling back in the depths of blue eyes

Clear
Open
Full

They look into me
Seeing
Understanding?

She will cry in a few years when it breaks
I will fix my own mistake
It will be stronger then

Clear blue eyes
Smiling back
Clear blue eyes—

Question

by Erhardt Graeff

Light bursts through the stained glass.
Blues and Greens glaze over my eyes.
And they roll toward the cause,
With abject stare for thought's pause.

The droning robe is still adamant,
Buzzing endless in my ears,
Forging this grand, ambiguous sign.
"Who is your hope, Where is mine?"

I have seen the glow and heard the words,
But I have still to sense the Truth,
Guided by reason's impedance,
There is no tangible credence!

And yet, one isn't lost until they need finding.
So I serve out this life at steady grinding,
Fulfilling the cycle as one must –
Not seeking but denying such unending trust.

Reservations at Dorsia

by Justin Harsch

Laborers worked far too many man hours to relocate that
spiral staircase to go back on your visions of a house suitable
for kings and queens despite financial woes and questionable
credit. you're just gonna have to find some other means of
revenue. might I suggest a lemonade stand where you secretly
replace the artificial sweetener with cocaine, and much to your
delight, the neighbors will keep coming back for more

All the Bakeries

by Patrick G. Kelley

the time slices are stacked like bread i never ate
like papers that i never wrote on
like wood i never built birdhouses from

every step is one not taken forward
but taken and added
to a life's work of movement on this earth

Communion

by Ren Meinhart

My father had an intense love of the earth—a deep
Worship of the pastoral. Many a
Sunday we'd shed our
Church clothes and saddle shoes for
Grass stained jeans and ratty old sweatshirts and
Spend until sundown 'gardening'—
Planting and potting and seeding and
Transplanting. He knew all of the names of the
All of the flowers and could
Intone them more naturally than Hail Mary's and
Our Father's. And I liked reciting the flowers back to him
Better than reciting psalms and rites at
Mass anyhow. After all, out there I didn't have to
Wear a dress or sit in silence or wait for the hymns as a
Reprieve from the silence. Out there I could get dirty and
Question as much as I liked.
He always said that I was like the Impatiens planted
In the front flower bed—sensitive but resilient,
Reliable with a low tolerance for frost. He would
Kneel in the sod and tend to his plants with a humble
Touch— the lines on my father's hands told of the
Canons of the earth with an inspired
Grace. And when he cupped his hands full of dirt just so, I
Wondered why we bothered to go to
Church at all—this was his communion, his
Life from life.

WORD on the street

compiled and photographed by Becky Ruby

How would you finish the poem, "Roses are red, violets are blue?"

"This is my last quarter. Boo hoo!"

Phillip Boykin

Fourth year
Biology

"I'm a girl, so I like shoes."

Nicole Nadeau

Second year
Industrial Design

"I read Reporter and clearly you do too."

Jonathan Bove

Fourth year
Professional and Technical Communications

"The sun is warm. The grass is green."

Jack Kalish

Second year
New Media Design

"Most poems rhyme, but this one doesn't."

Georganna Moeri

Third year
Graphic Design

"Grass is green and lizards are too."

Alex Levine

First year
Graphic Design

"The weather is nice, and so are you."

Mark Marcello

Fourth year
Information Technology

"Unless you paint them green. Let's paint the town green, yeah!"

Shannon McCook

Second year
Biology/Pre-Vet

"The sugar is sweet, and so are you."

Hazen Pearson

First year
Hotel Management

"Gravel is grey, and so are shoes."

Dave MacKenzie

Third year
Network and Systems Administration

"Screw the feds, and the Republicans, too."

Rusty McLellan

Third year
Mechanical Engineering

"Pickles are green, and mold is too."

