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HELLO GLOBAL
VILLAGE

LEARNING TO FLY

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Editorial

RIT's a Small World After All

I'm sure that many of you have heard a thing or two about Global Village. I, for one, have heard many rumors concerning the project, the spectrum of which forms a nice little rainbow leading back to that hack-journalism pot of gold, sensationalism. If you're like me (or, even worse, if you haven't even *heard* of this latest and greatest plan from Jim Watters), I suggest you turn to page four and read up on the facts. They may surprise you.

To be honest, I find the ideals of this project to be dead-on. I agree completely with Watters when he says that RIT students need to have more exposure to the global society; the days of isolationism are long behind us, now buried deep under the tons of servers and cables that make up our information age. It's not called the "world wide web" for nothing, after all. We as a people will need to be prepared for daily interaction with different cultures and countries; RIT, being a high-profile purveyor of education, should be equipped to prepare us.

All that being said, I question the plan itself. Other universities educate their students in global affairs by encouraging them to study abroad; Harvard, for instance, bends over backwards to accommodate students who want to go overseas for a semester. They've recently courted away RIT's own Cathy Winnie to explore the prospects of sending *all* of their undergrads overseas for a semester. Global Village, it seems, is to be the RIT-equivalent back-bend. The goal is admirable.

Unfortunately, the execution doesn't make much sense. The creators of Global Village appear to be looking at the problem (students aren't taking advantage of the study abroad program) without looking for logical reasons as to *why* students aren't studying abroad. I find it hard to believe that the number one reason that your average RIT student doesn't go abroad is that he's scared of how different the housing will be over in Japan or Germany, or even that he's scared of the cultural differences in general.

A much more likely reason for Mr. Joe RIT to pass up studying abroad is that he doesn't have time in his schedule for it. Between co-ops, tons of pre-requisite courses, and the infamous quarter-system, fitting in a study abroad is nigh impossible. A solution to this problem? Pour more money into the co-op office. Encourage students to work overseas by setting up a steady stream of jobs for us over there. (A quick search on Job Zone for international work currently displays eight co-op positions, and that's *without* limiting the professional domain).

But what troubles me more about Global Village is the unintended consequences. Like College Town, Global Village appears to function as a sort of internal community for RIT, complete with social spaces and stores. On the surface, this seems pretty cool. "Hey, I don't have to go off campus to buy X anymore! Score!" But, here's the catch: it's yet another step towards making RIT a safe little bubble for its students. How can a group of buildings simultaneously encourage kids to visit other countries *and* encourage them to never leave campus? And how can an RIT student have the chutzpah to live hundreds of miles away from home in a foreign country when he's not acclimated to spending his Saturday evening in the oh so local city of Rochester? Again, on the sense scale, the plan rates rather poorly.

Watters and his cohorts aren't being evil here; they all seem very adamant about trying to improve the quality of life for students at RIT. Their intentions are certainly noble enough. Unfortunately, I think they're too busy dreaming big to dream rationally. I can only hope that, in the next year or two that it'll take for Global Village to get underway, that some serious thought is put into these blueprints.



Jen Loomis

Editor in Chief



Student Government Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates. TOC and Cover by Tom Schirmacher.

Table of Contents

April 13, 2007 | Vol. 56, Issue 25

News

4 **It takes a Village...**

Goodbye Riverknoll, hello Global Village.

6 **RIAA on Campus?**

The Recording Industry Association of America pays RIT a little visit, and some students just pay.

9 **RIT Forecast**

Plan accordingly.

9 **SG Senate Weekly Update**

The new Ombuds Office Policy draft raises some concerns, as does RIT's brand new Gambling Policy.

Leisure

10 **Learning to Fly**

Did you know you can just fly a plane? Without any previous experience at all? Neither did we, until Casey braved the skies.

12 **Gnarly Computations**

Rudy Rucker lays down some really rad mathematical and metaphysical musings.

14 **Game Review: Earth Defense Force 2017**

Giant robots. Giant bugs. Giant amounts of fun.

14 **Product Review: HydraCoach**

The world's first interactive water bottle needs a little lesson in usability.

15 **At Your Leisure**

Is there a support group out there for Desktop Defender addicts?

Features

16 **SG Elections**

There are four different presidential tickets in this year's election. Check 'em all out in this helpful little guide.

20 **To Be a Politician**

Reporter investigates the true role of our society's public figures.

23 **Word on the Street**

What do you think Student Government does?

Sports

24 **Sports Desk**

Women's Lacrosse battles it out with SUNY Oswego.

28 **Tiger Baseball**

The true American pastime.

Views

30 **RIT Rings**

Please stop calling.

31 **Of Gaydom and Geekdom**

Geek is the new gay.

It takes a Village...

by Joe McLaughlin

illustration by Bryan Williams

Though RIT is scheduled to break ground on College Town in three weeks, the Institute is already looking toward the future. Dr. James Watters, Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration, proposed a new housing complex called "Global Village," during his failed bid to become RIT's President. As it turns out, the Institute is proceeding with the new housing plan anyway.

No official name has been set but, as of right now, the plans are being called Global Village. Dr. Howard Ward, Vice President of Housing Operations, said that the complex would be a "dynamic active student residential community, which would be like no other in the region. We also hope to have communities within the communities based on academic involvement, social engagements, and secure fun area where students can recreate, enjoy, and be proud to be associated with RIT."

In a presentation to Student Government, Watters said there would be shops on the first floor of the complex and living space above the shops. He also mentioned that "the shops will consolidate RIT operations and not compete with the businesses not run by RIT at College Town." One example that Watters gave was moving the Postal Hub from its current location in Crossroads to a storefront in Global Village. The new complex may also include a small weight room, an arcade, or an internet cafe and coffee shop. RIT would run those businesses.

Global Village will be built on the site of Riverknoll. "No student will be displaced," said Watters. Instead, he said that the Institute would stop leasing some apartments in Riverknoll, and then build on the parts that it did not lease. This would continue until all of Riverknoll has been replaced. Colony Manor will continue to operate until Global Village is completed,

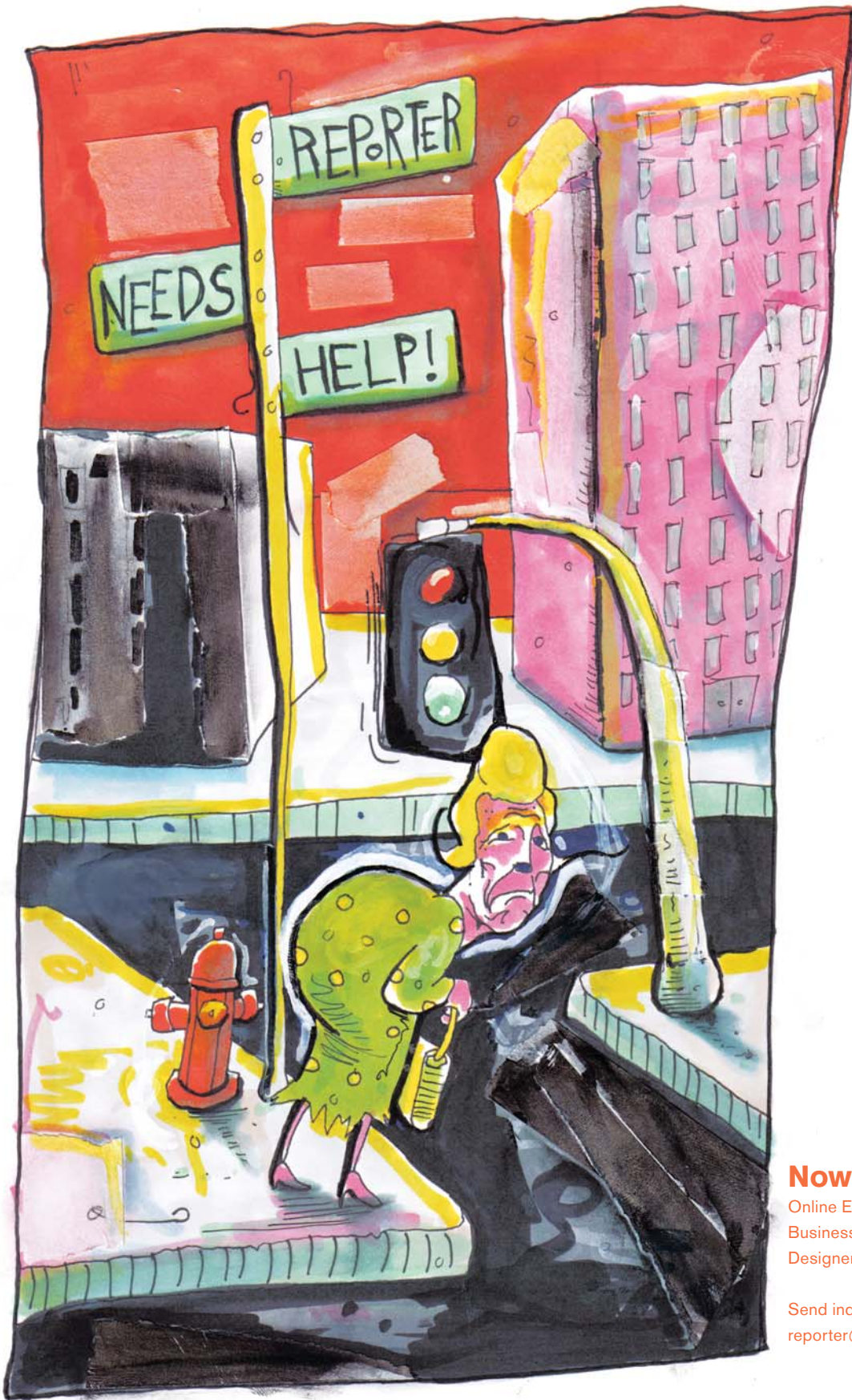
at which point it will also be torn down. Watters also said, "New housing is on the way with College Town. College Town will be operational before we start building Global Village."

