

REPORTER

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Editorial

Painting the Rose Tree Orange

It's an iconic scene of *Alice's Adventures In Wonderland*; Alice stumbles across a trio of cards/gardeners frantically painting the white petals of a rose tree red. Amidst their bickering, Alice asks why they were doing such a thing, and the Seven of Spades replies, "Why, the fact is, you see, Miss, this here ought to have been a red rose-tree, and we put a white one in by mistake..."

Over the past two years on the RIT campus, it feels like the brushes of these fabled cards have been busy pigmenting trivialities. Flyers, athletic jerseys, the tassels on your graduation caps, and just about anything being thrust into your line of sight is taking on the hues of RIT. Just look at SG giving out orange and brown t-shirts and encouraging students to wear them on "Spirit Fridays." Why? Well, the fact is, you see, this here ought to have been an orange and brown student, and we put a blue one in by mistake.

Student Government has a "beautification" committee dedicated to making things orange and brown, and that's fine by me. It all started with former SG President James Macchiano and his famous orange blazer. I'm not even necessarily opposed to the idea of a lot of students wearing orange and brown, but it is important to note the difference between school spirit and school conformity.

If you provide incentive for students to wear colors, they will. Back in the early 90s when the Bills were still a respectable football team, my elementary school encouraged students to wear red, white, and blue on Fridays to show team spirit. I cared nothing for the Bills, or even football, but with the promise of a free pretzel rod at lunch, even I pulled out the zubaz.

If a mere pretzel rod could convince the most sports apathetic elementary student to commit the most heinous crime of zubaz, then the promise of hockey tickets to those sporting burnt umber will yield a population of students who wear orange and brown, but don't *mean* orange and brown.

Of course, college students aren't as fickle as elementary school students, but I oppose the notion that students *ought* to wear orange and brown. The RIT community strives to give orange and brown iconic status, transcending mere colors and becoming a symbol. Symbols are powerful, and should be treated accordingly.

Symbols are powerless when created and perpetuated by the same body. A single tiger by the name of Ritchie could spend the rest of his anthropomorphic existence painting and painting and painting the whole campus orange and brown, and fitting and tailoring the finest threads for each and every student in the "appropriate" colors, but this means nothing. Colors, as a symbol, only work when embraced by a person's own free will. Making a person wear orange and brown and making them *want* to wear orange and brown are polar opposites. Just look at the new bright orange uniforms of the SAU inmates. Er, I mean workers.

Spirit Week is upon us, and you each have to decide whether or not RIT has earned your symbolic affection by wearing its colors. If you have a grievance, voice it. If that grievance is addressed, reconsider. Make this Institute work hard to earn your respect.

Luckily, even SG President Lizzie Sorkin is starting to see the error of focusing on pigments. She stated at the January 26 SG Senate meeting, "We're only focusing on colors, and that's not the point."

If the rose tree is truly meant to be orange, stop killing it with paint and water it instead. If it truly ought to be orange, it will turn that way on its own accord.



Casey Dehlinger

Editor in Chief



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Letters to the Editor

Mr. Dehlinger,

The article "Threes Company: A Trifecta of Independent Releases Come this Tuesday" in the January 19 *Reporter* contained several factual errors on which I wish to voice my concern. The *Reporter* should strive fill its roll as the only weekly full color magazine on a college or university campus in the nation by adhering to strict fact checking and tone regulation by the editors. I personal[sic] hold the Editor in Chief, Casey Dehlinger, responsible for the errors in this article and expect to see a correction printed in an up coming[sic] issue.

The article in question discusses three up coming[sic] independent record releases, two from very well known bands, Deerhoof and Of Montreal, and one from a more obscure band, Six Part Seven. Because of my involvement with a music centered[sic] organization on campus and eclectic taste in music I had ample time to preview these particular works long before the article printed. Before I discuss the errors present in the article, I ask, what background does Evan McNamara have in independent music and how is he qualified to review these albums or any music for that matter? From reading the review of the Deerhoof and Of Montreal, I drew the conclusion that Mr. McNamara had no idea what kind of music he was reviewing.

Mr. McNamara states that Deerhoof is a band that "play[s] a brand of forward-thinking punk music peppered with a little bit of, well, everything." This is factually wrong and does not describe their sound in anyway that an individual could understand. Deerhoof does not play punk music and is not a punk band. Deerhoof is an experimental and noise rock band with overtones of math rock and improvisation. Their sound is similar to that of Hella, The Fiery Furnaces, Xiu Xiu, and Wolf Parade. Mr. McNamara also states that vocalist Satomi Matsuzaki is unsuited to front the band. This is completely uncalled for in a review. I fully understand that Deerhoof is not a band for the faint of heart. However, stating that Satomi Matsuzaki is unsuited to be the vocalist of a band that she has fronted for 10 years, eight albums, and countless tours is uncalled for and unprofessional.

Mr. McNamara states, "In true 'indie' fashion, the [Of Montreal] vocals are delivered to your years in two separate tracks, one in the left ear, one in the right. One is always slightly off-key from the other, providing the illusion of lo-fi street cred." Of Montreal is a member of The Elephant Six Collective, which is not mentioned in the article. The Elephant Six Collective, also known as E6, was founded in the early 90's in Denver, Colorado and later moved to Athens, Georgia soon after it's[sic] founding. The E6 was founded by a group of friend[sic] who were also the members of The Apples in Stereo, The Olivia Tremor Control, and Neutral Milk Hotel and later conceived numerous bands, including Of Montreal, which all carry the similar trait of complex low fidelity recordings. To state that Of Montreal is "faking" low fidelity recording for "street cred" is simply absurd.

Secondly Mr. McNamara stated, "Throughout the whole record, there is barely 15 seconds of live drumming, the rest being covered by your friendly neighborhood drum machine. There is also very little electric guitar throughout the album, making this more a piece of electronica than anything." According to this definition of electronica any music recorded without electric guitars and live drumming is considered electronica. Mr. McNamara's definition would encapsulate entire genres reducing them to a simple classification of "electronica". Even using the correct definition of electronica you cannot label "Hissing Fauna, Are You the Destroyer?" an electronica piece. "Hissing Fauna, Are You The Destroyer?" is a synth driven concept album of Indie Pop and Glam Rock.

Mr. McNamara states in his review "After listening, I felt like there was something I didn't quite get." He is correct in his statement. Mr. McNamara in fact did not "get" the music in which[sic] he was reviewing. I suggest you find someone better suited to review music next time.

If you would like to contact me you can reach me at my email address, djm5320@rit.edu.

Thank You,

Daniel Moore

Mr. Moore,

Thank you very much for your feedback and your perspective on music. However, the offenses you list as "factual errors" are the opinions of our music reviewer, Mr. McNamara, which is why I have no intention of running a correction. I'm not about to concede that your opinion is fact while our reviewer's opinion is an "error."

I still very much appreciate that you have taken the time to expound on the music mentioned and that you present your own experiences and knowledge to construct your personal critique. If you truly feel that you are better qualified to review music, then there's no excuse for you—or any other reader—not to apply to Reporter and try your hand at it.

Casey Dehlinger

Editor in Chief

To Reporter,

I am writing this letter in response to the article by Veena Chatti in your January 19 issue. My issue is not with the article itself, but with the pie graph that accompanies it.

The article makes a point that college students are apathetic to the AIDS epidemic, even at is[sic] beginning to affect them directly at colleges they



attend. Chatti paraphrases the remarks of Health Educator Mr. Timothy Keady, saying there is "A general apathy amongst students due to lack of knowledge of AIDS."

I found Chatti's concise, one-page article in regards to the disease to have, at its greatest strength, a demonstration of this philosophy in action, in the form of a pie graph on the same page. The pie graph depicts the ages in years of people with HIV and AIDS, in relation to the number of U.S. cases diagnosed in 2004. In an egregious and beautifully inept display of apathy, general disinterest, and indifference, your magazine chose to run a pie graph dividing the seven age demographics mentioned in the graph into color coded groups, with virtually the same shade of red used for each one. As a result, it is nearly impossible to determine what the graph is trying to portray, or to derive any meaning from it. Not only do the poor color choices make the graph impossible to read, but they trivialize the AIDS epidemic in America into a laughable and incomprehensible visual aid.

In recent weeks, *Reporter* has come under fire for its reporting (or lack of reporting, depending on your perspective in this issue) in several ways throughout the magazine. While it is to be congratulated that your magazine approached an issue such as AIDS within its pages, I find the accompanying visual to be, at best, poorly planned and executed, and, at worst, simply pathetic and inept journalism. Why someone on your staff would design such a graph, and others would take no issue or fail to notice it, is beyond my understanding.

I would hope that in the future, *Reporter* would exploit its full-color layout to its fullest potential to enhance its features, rather than trivializing them with a visual design done in a rushed, clueless fashion.

Bryan Wilczak

4th Year Film and Animation

Mr. Wilczak,

Here at Reporter we take HIV and AIDS very seriously and apologize for the confusion concerning the graph that accompanied the article. I would like to direct those who would like to see a clearer graph to the website where we took the information from, <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pubs/facts/images/youth-image1.gif>. However, as the CDC has decided to portray their "percent-of-total" information as a bar graph rather than a pie graph, I feel that it is also less than acceptable.

Thank you for expressing your concerns.

