

REPORTER

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EDITORIAL

CapitalCAMPAIGN: A Potentially Spirited Revisitation

A mere 126 days of painful deliberations since it was first discussed, Student Government finally announced a fundraising target for the student contributions to RIT's capital campaign.

In my original editorial on the topic ("CapitalCAMPAIGN," October 7, 2005), I outlined the reason why I have still not purchased a brown silicon "unite" bracelet from Student Government (SG). It was because I did not understand how my peers at SG could actively fundraise for "Powered by the Future," RIT's \$300 million capital campaign, without any defined purpose. I couldn't stop myself from wondering: why should we, the students soon to be a part of RIT's past, shell out money beyond our tuition rates for the school's future?

Well on Friday, February 3, SG finally answered my question and redeemed their enterprise by choosing a goal that is not only readily identifiable, but also complementary to their push for some semblance of school spirit. **The solution: a new mascot suit for Ritchie the Tiger.**

Though they erred on the side of tangibility versus my scholarship idea, I applaud them for giving some purpose behind the bracelets (and now t-shirts) they are selling. Of course, the verdict came 105 days after the ad hoc committee was formed by the SG Senate to find a focus for the campaign. The committee was given the responsibility of eliciting what the student body—the benefactors—would be interested in contributing to. Again I begin to wonder: did your senator ask for your input in naming a worthy cause?

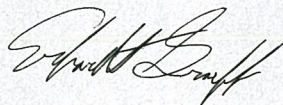
Most likely, you weren't asked. The survey process was, in part, optimistically based on the creation of an online forum to be hosted at the SG website. Ironically, the ad hoc committee to develop a website forum was formed at the same SG Senate meeting as the capital campaign committee. The forum is an excellent idea and tool for feedback. But it wasn't unveiled "to the public" until the January 20 Senate meeting. It goes without saying that there were no forum posts regarding the capital campaign before the Ritchie tiger suit was announced last Friday. I think you can infer the rest.

Perhaps with their shiny new DISCUSS forum (<http://www.sg.rit.edu/forum/>) up and running, SG will be able to garner better feedback on issues of spending, next time. But for now, we are working toward the \$500 to \$1000+ upgrade for Ritchie.

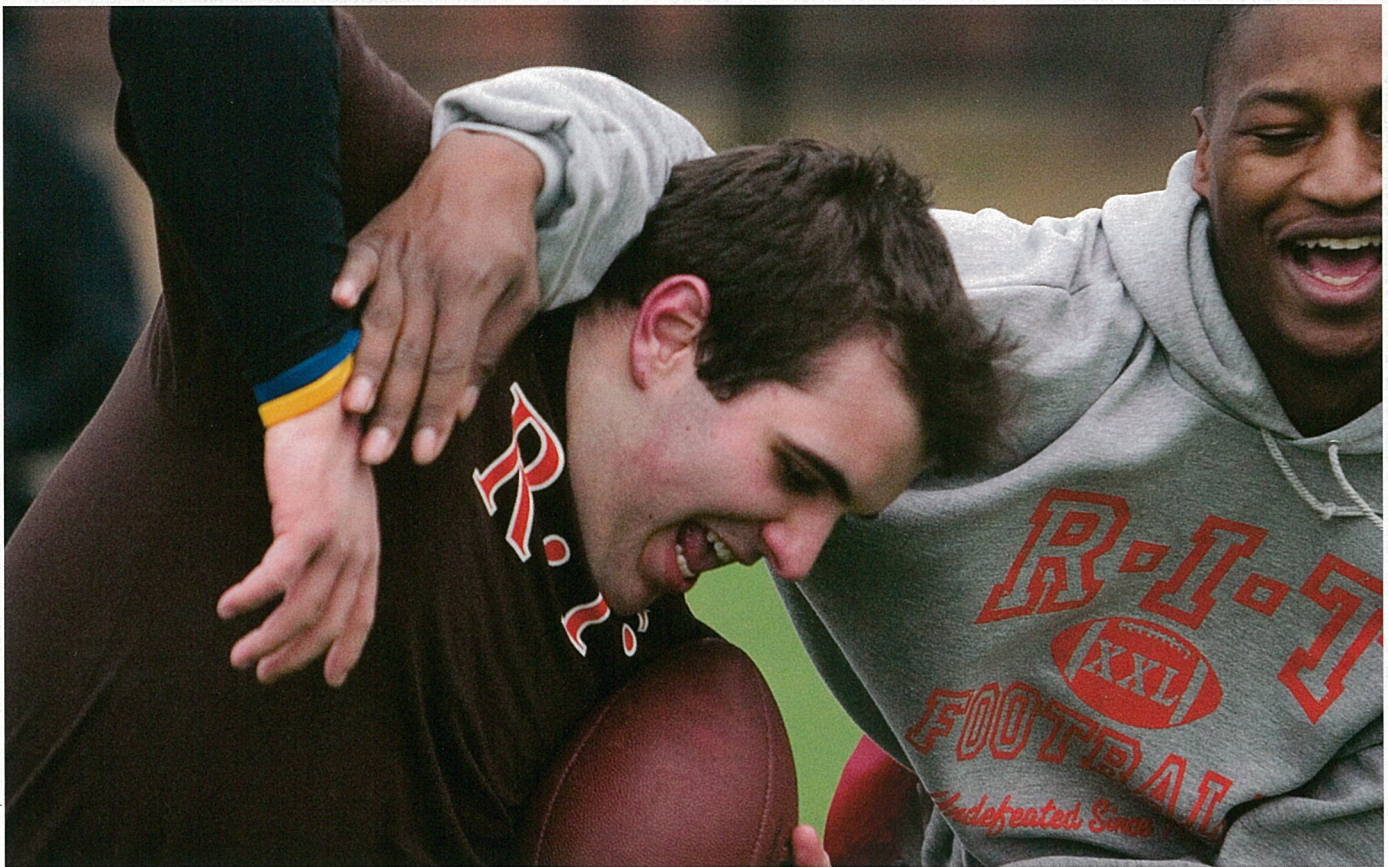
I do want to assure you that, at least to me, there is some merit in the costume investment. After three and a half years at RIT, I still have yet to hear a single, "Ritchie! You're awesome," or even, "What a cute little tiger." What I have heard from Ritchie's onlookers involves statements such as: "Lame," "Inconsistent," and at least one request that he be prescribed anti-depressants. From the students I know who have "been" Ritchie—the current system of mascot selection being a kind of a Who's-interested-this-year and What-are-you-doing-on-Saturday approach—is general disgust with the condition/wearability of the tiger suit:

The head is heavy and unattached to the suit proper. You can't look down at your feet or look up at the bleachers without fear of decapitation. There is no way to get into the suit by yourself. From tail to tiger paw the only out is an unreachable velcro spine—once you're in, you're in. It's impossible to engage in even mild acrobatics because: it's baggy; the head still isn't attached; there is no grip on the wrap-around feet. Plus, the ventilation is nearly non-existent—air can only enter the suit through the small mesh eye covers.

A new tiger suit would ideally involve some sort of chinstrap for the head and other features to encourage movement—yes, beyond "Hockey Ritchie" being able to skate; plus, a reasonable dose of air circulation couldn't hurt. Hopefully, by not subjecting our fur-encased mascots to asphyxiation or humiliating decapitation, RIT might see a Ritchie with a bit more pep—which is pretty important, considering you will have paid for that pep.



Erhardt Graeff
Editor in Chief

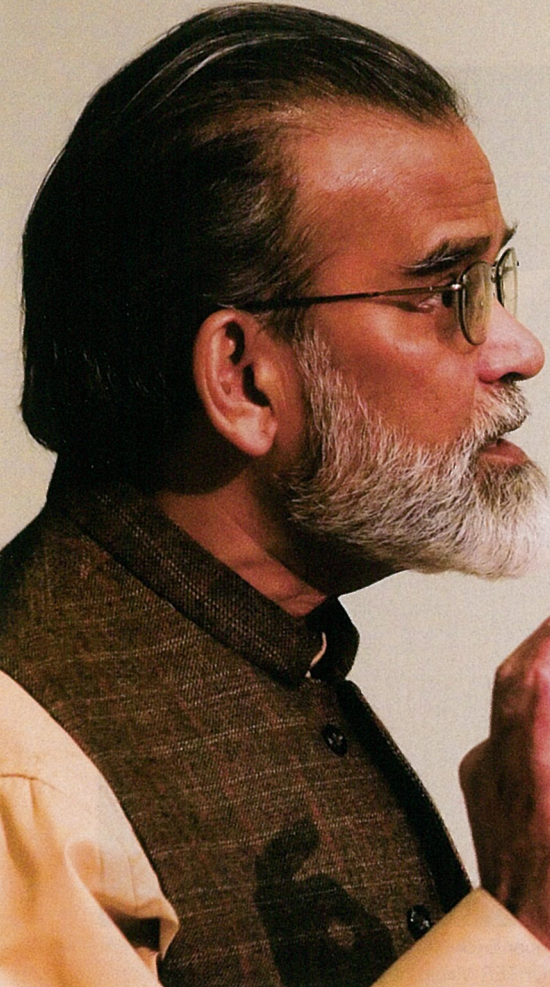


Mike Dulac (left, second-year Food Management major), is tackled by opposing faculty/staff team member Erick Littleford, '04 alumnus and RIT Interim Project Manager, during the Student-Faculty Flag Football Game on February 4, 2006. Chris Felber/REPORTER Magazine

NEWS	LEISURE	FEATURES	SPORTS	VIEWS
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Cover photograph by Ashley Poole. This is a detail shot of decadent chocolate. Chocolate contains over 300 chemicals. Read the sub-feature on page 20.

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Humanitarian Day: Adjusting the Microphone

by Krister Rollins | photograph by David Wright

Dr. Mohammad Shahid Alam speaks at Humanitarian Day in the Webb Auditorium, Friday, February 3, 2006. Alam and speaker Adam Shapiro discussed the current state of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Dr. Mohammad Shahid Alam has been publicly hated by Bill O'Reilly and Daniel Pipes. Adam Shapiro was arrested, called the "Jewish Taliban" and his parents were sent death threats for his views. Both because they think one country should get out of another one. And neither of those countries is the United States.

Israel invaded the West Bank and the Gaza Strip during Six Day War and has yet to leave. Both Shapiro and Alam feel that Israel's reaction has gone on for far too long. The speakers were here for the fourth annual Humanitarian Day sponsored by the Muslim Students Association (MSA). Palestinian Occupation was picked for this year's topic because the MSA feels "our country bears a certain amount of the responsibility for the infamy and injustices occurring daily in the region, and as Americans we should promote consciousness of the facts," according to Ammar Abbas Naqvi, a member of the MSA. A fair amount of people showed up, including the RIT Socialists who showed up "in solidarity with the people of Palestine."

The talk itself was long. Long, but informative. Alam spent his time arguing that the Jewish state, the only of its kind, has caused more harm than good. He argues that the state has caused deaths and destruction and mayhem. Israel is behaving, in his opinion, like a colonial satellite. It is operating in a foreign land and doing nasty things to the natives. The Jews offered their services as a Middle East police force to the United States and Great Britain and had them plant Israel there.

Shapiro, co-founder of the International Solidarity Movement, has spent several years in Palestine promoting non-violent protest against the Israeli forces.

To be absolutely clear, no one who spoke tonight advocated violence as an answer to this tricky quagmire.

