

REPORTER

FEBRUARY 23, 2007 | WWW.REPORTERMAG.COM



14 **My Chemical Romance on Downloading Music**

16 **The Hub Story**

20 **How Filesharing Could Cost You \$4,720**

REPORTER

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Editorial

Commencement Commiseration

When Sue Provenzano attended the February 16 Student Government Senate meeting, she came bearing bad news. The Gordon Field House will have trouble accommodating Commencement this year. Four options were presented to SG in hopes that they could come to a definite resolution concerning this catastrophe-in-waiting:

- A) Every graduating student gets one guest ticket. In other words, who do you love more: mommy or daddy?
- B) A lottery is held, and the winners get two or three guest tickets, while the losers don't get to bring anyone. Not quite as painful as Shirley Jackson's interpretation, but still disappointing.
- C) First come, first serve. Are you willing to go through the same toil for a ticket to Commencement that you did for that Nintendo Wii?
- D) No guests allowed. Period.

In all fairness, overflow areas on campus will be able to accommodate guests of graduates, so in option A, Mom could witness Commencement firsthand and Dad could sit in Ritter Arena watching it on a TV, but why do graduates even need to worry about securing tickets for their family when, in the past, anyone could mosey right into the ceremony and watch inventors, senators, CEOs, and CIA directors speak? This year former President Bill Clinton will join the ranks of dignitaries such as George J. Tenet, Charles Schumer, Anne M. Mulcahy, Daniel Inouye, and Dean Kamen when he offers his words at Commencement; hence, tickets have become a hot commodity.

But, to paraphrase Provenzano, this is not Bill Clinton speaking at Commencement; it is a Commencement that Bill Clinton happens to be speaking at. In other words, RIT is still very adamant about making sure that the program is still about the graduating students. Unfortunately, each of the four options that have been presented alienate perhaps 80% of the graduating class of 2007. To quote Provenzano, "Don't shoot the messenger."

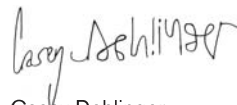
Provenzano knows that the options are unacceptable, and she is honestly doing the best she can to provide as many tickets as possible for every graduating student. However, it's a messy situation when there are an estimated 3000 graduates, 1100 faculty, and 6400 seats in the Gordon Field House. That leaves 2300 for guests.

If the shoe doesn't fit, you don't cut off your toes. Blue Cross Arena can hold 12,428 if filled to the brim. Unfortunately, President Simone is adamant that Commencement be held on this campus. I can't say I disagree with his sense of pride.

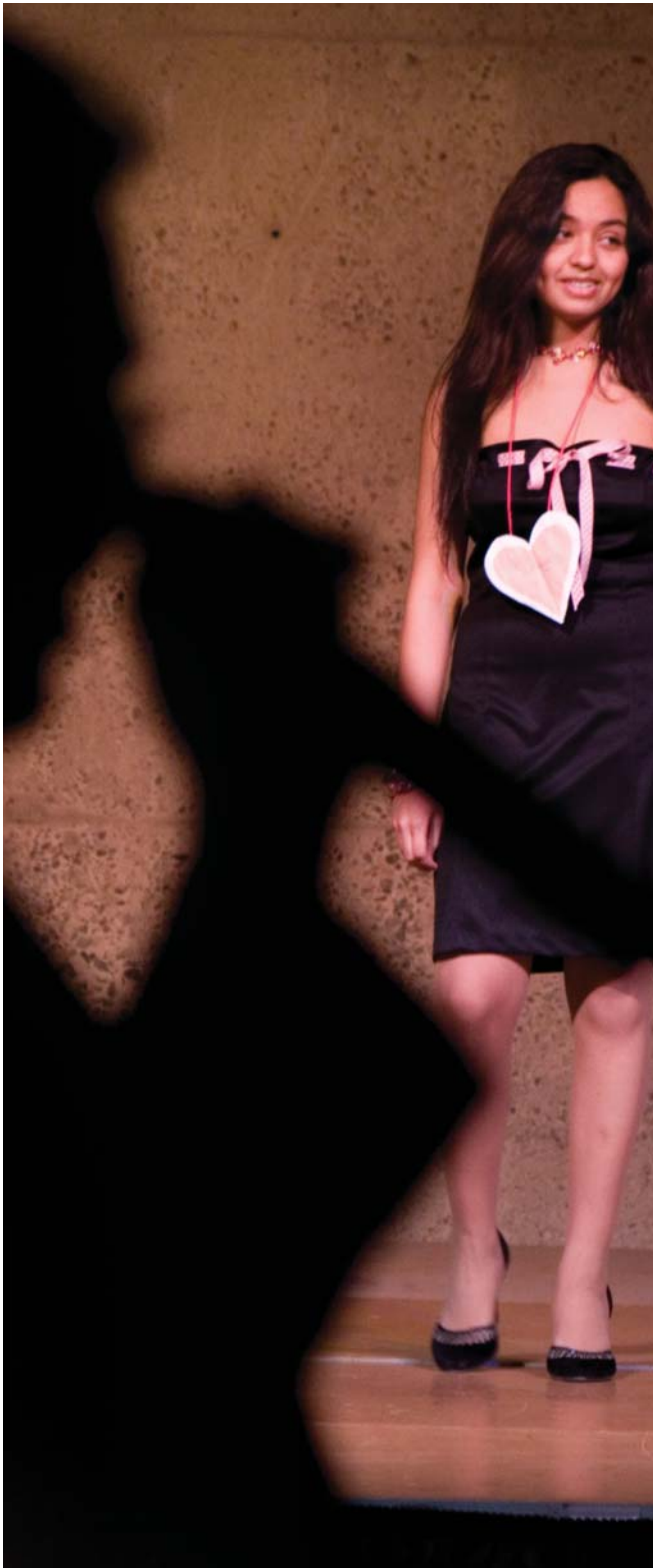
However, the other alternative is harsh, even by my standards. If RIT cannot prevent President Clinton from overshadowing the students and their Commencement, then RIT needs to keep the promise made by Provenzano: Commencement is about the students. If RIT cannot accommodate Clinton, then President Clinton should not be the speaker at this Commencement.

Hear me out, though. The situation isn't so grim. Invite Clinton to be the Horton Distinguished Speaker at Brick City 2007. My dream is to see a Horton speaker that can fill the Field House; a feat that Robert Redford, Rudy Giuliani, and Erin Brockovich couldn't accomplish. Student Government is currently struggling to find a reasonable list of candidates to fill the stage, and President Clinton is just the man they need. Because that is a venue for a *speaker* and not a ceremony where the students should be the focus, the inherent melee for tickets is appropriate, as the only one being upstaged would be the unfortunate comedian forced to follow that act.

Sue Provenzano is willing to hear your suggestions at stp1031@rit.edu



Casey Dehlinger
Editor in Chief



First year Microelectronic Engineering student Sarayu Rangarajan awaits a higher bid from the crowd during the date auction put on by the Premedical Student Association and OASIS on Saturday February 18, 2007. by Coco Walters. Cover by Tom Schirmacher.

Table of Contents

February 23, 2007 | Vol. 56, Issue 20

Letters

- 5 **Letters to the Editor**
Some concerns and queries about the February 9 Sexuality Issue.

News

- 6 **RITbook.com**
A new venue for you to buy and sell those top dollar textbooks.
- 7 **To Turnitin or Not Turnitin?**
Students bring up concerns about the plagiarism detector, Turnitin.
- 8 **SIS: Try Again Later**
Many answers as to why registration is such a hassle, but few answers as to how the situation will be addressed.
- 9 **SG Senate Update**
Student Government sounds off loud and clear about whether or not the Historian should include grammatical errors in the minutes.

Leisure

- 11 **Darwin Day**
A little birthday shout out to Charles Darwin put on by the College of Science.
- 12 **The Vagina Monologues**
A look into V-Day and review of the better sex's soliloquies.
- 14 **Reviews and Interviews**
Anais Mitchell's *The Brightness* reviewed, while My Chemical Romance's Frank Iero is interviewed.
- 15 **At Your Leisure**
Go ahead and celebrate the one-year anniversary of iTunes selling one billion songs.

Features

- 16 **Hunting Down the Hub**
A former hub administrator speaks about the current climate for file sharing and the potential consequences.
- 20 **I Got Busted By the RIAA**
Whatcha gonna do? Whatcha gonna do? Whatcha gonna do when the RIAA comes for you? Liz Michaud tells what she did.

Word on the Street

Where were you when you heard that Anna Nicole Smith died?

Sports

- 24 **Sports Desk**
Some hot hockey shots on ice as the Tigers wrap up their home schedule for the season.
- Men's Basketball**
26 The Tigers step up to the challenge of last Friday's game to secure their spot in the Empire 8 conference tournament.

Dodgeball Tournament

Team Blue Balls leaves the other teams black and blue in this Phi Kappa Psi-sponsored charity event for St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

Views

- 30 **RIT Rings**
Who ya gonna call?
- 31 **Democratization: Web 2.0**
In a world of supreme democracy where experts are a minority, does morality get the short end of the joystick?

Hot Deals

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Letters to the Editor

Reporter,

I am wildly offended by your Sex Issue. Not because I'm a prude, not because I'm offended by nudity or sexuality, but because there is a time and a place for this sort of thing, and it isn't a school publication. There is no reason for it and no relevance beyond pissing off Simone, which is not a noble journalistic endeavor by a long shot.

This publication is out there, representing the school and student body and I think the message that should be sent is one appropriate to the institution. If students need to read about vibrators and see illustrations of sex acts, an issue of *Cosmo* or *Playboy* is only about \$3, is better written and features better photography. Not only that, but both publications are available right on campus. You can use your meal plan money to buy them.

I feel strongly that *Reporter* should adhere to strict standards of integrity and campus relevance or be denied the right to associate itself with RIT as an institution. As an alumnus I would frankly be mortified if a copy of this issue fell into the hands of my employer. Likewise, every student should be embarrassed when visiting professionals see that this is the kind of publication the students feel is appropriate to represent them. RIT has a reputation as a quality school full of great minds. Lowbrow material like this serves only to belittle that reputation.

You have a responsibility to keep in mind who you're representing and to serve them well. I would say the majority of students at RIT want to be taken seriously and not have the institution's name tarnished. Otherwise, there's little chance that they'd be wasting \$100,000 to attend. Even if the members of the *Reporter* staff have decided it's fine with them to be regarded as a bunch of classless buffoons, they have no right to make that call for the rest of the student body.

I know that you are rebelling against campus censorship, but there is a huge rift between censorship and self-censorship. Just because your rights allow you to run up and down the street screaming profanities, doesn't make it an appropriate or wise thing to do. At least in that example, you'd only be playing with your own reputation, not that of an entire institution.