Casey Dehlinger

Editor in Chief

I'm a little upset...check that, EXTREMELY upset that there has been little recognition of student athletes at the school. The past few *Reporters* have had very little sports coverage, if any, and always involving the hockey teams. I too am a fan of the hockey teams and am extremely happy with out[sic] successful both of their seasons are going. However, there are hundreds of other student athletes[sic] at this school that deserve some credit for what they do. All athletes put at least 12 hours a week into practice, most put in 24+, so that they can represent their school proudly. I myself am a member of the swimming and diving team. For the divers, both males have already qualified for NCAA's in Houston and are ranked top four in the state. On the girls side, freshman Caitlyn Burr is having an incredible season and is ranked first in the state in a couple of events. I know the hockey teams are doing very well but so are other sports. Please recognize all sports in the *Reporter* or none at all. This magazine is supposed to represent the student body, leaving out five sports teams in the magazine is just ridiculous and to the athletes offensive and insulting. We work too hard to go unrecognized.

Matthew Joseph

Third Year Packaging Science

Hey Reporter,

I do enjoy your publication. However, I wanted to ask why the diversity of Word on the Street is so...not. A sea of white faces is what I tend to see and also the people who are asked either lounge around the Java Wally's or near the that area. How about taking it over to the dorm side, LBJ, other colleges. Maybe have a College Word on the Street with students from specific colleges.

The street seems limited when RIT is quite a large area.

Just my suggestion.

Thanks.

Denise Herrera

Fourth Year ASL-English Interpretation

To Send Letters E-mail: reporter@rit.edu. *Reporter* will not print anonymous letters.



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ENTREPRENEUR CHICKS AND THE RIT INCUBATOR THAT HATCHES THEM

by Jean-Jacques DeLisle

Have you ever dreamed of piloting a small business powered by your knowledge, experience, and a well-developed business concept? This could become a reality if you have the stamina and a brilliant business idea. If you want to make it happen, two organizations within the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation will help you experience the learning process firsthand through the development of your business plan and, perhaps, small business.

The student business development lab is the first part of the process, advancing student business concepts, skills, and invention development. This academic program sponsors many seminars, classes, student business development labs, and other events that promote entrepreneurship and innovation. The program has been featured in *Business Week* for its uniqueness and effectiveness in providing experiential learning of multidisciplinary business skills.

The second part of the process, Venture Creations—the High Technology Incubator—is a subsidiary of RIT that houses and promotes budding technological businesses with intent to encourage this sort of entrepreneurship. Since the early 2000s, Venture Creations has offered this exciting opportunity to students, alumni, faculty, staff, and affiliates of RIT, and its services are not limited to those in business or technology fields.

It all started 10 years ago with several million dollars donated that led to the construction of an 81-acre Business and Technology Park south of the RIT campus. In 2001, RIT developed the student business development program Venture Creations, which in turn has led to the development of several small companies. The Incubator currently houses businesses boasting work in high technology fields like imaging, software, chip design, and website services, including SenSee Technologies, Tuesday Studios, TribeMind Studios, Jorsek, and NVFX. All of the businesses within the Incubator gain

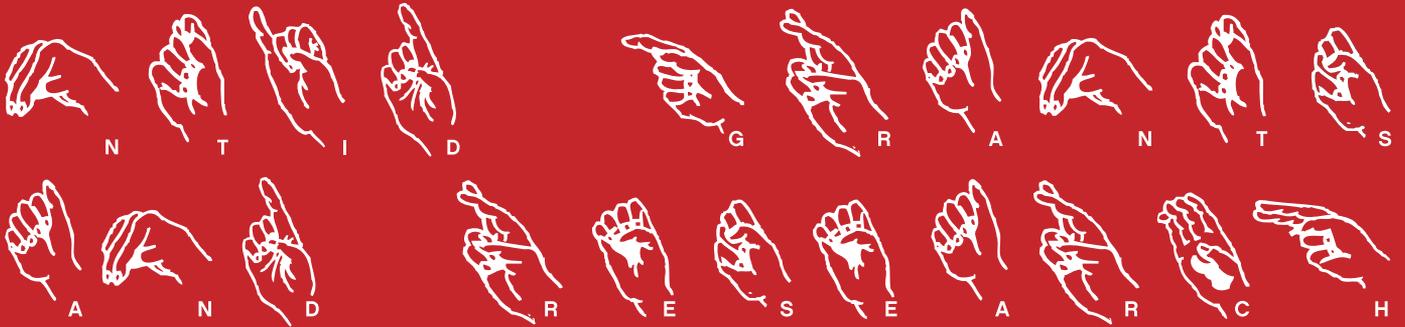
access to its free consulting from RIT faculty and staff, coaching in marketing and legality, tax consulting, and RIT students' co-op labor.

These services are especially helpful considering the difficulty of starting and maintaining a new business. A new company needs a business model, solid production ideas, record keeping, a facility, revenue, and measures of how well they're pleasing their clientele. It's an extremely time-consuming task for a single entrepreneur or a small group of people to undertake. In 2005, the Small Business Administration estimated that 671,800 new firms would open, though 544,800 would close. The Incubator's services for these budding businesses cover some of the most expensive and difficult elements of owning and operating a new business. And having RIT's name behind your business might be an added benefit, too.

MediSked and CoFu are just two of the businesses the Incubator has sponsored. Their founders have moved on from Venture Creations to work as successful small business owners, or in high-paying technological jobs. Ruby Bay, another start-up facilitated by the Incubator, is no longer in business—though it's not due to lack of success. Its employees were offered high-level jobs at companies like Paychex and Microsoft. Michael Pinch, once the CEO of Ruby Bay and a Computer Science major, accepted an offer for a management position at Microsoft that normally required an MBA.

If you've had a business in mind that you'd like to start, the process might actually be easier than you think with the Incubator's help. All you need is a marketable technological service and a business plan.

RIT's High Technology Incubator (or Venture Creations) is located at 125 Tech Park Drive, off John Street. On the web: www.venturecreations.org. The Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation Website: <http://entrepreneurship.cob.rit.edu>.



by David Spiecker

When you talk to a child, anyone would immediately realize that they see the world in a different light than we do. A child's view of the world is so radically different, we often find ourselves wondering at the thought processes behind that view. That is exactly what Marc Marschark, a faculty member and researcher at NTID, is trying to find out about deaf people.

NTID has a plethora of research projects and partnerships undertaken by its staff that delve into the area of deaf education. Marschark, working at the Center for Education's Research Partnerships, is currently involved in a research project aimed at studying how deaf students learn differently from their hearing peers. "Kids and adults learn differently; Psychology and Engineering majors learn differently...deaf students learn differently from hearing students. We try to find the best method to match the learning styles of deaf students. It's not a positive or a negative thing—it's just that they learn differently," says Marschark.

It is research like this that enables NTID to best utilize its resources for helping deaf and hard-of-hearing students to succeed. Research was done on a comparison between Communication Access Real-time Translation (CART) captioning and C-Print captioning. CART machines are similar to the stenograph machine that a typist uses to create a word-for-word record, while a C-Print typist's record would be less precise. Two groups of students were given a presentation to watch, captioned with either CART or C-Print. After the presentation was completed, they were given transcripts of the CART/C-Print captioning to study, and were tested on the presentation. Results showed that both groups of students scored equally well, indicating that students' understanding

was flexible enough to accommodate the inaccuracies of C-Print—which costs half as much as CART captioning.

NTID does not fund its own research projects. Gail Hyde, from the RIT Office of Sponsored Research Services, explains that NTID is primarily funded by the US Department of Education. In 1996, the NTID administration decided that external funding would need to be obtained to fund special projects at NTID. Hyde helps the faculty with finding agencies to fund their research and create grant proposals.

Several research teams at NTID were recently the recipients of grants totaling approximately six million dollars. "NTID has been fairly consistent in its grant work. We general[ly] submit proposals for funding about 25 different projects year. If we're lucky, we maybe have about half of them funded," says Hyde. "We get funding at different times in the year, not based on the academic year, or the calendar year, or the RIT fiscal year, or the government fiscal year. It's a constant juggling act, as you can imagine."

