

REPORTER

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Editorial

This One's For You, Freshmen

For freshmen, mid-winter is a time of shattered dreams and energy drinks. Some blame the freakishly short days made shorter by the fortress of clouds that are synonymous with the season. Others blame our animalistic instinct to hibernate and the brain's proclivity towards depression. Still others blame the housing application process.

Housing is an organization whose promotional material this year consists of origami fortunetellers that, besides reminding you of the application dates, make the process look as futile as it actually is. I'll leave housing to the concerned reader on page four, and Alex Salsberg, who has written this week's Views article. The fact remains that housing is only the tip of the bureaucratic iceberg of late January.

Some of you may have been so busy frantically running around in an attempt to find your dream team of roommates that you've not paid any attention to the fast-approaching class registration. Call it the one-two punch of freshmen disappointment. Besides not being Raptured to the UC apartments (a luxury, not a necessity), you will be subjugated to the early morning cock-a-doodle-doo of snow plows, vainly searching for parking space boundaries while you attempt to get that last seat in a required class. SG recently decided not to pursue a later registration time, despite results from the poll they recently conducted (see page nine).


You'll have trouble waking up. It's about time to apply for Financial Aid, and the government will all of a sudden try to convince you that you're so rich that you don't deserve that loan. The food at Gracie's is going to start tasting a little less like flavored Play-Doh and a little more like burnt sharpies. You're going to learn the definition of the word *wind*. Soon, you will stop merely laughing along with all RIT's cliché jokes and begin to understand what all your elders have been warning you about.

The Administration would listen to you, if you had their ear. They're terrified of you leaving and becoming another poor retention statistic. Just look at FYE, a course that was created to increase the retention rate in the most profound sense of the word. Before its inception, there was an alarming amount of student suicides, referred to as "a trend of risky and dangerous student behaviors" by Al Simone in a March 16, 2006 Ask President Simone response. FYE, love it or hate it, is at the very least a symbol that the Administration cares, on the whole, but without formal input from students they are powerless to act.

Blogging about your woes isn't going to help. Facebook groups supporting the Kyoto Protocol aren't turning heads, and they certainly won't get you a tunnel version of the quarter mile. What you need is a representative in a student governing body that has the ear of the Administration.

That's why SG recently appointed this year's Freshman Senator, Matt Danna. The Freshman Senator has one of the most diverse demographics to represent, defined not by culture or interests or major, but by sheer experience at the Institute—this is perhaps why SG appointed Matt in the course of an hour-long blitz of a decision between him and a dozen other applicants, as opposed to letting freshmen vote.

If you're a freshman and you have a problem, you should bug the hell out of him. His e-mail is email@mattdanna.com.



Casey Dehlinger
Editor in Chief



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Cover photography by Ashley Poole. ◀TOC by Dave Londres. A storm laid down a half-inch of ice on Alistair Bevington's Sundial and the rest of the Rochester area, forcing RIT to cancel classes on Monday, January 15.



Letters to the Editor

DEAR REPORTER,

This is in response to Laura Mandanas' article in the January 12, 2007 issue, titled "A Parent's Right."

Instead of creating a flowery introduction where I use some resounding analogy to help you better understand my stance, I'll just get straight to the point.

Where do you come off?

If your intention was to piss off members of the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community with your article, congratulations: you succeeded. What you didn't succeed in, Ms. Mandanas, was making a point.

You seem to have an issue with pre-implantation genetic diagnosis. That's fine. Everyone has an issue they're vehemently against, be it abortion, gay marriage or what have you. And that's fine, too. But it's when people target a group, blaming them as if they're the only people who do such a thing, then I take issue. In your article, you clearly state you are disappointed with the abuse of science—and you fail in making that point, because I was far too distracted with your using the Deaf community as your scapegoat.

I'm all for debate, but please have something to debate about. Yes, I know about the two deaf lesbian psychotherapists using sperm from a deaf family friend to have two deaf children. Whether they are right or wrong to do this is not the focus. The case is this: you are not Deaf. You do not, and cannot understand.

Again: you are not Deaf. You have not lived nineteen years of your life as a Deaf individual, as I have. I was implanted with a cochlear implant at the age of seven; I stopped wearing it at fourteen. I have not heard sound in eight years. I have, however, accomplished many things in my life—traveled to foreign countries where English is not the primary language, held a job in a predominantly hearing environment, written papers, fiction, and poetry that rival my hearing classmates'. And if I had the choice, I'd do it all over again, without changing a thing. My "handicap", as you so eloquently put it, has not been a detriment to my accomplishments—and it saddens me that you think otherwise.

You state that "...While it is true there are some positive elements to deafness, the limitations that come with it are too numerous and too pervasive to write the condition off as a mere difference."

The first word that comes to mind with your aforementioned statement is "bigoted." Words that follow include ignorant, presumptuous, tactless...adjectives that describe your attitude.

There is not one member in the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community—whether they agree or not with your ideas of having a genetically predetermined, "handicapped" child—who would disagree with me when I say this: you are in no position to make such a statement, because you just don't know.

Limitations? Please, by all means—point them out. For every limitation, I'll give you an advantage. I promise.

Mich Gerson

Fourth Year Professional & Technical Communication

I WOULD TELL RIT HOUSING OPERATIONS TO ROT IN HELL...

...But that would be an improvement on their current situation. To start things off, let's take the welcome message—supposedly written by Assistant Vice President Howard "H" Ward, Ph. D.—straight from the Housing Operations website:

Greetings from thirty-three diverse staff members in RIT Housing Operations who are looking forward to making your stay in our residence halls, apartments, and the RIT Inn an enjoyable experience. Our dedicated team truly believes that "It Is ALL About OUR Students" and this philosophy is embedded in all we do at RIT. As you learn more about the many housing options at RIT, we are confident you'll be able to find a desirable choice to enhance your educational experiences. Learn more about RIT Housing Operations by journeying via our web page—and don't hesitate to send us your comments!

Sincerely,

Howard "H" Ward, Ph.D. Assistant Vice President

While the entire message is heartwarming and exciting, one sentence sticks out in particular. In fact, I will reference this sentence numerous times throughout my piece. "Our dedicated team truly believes that "It Is ALL About OUR Students" and this philosophy is embedded in all we do at RIT."

As incoming freshman, I would say many of us doubted how much Housing Operations really believed in that motto. Hell, as incoming freshman many of us focused on every negative aspect we could find here; it's just natural. During FYE and the one or two weeks we spent on the housing selection process we might have started to believe in Housing Operations a little bit more—I know I did.

Not everyone has memorable experiences in their campus housing, and I know that for my second year I absolutely hated the RIT Inn and Conference Center, but it was my own fault and I cannot blame Housing Operations for that. Now I'm in my third year, and I was able to get into a Perkins apartment for this year. I was very pleased with Perkins and enjoyed my fall quarter.

Now I don't know about everyone else, but the main deal breaker that brought me to RIT rather than another school was the co-op program. I thought that a requirement to get hands-on training in the field I was studying was a great asset to my education. I also liked that it would not affect my Financial Aid, Scholarships, Student Loans, Health Insurance, or anything else that is based on my "Full-Time Student" status. I realize I just went on a tangent, but it should all start making sense right about now...

After fall quarter I left school for my co-op. I may not be on campus, but last I checked I was still a matriculated student. What was that motto again? "Our dedicated team truly believes that "It Is ALL About OUR Students" and this philosophy is embedded in all we do at RIT." Does Housing Operations not see me as a student or is that motto a boldfaced lie? I'm being told that I cannot renew my apartment for next year because I'm not on the contract for this quarter. I was on the contract last quarter, but because my co-op work-block happens to fall during the Housing Renewal process time I cannot renew my apartment. The rest of my roommates are graduating this year so they will not be renewing. They can't do the Grad School loophole because their majors don't allow them to



apply for Grad School for at least one year. Apparently any person (not student, but person) who decides to do their co-op during the winter quarter is not a student in the eyes of Housing Operations.

My advice to you, avoid winter quarter co-ops at all costs.

Chris O'Clair

RIT Packaging Science Student September 2004 - November 2006, July 2007 - May 2009 RIT Co-op Participant December 2006 - June 2007 (Shhh, don't let the insurance companies, bank, or Bursar's Office know I'm not currently a student)

DEAR REPORTER,

In the January 12, 2007 issue in J.S. Ost's "RIT's Early Alert System" article, a mention was made about solutions for students who receive early alerts. It said "referral to the Learning Development Center to..." This is to clarify that the Academic Support Center (ASC), located on the second floor of Building one, is the former name of the Learning Development Center. It is important to note that we offer a variety of services to enhance the learning for all students, not just students who are struggling. Check out our website at www.rit.edu/sa/asc to see the full range of services available.

