

REPORTER

OCTOBER 7, 2005 | WWW.REPORTERMAG.COM



RPO

Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra

Michael Buttermann cond.

Brahms

Hungarian Dances 1,3, and 10

Mozart

Featured work:
Piano concerto No. 21
with pianist
Diane Walsh

Schubert

Unfinished Symphony



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Rochester Institute of Technology

Friday, October 14, 2005 at 8pm

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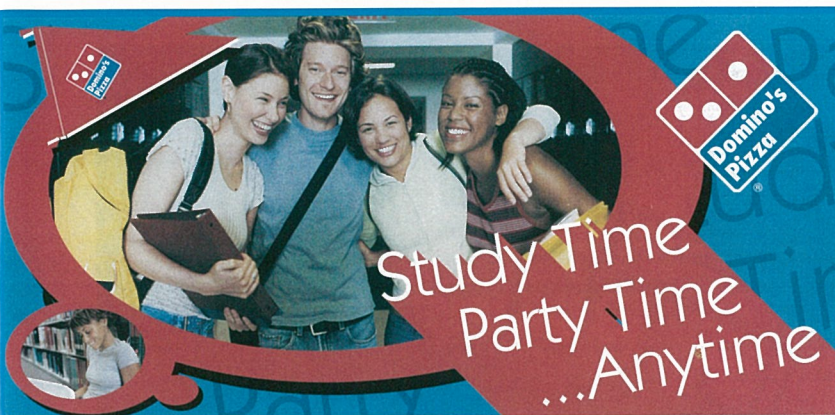
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EDITORIAL

CapitalCAMPAIGN

Maybe I'm just not a people-aren't-truly-disadvantaged-charity bracelet kind-of-guy. When I heard that RIT was going to sell LiveSTRONG-esque bracelets in support of... RIT, I was pretty dumbfounded.

I mean, I'm willing to be a generous kind-of-guy. I'm certainly not afraid to give time and money to something I really care about—maybe something like scholarship money to help students pay for an RIT education. But in this case those silicone bracelets, which have become a fetish for fundraisers after the success of the Lance Armstrong Foundation's campaign, simply don't cut it. Just last year, RIT sold orange SpiRIT bracelets with proceeds going to a local Rochester charity. Now, all of a sudden, RIT and Student Government (SG) are resurrecting the bracelet thing again. However, this year's "charity" is actually RIT's Capital Campaign a.k.a. Powered by the Future: The Campaign for RIT (<http://www.rit.edu/~032www/campaign/>).

You might have seen SG selling the bracelets in the Student Alumni Union this past week. They are brown. They say "unite" on them. And they cost you one dollar. That single dollar not only gets you the hottest arm-related fashion trend since bangles, but it also allows you to directly contribute to the Nonprofit Organization known as your university—the same one that allows you to pay it tuition every year as well.

I suppose the problem for RIT is that tuition is not capital. Tuition did not build the Gordon Field House, the Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences, or any of the new metal-shell-soon-to-be-labs. Capital did. And capital is individual donations, which is why the two buildings I mentioned have individual's names on them.

So why are students being asked to chip in with the big-name philanthropists? Well... because everyone is being asked to.

Last Friday, Lisa Cauda (Interim Vice President in the Office of Development) spoke to SG Senate about the Capital Campaign's purpose and goals. Five priorities are being funded: investing in students, reinventing the campus, recruiting and retaining top faculty, supporting applied research and learning, and the fund for the future. In order to meet these priorities, they have been publicly campaigning for donations since 2002—asking for donations from trustees, administrators, faculty, staff, friends of RIT, and now students. Their end goal is \$300 million by the end of June 2006. They are currently at \$234 million—a deficit of 66 million. That's a lot of money. Can we as students put even a dent in that? More importantly, do we want to?

We certainly aren't going to get a building with our name on it. I, of course, use and appreciate my home college, which was built by Golisano's contribution to the campaign. But, it's already built. I don't want to donate to something as mundane as its next paint job.

What would I contribute to? Priority #1—"Investing in Students," like I said before: scholarships. Call it the "RIT Student General Scholarship Fund." That's my idea for where our student monies should explicitly go. But you may have a better idea. And if that's the case, I strongly suggest getting in contact with Student Government and give them your idea—either via their website, <http://www.sg.rit.edu/contact/>, or at the Senate meetings every Friday. Let them know you don't want your money going to a slush "fund for the future." Personally, I feel better about my investments when I know exactly where they are going. For me, a brown bracelet that says "unite" just doesn't give me enough to go on.



Erhardt Graeff

Editor in Chief



Fans enjoy Aventura, a Latino group from the Dominican Republic, Saturday night, October 1, 2005 in the Clark Gym. David Wright/REPORTER Magazine

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Cover photograph by David Wright

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**YAH I KNOW, JUST COME TO REPORTER
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Social Computing

Where Better to Conduct the Research?

by Govind Ramabadrán

Instant Messaging (IM), blogging sites such as Xanga and LiveJournal, and websites such as facebook.com and myspace.com have drastically changed our way of communicating with other people. With the advent of the internet, the social construct as we know it is constantly being revised.

This is where Dr. Ankur Teredesai, assistant professor of computer science and director of the Center for Discovery Informatics, comes in. The new research center, which is part of the Center for Advancing the Study of Cyber Infrastructure (CASCI), has received a grant of between \$10,000 and \$20,000 from the Intelligence Technology Center—a research arm of the CIA, to study instant messaging and blogging behavior in order to predict a user's online activity. The key contributors to initial research are Dr. Teredesai, computer science students John Resig and Muhammad Ahmad, and Dr. Ila Parasnis, who works in the Research and Teacher Education department at NTID.

Through a field of computer science known as data mining, the researchers created a tool that would semi-automatically discover patterns and changes concerning individuals' actions, including posting entries, IM-ing friends, posting away messages, becoming idle, and signing off. The goal is to estimate the probability of students' online activity. "We would [understand] how the groups interact with each other," said Dr. Parasnis, who pointed out that this area of research would have global implications.

By using this data mining tool, which still has a patent pending, they are hoping to help the RIT community better understand the social growth of its students. According to Dr. Parasnis, IMs make social boundaries more "permeable to how people interact with each other." An online community reduces prejudices such as race and religion, which are more prevalent in the physical world.

The CIA, according to Dr. Teredesai, provided the funding as a way to learn more about today's society, social networking, and people's activities when online in the hopes that this could improve their skills in gathering psychological intelligence. Dr. Teredesai assures that the information gathered from people's online communications is not monitored, and is only gathered from publicly available areas. In the field of data mining, when there are large pools of data to be harvested, it is possible to "privatize" the data through various anonymous routines and algorithms. Once made anonymous, the data then goes to other researchers who would like to observe the data themselves, but still protects the users' privacy.

“IMs make social boundaries more “permeable to how people interact with each other.” An online community reduces prejudices such as race and religion, which are more prevalent in the physical world.”

Teens use internet services to discuss everything from the mundane to the most emotion-fraught and important conversations of their lives. In the June 2001 study, it was indicated that 48 percent of respondents used the internet to improve relations with friends, and 37 percent said that they were able to use IM to say things they could not say in person. In the October 2001 study, it was shown that approximately 28 million Americans

have connected to their local community using the internet. The study points out that 50 percent of those who participated in an online community got to know someone they would not have met otherwise, while 37 percent and 27 percent said that such community interaction has helped them meet people of different ages and ethnic backgrounds, respectively.