Per year, the grants NTID typically receives total about six to seven million dollars. Each grant has its own lifespan; usually one or five years. Over their lifespans, NTID's grants total almost 25 million dollars, Hyde explains. Benefiting most from this money are the students, since all of the research is geared towards improving current teaching methods and developing new technology that empowers the students at NTID. •

To find out more about the Center for Education Research Partnerships, visit the website: www.rit.edu/ntid/ceerp

RIT FORECAST

compiled by Govind Ramabadrn

SG SENATE WEEKLY UPDATE

by Sarai Oveido

Saturday 3 FEB	Faculty/Staff vs. Students Flag Football Turf Field. 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. A Spirit Week event to promote community between faculty, staff, and students. Cost: Free Global Union Unification Ingle Auditorium. 6:30 p.m. – 10 p.m. Global Union showcases various cultures of the world. Cost: Free. Nala's Snow Ball Frank Ritter Ice Rink. 10:30 p.m. – 1 a.m. Fundraiser held by Alpha Sigma Theta. Cost: \$10. CAB Late Night Bingo SAU Fireside Lounge. 11 p.m. – 2 a.m. Supposedly, the prizes will get better as the night progresses. Cost: Free.
Sunday 4 FEB	Super Bowl Party Clark Gym. 5 p.m. – 10 p.m. Enjoy watching Super Bowl XLI between the Chicago Bears and the Indianapolis Colts on big-screen TVs in the gym. Sponsored by Student Government. Cost: Free.
Monday 5 FEB	Weatherperson's Day Show appreciation to your favorite weather anchor for all those times they helped you know how many sweaters to pile on.
Tuesday 6 FEB	State of the First Year Class Roundtable Discussion Xerox Auditorium. 3 p.m. – 4 p.m. Roundtable discussion on the statistics and trends collected by the FYE program on the freshman class. Cost: Free.
Wednesday 7 FEB	Caroline Werner Gannett Project: Consilience: The Cognitive Recognition Lectures Ingle Auditorium. 8 p.m. – 10 p.m. Dr. David M. Buss, an Evolutionary Psychology professor from University of Texas, Austin will speak on why the mind is designed to kill. Cost: Free.
Thursday 8 FEB	Meal or No Meal Ingle Auditorium. 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. Based on the show <i>Deal or No Deal</i> , only instead of getting a chance to win a million, the prize is a free meal plan for Spring Quarter. Cost: Free. CAB Thursday Night Movie Series: Team America: World Police Ingle Auditorium. 10 p.m. – 1 a.m. From the creators of <i>South Park</i> comes a movie about a special puppet anti-terrorist unit. Cost: Free.
Friday 9 FEB	Gospel Fest 2007 SAU Music Room, Fireside Lounge, Ingle Auditorium. 8 p.m. – 11 p.m. Gospel concert featuring RIT Gospel Ensemble and other music groups from the area. Cost: Free.

Goals

SG President Lizzie Sorkin has asked the Senators to be more involved in the SG Forum. She especially encouraged the Senators to view and discuss the forum with their peers. The Forum can be found at <http://www.sg.rit.edu/>.

VP Dave Blonski announced that a top priority for SG will be turning the old Clark Pool area into club space immediately, as opposed to the current talks of it taking five years. SG's goal is to facilitate a plan that will call for breaking ground by the end of the academic year.

The Senators and MSO representatives were asked to put tally marks on a dry erase board next to the five goals they felt most passionate about and felt that SG could tackle. The most popular goal, with 17 votes, was making food available on campus after midnight. Ranking in at number two with 15 votes was their desire to tape their senate meeting and make them available on the SG channel. There were 14 votes for extending hours at the Student Life Center and 11 votes for an improved bus schedule.

Goals with nine or ten votes included increasing community service activities, providing incentive for SG-sponsored clubs, looking into the possibility of healthier food at the Corner Store, creating an event called "Brick Olympics" where contestants would have a brick-throwing contest, and researching a reasonable alcohol policy for the campus.

Open Positions

Advisor Dr. Heath Boice-Pardee announced that RIT is now hiring for a new Director of Orientation and a Director of the North Star Center, which they are looking to restructure.

Miscellaneous

Sorkin mentioned that President Simone told her that the average GPA for the entire student body is a 3.07.

The Student Information System (SIS) is undergoing a major change, and the Senators were asked to test out the new features before the student body uses it to register.

Caribbean Deaf Club was recognized by SG as a club, and a Golf Club and Tennis Club are going to be recognized as soon as space is found for them in the Student Life Center.

In regards to having class-required textbooks in the library, the College of Engineering would be willing to pay for the required books. This means that the library would be more willing to find storage space for the books. The question afloat to other colleges is, "If Engineering will, how about you?"

Crime Watch

VP David Blonski's name tag is still missing. A notebook-paper replacement was issued by Dr. Heath Boyce-Pardee. Apparently, Daniel Territo's name tag is missing too. Is there a conspiracy with the SG name tags? Tune in next week.

Film and Animation Professors Make Movies, Too (And You Can Watch Them)

by Joseph André Jacir

The night of Thursday, January 25 was an opportunity to watch some of the School of Film and Animation's venerated faculty chatting nervously, quietly fidgeting, and sitting in eager anticipation with wide-eyed attentiveness. Or, alternatively, handling the whole thing in a very cool, nonchalant way. Sure, all that was required of the professors—and a packed auditorium full of spectators—was to sit back and watch a couple of films. But for many of the department's students and groupies, it was a refreshing exercise in role-reversal, because this time, it was the professors' works getting screened.

This reversal, of course, was not complete. At the end of each quarter, SoFA students must brave the open commentary of the faculty and the community after publicly screening their films—an element absent (somewhat conspicuously, judging from student grumbings) from last night's show. "We're not stupid!" joked Professor Jack Beck, "We only inflict pain." Instead of a public critique, a ballot was distributed in order to gauge the audience choice for best of show.

There was more to the School of Film and Animation's Faculty Show, of course, than people watching. In fact, it comprised of about three hours of film watching. "We decided to put on this show because we realized that about half of the faculty had films produced in the last eighteen months, and why not put on a show?" explained the organizer,

Professor Skip Battaglia. Battaglia described his own lauded short film, *Crossing the Stream*, as "the closest I've ever come in a film to who I am." It involved his signature technique of animation synthesized by varying perspectives and rendering styles between frames. Visually, it evoked a somewhat Cubist outlook, as well as Mexican influences. It was a film that celebrated process and hard work—fittingly enough, this film included the longest hand-drawn tracking shot since Disney's *Pinocchio* in 1940.

Other films ran the gamut, from Johannes Bockwoldt's accessible and contemplative narrative *Aloha Motel*, to the visual experimentalism of Stephanie Maxwell's *All That Remains* and Charles Bandla's *Sam's World*. *All That Remains* was pure energy that just dared the audience to keep up, while *Sam's World* was an exploration of the visual possibilities of line and form in the dancing body as they relate to in-frame composition.

One goal of this show was to demonstrate the practice of what the school preaches: the importance of diversity in filmic expression. Johnny Robinson, whose animation many RIT students have doubtless experienced in *Reader Rabbit*, created *Visual Lyrics*, a documentary (about as far a cry from cartoons as you can get) about ASL interpreting at a folk music festival. Rarely does a film so successfully take an audience from a position of "they don't un-

derstand what they're missing" to "I guess I didn't understand what I've been missing" by the end. Political and social approaches were covered as well. Beck highlighted the irony of consumerist eco-tourism in *Yampah*, replete with the camera's smutty indulgence in polar bear fur from the comfort of a huge tundra tour bus. *Oldest Mother on the Block* was Cat Ashworth's intensely personal exploration of guilt, joy, and the issues surrounding in-vitro motherhood. Unfortunately, much of the audience decided to step outside before the longer pieces: surely a bad decision judging from the explosive applause earned by some of these films.

Fun was had, too. Aharon Charnov worked on an amusing webtoonish short, *Clicker Clutter*, while Tom Gasek showed a reel that included clips from *Inside-Out Boy* and other classics alongside advertisement animation. The crowd didn't seem to mind the peculiarity of enjoying normally-glossed-over ads in this context.

Battaglia suggested that the Faculty show was "an opportunity to show that we make films and have other things besides teaching. Our films aren't perfect." However, audience turnout was very good, "as we were expecting," according to Bockwoldt. As for the results of the ballot? Pending, but judging from the enthusiasm of the audience, the lack of immediate consensus was not for want of strong choices. •

Screenshots & Production Stills

01 // Cat Ashworth's *Oldest Mother on the Block*

02 // Johannes Bockwoldt's *Aloha Motel*

03 // Johannes Bockwoldt's *Aloha Motel*

04 // Johannes Bockwoldt's *Aloha Motel*

05 // Johannes Bockwoldt's *Aloha Motel*

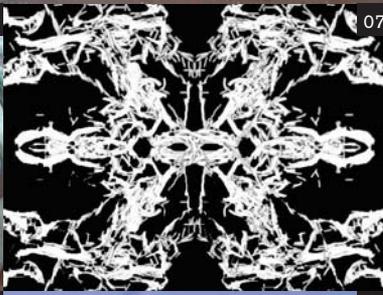
06 // Cat Ashworth's *Oldest Mother on the Block*

07 // Charles Bandla's *Newman Sequence #2 - Reflection*

08 // Cat Ashworth's *Oldest Mother on the Block*

09 // Cat Ashworth's *Oldest Mother on the Block*

10 // Johnny Robinson's *Visual Lyrics*



IVES TALES



01 // Brandon Pastuszek (left) and Rebecca Strauss perform in the short play "Time Flies" as part of Ives Tales in Ingle Auditorium. 02 // Benjamin Golub (left) and Nikki Meadows perform a short play called "Words, Words, Words" as part of the RIT players performance of Ives Tales in Ingle Auditorium. 03 // Yoshi Bunjevac (left) and Nikki Meadows perform a short play called "Words, Words, Words" as part of the RIT players performance of Ives Tales in Ingle Auditorium.

When one thinks of RIT, it is likely that thoughts of engineering and computer-related activities are conjured, closely followed by images of massive computer set-ups and huge vats filled with Mountain Dew. What one almost never imagines is RIT being a place for theater, yet RIT has managed to cultivate an increasingly talented group of students in the RIT Players. Talking with the various members of the troupe after their most recent production, "Ives Tales" (a series of shorts written by David Ives and performed January 25-28), I got a real sense of family and cohesiveness. Jenna Crawford, a psychology major and Assistant Director on "Ives Tales," best described the general feeling I got from the cast: "I'd rather lose sleep than lose this." The time and energy that all of the Players put into the production certainly shows.