Bernadette Lynch

Coordinator of Academic Accommodations
Marketing Committee
Academic Support Center

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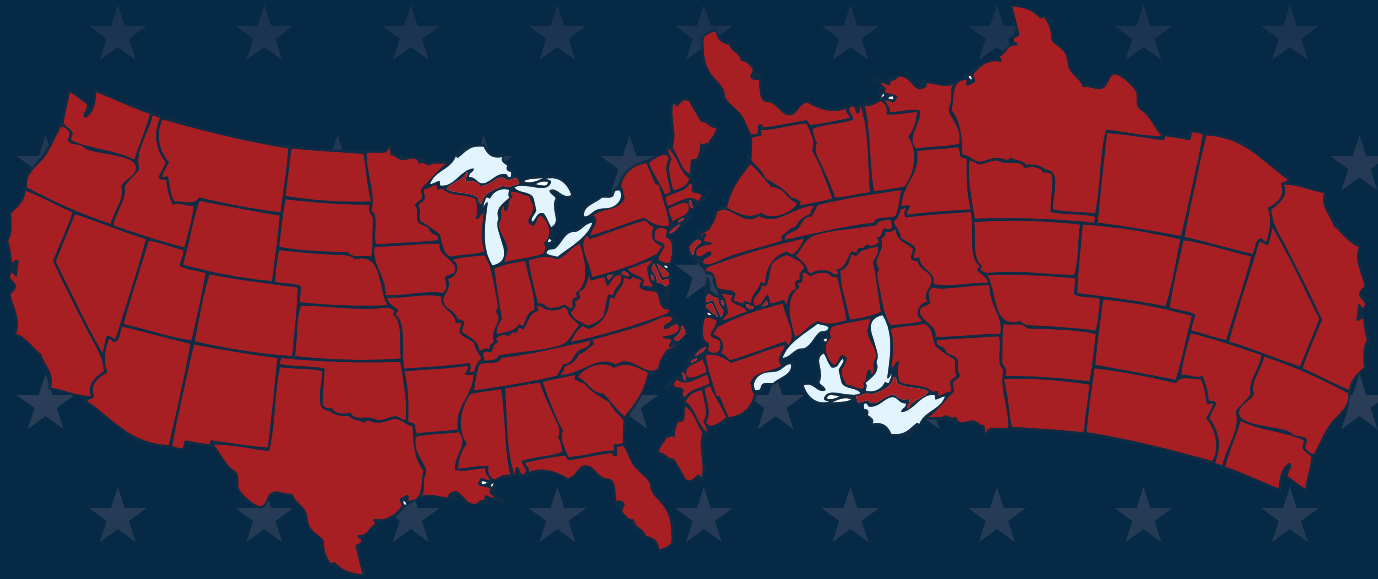
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TEACHFORAMERICA

by Sarai Oviedo

The United States is one of the most powerful nations in the world, though some people believe we have a significant gap in our educational system. Teach for America is working on eliminating this gap by recruiting students like you for teaching positions across the nation. This past week, Recruitment Director Kinnari Chandriani came to RIT to meet up with potential Teach for America corps members.

Teach for America is a national corps of recent college graduates who commit to teaching for two years in low-income communities. The group was created by a woman named Wendy Kopp for her undergraduate thesis. For the first year in 1990, Teach for America had a starting number of 500 men and women who taught in a total of six communities across the nation. By 2005, more than 17,000 individuals had joined.

Chandriani is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and an ex-corps teacher. She taught ninth grade biology for her two years in Mississippi. "The difference in the quality of teaching in low-income communities compared to higher-income communities had never been made apparent to me until I began teaching, she said. "[When I started], I gave out a simple measurement assignment. It was shocking that the majority of the students didn't know how to use a ruler—something that students in other communities learn in elementary school. It's ridiculous that we aren't providing the same chances and the same quality of education to all students."

Believing that Teach for America can remedy educational inequalities like these, Chandriani encourages students from all majors to sign up for the standard two-year term with the corps. Whether or not you have had teaching experience is unimportant. "RIT students have a world-class education, excellent critical thinking skills, and outstanding co-op opportunities that allow them to have hands-on experience in their field. They can take their expertise and make their fields alive, real, and possible for children," Chandriani explains.

After serving in the corps, some members return to jobs in their fields, while others continue on in education or sign up for another term with Teach for America. On the whole, Chandriani is trying to recruit "people with leadership skills...we need people who go back to work as politicians to get education policy to change, people who are doctors so that they can open clinics, and people who are lawyers who can argue in the face of the law. All together we can achieve to close the education gap."

To get involved with the corps, recent college graduates should visit: www.teachforamerica.org to make sure they qualify and to fill out the application. Students who are further from graduation can also get involved in the corps by doing a summer internship at Teach for America's summer training institutes, or by working for the organization full or part-time. Information about these opportunities can be found on the website under "Current Job Opportunities." •

The Academic Calendar

by Veena Chatti

Few of us, though we follow it and complain about it, are aware of the planning that's behind RIT's yearly calendar and quarter system. Did you know, for instance, that the Institute's academic calendar is planned at least three years in advance? Or that there's rigorous planning to go through from the fall until the following February to have the calendar approved?

The first draft of the calendar is made at the Registrar's office, where they figure out how to include 10 of each day, Monday through Saturday, and five days of exams in each quarter. There must also be a minimum of 13 weeks between Commencement (in May) and the first day of classes in September. Fourteen weeks are desirable to allow faculty and students to have a break of at least one week between summer quarter and orientation week in the fall. The Registrar's office also makes sure each quarter's classes begin on a Monday, and that it's the first day students return after a break.

Sue Provenzano, who facilitates the calendar creation process, explains that the calendar is then reviewed by the Core Calendar Committee, consisting of the Provost, the Vice President of Student Affairs, the Chairs of the governance groups (Academic Senate, Staff Council, and Student Government), a college Dean and the Registrar. "If no concerns are raised," says Provenzano, "the proposed calendar goes to the governance groups [as a whole] for their review, and then to the Institute Council."

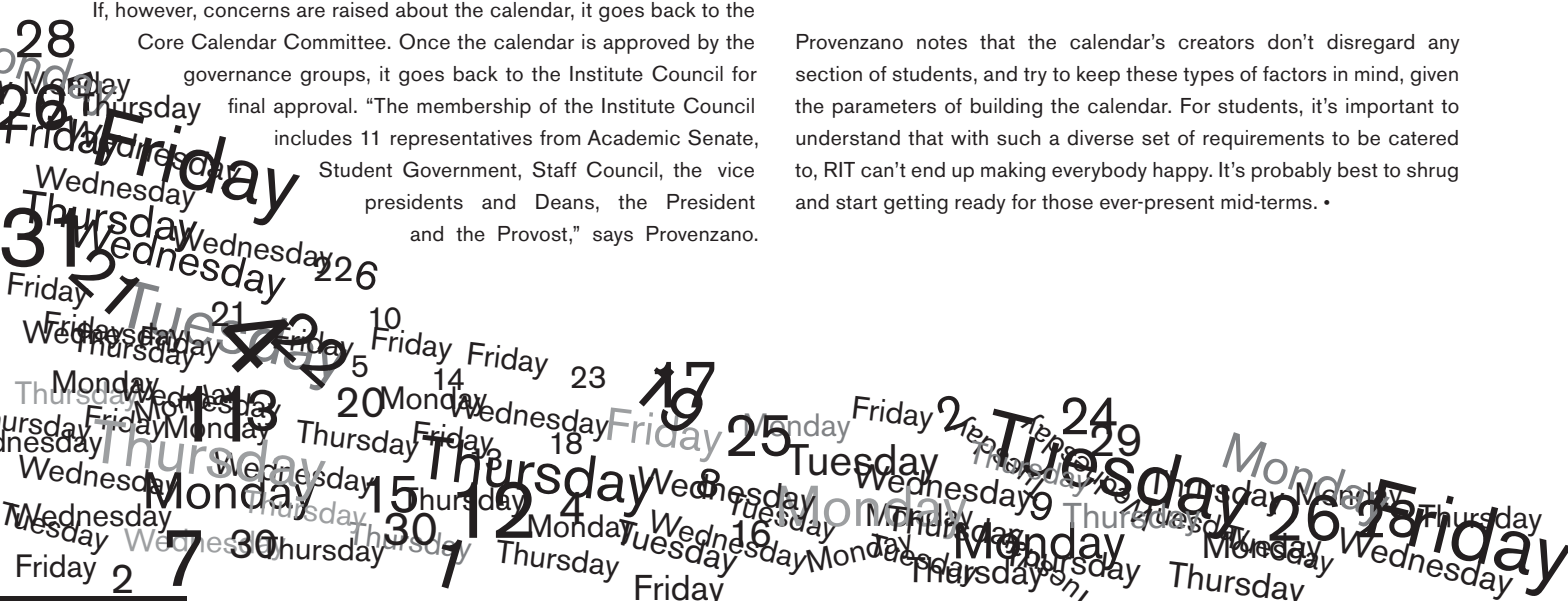
If, however, concerns are raised about the calendar, it goes back to the Core Calendar Committee. Once the calendar is approved by the governance groups, it goes back to the Institute Council for final approval. "The membership of the Institute Council includes 11 representatives from Academic Senate, Student Government, Staff Council, the vice presidents and Deans, the President and the Provost," says Provenzano.

Though RIT has observed the quarter system and a similar calendar since the 1950s, some concerns with the schedule have yet to be resolved. For many students, a short break at the end of fall quarter might mean choosing to stay in their on-campus residences, even though food places are closed for half of it. During the holidays, students are left with no choice but to leave campus during break.

Students who can't find accommodations can stay at the RIT Inn, but can't use their meal plans to buy food. Their stay at the Inn will not be covered by the fees they already paid for housing. For the Institute's more than 1,400 international students, finding a place to stay can be difficult. Says Jayadev Alapati, a freshman from India, "we've nowhere to go when dorms close. I can't very well take a 17-hour flight back to India if I'm not going to have enough time to spend at home."

Contrary to popular belief, student aren't the only ones to have voiced their concerns with the current calendar—the faculty has as well. "I think the quarter system is not conducive to conceptual learning, which is the goal of biology courses," says Professor F. Harvey Pough of the Department of Biological Sciences. So why hasn't RIT switched over to the more popular semester system? Provost Stan McKenzie explains, "While many faculty and administrators would prefer to be on a semester system, every time the issue comes up for study (approximately once every seven or eight years) the majority student opinion somehow comes down on the side of staying with the quarter system."

