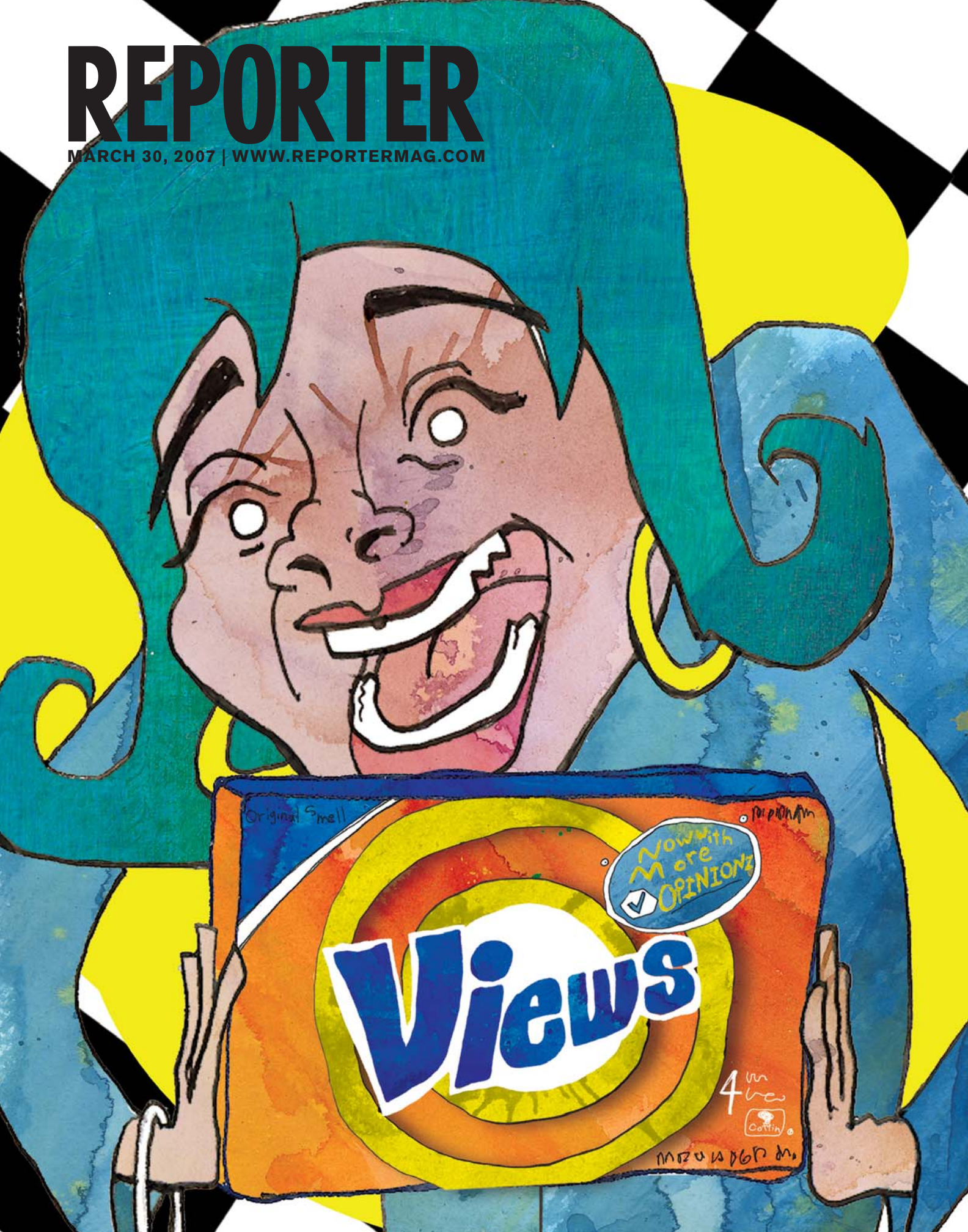


REPORTER

MARCH 30, 2007 | WWW.REPORTERMAG.COM



Original Smell

REPORTER

Now with
More
OPINIONS

Views

4 in 1
Cottin

MAR 2007

REPORTER

Want worthwhile Work?
Why wait? Writing warrants wages.

WEEKLY MEETINGS:
Fridays at 5 pm, SAU room A-426.

Pizza provided. All are welcome.

www.reportermag.com
reporter@rit.edu

THE COMMONS Online Ordering Service.



Piping
Hot
And
Ready

To
Eat . **JUST GO TO**
RIT.WEBFOOD.COM

Philly

 EXPRESS

looking for:

PART TIME

FULL TIME

MANAGERS

**376 JEFFERSON ROAD IN THE
JEFFERSON PLAZA**

TEL: 716.225.5090 ■ ■ ■ FAX: 716.225.5103

Call Jim Hills: 315.559.9029
 Or Mark Hills: 585.436.9447
 Or Email: jhill5@twcny.rr.com



- 4 & 5 Bedroom Houses For Rent
- One Year Lease Starting on 9/1/07
- Quiet Residential Neighborhood
- Offstreet Parking, In-House Laundry

Summer Business Institute @ Simon



June 4-22, 2007

Whether you are a current college student or a newly minted graduate, discover exciting opportunities in business this summer.

- ▶ Get a head start on your career path
- ▶ Three-week, 4-credit program includes courses in three area general management, marketing, and accounting and finance
- ▶ Network at C.E.O.-hosted dinners

Enrollment is limited. Apply now! Application Deadline: April 14, 2007

For more information contact us at (585) 275-3533 or visit

www.simon.rochester.edu/summerinstitute



Hot Deals

...from Domino's®



STUDENT SAVINGS!

ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

2095 East Henrietta Rd.

359-3330

DORM PARTIES? STUDENT MEETINGS?

