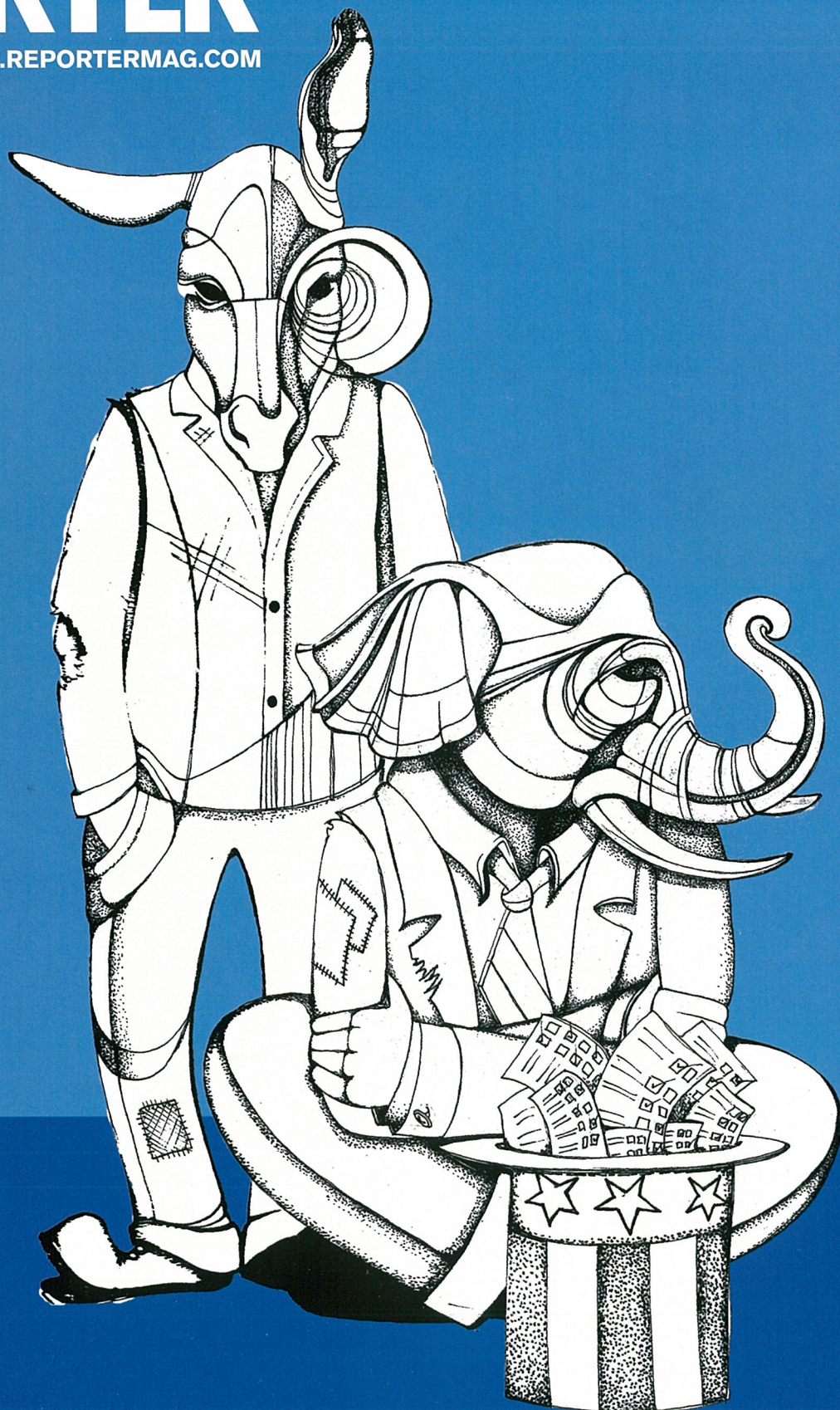


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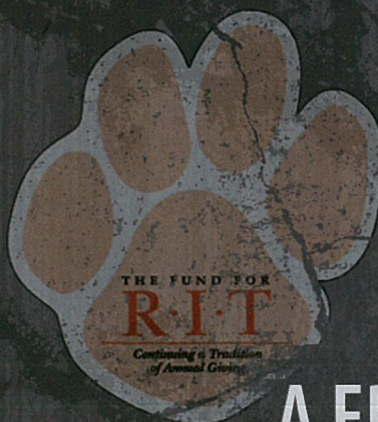
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(by Java Wally's 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.)
- Grace Watson Hall
(Gracie's: 8-10 a.m. & 4-7 p.m.)
- Saunders College of Business (Bldg. 12)
(Lobby 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.)
- Kate Gleason College of Engineering (Bldg. 9)
(Erdle Commons 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.)
- College of Imaging Arts & Sciences (Bldg. 7A)
(in front of Bevier Gallery 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.)
- Golisano College (Bldg. 70)
(Lobby 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.)
- Crossroads
(West side of building)
- College of Science (Bldg. 8)
(James Atrium 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.)
- SAU
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- Student Life Center
(10 a.m. - 2 p.m.)
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Editorial

Votemaster 3000

Politics is my favorite sport.

Students can get pretty heated about politics; I've seen some of them go at it until they turn red, white, and blue in the face. Unfortunately, Americans only seem to light up when you step on their political toes, which are usually rolled up and hiding deep back in the massive shoes they claim to fill. When it comes time to support the "team," though, no one's putting the war paint on.

Why shouldn't there be massive foam fingers and rally chants and cheerleaders at the voting booths? Although I'm not a fan of sports in general, I'm from Buffalo, where people keep sponge bricks painted red to throw at the TV in fits of exasperation over the latest fumble. I know people who watch Sports Center as frequently as they blink and get into fisticuffs over the sports section of the newspaper.

What's the difference between the talking heads of ESPN and the talking heads of C-SPAN? What's the difference between reading the scores of the latest game and the results of a pre-election poll? Do we need to make Senator trading cards and throw in some free bubble gum for the kiddies? Okay, so the trading cards are only a good idea for hilariously disappointing stocking stuffers, but there are even less reasonable things that can be done to spice things up.

First of all, the voting environment needs to be entirely overhauled. Currently, waiting to cast a ballot feels like a sadistic cross between a funeral and the checkout line at Wegmans. I want voting tailgate parties. If the Nintendo Wii can get people waiting in line to preorder it, why can't elections?

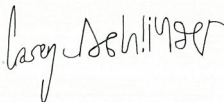
I want hecklers and burning effigies and anthropomorphic donkeys and elephants staging bouts to cheering crowds. I want a guy walking up and down the line selling beer and bags of peanuts. I want announcers like Rick Jeanerette taking over the radio and convulsing with enthusiasm as they read off the latest developments with contrived analogies and corny jokes.

I want a voting booth with a massive novelty slot machine lever that takes hundreds of pounds of pressure to pull. It will be called the *Votemaster 3000* and people will go to the gym and train on replicas to be sure that when the time comes, they'll be able to take advantage of their chance to matter. Friends will go to the polls together and motivate each other and stretch and jump up and down to get their blood pulsing. And, when they grunt and sweat and pull like the little engine that could, if they hesitate or second-guess their ballot for just a moment, it'll be too late to enter their vote.

If they don't know why they're pulling that lever, they won't be able to. They will pull it not with their muscles, but with their passion. With their feelings about oil and domestic policy and alternative energy and welfare and national security.

And if they can't pull it, they'll be humiliated in front of all those people. Cruel, I know, but necessary. Their friends will be understanding and console them with their stories about how four years ago they were torn about the social security issue and they couldn't cast their vote. They'll go home depressed and remain despondent for a couple days, but next year they'll train harder in a *Rocky* montage of internet research and public debate forums.

Then, when their time comes again, they'll show that lever hell and when it falls and registers their beliefs they won't be able to hear its ker-chunk over the cacophony of cheers emanating from the crowd.