Technology, however, is a double-edged sword. In a study conducted by Amanda Lenhart in March 2005, of the approximately three million teenagers who use the internet, 13 percent stopped using it. Her studies show that 13 percent used IM to break up with someone, while 37 percent used IM to say negative things they would not say in person.

Whether or not Dr. Teredesai wishes to go public once the patent is approved is still undecided, but the research is ongoing. •

For in-depth information on this topic, check out our website: reportermag.com.

Cdigix. Cdigix Run. ▶▶

Don't do that on the carpet, Cdigix

by Austin McChord

Legally download all you want for free? That was the pitch last year for the first 3,000 students who signed up for Cdigix. The goal was to try and provide an option for students to acquire music legally rather than resort to shadier methods. It has been a year since RIT's partnership with Cdigix was announced, yet the student body has been slow to accept it as a solution to their auditory desires. So just how few have signed up for Cdigix? About 1,000. This means that 2,000 students can still register for free. Of course, it was assumed that subscriptions to Cdigix would sell like bricks to a renovating Rochester campus—so why can't RIT even hand out all the free samples?

ITS's Dave Pecora was the project manager responsible for setting up Cdigix on campus. "There are several reasons why some students have been resistant to using the service," he explained. For one thing, it only works with Windows computers—you can't use the service with a Mac or Linux system. RIT has a significant Mac based population—we estimate that 30%+ RIT students use Macs—so this is a big impediment. A second reason is that downloaded songs cannot be played on an iPod, which is the most popular digital music device." Cdigix also suffers other limitations; some that were seen in Napster, its predecessor. Downloaded songs are tethered to your account, so when it expires, so does your music. Cdigix does offer iTunes-like purchasing for 89 cents, which allows you to 'own' the music and burn it to CDs or copy it to media players.

In asking around campus, few freshman students even knew what Cdigix was. "To tell you the truth, I have no idea. It looks like a weird combination of letters that someone made by slamming their head on the keyboard. I can't even pronounce it," explained freshman Aaron Mallott. Cdigix currently has a few student employees working to promote the service and raise awareness. One student summed it up simply, "It's hard to get excited about a subscription service when it's so easy to get the music for free."

One of the things Pecora noted, though, is that no RIT funds have been spent on the project. "This is one reason it's difficult to categorize the effort as a failure—it cost RIT nothing and over 1,000 students use and enjoy the service." •

"[Cdigix] looks like a weird combination of letters that someone made by slamming their head on the keyboard. I can't even pronounce it."

RITForecast compiled by Casey Dehlinger

Friday	
07 OCT	<p>CIAS Golf Tournament: 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Shadow Pines Golf Course. For CIAS Alumni, Students, Faculty and Staff. Students \$30, Faculty/Staff \$40, Other \$40.</p> <p>19th Midwest Conference on Combinatorics, Computing, and Cryptology: 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Golisano College. Student's \$20, Faculty/Staff \$85, Other \$85.</p> <p>GCCIS Dean's Lecture Series: 1 p.m.–2:30 p.m. Building 70, room 1400. Peter Winkler's lecture: What is Probability?</p> <p>Ol' Skool Jam: 8 p.m.–1 a.m. SAU Cafeteria. Listen to African American, Latino American, and Native American music. Brought to you by the North Star Center.</p> <p>Jason Mraz in Concert: 8 p.m.–10:30 p.m. Gordon Field House. Sponsored by CAB. Students \$15, Faculty/Staff \$25, Other \$30.</p>
Saturday	
08 OCT	<p>19th Midwest Conference on Combinatorics, Computing, and Cryptology: 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Golisano College. Students \$20, Faculty/Staff \$85, Other \$85.</p> <p>Kaleidoscope Concert: 1:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m. Ingle Auditorium. All RIT music ensembles will perform. Free admission.</p> <p>Skeletal Improv: 2 p.m.–3 p.m. Infinity Quad. RIT Players perform an improvisational skit based on a skeletal plot.</p> <p>Rudy Giuliani: 4 p.m.–5 p.m. Gordon Fieldhouse. Part of Student Government's Horton Distinguished Speaker Series. Students \$8, Faculty/Staff \$15, Other \$20.</p> <p>Brick City Gospel Ensemble Concert: 6 p.m.–10 p.m. Allen Chapel.</p> <p>RIT Gospel Ensemble: 7 p.m.–8 p.m. Interfaith Center.</p> <p>Novelty Acts: 7 p.m.–11 p.m. SAU. Airbrush tattoo artists, caricature artists, magicians, psychics, and . . . "Dance Heads?"</p> <p>Jon Stewart: 8 p.m.–10:30 p.m. Gordon Fieldhouse. Sponsored by CAB. Tickets sold out. Scalping is not necessarily condoned by the Reporter staff.</p> <p>Karaoke in the Ritz: 9 p.m.–1 a.m. Ritz Sports Zone.</p>
Sunday	
09 OCT	<p>19th Midwest Conference on Combinatorics, Computing, and Cryptology: 9 a.m.–noon. Golisano College. Students \$20, Faculty/Staff \$85, Other \$85.</p> <p>Stonehurst Capital Invitational Regatta: 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Genesee Valley Park. Watch the coxswains. That's right: coxswains.</p>
Monday	
10 OCT	<p>Open House: 8 a.m.–4 p.m. Clark Gym. All prospective students and the people who will pay their tuition are invited.</p>
Tuesday	
11 OCT	<p>Intergroup Dialogue: Hearing and Deaf Cultures: 5:30 p.m.–7 p.m. Dining Commons. Discuss aspects of Hearing and Deaf culture.</p>
Wednesday	
12 OCT	<p>There's a freshman in Colby whose mother went to RIT in 1979 and stayed in the same dorm room that her son lives in now. The mother e-mailed Reporter, saying it would make a good story. She was available for an interview this weekend. We never got back to her. Drunk dial us at (585) 475-5633 and tell us what you think.</p>
Thursday	
13 OCT	<p>Tri Beckett: 6 p.m.–8 p.m. Kodak Quad. Three groups of actors perform simultaneously at the three areas of the Kodak Quad. Those RIT Players and their crazy experimental theatre.</p> <p>Harold and Kumar go to White Castle: 10 p.m. Ingle Auditorium. Sponsored by CAB. Free Peanut Butter and jelly and fluff afterwards.</p> <p><i>Sorry to Surround Sound for last week's typo. I must have been listening to "Sister Surround" by Soundtrack of Our Lives when I typed it up. Good song. Bad typo.</i></p> <p>Want to see your event here? Just be sure to post it on the RIT Events Calendar at least two weeks in advance!</p>

September 23

B Lot – Theft of Auto Parts, Auto Stripping

A student reported that his subwoofer/amplifier was taken from his SUV while parked in B-Lot. Monroe County Sheriff's Department responded.

B Lot – Theft of Auto Parts, Auto Stripping

A student had his car stereo components removed from his locked passenger vehicle while it was parked in B-Lot between 11 p.m. on September 21 and 1 p.m. on September 23. Approximately \$200 worth of damage was also done to the driver side door. Monroe County Sheriff's Department responded and filed a report.

Frank E. Gannett Building – Harassment

A student stated she received an unwanted e-mail message from another student. The sender apologized to the complainant.

Identity Theft

A student was contacted and told that there may have been an attempt to transfer money from his Bank of America card. It was discovered that attempts had been made to transfer money to a Western Union account. One attempt was successful. Monroe County Sheriff's Department completed a report and will follow up with the authorities.

