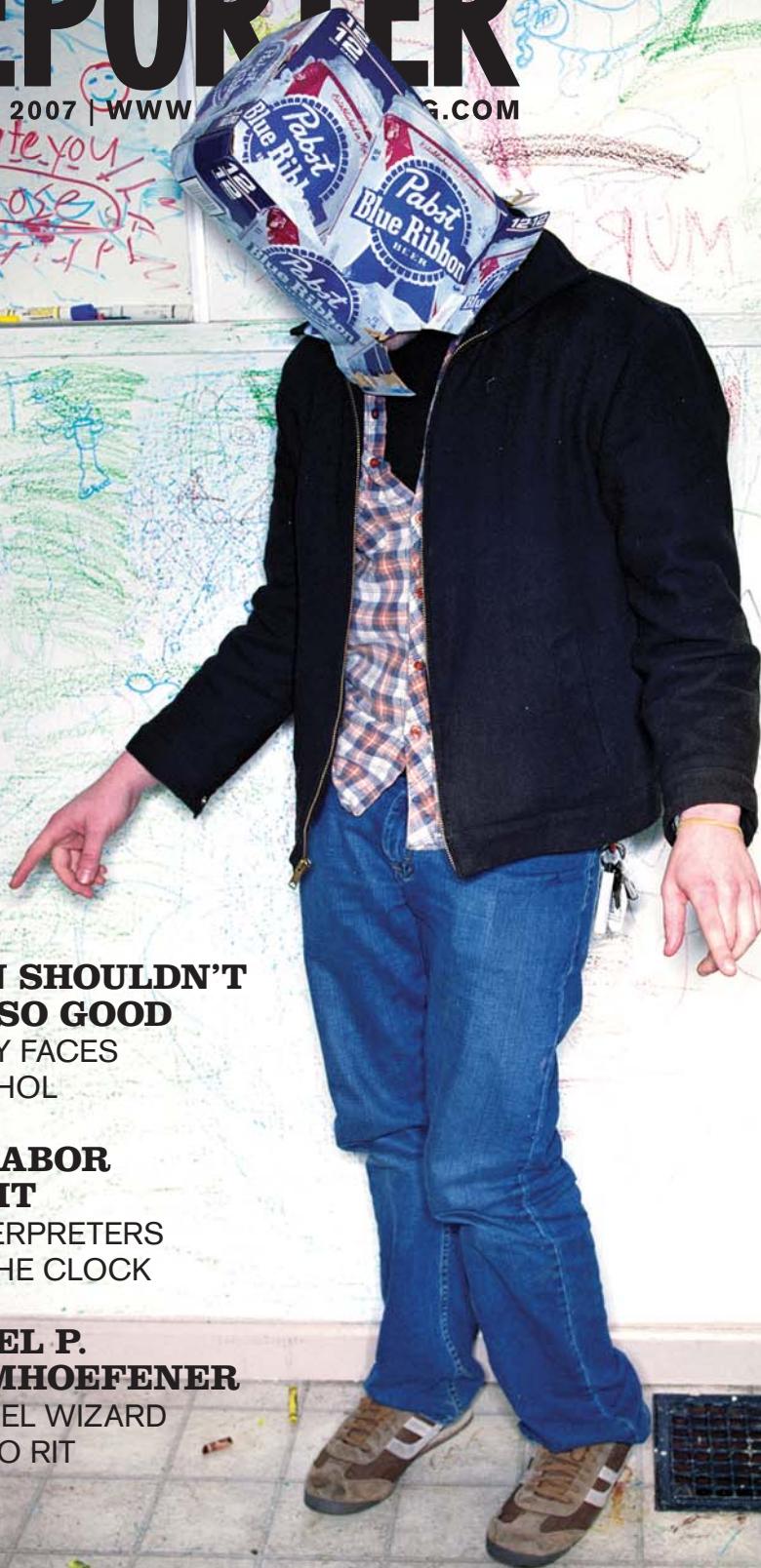


# REPORTER

APRIL 20, 2007 | WWW.ENTERTAINMENTWEEKLY.COM



**POISON SHOULDN'T  
TASTE SO GOOD**  
THE MANY FACES  
OF ALCOHOL

**RIT'S LABOR  
LAWSUIT**  
WHY INTERPRETERS  
PUNCH THE CLOCK

**MICHAEL P.  
KRUMMHOFENER**  
PIXAR PIXEL WIZARD  
COMES TO RIT



# REPORTER

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SPORTS/VIEWS EDITOR Chad Carbone