The first thing Shapiro did was charm everyone. He made light, easy humor and thanked everyone, including the interpreter, for coming. Then he got down to the meat and potatoes portion of his piece. Dealing

mostly with current events, the election of Hamas in particular, Shapiro made some keen observations. Basically that the buzzword of the past few weeks has been "No." The Palestinians, in electing Hamas, have said no to business as usual, corruption, and foreign interference. Hamas, while it may not have a clear plan for the future as of now, will never accept anyone else's agenda. Hamas has said no to corruption, the recognition of Israel and capitulation. Fatah, the outgoing government, has said no to a "unity government." They want to see Hamas try and fail at running the program. Israel has said no to Hamas, sending money to Palestinians kicked off their own land and ending occupation. And it goes on. Basically it's a No-Fest. While raising some interesting questions, Shapiro, lamentably, offers no solid answers.

The problem is there is no clear solution at all. A Jewish state and a Palestinian state do not peacefully co-exist. Kicking one out will start a war. The biggest problem is that since it is the Holy Land a lot of people have some pretty passionate emotions and ideals vested in the whole area. A secular state working on a one person/one vote principle would be the ideal in Shapiro's eyes, and he said that a surprisingly large percentage of the Palestinians he worked with accepted the notion. Israelis, however, are less on board, "Less than one percent [are interested]," he said, "if that." One observer thought the best plan of action would be for "some outsider to just blow [the area] up. Make life easier for everyone."

The most important part of the evening, or perhaps just most metaphoric, was the simple readjusting of the microphone. It amplified the message. It got the word out. That is precisely what the talk was about. Or to put it in Dr. Alam's words, "I wish more Americans would listen to people like me." •



Going With the FLOW: Asian Cultural Awareness Movement at RIT

by Jennifer Scheffler | photograph by Young Jang

Mark Xu, one of the thirteen members of F.L.O.W., takes a donation from David Andraka, second year computer science major, during their food drive in Nathaniel Rochester Hall on February 1, 2006.

William Xu, an International Business student at RIT, says, "I've come from New York City, so I had my representation there, and when I came here to RIT, I hit a wall." William has decided to take action for Asian cultural awareness.

William plans on overcoming obstacles at RIT that are in the way of bettering awareness of Asian culture with an organization called FLOW (Future Leaders of Our World).

William, the president, got the idea of the word 'flow' from a line in the movie *Memoirs of a Geisha*, said by the mother of the Geisha, who mentions that her personality was like water that needed 'flow' to get through any obstacles.

William is only a freshman, but it did not take him long to also realize he had the ambition to set up an Asian Greek Fraternity. He explains, "RIT wants to be well-rounded, but there are other schools who have this fraternity, so why don't we?" William wants a culturally diverse student body, but Asians are still not represented.

FLOW is now considered an interest group dedicated to bringing an Asian fraternity to RIT. Numerous New York Colleges have a long history of encouraging Asian identity, universities near RIT have no problem creating a strong sense of awareness for Asian culture and one of the biggest fraternities contain 200 brothers. Right now, there are 12 "founding fathers" of FLOW who are in the process of finishing the requirements in order to have this official Asian Greek organization become a fraternity. Requirements are to have 11 members and 5 events completed.

Another student Yi Xu, also from NYC, is in charge of events/rush and establishing the Asian Greek fraternity. Yi says, "We will present to the national board in July with the completion of our 5 events to prove that we can operate as an organization." Some of the social events will be pool and basketball tournaments, Asian banquet night, and an event for the Chinese New Year.

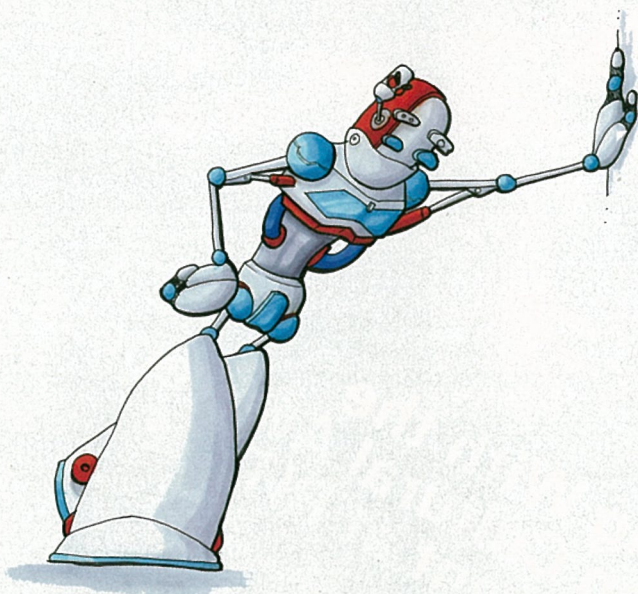
Eventually these members of FLOW hope that many of the Asian groups' events will

collaborate. They plan to have events with the Asian Cultural Society here at RIT. Also, they plan on social events with the nearest Asian fraternities; one of the closest one is located at the University of Rochester. Non-Asians are welcome to participate and also pursue interest in joining the fraternity.

FLOW will need the approval from an Asian Greek board and hope to have a fraternity group at RIT just like the majority of the nation. FLOW needs more funding and support from other students to acknowledge their ambition and to be more active.

These young men hope to pledge by fall of 2006. William says, "I will not just join another existing fraternity, because this way I can start from scratch and build everything to our needs." •

FLOW has weekly meetings. For those who are interested in this organization and their strong outreach for Asian and cultural awareness, contact FLOWRIT@gmail.com.



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RIT's EPA AUDIT

by J.S. Ost | illustration by Mike Norton

Ever wonder who handles any chemical spills here on campus? Who's making sure that potentially toxic materials are properly contained and disposed of? RIT's Environmental Health & Safety Department, a division of Campus Safety, ensures that our campus is not only hazard-free, but that the Institute leaves only the lightest footprint on the surrounding environment.

The Environmental Health & Safety Department (EHS) achieves this end "through the development and propagation of policies and practices that protect the natural environment and foster sustainable use of our material, environmental, and energy resources," as stated on the EHS homepage. This mission statement is drawn from RIT's greater Commitment to Environmental Sustainability, a document outlining the Institute's environmental perspective. EHS's other goals include solutions that minimize pollution, sharing knowledge through relationships with the surrounding community, and educating RIT about environmental management. The role of EHS is twofold: the Department handles the waste disposal and chemical hygiene/inventory processes, and maintains various safety manuals detailing proper procedures for employee protection.

To maintain all these elements, EHS is in its third year of the new Environmental Health & Safety Management System. Based on a cycle of review and improvement, EHS is able to evaluate the success of its programs and revamp if necessary. Kelly Henry, manager of EHS, describes the Management System as a sort of team structure. "By choosing representative members from various parts of the Institute, we have the expertise present to answer questions about the specifics of their departments," she explains. **"It's a little early to tell how well we're doing overall, but we've seen places where things could be done better."**

Creating all the rules and regulations that EHS is required to meet is the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA. The agency, founded in 1970, was the direct result of public outcry and demand for cleaner water, air, and land. Led by the President's appointee, the EPA's charge was to repair the current environmental damage and establish new criteria for upkeep of clean standards in the future. In three decades, the organization's role hasn't changed much—one of the EPA's functions is to research and set national standards for environmental programs; many of which are based in laws dating as far back as 1966. In addition, the EPA develops and enforces the environmental laws set in place by Congress.

The agency mandates, for example, that an annual report be published which documents all the chemicals used and stored on campus. In 1999, the EPA began focusing its efforts on

colleges and universities, realizing that many campuses were unaware of their violations. To remedy the problem, the EPA began sending letters out to institutions in New Jersey and New York, hoping to alert administration to the potentiality of environmental hazards at their schools. The EPA offered these schools voluntary self-disclosure agreements, which would allow inspectors to audit the campuses and report any violations. As of November 2005, 93 colleges and universities have signed these agreements, RIT among them.

Beginning in May 2005, RIT was in the process of coordinating its inspection with the EPA. By hiring a contractor to evaluate the campus's compliance with EPA standards, RIT is waived from any fines and penalties typically incurred for violations found during inspections. This waiver does not, however, include any penalties associated with criminality that the inspectors might discover.

"The agreement is that we do a comprehensive audit of the property, and then correct any violations within 60 days," Henry explains. Having recently finished the audit, RIT is on to the next step—reporting the findings. Were any violations found? The EHS team is currently in the process of working with the auditors to finalize and publish the proper documentation, as mandated by the EPA. Within a few weeks, RIT will know just how significant its footprint on the environment really is. •

To find out what you can do to help improve our campus environment, visit EHS's website at <http://finweb.rit.edu/campussafety/ehs>



Thursday

Friday

Saturday

February

Thursday Night
Cinema Series:
Hitch
Ingle Auditorium, 10pm

9

Vegas Night
LBJ Building,
10:30pm

10

Friday Night
in the Ritz:
Karaoke Night
RITz SportsZone, 10pm

Thursday Night
Cinema Series:
Hustle & Flow
Ingle Auditorium, 10pm

16

Friday Night
in the Ritz:
Phat Phunktion
RITz SportsZone, 10pm

17

Saturday Night
Standup:
Joe Matarese
Ingle Auditorium, 11pm

18

Thursday Night
Cinema Series:
*Wallace & Gromit:
The Curse of the
Were Rabbit*
Ingle Auditorium, 10pm

23

Friday Night
in the Ritz:
Poetry Slam
RITz SportsZone, 10pm

24

March

Late Nite Recess
featuring
kickball & other
grade school games,
SLC, 10pm

18

Saturday Night
Standup:
Bill Burr
Ingle Auditorium, 11pm

25



Late Night Programming

Paid Advertisement



RITForecast

compiled by Casey Dehlinger

CrimeWatch

by Casey Dehlinger



Friday
10
FEB

Vagina Monologues:

7 p.m. – 10 p.m. Ingle Auditorium. Part of V-Day: a global movement to stop violence against women and girls. Students \$5; faculty/staff \$8; other \$10.

SnowBall Dance:

8 p.m. – Midnight. SAU Cafeteria. Semi-formal sponsored by SG and Habitat for Humanity. \$8 presale at Candy Counter, \$10 at the door.

Society of Software Engineers and Alpha Xi Delta Winter Ball:

8 p.m. – 11 p.m. GCCIS Room 1400. Another semi-formal. After figuring out what to wear, you have to figure out which to go to. Presale: \$10 per person, \$15 per couple. At the door: \$15 per person, \$20 per couple. Does that mean that single people are worth more than taken people?

Karaoke Night:

10 p.m. – 1 a.m. Ritz SportsZone. Sing "The Final Countdown," don't puke milk (see Rings).

Saturday
11
FEB

Gospel Ensemble 25th Anniversary Concert:

8 p.m. – Midnight. Clark Gym. The RIT Gospel Ensemble opens for Kurt Carr and the Kurt Carr Singers. \$5 students; \$10 faculty/staff; \$15 other.

State of Emergency:

8 p.m. – 2:30 a.m. SAU Cafeteria. Appropriately named date auction and party, sponsored by the Caribbean Student Association. \$5.

Club Night:

10 p.m. – Midnight. Fireside Lounge. Psych Club provides DJ and refreshments. \$3.

Sunday
12
FEB

7th Annual Tribute to Black Art and Music:

6 p.m. – 10 p.m. Ingle Auditorium. Unity House presents song, music, dance, and comedy pieces.

Monday
13
FEB

BPM 37093:

Is a white dwarf star with a core that contains a diamond of about 2,500 miles in diameter. That's ten decillion carats.