Riverknoll currently houses 650 students, and Colony Manor houses 600. Once the entire plan is completed, Global Village will replace all of the housing in Riverknoll and Colony Manor, and add space for an additional 250 students. College Town will also include space for between approximately 700 to 800 students. Watters explained that Global Village is part of the Institute's Strategic Plan. "RIT students of the future will have more exposure to the global economy and to global society. There will be more international co-ops and our study abroad program will be expanded. Part of Global Village will be about preparing for going overseas." To this end, Watters said that Global Village might include foreign language labs or similar facilities.

Ward explained the idea further. "We hope to have international communities built in each complex which will give students an opportunity to experience cultures of countries where they may have co-op opportunities which will better prepare them for what they might experience abroad," he said.

According to Watters, Global Village is "not going to happen for at least a year or two. All we have are suggestions at this point." No designs for the buildings or financial plans for the complex are complete yet, and the Board of Trustees must approve these plans when they are completed. "This is a project we hope will support the needs of students," Watters said. •





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LABELS' LETTERS SENT TO STUDENTS

by Joe McLaughlin

On February 23, the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) announced that they had begun sending "pre-litigation settlement letters" to colleges and universities whose students they accused of illegal file sharing. In a March 15 e-mail, Student Affairs announced that RIT would comply with the RIAA's request.

According to Donna Cullen, RIT's Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) agent, an RIAA letter to university presidents "gave what they would like us to do with the settlement letters. The letters are not legally binding, [but] we have decided it's in the best interests of students to notify the students associated with the letter. We're giving students the opportunity to decide [whether to settle] for themselves."

Dawn Soufleris, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, clarified the process. When the university receives a settlement letter and the IP address of the person the RIAA wants the letter forwarded to, "ITS finds out who has that IP address and we pass the letter and information on to the student associated with that IP address. Then it's up to the student to follow the directions of the letter," said Soufleris.

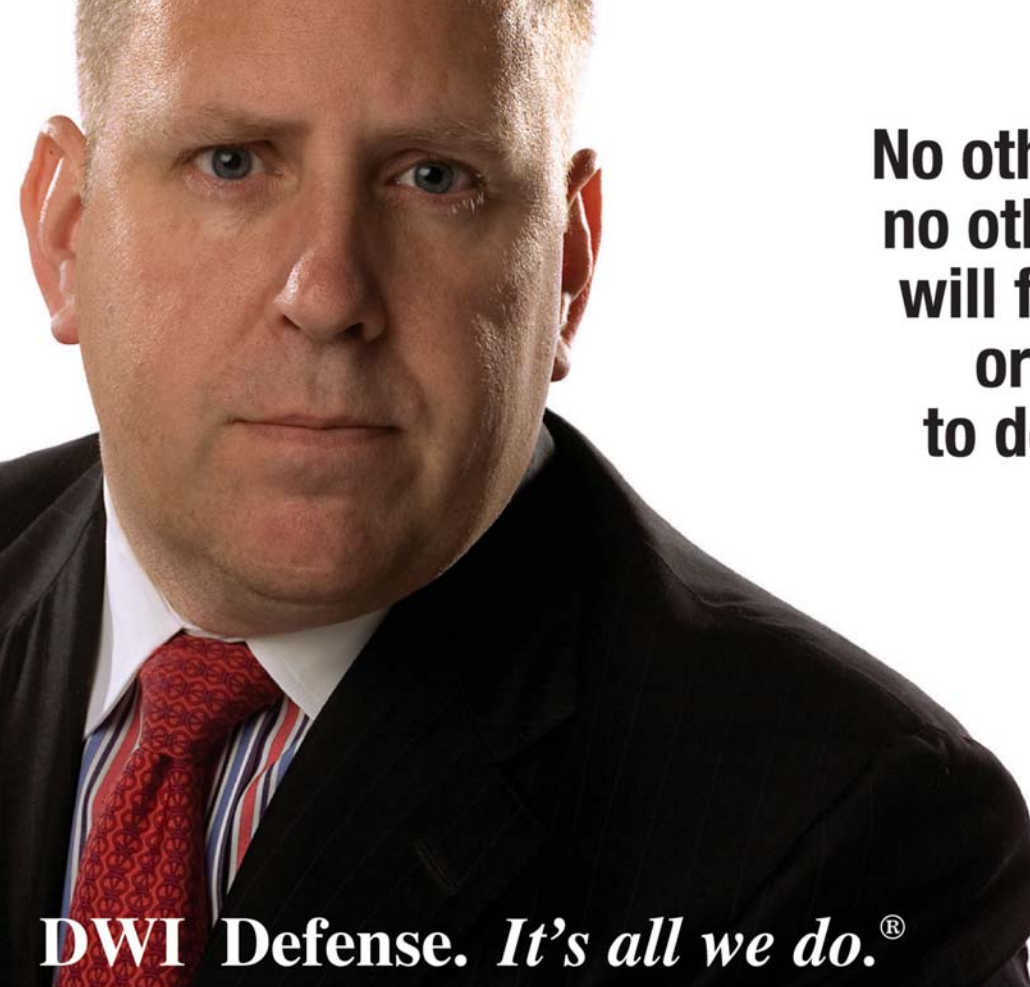
According to a settlement letter obtained by *Reporter*, the RIAA identifies the music files that they accuse the recipient of sharing and

the network they accuse the recipient of sharing on. The letter also tells the recipient that if they contact the RIAA within 20 days, the RIAA will "offer to settle claims for a significantly reduced amount."

In a statement, RIAA President Cary Sherman said, "These new efforts aim to help students recognize that the consequences for illegal downloading are more real than ever before." The chairman and CEO of the organization, Mitch Bainwol, said, "The theft of music remains unacceptably high and undermines the industry's ability to invest in new music...Our work with college administrators has yielded real progress, and we're grateful for the help of those who have worked closely with us. At the same time, we recognize that the nature of online music theft is changing, and we need to adjust our strategies accordingly."

Soufleris said that RIT "has to cooperate, otherwise we could face civil litigation or be fined under the DMCA. [The RIAA] could build a case against us to say that we haven't been cooperating." Soufleris also said, "We should not be hiding our students if they're participating in illegal activities. We don't want to be a haven for that. That goes for anything, not just file sharing."

"What I'm most concerned about," continued Soufleris, "is the financial burden on students. One RIT student, who was participating in an online ethics event aimed at middle schoolers, spoke about how she was on the brink of not being able to return to RIT because she had to use her tuition money to pay the record companies." •



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PICTURES

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COMING SOON TO THEATRES EVERYWHERE

RITFORECAST

compiled by Casey Dehlinger

SG SENATE WEEKLY UPDATE

by Casey Dehlinger

Saturday
14
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Do Stuff for Stuff Challenge

2:30 p.m. – 10 p.m. at an undisclosed location. Teams of five do whatever it takes to finish first and take home the premium materialistic goods, also known as "stuff." \$50 per team.

Basant

6 p.m. – 12 a.m. Webb Auditorium/Ritz Sports Zone. OASIS's annual cultural extravaganza with performances, skits, and videos. Tickets \$8 presale; \$10 at the door.

Mi Tierra Dance

10 p.m. – 2:30 a.m. Clark Gym. Lambda Alpha Upsilon's annual "major Reggaeton Concert." Students: \$10. Faculty/Staff: \$15. Others: \$20.

Sunday
15
APR

Table Tennis Open

2 p.m. – 8 p.m. SLC Mini Gym. Balls and paddles provided. Students: \$3. Faculty/Staff: \$8. Other: \$10.

Monday
16
APR

Think Pink Week

9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. SAU Lobby. 11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Infinity Loop. T-shirts, pins, ribbons, and informational material in light of Breast Cancer Awareness Week.

Tuesday
17
APR

Day of Silence 2007

8 p.m. – 10 p.m. SAU Cafeteria. GLBT activist Wes Culwell gives a lecture commemorating Day of Silence 2007. Cost: \$3.

Wednesday
18
APR

Paul Revere Day

232 years ago the British were coming.

Thursday
19
APR

Student Government Election BBQ

11 a.m. – 3 p.m. South lawn between GCCIS and KGCOE.

Deathtrap

7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. 1510 Lab Theatre. Performed same time Friday night. ASL/spoken English performance of the thriller-comedy Broadway favorite. Free.

Thursday Night Cinema Series

10 p.m. – 12:15 a.m. Fireside Lounge. CAB presents *The Perfect Score*.

Faust

8 p.m. Ingle Auditorium. RIT Players' spin on the classic soul-selling tale, now with technology! Free.

Friday
20
APR

RIT/Gallaudet Pep Rally

8 p.m. – 10 p.m. Clark Gym. Kick off the RIT/Gallaudet Sports Weekend with a roar. Free.

