

# REPORTER

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# REPORTER

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## EDITORIAL

### A Digital Memorial

RIT students formally received the news of fellow student Mary Therese (lovingly known as MT) Norman's death on Friday, January 27 at 2:49 p.m. in an [All Students] announcement e-mail. But well before this announcement was made, on the night of the car accident that took MT's life, her facebook.com profile began growing posthumously with "wall" posts from friends. The brief elegies and eulogies contained sad reflections such as: "I know you'll never read this..." and "I will never forget..." Still, thanks to the power of social networking websites like facebook, while RIT mourns the loss of this student, sister, and friend, online there exists a beautiful living memory of her and her college life.

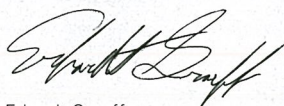
As soon as I received the e-mail, I did what I do when I read about any unfamiliar RIT student: I facebook'd them. Since November 2004, when facebook.com first opened its digital doors to RIT, I have used facebook with Google-like routine. I navigated to MT's profile in the hopes of finding out a little about this person. I certainly did not expect to stumble upon what some have come to call "digital mourning." Heartfelt memories, sentiments, anecdotes, and inside jokes were being added to her wall all Friday. As the day wore on, one could see the sad reflection spread as more people read the e-mail or learned by word of mouth of the accident—each moment was encapsulated in a short touching message appended to MT's profile.

As with all internet profile sites, there is an odd voyeuristic quality to facebook—I am well aware that I am guilty of perpetuating that uncomfortable aspect with this editorial. The other side to this though is the uncanny ability to share MT's life with people who were unable to have the pleasure of meeting her in person. Cemetery.com has been doing this for mourners since 1995—although the site looks like it hasn't been redesigned since its inception, it has been preserving digital memorials for posting mourners for over ten years. MT's facebook profile is sure to be a similar memorial. Though it may seem odd for a stranger like me to write testament and reflect on her work as an AALANA mentor, care for animals, or penchant for Disney movies, her story is able to remarkably live on through what she wrote in her profile.

In an e-mail correspondence with the *GazetteExtra* (gazetteextra.com) discussing a deceased student from Wisconsin, spokesman for facebook.com Chris Hughes said that they no longer take down profiles of users that have died because of many requests for them to stay up and available as memorials. Hughes also stressed that they do not give out passwords of dead users.

Thus, MT's life as described by her and reflected on by grieving wall posters will persist as a living record of her in college as long as the social networking site persists. Which makes me wonder: when Norman's birthday arrives on February 24, will facebook.com send a "Mary Therese (MT) Norman's birthday is today!" alert to all of her facebook friends? And if so, what will it represent to those recipients? Will it stand as a reminder of a life taken too early? Or will it be the celebration of an exceptional life preserved through a timeless digital memorial? Though I realize the answer is both, I believe the latter is an extraordinarily beautiful outcome.

Rest in Peace, Mary Therese Norman.



Erhardt Graeff  
Editor in Chief



As part of a fundraiser for the College of Business, students donated money to see their professor of choice perform during the COB Idol on Thursday, January 26, 2006. Tom Starkweather/REPORTER Magazine

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Cover photograph by Jacob Hannah, Sculptor Albert Paley speaks in the Eastman Building Lobby at the reception and book signing for *The Sentinel*.

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9 t h A n n u a l  
s n o w b a l l

hosted by

RIT Habitat for Humanity & Student Government  
proceeds benefit Local Habitat Chapters

{ friday, february 10 }  
{ 8 p m - 1 2 a m }

semi-formal dance at SAU cafeteria

Tickets on sale jan23 in the SG office /  
feb1 at candy counter \$8  
\$ 1 0 a t t h e d o o r

w w w . s g . r i t . e d u





# Letters to the Editor

## Free Parking is not Free!

Thanks for your interesting article “Stalking for Spaces” (*Reporter* January 20, 2006). As a professor of environmental studies, I am horrified to learn that 2,800 on-campus residents drive to class. How far do these students drive, a mile at most? I do not understand how anyone could propose building additional parking—which means destroying wetlands—just so residents can save themselves a short walk from the dorms. Free parking is not actually free: all those extra vehicles pump pollution into the air, waste non-renewable sources of energy, and facilitate obesity. If the Parking and Transportation Office were to charge on-campus residents for parking in non-dorm lots, and crack down on unregistered vehicles, many more spaces would be available for those who truly need them, the commuters. This would be an easy step toward making our campus part of the sustainability solution, not part of the problem.

Sincerely yours,

**Christine Keiner**

## Five Year Old Movie Reviews

Every week I flip through *Reporter*, and though I find some of the articles to be uninteresting it is rare to find a piece of writing that clearly should have been edited out. I was disappointed and a little confused to see such a piece in the January 20, 2006 issue of *Reporter*. While I have nothing against movie reviews, I find it odd and sad that a whole page was wasted reviewing a movie that came out five years ago. Okay, maybe *Monkeybone* wasn't such a great flick, but haven't most people figured that out by now? It has been available for viewing since 2001.

To me, the entire point of a movie review is to let me know if a film is worth paying eight bucks to go see in the regular theater, or if it is something that's only worth seeing in the dollar theater, or not at all. If *Reporter* is going to take up space with movie reviews, it doesn't seem that much to ask that the movies at least be current.

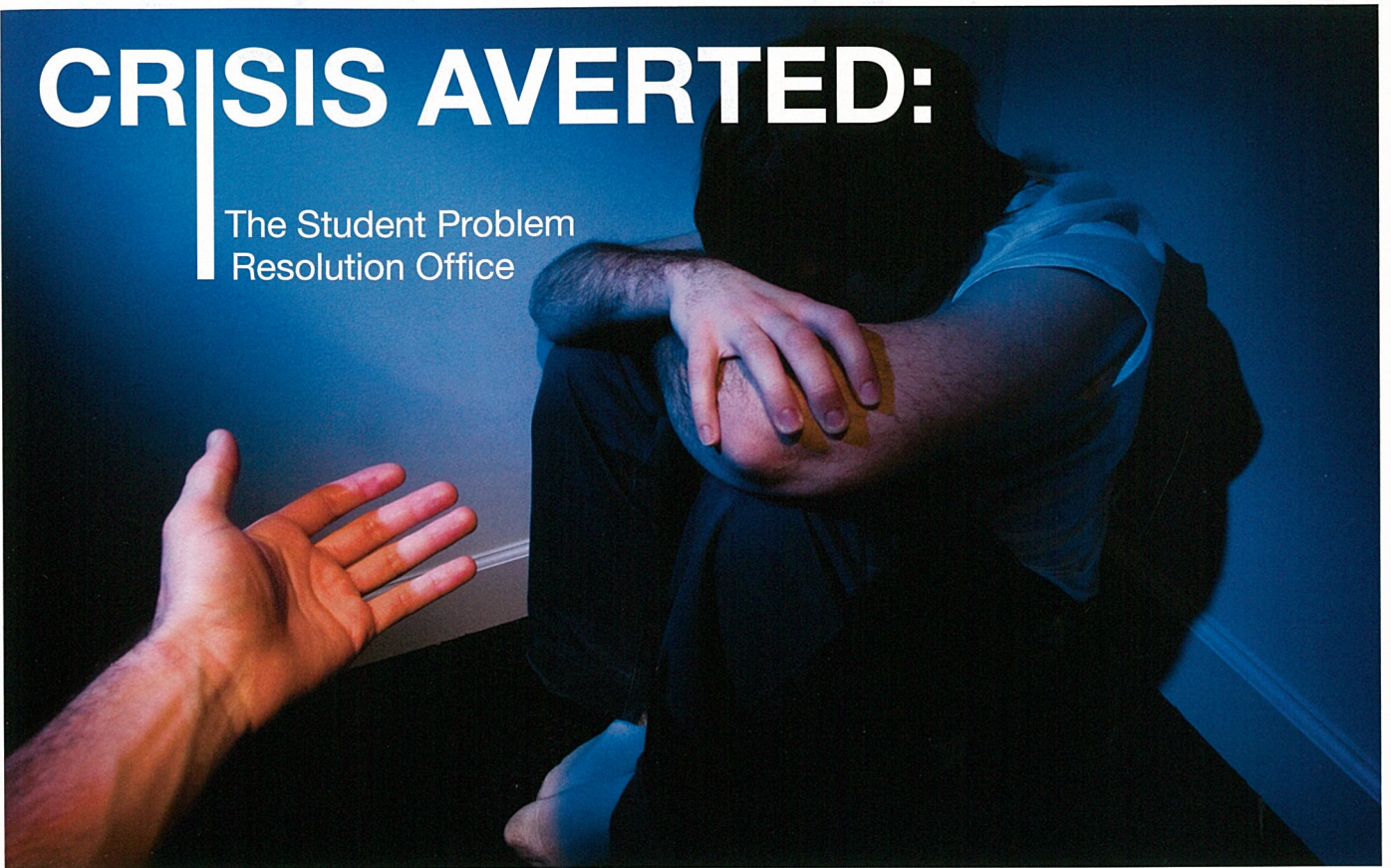
**Jess Swazey**

We have received several additional Letters to the Editor regarding our article on Attention Deficit Disorder (*Reporter* December 16, 2006) and Reinaldo Vega's initial Letter in response (*Reporter* January 13, 2006).

To see a thread of that ongoing discussion, go to our website: <http://www.reportermag.com>

# CRISIS AVERTED:

The Student Problem Resolution Office



Students often experience many difficulties throughout college and Lee Twyman (not pictured), Student Ombudsperson, offers counseling and advice.

by Joshua Van Hook | photo illustration by David Wright

Leaving old food in the refrigerator, inconsiderate study habits, or issues with the presence of a significant other sound familiar? Ever doubt the correctness of one of your grades? These are types of issues that the Student Problem Resolution Office deals with. Located in the RITreat, it is “a resource for students,” as Student Ombudsperson Lee Twyman puts it.