September 24

Sol Heumann Hall – Harassment

A student discovered an intoxicated male student who had followed two other residents back from a party at Colony Manor on a floor in Sol Heumann Hall. The male was being difficult with Campus Safety officers who responded. Case referred to Student Conduct.

September 25

Colony Manor – Unlawful Dealing with a Child

A student reported finding a white hood at a Colony Manor flat while attending a party. The student responsible for the hood was referred to Student Conduct. During the investigation, it was learned that the residents of the apartment served alcohol to under-aged persons.

Gibson Hall – Petit Larceny

An unsecured bicycle was stolen from the Gibson Hall bike rack between September 24 at 5p.m. and September 25 at 10 a.m. Investigation closed pending new information.

Riverknoll – Criminal Trespassing

A student reported that at 3 a.m., she observed a male standing in her bedroom doorway in only his boxers. The individual was identified as a neighbor who had attended a party at the flat earlier in the night. Case referred to Student Conduct.

September 26

Grace Watson Hall – Petit Larceny

A Grace Watson Dining Hall supervisor stated that on September 22 at 6:45 p.m., two students were caught stealing prepared food from the dining facility. The students were contacted and a statement obtained. Case referred to Student Conduct.

Nathaniel Rochester Hall – Unlawful Possession of Marijuana

A person reported an odor of marijuana coming from a resident's room. A small amount of marijuana and several pipes were located. Monroe County Sheriff's Department was contacted to confiscate the marijuana. Case referred to Student Conduct.

September 27

Sol Heumann Hall – Criminal Mischief

A student stated that on September 22 at 2 p.m. he locked his bike to the bike rack in the A-level of Sol Heumann Hall. When he returned on September 23 at 8 a.m., he found that someone had punctured his rear tire and tube. Cost of repair was estimated at \$25.

Residence Halls – Public Lewdness

A student reported that his roommate has been committing lewd acts within their room since the start of the school year. The roommate was contacted and advised to cease his activity immediately. Case referred to Student Conduct.

September 28

Colony Manor – Petit Larceny

A student witnessed two males taking down a handicap sign in front of a Colony Manor flat. A canvass was conducted, but no persons were found who may have been responsible.

Baker Hall – Petit Larceny

The rear tire was stolen from a mountain bike locked to a steel frame in the A-level of Baker Hall. The incident occurred between September 24 at 8 p.m. and September 25 at 9 p.m. Investigation closed pending new information.

University Commons – Petit Larceny

A locked mountain bike was stolen from the UC Building 330 bike rack. The incident occurred between September 24 at 6:30 p.m. and September 28 at 5 p.m. Investigation closed pending new information.

LATINO HERITAGE MONTH



Students participate in *Platanos and Collard Greens*, a cultural play about Latino and African-American communities, September 29th, 2005 in the Webb Auditorium. Jacob Hannah/REPORTER Magazine

Platanos and Collard Greens

by Ben Foster

Let me be totally honest with you. I am as white as white kids get. My mother is a British national and my father is French and German. I spent my whole childhood in Door County Wisconsin, a place that is whiter than a picket fence. Everyone in my high school class, and I do mean everyone, was white. I'm pretty sure that back in 2002 when I graduated there was one African American in my whole high school. So it probably wouldn't shock you to learn that attending *Platanos and Collard Greens*, a romantic comedy about race relations between Latinos and African Americans was not high on my list of priorities for a Thursday night. However, *Reporter* magazine has a funny way of broadening my horizons, and this time around, keeping me thoroughly entertained.

The performance was jointly sponsored by the Black Awareness Coordinating Committee and the Latino American Students Association, partly to raise awareness about African American and Latino issues, and partly to raise both groups' profiles on campus. *Platanos and Collard Greens* is a two act play written by David Lamb, who is an adjunct professor at John Jay University in New York City. His play has been making a tour of colleges around the nation, and it finally made its way to RIT.

Essentially, *Platanos and Collard Greens* is about an interracial couple—an African American Man and a Latino woman—and their struggle against prejudice, both from external sources and from within. I'm sure all of that sounds pretty heavy handed and about as much fun as an ethics lecture. However, *Platanos and Collard Greens* is actually hilarious throughout, (even for a white kid who must have missed half the jokes) there is a raw honesty to this play and great mix of humor and information. A piece of theater with

a message this strong always runs the risk of overpowering the plays drama. However, David carefully avoids being heavy handed in his play through a clever use of poetry. All the plays longer speeches are delivered as poems. This does two things: it keeps the play's dialog from getting weighed down with preachy speeches and it give the speeches an artistic value independent from their message.

The performance got an incredible boost from the crowd, which was both energetic and engaged in the production. Laughter and cheering rang out almost constantly throughout the play. Lines like "you gotta be spontaneous like breathing or ping-pong" and "your future is in your mind, not in your behind" really got the crowd going. Hip Hop and satire were used seamlessly to provide a unique take on Drama. Don't be fooled by the comedy, there was no shortage of seriousness in this play. The protagonist, a young African American, finds that his relationship with a young Latino woman is complicated by his friends and her parents. On the one side his friends accuse him of only being interested in white women, and that Latino is as close as he can get. His girlfriend's mother on the other hand flat out forbids the relationship just because he is African American.

The play's message was loud and clear through the humor. Stereotypes do exist between the African American and Latino cultures, and there is a mixed history of distrust. However, with a little understanding and a little frank conversation there is nothing to prevent the cultures from understanding and respecting each other. This sentiment is verbalized by the protagonist who hopes that one day, "Platanos and Collard Greens [will] go together like Mac and Cheese and Chicken Wings." •

BACHATA PHENOMENON



Anthony "Romeo" Santos, lead singer of Aventura, plays to the crowd. David Wright/REPORTER Magazine



"Boricua, boricua!" screamed Dominican Republic group Aventura Saturday night, October 1, 2005 at the Clark Gym. Singing in both Spanish and English, Aventura's music and lyrics center around life issues that fans can relate to. David Wright/REPORTER Magazine

Can I be a consumer whore?

A night with Don Hertzfeldt

by Nathan Liebold

Dryden Theater was coursing with anticipation, an energy birthed of a common love for the films of one man, Don Hertzfeldt. The seats were overflowing with the bodies of animation fans and the line extended far past the door. This night was about all things Hertzfeldt, and in the moments before his appearance the suspense was almost tactile. The collective eyes of the crowd widened expectantly as he stepped on stage. Through the screenings of his numerous films he explained what went into each piece and what effect they have had on his life and the works that followed.

Ten years have passed since Hertzfeldt's work was first shown in a production class at UC Santa Barbara. Since that time his ever-evolving art has gained a massive following through word of mouth and his earning of over one-hundred awards. Each of his animations is sharply different from those previous, while somehow they still maintain a consistent feel. His works include: a (literally) heart-wrenching ode to the trials of love, *Ah, L'amour*, a cruel, hilarious, satirical look at rejection in the business of advertising with *Rejected*, and his latest, a deeper work that borders on an epic, taking a look at existence in *The Meaning of Life*.

At first glance his animations might appear simple and childish to new viewers, which is certainly understandable considering Hertzfeldt's hand-drawn character form does resemble the 'stick figures' we all drew as kids. Despite these simpler forms, his characters break all expectations with finely-tuned comedic timing, working our expectations until the very moment of sweet, frame-by-frame perfection, or pulling them right out from under us. The worlds created within his frames parallel our own lives, complete with awkward, confusing moments of human interaction, as well as an occasional impending doom that we don't see coming—except wonderfully exaggerated and thrown into a realm of orchestrated chaos that only animation can achieve.

