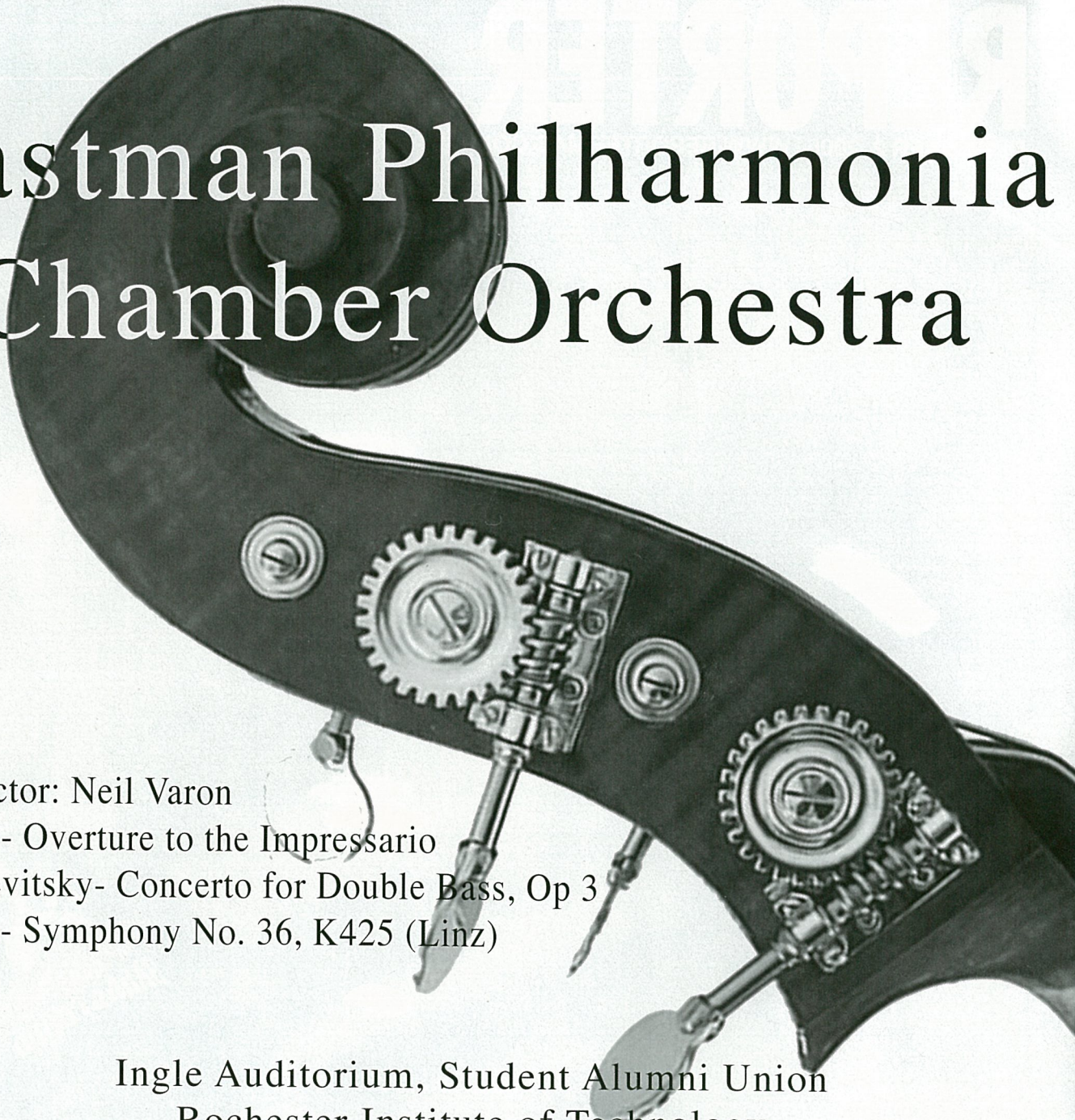


# REPORTER

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Conductor: Neil Varon

Mozart- Overture to the Impresario

Koussevitsky- Concerto for Double Bass, Op 3

Mozart- Symphony No. 36, K425 (Linz)

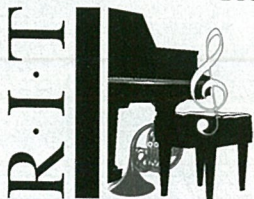
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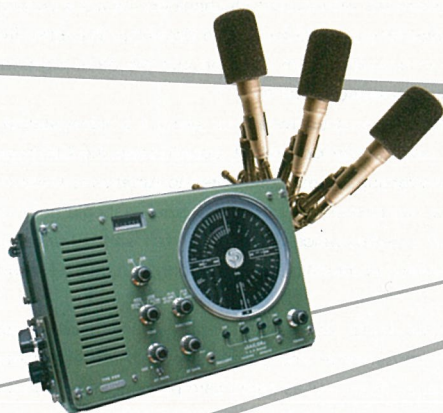


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## EDITORIAL

### Working Assets

Moving back into my apartment after the week of Thanksgiving/break, I snatched the seemingly innocuous stack amassed in my mailbox. Among the free subscriptions to ski magazines, I found a standard-sized letter with the following message printed on its envelope: "LET FREEDOM RING. Join Working Assets Wireless and you'll support free choice, free speech and free thinking. (Look inside for your FREE gift!)" Flipping over the odd artifact revealed the less obtuse statements: "FREE FLIP PHONE" and "FREE DONATIONS TO PROGRESSIVE CAUSES."

Huh? What does that mean? "Free donations?" Is that an oxymoron? Obviously, good marketing should involve seeking out consumer needs and predilections; but I never would have imagined unsolicited, double-barrel advertising targeting political ideology and the desire for free *stuff* all in one breath. I paused—dumbfounded, shaking my head with a chuckle.

We live in what many argue is the greatest country in the world. Recently, our nation has witnessed polemical, but certainly not unprecedented, political debate. But, amidst the polar punditry and ebbs in journalistic integrity, I never thought that my cell phone plan factored heavily into my affiliation with red or blue states. Yet here, emblazoned in blue letters was my chance at progressive political action accompanied by a free Samsung A660 flip phone. How efficient is the modern life in which the attention-demanding realm of political affiliation and action can be satisfied by a monthly check to one's wireless provider? When Congress deregulated the telephone industry, I don't think they had this in mind.

So initially, I was completely turned off by the seemingly McPolitical sentiments of Working Assets. Then, I visited their website ([www.workingassets.com](http://www.workingassets.com)), where they proudly list all of the non-governmental organizations to whom they make the aforementioned "free" donations—Oxfam America, American Library Association, Global Fund for Children, Rainforest Action Network, Human Rights Campaign—just to name a few. I pause again. My question is now: why shouldn't companies use the very freedoms that are the core strengths of our society to create potent, politically sensitive business plans?

I already strongly believe that it is my job as a citizen and consumer to know where my money is going. It is important; whether it is a simple dollar donated to the RIT Capital Campaign or the amount you pay for such day-to-day services as credit card transactions, wireless access, and long-distance telephone calls—all offered by Working Assets.

Now to set the record, this editorial is by no means some kind of unconditional endorsement for Working Assets. I really just want to use their business model to emphasize how mind-bogglingly interconnected our lives are in this age of capitalism and ever-evolving technology. Impact is no longer isolated to illegal activities like a cocaine fix supporting guerrilla factions in Colombia. The letter from Working Assets claims that over \$10 million in donations from "Verizon and the other big phone companies" went to "conservative Republican causes since 2000."

Of course, whether your patronage of Verizon et al is equivalent to taking a political stance is something you have to decide for yourself. I know Adam Botzenhart (see "God in the Classroom" on page 31) would be interested to know that Working Assets contributes to Americans United for Separation of Church and State. Similarly, you—as consumers of this magazine—should be aware that *Reporter* is a member of the American Civil Liberties Union. Though our staff isn't out protesting in the streets, it would be naïve to think our annual membership fee is used only to fight for Freedom of Expression.

It seems simple decisions are rarely simple nowadays. And as a student, you only have so much money—something directly affected by both conservative and progressive politicians' budgetary concerns (see "Financial Aid in Distress" on page 16) as well as credit card providers' (see "Student Debt" on page 20). You need to know where that money is going. Our society and what we call our ideals are quite interwoven from SG President James Macchiano to President George W. Bush, President Albert J. Simone to Verizon CEO Ivan Seidenberg. I am certainly not urging you to be conservative or progressive. But, I am urging you to be *aware*.



Erhardt Graeff  
Editor in Chief





A group of students return to their residence halls after Thanksgiving shopping on November 19, 2005. Andrew Francis (far right), first year Computer Science major, said he was going to head home for Thanksgiving that Sunday. Young Jang/REPORTER Magazine

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Cover Photograph by Jacob Hannah

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# Greek Alcohol Ban:

Fighting for More Than Their Right to Party

by Julia Dickinson and Govind Ramabadrán



Al Palmer (left), second year Industrial Design major, Barnaba Bienkowski (middle), fourth year Computer Science major, and Nick Digennaro, third year Civil Engineering Technology major, hang out in the Kappa Delta Rho game room on November 11, 2005. Young Jang/REPORTER Magazine

**“The alcohol policy on campus [is the same] in general, except now there is no alcohol in any of the Greek houses.”**

The question every RIT Greek was asking on October 24 was, “why?” On that day, a letter was sent to the RIT fraternity and sorority community banning all alcohol use in Greek free-standing housing, as well as at all on-campus Greek social functions. Furthermore, off-campus Greek events are now required to be catered by a third-party supplier to prevent underage drinking. The letter, issued by President Simone’s office, stated that the reason for this action was “a dramatic increase in the number of conduct cases reported that are related to... the Greek community.” Although it has been over a month since the letter was issued, students are still discussing it.