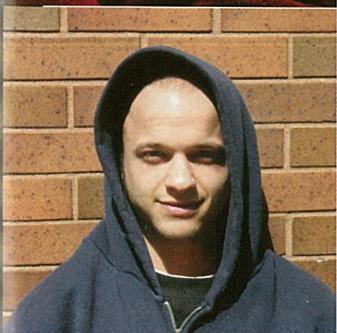
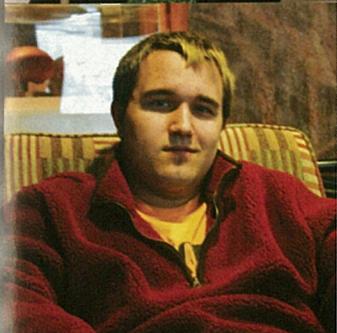
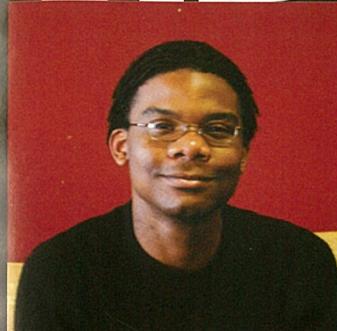
Ben Voegele

Second year
Biochemistry

"I like candy, so there's none for you."

Patrick Breen

First year
Mechanical Engineering





S P O R T S D E S K

by Matthew Doak

Baseball

The baseball team's schedule has been taking a beating from the weather, but the team did manage to get one game in recently. On April 8, the Tigers traveled to Brockport to take on the Golden Eagles and were downed by the score of 3-0. **Dan Phillip** pitched solidly for RIT, giving up just seven hits and two earned runs in 7 2/3 innings, but took the loss. The Tigers managed only three hits all game, including two by **Colin Bradley**.

Men's Lacrosse

The men's lacrosse team is over halfway through their season, and thus far, they have suffered just one loss.

The team continued their winning ways on April 3 with a 22-12 win over Alfred. **Chris Copeland** scored eight times for the Tigers, while **Josh Molinari** scored five times. Other multi-goal scorers for the Tigers included **David Thering** with four goals and **Zach Bednarz** with two.

Pitcher Mary Keegan warms up before the double header home game against Buffalo State. The Tigers lost the first game 2-6 but won the second game 9-2 last Wed. Kim Weiselberg/REPORTER Magazine

The good luck continued on April 7 as RIT outshot St. John Fisher 66-25 on their way to a 17-4 win. **Ryan Neward** and **Bednarz** each scored three goals for the Tigers, while **Molinari**, **Thering**, and **Colin Jesien** each scored two. Five other Tigers contributed single goals as well.

Men's Tennis

The men's tennis team had their second match of the season on April 4 and fared much better than they did in their first competition. The team came away with a 5-2 victory over Nazareth. The doubles combinations of **David Chachu** and **Darren Stanley**, along with **Chris Leary** and **Rod Razavi**, both picked up wins. Chachu, Stanley, Razavi, and **Frank Salome** also picked up singles victories.

The team's record is currently 1-1.

Men's and Women's Track and Field

Both the men's and women's track and field teams competed at Brockport's "The Track is Back" Invitational and performed well despite adverse weather conditions.

On the men's side, **Sean McVeigh** set another personal best (9:58.47) on his way to capturing third place in the 3000-meter steeplechase. **Jesse Williamson** (15:54.16) and **Ryan Pancoast** (16:05.40) finished first and fourth respectively in the 5000-meter run. The 4x400 meter relay team placed second with a time of 3:30.74, while **Dave Falcinelli** and **Mike Herb** took second and third in the pole vault.

On the women's side, **Heidi Spalholz** placed third with a time of 4:51.1 on her way to breaking a 14-year old RIT record in the 1500-meter run. **Danielle Simmons** continued her success with a victory in the 400 (60.54) and a second place finish in the 200 (27.42). **Jessica McCarthy** placed third in the 100-meter dash (13.37), while **Stephanie Matuszewski** placed third in the 100-meter hurdles (17.21). The relay teams also had success as the 4x400 squad took first (4:08.11) and the 4x100 team took second (51.80). **Danyelle Yondura** placed second in the javelin and third in the shot put.