Provenzano notes that the calendar's creators don't disregard any section of students, and try to keep these types of factors in mind, given the parameters of building the calendar. For students, it's important to understand that with such a diverse set of requirements to be catered to, RIT can't end up making everybody happy. It's probably best to shrug and start getting ready for those ever-present mid-terms. •



RIT FORECAST

compiled by Govind Ramabadrán

SG SENATE WEEKLY UPDATE

by Sarai Oveido

Saturday 27 JAN	<p>“Obstacles” LBJ Lab Theatre 1510. 7:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m. Third performance of a one-act play about challenges faced by deaf people, directed by Ruthie Jordan. Performed in ASL and spoken English. Cost: free</p> <p>Encore’s Second Annual BellaCapella Show Webb Auditorium. 7:30 p.m.–11 p.m. Encore’s main a capella show of the year. Singers from other schools will also perform. Cost: \$3 in advance, \$4 at the door.</p>
Sunday 28 JAN	<p>“Obstacles” LBJ Lab Theatre 1510. 2 p.m.–4 p.m. See Saturday, January 27.</p>
Monday 29 JAN	<p>Peanut Butter and Jelly Jam SAU Cafeteria. 6 p.m.–9 p.m. Spirit Week community service event making lunches to feed area homeless for Open Door Mission of Rochester. Pizza provided. Cost: free.</p>
Tuesday 30 JAN	<p>NSC’s Orange Breakfast Outside Clark Gym Breezeway. 8 a.m.–11 a.m. NSC makes orange and brown breakfast on the quarter mile. Cost: free.</p> <p>Mixed Drinks, Mixed Emotions: Alcohol Abuse and Mental Health Ingle Auditorium. 7 p.m.–8:30 p.m. Lecture about substance abuse and how it affects mental health. Cost: free.</p>
Wednesday 31 JAN	<p>Today is Inspire Your Heart with Art Day. Draw something to lift up your spirits during the winter.</p>
Thursday 1 FEB	<p>Free Rap Concert...Featuring Caution SAU Cafeteria. 7 p.m.–9 p.m. Sponsored by Brothers And Sisters In Christ. Cost: free.</p> <p>Tiger Idol Finals Clark Gym. 9 p.m.–11 p.m. The top 10 finalists compete against each other, judged by both a panel and the audience. Cost: free.</p> <p>CAB Thursday Night Movie Series: Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back Ingle Auditorium. 10 p.m.–1 a.m. Cost: free.</p>
Friday 2 FEB	<p>CAB Presents: Lupe Fiasco Clark Gym. 8 p.m.–12 a.m. CAB presents hip-hop star Lupe Fiasco. Cost: \$12 students, \$15 faculty/staff, \$20 public.</p> <p>Performing Artists Concert Series – Concert IV Ingle Auditorium. 8 p.m.–10 p.m. “Brilliant Strings” group from Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra perform as part of RIT’s Performing Artists Concert Series. Cost: \$6 students, \$14 faculty/staff, \$20 public.</p>

SCRAPBOOK FOR SIMONE

SG President Lizzie Sorkin presented an idea to the Senate about having a journal made for outgoing President Simone. The journal would include individual Senators’ entries. Sorkin encouraged the Senators to submit more than one entry about their RIT experiences, and to include photos.

STUDENT SUGGESTIONS

As a result of students’ request for more study places, Wallace Library has extended its hours during the week from 7 a.m. to 3 a.m.

Other new ideas suggested by SG included having campus food places open past midnight, selling more orange and brown clothing items at Campus Connections, and placing the RIT logo on trash cans on the quarter mile.

STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS

SG discussed the results of a recent poll they conducted.

59.1% of RIT students do not use RIT e-mail service as their primary e-mail service. 80.5% agreed that they would like to see more storage space on RIT e-mail, although 40% claimed that even if storage space was increased, they wouldn’t switch to RIT e-mail.

In one part of the poll, SG put forward the idea to make a copy of all required class textbooks available in the Wallace Library, at a cost of an added \$5 to the tuition of every student. The students polled are divided on the idea. 24.58% strongly agree, 26.30% agree, 24.14% disagree, 18.73% strongly disagree, and 6.10% claim the issue is not applicable to them.*

10.37% of students polled strongly agree and 45.03% agree that the current class registration is adequate, while 29.89% disagree and 14.31% strongly disagree.*

When asked if they would prefer class registration to start at 10 p.m. instead of 7 a.m. 33.73% strongly agreed, 24.88% agreed, 24.98% disagreed, and 15.98% strongly disagreed.* Despite the majority of responses, SG decided not to change registration time or consider any other alternative times. This decision was due in part to upcoming changes to the registration process, and a “lack of information,” as SG Vice President David Blonski noted.

CRIME WATCH

David Blonski, SG Vice President, reported that his nametag is missing.

*The remaining students did not answer.

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They say you shouldn't look a gift horse in the mouth, but what if it's a literary horse? We receive the fliers every day, each promising us untold amounts of free CDs, movies, and books—if only we'll sign up for their clubs! It *does* look tempting. With all the free stuff you get just for joining them, and all the exclusive editions that you can only get as a member, you can't help but come out ahead, right? Still, most of us hesitate to join these clubs, myself included; one can't help but feel that there has to be a catch somewhere. And so, in order to examine this equine more carefully, I played veterinary dentist for a spell.

I joined two book clubs: the Scientific American Book Club (because I'm a physicist) and the Science-Fiction Book Club (because I'm a geek), which both offered the standard deal of five freebies and a five item commitment. I attempted to abuse the system by getting grouped sets of books, and counting them as one item in the initial freebies. This allowed me to walk away with 17 books for the price of six from the SFBC, working in the entire *Dune* series (11 books) as only three items! The SABC was smarter than that, though; they blocked out multi-book sets for the initial freebies. Still, I walked away with over \$160 in free books.

The freebies were an excellent deal, but there were mixed results when it came to the standard prices. The SABC was a steal price-wise, offering \$100 books at upwards of 50% off. Unfortunately, my hopes of saving on my quarterly textbook expenditures were quickly dashed: they don't offer textbooks; none of the book clubs do. The SABC is strictly popular science to slightly advanced but non-technical books. The SFBC fared better in terms of having what I wanted, but worse in terms of price. Their all-hardcover catalog tends to clock in at about \$10-\$15 per book, with collections available for only a slight discount off the individual books.

BOOK CLUBS

Are those annoying things you receive in the mail really worth it?

by Elliot Jenner

illustration by Mike Norton

The SABC's only special is hardcover versions of books that have gone to softcover, which isn't all that great. On the other hand, the special exclusive items offered by the SFBC were worth their weight in gold. Their 50th anniversary special included tons of rare, out of print titles, such as *Dune*-creator Frank Herbert's first novel. They also sell many omnibus editions, allowing members to collect trilogies in single volumes at greatly reduced prices (but increased heft). There are odd gaps in the catalog, though, with series that are missing intermediate volumes, or sequels to books that aren't offered. Also, several high-profile series, such as the infamous *Dragonlance Chronicles* trilogy, are mysteriously absent.

The most annoying aspect of the book clubs is their autoship policy. Harkening back to the days when they were strictly mail-based clubs, these clubs select several books every month or so and send them if you don't tell them not to. You can send them right back, but this gets really annoying really fast. Trolling the websites to click "decline" is essential. They also make it very difficult to cancel your membership; everything else can be done online, but canceling requires a letter to an obscure address.

Overall, my examination was inconclusive; whether or not you should hop on board should really be determined on a case-by-case basis. I continue to get books from the Science Fiction Book Club whenever they have a sale, but I have canceled my membership in the Scientific American Book Club—a process that took three attempts and two months, as they stubbornly attempted not to acknowledge my cancellation, while sending me a bunch of books on autoship. My final assessment: if the books they carry are something you're really interested in, it's a good deal. If there are just a few things you might want, this animal is more trouble than it's worth.

The keys to getting maximum value:

1. Make sure you are really interested in what they offer, 'cause canceling membership is a pain.
2. Get as much as you can from the freebies, and only buy again when a sale is on.
3. Most sales are two-for-one or X% off. The two-for-one is almost always the best deal.
4. Use the wishlist function so you are prepared to take advantage of sales. Have groups of similarly priced items picked out; free books always go to the cheapest items. Having items that are almost the same price gives you maximum value for your freebies.
5. Make sure to go by the site once a week to decline autoships. Items aren't noticeably cheaper on autoship, so there is no reason not to add something you want to your wishlist and wait for a sale.



DINOSAUR?

I thought Leonardo was a turtle!

by Brian Garrison | Photography by Matt Bagwell

Whether early connoisseurs searched around for fine dining with tender cuts of *stegosaurus* or aliens abducted all the dinosaurs before humans started hanging around the Earth, there's one thing that most theorizers about the past can agree on: dinosaurs were way cool. Though New York isn't good enough to have its own state dinosaur (like New Jersey's *Hadrosaurus foulkii*), evidence that New Yorkers *do* have some concern for the past is shown in the recognition of a state fossil (a sea scorpion from 400-or-so million years ago), and the attendance at Nate Murphy's talk at the Rochester Museum and Science Center (RMSC) on January 17.

Outside the auditorium where Murphy greets the long line of enthusiasts filing in to hear his talk on his latest dinosaur finding (considered by some to be the Rosetta Stone or the walking-on-the-moon of paleontology), I ask Murphy the most terrible and cliché question that I can think of: "When did you first know that you wanted to be a paleontologist?" In his safari hat, cargo shorts, and hiking boots, he says that he was eight and I begin to roll my eyes. I realize that he's not just shooting the breeze when he continues and says, "I found my first dinosaur when I was 10."

The ambient glow of happiness was strong from the start, and only grew stronger as it seemed more and more as if Murphy was there to brag, not lecture, about his paleontologizing adventures. Many there seemed to be desperately wishing to live a similarly exciting life or maybe I should say wishing to *have lived*, since any significant amount of hair left on most of the heads in the packed auditorium was gray from years of putting up with grandchildren, such as those scattered about to fill the rest of the auditorium.

So what's so special about this find? Well, the *brachylophosaurus* (named Leonardo because of graffiti found in the excavation area reading "Leonard Webb and Geneva Jordan, 1917") is the world's best-preserved

dinosaur mummy. Because 90% of Leonardo's skin was somehow left intact as he lay there dead and fossilizing, Murphy was hesitant to go about the normal method of taking the dinosaur out in pieces. Instead, they cased it up and dragged it to the lab as a 6.5-ton block.

This whole skin thing means that inside, there is preserved soft tissue! Preliminary radiographs—the kind where the team had to stand 80 feet away from the building as radiation spewed into the sky—showed some pictures that are already changing previous conceptions about dinosaurs, such as the shape of the keratin bill on the *brac-something-osaurus*. More evocative answers should come after Leonardo goes through the world's largest CT scanner. After the month-long process is finished, Murphy hopes that the 3D model will turn up with a four-chambered heart (instead of three) to prove that dinosaurs were warm-blooded.

After taking a sufficient number of samples, researchers plan to seal up the exposed side to prevent as much decay as possible. The other side, which still has the original rock around it, will be untouched so that future technology can gain even more insight. Others, myself included, would say they should rush in and get searching for some DNA.