The position of Student Ombudsperson was started as a pilot almost fifteen years ago. Dr. Barry Culhane served for three consecutive three-year terms in this position. Then, Laura Tubbs served two terms. Each ombudsperson is a current faculty or staff member, and Dr. Simone has the final say on hiring a candidate or not. The primary function of the position is to “help students figure out how to solve problems,” as Twyman says. These problems range from grade grievances to harassment cases to roommate conflicts to ethical behavior issues.

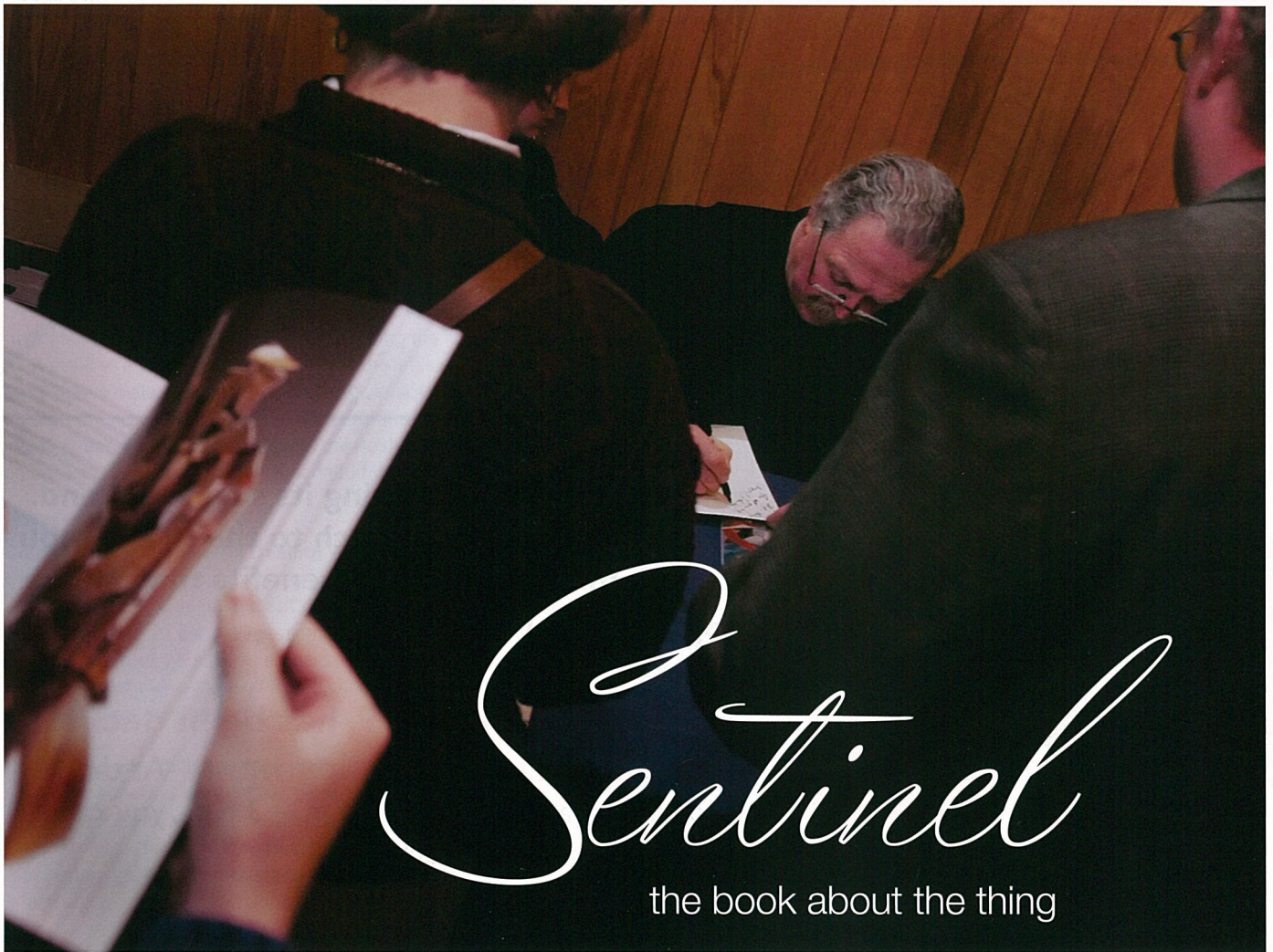
The Student Problem Resolution Office and the RIT Ombudsperson is based upon four hallmarks: confidentiality, neutrality, independence, and informality. No records are kept about the students or their concerns. Once a situation is dealt with, any information that may have been recorded is disposed of. The neutrality and independence go hand in hand. The ombudsperson is open-minded; he or she is not an advocate and does not have decision-making power on either the side of the student or the university. Finally, the processes that take place in this office are informal. The advice given is just that: advice. This is simply an exploratory first step.

Twyman has a background in counseling, coaching, and mediating. These tools well-equip her for her work, but there are certain situations that she is not tasked to handle. First and foremost, the Student Problem Resolution Office does not offer legal advice. The office can, however, work closely with the lawyer on staff through Student Government. If there is a need for official documentation, collaboration with other, more official, offices is necessary. Finally, the office cannot make decisions on behalf of the university or make policy changes.

The Student Problem Resolution Office does offer many services. Their main goal is to “help people resolve problems before they go to a formal process,” as Twyman states. This covers many different areas. They are one of three offices on campus that are in place to handle harassment and discrimination cases. Another function is what is known as “shuttle diplomacy.” When a student is uncomfortable talking to a staff or faculty member about an issue, Twyman, the ombudsperson, serves as a go-between and can make the first contact. The ombudsperson, Twyman explains, also knows “policies inside and out.” With this knowledge, she is able to walk students through lengthy RIT procedures. Overall, the ombudsperson is there to listen and help students choose a proper course of action.

The slogan of the Student Problem Resolution Office is on the front of their brochure and on their website. It reads “Never the wrong place to go!” Lee Twyman may not have all the answers, but she can point students in the right direction. •

For more information, visit the open house February 7 from 11 a.m.—3 p.m. in the RITreat or visit <http://www.rit.edu/~022www>



# Sentinel

the book about the thing

Sculptor and creator of the "Sentinel" on the RIT campus, Albert Paley, signs copies of his new book in the lobby of the Eastman Building.

**by Adam Bosen | photography by Jacob Hannah**

Tuesday, January 24: The Eastman lobby was filled with people, food, and accordion music in order to celebrate the publishing of a book about the largest sculpture on campus. The aptly named book, *Sentinel*, produced by RIT Cary Graphic Arts Press, chronicles the design and construction of what is currently the largest sculpture on any American college campus.

Albert Paley, the man responsible for designing the Sentinel and a member of the faculty at RIT, was at the reception autographing copies of the book. A large number of people attended to hear James Yarrington, director of planning and design for facilities management and editor of the book, President Simone, and Paley all give remarks on the book and the statue. Simone spoke highly of Paley's work on the sculpture, saying, "he gave us his time, years of planning, his supervision, and almost his life," relating an incident between Paley and an unattended blowtorch. Paley stated that the book "spreads the image of RIT and the art itself beyond the campus," and thanked his supporters. "We're focusing on the book and the sculpture, but it really was a community activity," he said, referring to the amount of support he had from several local contractors and the hundreds of people involved in its construction.

The book, which describes the various stages of the Sentinel's development, contains about 130 photographs taken during construction, articles by Yarrington on the Sentinel's development, and an interview with Paley about the project. Sam Hunter, a professor emeritus at Princeton University's Department of Art and Archaeology, contributed an essay discussing the Sentinel's influence on art history. Paley said the book is an important document because "when the sculpture's finished, nobody really knows what goes into the making of it." The book was written to be an educational tool for students interested in large-scale artistic construction projects.

Opinions on what the sculpture itself represents varied significantly. In his comments during the reception, President Simone said that he viewed the sculpture as always "guarding, protecting, and watching the campus." He suggested that the sculpture's contrasting straight and curved design represents the combination of technology and creativity. Paley, taking a slightly different interpretation of his own work, said he felt the Sentinel embodied the dynamics of the education process and the changes that all students undergo during their educations. He also felt that the Sentinel was a central gathering point on campus and that "the sculpture helps define the cultural profile of the Institute." •

*Copies of the book sell for \$36. More of Paley's work can be found at <http://www.albertpaley.com>.*

# Stick this!

The Campaign for RIT is nearing its successful end. This campaign has added much to the RIT campus and academic programs — benefits that we are enjoying right now!

**Thursday, February 9, has been declared Campaign Day across campus.** At the following locations, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., you can join in supporting our university.

- Crossroads
- Sandella's in the atrium of the Golisano College Building
- Java Wally's
- Campus Connections Bookstore in SAU
- The Davis Room in the SAU Cafeteria
- RITz Sports Zone (11 a.m. – 3 p.m.)
- The Commons in the Shumway Building
- Gracie's in Grace Watson Hall
- Hale-Andrews Student Life Center

**If you make a gift — for any amount — on Campaign Day, you'll get a free Tiger Paw magnet.** The magnet is 4"x 4", and a great *dorm* or *apartment* decoration that shows your Tiger pride.

For more information on The Campaign for RIT, visit [campaign.rit.edu](http://campaign.rit.edu).

**Use your Tiger Bucks to make a gift — on February 9th only!**



# CrimeWatch

compiled by Govind Ramabadrn

## January 19

### University Commons – Criminal Mischief

Someone reported that over the break, someone bent her bike tires in half. Investigation closed pending new information.

## January 21

### Gordon Field House & Activities Center – Assault

An Edison Tech High School student attending the high school regional track meet as a spectator was punched in the left side of his forehead by an unknown male. A witness identified the suspect as a Rush Henrietta student. Monroe County Sheriff's Department responded and filed an incident report and followed up with the Rush Henrietta School District on January 23. The suspect was banned from RIT. Case closed.