The immediate reaction of many members of the Greek community was shock and anger, mainly over the administration’s rationale for the ban. While the letter specified that fraternity and sorority members counted for 21% of all the conduct reports so far this year, it failed to mention that some of those cases are still pending. Campus Safety Investigator Rod Lezette agreed, “We’ve handled a lot of cases this year

it seems...[the figures] are up.” Chris Jacques, fourth year Information Technology and social chair for Sigma Alpha Epsilon, didn’t dispute the numbers but commented, “This leaves 78% of alcohol policy violations still unaccounted for, a third of which are the responsibility of RIT’s hard-of-hearing and deaf population. However, no new alcohol policy has been set forth that targets deaf students, or students not affiliated with a Greek organization.”

Dan Arscott, President of Greek Council (Phi Delta Theta) and fourth Year Management of Information Systems, shared his stance on the ban: “The alcohol policy on campus [is the same] in general, except now there is no alcohol in any of the Greek houses.” Echoing the confusion many other Greeks had over the ban, Arscott added, “Over half of us are nationally dry anyway, and five of us live in the dorms.” In other words, drinking was, by and large, already prohibited for RIT’s Greeks.

Dr. Mary-Beth Cooper, Vice President for Student Affairs, was concerned about the large spike in alcohol-related cases involving Greek students, yet impressed by the willingness of Greek leadership to deal with the issue. “My personal opinion is that RIT has a strong commitment to the Greek-affiliated students...we want them to be stronger, and so that downward spiral that we saw in terms of behavioral issues is something that we want to correct, and we can only correct that with Greek leaders coming forward and helping us, redirecting their efforts.”

About 6 years ago, in what he calls a “handshake” agreement with Greek leaders, President Simone, himself a member of Theta Chi, decided to build the free-standing Greek housing by Riverknoll. This was at a time when many other major universities were banning Greek organizations all together, but President Simone says he felt differently. “I believe in fraternities,” he says. “In terms of loyalty, the people who come back year after year to alumni homecoming [are] the Greeks first and the athletes second.” But in return for Greek Row, he asked for the Greek community’s leadership and support for RIT’s school spirit and policies.

In an attempt to put the administration and Greeks back on the same page, President Simone is now assembling a committee of members from both groups who will regularly meet to discuss Greek issues, as recommended by the Greek community. Dr. Cooper has also planned some activities with the Greek community to help them with this issue. On December 4 from 6-8:30 p.m., she will host an All-Greek Leadership Summit, where the alcohol issue will be discussed.

The Greek alcohol ban will remain in effect until spring quarter, when the administration will reevaluate it. Until then, no solid resolution will be reached. While change is certainly taking place regarding RIT’s alcohol policy, it’s still uncertain which direction it will take. Perhaps Dan Arscott sums up the situation best: “If Greeks are held to this standard, shouldn’t everybody else be?” •



# Another Layer of Protection, Another Number to Remember The Student ID Replacement Project

by Joshua Van Hook

Imagine spending thousands of dollars on the latest and greatest security system. It's guaranteed to make you safer, so it's worth it, right? Well, instead of spending your own money, ITS and the Office of the Registrar are teaming up and opening their wallets on your behalf through the new 'keep-you-safer' initiative known as the Student ID Replacement Project, or SIRP.

David Hostetter, Associate CIO of ITS, is in charge of this project. "[ITS has] known for a number of years that [the change] had to be taken on," he says; so they have been preparing. The overhaul of the core systems, including SIS and STARS (the information system used by administrators to access student records), will take a team of about ten people working full time for almost five months. The changes will remove the use of social security numbers (SSNs) at RIT, unless they are required in transactions such as financial aid and payroll. This will remove a kink from your digital armor, as stealing an SSN is an effective way to steal an identity. Hostetter and his team intend to make the process "as painless as possible" to retain all functionality of the RIT card system.

The new ID numbers will be nine digits, which will minimize the amount of work that is needed to change the existing systems from their configuration for the nine-digit social security numbers. This new number will be completely random, save for two digits: the fourth and fifth in the sequence, which will be zeroes. This prevents any potential confusion, as double zeroes would yield an invalid SSN.

**Yes, it is one more number to remember, but the safety it provides outweighs the extra brain cells required.**



Besides being issued a new ID number, students, staff, and faculty will be given new ID cards. The new cards are being designed by organizations within the student body. The layout and look are uncertain at this point, as the final design has not yet been chosen. Two things are certain about the new card, though. First, no part of the new ID number will be visually present on the card. Second, the pictures will remain the same. For all of you who hate your ID picture, you are stuck with it. The process of having students design the IDs allows "the campus to provide feedback," as Hostetter puts it.

The cost of this initiative is somewhat difficult to measure. Yes, there is a major cost in replacing all ID cards. With thousands of staff, students, and faculty, the process of manufacturing the cards and distributing them will be a financial burden, but RIT already owns all the systems and software needed to make the modifications. In other words, a significant amount of capital does not need to be dumped into the technical aspect. The most costly part is the time devoted to the project. With up to ten people working full time on this in ITS, ten less people are available for other projects. The cost is not measured in dollars, but in man-hours.

Everything seems to be going well with the transition thus far. Students have seemed receptive to the idea of a change. Yes, it is one more number to remember, but the safety it provides outweighs the extra brain cells required. Look for your new ID card right after spring quarter ends, between May 27 and June 4. •

*More information about the project can be found at <http://www.rit.edu/~itsnews/articles/article6.html>.*



# CrimeWatch

compiled by Govind Ramabadran

## November 4

### Building 32 – Unlawful Possession of Marijuana

A student reported smelling a suspicious odor and observed three males sitting on a rock smoking behind Building 32. It was determined that the students had been smoking marijuana. Their rooms were searched and ten grams were found in one student's room and the other students had paintball guns. One student admitted to purchasing an ounce every couple of days and selling it on campus. The student was arrested by Monroe County Sheriff's Department. Case referred to Student Conduct.

### Helen Fish Hall, Section C – Weapon Possession

Two students obtained beer from an unknown person at Wal-Mart. The students invited five other students and a non-member to their room. The beer was disposed of and the non-member was issued an interim ban from campus. Campus Safety also confiscated BB guns and knives. Case referred to Student Conduct.

## November 6

### Perkins Green – Criminal Mischief

An unknown person spray-painted the word "die" and a star with a circle around it on the sidewalk near 165 Perkins Green. There was also spray paint on a lightpost base and a smiley face on a tree in the same area. No suspects or witnesses could be located. Investigation closed pending new information.

### K-Lot – Criminal Mischief

A student damaged the turf in the center of K-Lot by driving through it with his Ford Bronco. Case referred to Student Conduct.

### Student Alumni Union – Petit Larceny

A person reported that, sometime between November 5 at 9 p.m. and November 6 at 2 a.m., the Model Railroad Club sign was removed from the door of their office. Investigation closed pending new information.

### Mark Ellingson Hall – Harassment

A student in Ellingson Hall stated that one of the residents was being harassed. He also stated that someone placed some type of cream solution all over the resident's vehicle. The investigation continues.

## November 7

### James E. Booth Building – Harassment

A student reported that on November 7, a male staff member made an inappropriate comment to her as she was working on a class project. The male was identified as a temporary employee. He was relieved of his duties and escorted off campus. Case closed.

### Harassment

A student stated she believed her ex-boyfriend is harassing her by being seen outside her classes and walking by her classroom buildings. The ex-boyfriend was contacted and advised not to have any contact with her. Case referred to Student Conduct.

### Hale-Andrews Student Life Center – Harassment

A person stated that a male is staring at and approaching males in the men's locker room of the Student Life Center and asking them if they would like to pose for a photograph. The male was located and banned from campus. Case closed.

## November 8

### Radisson Inn – Trespass

A Park Place employee observed an unknown male park his vehicle and enter the woods with a bow and arrows. The vehicle was towed as per request of hotel management. The hunter, who was a non-member, returned for his vehicle and was arrested by Monroe County Sheriff's Department for trespassing. Campus Safety also issued a ban letter to the individual.

### Helen Fish Hall – Unlawful Possession of Marijuana

Officers patrolling the area smelled an odor of marijuana and, upon further investigation, two students admitted that they had marijuana. Monroe County Sheriff's Department was contacted and the confiscated materials were turned over to them. Case referred to Student Conduct.

### Mark Ellingson Hall - Harassment

A female student was taking a shower and a male on the floor opened the outer curtain and poked at the inner shower curtain. Case referred to Student Conduct.