Sadly, the talk is a one time kinda deal. You missed it. Fortunately, the RMSC is still kicking around being a scientifically informative museum for Rochesterians (and anyone else that wants to come). Murphy's talk is part of the Distinguished Scholars lecture series open to students willing to pay \$8, or anyone else willing to pay \$15. www.rmhc.org can tell you more, such as the details on Dan Watson's February talk on a fancy telescope that NASA uses, or David Powell's talk about improving the sex drive in pandas so that their fluffy-cuddliness will be around for future generations. To learn about stuff like the pollens and other crap that was preserved in Leonardo's stomach, go to www.mummydinosaur.com.

PENGUINS GET HORNY, TOO

Bob Saget talks with *Reporter* about his venture into the world of “nature documentaries”

by Evan McNamara | illustration by Kristen Bell



Last year, I had the unfortunate experience of being dragged to see one of the duller films ever made: *March of the Penguins*. While the film boasts excellent cinematography and a glimpse into the lives of penguins, I still found myself lulled to sleep mere minutes after the opening credits through a cunning combination of Morgan Freeman’s soothing drawl and comfortable movie theater seating.

The first time Bob Saget saw the movie, however, he didn’t enter a state of catatonic slumber. He instead reverted back to his days of America’s Funniest Home Videos, saying, “I found myself doing little voice-overs

while I watched it, sort of like a Mystery Science Theatre 3000 type of situation.” Producer Marc Hershberg, who was in the same viewing audience as Saget that night, happened to think that the idea would do great as a movie.

According to Saget, the original plan was to use footage from *March of The Penguins*, only with different voice-overs. Sadly, legal issues made that impossible. Instead, producers took reels upon reels of file footage on penguins and “beat the crap out of it for nine months,” said Saget. The result was *Farce of the Penguins*.

The straight to DVD feature, which comes out on January 30, is geared specifically toward the college-aged consumer and is packed with juicy un-rated extras, including behind the scenes footage. It is the story of one penguin’s quest to find love. This zany mission centers on a wild, community-wide penguin mating ritual—a fact that is certainly not overlooked by the talented cast of voice actors, a veritable who’s who of today’s top comedians.

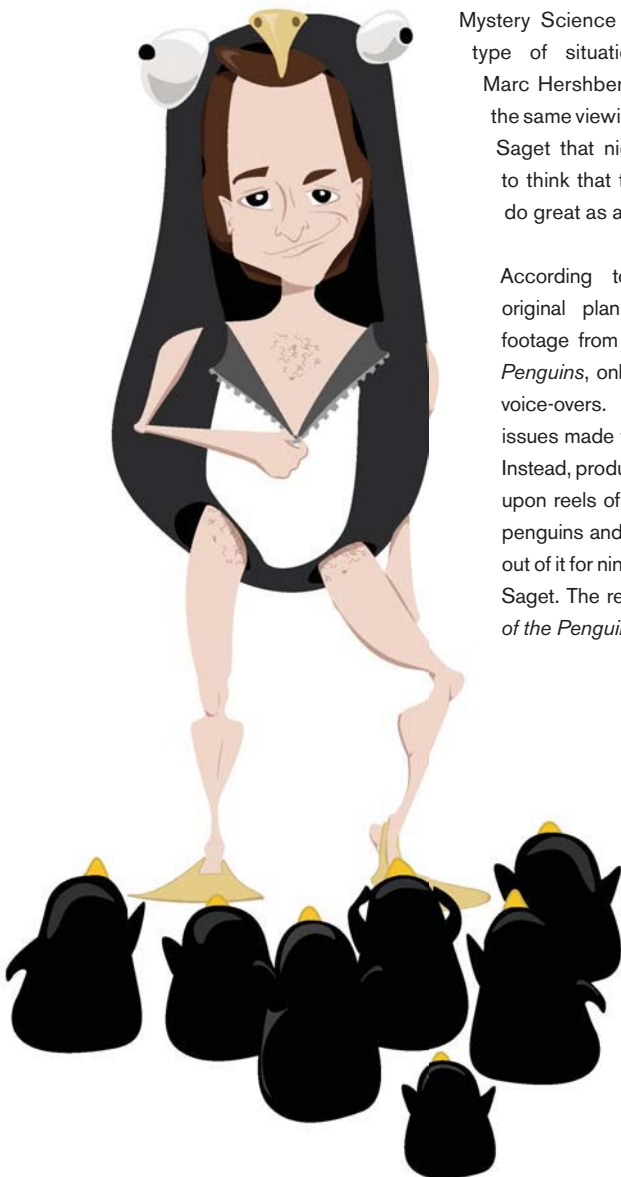
In place of Morgan Freeman’s drone, audiences are treated to the explosive narrative style of Samuel L. Jackson. Other voices include Lewis Black, Dane Cook, Carlos Mencia, Tracy Morgan, and many others, including Bob Saget himself. “It just snowballed,” Saget explained, referring to the star-power of the film. Even John Stamos and Dave Coulier, who both co-starred in *Full House* with Saget, appear in the film as “hippie” penguins. “Their whole message is basically ‘stop melting the fucking Earth!’” says Saget. Coordinating everyone’s schedule was tough, but since there was no actual filming involved, getting all the voice tracks done was manageable. “Damon Wayans had one line in the film, so he did that via satellite,” Saget explains.

Voicing a major role in the film himself, Saget divulged his secret to making it work: “Timing makes it work...it needs to be as real as you can make it.” That, he said, was one of the major differences between voice acting and screen acting.

Saget’s role in the film didn’t stop at mere voice acting, though; he also sat in the director’s chair. “I love directing. This movie was directing, but it was sort of a weird hybrid,” he said of the experience, adding, “Directing is the closest to stand-up. You have the most control and, at the end of the day, if you screw up, it’s on you!”

As for Bob Saget’s future plans, he expressed his satisfaction with his stand-up career, recently selling out Caesar’s Palace. More stand-up tours are currently in the works. You can catch him hosting the game show *1 vs. 100* on NBC. “As for my plans with television, I’d really like to do something irreverent,” said Saget. •

For more information visit: www.thebobsaget.com and www.farceofthepenguins.com



Music Review

Menomena – Friend and Foe

by Evan McNamera

One of the hardest tasks associated with making a good album is finding the balance between the band's influences and their own unique sound. On *Friend and Foe*, Menomena does just that; considering the sheer volume of influences that can be heard throughout the record, this an extraordinary achievement.

The ugly tune "The Pelican" calls to mind the vocals of TV on the Radio, but once the band comes in, a groove akin to the more experimental moments of Led Zeppelin takes the reigns. "Wet and Rusting" sounds like an Arcade Fire song put through a coffee filter, while the eerily soulful groove on "Air Aid" channels the Motown era through the use of bari-sax and piano. The track "Rotten Hell" sounds like a song the members of Coldplay would've written while they were still in high school. Menomena give the most obvious head-nod on the album to Neil Young in the form of "My My," in which the vocalist emulates the wavering tone and inflection of Young's voice.



Taken at face value, the descriptions above may lead some to believe that this album is nothing but a disjointed hodge-podge. Fortunately, Menomena successfully avoids this pit of failure by always letting their unique style shine through. Their minimalist groove, complete with huge and open-sounding drums, is evident on every track. Their arrangements are concise, yet still remain interesting, as best illustrated in the start/stop feeling in the album opener "Muscle'n Flo." It was hard for me to find a moment on this album that didn't make me tap my foot. Simple, yet memorable vocal melodies keep the music grounded, despite some passages which contain a hint of avant-garde.

Menomena's *Friend and Foe* is a unique album, well balanced from start to finish, that has a little piece of something for virtually everyone to latch onto. Whether you're into jungle music or classical piano, Menomena, like a musical "big brother," still hasn't left you out of the loop.

DVD Review

Strangers with Candy

by Nick Tassone

If you sit down to watch *Strangers with Candy*, you're going to be spending an hour and forty minutes with a frighteningly ugly lady. Anyone who has seen the short-lived Comedy Central show that the movie is based on knows exactly who she is; with her yellowed teeth sticking out like a horse, hers is not a face that you can easily forget. However, as the die-hard fans of this cult classic will tell you, once you get over the hideousness of the protagonist, Jerri Blank, you can't help but notice the overall genius of the show.

The movie starts out with an epic opening scene of Jerri going through hard times in prison and making various repulsive faces in response. A self-proclaimed "boozer, user, and loser," Jerri goes back home after a 35-odd year absence. Once there, she finds that her father is in a coma, and that the only way to shock him out of it is by winning the science fair. Obviously. Sounds like your typical junkie-comes-home-to-shock-her-father-out-of-coma story, right?



Unfortunately, the plot moves along far too slowly, and we don't see the same personality that was so prominent in the original show. The original phrases and quips that so many fans loved about the show are completely rehashed in the movie, making them, well... unoriginal.

People who haven't yet had the pleasure of enjoying the show will see the movie and wonder, "What the hell just happened?" After becoming accustomed to the myriad of minor absurdities and quirks, such as people sliding down a banister instead of taking the stairs, the movie just tires out and drags on.

Bottom line: Instead of renting the movie, I'd recommend watching a few episodes of the TV show. My feelings toward *Strangers With Candy* are best summed up in the following quote, taken straight from the movie: "It's not that I'm pushing you away! It's just that I'm pulling me closer to myself!"

AT YOUR LEISURE THINGS, STUFF, AND PEOPLE, TOO...

STREAM OF FACTS JANUARY 26

January 26, 1785 – Benjamin Franklin writes a letter to his daughter expressing his disappointment over the final decision on the bald eagle as the national bird of the United States, calling it a “bird of **bad** moral character.”

Though dieting may be good for your waistline, it isn't so good for your breath; as fat breaks down, the result is **bad** odor from the waste products of this metabolism, curable **only** through a change in eating habits.

The **only** real person to be a **Pez** head was Betsy Ross.

Pez candies are produced in Traun and Orange, Connecticut; the dispensers are produced in Hungary and **China**.

40% of students in **China** are pursuing engineering degrees, compared with only 6% of **US** students—and more than half of all US advanced engineering degrees are awarded to foreign-born students, who are sent home after graduation, thanks to a post-9/11 policy.

The largest city in the **US** with a one syllable name is Flint, **Michigan**.