Tuesday
14
FEB

Martial Arts Demo:

2 p.m. – 3 p.m. SLC Dance Studio. Please, no volunteers. Spectators needed. Not to be confused with marital arts presentations.

Singles Awareness Day:

Is another term for Valentine's Day. In Mexico, it is a day of national mourning. Maybe the card companies have it all wrong...maybe we should be giving out sympathy cards instead of love letters.

Wednesday
15
FEB

Love Day:

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Campus-wide. Over 100 fifth and sixth graders from Rochester city schools visit campus and participate in workshops. So... look out for small kids and don't swear too much.

Golden Key Induction:

7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. SAU Cafeteria. New member induction ceremony.

Thursday
16
FEB

MLK Memorial Project Luncheon:

Noon. – 2 p.m. Fireside Lounge. Alpha Phi Alpha fundraiser for future Washington D.C. memorial.

The Crucible:

7:30 p.m. – 10 p.m. Panara Theatre. NTID Performing Arts presents Arthur Miller's classic witch-hunt play with McCarthyist allegories. \$5 students; \$7 faculty/staff/other.

Hustle and Flow:

10 p.m. – Midnight. Ingle Auditorium. CAB's Thursday night cinema series screening. Free hot chocolate and poster-raffle afterwards!

February 14 My Place – Burglary

You stole my heart. The investigation continues.

February 14 My Place – Burglary

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February 14 My Place – Burglary

You stole my heart. The investigation continues.

Happy Valentine's Day from the staff at Reporter.

Due to a change in policy, Campus Safety is now only making the date, location, type of crime, and resolution publicly available. Therefore, Crime Watch has gone on a potentially permanent hiatus. In the mean time, Reporter will make sure that the investigation continues. Tune in next week for any developments.



Consider the Exceptions Before Applying the Rule

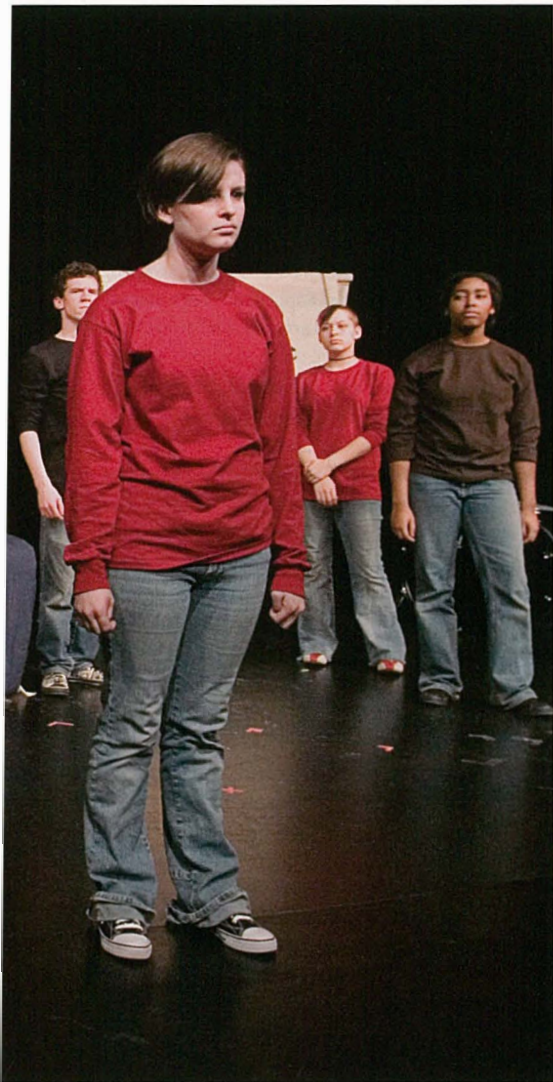
by Kari Hazzard | photography by Ralph Smith

With a title like *The Exception and the Rule*, one is inclined to wonder what the show is about. The title is a bit odd (and indeed, so is the play), and a lot of people might be tempted to ignore it simply because of its strangeness. But when you go to Peter Ferran's production of *The Exception and the Rule*—presented by the College of Liberal Arts and the RIT Players—you're getting a double-feature of social justice, and it even comes with an extra talk back segment at the end. It's also probably the best RIT theatre performance this year. So...Curtains up, let the overture play.

For those of you familiar with the show, you know that it is only a one-act play. Thus, you may be inclined to question: Then how are there two? The first act was in fact not part of the show itself, but rather an orchestrated composite of a number of poems Brecht had written, as well as scenes from *Fear and Misery* in the Third Reich. Scenes included *The Chalk Cross*, a satirical scene of an SA soldier and an unemployed German pretending to be a protester of the Nazi regime and an SA soldier, respectively. Beyond the humor, however, the scene touched on a major point; the weapon of fear and control by means of blind loyalty corrupts even the supposedly incorruptible. There was also another powerful scene in

the segment, *The Jewish Wife*, the story of a woman whose husband was an Aryan surgeon, who is packing to leave Germany because she is an ethnic Jew. *The Jewish Wife* was a powerful, moving scene, which had the entire audience misty-eyed by the end.

After the pre-show entertainment of Brecht's life story and some of his other works, it was on to the feature presentation, *The Exception and the Rule*. The story is one of a guide and a coolie working for a merchant, crossing a fictitious desert so that the merchant can get an oil contract in the town on the other side of it. It is the story of a journey, and the negative things that happen to the trio along the way, from the merchant's manipulative ways to the coolie's selfless enthusiasm. The production of the material was quite good, however the play isn't much for plot. This is a play that wants you to think about its meaning and what the author is trying to convey. Trying to analyze the plot is simply not worth the effort as the plot is nonexistent and the ending is predictable. But if you've ever left your dorm room, you've experienced situations just like the coolie and the merchant, and thus, you'll certainly be able to connect with the play.



A dress rehearsal of "The Exception and the Rule: A Brecht Show" held in Ingle Auditorium on Tuesday, February 1, 2006. The show featured poems and plays by playwright Bertolt Brecht.



Allison Stevens, who plays the Coolie, and Val Tracy, the Merchant (left to right) perform in Bertolt Brecht's play *The Exception of the Rule* during a dress rehearsal on Tuesday, February 1, 2006.

The music was rather bland, by no means awe-inspiring. Composed entirely by the director, it seemed like an amalgamation of a number of other sorts of productions, notably Stephen Schwartz's *Godspell* and an assortment of Christmas carols. While the music was original, it did not feel original at all, very much like a new car without the new car smell (Ferran—a good director, yes, but no Schwartz). Despite this, the music did serve its purpose in the overall production and helped set (and at times, modulate) the tone of the performance. Costuming, like the music, generally fit together with the situation, but there were no stand-outs. The assortment of masks and hats used by the members of the cast (and the humorous clown face-painting of the judges) made the faces different and the characters more distinguishable from one-another, but otherwise added very little to the entire production.

Overall, it was a strong performance. Paradoxically, few were in the audience. If you didn't go, you really missed out. *The Exception and the Rule* was the best RIT performance of this season. •

This is a play that wants you to think about its meaning and what the author is trying to convey...

Rating ★★☆☆

://r00t/2600/ A V3ry LaN <3 L3tt3r

by Jen Loomis | photograph by Chris Felber

To my darling Roxanne,

*Roses are red
Violets are blue
The LED's flashing
Remind me of you.*

Hello, sweetheart. I'm writing to you today about the Student Government LAN party, which was full of abbreviations and avid gamers alike. You remember me telling you about that party, right? The one on February 3 that you and I were supposed to go to together? It's too bad you couldn't have been there. There were so many games to play and so many systems to play them on. The SAU was literally packed full with technology. From the consoles to the PC servers, there was much fun to be had. You would have loved every second of it.

*I played very poorly at that LAN
My score sat right near zero
But Roxanne, if you were there that night,
I would have been *your* Guitar Hero.*

I was surprised at the number of console games they had at this party; usually, these LANs are a PC exclusive affair. Nevertheless, they had two Nintendo Game Cubes and an X-Box running nonstop in the back of the room. Mario-Kart: Double Dash and Super Smash Brothers: Melee were the two most popular games played, but Halo and Tekken were also fairly common.

The real star of the console show, however, was located in the front of the SAU. For there, playing on two glorious projector screens, was Guitar Hero, the most absurd party game I've seen since Dance Dance Revolution. My friend Frank Weidner, a second year software engineering major, convinced me to play, giving me the following anecdote, "It works like this. A person walks into a party, sees Guitar Hero, and says 'what the fuck?' An hour later, he tries it. The next day, he buys it." Roxanne, he was right! I tried it, I loved it, I drove to Best Buy and bought it. I now play every night, and each song I strum along with is dedicated to you.

*What's come over me lately?
Why, it's love, strong and true!
Counter Strike and Warcraft III
Just can't compete with you.*

Of course, the real meat of the LAN party was...well, the LAN. The keystone of the entire computer gaming scene was a series of tournaments, each centered around a particular game. Now, Roxanne, I must confess: I almost participated in a Starcraft tournament on an RIT-owned machine (they had around 8 such computers for players to borrow). I know, I know—temptation stared me in the face and I could not look away. I remained faithful only by a stroke of luck; the tournament schedule was thrown off almost immediately because the servers were inexplicably absent.

Chris Morrison, a 4th year biology major and the Director of Programming for this event, tried to diplomatically explain what happened: "Let's just say that there was a little...miscommunication at the start."

So, the schedule was thrown into disarray and, somehow, the Starcraft tournament got lost in the jumble. No one at the party seemed to mind the delayed schedule and once things got going, a lot of people joined up in the games. And with good reason: aside from Counter Strike and Warcraft, there were also tournaments in Unreal Tournament 2004, Battlefield 1942, and Call of Duty 2. Plus, the prizes for these tournaments were just incredible. Two Playstation Portables, a Logitech Wireless Keyboard and Mouse set, and a G4 Graphics Card were just a few of the goodies up for grabs.

Hold on. I think I feel one last poem coming on.

*Roxanne, if my feelings of gloom
Could find rest on computers like tombs,
Coded in binary,
Stored electronically,
Then they'd fill all the drives in this room.*

So, did I have fun at the SG LAN? Well...yes. But I would have had much more fun if you'd been there, Roxanne. I hope you come back from the shop soon. You're the best computer guy I could ever ask for.

*Yours truly,
Ben*



Students gather in the SAU cafeteria to compete in various video game tournaments during the SG LAN Party, Friday night, February 3, 2006.

Review: Video Game

Fire Emblem: *Path of Radiance*

by Ben Foster

This friend of mine heard about a new Game Cube game called "Fire Emblem." I guess the Internet thinks it's cool. Since I completely trust the Internet, we went out to Best Buy to get the thing. It wasn't on the shelf, but a sales associate managed to find a copy in the back room. As he passed it to us, he asked cryptically if we were "looking for the new one." Well heck, no one wants to buy *the old one*, so we said "sure" and took it.

As it turns out, *Fire Emblem: Path of Radiance* is the most recent title in a long sequence of Japanese games. In its infinite wisdom, Nintendo recently anglicized a few of these titles, including *Path of Radiance*. The game is part role-playing game (RPG), in that your characters grow and develop on an experience-based system. It's also part tactical battle. Well, it's a lot tactical battle. Ok, it's really mostly a tactical game. You never wander from place to place, nor do you make choices or talk to people. The game is simply a series of battles, sandwiched between an RPG-like story.