Call Domino's Office

427-8468

BIG FRATERNITY AND SORORITY DISCOUNTS!

Save \$9!

555 deal

Three Medium 1-Topping Pizzas

\$5⁰⁰ Each

Deep Dish Extra.
Expires 6/15/07.

Minimum 3 Pizzas



©2007 Domino's Pizza LLC. Not valid with any other offer. Valid with coupon only at participating stores. Cash value 1/2¢. Prices may vary. Tax may apply. Minimum purchase required. Delivery charge may apply. Limited delivery areas.

Campus Wings Combo

One 1-Topping Pizza & 10 Buffalo Wings OR Domino's Pizza Buffalo Chicken Kickers
\$12⁹⁹ Plus Tax Medium
\$14⁹⁹ Plus Tax X-Large

Deep Dish Extra.
Expires 6/15/07.



Campus Double Deal

Two Cheese & 1-Topping Pizzas
\$12⁹⁹ Plus Tax 2 Mediums
\$14⁹⁹ Plus Tax 2 Larges
\$16⁹⁹ Plus Tax 2 X-Larges

Deep Dish Extra.
Expires 6/15/07.



Save \$4!

Starving Student Special

1-Topping Pizza & Cheesy Bread

Can Substitute Cheesy Bread with Breadsticks Or Cinn'n Stix

\$7⁹⁹ Plus Tax Medium

\$9⁹⁹ Plus Tax Large

Deep Dish Extra.
Expires 6/15/07.



Mon.-Thur. 11am-1am
 Fri. & Sat. 11am-2am
 Sun. Noon-Midnight

april 9
2-4 pm
fireside
lounge

come see the presidential candidates discuss
their goals for the upcoming year.

bring questions and vote for your favorites!

april 11
4-6 pm
fireside
lounge

april 16-19
don't forget to vote!
sgvote.rit.edu

student government **DEBATES!**



sg.rit.edu

REPORTER

EDITOR IN CHIEF Casey Dehlinger
SENIOR EDITORS Jen Loomis, J.S. Ost
NEWS EDITOR David Spiecker
LEISURE EDITOR Laura Mandanas
FEATURES EDITOR Adam Botzenhart
SPORTS/VIEWS EDITOR Chad Carbone

Art

ART DIRECTOR Josh Gomby
STAFF DESIGNERS Michelle Brook
Lauren Dellaquila
HOUSE DESIGNER Jeff Chiappone
CONTRIBUTING ILLUSTRATORS
Kristen Bell, Greg Caggiano, Mike Norton,
Erin Wengrovius, Bryan Williams, Caitlin Yarsky
CARTOONIST Alex Salsberg

Photo

PHOTO EDITOR Dave Londres

Production

PRODUCTION MANAGER John Carew
PRINTING Printing Applications Lab

Business

PUBLIC RELATIONS Kayla Himelein
AD MANAGER Geo Kartheiser
BUSINESS MANAGER Akira Simizu
CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE Kyle O'Neill

Online

ONLINE EDITOR Erhardt Graeff

Advisor

Rudy Pugliese

Contact

MAIN 585.475.2212
EMAIL reporter@rit.edu
ADVERTISING 585.475.2213
EMAIL reporterads@mail.rit.edu

Editorial

Magazines Are a Piece of Cake

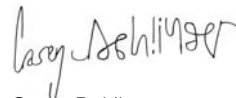
Usually in this space you'd find some smug ill-conceived last-second epiphany of mine, but not this week. This week, *Reporter* has handed the issue over to some talented leaders on this campus to let them voice their opinions.

This is the annual All Views Issue, because here at *Reporter* we understand that we are not the end all be all of opinions. Rather, we just happen to be the ones who publish a weekly magazine. So, we decided to give a chance for student leaders, professors, and staff to say what's on their minds, and I'm proud to say that *Reporter* would be hard pressed to tackle the wide range of issues brought forward by our special guest authors this week.

And, of course, although this is the *All Views Issue*, meaning that the issue consists entirely of opinions, that is not to say that this issue provides *all* the views that are out there. That is why *Reporter* offers two weekly venues for our readers: Letters to the Editor and RIT Rings. These are your opportunities as readers to voice your opinions to the RIT community.

This issue is dedicated to that idea of a democratic media and your rights as readers to comment on and impact our publication. Because, in a way, I'm powerless as Editor in Chief. A magazine is not completed when it is done being designed, or even when it's printed. It is not finished until you, the reader, read it.

It's just like how a cake isn't finished when it's baked; it's finished when it's eaten. I have very little to do with finishing this magazine. I may bake it up to order every week, but I'm not the one who has to gobble it up. When all is said and done, you are the consumer. All I do is type up the menu.