Women's Lacrosse

The women's lacrosse team continues to struggle in the early going, dropping another pair of games recently.

On April 3, the Tigers took on Elmira and came out on the short end of a 9-4 score. Four Tigers scored goals including **Pinckney Templeton**, **Kelly Martin**, **Lisette Silver**, and **Kirsten Smith**.

Three days later, RIT took on Nazareth and dropped their fifth straight game, 13-2. Martin scored both goals for the Tigers while **Laurie Needer** made 21 saves in net.

Softball

The softball team has managed to get in some games despite difficult weather conditions and has been playing well.

On April 3, the Tigers swept a pair from Empire 8 rival Hartwick College. In the first game, **Elaine Vonderembse** went 5-for-5 with two doubles and two runs scored, **Kelly Iagulli** hit a two-run bomb, and **Caitlin Krumm** scored two runs as the Tigers won by the score of 9-1. **Mary Keegan** picked up the win on the mound.



Members of the track team do stretching drills against the wall on Wednesday, April 7th 2004. Michael Sperling/REPORTER Magazine

In the second game, **Shari McNamara** pitched a three-hit shutout for the Tigers, who won by the score of 4-0. **Vonderembse** went 3-for-4 with two runs scored, while **Megan Varner** went 3-for-4 and drove in two runs.

Four days later, the team played another double-header against Buffalo State. In the first game, RIT fell behind early and eventually lost by the score of 6-2. **Iagulli** scored **Tonya Campbell** on a triple and later hit a solo shot to lead the Tigers.

In game two, McNamara picked up the win on the mound while going 2-for-4 at the plate. **Gretchen Goodhue** and **Krumm** each had a pair of RBI, while **Josa Hanzlik** added two hits. ■

The Week at Home

4/17 Saturday
1 p.m. Baseball vs. Ithaca
1 p.m. Women's Lacrosse vs. St. John Fisher

4/19 Monday
4 p.m. Women's Lacrosse vs. Fredonia

4/20 Tuesday
4 p.m. Men's Lacrosse vs. Utica
4 p.m. Men's Tennis vs. Hobart

4/21 Wednesday
2 p.m. Baseball vs. D'Youville
4 p.m. Women's Lacrosse vs. Utica

4/22 Thursday
3 p.m. Softball vs. University of Rochester

Nutrition:

by Rachel Pikus and Michael Eppolito
photograph by Kathryn Nix

Amidst the Atkins, South Beach, detox bombardment from magazines, books, and TV alike, many people are forgetting that lifting weights, working out, and staying active are behaviors that apply to all people, not just athletes. In order to stay healthy, a person's lifestyle needs to have a balance of foods along with exercise. This need for balance leaves many to wonder why so many diets on the market today are advocating unorthodox, unbalanced eating habits. According to Tim Keady, the Associate Director the Student Health Center, the reason is "because they offer a quick fix." Athletes and non-athletes alike are susceptible to the latest and greatest nutritional trends, which are unfortunately almost always too good to be true.

lose weight, traditional weight loss techniques based on eating right and exercising are still the healthiest methods.

Diets that are low-carb, supplemental, or detoxifying, and even steroid use don't make a person any healthier. This is why medical experts, including Keady, do not support the growing trend. "I think if people want to change their behavior and eating habits they have to realize that it is a long process," Keady said. Most of the diets out there do help lose weight initially, but they do not improve long-term physical aspects such as the heart, kidneys, bones, and endurance.

The Low-Carb Diet

Low-carbohydrate diets, for example the Atkins diet, restrict carbohydrates to 20 grams a day. The National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine advises most adults to consume at least 130 grams of carbohydrates a day. That is a startling contrast. "Anytime you cut out

and alcohol. The human body does this to a certain extent by itself. People on the diet are required to fast and are restricted to juices, fruits, and vegetables that will flush the body out. Different plans offer varying time limits from a few days to a few months. Imagine trudging down the quarter mile with just a carrot in your stomach—it won't get you very far. The only safe way to go on a diet like this is under the supervision and recommendation of a doctor. "The biggest problem is that people don't understand what they are going on—they read a book and don't talk to anyone else about it," Keady said.

