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Tricia Chin, Josh Gomby,
Adam Rossiter

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS

Jacob Hannah, Young Jang,
Ralph Smith, David Wright

CONTRIBUTING ILLUSTRATORS

Dan Bolinski, Mike Norton, Bill Robinson

ADVISOR

Rudy Pugliese

PRINTING

Printing Applications Lab

DISTRIBUTION

Mike Eppolito, Peter Frandina

CONTACT INFO

MAIN: 585.475.2212
reporter@rit.edu
ADVERTISING: 585.475.2213
reporterads@mail.rit.edu

EDITORIAL

Anybody Want to Talk About It?

"I think this debate doesn't belong in the high school. I think this debate is a debate that belongs in university classrooms where you have students who have gained a degree of intellectual maturity to understand the background issues and historical context," said Niall Shanks, professor of philosophy at East Tennessee State University, during NPR's *Justice Talking* show on Intelligent Design. The feature this week investigates the Evolution Debate, which has been re-ignited with high school boards in Kansas and Pennsylvania introducing the potential scientific counterpoint to Darwinism into their biology classes. Specifically, though, I want to address the point Shanks makes in the quote—assuming high schools have prepared students with the basic knowledge, the Evolution debate should be at the university level. And I, for one, want that debate here—at RIT.

In fact, I would appreciate more open intellectual debate and discussion of any topic on our campus. A good example came just last week with the showing of *Wegman's Cruelty*. The documentary on Wegman's chicken farm was a refreshing dose of debate—students actually arrived prepared to offer arguments in discussion (see next week's *Reporter* for more coverage).

Perhaps, we would have more discussion if not for how textbook-driven the science and engineering is at RIT. Of course, this is completely understandable. I mean—a substantial amount of our curricula is geared toward engineering and applied-science studies. You have to have standards, you have to go by the book—otherwise people can get pretty bloodied up by substandard projects. But our quantitative desires and career-pointed blinders seem to dominate life in and out of the classroom.

In general, I feel like the intellectual communities at RIT are terribly disconnected. We all fit into neat categories—Engineer, Scientist, Computer Jockey, Artist—with our own little buildings. Except for...oh yeah, the Liberal Arts majors. They are the odd growth on the institute—most people can't decide whether it's symbiotic or not. Yet, if you peer into the COLA depths of the course catalog you can find a hidden nest egg of curricular debate at RIT.

The philosophy department has several faculty working on ethics and philosophy of science. RIT even has a department of Science, Technology, and Society dedicated to investigating the social context and ethical ramifications of the technology pulsing at our academic heart. There is even a writing course—Rhetoric of Science—that forces students to rethink scientific discourse in historical and rhetorical contexts. Unfortunately, these academic anomalies rarely seem to spill out of Liberal Arts and into the campus at large. It feels like RIT faculty rarely communicate outside of their colleges—I can't even tell if the different Deans know each other.

RIT, same as any other institute, should act as a place where minds come together in intelligent discussion—across disciplines. I think we could be a venue for people such as the famous Darwinian pundit Richard Dawkins. He should be able to stand in Webb Auditorium until he spontaneously evolves a second head to continue the argument. In other words: this debate should be at RIT. And it's not because of the ethical quandaries, the scientific spitting contests, or even the fact that we are building a new Center for Biotechnology Education, but because we are an academic institution with a "by definition" stake in such a debate. It's perfect; bring in all the colleges, even Liberal Arts. We are talking about life itself—it doesn't get more interdisciplinary than that.

Last year, the Gannett Lecture series proved an excellent beginning with back-to-back lectures by Ali A. Mazrui and Daniel Pipes. Each talk inspired impassioned discussion before and after the sessions. Really, just because we are "career-oriented" doesn't mean we are, or have to be, disconnected from everything else. The Vision statement on the Office of the President website (<http://www.rit.edu/~020www/mission.html>) even lays it out, "RIT will *lead* higher education in preparing students for successful careers in a global society."



Erhardt Graeff
Editor in Chief



Second year student Steve Baker (center) and third year student Phil Plummer (right) cheer for the RIT mens hockey team during their 3-2 win over St. Lawrence University on Friday, October 28. Jacob Hannah/REPORTER Magazine

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Cover illustration by Bill Robinson

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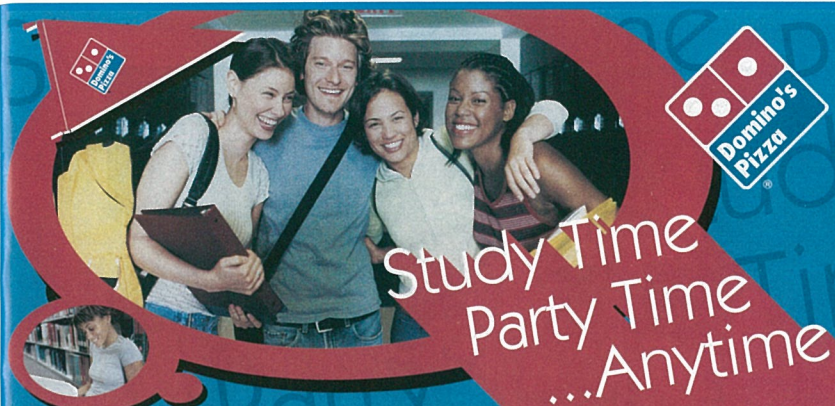
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New Anti-Terrorism Masters Degree:

A Non-traditional Education for a Non-traditional Problem

by Carl Westgren | illustration by Mike Norton

If there is one slogan we won't forget, it's that you can't spell 'terrorism' without 'terror.' RIT has taken that idea further and, in conjunction with the Center for Advanced Defense Studies (CADS), is in the process of developing a new cross-disciplinary master's degree that focuses on elements of Homeland Security. Technically, the degree itself—the Cross Disciplinary Professional Studies M.S.—has been around since 1986. The new portion of the degree is a non-proliferation and counter-terrorism section. While most of the content is not necessarily new, the way of presenting the content and the degree has changed.

"This is a very non-traditional degree offered through [CADS]," said Dr. Jim Myers, director of RIT's Center for Multidisciplinary Studies. "There are not a lot of people who can jump right in."

The aim of the partnership between RIT and CADS is to train defense experts, intelligence personnel, emergency management professionals, and other important officials to cope with possible security threats. The courses will cover studies in counterterrorism, cyber security, and chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive defense. It is a twelve-course program that includes 48 credit hours. The degree is highly specialized and quite technical.

Dr. Newton Howard is going to direct many of the courses and has been hired by RIT as a research professor in the Center for Advancing the Study of Cyberinfrastructure. He holds a teaching position at George Washington University and is an active member of several worldwide research laboratories. Howard is also the founder and chairman of CADS. The classes, however, are not available on campus; rather, they are taught at CADS's Washington, D.C. facilities. This is because as Myers pointed out, "The largest markets are in Washington." RIT's involvement in the new program is more for development and research purposes. "[RIT offers] a lot of really great technical and great programs focused on Homeland Security," said Myers. "[RIT] is working with CADS for both faculty expertise and marketing and delivery of programming."

The RIT faculty and administration are aware of a need for a career-oriented workforce. This need will be addressed by developing and drawing from many of RIT's well-established programs. Student opinion, on the other hand, is much different. For the most part, the RIT student community was unsure of how to embrace this new idea—the general reaction of the students seemed to vary greatly. A second-year student [name withheld] stated,



"You're in the wrong territory, I think. Up here, everyone's so liberal, they don't [care in the least]."

Mohammed Oqandi, a first-year Graphic Media major, wanted to see a more specialized degree. "It's better to have a separate degree. If terrorists attack biologically, it is better to have someone with a biological, and not a general, background deal with it."

A few other colleges to date have also partnered with CADS. George Washington University, the University of Illinois at Springfield, Illinois Institute of Technology, and the University of Lyon in France have all started similar degrees.

Four years ago Gilbert Gottfried joked, "Sorry I'm late, but my plane had to stop at the Empire State Building." But his joke received virtually no response because, as he discovered, terrorism was not a joking matter. In today's society, 'terrorism' has sadly become part of our vernacular. Though training professionals in anti-terrorism certainly won't prevent terrorists from attacking in the first place, you can't help but admit that any effort to ensure our protection is inarguably worth it. •



A Shallow Grave for the Woodward Pool

by Austin McChord | photography by David Wright

Ask the masses that walk down the quarter mile every day what used to be across from Clark Gym, and you will find that a lot of people haven't the faintest glimmer of an idea. For those of us that do remember the Woodward pool area in the SAU, there has been a lot of curiosity concerning what happened to it; and, of course, what could and should be done with the space.

Since the opening of Gordon Field House last year, the Edith Woodward pool, named for the widow of Jell-o fortune heir Ernest Woodward, has been closed and the space has been empty. "We have taken a look at the needs on campus and we believe with the opening of the new pools in the Field House, there isn't enough demand to justify the costs of keeping the Woodward Pool open," explained Mary-Beth Cooper, Vice President of Student Affairs.

RIT plans to convert the pool area into much-needed club space. Cooper added, "We have spoken to an architect about coming up with plans for the new area...in addition to adding space for clubs, we want to add a comfortable space for students to meet and socialize." But how will it be decided who gets the empty pool space? One safe assumption is that it won't be as easy as filling out the one-page form that clubs typically use to request a space. Currently, the area set aside for club space consists of the second floor of the RITreat, located across from the SAU Café. Working in conjunction with the Center for Campus Life, the Club Review Board (CRB) is the student-led advisory board

that determines how the area is allotted for club use, based on each club's specific needs. Number of members, equipment needed, and how often meetings are held are all factors which help determine the space SG gives to a particular club. And with over 150 clubs on campus, there's bound to be some competition.