Casey Dehlinger
Editor in Chief

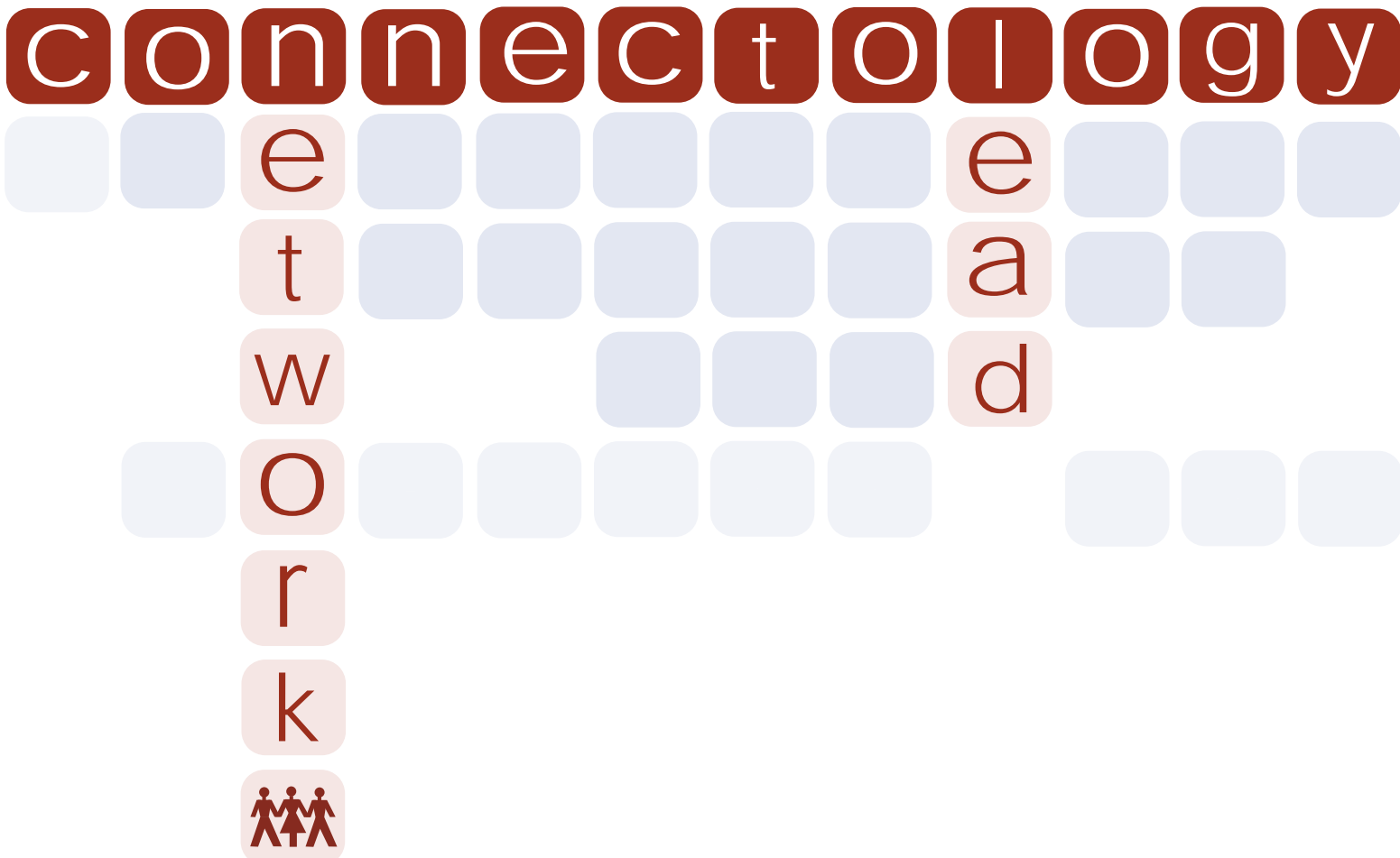
Table of Contents

March 30, 2007 | Vol. 56, Issue 23

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>7 Success is Not a Stop on the Road to Happiness
Vincent F.A. Golphin reflects on the fundamentals of happiness and the pitfalls of chasing success.</p> <p>8 Being Orange and Brown
Student Government President Lizzie Sorkin sounds off about the rich and flavorful delicacy that <i>is</i> school spirit.</p> <p>9 Required: Children
Jenn Kolling unveils the latest and greatest argument in the politics of marriage: if holy matrimony is all about procreation, why not ban <i>all</i> non-child-bearing unions?</p> | <p>10 ASL: Souvenir or Tool?
Matthew Danna ponders how the Deaf, Hearing, and Hard-of-Hearing communities interact without proper support for ASL education.</p> <p>13 Turnitin: Friend, Not Foe
Marianne Buehler defends the hotly-contested anti-plagiarism software, Turnitin.</p> <p>14 A Hand, Please, in Trying Times
Mich Gerson provides a perspective on Lisa Lampanelli, the Deaf reaction, and the true nature of being a leader.</p> <p>15 The Data Coup d'Etats
Amit Ray ponders the credibility of information in the Information Age and begs the question: has the media deprived us of truth, or have we deprived ourselves?</p> |
|--|---|

Cover illustration by Bryan Williams

Reporter Magazine is published weekly during the academic year by a staff comprised of students at Rochester Institute of Technology. Business, Editorial, and Design facilities are located in Room A-426, in the lower level of the Student Alumni Union. Our voice/TTY line is 585.475.2212. The Advertising Department can be reached at 585.475.2213. The opinions expressed in Reporter do not necessarily reflect those of the Institute. Ceci n'est pas une clue. Letters to the Editor may also be sent to reporter@rit.edu. Reporter is not responsible for materials presented in advertising areas. No letters will be printed unless signed. All letters received become the property of Reporter. Reporter takes pride in its membership in the Associated Collegiate Press and American Civil Liberties Union. Copyright © 2005 Reporter Magazine. All rights reserved. No portion of this Magazine may be reproduced without prior written permission.



RIT's 3rd Annual Leadership Advancement Conference

April 13-14, SAU

Friday, April 13

6pm-8pm

Networking Dinner Reception

Saturday, April 14

8am-5:30pm

Main Conference

Ticket sales start Feb 1st, 2007

Students: \$5 refundable deposit

Public: \$10

Visit <http://campuslife.rit.edu/leadership>

for descriptions, speaker biographies,
& online registration

Sponsored by: RIT Leadership Institute & Community Service Center, Cooperative Education & Career Services, ITS, The RIT Alumni Network, The Center for Residence Life, The Women's Center, Academic Affairs

SUCCESS IS NOT A STOP ON THE ROAD TO HAPPINESS

by Vincent F. A. Golphin

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Language & Literature

illustration by Kristen Bell



Being on break gave me a chance to reflect on about a half-dozen conversations during the Winter Quarter with unhappy students. Most exchanges focused on *success*. Despite their opportunities from birth, class, good health, and access to an education, the students were in a sweat over the chances that they might find a place in *success*. Most of them cannot describe *success*, but they figure it has to do with wealth—money, goods, fame and prestige. Nearly paralyzed with anxiety over grades, friends, careers and the future, they were miserable. All I could tell them is success is not a stop on the road to happiness.