## November 9

### Perkins Road – Auto Theft

An accident was reported at the intersection of Perkins and Andrews Memorial Drive. Upon arrival, two stolen vehicles were found at the northeast entrance to K-Lot with no person in the area. A student, reported his car, a red Honda, was stolen from B-Lot. According to Monroe County Sheriff's Department, a green Honda was reported stolen at 2 a.m. on November 9 in Rochester. Stereo equipment was stolen from both vehicles. The investigation continues. •



# RITForecast

compiled by Casey Dehlinger

Friday  
2  
DEC

**High Tech Israeli Exhibit:**

Runs until December 7. Golisano Atrium.

**Open House IV:**

8 a.m.–4 p.m. SAU. Please don't scare the prospectives off.

**Ladies Annual Sleepover:**

8 p.m.–midnight. Gleason First Floor Kitchen and Lounge. RIT's better half (or third, given the ratio) has a good time watching movies and playing games that boys aren't allowed to. Sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta.

**Friday Night at the Ritz:**

10 p.m.–1 a.m. Ritz SportsZone. Tar Beach performs. Free pizza to the first fifty people. The Ritz Bar and late night menu will be open. \$1.

Saturday  
3  
DEC

**International House Date Auction:**

7 p.m.–midnight. SAU Cafeteria. Dinner dates auctioned off to raise money for charitable causes. \$4 admission.

**Stand up Comedy:**

11 p.m.–1 a.m. Ingle Auditorium. Matt Rohr opens for Jamie Lissow, who was seen on Last Comic Standing. \$1.

Sunday  
4  
DEC

**Shark Bites:**

Are rarely fatal, as sharks dislike the taste of human skin and usually spit their victim out before causing fatal damage. Falling coconuts, however, kill more people annually than shark attacks. Call us at 585.475.5633 with the eulogy you would deliver for a friend who died by coconut.

Monday  
5  
DEC

Well, the High Tech Israeli Exhibit is still going on; you could go to that if you like. (See Friday above).

Tuesday  
6  
DEC

**Big Man on Campus:**

7 p.m.–9 p.m. SAU: Clark B. Discussion on male stereotypes concerning physical appearance and mentality. The goal is to enlighten people about the falsity of male stereotypes. Sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta.

Wednesday  
7  
DEC

**Eastman Philharmonia Chamber Orchestra:**

8 p.m.–10 p.m. Ingle Auditorium. Presented by the Performing Artists Series. Students \$5; Faculty/Staff \$12; Other \$18.

Thursday  
8  
DEC

**MS Word: Introduction and Basic Formatting:**

11 a.m.–1 p.m. Wallace Library 2nd Floor VIA Lab.


**The Tango:**

7:30 p.m.–9 p.m. Webb Auditorium. A socio-historical view of the dance, the people, the mystery. Part of COLA Global Engagements.

**Cool Runnings:**

10 p.m.–midnight. Ingle Auditorium. It has its moments. Everyone in attendance will receive a "lucky egg" just like Sanka's!

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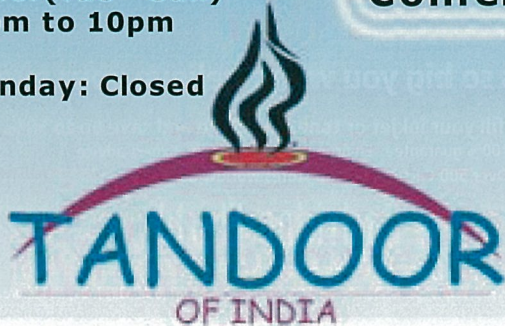
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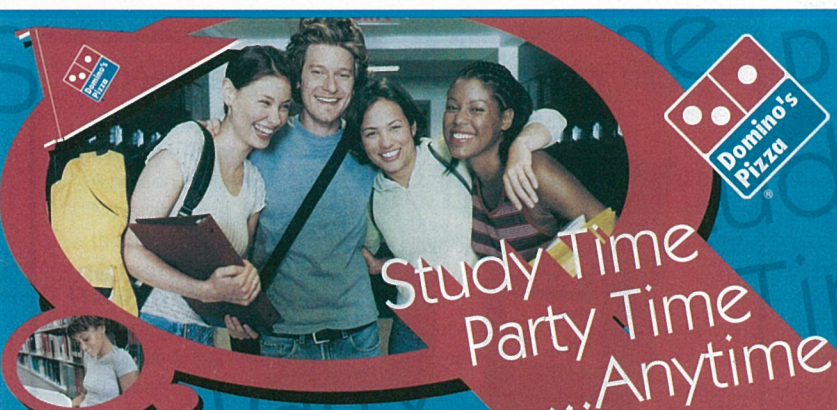
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i like scotch.





Luke Morgan, alumnus 2001, stands behind the counter of Hammergirl Anime on Jefferson Plaza. Morgan co-owns the shop with fellow RIT grad Gabrielle Varry. Ralph Smith/REPORTER Magazine

by Elliot Jenner

For years, people have wondered why, when RIT has the largest anime club on the eastern seaboard, there isn't an anime shop nearby. Two former Anime Club officers decided to address this oversight. The result of their efforts is Hammergirl Anime, which opened this summer. It's located just off campus, in scenic Jefferson Plaza. I went by to check it out, and talk to Luke Morgan, former Anime Club President and an Imaging Science graduate. He co-owns Hammergirl with former Publicist Gabrielle "Gabby" Varry, an Information Technology graduate.

Walking up to the store, the first thing I noticed was the huge "Anime" sign, with a picture of a hammer next to it. The front windows are plastered with anime posters. Walking in, I was greeted by a big screen TV running movies. The store is nicely laid out, in a two row design: DVDs on the left, plushies, wallscrolls, and assorted stuff on the right, and Manga down the middle. The store has a hangout thing going on as well, with a lounge in the front, and Pachinko (Japanese pinball) and an Initial D Driving game in the back. As I walk in, Luke is playing the Full Metal Alchemist (FMA) card game in the lounge.

Once he finishes, we get down to the interview. The first question that comes to mind is: "why?" The inspiration was the anime club. "If it weren't for anime club, we would just be an online store...We talked with the club...and we found that from anime club alone, there was just enough to keep a store in business." Fortunately, it turned out that there was more business than anticipated. "We found out that there is a huge anime community outside of RIT...RIT is only half our clientele. We were expecting to lose money during the summer and then make it up during school, but there's such a huge community outside of the club that we're doing just fine."

So, what sets Hammergirl apart from the competition? "Our comics are 10% off, period. You don't need a card or anything like that. Our DVDs are specifically priced about 10% to 15% below chain stores [and] if you buy more than three DVDs at a time, you get a free box of Pocky (Japanese Candy)...We try to make a point to carry the product line of everything available online...That way, people know they can stop here." Hammergirl also hosts Initial D team tournaments every three weeks, and a FMA Tournament every week. "The Initial D has created a very large following of people...The hang out area, on Saturday, has people playing cards or watching whatever we have on TV, and it's really big on Sundays when we do card game tournaments."

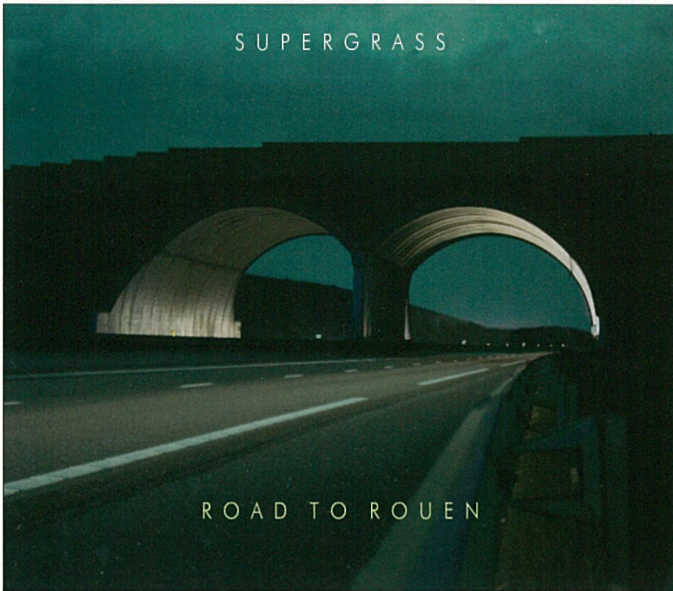
The store's roots with the RIT anime club are not forgotten. "We have special deals for all RIT anime club members, which makes it more than worth it to join the club. The cost of membership you more than make up the first time you come in the store. It's our way of thanking the club for all the help they give us."

Luke is not content to sit back and relax, however. "We're [working] to expand our selection here...due to popular demand, we are quintupling the size of our snack department [and] we're working...on getting enough to maybe put in another arcade game." Hammergirl's website [www.hammergirlanime.com](http://www.hammergirlanime.com) and online store are currently in production. Improvements to the store should be done "just in time for winter quarter, just in time for Christmas."

So what's the final verdict? The store is filled with all kinds of stuff that anime fans love, but can usually only get online. The staff is great, friendly, and knowledgeable (and mostly RIT students). If you want something anime, Hammergirl is the place to go. •

Rating: ★★★★★





### Supergrass – Road to Rouen by Markell Williams

On their fifth record *Road to Rouen*, indie rock band Supergrass has a point to prove. There's more to them than the pop music you're accustomed to hearing. If anything, *Rouen* is their coming of age record. Anyone expecting an album that solely mimics previous hits like "Alright," "Caught By the Fuzz," and "Mansize Rooster," should move on. Their sound is more polished and self-assured, exemplifying how they've grown and matured both musically and personally.