## January 22

### Colony Manor – Unlawful Dealing With a Child

While investigating an intoxicated person report, it was determined that a large party was hosted at Colony Manor. The residents were all under the age of 21 and they presumed that some of their guests were under the age of 21 also. The apartment was searched and a pellet gun, 1 gram of marijuana, and a marijuana pipe were discovered. Case referred to Student Conduct.

### Colony Manor – Criminal Mischief

A student reported that a beer bottle was thrown at his apartment window at Colony Manor, causing damage to the double glass pane. The area was checked for suspects but with negative findings. Crime Alert postings were distributed. Investigation closed pending new information.

## January 23

### Forgery

ITS Staff observed numerous state license and Canadian Armed Forces ID templates on a student's machine. Case referred to New York State Police.

### Harassment

Someone stated that an unknown person has contacted her mother and sent her information about an incident that occurred at the student's home. Investigation closed pending new information.

## January 25

### Harassment

Two students report being verbally harassed by another student requesting to have sexual intercourse with them. Case referred to Student Conduct.

### Mark Ellingson Hall – Assault

Two students were in Ellingson Hall. One student became upset and bit the other student on the arm. Case referred to Student Conduct.

## January 26

### Harassment

A student received a bias-related IM from another student that he really doesn't know very well at all. Monroe County Sheriff's Department responded.

# RITForecast

compiled by Casey Dehlinger

Friday  
3  
FEB

#### LAN Party:

5p.m.–3 a.m. SAU Cafeteria. Sponsored by Student Government (SG).

#### Humanitarian Day: Roadmap or Roadkill:

6 p.m.–9:30 p.m. Webb Auditorium. Speakers to address Palestine, Q&A/ refreshments to follow. Sponsored by the Muslim Student Association.

#### Lunar New Year:

7 p.m.–10 p.m. First and Second floor of LBJ. Food and performers. Sponsored by NTID Student Congress.

#### The Exception and the Rule: A Night of Brecht:

7:30 p.m.–11 p.m. Ingle Auditorium. Brecht's plays and "The Exception and the Rule" as performed by RIT Players. Students \$3. Others \$5.

Saturday  
4  
FEB

#### Faculty/Student Flag Football:

Noon–2 p.m. Turf Field. Part of Student Government's Spirit Week.

#### The Exception and the Rule: A Night of Brecht:

7:30 p.m.–11 p.m. Ingle Auditorium. See description on Feb. 3.

#### Organization of African Students African Party:

9 p.m.–Midnight. SAU Clark A, B, C.

#### OASIS Cultural Dance Party:

9 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Clark Gym. \$5 in advance or \$7 at the door.

#### Dodgeball Tournament:

10 p.m.–2 a.m. Student Life Center. Phi Kappa Psi tournament for charity. \$5.

Sunday  
5  
FEB

#### Scholastic Art Awards:

9 a.m.–Midnight. Gordon Fieldhouse. Reception and presentation of art from local high school students.

#### The Exception and the Rule: A Night of Brecht:

1:30 p.m.–5 p.m. Ingle Auditorium. See description on Feb. 3.

#### Battle of the Bands II:

3 p.m.–6 p.m. SAU Cafeteria. Six bands compete. Sponsored by RITSMA. Students/Faculty/Staff \$3. Others \$5.

#### Student Government Superbowl Party:

6 p.m.–11 p.m. Clark Gym. Free food and raffle prizes.

Monday  
6  
FEB

#### Domestic Abuse:

Is most prevalent on Superbowl Sunday of any given year. Remember: family members are people, too.

Tuesday  
7  
FEB

#### Civic Engagement Forum:

5 p.m.–7 p.m. SAU Clark A, B. Awards presented for community involvement. Food and drink provided.

#### Italian Film Series:

8 p.m.–10 p.m. Carlson Auditorium. *La Leggenda del Pianista Sull' Oceano*.

Wednesday  
8  
FEB

#### Nirvana Day:

This refers to the Buddhist festival. Also, the first U.S. execution by gas took place on this day in Nevada in 1924. Happy Nirvana Day.

Thursday  
9  
FEB

#### RIT Faculty Scholars featuring Dr. Amit Ray:

3 p.m.–5 p.m. Wallace Library Idea Factory. Dr. Ray and co. will present "WWW/ Wiki Wacky Web?: Wikis, Authority, and the Public Sphere."

#### Distinguished Speaker Series with Hazel Barton:

4 p.m.–5 p.m. Van Peursem Auditorium (8-1250). "From Cave Dwellers to Astrobiology: How Life Underground Can Point to Life in the Stars."

#### Tiger Idol Finals:

8 p.m.–11 p.m. Clark Gym. Conclusion of SG's talent competition.

#### Hitch:

10 p.m.–Midnight. Ingle Auditorium. CAB's Thursday Night Cinema Series.



*“two all beef patties, special sauce, lettuce, cheese,’ ... and I want Grimlace to come out and jiggle my...”*

The crowd was dense, which surprised me—when I asked about attending the show, about half of students would eagerly say they’d like to go, while the other half, almost angrily, wouldn’t even consider it. No strange phenomenon with the bad rap and controversy that goes along with Carlos Mencia and his comedy. The attendees though, were there to take it all in, and boy, was there a lot to take in.

To open the show, the audience was introduced to Josh Blue—a comic with cerebral palsy. I know, hilarious, right? Well he was, and his bit on stage touched upon everything from drug use to his ‘palsy punch’—to repeatedly hitting on one lucky lady near the front of the stage. “How ‘bout now?,” he’d keep asking, as the audience got to know an astonishing bit about Blue and his palsy-affected life, including the fact that he is on the US Paralympic Soccer Team. All the while he commented on his own condition, laughing, and the audience laughed right along with him.

Mencia came out next, and a rich variety of jokes hit the microphone, though a good number in his line-up were repeated almost verbatim. Much of the night’s routine was culled from various performances, reaching from far back in his career to the current

*The Mind of Mencia*, with racial, religious, and sexuality jokes making return appearances. Then again, his career under lights and in front of awed audiences has spanned nearly eighteen years, so a bit of the familiar is to be expected. Adding some pepper to an old classic, Mencia *calmly* reflects on the apathy of those employed by Mr. Ronald McDonald. “I’m sick of fucking going to McDonald’s and they’re like, ‘What do you want?’ What do I want?! [hits microphone] I want you to smile like in the fucking commercials, I want the cook to be singing, ‘two all beef patties, special sauce, lettuce, cheese,’ ... and I want Grimlace to come out and jiggle my balls and be like, ‘mmg-arrgg-mm-grram.’” The audience was also witness to brand new jokes, birthed right there on the stage. New joke or old, the whole room was sore from laughing during the entire show.

Mencia has remained focused on bringing issues such as religion, sexuality, and race to the table to raise a sense of togetherness and cultural awareness. The tools he uses may include every single derogatory word known to man, but the end result is laughter, and glimpses that show us that we’re indeed all the same despite any seeming differences between us. Every joke was explained and rationalized—though in a Mencia sort of way, a sine curve starting with a jaw drop, reaching a peak of understanding, and then repeating with another jaw drop. Mencia’s thought-flow jumps from homosexuality, and the accompanying microphone four inches down his throat, to the deceased Pope’s deserved banging of Hell-imported hookers while in heaven. The cycle continued throughout the night.

# Carlos Mencia — Audience Beware!

by Nathan Liebold | photography by Tom Starkweather

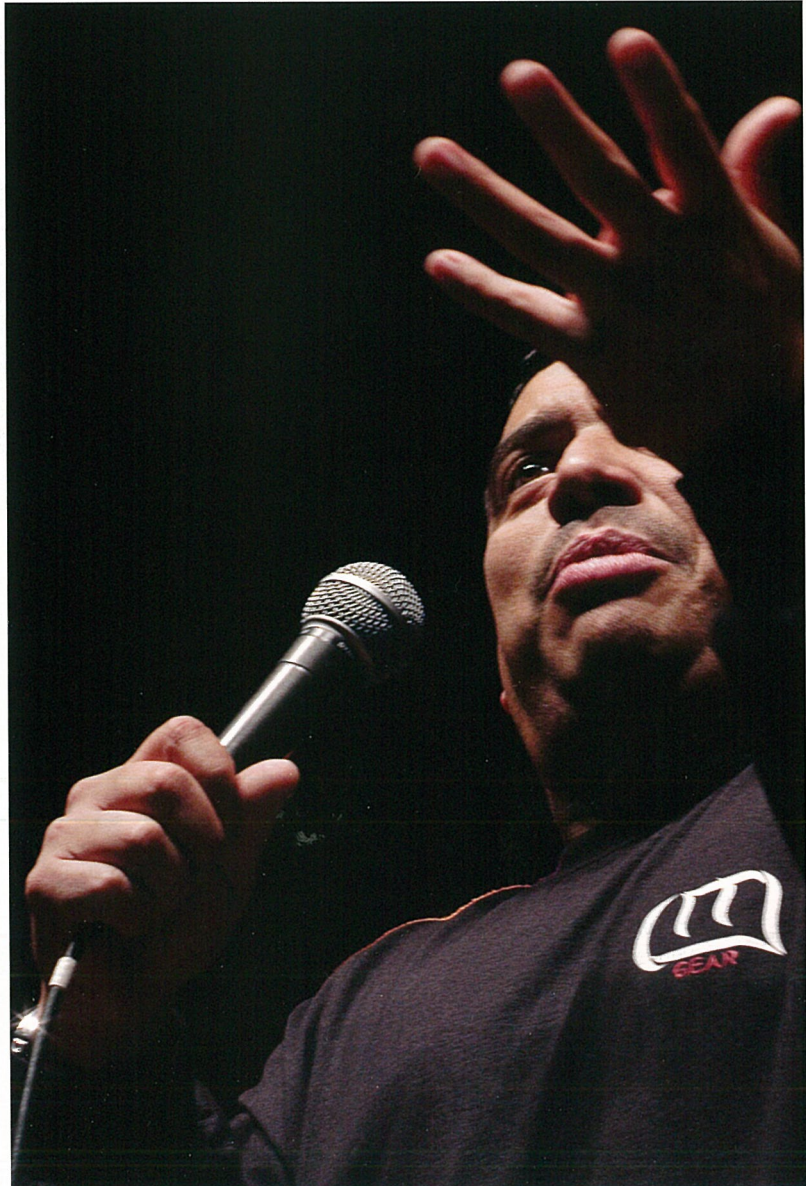
As with all of our visiting comedians, Mencia had jokes centering on the interpretation station, calling upon the interpreter for both genders' tried and true signs for 'masturbation,' complete with delicate wrist action—an RIT classic. After Blue returned to the stage, the interpreter joined in on the act with his own representation of Blue—tongue hanging out and all. Needless to say, Mencia laughed his ass off.