“Success,” which comes from Latin, means “to follow through with what you set out to do.” That means if you set out to be a first-rate computer programmer or engineer or even a teacher, and the goal is reached, even without wealth you are a success. That is the achievement which brings happiness. In nearly every case, a talk with me left the answer-seeker frustrated. And nearly every dialogue took a turn for the better when the student dropped an obsession with wealth long enough to ask, “So, what should I do?” Each time I said, “Change the way you think.”

Happiness—and a number of other things in this life—are built more on our thoughts than our actions. I always recommend three things:

- 1 Acknowledge ignorance.
- 2 Learn when to give up.
- 3 Count your blessings.

To be ignorant is “not to know.” The trick is to embrace and be fascinated by mystery. As humans, there is so much we do not know, and even more that eludes our ability to understand. That’s cool. It is hard for a people to be ready to learn until they know where their knowledge ends. More pitiful are those who are so worried about what others might think of them—the *impression* they will set—that they pretend to be self-absorbed. That mindset is usually indicated by the use of “whatever.”

Those who do not know when to give up never learn to live life with grace. They often end up too rigid. Most times, that leads them into a *monkey trap*. During a trip to Africa, I once met a person who built traps and caught monkeys for a living. He told me that in a dried gourd, he drills a hole slightly larger than a kola nut. Aside from the sweet smell, it resembles a buckeye or chestnut.

The monkey, drawn by the smell reaches into the trap, grabs the nut, and is caught. The paw cannot be pulled out of the hole in the gourd. All the animal has to do is let go of the nut, but most monkeys do not know when to give up.

The same is true about money, goods, fame and prestige. Many Americans are unhappy because they do not have what they think they want. In this country, little air is given to the notion that it is more important to focus on what you already possess. I do not mean cash and prizes. Those who frame our ideas never define *enough*. Ads only say what you do not have—a possession, job, or a person—to make you happy until it is time for *more*, which is also undefined. Be grateful. Count your blessings. *Enough* is elusive—left up to individual desires and goals, like success or happiness. •

BEING ORANGE AND BROWN

by Lizzie Sorkin

illustration by Erin Wengrovius



A few years ago, a friend of mine made Kugel, a Jewish dessert. I never had it before and I never had the opportunity to try it. For most people it's a delicacy—something not to miss out on during the holidays. I hesitated a little because I'm picky when it comes to food, unfortunately, but after several pushes from friends I decided to give it a bite. *Geez Louise, I've been missing out!* I guess the same sort of situation applies to us here at RIT.

As I offered to the campus during my convocation address this past fall, it is the warmth and harmony represented in our campus colors of orange and brown that provides me the most basic foundation for the spirit of this community. Wearing the colors, Spirit Fridays, and seeing RITchie are all like spirit delicacies for me. But, also like the Kugel, I realize we may have our own "picky eaters" here at RIT too, when it comes to "trying" the colors. Student Government can only do so much to promote the colors; we simply provide the food for spirit, and maybe a push in that direction, but it is up to each member of the community to take a taste. Like my friends who knew how delicious the Kugel was, and who ultimately

opened my eyes to the same joy, SG bears the responsibility to help open the community's eyes to what it can mean and feel like to belong to something bigger than oneself.

I understand that in his editorial several weeks ago, Casey Dehlinger talked about how SG should inspire spirit from within our community, so then the desire to wear the colors would be born from within, and therefore would be more genuine. I agree! This works for some of our community. Those students who complete surveys, take on leadership roles, work hard in hundreds of different offices, attend sports events and forums, and even those who stop me on the quarter mile to share an opinion are all students who share an internal drive to affiliate and contribute to the spirit of this place.

But I would offer that the individuals who are more skeptical about tasting this spirit might do so if offered the opportunity differently. Because we have Spirit Fridays, and offer incentives to don an orange and brown t-shirt, there will naturally be students who will do it for reasons different than mine. However, if you were to see two different students, both wearing the

colors, would you know who was wearing them for the "genuine" reason and who wasn't? Does the student who wears the colors because of a genuine pride feel any less proud walking by the "other" student in the SAU? And isn't it possible that the push this less-interested student got by SG's incentives might encourage the decision that they liked the taste of participating once they tried it?

We're going through a unique time at RIT; heading in a different direction. With Dr. Simone retiring and Dr. Destler joining us, we're bound to go through a series of changes. What our colors mean and how they are viewed is changing too. Thanks to the work of our community today and those before us, we've moved past people asking "what are our colors?" to people saying "THESE are our colors!" Ownership of RIT, its colors and its care, is growing. We aren't there yet, but I know we are closer today than we were yesterday. And if we keep on pushing in just the right way, I believe we will be better tomorrow than today. •

REQUIRED: CHILDREN

by Jenn Kolling

illustration by Greg Caggiano

Marriage and procreation. Do they really go hand in hand? Apparently in Washington they do. Last year, the Supreme Court of Washington state ruled against a group of lesbians and gay men in their fight against the 1998 Defense of Marriage Act. The court stated that same-sex marriage was not rationally related to any legitimate or compelling state interest, basically saying that if you can't procreate, you are not benefiting the state. The Washington Defense of Marriage Alliance is petitioning to get an issue on the ballot this November—Issue 957, proposing that all couples wishing to get married in the state of Washington must procreate within three years of marriage. They must prove that, along with their intent to marry, they can and intend to procreate; otherwise, they face having their marriage annulled by the state law. Puts a new spin on the situation, now doesn't it?