With any of the restrictive diets on the market today "it is difficult to stay on them completely because your body needs and craves some other things—eventually you are going to need to eat a carb, and that's a good thing," explained Keady, "The diets are counter-intuitive to what people want to eat."

It Does a Body Good

Naïve to Nutrition

Keady says that, in his opinion, students on campus are very aware of nutrition, but that they don't always think clearly about making the right choices. He points out that college is a change in lifestyle for many people who used to be active in high school but are now "sitting in front of their computers typing, studying, and staying up late." New students who used to live with their parents are now forced to make decisions about healthy food and adequate exercise on their own.

Keady explains that the drop in activity leads many students to try "fad diets or the pills or whatever they can take to be healthy without putting in any work themselves." Although students may think that they are making the right decisions, they are actually harming their bodies. The idea of quick weight loss is one that he denounces saying that the loss of a pound or two per week is a much safer way to lose weight. The hardest part he says is getting students "to understand that what you see on TV on those little testimonials is not true." Although there will always be a new product that promises to be a fast and effortless way to

carbohydrates, you run into the possibility of a lack of certain nutrients. The energy level is what becomes difficult because we need carbs throughout the day," said Keady.

Active individuals like runners need even more carbohydrates. "Caloric needs depend on individuals," Keady explained. Athletes looking to drop pounds to improve performance will find themselves in an unsafe situation if they restrict carbohydrates. Muscle loss and fatigue are the result of a low-carb diet and may give the illusion of fat loss.

The Atkins diet encourages eating a substantial amount of protein products including meats, eggs, and butter. Keady said, "Too much protein could affect kidneys and metabolism later on in life." These foods are also high in saturated fat and can increase the risk of heart disease and types of cancer.

Detoxification

Detoxification is another form of dieting that can be very risky. The theory behind the "detox revolution" is that it supposedly helps to eliminate harmful toxins from the body such as fats, red meats, dairy, caffeine,

Unsafe Supplements and Steroids

One misconception about nutrition on campus is that nutritional supplements are healthy and safe to use for both athletic training and weight loss. Unlike the restrictive diets, supplements and steroids offer dangerous overdoses of nutrients and hormones. "Most of those products are not regulated by the FDA," Keady said, "Anything beyond 110 percent of your daily recommendation of certain nutrients isn't good for you."

The only type of supplements that are ever recommended by the SHC are United States Pharmacopoeia (USP) certified vitamins, due to the potentially harmful effects of other unregulated products. Another risk with supplements is the unknown ingredients. "We have seen adverse effects from people buying unknown supplements offline," Keady said. While referring to the possible side effects of supplements, Keady stated that the staff at the health center is "always concerned with anything that raises your heart rate, blood pressure and sometimes your body temperature."

Terence McInerney (right) and Justin Cerqua, both fourth year Civil Engineering Technology students, lift weights at the gym. Both McInerney and Cerqua go to the gym four to five times a week.

Keady listed a few substances in particular which many people perceive to be healthy or beneficial, when in fact the opposite is actually true—one example being protein. “Our diet actually contains enough protein for most people.” He went on to say that new products like protein drinks and protein bars are taking over the sensibilities of people.

Keady mentioned caffeine as being a growing problem due in part to larger portions of it being distributed in drinks like coffee and soda. He recommends that the consumption of products that contain caffeine should be reduced to one or two portions a day no matter how much students think they need them to stay awake.

The abuse of steroids to improve athletic performance is illegal and deadly. “It can change developmental stages,” Keady explained, “and college students are still developing.” The steroids appeal to athletes because they increase muscle size in addition to weight training. Certain kinds of steroids can also help recovery times from intense workouts.