Stephanie Maulding

Professional Photographic Illustration
Alumnus 2006

Email stephanie@starlameris.com

Ms. Maulding,

I would encourage you and anyone else that has misperceived our intentions for running the Sexuality Issue to read my editorial on page two of that issue (February 9, 2007).

Casey Dehlinger

Editor in Chief

Reporter,

For [the February 9, 2007] issue, the "Sex Issue", I noticed that warnings were put up after the issue was released on Friday. Was this due to administrative intervention or were the disclaimers issued solely by the *Reporter*?

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Bird

Applied Statistics, Economics 2007

Mr. Bird,

It was my idea to post the disclaimers. Understanding that the Sexuality Issue would be a touchy subject for some people, I brought it to the attention of the Advisory Board—a group of faculty, staff, administrators, and professors that the Editor in Chief is required to meet with once

a quarter. Although Reporter is an editorially independent publication of RIT, I wanted to confer with them to ensure that the issue hit the stands in a responsible manner. When concerns were expressed about the cover, I offered to post the disclaimers in lieu of altering the magazine.

Thank you for your inquisitiveness.

Casey Dehlinger

Editor in Chief

To Send Letters Email: reporter@rit.edu. Reporter will not print anonymous letters.

Note Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are solely those of the author. Reporter reserves the right to edit submissions on the basis of content, length, grammar, spelling, and style. Letters are not guaranteed publication. Submissions may be printed and reprinted in any medium. Reporter will not run responses to letters that have responded to a letter.

RITBOOK.COM

by Sarai Oviedo

It is the end of the quarter, finals are all done with, but there is still one problem: books. Campus Connections had a table outside the Corner Store and bought your book for a lot less than the price you bought it for. What if students all over campus got together to negotiate with each other to sell and buy each other's books? That sentiment is shared by a majority of the campus, but Dan Leveille took the initiative to create a website for RIT students to trade books: <http://ritbook.com>.

"RITBook.com: the source for cheap textbook trading" is the logo on the top left corner of the page. The home page is full of facts and two ads. The facts on the left side, according to RITBook, "simple, no fees, and is an RIT-only community." No monetary transactions are made at RITBook. One ad provides RITBooks with their only source of income to run the website.

RITBooks uses the ISBN numbers of textbooks and searches the Amazon database to find the exact title of the textbook. People coming to the site can sell or find books with this method. Exchanges are not made on the site. People looking for a textbook initiate contact with a seller and agree on exchange conditions and the location. RITBooks offers features such as book alerts, where they will send you an email if a particular textbook becomes available. As of February 11, 2007, an update to the site makes it possible for people to log on and manage their books and book alerts.

RITBook has changed since its release on January 23, 2007. The creator Dan Leveille, a first year IT major, shares some of his experiences creating the site.

Reporter Magazine: So what was your reason to create the site?

Dan Leveille: Well, I wanted to make it as easy as I could to trade books. I didn't want any fees and don't make any money from the sales. Just the ads, which give me the bare minimum to run

the site.

RM: How long did it take you to create the site?

DL: Well it was opened on January 23. I worked on it slowly for two months including over break.

RM: So, what was the hardest part?

DL: Coding. It took quite a while to code and especially since I didn't have a lot of experience with coding.

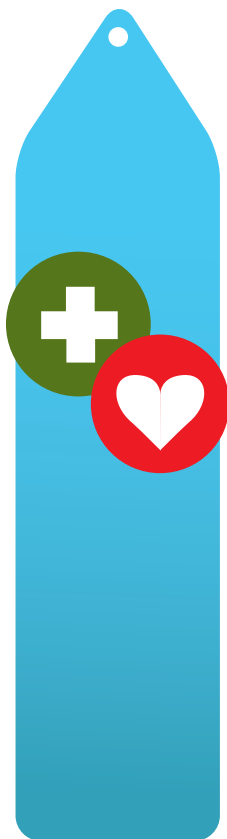
RM: What is your favorite feature?

DL: There is a feature that I'm working on which allows people to create an account by logging in with your RIT email address. It shows all your books, books you requested, a list that compares the prices of the same books, and allows you to edit and manage your books. This feature was added to RITBook.com after the interview

RM: Other than the Facebook group, "I sell & buy books at RITbook.com," where else are you getting your feedback from?

DL: I get feedback from friends and even people I don't know. They email me and talk to me in person about the site. One guy in my FYE class who I didn't know and never spoke to before asked me a few questions, too.

The word is out that there is a new way of trading books around. The site currently holds a list of 233 books, there are a total of 29 registered users, an average of ten books per day are being posted, and one book has been sold thus far. Next quarter is coming soon, and whether you are buying or selling books, remember: there are more options than Campus Connections. •



To Turnitin or Not Turnitin: That is the Question

by Brian Adeloje

In academia, cheating has always been of paramount concern. When students begin receiving grades they have not earned, it puts the credibility and integrity of an academic institution at stake. RIT, like many other schools, has decided to combat cheating through the use of Turnitin online (www.turnitin.com), a plagiarism detection service. However, unbeknownst to many faculty and students, the use of this system raises a number of ethical, philosophical, and legal questions.

Turnitin.com is used by professors at thousands of universities worldwide, including many here at RIT. Schools pay prices ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000 yearly, depending on the size of the school, to utilize this service. The process begins when a paper is submitted through Turnitin's website and compared to millions of others from online databases, journals, and papers which have previously been reviewed by Turnitin.com. After this comparison is complete, the professor is able to review Turnitin's findings. In order to help detect future plagiarism, the paper that was just reviewed is now added to Turnitin's database indefinitely. This massive database of student work plays a major factor in attracting potential customers.

Most students don't realize that they own the rights to virtually everything they create, including homework, lab write-ups, and essays, among other assignments. The irony of Turnitin.com is

that it aims to detect plagiarism of copyrighted works, while generating a profit based, in part, on its free use of copyrighted materials created by students. Marianne Buehler, RIT's Turnitin administrator, claims this is legally allowed under the fair use doctrine of U.S. copyright law. Any commercial databases or journals that Turnitin.com uses in its plagiarism detection process receive financial compensation.

RIT professors who use Turnitin express concern about students who either do not know how to cite properly or try to simply copy-and-paste from Internet sources. This system helps them detect these offenders with minimal time and effort. Conversely, people like Nash Taylor, a graduate student at RIT, feel that Turnitin creates a culture of 'guilty until proven innocent' where consent is coerced. "The ignorance surrounding [Turnitin's] usage policy is astounding; not only does it simply not benefit you to use it, you are giving up rights guaranteed to you by federal law and RIT's own student intellectual property policy." RIT claims using Turnitin does not conflict with its stance on student intellectual property, as explained in the Students and Intellectual Property document (<http://finweb.rit.edu/rmss/tlo/internal/ipstudents.html>).

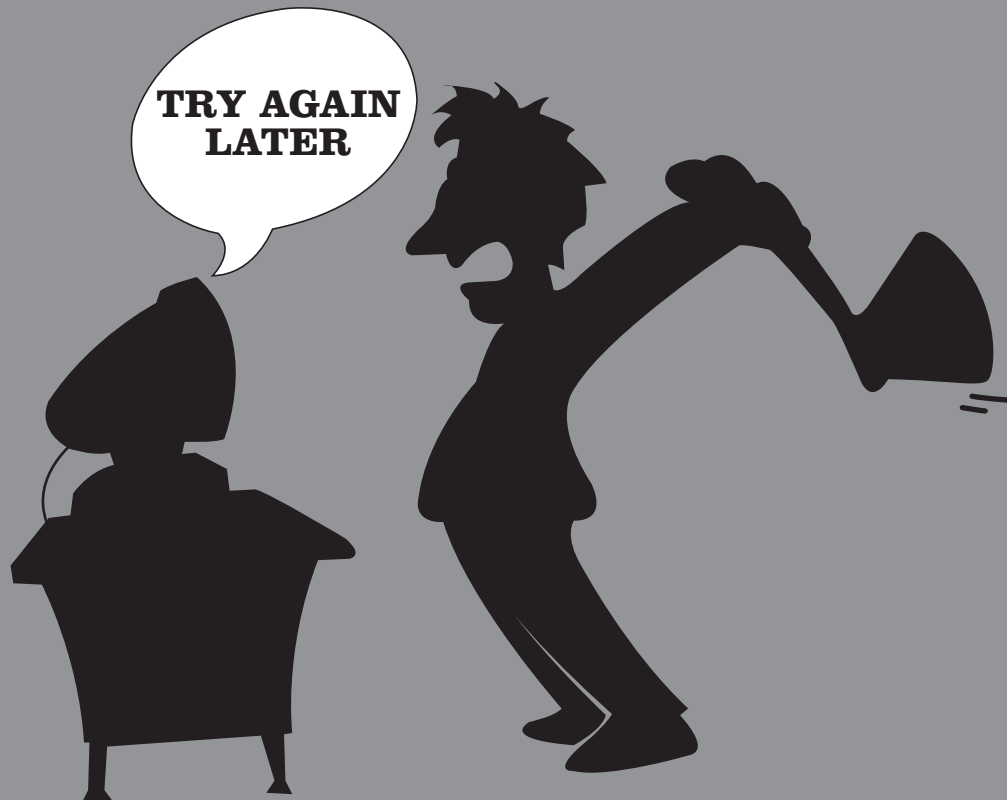
If a student is uncomfortable with using Turnitin.com, Buehler suggests talking to the professor. However, many students who have voiced their

concerns are not given an alternative. They are faced with the ultimatum of submitting through Turnitin or receiving a failing grade. There is the obvious option of dropping the class, but this is rarely a viable option, especially for those who desperately need to take the course in question.

Students could potentially refuse to submit their paper through Turnitin and appeal their failing grade after the quarter, but there is neither precedent nor any attempts that have been made, so it is clearly risky, and perhaps drastic. Therefore, those with objections eventually cave and submit their papers through the service. In the end, professors are satisfied they have made a sincere attempt to detect plagiarism, and Turnitin.com is satisfied that their database has expanded. Students are left feeling either powerless or blissfully unaware. RIT currently has no plans to review its use of Turnitin. •

SIS and Registration

by Chris Tosswill



“They have been promising us a new system for years.”

We all experience it as RIT students: the joy that we all share once a quarter around 6 a.m., registering for class. Memories of screaming at the computer screen as it, for the n^{th} time, responds with a simple “try again later.” It might not be the same experience for everyone. Some people are lucky enough to get on within the first few minutes, get their classes, and go back to bed. For the rest, the minutes tick by and that perfect schedule becomes a pipe dream. Does it have to be that way? Surely a less painful procedure for class registration could be devised.