WRITERS Antonio Castillo, Chad Carbone,  
Casey Dehlinger, Mich Gerson, Joseph André Jacir,  
Evan McNamara, J.S. Ost, Govind Ramabdran,  
Alex Salsberg, Geoff Shearer, Chris Tosswill

## Art

ART DIRECTOR Josh Gomby  
STAFF DESIGNERS Michelle Brook,  
Jason Sfetko  
HOUSE DESIGNER Jeff Chiappone  
CONTRIBUTING ILLUSTRATORS  
Greg Caggiano, Caitlin Yarsky  
CARTOONIST Alex Salsberg

## Photo

PHOTO EDITOR Dave Londres  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS Matt Bagwell,  
Tom Schirmacher, CoCo Walters

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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](mailto:reporter@rit.edu)  
ADVERTISING 585.475.2213  
EMAIL [reporterads@mail.rit.edu](mailto:reporterads@mail.rit.edu)

# Editorial

## You Got Served

Stealing is illegal. Downloading copyrighted materials sans payment? Also illegal.

There. We've gotten that obvious yet oft-debated reality check out of the way. So let's move on to something far more sinister, shall we? On March 15, the RIT administration decided to comply with the RIAA's most recent and ridiculous request to forward pre-litigation letters to a number of students, all accused of sharing copyrighted music.

I, for one, am quite furious. The RIAA, in its latest attempt to harass college students, has crossed a serious line in civil liberty, throwing the idea of "due process" right out the window. And RIT has helped make this devilish defenestration possible.

Let me take a step back and explain these how pre-litigation letters work. The RIAA sends investigators online to hunt down music pirates. At the end of the investigation, all the RIAA probably has is a few screenshots of filenames (which may or may not be *actual* copyrighted works) and an IP address. They might not have hard evidence, and they certainly don't have a name.

It's next part that's truly insidious, though. The RIAA, after it acquires that IP address, contacts the corresponding Internet Service Provider and requests that a pre-litigation letter be forwarded to the person associated with the IP. If the ISP chooses to comply with this request, then it's a done deal. The RIAA has a name, and can start taking that poor soul to court (unless the accused agrees to settle before a lawsuit is filed).

RIT is your Internet Service Provider. And they just sold you out.

Here's how the system is supposed to work: The RIAA, after acquiring the IP address, needs to *go before a judge and get a subpoena*. (The Digital Millennium Copyright Act originally allowed the RIAA automatic subpoenaing rights, but that overly-broad burden on the people has since been stricken from the books). Without that subpoena, the ISP is under no legal obligation to reveal the identity of its subscribers (a fact that the University of Wisconsin has reinforced, since they *did* refuse the RIAA's request).

RIT's willingness to forward those letters without a subpoena allowed the RIAA to bypass the legal system, which has placed a handful of students in a very difficult position. After all, they're college students—they probably can't afford to pay a defense lawyer whose prowess matches up against those big-time RIAA attorneys. And, at \$750 in damages per song, they certainly can't afford to lose. Their best bet was to settle. I'm sure many of them did.

So, assuming that those settled students are innocent (which the American legal system *requires*, because they haven't been proven guilty in a court of law), they've each been robbed of anywhere between \$1,000 and \$5,000.

This is the very definition of extortion. Jurisprudence has been supplanted with Mob-style scare tactics. And RIT just stepped back and let it happen.

Why didn't RIT defend these kids? Sure, we don't know if they're guilty, but that's the whole point, because the RIAA sure doesn't know either. Their case was never brought before a judge, nor will it ever receive that kind of scrutiny. They were bullied into submission because there was no one there to protect them.

RIT threw them to the dogs.