Friday Night at the Ritz

Doors at 9:30 p.m. CAB presents Urgency and Tonight's the Riot. \$1.

Ombuds Office Policy

College of Science Senator Jonathan Berman and GCCIS Senator Damian Kumor prompted discussion of the Ombuds Office Policy draft, which was approved by SG. There was much concern over the "Access to Resources" section, stating that "The Ombudsperson will have access to all members of the university community and all university records and reports (with the exception of medical, psychiatric, and psychological records which will be released only upon a written release signed by the individual whose records are requested)."

RIT Timeline Update

Yearbooks can be ordered starting May 7; orders will take a couple days to process as per on-demand printing. The cost will be \$20 for the first 1,000 buyers. Although the exact length is undetermined, RIT Timeline Editor-in-Chief Tina Leh expects it will be 150-200 pages. Leh comments, "We wanted a book, and we will have a book, and it will be a stepping stone for what the yearbook can evolve into."

Vice President Dave Blonski asked, "[Does RIT Timeline] have enough content for 150 pages?" Leh's response: "We're working on it." Leh expressed interest in looking to the future of the yearbook, and lamented about a lack of staff. Twelve editors started out working for the yearbook, and eight of them quit this year. Currently, there are six editors.

There will be two versions of the book; the first is intended for underclassmen and will not include commencement, while the latter edition will include commencement, and is intended for graduating students.

Gambling Policy

After Academic Senate approved the gambling policy, it now falls to SG to give final approval. The current draft reads as follows: "At RIT, gambling is prohibited. RIT recognized organizations cannot host gambling events, nor host any trips to known gambling facilities for the purpose of gambling. Under certain circumstances, bingo events and raffles may be permitted, but only with the prior written approval of the Center for Campus Life and registration through the Event Registration system (EVR)."

Vice President for Student Affairs Mary-Beth Cooper addressed SG's concerns with the policy, saying, "the policies aren't all about being punitive." She made the distinction that the policy is based on New York state law, and that it refers only to public practice, not private. SG felt the policy should clearly state this so that students understand that RIT is merely enforcing an existing state law, and that it only pertains to public events. The topic will still be up for discussion this week.

LEARNING TO FLY...

IN SEARCH OF THAT NATURAL HIGH

by Casey Dehlinger

From 2,000 feet in the air, you can't see the slight variation in color from RIT brick to RIT brick. You can't see the mortar holding them together. Every building becomes its own individual oblong brick, jutting out of the ground like the unfinished foundation of some enormous building meant to dwarf the whole city. Every once in a while I have to take my eyes off the view, though. After all, I am the one flying this plane, and it's not like I have any experience.

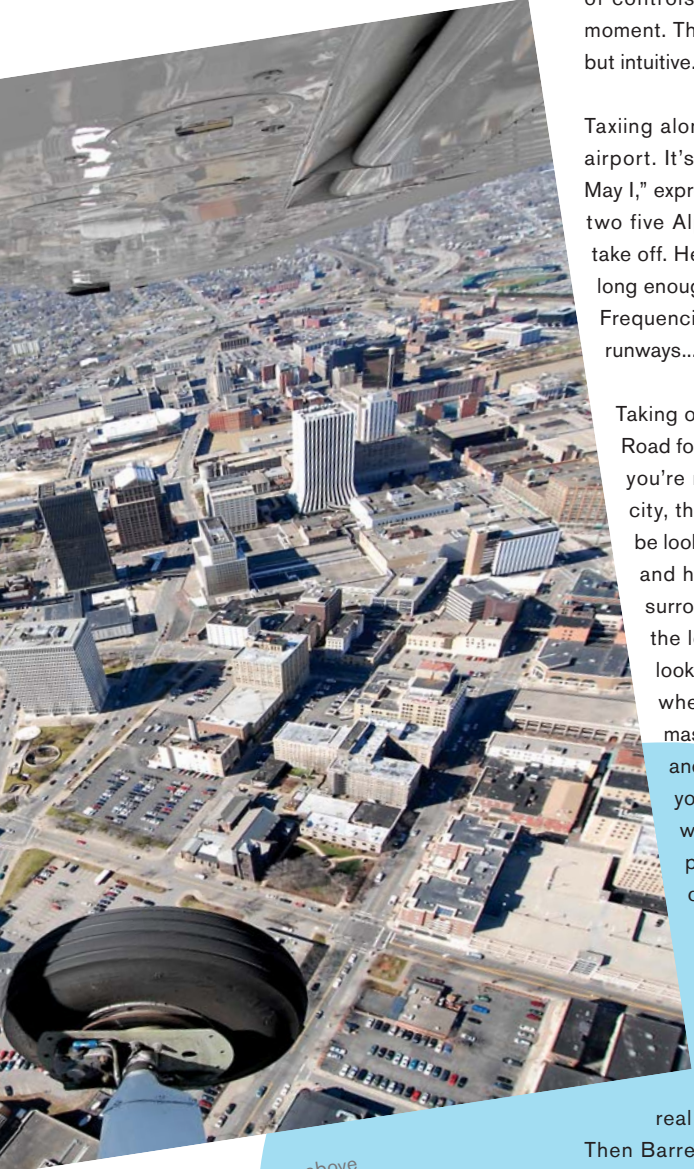
An hour earlier, I'm in Bob Barrett's office in the Rochester Air Center at the Rochester International Airport. "Everybody loves flying," he says. Barrett's maybe in his late 50s, with a slight frame and cold caramel eyes. He's talking about career opportunities for pilots, calling on small model airplanes no larger than his palm to demonstrate how a pilot can start on a small Cessna and work their way up to a commercial jet. One would think our little pre-flight talk would consist of a frantic crash course in aerodynamics, or a long list of ground rules, but this isn't so.

Barrett explains that aviation took a bit of a hit after September 11, 2001, although it has been climbing slowly in popularity ever since, mostly among people in their late 20s or early 30s. With the baby boom pilots up for retirement and the youth of today still mildly apprehensive about aviation, the fear is that there could be a lack of qualified pilots in the coming years.

If your feet can touch the floor, you can start flying an airplane, but you need to be 16 to fly solo, and 17 to get a Private Pilot Certificate—a task that takes a bare minimum of 40 hours of logged flight time to achieve. "The more you fly, the quicker you'll get it," remarks Barrett. Many students spend 70 hours (and \$5,000-6,000) before applying for their Private Pilot Certificate. Then, pilots can rent planes, which can range anywhere from \$72 to \$107 an hour. Costs can be split with passengers, although at this level it's still illegal to contract flights. Even so, if you throw three friends in the cheapest plane for \$20 an hour per person, you can still log those hours towards professional certificates that could lead to career opportunities.

Barrett's telling me I'm lucky to be going up on a particularly clear day, grabbing a pair of headsets before saying we're headed to the hangar. I start for a nearby door that I believe leads there, but he stops me, saying, "Nope, can't go through that way. 9/11 stuff." (Barrett often uses "9/11 stuff" as a euphemism for "red tape").





The view looking from above downtown Rochester, looking west. photography by Matt Bagwell

The Cessna Skyhawk is a 27-foot long four-seater. Think of it as a family sedan with a 36-foot wingspan. The left side of the cockpit is all dials; the right side is all radios. At my feet are the pedals to control the flaps on the tail—called elevators. The control yoke manages the flaps on the wings, which are called, appropriately, flaps. Barrett's sitting shotgun. He has a set of controls too, and can correct me at any moment. The dials and knobs are intimidating but intuitive.

Taxiing along the runway, Barrett radios the airport. It's a complicated game of "Mother May I," expressed in numbers. Barrett, or "two two five Alpha Romeo," wants clearance to take off. He's answered with a string of digits long enough to be God's credit card number. Frequencies to tune the radios to, altitudes, runways...the works.

Taking off is like speeding down Jefferson Road for fifteen seconds and then realizing you're not touching the street. Over the city, the view makes you think you could be looking down at computer guts. Roads and houses are a strange, boxy texture surrounded by the pale, muted violet of the leafless trees. The Genesee River looks like a mud slide from up here, and where it empties into Lake Ontario, a massive shockwave of brown emanates and dissipates out into the blue. "Can you go into Photoshop and make that water blue again?" asks Barrett of the photographer, before exchanging a chuckle.

"That's Canada you can see over across there," says Barrett, pointing north to the horizon where the faint signs of land can be seen. "Sometimes, when it's real clear, you can even see Buffalo."

Then Barrett lets me maneuver around over Lake Ontario. I circle around steeply, testing the plane out. When one of the dials turns past a particular marker, Barrett warns to make sure the plane's wings don't go beyond a 60 degree angle or else they won't get any lift, and the plane will lose altitude.

In a way, flying is easier than driving a car. You have the time to take a peek at the view, without

fear of love-tapping a plane in the neighboring "lane." As a matter of fact, if anything comes anywhere remotely close to your location, you'll be politely radioed by air traffic control and told to stick to a particular location so that your dental records don't make it onto the nightly news.

When trying to gain altitude by pulling back on the control yoke, I neglect to keep an eye on my airspeed, which is dropping. When airspeed drops below a certain point, you can pull back all you want, but there's little sense in arguing with gravity. Barrett is explaining this as he notices the mistake, "it can be kind of scary if you don't know how to fix it," he says, pulling back on the throttle, giving the engine enough power to get some lift.