RIT has a number of systems in place for class registration such as VAX, SIS, and paper forms. According to administration, the preferred method is the SIS website. “Unfortunately, when the system is put under load, the website is the first thing that fails,” explains Joe Loffredo of the Registrar’s office. On registration day, the system becomes bogged down very quickly. “We [students] are our own worst enemies” says

Loffredo. This is because the 1000–2000 students that log onto SIS appear as 4000–7000 people on the system. Each student commonly has three or more windows open while trying to connect to SIS. This flood of users chokes the system and sometimes outright kills it.

The system completely crashed for a number of hours during spring registration. This event was caused in part by “unknown” technical issues with the mainframe and by the load it was under. When asked about the crash, Loffredo responded “The fact is that it’s all old. The mainframe is old, the VAX is old, and SIS is old. The administration knows this, and is looking for a solution.” He went on to say that hopefully there will be a road map in place toward a solution by the end of spring quarter.

“They have been promising us a new system for years...they never deliver,” says Ed Wolf, a fourth-year RIT student. “It’s just all too com-

mon...RIT puts issues like this that are vital to the student on the back burner.”

The registration system is probably the most used system on campus; there is no doubt that it affects us all. As for the administration’s efforts, Loffredo responded “We have been looking into this for two years...our lack of action could be seen as such, but it’s not the case. I have always encouraged students to go talk with their advisors and deans about this and to voice their concerns, so that we may better address them.”

The new RIT Academic Planning site (registration.rit.edu) is being called the ‘first revision’ of the system. The administration is clearly aware of the issue, but when a definite answer will surface is still very much up in the air. •

SG SENATE WEEKLY UPDATE

by Govind Ramabadran

Previous Minutes

GCCIS Senator Damian Kumor proposed changes to the previous meeting's minutes, mostly correcting incorrect usage of "its" and "it's" and other grammatical errors. The discussion took up over ten minutes of the meeting's time.

President's Report

SG President Lizzie Sorkin met with the Student Athletic Advisory Committee and they told her they appreciated the BBQs, as it helped increase attendance. They discussed orange and brown uniforms, and think that the transition will take five years to go from orange and black to orange and brown. Their concern is time, and a conflict of some teams having orange and black vs. orange and brown for others.

Commencement

Sue Provenzano discussed the situation for convocation now that former President Bill Clinton has agreed to be the Commencement speaker.

Due to space issues in the Field House and incoming phone calls, administration feels the need to issue priority tickets for parents and graduating students.

Provenzano suggested various options, including the possibility of an 'overflow location,' restricting Field House access to only graduates and faculty, or a lottery system. SG proposed an online survey to gauge student response. The planned ticket release is late March or early April.

Presidential Search

SG will start interviewing both candidates next week, and it was urged that as many delegates from the Senate and Cabinet attend the moderated forums if possible.

Old Business

Some of the top candidates suggested for the Horton Speaker included Stephen Col-

bert, Steve Jobs, Bill Gates, Lance Armstrong, Barack Obama, Donald Trump, Nelson Mandela, and the leaders of Google. Budgeting and timing are the key issues for the selection. VP Blonski was insistent on making the decision early on, and it was suggested that the current cabinet and Senate narrow down the list to a few possibilities before introducing this list to next year's group.

Discussion about new goals for the Senate, as well as SIS registration, were postponed to next week, as some have not finished their surveys and VP Blonski needed to go to class.



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Darwin Has His Day

by Sarai Oviedo | illustration by Mike Norton

Pop quiz: *Who was the only official naturalist aboard the HMS Beagle?* For those of you who haven't taken a history (or biology) class since you've arrived at RIT, take note: the Beagle was the ship that carried Charles Darwin on his historic voyage to the Galapagos Islands. This past month, many a student wandering the halls of the College of Science (COS) tried to recollect that very fact. If you frequent building eight, you, too, may have seen the posters asking this and other Darwin-related trivia questions. But what was it all about?

Set on the anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth, February 12 is recognized around the globe as Darwin Day. The date has been set aside each year since 1882 to promote the recognition and celebration of Darwin's work, as well as acknowledging new scientific discoveries. This

year, Darwin Day at RIT was sponsored by the College of Science Advisory Board and Student Government.

Jon Berman, a second-year biology major and COS Senator, was in charge of organizing the events. He had originally intended Darwin Day to be expanded to Darwin Week (following the lead of Salem State College's week-long Darwin Festival, with all kinds of lectures and films about science), but the plan fell through. Berman explained, "The event was going to be a snow-based competition with the theme of 'the survival of the fittest,' but then we didn't know if we were going to have snow." That's Rochester weather for you.

In the end, Berman served a cookie cake in the College of Science Atrium. To make it more Dar-

win Day appropriate, the cake read in sparkling letters, "Happy B-day Charlie, 198th." And, of course, those trivia posters were put up all over the College of Science; winners of the five-question trivia contest received a one of a kind RIT Darwin Day t-shirt.

The first question of the quiz is listed above—have you got an answer yet? I'll give you a hint: it's trickier than you think it is. That having been stated, check out the answers to the other trivia questions you've probably been pondering for the past month:

In what year did Darwin publish work regarding the ecological importance of earthworms? *The years 1881 and 1883.*

Why did Darwin start to grow his famous beard? *There are a number of likely reasons why Darwin grew his beard: to cover up his eczema, or be lazy and not have to shave, or to disguise himself (after all, he was quite famous/infamous by that point). Darwin's famous beard, however, didn't even exist while he was on the Beagle.*

How old would Darwin be if he were alive today? *For the people that answered this question on February 11, Darwin would have been 197 years old. For those who answered the question on and after February 12, Darwin would have been 198 years old.*

Name one disease that Darwin contracted on the Beagle. *There are rumors that Darwin was terrorized by Chaga's disease; whatever he had, he spent a lot of his trip vomiting.*

Of all the students who answered these trivia questions, only seven lucky people received the prize. Unfortunately, I couldn't answer any of these questions, so no puke-green Darwin Day t-shirt for me! Perhaps I'll have better luck next year—plans for Darwin Day 2008 are still up in the air, but if Berman is still around, then Darwin Day will be back.

As for the answer to that pop quiz question? I had my money on Charles Darwin, but it just so happens the only official naturalist on board was Robert McCormick, the ship's surgeon. Keep that in mind for next year—you never know when a little Darwin trivia will come in handy! •

OF VICTORY, VALENTINES, AND—MOST IMPORTANTLY— VAGINAS

by Mohammad Qogandi

photography by Elizabeth Brewster

In 1996, Eve Ensler wrote “The Vagina Monologues,” a play based on the experiences of real women who had encountered sexual assault or oppression, relationship problems, or violence through the span of their lifetime. Since then, many versions of the *The Vagina Monologues* have been performed worldwide to fight violence and oppression against women as a part of “V-Day.” The V in the V-Day stands for Victory, Valentine, and Vagina. Since its start on Valentine’s Day in 1998, V-Day has raised \$30 million dollars to help stop violence against women.



Florinda Cardenas performs the emotional scene “My Vagina Was My Village” in the February 17 performance of *The Vagina Monologues*.

Last weekend, RIT proudly hosted its seventh annual production of *The Vagina Monologues*, sponsored by the Women's Center at RIT. *The 2007 Vagina Monologues* helped raise a lot of donations to various communities and programs around campus that support women and fight violence in all its forms. What makes RIT's show special is the simultaneous presentation of various pieces of English and ASL (American Sign Language) performances.

The show started with an introduction by Donna Rubin, the director of the RIT Women's Center. The show this year was titled "Peace," a deep meaning summing up women's struggle since the beginning of time, and the hope for peace with the world vagina and all the controversy and taboo surrounding it. Following Rubin's introduction was a history of the movement, and then the monologues truly began.

Though some in the audience noted an awkward feeling towards the blunt, straight-forward nature of the show, the general audience's acceptance of the monologues was apparent. A real icebreaker was a piece titled "Wear & Say," which listed some of the many, many different synonyms for the taboo word "vagina." Another favorite was the monologue "Hair," exploring the sexual importance of shaved and bushy vaginas. With some great acting on the part of Melissa Pav and Denise Fry, the matter was introduced in a humorous, informative way. The actresses ended their performances with, "You have to love hair in order to love vagina."

The Vagina Monologues also had many provocative pieces, titled with interesting names such as "Reclaiming the Cunt" and "My Angry Vagina." Both had a great audience response, even though they had some X-rated, provocative terminologies. In one monologue that particularly shocked the audience, the story was told of an old woman who had never reached a sexually intimate orgasm in her youth. Through the

monologue, the audience got an idea of what women of the old generation had to go through to satisfy their sexual needs. The more somber pieces that followed gave audience members an idea of what females in third world (mostly African) countries suffer through. Another intriguing story concentrated on sex slaves during WWII in Japan.

After the curtains closed for intermission, one student shouted "Vaginaaaas!" Many others like him said that they loved the courageous repetition of the word. When the show was finally over, the whole auditorium erupted with applause and discussions. Many people in the audience weren't entirely sure what to think; the most common responses were that the show was "informative," "amazing," "shocking," "awesome," or "really funny." Others noted that the show had its fair share of sad moments. At the end of the show Jill Gardner, a senior New Media student here at RIT, said "Every year the show is different and it is really amazing how they are able to keep it fresh and funny over and over again."

Actresses Megan White and Melissa Pav said that they love how the show raises awareness of the sensitive and serious issues V-Day cares about, and that they are really excited about reading the original play now. Many students like the production so much that they come to see it more than once. RIT students Rachele Slawta and Brianna Ryan saw another production of it at a different school last year, but came back to RIT this year to watch it again, saying that the show is "really great."

Women's Center director Donna Rubin was really ecstatic about the whole production. She mentioned that all the girls participating in this show worked really hard to make it such a refreshing production, adding, "Many colleges present this show, but it is more powerful at RIT since it is a real diverse campus." She was especially happy with what the producer, E.W.

Quimbaya-Winship, has done and how everything came along well.

As the only male on staff at the Women's Center, Quimbaya-Winship has been producing and directing the RIT show for five years now. He loves doing the show because of its message and the strength of the direct exposure to the voices, experiences, and true stories that this show presents. As a feminist activist, he tries not to hold the actresses back, and to push their presentations to be their best. He added that the preparation for the show started early December of last year and ended with an astonishing performance. The performance was presented by a group of students, alumni, and staff. A total of 45 talented and funny actresses carried out the show this year to another level that audiences had anticipated.

Sara O'Leary, one of the alumni participants in the show, came back for the second year to RIT to be part of the message *The Vagina Monologues* carries. To her, the show's message is important, since violence exists everywhere against women and the monologue presents the truth about the reality of women's struggle globally. She said it is not an anti-male movement like many might believe, and the show presents a message that men and woman everywhere should understand. She added that it is "tragically sad for some people to fear women speaking their minds." Her final comment was a strong affirmation that she will be part of this movement and will participate in RIT's show every year.