Supergrass has created a unified soundscape that ranges from funky joints and rousing rockers, to acoustic ballads. Their sound beautifully incorporates elements of rock, blues, and jazz. The pulsing first track, "Tales of Endurance (Parts 4, 5 & 6)," is so evident of this. Songs like Beatles-influenced "St. Petersburg," and "Fin," showcase their balladry genius with their melancholy mix of acoustic guitar, piano, and lush orchestration. Supergrass rocks out with the chant-inducing "Coffee in the Pot," and the funky, Hendrix-influenced title track. Another highlight is the moving "Roxy," which highlights their knack for balanced composition, alluring arrangements, and introspective lyrics.

Coming in at a little over 35 minutes, this nine-track set leaves you wanting more. But in a time where many records are often longer than they need to be, brevity is greatly appreciated here. Supergrass has an excellent, eclectic, well-crafted record on their hands. After ten years of hit-making, *Road to Rouen* is a defining moment. It signals not only where they've been, but where they're going. From the sounds, it's a road that many may want to follow.

Rating: ★★★★★

#### Discography

- I Should Coco (1995)
- In It for the Money (1997)
- Supergrass (1999)
- Life on Other Planets (2002)
- Supergrass Is 10 (2004)
- Road to Rouen (2005)

### Ok Go – Oh No by Ben Foster

It's always good to take care of personal bias up front. I like Hot Hot Heat, I dig Franz Ferdinand, and the whole spontaneous hook laded new rock and roll thing really gets me a little hot and bothered. As it turns out, Ok Go and their new album *Oh No*, falls comfortably into this category. From the opening beats of "Invincible," I was hooked. The lyrics may not be terribly clever, but they are delivered flawlessly in front of surging electric guitars and cleverly complex dance beats.

As you get deeper into *Oh No*, it reveals a little more depth. Soft tracks like, "Oh lately it's so Quiet," may not be as irresistibly fun as the album's bread and butter dance beats, but they provide a great contrast and make the album as a whole a better listen.

*Oh No* has more than its fair share of gems. Its clever single "A million ways" is the catchiest song I've heard in ages, and its addictive sound is solidly backed up by tight lyrics like "Oh such grace, such beauty, and lipstick and callous and fishnets and malice, oh darlin' you're a million ways to be cruel." Other highlights include "The House Wins" and "It's a Disaster."

This is only Ok Go's second full-length album, and they are certainly back in force. However, it's not all perfect. *Oh No* could use more diversity seeing as their sound is good, but by the eighth or ninth track it's a sound you've heard. Without outstanding lyrics, or much musical diversity, this is the sort of CD from which you'll love a couple of songs but almost never play all the way through.

Rating: ★★★★★

#### Discography

- OK Go (2002)
- Oh No (2005)



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<p><b>Pick-up Special</b> Everyday <b>Medium Cheese 12" Pizza</b> <b>\$5.55</b> +tax Limit 3 1 Coupon per order Expires 10-30-05</p>	<p><b>Pick-up or Delivery</b> <b>PIZZA PARTY</b> Sheet Pizza 32 Slices 1 Topping w/ 30 Wings <b>\$29.95</b> +tax 1 Coupon per order Expires 10-30-05</p>
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# AT YOUR LEISURE | Things, Stuff, and People too...

## STREAM OF FACTS

### DECEMBER 2

December 2, 1993, Colombian drug lord Pablo **Escobar** is shot and killed in Medellín.

At the height of his empire, **Escobar** was estimated by **Forbes Magazine** to be the seventh-richest man in the world, with his cartel controlling 80 percent of the world's cocaine market.

**Forbes Magazine** is an American business and financial magazine founded in 1917 and located on Fifth Avenue in **New York City**.

**New York City**, officially named the City of New York, is the most populous city in the United States, the most densely populated major city in **North America**, and is the largest financial center in the world.

The first Europeans known for certain to have reached (Newfoundland) **North America** are the **Vikings**, who called it Vinland. They reached it around the year 1000 AD.

The term **Vikings** refers not only to the raiders, but also to the entire period; that is now, somewhat confusingly, used as a noun both in the original meaning of raiders, warriors or navigators, and sometimes to refer to the population of **Scandinavia** in general.

**Scandinavia** is generally accepted to include Denmark, **Norway**, and Sweden.

**Norway** attempted to claim neutrality during World War II, but was invaded by German forces. The Allies also had plans to invade Norway, in order to take advantage of its strategically important Atlantic coast, but were thwarted by the **German** operation.

December 2, 1990, a coalition led by Chancellor Helmut Kohl wins the first free all-**German** elections since 1932.

### QUOTE

"Coming events cast their shadow before."  
– Spanish proverb

### Limerick

by *Brian Garrison*

Into the library up to the top floor.  
No not number three, it goes up to four.  
The elevator can give you a hand  
That is, if you're lazy. And  
Unless you hate studying you'll never be bored!

### JUMBLE

#### Transportation

ubasyw  
irnta  
anlpeira  
tembatosa  
yilcbec  
tameiolobu  
rliamoon  
esgway  
sueichrsip (2 Words)

subway, train, airplane, steamboat, bicycle, automobile, monorail, segway, cruise ship

### RANDOM REVIEW

Grits. You may have to travel a little distance to walk into a diner where grits is a choice on the menu but when you have a waitress popping her gum in annoyance and asking if you want grits with that, you better have some idea of what this strange southern concoction actually is, and whether or not it is actually any good. Grits are corn—soaked and then boiled until they reach an oatmeal consistency. They're not exactly "good" but they are certainly harmless. With a little salt, pepper, and butter on top they might even give home fries a run for their money, especially if you hate potatoes.

### REPORTER

## RECOMMENDS

Left over turkey. Everyone loves that Thanksgiving bird and everyone should still love that bird the next day. The possibilities for last week's turkey are endless: soups, stews, sandwiches, and pot pies. Turkey is a versatile meat; and although it's not as flavorful as other birds, it is distinctive, and Americans don't really eat roast turkey all that often. So enjoy those leftovers your mom sent back to school with you. After all, it's free food.

### PLAYLIST

## Josh & Adam's Bogus Journey

- Bouncing Souls** – Hopeless Romantic
- MxPx** – Let it Happen
- All** – Mass Nerder
- Unbroken** – It's Getting Tougher to Say the Right Things
- Dag Nasty** – Can I Say
- Right Brigade** - s/t
- Guns Up!** – All This Is
- Murs**– 3:16, The 9th Edition
- Holding On** – Question What You Live For









# Pinching Pennies

## The Government's Spending Struggle and How it Affects You

by Adam Bosen | illustration by Mike Norton

How do you pay for your education? Everyone has their own methods of coming up with the money: some compete for scholarships, some take out loans, and a few are able to pay straight up, but chances are that at least some portion of your tuition fees are paid for by the government. Several loan and grant programs work on the national and state levels to try to help ease the burden of tuition costs for students—especially for those who would not otherwise be able to attain a college education. Obviously, the money has to come from somewhere, and with the federal government still trying to climb out of debt, several politicians have looked at the college assistance programs and asked a significant question: How much can we afford to spend?

### Budget Woes

Our government is in debt. This normally isn't that much of a big deal because basic Keynesian economics tells us that a bit of a deficit is actually good for the country. But when the numbers start to climb into the trillions range, it's reasonable to start worrying a bit. It's safe to say that everyone would like to see the debt reduced; but in order to do that, spending needs to be decreased—and no one can quite agree on what can afford to be trimmed and what can't.

The most recent round of budget appropriations has seen a rather unique debate. President Bush requested of Congress a \$50 billion budget cut for the '06-'07 fiscal year—nothing unusual. What's unique about the situation, however, is that the resulting Senate proposal involved removing over \$14 billion from student loan programs in addition to several cuts to social welfare programs, which has generated significant opposition from Democrats and some moderate Republicans in Congress.

The resulting political battle is a chaotic give-and-take between both parties. On November 3, the Senate passed a bill that would cut \$35 billion in government spending which included the \$14 billion taken from higher education aid programs. The House intended to vote on the same bill on November 10, but Republican Party leaders yanked the bill for reworking at the last minute because they feared that it would not have enough support. The revised House budget bill, which cut spending by \$50 billion, passed by two votes on November 18. To add

to the confusion, the budget cuts in both the House and the Senate versions of the bill included a pair of controversial decisions. Firstly, the original bill included legislation that would open up part of the Alaskan Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling operations. The House scrapped the drilling provision to appease more moderate Republicans, but the Senate approved the drilling. Secondly, the bill also included a \$60 billion tax cut that would effectively nullify any savings generated by the budget cuts. The tax cut passed in both the House and the Senate.

A potential change in public attitude may affect the amount of the cuts and what the resulting money will be used for.

Following the two-week Thanksgiving break, the next step in the process will be budget reconciliation. The bill will be redrafted using a combination of the bills that had previously been passed and then voted on again, hopefully with united opinions from both the House and Senate. The two weeks off should give sufficient time to straighten out the differences between the two versions of the bill, but that time also gives opponents of the budget cuts a chance to organize and attempt to gain popular support against the bill. The revised budget is expected to pass, but a potential change in public attitude may affect the amount of the cuts and what the resulting money will be used for.