Jen Loomis

**Editor in Chief**



At their thursday afternoon flag football class, senior mechanical engineering major Mike Saitta (right) fights to get away from opposing player Guion Lucas (left). Cover by Tom Schirmacher.

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**To the R.I.T./N.T.I.D. community,**

As soon as I read the article in *Reporter* on March 30, 2007, page 14, I felt the need to respond to Mich Gerson's remarks. She stated, "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." For your information, [Gerson's] remarks are invalid because the protest was not against Lisa Lampanelli's performance! It is mainly about RIT's philosophy, which is in total conflict with Lisa Lampanelli's style. Below you will find quotes from protesters regarding why we were there.

"She made some very derogatory remarks about Deaf people," said RIT graduate student Joshua Berman, who organized the protest. "I'm not very appreciative of the way RIT handled this," he said in the *Henrietta Post*, March 26, 2007.

"RIT's philosophy emphasizes diversity and mutual respect. CAB should have known better." RIT officials said CAB, the university's College Activities Board, hired Lampanelli to perform on Friday. Clark Gymnasium, which officials said seats about 1,800, was nearly filled for the show" *Henrietta Post*, March 26, 2007.

"RIT's philosophy is in total conflict with Lisa Lampanelli," Stuhler said through a sign language interpreter. "I understand that she's an insult comedienne and she insults everybody, but that doesn't support RIT's policies" *Henrietta Post*, March 26, 2007.

"We are supporting freedom of speech and that's why we're all here tonight," said Joshua Berman on television NBC channel 10, March 23, 2007

"The group says they are not there protesting Lampanelli. They are upset at RIT and the college activity board. NBC channel 10 News, March 23, 2007

"It's making RIT look bad 'cause again RIT is the

one that hired her, she's the wrong person," said Berman. "She doesn't match the philosophy and it really contradicts their mission statement and the open mindedness here on campus." Berman said on NBC channel 10, March 23, 2007

All of above are protester remarks that were published in local newspapers or on local news shows, and it seems Mich Gerson did not read these when she made the remarks about the protesters. She indicated that the protesters' remarks are "completely invalid and nonsense." [Gerson] should have read more thoroughly about the information before commenting or passing judgment.

In addition, [Gerson] remarked, "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." I find this statement ironic since [Gerson] supported Lisa Lampanelli's right to free speech, but now states that the students of RIT don't have that same right. All elected officials represent their constituents: Lizzie and Sarah's constituents happen to be the students of RIT, so telling us to "sit down and shut up" would be counter-productive, against the entire democratic process, and "insufferable".

I hope this clears up some of the confusion regarding the protest.

**Joshua Berman**

**Dear Editor,**

First of all, I would like to say the article on women at RIT was quite well-written, as I've come to expect from *Reporter*. However, I have several problems with it from a logical perspective.

The article discusses (or, more accurately, avoids discussing) double standards in the Institute and in general, but what concerns me far more is the doublethink in the article. Doublethink, for those who don't know, is the Orwellian concept of making two conflicting claims at once and claiming they are both true.

For one, the article claims that "A company look-

ing for diversity is more likely to hire women," but instantly turns around and claims that "that doesn't mean it's easier for women to find jobs." The article then goes on to provide evidence supporting the idea that, in fact, being a woman DOES make it easier for you to find a job. This makes perfect sense; companies that hire nearly all the women who apply rarely suffer any repercussions, whereas companies that even seem to provide preference to males are sued like mad, creating selective pressure. Further, the claim that "RIT struggles to attract and retain women" certainly seems to conflict with the idea that ALL women at RIT got in ONLY because of their merits, especially since colleges are allowed to discriminate based on race (but only in favor of minorities!) and gender (but only in favor of women!) thanks to the Michigan decision.

I'm certainly not saying that all, or even most, women at RIT are here because of their gender. However, it sickens me that time and time again it is insisted that there is NO preferential treatment going on, and further that it is somehow the Institute's or society's fault that few women seek technical careers. The simple fact is, few women are in these fields because few women CHOOSE to be. This is a problem. No one is denying that. However, this problem is not my fault, it is not the Institute's fault, and sexism is not the way to solve it.