Hertzfeldt's work is all the more impressive because it doesn't involve a computer for any of the animation or effects; instead he experiments with a slew of in-camera optical effects. In this latest work, *The Meaning of Life* experimentation came into play with the plot itself. Hertzfeldt took four years to complete *The Meaning of Life* during this time he arduously handled the writing, directing, animation, sound, and 35mm photography. He contrasted his previous films with this piece, "they were comedy ... if you hear clapping and laughing you know it's well received." With his latest release, *The Meaning of Life*, "it was a whole new kind of thing," he said.

I AM A
CONSUMER
WHORE!



AND
HOW!



For more information about Don Hertzfeldt check out his film studios website <http://www.bitterfilms.com>.

I was curious if Hertzfeldt still gets nervous when presenting to an audience, especially with the recent diversions from the trademark comedy he became known for. "Before a film premieres I come out and speak to the audience," he said, "sometimes I'll have my glasses off and I can't see anybody—it's like I'm by myself."

I asked Hertzfeldt what he had wanted to do before he got into animation. "When I was four I watched the *Empire Strikes Back*, and I wanted to be the guy who animated the 'Walkers' ... I don't remember why or how," said Hertzfeldt. After the audience had left and the doors to the Dryden Theater had closed, I sat on the steps to jot down some notes and saw Hertzfeldt leaving. I asked him what his plans for the future were, in film or otherwise. He laughed, saying, "Whoa—next question ... you'd be writing for a while." As for having any words of wisdom/suggestions/advice for filmmakers or animators, he said, "Don't get bogged down by the details ... you just have to do it, even if it takes a shoebox with light shining through it. Beg—borrow—steal."



BAD MOVIE NIGHT

Peter Jackson's "Bad Taste" Extends Beyond his Fashion Sense

by Brian Garrison | illustration Mike Norton

"I think Peter Jackson should re-release [*Bad Taste*] with a better music score. The one in the film is just terrible," says valandear119 on the IMDB message board. By "terrible," I'm pretty sure he/she really means "sock-knocking-offingly good and perfectly suited to the film," and by "with a better music score," he/she must actually be trying to say "with more scenes of people dropkicking severed heads out of windows."

Shot during weekends over the course of four years, the movie was completely unscripted. Originally it was going to be a 10-minute short about cannibals, but after discovering that he had almost 50 minutes of working footage, Jackson decided to make a "real" movie about aliens. These "intergalactic wankers" are messing things up in the New Zealand coast-town of Kaihoro. To deal with the problem, a four man team is sent in by the government.

The aliens, who normally sport really tragic wannabe mullets, do sometimes come out of human form, and then, look strangely like a cross between Richard Nixon and my grandpa. It was somewhat disappointing that they didn't get more camera time. All of the masks were made in Jackson's mother's kitchen, and got their bent shape because otherwise they wouldn't fit in the oven. However, a lack of funds actually gave the movie an added sense of realism in other areas. Instead of the government crew being fully decked out with the latest gadgetry, they obviously had to make due with minimal government funding. The case for their rocket launcher is a wooden crate, and their walkie-talkies are craftily held together with tape. As for Jackson, instead of the bearded hobbit look he has going on now, in *Bad Taste* he saves the day looking more like Rick Moranis... with a chainsaw.

After watching this film, I definitely want to look into Peter Jackson's *Meet the Feebles*. Following in the footsteps of such puppet classics as *The Dark Crystal* and *Labyrinth*, *Meet the Feebles* proudly carries the tagline, "Hell hath no fury like a hippo with a machine gun."

Clichéness

There were a few times that I thought some more creative writing might have helped the script. For example:

1. The bad guys just can't manage to hit the good guy with their sledgehammers, no matter how hard they try, even though the good guy does nothing but fumble around with his gun. Oh gee, did the last clip for his automatic fall down the hill? Looks like our hero will have to hang precariously off the edge of a cliff.
2. Our "damsel in distress" (which is actually a guy, along with every other character) is running away from an alien that hobbles after him. Mr. Damsel reaches his car which predictably doesn't start. Obviously the next logical thing to do is... roll up the window. While he's wasting time struggling with his defective window-rolling-up-knobby-thing, the alien



makes it over just in time to get only his hand through the slit of open window at the top. Amazingly, one more try starts the car. After driving a bit with the alien's hand caught in the window and the parking brake on, our frightened friend does manage to make an escape.

Rewatchability

As with many bad movies, this one only gets better with repeated viewings. How could you not want to see a movie where some guy headbutts a seagull (unfortunately not in slow-mo) over and over again?

Admit to other people that you've seen this movie?

Around campus here at RIT is probably a safe area to freely discuss this movie; also, any convention that ends in "-con." Anywhere else, I would advise against it. Not good for family discussion, especially with Thanksgiving coming up.

Best lines

"They don't need a base. They could just beam themselves down from their spaceship"

"Well maybe they haven't seen *Star Trek Ozzy*"

Rating

NR (non-refundable)

Fiona Apple

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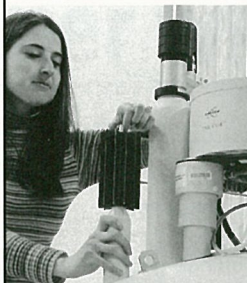


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STREAM OF FACTS:

OCTOBER 7

October 7, 1913 Henry **Ford** introduces the assembly line.

In 1942, **Ford** patented an automobile made almost entirely of plastic, attached to a tubular welded frame. It was lighter and tougher than steel cars and it ran on grain alcohol (**ethanol**) instead of gasoline. The design never caught on.

Ethanol has been shown to increase the growth of a number of bacteria. This finding counteracts the common misconception that drinking alcohol can kill off a **budding** infection.

Yeast can reproduce **asexually** through **budding**. A new bud grows out of the parent yeast, after the bud reaches an adult size, it separates from the parent yeast.

When the term **asexual** is used to describe a person, it means an individual with no sexual attraction to either sex. About 1% of **British** citizens identify themselves as asexual.

At its height, the **British** Empire controlled 470-570 million people, about a quarter of the world's population, and about one third of the world's land. This included territory on every continent including **Antarctica**.

Antarctica is not only the coldest continent on earth, it also has the highest average elevation. **America** maintains a research outpost on the continent called the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station.

On October 7 2003, the **American** state of California recalled its governor, Gray Davis, and replaced him with movie star Arnold Schwarzenegger.

QUOTE

"Sleeping is no mean art: for its sake one must stay awake all day."
– Friedrich Nietzsche

JUMBLE Countries

aihaftnasng
utaaris
idflnan
xciemo
sgpnoear
gyetp)

Afghanistan, Austria, Finland, Mexico, Singapore, Egypt

RANDOM REVIEW

Bazil's Casual Italian Kitchen, located North on 15A right next to TGI Friday's, is a straight forward Italian eatery. It is remarkable only in being non-discript. They serve reasonable Italian food at a reasonable price. It's about as expensive as the Macaroni Grill and maybe not quite as good. All pasta dishes do come with breadsticks and soup or salad which is nice and the portions of the main dishes are large. Really though there is nothing here worth the extra drive from campus, and as far as dining out is concerned frankly you can do a little better than Bazil's.

REPORTER RECOMMENDS

All-nighters. It's amazing how much you can get done if you skip sleep every now and again. It's like your week has 8 days in it with no classes or homework on that 8th day. I mean sure you don't feel the best after doing it but whatever, don't be a wuss.