This proposal is obviously completely unconstitutional. Think of the light it casts on the current laws. If the only reason a state can think of to prevent same-sex couples from marrying is procreation, then what's the big deal? There are a lot of couples that get married and have no intention of ever having children. There are also a lot of couples that *cannot* have children. What do you do about those groups of people? If they are not going to further benefit the state and raise a family, then why are they allowed to marry? And why is it believed that two people of the same sex cannot raise a child? I agree it is quite difficult for two men to actually create a

child together. Alright, it is impossible. However, there is nothing stopping them from being able to actually raise a child any better or worse than a heterosexual couple.

The Washington Defense of Marriage Alliance is fully aware that this issue, if passed, will be completely struck down by the Supreme Court. They actually intend for this to happen. It is simply a proposal to force the court to take another look at the ruling that was upheld in 2005. If the courts want to put such a strict stipulation and reasoning for not allowing same-sex couples to marry, then they should also think about related



issues, like couples that cannot have children or choose not to have children.

How preposterous is it to think that couples would be forced to have children? I believe this is a very radical proposal. But it also begs the question of how ridiculous is it to say that the reason same-sex couples are not allowed to marry is because that kind of institution is not in the interest of the state? Is it really that same-sex marriage is not in the interest of the state, or is it really that same-sex marriage is not in the interest of society? Is it really that the population of the state cannot accept what is different? Is the problem really that the public can't fathom two women taking care of a child together? Studies have been done to prove that children raised of same-sex couples have no more difficulty in school or otherwise than children of opposite-sex couples.

So, what is the problem? The problem is society cannot handle same-sex relationships. Society is not ready for that step to be taken. I hope the Washington Defense of Marriage Alliance gets all the signatures it needs to get this issue on the ballot. This issue needs to be put in front of the face of everyone in the state. The people need to see that what the court is saying, that same sex couples cannot have children, doesn't really make any sense for why same-sex couples can't marry. In fact, the people need to see that courts are currently allowing many couples to get married that are "not in the interest of the state." People need to see that same sex couples deserve to have the same rights as opposite sex couples. •

ASL: RIT SOUVENIR OR COMMUNICATION TOOL?

by Matthew Danna

A Concerned, Hearing Freshman majoring in Information Technology

illustration by Erin Wengrovius

After being on this campus for seven short months, it's pretty evident to me that the Deaf community here is intense. By intense, I truly mean *intense*. It is a society that is tremendous in degree, has vast strength, is high in quality, and is susceptible to strong feelings and emotions. The Deaf community, stemming from the National Technical Institute of the Deaf, is perhaps one of the greatest assets to RIT as a university.

Alongside the diversity of "art kids" and "computer wiz's," the diversity of the hearing and the hard-of-hearing is intense, but could be greatly improved. I remember touring RIT a short year ago and being intrigued by the idea of having over a thousand Deaf students on campus, but is that a selling point of RIT? According to RIT's incoming President, Dr. Destler, it sure is—the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences and NTID are what makes RIT vastly different from numer-

ous other technology-oriented schools in the country. However, there appears to be a flaw in the system. How are the hearing supposed to communicate and interact with the non-hearing? After being approached by many underclassmen on this issue, I decided to investigate.

After arriving on campus, freshmen go through several exercises during orientation to familiarize themselves with the Deaf community. They learn a few very basic signs and a bit of etiquette for communication with the deaf. But is this enough? Perhaps for the average RIT student it is, but what about those with the desire to learn more? What if students have the urge to learn about Deaf culture? They can attend No Voice Zone or possibly try to communicate with a hard-of-hearing student. In my humble opinion, No Voice Zone and RITSign should be the minimum that RIT does to foster greater integration of the hearing and non-hearing communities, not the only effort.

Why is it that, as an underclassmen, it is nearly impossible to get into an American Sign Language class? There are countless students, specifically first and second years, who aspire to take ASL. Generally, only upperclassmen are able to get into these classes. This makes very little sense to me. Why would the College of Liberal Arts make it so that only upperclassmen, whose graduation date is quickly approaching, are able to fill the few available seats? Shouldn't there be enough sections and seats available so that underclassmen who want to take ASL can? This way, students will have more of an opportunity to use ASL during their tenure here. This is currently a cultural problem on campus, and should not be a budgetary issue. After speaking with the College of Liberal Arts on this matter, I was told ASL is inferior in priority to other foreign languages at RIT. Dean Kist stated that he could not justify hiring another faculty or adjunct to teach ASL when there are other languages that are "more useful"—languages such as Japa-



nese and Arabic. The justification he gave for this testimony was that, allegedly, ASL has very little use after a student's time here at RIT. I would like to think of American Sign Language as more than just an RIT souvenir, which is the way COLA makes it out to be. I believe ASL is not simply a passing interest of students at this institution, but rather is invaluable communication tool.

Besides the lack of sections available, the College of Liberal Arts does not offer an ASL minor. Currently, ASL and Portuguese are the only foreign languages offered by COLA that do not have accompanying minors. It would be great to see an American Sign Language and Deaf Culture Minor. Moreover, the National Technical Institute of the Deaf ASL courses do not count for Liberal Arts credits. Why is it that

ASL I (4 credits) taken through NTID does not count for Liberal Arts as a COLA ASL I (4 credits) course would? It is the same content and course objective. I inquired as to why credits are not transferred over, and the reason given was that only classes taken within COLA count for Liberal Arts. So, how does this work with Advanced Placement credits and transfer credits, which *do* count as Liberal Arts credits? Why is it that NTID will allow RIT students to take ASL courses, yet COLA does not see the intrinsic, academic, or cultural value of adding additional sections of ASL?