After another ten minutes of joyriding above the city, staring down at the Rochester skyline, it's finally time for me to purposely lose altitude. Barrett radios air traffic control. We're clear to land. Dropping down slowly, Barrett jokes that he'll take a nap while I angle the plane up with the appropriate runway. As we get close, he grabs his set of controls, and with good reason. Planes are easy to fly; I never said anything about *landing* them.

He pushes the throttle in gently and instructs me to keep an eye on our air speed, saying that we should stick around 65-70 mph. You can't see much of the runway over the nose of the plane when you're level, which makes the process slightly unnerving. The wheels touch down, and the plane does a bit of a hop, then lands quickly and smoothly. Barrett says it was a bad landing and that we shouldn't have hopped like that, but honestly, I've had harsher experiences trying to operate a blender.

Good landing or bad, my feet on the ground again, it's hard to disagree with Barrett. "Everyone loves flying." •

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GNARLY COMPUTATIONS AND HOW THE WORLD MIGHT BE ONE (OR MANY)

by Brian Garrison

photography by Todd Carlson

"So why a *gnarly* computation?" you ask. Well, if you take the word *gnarly*, multiply by six (the number of letters in the word), take the integral from indigo to protozoa, and feed the results through the flux capacitor... Actually, when I asked Rudy Rucker—mathematician, computer scientist, and cyberpunk/transrealist author—why, he said, "That's a California word. I got to like it when I went down there." It is used to describe something nasty, something cool, but mostly something "richly complex."

Gnarliness was the topic of his lecture on April 4, *Life is a Gnarly Computation*, given as part of this year's Gannett series. To try and capture the general idea, Rucker pointed to his screensaver-like program of psychedelic color patterns, saying, "It's *gnarly* in the sense that it's not random, it's not just seeing dog barf, but it's not orderly. It's not something very simple." But before we go too far into this, let's back up a little.

Who the heck is this guy?

Since he taught at the nearby SUNY Geneseo back in the seventies, you can assimilate Rucker into one of your granfalloon (quick, go check Wikipedia if you haven't read much Vonnegut). He says that he didn't get his tenure by teaching geometry courses and talking about the fourth dimension. Teaching computer science kept him busy until recently when he retired to focus more on his primary love of writing science fiction. Even the book that was the focus of his lecture, *The Lifebox, the Seashell, and the Soul*, is in some ways a diabolical ploy to get three or four novels from the ideas contained within.

When I asked about some things he's been interested in more recently, he started talking

about "the idea that everything in the universe is alive." Then he asked to see my notebook and wrote, "HYLOZOISM," so that I could look it up on Wikipedia later. "What we need is telepathy," he said, making guesses about another layer under quantum mechanics that may yet be discovered. Closer to the topic of his lecture, Rucker mentioned that even a tree branch in the wind is doing something computationally complex. "The difference is," Rucker states, "we have memory."

A little meandering in our conversation, and he was on the topic of how rocks don't fret about this whole consciousness thing. "They're pretty mellow to hang out with," he concluded. This sparked my curiosity on what would be his favorite thing to spend time with, supposing we did manage to break down this communication barrier. Without having to spend too much time debating, he said water. He finished with a word of caution: "Fire, you've gotta watch out for," he told me, "it's pretty greedy."

What's all this about computations?

Before any metaphysicians out there get hopping mad about these musings, Rucker describes his stance as, "A philosophy *as if*... What if I believe that everything is a computation, where does that lead me?" This is where we get back to Rucker giving his lecture in Webb auditorium.

Underneath all of this talk of mathematics is a stance of philosophical determinism. "What is a computation?" Rucker asks, and replies, "a process that obeys finitely describable rules, and when I say 'rules' that means that it's deterministic. So, in principle, you could reset it to the same state it was in and the same things

would happen again." So, you're locked in to simply going through the motions that make up your life. Destiny dictated that you were going to read this article (which certainly makes me feel pretty powerful to have you in my clutches). It is from this idea that we're merely subject to all the variables that feed into our next action that Rucker developed the concept of a *lifebox*. "It's the idea that I could model myself as a computer program."

Or maybe you've now thrown the magazine across the room as a display of your freedom, which was theoretically going to happen anyway. You who are no longer reading, and probably some who still are, may agree with something along the lines of Rucker's antithesis, claiming "I'm not just some stupid cell phone. I'm not just some computer program. I've got a soul." Either that, or you may believe that there's some room for free will and choice, however the metaphysics behind it are arranged.

Completing his dialectic triad, is his synthesis of these two contrasting ideas: a seashell. No, not just any old seashell, the cone shell with its "gnarly pattern." The key point here is that despite all its complexities, and despite the fact that we don't know the specific formula to re-create it, the seashell turned out looking *gnarly* because of the many variables that played a role.

To explain this, Rucker kept going back to his psychedelic screensaver-ish program. While there's a specific algorithm dictating when pixel 749 changes color, it is not predictable in the sense of "calculating faster than the system can do it." Since nature is hugely complex, we barely

“IF THERE WAS ONLY ONE PLACE ON EARTH WHERE YOU COULD SEE CLOUDS, COULD YOU IMAGINE WHAT PEOPLE WOULD PAY TO GO THERE AND JUST LOOK AT THE CLOUDS? IT’S LIKE THIS RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE, IT’S SO GNARLY AND COMPLICATED.”

have a handle on it. “Most naturally occurring computations aren’t predictable... The only way you can predict your life is to live through it.”

Mathematical Poetry: How to be Happy

Don’t let all this talk of determinism get you down! Rucker provides advice for how this can help your inner peace, but only you can experience the calculations that will feed into your “choice” of accepting or rejecting what he has to say.

Rucker admits that much of this is a reminder for himself, but step one is, “turn off the freaking machine.” Enjoying how gnarly nature is, and all the complexities of life, is Rucker’s main point. To convince listeners, he says, “If there was only one place on earth where you could see clouds, could you imagine what people would pay to go there and just look at the clouds? It’s like this religious experience, it’s so gnarly and complicated. It’s up in the sky, it’s huge, they change color at certain times of day.” Peace and harmony are only a mindset away if you heed Rucker’s suggestion to “take the idea that other people are complex computations as intricate as yourself.”

As a final recommendation, Rucker says, “Be amazed. The universe is a miracle. The fact that there’s anything at all is a miracle. Maybe it’s not a computation, who knows what it is. It’s amazing, and we’re here.” •

To get the actual talk, instead of this version filtered through an ex-computer science student, go to www.rit.edu/~cwg/Rucker.shtml. Links will bring you to Rucker’s blog and his website where you’ll find plenty of downloadables, including his psychedelic program.



Game Review

Earth Defense Force 2017

by Chris Cesarano

Cutting-edge graphics, a realistic physics engine, advanced A.I., a masterful level design: All these and more are things you're not going to find in *Earth Defense Force 2017* for the Xbox 360. What you will find is a lot of "blowing up giant alien ants with a rapid fire rocket launcher" fun.

EDF 2017 is a game about basics. The controls, the levels, the A.I., it's all very basic. What makes the game stand out is how ridiculous it is and the numbers you go up against. Aliens are invading the Earth, and their troops are giant robots and giant bugs that attack you in swarms from all sides. It can get very frantic, but insanely fun. While most of the weapons are nothing you haven't seen before, they have a stonger feel in this game—rocket launchers shoots as if they were

machine guns; missile launchers sends the bugs flying hundreds of feet into the air; a mere shotgun blows a monster ten-city blocks into the distance.



The game offers 54 missions that take about eight hours to beat in your first play through. There are multiple difficulty modes, but the only way you'll stand a chance in the most difficult

ones is by playing through earlier difficulties and picking up items that increase your health and unlock new and stronger weapons, of which there are over 100. In the end, you'll probably have enough fun the first time to keep playing the game again on harder modes.

While the two player co-op is the greatest strength of *EDF 2017*, the game offers no online gameplay at all. Add to that how horrible the vehicles are in the game, and you have the game's two greatest flaws. Overall, though, this is a great title to pick up, especially at price tag of \$40 new. •

To read the extended review of *Earth Defense Force 2017*, check out our website at www.reportermag.com

Product Review

Sticky Sips to Hydration Heaven: HydraCoach, "The World's First Interactive Water Bottle"

by Nick Tassone

In a world where new-age technology becomes a part of everything we consumers use, there are many things that just aren't necessary. Lots of gadgets and contraptions, like the HydraCoach water bottle, are just adding to the ever-growing list. Don't take this as an attack on consumerism—it's simply that the average person, or even the average athlete, doesn't need this water bottle.

The bottle looks exactly like an everyday sports container, except that it has a nice little LCD screen on the front. From there, you can select from several options, including statistics that help track of pH levels and a feature that monitors how much you water you drink daily.

The first problem you'll notice is the way the

water comes out of the bottle. The tip is sticky plastic and tastes like you're drinking out of a baby bottle. The biggest problem, though, is the way that you review the stats. There are three buttons on the front of the bottle, but honestly, they are the most confusing set of buttons I've ever tried to work. It's like a fancy digital watch. I think I'm generally a pretty smart guy when it comes to technology and such, but I just can't figure these buttons out.

If you're a super-hardcore athlete and you need to track your water intake with utmost concern, this may be the water bottle for you...as long as you're willing to devote an incalculable amount of time and brainpower to learning how to figure out what's happening on that tiny screen. Even above average sports competitors, however,

will probably find this aquatic advancement unnecessary and even a little bit ridiculous.