PLAYLIST RITMO LATINO

- Bebel Gilberto** – Samba da Benção
- Celia Cruz** – La Vida Es Un Carnaval
- Mana'** – Angel de Amor
- Mano Chao** – Me Gustas Tú
- Big Boy** – Para La Chica
- Celia Cruz** – Guantanamera
- Chayenne** – Salome
- Don Chezina** – Reggeton
- Elvis Crespo** – Algo En Tu Cara
- Kumbia Kings** – Azuquita
- Tito Puente** – Tito's Colada
- Daddy Yankee** – King Daddy
- Daddy Yankee** – Gasolina
- Selena** – Como la Flor



Reaching out for Community Service: RIT ROCS

David Tam and Carl Salvaggio from RIT make boxes at the Great Communion Church warehouse. As a part of RIT ROCS, 21 students and faculty volunteered at the church on September 24, 2005 in Rochester, NY.
Young Jang/REPORTER Magazine



R.I.T.
ROCS Day

TAN 5

WD-40
LUBRICANT
CORPORATION



Group leader, Julie Adameck, checks her roster before leaving the RIT campus. More than 30 groups were organized for the RIT ROCS to provide community service in the area. In this group, 21 RIT students and faculty participated in sorting Katrina supplies at the Great Communion Church warehouse in Rochester, NY on September 24, 2005. Young Jang/REPOTER Magazine



Furzani Pae, left, and Hanis Nazihah Hasmad get their assignment and name tag for the RIT ROCS event. More than 1600 RIT volunteers participated in this event for community service last year. Young Jang/REPORTER Magazine

RIT only ROCS...sometimes

by Adam Botzenhart

It's an ongoing trend and a national issue—this generation of students, of citizens, of Americans, simply isn't as involved in community service as their predecessors. *Reporter* takes a deeper look into the causes of this decline in civic involvement.

RIT only ROCS...sometimes. Let's be honest, Ritchie the tiger isn't always out prowling the highways and picking up trash. Ritchie isn't always in the soup kitchens of Rochester peddling low-grade chicken noodle to the masses. Ritchie spends most of his time in a brick cage, behind a souped-up computer, peddling pwnage to the masses on Counter-Strike. The Ritchie in front of Margaret's House pushing those adorable tiger cubs on the swings is a mere illusion; wheeled out every month, or when Honors students and Greeks can use him to fulfill a set of requirements. It's a simple fact that RIT students are good students, but the honest reality is that a startling few number of college students, both at RIT and across the country, actually participate in community service and volunteer work.

"I think the younger, twenty-something population isn't as free to give up their time because they're busy, they're doing their studies. Students now want stuff right away. The things most students are concerned with are: 'I want to get a job. I gotta get on with my life. Why should I volunteer if I'm not going to get paid?'"

The Perception:

Her name is Phyllis Walker. It's a few days before RIT ROCS and, as Coordinator of the Community Service Center on campus, she's busy with last minute preparations. Even so, Walker agrees to sit down for an interview and discuss some of the reasons she feels more students don't volunteer on campus and why volunteering is so important to character and community development.

"I think the main factors preventing students from participating in community service are their schedules and finding transportation. College students are a lot busier today than twenty years ago, and a lot of the volunteer opportunities we have take place off campus, so sometimes it's an issue for students to find a ride," Walker explained. In general, Walker feels that the RIT student community is a pretty active one—the Greeks, Honors students, and clubs always seem to come through with successful events, and they help keep community service visible on campus.

Why is community service important? In Walker's eyes, community service is the stitching that holds the fabric of America together. "If each person would just give back even one hour every two months, we would have such a better world. Students have to ask, 'Is it all about stuff and money or is it about helping people at the end of the day?' We all need to take care of each other. We all need to take care of the less fortunate."

"Question One: Do you actively participate in community service or volunteerism? Yes: 34% No: 66%"

The Reality:

They are the students of RIT. Bottom line—they're too busy or not interested; as a *Reporter* survey revealed. Of the 66% (out of a sixty person sample) who do not participate in community service: 32% are too busy, 21% have no interest, 15% need to spend their time working for money, and tied at 12% are students' claims that they have too much school work or aren't provided with enough information when the opportunity to get involved is presented. That leaves 8% in the 'Other' category—maybe Counter-Strike should have been a response option.

Ahmed Al-Eisn, freshman IT major and international student from Saudi Arabia, echoed the sentiments of many students on campus—community service just isn't a priority at college. Al-Eisn has observed, since coming to the United States, that though Americans put a lot more emphasis on community service and volunteerism than in Saudi Arabia, the amount of community service that is actually done is comparable and, in his view, minimal.

For those students who do participate, community service may often be spurred by a requirement or incentive program of some sort. Greeks, Honors students, club members, and students on probation top the list of those serving. Indeed, for many students on the RIT campus who are not currently involved, their only efforts often resulted from a high school community service quota that was required for graduation.



Marco Flagg (center) a third year photojournalism student, listens to Marvin Maye (left) and Femi Kevin Murphy (right) Thursday evening, September 29, 2005 at the Young Men's Rites of Passage meeting. Marco has been volunteering with the group since last January and plans to help make the future leaders of tomorrow in the African American communities of Rochester. David Wright/REPORTER Magazine

“Maybe Counter-Strike should have been a response option.”

“I think civic disengagement is institutionalized in our life today—i.e., it takes extra effort to become involved, but no effort to remain aloof.”

The Big Idea:

His name is Vincent Serravallo. He's everything you expect but rarely find in a professor on a university campus: cordial, accessible, resourceful. Now in his seventh year as a professor of sociology at RIT, Serravallo provided some insight as to the larger forces at work and what may truly be behind this broad change in society.

Serravallo attributes the lack of civic participation to powerful groups in society with little to gain by authentic civil involvement, which he believes have institutionalized weak citizenship. He elaborates, “We are grossly uninformed by the commercial news media about important collective issues, like the workplace and community planning, yet grossly over-informed about our political or entertainment personalities and the stock market, even though 85% of us have no significant ownership of direct stock.” In short, community involvement is simply not a value built into our current social system.

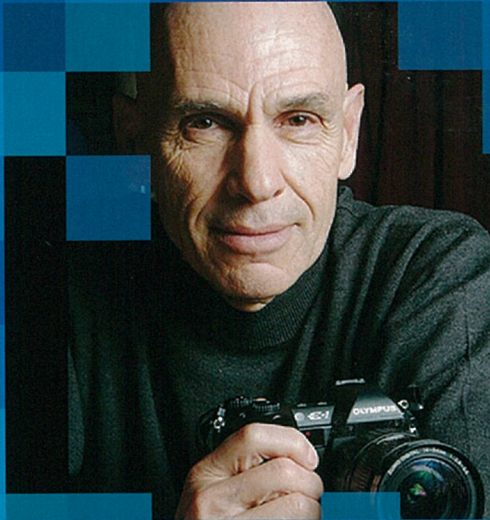
It is a value, however, that was built into and symbolized the heart of the founding fathers' view of our Republic.

In 2001, Harvard professor of Public Policy Robert Putnam published the book *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*. In the work, Putnam cited two causes of the current decline in civic involvement: the passing of the 'long civic generation' and the rise of television. The 'long civic generation,' as Serravallo explains, is the generation that was marked by the trying yet community-enhancing experiences of Great Depression and World War II. This emphasis on civic involvement, however, was not passed on to the Baby Boomers and, in turn, those civic norms were not instilled on the X-ers and Y-ers. The result? A society that has, in part, forgotten how to be one.