All in all, *The Vagina Monologues* gives hope to women everywhere, year after year. But this year, the cast and crew presented strength and support to V-Day's cause with a great production. •

For more information about V-day, visit <http://www.vday.org>



Frank Iero of My Chemical Romance on Downloading Music

by Evan McNamara

Pink Floyd, Styx, The Arcade Fire, The Who, and now...My Chemical Romance? Yes, that's right, My Chemical Romance can now be listed among those most audacious of bands who have aspired to write the epic concept album.

My Chemical Romance recently released their third studio album, *The Black Parade*, an album with a plot that parallels the life of the band's singer Gerard Way. The main character experiences growing up in a bad town, a fast ascension to the ranks of rock royalty, and the resulting spiral into a pit of alcoholism and drug addiction.

Reporter got a chance to catch up with the guitarist Frank Iero and talk about the new album, as well as MCR's niche in the current music scene.

So, why a concept album? "I've always been a fan of those type of records that you couldn't just throw on as background music," Iero explained. "You had to set aside a portion of time and listen to the album as a whole."

In a day when most artists bicker about how downloading hurts their profits, Iero takes a different angle. "Today, a lot of people have the mentality of 'oh, well I heard that song on TV or the radio, I just want that song to put on my iPod.' That sucks because computer speakers are some of the worst speakers in the world to listen to music on!" Iero exclaims. He is truly more concerned with your ears than his pocketbook.

"Everybody is starting to give a shit again," he said. "I think people are taking notice and getting sick of this single-driven market where a band says 'I gotta write one hook that everyone is gonna like and that's gonna make me a lot of money.' People are tired of that."

"Where do we fit? I'd like to think that we're a part [of] this new revolution of doing things from the heart and for the right reasons," Iero said. Intentions aside, it will take a listen of *The Black Parade* for you to decide whether MCR should be listed among the greats. Whether you buy the album or download it, the ultimate decision is still up to you. •



Anais Mitchell – The Brightness

by Evan McNamara

Do you remember going to Halloween parties as a kid? If so, you surely recall reaching your hand into a dark box filled with cold spaghetti, skinned grapes, or something equally disgusting. What made those boxes so fun was the mystery of what lay inside.

New music can be looked at in the same way. The CD case becomes the proverbial "dark box" whose contents are unbeknownst to you. As I put *The Brightness* by Anais Mitchell into my computer, I was filled with excitement and the hope that what lay inside my dark box was a new favorite artist.

In many aspects, I was not disappointed. Anais Mitchell's music centers around acoustic guitar

and her unique vocal style, which is often harsh and nasally. Comparisons to early Jewel material come to mind. This harshness would probably be a deterrent if Mitchell's voice did not contrast so well in the upper range, sounding sweet and smooth as it tackles the high notes with ease.

Another strong point of *The Brightness* is the number of seemingly unusual instruments featured throughout the album. "Of a Friday Night" has a distinct lounge feel, the result of an acoustic guitar being traded for a grand piano. The saxophone on "Namesake" is nothing short of brilliant, and left me wanting to hear it incorporated more. "Shenendoah" features a banjo, giving a tinge of country to the song. Mitchell's vocals on the track also throw a hint of gospel into the mix.

Unfortunately, *The Brightness* grows somewhat stale towards the middle of the record. Mitchell's vocal melodies start to become repetitive and, despite interesting instrumentation, the songs start to blend together and sound the same. Many of these songs have no clearly defined verses or choruses; as a result, not much stands out. This album may be great as background music, but when left to stand on its own, it has a tough time.

Despite the songs all being well executed, I found myself bored very frequently. *The Brightness* by Anais Mitchell successfully grabbed my attention at first, but throughout the course of the album, my auditory attention deficit crept back into control. I reached into the proverbial "black box." What did I feel? Was it a musical version of ground meat cleverly disguised as brains? No. Sadly, it was just plain old mediocrity. •

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

STREAM OF FACTS FEBRUARY 23

February 23, 1919 –The Fascist Party is formed in Italy by Benito **Mussolini**.

In Season Two of Celebrity Deathmatch, an animated clay **Mussolini** loses to Roberto Benigni when he is impaled by Benigni himself, who accidentally shoots himself out of Mussolini's **cannon**.

Since World War II, the term "**cannon**" has been used to refer to a **gun** of about 20-125 mm caliber.

Use of an ear piercing **gun** versus traditional piercing instruments often causes an extra, unnecessary amount of trauma to the cartilage. This may lead to ear collapse, **cauliflower** ear, and subsequent perichondritis.

Cauliflower contains compounds that appear to stop enzymes from activating cancer-causing agents in the body, as well as increasing the activity of enzymes that disable and eliminate many a **carcinogen**.

The charred residue on barbecued meats has been identified as a **carcinogen**. If only barbecued meats weren't so **delicious**!

Del.icio.us, the social bookmarking web service, uses a method of organization known as folksonomy. Ideally, a folksonomy is an easily accessible, user-generated shared vocabulary that is familiar to its primary users, or easy to **figure** out by everyone else.

Two weeks ago, Richard Branson announced that he is offering a \$25 million prize to anyone who can **figure** out how to remove a **billion** tons of carbon dioxide per year from the atmosphere.

February 23, 2006 –Song number one **billion** is downloaded from the iTunes Music Store.

QUOTE

Laws are only words written on paper, words that change on society's whim and are interpreted differently daily by politicians, lawyers, judges, and policemen. Anyone who believes that all laws should always be obeyed would have made a fine slave catcher.

John J. Miller

HAIKU

by **Brian Garrison**

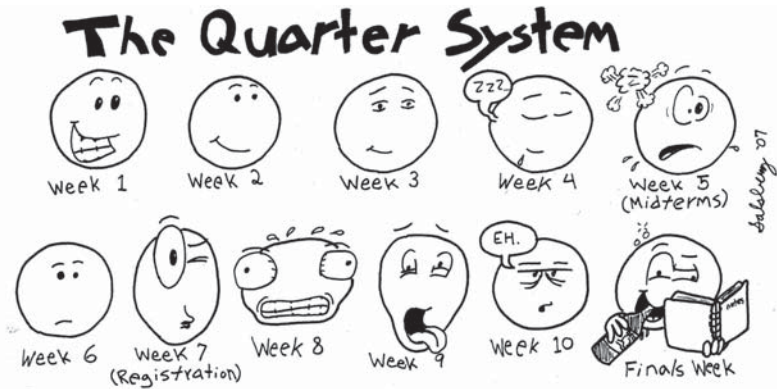
There's not much that irks/
Vexes/rankles/pricks/envenoms
Me worse than complaints.

REPORTER

RECOMMENDS

Watching Rebutter.com. On this site, normal people rebut politicians' speeches. Everyone who views a speech sees all previous rebuttals directly into the transcript; they are then able to post their own responses, either to the speech itself or to previous posts. Points are given for clever rebuttals. Visitors can sort through speeches either chronologically or by amount of controversy. As the election approaches and politicians start making increasingly high profile speeches, it should be very interesting to see how this site takes off.

CARTOON | by Alex Salsberg



SUDOKU

Difficulty: Very Hard

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

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

Ice Cream Flavors

etbrut pcaen
wyrbsartre
aalotnpei
loetochca chpi
liaavnI
sekocoi dan ceamr
otecoalch
nanaab
relipan ncape
hyrrce
tlheccooa omland
orykc aord
oocleahtc lhamIrmawos

Butter Pecan, Strawberry, Neapolitan, Chocolate Chip, Vanilla, Cookies And Cream, Chocolate, Banana, Fra-
line Pecan, Cherry, Chocolate Almond, Coffee, Rocky
Road, Chocolate Marshmallow

Hunting Down the Hub

by Joe McLaughlin | photography by Tom Schirmacher

RIT has a reputation for technical prowess. Few students come without computers or the technical know-how to use them. The Institute touts a high placement rate of graduated students in technology-related fields. And for a time, according to the former operator, RIT ran the second-largest secured filesharing network in the world.

Direct Connect is a networking protocol where a central “hub” server allows users to search each other’s computers for files. According to one former hub administrator, an RIT student who asked that his name not be used, at the end of last year over 2,000 users were sharing over 40,000 gigabytes of data on his hub. Much of that data was copyrighted music, movies, and video games. During the fall quarter of this year, another hub, using the name Metalkooler, was active. RIT shut down the Metalkooler hub over Thanksgiving break.

“Stay off the trackable things.
Stay off Kazaa. Stay off Limewire.”



Running a Hub

The former hub administrator said that the reason he started his hub was “to share with a friend of [his] who wasn’t in the same dorm room. The only way we could do a faster transfer was to create a hub. So we created that, and people found out about it...[I used] a files sharing program because that’s just faster and more convenient.” He did this despite his own admission that “there were other hubs on campus” at the time.

The administrator noted the privacy of the hubs. He explained that “The hub owners acquired the subnets through people who worked at ITS and got the subnets for which ones were residence halls and which ones were academic. Then we locked the ones that aren’t residence halls. Only residence halls, apartments, and Greek Row could connect. Riverknoll can’t because that [uses] Roadrunner. I remember that we always used to get requests from people living off campus and people living in Riverknoll that wanted to connect and we refused them because it would put everyone else at risk.” He also pointed out that users on the RIT wireless network were blocked from the hub.

“It would be a legal battle just for them [a copyright holder] to just get on campus,” the hub owner said. “[RIT has] to inform us when the FBI is going to be on the network. When the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) sued, RIT had to inform all students about that.” He said it was unlikely for copyright holders to get on the network because “RIT would hate that kind of reputation. With that many people on the network, RIT doesn’t want to risk inviting the FBI to come here and bust the 2,000 people and make the school look bad.”

The privacy, however, wasn’t only meant to put users at ease; it was also for his defense. He said that the hub was legal, “because I was unaware of what people were sharing...That’s where it becomes illegal. To a factor, you know that something’s going on, but also, to protect their privacy, I’m not gonna go scan their lists of

what they’re sharing. It’s just wrong...I’m protecting their privacy by not invading it.”

“The way the hub was designed was to let people share whatever they wanted to share,” he continued. “We told them that they can’t share illegal files, but we also don’t have the time or the manpower to go around and check people’s files because then we become liable.”

Metalkooler Goes Down

The former hub owner decided to sponsor Metalkooler when he removed his own hub from the network. “We said ‘[Metalkooler] is the hub that everyone should go to,’ and they did.” The former hub owner said that the reason RIT went after Metalkooler is because of “outside pressure, with the RIAA breathing down on them.”