Thank you,

**Matthew K. Bailey**

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

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

MARTHA MITCHELL, STUDENT, CITIZEN,  
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# RITBOOKS BOOKED FOR TRADEMARK INFRINGEMENT

by Chris Tosswill

illustration by Greg Caggiano

The site RITbook.com was created by first year new media interactive development major Dan Leveille last quarter as a location to trade textbooks. First hailed as a great achievement and resource for students, the site has recently become a source of heated debate and legal action. "I made the site as a resource for other students...so they could get the books they need cheaply," explains Leveille. The site has a sizable student following, currently listing 800+ books, and a Facebook fan group. Additionally, the site has been used in two RIT business classes as a subject for business plan and strategy discussion.

On April 3, 2007, however, Leveille received an official cease-and-desist letter from RIT's chief legal officer. The letter cited infringements on trademarks owned by RIT and gave Leveille seven days to remove all unauthorized references to Rochester Institute of Technology, including the domain name "ritbook.com" from the site or face repercussions "including but not limited to, referral to the RIT Center for Student Conduct and the commencement of litigation."

## BIG SHOT PHOTO PROJECT IN DUBROVNIK

compiled by J. S. Ost

Big Shot Photo Project was started in 1987 by a group of professors from RIT's School of Photographic Arts and Sciences as a way to teach students about flash photography. Based on volunteerism and the concept of "painting with light," the project has created 22 nighttime photographs of various impressive structures since its creation. Big Shot is unique in that it requires hundreds of volunteers using camera flashes and flashlights to illuminate the photo's subject. Past at-home and international Big Shot projects include night photography of the USS Intrepid (New York City); San Antonio, Texas'

In a recent "Ask the President," Dr. Simone weighed in on the RITbook issue. "It is the Institute's belief that visitors to this site would clearly confuse it with being an official RIT site, which it is not," stated Simone, who went on to reference the Lanham Act and RIT's right to protect its name and brand. RIT, like any company, does have the right to defend its name. The question becomes: To what degree is Leveille's site infringing on RIT's trademarks? "I view this as a valuable learning experience for [Leveille]," says Simone.

The Lanham Act is an expansive legal statute governing trademarks in the US. The specific sections cited by RIT focus on preventing confusion between an official website and a site that may seem like an official one, but is in fact not authorized. The litmus test, according to the Act, would be whether or not someone is likely to believe that the site in question is an official RIT site.

RITbook currently displays "Really Inexpensive Textbooks" at the top of the page, presumably to justify its domain name. The site also sports

Alamo; the Royal Palace in Stockholm, Sweden; and last year's subject, Rochester's Memorial Art Gallery.

Coordinated by RIT professors Michael Peres, Bill DuBois and Dawn Tower DuBois, this year's 23rd Big Shot took place in Dubrovnik, Croatia, home of RIT's American College of Management and Tourism. Photographers and volunteers gathered at the original entrance to Dubrovnik's Old Town, a 100-foot-high stone wall serving as the subject of this year's photo. Around this wall, built in the 1400s, nearly 500 volunteers—in-



small disclaimers in the header and footer stating that it is "Not affiliated with RIT". Whether or not RITbook.com is still in violation of the Lanham act is a subjective question; one that the courts may decide. Trademarks and intellectual property disputes are murky legal ground. Leveille has contacted a number of lawyers and awaits counsel on how he should proceed. In the meantime, he has made a number of changes to the site in accordance with RIT's requests.

As of Saturday, April 14, RITbook.com is still online and facilitating book exchanges for RIT students. •

cluding RIT faculty, staff, students, tourists, and residents of the city—helped create enough light for the 90-second exposure period needed to capture the photograph. Costumed guards and other models dressed in Renaissance period clothing stood on the main gate's stone bridge while the Croatian flag flew in the background. •

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To see this year's photo:

<http://www.rit.edu/~930www/pics/BigShot23.jpg>

For more information on the Project:

[www.rit.edu/~bigshot](http://www.rit.edu/~bigshot)

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# LABOR LAWSUIT BRINGS CHANGES FOR INTERPRETERS

by Mich Gerson

photography by Elizabeth Brewster

**I**n February 2006, a class-action lawsuit was filed against the University of Rochester (U of R) on behalf of over 40,000 hourly employees of U of R. The suit claimed that hourly workers were permitted to work through their breaks, not paid for that time worked, and not receiving appropriate overtime compensation. The U of R and their employees agreed to a \$9 million settlement as a result.