"Philadelphia" is the first of seven short plays in "Ives Tales," and is, by all accounts, the right way to kick off a show. Adam DeLancey and Josh Rhodes portray Al and Mark, two men stuck in two very different cities, a metaphor that's supposed to represent two different metaphysical states of mind. One is stuck in Philadelphia and can't get anything he asks for; the other one is stuck in Los Angeles and just doesn't care, because, hey, life is great in LA. Exceptionally well-written dialogue is turned into thespian perfection via the on-stage chemistry between DeLancey and Rhodes, who both constantly bounce off each other with lightning-fast retorts and quips. Clever phrasing like, "Eventually, the cosmic train will whisk you away to another, happier city" make this and the other shorts positively kinetic.

"Words, Words, Words" is about three monkeys being asked to prove the notion that "monkeys typing into infinity will sooner or later produce *Hamlet*." Well, they do and they don't. Milton, Kafka, and Swift (played with an astounding level of physicality by Ben Golub, Nikki Meadows, and Yoshi Bunjevac) instead contemplate their freedom, postmodernism, and what exactly *Hamlet* is.

"English Made Simple" is the highlight of the first act, if not the entire show. A speaker is teaching the intricacies of using the English language to engage in romantic conversation—without actually doing so. The genius of this short play is the dichotomy between the speaker's matter-of-fact delivery and the impish adolescence of the two characters, Jack and Jill. Jenilee Johnson must be given special props for her dead-pan magnificence in the role of the speaker.

"Sure Thing" is somewhat of an anomaly. On one hand, it's written marvelously, and the humor is timed perfectly; on the other, it's a tedious version of "English Made Simple." "Sure Thing" centers on a coffee shop, two customers named Bill and Betty (Nate Jentsch and Allison Crane), and a woman who can only be described as "God with a bell." While it has an inventive plot, which allows for some exceptional bits of well-timed humor, it ends up taking far too long to get going and sometimes involves wooden acting.

The second half of "Ives Tales" is the by far the stranger of the two. "Time Flies" sees two mayflies encountering their own mortality in the form of a Steve Irwin knockoff known as Sir David Attenborough (John Cleese must be lurking somewhere in the soul of Andrew Gibson, the actor who plays Attenborough). "Arabian Nights" shows us a bizarre take on boy-woos-girl by throwing a madcap interpreter (embodied by Amber Guley) into the fray. The result led me to write but one note, "I'm not sure what's happening, but in a good way." Finally, there is "The Universal Language," where Val Tracy and Nathaniel Rotunno have more fun on stage than should be allowed. Despite the somewhat long running time of it, "Language" is saved by two actors who inject tremendous energy into it, lifting it above its flaws.

For more information on the RIT Players (as well as a schedule of their upcoming shows), visit their website: www.ritplayers.com.



Music Review

Fujiya & Miyagi – Transparent Things

by Evan McNamara

Remember that guy from the late '70s that claimed disco was dead? You wouldn't happen to have his phone number, would you? Because after listening to the latest album from Fujiya & Miyagi, I feel inclined to give him a ring to tell him he was wrong.

Although disco has arguably "lived on" through its influence on many contemporary artists, I can't say that I've ever heard an album that owes a larger debt to the genre than this one does. *Transparent Things*, the latest album from Fujiya & Miyagi, has its roots firmly planted in the disco era. A clean guitar is delicately strummed over a fat, groove-laden bass line, which interlocks with simple-yet-effective programmed drumming. Occasionally, a synthesized string arrangement can be heard, and sometimes a keyboard or organ snatches the main melodic duties from the guitar.

What makes this album work is the personality that Fujiya & Miyagi injects



into otherwise standard disco tunes. "Cylinders" has a heavy indie pop lean, while "Reeboks in Heaven" showcases a super-funky bass lick that Bootsy Collins would be proud of. The vocals are often whispered, sometimes falsetto, but always entertaining. The lyrics may be nonsensical and/or incoherent at times (in "Collarbone" he proclaims: "trip over my shoelaces/ gotta get a new set of shoes/to kick it with me/to kick it with you"), but they never lose sight of the all-important fun factor. Flat-out danceable, this album is the perfect soundtrack to any happenin' party.

I don't know exactly *why* I like this album, but I do. To tell you the truth, I think most disco was (and still is) horrible, but Fujiya & Miyagi have performed enough trickery here to make me ignore that disco sucks. This album will get you out of your funk and put you back out on the proverbial dance floor.

Oh, and while you're out there dancing it up, I'll try to find that guy's phone number.



Product Review

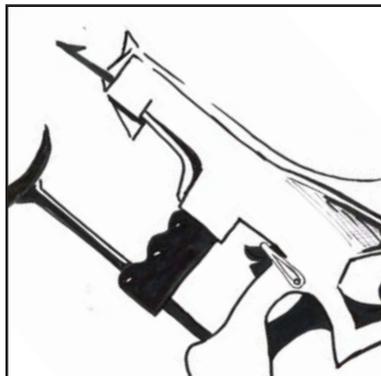
Watercooler Warefare:

The Rubber Band Rifle Is On Track To Becoming the Official Weapon Of Cubicles Everywhere

by Evan McNamara | illustration by Kristen Bell

Have you ever felt that shooting rubber bands at your friends by wrapping them around your finger was a tad inefficient? Have you ever wished you could shoot 10 rubber bands at your roommate, rapid-fire, with pinpoint accuracy and deadly consequences? *Hasn't everybody?!*

If you have a penchant for using office supplies in their deadliest capacity, the Firewheel rubber band rifle is for you. A quick visual overview shows that the dark green and brown color scheme makes this look more like a siege weapon than a harmless toy. Upon further examination, one can conclude that it should be kept well out of reach of small children.



front of the rifle, and stretch it all the way to the back into a slot on the wheel. The wheel is rotated and the rubber band stays in place, with a new open slot now ready for another projectile.

Once loaded, you can fire the rubber bands one round at a time, in bursts, or all at once. The Firewheel is easy to aim, but firing long distances decreases the gun's accuracy. The other problem with the gun is that loading is awkward and takes a long time. Trying to hold a stretched rubber band with one hand, while attempting to hold the gun and spin the loading wheel with the other proves

extremely difficult. After a few days of practice, however, it gets easier.

The Firewheel gets its name from its loading mechanism, which is a wheel located at the back of the rifle that allows up to 10 rubber bands to be simultaneously loaded. To operate, you hook a rubber band the

Staring down the barrel of a loaded Firewheel gives one a sense of sick power. Whether or not this is a good thing is for you to decide.

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

STREAM OF FACTS

FEBRUARY 2

February 2, 1870 –It is revealed that the Cardiff Giant isn't actually the petrified remains of an extraordinarily large human. It's just carved **gypsum**.

Gypsum is used in dental **molds**, drywall, blackboard chalk, paint filler, cement, and toothpaste.

Last year, researchers at the University of Southampton and the University of Kobe reported that they had built a six-legged robot whose movement was remotely controlled by slime **molds**, which would **direct** the robot into dark corners.

Thomas Edison secretly paid Harold P. Brown to construct the first electric chair in order to promote the idea that alternating current (AC), invented by Nikola Tesla, was deadlier than **direct** current (DC), invented by Edison. Surprisingly, Edison actually opposed capital **punishment**.

As **punishment** for sexual offenders, some states are employing "chemical castration," the use of hormonal medication to curb testosterone **production**.

Mass **production** first paired up with fast food in 1948 when McDonald's began use of the speedee serve system. Now almost every fast food chain has adopted this idea, as it stops them from having to hire chefs.

Traditional nunchakus consist of two sticks of linked by a cord or **chain**. They are the weapon of choice of Michelangelo, the **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle**.

The next **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle** movie will be released on March 23, 2007. In the film, Max Winters (apparently the new bad **guy**, now that The Shredder is gone) gathers an army of ancient, evil creatures to take over the world.

February 2, 2007 –Crêpe Day is being celebrated in France, and Groundhog Day is being celebrated (or cursed, depending on which way the little **guy** looks) in the United States and Canada.

QUOTE

Technology is neither *good* nor *bad*, nor even *neutral*. Technology is one part of the complex of relationships that people form with each other and the world around them; it simply cannot be understood outside of that concept.

Samuel Collins

HAIKU

by **Brian Garrison**

No arms, no legs, not even a body. I'm just a brain in a vat.

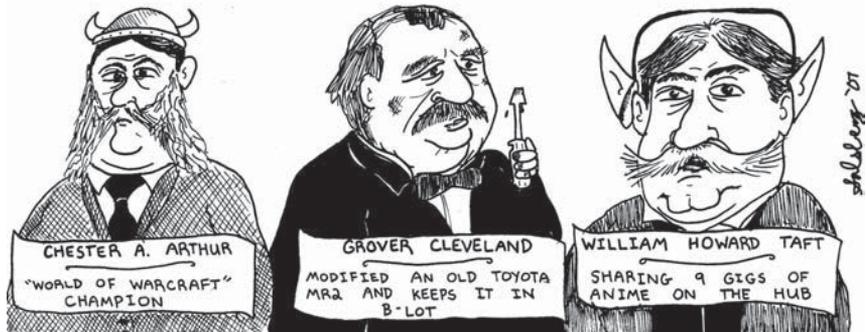
REPORTER

RECOMMENDS

The Princeton Review Vocabulary Minute podcast. These minute-long songs have four to six vocabulary words each and, despite their inherent dorkiness, will be stuck in your head for days. I leave you with my favorite lyrics, from the April 19, 2006 episode: "You broke my heart, causing coronary pain. And my life will now be desolate, for alone I will remain. You accuse me of hyperbole; you think I'm exaggerating. You say don't be so lugubrious; we aren't even dating."