Of course, none of that tells you if *Path of Radiance* is any good. This could: the Internet said it was cool and we all know that the Internet never lies. However, if you are a more cynical person, then consider this: The core of an RPG, tactical or otherwise, is normally its story. The story in PoR blows.

Actually, that's unfair. The bits of the story I forced myself to read blew. I've played a lot of RPGs in my time. I happen to have a soft spot for their contrived plot lines. I don't have a soft spot for games that make me read so much that my eyes start bleeding. Keeping up with the story of this game is much harder than most of the battles are. 2D cutouts of your characters appear against a backdrop and words scroll underneath. If that doesn't put you off, then the inane things your characters say will. From Ike the Endlessly Optimistic and Impulsive (but Kind and Tolerant)

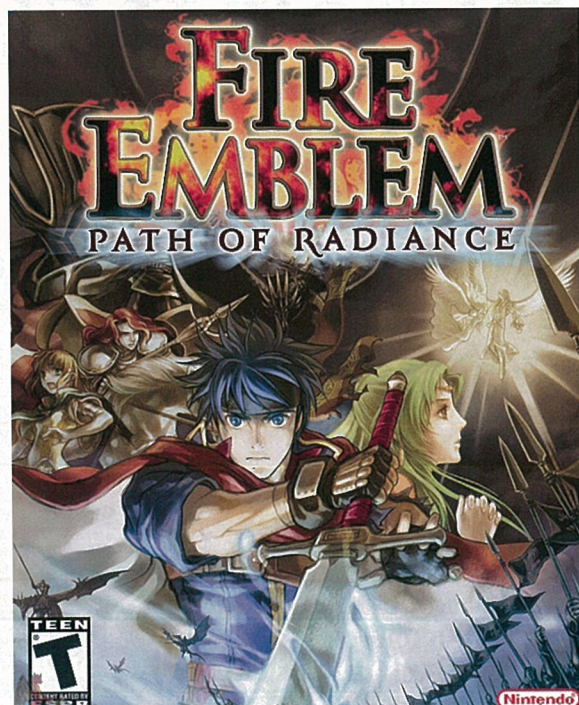
Leader to Soren the Moody Wizard, every fantasy cliché gets paraded in front of your increasingly bored vision. Thankfully, not reading any of the story doesn't really hurt your gaming experience. It's not like you need to know what's going on to win the battles.

What matters in *Fire Emblem* is the combat. Unfortunately, the combat can be as annoying as the story. There are a finite number of characters in this game, whom you acquire in various ways. The catch? If one of them falls in battle, that character is gone forever. Honestly, this is obnoxious as hell. You can play a battle for more than an hour, only to have some knight swoop in and kill your priest at the very end. You then have to decide if you want to forget about having a healer for the rest of the game or if you would rather go back and replay the whole freaking battle. It's really a pity because, apart from that, the battles are actually fun. They are turn-based, large in scale, and require some pretty serious strategic thinking.

The graphics themselves are nice, but not anything special. Between battles, they are cartoonish, if a little unattractive. During the battle, your guys look like little 3D miniatures on a map. The games few graphical flourishes, such as close-up zoom on one character attacking another, quickly become obnoxious. Thankfully, it's easy to turn such things off.

Please don't forget that the Internet likes this game, so it can't be all bad. Whether or not you like *Fire Emblem: Path of Radiance* really depends on whether or not you are willing to slog through a dull story for some pretty fun, if kind of anal game-play. If you can handle that, or if you just buy everything the Internet tells you to, you might want to check this out. For the rest of us, I think this is a game that can safely be left in the back room of Best Buy. •

Rating ★★☆☆



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Soul for Real – Candy Rain

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Pinback – Loro

Nat King Cole – Unforgettable

Marvin Gaye – Sexual Healing

Marvin Gaye – Lets Get it On

Manu Chao – Me Gustas Tu

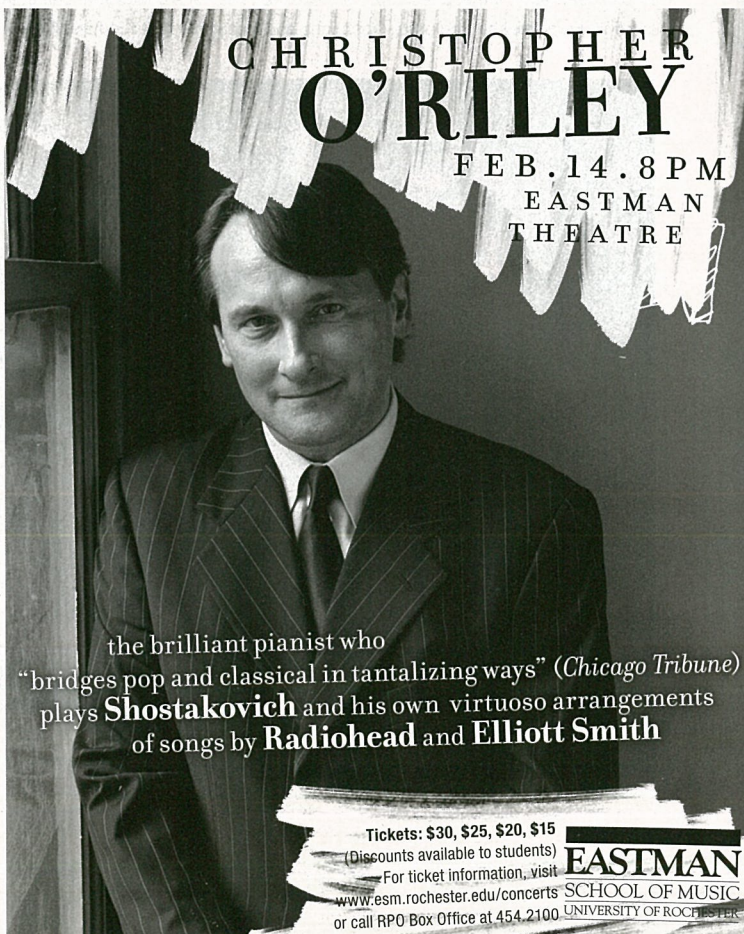
The Cranberries – Linger

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STREAM OF FACTS

FEBRUARY 10th

On February 10, 1258 AD, the **Mongol** horde overruns Baghdad killing anywhere from 10,000 to 800,000 people and burning the city to the ground.

The **Mongol** invasion of Europe came to a halt when Ogedei Khan died. This required all of Genghis's descendants to return to eastern Asia to elect a new **Khan**.

Shere **Khan** is a fictional tiger in the Indian Jungle generally depicted as crippled. He is the villain in both **Kipling's** "the Jungle book" and the Disney movie of the same name.

Joseph Rudyard **Kipling** turned down both knighthood and the position of the British **poet Laureate** during his life.

The current **poet Laureate** of England is Andrew **Motion** who helped bring the Poetry Archive online in 2005. The website contains both historic and contemporary recordings of poets reciting their own work.

In physics, **motion** means a change in the position of a body with respect to time, as measured by a particular **observer** in a particular frame of reference.

The **Observer** is a track on the **Flaming** Lips album "The Soft Bulletin." Released in 1999, the album was a marked change over their previous album Zaireeka, which was a quadruple album meant to be played on four separate stereo systems simultaneously.

Although carting a **flaming** torch around the world is a tradition that only began with the 2004 Olympic games, due to its success it is being considered for every subsequent **Olympic** game

On February 10, 2006, the **Olympic** winter games begin in Turin Italy. Yeah, that is today.

QUOTE

"Bacchus hath drowned more men than Neptune." – Dr. Thomas Fuller

Limerick

by Brian Garrison
Hippopotamus looks like a lady
With a style that came from the eighties
Tight spandex suit
Not very cute
And she's rockin' to rad tunes like crazy

REPORTER RECOMMENDS

Breaking in shoes while at home. If you have a pair of shoes that you have recently purchased, make sure you spend a couple of days wearing them around the house before you venture outside. This will save you some serious pain and being stranded shoeless far from home.

RANDOM REVIEW

Minute Maid Cherry Limeade. A refreshingly berry treat on a winter night. It's great on its own, with that nostalgic koolaid quality—minus the inevitable gag reflex. If you're looking for something with a little more hoo-ha try mixing it with gin or vodka for a pleasant tingle. You can find it with the other chilled juices in any of Rochester's fine grocery stores.

Conversation Hearts

y g y n u u e u e g t i n
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m e e o i m p y l e w l h
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u y y o u r u l e a m e m

miss you, hug me, youre tops, lets kiss, be true, one I love,
email me, how sweet, be my icon, you rule, heart of gold,
love me, only you, ask me, my doll, cutie pie, true love

JUMBLE CHEESE

aormazlezi
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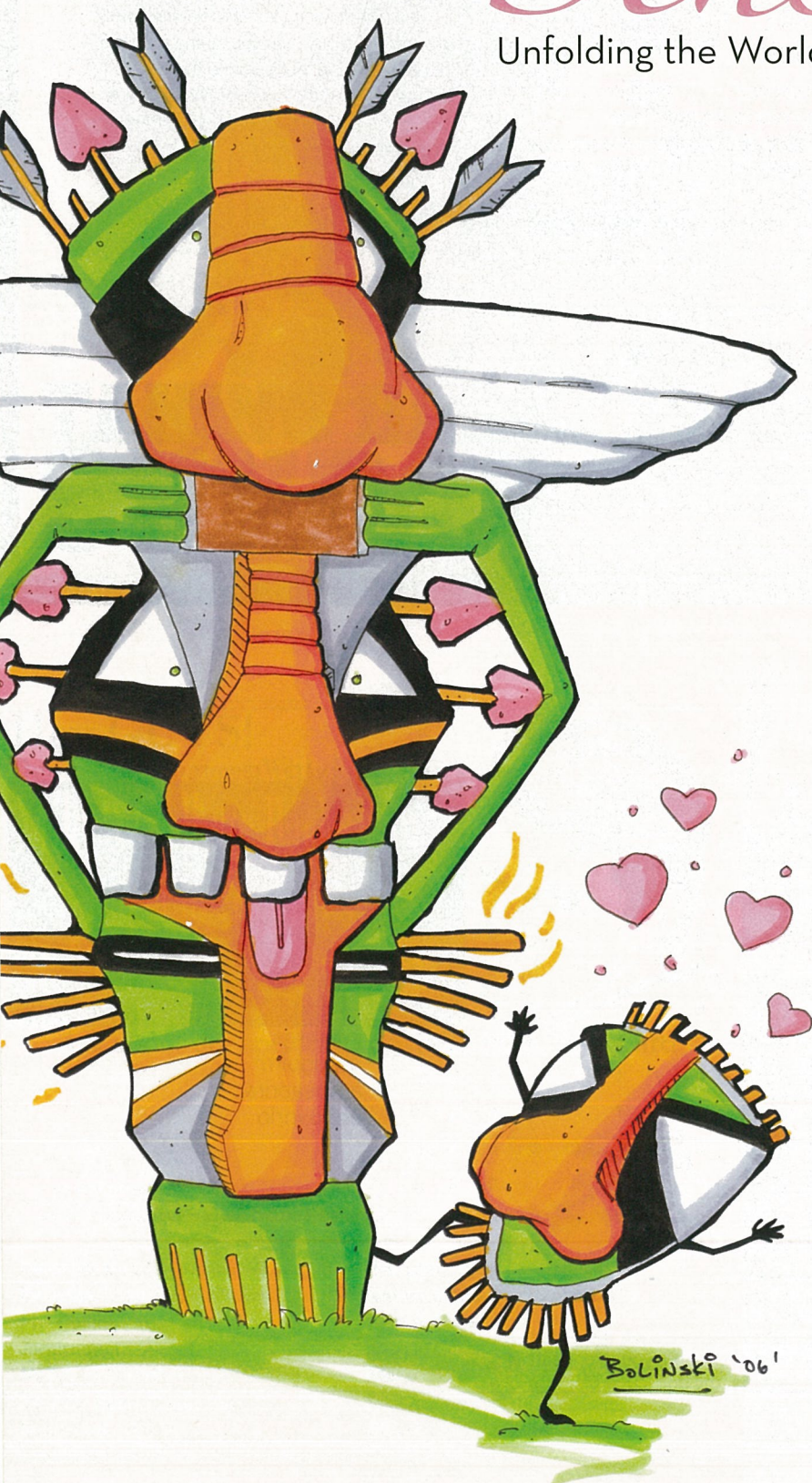
mozzarella, cheshire, emmental, ricotta, wensleydale, gorgonzola, havarti, jarlsberg, limburger, mascarpone, provolone

Scents

& Sensuality

Unfolding the World at Work Behind Your Nose

by Monica Donovan



"Creamed chipped beef."