Animated cartoon character **Michigan J. Frog** served as the official mascot of The WB Television Network from 1995 to 2005, until Network Chairman Garth Ancier announced his **death**, saying, “The frog is dead and buried.”

One of the many Tarzans, Karmuela Searlel, was mauled to **death** on the set by a raging **elephant**.

“**Elephant Lips**” is the name of a mixed drink, made of dark **rum**, crème de bananes, and lemon juice.

January 26, 1808 – The **Rum** Rebellion takes place in Australia. It is the only successful armed takeover of government in Australia's recorded history.

QUOTE

If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.

Anne Bradstreet

HAIKU

by **Brian Garrison**

to the laundry cave!
sometimes I like to pretend
it's by the bat cave.

REPORTER

RECOMMENDS

Launchy. Found at launchy.net, this Windows application locates programs quicker than you can say “ninjas have infinite dominion over pirates, and they smell better, too.” Pressing Alt+Space makes Launchy appear; once you start typing the program's name, the closest matches display, and are easily launched by hitting Enter. Gone are the days of arduously searching through the Start menu or that ugly rat's nest of desktop icons. With everything you want at your fingertips, you'll wonder why you ever put up with anything else.

CARTOON | by Alex Salsberg



SUDOKU

Difficulty: Medium

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

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 DINOSAURS

porsusautaa
tirpsrtcaoe
ynrusntoausa erx
iusosserpual
gtssoeuarus
lacoriroevpt
aslsulruao
ucoasrhasibu
praatscopnete
dtetalprcyo
vroroapti
anossspuuri
idonngoua
ndnoptaore

spinosaurus, iguanodon, pteranodon
brachiosaurus, pentaceratops, pterodactyl, oviraptor,
patagosaurus, stegosaurus, velociraptor, allosaurus,
apaliosaurus, triceratops, tyrannosaurus rex.

GOODS
AND
SERVICES
ON
CAMPUS:
WHAT
A
TIGERBUCK
IS
REALLY
WORTH.

by Antonio Castillo
photography by Tom Schirmacher

The price of bottled water on campus ranges from 99 cents to \$1.50. But what's more revealing is that 99 cents can buy two different quantities of water, depending on whether the water was bought on the residential side (24 oz.) or the academic side (20 oz.). Vending machines have the highest mark-up, at a total cost of \$1.50—certainly not a dollar well spent.

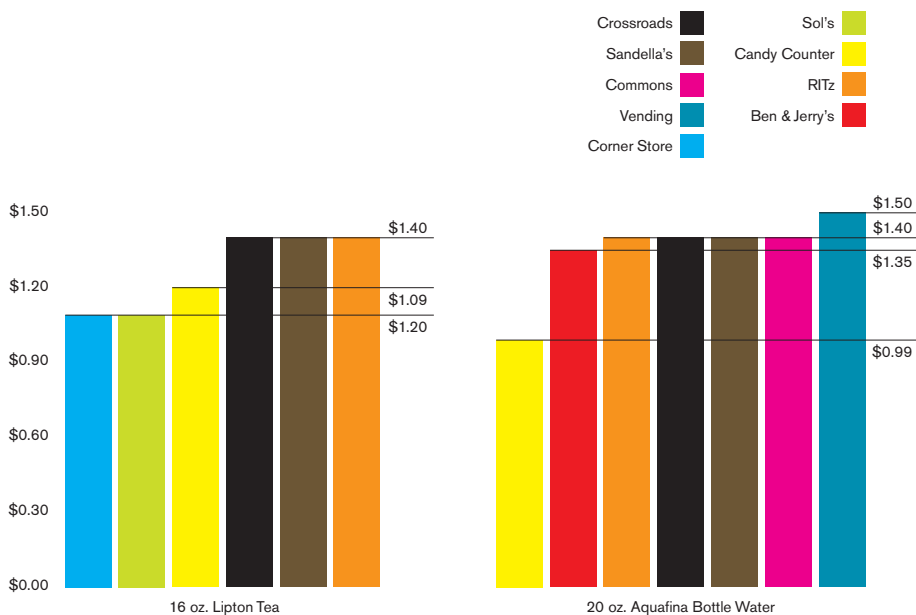
Reporter put three departments under the microscope: Food Service, the bookstore, and the HUB Print and Postal Service. How far do you think a TigerBuck goes nowadays? It all depends on where you swipe your card.

Eating on Campus: Deal or No Deal

The Food Service Department is the largest consumer-driven entity at RIT, consisting of 13 retail food centers. Jim Bingham, the Director of Food Service, is responsible for ensuring the 4,244 students on a meal plan (and the rest of the campus) is fed. Bingham oversees an auxiliary department of RIT, a classification that is key to understanding the Institute's cost of food. An auxiliary department is unsubsidized by the school—it must support itself through the sales of its products and services.

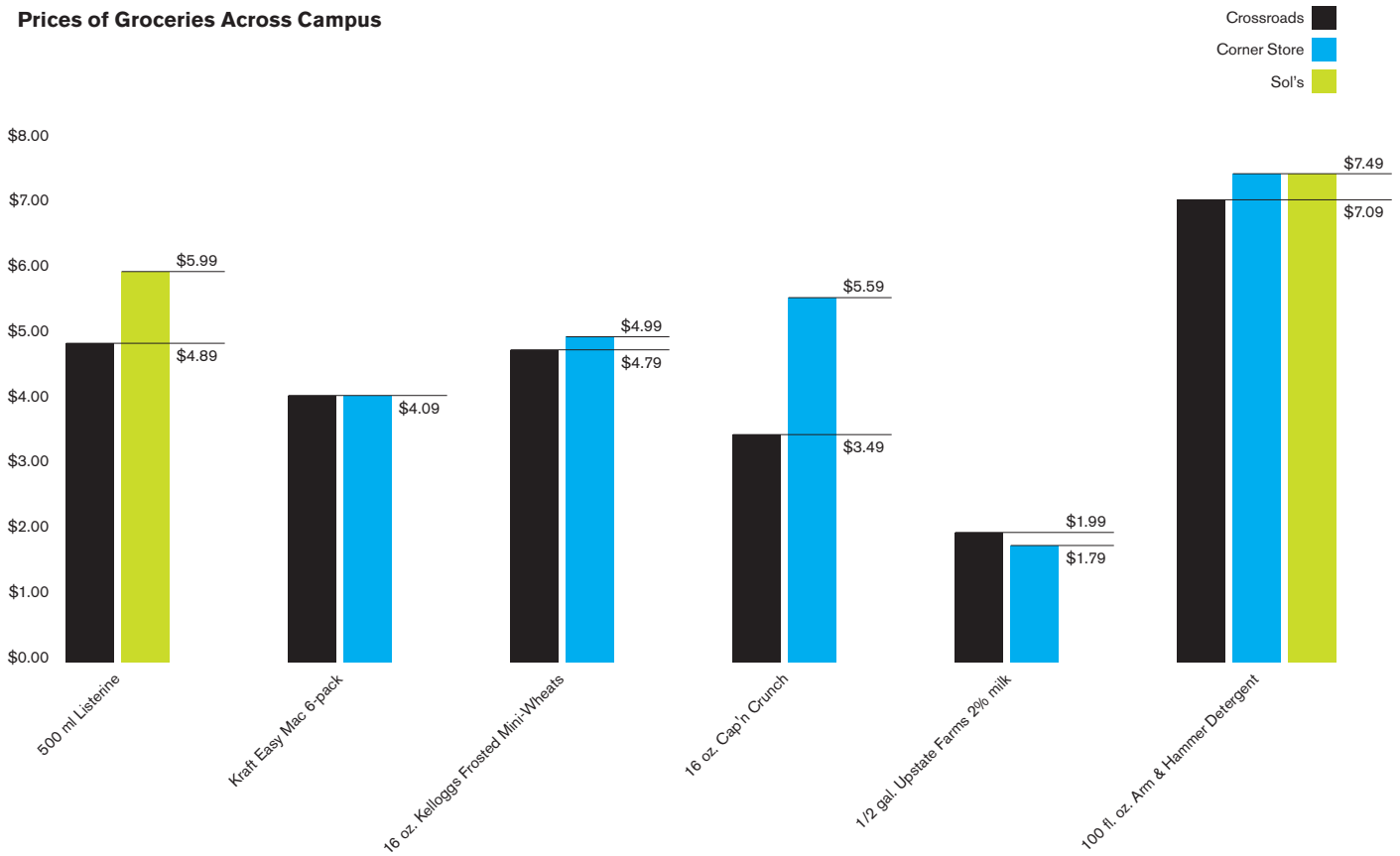
"We need to make enough money to cover our own expenses," said Bingham. "We also have an obligation to the Institute that we don't operate at a loss." Gary Gasper, Director of SAU Food Service, adds, "We try to provide the best value that we can." There are 72 expense categories Bingham must monitor, which means if the cost of electricity jumps, so does the cost of a bag of chips.

Prices of Beverages Across Campus



"In all of food service, wherever there is a dining room component, the prices will be different than a store environment," Bingham said. "A similar comparison would be if you buy a bottle of water at a restaurant or go to Wegmans to buy it; you will find two different prices. One has...a higher margin...because they have the costs of a staff to meet."

Prices of Groceries Across Campus



Bingham and Gasper are out to boost their satisfied customers, not their bottom line. "My opinion is that students are here for nine months of the year," Gasper said. "...they would be terribly bored with the food selection on campus...if the burger in the cafeteria was the same burger you would get in the Ritz." The effort by the two men to diversify food offerings, however, leads to a corresponding diversity when it comes to food prices.

A burger at The Commons and Crossroads costs \$3.29, but a burger at the Ritz costs \$3.05. At the Corner Store, a 16 oz. bottle of Lipton Iced Tea is \$1.09. Sandellas sells the same beverage for \$1.40. Gasper indicated the price difference of burgers is due to their size—a 1/3 pound at The Commons and Crossroads; a 1/4 pound at the Ritz. "The price...is based on the type of roll it's served on or what comes with the sandwich," Bingham said. He also explained beverage prices differ because the Corner Store buys in bulk, which affords them a lower cost.