To wrap up the evening, Mencia sat down and turned the attention to any questions from the audience. He told the engineer-saturated audience about his own early college pursuit of an EE degree—and how he left school one credit short of receiving it. Mencia said, "I'm not gonna get my degree ... I don't want to have a degree on my wall ... so [my son] can go 'Oh yeah, that's what I need to do, I should get a degree and ... oh, I don't know—become a clown ... you're a funny engineer, *fucker*.'" Then it was all over, though the comedian vowed to stay 'until every person in the room who wanted a signature or a picture with him got it.' The near three hour College activities board show came to a close, feeling as though it zoomed by much faster—like some kind of laugh-powered, lightning quick NASCAR ... those trashy bastards\*.

*\*This one's for those who came and loved the show.*

*Every joke was explained and rationalized  
—though in a Mencia sort of way...*

Carlos Mencia performs stand up comedy on Friday, ▶  
January 27, 2006 in the Gordon Field House.



# Squarin' up with God

by Krister Rollins | photography by Ralph Smith

**It's a sweating sea of tangled writhing bodies.**

*To clarify: They are all wearing clothes. And they are upright. And they are dancing. Square dancing.*

The InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF) decided to host a night of square dancing, lassoing, apple bobbing, and food eating in Clark Gym. Christina McKee, Outreach Coordinator for RIT's chapter of the IVCF told me this was an "outreach event" and that they were trying to convince people that "being a Christian isn't necessarily boring." But the night almost didn't happen. There was no band up until a week ago, as the previously contacted minstrels were called off to one of two other coincidental square dances held that very night. Luckily, they were able to piece a band together last minute.

The plan partially worked. There was a huge turnout, with people coming from as far off as Fredonia and Geneseo. However, it did seem like the majority of the attendees were already in the IVCF fold. But they were certainly not all familiar faces, as Christina did not recognize a bunch of people there and was also pleasantly surprised by the number of deaf people on the floor. They all had a ball. Or square. The entire night I'm not sure I saw one frown. Everyone was cheery and good-natured.

A lot of them were sweaty, too, from all the running around. I spotted three guys who were sitting up in the back of the bleachers. "Ah," I thought to myself, "These disaffected youths will provide an opposing angle on my story." Nope. The bleachers were rarely populated because it was always people, like these chaps, just sitting out a round to rest up.

No one seemed to mind the weird tarp covering the floor, the cut-in-half donuts, or the drunken interloper who came from nowhere and danced on the stage like an idiot until the guitarist politely requested he leave. Which he did.

Keith Hunt, the caller, who has been calling since the '50s said, "[it's] great fun to see everyone dancing out there and having a good time. It's really encouraging."

What was interesting to me was how extreme everyone was in their keen intent on having a night of good-natured fun. People enjoyed the donuts, sometimes even splitting the halves in half. The non-carbonated and, you can bet your butt, non-alcoholic drinks were consumed with equal fervor. I saw more radiating smiles and glowing happiness at this dance than at any large event I have been to. Everyone was bound and determined to have a good time. And they did.



Participants dance at the Intervarsity Christian Square dance as Keith Hunt (far right on stage) calls out dance instructions to them. Hunt has been a caller for over 50 years.



## Paola's Burrito Place: Real Mexican food on the fly by Ben Foster

*You're supposed to be objective when you review things. The problem with being objective about a restaurant is that sometimes you're just hungry.*

**I**t was Thursday, I'd been up since 10 a.m., I'd had six hours of class and all sorts of other craziness going on. You know, a typical RIT day. All in all, I'd never quite managed to get any food inside me. As you can imagine, by 8 p.m. a burrito sounded pretty freaking good. More than that, Mexican food began to sound essential to my survival as a human being.

Lucky for me the plan for the night was Paola's, a little Mexican place tucked away next to New Number One Chinese about 10 minutes north of Jefferson on 15A. Don't let those directions fool you, it's actually a little hard to find. As it turns out, it's on the right side of the road, although for some reason Google Maps thought it was on the left. Anyway, after fumbling around for a few minutes I parked out front and strolled on in.

The first thing you see is the kitchen. It's right in front of you as you walk in the door. There is something simultaneously surprising and reassuring about seeing into the space where your meal will be cooked the second you walk in.

It really gives the whole establishment a sense of openness. The menu is simple enough with everything you would expect out of a small Mexican restaurant: Burritos, Enchiladas, Fajitas, Quesadillas, Nachos, Tacos, and the list goes on. They also served a collection of combination plates, sandwiches, soups and salads. I still had my heart pretty firmly set on a burrito. They served both veggie and a variety of meatier options. I got the pork burrito and a coke. The burrito cost me seven bucks and there was nothing on the menu for more than ten.

I hardly had time to sit down before my food arrived. This place was fast and efficient. Considering my half-starved mood, the fact that the food arrived quickly probably sold me on Paola's. Honestly this place was at least as fast as Taco Bell. The food itself was good. The best word to describe it is "solid". My Burrito was huge, stuffed full of rice, beans, pork, lettuce, sour cream, and tomatoes. Strangely enough it was also smothered in cheese dip. It came with guacamole and all the chips and salsa I could eat. It wasn't wildly exotic or wildly spicy food, but it was fresh, filling and extremely satisfying.

Only when I was done eating did I really look around me. There was only one other group in the place; then again it was 8:30 on a Thursday night. The guy who served me food told me that it was normally real busy on the weekends. In case you haven't already noticed, this isn't a sit down restaurant. You order at the window and then sit down and wait for your food. However, in my limited interaction with the staff they were extremely friendly and certainly efficient. The whole place really had that small family run feel. I was in and out of Paola's in at most a half hour, with one of their take out menus in hand. Apparently they service breakfast here and you can order take out. Fast, cheap, and really quite tasty, Paola's is probably my new stand-by Mexican place in Rochester. •

*They have a website too. It's not very exciting, but I guess you can sign up and order takeout online.*  
<http://www.paolasburritoplace.com>

- ▲ The Ludek family sits down for lunch on Saturday, January 28 at Paola's Burrito Place Mexican Grill on South Ave.  
 Tom Starkweather/REPORTER Magazine

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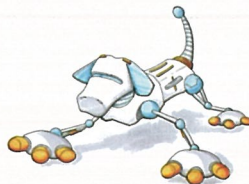
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## STREAM OF FACTS

FEBRUARY 3RD

On February 3, 1815, the first commercial cheese factory is founded in **Switzerland**.

**Switzerland's** energy generation is comprised of 40 percent nuclear power and 60 percent **hydroelectric** power.

A disadvantage of **hydroelectric** dams is the need to relocate people living where the reservoirs are built. Also, historically and culturally important sites can be lost, this is what happened at the Ilisu Dam in Southeastern **Turkey**.

**Turkey** is now concerned over their entry into the EU because kokorek (a toasted bread and lamb intestines sandwich) may be banned just as the sale of animal intestine, **brain**, liver and other organs have been banned across the EU.

Although the **brain** is only about 2% of total body weight in humans, it receives 15-20% of the body's **blood** supply.

A person suffering from the condition which literally means "without **blood**," is a person suffering from **anemia** which is a lack of red blood cells.

At the age of 70, complications due to **anemia** resulting from a bad fall down a set of stairs, killed **George Washington Carver**.

**George Washington Carver** chose peanuts as a crop for the farmers of the South after deciding that **soybeans** were too exotic.

Pan-heated **soybeans** are traditionally thrown out the door on the Spring Setsubun, in Japan, celebrated yearly on February 3.

### QUOTE

"Millions long for immortality who don't know what to do with themselves on a rainy Sunday afternoon." – Susan Ertz

### Limerick

by *Brian Garrison*

I went for a quick run to Wegmunz.  
Got stuck in a line behind eight nuns.  
Carts full of tofu,  
They shouted, "Don't move!"  
And held up the store with their ray guns.

### REPORTER RECOMMENDS

Eclairs. Mmmmm Eclairs, delicate pastry filled with creamy goodness and topped with a chocolate glaze. Eclairs are like the god of doughnuts, so far above them that they are incomparable and yet, they share much in common. These things are a serious trick to make as they are prone to disaster. So, just go out and get one. It will make you happier to be alive.

### RANDOM REVIEW

Battlestar Galactica. Ok so I'm a little behind the times. This show is already on its second season and has pretty widespread critical acclaim and an extensive fan base. That being said, if you have not stumbled across Battlestar yet you really should get around to it. Yeah it is Sci-Fi, but it largely lacks the cheese factor normally associated with the genre on television. So unless you are morally opposed to spaceships, Battlestar is really just quality television. New episodes air Friday nights at 10 p.m. and 1 a.m. on Sci-Fi.

### SUDOKU

If you've never done one of these, this is how it works: each row and column should contain the numbers 1-9 once and each of the blocks should contain each number once too. The answer is on the website, go check it out!

5				4		2	
	8		5				3
			3		4	9	
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4							9
		2	8		7		4
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8				5		7	
	4		1				6

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gdnao  
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alissibk

minicorn, sea monkey, minotaur, sasquatch, snuffleguans, sneech, gryphon, dragon, easter bunny, chimera, jackalope, basilisk

# JUST HOW HIGH ARE THE STAKES?

## GAMBLING ACROSS AMERICA AND AT RIT

by Adam Botzenhart | photography by Ralph Smith

It has become a national obsession. According to the National Center for Problem Gambling, approximately 60% of all Americans will gamble over the course of this year. The Annenberg Public Policy Center estimates that every week, more than three million teenagers get together to play poker, and this number has doubled in the last two years. With the popularization of Texas Hold'em, the advent of internet gambling, and a new group of marketable young millionaire poker elite, the multi-billion dollar gaming industry doesn't show signs of slowing down.