The former owner said that Metalkooler’s owners “were sharing illegal content...It’s sad that just because one hub owner decided to share, he basically screwed everyone else over...You have to respect your people’s privacy and you have to set the standard. When [the owner] shares illegal content, the whole hub becomes illegal. When we were running it, the hub owner wasn’t sharing stuff. The computer that the hub was on last year had no illegal content and was based just as a server that bounced peer to peer connections, and that in itself isn’t illegal.”

RIT officials, however, disagree with that statement. “I don’t know that it’s necessarily illegal to run a hub. What would be illegal would be to run it knowing that there’s illegal files sharing happening on the hub if you’re the administrator on it,” said Dawn Soufleris, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs. “It would be irresponsible for the administrators to not know what’s being shared on their server. I think they have some level of responsibility because it’s attached to their name.”

Student Conduct could not specify any punishments that could possibly be given to hub owners, but they did name one step they did not take.

“We have not suspended anyone for files sharing,” Soufleris said, although she couldn’t respond to questions about any specific hubs to protect the privacy of the students who ran them. The Metalkooler administrators themselves refused to be interviewed for this story.

The former hub owner claims that there was another hub shut down over Thanksgiving break, the Mystery Science Theater 3000 hub. According to the former hub owner, the videos of episodes off Mystery Science Theater 3000 are now public domain, “which means you can download them off the Internet and they’re allowed to be shared.” He said that server also had other legal files on it, such as versions of the free operating system Linux. “I feel it’s very unjust what they did to the user that was sharing legal files. I mean, if he was sharing an illegal file then RIT had a reason,” he said. The owner of the Mystery Science Theater 300 hub also declined to be interviewed for this story.

A third hub was said to be shut down over Thanksgiving break, this one called “The Bob Hub.” The owner of this hub, who asked not to be named, said that he “shared only legal files.” He did, however, “know that some users shared illegal files.” The Bob Hub owner said that his server told all users, “sharing of copyrighted files is illegal—you are responsible for your own actions.” He could not check to see whether files being shared were copyrighted, however, because he “would have to download everything they’re sharing to check.” This student’s internet access was cut off over break, and he received an e-mail and then a letter from Campus Safety to tell him that he was being charged with “violation of the RIT Code of Occupancy, violation of the RIT Code of Conduct, and violation of the law.” His disciplinary hearing is pending.

Not the Hub Hunters

No RIT official could comment directly on either case, citing student privacy and the fact that the investigations were ongoing. However, the points made explicit by Soufleris, Senior Resnet Analyst Tom Dixon, and Campus Safety investigator Rod

Lazette, were the steps that RIT does not take. As Dixon put it, "I'm not the 'Hub Hunter..' We don't go actively looking for illegal filesharing. We don't watch traffic. There's other campuses that do." Dixon specifically named packet shaping, the practice of analyzing data as it goes over the network to prioritize certain traffic (such as e-mail) over other traffic (such as filesharing), as something "we do not do."

Lazette was the Campus Safety investigator who looked into Metalkooler. Soufleris said that Campus Safety received a tip leading them to discover Metalkooler, but Lazette could not elaborate because the investigation was ongoing. Soufleris also said that Campus Safety, "went looking for...students that seemed to be the administrators, and that's what Campus Safety was focused on...We did not go after all the individual students [using the hub] at this time."

If running an illegal filesharing service can get you in trouble, what about simply using one? The punishment can range from being asked to take the material down to a lawsuit worth thousands of dollars.

The Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA), a federal law signed in 1998, specifies the steps a copyright holder can take to accuse someone of online copyright infringement. The first step in the process is to notify the copyright agent of the Internet Service Provider (ISP) hosting the material. RIT's copyright agent, Donna Cullen, said, "The DMCA allows ISPs to not identify a person...but to take down whatever material they infer is being shared. So in order to comply with the act, I notify the student." Cullen said that, "We also suggest, although we do not enforce, that they remove the file sharing software or that they shut it down until they need it." On punishment, Cullen said, "The first instance, we give the student the benefit of the doubt. If there are repeated instances, I compile the cases and refer that to RIT's judicial process."

Not all copyright claims are handled through an abuse agent. The RIAA has taken up the tactic of

filing lawsuits against filesharers, including "38 users on the RIT system," according to RIAA Deputy Communications Director Amanda Hunter. "While we do not discuss the specifics of our investigative process, we can say broadly: Anyone engaging in this illegal behavior is at risk of facing a lawsuit," she said.

“Don't go whining to someone... You know exactly what you're doing.”

RIT filesharers being sued by the RIAA also face the RIT judicial process. Soufleris said that "About 60 people have been punished by RIT for filesharing." She explains the difference between her 60 and the RIAA's 38 by saying that "there are 60 people who we have subpoenaed to reveal their name. That doesn't necessarily mean that the RIAA decides to sue them." Hunter said that the RIAA does not release figures for people they have not decided to sue. "We feel like the students being sued for money is a tough punishment as it is," said Soufleris. "What we've given all these students is the opportunity to go through either this restorative justice process, in which they avoid a judicial record with RIT, or to go through the conduct process." She explained, however, that "[part of] the restorative justice process is you have to admit that you've done some wrongdoing."

She said, "What we often do, after we figure out who they are, is...use a system called restorative justice. It's a process where we get bulks of [students], and we bring them in and talk through ways that they can bring some kind of peace back

to our community and make sure it doesn't happen again." According to Soufleris, "Some of the groups of students have done outreach into the high schools, some have done a poster campaign, some have written papers, which should make sure the filesharing doesn't happen [again]."

Keeping It Safe

For students who do choose to fileshare, the former hub owner gave some advice for staying out of trouble. "Stay off the trackable things. Stay off Kazaa. Stay off Limewire. Don't go on public DC hubs...If anything, just stick to torrents because those are the hardest to track." And if you do get caught, "Don't go whining to someone...You know exactly what you're doing."

Hunter says that the RIAA supports online music purchasing. She said, "Record companies are aggressively licensing material to give fans the music they love in the formats they want...Fans have more legal ways to get music than ever."

Dixon points out that there is a legal music service sponsored by RIT. Ctrax is "free for students. You can download as much as you want as long as you're a member, and you're a member as long as you're an RIT student. There's millions of songs on there, and they're the same songs people are downloading off the hub." (More information on RIT's deal with Ctrax is available at <http://www.rit.edu/~wwwits/services/ctrax/>. The Ctrax website is located at <http://www.cdigix.com>.)

"People think that Resnet or The Man or the administration is trying to get them," said Dixon. But what people need to understand is...Your life could change. You could go to jail. I don't want to see people from RIT, or from anywhere, getting in trouble for these types of things." •

I Got **BUSTED** By the RIAA



**“ I mean I’m not a lawyer;
I’m just someone who’s angry. ”**

by Liz Kiewiet | photography by Matt Bagwell

Face it. Whether you didn't have the money, were too lazy to go to the store, or simply did it because you *could*—almost all of us have downloaded illegally, infringing copyrights as we go. And if you're one of those people who's adamantly against illegal downloading, consider this: have you ever had someone burn a CD for you?

In our culture, people everywhere are used to getting whatever media they desire at the single click of their mouse with few (or no) consequences. We've all heard the warnings about illegal downloading. Downloading illegally is a felony, and corporations like the RIAA—the Recording Industry Association of America—heavily pursue perpetrators. Liz Michaud, a fourth year Illustration major, was one student who had to face the RIAA just two and a half years ago.

How does such a thing happen? People contracted by the RIAA within RIT get on the hub to find individuals at a particular moment who have uploaded files. According to Michaud, "I was just one of these people who happened to be [on at that time]." Michaud was sharing her entire library of three thousand songs—small in comparison from the student down the hall from her, who she said was sharing 22,000 songs and did not face consequences.

"I know absolutely nothing about computers. I know how to use Photoshop, use the internet, and all that shit. There are so many people who do crazy stuff—they hack into other people's computers, their accounts, identity theft. But all of a sudden, me, of all people, and 25 other people at RIT get a notice that we're getting sued."

Michaud learned about the hub while living in Art House that year. A floormate introduced her to the concept, describing it as simply a way for students to share files with other students. She had no idea that what she was doing was illegal.

RIT received a subpoena from the RIAA requesting information for the people associated with 25 IP addresses. Interestingly, in one case the owner of the IP address got in trouble for having files, not necessarily their own, shared

through their wireless connection. Michaud found out that she had been targeted when she received an email from RIT's Office of Student Conduct and Meditation Services. Understandably, Michaud was upset when she received the notice—she felt like she was just another victim of a flaw in the system. "No one ever mentions the fact that you can get into a lot of trouble for this." She had previously considered downloading the same as speeding, "I was just like, yeah whatever, it's illegal. Well you know, so is speeding, but everybody does it."

The maximum the RIAA can sue is an astronomical \$150,000 per song, and some copyright infringements can even result in jail time. Michaud had to get a lawyer, who charged \$100 an hour, to deal with the paperwork and negotiation. She ended up settling with the RIAA, noting that she would rather pay \$4,720 than the amount the RIAA was charging per song. She also faced the consequences put forth by RIT, but mentioned that "[RIT] knew we weren't criminals—we weren't going to get suspended or anything like that." Michaud's incident with the RIAA did not go onto her permanent or RIT criminal record.

In the end, RIT offered a restorative justice conference to the students, which required them to meet with Campus Safety, Student Conduct, Chief Information Officer Diane Barbour, Computer Policy Analyst Donna Cullen, and other members of the ITS staff to talk about what happened. This conference also required them to do something to bring attention to the downloading issue. Michaud made fliers addressing the issue and put them up around campus; other students spoke about copyright infringement either on or off campus and at high schools.

Although \$4,720 was a much more relieving figure than the one presented to her initially, Michaud had a hard time coming up with the money. Her parents ended up fronting the costs after she handed over half of her last summer's income. Michaud felt hopeless and furious that the RIAA would target such a poor population. She pointed out that, "We're poor. And we're not the source of the problem! They know that college students aren't going to have a lot of money. Of all the people you can get in trouble, this is a

widespread problem among university students, among teenagers, adults, people downloading illegally. If this is such a big problem, why they are targeting university students?"

After her ordeal with the RIAA, Michaud keeps her distance from illegal downloading. She complained about the lack of music, saying "I'm in this musical recession right now. I mean, I'm a person that loves music to death. And sorry, I can't afford to buy a new CD every single week." Michaud has tried to find alternatives, like pandora.com, but she still finds it difficult for her to acquire new music.