I say we need to intensify the bond between the hearing and non-hearing communities here on campus. We need to identify the problems and initiate proposals for possible solutions. There are students who want to learn to communicate,

but are not able to due to the lack of classes and resources at RIT. The interest is there. RIT needs to provide any and all opportunities when students want to learn. Communication and understanding are the first steps towards greater integration and unity. COLA needs to have the courage, fortitude, and integrity to implement what many would consider an easy and necessary goal—one which clearly aligns itself with the Institute's values of "respect, diversity and pluralism" envisioned by our Board of Trustees and the Administration. •

The Ombuds Office

Got Problems? ...we're here to help

Lee Twyman
RIT Ombudsperson
585.475.2876 / 585.475.7200
ombuds@rit.edu
www.rit.edu/~ombuds



WITR 89.7 FM
present



scissors for: lefty

\$2 benefit for golisano

children's hospital

saturday, march 31

9 pm

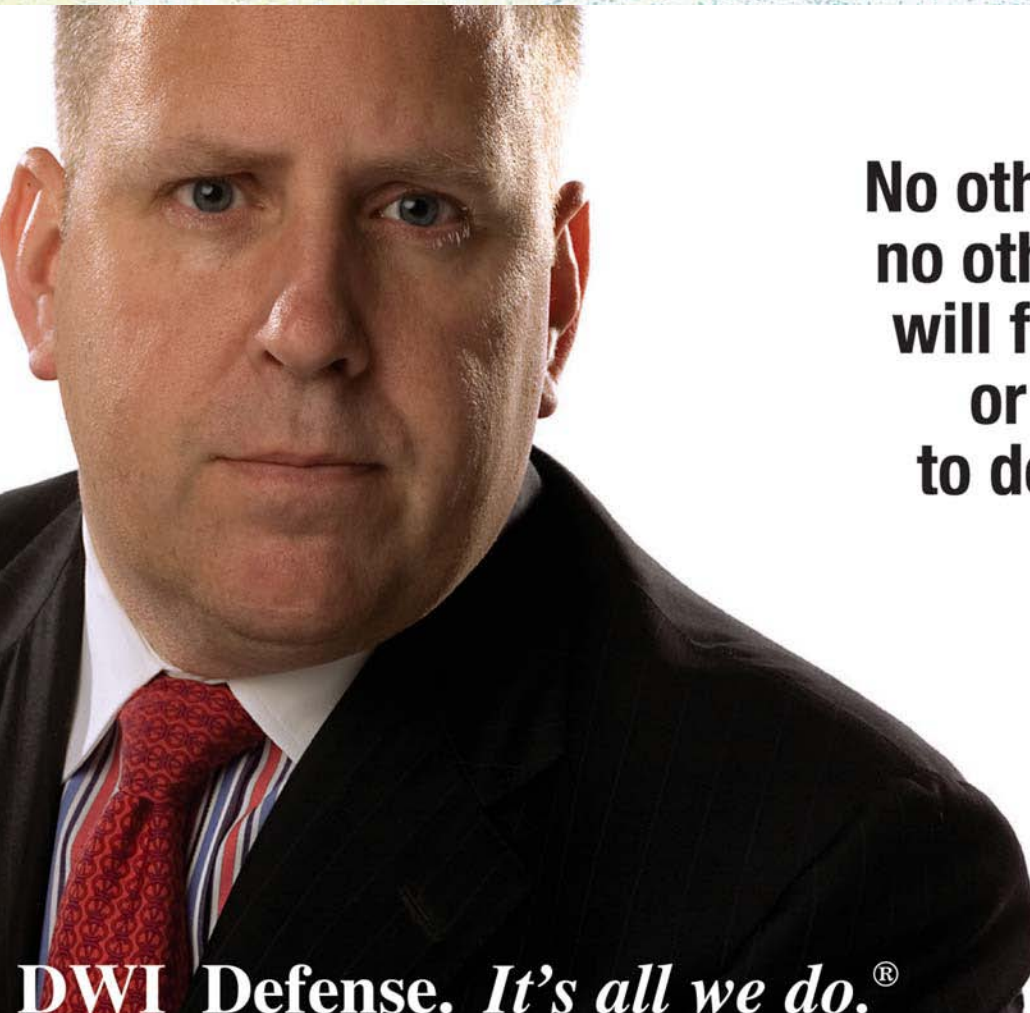
the RITZ

with

BOYSKOUT,

THE NOISE, ON VINYL &

THE SCRATCH DIRTY



**No other attorney,
no other law firm,
will fight harder
or smarter
to defend you.**



Wisner & Wisner, LLP
The DWI Defense Attorneys

www.DWILAW.com

DWI Defense. It's all we do.®

TURNITIN: FRIEND, NOT FOE

by Marianne Buehler

illustration by Caitlin Yarsky

One of the cornerstones of academia is creative expression. In some of our written expressions, there is a need to provide appropriate attribution if we are using part of someone else's materials by quoting or paraphrasing his or her work. In some instances, we also need to cite our own previously distributed or published materials. Because the academic environment encourages and requires the use of articles, books and websites for course assignments and projects, it is imperative that students have an understanding of how and when to give credit to an original author. If students do not give attribution to their information sources, plagiarism has taken place. Plagiarism is using another person's ideas or creative work without giving credit to that person.