Christina Chafel has been an Interpreter at RIT since December 1997.



Local lawyers saw RIT as a potential gold mine, as it was engaged in similar practices. The Institute underwent investigation, and was found in violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act. The main issue had to do with overtime claims for hourly employees, who were classified as exempt from overtime privileges. The original complaint stemmed from Jan Lighthouse, a former RIT Food Services employee. As a result, RIT agreed to a \$2.5 million settlement with nearly 170 of its 2,800 employees.

The Fair Labor Standards Act, enacted by Congress in 1938, is under Federal Wage and Hour statutes. It allows for clear outlining of the employee's job description and how they are to be paid, such as deciding whether the employee's position should be overtime exempt or non-exempt. To be exempt means 'to be paid on a salary basis;' those on a set salary do not qualify for overtime pay. A non-exempt employee is paid per hour worked and any and all overtime hours worked. Overtime is typically defined as any time worked over 40 hours in a workweek. Typically, non-exempt employees include those who perform operational functions such as routine clerical duties, maintenance work, and checking and inspecting equipment.

When the lawsuit was brought against RIT, the Institute was forced to reclassify 173 employees from exempt status to non-exempt status. Of the 173 that were affected, the largest percentage consisted of sign-language interpreters (122 total), who have, since the change, been transitioned from salaried to hourly pay. With the changes in classification came changes on the job. The biggest complaint from the interpreters was the change in their status. When the reclassification was to occur, Human Resources, in a March 12 memorandum to the RIT community, assured employees that "...any employee who is reclassified from exempt to non-exempt will have that transition made in a way that fully respects their professionalism and important contributions to the RIT community".

Susanne Weatherly, a non-academic interpreter who recently moved to Rochester from Washington State, scoffs at the memo, stating that the changes have caused an uproar amongst interpreters—many feeling insulted and stripped of their professional status. She went on to say that interpreters want to be recognized as profes-

sionals, and being "demoted" to hourly pay does not help that end. Even though the interpreters were placed in the non-exempt pool, their overall pay and benefits remained the same—only now they qualify for overtime. In an April 11 memorandum to Department of Access Services (DAS) employees, however, it was asked that interpreters "...keep the total weekly hours worked within the 40-hour limit".

While exempt, full-time interpreters employed within DAS worked forty hours a week: 20 in the classroom; 20 out. The 20 hours of work that were not hands-on were dedicated to preparation: watching a movie that would be shown in the next class, memorizing a student's presentation, reading up on a chapter to be discussed next class, etc. The interpreters were not limited to working in DAS; they could work from home. Once the interpreters were re-classified, however, this privilege stopped. Interpreters were informed that they were to clock in, and the only hours they will be paid for are those spent on campus, not off.

"I don't understand," Weatherly says. "RIT policy allows even those who are exempt to work at home...many of us have adjusted our routine and way of working to work with the changes...let us get paid for the work we do from home."

"Not all interpreters were in the same boat as Weatherly. "I'm just waiting to see what the administration does. I trust they will do what is best," said Christina Chafel, an academic interpreter that has been employed by the Institute for nearly ten years. Why was she not as upset as Weatherly? "RIT 'grandfathered' us – we got to keep our exempt benefits, and there was no drastic change in how much I earned."