Casey Dehlinger
Editor in Chief

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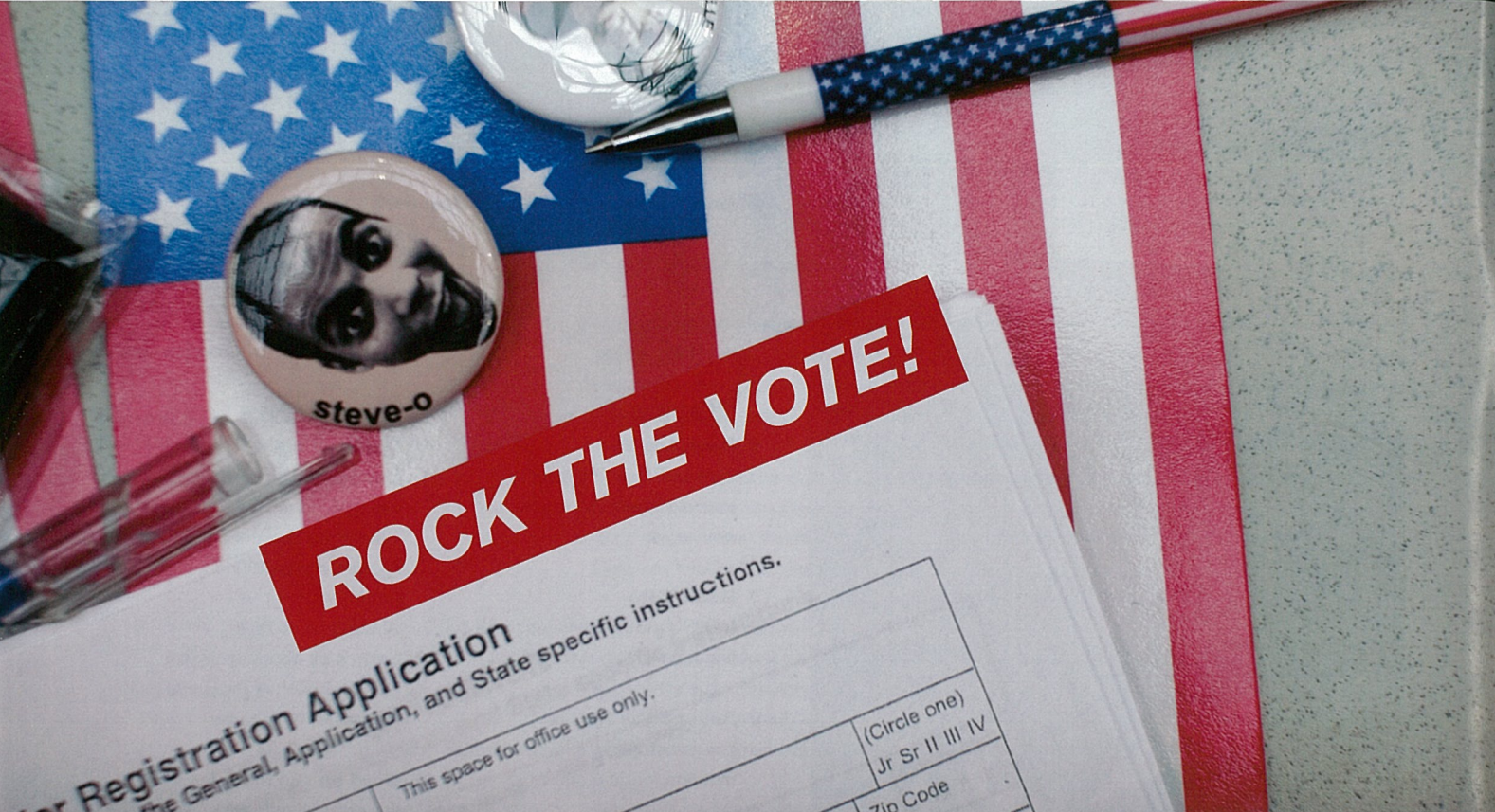
This relationship would be a lot easier if you'd all just stop calling.

31 **The More Things Change...**

Oh, geez. He said Pimp-ministration. Should that really be capitalized? Fine. Whatever. I'm not touching it.

Cover illustration by Erin Wengrovius ◀ Gina Macchiano (foreground) and other students wait outside of Building 7 during a fire drill on Wednesday, October 11. Dave Londres/REPORTER Magazine





Pins featuring characters from Jackass were among the incentives to encourage students to register to vote Wednesday, October 11 in the SAU lobby.

by Sarai Oviedo | photograph by Dave Londres

In a show of hands, how many of you would stampede to the stores for Black Friday? (Okay you can put your hands down). The upcoming elections are being discussed all over the television, radio, newspapers and magazines. Whether people should vote or not is a question for an individual to ponder at his or her own leisure. One fact, however, is evident: many students will not stampede to the voting booths on Election Day!

Various RIT clubs and organizations have worked on informing the RIT community about the upcoming elections and voting. Among them is the RIT Leadership Institute and Community Service Center (RLI & CSC), which hosted the Rock the Vote information table on Wednesday, October 11, in the Student Alumni Union.

Rock the Vote (which has its own Facebook group, of course) is MTV's effort to motivate the youth to vote with the help of celebrities. For the 2004 presidential election, pop culture icons Lindsay Lohan, Good Charlotte, and Paris Hilton spoke to you from your television and urged you to take a stand (these advertisements can be accessed at rockthevote.com).

Phyllis Walker, Coordinator of the RLI & CSC, organized this year's (and many past years') Rock the Vote. Walker actually became involved with Rock the Vote because of her own lack of interest in voting as a youth. Walker mentioned how an older co-worker had lectured her on Susan B. Anthony and women's rights. "You know, when she was through with me," Walker said, regarding her friend, "I really felt like I wasn't exercising my rights." She went on to say that many people in the 18-24 age group don't

care about voting. Walker believes that it is a huge number of people though, commenting, "Your generation can change the country—even the whole world!"

Some political organizations on campus have also made efforts to expose the RIT community to present campaigns. On the first weekend of October, the College Democrats did a dorm storm to generate awareness and encourage students to take a more active role. The club has also been traveling to debates in support of Democratic candidate Eric Massa. Other student groups like the College Republicans, the College Libertarians, RIT Anti War, and, especially, the RIT International Socialist Organization have also voiced their political beliefs and goals through speakers and debates.

Even Facebook has been making attempts to increase political participation among its younger audience (AKA "you"). The online addiction has made Election 2006 "Campaign Issues" a sub component of Groups. Be forewarned not to rely solely on these, as some of the issues might not be *actual* concerns in this year's campaign ("Abolish the Airborne Snake Threat" might be a bit low on the priority list).

Although voter apathy appears to be a problem in our society, there are the few and the proud who are politically proactive. Emily Highes, a first year Business student and Rock the Vote volunteer, said simply, "If you are willing to talk about politics, then you should vote." So surf the net, educate yourself on issues, add campaigns to your Facebook profile, and get out there (or send in your hometown's absentee ballot) to show the elections some love! •



by Ben Foster | photograph by Dave Londres

The idea that the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) would host a website entitled dontvote.com is a little counter-intuitive. The idea that this same website would be a tech-savvy flash movie presentation is a little more difficult to fathom. Couple this website with some rather clever, if somewhat over the top, television commercials and you've got a veritable, anti-voting campaign out there...or at least so it seems on the surface. Like so many things old-people related, this website seems committed to being helpful, friendly, and only slightly slow (at least as far as load times are concerned). Their message is simple (as it's also their slogan): "Don't vote until you know where the candidates stand on the issues."

Registration obviously doesn't guarantee any basic knowledge of politics, candidates, or political parties. The AARP seems to be worried about us young whippersnappers "rocking the vote" with ignorance. At its core, dontvote.com is an informative political website. Once you've gotten past the flash intro telling you that you should care about social security and Medicare reform (hot button issues for your average 20 something on the go), a map of the United States appears. Simply click on the state you are voting in, and the site displays links to every candidate's homepage as well as local and national news coverage of the races.

Frankly, there is a lot of learning to be done for each state. For example, just looking at the senate races in the state of New York; dontvote.com covers all the major candidates, Hillary Rodham Clinton the Democrat and John Spencer the Republican. But this site doesn't stop there. It also hits more obscure candidates such as Jeff Russell the Libertarian, Howie Hawkins

the Green candidate or even Mark Greenstein the...John F. Kennedy Democrat? Some of their pictures may have some pretty bad horizontal and vertical distortion, but the information is well proportioned.

After awhile you are bound to get tired of all this learning. There is some basic fun to have on dontvote.com, but it's nothing that's going to keep you busy for long. You can watch dontvote.com's TV ads, which are kind of funny, or you can play the "Ask the Candidate a Question" game, which is a little collection of videos of a candidate not answering questions. All you do is type in your important political question and "ask the candidate," who will then smile and laugh and say something vaguely related to an answer for a generic question.

Dontvote.com is a simple, clean site that you ought to check out between registering to vote and actually entering the booth. A fifteen-minute read will help you learn who deserves your votes based on actual information rather than something that you maybe heard on the TV one time. •

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compiled by Govind Ramabadrán

Back with another set of odd news from around the world. For those new to this, all of the stories are 100% true, except for one. Can you spot which one is false? Last time, the widow of Steve Irwin did not set up a stingray activist group in response to retaliatory attacks against the species.

Woman Attacks Husband with Baby as Melee Weapon

(AP) A woman in Erie, Pennsylvania claimed she had no idea that she attacked her husband with a baby until it was too late. She said that while drinking, an argument started and she snapped, hurling things at her husband such as their four-week-old son. Though the husband retaliated with a punch, the wife is being held on \$75,000 bond and faces charges of aggravated assault and reckless endangerment.

Spread Harder, Save Your Butter

(Sky News) Ever notice how your toast lands butter side down if you drop it? Well, thanks to the lads at *Mythbusters*, there is now a cure to this ailment. The harder and more vigorous the butter spread is, the less likely it will land on that side. By pressing firmly with the knife, it creates a curved indentation in the bread. Tests carried out by the crew on *Mythbusters* with this method showed a near 60% success rate.