Cooper went on to explain that the project is currently waiting on funding for the renovation to move ahead. "Demolishing the pool area is going to be expensive—there is a lot of concrete down there," Cooper noted. But she is confident that RIT will get the funding soon, as RIT is entering its final year in its \$300 million "Capital Campaign" fundraiser. According to the Finance and Administration website, \$32,540 has already been designated for a "Woodward pool design study." Although the purpose of this study is not indicated, such an allocation in the budget hopefully indicates that *some* plan for the empty pool is in the works. •

▲ The Woodward Pool, located across from the Clark Gym, closed last year and sits untouched Friday afternoon, October 28, 2005.



A group of feral cats outside a Riverknoll apartment on Saturday, October 29.

Running Wild: Feral Cats Around RIT

by Joshua Van Hook | photography by Ralph Smith

The steel of the cage glints in the moonlight. A strong smell of fish finds its way to a hungry nose. Then in a flash, the trap is sprung. No, it isn't a raccoon or an opossum, but instead, it is a cat. Trapping of feral, or wild, cats in this manner is being carried out around RIT.

RIT policy does not allow pets, like cats, on campus. Unfortunately, students do not always conform to this, which means there is a growing number of feral cats on and around campus. These animals are either former pets, or the offspring of abandoned pets that are not spayed or neutered. Sue Wilcox and her group, Caring Hearts for Homeless Animals, provide a shelter near Building 86 as well as food for the cats. She estimates a population of about 80 of these felines around RIT. They get fed every night, and as Wilcox explains, she "[is likely to] see up to 17 cats a night, although some ferals that are not neutered or spayed will not show themselves until we leave." Generally speaking, cats that are not fixed are trapped, neutered, and then released, as it is hard to re-domesticate these animals. Cassandra Merritt, an RIT student and volunteer with Habitat for Cats points out, "[feral cats] go crazy inside" if put into a household. Wilcox's colony provides a steady source of nourishment for these cats without having to force them indoors.

Habitat for Cats (HFC), founded in 1999, originally intended "to provide shelters for feral and homeless cats in and around the Rochester area—hence the name 'Habitat For Cats,'" as volunteer Martha Sullivan explained. Nowadays, the group has shifted to a program of

'TNR,' or trap, neuter, and release—similar to the procedures followed by Wilcox's group. A captured feral cat is caught, examined, neutered, vaccinated against rabies, and given medication for parasites by HFC. They spay and neuter cats from all around Monroe County at a clinic on John Street, only a short distance from RIT. Before the cats are released, their left ears are tipped (a small portion at the top is removed) to show they have been fixed. Not all of the cats are released; HFC tries to "socialize kittens," as Merritt explains. If feral kittens are re-domesticated early enough, they will be nearly as docile as an average pet-store housecat. In fact, Merritt has seen three or four of the kittens fostered by her family go to RIT students or faculty/staff.

Habitat for Cats is not officially affiliated with RIT, but they're working to bridge that gap. At one point, they made contact with the Animal Advocacy Group, a faculty/staff group here on campus whose mission is to educate students on the consequences of keeping pets. This issue of feral cats on campus is becoming more and more serious, mainly due to the potential for the population to bloom. Those cats that are a part of a colony like the one run by Wilcox are lucky, she says, "[uncared-for cats on campus] lead a miserable life." Perhaps there's a good reason behind that 'no pets' rule after all. •

For more information on Habitat for Cats, please visit www.habitatforcats.com

For more information on Caring Hearts for Homeless Animals, please visit http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RIT_CAMPUS_CATS/

CrimeWatch

compiled by Govind Ramabadrn

RITForecast

compiled by Casey Dehlinger

October 20

Harassment

A student reported being harassed when he received a call from Texas. The female caller was intoxicated and dialed the wrong number, thinking she was speaking to her ex-husband. The victim turned his telephone off and the calls have stopped. Investigation closed pending new information.

October 21

Mark Ellingson Hall – Harassment

A parent called stating her daughter was being held in the Ellingson laundry room by an ex-boyfriend. Upon arrival, he was gone. It was learned that the female is a student and her ex-boyfriend had been talking to her for four hours while she was doing her laundry. Case referred to Student Conduct.

Nathaniel Rochester Hall – Forcible Touching

A staff member stated that she received information from one of her Resident Advisors that one of the floor members had been touched in intimate areas against her will by a male that lives in NRH. The investigation continues.

October 22

Trespass

An RIT neighbor reported that he observed a bow hunter on RIT's property. Brighton Police Department responded and located the vehicle and obtained the owner's information. A persona non grata letter will be mailed to the owner banning him from campus. Investigation closed pending new information.

Gordon Field House & Activities Center – Petit Larceny

A non-member had her wallet stolen, included a cell phone, digital camera, and personal papers while she attended the Pop Warner Cheerleading Competition in the Field House. The non-member was unable to recover her wallet and cell phone. Investigation closed pending new information.

October 23

Riverknoll – Petit Larceny

A student had their undergarments stolen from the laundry room area of Kimball Drive. The laundry was left in the area unattended. The area was checked with negative findings. Crime Prevention posters were distributed. Investigation closed pending new information.

October 25

Colby B – Weapon Possession

Two paintball markers were reported in a student's room. The student was contacted and produced two paintball markers that were secured in an equipment bag. The paintball markers were unloaded. Case referred to Student Conduct.

Friday
4
NOV

GCCIS Dean's Lecture Series:

1 p.m.–2:30 p.m. Building 70 Room 1400. Robert Fabbio gives speech, "Building Technology Isn't Enough, It had to Be Applied."

Alpha Phi Alpha Black and Gold Weekend:

7 p.m.–midnight. L. Slaughter Center CIMS Building.

A scholarship pageant and banquet. \$20

Gallery-r Opening:

7 p.m.–9 p.m. 775 Park Avenue. Student run metro showcase featuring contemporary art.

80's Theme Movie Night:

8 p.m.–midnight. NRH 1250. Sponsored by Residence Life. Films TBA.

Friday Night at the Ritz:

10 p.m. Ritz Sportszone. Que Pasa opens for Roadside Zoo. Sponsored by CAB. \$1.

Saturday
5
NOV

Cycle for Hope:

9 a.m.–5 p.m. The goal is to raise \$150,000 (for Camp Good Days and Special Times) and get into the Guinness Book of World Records for biggest spinning fundraiser. Teams of four to six people bike for a combined total of eight hours. \$75 pledge minimum.

Diwali Dinner:

6:30 p.m.–midnight. Clark Gym. Hindu festival with prayer and dinner. \$3 students, faculty, and staff. \$5 other.

BACC Annual Unity Fashion Show:

6:30 p.m.–10 p.m. SAU Cafeteria. \$5 students, faculty, staff. \$10 other.

CAB Saturday Night Standup:

11 p.m.–12:45 a.m. Ingle Auditorium. Featuring Joe DeRosa and Marina Frankin. \$1.

Sunday
6
NOV

The Commission Project Concert:

3 p.m.–5 p.m. Ingle Auditorium. Performed by RIT Ensembles, featuring the world premier of "Away," composed by David Liptak. This is a piece commissioned for the RIT 175th Anniversary.

Monday
7
NOV

Identity Theft: Don't be a Victim:

5 p.m.–6:30 p.m. Fireside Lounge. Part of the Professional Development Series. Sponsored by CitiGroup and the North Star Center.

Tuesday
8
NOV

Intergroup Dialogue:

5:30 p.m.–7 p.m. Dining Commons. Discuss aspects of Hearing and Deaf culture over food.

Wednesday
9
NOV

Have You Ever Been in Crime Watch?:

Call 585.475.5633 and tell us about it. We're like a 24 hour confessional booth hotline...minus the 'religion' stuff.

Thursday
10
NOV

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory:

10 p.m.–midnight. Ingle Auditorium. Free PB + J afterwards. It won't cause any swelling or discoloration, though. (Unless, of course, you're allergic to peanut butter.)



Dave Myers, a member of RIT Anti War, protests outside the Wallace Library Friday afternoon, October 28, 2005. The U.S. military death toll in Iraq recently reached 2,000 and RIT Anti War handed out flyers and chanted various messages that focused on bringing the troops home. David Wright/REPORTER Magazine



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Peter Travers, *Rolling Stone*

“‘SHOPGIRL’ IS A RARE COMMODITY: A GROWN-UP ROMANCE.