Overall, you probably won't want to make the \$30 commitment to find out if you are drinking enough fluids or not. If you do, or want to learn more about the HydraCoach, check out www.hydracoach.com. •



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

STREAM OF FACTS

APRIL 13

April 13.1204 – The Fourth Crusade, organized by Pope **Innocent III**, sacks **Constantinople**.

Istanbul has not only gone by the name "**Constantinople**;" historically, the **city** has also been called "Byzantium," "Augusta Antonina," "Second Rome," "New Rome," "Kostantiniyye," "Stamboul," and "slambol."

One tenth of the world's population lives in low-lying coastal zones- because nearly every major **city** in the world is located near water. As sea levels rise over the next century due to global **warming**, these people will most likely need to relocate.

Though some may find this morally distasteful, author Gregg Easterbrook has suggested that one possible upside to global **warming** is that if malaria threatened the wealthy nations of the world today rather than just the poor ones, there may be enough motivation to finally **cure** it.

Pica, a peculiar disorder with no known **cure**, causes the insatiable urge to eat non-food substances such as dirt, paper, hair, plastic, **paint**, glue, and clay.

The version of Microsoft **Paint** that comes in Windows Vista has an updated color palette and toolbar icons. **Unlimited** undo levels, a zoom slider, and a crop function have also been added.

Skulls **Unlimited** is the world's leader of osteological specimens. From their website (<http://www.skullsunlimited.com/>), you can buy a **llama** skull for only \$132, plus shipping.

If you're trying to improve your diet to have a healthier heart, consider trying **llama**. Its **meat** is low in fat and has absolutely no cholesterol.

April 13, 1883: Alfred ("Alferd") Packer is convicted of manslaughter. One of only two Americans ever imprisoned for cannibalism, he is well known for his declaration that the breasts of men are "the sweetest **meat**."

QUOTE

"Yes, we have to divide up our time like that, between our politics and our equations. But to me our equations are far more important, for politics are only a matter of present concern. A mathematical equation stands forever."

Albert Einstein

HAIKU

by **Brian Garrison**

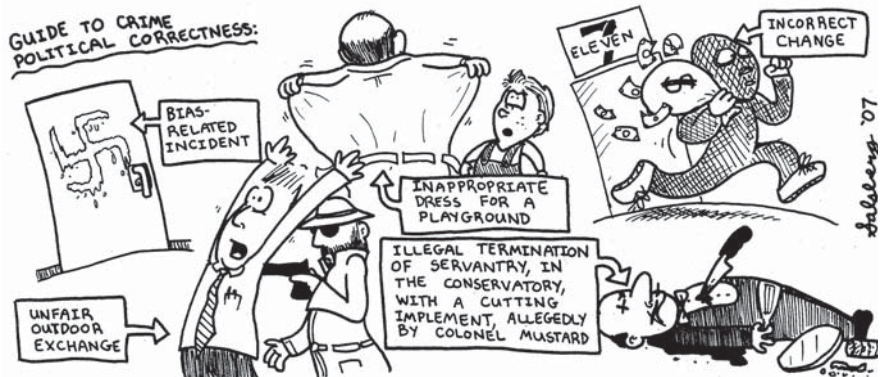
A cell phone flashlight,
Through bedroom darkness leading,
Saves you from stubbed toes.

REPORTER

RECOMMENDS

Not accepting my personal challenge to each and every one of you to be the best Desktop Defender at RIT. This flash game is beyond addicting. You'll lose sleep each night, lying awake to strategize about the most efficient way to kill the creeps. When you do dream, your head will be filled with thoughts of how to best place your towers. Don't even start. (...But if you must, go to <http://www.handdrawngames.com/DesktopTD> and submit your score to the group "RIT"—it might just blow your mind).

CARTOON | by Alex Salsberg



SUDOKU

Difficulty: Hard

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

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

THINGS THAT FLY

meueebllb
ieoclhtep
ahseppcsi
reigl
gathstpei mtosrne
ketroc
aprpe nailreap
fueyrbtl
tckiew
imdrimugnbh
ertzeap atrist
llesgua
aectdtlorpy
emti

bumblebee, helicopter, spacetrip, glider, spaghetti monster, rocket, paper airplane, butterfly, wicket, hummingbird, tapeze artist, seaquill, pierodactyl, time



01



02

Decision 2007

- 01 Kyle Shradel & Alvin Roberts
- 02 Amy Christian & Jacob Yundt
- 03 Ed Wolf & Sasha Malinchoc
- 04 Damian Kumor & Jon Berman



03



04

by J. S. Ost
photography by Tom Schirmacher

Interested in influencing the way-of-life and implementing change for RIT's entire student body? In the most crowded race in recent RIT history, four sets of candidates have taken the initiative to compete this year for the chance to become SG's first- and second-in-command and to earn your vote. *Reporter* introduces you to your future President and Vice-President.

Kyle Shradel & Alvin Roberts

Kyle Shradel, a fourth year computer science major, has worked closely with the student body for the past four years as an RA and a member of RHA. This experience and training, Shradel believes, have contributed to his developing "a strong awareness of services on campus...and how to utilize them." In these capacities, Shradel has assisted in various programming events, in-

cluding free monthly barbeques on the Quarter Mile, GLBT's Ally Week, and rape-awareness education and training sessions through the Women's Center. Shradel's credits also include planning and hosting "Meal or No Meal," giving students the chance to win \$1,300 to pay for their meal plan, and he's been a force of change for RIT's curriculum as well. "I worked with the

Student Health Center, developing a program called the RIT Health Challenge, which became a wellness course last year," he explains.

Alvin Roberts, a second year hotel resort management major and Shradel's VP running mate, has done a little curriculum influencing himself. Working with the staff and instructors for FYE,

Qualifications

To qualify for a *chance* at the Student Government (SG) presidency or vice presidency, candidates are required to have a minimum 2.3 GPA, five quarters of study completed at RIT (i.e., sophomore status), and good standing with the Institute. The president must also be prepared to turn down any co-ops longer than 10 weeks. As a final hurdle, each presidential ticket must gather 400 signatures from the student body, with a specific quota of students from each college.

"I was able to help shape what this year's FYE classes would be about," Roberts says. In his roles as Freshman Senator, Representative-at-Large for BACC, and Orientation Assistant, he encouraged students to get involved at RIT, especially by taking advantage of the many leadership opportunities available.

Shradel and Roberts, believing that RIT is an incredibly diverse campus, want the students to truly *experience* it. One of their major goals, if elected, is to facilitate more collaboration between the Major Student Organizations (MSOs). As part of this shared event planning, Shradel and Roberts intend to establish a council where the MSO e-board members can gather and discuss upcoming events to discern overlap and, therefore, joint projects. "[Roberts] and I envision events like a drive-in movie sponsored by Global Union, with RHA providing a barbeque and WITR simulcasting the audio over their station...or an on-campus sports tournament sponsored through CAB using the MSOs and their constituencies to evoke a large turnout," Shradel elaborates.

In addition to creating more ways for students to amuse themselves, Shradel and Roberts will also seek to improve the environment for those living on campus. Now that RIT's contract with their laundry facilities provider is on the verge of expiration, Shradel hopes to use his research to explore better alternatives, including more attentive service providers and laundry machines with more user-friendly features. In

the apartment areas, Shradel and Roberts intend to improve common outdoor areas to make them more inviting gathering places, with features like better landscaping, replacement grills, new picnic tables, and recreation facilities for wintertime use.

For their overall campaign promise, Shradel and Roberts plan to continue the strong tradition of SG leadership they credit to the past two administrations by leading through example. With an all-inclusive, open and flexible leadership style, the pair says that they will seek to make SG a prominent forum for students to voice their concerns and know that their suggestions will be taken into consideration. To ensure that issues will be addressed on a timely basis, Shradel and Roberts intend to select hard-working and passionate individuals to serve on their Cabinet.

Amy Christian & Jacob Yundt

Third year packaging science major Amy Christian currently serves as Vice President of Greek Council and of Membership Education for Alpha Sigma Alpha. Through her leadership positions within the Greek community, she has worked on and planned several different projects, including Week of Welcome events, the fundraising All Greek Holiday Dinner, Up 'Til Dawn, and Club Day. In 2005-06, Christian revamped Greek Council's "Greek Weekend," which led to a nearly 60% increase in attendance, and has helped RIT's sororities improve their recruitment through her efforts with the College Panhellenic Council. "I'm a leader—one who delivers, and I

want to lead RIT to bigger and better things," she says, believing that her experience on various executive boards and with Greek life will serve her well as SG president. "I [know] where to find resources to implement ideas...[and have] an existing knowledge of how to achieve goals," Christian asserts.

Christian's running mate, third year information technology major Jacob Yundt, has worked for the past three years as a reservations coordinator at the Center for Campus Life. Cooperating with various RIT staff members during his time on the job, he's gained not only working relationships, but also significant insight into RIT's inner workings. Yundt, both a student employee and an athlete, knows he'll be able to relate to his constituency of overworked students who try to take in all the opportunities that RIT has to offer.

The first goal for Christian and Yundt is to create a Student Bill of Rights. They plan to collect information from the existing Student Rights and Responsibilities handbook, add to it, and format it in a way as to more clearly define student rights. Christian and Yundt also put acquiring required textbooks for the library and improving school spirit among their campaign goals.