Woman Charged with DUI on Horseback

(AP) A woman from Mountain City, Georgia is facing drunk driving charges for operating a horse while under the influence, steering the horse onto a highway and into a car. While the horse seemed to have been okay, the woman, also cited for entering a traffic lane, remains in fair condition with her injuries at a local hospital.

Man Jailed 17 Hours for 1984 Ticket

(AP) A 60-year-old man was arrested in La Crosse, Wisconsin for a ticket that he received in 1984. The man believes that it was probably sent by the time he moved to Seattle in late 1984. The discovery was made during a routine traffic stop. Police said that it is not uncommon to issue an arrest warrant for someone that has not responded to a traffic citation court summons.

Chimp Teaches Sign at Local Zoo

(Reuters) A chimpanzee has begun teaching his fellow chimps how to sign in ASL after watching a deaf girl communicate with her friend on a field trip at the Philadelphia Zoo. Zoo handlers say that the primate has taught them signs concerning basic conversation but that he hasn't learned the ASL alphabet yet. "His favorite sign is this," said one handler, showing the sign for "platypus."

compiled by Jen Loomis

Friday
20
OCT

Shaun of the Dead

SAU Clark B & C. 6 p.m.–9 p.m. Sponsored by Inklings. Pizza and zombies! (Need I say more?) Free.

Men's Hockey First Home Game

Ritter Arena. 7 p.m. RIT's *real* homecoming. Wear orange and brown or get painted black and blue. Students: \$4. Faculty: \$6. General Public: \$8.

Spectrum Drag Show

Webb Auditorium. 7 p.m.–11 p.m. Be like one of the drag queen's bras: support the GLBT community. Cost? \$3.

Penis Dialogues

Ingle Auditorium. 8 p.m.–10 p.m. Because men should be able to talk about their genitals, too. Cost? \$5.

FNIR Presents: Breakdance Tournament

Ritz Sports Zone. 10 p.m.–1 a.m. Some will serve. Others will get served. All will be "totally fly." Cost? \$1.

Saturday
21
OCT

Kim Murray Karate Demonstration

Clark Gym. 9 a.m.–4:15 p.m. Carl Douglas was right: sometimes, everyone really *is* kung fu fighting. Cost unknown.

CAB's Annual Soap Box Derby

Between Buildings 17 and 70. 12 p.m.–5 p.m. Do yourself a favor and leave the Speed Racer costume at home. Cost to enter: \$10.

Sunday
22
OCT

RIT Beginners Ballroom Invitational 2006

Clark Gym. 1:30 p.m.–6 p.m. Get your Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers on. Cost to enter: \$10 (waived for RIT students).

Monday
23
OCT

National Mole Day

No, not the beauty mark. No, not the rodent. We're talking about good ol' 6.02×10^{23} . (Avogadro's constant, for you art kids out there). Celebrate by making a Mole-bile!

Tuesday
24
OCT

Caroline Werner Gannett Project

Ingle Auditorium. 8 p.m.–10 p.m. Topic: "Why Did Natural Selection Leave Us So Vulnerable To Disease?" Sneezing and coughing loudly throughout the lecture would be in poor taste. Free.

Wednesday
25
OCT

National Self-Promotion Month

This month is National Self-Promotion Month. Help me celebrate by talking about how awesome Jen Loomis is in any and all public forums.

Thursday
26
OCT

A Nexus of Education, Inspiration, Research and Play

Idea Factory. 3 p.m.–5 p.m. Lecture by Andy Phelps, founder of the Masters in Gaming here at RIT. Ergo, you should listen to him talk. Cost? Free.

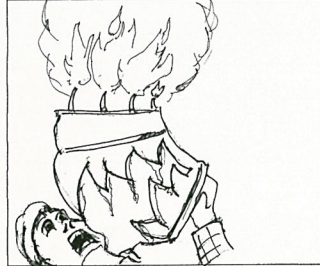
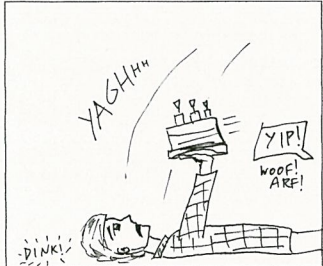
Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra

Ingle Auditorium. 8 p.m.–9:30 p.m. They rock. A whole lot. So, go there and be classy. Er...classical. Students: \$6. Faculty: \$14. Other: \$20.

Thursday Night Cinema Series Presents: Gremlins

Fireside Lounge. 10 p.m.–12 a.m. Furbies. Only scarier. You know, if that's even possible. Free.

24 comic collaboration



by Alex Salsberg

On October 7, RIT cartoonists joined others around the world in celebrating Scott McCloud's 24 Hour Comics Day, where creators are challenged to complete a 24-page comic book in less than a day. While my attention span is barely long enough to cook pasta, I thought I should at least stop by and mingle with some of RIT's other cartooning talent.

I managed to pull some of the busy artists away from their work to briefly take part in this comic collaboration. The rules were simple. I drew the first panel. The next cartoonist would draw the next panel, continuing the story based on mine, and the next one would continue based *only* on the previous panel, and not any panels before it.

The result was interesting, and while it may not make complete sense, it's a great showcase of some of the comics' talent that RIT and the surrounding communities have to offer. •

Credits

Panel 1: Alex Salsberg, Reporter cartoonist, Third Year Animation Major

Panel 2: Dan Valvo, First Year New Media Design and Imaging Major

Panel 3: Alfie Parthum, First Year Computer Science Major

Panel 4: Mike Rooshey, Second Year New Media Design Major

Panel 5: Lindsey Davis, Third Year Graphic Design Major

Panel 6: Benjamin Williams, Local Freelance Cartoonist/Animator

Panel 7: Chester Kwan, Fourth Year New Media Publishing Major

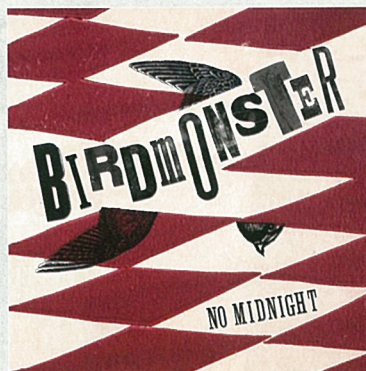
Panel 8: Eric Sawler, Third Year Illustration Major

Panel 9: Kurt Stoskopf, Local Freelance Illustrator and Teacher

Panel 10: Eddie Davis III, Assistant CIAS Industrial Design Professor



Birdmonster No Midnight



Lobby Hero Preview

by Kari Hazzard | photography by Marvin Orellana

Okay, so here's the pitch. We have a pot-smoking security guard, his by-the-books but well-intentioned boss and two cops. That sounds like the typical romantic comedy to me, but is there more? Maybe. *Lobby Hero* is the type of play that is inevitably cliché. Romantic comedies in the theater are a dime a dozen. That said, romantic comedies are nonetheless usually an enjoyable way to spend an evening. If that's what you're looking for, then read on.

The plot catalogues the interactions between four people, all uniformed, divided into two groups, security guards and policemen. Both groups have their own mentor and protégé stereotypes. For the security guards, the protégé Jeff (i.e. the one who smokes pot) is your typical nobody who wants to be somebody. Kicked out of the Navy (you know, because of the weed), he's cut himself off from his father and is in serious debt, but wants to turn his life around. His boss, William, has recently gotten into some trouble with the law. His brother was arrested for murder, and William gave the police a false alibi. If he testifies honestly, his brother will be sent to jail.

The other pair is Dawn, a rookie cop, and Bill, a veteran. The complications of the love plot now rear their ugly heads. Jeff likes Dawn, Dawn likes Bill. Bill is married, but wants to start up an affair with Dawn. The entire play focuses on the moral dilemmas involving the romance subplots and the issue of William's brother.

Lobby Hero was written by Kenneth Lonergan, also known for his screenplays and direction of *You Can Count on Me* and his writing for *Gangs of New York*. You probably haven't heard of him, but he does have a bit of a track record behind him, so don't doubt the show just because the writer isn't named Sondheim or Webber.

Bottom-line: See it. *Lobby Hero* runs in the Lab Theatre of the LBJ building at 7:30 p.m. October 19-21 with a matinee performance on October 22 at 2 p.m. Performed simultaneously in ASL and spoken English, it is equally accessible to all. Besides, it has a pot-smoking security guard. It must, therefore, be cool. Or at the very least funny enough to keep you awake. •

Kavla Marrero plays the role of Dawn in the NTID Performing Arts production of *Lobby Hero* showing October 19 through October 22.

by K. Nicole Murtagh

This article is only the second installment in my column here and I'm already being scolded for my "insulting attitude." Ouch. I don't want you guy's thinking I'm some highly angsty person, so I'm going to do something a little different this time, capiche?

On the menu this week is *No Midnight* by Birdmonster. I must first give them props for having a booklet style CD case. If anything is hotter than Heath Ledger from *A Knight's Tale*, it would be a booklet style CD case.