"What?"

"The smell. It makes me gag." He makes a face and shudders involuntarily at the thought.

I raise an eyebrow. "Well...why?"

Judd Lamphere, a fourth year Biomedical Photography major, has good reasons to carefully avoid the smell of creamed chipped beef. They stem from a memory he formed at the age of seven. His stepmother made him finish his plate of homemade creamed chipped beef at dinner one day, despite vehement protests from his end of the table. Later that night, in bed, his mouth began to water, the telltale sign of approaching vomit.

Wearing only his white-tighties, Lamphere bolted from his bedroom on the first floor. He raced past the kitchen table where his parents and their guests were sitting. Triumphant, he flung open the bathroom door—where his brother Ian was already sitting on the toilet.

Lamphere couldn't take it any longer. He threw up on Ian's feet. Ignoring his brother's grievances, he left the bathroom door open and wandered to his room to go back to bed.

"Whenever I smell it now, my mouth waters and I start to gag," Lamphere says. *"And I feel like I'm wearing white-tighties again."*

Lamphere's story is perfectly human. Previously, scientists thought that smell might be an evolutionary remnant, left over from the days when our prehistoric ancestors needed a strong sense of smell to track down food and avoid predators. Recent findings show just the opposite: that smell plays an important, maybe essential, role in the formation of people's memories and moods.

The Nose Knows

After birth, babies can recognize their mothers' smells and mothers can do the same for their newborn children. Not only that, it appears that we are born with an innate ability to detect unpleasant or "bad" smells. One day-old babies make facial expressions indicating rejection when they smell rotten eggs or fish odors.

As children, we develop our strongest smell-related memories. By the age of 30, a person's ability to smell grows less acute, along with his or her vision and hearing. Tobacco smoke affects also olfactory capacities, as well as sinusitis, viral infections, and some medications. By 80 years old, 80% of people have some major smell dysfunction and 50% are "anosmic" by the standards of young people. Anosmia is a condition in which the sense of smell is reduced or lost entirely. In other cases, some are born with it (congenital anosmia) or a virus can temporarily cause it. Anosmia largely goes untreated, and even unnoticed, and few treatment centers exist.

Rachel Herz, Ph.D., a psychologist at Brown University, found in an experiment that odor can reinforce the negative feelings linked with failure. Along with several former colleagues at Monell Chemical Senses Center in Philadelphia, Herz gave children an impossible maze to solve. At the same time, the researchers let a strong smell into the room. For the next part, they gave the kids a simple task in another room scented with either the same odor, a different one, or none at all. The kids who associated the second test with the maze did far worse on it than the other youngsters who did not.

Aromatherapy is based on the strong connection between smell and mood. Japanese companies circulate lemon in their air-conditioning systems to help workers stay alert and focused. In the afternoon they switch to cedar to give those same workers a boost of energy. Lavender has been used by women for scented baths for thousands of years. London's Heathrow Airport fills its terminals with the scent of pine to calm frantic passengers. Perhaps panicked students could use a bit of aromatherapy around the RIT campus during finals week as well.

Smell is the only sense that has a direct connection to the limbic system, the area of your brain that controls taste, emotion, and memory. It may very well explain Lamphere's intense feelings of discomfort when faced with the prospect of creamed chipped beef.

The Hidden Genes

Scientists Richard Axel and Linda Buck of Colombia University shared the Nobel Prize in 2004 for their discovery of around 1,000 different genes, all devoted to smell. The discovery thrust olfactory science into the spotlight—and came as an intense relief to Buck. "I was putting in 12 to 15 hours a day," she says of her long hours. "Basically I just got up and went to the lab, and stayed there until the wee hours of the morning. I only went home to sleep."

"Whenever I smell it now, my mouth waters and I start to gag"

Axel and Buck hardly expected to find 1,000 genes intended just for smell. This number accounts for 2% of the human genome. The eye uses only three different types of receptors—one sensitive to red light, another to green, and another to blue—to recognize several thousand colors. Most of the processing done to distinguish the fine differences between colors is actually done by the brain.

Because the receptors in the nose are so refined, that means that the brain doesn't have to do too much processing to realize what a smell represents. The olfactory system's 1,000 some-odd receptor proteins are embedded in the lining of the nose. The receptors are made up of five million olfactory neurons, each topped by ten tiny hair-like cilia.

Creamed chipped beef, freshly baked and hot, steams when it comes out of the oven. This steam carries a plethora of molecules, called odorants, through the air, until they reach the lining of Lamphere's nose. These molecules, like a lock and key, attach themselves to a few particular receptor proteins embedded in the lining.

The interaction triggers a pulse of electrical activity that travels up the three to four centimeters of neuron directly to the olfactory bulb in the brain. The brain recognizes an odor by the pattern of receptors activated by the molecules. In this case, Lamphere's limbic system (the part of the brain that governs sexuality, emotions, and drive), recalls the memory of that fateful night. A fraction of a second after the odorants reached him, he experiences feelings of discomfort and an inexplicable urge to gag.

A Whole New World

The discoveries of Axel and Buck have opened up an entire realm of possible applications in the real world. In theory, scientists could use chemical agents in products and smells to switch particular receptors in the nose on or off. They could pump a subway station full of molecules that turn off the receptors in the nose that detect nasty odors. In effect, it would neutralize an assault on your nose. "You can make antagonists to bad smells," says Solomon Snyder, director of the department of neuroscience at Johns Hopkins Medical School in Baltimore. "It's not that far-fetched." In the 1980's, Snyder attempted and failed to identify the same receptors which Axel and Buck discovered two years ago.

"Women were excited the most by Good & Plenty licorice candies and cucumbers."

The sweet smell of opportunity could explain why International Flavors & Fragrances sponsored Snyder's lab for over a decade. It could also help one to understand why Buck gets support from the Department of Defense. If technology became sophisticated enough, a researcher could identify the receptors that aid dogs in detecting explosives. They could then be cloned and used to create advanced explosive detection devices.

The Defense Department is not the only area that could benefit from advanced smell applications. Scientists could stimulate receptors in anorexics to help them crave food, or block those same receptors in obese people to stave them off of excessive food consumption. Perfume manufacturers could offer custom-made scents that are designed to snare not just any person, but that one true love.

"A combination of lavender and pumpkin pie produced the highest arousal in men."

The Smell of True Love

So what influence does smell have on attraction and love? Professor Martha McClintock of the University of Chicago is an internationally recognized expert on odor and behavior. She recently published a study documenting the link between sex and odor—using t-shirts.

McClintock carefully prepared several t-shirts by having a man wear each one for two consecutive days. She made sure that each t-shirt was carefully prepared and that no cologne or cigarettes or sex came near them. McClintock placed the shirts in boxes where they could be smelled but not seen by 49 unmarried women. She asked each woman to choose which box they would prefer if they "had to smell it all the time."

Sigmund Freud would have shed a tear or two of pride. As it turned out, the women were attracted to the smell of a man genetically similar but not precisely similar to that of their dads. McClintock points out that mating with someone too different leads to the loss of favorable gene combinations, but mating with someone too similar leads to inbreeding. Thus a fine line must be struck in order to maintain an evolutionary balance.

Dr. Alan Hirsch of the Smell and Taste Treatment and Research Foundation in Chicago has taken a different track. In 1998 he conducted double blind experiments testing different smells and levels of arousal in men and women. He found that a combination of lavender and pumpkin pie produced the highest arousal in men, while women were excited the most by Good & Plenty licorice candies and cucumbers.

While there appears to be little reliable evidence that aphrodisiacs actually exist, certain smells do influence mood in subtle ways. Not all memories of smell have to be as unpleasant as that of creamed chipped beef. When I'm feeling down, I cook the same multigrain pancakes that I used to wake up to when I was growing up. The next time you feel lonely or homesick, slather yourself in the lotion that your mother used to rub on your arms and back after a bath. Find out what your significant other's favorite smell is and surprise them with it on Valentine's Day. The possibilities are endless. •

WORD on the Street

compiled and photographed by Ralph Smith

Q: What was your most memorable date?



"The best was prom. I don't remember what we did. My date was amazing. I got into a car accident."

Davina Romansky

1st Year – Metals and Jewelry



"A friend of mine in Ohio. It was the first time we were meeting face to face."

Priyanka Gandhi

2nd Year Grad Student

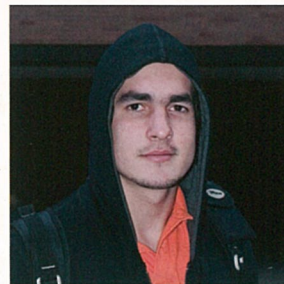
– Electrical Engineering



"I have been dating the same guy for all of RIT. All our dates are the same. They are great."

Yuko Ota

3rd Year – Film and Animation



"Once, I went on a boat and had dinner with a girl. It was very positive."

Enrice Soto

4th Year – Business



"All are good memories, nothing too embarrassing."

Andrew King

Java's Employee



"I went to lake Sacandaga and we jet skied to the restaurant."

Joanna Belding

1st Year – New Media Design



"Awkward"

Andrew Prelusky

3rd Year – IT New Media



"We went to this restaurant Mex for our one year anniversary."

Ethan Feldman

3rd Year – IT New Media



"Second year anniversary I pulled out all the stops and then she told me she was cheating on me. I set a tent up in the garage because we wanted to go camping, but it was November. I pulled the bed out and we cooked dinner out there."

Eric Miller

5th Year – New Media Publishing



"Bringing my last girlfriend out and spending as much on dessert as on dinner. We went to Kobe for dinner and Phillips European for dessert."

John Glass

4th Year – Mechanical Engineering Technology



"I got out of work and at the time I was sick so I told my boyfriend not to kiss me. He said he never got sick. He got on his death bed sick and hated me."

Kiara Vollick

4th Year – Visual Media



"I went to a bar. I was chasing a girl and then I found out we both had something in common. We were both chasing a girl."

Wojtek Mysliwiec

4th year – Mechanical Engineering

Chocolate

The History and Science Behind the Sweetness

by Rick Thomas | illustration by Dan Bolinski

It's rich, creamy, and usually brown. Women love it, and dogs die for it. As Valentine's Day draws ever nearer, chocolate is a popular gift for significant others everywhere. But have you ever stopped to think about the inner workings of chocolate? Behind the sweet taste and velvety texture, there are hundreds of chemicals at work. These chemicals stimulate your mind, taste buds, and your libido. Here is a brief look at the beginnings behind the world's most popular candy.