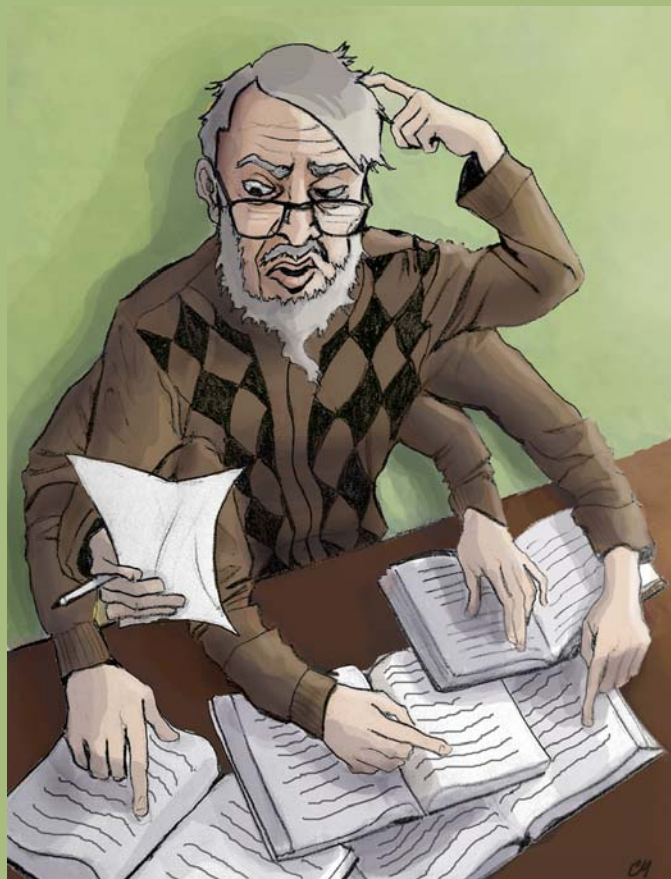
RIT students come from a variety of educational and cultural backgrounds. In my experience, students are conversant at various levels in their citation skills. Some cultures have different expectations when using other people's scholarship. Faculty who are teaching classes where there are written assignments are faced with students with various citing skill levels. To assist faculty and students, the RIT Libraries subscribe to a plagiarism-detection service named Turnitin (since 2000) that matches instances of missing attribution and a lack of paraphrasing and necessary quotation marks. For those of you who have never used Turnitin, here is a brief overview of the process: A student uploads his or her paper to Turnitin using a class login. The

paper is digitized as an algorithmic fingerprint and is circulated via web bots over the Internet and, in some instances, into databases such as Proquest.

The fingerprint is matched with any materials it finds in the online environment, and a report is generated that shows any instances of possible plagiarism. By clicking on the colored URLs or text within the report, faculty or students can easily see where the original text came from and how it compares to the text used in the student paper. When an instructor and a student sit down together to review a paper, the visual Tur-

nitin report provides a powerful and beneficial learning experience by indicating exactly where the problems are and why they occurred. The digitized fingerprint of the paper remains in the Turnitin database and cannot be reengineered back into a coherent text. Turnitin's database also checks incoming papers—a protection for authors who have previously submitted their original papers. All authors of all papers retain their copyrights. As an interesting note, some faculty use Turnitin before submitting their scholarship to journals, book publishers, or for conference proceedings to ensure that they have not plagiarized. Turnitin promotes and values academic integrity and complies with all relevant intellectual property laws.

In *Reporter's* February 23, 2007 issue (page 7), Brian Adeloze criticizes the use of Turnitin at RIT. During a phone conversation with Brian on February 14, 2007 concerning various aspects of Turnitin, he stated that he has never used the tool. To have a valid opinion about Turnitin's academic value, I believe that it is important to use the tool to understand where its value (or not) may lie. RIT faculty use of Turnitin is one of the most reliable and swiftest ways to evaluate student work and to prevent awarding fraudulent grades, a fair practice for ALL students. RIT faculty have an obligation to ensure that students are honestly creating their own work by correctly using others' scholarship. •



A HAND, PLEASE, IN TRYING TIMES

by Mich Gerson

illustration by Greg Caggiano

At the Lisa Lampanelli forum on Thursday, March 22, fourth year Graphic Media major Matt Dans got up on stage and began to sign. After mentioning that he supports Lisa Lampanelli coming to RIT, that insulting people is her job, and that everyone speaking against the situation is hypocritical, because all of us have insulted people before, he said something that stuck.

"This situation is sticky," he said. "How do we deal with it? I don't know."

If he doesn't know how the situation should be dealt with, what makes us think that the decision is any easier for all those involved—namely Lizzie Sorkin, Student Government President, and Sarah Gordon, NTID Student Congress President?

Sorkin and Gordon, in the week leading up to the Lisa Lampanelli performance, were attacked with a slew of hate mail, confrontations from the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community, and shouts in the face that they were doing nothing to support Deaf students. Many of those students were the very same students that protested the Lisa Lampanelli performance. While I will be the first to commend many of the protesters on their maturity, their level-headedness, I will also be the first to point out those who have been insufferable throughout the whole situation.

I absolutely refuse to sit down and let oppression happen, especially oppression against those who have dedicated their heart and soul to making RIT a better place. I saw, as everyone at the forum saw, the way a certain student screamed in Sorkin's face. And Gordon was attacked, too, by the very same person: David

Monahan, a third-year Communications major, witnessed the student signing angrily to Gordon at the Student Development Center, telling her she "needed surgery to get some balls attached, because [she] has none."

My first reaction is anger. I feel those that do not hold office should not have a place to say anything. In fact, my gut reaction is to tell them to sit down and shut up. Or to get snide and tell them I would like to see them try to hold a presidential position and to feel the daily and insurmountable (albeit undue) pressure. But then I thought about this: there is enough apathy at RIT. When someone speaks up, we should honor it, not shun it. Even those with ignorant voices should be heard, because it provokes dialogue.