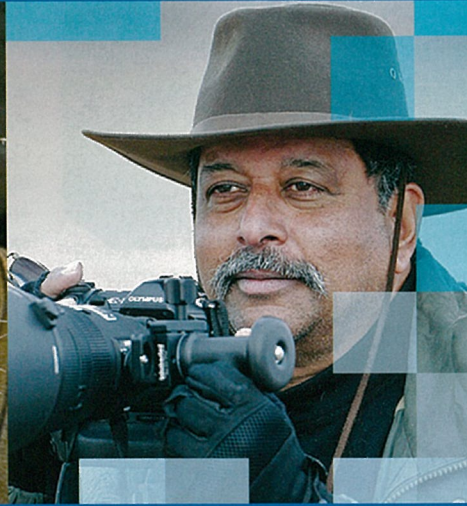
Ultimately, if the popularization of television and the rise of the internet age have not assaulted our perception of what community involvement is, they certainly have changed it. At an institute of technology, we are left with, at best, a generation that has shifted its community involvement into a digital town hall and, at worst, a generation that is perhaps discouraged from—or perhaps has forgotten how—to truly act as a community. •

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A two-day program includes MFA portfolio reviews with Joel Meyerowitz on Wednesday, October 12, and student portfolio reviews with John Isaac on Thursday, October 13. For more information or to sign up for portfolio reviews, RIT students should contact Beth Schoenfeld at 7B-2121, 475-2770.

OLYMPUS®

Your Vision, Our Future

WORD on the Street

compiled and photographed by Ralph Smith

Q: If you could do one big service project to better the community, what would it be?



"Give everyone a pony"

Jack Kalish

New Media Design – 4th Year



"Make a giant building for homeless people because cardboard boxes don't work well in the winter"

Adam Townsend

Information Technology – 1st Year



"Pet neglected puppies"

Andy Peters and Brittany Ayers

Both General Science – 1st Years



"Live my soul purpose which is ... to bring about the progressive healing and enlightenment of all human kind"

Len Ethan Mackey

Photojournalism – 5th Year



"Beautify ugly neighborhoods"

Devin Snow

Electrical Engineering – 2nd Year



"Make muffins and sandwiches, and with the help of my friends and pockets, distribute them to homeless people"

Jozefa Cheman

Java Employee



"Pick up trash or some sort of food thing"

Marge Campbell

Film and Animation – 4th Year



"Build shelters and kitchens"

Kelly Brown

Business Management – 2nd Year

WORD on the street boston



"Build bikes for everyone"

Alex Hage

Graphic Design – 2nd Year
Boston University



"Something with underprivileged children and sports because sports allow kids to exert themselves"

Janine Zimmerman

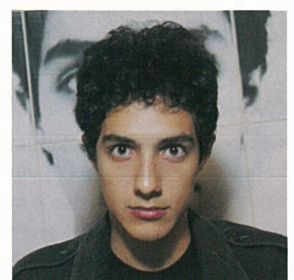
Political Science and Economics
4th Year
Boston University



"Teach everyone French so they are more cultured"

Ian Raymey

Math and French – 4th Year
Boston University



"I would renovate and fix every problem in every building"

Ernesto Morales

Advertising – 2nd Year
Boston University



RIT women's volleyball player, Shannon Dailey, spikes at Alfred University's team. RIT won against Alfred University by 3-0 at the Clark Gym on Tuesday evening, September 27, 2005. Young Jang/REPORTER Magazine

SPORTSdesk by Frances Cabrera



Men's Cross Country

September 24: The Field of Dreams Invitational surpassed any dreams of the men's cross country team with a team victory. Freshman Jared Burdick earned first place honors winning the race with a time of 25:57 for his first collegiate win. In order, these players placed third through ninth: Kevin Smith, Andy Yarble, Chris Kudla, Nate Lowe, Chad Byler, Chris Schauerman, and Max Ferguson.

Women's Cross Country

September 24: Senior Trisha Sliker won her second race in three weeks at the Field of Dreams Invitational with a time of 18:34, leading RIT to a victory over six other teams. Adrienne Gagnier placed in third, Amy Hopkins in fifth, and Sara Pancoast in eighth overall.

Men's Soccer

September 24: The men's soccer team dominated Utica for their first Empire 8 game with a win 3-1. Chris Somers, Mike Lawson, and Dennis Smyth scored the three goals. Goalie Dan Slocum made nine saves during the game.

September 27: The Buffalo State College game proved to be grueling for the men's team who ended with a tie, 2-2, after overtime. Dan Beca and Christian Elizondo scored the two goals.

Record through 9/27/05: Overall 4-3-2, Empire 8 1-0

Women's Soccer

September 24: With the dominating score of 4-0, the women's soccer team tallied its first home win against Hartwick. Melanie Bryant, Alaina Chorney, Vianna Muller, and Alyssa Bennett each scored a goal. RIT out-shot Hartwick 31-3.

September 28: The women's team lost to Nazareth College, 3-0. Goalie Heather Moe made four saves in the game.

Record through 9/28/05: Overall 2-7, Empire 8 1-2

Women's Tennis

September 28: The women's tennis team defeated Alfred University at home with a score of 5-4. Aimee Holmberg and Michelle Nicholson won their doubles match. They along with Leigh Bryson also won their singles matches.

Record through 9/28/05: Overall 5-3, Empire 8 2-1

Volleyball

September 23: The volleyball team ended its winning streak with a loss during the first day of the Carnegie Mellon Crossover tournament against Heidelberg after defeating Gettysburg in the first round.

Vs. Gettysburg

Final Score: W 3-2

Notable Players: Bonnie Harriman led in kills with 19, Christina Anabel led in digs with 21, and Katie Werner in assists with 44.

Vs. Heidelberg

Final Score: L 2-3

Notable Players: Katie Werner led in assists with a career record-setting 61. Bonnie Harriman also had a career high with 23 kills. Laura Grell and Jessica Schaffer led in digs with 24 and 22, respectively.

September 24: Defeating both John Carroll and Allegheny, the volleyball team wrapped up the Carnegie Mellon Crossover with an overall winning record.

Vs. John Carroll

Final Score: W 3-1

Notable Players: Laurie Underhill led with 16 kills and Katie Werner with 50 assists.