The Origins of Chocolate

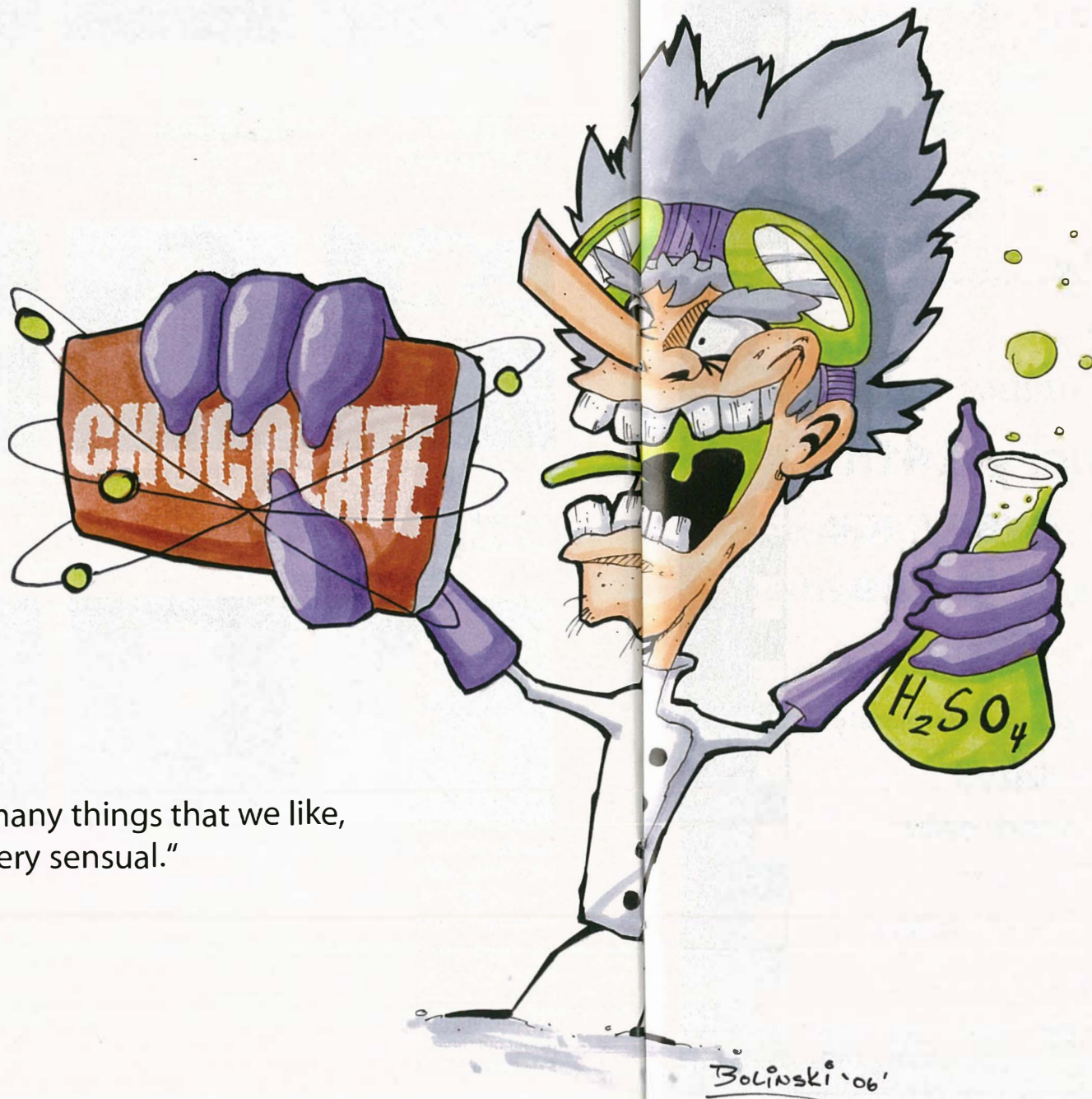
The story of chocolate begins in ancient Mexico, during the time of the Mayans. Archeological evidence shows that Mayans were enjoying chocolate upwards of 2600 years ago, although at that time, it was referred to as *xocoatl*. It is believed that the name derived from Xochiquetzal, the Mayan goddess of fertility. Instead of the solid form that we are accustomed to today, the Mayans enjoyed chocolate as a zesty, harsh-tasting drink seasoned with vanilla, chile pepper, annatto, and pimento. Other drinks made from chocolate included maize gruel and honey.

Chocolate as we know it today was not created until the late 18th century in Turin, Italy. Not until 1819 did F.L. Cailler began mass-producing the treat in the first Swiss chocolate factory. Nine years later, a Dutchman by the name of Conrad J. van Houten invented a method for making cocoa butter and powdered cocoa by extracting the fat from cocoa beans. In addition, he is credited with creating the Dutch process of treating chocolate to remove its bitter taste. Milk was not used as an ingredient in chocolate until Daniel Peter began experimenting with it in 1867, although it was not actually brought to market until 1875. Henri Nestlé, a name often associated with chocolate, assisted Peter in removing the water content from milk for use in the chocolate.

Chocolate Gets You Stoned

There is a reason why chocolate makes you feel so good inside. Chocolate contains over 300 chemicals, many of which are stimulants. Scientists are still trying to figure out all of the chemicals and combinations of chemicals that induce certain reactions, but they have been able to isolate a few that help to explain the joy that chocolate brings to those that consume it. The main chemical that makes chocolate poisonous to dogs and other pets is called theobromine, a weak stimulant of the cardiovascular and nervous systems. This, in addition to caffeine, helps provide the energy kick that one may receive from chocolate.

"Chocolate represents many things that we like, such as romance. It is very sensual."



It also turns out that chocoholics may have a genuine addiction. Certain chemicals in chocolate produce effects similar to those found in some drugs. Phenylethylamine, for example, which is found in chocolate, is related to amphetamines. The neurotransmitter anandamide, which has been isolated in chocolate, is found to be similar to tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the active ingredient in marijuana.

Strangely enough, research has shown that heroin addicts tend to have an increasing desire for chocolate, likely due to the serotonin and dopamine that is released while eating the sweet substance. This, of course, doesn't mean that you should light up a Hershey Bar or that you need to go to rehab for eating too many Reese's cups. It simply means that these substances in chocolate can be linked to that fuzzy feeling you get from a bag of M&Ms.

Now That's Some Hot Chocolate

In the spirit of Valentine's Day, chocolate may actually put you in the mood for some love. Chocolate has been known as an aphrodisiac, even as far back to the time of the Aztecs. The emperor Montezuma is said to have consumed chocolate before visiting with his wives in order to improve his love life. Furthermore, Casanova, the famous lover, supposedly devoured chocolate before performing his amorous feats. The stimulants in chocolate could be the culprit behind these soaring libidos.

RIT's resident chocolate expert, Dr. Carol Whitlock, offered some insight into its purported aphrodisiacal effect. Dr. Whitlock is a professor of food science and nutrition, with a PhD in food science and technology from University of Massachusetts. She teaches in the Food, Hotel, and Travel Management department of the College of Applied Sciences and Technology. When asked about why chocolate has such a strong appeal, she said "Chocolate represents many things that we like, such as romance. It is very sensual." She added, "It's really the sensual-ness. It's beautiful; it's sweet. Everybody naturally likes sweet things."

So, whether you're looking to get some pep in your step, catch a buzz, or get your freak on, chocolate appears to be the weapon of choice for those who want to bring a little bit more decadence to their Valentine's Day. From Montezuma to Casanova to Nestle, this byproduct of the cacao fruit has been a favorite of the masses for years, and will likely continue to be in the future. Just one word of advice: eat responsibly... •

"It also turns out that chocoholics may have a genuine addiction."

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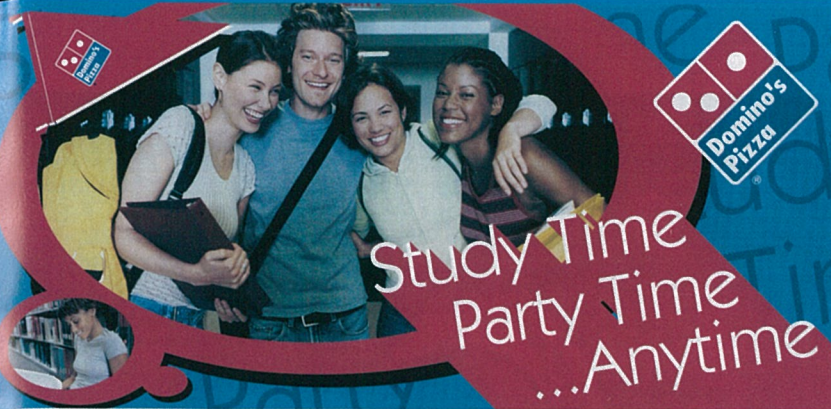
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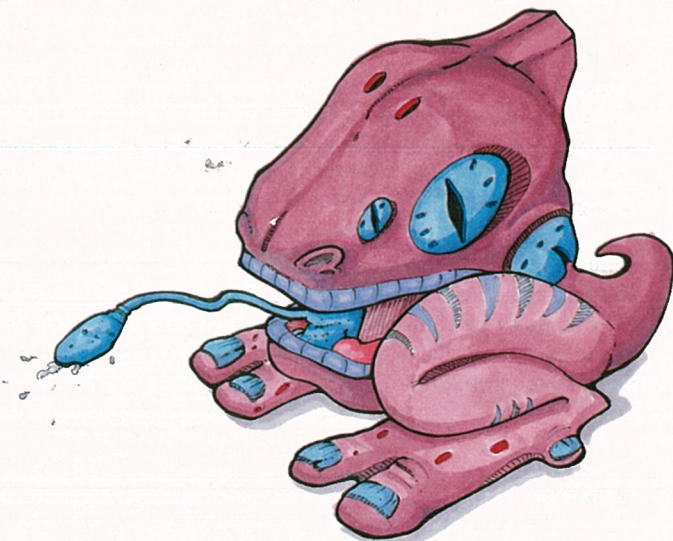
Reporter lowered weekly ad rates for the RIT community this year:

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No regrets.





RIT's Meghan Walsh, left, tries to grab a pass while being guarded by an Ithaca player on Saturday, February 4, 2006. RIT lost the game 58-60. Jacob Hannah/REPORTER Magazine

SPORTSdesk

by José Plaza

Men's Basketball

January 27: The Tigers, led by Fran Snyder's team high of 19 points and nine boards, defeated Hartwick College in Empire 8 action by a score of 88-61. RIT had a good offensive showing, shooting over 70% from the field for the first half of the game. Tim Bacon, Tyler Springer, and Brian Hill, also scored in double figures to contribute to the win.

January 28: Once again in Empire 8 action, RIT found the hot hands on offense and defeated Utica College 71-62 in front of the home crowd at the Clark Gym. RIT was led by Fran Snyder's 22 points which came from clutch shooting at the free throw line and the three point mark.

Record through 1/28/06: 11-7 Overall, 5-2 Empire 8

Women's Basketball

January 27: The Lady Tigers suffered a 71-56 loss at the hands of Hartwick College in front of the home crowd. Joanna Dobeck, Christina Ermie, and Ramata Diallo, all scored in double figures in the losing effort.