Food Service also conducts a benchmark analysis of area food providers to determine if they are competitively priced. "We do a price survey," Gasper said. "What do they sell at McDonald's, Burger King? We see where we fall into that spread." Gasper and Bingham are confident they are providing a value, citing the cost of 16 oz. soda at RIT is 16 cents lower than their competitors.

RIT Keeps the Change

The directors of Food Service attempt to provide their customers with the best value, but mistakes exist in their operation. *Reporter* visited several of RIT's retail markets and compared the price of exact items: laundry detergent, cereals, milk, microwavable meals, and mouthwash. None of the products should vary in price, but five of the six surveyed items were priced differently depending on the location.

The differences in price range from pennies to dollars: \$4.79 or \$4.99 for a 16 oz. box of Kellogg's Frosted Mini-Wheats, and \$3.49 or \$5.59 for a 16 oz. box of Cap'n Crunch.

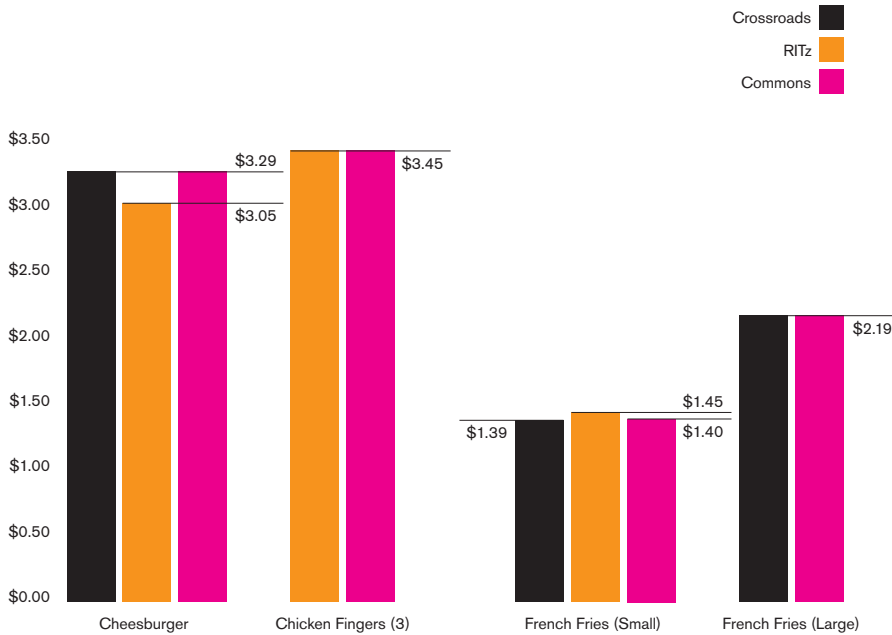
The Corner Store is either the worst offender, selling three of the most expensive items, or Crossroads has the best value, with four of the cheapest items.

Bingham could not go into detail about which of the prices were incorrect, instead promising to investigate and correct the discrepancy. "Hopefully, Cap'n Crunch is Cap'n Crunch. The price should not be different," he said. "This gives us an unfair image that we are unfairly pricing our products," Gasper added. Both agreed the image is unacceptable.

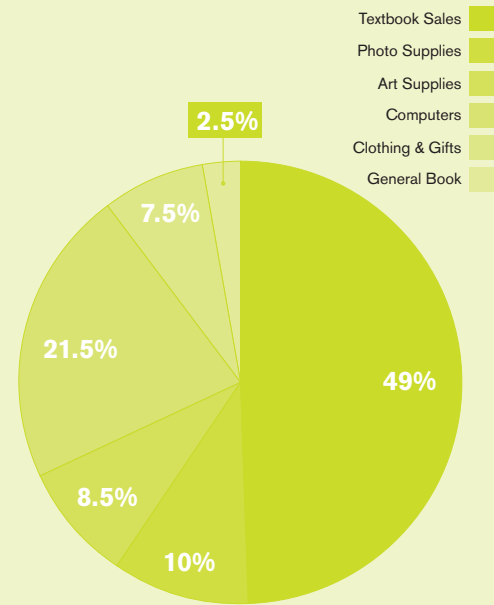
Debit or TigerBucks— It Makes A Difference

Food Service advertises that debit provides students with an "8% savings (some items may not qualify for savings)." How is the average student supposed to know if they are receiving a savings? It's built-in at every Food Service cash register. If you pay with debit, *some* purchases are tax-exempt—accounting for the 8% figure.

Prices of Meals Across Campus



Bookstore Spending Analysis



Bookstore's Profit

2005-2006 Fiscal Year (July 1 – June 30)
 Figures provided by Jim Fisher, Assistant Vice President – Central Business Services

Revenue \$10,830,000
Total Expenses \$10,618,000
Surplus \$137,000*

\$8.5 million are merchandise costs.
 Other expenses: employee salaries, benefits, heating, air, and electricity.

*Not included are the cost of consignment items which determine the final surplus amount.

The Bookstore is one of five auxiliary organizations on campus. (The others: Housing Operations, Margaret's House, Food Service, and the Ice Rink.)

"The majority of those five operations need to cover their bottom line and return some of their money back to the university," Bill Bianchi, Director of Budget & Financial Planning Services, said. "We're not talking about big dollars coming back to the university. The main purpose of these services is to provide students with the convenience of having a meal plan or... books available."

"Within the state of New York, schools like RIT are allowed to offer a pre-paid meal plan to students and are exempt from taxes," Bingham said. "There is a stipulation that goes along with that: it has to be prepaid and we cannot refund the student any unused meals or unused debit. That stipulation allows us to avoid collecting the 8% tax. That is on meals though; what the state considers meals. We can't, in good conscience, allow students to purchase health and beauty items without tax."

When paying for things on campus, debit will allow you to buy *food* without receiving a tax. TigerBucks differs, so a \$3 burger will cost \$3.24 if paid with TigerBucks. As Bingham indicated, mouthwash, laundry detergent, or shampoo must be taxed no matter how someone pays for it.

It's also possible for a student to be incorrectly charged at the time of purchase. "Staff training is an ongoing thing with us," Gasper said. "We employ about 600 student employees at

any one time. That is a big force that needs to be trained." Potentially, new workers may incorrectly enter the cost of items. "Our registers are set up easily: large fries, small szvoda. It's like a McDonald's system with labels so you don't have to memorize prices," Gasper said. "I won't say [when customers get rung out] it is always 100% accurate." Gasper recommends if a student notices they are incorrectly charged to bring it to the attention of the cashier. He guarantees it will be resolved.

At the Bookstore, Don't Be the Last in Line

When it comes time to buy books, not many rush to spend money. Some may go early to get the used book deals; others may wait until quizzes that pertain to the readings finally commence. But if you're planning to sell your books back, make sure to do it as soon as possible.

Campus Connections new book prices are at the whim of RIT's instructors and the book's publishers. Peter Briggs,



Director of Campus Connections, does his best to get a fair deal for the students—though now an RIT alum, he was once a student strapped for cash. “Instructors determine which books we stock. With new books, books that we have never carried, or we can’t get from wholesale, we have no negotiating power with a publisher,” Briggs said. “New books are purchased at cost. If we purchase a \$90 book, we follow the national model that has us mark-up the book to \$120, or about 33%.”

Once a student is done with a course, they have the option to sell it back to Campus Connections. As long as the book is needed for the following quarter, Briggs will buy it back. Students should not expect to receive more than half of the original purchase price, though. “To purchase that used book, either from a student or a wholesale company, we would pay \$60 for a \$120 book.” Before Briggs places the used book on the shelf, he marks it up to \$90, which follows the national pricing

model. Typically a used book sells for 25% off the new price.

The twist to the book buy-back process is that not all students will receive the same offer. Timing is important when returning a book, as Briggs explains. “Let’s take psychology [as an example], with a class of 35 students. We sold the book fall quarter and that same book is being used winter quarter for another 35 students. I’m going to buy less than 35 copies for [the next] class because there are other places...students will get books,” Briggs said.

Briggs may only earmark 25 books that need to be stocked for the next quarter. If the inventory amount is met, the 26th book returned will be purchased at either a discounted wholesale price or not at all. “We have dual buying going on,” he said. “A wholesale representative is [at the buyback window] paying wholesale prices for those books. We...sell them to other college campuses.” “The other thing that gets

people confused is...getting \$60 [for a \$120 book]—they feel we made \$60. We actually paid \$90 for that book, so we only made \$30.”

According to Jim Fisher, Assistant VP for Finance and Administration, after the management of the bookstore changes to Barnes & Noble, students will still receive the same pricing model. “You will see exactly the same pricing model you just heard described,” Fisher said.

If costs of textbooks rise, students can find some relief in an RIT department that has kept prices the same for the last three years. The Crossroads HUB is geared towards meeting the needs of its biggest and best customer—you.

Putting it on RIT’s Tab

The HUB hopes to run like a well-oiled machine so it can serve more customers and increase its earnings. John Meyer, Director of the HUB Print and Postal Services, explains that raising

“NEW BOOKS ARE PURCHASED AT COST. IF WE PURCHASE A \$90 BOOK, WE FOLLOW THE NATIONAL MODEL THAT HAS US MARK-UP THE BOOK TO \$120, OR ABOUT 33%.”

prices in the printing industry does not do much for business. Customers can easily go down the street to get a better deal. Instead he is proud his department keeps prices fair and also takes extra measures to accommodate the working habits of a student.

“Students...come in half-an-hour before [we] close and their project has to get printed. We'll stay open for them. That, to me, is the service we offer the student,” Meyer said. Meyer attributes his success at making a profit and pleasing the student to the modern equipment and a well-trained staff. “We certainly want to keep the students on campus and buying from a facility at RIT,” he said. “We also want to make it as convenient as possible so they don't have to travel off campus to get work done.”

In addition to printing services, Meyer oversees the postal system on campus—including the U.S. Postal Service in the lower level of Nathaniel Rochester Hall (NRH). *Reporter* compared the

price to send a one pound box from RIT to the price from the post office on Jefferson Road. It costs the same at both locations, \$4.05.

“[NRH is] a contract post station, an actual US post station,” Meyer said. “It is a break-even entity. The only thing that we may make any profit on is the packaging we sell students.” Meyer encouraged student groups to consider the Crossroads HUB when searching for a printer. He provides them with a 15% discount on all purchases. “They should be using the facilities here because we try to make it as convenient as possible for them.”