### Targeting Students

The large amount of money involved may seem to have dramatic implications for college students, but it's difficult to determine what will actually happen to student aid in the final version of the bill. It is important to note that none of the cuts will immediately reduce the amount of money given to students by grant and loan programs. The primary expenditures that would be eliminated are the Perkins loan program and subsidies given to private lenders under the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP). Neither has a straightforward consequence.

The Perkins loans program allows undergraduate students to borrow \$4,000 a year, at a maximum of \$20,000 total, at a five percent interest



rate. Graduate students can borrow \$6,000 a year with a maximum of \$40,000 total. Contrary to the claims of many of the budget's opponents, eliminating the funding for the Perkins loans would not instantly kill the program. The loan program has been around long enough that there is still sufficient money coming in from graduates paying off their loans to keep the program afloat for a while. Students currently using the loans will still have them available. The cuts mean the program will eventually end, though, and that the number of students the loans are available to in the meantime will be lower every year.

Cutting the subsidies to private lenders would have a very unpredictable effect on students. Unlike the Perkins loans, which are offered directly by the government, it is difficult to predict or control what private lenders would do without a federal stipend. Some lenders claim that without government assistance, they wouldn't be able to stay in business, while others use the money to provide additional education-focused programs. Removing the government's support may result in higher interest rates or less total money for students, but there is no way to predict an exact outcome at this juncture.

### RIT impact

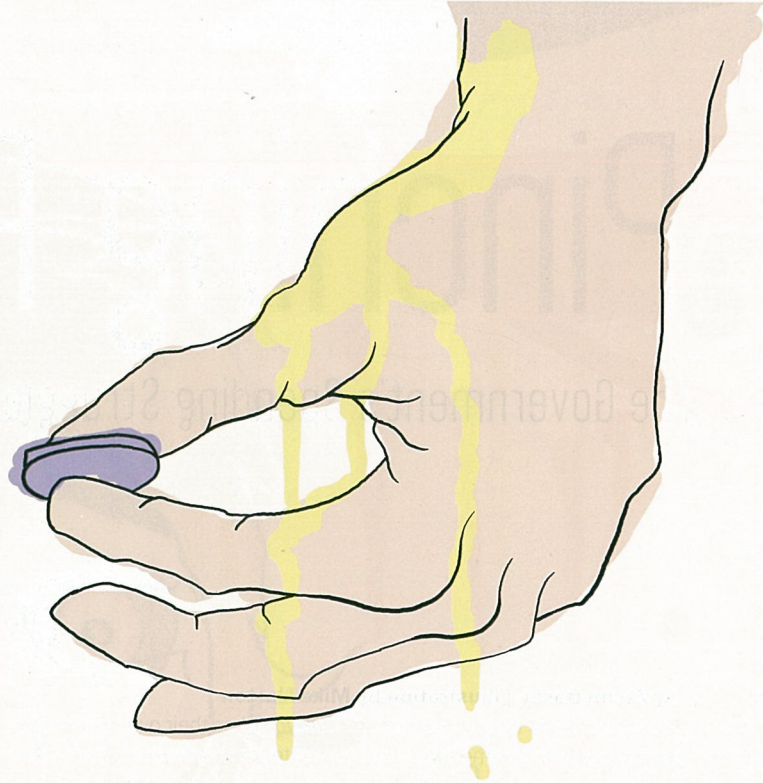
It turns out that the effect of the education cuts is even less direct for RIT students. RIT participates in a parallel program to the FFELP called the Direct Loan program, so any cuts to the private lender subsidies would not directly affect most RIT students' college loans. RIT, however, does participate in the Perkins loan program. Students are only eligible to apply for Perkins loans after they have maximized their Direct Loan, so the students that will be affected if the cuts happen are those most in the need of aid. Fortunately, RIT does offer a few alternatives such as the government-sponsored PLUS program or alternative loans provided by banks RIT has an established relationship with. These alternatives aren't quite as attractive as the fixed five percent interest Perkins program, but they do still offer options to students should the Perkins program be unavailable in the future.

RIT's official stance is that regardless of whether or not the cuts happen, the same amount of money should still be applied to education. "We maintain that the savings should be reinvested in student aid programs," says Verna Hazen, Assistance Vice President of Financial Aid and Scholarships at RIT. "The federal role in student aid has shifted from grants to loans over the last several years. We'd like to see more funds going into grant programs."

There is a proposal floating around in Congress to use some of the money from the cuts to increase the maximum amount in the Pell Grant, a need-based grant program. The current maximum of \$4050 would be increased by \$100 every year, with the eventual goal of having the grant reach a maximum total amount of \$5100 by 2010. This increase, though, is not enough to keep up with the average yearly increase in college tuitions. If the money from the cuts were reinvested fully back into the education system, this amount would have the potential to increase significantly.

### Net Effect

There are a few possible outcomes to the budget reconciliation. The first is that the legislature's reconciliation process falls through and the whole budget proposal has to be brought back to the drawing board. If this happens, the entire process will start over again, most likely with a budget proposal fairly similar to the current one. But the probability of



starting over again is very slim, because the budget process is already behind schedule and drafting a new bill would only slow it down even more.

The second possibility is that the bill passes and the budget cuts are not used to fund any other programs. This would result in the originally anticipated deficit reduction, which would reduce total government spending by about a third of a percent. This outcome is also unlikely, because both political parties have plans for the money. If the bill passed and Democrats had their say, the money would be redistributed among the programs it was taken out of. Although this would be the ideal situation for students, the chances of it happening are fairly low, simply due to the fact that there is a Republican majority in Congress. The most probable result is that the bill will pass with some version of the proposed tax cuts added on, although the revised versions may have numbers that are significantly different from the current amounts.

### Your Say

Students worried about their future finances or how the government is using money do have a say in the matter. The proposed cuts were originally ready to smoothly sail through the House via the Republican majority, but public outcry resulted in several moderate Republicans changing their opinions based on what people from their state wanted. As a result, the bill was reworked before the vote, which means that during the break, constituents have ample opportunity to try and influence their representatives.

One of the easiest ways to express an opinion is to simply write to representatives in Congress. Websites like the Student Aid Alliance ([www.studentaidalliance.org](http://www.studentaidalliance.org)) provide contact information for congressional representatives and sample letters to give ideas. RIT participates by asking students about twice a year to email national and state representatives prior to votes that impact student aid. If you are concerned about the impact the cuts will have on you, or simply want to express your opinion on where the money should go, venues like these are available for making your thoughts known. •



# WORD on the Street

compiled and photographed by Ralph Smith

**Q: What is your guilty pleasure?**



"Anime, zombie porn, and hanging out on college campuses I currently don't attend."

**Jesse Ames**  
Java's Whipping Girl



"Porn."  
**Steve Colburn**  
Go-Club Enthusiast



"Love Hina Anime."  
**Kei Kawabata**  
Physics  
First Year



"David Bowie."  
**Carrie Gustavson**  
Fine Art Photography  
Fourth Year



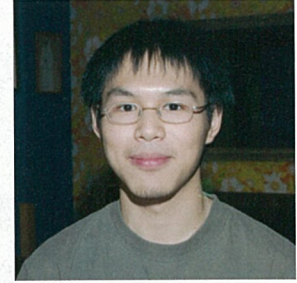
"Gambling."  
**Nick Blake**  
Computer Science  
Second Year



"Dead babies."  
**Christopher Sira**  
Economics  
Fourth Year



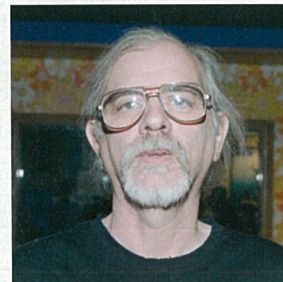
"Your Mom."  
**Saul Lapidus**  
Physics  
Alumnus '04



"Going out and buying gummy bears spoiling my appetite."  
**Mathew Chan**  
Computer Science  
Fourth Year



"I don't feel guilty about any of my pleasures."  
**Dave Berman**  
Business Undecided  
Second Year



"Reading Kung-Fu novels."  
**Bill Hewitt**  
Go Club Member



"Polka."  
**Justin Kramer**  
Information Technology  
Fourth Year



"Going out and having fun when I know I have so much work to do."  
**Michelle Spampata**  
Imaging Science  
Fourth Year







# THE POWER OF PLASTIC

## ROBERT D. MANNING ON STUDENT DEBT

by Monica Donovan | photograph by Ralph Smith

If you're reading this, you could win a trip to Cancun over spring break. All you have to do is apply for a 0% introductory APR Visa card. Never mind the 19.99% APR after six months. Forget the increased late payment APRs, the balance transfer fees, the exorbitant cash advance APRs, and the membership fees. You could go to *Cancun!*

Sound familiar? If you're like most college students, you have at least one credit card with a four-digit balance. You have student loans in the five-digit range. And, like most of your peers, you're probably losing an unnecessary amount of cash because you never learned how to manage it all. Robert D. Manning, a professor of finance at RIT, takes a good hard look at students today and their debt issues.