CARTOON | by Alex Salsberg

CLINTON MAY BE SPEAKING AT COMMENCEMENT, BUT HERE ARE SOME FORMER PRESIDENTS WHO WOULD FIT IN BETTER AT RIT



SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

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

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

Pokémon

arlsbbuu
iglpfguyfj
emwhot
dskuypc
geudod
eadnmhracr
kaakun
siuertlq
kapuich
mlgoo
ttoecnola
gtanemno

Charmander, Kakuna, Squirtle, Pkachu, Gloom, Eubasur, Jigglypuff, Newrth, Psyduck, Geodude, Tentacool, Magneon



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INTERNET ADDICTION:

WHY

IT MIGHT NOT BE
JUST A GAME

BY J.S. OST | PHOTOGRAPHY BY ASHLEY POOLE

A young man named Lee stopped at an internet café one evening to play an MMORPG—a massive multiplayer online role-playing game. He had recently been fired from his job for spending too much time playing computer games at work. Stopping only for toilet breaks and brief naps, the 28-year-old played for nearly 50 consecutive hours, eventually dying of dehydration and exhaustion when he stepped away from the screen.

ADDICTED TO THE INTERNET

An estimated five million Americans share Lee's affliction, known primarily as "internet addiction." Other names for the condition include "pathological internet use," "cyber addiction," "internet abuse," and "compulsive internet use." Think all that time you spend playing World of Warcraft or looking at facebook is 'just for fun?' Perhaps not.

One of the first experts to study this condition, University of Pittsburg psychology professor Dr. Kimberly Young, began her research in 1994. Young, like many other professionals in the field, believes that it closely mimics compulsive gambling, a behavioral disorder already accepted and listed in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual used by mental health professionals. There's a current push to have internet addiction published there as well. "Unfortunately, internet addiction is very commonly masked due to the normalcy created by the internet's popularity, legitimacy, and need for personal and professional use," explains Dr. Jaya Save-Mundra, staff psychologist at RIT's Counseling Center.

One major misconception about internet addiction is that the sheer amount of *time* users log on is a major symptom in itself, though this isn't the case. Jeff Spain, Community Enrichment Coordinator for Gleason Hall, believes "it boils down to whether or not surfing the internet gets in the way of the daily function of your life." While users may be online for hours at a time, there are several more specific symptoms of true internet addiction. Similar to the diagnostic criteria listed for pathological gambling, those who suffer from internet addiction often find themselves using the internet to alter their mood or as an 'escape' from everyday life. In many cases, a few favorite sites are frequented. "It's usually not the whole internet involved in the disorder but a 'genre' of websites that are the problem," explains Spain. "There have been students who just can't pull away from certain websites...specifically Ebay and online gambling sites."

Internet addicts also need more and more time online to feel the same 'high' or satisfaction that they typically experience. Often, they lose track of time when they're online, and any attempts to cut back are typically unsuccessful. As a result of their increasing time surfing the web, internet addicts become increasingly withdrawn from their social relationships in the real world. Both Spain and Save-Mundra have seen this effect on the RIT campus. "At the Counseling Center, we see students whose excessive gaming and internet activity present problems and issues with their academic performance, social relationships, and sometimes health," Save-Mundra says.

WHO BECOMES AN ADDICT?

Especially susceptible to developing an internet addiction are people who are lonely, depressed, bored, have a history of addictions, or are generally unsatisfied with their lives. "We all have moments where we daydream and wish we could be doing something else, but there are students for which gaming and the internet are a problem and can't seem to break away," Spain explains. A former World of Warcraft player himself, he's talked to students who spend hours playing the game, and says that these gamers "seem to enter this world and prioritize the game above everything else... some will forget about everything around them and be completely absorbed into the role they might be playing."

For people with low self-esteem, the internet can be a way for them to become the exciting, dynamic person they wish to be. As the old saying goes, 'on the internet, no one knows you're really a dog.' In fact, of the three major categories of internet addictions classified by professionals studying the condition, users who prefer MMPORGs are in a class by themselves. Spain, based on his own research with RIT students, refers to these users as having a "gaming addiction." He elaborates, "While many students can maintain a healthy balance between gaming and classes, there are a few

students who miss classes on a regular basis because they can't seem to break away."

Those internet addicts who aren't interested in MMPORGs typically spend their time in chat rooms and similar online social networks. These users are most likely to engage in online sexual encounters, which can lead to a breakup with a current partner or spouse. Using the internet to 'act out' their fantasies and assume an exciting personality they don't (or can't) possess in real life is the major appeal of these relationships. Addicts interested in these areas are also likely to spend significant amounts of time looking at pornography, especially of an explicit or less-than-mainstream nature.

HOW REAL IS INTERNET ADDICTION?

Because studies on internet addiction rely on the self-reports of participants, they are often difficult to conduct and frequently provide shaky results. Some experts argue that internet addiction isn't a *real* addiction, contrasting the condition to that of substance abusers. When dependency on a chemical substance develops, the brain's structure and function go through a serious of changes. Normal functioning is bypassed as new neural connections are created. Save-Mundra believes that "internet use has an equally high potential of being addictive as any substance use."

The most noticeable indication of addiction, however, are the physical withdrawal symptoms users experience when they stop taking the substance. For behavioral conditions, like internet addiction, no physical withdrawal symptoms exist because neurological changes have not taken place. Similar to drug users, internet addicts may crave their next 'fix,' though they don't necessarily feel physically ill if they aren't online. "I think there are a lot of students on campus who don't necessarily have a disorder but do sometimes miss classes because of their desire to get the next winning hand or beat the next boss," Spain suggests.

But the United States isn't the only nation to concern itself with the possible dangers of widespread internet addiction. In 2005, a clinic opened in Beijing, China, to treat young people with the condition. The clinic's director describes these patients, ranging in age from 14 to 24 years old, as having left school because they prefer to spend time in online chat rooms or playing games, and have stopped interacting with the people around them. With an online population second only to that of the United States, much concern has centered on recent exponential increases in internet access. With the majority of the citizenry having access to the internet and television gaming channels where viewers can watch multiplayer online matches, the country's fascination with the internet could very well be spiraling out of control.

Here at home, internet addiction has become a subject of debate in courtrooms across the country. A former IBM employee named James Pacenza tried to sue the company for \$5 million after he was fired for engaging in online chat rooms at work. Pacenza claimed wrongful termination on the grounds that IBM should have offered him counseling instead of taking away his job. And in the case of a couple fighting for custody of their children during an angry divorce, the father won after proving that his wife (who had left him for a lover she met in a chat room) was too addicted to the internet to adequately care for their young children.

GETTING HELP

"I would agree that internet addiction is a real, problematic condition for those people who might meet the criteria," Spain asserts. "There's all the medical facts that describe it, and a few tests you can take online to see if you might have a problem." Indeed, by browsing online, you can find a handful of sites by institutes dedicated to diagnosing and curing internet addicts. Most have do-it-yourself assessments intended to gauge your level of addiction. [See the article's sidebar for sample questions].

Here at RIT, the Counseling Center's website provides preliminary information and links to resources for students who believe they might have an internet addiction. Additionally, the staff provides treatment for students suffering from the condition. "The Counseling Center certainly recognizes internet addiction as a serious concern, and is hoping to devote additional resources targeting this issue," says Save-Mundra.

If you're concerned that your own internet habits need adjusting, internet addiction experts have suggested ways to begin helping yourself. For starters, try charting the time you spend online into categories, such as 'academic use,' 'work use,' and 'leisure time.' Using this technique, you'll be able to see how much of your internet use is legitimate—say, for a research assignment you've been given at work—and how much is for pleasure or personal satisfaction.

For those of you looking to spend less time online but are having difficulty doing so, try making a list of the activities, events, hobbies, etc. that you're giving up when you're online. Examine your relationships and see if they're suffering (i.e., have your friends/roommates frequently told you that you need to stop spending all day in front of the screen). If you can't keep track of time yourself, decide how long you're going to be online, and set a kitchen timer. When it goes off, turn off the computer—no excuses. •

Remember, it isn't the amount of time you spend online that's significant—it's how your life is affected by your internet use. For resources to help you test yourself or learn more about internet addiction, check out these sites:

- www.virtual-addiction.com
- www.netaddiction.com
- www.computeraddiction.com

TEST YOURSELF

Consider the following questions from Young's original assessment of internet addiction severity. Answer choices: Rarely, Occasionally, Frequently, Often, Always

1. Do you find that you stay online longer than you intended?
2. Do you try to hide how long you've been online?
3. How often do you choose to spend more time online over going out with others?
4. Do others in your life complain to you about the amount of time you spend online?
5. Are your grades or schoolwork suffering because of the amount of time you spend online?
6. Does your job performance or productivity suffer because of the internet?
7. How often do you lose sleep due to late-night logins?

The full version of this test is available at: www.netaddiction.com.