According to Donna Cullen, RIT continues to receive an average of 10 copyright infringement notices per day. Not all of these are from the RIAA—these notices are also issued by movie, TV, and software industries as well. Cullen also pointed out that the average does not truly portray the amount of notices received—some days, RIT receives as many as 100 notices in a 24 hour period. During breaks, the number of notices dwindles.

When asked what advice she'd give for people who download illegally, Michaud responded, "I mean, yeah, they should be aware that this happens, but on the other hand, it doesn't take a lawyer to tell you that this is a scare tactic. Do they really have the time and the energy to go around to everyone in the world that is doing this and sue their pants off? Obviously they went into a particular school to show that they are serious, that something really bad really does happen when [people] illegally download."

Michaud offers one final piece of advice: "Know that it happens, but to tell you the truth, I highly doubt it would happen again. I really doubt it. What's RIT going to do, shut down the Hub?" •

PERSONALS

REPORTER IS

cost, when you can get a massage for free in exchange for a massage. Only women in the 50-60 range . Thanks

Guy friends only-m4m-24

I have never posted on here before and don't exactly know what to write, so I will just be myself and be honest, I can't go wrong w/ that right? I am a working professional who is in search of other guys my age to get together with and just have a good time, nothing perverted please. Many of my friends no longer live in the Rochester area so I am a little lonely and a lot bored. If you are 21-29 and could use another regular, straight, normal guy friend then hit me up. Thanks.

2 FREE basketball tickets at Blue Cross Arena, 7:30pm tonight-m4mw -27

ROCHESTER RAZORSHARKS VS. MONTREAL MATRIX at Blue Cross Arena at 7:05pm tonight (11/29/06) reply via email, AIM, or call (845) 555-5641 asap for pickup or delivery. I don't want tickets to go to waste.

Female movie/coffee and conversation friend wanted - m4w - 32

Nice guy, attractive and fun just want to have a woman's company once and awhile, for dinners, coffee, movies, without the pressure of a "date." No pressure, no romance, just friends.

MEN SEEKING WOMEN SWM looking for woman to join me at dinner or movies - 44

I'm a healthy non-smoking/drinking, financially stable, guy looking to start a friendship that would hopefully

lead to a long term relationship. I am trustworthy, honest, volunteer often, and be-

and 50, who is also interested in finding someone for a long term relationship. I am comfortable with children and understand they would be a very important part of your life. I know physical attraction is important to most people, and maybe I'm not what your looking for.

NOW HIRING!
PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGING EDITOR WRITERS

and was wearing glasses and a light brown jacket. So sorry, if you'd like I'll treat you to dinner.

Dinner date wanted!!!!!! Executive Dinner Party!!!!

Dinner party for Saturday into Sunday out of state. All expences paid. Business professional looking for company to attend executive dinner party. I have been to these functions before, and there is all you can drink all night if you so choose. Will return Sunday afternoon. Please send photo along

with email. Will need to leave Saturday AM.

TRADES

WILL TRADE VAN FOR TV

I have a 1996 Ford Windstar that requires some repair. Willing to trade for 32" or larger TV in excellent condition.

16FX32IN RED OAK LOG TRADE FOR STUMP REMOVAL

willing to trade this red oak 16 ft long oak log if you can grind the stump out for me please email for more details, log is straight and perfect for milling lumber or if you want the firewood.

SEVERAL TALENTS TO BARTER WITH

I can offer Guitar Lessons, Writing/Editing Services, and a Personal Shopper Service. I've been published over 85+ times, given awards in music and was a PR major. Looking for a decent Laptop or other interesting items. What do you have to trade?

LET'S MAKE A DEAL

I am looking for personal stories. It could be something meaningful and deep or something horrific or it could be about you making a pie. Whatever. These will be used in a book I am putting together. Confidentiality will be respected. In return for stories, I am offering the following: Books, yarn, old toys, a futon mattress, cds, VHS tapes, some clothing, old magazines, an old adding machine, and some other stuff. Or I could draw you a picture.

JOBS

LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WITH PROBLEMS

National talk show looking for guests. This week it's your chance to let it all out. Is someone interfering in your relationship? His/her ex, husband, wife, or family member? Dating a relative? Pregnant by a relative? Pregnant by a relative? Do you have kids with your sister's husband and she doesn't know? Need help revealing a secret? Sexy job? More than one lover? Want out of the closet? Need help getting out of a destructive lifestyle? Do you have a pimp? Do you just have to do it? Did you have a threesome that wen wrong? A one night stand

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Because you know you want to.

Hires will be made the first week of spring quarter.

We are looking for a responsible and high energy person to spend 2.5 to 3 days per week with our 1 year old. College students welcome. Please contact us with your credentials and desired hourly rate.

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A very large, reputable Psychic Network is now accepting experienced, dependable and serious Readers/Psychics. The site and phone lines are promoted by TV commercials, print and on-line advertising and no self-promotion from Readers/Psychics is required but is optional. You must be able to log in at least 20 hours per week. Set your own schedule of days and times you are available for calls. Compensation is \$.30 per talk minute/\$18.00 per hour. Contests, bonuses and great weekly incentives Pay is weekly and paid to you by PayPal.

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This is a position for the #1 window cleaning company in the world. We are a national franchise ranked #1 (in window cleaning industry) by Success Magazine and Entrepreneur Magazine. This is for a full time or a part time position. Our hours are Monday-Friday (optional Saturdays) day time hours. No holidays and no weekends!!! Paid vacations (only for full time employees) and many ways to earn bonuses. Please check us out on the web at www.fishwindowcleaning.com for national locations and more information about us.

LIVE-OUT HOUSEMAN BUTLER

A Live-Out Houseman-Butler for Long Island. Housekeeping and serving. Monday to Friday. Please have experience in a private home. We are looking to interview and hopefully hire this week. \$60,000 to \$75,000 to start. Tell us about yourself.

WORD ON THE STREET

COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY BELVEDUDE

Q: Where were you when you heard that Anna Nicole Smith died?



"Wait, she died?!"

Darroch Putnam

First year Photography



"It's a [fornicating] hoax."

Kayleigh Garrand

Third year Ceramics



"I'm stealing her baby."

Robbie Horgan

Third year Information Technology



"I was here giving free hugs!"

Shawna Boynton

Second year Fine Arts Studio



"At your mom's house."

Anthony Squire

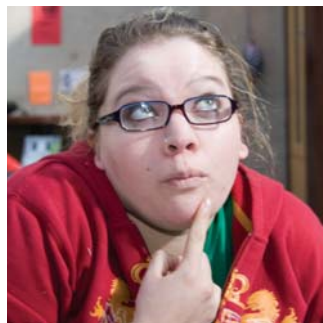
Third year Industrial Systems
Engineering



"I was trying to finish work and
study. I didn't have to feel sad.
School comes first [period]."

Okechikere Ekeada

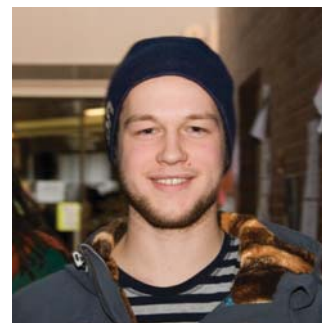
Second year Industrial Engineering



"Having a moment of silence for a
great American icon."

Cristina Robles

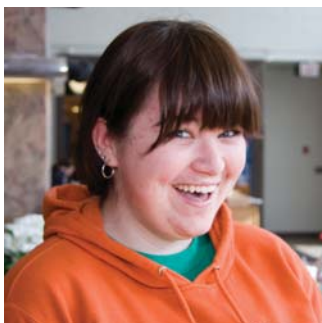
Fifth year Management
Information Systems



"She's not dead; I was playing World
of Warcraft with her last night."

Greg Morton

First year New Media Design



"It was my 21st birthday. I was out
celebrating!"

Melissa Hannon

Third year Industrial Design



"My priest's wife told me on the
way to church."

Katie Anderson

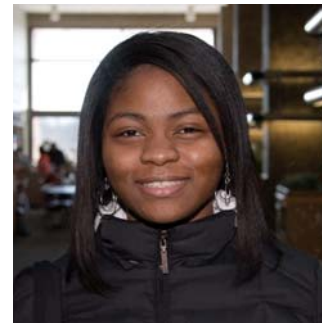
First year Illustration



"Playing 500 cup beer pong with
Trimspa."

Mike Dennery

First year New Media Design



"I was in the computer labs. I was
shocked."

Sola Afolayan

First year Ultrasound



01

SPORTSDESK

by Mike Johnston

photography by Matt Bagwell

The Men's Hockey team finished up their home schedule Saturday night hosting Mercyhurst for the second night in a row. Following up the amazing come-from-behind 6-5 victory from the first night would be a hard feat to accomplish. (Recap of Friday's game: The Tigers scored the go ahead goal with 1.5 seconds on the power play with a blast from Dan Ringwald. The Tigers were down 4-1 at one point in the game but that didn't stop them from the improbable comeback.)

Saturday night, the Tigers fell behind early again, but were able to even the score before the end of the first period. Mercyhurst scored two more goals in the second period going into the intermission up 3-1 over

RIT. RIT made the score 3-2 on a deflection by Simon Lambert with plenty of time left for the Tigers to score the game equalizer. With about five minutes left in the game, the Tigers had a very disappointing turn of events. A shot from the point hit the top of the net and bounced back out into play. The lights went on and the crowd went nuts. Unfortunately, the refs were the only ones in the building who didn't see the puck go into the net. The score remained 3-2, and the Tigers were not able to score the game-tying goal before the end of regulation. •

01// Matt Crowell checks a Mercyhurst player while battling for the puck.

02// RIT seniors Brad Harris (stick raised), Rob Tarantino, and Tristan Fairbarn (not pictured) were honored at the start of Saturday's game. It was the last home game of their careers.

03// Fans protest after the referees take away the second of two would-be RIT goals in the third period.

04// Simon Lambert skates toward a loose puck.

05// A shot by RIT's Simon Lambert get's by Mercyhurst College goalie Mike Ella in the third period of Saturday's game. The game-tying goal was taken away after review.



02



03



04



05

Men's Basketball: A Do or Die Game

by Geoff Shearer

photography by Katharine Sidelnik



The stage was set. A 13-11 season came down to one game; one game separating the Tigers from holding the fourth seat in the Empire 8 conference and qualifying for the conference tournament, possibly even proceeding to the NCAA.

The team was steadily practicing at 11 a.m. on game day, each player visibly fixed on the task at hand; it was time to proverbially sink or swim. After practice, I pulled aside Captain Colin Roy and former ECAC Athlete of the Week Barrett Zeinfeld to talk about the coming battle on the court. Colin Roy remarked, "Today they're all shooters; all they do is shoot, so our defensive plan is to get outside the arch, guard everybody, and not worry about the penetration. Offensively, we want to go inside because they're smaller." Zeinfeld added, "All week we've been preparing for the Friday game. Coach has other tactics in mind for Saturday, but you try to win the first one and go from there."