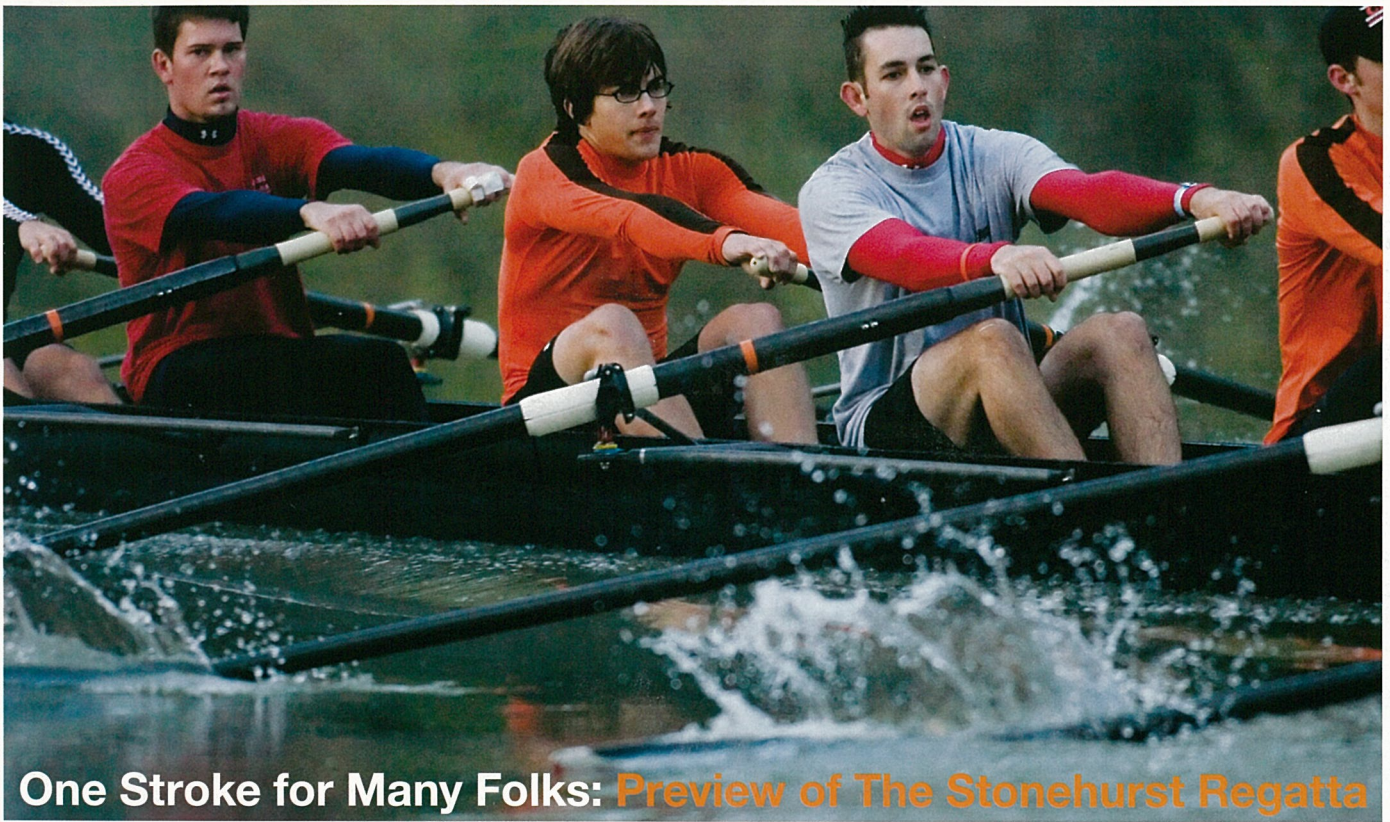
Vs. Allegheny

Final Score: W 3-1

Notable Players: Bonnie Harriman led in kills with 22, Christina Anabel in digs with 21, and Katie Werner in assists with 55.

September 27: Alfred University was thoroughly dominated by the Lady Tigers in RIT's first Empire 8 game of the season with a score of 3-0. Nichole Boxler led in assists with 21, and Reagan Burns led in digs with 13.

Record through 9/27/05: Overall 16-3, Empire 8 1-0



One Stroke for Many Folks: Preview of The Stonehurst Regatta

Members of RIT's second varsity crew team Ryan Hallerman, Jacob Yundt, and Scott Auger (left to right) practice on the East River Friday, September 30, 2005. David Wright/REPORTER Magazine

by Frances Cabrera with Joshua Van Hook

Home turf is hard to define when it comes to an entire river. It's kind of hard to put RIT logos in the middle of the water to welcome school spirit, as is it hard to line bleachers up along miles of river bank to welcome spectators. It is for that reason that the Stonehurst Regatta, on October 9, plays a special role in the men's and women's crew season. This regatta is the closest the RIT crew teams come to being on home turf—the Genesee River.

"The Stonehurst is RIT's only big home race of the year, so it's exciting to race on the river we practice on," said Ellen Cretokos, the stroke of the women's team. This is a point other teams take for granted, but the crew teams take very seriously—making the Stonehurst one of the most pressure-filled races of the season.

Justin Blum, coxswain and team co-captain of the men's team said, "Since this race is at home, each year we go out to strut our stuff and really make a good showing." For the men's team, that means a win. "We are always looking for the win; the men have never won the Stonehurst in its history. In all seriousness though, there is always tough competition at this regatta with rivals Hobart, Ithaca and Colgate coming. The team and I look to be on the medal stand though," said Blum.

For the women's team, showing their top rival that the Genesee belongs to RIT is the focus. "The RIT crew team hopes to race well and show off the hard work we've been putting in since the start of the season. We'd like to prove that we are a competitive crew. I know the women's boat wants to beat U of R!" said Cretokos.

For the Stonehurst, times for a sprint race and a longer head race are combined to form the final time. Therefore, teams must be well-rounded in order to perform well. "Usually our team is stronger in the longer races of the fall season," said Shay Coe who will be rowing the six seat. "This year we have been targeting our training to be comfortable at the higher rates needed to do well in sprint races." This is because the sprint time is multiplied by three

before being added to the head race time. As a result, the team has changed their practices. "We have adopted a new training style which is aimed at making us more comfortable at higher stroke rates. It's sort of like gears on a car, if you downshift, the engine spins faster and allows the car to accelerate quicker," said Coe.

To train for the long 6,000 meter head race, the team has different strategies. "To give some of the readers perspective, the Stonehurst race course runs from the railroad bridge on East River Road all the way to the University of Rochester. With distances like these, it's all about gaining endurance through training," said Blum.

With all this training and plans of victory, the crew teams just want to start off their seasons on a strong foot. "Starting off the season right helps us carry good momentum and morale for the other races of the season in Boston and Philadelphia," Blum said. These races include one of the world's largest races in the world, the Head of the Charles on October 21.

Cretokos said, "We will see many of the same crews at the Stonehurst later on in the fall season and also in the spring season at other races, so [this regatta] will show us what we need to work on in order to be faster than they are." Whether the race is several minutes away from home, or several hundred miles away in another state, the ultimate goal of both crew teams is to win.

More information about the Stonehurst Regatta, including all the teams participating, events, and a map of the race can be found at <http://www.rit.edu/~934www/Stonehurst/>. •



New Division. New Logo. Same Domination. Men's Hockey Media Day

Men's Hockey team captain Marc Hayman, RIT President Albert Simone and coach Wayne Wilson unveil the new team logo on Wednesday, September 27.
Ralph Smith/REPORTER Magazine

by Chelsea Palmer

Orange balloons, catered buffet, and formal outfits set the tone for Tuesday afternoon's Hockey Media Day on September 27. At first sight it might have been difficult to recognize what event was occurring, but after stopping to take in the atmosphere and to look straight into the middle of the room, it would be practically impossible to miss the six well-toned guys gathered around a tiny high-top table.

Held in the fireside lounge of the Student Alumni Union, with video cameras and reporters from local cable stations taking their places, the Hockey Media Day's purpose was to discuss the Men's Hockey team's move from division three to division one. The anticipation of what the men's hockey team had to say about playing in their first division one season suddenly hit the stomachs of all of those present. Speaking on behalf of the men's team were RIT President Albert Simone, Director of Athletics and Recreation Lou Spiotti, head coach Wayne Wilson, and the team captain Marc Hyman.

Words from the President

Hesitant of the move from division three to division one, President Simone began the conference explaining his reasoning. With academics held in such high regard at RIT, his main concern was with slipping grades. These thoughts were quickly turned around when presented with statistical data showing that "the GPA for our athletes was at 3.17, where the GPA for the student body as a whole was only 3.05" last year, stated Simone. According to him, the GPA of the men's team this year will set the precedent for whether or not other sports teams will be able to move to division one.