Many interpreters were interviewed, and many declined to go on record, but one issue was repeatedly emphasized: their need to work from home. The interpreters brought this complaint repeatedly to Dr. T. Alan Hurwitz, Dean of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID), who put a stop on work-from-home privileges until further investigation. He did, eventually, change his stance. "During the last month, many interpreters influenced my thinking about the work-at-home issue. In the end, I decided to support the flexibility of allowing them to work at home [within provided guidelines]," Hurwitz

stated in an e-mail to *Reporter*. In an April 11 memorandum released by director of DAS Steve Nelson to his staff, the guidelines are as follows:

**Work performed outside of the normal workplace may include the following general types of activities:**

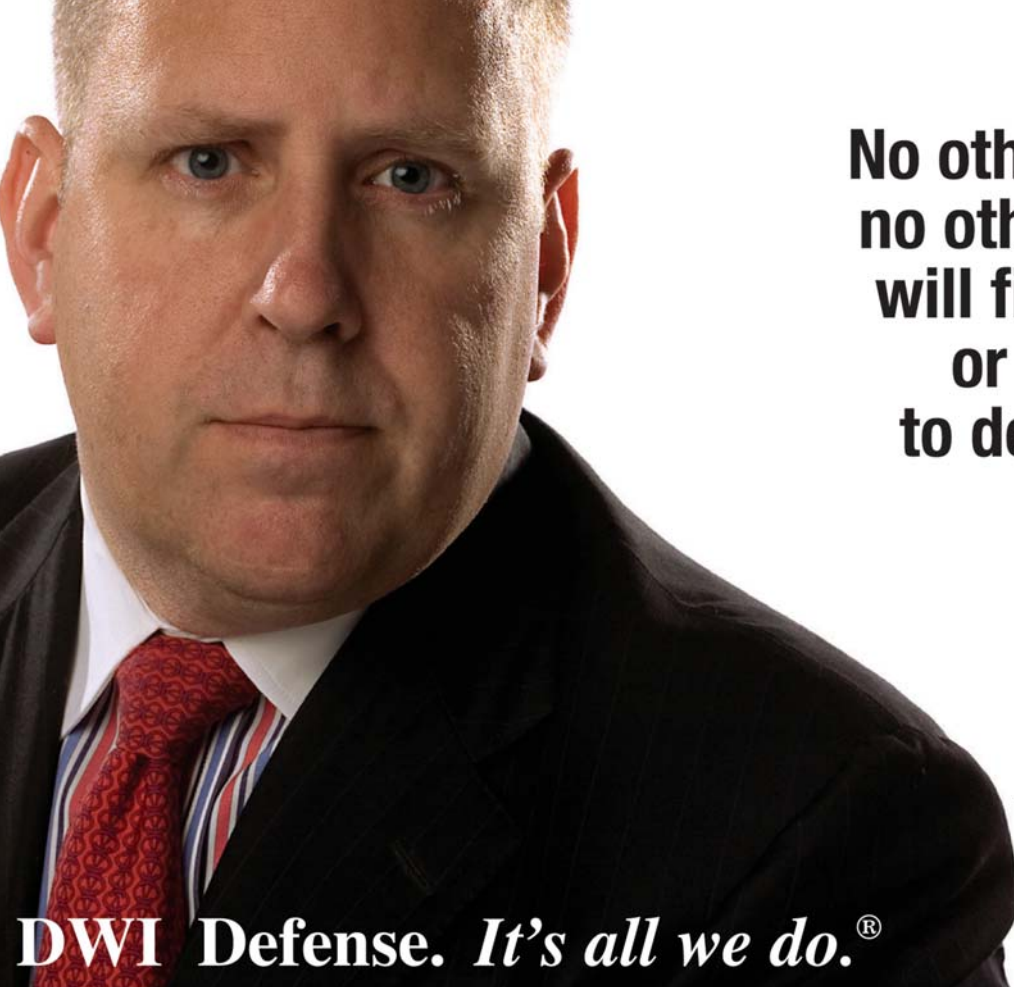
- » Tasks necessary to complete preparation for specific interpreting assignments.
- » Work to support the primary area of responsibility (e.g., interpreting and or coordinating interpreting/notetaking functions) and related areas.
- » Specific tasks assigned to an individual by his/her manager.
- » Tasks necessary to participate in professional development activities.
- » Other activities that are part of an individual's defined duties.