January 28: A 53-47 win over Utica College was greatly in part to Kelly Votolato the recently named Empire 8 Rookie of the Week. Her seven points, seven assists, and six boards, ignited RIT to grab the win at the end of the game.

Record through 1/28/06: 5-12, 2-5 Empire 8

Men's Hockey

January 27: RIT Hockey faced off against the USA Under-18 Team tonight in what turned out to be an offensive explosion for the Tigers. RIT's Matt Smith, along with 6 other Tigers, combined for eight RIT goals, a season high, in their 8-5 win over the national team.

January 28: As if the first game between these two teams didn't feature enough goals, RIT and USA Under-18 posted 15 combined goals for this game. The outcome, however, was different than the previous game. Steve Pinizzotto and Darren Doherty each had two goals, and Marc Hyman and Darrell Draper added a goal a piece for RIT, but it wasn't enough as USA Under-18 scored nine goals of their own to defeat the Tigers 9-6.

Record through 1/28/06: 6-17-2

Women's Hockey

January 28: St. Michael's College could not stop the offensive drive that RIT threw at them. Led by two goals each from Jessica Ciaramella and Brittany Davies, along with four other individual RIT goals, the Lady Tigers went on to defeat St. Mikes, 8-1.

January 29: RIT once again defeated St. Michael's Women's Hockey, this time in a 5-0 shut-out. Goalie Breanna Dobbe recorded her second shut-out of the season, while in the offensive department, five different Lady Tigers found the back of St. Michael's net, including Courtenay Cooper's first collegiate goal.

January 31: RIT traveled to Elmira College, where they suffered a 5-2 loss at the hands of their host. Brittany Davies and Lindsay Latour scored the Lady Tiger's two lone goals.

Record through 1/31/06: 13-5-0

Men's Swimming and Diving

January 28: RIT hosted LeMoyne College and beat their swimming team by a score of 134.5-102.5.

Event Winners

200-Yard Freestyle: Phil Baudoin (1:50.37)
1-Meter Diving: Quinn Donahoe (279.75)
100-Yard Butterfly: Erik Zelbacher (53.13)
500-Yard Freestyle: Phil Baudoin (5:02.03)
3-Meter Diving: Quinn Donahoe (296.50)
100-Yard Breaststroke: Chris Walczyk (1:03.98)
200-Yard Freestyle Melee: RIT 'A' (1:26.91)

Women's Swimming and Diving

January 28: LeMoyne College defeated the Lady Tigersharks 114-90 at the Judson pool.

Events Winners

200-Yard Medley Relay: RIT 'A' (1:59.13)
200-Yard Freestyle: Kristen Curtze (2:03.85)
50-Yard Freestyle : Teresa Burr (25.96)
3-Meter Diving: Gretchen Anderson (213.80)
100-Yard Breaststroke: Sarah Keesler (112.65)

Wrestling

January 28: RIT competed three times at the Thiel College Tomcat Meet, where they went 2-1 for their day of competition.

Match Winners

Vs. Thiel College (Loss 11-37)

Luke Baum (141 lbs)
Mike Pietowski (149 lbs)
Zach Greenberg (197 lbs)

Vs. Mount Union (Win 23-15)

Lee Comstock (133 lbs)
Luke Baum (141 lbs)
Zach Greenberg (197 lbs)
Micah Vore (285 lbs)

Vs. Mercyhurst NE (Win 28-25)

Luke Baum (141 lbs)
Mike Pietowski (149 lbs)
Abdul Haleem Syed (174 lbs)
Justin Betz (184 lbs)
Zach Greenberg (197 lbs)

February 1: The SUNY Brockport Eagles, ranked fourth nationwide, hosted the Tigers for a match. RIT won a few individual matches, but dropped the team match 26-15.

Match Winners

Lee Comstock (133 lbs)
Mike Pietowski (149 lbs)
Zach Greenberg (197 lbs)

Men's Track and Field

January 28: The Men's Track and Field Team competed in the St. Lawrence Invitational, where out of eight teams, RIT finished in fifth place with a team score of 70 points.

Event Winners

55-Meter Hurdles: Jimmy Sorel (7.91 seconds)
200-Meter Dash: Querenstein Smith (25.04 seconds)
Pole Vault: Michael Herb (4.50 Meters)

Women's Track and Field

January 28: The Women's Track and Field Team had a great showing in the St. Lawrence Invitational, placing second best in the team competition out of eight competitors (123 team points). Lakeisha Perez had a strong performance, winning three events for the Lady Tigers.

Event Winners

55-Meter Dash: Lakeisha Perez (7.59)
55-Meter Hurdles: Lakeisha Perez (8.57)
200-Meter Dash: Lakeisha Perez (26.95)
800-Meter Run: Danielle Simmons (2:17.35)
5,000-Meter Run: Sara Pancoast (18:59.63)
Shot Put: Allison Griggs (12.93 Meters)
Weight Throw: Allison Griggs (15.05 Meters)
4 X 400 Meter Relay: RIT 'A' (4:13.70)

3 THREESTARS

by Carl Westgren



Fran Snyder leads the men's basketball team with 12.2 points per game and was recently named RIT athlete of the week. Jacob Hannah/REPORTER Magazine

Fran Snyder

Sport: Basketball

Position: Guard/Forward

Year: Senior

Major: Criminal Justice

Hometown: Buffalo, NY

It's not easy spending most of your career as a marked player. Fran Snyder has had to deal with a growing reputation and the pressure that opponents bring as a result. What makes Snyder such a target is his ability to play multiple positions on the court as well as his knowledge and understanding of the game. "I would be hard pressed to identify one strong skill. I think his strength is in being a total player," said Coach Bob McVean. "Offensively, he can shoot the three. He can also put it on the floor, drive, and get inside shots. He's a very good passer and rebounder as well."

Snyder has also had to deal with tendonitis in his knees. In spite of that, he's overcome the pain and has improved his body

strength as well as his defensive awareness. "Fran's not an overly vocal player, but he leads by the way he plays," said coach Bob McVean. "...He involves other people on the floor, and he makes them better players."

This year Snyder broke 1000 points and at the time of print was ranked ninth in career total points. He's only nine points away from passing eighth placed '05 graduate Sean Murphy and 18 points from obtaining seventh place. He was named Empire 8 and RACA Player of the Week last week.

Sarah Keesler

Sport: Swimming

Position: Relay and Individual Races

Year: Senior

Major: Imaging & Photographic Technology

Hometown: Endicott, NY

There's a common phrase that goes, "records are meant to be broken." Sarah Keesler is all too familiar with that phrase. As part of the women's swimming team, Keesler has broken two records so far. She set the school record for the 200 Individual Medley earlier in the season while competing against Fredonia State, and she also set the 400 Individual Medley record during the Utica match.

"Great kid, gets along well with everyone, hard worker, dedicated, she's got all the great attributes you'd want in a co-captain," said swimming coach Mike Cahill. "She has the respect of her teammates and competitors."

Keesler not only competes in individual races, but she is also a part of the relay teams. "I think her leadership is a big thing. She's a quiet leader, she's not one of those in-your-face attitudes. She does it quietly and with the respect of her teammates..." said Cahill. "She's the type [of athlete] every coach would want."

In swimming there is the reality that there's always someone faster than you, but as Cahill explained you don't always need to swim a best time, just a fast time. Keesler over the years has steadily decreased her times and continually gets faster. As evidence of her continual improvement, during the month of October Keesler was named both Empire 8 Female Swimmer of the Week and RACA Athlete of the Week.

Sarah Keesler of the RIT women's swim team poses before practice, Friday afternoon, February 3, 2006. Sarah recently set a new RIT record in the 400 Meter Individual Medley race with a time of 4:55.07. Ralph Smith/REPORTER Magazine



Isabelle Richard

Sport: Hockey

Position: Center

Year: Sophomore

Major: Environmental Science

Hometown: Malarctic, PQ

When it comes to athleticism, age doesn't always matter. As Isabelle Richard, a French Canadian, shows, all that really matters is how well you play the game. She's just a sophomore and already plays center for the first line of the women's hockey team. Richard also currently leads the team in points with 14 goals since January 29.

"She's one of the unique players who seems like every time she's on the ice she tries to teach herself something new. She's always working hard," said Head Coach Mike Grainsky.

Her ability to skate and her skill with handling the puck enabled her to achieve her first collegiate hat trick, which took place during a game against Salve Regina. Her ability to play hockey earned Richard the distinction of being ECAC East Women's Player of the Week earlier this season and later in the season she was named RACA Female Athlete of the Week. Last year she was bestowed the honor of RIT Rookie of the Year.

Not only is Richard a leader in scoring, but she also serves the role of a team leader. Grainsky described her bright personality as an asset to her leadership skills because it's often capable of rallying the other players. Grainsky said, "She's the type of player who over the course of the next few years we can build a team around."

Isabelle Richard, Women's Hockey team player, leads RIT in scoring with eighteen points in twelve games. David Wright/REPORTER Magazine



SPORTS WRITERS WANTED

Spunky publication with secret affection for the Corner Crew seeks students with a soft spot for balls. Must enjoy being paid to watch sports.

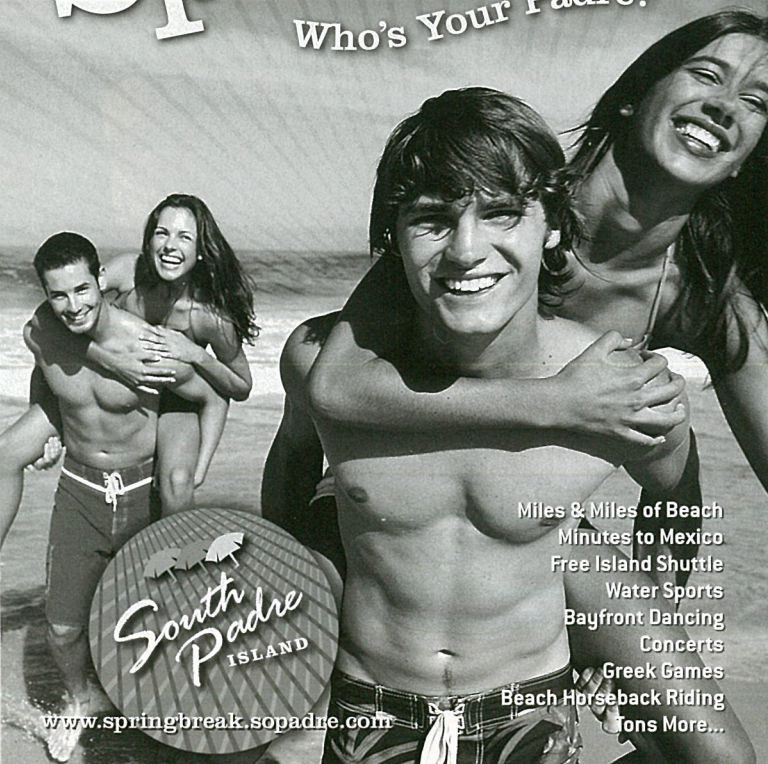
Interested? Find me in the **SAU A426** every Friday at 5 p.m.

Dinner is on me.