To increase the offering of student activities, Christian and Yundt intend to create a rollover budget for MSOs. Under a rollover budget system, MSOs would be able to save their extra funds from year to year, potentially allowing them greater funds to use for putting on their community-wide events. Christian and Yundt would also like to establish bus runs from RIT to downtown Rochester (spots like Alexander Street, the Little Theatre, Spot Coffee) and other area colleges.

Ed Wolf & Sasha Malinchoc

Third year computer engineering major Ed Wolf currently serves as Vice President of both his fraternity, Alpha Epsilon Pi, and of public relations for Greek Council. As part of his responsibilities, he educates the RIT community as to what "going Greek" truly means by creating displays, pitching promotional pieces, and con-

sorting with RIT administration on the status of the Greek community. Working for ITS the past three years as a senior desktop support representative, living in the dorms for two years, and also being involved with Greek life, Wolf is confident that his day-to-day interaction with various RIT students will be a major factor in his success as SG president. "I'm someone that is approachable, but also compassionate towards the problems that other students face," he describes himself. Wolf also cites his background as an Eagle Scout as a major contribution to his well-developed leadership skills.

Sasha Malinchoc, a third year biomedical science major and Wolf's running mate, has been an RA for the past two years, as well as an active member of Alpha Sigma Alpha, volunteer at Strong Memorial Hospital, and employee of the Student Life Center. "Through my extracurricular activities and my class work, I have come to recognize and embrace the uniqueness of this campus," Malinchoc says. Through both her training and experience as an RA, she's learned much about the challenges faced by students and the importance of the student voice at RIT.

Wolf and Malinchoc cite several goals for their campaign, among them creating more study space for students living in the dorms. Explaining that these students currently deal with several distractions, yet might prefer to stay in their rooms and study instead of going to the library, they hope to work with Housing to create permanent dorm-side quiet spaces. Overcrowding in the dorms is also an issue they plan to address with RIT administrators. In addition, Wolf and Malinchoc will seek to improve dorm living by increasing the promotion of programming for dorm residents. As a perk for all meal-plan-bearing students living on campus, their goal is to collaborate with Food Services to create healthier menu items and later hours of operation at select campus eateries.

To make RIT a better place, Wolf and Malinchoc plan to work with Public Safety to make sure policies and procedures are beneficial to the students. One example they cite is the arrival

of Public Safety first to an emergency scene, though the RIT ambulance might be a more appropriate choice. Another area of RIT in need of improvement that they cite is the SAU. "[It's] a transient space that doesn't have a true purpose or give students [a] 'warm' feeling...[it] should be a place where people can congregate and lounge, but most importantly be proud of," Wolf explains. While they acknowledge that new club spaces scheduled for construction this summer will help, Wolf and Malinchoc would also like to develop plans to create a central area in the building for students to congregate and relax. They want an SAU face lift.

Damian Kumor & Jon Berman

Fourth year software engineering major Damian Kumor's leadership experience comes from two years as an officer in the Society of Software Engineers and his current role as SG's GCCIS Senator. In this latter position, he has created better working relationships between his college's clubs by organizing bi-weekly meetings for club leaders and a club day. To raise more money for the clubs, Kumor worked with the GCCIS Dean's Office to establish a hooded sweatshirt sale whose profits go directly back to GCCIS clubs.

Some of his works in progress include improving the RIT bus system to ensure more consistent arrival and departure times. To accomplish this goal, he's gathering passenger data to determine the buses' ideal travel times. In addition, he's trying to create an increase in the email quotas for students' inboxes within the next two or three quarters. One of Kumor's big projects is his concern with protecting student rights: he's served on the intellectual property task force and ensured that student Appeal Board members are approved by SG instead of hired solely via interviews with Student Conduct staff.

Kumor's running mate, Jon Berman, is a third year biology major and the current SG College of Science Senator, as well as treasurer for the RIT Amateur Radio club and the RIT Sketch Comedy Troupe. Berman lists among his credits experience as a host and co-host on internet ra-

dio broadcasts. He believes that participating in high-visibility capacities like these better equip him, as VP, to interact with his constituency and be "the face of SG—the one [students] come to and interact with on a more daily basis."

Collaborating with current SG VP Dave Blonski, Berman proposed changes to RIT's student conduct process by interviewing various administrative groups on campus. He is also helping to create new "liberal science" courses intended to make science classes that are more interesting for non-science majors and stimulate broader thinking for those in the field.

If elected, Kumor and Berman will aim to increase the funds available to the SG finance committee so that clubs, in turn, can have increased budgets. By reducing some of SG's initiative budgets, money will be freed up for the clubs' use in putting on their own events or recruiting new members. "We think that there should be a fair way to distribute [the] money, and enough of it to go around...Funds should be distributed based on the merit of an individual purchase based on the number of people benefited, and the necessity to the continued running of a club," Berman explains.

As another facet of this project, Kumor and Berman would like to create electronic request forms for additional funds or services such as use of the SG vans. A final perk clubs could receive if Kumor and Berman are elected is increased club space.

Other goals they'd like to accomplish include a Declaration of Student Rights. Asserting that the way student privacy and property rights are handled—among other facets of students' treatment—are very poor. Their hope is to gain the Board of Trustees' attention with this gesture, and to start conversations about how to improve student treatment on campus. Continuing some of current SG president Lizzie Sorkin's techniques, Kumor and Berman intend to further fuel school spirit by involving people in RIT, supporting Spirit Fridays, and growing individual College and overall RIT pride. •

Don't forget to cast your vote for SG President and Vice-President, along with other important campus leadership positions, April 16-19.

TO BE A POLITICIAN

“MAN IS BY NATURE A
POLITICAL ANIMAL,”
SAID ARISTOTLE.

N

o offense to the great Greek philosopher, but one hardly thinks of a politician as an animal. The first image that comes to mind is of a dapper, suave person. Unfortunately, the word ‘politician’ holds a negative connotation for many.

by Veena Chanti

illustration by Caitlin Yarsky

“Their time is not their own,” intones Deborah Stendardi, reminding us of the politicians’ sides of the story (and yes, there are many). As Vice President of RIT’s Government and Community Relations, she would know. She is responsible for RIT’s liaisons and relationships with elected and appointed government officials at the local, state and federal levels. “They are basically on duty almost 24/7,” she says, “and they give up a lot of time evenings and weekends away from family and personal commitments—so they deserve appreciation. Oftentimes, unfortunately, this term is used in a negative sense. For these reasons, I prefer to use the term ‘government officials’ or ‘elected officials’ instead of the word ‘politician’ ... I feel that the term ‘elected officials’ better reflects their responsibilities.”

Reporter took a look at some exceptional leaders around our locale and asked them for ideas on what it means to be a politician.

OVERWORKED AND UNAPPRECIATED

Indeed, the discomfort at being called a politi-

cian is understandable. The title has, as Stendardi suggests, acquired a negative meaning. In the same way that people will readily express their distrust of lawyers, politicians are often considered deceitful, full of hot air and bogus promises, and are thought to be megalomaniacs with little genuine care and scant respect for the people they represent.

Many unkind things have been said about the people who choose to represent fellow citizens. Robin Williams, well-loved thespian of our times, quipped, “Politics: ‘Poli’ a Latin word meaning *many*; and ‘tics’ meaning *bloodsucking creatures*.” The ancient Greek philosopher Socrates said, “I really was too honest a man to be a politician and live.” These and numerous other expressions from people the world over, famous or otherwise, repeatedly slight politicians.