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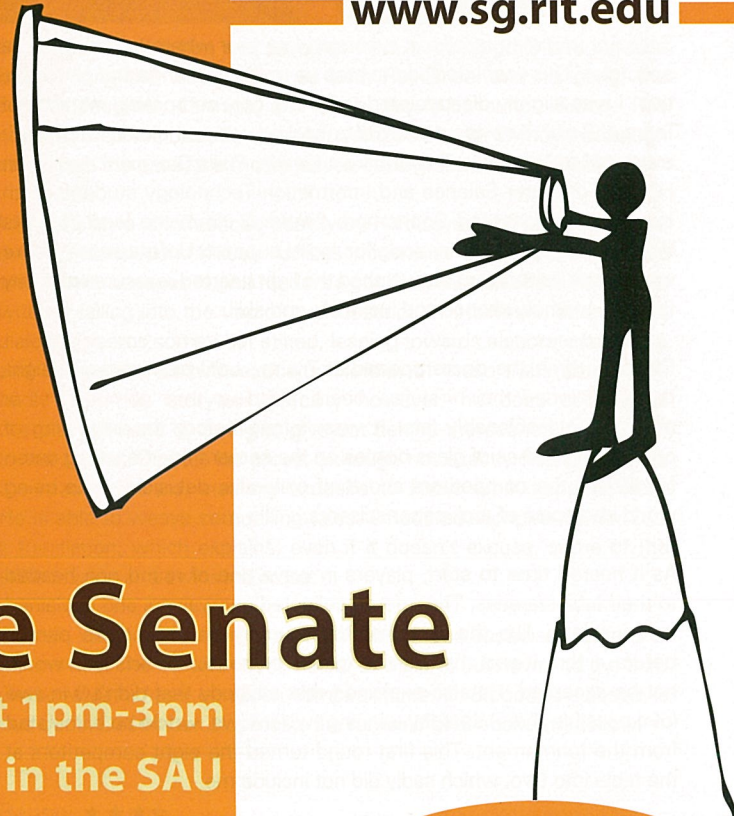
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Rocking Paper Scissors

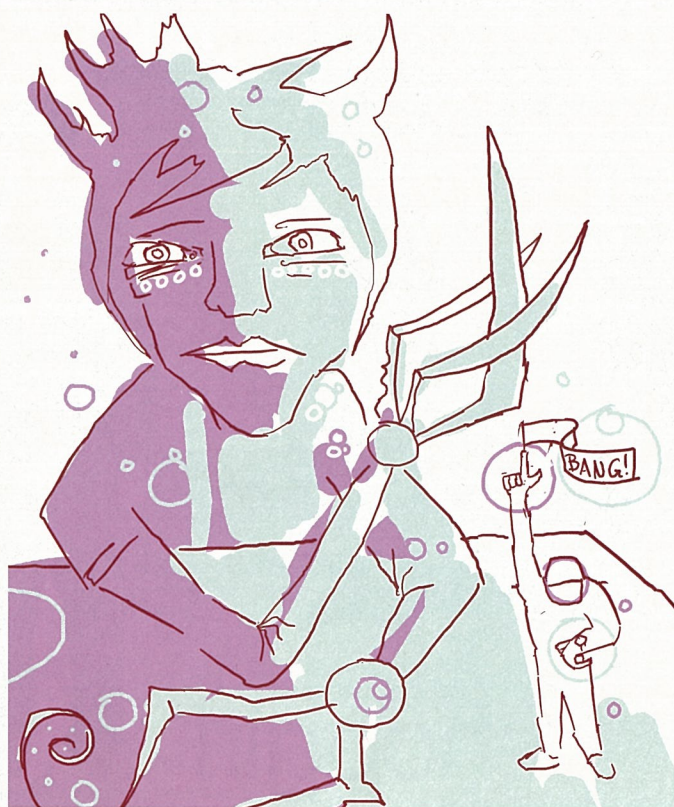
by Brian Garrison | illustration by Mike Norton

Outside, the temperature approached zero degrees. Exhaust fumes polluted the rainy night from gas burning by the litre. Roads looked strangely similar yet somehow different as we passed over them kilometer by kilometer. We were headed for the Rock Paper Scissors World Championships, and there was no doubt that we were in the marvellous and neighbourly country of Canada.

Some of you may recall my excursion last year where I was merely a spectator. This year I decided to step up to the challenge and go for the title. I was slightly disappointed to be the only competing member of Team U.S.eh? Two team members backed out completely and didn't even make the trek to Toronto. Fortunately, Chris Catignani and Kevin Hartel, Computer Science and Information Technology students both in their third year, and Sophomore Amber B, from the local Roberts Wesleyan College, came along for moral support. Unfortunately, there were many factors that outweighed the light hearted reassurance of my friends—namely chance and luck...oh, and skill.

From the time the doors opened at 7 p.m., until play began at eight, people downed their first few beers, sized up their competition, or showed up fashionably late. It wasn't long before the beginning of occasional crashes of glass bottles on the cement floor; a telling omen for 495 of the competitors and their collective delusion about being world champion of rock paper scissors.

As it neared time to start, players in wave one of round one headed to their tables/arenas. The referee collected our waivers and explained a few things, like the fact that the tournament uses three primes before a throw and that vertical paper or horizontal scissors would not be accepted. He also explained that anybody that didn't win two (of a possible three) sets, by winning two throws, would be eliminated from the tournament. This first round turned the eight competitors at the table into two, which sadly did not include me.



After this pathetic display of my lacking mastery in the art of rock paper scissors, I wanted to head home. But little did I know, the guys in charge of the tournament had put some effort into improving the event, ensuring that it didn't diminish into something as lame as it sounds like when you first hear that there really is a world championship for something as seemingly mundane as rock paper scissors. This year, they found a way to integrate "Street RPS" into the tournament.

At the door, everybody received two "Fun Bucks" to bet on what would otherwise have been friendly challenges. I decided to challenge 2003 champion Rob Kruger. I beat him in the simple two-for-three, and a few minutes later he re-challenged me. After once again calmly throwing down, he asked if I was still in the competition. I told him no, to which he replied, "That's a shame, you've got moxie." My moxie was only enough to get me to around \$40 before I lost it all. Instead, the youngest competitor, 9-year-old Simen Wang of Team Norway ended up with the most money at the end. He carried the overflowing pile of fake bills up to the stage and threw them into the crowd in celebration of winning the \$1,000 prize in real Canadian money.

This year's slightly-larger-than-normal cheque for \$7,000, went to Andrew Bergel, a Toronto citizen with curly hair and a Blue Jay's t-shirt. He also got the honor of having his name inscribed on the shiny trophy, and bragging rights for being the world champion. Second place, along with \$1,500, went to 22-year-old Stan Long who was representing California on a team called FUPA. Third place winner Stuart Waldman, of New York, took home \$500 while wearing a wedding dress. His outfit choice was because he came with a group of his old college buddies for his bachelor party, including the new world champion Andrew.

So was it worth it? Maybe you should go next year and find out; that is, if you want to see "a bunch of drunken old men acting like five-year-olds," as Chris so aptly described it. •



Into the Night

Vampire Hunter D

by Elliot Jenner

One day in the distant past, humanity pulled the trigger. Nuclear bombs fell around the world, and the land was scorched. From the ashes rose a new civilization, dominated not by man, but by our most ancient fear: vampires. Possessing hyper science, mystical might, and immortality, the vampires which also known as the Nobility, ruled for centuries. Humanity was taken as their slaves, until a valiant human uprising unseated them and drove them back into their castles and tombs. In vengeance, the vampires released into the world all the ancient monsters of myth. Those who fight the monsters are known simply as Hunters, and the most powerful hunters are those who hunt the vampires themselves. Those on whom the nobility feed are doomed unless a vampire hunter can save them from death or transformation.

This brings us to our hero; Vampire Hunter D. He's a wanderer and a Dhampir, a half vampire, born of a vampire and a human. Dhampirs possess great power rivaling the nobility, and the ability to walk under the sun; they are the ultimate hunters of their parents.

A creation of legendary Japanese horror master Hideyuki Kikuchi, Vampire Hunter D has spawned 2 movies. Now, for the first time, the original novels are being translated into English.

The first novel sets up the world, going to great lengths to give the reader all of the information they could possibly want. It reveals little about D's background, focusing more on his actions and interactions with the other characters. The main plot centers around Doris Lang, who has become the unfortunate victim of the local count.



She hires D to kill him and save her from becoming his new undead bride. Along the way, D clashes with Rei-Ginsei and his gang, the count's daughter, Larmica, and Doris' would-be suitor, Greco. This novel formed the basis for the first Vampire Hunter D movie although as is often the case, the movie leaves out a great deal of detail.

Kikuchi's style is influenced heavily by H.P. Lovecraft, and this shows even in translation. Kikuchi utilizes minimalist descriptions to good effect, and manages to give readers a good impression of the characters without falling into the trap of over-description. However, at times his dialogue seems somewhat stilted, leaning towards elaborate language, and he sometimes over exposit. Neither of these traits detract too badly from his storytelling ability however, he does sometimes overplay his hand by trying to give out behind-the-scenes information to the reader. Overall, his prose, although not exactly flowing, carries the reader onward, instilling a desire to know what happens next. He is able to weave compelling tales. Of course Vampire Hunter D is a translation, which explains, even if it doesn't excuse, some of the stilted dialog and awkward prose.

Overall, Vampire Hunter D is an entertaining read especially for fans of the movies. The second novel, *Raiser of Gails*, is out now, and the third, *Demon Deathchase*, on which *Vampire Hunter D: Bloodlust* is based, is due out in December. Hopefully, the remaining 10 books will follow. •

Rating: ★★☆☆



"The Internet is Not Only for Porn"

Things to do on the Web that Won't Make Your Grandmother Blush

by Jennifer Loomis | illustration by Mike Norton

Admit it. When you hear the words "entertainment" and "Internet" in the same sentence, your mind immediately jumps into the gutter. And who could blame you? By all popular accounts, the World Wide Web and pornography go together like peanut butter and jelly. While the peanut butter is fine by itself, the jelly adds a certain irresistible and almost indispensable layer of sweetness.