*Reporter* takes an in-depth look at gambling, both across America, and here at RIT.





Participants in Phi Sigma Pi's Poker Tournament place their bets as dealer Andrew Tsan shuffles the deck.

When I first stepped into the room, I felt like Hollywood had lied to me. Where I was expecting a dimly-lit, well-furnished, smoke-filled room straight out of *The Cooler* or *Rounders*, I instead found over-bearing fluorescent lights in a small RIT conference room and a bunch of chairs crowded around a few multi-purpose tables. Where I was expecting old men with tired faces and cold, emotionless eyes, I instead found about 15 students, mostly freshmen, all giddy and counting out chips from a set available at every Target across the country. Backroom gambling wasn't as glamorous as I thought it would be.

The game was Texas Hold'em. Just like the demi-gods of the World Series of Poker on ESPN, most of them even had nicknames. One student was affectionately referred to as "ATM" and, though I didn't inquire as to the origin, one might have several guesses. By the end of the night, the pot had grown well-above \$300 and most students leaving had wallets at least \$25 lighter than when they arrived. By all accounts, this was the first losing night for all of them in a while. After finally throwing away the last of their chips, almost every student made a point to make sure everyone knew they were still *up*, or profitable, for their poker career as a whole. Apparently, tonight's losing was an anomaly. They would all be back next week—same time, same place.

### Gambling Categorically

Gambling—specifically poker—has indeed become a national craze. The National Center for Problem Gambling estimates that 86% of Americans have gambled in their lives. For many, this will never develop into a problem. For others, the effects can be crippling. When dealing with the effects of gambling across a large population, researchers often cite the "80-15-5" formula. It estimates that 80% of gamblers will experience no ill effects, 15% will be at risk, and 5% are likely to become addicted; gambling becoming the primary facet of their lives.

The late Dr. Robert Custer, a pioneer in the field of problem gambling, identified six types of potential gamblers: *Professional gamblers*, those that make their living by gambling; *Personality gamblers*, those that use gambling to get money by an illegal means, likely to be involved in fixing horse races or playing with loaded dice; *Casual social gamblers*, who gamble for recreation, sociability, and entertainment; *Serious social gamblers*, on par with a "golf nut," who rely on gambling as a major source of relaxation and entertainment; *Escape gamblers*, those that gamble to find relief from feelings of anxiety, depression, anger, and loneliness; and finally *Problem gamblers*, the most destructive, where gambling becomes an all-encompassing addiction and is often followed by illegal activities to help cover related debts.



Participants play Texas Hold'em poker at the Phi Sigma Pi Poker Tournament on Saturday, January 21, 2006.

But what exactly is *problem* or *pathological gambling*? "The way [pathological gambling] is classified in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders is as an 'impulsive control disorder.' In that respect, we are talking about people who are unable to control impulses and behavior," explains Kathy Scott, director of the RIT Counseling Center and a counselor for almost 20 years.

While Scott makes no claim to be an expert in the field of gambling, she does note that one of the causes of problem gambling may be a result of a psychological condition. "One consideration is 'Why are they doing it? Are they trying fill a void by gambling?' The same kind of experience could occur with someone using drugs or alcohol or overeating. There is an emptiness, they don't feel good about themselves, there may be some other psychological issue that they might be trying to mask. They may be trying to find something pleasurable to fill a void."

But, as Scott points out, some may just be enjoying a Friday night. While uncontrolled gambling will often result in negative consequences, Scott qualifies that not all gambling is bad. "If someone buys one lottery ticket on one day, is that a problem? No. It's legal. It's not interfering with their finances. Is it the wisest thing to do? Well, that's up for debate."

What are the negative consequences of uncontrolled gambling? Noting just a few of the risks, Scott includes "losing money, having problems in relationships, not being productive in their jobs, and the potential for other illegal activity." In this sense, gambling is a true social concern. Does it follow then that like alcoholism, drug addictions, eating disorders, and sexually transmitted diseases, RIT has a certain responsibility to educate students about and curb gambling on campus?

### **Gambling, Specifically**

Jean Griffin, associate director of the Center for Student Conduct and Conflict Management Services indicated that gambling on campus has "great potential to become an issue of greater concern" for RIT. In many ways, gambling is more socially accepted and visible than ever before. At the same time, there is a certain hush-hush around anything involving cards, sports teams, and money, making exactly what is and isn't permissible difficult to discern.

"As far as the RIT policy goes, there's nothing specific concerning gambling. Our responsibilities are to enforce any state laws as that relates to New York State's approach to gambling," Griffin explains.

New York is a state where gambling is specifically prohibited in the State Constitution. Article 1, Section 9 states: "No lottery or the sale of lottery tickets, pool-selling, book-making, or any other kind of gambling, except lotteries operated by the state...shall hereafter be authorized or allowed within this state; and the legislature shall pass appropriate laws to prevent offenses against any of the provisions of this section."

These "appropriate laws" are found in New York State Penal Law, Article 140. In short, gambling itself is not specifically illegal. You could, however, be found promoting gambling or possessing gambling records or devices. New York Penal Law, Chapter 40, Section 240.35 details gambling in a public place, or "a place to which the public or a substantial group of persons has access, and includes, but is not limited to, highways, transportation facilities, schools, places of amusement, parks, playgrounds, and hallways, lobbies and other

portions of apartment houses and hotels not constituting rooms or apartments designed for actual residence." It seems, therefore, that any form of gambling that is advertised or takes place outside of a room or apartment designed for actual residence, is in violation of state law, which RIT has a responsibility to uphold. Internet gambling is, of course, a different issue.

How many student conduct incidents has RIT had regarding gambling this year? "None," Griffin points out. In fact, in the past seven years, she can't remember a single gambling incident. The reason? "We're not seeing big-incident issues. It hasn't been a situation where there's suddenly a big gambling incident this weekend. It's much more of a private, silent kind of thing." And that, in many ways, may be the best and worst thing gambling has going for it.

### **Gambling at RIT**

*Reporter* conducted a poll of 75 students to get a sense of just how big of an issue gambling really is on campus. When asked if they considered themselves "a gambler," 16% of students responded *Yes*, while 84% responded *No*. Separating by gender, none of those who responded *Yes* were female, and 21.1% of the males that responded considered themselves gamblers.

We then asked students if they thought they gambled too much, a mere 2.7% of the students felt that they did. What is surprising is the response we received when students were asked if they *knew* someone who gambled too much. While only 2.7% admitted to gambling too much themselves, a full 48% of students responded that they knew someone who engaged in too much gambling.

Noting the popularity of Texas Hold'em tournaments on campus, *Reporter* asked students about gambling on cards games. Nearly 51% of students acknowledged that they had played card games for money. Broken down by gender, 59.6% of the males responded they had played, compared with 22.2% of females.

Finally, we asked students if they had purchased a lottery ticket, played a card game for money, bet on a sports event, or paid to play bingo in the last six months. A little over 65% responded that they had. Of the males, 70.4% responded *Yes*, that they had done one of the above in the past six months, compared with an even 50% of females.

### **One Student's Story**

Dan readily admits that he loves to gamble. At face value, he may seem like any other RIT student, but the risks that Dan takes involve a little more than walking down the quarter-mile in a Rochester winter or leaving your *World of Warcraft* game going while you rush to go to the bathroom. "I first got involved with gambling through my family. My uncles have a long history of gambling, and I believe I have also picked up the gene. In middle school, I first started to gamble on the NCAA March Madness tournament by running a bracket pool for my friends for \$5 apiece. My serious gambling started when I entered college and learned how to play No Limit Texas Hold'em my freshman year," Dan explains.

With time, Dan's gambling habit progressed. By his sophomore year, it began to have serious consequences. "The lowest point in my gambling career came at the beginning of my sophomore year, when I lost \$1300 in three days which emptied out my checking account. I had to go and explain to my parents what I had been doing and ask them

for money." But this did not ultimately deter Dan's habit. "In the fall of this year, when I was in the middle of a dry run of cards, and entered the \$162 [buy-in], multi-table tournament online at pokerstars.com. I finished second place in that tournament and netted a profit in the area of \$10,000."

Since he first learned to play Texas Hold'em his freshmen year in college, gambling for Dan has indeed become a way of life. "I usually gamble in spurts. Sometimes I'll play everyday, several hours a day, for a few weeks. Other times, I'll take a few months off to concentrate on work or school. In general, I usually gamble on the weekends, or, if I have time, on the weekdays. Also, I sometimes engage in small sports betting, either on the Super bowl, the college bowl series, or March Madness. These are not as significant monetarily as the poker playing, however."

When asked if he's ever been told he has a gambling problem, Dan responds: "I have been told I have a gambling problem by friends and family alike. I feel that I have a control problem more than a gambling problem. When I lose, I always feel like I'm better than that person, and eventually the cards, or the odds will even out. The problem here is I don't know when to stop... so the answer to that question is a mixed one, filled with control issues, and the thinking that I am a superior player to those people that I have lost to."

The stakes continue to remain high. Since playing online poker seriously, Dan has set up a spreadsheet to keep track of his cash flow. "My initial spread sheet shows a \$3,000 loss, followed by a \$7,000 tournament win, followed by a \$4,000 loss, followed by a \$10,000 tournament win, followed by a \$3,500 loss, followed by a recent \$5,200 tournament win. So as you can see, the losses come in large amounts before the wins come."