And, at least in Sorkin's and Gordon's cases, they try. They understand the importance of dialogue. The meetings and discussions with College Activities Board's Rob Yee right after the radio show aired, along with several sit-downs with President Simone, show evidence of this. Sorkin and Gordon collaborated to host the Lisa Lampanelli forum and encouraged CAB to put up signs cautioning Deaf and hard-of-hearing students of explicit material, both outside Clark Gym and the box offices. They also ensured CAB's willingness to provide a refund for those who want one.

Those who challenge Sorkin's and Gordon's decisions regarding the Lisa Lampanelli show need to think about this: just because Sorkin is Deaf does not mean she needs to back up the Deaf community every time something happens. She is a Deaf person, yes—but while she is in office, 15,000 of us come first. It's in her job description. The same goes for Gordon—she is



the hands and voice for nearly 1,200 of us, in this diverse Deaf and hard-of-hearing community. And the night of the show was evidence of the diversity: some of us protested, some of us went to the show, and some of us stayed home.

Sorkin got up at the end of the forum, eyes puffy and red from crying, thanking everyone for their comments. With a shuddering sigh and a new batch of tears falling, she admitted she was no politician, spoke of the daily pressures she endured, and that nothing is ever black and white for her. Does she say yes or no, does she support or not support a decision? "I deal with that every single day, only to go home at night wondering and hoping that I made the right decision," Sorkin sniffled.

Those who attended the forum on Thursday saw the real Elizabeth Sorkin. Raw, exposed, broken, but still standing strong. That's our Student Government President.

I commend the both of them, as all of us should, for their unyielding courage, their tireless efforts to ensure the entire RIT community is informed and represented, and their level-headedness despite the havoc they face every single day. But most of all, I commend them on their maturity, their ability to listen to every side, making well-informed, well thought-out decisions. And so what if there are a few tears here and there? I don't want a politician. I want someone who cares. •

THE DATA COUP D'ETATS

by Amit Ray

illustration by Mike Norton

Journalism has failed us. In the last six years, the lack of serious and sustained news gathering and reporting has contributed to a calamitous war, the erosion of domestic civil liberties, and a re-ordering of governmental power in a manner that has fundamentally altered the workings of our democracy.

If the Libby trial revealed anything, it displayed the degree of collusion between the so-called fourth estate and those in power. In the sixties, a source's anonymity was maintained in order to protect them from the powerful. Today, anonymity protects the powerful from facing the consequences of their own misinformation.

And yet, there is no lack of celebrity news, no shortcomings when it comes to promotional pieces. Advertorials and infoganda abound. We as a people just can't seem to be bothered to pay attention to much else. Some democracy.

It may be true that freedom isn't free. But freedom is not just about fighting wars. It means fighting for the right to know. The right, and the responsibility, to be informed about the actions of those who wield power on behalf of we the people: citizens of the most powerful nation on the planet. Our government's actions can and do affect the lives of many on the planet. Journalism's job is to shed light on those who wield such power. Without transparency, there can be no accountability. Without accountability, we are not living in a democracy, only a simulation of one.



We are told that our contemporary mediaplex is shaped by the influence of the market. That we clamor for the trivial, or the spectacular. That we are afraid of complexity, of uncertainty. And yet, I wonder whether we have not been taught to be uninformed about the workings of our government, the actions of our politicians, or the behavior of our corporations. All of those matters have consequences. Britney Spear's meltdown does not. Maybe it is easier to not care, to look away.

In the last thirty years, two simultaneous and seemingly contradictory forces have shaped media. Mass media has become consolidated. Most of what we see, read, or hear comes through a handful of multinational conglomerates. We have also seen the rise of computing

and the proliferation of digital networks. While the former was predicated on mass consumer behavior, the latter has been a largely decentralized phenomenon, despite the colonizing gravitational pull of the media industries. What shape journalism will take in such a conflicted environment remains to be seen.

Over a decade ago, in *The Art of the Motor*, the cultural theorist Paul Virilio eloquently stated the core problem:

“The Industrial Media benefit a curious depravity in the laws of democracy. If television and, by osmosis, the press are not at liberty *a priori* to provide false information, our legislation, on the other hand, grants them the exorbitant power of lying by omission, by censoring or ruling out news that does not suit them or that might damage their interests.”

“The fourth estate—still the agreed term—is thus the only one of our institutions that can function outside any effective democratic control, since the public at large does not get to hear any independent criticism of the media, or of any possible alternative, simply because such criticism does not stand a chance of being broadcast widely and of consequently reaching the general public.”

As we head into the sixth year of our “War on Terror” our enemies have, quite recently, morphed once again. Now they are Shia militants, not Sunni insurgents. But what does that mean? Are the two different? The same? But perhaps we can't be bothered to know. Journalism may be failing us, but we are also failing ourselves. *Caveat Emptor.* •

Thinking about Graduate School?

WHAT?

An information session about graduate programs at RIT that covers the application process, career options, financial-aid, and more!

LEARN ABOUT:

- More than 75 graduate programs in high-demand career fields including several new programs! More under development!
- Scholarships, Fellowships, Assistantships
- One-Year Master's Degree Programs
- Exciting, cutting-edge research projects for graduate students
- ***Our streamlined application process for current RIT students with NO application fee required!***

WHEN?

Tuesday, April 3, 2007
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Pizza will be
and served!!
soda

WHERE?

Bausch & Lomb Center (Bdg. 77)
Room# A-190 (lower level)

RSVP:

Office of Part-time and Graduate Studies
by e-mail gradinfo@rit.edu or by phone 475-2229

A list of current graduate programs available at RIT is at www.rit.edu/grad

Consider **R·I·T**