But fear not, intrepid readers! The Internet is more than mere storage space for lewd sexual visuals. As the following sampling of websites proves, it is also home to a great deal of whimsical, alarming, and downright preposterous websites that provide amusement you don't have to close your door to enjoy.

Kingdom of Loathing

www.kingdomofloathing.com

Have you ever wanted to adventure in the Haiku Dungeon? Or battle a zombie in the Misspelled Cemetery? Or perhaps you've always dreamed of creating a character of the Disco Bandit persuasion? If any of that fills you with a deep longing, then perhaps you should schedule an appointment with your therapist. But after you have spent an hour on the couch, you should sign up to play Kingdom of Loathing, a free online role-playing game that looks like it was illustrated by a monkey, but reads like a well done satire.

Eyezmaze

www.eyezmaze.com

Eyezmaze has got to be one of the weirdest collections of games that I've seen in a very long time. Although the site has eight games that are all fully capable of driving you to distraction, the Grow trilogy is by far the most entertaining. The goal of the game is simple, you must add elements to a platform in a certain order to make all of them "grow" to their full potential. This task is easier said than done. Each element in question seems both random and nonsensical; after all, what possible good could come from adding a mini-tornado to the surface of a sphere? The answer to this question is as nonsensical as the question itself, and embodies the charm and utter confusion of the Eyezmaze games.

Gizoogle

www.gizoogle.com

Most web-based translators take one traditional language, like French or English, and translate it into another traditional language, like Spanish or Portuguese. Gizoogle is not like most web-based translators. Gizoogle (which is not affiliated with its namesake, Google) is a program that takes English and transforms it into a zany form of Ebonics, the African American vernacular made popular by rapper Snoop Doggy Dogg. Gizoogle is the perfect tool for converting boring documents into fun reads. Need to study one of President Bush's speeches for a politics class? Or perhaps you're looking for a way to make your friends' Livejournals more bearable? Just run the sleep-inducing text through the Gizoogle translator and witness the hilarity.

Rag Doll Physics in Flash

www.izpitera.ru/lj/tetka.swf

In case you don't already know, rag doll physics is a life-like rendition of body motion that employs a skeletal-frame in character models to dictate movement. This particular physics engine depicts a woman falling from an infinite height while hitting various circular platforms along the way. These platforms will either cause her to slump into a painful-looking (and eerily realistic) position, or roll off and continue her plunge. In addition to simply falling, the model can be grabbed onto with the mouse and flung around at whim by the user. All of this realism amounts to a grotesque sight and a guilty pleasure that's well worth looking into.

Escher Web Sketch

www.kaagaard.dk/illusion/escher/escher.htm

M.C. Escher was a graphic artist famous for his impossibly-recursive sketches. Through the magic of technology, Escher's painstakingly-difficult art is now only a few mouse drags away from recreation. The Escher Web Sketch, is a Java-based web application that allows the user to define a plane of symmetry and start sketching out whatever forms and shapes leap to mind. Whether you want to create complicated works of geometric perfection, or a hundred images of a banana all lined up next to each other, Escher Web Sketch makes it easy, fun, and accessible. •

AT YOUR LEISURE | Things, Stuff, and People too...

STREAM OF FACTS

NOVEMBER 4

November 4, 1842, Abraham **Lincoln**, future US President, married Mary Todd in Springfield, Illinois.

Mary **Lincoln** became the sole owner of the Lincoln estate and her “spend-**thrift**” ways concerned her son Robert. To gain possession of the estate Robert had Mary Lincoln committed.

Federal **Thrift** Savings Plan, or TSP, is a retirement savings plan for civilians who are **employed** by the United States Government and for members of the uniformed services.

In the United Arab Emirates it is common practice for **employers** to retain employees’ passports for the duration of the employment contract to prevent **expatriate** employees from changing jobs.

An **expatriate** is someone temporarily or permanently in a country and culture other than that of their upbringing and/or legal residence. This term is commonly misspelled as ex-**patriot**, due to its pronunciation.

In 1960, the then Boston **Patriots** played in the first ever American Football League game, their opponents were the Denver **Broncos**.

Bronco horses are untamed horses ridden in rodeo sports, whereas **quarter** horses are traditionally bred to race a quarter mile.

November 4, 1956, Soviet troops invade Hungary to stop the Hungarian revolution that started on October 23. Thousands are killed, more are wounded, and nearly a **quarter** million leave the country.

QUOTE

“There’s never enough time to do all the nothing you want.”
– Calvin (Bill Watterson, Calvin & Hobbes)

Limerick

by Brian Garrison
Time traveler that came from the 70’s
From the looks of it he was Lebanese
When somebody said
That disco was dead
He fell to the ground crying on his knees

JUMBLE

United States

songtwhian
igivrani
ewdreal
itsnomane
lradoif
silainoau
sisimisipps
amaabal
olcfanriai
eeeeennsst
tnnaoma

Washington, Virginia, Wisconsin, Delaware, Minnesota, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, California, Tennessee, Montana

RANDOM REVIEW

With all the rain we get in Rochester my footwear just wasn’t up to the challenge of keeping my socks dry. I was sick of wrinkly toes and foul smelling wet socks and shoes. I went looking for a solution and found it in a stout pair of dairy boots from Wal-Mart. You know what I’m talking about, knee waders, rubber boots, galoshes, Wellington boots, whatever you want to call them. Essentially you want a tall, all rubber boot, with no insulation to speak of. My feet have never been so dry! And at \$14.95, you would be a fool not to own a pair. Of course nothing is perfect, and I would suggest wearing these boots with high thick socks to prevent the boots from rubbing unpleasantly on your calves. This is of course unless you are man enough to tuck your pants into the tops of your boots. Sadly I am not.

REPORTER RECOMMENDS

Trick or Treating. What else would I recommend this week? I mean seriously. Now this game has gotten harder what with being all grown up now. But it still can be done. A good trick or treat in the dorms can be fun even if the candy pickings are scarce. People tend to appreciate the effort and even if you wind up with more ramen than candy you will at least be keeping the spirit alive.

PLAYLIST Life Life Life

Cake – Going the Distance
Big L – Lifestyles Ov Da Poor & Dangerous
Chain of Strength – True Til Death
Fat Joe – My Lifestyle
Swans – Celebrity Lifestyle
Waking Life Soundtrack – Nocturnal
U2 – Beautiful Day
Gangstarr – Moment of Truth
Survivor – Eye of the Tiger
Cartel – Runaway
Good Charlotte – Lifestyles Rich & Famous







Giving the Flying Spaghetti Monster His Say

The Endless Evolutionary Debate Continues

by Adam Bosen | illustration by Bill Robinson

Eighty years hasn't changed much. We all heard about the Scopes "monkey" trial in high school biology, but that particular verdict didn't settle the matter of whether creationism should be taught in schools. At times the debate is quieter, but it hasn't gone away. The past year has seen a sudden resurfacing of court cases directly confronting the matter in both primary and higher education.

The Battles

Dover, Pennsylvania is a battleground. For the past six weeks, the small community has been at war with itself over one of the most controversial issues in America, and reinforcements just keep arriving. The conflict was sparked last month when the majority of the Dover Board of Education voted to make the teaching of Intelligent Design mandatory in the district's high school biology courses. The outcome of the vote caused an uproar among the community; and eleven parents, with the assistance of the American Civil Liberties Union and Americans United for Separation of Church and State, sued the Dover school district. The resulting lawsuit has drawn national attention and, once again, raised the question of what should be included in a standard American education.

Dover is not unique in its clash, either. Six Calvary Chapel High School students, backed by several Christian organizations, are suing the University of California (UC) for declaring that their high school's science courses would not meet the university admission requirements. The rejected biology courses underwent a standard screening process that UC applies to all high schools and were determined to be more focused on teaching creationism than biological science. The Calvary Chapel courses in question used Creationist textbooks as their only teaching material. The textbooks' publishers admit the books were written primarily from a religious viewpoint and rely on the Bible—not scientific research—as their primary source. Because of this, UC does not recognize the courses as any sort of science, meaning students would need to take an extra science approved by UC in order to be qualified to attend UC schools.

The Monkey Trial's Children

The debate over evolution and creationism is nothing new to the American school system. The first widely-publicized clash of ideologies occurred in 1925 when John Scopes, a high school biology professor, ignored Tennessee's law forbidding the instruction of any theory that denied the Biblical story of creation. The ensuing trial erupted into a media circus and drew the attention of significant political figures in the country. It became such a massive event that a former Democratic presidential candidate, William Jennings Bryan, headed the prosecution during the case. *Tennessee v. John Scopes* was unofficially dubbed 'the monkey trial' due to a popular rumor that Bryan was going to call a monkey to the stand during the trial to testify. Scopes was eventually found guilty and fined \$100, but the media field day during the trial led many to believe that Scopes's defense had won a moral victory, weakening the anti-evolution sentiment that had been spreading through the country.

"I have no problem with the God who created all of existence and human kind, the greatest artist of all, creating the world in seven literal days. I believe he has the power to do that."

When the evolution movement continued to gain momentum, creationists were not deterred. Several alternative science groups attempted to prove that evolution was wrong. In the 1980s, Arkansas and Louisiana both passed laws stating that if evolution was to be taught, then equal classroom time must be given to creationist theory as well. In both cases, the laws were declared unconstitutional on the basis that they violated the First Amendment. The Louisiana legal battle served as a stepping-stone for a new idea known as "Intelligent Design" theory. This theory quickly gained popular support among creationists even though its two biggest proponents—Michael Behe and William Dembski—both contend that the theory is, by itself, not religious in any way. In the mid-90s, they published books arguing that life was irreducibly complex and could not have originated from a series of random events. This argument is one of the primary driving factors behind modern anti-evolutionism, although it is often cited as some form of creationism.