The physical effects from steroid use can drastically harm a person. Men experience infertility, a higher voice, baldness, breasts,

and shrunken testes. Women who use steroids could face baldness, more body hair, and a deep voice. Injected steroids are even more hazardous because there is a high risk of blood diseases that can be transferred from a needle such as HIV and hepatitis. Long term affects of steroid use also include cancer.

The Truth Behind the Misconceptions

“A lot of the diets begin with a good intent, but the truth is if you eat well, drink lots of fluids, and exercise you will lose weight,” Keady stated. To eat well means to understand portion sizes, according to Keady. “People have trouble with portion sizes because we are so used to super-sizing,” he said. The SHC works with people to help them understand what correct portions sizes are in order to promote proper eating.

The biggest misconception with diets is that people restrict their eating and then are sedentary. “Sitting in front of the computer or TV doesn’t help,” said Keady. “The problem we have is going on a diet, and then not taking any actions or changing our behaviors—nobody wants to do it the hard way.” All of the diets mentioned only deal with temporary weight loss, not health improvement. In order to

transform a lifestyle, a person needs to make permanent changes that balance exercise with amount of calories taken in.

Keady says that the bottom line is that “the basic food groups are still what needs to be done.” Greater emphasis is being placed on exercise, but overall the basic food groups still provide an accurate way to monitor nutritional intake.

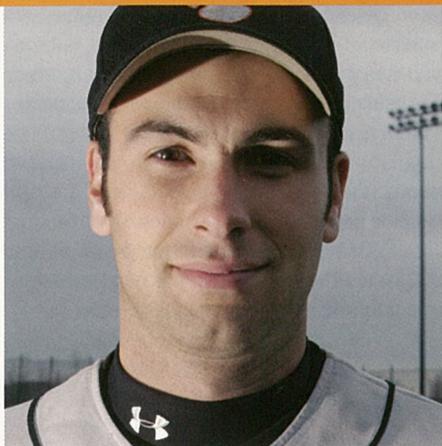
The health center here on campus offers various services to students who are interested in finding out more about nutrition and healthy living. The center offers nutrition counseling and education, which teaches students healthy nutrition habits without the use of supplements. For more information about the services provided feel free to visit the health education section of the Student Health Center’s webpage (<http://www.rit.edu/~333www/healtheducation.html>) or visit in person. ■

Sources: *mayoclinic.com*, *calorieking.com*, *cnn.com*, *intelihealth.com*



3 STARS

by Matthew Doak



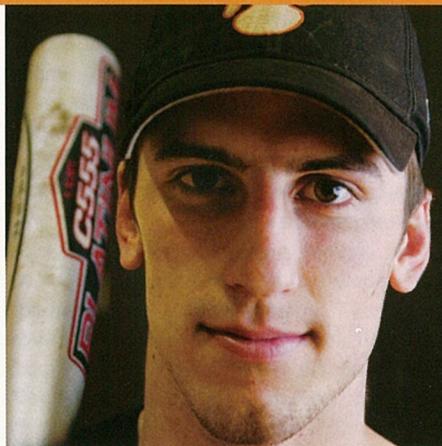
Dan Weglinski – Baseball

Described by coach Rob Grow as being “driven,” pitcher Dan Weglinski has an important role on the baseball team. “Dan provides leadership by showing guys how to prepare before taking the mound,” said Grow. “He does this through his actions and also by talking to the younger pitchers and telling them what is expected of them.”

In addition to his role as a captain, Weglinski has been proving that he can also pitch. On March 31, he threw a complete game six-hit shutout to help RIT to a double-header sweep of St. John Fisher. Weglinski allowed just one walk while striking out one during that contest, and was named an Empire 8 Co-Pitcher of the Week following his performance.

The senior from Hyde Park, New York is 2-1 this season with a 0.57 ERA. He has also picked up three saves along the way. Grow expects Weglinski to come up big for the Tigers during the rest of the season. “Dan will get the ball many more times this year,” said Grow. “He has beaten the best teams in the region and he will win more big games for us again this year.”