True Life: i don't use a computer

by Antonio Castillo
photography by Matt Bagwell

Goodbye, email.

After winter quarter, RIT is restricting internet access to one hour a week for all students.

Goodbye, InfoCenter.

The process for scheduling classes is reverting back to sheets of paper you must hand in to the Registrar's Office.

Goodbye, GCCIS.

All class assignments must be hand-written and majors that rely on use of a computer will be phased out.

Could you live with a campus—or a life—that excluded the use of a computer?

For Millennials, people born between 1982 and 2000, or most college students, going without a computer is tantamount to severing a limb. Luke Stodola, a fourth year Multidisciplinary major, has said goodbye to all those things—the life he leads is the one just described. The 21-year-old stopped using a computer in 2005, when the pain it caused became too much to bear.

Stodola spent 40 hours a week at a computer in the summer of 2005. His Computer Science-related co-op demanded what most technology related co-ops demand, productivity through use of a PC (Personal Computer, for Mac lovers). That summer, after completing an average American workday, Stodola would return home and enjoy an afternoon of leisure, but had difficulty sleeping. It was at night when the repetitive keyboard strokes from earlier in the day caused the tendons in his arms to swell. The pain became so great he had to cut his co-op short, hoping the time off would allow his muscles to recuperate for the fall quarter. Unfortunately, Stodola's condition was more than a passing malady.

"I have Repetitive Strain Injury (RSI)," Stodola explains, "a general term for any repetitive action that you might do—workers on assembly lines doing the same repetitive motion can get RSI." In the fall quarter of 2005, he made a decision that would ruin a majority of the student body's future plans—sever any and all connection with computers and the internet.

Stodola has always been affected by RSI. When he enrolled as a freshman in 2003 he began cutting down time spent at a computer, but as a Computer Science student he could only defer using it to an extent. He went through several treatments without any improvement in his condition. "I realized if I can't get through school without feeling pain, I'm not going to be able to do a 40-hour work week. It was pragmatic that I stop using computers." A difficult choice, nonetheless, at a technical institute. RIT has become increasingly reliant on its students using computers. The course catalog for the upcoming classes is no longer printed. Emergency messages are delivered via email through RIT's Messenger Service. Class instruction is increasingly facilitated through myCourses. There seems to be no caveat, except for Housing renewal (much to student dissatisfaction), that does not allow or require a computer.

Paper, pen, and a fax machine are Stodola's basic supplies from quarter to quarter. All of his assignments are handwritten. In the event he takes an online course, his assignments are handwritten and then faxed to the professor. "...talk to a professor, say 'I'm interested in your course, [but] for medical reasons I have difficulty using a computer,'" Stodola said. "A majority of professors say I can handwrite my assignments as long as I write them neatly."

Students may jest about their next assignment and the pain they'll endure completing it, but Stodola literally *feels* it. Even his best effort has not stopped the computer from having a presence in his life. "I'd rather use computers a little tiny bit, rather than not use them at all," Stodola said. "I email, but that's about as much as I can do."

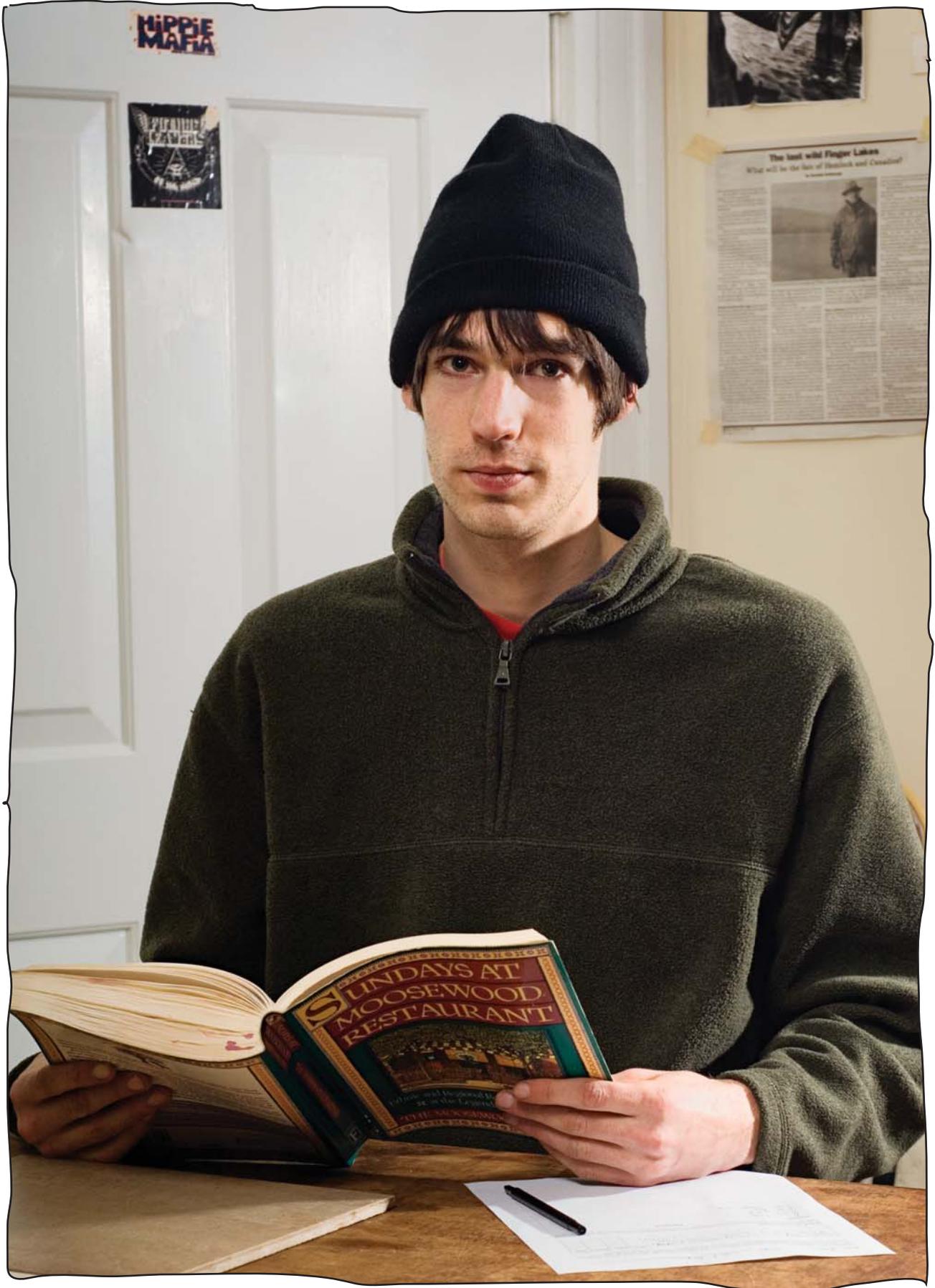
Before giving away his computer on an indefinite loan to a friend, Stodola consumed information similar to most students—through the internet. "I would like to be able to browse through websites, but now I just do that through magazines and books," he said.

If RIT, the US government, or some other governing body really did take away our free access to a computer, could we survive? Stodola has. After he gave away his computer, he switched to Multidisciplinary Studies and focused on mathematics. He realizes that most jobs will require interaction with a computer, so he redirected his professional intentions to something "hands-on," he ironically describes—construction or environmentally-related.

Despite the perceived shortcomings of non-computer use, Stodola considers some aspects of his life to be improved. Homework takes less time than it used to. When he still owned a computer, he would browse the web while working. Now, without the distraction, he is done with a class assignment in two hours or less. "I find computers are a great way to suck up time, back when I was using them more," he said. The extra free time grants him a flexible schedule and time for socializing, but his way of living affects that as well. "People expect you to have access to a computer. Sometimes my friends email me asking to get together that day. I get their message a few days later since I can't check mail that frequently."

Stodola's RSI also has insightful side-effects. "There are going to be a lot of effects of my actions that I can't immediately help. Eating pesticide-ridden food may not make me feel worse today, but who knows how I'll feel later in life." Furthermore, tools that many computer users rely on, such as spell-checking, are skills that Stodola fosters on his own.

While computer use makes many students more educated, better at their craft, or faster workers, Stodola is an example of the benefits that can result when we free ourselves from technology. "I make party invitations, too," he said. "Instead of printing it off, I make a stencil and trace it." He explains it as "giving his work the personal touch that doing it with a computer sometimes lacked."•





GOSPEL FEST

RIT GOSPEL FEST 2007

Featuring the RIT Gospel Ensemble

SPECIAL GUESTS INCLUDE:

**Sandy Jackson, Elim Christian Fellowship Choir, Shawanda Owens,
and the 5th Sunday Ensemble Memorial AME Zion Church**

February 9th, 2007 at 8:00pm
Ingle Auditorium

paid advertisement

Center
for
Campus **life**
Building SPIRIT.

WORD ON THE STREET

COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY BELVEDUDE

Q: What website do you frequent most?