The Creationist Perspective

One of the biggest problems with properly understanding the issue is the fact that there are several variations on creationism, many of which disagree with one another. The spectrum ranges from people who believe the seven-day literal interpretation of Genesis to those that think there must be some form of god influencing our existence to some that refuse to attempt to quantify the creator behind their argument in any way.

Older forms of creationism tend to draw their arguments from religious sources, of which the classic example is the Bible. The story of Genesis is one of the most commonly-cited examples of proof that God created the universe. "I have no problem with the God who created all of existence and human kind, the greatest artist of all, creating the world in seven literal days," states David Skeldon, a second-year postgraduate divinity student at Northeastern University. "I believe he has the power to do that."

That Thing Somewhere in the Middle

Others take a slightly more secular position on the matter. Many Intelligent Design-ists base their view in a logical, scientific approach. In 1996, William Dembski developed the Explanatory Filter concept,

which is a three-layer filter used to determine if any event or object was created by the intentional actions of some intelligent creature. The Filter states that if any phenomenon cannot be explained by natural physical laws or random chance, and has some sort of implication that its existence was made for a specific purpose, then it must have been created. Dembski states that his Filter can be applied to a wide variety of topics, from identifying intellectual theft to the way insurance companies function, but is primarily used as an argument for Intelligent Design. Looking at the way the human eye functions or the way complex proteins fold via the Explanatory Filter suggests that they were 'built to function as they do,' Intelligent Design-ists claim. They argue that there is no way that random mutations or environmental influences could cause the creation of the biochemical processes present in every form of life, let alone create the complex cell dependencies required to form organs.

One of the biggest problems facing Intelligent Design-ists is that they are often confused with creationists, mostly due to the fact that modern creationist arguments against evolution tend to incorporate bits and pieces of Intelligent Design into their statements. "Are there creationists that like Intelligent Design for what they perceive its effects can be in school curriculum? Absolutely," affirms Dr. Larry Buckley, a professor in the Biology department at RIT. The majority of people pushing for Intelligent Design in schools argue that it is a scientifically valid theory, one equally as plausible as evolution, but opponents of the theory view the argument as having religious undertones.

The Evolutionary View

Scopes' trial evolution has been the commonly accepted topic for biology courses and textbooks to cover, but why? "I think sometimes people misunderstand when they see the support that evolution has in academic circles as dogma," says Buckley. "It may appear that way, but the real reason it has so much support is through all the experimentation that [has] been done to demonstrate its strengths." Evolution is rooted in scientific experimentation, and to date, the vast majority of scientific research and experimentation points to natural selection as the underlying cause of life as we know it. This is not to say that evolution is an absolute fact. The only concrete way to demonstrate that evolution is a definite reality and not just a theory would be to disprove

that evolution doesn't happen, which would require an experiment that hasn't been designed yet. "Evolution is a theory," states Buckley, "and so is gravity. Every time I do the experiment the apple falls, and every time we look at anatomical variations in organisms and compare homologous structures among organisms, it makes a hierarchical structure." In other words, no one has ever designed an experiment proving that something contrary to the evolutionary model can better explain life.

As for Intelligent Design theory, most scientists state that it is not science. "There are no predictions you can make from Intelligent Design," argues Dr. Robert Rothman, a professor in the RIT Biology department, "so you can't develop a hypothesis." No hypothesis means no experiment, and therefore no scientific proof. If eventually someone does invent and conduct an experiment that can prove whether or not complex biological systems can be created from basic components, then it would be possible to test Intelligent Design. As of yet, no one has ever done it. "If [intelligent] design can meet that [experimental criteria], it will be included in textbooks automatically," Buckley asserts. Most scientists would have no problem accepting Intelligent Design theory if it could be scientifically proven.

On the Lighter Side of Things

Meanwhile, Bobby Henderson, a graduate of Oregon State University with a bachelor's degree in physics, has created Flying Spaghetti Monsterism (FSM). FSM is a satirical parody religion in response to the Kansas State Board of Education's decision to allow creationism to be taught alongside evolution. This 'religion' quickly became a phenomenon on the internet, gaining many followers of the Flying Spaghetti Monster, who sometimes call themselves "Pastafarians" and claim to have been touched by "His noodly appendage." They preach the word of their "noodly Master" as the one true religion. In June of this year, Henderson wrote a letter to the Kansas Board formally requesting that the FSM be given equal time along with evolution and creationism in the school curriculum. He received sympathetic responses from three members of the board shortly thereafter. Henderson continues to advocate for FSM and has, along with hundreds of other Pastafarians, advised the Kansas Board that he will take legal action if his request is ignored. As the Pastafarians would say, "R-amien!"

Campus Feedback

The opinions on campus seem fairly evenly divided. Out of 50 RIT students randomly polled, 24 stated they agreed strongly with evolution, nine stated they agreed with some form of creationism, and 15 said they believed in some combination of both ideas (two weren't sure where they stood on the issue). This suggests that even though there is a significant scientific community present on campus not everyone agrees with or knows enough about evolution to consider it valid. "I think it takes a lot more faith to believe in the probability of evolution than it does to believe in God," says Peter Mottola, a second-year Information Technology student. The number of people that responded with some combination of the two theories suggests that the evidence on either side is not widely known, or is weaker than needed to sway people one way or the other.

When asked if Intelligent Design merits the same amount of time as evolution in public schools, the same 50 students were almost evenly divided on the issue. Twenty-two students said they think it should be given equal weight in the classroom, and twenty-three said they didn't

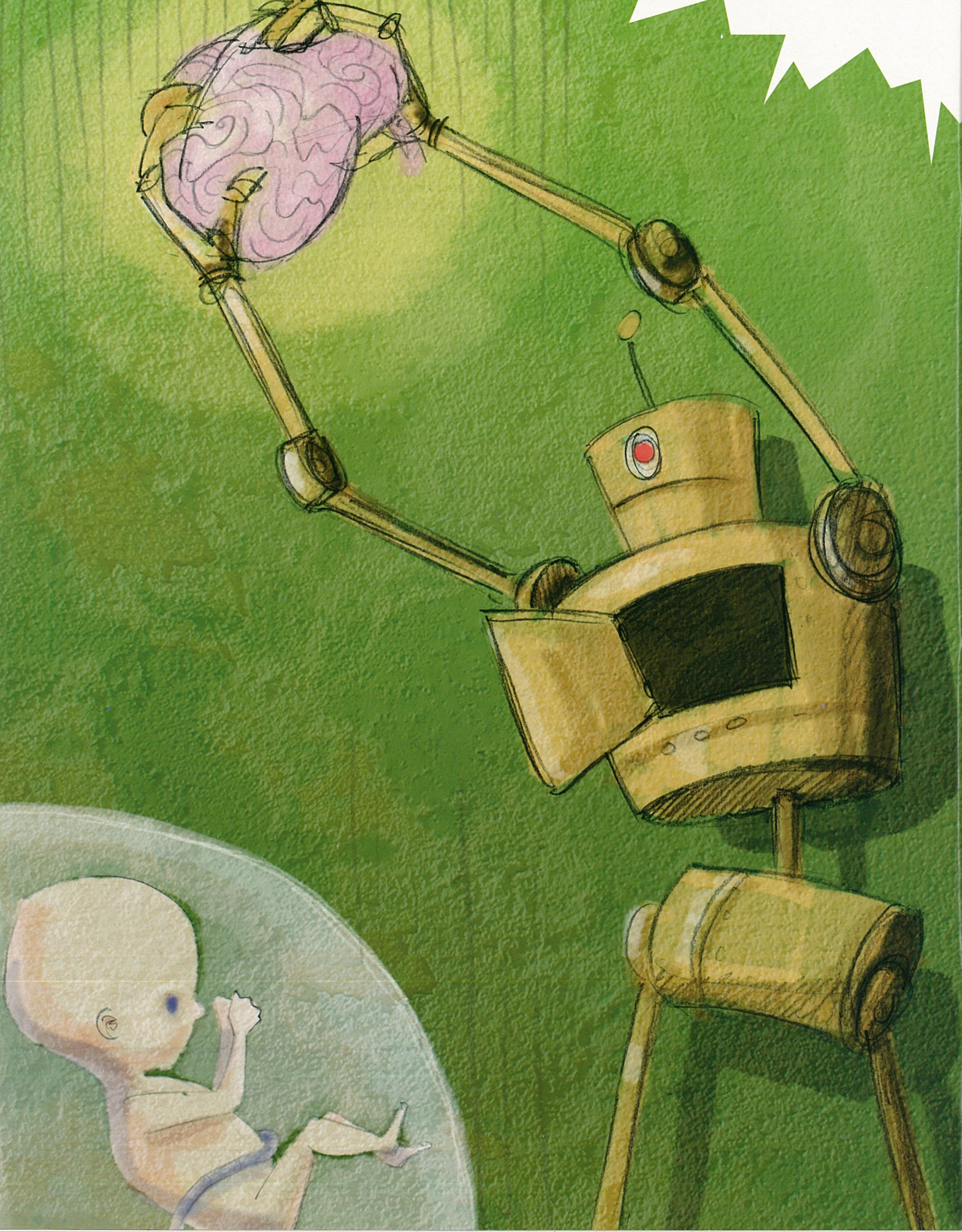
think it should be taught. Out of the remaining five, three said they weren't sure, one said that he believed neither theory should be taught and raw data on the subject should be presented so students could make their own decisions, and one stated that he thought Intelligent Design should be given the same time as evolution only if Flying Spaghetti Monsterism was presented as a third theory alongside the other two. Most people that said they believed IDT should be given equal time felt that it would be unfair to present only one side of the issue, and that the extent of the disparities between the two theories should be presented so that students could formulate their own opinions on the subject.