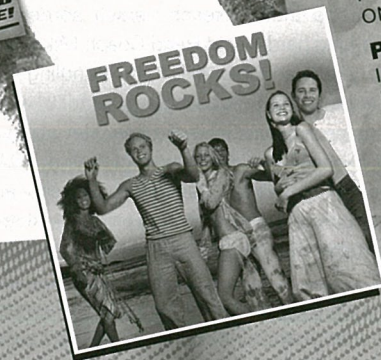
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When Bored (and Deranged?) Students Attack: HALL SPORTS

by Govind Ramabadrnan | illustration by Brittney Lee

Freshman year. Dorms. I find myself right in the middle of an Airsoft pistol shootout. Fortunately, my winter flak jacket protects me as the shots flew past en route to the opposing shooter. A plastic BB narrowly misses my head and hits someone else in the ear.

Such dorm-side events are not entirely uncommon. In fact, past residents of NRH have used Nerf guns. Others, looking for a quick getaway, have used shopping carts for drive-by hits. Or negating the firepower, residents have enjoyed stuffing a small friend into a circular table from one of the lounges and rolling them down the hall to see how far they go.

Other rumored *sports* involve scenes re-enacted from the CKY-esque video "R.I.T: Ridiculously Idiotic Tendencies." Residents in Gleason 3 described instances of sliding mattresses down the hall trying to maximize distance, as well as racing each other on chairs. Two residents from NRH tried sparring on the second floor. When RAs told them to leave, they continued to fight on every floor until forced to move the battle outside, only to be told by another ResLife official not to practice martial arts in the NRH quad. Of course, these same residents have also been known to throw Frisbees at passers-by, along with whipping each other back and forth with their belts.

DO NOT hit the sprinklers.

Really, the definition of hall sports (or perhaps *activities*) comprises just about any physical exertion you can think of, conducted in the residence halls. The problem with many sporting events is the presence of airborne, not completely controlled, objects—like balls. Do not hit the sprinklers. Students on Sol 6 during the 2003-2004 school year learned that the hard way when a football they were throwing around hit one of those precariously placed sprinklers. The ensuing chain reaction flooded that section of the hall and sent water dripping through the light fixtures of Sol 5's ceiling.

Students like first year Industrial Design major Roman Stecyk, who admits to riding his bike through his dorm, believes hall sports can be beneficial to the students in the residence halls. "[Hall sports give] students who don't leave their room too often a chance to interact with those of us who actually enjoy being social."

Alex Petrovich, fourth year New Media Design major and RA of Art House, feels slightly different, especially since he's seen the dangers of it first hand. "I guess my first major experience with hall sports was during my freshman year, when my RA accidentally fell out the second story window at the end of our hall. He was joking around with a girl on the floor, and there



was a skateboard involved, and he just couldn't stop in time." According to Petrovich, his RA sustained cuts and bruises plus broken wrists.

Petrovich said that sometimes the incidents of hall sports probably have something to do with Rochester's harsh winter climate. "...When people get bored, and they're stuck inside, especially in the winter...they tend to get more inventive." But to him this shouldn't be a justification. "I also just think it's kind of ridiculous to try to do something like that indoors anywhere. People wouldn't do it at their own house, so why here?"

However, Petrovich and his residents have found ways to circumvent some of the hazards of hall sports: "At the beginning of the year a few of my residents invented a new game, 3D Twister, which they played in the hall by putting a twister board on the floor in the hall, and one on each wall. As far as I know it didn't violate any rules, and it was a lot of fun."

But 3D Twister is the exception; most hall sports probably can't or shouldn't be attempted in the halls. But what are the alternatives? For some, Clark Gym, the Field House, and RITCHies *do* offer alternative, non-sprinkler-exposed venues... then again, nothing gets through the indoor-boredom of winter, even for a short time, like a good old human cockfight. •

**Disclaimer: The staff at Reporter in no way shape or form, condone any acts that may violate RIT policies. Engage at your own risk.*



RITRINGS

585.475.5633

compiled by Casey Dehlinger | Illustration by Dan Bolinski

All calls subject to editing and truncation. Not all calls will be run. Reporter reserves the right to publish all calls in any format (potentially online podcasts, when the technology happens).

Tuesday 11:50 pm

What's up *Reporter*? This is Sniper. I'm doing the gallon challenge right now for the win. I'm also shirtless. House of pain!... I haven't won yet, but I've got 10 minutes left. I'll call back.

Wednesday 12:00 am

Dear *Reporter*, this is Sniper. One minute left, I threw up. But I had like a shot glass worth of milk left. I was listening to "The Final Countdown" and I threw up everywhere. It even went through my nose...like wow.

Thursday 10:40 pm

...And now, the severe beating of a high school janitor. [screaming].

Friday 1:52 am

Hello, *Reporter*. This is somebody that lives in Gleason. I'm trying to contact Mike Eppolito. I just wanted to say he's an awesome kid and this message was left for him...

Friday 1:49 pm

Here at Penn State University, there are more hot girls in my German class than there are on the entire campus of RIT.

Friday 2:46 pm

Hi, *Reporter*. Nice mag, you're awesome, yada, yada. Do us all a favor and yell at grounds maintenance. They keep their freaking trucks on the roads and out of the mud, which is the reason why the roads are wide enough to accommodate the trucks and golf carts in the first place. Smack them with a trout.

Friday 7:30 pm

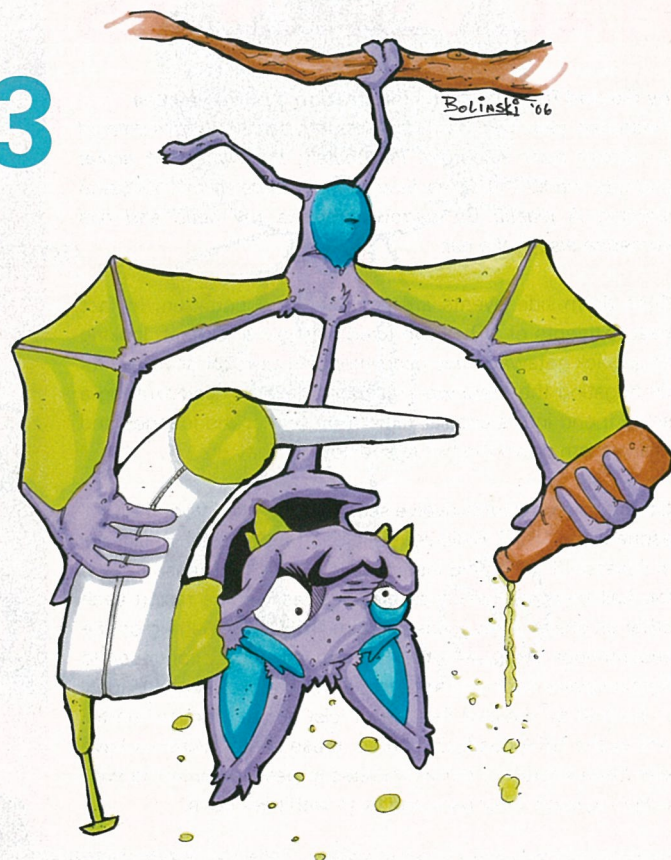
I really like to touch [monologue subject]. Because [monologue subject] feels so nice on the hand and in your mouth. It tastes so good. I can't wait to eat some more. Mmmmm.... [monologue subject]...

Friday 10:11 pm

Hi, this is the Friday night lifeguard girls. The Carlos Mencia show is going on and the pool is empty right now, so were bored and we are going skinny dipping. [Chorus:] Wooooooo! [voice in background:] I'm taking off my top!

Saturday 12:08 am

[Sober IP relay operator]: Hi, hottie. I'm very horny. Hello? [explicit sexual acts]. Is this phone sex? Thank you for wasting my time.



Saturday 12:33 am

Hi, is this RIT Rings? Because I just want you to know that the only thing hotter than the *Reporter* and RIT Rings is Stacy [withheld] and I'm calling to confess my love to her and let you know that I'm engaged to her and I wanted to marry her.

Saturday 12:34 am

I'm just calling back. This is the kid about Stacy. I forgot the part about I'm gay. But she's so beautiful. Goodbye.

Saturday 3:08 am

Hey, *Reporter*. I just wanted to let you know that all the gay chicks at RIT are f---ing hot. And I know you're probably not gonna print this because I mean its degradation of character or whatever, but f---ing they're hot and...all punk rock and I love it. Good for you...

Sunday 2:05 am

Hey, *Reporter*, you need to stop f---in' putting in such p----a--things in Crime Watch like "oh no! Somebody illegally instant messaged somebody else!" What the f--- is up with that? Tell me something good like somebody got f---ing pistol-whipped by a guy downtown... If you can't get any good stories, go downtown yourself, dress like some f----...

The answering machine cut him off. That's because it was full. Again. I have no clue what he wanted us to dress up as.



Reciprocity be Damned— I Love You

by Nathan Liebold | illustration by Mike Norton

Hunger hit and while at the Ritz, I saw the sweet silhouette of a pink, icing-covered cookie—heart-shaped and delicately sprinkled. It brought back memories of when we did things right, by getting our parents to bake the class Valentine's treats—back when we would cut and glue and sparkle up bits of construction paper. We'd fashion messages of love, however young or innocent it was, for those we cared about. Sure, this love, this caring may have sprouted from little more than the pudding cup the kid with food allergies gave you, or maybe, just maybe from an early taste of lé puppy love—but it was a love nonetheless.

Now things are different. Often, the holiday's efforts end up focused on no one at all, or solely on one single person. A person could eschew this holiday completely, whether due to past or present scornings, or present lack of a dance partner. In the remainder of cases, the lovers seem dead set on proving their love through gift, showering their one and only with trinkets, or candies, or flowers—where an expensive triumph will come along with a gift-wrapped and broken spine.

It seems to me that something has been forgotten since the hallowed days of the paper

bag valentine mailbox. **What of the love we have for everyone else that we care about?** Why can't we go back to how things used to be, or make a new way to celebrate? I think that we can, and this Valentine's Day it will be my goal.

This Valentine's Day, I'll have a shopping list full of places to go and people to see, all in the name of showing them that I care—be they my girlfriend, good friend, or co-worker. It may seem out of the blue. Most would expect my Valentine's Day plans to include only my girlfriend, but not this year. This year I'll take a friend without a girlfriend out for a sushi dinner and one without boyfriend for Thai cuisine, another who became single to go see *Capote*, and co-workers for homemade grill goodness. Maybe a close-lipped friend will spill the appreciation beans and for the first time say that they love the time we've spent together. Maybe other relationships, will become stronger. Maybe some will say nothing. The important thing to me is that I say, **"Damn it, [blank], I love knowing you,"** and that's all I'll need.

Maybe some readers will think this Valentine's inspired appreciation for others is an attempt to get something for myself, be it a few fine

dining experiences on their tab or that I wildly seek a returned love. Why wouldn't I work my magic and score a Red Lobster-caliber dinner on them for the price of a valentine? After all, I *am* pretty partial to picking my dinner out of a briny tank. No, that's not it. I feel like people need to tell others how they feel before they lose the chance—reciprocity or not. Though like a high five, any 'I love you' feels better with one to hit it back.

Between the *King Kong* or *Batman Begins* valentines at Wegman's, so far the depiction of Kong breaking a tyrannosaur's neck is beat out by Batman's lurking in the shadows, with, *"Trained and Ready... for Valentine's Day!"* It can't mean anything less than love.

So I invite you all to make valentines this year, bake cookies, or take a pal out to a movie. Do what it takes to show people you adore just how much you care about them. Keep the cycle going for the next February 14th and those after and who knows, maybe this holiday will become something that everyone will share with, well...everyone. •



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