Now, if I had to compare these guys to anyone I would say they sounded like... every other bloody "alternative band." Alright, I've got something to say, so listen up. I hate alternative wannabes. See, there's this group of "bands" out there that don't want to be in the normal pop/punk category; oh no, that wouldn't be cool enough. This stated group has decided that in order to be 'cool enough,' they needed to claim they play alternative music (a.k.a. indie music; whatever floats your boat). This is done so that yet another group of "I want to be different" kids get to think they're actually different from everyone else.

All is well? Ahhh, no. There's one little-itty-bitty problem with this. What they're playing is *not* alternative music! I like alternative music. I don't like this over-hyper, bouncy-sounding, fast-talking babble. News flash, Birdmonster: Sounds like you're just another one of them. Yep. You fell into the same exact trap.

Now I knew I said this review was going to be different, but I feel that I wouldn't be fair if I didn't tell it how it really was. Plus, this is more fun, right? •



Costume CRAZY: Halloween Ideas for Those That Have None

by Elsie Samson | photography by Ralph Smith

Halloween is only a zombie's throw away and you don't have a costume, do you? You can't fool *Reporter*, buddy. You're actually thinking of throwing on that same lame Quail Man costume you made last year. This one-of-a-kind weekly color college publication feels sorry for you.

Well, fear not! *Reporter* has the answers to all of your Halloween-attire woes. So, lose the green vest and get ready and suit up in one of these avant-garde disguises:

Florida

Sport a Hawaiian shirt, shades, and a senior citizen's cane as baby alligators dangle from your neck. Talk about how you were once da bomb but global warming got you in the balls (now all the hotties flock to NC, sorry Holmes). But hey!—you've still got the Mouse. Wear your ears loud and proud, pour everyone a round of Hurricanes, and spice the party up like the phallic little peninsula that you are, baby!

Pi[e]

Be two costumes in one! As Archimedes' constant and a classic American staple (made famous by Jason Briggs), you can swoon math geeks and perverts alike! Cover yourself in circles, choose your flavor (I recommend apple or pumpkin), douse yourself in cinnamon, speak Greek, and top it off with a pie tin hat (maybe you can start a fad). Act as irrational as you want and if anyone tries to cut you off, just remember: you're too transcendental to ever be fully understood.

An M. Night Shyamalan Film

Wear lots of red (after all, it is "the bad color"). Breathe heavy, make strange noises, carry bits of tree, and sneak up on people to keep the suspense coming all night! Discuss your fascination with Joaquin Phoenix (as long as you have low conflict avoidance). Claim to see dead people, claim that aliens want to harvest our planet, claim that werewolves exist, claim whatever the hell you want—you're a source of comic relief! Keep it unreal.

Plutonium

Dress in decay. Exactly how do you do that? I don't know, but that's the wonderful thing about decay! It's just regular stuff, only it's, er...decayed. Tell people how one of your isotope's half-life is older than their great, great, great, great, great (more than a thousand greats!) grandma. Radiate your energy, give people headaches (bonus points if you give them cancer!), and spread your heat to see who explodes first (you tease!).

Facebook

Start the night off in pure white cottons with a touch of that all-too-recognizable indigo blue. Get a wall going on your back and see who writes first. Bring Polaroids, catch someone off guard, [click!], and tell everyone about the photo that you just posted [taped to yourself]. Add new features without notice throughout the night and let the chaos ensue. As people debate intensely over your feed, they'll flock to interact with you every hour, for you provide a love/hate relationship that just keeps 'em coming. •



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Zucchini
Mushrooms
Mozz. Sticks
Pizza fingers
Potato skins
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Jalapeno Poppers

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LIMIT 3, ONE ORDER
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STREAM OF FACTS

OCTOBER 20

October 20, 1670 – In order to promote early marriages in New France, Intendant Jean **Talon** offered a “present from the king” of 20 livres on the day of the wedding to all women married by age 16 and men by age 20.

TALON is the acronym for Threat and Local Observation Notice, a database containing raw, non-validated reports of anomalous activities within the U.S. Information is managed by the Counter Intelligence Field Activity, an agency focusing primarily on **counterterrorism**.

When a **counterterrorism** mission concerning warlord **Mohamed** Farrah Aidid was unexpectedly interrupted by several rocket propelled grenades, the resulting skirmish led to over 1000 deaths in one day, commonly known as the Black Hawk Down incident.

For their efforts towards peaceful use of nuclear energy, **Mohamed** ElBaradei and the IAEA were joint recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005. ElBaradei donated all his winnings to building **orphanages** in his home city of Cairo.

Combining ancient Roman legal institutions with Christian concepts of charity, the first **orphanages** were founded during the **Byzantine** Empire.

Having ended the “Crisis of the Third Century,” **Byzantine** Emporer Diocletian went into retirement at the age of 59 to become a full-time **cabbage** farmer.

Cabbage juice is an acid/base indicator. When added to an acid, the result is a **red** liquid. In a base, it turns blue.

October 20, 1997 – After a limo crash left two members of the Detroit **Red** Wings with severe brain damage, Richard Gnida pled guilty to driving with a suspended license. Your car insurance probably doesn't seem so bad compared to what his rates must be, now does it?

QUOTE

Success is going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm.

Winston Churchill

HAIKU

by Brian Garrison
too much time sleeping
and none left for haikuing
makes Bri a dull boy

REPORTER

RECOMMENDS

“Variations on the Death of Trotsky,” by David Ives. As you may or may not recall, Russian revolutionary Leon Trotsky was in Mexico when he met his demise: a sharp blow to the head, object unknown. He supposedly lived another 30 hours before dying. This short play is set the morning after, as Trotsky’s wife reads him the encyclopedia entry on his own assassination, simultaneously realizing that he has a mountain climber’s ax (or is it an ice pick?) smashed into his skull. Brilliant.

CARTOON | by Alex Salsberg

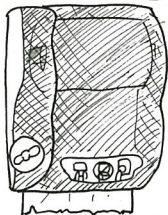
Great Moments in RIT History:



1829: RIT IS
FOUNDED



1968: RIT OPENS
HENRIETTA CAMPUS



2006: RIT GETS NEW
PAPER TOWEL DISPENSERS

SUDOKU

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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!

JUMBLE

Political Affiliations

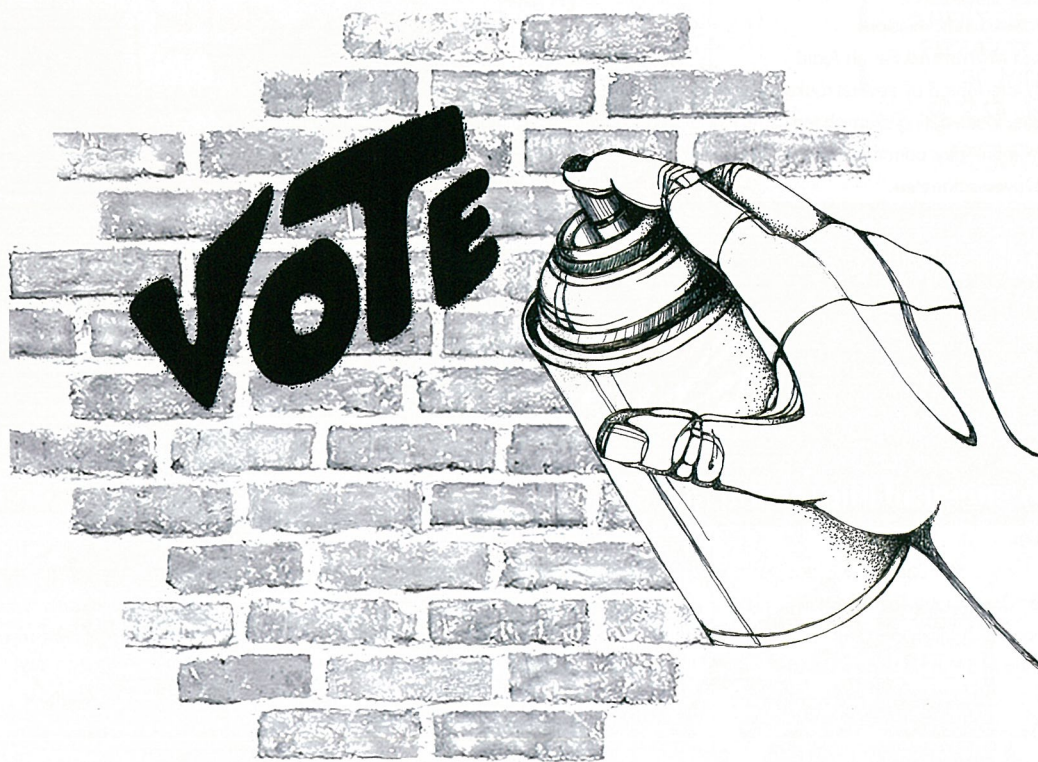
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constitution, pirate, democrat, american nazi
populist, labor, libertarian, federalist, socialist action,
independent, republican, marijuana reform, green, whig,

DECISION 2006!