Words from the Coach

Next up was the head coach, Wayne Wilson, who first and foremost wanted to thank their rivaling teams for showing so much support for his team. Bringing his audience all the way back to last year, Wilson spoke of a deal he made with President Simone, "When the Red Sox win the World Series, we'll go division one [...] and they won. I knew I could count on them." Earning a few chuckles, Simone nodded his head over in the corner, agreeing with the irony between the two circumstances. Baffled by the amount of support being pulled in by the school as well as rival colleges, Coach Wilson handed the floor over to the players or anyone else that the media cared to interview.

Words from the Captain

Despite having to end his college hockey career at a more challenging level where his team won't be able to compete in play-offs, captain Marc Hyman is thrilled to be able to say that he played at the division one level. According to Hyman, and on behalf of the team, he "and the guys have been excited since last year when [they] heard the news." In the move, many benefits are to come like getting more airtime and TV coverage. Ten of their games will be televised this upcoming year, which is a lot of coverage for a brand new division one squad. Hyman expects his team to be very competitive this year, but obviously not as dominating as they were at the division three level.

Rounding out the conference was the unveiling of the new RIT logo that will be worn proudly on the hockey jerseys for both the men and women's teams. The first image presented was an "RIT Hockey" logo with new lettering and a new appearance of a full-bodied vicious looking tiger. The second image was a plain RIT logo with the new lettering and only the head of the vicious looking tiger.

With a new logo and a new division, Spiotti closed out the event with some optimistic words, "We believe we can deliver a quality, competitive, men's hockey team." •

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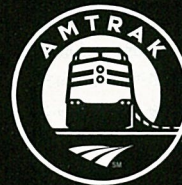
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Racism: The Indifference of Decent Men

by Monica Donovan

For Generation Y, racism is a thing of the past. Or is it? Not according to Dante D. Lee, who wrote an impassioned email to *Reporter* on September 9 concerning the plight of his cousin “Jane,” a brand-new graduate arts student. Dante spoke of the fifteen other students in Jane’s program as people who “taunt and ridicule [her] daily.” He also expressed concern for Jane’s mental state, pointing out that “very few peers [are] willing to speak out about this deplorable situation.”

Wait a minute. Racism... at RIT? Dante was surprised as well. “Although it is well known [that] overt racism is unavoidable in many parts of this nation,” he wrote, “still one would think, or at least hope, that at an institute of higher learning—a graduate school no less—there would be students with more tact than to hurt strangers with malicious intent.”

As I see it, there are four positions that one can take to racism. There are the blatant racists of generations past and their children, who both tolerate and participate in clearly racist actions. According to Dante, these are the offenders who “taunt and ridicule” his cousin. There are indeed areas of the country where we can find higher incidences of racism. On the other hand, the ignorant type may not obviously be racist,

but they don’t bother being careful about their words and actions. During my freshman year, at a photo critique, I remember a Japanese student putting work up. During the critique a classmate (let’s call him Bob) made a comment on the work and mistakenly referred to the student as Chinese. Someone else corrected him and Bob said, “Well, what’s the difference? It’s the same thing to me.” The rest of us ducked our heads in embarrassment and an awkward silence followed, which brings me to the bystander: the person who objects to racism but passively looks on.

Why didn’t we take on the fourth position and actually tell Bob what an asshole he was? He really didn’t seem to find anything wrong with his declaration. Did he genuinely not realize how offensive he was, or was he racist and unashamed to make such a comment in front of the whole classroom? We’ll never know. I, for one, am left wishing I had at least tried to find out. At this point in our history, it almost feels like a crime in and of itself to be a bystander. I am reminded of a rather profound quote from the film *Boondock Saints*: “There is another evil in this world, and that is the indifference of decent men.” ‘Not being racist’ just might not be enough anymore.

Did Jane find someone to stand up for her? Apparently not. Shortly after *Reporter* received Dante’s email, she transferred to the Art Institute in San Francisco as a direct result of the racial slurs. Perhaps she should have found a way to defend herself, because I haven’t met a defender yet. •

“One would think, or at least hope, that at an institute of higher learning—a graduate school no less—there would be students with more tact than to hurt strangers with malicious intent.”

A Political cartoon by RIT Illustration student

▼ (below) by Zhu-Ping Li



What Would Jesus Eat?

by Krister Rollins

Here it is:

I enter the room late and the introduction for the main speaker has already begun. Shit, what's his name? Nick something? Damn.

Nick gets up in front of everyone and for a couple of minutes I'm terrified because there are musical instruments on stage. Is this kind Christian minstrel going to sing folk songs about the nature of Jesus to us?

Luckily, my fears go largely unfounded. Nick asks if he can use the music stand for his presentation notes. A good sign, surely—it denotes the music won't be for him.

“No cereal? Damn you Cap'n Crunch! You will make cereal no more!”

Nick starts off the lecture in telling us about his past. He grew up forced to go to church on Easter and Christmas, but that was it. Then he feeds us some bullshit story about how he couldn't find Adam and Eve in the Bible. He couldn't find them. Shit, I know where to find them and I've been to a grand total of one church service in my life. He said it made him “worse than atheists.”

And that's the most negative I can get with these people. They were friendly and sincere and honest. Nick spent the rest of the night talking about the various conceptions and interpretations of Jesus Christ. The Muslims, Islamics, and Jews see him as a man of good morals and guided principles, but not as a savior. The Christians know he's the savior, though, because he says as much in the New Testament.

And we can take people for their word. As soon as Nick said that “Jesus said he was the son of God,” I thought of the movie *12 Monkeys*, and how Brad Pitt's insane character screams “My father is God!” Although Jesus, according to the documents, never screamed it out; he simply stated it.

I'd say about 95% of what people say is honest, so who are we to deny that Jesus the Christ was what he said he was? In the end I don't know.

Here's what my main concern was entering this event: the speaker was going to try and define what Jesus was like; whether he liked Coke or Pepsi, milk or water, or The Addams Family or The Munsters. But in the end, Nick wound up saying that Jesus is what he means to you. And I completely agree. I'm an atheist, but it seems to me that defining Jesus would be like defining God, which would defeat the entire purpose of religion and faith and belief in anything. I was delighted that we didn't find out that Jesus preferred to snack on Triscuits.

And that's the ending: Nick asked us to define Jesus for ourselves. I know in my heart that Jesus did prefer Triscuits and Coke and The Addams Family, I know in my heart that he liked the original Psycho more than the Gus Van Sant remake, but who knows what your heart might think?

I met this person who helped to organize the event and we talked about how Jesus' withering of a Fig Tree made him more human. I like it because Jesus wakes up cranky and hungry, and when this tree has no figs, Jesus withers it so it never will again. It's amusing. It's something I'd do if I could. “No cereal? Damn you Cap'n Crunch! You will make cereal no more!” And so goes the demise of Cap'n Crunch.

He said it made him “worse than atheists.”

I was also flattered when Sam, an excited hippie youth (not looking unlike the Jesus stereotype) ran up to me and asked if I was an Indie Rock star. I don't know if it was my beard or my leather coat or what, but after he very perceptively asked if I was doing “Gonzo/Hunter S. Thompson” type articles, I tried to discreetly reveal the grape juice I'd been drinking.

Overall, I'm a bit disappointed. I was hoping for a scathing or flaming editorial on how ridiculous those Christian types are. In the end, I'm not really convinced of anything, except that those people are honest, sincere, and hopeful. •

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