The Verdict?

The net result of the whole debate is a failure for people on either side of the issue to recognize the core of the other's arguments. Creationists claim that any sort of science that proves them wrong must have been already built into the system of the universe by their God/Unnamed External Factor/Flying Spaghetti Monster, and is part of the bigger truth that no human could possibly understand well enough to question. Scientists claim that the evidence presented must be the right answer and that any sort of creationism is merely religious hand-waving in an attempt to distract people from the truth. Intelligent Design is stuck uncomfortably between the two. Both the science and religious sides of the issue have already created catch-all arguments that are automatically used against any sort of new evidence, so it's unlikely that the issue will be resolved by anyone already mixed into the conflict. Scientists are generally strongest in the area of science, whereas religious groups and creationists are strongest in philosophy, so the two sides are playing the same game with a different set of rules.

All anyone can really do is wait to see whether popular opinion falls in favor of scientific or philosophical arguments. Until then, we can expect the fight to continue in various forms across the country long after the current political battles are finished. Chances are that if the debate has been going since 1925, a few lawsuits aren't going to change much—no matter what the verdict is in either case. We can only watch, wait, and see where public opinion takes it. •

"I think it takes a lot more faith to believe in the probability of evolution than it does to believe in God."



You Can Ask, but Jeeves Doesn't Care Defining Life with Artificial Intelligence

by Tom Cookson | illustration by Bill Robinson

If you are reading this sentence, this article applies to you. Not because you are at RIT, not because you have vision, and not even because you can read English, but because you *are*. We're out to define life relative to artificial intelligence (AI). So lean back, grab a latté, and see just how much philosophical doublespeak you can endure before flipping back to the word jumble.

The AI

That sinister robo-register at Wal-Mart might make you nervous today with its hollow thank-yous and empty pleases, but what if that were all to change? Sure, AIs can *say* things, but what if they could *mean* things? Zack Butler, a professor of Computer Science who teaches a course on AI, gives his views on the field.

"I tend to see artificial intelligence—AI—as a whole bunch of stuff which may or may not have anything to do with making things that act human," said Butler. "AIs, even the ones that play chess, and do so on a world championship level, don't do anything else. They don't communicate particularly well and don't do anything interesting in that sense." He also elaborated on the progress of AI. "I think one thing that people have found since they started doing AI research is that despite grand visions and books that came out...in terms of a program you can sit down and talk to, we really aren't anywhere close [to where they thought we would be]. At this point, they can only maintain the illusion [of being human] for a couple of sentences."

Indeed, it only takes a couple of sentences before it becomes apparent that there is much more artificiality than intelligence in composing sentences (see for yourself by harassing the AIs at <http://www.pandorabots.com/botmaster/en/mostactive>). It begs the question of whether or not AIs will ever have true understanding.

"You can't make anything that can have meaningful conversation without having some understanding," Butler mused. "[Some new AIs] are really attempting to provide some sort of understanding... In the simplest case, we are just talking about the difference between looking for keywords and looking for keywords and then translating those into some internal representation. That is understanding in some sense."

“We really aren’t anywhere close [to where they thought we would be]. At this point, they can only maintain the illusion [of being human] for a couple of sentences.”

“I personally like to...[define] consciousness as nothing more than a self-referencing processing loop that runs in our brain.”

The Difference

Have you ever seen a row of dominos fall? Knock over the first one and the next one goes down, only to hit the next in line, and so on. Dominoes are the visual representation of a sequence of events. AIs are a sequence of events. If A happens, then B occurs. If you knew every line of code that comprised an AI, every aspect of the language it was written in, and you weren’t susceptible to human error, you should be able to predict the exact action that it would take in response to any input. It would never surprise you in any way. AIs are a glorified row of dominos—no choice, no opinion, no emotion. They don’t really think, so, they probably aren’t and could never be sentient. They don’t do or feel any of those things more than any other algorithm.

But besides for being a much more complex row of dominos, are we any different? That is a matter of opinion. Dr. Andrew Herbert, a professor of Psychology who specializes in front-end perception, expressed his belief that people are definitely distinct from machines in some ways, specifically mentioning our apparent ability to create ‘something’ out of ‘nothing.’

Some students on campus were happy to discuss their opinions on the topic as well. “I personally like to...[define] consciousness as nothing more than a self-referencing processing loop that runs in our brain,” said Edward Huyer, a Computer Science student. He believes that it might be possible to replicate consciousness with a computer program. Vin Suley, a graduate student in Computer Science, discussed his view that there is a distinct difference between a soul and consciousness. “A soul is a way of giving hope to people for an afterlife,” he said. Suley elaborated that a computer program probably couldn’t have a soul as we define it, but “if it is consciousness, I don’t see any reason why they couldn’t [be programmed to have it].” When asked what would make a human different than an AI, he responded, “Original thought, the instinct to act against pure logic.”

The Conclusion

So what defines life? If you do believe that an AI could never be human, consider the things that separate us from them. Possessing understanding, empathy, irrationality, self-consciousness, joy, sorrow, and creativity are some of the differences that seem to be the most popular with students. Maybe ‘having life’ can be defined by possessing a human trait that AIs can’t truly exhibit.

If you do believe that someday AIs will achieve consciousness, then consider what changes would have to be made to make them conscious. Perhaps consciousness is possible, if they grew with their environment or were designed to somehow observe and judge others. If they could develop an awareness and understanding of another person’s mental state. Maybe life can be defined by the traits those changes bring.

If you end up, however, defining life on your own terms, remember that it is a philosophical matter; one that is highly personal and individualistic in nature. Whether you turn to science, logic, religion, or a simple dictionary, that which makes up ‘life’ is not an easy notion to pin down. •

WORD « on the Street

compiled and photographed by Ralph Smith

Q: What will the future be like?



"Wonderful / I don't know what the hell the future is going to be like."

Katie Duane
Illustration
Fourth Year



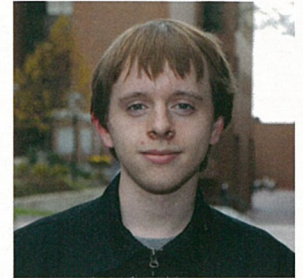
"The future will be different."

Diana Wilson
Physician Assistant
Second Year



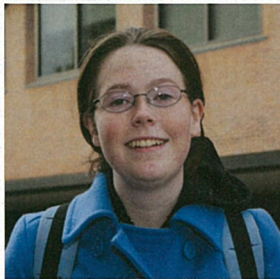
"Upside down and purple."

John Meehan
Computer Science
Fifth Year



"Like it is now but with more gadgets."

Marcus Gwillim
Computer Engineering
First Year



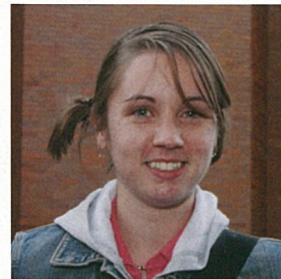
"Unknown"

Christine Stone
Electrical Engineering



"In the future people will get more lazy. People will have a tough time finding a good job."

Vineet Madan
Electrical Engineering
Graduate Student



"It would be pretty cool if it was like the Jetsons. I love the Jetsons."

Allison Crane
Physicians Assistant
First Year



"Boston will become the best team ever."

James Esteva
MBA – Grad Student



"In the future the United States will become a communist society. The upper class will be spread even farther from the lower class."

Karl Uschold
TV & Film Production
DeSales University Grad '03



"Marriage"

Takashiro Kawakami
Information Technology
Third Year



"Technological. Not much nature. Probably pretty routine."

Zach Rogers
Applied Mathematics
Third Year



"Glass houses and designer drugs. People will rollerblade all the time because it will be quicker."

Alex Goldberg, Fourth Year
Rob Drury, Fourth Year
Adam Maid, Third Year
Film and Animation



RIT's Simon Lambert (right) and St. Lawrence's T.J. Trevelyan fall to the ice while battling for the puck during RIT's 3-2 win last Friday night, October 28. Jacob Hannah/REPORTER Magazine

SPORTSdesk

by José Plaza



Men's Crew

October 22: The men's four team traveled to Boston for the Head of the Charles. The team placed eighth out of 19 teams with a combined time of 18:17.53.

October 23: Sunday was the day for the men's eight team to perform. The team finished 21st out of 41 teams with a combined time of 16:48.45.

Women's Crew

October 23: The women's eight team finished 43rd out of 46 teams at the Head of the Charles in Boston.

Men's Hockey

October 21: RIT got off to a great start in their road game against Canisius. Simon Lambert, Stephen Burns, and Matt Smith, tallied one goal apiece to put the Tigers up 3-0 in the first period. Canisius would storm back to put up three goals of their own, but Brennan Sarazin and Brent Patry scored two more goals for the Tigers to seal the 5-3 win.

October 22: RIT hosted Canisius College for their first Division I home season opener. The Tigers and the crowd showed the RIT spirit, especially after Matt Smith scored the lone RIT goal, but it would not be enough to hold off Canisius. The visiting team tallied two goals of their own, giving them the 2-1 win and spoiling RIT's home opener celebration.