It's difficult to gage how typical or atypical Dan's story might be, but the general principle of gambling infers that for all the money he might be making, someone else must be losing it, and sites like pokerstars.com are taking a cut along the way. In the end, gambling runs the gamut from harmless to life-changing. At RIT, it continues to be an issue of increasing visibility: just recently, Phi Sigma Pi hosted a poker tournament with advertised prizes of over \$1,000, and earlier this year, CAB hosted a Halloween tournament with a \$10 buy-in.

For those who may want to ditch the habit, the cards may be stacked against them. If one searches for "gambling addiction" online at *Google*, it's not unlikely that the top advertisement returned is to "Win Big On Slots, 3 Reel, 5 Reel, Progressive & Bonus Tips & Strategies To Win Big Cash!" at winningbaccaratsystem.com. I caught up with one of the students from the weekly gambling game I mentioned at the beginning of the article. He indicated that in the weeks since my visit, the number of players and pot size has only grown, now "easily topping \$450." As for "ATM," he continues to play his weekly game, and there is no indication his nickname will be changing anytime soon. •

# Superbowl Satisfaction



by Adam Bosen | illustration by Dan Bolinski

This year's Superbowl is quickly shaping up to be an intense battle. With the Steelers, who are the first sixth-seeded team ever to make it into the Superbowl, playing against the Seahawks, who have never played in a Superbowl game before, this year's game is looking like it will be an epic clash. Whether you watch the game for the great commercials, the halftime show, or all the stuff in between called "football," it will be necessary to properly prepare yourself. A comfy seat, lots of snack food, and a few alcoholic beverages (provided you're old enough, of course) are the keys to enjoying this classic sporting event. Here are a few suggestions for where you can sit back, relax, and watch the game.





### Heading Out

The classic combination for enjoying football is food, drinks, and friends to either cheer your team on or get made fun of every time their team screws up. There are plenty of places around to find the first two, and you can either bring some of the third with you or make some while there. Here's a list of some of the best places to get food and watch the game. If you plan on drinking at any of these locations, make sure you have a ride home.

**The Place:** Buffalo Wild Wings

**Location:** 382 Jefferson Rd, Jefferson Plaza

**Reason to go:** lots of big TVs, cheap wings and legs, close to campus

**The Place:** Bathtub Billy's

**Location:** 630 Ridge Road West

**Reason to go:** package deals for large groups, trash plates

**The Place:** The Distillery

**Location:** 1142 Mt. Hope Ave

**Reason to go:** Tailgate party starting at three, half-price appetizers ten minutes after kickoff or a touchdown, various contests and giveaways during the game

**The Place:** Snuffy Magee's Sports Emporium

**Location:** 814 South Clinton Ave

**Reason to go:** cheap food, deaf bartender, darts, pool, trash plates, and beer pong for before the game

### On Campus

If you don't feel like heading out, or don't have access to a car, there are still plenty of options available for enjoying the Superbowl. A host of pizza and wing places around campus will deliver to the dorms or apartments.

**Domino's:**

(585) 427-8468

**Salvatore's:**

(585) 527-0200

**Pontillo's:**

(585) 359-2766

**Papa John's:**

(585) 321-1100

Get a few friends together and split the costs. \$20 is enough to get 40-50 wings or 2-3 pizzas, so about \$5-\$7 a person should supply enough food to last the game.

Another solution, if you don't happen to have a car and are out of cash, is to check out the Student Government sponsored Superbowl party in Clark gym. They'll have two projectors, couches, and free food available. This will definitely be the easiest and cheapest event to attend for people living on campus, although it'll probably be fairly crowded.

### Do It Yourself

Finally, if you're the ambitious type, you could try putting together your own Superbowl party in your apartment or dorm. Doing so takes a bit of effort, but if it's successful, you'll be a hero to your friends. In order to pull it off you'll need a few things.

It may sound rather obvious, but the first thing you need is a TV. If you don't have access to a TV, then you should probably reconsider your plans. Bigger is better.

Second, you need food. You could take the easy approach and order out, but if you're looking to be a bit more inventive or save some money, **it's possible to make your own food, even if all you have access to is a microwave.** Simple dips are possible by mixing a can of chili or beans and salsa with cheese, peppers, tomatoes, scallions, olives, and maybe some cream cheese or sour cream and tossing it in the microwave for about five minutes. Nachos can be made by combining most of those same ingredients on top of some tortilla chips. If you have access to an oven, it's fairly easy to dump some sauce consisting of melted butter, hot sauce, and some ground pepper on a plate of wings and let them cook for about a half an hour at about 375 degrees. Other snacks such as peanuts, pretzels, and chips don't even need any preparation. If you're looking to save money, you could just tell everyone to bring a bag of something, too.

Once the food is set, you'll need to set up your location. Make sure that the TV is the central focus and set up the seating around it. Put the food off to the side or behind the seating so that people won't get in the way while eating, but also where hungry people can still see the TV. And move anything breakable away from the general vicinity of the TV; otherwise you risk excited fans knocking things over.

Whatever you end up doing, make sure it's fun for you and your friends, even if your team does end up getting its butt kicked. There's always next year, and at least you'll have enjoyed a heavy plate of Superbowl junk food to ease the pain. •

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# WORD on the Street

compiled and photographed by Ralph Smith

Q: If you had to put all your money down on one thing, what would it be?



"A giant gift basket."

**Jason Sober**

Third Year – Biomedical  
Photography



"An airplane so I can go everywhere I want to in the world."

**Brittany Umberger**

Second Year – Illustration



"Essence. It will make me more money."

**Andrew Feeney**

Second Year – Electrical  
Engineering Technology



"Go to a tropical beach because I love the sun."

**Marek Jakubowski**

Fourth – Imaging Science



"Best dinner ever. 4,000 dollars worth of dinner."

**Josa Hanzlik**

Third Year – Mechanical  
Engineering



"Another Cadillac."

**Coleman Glasgow**

Fourth Year – Mechanical  
Engineering



"A car with power windows."

**Allison Tentis**

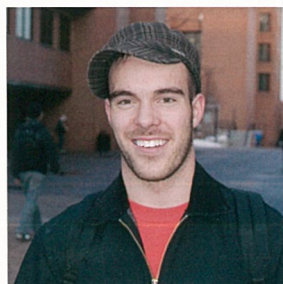
Fourth Year – Mechanical  
Engineering Technology



"Tall Redheads."

**Jessica Oakes**

Third Year – Mechanical  
Engineering



"Supercharge my car. Get it all tricked out."

**Joe Featherall**

Second Year – Mechanical  
Engineering



"The stock market because it will make me more money."

**Dan Suhocki**

Third Year – Mechanical  
Engineering



"A house because it's a good investment. You can get your money out of it later."

**Clarissa Gore**

Second Year – Electrical  
Engineering



"My car. I would make it handle better."

**Matt Smith**

First Year – Mechanical  
Engineering

# SPORTSdesk

by José Plaza



RIT's Kaley Ostanek, left, tries to get the puck from a St. Michael's player during their game on January 28, 2006. Jacob Hannah/REPORTER Magazine

## Men's Basketball

**January 20:** RIT Basketball played in their third Empire 8 game of the season, traveling over to St. John Fisher. Fisher, ranked at 16, won the game 76-55. Tim Bacon led the Tigers with eight points and four boards in the losing effort.

**January 21:** RIT and Alfred University squared off, with their game going into overtime. The Tigers were able to hold off the opposition, and a 79-76 overtime win was led by RIT's Barrett Zeinfeld, who scored 24 points.

**January 24:** For a second night in a row, RIT was involved in a contest that came down to the wire. This time around, Nazareth College was the opponent, and the game was tied at 69-69. Tiger guard Kris Kowalczyk, hit four clutch free throws in the last seconds of the game to break the tie and give RIT a 73-69 win.

**Record through 1/26/06:** 9-7 Overall, 3-2 Empire 8

## Women's Basketball

**January 20:** The Lady Tigers traveled to play the St. John Fisher Cardinals. Margot Sandy's 17 points and Christina Ermie's 10 led the way for RIT, but it wasn't enough as RIT lost 45-62.

**January 21:** RIT won their first road game of the season, 71-66, at Alfred University. Ramata Diallo led the charge for the Lady Tigers, posting a team high of 23 points and 11 rebounds for the game.

**January 24:** RIT lost their match against Nazareth College, 68-61. Christina Ermie was the only Lady Tiger to be in double figure scoring, with 11 points to her credit.

**Record through 1/26/06:** 4-11 Overall, 1-4 Empire 8

## Men's Hockey

**January 20:** RIT hosted Quinnipiac University at the Ritter Ice Arena. The visiting team scored four times on RIT's goal, and Ricky Walton's single goal wasn't enough to prevent a 4-1 loss.



**January 21:** Quinnipiac faced the Tigers once more at the Ritter Ice Arena. Once again, Ricky Walton produced RIT's lone goal and once more, Quinnipiac scored 4 times against the Tigers to earn the 4-1 win.

**Record through 1/26/06:** 6-17-2

### Women's Hockey

**January 22:** RIT was shut out by Wilfred Laurier University in a 0-4 loss, despite Breanna Dobbe's effort in which she stopped over 50 shots on goal.

**January 25:** RIT played at home for their game against Hamilton University, a very explosive offense ranked in the nation. RIT was able to produce two goals from Isabelle Richard and Becky Javien, but they ended up losing by a single goal, 3-2.