Although the Tigers lost Friday's game against Ithaca, spirits were high and anxious for the team's meeting with Elmira. This particular game celebrated the accomplishments of the team's '07 Seniors (Brent Pozzi, Rob Hampton, and Tim Bacon); a brief ceremony was held at the commencement of the game. Regardless of the seriousness of the ensuing game, the Seniors' teammates still heckled each Senior in good spirit as they hugged their friends and family in celebration of their accomplishments, illustrating the selflessness and compassion each player holds towards his comrades.

Although this team certainly has earned its accolades, there is no "T.O. syndrome" to be found here. It became immediately apparent that this team understood that this game was too important to have any ball hogs concerned with playing time.

The Tigers started out uncharacteristically slow, trailing 2-9 in the first few minutes. It wouldn't last long, however, as the Tigers found their stride, pulling a 37-24 lead over the Elmira Soaring Eagles in the first period, a period that ended in a picture-perfect three-point shot with 0.6 seconds left on the clock from Freshman Adam Sweet. They were his only points of the game. During the first period, Barrett Zeinfeld, in a moment of sheer concentration or pure instinct to maintain possession, jolted the ball at an opposing player standing out of bounds as he himself was propelled out of bounds. Something I would've expected in a Harlem Globetrotter game, if they weren't fixed beforehand. Nevertheless, thanks to Zeinfeld, Tigers maintained ball control. Zeinfeld also boosted the scoreboard, hitting four from the three-point line and finishing the night with 15 points.

At the conclusion of the first period, the Triangle fraternity presented the Steven King award to Senior Rob Hampton for his exemplary performance this season. The Steven King award has been given for the past 25 years in memory of student athlete Steven King, a member of the Triangle fraternity and basketball team. The recipient is chosen by the head coach at the last home game, for a Senior player who exemplifies the characteristics that Steven King stood for: sportsmanship, character, sense of humor, spirit, and enthusiasm. Hampton finished the night with seven points and three blocks.

Additionally, the Triangle fraternity made their presence known throughout the Elmira battle, instigating the opposing team's free throws to miss, much in the same fashion as the Hockey team's die-hard fan Dave "Big Goon" Faas. I peered over to the Tiger's bench to find players and coaches alike rejoicing in the Triangle fraternity's dedication to our Tigers.

On the court, Tim Bacon's persistence under the hoop was unwavering; every rebound reminded me of a brutish tantrum raining down elbows, inevitably ending in his possession of the ball (being 6' 7" doesn't hurt, either). Whenever the Tigers held possession, Bacon was ready and waiting for the opportunity to drop one in; he led the team with 19 points and eight rebounds. Bacon's contributions have in no small way aided

the Tigers this year, and his athleticism coupled with his commitment to the team will be missed by many next season.

Throughout the day, Coach McVean was sternly focused on the game, like a warlord plotting strategies to be the last one standing triumphant at the day's end. McVean's dedication is exemplified through his genuine passion for basketball along with his extensive history. Coaching since 1983, McVean holds many titles including six 20+ win seasons, five NCAA appearances, five Empire 8 Championships, and two Chase Tournament titles. McVean also was named Empire 8 Coach of the Year seven times and holds the record for All-Time Winningest Coach at RIT, with a career record of 354-244. Off the courts of competition, McVean runs the Bob McVean Basketball Camp, which is now attended by over 500 players annually. He understands the difficult balance of athletics and education inherent in the RIT academic calendar, stressing the importance of academics over athletics. Balanced team captain Colin Roy understands that; "It hasn't been bad...you just need to get into the routine."

Ultimately, the Tigers stood proud at the game's finale with a 73-63 victory over the Soaring Eagles. The Tigers have prevailed with a "W" the last six games against Elmira, dating back to the 2003-04 season. I approached Coach Chris Connelly of the Soaring Eagles at the end of the game to gather his thoughts. He stated, "Typical of [the] RIT Tigers, Coach McVean gets them playing hard as heck. Tim Bacon has been a good player for them for four years. I knew Tim back when he was in high school, watching him play out of recruiting camp; he's tough, he's strong, and I think the rest of the guys really compliment around him with Zeinfeld being able to shoot it... With that win they now make the Empire 8 tournament and I wish them a lot of luck... You hate to lose, but when you lose to a team that's got a lot of character, sometimes it makes it taste a little bit better."

The RIT Tigers will now progress to the Empire 8 conference where, undoubtedly, they will represent RIT with the same modesty and integrity that brought them there. •



01// RIT Tiger's Rob Hampton is described as one of the teams most athletic players by Coach McVean. "He can play the two or three and likes to get to the rim."

02// Coach McVean describes player 44, Randy Mudrow, as a "deceiving player who has exceptionally quick hands, defensively."

03// The RIT Tigers assistant coach Neil Kromer (left) and team watch Saturday's game against Elmira. The Tiger's went on to win 73-63.

DODGEBALL: NOT SO MUCH AN UNDERDOG STORY

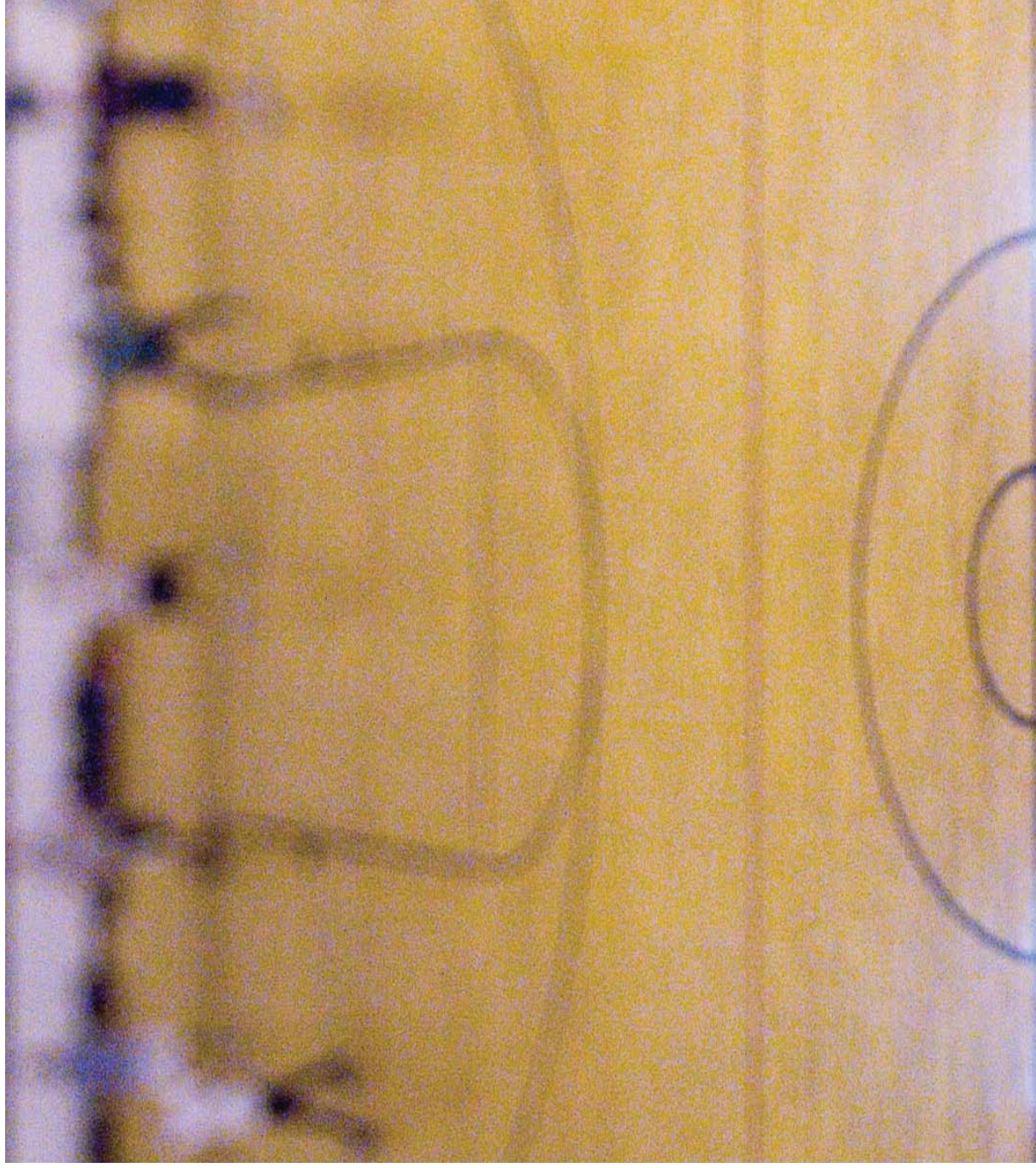
by *Mike Johnston*

photography by CoCo Walters

When you are eight-time defending intramural dodgeball champions here at RIT, you look forward to an event like this. Add on the title of defending champions of an annual dodgeball tournament, and you might even have a few bull's eyes on your backs. The team: Blue Balls. The event? The Seventh Annual RIT Dodgeball Derby, hosted by Phi Kappa Psi and Alpha Sigma Alpha last Saturday, when sixteen teams (fourteen in the open division and two in the women's division) competed for the title of champion.

The event was created to raise money for the St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Each team consisted of ten people each having to pay a five-dollar entrance fee for the tournament. The five dollars got everyone all the pizza and drinks they could consume, as well as a chance to hit some people with some balls. There was a 50/50 raffle drawing at the end of the tournament where they gave away a DVD Player and a Portable DVD player as the prizes. All of the money collected for the tournament and the raffle was donated to the Children's Hospital.

The rules of the tournament were pretty standard. All ten players would play at the same time. The tournament was double elimination format. Each match was a best of three five-minute games. At the end of the five-minute period, the team with the most players left on the court won the game. If a team lost all of their players before the time was up, it was an automatic loss for that game. If the teams were tied after the five minutes were up, the game would go to a one-minute overtime to decide the winner. To start the match, teams would line up on the end line



of the basketball courts and race to the center of the court for the six balls sitting at the half court line on the ground. This happened to be the most entertaining part of the matches. Shawn Jahn had a rough time on the face offs. He mentioned, "I took a knee to the face and I got a fat lip."

The object of dodgeball is to hit the other team with little red balls. A person is out if they get hit with a ball before it hits the ground or a wall. If you catch a ball that someone throws, you knock the thrower out of the game and your team gets another player to come back onto the court.