A Compendium of the Midterm Election

Illustration by Erin Wengrovius



by Joseph Grasso

Sex, Money, and Power: the sine qua non of modern politics.

Did I get your attention? Good.

Its mid-term election time, children, and everywhere politicians are emerging to manipulate, cajole, and mobilize. Surrounded by swarming pollsters, strategists, and speechwriters, they are a whirlwind of promises and sophistry, seeking to transport us all to Oz just long enough for our participation in the democratic process to get them elected. Wait, what happened to Sex, Money, and Power, you say? Rest assured that in one form or another, behind euphemisms and buzzwords, money will be apportioned, sex (both the action and its consequence) will be argued over, and power will indeed be lusted after, pursued, and eventually grasped by the most capable and deserving...or the most devious.

In less than a month, on November 7 Americans will go to the polls and determine the balance of power in Congress. According to data collected by the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, 20.9 million young adults voted in the 2004 presidential election, accounting for almost 50% of those eligible. That number represents a surge in youth participation unrivaled in nearly a decade. With a war raging in Iraq, a failing social security system, and an energy policy apparently written by Mr. Burns, can we really afford to stay silent? Or, given the ostensible fait accompli of a two party system, are we, in the words of RIT senior R.J. Bean, "disingenuous in participating in a system we no longer have faith in, yet bound to participate...Conscientious abstention is a vote, but it is a vote undifferentiated from simple non-participation. A vote uncounted and unheard."

At stake this November are 33 Senate seats, 36 governor's mansions, and all 435 seats in the House of Representatives. Not all of these races are, as they say in the Kazakhstan, "competitive." Most of these seats are not expected to shift party allegiance; these are classified as "safe." Where things get interesting is in states and districts with an open ticket: the incumbent has retired or otherwise decided not to run for reelection. The most competitive campaign areas, where voter preference is unclear, are called "battleground" or "swing states." Reminiscent of the 2004 presidential election, the focus of the media, intense advertisements, and DNC (Democratic National Committee) and GOP (Grand Old Party) campaigning is in the swing states and swing districts. It is here, amongst the undecided, the battle for control of the United States Government will be waged.

A General Primer

God bless America. Not only do we have the right to vote, we get to do it constantly. With national elections every even-numbered year and local elections on the odds, you'd imagine that we would have voting down to a science, or at least participate with glee as we strive continually to solve this Rubik's cube of leadership. Instead, only about half of those eligible to vote actually participate, and they tend to do so with the enthusiasm of an exasperated Soccer Mom: swimming, soccer, oboe, and last but not least, suffrage!

Republicans have controlled both houses of Congress since 2003. To win the Senate, Democrats need to pick up six seats. In the House, they must annex 16. If they manage that, the Republican stronghold over Congress will topple. Given a concatenation of events that have brought the focus back to corrupt Republican officials and the slowly oozing wound that is the war in Iraq, many pundits and pollsters are predicting the Democrats will indeed gain seats, but there is no certainty as to their reclamation of majority status.

The National Climate

Rising national concern over the Bush Administration's management of the Iraq War and low presidential approval ratings has, according to polls conducted by Rasmussen Reports, led to 5% more Americans identifying with the Democratic Party today than they did in 2004. Also notable was the fact that nearly 30% of individuals polled in 2006 identify themselves as Independent, as opposed to only 24.8% two years ago.

The recent *National Intelligence Estimate*, which reported the war in Iraq has, in fact, been a detriment to the war on terrorism, was a direct refutation of Bush Administration's claims. Bob Woodward, acclaimed reporter from the *Washington Post*, and Colin Powell, the well-spoken former Secretary of State, have both written books that criticize the President and the Administration. When the public looks away from the tragedy of September 11 and the ongoing fear of terrorist attacks, they see Iraq. And when they see Iraq, more and more Americans stare into an unfathomable quagmire.

Historically, there is evidence that large-scale turnover of Congress can happen. In 1994, the Republicans gained 52 seats that ushered in Speaker Newt Gingrich and his *Contract with America*. To lesser degrees, the Democrats swept every close race in the 2000 election, and Republicans evened the score in 2002. John Eddy, a strategist for the State of New York Democratic Party said, "If we manage to win the majority we can't go crazy and institute universal health care, a new social security system, and withdraw our troops from Iraq. Power must be exercised cautiously."

The House

Given that even a cursory analysis of 435 seats would exceed the scope and purpose of this article, we shall instead focus on the balance of power. Currently, Republicans warm 230 seats; Democrats warm 201; and there is one Independent Congressman, who is always picked last for Ultimate Frisbee. Republicans have enjoyed this majority in the House of Representatives since 1994. Of all the House races, most pollsters and political aficionados consider roughly 40 to be the races to watch. The recent revelation of Representative Mark Foley's prurient interest in Congressional pages, with implications that National Republican Convention Committee Chairman Tom Reynolds and House Speaker Denis Hastert knew about Foley's illicit messages have tarnished the Republican Party.

How does this weigh on individual representatives? Simply stated, if the Democrats can nationalize this election, effectively tying their Republican opponents to America's deepening disapproval of the war in Iraq, errors made by the President, and recent scandal, they have a much better chance of winning. Republicans, conversely, are striving to focus on local issues or the current decline in gas prices.

The Democrats are predicted to gain seats in the upcoming election, but will they gain the 16 seats needed to win the majority? According to Larry Sabato, professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for Politics at Virginia University, "Is it remotely possible that there could exist a "House of Blues" after the 2006 midterm? The *Crystal Ball* says...YES."

The Senate

The composition of our illustrious upper chamber is as follows: 55 Republicans, 44 Democrats, and one Independent, who is invariably not allowed to play in any of the reindeer games. Our poor Rudolphian Independent, one ship-jumping Jim Jeffords, is retiring this year. Prior to his independent status, Jeffords was a RINO (Republican in Name Only). It is expected that Bernie Sanders, a former Independent Representative in the House, will win this seat. Overall, the Democrats need six seats to gain a 51-seat majority; even one less vote would have Vice President Cheney as the Republican tiebreaker.

Rasmussen Reports, one of the nation's most respected polling organizations (they predicted the total vote count of Bush and Kerry to within half a percentage point of the actual count) considers the battle for majority in the Senate much more difficult to determine. They write, "The battle for control of the U.S. Senate is coming down to the wire and it's all tied. Rasmussen Reports currently rates 49 Senate seats as Republican or Leans Republican and 49 seats as Democrat or Leans Democrat. Only two states remain in the Toss-Up category: New Jersey and Missouri."

In contrast to Rasmusen's focus on New Jersey and Missouri, RIT Political Science professor Dr. James S. Fleming pointed my attention to the race in Tennessee. Senator Bill Frist, current Republican Majority Leader, has decided to retire when his term ends in January 2007. Running for the seat are Democrat Harold Ford Jr., a Congressman from Tennessee's ninth district, and former Chattanooga Mayor Republican Bob Corker. The race is quite close, and while the election was initially thought to be an easy win for the Republicans, Ford has run an excellent campaign. The latest poll from Rasmussen has Ford ahead by only 5%, while in a poll taken on October 12 by SurveyUSA says Corker had a 2% lead.

If Ford is victorious, "he would be the first black Senator from Tennessee since reconstruction...which could further encourage Barak Obama to seek the Presidency," Fleming said. In the great state of New York, our junior Senator Hillary Clinton is expected to win reelection in a landslide, according to Sabato's *Crystal Ball*, Electoral-vote.com, and the simple observation that most New Yorkers cannot name the GOP candidate running against her. (John Spencer, for those of you who care).

Hailstorms and the Chief

Rest assured (or jitter anxiously after your fourth Red Bull Espresso), that President Bush and his Administration are immensely concerned with the results of the mid-term elections. Presidential enumerated powers in the Constitution are few and with a boisterous and irascible Congress looming over 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, the job becomes much tougher. Ask Bill Clinton. Of course, this view assumes that the Democrats of today are boisterous and feisty enough to fight the White House, an assertion sure to cause many to snicker.

Even if Republicans maintain the majority in both chambers of Congress, President Bush has Iraq to deal with, Iran to negotiate with, and now, it seems, a nuclear North Korea. As if this weren't enough, efficacy, according to Professor Fleming, is also a factor. "The second-term Presidency is always weaker than first terms, and presidents seem to lose their steam." This may have already begun as Bush's immigration and Social Security reforms have stalled or failed outright, and there is little evidence that Bush will amend the plans and propose them anew.

The Youth Vote

There are approximately 41.0 million people ages 18-29 eligible to vote in the upcoming election. In the 2002 mid-term elections, only 8.9 million youths voted: a paltry 22% of those who were eligible and 47% of those who registered. Yet over half of youth, 20.9 million people, cast a ballot in the Presidential election in 2004. One could peg the spike in voter turnout to Diddy's Vote or Die campaign, and the countless grassroots organizations that attempt to reach college students and their non-college-bound peers. Given that the large-scale media thrust to motivate youth to vote in midterm elections is non-existent, there may be a significantly smaller turnout among college-aged individuals. Even so, judging by all the emails Barak Obama, Charles Wrangle, and Hillary Clinton are sending this author, politicians are still courting the youth vote.