**Without prior approval, these individuals may choose to perform a reasonable level of their work outside of the workplace, if:**

- » In their judgment, the work can best be completed outside of the workplace.
- » Their managers have not previously withdrawn or limited this option (due to prior issues related to this guideline).
- » The individuals provide documentation to their managers, listing the dates and times of that work and a brief description the work performed. This information will be provided to managers every two weeks.

Another adjustment was also made: the total hands-on work was bumped up from 20 to 21 hours per Al Smith, the assistant vice-president of college operations who oversees both Facilities Management Services and DAS.

After nearly a month since the announcement of RIT's settlement, Hurwitz wrote an April 6 e-mail to the NTID community. In this e-mail, he informed people of recent happenings, assuring all that "at this time when we are being tested, I will remain optimistic that we can navigate these changes successfully." In an interview with *Reporter*, he promised once the settlement is over that NTID will fight with the Department of Labor and have the interpreters reclassified and back on their exempt status. •



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# RIT FORECAST

compiled by Govind Ramabadran

Saturday  
21  
APR

## **Deathtrap**

LBJ 1510 Lab Theatre. 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. The Broadway thriller, performed in ASL and spoken English. Cost: Free.

Sunday  
22  
APR

## **OurFaust**

Ingle Auditorium. 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Adaptation of J. W. von Goethe's *Faust, Part I*, and *Ourfaust*. Cost: Free.

Monday  
23  
APR

Today is World Book & Copyright Day. Read a book, or make one, and be sure to copyright it so no one steals your work and gets away with it!

Tuesday  
24  
APR

1967: Cosmonaut Vladimir Komarov dies in Soyuz 1 when the parachute fails to open. He was the first human to die during a space mission.

Wednesday  
25  
APR

## **Alex's Lemonade Stand**

Eastman-Kodak Quad. 11:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Ice-cold lemonade sold to raise money for pediatric cancer research. Sponsored by the Life Sciences Club.

Thursday  
26  
APR

## **Taste of RIT**

10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. 15th Annual in the SAU Cafeteria. All-you-can-eat from local vendors. Proceeds go to the United Way. \$6, TigerBucks accepted.

## **CAB Thursday Night Cinema Series Presents: An Inconvenient Truth**

Ingle Auditorium. 10 p.m. – 12:15 a.m. Sponsored by CAB, SEAL, FMS, ResLife, and the Civil Engineering Technology and Environmental Management Departments. Free.

Friday  
27  
APR

## **Performance by Jen Shyu**

10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. Singing and piano performance in Ingle Auditorium. Sponsored by the Asian Culture Society. Free.

## **Joyful Noise**

6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Greek Lawn. Outdoor concert sponsored by InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. Free.

## **RIT Spring Juggle-In**

Three-day convention sponsored by the Juggling Club. Starts at 5 p.m. in the Clark Gym. Open to the RIT community. Free.

## **CAB Friday Night in the Ritz Presents: Piamater**

Ritz Sports Zone. 9:30 p.m. – 12:30 a.m. Local band and previous Ritz performer comes back for another round. Free pizza to the first 50 people. Cost to watch and listen: \$1.

# SG SENATE WEEKLY UPDATE

by Antonio Castillo

## **Campus Life**

Three representatives from the Center for Campus Life, Mike D'Arcangelo, Ryan Giglia, and Taralyn Loewenguth, answered questions about their department's usefulness to clubs and organizations and distribution of money to student groups. Giglia indicated total funds of \$80,000 split among the 155 SG-recognized clubs. Loewenguth said there is a pool of \$110,000 that clubs can request additional money from for special events.

Discontent was expressed by several senators about the mandatory, once a month club meetings Campus Life dictates. Women's Senator Denise Herrera was in favor of the meetings, politely reminding the room that a club can send alternate representation if timing is a problem.

## **Parking**

Paula Benway announced three new Parking initiatives: automated people movers (APM), Zip Cars on campus, and overall transportation enhancements. The APM was conveyed solely as an exploratory project at this point, but in time RIT students may have a moving quarter-mile. Benway outlined an idyllic RIT future where students are transported to class via a subterranean moving sidewalk starting at the sundial and ending at the infinity quad—with multiple exit points at every building along the way.