Manning is the author of the acclaimed book on consumer debt *Credit Card Nation*. As a specialist in consumer finance, socio-economic trends, and retail banking deregulation, Manning has testified before Congress numerous times on behalf of citizen consumer rights. His most recent work is a study financed by Lending Tree, *Living with Debt*, which analyzes changing attitudes towards debt across the span of life stages. In a nutshell, he's the man to talk to about personal finance matters.

### Cramming Doesn't End After College

Manning reflected on how he came to write *Living with Debt*. "I got a phone call [from] Lending Tree asking if I had gotten a letter, and I said no," he said. After that, he recalls with an amused smile, Lending Tree

proceeded to file another letter to the wrong address. He eventually accepted their offer to organize and prepare a report on changing attitudes towards debt. "It was a nightmare because I didn't have much time to do it," he said. At the time, Manning still had teaching and other projects to do on top of *Living with Debt*. "I did the study and wrote the book in less than six months," he said. The study was released at a press conference in New York City on October 26.

### The Cultural Shift

The study highlights a number of key reasons for the accumulation of student debt: the inability of families to adequately save for their children's college expenses, soaring costs of higher education, the failure of traditional Puritan values to pass on to our generation, "competitive consumption" pressures and easy access to consumer credit, and a serious lack of personal finance education.

Life cycle, according to Manning, is key in debt trends. "The assumption is that you try to stay in debt your whole life," he said. "That's why it's so revolutionary that people are going into debt before they even have a job." Borrowing, in previous generations, was considered a privilege. People had to show their worth to borrow money, and prudent spending was encouraged. "Today," explained Manning, "your generation is encouraged to borrow on the future." Now, he said, people deserve to get money whether they are budgeting well or not. This is the result of an enormous cultural shift—and students are getting the short end of the stick.



According to Manning, part of the solution is just feeling that you can get in control of your finances. Students aren't being taught how to do it, and "the absence of this education unfortunately benefits the banks." The first crucial step is sitting down with your parents and looking at your debt. He encourages students to look at the *Budget Estimator* on his website. The student selects their major, which brings up the projected income for a graduate working in that particular field. The student then enters their relevant expenses. If your budget is balanced, you are rewarded with a display of fireworks. If it's not, the Estimator candidly informs you in red that your budget is unbalanced and to 'try again.' Manning devotes an entire section of his website to various aspects of financial education. Manning also explained the importance of setting up investment accounts as soon as possible. Starting with mutual funds, he said, is a student's best bet, since there are thousands of dollars in tax deductions upon graduation.

"A good credit score could be more important than a good GPA."

#### GPA's and Credit Scores

"My argument has been that students with a good credit report are going to have an advantage on the job market," said Manning. "A good credit score could be more important than a good GPA." He pointed out that President Simone has been focusing on internships and co-ops so that students are better prepared to get a good job. "By the time they get to an interview, everyone has work experience," he said. But if a student has a poor credit history, he noted, it could be harmful to their potential to get the job they want. Manning wants to help RIT students achieve their financial goals, giving them a huge advantage over other schools. As a part of First Year Enrichment, he has been giving lectures on finance management. He hopes to continue this by creating a series of workshops for students throughout the school year and starting classes in personal finance management.

#### Future Projects

Manning has a plethora of projects on his plate. He's editing and contributing to a book for Senior Seminar classes, entitled *Globalization and Democracy*. His next major book is entitled *Give Yourself Credit*, a follow-up to *Credit Card Nation*. On the public policy side, he's putting together a program which he hopes will be an alternative to Chapter Seven Bankruptcy, and is also working with United Way on an alternative to anti-predatory lending programs. The list goes on.

By the time you're done with Manning's Budget Estimator, that trip to Cancun might not look so appealing after all. Check it out at <http://creditcardnation.com/robertmanning.html>. •

## DR. MANNING'S TOP TEN TIPS FOR SURVIVING IN THE 'CREDIT CARD NATION'

- Repeat after me: **I don't pay membership fees.** If you paid a membership fee last year, call your friendly customer service representative and insist that the fee be waived. Otherwise, there are a lot of better deals out there.
- If you are a "revolver" (someone who doesn't pay off balances at the end of the month), **reduce your number of bank credit card accounts to a maximum of two.** Keep a high interest card that has many useful benefits, such as free rental car insurance, and pay these charges in full each month. The second credit card should be a no-frills, low interest credit card where you maintain a monthly balance.
- If you are a "convenience" user (meaning that you pay off all your balances at the end of the month), **be sure that the "grace" period is at least 21 days.**
- Call your friendly customer service representative and **demand a lower interest rate.** Believe it or not, you can bargain over the phone.
- Now is the time to **lock in on a fixed rate account,** pronto. Interest rates are so low that banks have established a "floor" so that your finance charges will not fall anymore.
- **Look out for the classic "bait and switch" maneuver.** Make sure that the credit card you received is the one you applied for. Banks are not obligated to inform you that they changed their minds or explain why they will not honor their previous "pre-approved" offer.
- **Monitor the low "fixed for life" interest rate** that was the reason you signed up for the credit card. It is not unusual for rates to jump.
- **Check for "tiered" interest rates on your account balances.**
- **Cancel all of your unused bank and retail credit accounts.**
- **Don't even think about a credit card insurance program.**



# INTRODUCING THE FIRST LIMELIGHT JAM

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# SPORTSdesk

by José Plaza



Gretchen Anderson, third year industrial design, performs a dive November 10, 2005. photograph by David Wright/REPORTER Magazine

## Men's Cross Country

**November 5:** With the season winding down, the men's cross country team competed in the NYSCTC Championships. Out of 16 teams, the Tigers earned a third place finish. Nate Lowe led the way finishing in third place.

**November 12:** Nate Lowe represented RIT at the NCAA district qualifying events for men's track and field atop the ten best overall finishers in the event. With 314 team points, the Tigers grabbed eighth place in the competition.

## Women's Cross Country

**November 5:** Women's cross country placed ninth out of the 17 teams competing in the NYSCTC Championships. Trisha Sliker, who finished with a time of 18:21.40, earned an 11th place finish and was RIT's fastest finisher.

**November 12:** With an overall team score of 367, the Lady Tigers placed 13th in the NCAA Division III Regional Qualifier which was held at the University of Rochester. Trisha Sliker and Adrienne Gagnier were RIT's top finishers placing 45th and 57th, respectively.

## Men's Hockey

**November 4:** RIT hosted Alabama-Huntsville at the Ritter Ice Arena. Alabama remained in clear control for all of the game. Even after Darrell Draper and Brent Pantry brought RIT to within one goal, Alabama held on for a 3-2 win.

**November 5:** Darrell Draper produced the only goal for the Tigers in their second game versus Alabama-Huntsville. RIT lost 4-1.

**November 12:** RIT's game against Robert Morris University provided plenty of offensive strikes, 10 goals to be exact. Five different Tigers found the back of Robert Morris' goal, including Tristan Fairbarn, Darren Doherty, Steve Farrer, Matt Smith, and Simon Lambert, who tied the game at 5-5 with 11 seconds left in regulation.

**November 13:** Robert Morris and RIT went at it once again after their offense-heavy show the previous night. This time, the Tigers were held to just two goals (Rob Tarantino, Tristan Fairbarn), losing 4-2.



**November 19:** Matt Harris and Brennan Sarazin's goals gave RIT the lead twice during their game versus Niagara University, but Niagara came back to tie the game, and in the last period, scored a third goal to grab the 3-2 win at home.

**Record through 11/19/05:** 3-7-1

### Women's Hockey

**November 5:** Women's Hockey opened up their 2005-2006 season with good reviews after a 4-1 victory. All four goals against their opponent, Southern Maine, came in the second period of the game. Nicole Gedney and Sarah Wilson each scored one, while

Maegan Geypens tallied two goals.

**November 6:** Nicki Werner made 11 saves, her first shutout of the season, and got more than enough offensive support as the Lady Tigers shut out Southern Maine, 8-0. Stacey McConnell and Sarah Wilson each had two goals, while Brittany Davies, Nicole Gedney, Kaley Ostanek, and Jerica Young each added one goal apiece.

**November 9:** SUNY Buffalo handed the Lady Tigers their first loss of the season with a 3-1 game. Stacey McConnell's first period goal was the lone RIT score.

**November 12:** The Lady Tigers traveled on the road to play UMASS-Boston. The game ended in a 3-2 victory for RIT, with Brittany Davies, Isabelle Richard, and Jessica Ciarmella scoring goals to put RIT up for good.

**November 13:** UMASS-Boston and RIT forced a 3-3 tie to go into overtime. A mere four minutes into overtime, Lindsay Latour found the back of the Beacon's net to give the Lady Tigers a 4-3 game and with that, a sweep of the Beacons. Kaley Ostanek, Jessica Ciarmella, and Isabelle Richard each scored a goal during regulation.

**Record through 11/13/05:** 4-1-0

### Men's Soccer

**November 5:** Nazareth College and RIT competed in the Empire 8 title game. The game ended in a fitting 1-1 tie, with RIT's Dennis Smyth scoring the Tiger's lone goal in regulation. RIT fell short on the penalty kick session, and even though they share Empire 8 Champions status, Nazareth earned the tournament berth for the NCAA Division III tournament.