RIT Votes?

What of political participation at RIT? A poll taken by *Reporter* of 40 random RIT students at Java Wally's found: 29 students registered to vote, two unsure if they were registered, and eight who were not registered. Of those 29 registered voters, 15 planned to vote with absentee ballots—eight of which had already done so—and three said they were unsure how to obtain an absentee ballot. Seven of the remaining 14 registered students said they were not going to vote. That leaves us with 22 out of 40 students planning to vote in the midterm elections—a respectable total by any account.

Many students, whether voting or not, expressed sorrowfully that had not done any research necessary to find out what their representatives had done. *Reporter* asked the 13 students from New York if they could name one tangible thing that Hillary Clinton did or did not do during her tenure as Senator. Not one of them could name any legislation or program she initiated, and only one student, Michelle Christiance, could even find an answer. "Hillary showed up in my town after we had terrible flooding. Her presence touched my family and the community."

As the Presidency has greedily soaked up the ever-gushing media grape juice like some Brawny towel from hell, Congressional affairs have slunk into a seldom-used crevice in the oversized beanbag of American political consciousness. Is it possible that skullduggery is afoot? We don't know. And we don't know because most of us tend to nod off when confronted by an abundance of pie charts and flee from the room if someone dares to put on C-SPAN. Dare we concur with Alexis De Tocqueville that we shall have the government we deserve? Alas it takes the media frenzy and pageantry of the Presidency to incite the nation to vote, and the further from the garland and shining marquis of the Executive we go, the less and less Americans pay attention. If we neglect to vote out of laziness or participate only along party lines, we callously reject our civic responsibility. As Thomas Jefferson said, "If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be"•

Simply stated, if the Democrats can nationalize this election, effectively tying their Republican opponents to America's deepening disapproval of the war in Iraq, errors made by the President, and recent scandal, they have a much better chance of winning.

FIGHTING THE RIGHT:

Socialism at RIT



Ream Kidane (right, of the Rochester International Socialist Organization) and Cornelius Wilkins of Rochester brave the rain to talk politics at the Public Market on Saturday morning, October 14.

by Veena Chatti and Jean-Jacques DeLisle | photography by Matt Bagwell

Who is a socialist? What is a socialist? For some, “socialism” means equal distribution of resources, truly equal representation in governmental policy, and rewards for honest labor. There are many opinions as to what socialism actually is, and it’s so bogged down by ideals and personal opinions that it’s hard to sift through the muddle to find the basic idea. *Reporter* sat down with Kenneth Love, President of the International Socialist Organization (ISO) at RIT, and Nick Vuono, long-time member, to find out more about the ideas of student socialists at RIT.

The Origins

Socialism began with social unrest during the Industrial Revolution when workers were exploited. Conditions for laborers were horrendous, often causing injury or death. Many thinkers of the time looked out their windows

at the smog and filth of the urban factories and felt the need to liberate these laborers from their lives of squalor. This environment inspired ideals of social and economic equality, and Socialism became a popular revolutionary theory that would empower the proletariat.

The average RIT student would be utterly confused if someone just approached them with terms like Leninism, Marxism, Maoism, Social anarchism, Communism, Libertarian Socialism, and Eco-Socialism. This is precisely what the ISO aims to change. Founded in 1977 by activists for civil rights, this organization is particularly relevant to students in universities because it focuses on generating awareness of socialism on college campuses and amongst student bodies. This concerns RIT students because the ISO at Rochester is one of the three branches in New York State and a very significant part of the national socialist movement.

The Interview

Reporter Magazine: What has socialism offered to you that democracy and other political or economic systems have failed to offer?

Kenneth Love: As an alternative to capitalism, socialism offers a way of organizing production and all different aspects of life democratically. It offers a wide array of things that capitalism doesn't, since it's organized around making profit for only a few. Socialism reverses that and puts the working class into power. Most citizens support current forms of democracy, but when asked, they say what they are getting isn't what they want from a social and economic system. They have no say in the process even though they contribute to it. Socialism offers a full voice for all people.

RM: How many socialists are in our community and what activities do they participate in?

KL: We are the largest revolutionary socialist organization in the country because of the political period. Our branch is based in Rochester and we have upwards of 20 members, we now have people trickling in small groups.

"All I know is, I am not a Marxist."

Karl Marx

RM: How does your organization manage the vast array of opinions and ideals associated with socialism amongst members?

Nick Vuono: Our basic notion of socialism is that it will be a democracy. We will not have the say of what the workers should do. As long as the system is democratic, I believe it will all work out in the end.

KL: We come from a very Marxist tradition. We even published a book called *The Real Marxist Tradition*. Our critique and understanding is through a Marxist understanding of society. It's a scientific study of society and economy. We aren't Utopian Socialists but Scientific Socialists. We go out and engage people with questions and find out levels of public knowledge and awareness. It's a way of applying science to improve society and the world. We stand with revolutionaries who are actually pushing to change society, whereas Utopian Socialists are created by history—they just want to revolt and put a band-aid on society.

RM: Many young voters have become disillusioned and apathetic when it comes to elections and politics in general. (In 2000, only 36% of eligible voters ages 18-24 actually voted. In 2004 that number rose to 47%). What would you recommend to these voters?

KL: The main thing that socialism can offer to people is that participation in our system makes a difference. People's voices aren't heard because they have a razor-thin line of views and options from which they have to choose.

NV: Socialism offers people an alternative to what we have now; it gives people a way to actually participate in society and contribute to change in popular mass movements. It's what was seen in history—that movements

of mass people where the only way capitalism was reformed. It was to appease the masses so that the ruling class wouldn't be overthrown. That is why Roosevelt said, "I am the best friend of capitalism," because he prevented capitalism from being overthrown while reforming it to appease the people.

"A lie told often enough becomes truth."

Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov Lenin

RM: What is your response to the stereotyping of socialism?

NV: Our objective is not to start a revolution. The system is too large for any small group to overthrow. If there wasn't an organization that existed, then you couldn't do the historical research to draw a lot of these ideas to inspire the people.

KL: The media in our country is just a mouthpiece for the establishment. They don't really care what the people are saying. What we are doing is a rebuilding of the Left because the organized Right is getting more of a voice, and you have people like George [W.] Bush who are putting wind behind their sails. There is a growth in the Right in this country now, and they have a very xenophobic stance. It's just like Nick said; we don't intend to start a revolution, it's to inspire the workers to organize and get a foundation prepared for a time when the working class does revolt.

"Go on, get out. Last words are for fools who haven't said enough."

Karl Marx

RM: Is there anything you would like to add?

KL: We want to shift the debate on campus to the Left and offer an alternative to students. We want to find students who want to stand up to what our country is doing. We want people who want to fight our country's imperialism, racism, sexism, and other biases, and also people who want to change our society for the better.

NV: I think our task is to build the Left and fight the Right. If you are willing to fight racism and imperialism, we are willing to cooperate with you. Even if people aren't 'socialists,' we want to work with people willing to fight these things.

Both: We challenge people in Rochester, anywhere, anytime to confront us and debate with us on these views. We really want to project that kind of idea out there because the Right is on the attack in this country and people are being deported, violated, and hurt. We want to change the political landscape in RIT to a more open, active, and supportive community •



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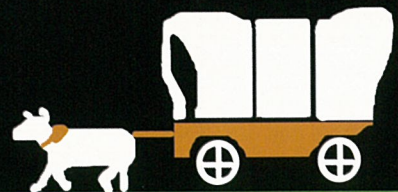
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WORD ON THE STREET

COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY BELVEDUDE

Q: What food are you bringing with you when we all migrate to the moon?



"Ramen noodles."

Matt Leffer

Second year
Illustration



"Pocky."

Alex Johnson

First year
Engineering Exploration



"It's in my hands: coffee."

Stevie Hegge

Second year
International Business



"My mom's pot o' sauce."

Zack Dell

First year
Physics



"My mom's zucchini bread;
It's the best."

Megan Clegg

First year
Graphic Design



"Any fruit but bananas; they're gross."

Corinne Griffiths

Fifth year
Communications



"Bananas."

Leslie Blackston

Second year
Civil Engineering Technology



"Mexican food."

Alvaro Prieto

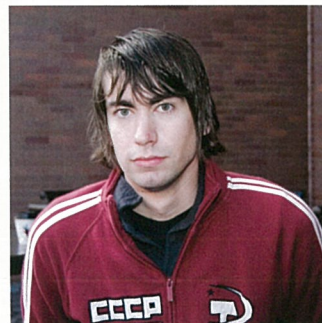
First year
Electrical Engineering



"Taco bell. It's terrible for you, but I
can't live without it."

Renee Clements

Fourth year
New Media Design



"Mars bars."

Noah Stupak

Graduate Student
Applied Experimental Engineering
Psychology



"Chicken fettuccini alfredo,
because it's my favorite."