"www.thedavinciloard.org.
Thanks, Justin."
Rick Williamson
Second year Photojournalism



"demetrimartin.com."
Jade Dellapena
Third year Advertising
Photography



"wallstreetjournal.com."
Sridhav Chandran
MBA



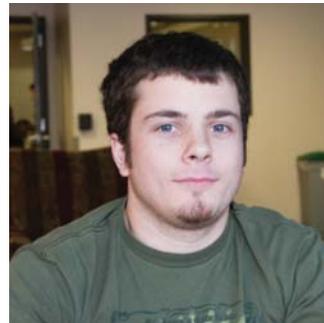
"netdiver.net. It's good for design
inspiration."
Roxy Feldman
Biomedical Photography



"hornymanatee.com."
Mike Maranda
Second year Electrical
Engineering



"fat-pie.com. He's a twisted British
fuck."
Leanne Chaling
Second year Mechanical
Engineering



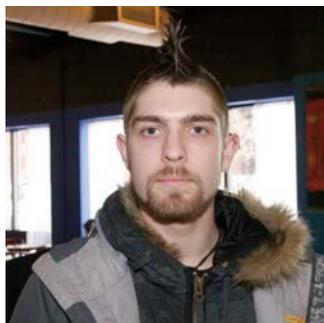
"ihatephysics.com."
Brian Murphy
Second year Computer
Engineering



"rotten.com."
Paula Mcbroom
Second year Industrial Design



"uglypeople.com."
Justin Pratt
Second year Mechanical
Engineering



"questionablecontent.net."
Peter Zandvliet
Second year International
Business



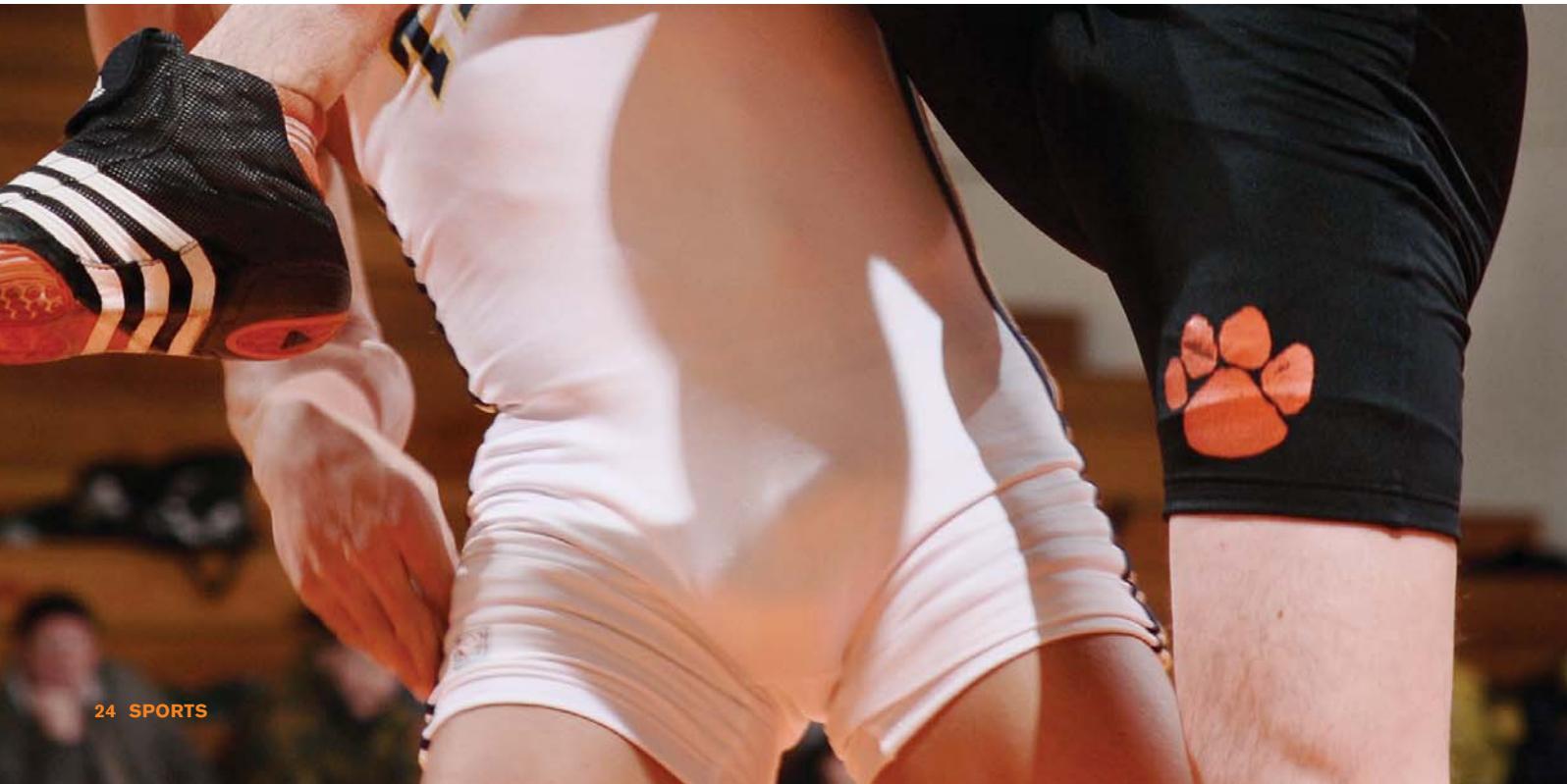
"haaetz.com."
Sonny Bleicher
Second year Environmental
Science



"catandgirl.com."
Nick Savot
Fourth year Advertising
Photography



SPORTSDĚSK





MEN'S WRESTLING: 01.28.07

Photography by Matt Bagwell

01// RIT's Jason Wake struggles to get free in a match against Thiel College on Sunday, January 28. RIT lost 34-9.

02// RIT senior Micah Vore tries to get a better grip on an opponent from Thiel College during Sunday's match.

03// RIT sophomore Luke Baum (top) pins a member of the SUNY Morrisville team during Sunday's dual meet in Clark Gym. RIT finished the day 1-2.



01



02



03



04





ON AND OFF THE COURT

RIT WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

BY MATT SHAND | PHOTOGRAPHY BY COCO WALTERS



Right before tip-off, the RIT Women's Basketball team formed a circle on all-fours at half-court. They beat the floor with their palms, drumming out a steadily increasing rhythm that culminated in a unanimous cry of "Intensity!" Considering how powerful their team has been this season, both on and off the court, I can't help but find the rallying shout appropriate.

Off

Intensity is not the only thing the Tigers brought to their game against the Utica Pioneers on Friday, January 26. They also carry a unique blend of team unity. Three of the Tigers' thirteen athletes are deaf. However, you won't see any communication issues arise while these ladies are on the court. "Our team and staff have learned sign language," said Coach Debbie Buff before the game. These efforts to increase team cohesion have "really helped in [the team's] progress," she added.

Coach Buff's attribution of the benefits of increased team unity is supported by the Tigers performance this season. The team is just two wins away from setting a new school record for most wins in a Women's Basketball season. "This season has been the most competitive RIT has ever been, with our losses [coming in]

overtime," said Coach Buff.

Team unity is just as strong off the court, said Margot Sandy, a fourth-year Electrical and Mechanical Engineering major. Sandy, a Captain on the team that was recognized before tip-off as the third lady Tiger in RIT history to score 1,000 career points, said "We're always up for a team meal, a game of laser tag, or a trip to see the Borat movie."

In regards to the challenge of playing on a team with deaf students, Sandy responded, "Each team member is at their own skill level with learning sign language. However, it's the effort and appreciation for each other that helps our team on [and off] the court."

On

The Tigers then went on the prowl for the opening minutes of the Friday, January 26 game. Margot tore it up, draining two consecutive three-pointers, while the tenacious Tiger defense held the Pioneers scoreless for three minutes.

However, halfway through the first period, the Tigers lost a bit of their earlier ferocity, and the game became a heated struggle; the score at the half was 29-28 Utica. Over the second pe-

riod, the Tigers would battle back into the lead on two occasions, but failed to stay there.

In one instance, Tiger Jackie Sergi stole the ball from Utica at half-court. With the RIT crowd on their feet and making noise, Sergi fed Senior Guard Jenna Newberry for the easy layup. This unfortunately served as the game's last cause for celebration from the RIT fans. The Tigers clung to a narrow lead, but the Pioneers would pull ahead with 4:30 left and stay there, despite a stalwart Tiger spirit that never quit.

The final score was 56-48, which resulted in Utica claiming their fourth Empire 8 conference win.

Had the Tigers found Sandy on the three-point arc in the second half, they might have been able to turn the tide. However, after having sunk four three-pointers in the first period, the Pioneers kept two players guarding Sandy for most of the second. Even as such, Sandy led the Tigers with 19 points, eight rebounds, and two blocks.

Regardless of their loss, the Tigers still require only two wins to set a new school record, a feat that seems easily within reach given their indomitable will and strength in unity. •

01 // Senior Jenna Newberry uses hand signals to communicate while on the court. 02 // During a time-out Senior Jenna Newberry pays attention to the team's interpreter. 03 // RIT Women's Basketball Head Coach Debbie Buff talks with the team's interpreter during a time-out near the end of their game against Hartwick. 04 // Seniors Jenna Newberry (left), and Margot Sandy (right) talk during their game on January 27, 2007.

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SAAC:

BRINGING BACK SPORTSMANSHIP



by Geoff Shearer

Rob Mizelle was a starting linebacker and a team captain, but didn't let the prestige go to his head. He brought it all to the field and left it all there, setting a precedent of sportsmanship that would follow him to his position as Vice Chair in RIT's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC).