**Record through 1/27/06:** 11-4-0

### Men's Swimming and Diving

**January 21:** The RIT Tigersharks hosted SUNY Geneseo, where they were defeated by their guests 131-108.

#### Event Winners

50-Yard Freestyle: Erik Zelbacher (21.51)  
1-Meter Diving: Quinn Donahoe (295.45)  
200-Yard Butterfly: Adam Luptak (1:59.05)  
100-Yard Freestyle: Erik Zelbacher (46.88)  
3-Meter Diving: Quinn Donahoe (298.50)  
40-Yard Freestyle Relay: RIT 'A' (3:16.61)

**January 25:** RIT Men's Swimming and Diving got back on the winning wagon after defeating SUNY Brockport 135.5 - 94.5

#### Event Winners

200-Yard Relay: RIT 'A' (1:41.10)  
200-Yard Freestyle: Phil Baudoin (1:55.18)  
50-Yard Freestyle: Erik Zelbacher (21.49)  
3-Meter Diving: Quinn Donahoe (257.90)  
100-Yard Butterfly: Erik Zelbacher (52.31)  
100-Yard Freestyle: Jonathon Scibilia (48.91)  
500-Yard Freestyle: Erik Stevens (5:19.95)  
1-Meter Diving: Quinn Donahoe (265.40)

### Women's Swimming and Diving

**January 21:** The Lady Tigersharks suffered a loss at the hands of SUNY Geneseo, by a score of 118-94.

#### Event Winners

50-Yard Freestyle: Kristin Curtze (25.62)  
200-Yard Individual Medley: Sarah Keesler (2:16.65)  
1-Meter Diving: Gretchen Anderson (194.55)  
100-Yard Freestyle: Kristin Curtze (56.01)  
3-Meter Diving: Gretchen Anderson (228.70)  
200-Yard Breaststroke: Sarah Keesler (2:35.41)  
400-Yard Freestyle Relay: RIT 'A' (4:20.21)

**January 25:** RIT defeated Brockport, 116-94, as RIT had an impressive showing at the meet.

### Event Winners

200-Yard Medley Relay: RIT 'B' (2:01.50)  
1000-Yard Freestyle: Kristin Curtze (11:50.14)  
200 Yard Freestyle: Sarah Keesler (2:05.73)  
50-Yard Freestyle: Stefanie Owczarczak (26.99)  
200-Yard Individual Medley: Teresa Burr (2:21.14)  
100-Yard Butterfly: Kristin Curtze (1:06.93)  
100-Yard Freestyle: Teresa Burr (56.82)  
100-Yard Backstroke: Sarah Keesler (1:07.42)  
500-Yard Freestyle: Stefanie Owczarczak (5:51.35)  
100-Yard Breaststroke: Jenn Whigham (1:18.18)

### Men's Track and Field

**January 21:** RIT hosted the annual RIT Invitational at the Gordon Field House. A few of RIT's members shined at the event.

#### Event Winners

1-Mile Run: Andrew Varble (4:27.81)  
3000-Meter Run: Nate Lowe (8:51.41)  
Pole Vault: Michael Herb (4.51 meters)

### Women's Track and Field

**January 21:** The Women's Track and Field Team had some good showings at the annual RIT Invitational.

#### Event Winners

200-Meter Hurdles: Lakeisha Perez (27.04)  
55-Meter Hurdles: Lakeisha Perez (8.56)  
Shot-Put: Allison Griggs (11.8 Meters)

### Wrestling

**January 20-21:** RIT Competed in the 2006 NYS Intercollegiate Championships hosted by SUNY Oswego. The Tigers were one of seventeen teams competing at the meet, and in the end, RIT earned ninth place (64 team points) at the championships.





**RIT 2005/2006**

**DISTANCE LEARNING  
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Online Learning is pleased to sponsor the  
**2005 - 2006 DISTANCE LEARNING SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**



Online Learning announces a scholarship competition  
for students enrolled and matriculated in distance learning programs at RIT.  
All award information can be found at the following link, <http://online.rit.edu/awards>

To qualify, students must meet the following requirements:

- Current matriculation in one of RIT's distance learning degree or certificate programs
- Completion of at least three distance learning courses (Sections 90-94) since September 2003
- An RIT cumulative grade point average of at least 3.3 as of Winter Quarter (20052)
- Completed scholarship application form, available at <http://online.rit.edu/awards>
- A letter of support from at least two RIT distance learning faculty members



Candidates will be required to complete an application online which can be found at the above link. Applications and letters of support are due no later than

• **March 13, 2006** •

**This year distance students are also encouraged to nominate distance faculty who have taught outstanding distance courses. Online nominations are available at <http://online.rit.edu/awards>**

Dr. Stanley McKenzie, the Provost, will present the awards at the  
Online Learning Awards ceremony scheduled for April 27.



All questions can be directed to Leah Perlman at [lvpetc@rit.edu](mailto:lvpetc@rit.edu) or (585) 475-6998

**R·I·T**





# SNOW- less troopers

by Richard Hain | illustration by Mike Norton

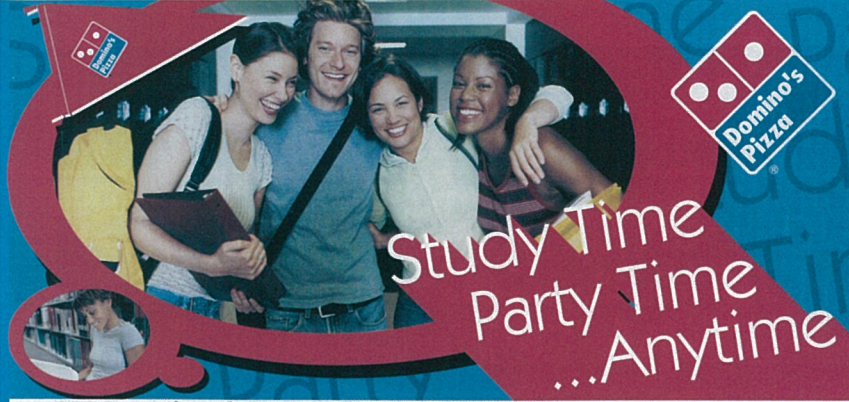
The distraction on the faces of this fated circle gave quarter to the fears growing at the core of my being. This was it. This was snowshoeing, and the journey was getting under way.

Binomial nomenclature never applies to the ill fated, so the introductions were brief. My inexperience was shown by way of my hole-ridden sneakers. While I was staring directly at the assemblage of armored nature connoisseurs, I noticed indirectly the lack of a chief component of a snowshoeing class. Snowshoes were conveniently absent from this scene. Had they evolved past this step of the exercise? Now even more apprehensive, I wondered just what was in store for an infinitesimally insignificant writer/student whose knowledge of nature was equal to his knowledge of the culture of the tribe indigenous to the Bikini Islands. Would I survive? Could I ever hope to return from the black hole called nature in one, living piece? Like John Muir put it, "In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks." The time had come; my fate was sealed.

Well, to make a short story a little shorter, I did survive, and the people I went with had not actually evolved into the next stage of humankind. My brush with nature came in the form of a trip planned by one of RIT's wellness classes, Snowshoeing/Hiking. As previously noted however, there were truly no snowshoes anywhere to be seen. This was due to the beautiful Rochester weather that everyone longs to get out and enjoy. "The weather is not exactly right for snowshoeing, so we're going on a hike," Seann McArdle, the instructor for the class told me. Seann, who teaches climbing classes primarily, is in his first year teaching the snowshoeing class, and he decided to take us to Letchworth Park for about a three-hour trek.

Well, anyway, it is sort of mind-boggling to think a snowshoeing class could function without the most fundamental part of the experience: the snow. But this question in my mind was quickly answered. All the people in the class had something in common. "This is a chance to get out to see nature," Seann said. That was it, and that is the main proponent the class offers its participants. Nature. The not-fully-tamed wild. "The majority of the people that take this class, don't take it as a requirement... most of the people in this have already finished their wellness requirement," Seann said. That statement made everything make perfect sense. This hike, this class, was and is their big game. But in actuality it is even more. This class provides the unique feeling of being in competition, but also being in a relaxing setting. What makes this class work and makes it enjoyable, is the way that competition with nature on a moderate scale can be very invigorating, while at the same time being surrounded by the calmness of nature can relax a person beyond belief.

"You really get a great view," Carter Rowley, one of the members of the class, said. The snowshoeing wellness class is a combination of exercise and the beauty of nature. With frequent breaks, photography is commonplace in order to capture the magnificence of a river or falls. The class encourages the appreciation of nature, while getting in physical activity. "In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks." It turns out Muir was right. I sought nothing when I started the walk, and by the end I had an appreciation for one of RIT's most distinctive wellness classes. •



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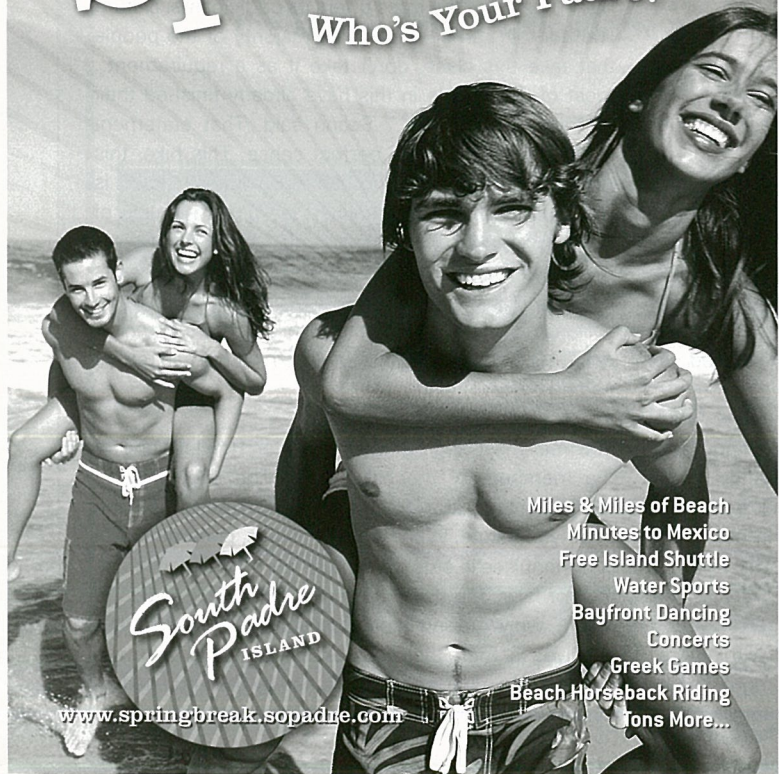
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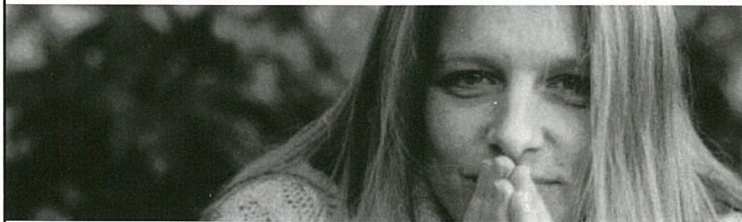
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UNIVERSITY OF  
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MEDICAL CENTER



## CERTIFIED IN COMPUTERS, SOFTWARE, AND WELLNESS

by Carl Westgren | illustration by Mike Norton

Shutter speeds, circuit boards, and World of Warcraft are all things an RIT student is familiar with and even proficient at. However, what is not included in this list, for many, is how to live a healthy lifestyle. That's why RIT is offering an incentive for those willing to go beyond the basic "I walk the quarter mile" and actually focus on maintaining a healthier way of life.