Record through 10/27: 2-2-0

Men's Soccer

October 22: RIT was shut out by the nationally ranked SUNY Fredonia soccer team, 1-0. Both teams had trouble on the field due to the cold, rainy weather, but Fredonia capitalized on an early scoring opportunity, took the lead, and never looked back.

October 26: Geoff Schmidt, Chuck Marion, and Mike Lawson put up four goals en route to RIT's 4-2 win over Nazareth College. Schmidt's 2 goals started the rally, and Lawson and Marion sealed the game with their goals. The 4-2 win gave the Tigers a second seed standing in the upcoming Empire 8 Tournament.

Record through 10/31: 8-6-2 Overall, 5-1-0 Empire 8

Women's Soccer

October 22: The game between RIT and Utica had defense written all over it, and goalie Ashley Conti stepped up to the plate. The first half of the game remained scoreless, though both teams had some good looks at the goal. Finally, Alaina Chorney broke the tie with the game winner, giving the Lady Tigers the win, 1-0.

Record through 10/28: 5-9-1 Overall, 3-3-1 Empire 8

Men's Cross Country

October 22: RIT went in as one of 13 teams competing at the RPI Invitational, but left as number one. Even though RIT did not provide the top finisher, three of the top five finishers were RIT Tigers, amongst them Nate Lowe, who finished third overall. Lowe, along with Kevin Smith and Jared Burdick, led the way for RIT to earn first place for the event.

Women's Cross Country

October 22: Women's Cross Country competed amongst 13 teams in the RPI Invitational. Trisha Sliker and Adrienne Gagnier were RIT's best finishers, placing in seventh and 20th place in the 125-runner field. Led by their efforts, the Lady Tigers placed sixth among the 13 teams with a score of 72.

Women's Volleyball

October 22: The Lady Tigers played two games during the opening day of Empire 8 crossover action; against Utica and Elmira College. RIT swept Utica in the first game 3-0, led by Shea Haney and Tahlia Miller, which put up 12 kills apiece. During this game, Katie Werner also posted 38 assists with 3 blocks, and 18 digs were credited to Laura Grell.

In the second game, RIT swept again in three straight games. Christina Anabel led the Lady Tigers in this game, tallying up 16 kills, with teammate Bonnie Harriman putting up 15 kills right behind her. Laura Grell and Jessica Schaffer also put up double digit kills (14 and 12 respectively), while Katie Werner continued to dish out the ball, posting 42 assists in the game.

October 23: The second day of Empire 8 crossover action featured games against Hartwick and Ithaca College. Against Ithaca, RIT continued their winning ways by grabbing a 3-0 shutout victory. Christina Anabel and Bonnie Harriman had 15 and 14 kills respectively, while Katie Werner had 43 assist and Laura Grell recorded 15 digs.

In game 2, the tides were turned, when it was RIT that got shutdown 3-1 by Ithaca. In the losing effort, Anabel put up 20 kills and 17 digs, and Harriman had 14 kills and 6 digs. The loss ranks RIT second in the upcoming Empire 8 Tournament, which will be hosted by number one ranked Ithaca College.

October 25: The Lady Tigers marked their 30th win of the season by shutting out SUNY Brockport at Brockport. Nichole Boxler and Jessica Schaffer led RIT with a combined 30 assists, 12 digs and 9 kills. RIT reached their 30 wins in a record pace, the fastest since 1992.

Record through 10/28: 30-6 Overall, 6-1 Empire 8

RIT TIGERS

Claw the Competition

by Richard Hain

In spite of Ritchie's coma inducing demeanor, RIT's fall sports teams have found the motivation to excel. The success of a sports season is entirely dependent on a committed coaching staff and a dedicated group of student athletes, of which RIT has both. There were notable performances across all sports, and while it is impossible to recap an entire season in a few short paragraphs, here are some of the more notable highlights of each team's fall season.



RIT's Geoff Schmidt jumps in front of Fredonia State's Jason Januskiewicz at RIT's home field on October 22, 2005. RIT lost the game by 0-1 in the cold rain. Young Jang/REPORTER Magazine

Men's Soccer

The 2005 RIT men's soccer team has made a strong showing this season finishing in second place in the Empire 8 regular season standings, with an overall record of 8-6-2 and a conference record of 5-1.

The team has had its share of players that contributed strongly to the team achievement. From Captains Dennis Smyth and Geoff Schmidt, to returning Empire 8 Player of the Year, Mike Lawson, many players have come through with strong performances this season. Lawson tallied four game-winning goals, while leading goal scorer Mark Frisicano and leading points scorer Jorge Ciurlizza have contributed strongly as well. Adding to the mix, freshmen Chris Somers and Kyle Dawson had effective first seasons as RIT Tigers.

The moments that define this team were the overtime wins against nationally ranked St. Lawrence and rival St. John Fisher, as well as a strong 3-0 showing against strong conference team Alfred.

Women's Soccer

RIT soccer was represented well by the Lady Tigers this season. The team has a record of 5-9-1 overall, but has earned a 3-3-1 record in the Empire 8, making the RIT Lady Tigers a team to be reckoned with.

The amazing individual performances have led the team to its success and paved the way for further success. Leading points and goal scorer Emily Traversi has made her presence known in her freshman year, with four goals. Other standout players include senior captain defensive back, Jen Rynda, and junior forward Alaina Chorney. Ashley Conti was also named Empire 8 Goalkeeper of the Week for her shutout game against Utica. The final say in the success of the team will be determined in the Empire 8 tournament.

Men's Crew

The men's crew team, while being unable to quantify their success with a record, has still proven itself as a team worthy of the name Tigers. The crew team, with impressive appearances at the Head of the Lift Bridge, which they won, and the Head of the Charles, which the eight team finished in 21st and the four team finished 8th, solidified the crew team's 2005 success.

A major contributor to this year's success, has been sophomore coxswain Nate Fukuwa. His crowning achievement took place at the Head of the Charles where he led his team to success. "Nate really stepped it up this past weekend. The Head of the Charles is a huge race, a very technical race, and Nate did a very nice job steering the course and motivating his oarsmen... A good coxswain can make all the difference in shaving off time down the race course," said Coach Jim Bodenstedt.

Crew prides itself on being a "lifetime sport," and this was evident when RIT alumni returned and rowed at the Stonehurst Invitational and the Charles. The lasting impressions made from the crew team are most evident in the alumni that once represented RIT in the water.

Women's Crew

The women's crew team made a big effort this year in improving their standing. Their finishes at the Head of the Lift Bridge, and the Head of the Charles, of 2nd and 43rd respectively, point out that they were definitely able to achieve their goal.

Worth mentioning on the women's crew team is the senior leadership of Meaghan Carney and Jenna Venturini. The overall teamwork of everyone on the team has elevated the women's crew team and given them something to have pride in.

This year's competitive women's crew team was lead to consistently good showings in their races and to improvements which have earned them higher recognition. Comebacks like the one against rival University of Rochester, will keep exciting fans and encouraging players, as the women's crew team takes a big step forward.

Men's Cross Country

The Men's Cross Country team had an exceptional season. This is due, in part, to what Coach David Warth calls an emergence of a team of new runners. The new runners led RIT to a season that puts the team in close proximity to earning NCAA consideration.

The biggest performers of the season were Nate Lowe and Kevin Smith, both runners in the top three, and consistently strong performers, Andy Varble, Chris Kudla, Chris Schauerma, and captain Chad Byler. Freshman Jared Burdick also had a strong debut season recording excellent times and a first place finish.

The exceptional season by this year's cross country team, can be supplemented by a strong post-season effort. This could be one of the most successful seasons in RIT history.

Women's Cross Country

The RIT Women's Cross Country team had a stellar season. Since the program has returned, this has been arguably the best season. Their consistency as a team and team resiliency made this a season to remember. The team lost 2 of their top 5 runners during the season, but was able to maintain a strong record and compete at a high level. These aspects of this year's team showed the advancement of the program towards great things.

The most notable player on the women's team was by far Trisha Sliker, who is ranked in the top 10 in the Atlantic District. Sliker also has a chance to qualify for the NCAA Championship, which consists of about the best 2% in the country. Adrienne

Gagnier, Sara Pancoast, and Danielle Simmons finish out the top four of the top five and have had consistent and reliable seasons. The two runners that alternated in the fifth spot were Katie Palermo and Dana Palmer, both of which showed drastic improvements and had their best seasons to date.

This has been a season of improvement; leading to the RIT Lady Tigers win at the Houghton Invitational. The team will try to continue earning accolades during the NYSCTC and Atlantic District Championship tournaments that the women's team will also be participating in.

Women's Tennis

RIT Women's Tennis had a season of improvement from last year, earning an 8-6 record. Winning against teams that they lost to last season and the tactical, physical, and mental improvements have truly made this an encouraging season for the team.

Tennis, having a strong individual element, provides a lot of room for individual achievement. The most notable players on the team this season have been the seniors, each one providing something to the team. Seniors Lindsay Brady and Michelle Nicholson, both captains, earned Empire 8 accolades as 1st team all-conference in singles and doubles, as well as doubles honorable mention and RIT Sportswomen of the Year, respectively. Other players to receive recognition for their efforts were Rachel Pikus, Aimee Holmberg, and freshman Brianne Francisco.