Christopher Phillips

Second year
Microelectric Engineering



"Candy, chocolate, sweet tarts,
and sour patch kids. They're
pretty sour."

Nick Leathe

First year
Mechanical Aerospace Engineering

REPORTER

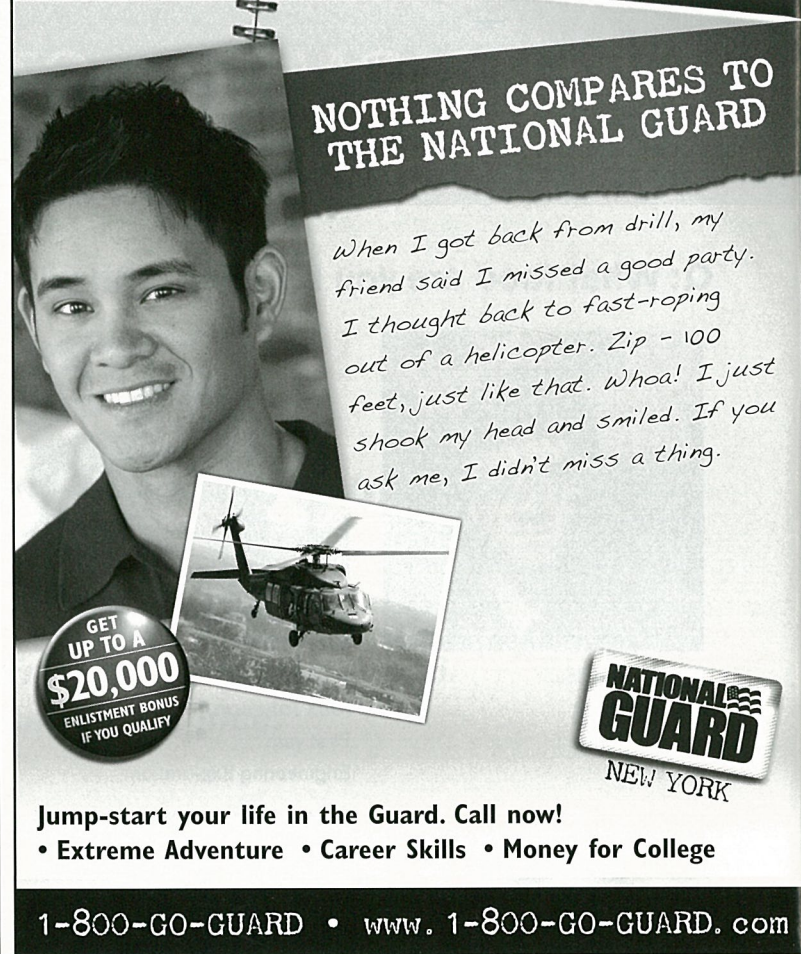
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W**H**y wa**I**t? W**R**it**I**ng warra**N**ts wa**G**es.

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Medium Large

Deep Dish Extra. Expires 12/31/06.



SPORTSdesk

by Joshua Van Hook | photography by Matt Bagwell

CREW

10.08.06 Head of the Genesee Regatta

Neither the men nor women of RIT took a trophy home at the Head of the Genesee.

MEN'S SOCCER

10.07.06 vs. Ithaca 2-0 (W)

Keeper Alan Smith had four saves. RIT's goals were scored by Levi Stuck at 49:44 on an assist from D.J. Rowse and Mark Friscano at 81:17 on an assist from Chuck Marion.

10.10.06 vs. SUNY Potsdam 7-0 (W)

RIT netted five goals in the first half as they dominated SUNY Potsdam at home. Geoff Schmidt led the domination with two goals while Mark Friscano, Chuck Marion, Franz Orban, Greg Morton, and Jason Haddad contributed a goal each.

Record through 10.13.06 5-6-1 (3-0-0 in conference play)

WOMEN'S SOCCER

10.07.06 vs. Ithaca 0-3 (L)

The Tigers only managed four shots during play. Keeper Ashley Conti had four saves.

10.10.06 vs. William Smith 0-3 (L)

Lynette Serbinski started her first collegiate game, making two saves in 45 minutes of play.

Record through 10.13.06 4-6-3 (3-1-1 in conference play)

WOMEN'S TENNIS

10.07.06 and **10.08.06** Empire 8 Championships

RIT beat Hartwick in the opening round 7-2 of the Empire 8 Championship Tournament. Later, they lost to Ithaca 3-6. The next day, the Tigers beat St. John Fisher 5-4, taking home third place.

Record through 10.13.06 9-4 (3-1 in conference play)

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

10.06.06 and **10.07.06** NYU Invitational

The Tigers ended two days of play with two wins and two losses. They lost their initial game to Eastern. The Tigers rallied and defeated CCNY and St. John Fisher before they ultimately lost to NYU.

10.11.06 vs. Nazareth 3-1 (W)

Cecilia Enestrom had 12 kills and 16 digs while Nichole Boxler tallied 40 assists and three assisted blocks.

Record through 10.13.06 18-9 (3-0 in conference play)

▲ Members of the SUNY Genesee team warm up during the Men's Pre-Season Volleyball Tournament. The event was organized by Dan Grady of the RIT volleyball club, and hosted in the Clark Gym on Saturday, October 14.



NOT YOUR TYPICAL “CREW”

by Michael Johnston | photography by Dave Londres

Early morning practices, cold mist off the river, and temperatures not much higher than freezing. It must be paradise. Well maybe not for most of us, but for a select few, that is exactly what they choose to wake up to every morning at practice. Practice makes perfect, and that is exactly what RIT's crew teams set out to be this past Saturday at the 18th Annual Head of the Genesee Invitational Regatta.

The Regatta features eight different classes for the participants to enter. There are both light weight and heavy weight divisions in both the men's and women's competitions. There are two types of races, the fours with a coxswain and the eights races. There are four and eight persons respectively in the shells. The shell is the term used for the boats they use during competitions.

RIT only entered one of the races in which they placed sixth in the College Men's eights. U of R placed fourth in that event. The Tigers scratched in a few other events. In the Women's open fours, Syracuse B took first and their A team took second. Brockport's A team took second in the Men's four. In the Women's eights Brockport took first in the college race and U of R took fifth. In the high school events, Canisius took first for the boys followed by Fairport, McQuaid, Brighton, and Pittsford. In the girls race West Side's B team took first followed by Pittsford's A team.

In years past the Regatta included a free lunch provided by the sponsors of the event. This year they decided to charge people ahead of time if they wanted to eat the food provided by the SAU catering team. The reason for the charge this year is because of a sponsor conflict. The former sponsor backed out and they were not able to find another full sponsor for the event. They were charging this year to help offset the money needed for the food to make up for the loss created by the dropped sponsor.

Student Government showed up at the event as well. They set up a table with dozens of boxes of free donuts for the spectators to enjoy. They have been giving out free food before and during sporting events all throughout the fall. The free bbq at the volleyball game on October 11 was the last free food event they will be having this fall. I would look forward to more free food once the winter sports start playing their home games.

The day was one to remember. There were exciting races, good food, the great sights of fall, and cute little dogs running around everywhere. Genesee Park offered a great day of fun at little to no cost for the observers. The feel was almost like that of a carnival or county fair. Lots of people, tents set up all over, and lots of fried food stands. This is definitely the place to be for next year's event. •



► RIT's Varsity Men's Eight finish their sprint during the Head of the Genesee Regatta on Sunday, October 8. ▲ Andre Jarreau (left), Jeremy Schiele (center), and Jason Gallant (right) of the RIT men's varsity crew team rest on the team's trailer during the Head of the Genesee Regatta on Sunday, October 8.

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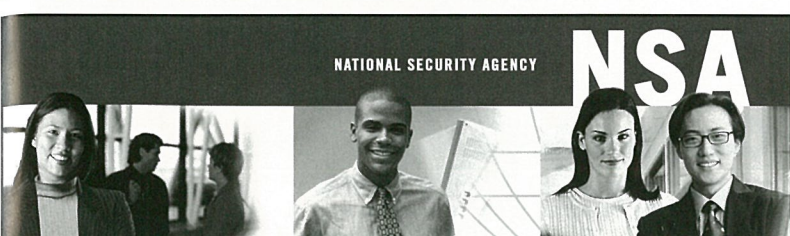


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Dear *Reporter*, my roommate is taking over our room with his excessive number of Gracie's take-out boxes, the pile is growing and the mess is spreading, *what should I do?*

Reporter:

The trays aren't the problem, the problem is in the bathroom! Call Facilities Management immediately!

(Crisis Averted!)

Leave a Message at the Tone...*BEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEP!*

RITRINGS

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RIT RINGS

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compiled by Ryan Metzler

All calls subject to editing and truncation. Not all calls will be run. Sorry about our puzzle malfunction. Reporter reserves the right to publish all calls in any format.

Wednesday 8:12 pm

Hey *Reporter*, so what's with RIT's campus video network playing Shakespeare for the last five weeks? Um...I'd kind of like to watch something else. Someone should fix that, so...Anyways, bye!