In sum, *Reporter's* benchmark analysis of pricing on campus found that even when the department's directors were not students, our interests were kept in mind and protected. Though discrepancies do exist, they are, of course, the exceptions, not the rule. •

Student Employee Discounts

A great way to get the most out of your time and money is to work for a campus organization. Below are only a handful of the departments that give their student employees perks for taking your order.

Candy Counter/ Ben & Jerry's

10% discount on all purchases at Candy Counter and a 20% discount on all purchases at Ben & Jerry's. Both retail outlets are owned by the same company, so employees of one get the discount at the other.

Bookstore

10-20% discount on bookstore items. 15% on textbooks. No discounts on computer or photographic supplies.

CAB

All employees get free admission to a show. Many major events require that all staff are on duty despite free admission. Recreational trips, like the NYC trip, are free for only two CAB student managers, but they are responsible for supervising the attendees at all times.

Crossroads HUB

10 free prints a week. Student Groups receive a 15% discount on jobs.

Food Service Employees

Employees are given a free meal, up to a value of \$5.95 (same price as a meal option), for working a four-hour shift. Students on a meal plan who work during mealtime can forfeit one of their regular meals at Grace Watson and receive a \$5.95 credit toward their debit account.

HOLE IN YOUR POCKET:

NEED CASH FAST? WHETHER IT'S FOR RENT, BILLS, CAR REPAIRS, DRUGS, OR A DEBT OWED, REPORTER'S GOT YOU COVERED. HERE ARE SOME IDEAS ON HOW TO MAKE SOME SERIOUS CASH IN LESS THAN A **WEEK**.

\$500 IN FIVE DAYS

BY LIZ KIEWIET
ILLUSTRATION BY ERIN WENGROVIUS

TESTING LABS
PLEASE WAIT



PLASMA DONATION

Best Case Scenario: \$40.00

I'll just go out on a limb here and assume that you haven't recently shot up some heroin, eaten a whole bag of candy, or are currently inebriated. Drive to the nearest plasma center, breeze through the approval process, and give some of your good old blood plasma. You'll spend an hour hooked up to a machine while a centrifuge separates the plasma from the rest of your blood, but you'll get \$20 for your time. You can go twice a week, so go again and rack up another \$20.

SPERM DONATION

Best Case Scenario: \$250.00

Let's hope you haven't been drinking too much Mountain Dew. If you qualify, donate every 48 hours. Rack up \$50 a visit. This will require a lot of dedication on your part—you aren't allowed to have sex for at least 72 hours prior to your donation. If you can manage a week without sex, congrats—you'll have \$150 to put towards your debt.

And while you're at it, why not point a few of your friends towards the bank? Most sperm banks offer compensation for referring friends—sometimes up to \$100. Contact the Rochester Regional Cryobank at 585.275.2491.

LOAN YOUR BODY TO SCIENCE

Participate in a clinical study. Strong Memorial Hospital, run by University of Rochester, currently offers more than 150 different studies. The AAIR Research Center in Rochester also conducts many clinical studies. As long as you meet the requirements you can participate—but compensation varies between studies and is sometimes nonexistent. For example, the AAIR is currently accepting applicants for:

Knee Pain Interfering With Your Life?

Volunteers with Osteoarthritis of the Knee Needed for a Research Study with an Investigational Medication to Treat Arthritis Symptoms
Qualified Participants Will Receive:

- Arthritis study medication at no cost to you
- Study-related medical evaluations and care at no cost to you
- Compensation for time and travel expenses up to \$200

Contact: 585.442.1980

THE CAN COLLECTION

Best Case Scenario: If the average freshman drinks about nine cans of soda per week \times 2,217 enrolled freshmen = ~14,252.14 cans of soda somewhere in the dorms every five days \times \$0.05 bottle deposit = \$712.60 in freshmen potential over the course of five days.

That's \$712.60 more than the title of the article even promised you—all you really need is 10,000 cans. This will take a lot of dedication, folks—we're talking at least two thousand cans a day. This is not an easy task for a single person, so I would suggest getting a team of can-gatherers.

First, invest in a box of "black-hole garbage bags." Befriend some of the people working for Facilities Management Services. Get your buddies and split into pairs. Cover every inch of RIT's campus. Make sure to go through every floor dorm-side—a plethora of cans will be waiting for you, because freshmen don't have the initiative or knowledge to be able to collect the deposit for returning all their cans. Even if you can't hit 10,000, if you collect four hundred cans a day, you'll have \$100 by the end of the week.

MTURK.COM

Best Case Scenario: \$20

Earn eighty-five cents for transcribing a nine-minute podcast. Earn five cents for finding official RSS news feeds of various bands and artists. Find short blog entries and earn fifty cents. Mturk.com has over 266 "hits" (or, tasks), all of which earns you less than ten dollars. If you do some of these menial tasks, you can start slowly incurring some profit. It all depends how much time you have. If you enjoy doing time-consuming, pointless tasks, you could make up to \$20.

TAKE A PIE TO THE FACE (OR 13,140)

Best Case Scenario: \$768 [13,140 undergrads \times 63% - \$40 in supplies]

Dress up like Bush. Grab a mask and station yourself out on the Quarter Mile, preferably a high traffic area for freshmen and upper classmen alike. The SAU is a good place. Charge \$1 per pie-in-the-face. With 63% percent of the country disapproving the President's current job in Iraq, your chances of incurring revenue are high. The arbitrary Bush lover may decide to pie you because they hate what you're doing. Beware the Bush-hater that wishes to punch you in the face, even though he can see that you're obviously not Bush. If business becomes slow, be as obnoxious as possible—start preaching about the "War on Terror," try to recruit students for the "Coalition of the Willing," mumble about Hussein, and say "double-you" a lot. If 63% of the undergrads decide to pie you, you'll have a hefty chunk of money in your pocket.

DUPING THE SYSTEM

Best Case Scenario: \$60 in Wal-Mart store credit

Here's what you do: As revealed earlier in the issue, Crossroads sells Cap'n Crunch cereal for \$3.49. That same box of Cap'n Crunch sells for \$5.59 at the Corner Store—a \$2.10 difference. First, buy 30 boxes of Cap'n Crunch with your debit at Crossroads. Next, trek back dorm-side and return all 30 boxes to the Corner Store, netting you \$63 more dollars in debit than you started with. Now, use that \$60 profit to buy three board games of Risk at Sol's. Wal-Mart's return policy allows up to three items to be returned without a receipt for store credit every three months. Take the three games of Risk to Wal-Mart, tell them you lost your receipt, and walk away with a gift card.

AND IF YOU'RE REALLY DESPERATE

Sell your soul on eBay! Going Rate: \$30

Go to ebay.com and look in the "Totally Bizarre" section for souls for sale. Include a personal touch—a certificate for your soul, maybe a personal journal. Don't forget shipping or handling—souls need extra special care whilst being shipped.

TOTAL PROFIT

Assuming you get rid of some of your plasma, donate sperm and recruit a friend, collect every empty soda can from the freshman class, finish some meaningless tasks on mturk, set up a pie station without Bush's approval rating rising, move the Cap'n Crunch supply around campus, and cash in your soul on eBay, you should have no problem coming up with \$1,820.60 and a \$60 Wal-Mart gift card. If you sleep eight hours a night, go to all your classes, and spend the remainder of your waking hours doing what's listed above, that's about \$28.50/hr. And you thought you needed a college degree to earn serious money. •

ATTENTION SENIORS!

Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society members:

- >> are recognized for their outstanding academic achievement and campus leadership involvement
- >> will receive an Alpha Sigma Lambda medal to wear for graduation.
 - >> will be invited to a special dinner at the President's home honoring all recipients.
 - >> invite a mentor from faculty or staff as their guest, to be recognized as having a profound impact on their academic and leadership success.
- >> name will be engraved on a plaque in the Student Alumni Union entrance joining over 400 RIT Alumni already honored.

ALPHA SIGMA LAMBDA HONORARY SOCIETY

You Are Eligible If:

- >> You are a full-time, matriculated, senior in a four or five year program
 - >> You have a minimum 3.4 GPA
- >> You have been an active member in two institute organizations and demonstrated leadership.

Additional information is available on the application.

Deadline for applications is the last day of classes for winter quarter

Applications are available online at

http://www.rit.edu/~300www/vp_alpha_sigma_lambda.php3



WORD ON THE STREET

COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY BELVEDUDE

Q: Do you feel cheated?



"I feel cheated because I've been here for five years and this is my first word on the street."

Nathan Buszka

Fifth year Civil Engineering



"Well, do you?"

Felix Barros

Second year Graduate
Manufacturing and Mechanical
Systems Integration



"I'd say my parents do."

Tristyn Pease

Fourth year Film and Animation



"I think the government should take some responsibility for that."

Liz Michaud

Fourth year Illustration



"I'm sure the government feels cheated."

Alison Kittenplan

Second year Business Marketing



"In general I feel cheated by the insurance companies."

Sean Curran

Fifth year Information Technology



"I guess not too badly, as long as I can pay off my student loans."

Rachel Deutschman

Second year Marketing



"I feel cheated when I overpay for flavored water."

David Raim

Fourth year Criminal Justice



"I don't feel cheated; I have an expensive hammer."

Jeremy Tolls

First year Mechanical Engineering



"I live in Riverknoll."

Banjo Mike

Fourth year Advertising
Photography



"I guess I could use more shoes."

Eva Leker

Second year Interior Design



"Underwear dance parties, and the therefore lack of."

Ben Liddell

Second year Photojournalism



MEN'S HOCKEY:
01.20.07 // 4-2 vs. UCONN

01

Photography by Dave Londres

01// RIT Goalkeeper Louis Menard had 30 saves and was named the third star of the game.

02// RIT's starters are called out to center ice just before the national anthems.

03// Ritter Ice Rink Supervisor Stuart Hughes cuts the ice after the first period.

04// Dave "Big Goon" Faas leads the Corner Crew in their verbal support of the Tigers.

05// Left Wing Brennan Sarazin fights for the puck during the second period.