Defining the season for the Lady Tigers was the match against Alfred. It came down to the final match with Lee Bryson who engineered a magnificent comeback to win the match 4-6, 7-6, 7-6 and to earn the Tigers a victory and a little extra team camaraderie. This then led the Tigers to their strong showing at the Empire 8 tournament in which they finished in fifth place.

Volleyball

Women's volleyball at RIT has a history of being very competitive. This year has been no exception, as the team has fought hard for a record of 30-6 overall and 6-1 in the Empire 8 division.

Rising stars have filled in the gaps of the departures from last season in order to ensure the high standard of RIT volleyball is maintained. Senior Katie Werner and freshman Nichole Boxler have had exceptional seasons leading the Lady Tigers to their undeniable success. Each have stepped it up in big tournaments and helped earn the Tiger's sterling record.

Next for the team, is the big New York State tournament and the Empire 8 tournament. Having earned a number three seed in the New York State tournament ensures that the team's season should extend thoroughly into the post-season and straight through to next season. •



- ▲ The Women's Cross Country team took a break from their regular running clothes in anticipation of Halloween on Friday afternoon, October 28, 2005. David Wright/REPORTER Magazine
- ◀ Fifth-year mechanical engineering student, Dustin Partridge (left), jumps up for the frisbee during RIT's Ultimate's Danse Macabre Halloween Ultimate Tournament. Young Jang/REPORTER Magazine

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RIT Rings

compiled by Casey Dehlinger

Not all calls will be run. All calls subject to truncation. Don't talk too long, either—I have a short attention span.

Friday 1: 51 p.m.

Good afternoon, *Reporter*. We're calling to complain about the At Your Leisure page, specifically Brian Garrison's limericks. Now I have nothing against Brian Garrison. I have no idea who he is, but he and limericks as a form don't work very well. He tends to not pay attention to rhyming, which is absolutely imperative for limericks, and he tends to kind of, uh, butcher the form itself in not paying attention to the syllable number and that sort of thing. What I'd like to recommend is that he switch to haiku, which doesn't require rhyming, which he doesn't seem to have a very decent grasp on, anyway, and the syllable number is even more restrictive, which would keep him on task a bit. Thanks a lot.

Sunday 2:46 a.m.

Dude, Erhardt, you don't call; you don't write. You should be dumped for all I know. Call me back, man. Talk to you later, bye.

Sunday 2:47 a.m.

Hey, this is Dave. Umm, I think I read you at the bar last night. Just wanted to see if you wanted to come over, chill, maybe hook up or something. Give me a call back, *Reporter*, alright? Okay? Alright. See ya later. Thank you.

Sunday 2:47 a.m.

Hey, *Reporter*, I was just in the bathroom, didn't know if I missed your call or not. Just callin' to see if you called. Get back to me later. Bye.

Sunday 2:49 a.m.

Hey, *Reporter*. Umm, I don't know, I'm kinda drunk right now, just wanted to see if you wanted to come over and...I don't know, last time we had a good time, fondling your pages, and I don't know. I bet I could give you a good time. I'm a little wasted. I'm pretty glossy right now, you're pretty glossy, and I feel that our glossiness will really work together well. So give me a call back, alright? This is Dave. Peace out.

Sunday 2:53 a.m.

Reporter, I just feel like I'm so...I'm so sorry. I don't know. I feel like you ripped out my heart and played with it as if it was a toy heart. I... ughh...I'm so...I'm just so depressed over you leaving me and I feel I need more of your text, more of your innuendos, just more of your fonts. Ughh!

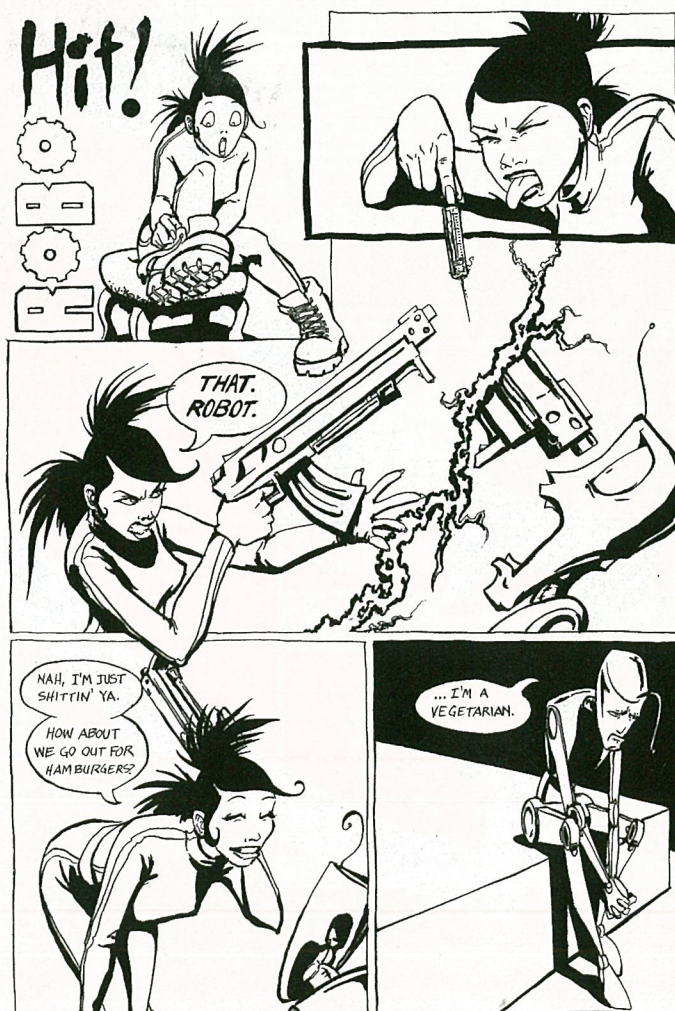
Tuesday 10:28 a.m.

Hey, I was just calling to say that I like how all the guys at RIT are bitching about how there aren't any girls at RIT, but if you go to building 7A or 7B there are plenty of girls there. So, instead of saying that, go try somewhere else other than the Engineering building. •

Any luck in building 7A or 7B? Let us know at 585.475.5633

Cartoons by RIT Illustration Students

illustration by Shannon Howell





Against Us

by Sara Odze | illustration by Dan Bolinski

Let me tell you a story.

I went to a show in Buffalo to see Against Me on their Fat Wreck Chords national tour. I had enough faith in the label to trust they were giving us a good show, and the first bands gave just that. But the last band, the Epoxys, proved to be a glitch in an otherwise smooth show.

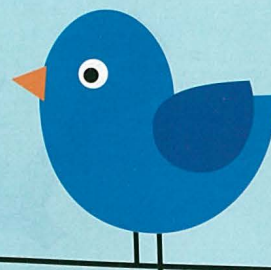
Never before have I been so offended by the attitude of another female. Aside from beginning the set by telling the audience how much they were being paid, one of the first things this female front, Roxy Epoxy, did was insult a member of the audience. "That's why I'm up here on stage and you're down there, giving us your money," she sneered, proceeding to explain the obvious: that they were, in fact, the most obnoxious band on the tour.

The set the band then played was so music-devoid that the floor cleared out considerably and as a conscientious objector, I gave Roxy the double finger. I was disappointed in this modern musical 'talent,' so I got close enough to tell the monster to just try to save face. Instead, she spit at me. It was right about then that it became an utterly embarrassing day to be a musician.

In all seriousness, I'll be the first to support independent musicians. But more and more I'm seeing girls like dear Roxy Epoxy exploit themselves for a shot at being what they consider to be a 'rock star' of sorts. Liz Phair, who had a chance, is making a fortune in advertising dividends, while Fiona Apple is having trouble getting Sony to release her latest work. Even Gwen Stefani, though already established,

seems to be losing herself to the 'more is more' mentality. And it seems that this is becoming an accepted thing! I remember a time when people were outraged over exploitation in the pop industry, so why are we overlooking the same behavior in other genres? That's not to say that there aren't tons of incredible female artists out there, it's just that chick rock isn't what it used to be. What happened to the days where it took a Joni Mitchell, or a Patti Smith, or a Chrissie Hynde, or even a Mia Zapata, Kazu Makino, or Brody Armstrong to make a mark on music? These were females with talent and something to say. None of them ever went out of their way to be sexy for the industry; they just made poignant, meaningful, fun music that people could relate to.

'More is more' is an equally unacceptable tactic for male musicians. The guys getting away with this are going to be remembered for the stupid things they did rather than the music they made. There really are at least three Becks for every Bam Margera out there; we just don't have enough Corin Tuckers for all the Roxy Epoxys. Maybe that's the problem. There are tons of musicians out there making some incredible music, but acts like these are undermining the integrity of the rest. I say we stop sustaining this kind of behavior with our money and our interests. Stop encouraging the negative stereotype and get back to the art. Support the independent musicians out there trying to make an impact without expensive costumes or a flashy backup band. If we can bring this kind of shameful behavior down, it could bring a lot more life back to rock. •



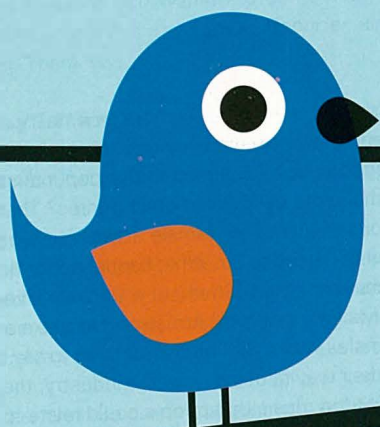
Friday



5PM



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