"We really want to try to find a way to get students turned on to being active. I believe the majority of RIT students are still too sedentary. We wanted to create more of an awareness of being active and fit," said wellness instructor Dugan Davies.

In 2003, Davies and the director of Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreation, Lou Spiotti, developed a program with the intention of promoting wellness in students. Originally referred to as the Certificate for Human Performance, the program quickly developed by 2005 into the Certificate for Excellence in Wellness and Fitness.

"I think it's a really cool idea," said Blair Brown, fourth year Environmental Science major, who earned the certificate in 2004. "I think it was probably created for students who aren't already involved. Some of the others had never really had a fitness program before, and they needed specific questions answered."

Now is the time when the bulk of applications are submitted. Usually there are less than twenty applications a year. There is no fee, and the process is not strict, but there are some guidelines. In order to obtain the certificate a participant must complete four wellness activity courses, although many complete six or more, and eventually attend a wellness seminar or wellness related community service activity. In order to fulfill that portion of the requirements, students in the past have gotten involved in events such as walk-a-thons or fundraisers for cancer research.



At the present time there are nine students enrolled in the program. Davies said, "All along we planned and wanted it to be a small group given the resources that we have." The reason the program works well as a small group is that those enrolled are assigned to a specific counselor that personally works with each candidate to meet their wellness goals.

It's more of a one-on-one mentoring program," said Davies. For example, a student interested in a focus on nutrition would probably be assigned to Michelle Schrouder because she has a background in nutrition. There are also coaches that specialize in exercise and others that focus on stress management.

"The most important part is definitely the coaching. That's probably why I'd recommend it because anybody can sign up for a PE class, but the coaching really lets you reflect on what you've been learning," said Brown. Usually around week ten of spring quarter, a reception is held for all of those who have fulfilled the requirements for the Certificate for Excellence in Wellness and Fitness to highlight their achievements. A traditional reception includes Davies giving a summary of each individual, and then presenting them with a certificate declaring his or her accomplishment.

Participants aren't required to finish in a year, as the program continues until completion. Besides the physical certificate, those who complete all the requirements receive a benefits package which includes public recognition, a complementary two-year Alumni Membership to the SLC, and a one year pass to men's hockey home games.

Davies calls the program a success, "A couple of the members have made some very outstanding goals. There have been a couple that have lost 40-50 pounds and become very fit. They said this program has really changed their lives." •

For more information on the Certificate of Excellence in Wellness and Fitness check out the website at [rit.edu/ciar/certificate](http://rit.edu/ciar/certificate).



# RITRINGS

## 585.475.5633

“Give us a call, we’re lonely.  
Let’s makeout to electroclash.”

compiled by Casey Dehlinger

### Friday 1:15 a.m.

...This is Bob Saget, ‘b’ as in big, ‘o’ as in watererfall, ‘b’ as in [garbled], ‘s’ as in transcendental, ‘s’ as in thirty-four-and-a-half. ‘G’ as in square root of seven, ‘g’ as in two factorial, ‘o’ as in seventy-thirty-five and ‘t’ as in your [family member] has herpes...

### Friday 11:56 a.m.

[Sound of body being dragged down driveway from the perspective of the cell phone in (his/her) pocket?].

### Friday 6:29 p.m.

Ummm, hi. We’re the RIT cheerleaders. We just wanted to say that we didn’t appreciate the comment made in the last issue. And if whoever said that knew the RIT cheerleaders, they would know that we’re probably some of the [subjective adjective] and [subjective adjective] girls on campus. So, we just wanted to let you guys know that. Okay, bye.

### Friday 7:17 p.m.

[A radio].

### Friday 8:10 p.m.

How are you gentlemen? All your base are belong to us. You know not what you do.

### Friday 8:49 p.m.

[Good Chewbacca impression]. Easy, Chewy! Hey, Reporter, what’s up? It’s Han Solo here. Haven’t seen people in a while, wondering what’s going on in the galaxy. [Chewy grunt]. Yes, I’ll tell them. Shout out to Luke Skywalker and all you Star Warsans out there. If you see Luke, tell him to give me a call. [Another Chewy bellow]. Yea, Chewy says hi, too. But I gotta go. [Chewy incantation]. Turn it off! Turn it off!

### Friday 10:51 p.m.

RIT Rings? Reporter? I have to say something. I ran down the elevator and got a Reporter magazine just so I could do this sh--. I’ll talk to you later. Bye.

### Friday 11:56 p.m.

I have a massive [building]. Okay, goodnight.

### Saturday 12 a.m.

Alright. The other night I woke up next to a man. I was just wondering, if, you know, you go to bed and shut your door; I just happened not to lock it, you know? Because I was totally wasted, I forgot. But if I wake up next to a dude, does that mean I’m gay? I was just wondering if you could respond somehow.

### Saturday 1:17 a.m.

Yo, seriously, I figured this out. Ernie, the Keebler elf, has peanut butter in his fingers. You can check the sources; it makes sense.

### Saturday 1:46 a.m.

Hey you! I’ve recently discovered that you decided to post my comment! I think that’s f---ing awesome, because I’ve called you several times, and you’ve never ever posted my comments before. Apparently I’m too overtly racist and sexist and overall offensive. So, you know what? [Racist, sexist, offensive comments. The caller also went to great lengths to point out that he voted for Bush].

### Saturday 2:30 a.m.

Hi, Casey. Umm...Dave, umm... This is Renee. I’ve been hanging out with [withheld] and we’re partying it up and I’ve always wanted to call you but I never knew the number. And I kinda think that it’s kinda stupid that you guys have a drunk dial, umm, part in your Reporter cause drinking is bad and you shouldn’t have a...a drunk dr... F---!

### Saturday 2:31 a.m.

Hello? Hello? One day I was sitting at home watching Scary Movie and the phone rang! Duh-duh-duh! So I picked up the phone, and the guy on the line said [Gibberish!] so I hung up the phone. But, sure enough, the phone rang again. Bah-na-na-nah! So I picked up the phone, and sure enough, the guy on the phone said [Gibberish!]. So I hung up the phone. I called the operator and said, “Please trace the next call.” And she said, “Please deposit twenty-five cents.” And I said, “What are you crazy?” So I hung up the phone. And sure enough, the phone rang again. Da-na-na-na-nah-nah-da-na-nah! So I picked up the phone. [Gibberish!]

*This is where Scary Movie guy got cut off. That’s because you all filled the answering machine.*



# GOOGLEOCRACY

by Krister Rollins | illustration by Dan Bolinski

*This spurred forth at the attendance of the Google Seminar held at RIT throughout the week of January 16, 2006.*

Little over ten years ago, this beast of an internet service we know as 'Google' was born from two enemies. They originally called it BackRub, and I think it's a good thing they changed the name, because who wants to say "Yeah, I BackRubbed it." The Google search engine has grown to such an incredible size that it seems to have its fingers in every piece of the internet pie. There are Google searches, of course, and Google maps is pretty big, too. There's GMail, the translation service, Froogle shopping center, a toolbar, Google Earth, and desktop Google (you can even load it on to your machine).

Google has specific searches categories you can use, be it scholarly, news, or video. This Google has developed into much more than a search engine. It's a cultural thermometer, measuring what's hot and what's not, who's looking up what and what to wear this winter. Google even has its own verb. "You find it?" "Yeah, I Googled it." So Google is in there. It's got its talons so firmly clenched around the culture's throbbing carotid that there can be a weeklong seminar on it.

It's become much more than a simple search engine. It was built to be easy and effective and respectful of its users. It learns about what people are looking for and can help you out. Type in "Buttney Spears?" Google'll politely suggest "Britney Spears" without batting an eye. And it's aware of its reflection of a culture. Google Zeitgeist can tell you snippets of most searched-for phrases for a couple dozen countries

for the past 5 years. Remember when you searched for nude pics of Mayim Bialik? Google does! And recently, when the government came around asking search engines for their search history info, Google stood up and refused to give it to them. Of course, that's not as selfless as it at first appears, as the move was mostly about keeping their secrets safe from the competition, be it federal or commercial.

And finally, because Google seems like the type that could do it, with something so big and powerful as Google are corporate nations far behind? Google has an incredible grip on the world, now even in China. Its influence currently is phenomenal. It has such power already, it

**GOOGLE EVEN HAS ITS OWN VERB.  
"YOU FIND IT?"  
"YEAH, I GOOGLED IT."**

would almost make sense for their next step to be to buy up a small island and declare themselves a country. Disney's already practically done it with their Reedy Creek Improvement District. In this district, it is within

their legal right to build a nuclear power plant, they have the power of eminent domain, and a personal security force. Reedy Creek also runs a fire patrol, environmental protection center, utilities, and a road system. It sounds pretty close to a government to me. Maybe authors Neal Stephenson and Robert Heinlein were right. Maybe a corporate nation isn't so far off.

Who knows, though? All I know is I'd rather live in the Serta Republic than the Fundamental Theocracy of Wal-Mart.

Because I like naps. •

Check out Google on the "web" at <http://www.google.com>.



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