Friday 2:41 pm

Hey you're just a doo-doo puddle. This week's magazine I mean. It just sucks. You just screwed up.

Friday 5:22 pm

Hello, this is [name omitted]. I just wanted to let you know that bananas are sick nasty, bud light is the best drink in the world, and Smirnoff Raw Tea is pretty good, too.

Friday 6:02 pm

Hey *Reporter*, what the hell is up with the Sudoku puzzle? I get off from work and I see your magazine at building 7 and I say "Hey, I can probably read that and follow with that." Then I saw the puzzle this week and I couldn't solve it! Please *Reporter*, I expect more from you. Give me a puzzle I can solve.

Friday 11:19 pm

Dude, okay, people who smoke in the lobby of my apartment building need to die a slow and painful death.

Friday 11:27 pm

Hey, our cat [excremented] everywhere and there's a twelve-foot carp in our backyard. Please send help!

Saturday 12:59 am

RIT, I love you. I want to have sex with you in the Sentinel right now. I want to talk to you at the Sentinel right now. I love you!

Saturday 1:19 am

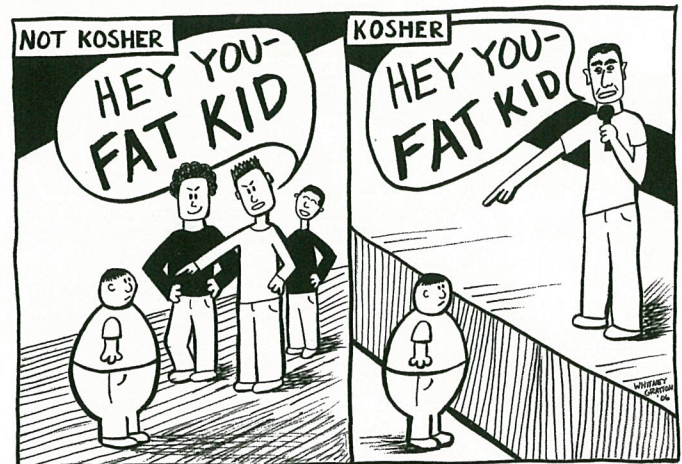
Hey *Reporter*, I tried to save you some trouble by saying excrement instead of [excrement] and fornication instead of [fornication]. But now I just don't know what the [intimately loved feces] to say. Please tell me!

Saturday 1:35 am

I reiterate. Throw poop at Erin Brochovich.

Cartoons by RIT Illustration Students

illustration by Whitney Gratton



Saturday 10:45 pm

Hey, RIT Rings, we're at the Sentinel: the big, solid, metal object in the center of campus. Someone's taken a bunch of magnets, LEDs, and batteries and threw them up on it. You know what, it's a hell of a lot prettier than before!

Saturday 11:28 pm

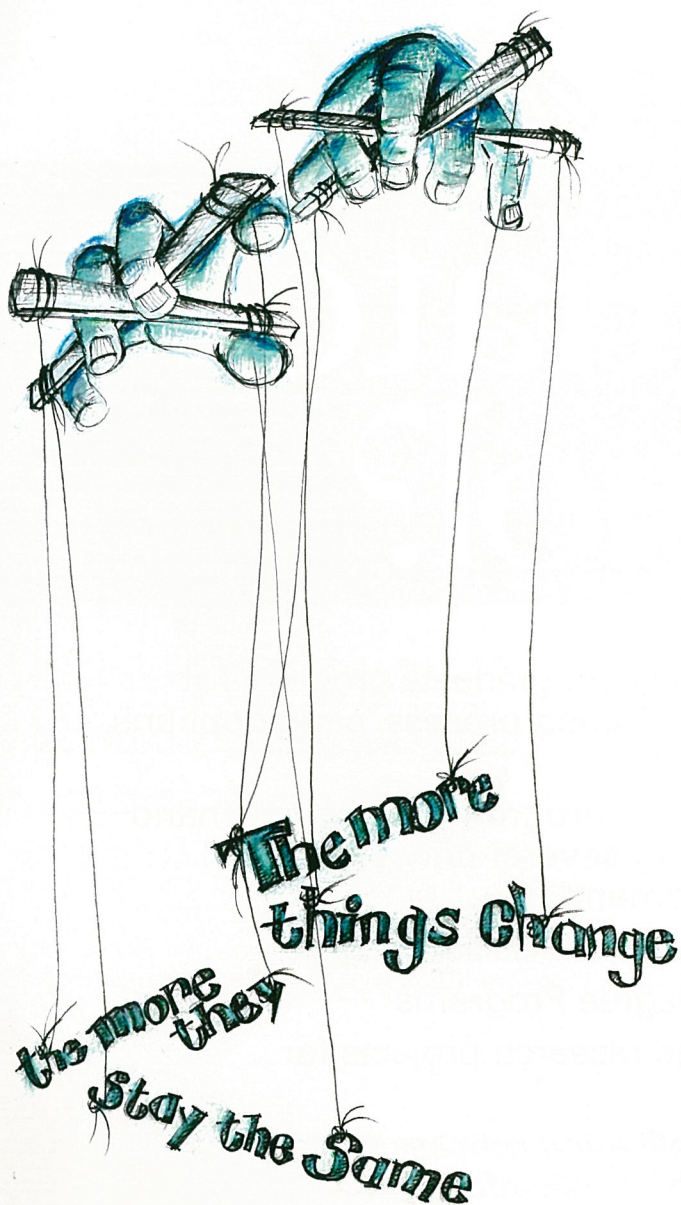
Hey RIT Rings, this is [fraternity omitted], and we're putting out a fire in the Love Canal. [Intimately love] whoever started it, but we're having a good time putting something out!

Saturday 11:37 pm

Hey, this is [fraternity omitted] again and we're just wondering what kind of messed up jackass decides to set the love canal on fire? Actually, you guys should bring back Crime Watch. That was great, it was some funny [feces]. Really, bring it back!

Monday 8:15 pm

Yo, *Reporter*, you suck; the lows in the Sudoku don't work! And your cartoon, it kind of needs a little work. I am very disappointed. My friend here is propping you for the last comic, but this one, this one doesn't work! •



by Zach Korwin | illustration by Kristen Bell

RIT is the current incarnation of a higher education dynasty spanning over 180 years, through a civil war, two world wars, numerous campuses and an endless number of fashions, fads, and popular philosophies. So it strikes me as strange, then, that sentiments about our brick mistress haven't swayed a bit since the Mechanics Institute merged with the Rochester Athenaeum back in 1891.

The insight I've gained into our institute of technology from the biography of it, aptly entitled *Rochester Institute of Technology* by Dane Gordon (look for it on the bookshelves in Crossroads once I bring it back, next to the Techmila!), is immeasurable. So let me share some of the fun parts:

The move to a new campus was eventually, through much deliberation, decided on, with Henrietta being the lowest bidder. Another place where this unfortunate decision-making necessity springs up is during the construction of our wonderful new campus. Because funding was provided by the State Dormitory Authority, we were required to offer the job to the lowest bidder. "The result was that certain contractors were engaged who proved to be almost incapable of doing the work. In one instance, a contractor had to be threatened with a court order." Visually-painful reminders still exist in the form of the dorm buildings, designed by architect Edward Larrabee Barnes, who turned deaf ears to all who objected and insisted on building them anyway, violating Henrietta's 35-foot height limit on buildings (because of lack of adequate firefighting equipment).

Which brings up the point raised in my contemporary Ben Foster's article, "Is RIT Your Daddy?" But this is a question that echoes through time, brought up once before when the Institute arbitrarily banned the sale of cigarettes on campus. The biography quotes from an old-school *Reporter* writer: "We are children! We are infants who need to be led by the hand. We need the guidance of a mature and responsible 'parent image' or our childish ways shall surely lead us down the path of trouble and chaos. That is what the administration is saying...it is promoting a high school conduct code. The 'problem' as they apparently see it is how to deal with a playpen full of 2500 youngsters."

Our past students got their cigarette machines back, at least for a little while, but the administration never quite grasped their point: we are not *your* children. We are college students and adults. RIT's administration *is* your daddy, but one who's proud of you at your piano recital and bar mitzvah, when everyone's watching, but makes you live in the broom closet. And it's been this way for eternity. Sure, you built the IT Collaboratory and the new Biosciences building, but how many people use them? Even the field house, a real student-oriented project, is shut down for a "special event" at least once a week. You make us learn Esperanto to impress your friends at the yacht club, but we can't use it. It amazes me how a university can be so proud of itself but so ashamed of the students enrolled for decades! Our presidents' legacies lie in the fact that every year RIT operates in the black. But how quickly the administration forgets where that money comes from.

I for one am sick of seeing my alma mater treated like some battered whore turning tricks for Daddy Simone and the Pimp-ministration. RIT may be a business, but it could at least pretend like it's not. But still this 180-year mistake persists. Check your retention rates: you need *us*, RIT, not the other way around. •

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