**November 12:** Entering as second seed in the ECAC Upstate Men's Soccer Championship, RIT played St. John Fisher in the semifinals. RIT's Jorge Ciurlizza gave RIT the first lead of the game, but the Tigers could not control Fisher's offense, losing 2-1. This game concluded RIT Soccer's season.

**2005 Season Record:** 8-7-4

### Women's Soccer

**November 5:** Host SUNY Brockport faced RIT in opening round action of the NYSWCAA tournament. Melanie Bryant scored RIT's lone goal to tie the game in the first period, but another goal from Brockport gave them the 2-1 win and the spot in the championship game.

**2005 Season record:** 5-10-2

### Men's Swimming

**November 12:** The RIT Tiger Sharks swam to victory against St. Lawrence in a 142-81 point win.

#### Winners:

400-Yard Medley Relay: RIT 'A' (3:55.62)  
200-Yard Freestyle: Phil Baudoin (1:53.87)  
50-Yard Freestyle: Erik Zelbacher (21:57)

200-Yard Individual Medley: Matt Jenkins (2:05.64)

200-Yard Butterfly: Matt Jenkins (2:09.25)

100-Yard Freestyle: Erik Zelbacher (48.65)

200-Yard Backstroke: Adam Luptak (2:13.13)

1-Meter Diving: Quinn Donahoe (305.95)

3-Meter Diving: Quinn Donahoe (279.90)

### Women's Swimming

**November 12:** The Lady Tiger Sharks had a close meet against St. Lawrence, but fell short by a score of 120-113.

#### Winners:

400-Yard Medley Relay: RIT 'A' (4:21.20)

200-Yard Freestyle: Teresa Burr (2:04.77)

50-Yard Freestyle: Kristin Curtze (25.91)

200-Yard IM: Sarah Keesler (2:20.52)

100-Yard Freestyle: Kristin Curtze (56.71)

200-Yard Breaststroke: Sarah Keesler (2:36.51)

1-Meter Diving: Gretchen Anderson (207.35)

3-Meter Diving: Gretchen Anderson (207.35)

### Volleyball

**November 4-5:** The women's volleyball team concluded their season with the Empire 8 Championships. In their semifinal match, RIT played St. John Fisher, whom they put away in four games. Laura Grell provided a season-high 29 digs, while Katie Werner put up 47 assists, 12 digs, and 5 service aces.

In the championship match against Ithaca, Katie Werner had 30 assists, Jessica Schaffer had 15 digs and 8 kills, and seniors Christina Anabel and Bonnie Harriman slammed 20 kills combined. However, the efforts were not enough, as Ithaca won the Empire 8 title in 3 straight games.

### Wrestling

**November 5-6:** The RIT Wrestling Team kicked off their 2005-2006 season at the Ithaca Invitational placing eighth out of 16 teams.

#### RIT Finishes (by weight class):

Zach Greenberg: third place (197 lb)

Luke Baum: fourth place (141 lb)

Julian Nicholas: fourth place (133 lb)

Micah Vore: fifth place (heavyweight)

Mike Pietrowski: sixth (141 lb)

**November 9:** SUNY Oswego was RIT's first dual meet opponent for the season. RIT lost 33-10.

#### RIT Winners (by weight class):

Luke Baum (141 lb)

Nate Bachmann (157 lb)

Zach Greenburg (197 lb)

**November 20:** With wins from Zach Greenberg and Julian Nicholas, the team placed seventh out of 11 teams in the Red Dragon Invitational at Oneonta State.

#### RIT Finishes (by weight class):

Zach Greenberg: first place (197 lb)

Julian Nicholas: first place (133 lb)

Mike Pietrowski: second place (141 lb)

Luke Baum: fourth place (141 lb)



# Winter Season is for Winning: A Preview

by Richard Hain

*The upcoming 2005-2006 winter sports season will provide fans of RIT sports an exciting chance to witness history in motion. From hockey to track and field, old fans should be more than pleasantly surprised, and new fans will soon learn what it means to watch and root for the RIT Tigers.*

## Men's Basketball

The RIT Men's Basketball team certainly has big shoes to fill. More precisely, the shoes of 6'11" center Jesse Foote, and the three other senior players the Tigers lost to graduation. With that in mind, Coach Robert McVean is adapting the team strategy to fit his youthful team.

"Watching us play, certainly, the tempo will be picked up," said McVean. This year's team is full of new faces, providing new speed. Transfer student Rob Hampton is expected to make an immediate impact and assist the fourth year players, captains Fran Snyder and Drew Martin. Another captain, Tim Bacon, is going to be relied on to carry the load in the frontcourt, anchoring down the center position.

"We have a group this year that understands the value of the basketball," said McVean. He is relying on his team's speed and smart play to pick up the tempo, offensively and defensively, and try and run his opponents off the floor. "Our schedule is dotted with ranked opponents...We don't dodge anybody," McVean added. A strong focus on rebounding, up-tempo defensive pressure, and quickly capitalizing offensive strategy, is redefining RIT basketball.

## Women's Basketball

This is a huge season for the Lady Tigers basketball team. The team should be well improved as they have nine returning players which provide strong team chemistry. With an eye on improvement and the players with which to do so, Coach Deborah Buff should be able to lead her team to an impressive record.

This season's team will have the great opportunity of keeping a majority of its starters, including lone senior Christina Ermie and juniors Ramato Diallo, Jenna Newberry, and Margot Sandy. The new up-tempo style this season along with the returning starters should allow the team to gain momentum early in the season. A good start to the season is vital with the Empire 8 conference looking as tough as ever.

Coach Buff is very confident in her players. "Last year we competed for the first twenty minutes; we didn't have a lot of depth, but this year we have a lot of depth..." said Buff. "The fans are going to see very exciting basketball."

## Men's Hockey

"This is certainly going to be a learning season for our players, our fans, [and] our coaching staff," said the, now Division I, Men's Hockey Team Coach Wayne Wilson. "The speed of the game is quicker, the strength of the players is going to be stronger; every weekend is going to be a challenge."

The Tigers have their work cut out for them, but success is not going to be sacrificed for learning the new level of intensity. Key players have



RIT's wrestler Zach Serene (top) gets on top of Oswego's wrestler as he attempts a flip at the Clark Gym November 9, 2005. RIT lost the match 10-33.

Young Jang/REPORTER Magazine

already stepped up, and with the joint improvement of every player on the team, the men's hockey will be prepared to succeed. "We need all twenty to be playing well in order to win games; at this point we have a couple players that have done a very good job...Simon Lambert and Darrell Draper, Marc Hyman has been stellar on defense and [goalie] Jocelyn Guimond has won us a game and has had a good start to the season," commended Wilson.

## Women's Hockey

A change of the guard has taken place this season for the Lady Tigers Hockey Team. Now it will have to adapt its game and work on finding team chemistry during a season in which they will face some of the toughest challenges of any team to date. This year's team will have to overcome the loss of players that have helped create the reputation of RIT women's hockey, such as record breaker Alysia Park.





Luckily, the team still has core players to help lead it into this new era. Nicki Werner, the goalie, and Isabelle Richard, a sophomore and excellent scorer, should help bring this team together quickly. Coach Michael Grainsky has faith in his team pointing out, "We are very young and very fast."

With loads of talent and excellent guidance from the coaches, this season will be vital in developing the players that will bring about the next era of RIT women's ice hockey. Grainsky said, "The fact that we're so young makes the future look very bright. This is the team [that] could go very far."

### **Men's Indoor Track and Field**

Improvement is on the minds of all RIT Men's Indoor Track and Field members. However, improving on their top five finish last season will be extremely difficult, especially while attempting to adapt to a new facility like the Field House.

"Getting used to the Field House and how to use it properly; that is probably the biggest change," Coach David Warth said of the hurdles

in the way of continued improvement. Despite that, this year's team should be very successful. "We are getting consistently better athletes than we were in the past—simple as that. So, we are able to push them a little bit harder." These athletes are preparing to elevate RIT's status as a good team to a great team.

Athletes expected to have a large impact this season are: Jimmy Sorel, a hurdler, who is battling back from a broken foot, Matt Bango, a runner that set the 500m indoor school record and is being moved to the 800m where he expected to be even more successful, and lastly, senior, Jesse Williamson. In addition, Warth fully expects big performances from the unnamed athletes. "We always have guys that surprise me. This team has more talent to be able to do that than I've ever seen before." The New York State Collegiate Track Championship, NYSCTC, hosted by RIT, will be the true test of the team's improvement.

### **Women's Indoor Track and Field**

The Women's Indoor Track and Field team is coming off a highly successful season, but in typical RIT fashion, they don't believe in stopping the everlasting goal of improvement. "Last year our women finished third in our conference...and we'd like to do better than that this year," said Coach David Warth, displaying supreme confidence in his team.

The women's team is full of all-star athletes that are returning stronger than ever. However, the younger classes are still making a huge impact. "Last year's class is very good, this year's class is very good; they're pushing the people before them. That makes all the difference in the world," Warth asserted. RIT returns two of the best in its history in Danielle Simmons and Allison Griggs. Danielle competes in the 800m, and last year was an All-American. Allison Griggs competes as a thrower and last year qualified for the NCAA championship. Two younger players expected to have a successful season are sophomore LaKeisha Perez and freshman Lindsay Kolceski.