Photograph by Eric Sucar



Jamie Schild – Baseball

Sophomore Jamie Schild has been one of the baseball team’s most consistent performers at the plate this season. He currently has a .391 average and leads the team in hits (18), doubles (6), home runs (3), and slugging percentage (.761).

Ironically, all three of the Fairport native’s homers came in a recent game at Catholic University. “Three home run games don’t happen very often, so it was a special day for Jamie and RIT,” said Grow. “Jamie was really seeing the ball well and crushed a few balls that day.”

Grow is happy with Schild’s improvements this season, particularly his mental approach to the game. “Jamie is always working on his physical game, but the biggest improvement this year is his mental approach and not letting things bother him during the game,” said Grow. “He knows that he is going to be successful and he is controlling his emotions and staying even tempered.”

Grow also expects Schild to continue his success throughout the rest of the season. “Jamie has worked hard on his swing and has a great approach at the plate this year, so I expect he will have good at bats and be on base a lot this year.”

Photograph by Eric Sucar



Tonya Campbell – Softball

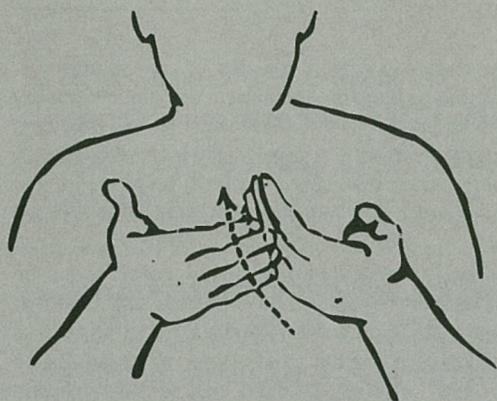
Senior second baseman Tonya Campbell was named the RIT Female Athlete of the Week for March 29 after her performance during a double-header against Elmira.

Campbell went four-for-seven with two doubles, a run scored, and five RBI as the Tigers split the twin bill. During the second game, she went three-for-three with a double, a run scored and four RBI to lead the RIT to the win.

Campbell has worked hard to improve her hitting throughout the course of her career. This season, she is batting just .234, but leads the team in RBI with 10. She is also second on the team in doubles with four and second in walks with four.

Photograph by Kim Weiselberg

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Just Say No

by Michael Clervi

You've heard it since you were a little kid, now consider what it really means. "Just say no." Is this phrase the result of an honest and compassionate government looking out for the good of its citizens by educating them about the risks and downfalls of drug use? Or, is America's war on drugs a symptom of a self-perpetuating socio-political attitude that is likely responsible for most, if not all, of the problems it is designed to solve?

Our war on drugs manifests its effects in many aspects of our society, including the economy. The US government spends about \$40 billion each year (and climbing) on anti-drug activities. Because prisons and universities generally occupy portions of state budgets that are independent of federal mandate and are not population-dependant, funding for additional prison space for the approximately 500,000 non-violent drug law violators in this country competes directly with funding for education.

There are, however, several groups that benefit economically from the war on drugs. According to the UN, the drug trade is a \$400 billion per year business, comprising eight percent of all international trade. By handing huge profit margins on drug sales to organized crime, prohibition of these substances promotes violence, encourages government corruption on all levels, and widely disrupts social order. Two other major benefactors from the drug war include the prison industry and arms manufacturers, both of which contract heavily with the government as a direct result of its drug war policy.

Despite the government's exponential increase in spending on the drug war in the past two decades, illicit drugs are cheaper and purer than they were two decades ago, and remain readily available.

The fact remains that there are serious problems in our country that seem intrinsically linked to illicit drug manufacture, distribution, and use, such as death by overdose, drug-related gang violence, and long term health effects of drug use. The question then becomes: which of these problems stem from drug use, and which stem from drug policy?