Blue Balls started the day with targets on their backs and never let it bother them. In their first match, they dropped their only game of the tournament. It was probably the most entertaining game of the day. They stayed strong throughout the tournament and took home first place without losing a single match. In fact, at the end of the tournament, they decided to have the second and third place teams play each other for second and just gave Blue Balls the championship. Blue Balls won their fair share of prizes for taking first, but the top six teams also were awarded various gift certificates to surrounding locations.

By the end of the day each team had played their fair share of dodgeball and probably won't want to see another dodgeball for some time. Casey Meixall mentioned, "My shoulder is completely out of whack." I can imagine it felt like every one of them just threw a 200+ pitch outing for a Major League Baseball team.

The tournament was overall a big success. They were able to raise money for the St. Jude's Children's Hospital as well as creating an extra interesting day for all of the contestants involved. Blue Balls is still waiting for the feeling that makes sense for their name, but they will just have to wait another year for that. Does your team have what it takes to take down these giants? •



One man left standing fights off those opposing him during the Seventh Annual Dodgeball Derby in the Field House on February 18, 2007.

RIT RINGS

585.475.5633

compiled by Ryan Metzler

All calls subject to editing and truncation. Not all calls will be run. T.S. Eliot and Ernest Hemingway are respectable men. Reporter reserves the right to publish all calls in any format. The views expressed on this page are not endorsed by Reporter.

Wednesday 1:30 a.m.

Yeah, I just want to say that the people who are in charge of changing the cores for the apartment locks didn't even knock or notify the three people that were inside of the apartment that they were changing the lock. So I came back from my friend's house and I couldn't get in and nobody can get into our own apartment that we were inside of. Now we have to go get our keys in the morning so we can actually use our own apartment. So whoever is in charge of this, it's [fudge]ed up and that's all.

Wednesday 12:55 p.m.

Hey RIT Rings, I was hoping to give a shout out to parking officer number 70. Yeah, um, I don't have a thing against all parking officers. I realize you guys have your job and you have to do your thing, but number 70 is clearly a huge douche bag. I just wanted to let you know that he may be on a power trip right now, but it's going to be nothing later. You really need to get a hobby, girlfriend, boyfriend, or whatever. Just get a life because observing the cars for 20 minutes while in 20-minute parking is just ridiculous, that's what the flashers are for. So go tell your parking service attendant that this is pathetic. You go around timing people and it's giving a bad name for yourselves. Number 70, kiss my ass.

Thursday 2:09 a.m.

Hey RIT Rings, I'm just pulling an all-nighter because last quarter I missed registration because I slept in. I was just reading your last edition of *Reporter* and it's really boring. It's making me fall asleep. Write more interesting stuff so people pulling an all-nighter have something to do.

Friday 1:33 a.m.

Okay, so I'm calling because some stupid people decided to think that breaking into the change machine in the laundry room was a good idea. Now, most people would say "go get flex." Well, flex isn't real. You pay real money to get some fake money. It just doesn't make any sense to me. So I have another card that does the same thing. It's called my debit card. Well anyways, I now have to get some change because the machines are broken. So I go to Sol's, Corner Store, etcetera and not a single one of them would give me change for my money. I need to buy something first. RIT needs to fix this soon, give me my money at a store, or something. It works the same way and you're still making money, RIT. Damn it all.

Friday 1:51 a.m.

Yeah I was just wondering why there are so many homeless people sleeping on the couches in Beanz? Don't they have rooms somewhere on campus?

Friday 2:08 a.m.

I was just about to fall asleep and I got this idea that Fritos would be really good dipped in peanut butter. So, I got up I tried it because my roommate and I both have it, and we have come to the conclusion that they're [fudge]ing awesome. They should start serving it at Gracie's instead of all the other [fudge].

Friday 12:51 p.m.

Hello RIT Rings, my friend Tom and I agree that your magazine is crap. What's happening with you guys? I'm really worried about the Rings

section. We used to have a very morbid section and what happened to all that? I mean really...You disappoint me.

Friday 5:47 p.m.

Hey RIT Rings, I just realized it's Friday night and I am downloading fonts and browsing Photoshop brushes. This night sucks.

Saturday 1:56 a.m.

Hi *Reporter*, what is with the security cameras they just installed in the SAU? Did they want to watch me eat my buff-chick wrap? What's up there?

Saturday 6:46 p.m.

Oh my god, I had to tell someone, so I decided to tell you! This guy was kicking snow so hard while he was driving and he forgot to look at the road and he crashed into another car. [Fudge]ing great.

Sunday 12:21 a.m.

Hello, RIT Rings? This is Matthew's grandmother and he asked me to tell you this story. It goes like this. My husband died about ten years ago, and when I feel lonely and I rather miss my husband, I just look at this scarf he gave me back in the 30s. Why don't I miss him so much anymore?

Democratization, Web 2.0, and the Rise of Relativism

by Adam Botzenhart

illustration by Erin Wengrovius

"The new media age of Web 2.0 is threatening only if you believe that an excess of democracy is the road to anarchy. I don't."

Richard Stengel, Managing Editor of *TIME*

These are confusing times. The moral black and white of 9/11 has faded into the muddled and hazy grey we find ourselves in now. For a moment, at least, we believed that we were right and the terrorists were wrong. Now, however, we find ourselves increasingly unsure, asking questions: "Who are the *real* terrorists, anyway?" "How is what America is doing now any different from what Al-Qaeda did to us?" 9/11, it seems, was merely an exception, a brief interlude to the overarching relativist rule that perpetuates today.

But this loss of clarity is not limited to the War on Terror, foreign affairs, or the U.S. presence in Iraq. No, it is far more widespread and pervasive, and it's found a new engine in Web 2.0. The traditional bastions of authority have been demolished and in their place stand Wikipedia, YouTube, Yahoo! Answers, and a host of blogs. Web 2.0, for those who are unfamiliar, are applications and sites on the internet that allow users to contribute or create content that can be altered or reused by others. It is the ultimate open source and the ultimate democratic forum. *Vox populi, vox Dei*. All voices are equal, anyone can contribute, and there is no one to decide what stays and what goes, what's right and what's wrong, except you, the masses—a blatant rejection of the expert and an embrace of all that is the common man. If you don't like what's written in Wikipedia, go ahead and change it; it's that simple. That which is true, finally, is malleable.

It's part of a progression that has long ceased to work toward progress: Democratization gives rise to the voice of the individual. The voice of the individual gives rise to healthy debate, disagreement, and dissent. Reasonable people disagree, but neither is expressly *right* nor *wrong*. This is conflated with a relativism where there is no longer a discernable right and wrong, only conviction and convention, which coincides with a rejection of the Platonic forms. Man is abolished. We can no longer say anything objective about anything. Not only is beauty now in the eye of the beholder, but it would seem nothing is apart from it. And that brings us back to Web 2.0, the ultimate expression of the right of the individual to author his or her own truth. It's no wonder that *TIME* concluded 2006's Person of the Year was *You*. Who are they, really, to say otherwise? By what objective standard can they claim that someone is exceptional while others are not?

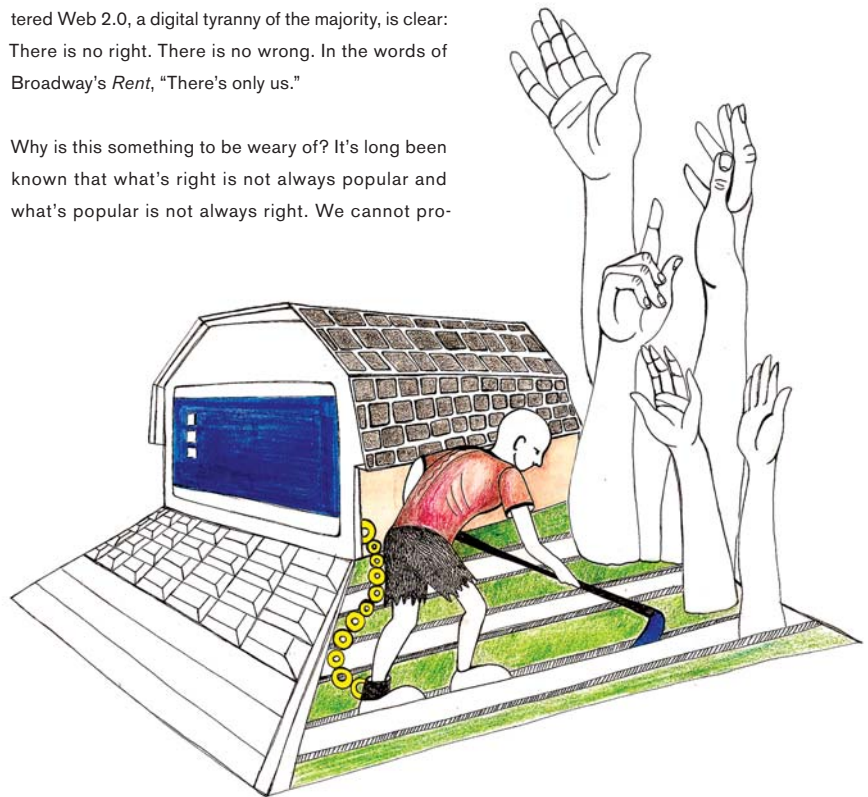
"The best moral compass, we've decided, is the one in which all directions are north."

Web 2.0 represents a rejection of an authoritative right and wrong for countless homegrown assertions published authoritatively. The signal to noise ratio has dropped to an all-time low, leaving us morally perplexed and glassy-eyed. The implications of an unfettered Web 2.0, a digital tyranny of the majority, is clear: There is no right. There is no wrong. In the words of Broadway's *Rent*, "There's only us."

Why is this something to be weary of? It's long been known that what's right is not always popular and what's popular is not always right. We cannot pro-

claim "to each his own morality" while we decry racism and apartheid. This excess of digital democracy is not leading us to anarchy—our government is far too large and pervasive. Rather, it's instilling on the public the foundations of a moral anarchy. One wonders, in the current state of moral chaos, if we would have the will, the moral clarity today that Lincoln had in 1863 when he stood against popular opinion and proclaimed rightly that slavery was and is an absolute wrong. Can we really even say we believe that today, and on what grounds? As Dostoyevsky asked, "Why must we love our fellow man?"

The best moral compass, we've decided, is the one in which all directions are north. While this may be democratically agreeable and popular to all, it's certainly not the same compass that has brought us where we are today in eradicating slavery, affirming the innate dignity of the individual, and throwing off the gross tyranny of despots. By breaking down all barriers, Web 2.0 simultaneously eliminates all boundaries. Web 2.0 *is* an excess of democracy, and an excess of anything is inherently detrimental. The misuse and misunderstanding of Web 2.0 by the public today is a step backward, not a step forward—and I can say that objectively. •



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