The SAAC is sort of like the goodwill ambassador of RIT athletics, in that it promotes a positive image of athletes through community service and development programs. The thirty-member committee is chaired by Anna Kolnik, who, along with Amy Hopkins, revamped and refocused the group last year. The SAAC also reports on student athletes' perspectives concerning certain issues. In particular, they talk to teams for opinions on NCAA rule proposals, which are then presented to the NCAA by the Legislation Chair, Jackie Hammond.

However, the SAAC is about so much more than just sports; this group is heavily focused on developing RIT's athletes as socially conscious individuals. "They serve their college community, their fellow athletes, and the Rochester area," Mizelle remarks. In addition to the knowledge athletes gain through participation in SAAC, they also receive valuable scholarship opportunities, as well as leadership and personal growth opportunities that include NCAA and Empire 8 leadership conferences.

The Student Athlete Formal, held earlier this school year, was a major SAAC-run event (thanks mostly to member Mandi Morehouse, chair of the Awards/Events committee). This charity dance raised \$3500 from the 400 people in attendance; all of that money will be donated to the Lance Armstrong LiveStrong Foundation. Now, you might be asking yourself one very key question: how did they raise all that money? One of the highlights of the night was a collection of money jars, each labeled with the name of an athletic coach or director. Whichever jar tallied the most money by the end of the

night endowed its corresponding staff member with one very generous pie to the face. Christine Worsley, Head Athletic Trainer and Senior Women's Administrator, was this year's prestigious pie-in-the-face recipient.

Aside from dancing and shameless pie glorification for charity, SAAC makes a giant impact locally in Rochester. Every week, a group of SAAC members visits an elementary school in Spencerport to help students study for standardized English and math exams. These tests have proved to be very troublesome for students and school districts in recent years; due to higher statewide standards, many more students are failing now than ever before.

Katie Grenga, Community Service Committee Chair, is planning a "kids' night out" event through SAAC where volunteers host a children's activity night with supervision, giving parents a little time to themselves. Details will be out within the next few weeks, but RIT Faculty and Staff's children are welcome to attend. Also, later this year, member Tom Fountain is planning a 300-350 person SAAC community service event, considering venues such as Habitat for Humanity or a similar Rochester-based group called Friends Helping Friends.

These community service campaigns reinforce a positive image of student athletes and collegiate athletics in the community and society at large. Mizelle sums it up quite nicely: "There are many things that have been highlighted in the last few years that show athletes negatively: superstar athletes of all kinds doing ridiculous things, the Duke lacrosse case, websites like Badjocks.com. This is why I think probably the most important thing about SAAC is that it is a group that allows student athletes to be at their best. It shows all that can be right in athletics." •

Above: Christine Worsley, SAAC Advisor, becomes the pie victim to sophomore Jenna Mausolf, member of the softball team. Photo provided by Rob Mizelle.

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. Bracketed text denotes editing by Reporter.

Thursday 9:01 p.m.

Hey Reporter, I was just calling to talk to you guys quickly. Last week at the Commons for Martin Luther King Jr. Day they had, in honor of [D]. King, ribs and fried chicken. Something about that just doesn't sit right with me. I thought we had moved past this, but what do I know? [...]

Thursday 10:26 p.m.

Hey Rings. I don't like something about this RIT Movie Channel. They played all the versions of *Hamlet* and now they're playing old Richard Gere movies. We need someone to fix it now.

Friday 10:59 a.m.

I called about the jumble because hail and thunderstorms are under winter weather...I am pretty sure they don't happen in winter, only in summer. So, you might want to do a little homework on that.

Friday 12:11 p.m.

Hey Reporter, I am calling about your January 9 issue. I am looking at this graph [in the AIDS article] and everything is red. I can't read a damn thing. These shades almost all look the same.

Friday 11:47 p.m.

Hey Rings, I'm just coming back from the Kate Gleason College of Engineering Semiformal. I just want to tell all these kiddies out there to get involved with all these dances. They are such a fun time. So anyways, hanging out with people outside of class really makes the days much better.

Saturday 12:28 a.m.

Hi RIT Rings, I'm a Mechanical Engineer, that's my major. My roommate is an Art major. I'm not really sure what kind of art. I try to understand the art and stuff but I just don't get it. He walks around naked all the time. He just walks around my room naked and draws all the time. I don't really know what to do about it. How can I confront him? Could you like write an article about it or something because RIT is a technical institute, Rochester Institute of Technology, and there is no art in that.

Saturday 12 :37 a.m.

Hey RIT Rings, I just want to say I love the drunk dials and stop being a douche. They're [naughty word]ing hilarious.

Saturday 1:56 a.m.

Hey RIT Rings, it's a Friday night and no one here understands your message. My friend is sitting here using words like parabola.

Saturday 2:22 a.m.

Yo, I just ran over a possum. It like flipped and went into the woods. I am pretty sure it's dead. There were all these baby possums who ran away too and they're all going to die. They're just babies, man. I just ran it over with a Jeep. It was [naughty, naughty word]ing awesome. [I can't take this cursing]ing possums. I shot one with a BB gun once.

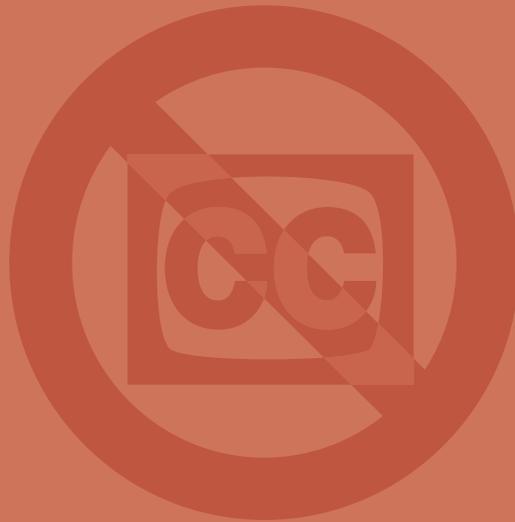
Saturday 2:25 a.m.

RIT Rings, I'm really pretty hot right now. I just want to say we should make love. None of that stupid [my ears are bleeding]. We'll have some real sweet love. With rose petals and candles. I will be rocking your world. [Yikes.]

Saturday 8:23 p.m.

Hey RIT Rings, this is just a random guy in a random building because we're not going to tell you who we are. I have been taking a box of *Reporters* every week for about the past 13 weeks and they have about 200 issues in each box. We're now shoving them under our RA's door because he's not here for the weekend. We have put about every one underneath the door. We're not sure how he's going to clean them up and we really don't care. •

Videos of a Lesser *God*



by **Scot Olsen-Morales**

Time magazine announced “You” as the person of the year. Somehow, through the plethora of videos on YouTube, we managed to create something that was meaningful, at once highly individualistic, but also permeating through the many layers of society. There is however, one group of “You”s that was not able to attend this social zeitgeist: the deaf.

The Internet is a vast and powerful resource, a battleground where we wage the war of knowledge. But, in the frenzy of this new war zone, we forgot about those who just got required television captioning in 1997. In the bliss of this new era of high-speed information and state-of-the-art technology, we became once again ignorant to the people who do not have the gift of hearing.

The ultimate irony of this lack of captioning in the age of Internet video occurred when a segment about a deaf basketball team was aired on CNN.com. There was no accompanying print article, and there certainly were no captions. When I saw that clip, I was outraged on the most basic of levels. Here was a story that members of the deaf community would most certainly be interested in, but there was no way for them to learn about it!

If one were to compile a list of offenders (i.e., sites that offer no visual representation of audio information), it would be nigh never-ending. Major media players, such as the aforementioned CNN, digital media leader Apple (whose iTunes video store does not offer subtitles on any of its videos), and YouTube, as well as every major news provider, are all guilty of not providing any substantial effort to caption their video content for deaf users. At this point in the game, it's easy for broadcast companies to close caption their programs. Live broadcasts, commercials, and even music videos are

now expected to be closed-captioned. Most deaf or hard of hearing people would be dumbfounded, and most likely irate, if they found a station that didn't provide them with the basic right of access to information. Why, then, do we let online providers of information off the hook?

This year also saw a boom in the online distribution of television shows. Programs such as *Lost* and *Grey's Anatomy* were able to be viewed at the leisure of the audience. That is to say, they were available to the *hearing* audience. You see, even though these programs were all offered with closed captioning while they were being shown on TV, and would have subtitles when brought to DVD, the networks didn't feel it necessary to caption them for the online viewer. Why? Well, an October article in the *Wall Street Journal* says that there are some technical hurdles yet to be overcome. This excuse doesn't fly with me, and it certainly doesn't fly with millions of deaf and hard-of-hearing viewers. Programs that can be used to easily caption videos have been around for years, as well as programs that “burn in” the captions onto the video, thus eliminating the need for a separate file. Couldn't Apple simply offer two different files, one with captions on it and one without?

When captions finally became mandatory on television broadcasts, it was done out of a principle, a principle that said that all people have the right to be informed. All people need access to the various forms of media that are around us. Why, then, has this standard been forgotten in this era of vast and seemingly endless technological upheaval? It would appear that, in every new generation of advancement, the ones who cannot speak above the roar, the ones who do not control, and the ones who most need us to fight for their rights, are forgotten. •

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