This year's team is ready to step up the intensity. This season should be one that will be remembered for a long time, and one where the women's indoor track team should advance to a level never before seen at RIT.

### **Men's Swimming and Diving**

Coach Cahill and Coach Devries see this season as an opportunity to separate the Men's Swimming and Diving team from the competition. The men's team is incredibly strong and can use this season to really help distinguish themselves from other schools in the state.

The swimmers on the men's side are very strong and have each worked hard in the off-season to enhance their overall ability. Leading the men's team are Eric Zelbacher, a freestyle swimmer and returning national qualifier, Matt Joseph, a diver that is really improved and should be exciting to watch, and Quinn Donahoe, an All-American diver who will be attempting the hardest dives possible. Aside from the individuals, the coaches also realize that the team as a whole has improved. "We're very strong, we're very deep, and we can swim with about anybody in the state," said Coach Cahill.





Quinn Donahoe pauses for a brief moment before making his dive during practice on November 10, 2005. David Wright/REPORTER Magazine

The excitement in the coaches, swimmers and divers, should translate to excitement in the fans. This season's improvements will benefit the coaches, the athletes, and most importantly the RIT fan base.

### **Women's Swimming and Diving**

The women's swimming and diving team is full of talent and should have one of its best seasons in recent history. "The team is a very hard working team," Coach Michael Cahill said.

Cahill mentioned that RIT's quarter system causes a problem for many sports, especially swimming and diving. Swimming and diving, a training sport, has different training times compared to semester schools which causes the RIT team to face competitors at a different part of their training regiment. With that in mind, Cahill went on to say that, "Our training right now is a month ahead of last year's team." In addition, team members such as Gretchen Anderson, an excellent diver, new recruit Kristin Curtze, competing in freestyle, along with Sarah Keesler, a returning senior and leader competing in medley, should provide the push needed to overcome the quarter system obstacle.

The success of the team will be directly linked to their ability to overcome the difference in training schedules of the other teams. "We have kids that are swimming really well right now," Cahill added. This season should be an excellent one for the women's team and RIT may see many of this year's swimmers going to nationals.

### **Men's Wrestling**

Full of upper classmen, the Wrestling team should be prepared to take the necessary steps to forge its own success. The team this season is dotted with seniors that should provide for strong leadership throughout the season. Zach Greenberg, Lee Comstock, Chris Nassar, and Mike Pietrowski complete the leadership of the seniors. According to Coach Scott Stever, the team looks for success in each weight class, hoping to create a fully balanced and talented team. The team hopes to improve throughout the year so that at the end of the season, they can have a strong showing at the Empire 8 conference tournament. •



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# RIT Rings

compiled by Casey Dehlinger

*All calls subject to editing and truncation. Not all calls will be printed. If you talk for more than a minute, I probably won't bother with your call.*

**Friday 9:21 p.m.**

[female voice] Hi, I'm looking at the October 28 issue. There's someone named Drew kinda lookin' for a girlfriend. However, it says that they might be a she. I just wanted to know if she's a he or a she. Either way, I'm gay. Bye. *[Yes, Drew is a female.]*

**Saturday 4:03 a.m.**

What's up *Reporter*? What's the matter with the one night stand? I feel like my heart's broken. What can you do to mend it? I feel real sad. Like I wanna cry. Awww. You never would call me. Just call me back, I feel really heartbroken. Thanks, *Reporter*. Have a good night. I love you.

**Friday 12:05 p.m.**

Hey, *Reporter*, it's Tom. I complained a while back about the limerick. I've gotta say that Brian's finally getting it. He's got the meter down, he's just gotta polish up those rhymes. What I called about this time, though, is about the illustration for the choosing to pump iron article. Excellent. I like Dan's work and I'd like to see more of it.

**Friday 5:09 p.m.**

What is going on with this cartoon on page 30? This Carly Schonberg does not know how to draw or tell a story. What a dumb comic. Boo.

**Friday 6:45 p.m.**

Oh! Okay, I just got the comic, I retract my other statement about Carly Schonberg. He's actually kinda funny because I didn't see the fact that the fox had no teeth. That's funny. I get it.

**Saturday 1:16 a.m.**

Yo, *Reporter*. I'm freakin' standing in Perkins now and it's cold and the there's the moon and my friend's just laying on the ground and I'm about to beat his ass with this stick in my hand.

**Saturday 2:17 a.m.**

Hi, *Reporter*, you know what I'd like to know? Why's Crime Watch so bad now? Now you have all these things about harassment and they're straight out of high school. People seem to need Campus Safety for everything. What's up with that, *Reporter*?

**Saturday 2:21 a.m.**

*Reporter*, I'm driving down the road and looking out my window and I see the beautiful moon in the sky and it looks like a ripe bosom that needs to be plucked with delicate hands and placed against my chest. Thank you.

**Saturday 4:41 p.m.**

Hello, *Reporter* ringy line whatever, My name's Matthew, but I'm calling on behalf of Alice who totally wants a date with Drew, because she happens to agree with the whatever's of Drew and her personal comments that she left in this issue I found on the floor. Not enough information was left as to how we'd get one Alice and one Drew together, but if RIT Rings could really hook them up, that'd be sweet. Thank you.

**Tuesday 12:28 a.m.**

I just gotta say f--- finals, drinking on Monday night of finals week is the best thing I've ever done!

**Wednesday 3:58 a.m.**

Yo, so, we're kickin' it and we're thinking about mini muffins. We're thinkin' they need to change up their flavors. They got blueberry, maybe cherry sometimes, chocolate. We need blueberry and some mixed hybrid shit. We need some more delicious muffins. Banana nut. Hazelnut muffins. Get on that.

**Wednesday 4 a.m.**

I understand there's a lot of calls going your way, and they're really hilarious, so what you need to do is make some sort of website where you have all the recorded messages. I mean, this is RIT, so it can definitely happen; there's like a lot of computer shit going down. So have a website up and everyone drunk dials and it'll be cool. So...think about that one.

*Well, we're working on it. Unprinted calls may be posted on the site in the near future. Actual audio files may take a while, though. Drew, you'd better call and claim your suitors: 585.475.5633.*

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# God in the Classroom:

## On the Separation of Church and State

by Adam Botzenhart | illustration by Bill Robinson

The separation of church and state. The issue is not new—it has been a staple of public discourse for over a century. By now, battle lines have been drawn, opinions have been solidified, and the great political works of the American regime have been sufficiently distorted and misinterpreted. I believe there is a very proper and purposeful separation between the church and the state. James Madison's sentiment that "religion flourishes in greater purity without than with the aid of government" is significant and echoes the thought of many religious political thinkers. St. Augustine identified two distinct cities on earth—the City of God and the City of Man—and warned of the potential danger in entangling their interests. Indeed, the boundaries put in place separating church and state act not only in limiting the power of each but, moreover, in protecting the one from the other—a boundary that is crucial if we are to preserve both the purity of our government and the purity of the church.

Perhaps the most difficult lesson the young generation today must learn is how it can be unarguably wrong to cheat on your spelling test, but 'morally indeterminate' for a husband to cheat on his wife.

That being said, I feel that the idea of the separation of church and state has become grossly misinterpreted and misapplied in America today. The "separation of the church and state" in the modern era has now come to represent the separation of morality and government—more specifically, morality and the classroom. In an effort to purge God or any trace of a god from the halls of American schools, educators and interest groups across the country have gone to great lengths to remove not only Christ from the classroom, but every moral judgment or hint of morality as well. The result: perhaps the most difficult lesson the young generation today must learn is how it can be unarguably wrong to cheat on your spelling test, but 'morally indeterminate' for a husband to cheat on his wife. The positivism that has pervaded academia has consequences, even after the ninth period bell rings.

These attacks on traditional morality are misguided and dangerous. Our main focus has become not educating our youth, but ensuring that they're not instilled with a bias that life is ever to be preferred to death, justice to injustice, or virtue to vice. These are only *values* after all, and Judeo-Christian values at that. But to separate God from the State is to tear at the moral fabric that is our Republic and to put in jeopardy the very *values* that this nation is founded on. The idea that all men are "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights" is the heart of our political identity—the belief that undergirds our justification for a free and representative Republic.

Our hypocrisy comes in that if Dr. Phil or Oprah offer guiding maxims, these are touted on the chalkboards and in the notebooks of the modern student. But if Moses delivers guiding maxims, offering that one should not kill, lie, cheat or steal, surely these ideas violate a very important separation of church and state. Our idiocy comes in that, instead of focusing on barring guns, drugs, and sex offenders from the halls of our schools today, our primary focus has been barring the Prince of Peace who said "blessed are the clean of heart." Certainly this toxic idea poses more threat to young students than a pedophile principal or another Columbine. Our downfall comes in the dissolution not of the church and state, but of virtue, morality, and society.

Christianity, the church, is the least threatening concern facing students today; though it is the single concern we seem hell-bent on exterminating from schools in America. In eradicating God from the classrooms and corridors of our schools, I submit that we move not toward some ultimate sociopolitical equality, some true realization of the first amendment, but we instead undermine the foundation and source our Founders believed human equality stemmed from. This, surely, will be a difficult yet important lesson for America to learn. •



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