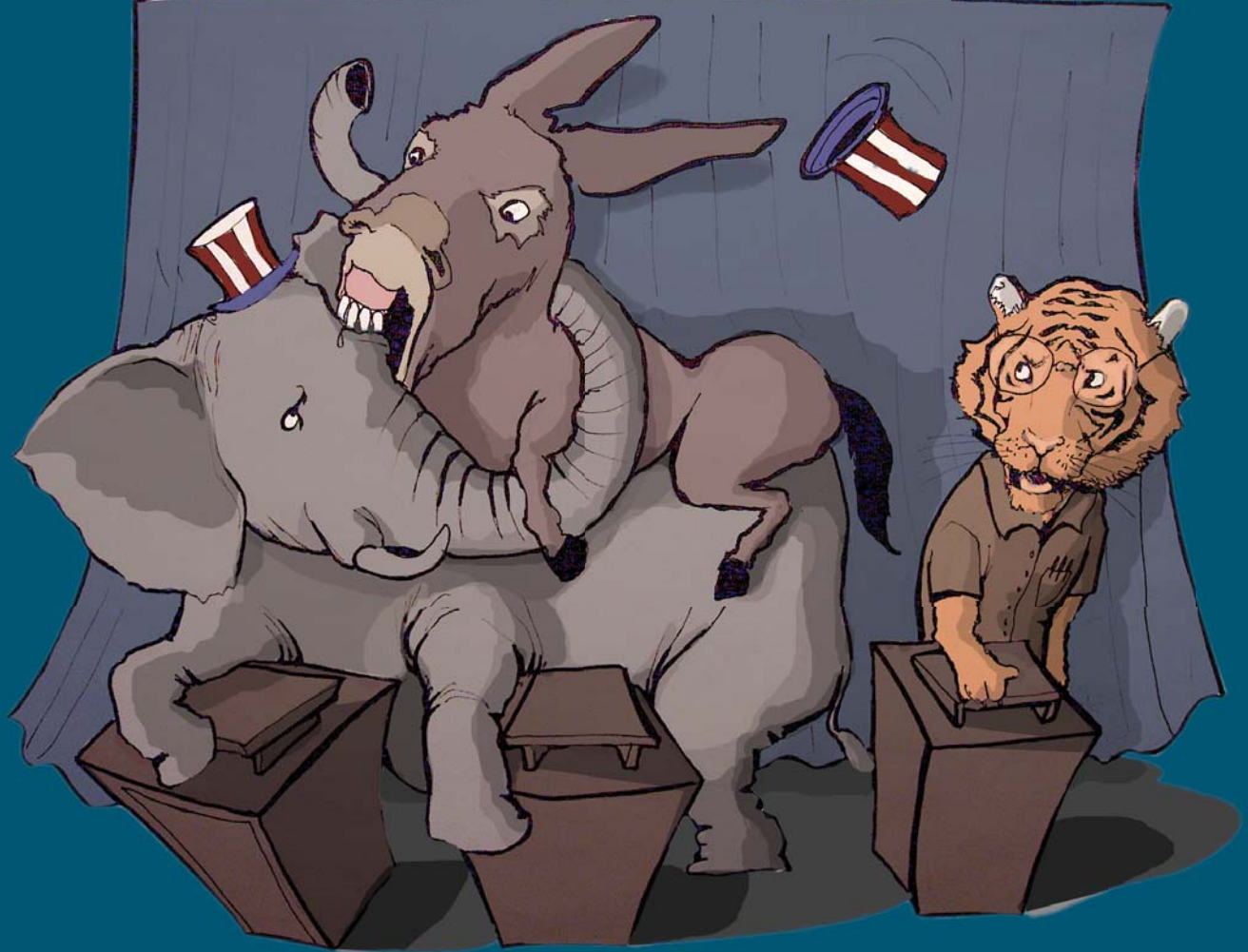
Stendardi, having befriended politicians as part of her job, clearly disagrees with this generalized disdain. “I meet regularly with our government officials,” counters Stendardi. “In the 27 years that

I have been here at RIT in this role, I have been able to develop these relationships over time on behalf of RIT, and I have the greatest respect and appreciation for our elected officials.”

Perhaps there are other reasons why people find it difficult to appreciate current leaders and politicians. Says James Macchiano, last year’s SG President, “A leader must remember that most times the things that they do will not be reflected in their times, but in the years that follow them.” This seems to suggest that little credit is given to leaders while they are actually busy implementing their policies to make their organizations better. Busy, quite often, to the point of having no time for anything else. “I get so caught up with just doing work and expecting to do everything at the same level that I do my work,” says Macchiano.

FINER POINTS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

Stendardi refines Macchiano’s views by calling the politician the “ultimate public servant,” citing examples of the personal sacrifices that these



elected officials make. "They really have to give up a great deal of personal time and privacy," she explains.

However, she also adds, "For an elected official to be successful, the most important thing that they can do is to be a person of integrity and to not take their constituency for granted."

"If you are able to look back on the things you were trying to do and can say you had a positive impact on those around you and the programs and initiatives that you put through," notes Macchiano, "and made a change for the better of the community, then I would say you were successful."

Success is never achieved without struggle of some sort, and all leaders face these challenges. Says current SG President Elizabeth Sorkin, "What has been the most challenging for me, personally, would have to be the two issues this year: the Gallaudet protest and Lisa Lampanelli. Both situations involved the Deaf community and

it was very hard to not immediately react (as a Deaf person myself) and deal with the situation as a Deaf person. It's not something I can explain easily, but it definitely tore me in two."

When asked what it meant to be a politician, Macchiano replied, "In my opinion, what a politician should be is a servant of the people. Politicians are elected with trust from the people they represent and, once elected, they have a responsibility to honor that trust with results. Everything a politician does should be done for the betterment of their constituency."

Sorkin remains steadfast to the title of leader, and replies, "To be a politician is different, thinks, than being a leader. I've no idea what it means to be a politician; I don't want to be one. But a leader listens and acts."

All three highly appreciate the use of good communication skills. Sorkin and Macchiano especially note that listening is crucial to communication, with Sorkin saying, "I listen to both

sides of the discussion. I make sure all opposing sides share their thoughts and that the rest of the community gets the opportunity to hear both sides."

What is evident in both SG Presidents is the motivation to take the initiative. They are not content to sit idly by as they see things around them that need to be changed. This drive overrides their apprehensions about making mistakes, lending them the confidence required to say, as Sorkin does, that "mistakes are meant to [be learned] from. If no mistakes are made, what's the point of learning and becoming a stronger and improved leader? A leader listens and acts. This year has been a test of that to me. Have I listened? Have I acted?"

"The point," says Macchiano, "is to leave your mark on the organization you come from and leave it in a better place than when you started." •

don't forget to

vote!

april 16-19

sgvote.rit.edu

Athletics BBQ's!

Support your fellow classmates and eat some free food!



April 13

Softball
3:30-4:30 pm
Game at 3:30 pm
Softball Field

April 18

Women's Lacrosse
4-5 pm
Game at 4 pm
Turf Field

April 29

Men's Lacrosse
Empire 8 Games
TBA

May 2

Baseball
2:30-3:30 pm
Game at 2 pm
Baseball Field



sg.rit.edu

WORD ON THE STREET

COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY BELVEDUDE

Q: What do you think Student Government does?



"Managing student organizations.
Otherwise, no clue."

Ana Villanueva

MBA



"Intermediate between the students
and the institution."

Danielle Cunningham

First year Biotechnology



"Resume builder."

Ken Love

Third year Urban
Community Studies



"To give clubs money."

Hillary Guzik

Second year Biomedical Photo
Communications



"They talk about trivial crap."

Leif Melhus

Second year Mechanical
Engineering



"I just know they're campaigning."

Swaroop Sreerama

MBA



"Not highlighting outside issues."

Fariz Guliyev

MBA Finance



"To be a pain in the ass to the
administration."

Jill Knobloch

Second year Graphic Design



"We have a student government?"

Ryan Miller

Second year Mechanical
Engineering



"Training them for the inevitable
self-serving bureaucracy that is
government."

Cody Swartz

Third year Electrical Engineering



"Throwing BBQ's."

Jozefa Cheman

Alumni



"Laying the brick for Illuminati
pyramid."

Pete Mulroy

Alumni

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Minimum 3 Pizzas



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Expires 6/15/07.

Campus Double Deal

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\$16⁹⁹
2 X-Larges
Plus Tax Plus Tax

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Expires 6/15/07.

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Plus Tax

Medium

\$9⁹⁹
Plus Tax

Large



Deep Dish Extra.
Expires 6/15/07.

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 CIMS • Building 78 • open to the public

- 10:00–11:30 **The Future of Alternative Energy**
Featuring a keynote address by Matt Fronk, Chief Engineer for Research, General Motors Sustainable Mobility: A Panel Discussion
- 11:30–12:30 **A Presentation of Research in the Field**
Project display and poster session
- 11:30–2:00 **Sustainability Research at RIT**
A series of faculty and student project discussions
- 2:00–4:00 **Remanufacturing: Sustainability Within Product Systems**
Talks by Erik Sundin, Assistant Professor and Johan Ostlin, Ph.D. student, Linkoping University, Sweden

TSI will celebrate the ideals of Earth Day through a series of forums focusing on various aspects of sustainability.



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The 32nd Annual RIT/Gallaudet Weekend.

All are welcome!

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- RIT/Gallaudet Dance-Off.
- Food & Drinks.
- RITZ - Cash Bar (21+).
 Responsible Drinking Only.

\$25

\$30 at the door.

Clark Gym & SAU Ritz. Saturday, April 21st. 9pm - 3am.

Tickets sold at SAU Candy Counter.





WOMEN'S LACROSSE
RIT vs. SUNY Oswego
03.31.07

photography by Coco Walters

01// Sophomore Defender Jacquelyn Dougherty tries to reach past a SUNY Oswego Forward during their close game on Saturday afternoon.

02// RIT Junior Andrea Poor starts off after another RIT goal against SUNY Oswego, March 31, 2007.

03// Mid-Fielder Caitlin Weir starts off down the field during the Women's Lacrosse Game versus SUNY Oswego.

04// Kelly Spagnoli, a second-year Mid-Fielder for the RIT Women's Lacrosse team faces off with Suny Oswego, in a game RIT would eventually win 9-7.

TIGER BASEBALL

by Geoff Shearer

photography by Megan Rossman

In October 2004, the Boston Red Sox somehow mustered the audacity to defeat the baseball gods I call the Yankees. Within ten minutes of this travesty, the Sol Heumann Quad was flooded by fans from both ends of the spectrum in what could be considered RIT's little '04 baseball riot. But now let us put our differences aside, Bo'Sox sympathizers and die-hard Yanks fans, for some good ole'-fashioned school pride and rejoice in the American pastime of baseball and apple pie, even if it's still snowing in April.





Spring is back though, and for RIT baseball, the season is off to a phenomenal start. Coming off a record-breaking 24 win season last year and winning the ECAC Championship for the second time in RIT history, the Tigers have taken a solid effort at another title so far this season—though it's still a little early to speculate.