SPORTSDESK



08



02



03



04

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Wednesday, February 28, 2007
Tuesday, May 15, 2007

5:00-7:00 p.m.
Schlegel Hall, Eisenberg Rotunda
University of Rochester, River Campus

To register, call Admissions at
(585) 275-2771 or e-mail:
admissions@simon.rochester.edu.

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Davie Kaplan Chapman & Braverman, P.C.

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February 15 & 17

The Great Romantics
February 22 & 24

Pinchas Plays Bach
March 8 & 10

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Christopher Seaman, Music Director



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Musical America



Kronos Quartet

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Eastman Theatre ■ 8PM

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www.esm.rochester.edu/concerts

For more information and tickets call 585.454.2100



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Ieva Jokubaviciute

Mozart Beethoven

Trio in E Major

Trio in G Major

Brahms

Piano Quartet in C Minor

8pm Ingle Auditorium
Friday, February 2, 2007

Unreserved seating: \$6 Students; \$14 Faculty/Staff/Alumni; \$20 General Public.

Tickets may be purchased at the SAU Candy Counter or at the door on performance night, if available. For VISA/MC, call the field house box office at (585) 475-4121.



Performing Artists Concert Series

Presented by The Center for Campus Life

RIT RINGS

585.475.5633

compiled by Ryan Metzler

All calls subject to editing and truncation. Not all calls will be run. Reporter reserves the right to publish all calls in any format. Brackets denote editing by Reporter.

Wednesday 7:19 p.m.

The dorms are really boring.

Thursday 12:11 a.m.

Dear RIT Rings, I'm so [Let's go back to my place and watch a movie]ing hungry and it's already 12:17 and they're only open till one and they won't deliver. I wish all the pizza places were open so I could get something. We're all so damn hungry.

Thursday 1:11 a.m.

RIT Rings, I got the food and I'm eating it, then I'm getting trashed... well...I already am.

Friday 12:06 a.m.

Hey RIT Rings, I just want you to pass a message on to Maria: I love you. Maria, I love you and that's it.

Friday 11:29 a.m.

Hey *Reporter* it's January 12, 2007, and I just wanted to say that you printed coupons for Salvatore's Pizza that expire in November of 2006. You guys should get on top of things and not print old coupons. We want coupons we can use, so why don't you do this?

Friday 11:32 a.m.

So I just called a few seconds about Salvatore's Pizza expired coupons in your magazine, only to find expired Domino's Pizza coupons from 12/15/06. That's not even the right year. You guys officially suck.

Friday 1:52 p.m.

Reporter, I just want to call you to congratulate you on the January 12 issue, it's one of your best yet. Secondly, I noticed in the predictions for '07 that they're predicting someone from that year's class running for office. Let's see if you guys can find out if there are any RIT graduates who have been elected to office. I don't know how you would do that, but it would be neat. Maybe through the alumni relations? Anyways, good issue and goodbye.

Friday 6:15 p.m.

In the word jumble I can't believe you put Moses and Princess Zelda under the same category. I don't think Princess Zelda was either a prophet or a psychic; she had the power of the Triforce.

Friday 6:17 p.m.

Hey, You guys should work a little harder when you get people's names for Word on the Street. His name is not Joseph Noat it's Joseph Noah.

Friday 8:03 p.m.

Yo, RIT Rings, how can you do this [human waste]? You print out coupons that are so old. The *Reporter* came out 12/13 and the same day the coupons expired. How can you do this [human waste] *Reporter*?! This is sort of like a let down. We go to order the pizza, we get the coupon, he hand it to the guy, then he says it's expired. What the hell. I was ready for some [Let's take this into the bedroom]ing pizza. Someone needs to get on top of this [human waste] and get new coupons.

Friday 10:59 p.m.

So me and my friend Jim thought it would be really funny if we waited for someone to walk by and start talking about the most [I swear that's never happened to me before]ed up porn ever. We started talking about Brontosaurus porn. Like, some guy dressed up as a caterpillar doing his dad. We were trying really hard not to laugh and [human waste]. We're trying to keep a straight face a whole time and this guy there is sitting there just playing around with his stylus thing and not saying a thing. So I tried to get his attention and I find out he's deaf. So for 15 minutes we're trying to say the most [I swear it won't happen again]ed up [human waste]; what a waste.

Saturday 1:16 a.m.

So we're all sitting around my TV playing the most awesome game of all time: Sonic 2. We're playing on this little game genesis thing and it's awesome. It's even more awesome than this girl's body. She's the only one. So as you guessed, not a good analogy.

Saturday 1:36 a.m.

I have to say a bunch of random [human waste] about something. Yeah, RIT Rules! [Please don't leave!]ing mother [*Sobbing*]ers.

Saturday 3:30 a.m.

Hi *Reporter*, this is the first time I have called in a few days, and I have to say I agree with the kid who wrote that thing about *Reporter* being a drunk dial line. I may be drunk, and you may think I'm drunk but that's beside the point. I have never called *Reporter* before because I am afraid someone will be listening right then and know who I am from my voice and come find me. That's not cool. I wanted to get that off my chest and I will call later with some other important things. •

ALEX SALSBERG SOLVES ALL YOUR HOUSING PROBLEMS

(in less than 800 words)

by Alex Salsberg

RIT is full of complaining. People lament about the bricks, the Sentinel, the girls, and the food, sometimes in hilarious cartoons. During my time at the Institute, I've seen no segment of RIT's administration villainized more than the one responsible for divvying out RIT's fairly good living situations. While many of the apartments are nice, when you look at how their assignments are managed, it's easy to see why RIT's slogan might as well be "Housing Sucks."

I've not been shy about lampooning Housing Operations in my contributions to this magazine, and I'm sure I will continue to do so. But I'm not too cynical to see that even the purveyor of bad news and ridiculous rules has genuinely good intentions. That's why here, I will complain, but I will also present some positive ideas that could turn Housing's reputation on its head.

Accommodate Co-ops

One of RIT's defining offerings is its extensive co-op program, and unfortunately, Housing has no system in place for students who take advantage of this. A student who goes on co-op must remove himself from housing, the same way a student who is leaving RIT would. His former roommates also meet pressure to replace him, or pay extra; if he wants to return, he will probably have lost his spot.

Housing should provide a reservation fee option for students who want to co-op for one quarter of the academic year. It shouldn't be free to hold the spot, and it shouldn't be for longer than a quarter, because other students are in line for it. But in a simple, one-quarter co-op situation, students should not be torn between their living situation and the co-op experience.

Logical Seniority

In an effort to increase morale and retention rates, Housing Operations has a system of reverse seniority in place when it comes to apartment assignments. I don't know if this has specifically helped (or if there's even a way to measure its positive effects), but I have definitely seen and experienced the negative effects of this unique system myself. When freshmen-going-on-sophomores find out that they're fated to dorms

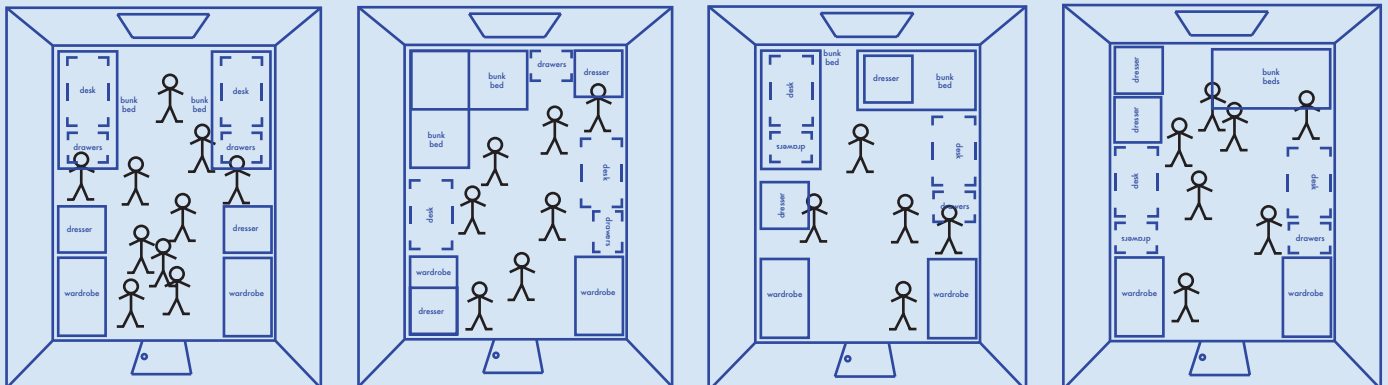
again, they're mad, and that's never going to change. But there's more than just sore-loser frustration at play. So early in their college career, these freshmen have to watch their biggest chance at getting an on-campus apartment slip through their fingers. I'm no psychologist, but it seems to me that the negative effect that this ultra-disappointment has on morale is far greater than the positive effect that getting an apartment as a sophomore has.

I propose that seniority be more logical. If RIT is reluctant to make it entirely by age (like most schools), they should at least give incoming *juniors* the highest odds. Sophomores who are in dorms again will be less upset if they know they have a better chance next year, and Fourth and Fifth Years who have a lower chance would be far enough into their college careers to handle the morale blow and move on.

Abolish Ridiculous Rules

In general, aside from the seniority and co-op issues, Housing's rulebook is nothing short of what you'd expect from any bureaucracy. But they do let a few ridiculous rules slip by unquestioned. Though they may have their reasons, they should not demand respect and simultaneously outlaw extension cords and my Hanukkah candles. But the worst of the ridiculous, and the most harmful, appeared on the renewal reminder that was mailed out: "[If] a group of four students wants to renew...[and] one of the four students is not eligible because she owes money to the Student Financial Services Office...no one in that unit will be renewed for that apartment." I understand that this is a "punish the class" style incentive for students to deal with financial holds, but it is ludicrous. If one of my roommate's parents forgets to pay a bill, not only is it out of my control, but it is none of my business. If one roommate *decides* not to renew, the other three are still free to do so. Disciplinary causes for non-renewal should be treated no differently. Housing needs to make sure that all their rules are fair (and sane) if they want to stop being the "bad guys."

I promise I'll be funny again soon, but I hope my ideas to help Housing Operations will at least get people thinking. And don't worry, if Housing somehow improves, we'll find something else to complain about. It's the RIT way! •





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