There are certainly aspects of each of these problems that are direct results of current drug policy. Many overdose deaths, for example, happen because users and friends of users are afraid to seek medical attention because of their fear of police attention and potential legal entanglements. Much of drug-related gang violence erupts as a result of immutable laws of supply and demand in a market completely unregulated by the government. Far more people die each year from violence perpetuated by the prohibition of drugs, than from actual drug use.

Long term health effects of illicit drug use remains an issue, largely because drugs classified as Schedule I, according to the Controlled Substance Act, like MDMA (ecstasy) are prohibited for any use, including scientific testing, which effectively relegates both the government and the users to a state of ignorance with respect to a drug's long-term effects.

Several major realistic alternatives exist to current federal drug policy, both in education and in enforcement of policy. First

and most importantly, there is a movement afoot in this country to provide medical treatment for non-violent drug offenders instead of incarcerating them. A study by the RAND Drug Policy Research Center found that treatment is 10 times more cost effective than interdiction in reducing the use of cocaine in the United States.

The same study concluded that every dollar spent on substance abuse treatment saved \$7 in societal cost, and that additional law enforcement costs 15 times as much to achieve the same reduction in societal cost. Other treatment-based measures to curb societal disruption include safe injection rooms, drug substitution and maintenance programs, and a general attitude of harm reduction over incarceration.

Drug related education is also badly in need of reform in this country. The most widely accepted "drug education" program, D.A.R.E., is generally accepted, by the Surgeon General, the National Academy of Sciences, and the Department of Education, to be *completely* ineffective in reducing drug use in school-age children. Abstinence-based "education" simply does not work, but it does have an effect: because of the US government's "Just say no" campaign, there is a profound drop in the level of trust people place in government-supplied information and propaganda.

While the positive value of non-medical use of drugs like cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine remain dubious, there are entire classes of psychotropic drugs that have been shown to have enormous positive impact in psychotherapy settings, as well as in personal and professional research into the hidden recesses of the human psyche. MDMA, for example, has plenty of reports documenting it as a dissolver of emotional barriers, an aid to increase empathy between therapist and subject, as well as an enabler to allow patients to overcome deep-rooted fears and apprehensions. Schedule I is *littered* with substances (such as LSD, mescaline (from the peyote cactus), DMT, 2C-B, 2C-T-7, etc.) that have similar positive effects, with likewise infinitesimal associated risks when used in a controlled environment. The government continues to ignore the potential in these substances for scientific exploration and medical research and treatment.

There are many people that believe our current drug laws are ineffective and our methods of enforcement are inhuman, uncompassionate, and ineffective. However, the public stigma attached to drug use is so deeply rooted in our society that radical reform is proving to be a daunting task. I can only ask that if you share my beliefs on this issue, you take some action. Educate people about the deplorable state of drug law and its enforcement, and correct people when they present mistaken or misleading information about drug use. We can only improve the situation with a collective and concerted effort, based on education, reason, and compassion. ■

Civil Engagement Month

The Center for Campus Life, (L.E.A.D.) Leadership Education and Development Program in conjunction with the S.V.O. (Student Volunteer Office) hosted RIT's annual civic engagement forum on February 18th, 2004 with guest speaker Wade Norwood, Rochester City Councilman *ñ*at-large.

Awards were presented immediately following the speech to a RIT faculty member, club, several individual students and organizations. Loret Gnivecki Steinbers, Associate Professor, School of Photographic Art & Science was presented with the faculty award for Service Learning. Professor Steinbers has put in years of involving students in Service Learning. Delta Phi Epsilon Sorority, Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity, and Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity received outstanding community service award for their continued work in the Rochester community. Habitat for Humanity received the outstanding Club award for their work in the Rochester community building homes for low income families. The following LEAD & Honors students received the outstanding student volunteer awards: Bryan Barnes, Nikhil Nampalli, Sam Cusano, and Jaymelee Kim.

Overall this was a successful event that exceedingly helped increase student; specifically college aged adults, to become more involved and aware of the political issues and how they affect us as a democratic nation.





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