Head Coach Rob Grow commented, "We had a great year last year; we got off to a slow start, 2-6, and we came back and won 20 games... and the ECAC Championship, which was the first time in 20 years we had done that." The Tigers, coming off a five-game winning streak this season, now have a record of 8-2, winning all of their conference games thus far.

This winning streak, however, may be soon coming to its end as the Tigers face St. John Fisher away for a double header weekend on April 14 and 15. St. John Fisher and Ithaca have proven to be the Tigers' toughest competition, with all three schools typically finishing at

the top of the Empire 8 league. Grow added, "It's RIT and Ithaca [that] finish first and second. The last time we won our league was in 2000 and we've been second place every year since. So RIT, Ithaca, and St. John Fisher are the top three teams traditionally, and it looks like it may be that [way] again this year."

Calm your fears though, for an unexpected beacon of talent has landed upon RIT's doorstep with a freshman lineup that could strike fear into even the most well-versed pitcher. Grow explained, "We were really fortunate to have a good freshman class this year. Our entire outfield is made up of freshman right now. Leading the way, is...Geoff Dornes; he's hitting over 0.500 still, which is unbelievable, hitting 0.528 through 10 games. He's a hitting machine; the kid's got a great approach and does a great job for us." Grow also mentioned Andrew Larsen, who mostly plays left field, hitting over 0.350 currently "and stealing a ton of bases [with] a lot of speed; doing a great job."

(Above) RIT pitcher Dylan Rees helped the tigers overtake Utica (4-3) in the first game of their double header on Saturday 3/31, by pitching six strike outs and only giving up seven hits.

(Facing page) RIT right fielder, Geoff Dornes, nails the baseball during his fourth at bat in the last inning of the first game of a doubleheader against Utica, on Saturday 3/31.

RIT Athletics Player of the Week for week four Chris Miller added, "We have a lot of starting freshmen who really stepped up and found their part. Pitching has stepped up; our hitting is a lot better...than last year. It's helped us a lot." Miller is a sophomore criminal justice major and one of the team's starting pitchers.

The Tigers are most certainly off to a dream season so far, but if their past has taught them anything it's not in how you start, but how you finish. •

RIT RINGS

585.475.5633

compiled by Ryan Metzler

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

Thursday 10:18 p.m.

I'm sorry, but "hello" should not be worthy of the Rings section. Goodbye.

Friday 9:19 a.m.

Hey RIT Rings, I just had the first drawing class where two naked chicks were just leaning on each other. The best [fornicate]ing drawing class ever.

Friday 1:51 p.m.

Hey RIT Rings, I'm in Math class right now and I'm reading the RIT Rings in this new issue and I have to agree with someone that called in on Thursday at 1:14 a.m. saying that RIAA is like the mob. They are definitely like the mob.

Friday 2:42 p.m.

Hey RIT Rings, guess what. I'm going to New Zealand! Yup, I wanted to tell you first. Why? Because you never put my messages in your stupid magazine, yup! Uh-huh, what?

Friday 6:08 p.m.

Okay RIT Rings, I don't normally get angry but this is [fornicate]ed up. It's been about a month since RIT's Tiger Idol? You guys have no [fornicate]ing coverage of it. You wonder why RIT has no school spirit. Well, where's the issue on RIT Tiger Idol? It was a big thing to get people out and participate. People are coming out and enjoying RIT and you guys do nothing with it.

Friday 9:39 p.m.

Hey RIT Rings, so tonight I was walking back from the gym and I saw a window with no shades and I looked in. There was this girl, all

topless, and I saw boobies, so I said "boobies!" Then she smiled at me and I waved. I screamed again: "boobies!"

Saturday 2:16 a.m.

My girlfriend is half Asian so her [female sex organ] is diagonal.

Saturday 2:17 a.m.

Hello *Reporter*, this is T.S. Eliot here to inform everyone at the magazine that Ernest Hemmingway is indeed a liar, [female sex organ], and an anti-Semite. I do not appreciate his work in the least.

Saturday 2:19 a.m.

Hello, this is Ernest Hemmingway, look at me I'm T.S. Eliot. Oh-oh, sometimes I write poetry about my feelings. Faggot! Stop writing about your feelings T.S. and find some chicks. Hell, I've banged every single woman he's ever looked at. I write good [fecal matter].

Saturday 2:20 a.m.

Hello *Reporter*, this is T.S. Eliot once again and I've got wind that Ernest Hemmingway has been calling and spreading some horrible rumors about me and my work. First off, my work, *The Wasteland*, is one of the most important pieces of [fecal matter] that was ever written in the history of the world. Second of all, what has Ernest written? Some [fecal matter] about elephants, the color white, some [fecal matter] about being drunk and going to war and [fornicate]ing a nurse? That isn't relative to anything at all. If I was Ernest Hemmingway I would shoot myself in the mouth with a shotgun.

Saturday 2:22 a.m.

Hello this is Ernest Hemmingway again; I've heard that T.S. Eliot has been spreading some [fecal matter] about me again. I just want to make it clear: at least when I wrote stuff I sounded manly as [fornicate]. T.S. Eliot got famous being a pansy little sissy girl. And get this; no one knows who he is. Folks know more about Harry Potter and the [fecal matter] written by J.K. Rowling than him. He's been beaten by a girl. Pansy, what a pussy. That's my greatest story ever, written by Ernest Hemmingway.

Saturday 1:30 p.m.

There's a piano underneath the quarter-mile. Why?

Saturday 9:49 p.m.

I have no idea what that disclaimer message just said. It was really jumbled, just like all of RIT. I think you should re-do it so it doesn't sound like a piece of crap, like the rest of this college.

Saturday 11:26 p.m.

So here's the deal, they just changed to Public Safety right? We're a private school, how much sense does that make? Does this mean I can have them come to my off-campus apartment because they're public safety?

Sunday 9:04 p.m.

Hey RIT Rings, I really love you guys. I just want to give a shout-out to the man who is so trucked on a Sunday night at 10 that he needs to be taken away in an ambulance.

Of Gaydom & Geekdom

by Chris Cesarano

illustration by Greg Caggiano

One day, I was at a restaurant with a bisexual friend of mine; she was describing some of the pressures of coming out to her family and the many desires of wanting to at least be accepted by society. Usually when we discuss this sort of thing, I feel as if I can never fully understand how she is feeling. How could I? I'm as straight as straight can be. During this one conversation, however, I realized I do understand how she feels, but for completely separate reasons.

I am a geek. Just like many members of the gay community, I've had to deal with ridicule and violence my whole life, from being insulted for being allergic to peanut butter and for the shoes I wore to having a soccer ball thrown in my face and being forced into fist fights without provocation. As there are reports of people murdered for being gay, there are people murdered just for being nerds.

As for stereotypes, I remember a lot of members of the gay community being in an uproar because *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* only enforced a representation of the gay community that was not accurate to them all. Well, any time I put on a sitcom and see a relatively geeky character, they are usually comedic relief because their interests stem from their stupidity or because they are pathetic. That's not to say that there aren't such geeks. There are plenty like that I meet every week at meetings for the Electronic Gaming Society or who annoy me with their "more enlightened than thou" attitude.

But are the men from *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* and others like them an accurate representation of all gay males? Is the stereotypical butch-type lesbian an accurate representation of all gay females? Are the men that paint themselves and go shirtless at football games, yelling as they hypnotically gyrate their flabby beer bellies an accurate representation of all football fans?

To make things worse, I've had to hear family

members tell me how I should have grown out of video games and *Dungeons and Dragons* because they are "wastes of time". Before I came to RIT, wearing a Halo shirt or mentioning anything geeky in the wrong crowd caused folks to roll their eyes at me as if I were less than them.

You'd imagine I'd gain more acceptance at RIT, but I really don't. When I'm hanging out with my more normal friends, I often feel the need to choose what I say and how I joke carefully. One slip of a game reference, a twenty-sided die, or one crack from the internet and I get people shaking their heads as if I'm a sad being. I've even been treated condescendingly because I can't properly throw a Frisbee, yet when I come out the victor in a match of Halo I'm treated as if my skill has no relevance to life. Since when could throwing a Frisbee get me a job at the Career Fair?

Because I am a straight, Caucasian, Christian male, I am treated as if I do not understand the plight of any minority. Supposedly, I'm the one who gets all the free rides and does not have to fight against society for equal rights. I've been fighting against society all my life, and likely will continue to long after gay marriage is inevitably legalized, just as and women and African Americans were inevitably given the right to vote.

Yet the key difference between a geek like

myself and many members of the gay community is that I don't want to have rallies. I don't want to shout how proud I am of being different, yet demand to be treated as if I weren't. I am different even among other geeks and I know it. I don't want people to stop acknowledging that difference. I don't want to wear any pride badges, making my lifestyle obvious to people I don't even know. All I ask is that I stop being treated as if I were pathetic. You don't have to get my jokes and you don't have to understand my interests. I've done fine enough not understanding all of yours.

I am a straight, Caucasian, Christian, geeky male who understands the trials of the gay community more than many others. All I want, though, is for no one to care how different I am. •



RIT Stonewall Project Presents



To commemorate the National Day of Silence (Wed. April 18, 2007) for protesting the bullying, harassment and discrimination of GLBT students in schools.

www.wesculwell.com to find out more about Wes Culwell

Wes Culwell

**Tuesday April 17, 2007
8pm in SAU Cafeteria**

Free to Students/Faculty/Staff (w/ ID)
Cost to Public \$3 | Ticket sales @ door