Benway also discussed the idea of using the by-the-hour car rental service on campus to reduce the number of vehicles in the parking lots and alleviating the need for students to house their cars at RIT for the year if they are only making occasional trips off campus.

During a brief update on the new parking ticket system, Freshman Senator Matt Danna sternly informed Benway that the students will no longer accept more than one ticket per incident, capping off his announcement with, "We only make \$60 a week." Benway replied that the new computer system used to issue tickets allows for only one citation a ticket, which is why students are issued multiple tickets.

## **Gambling Policy**

Discussion was rampant over whether or not to adopt the Gambling Policy, a section of which reads: "RIT recognized organizations cannot host gambling activities that violate New York State law, nor can they host trips to known gambling facilities for the purpose of gambling. Under certain circumstances, specific activities such as bingo and raffles may be permitted, but only with prior written approval of the Center for Campus Life and registration through the Event Registration system (EVR)."

The main discourse was over the line, "nor can they host trips to known gambling facilities for the purpose of gambling." GCCIS Senator Damian Kumar was the most outspoken, arguing that since other New York colleges don't have a gambling policy, neither should RIT. COS Senator Jonathan Berman cynically added that an official policy on gambling *only* means conduct enforcers could officially badger students. No decision was reached on whether to approve the policy or not.



# PIXAR-STAR AND ENGINEERING ALUM TALKS SHOP

by Joseph André Jacir

photography by Ryan Randolph



**W**hat would inspire several dozen sleepy students of varying levels of haggardness to drag themselves to Carlson Auditorium at 9:00 a.m. on a Friday? It may have been the chance to hang out with a contingency of smartly-dressed and beaming faculty and administrators. It may have been the continental breakfast. But most probably, it was a man whose life was changed by a dinosaur.

"Do you mind if I move back home for a little while?" asked Michael P. Krummhoefener of his parents, not so long after his 1992 graduation with a degree from RIT in manufacturing engineering technology. That life-changing dinosaur was the one from Jurassic Park, and it had caused him to quit his cushy and fun engineering position at Bausch and Lomb, cash out his 401(k), sell his jet ski and most of his stuff, and invest in what was then tens of thousands of dollars worth of computer graphics and animation equipment.

As tantalizing as the projected Pixar-related imagery was, it was Krummhoefener's personal

history that seemed to hit home with the clump of seniors who sat fixated, front-and-center. Judging by the banter before and after the presentation, there was anxiety about whether their own histories would see themselves back at home, off to Pixar or Bausch and Lomb, or both.

"That dinosaur really showed me the power of computer animation." He spent the subsequent few years teaching himself how, exactly, to wield that power. Learning solely from his mistakes, he began to produce the kind of slick imagery that would appear as product prototypes, on magazine covers, and in advertisements, and found himself to be the only studio in the Roch-

ester area who was doing so. The jobs started to trickle in, once it got around that this kind of work was being done by this local alumnus. Krummhoefener's mother, in fact, served coffee and cookies to a VP of marketing and a head of engineering in his bedroom—the studio he had set up for himself.

It was his work at Pixar, however, that earned him this year's Distinguished Alumnus from CAST and rolled grads and undergrads—notably from the School of Film and Animation—out of their beds and away from their theses. "The fun part of making movies is the initial character design," Krummhoefener opined as a video and slide show brought the audience through the production process. Shortly after the initial character design is the phase in which Krummhoefener is deeply involved. Early versions of some of the characters from 2006's *Cars* evolved from the models which he himself sculpted in *Autodesk Maya* for the film. He proudly notes their complexity. These, in turn, were developed from character designs, which were also presented in storyboards that would have nearly made a quite charming animated film on their own. The audience was treated to some fun insider's insight as well: For example, the Italian-speaking forklift, Guido, was written in based on (and voiced by) another of Pixar's technical animators, an Italian guy named Guido.

Krummhoefener was able to bounce around to other tasks as he wished and was needed. Most of us have heard about the perks of working at Pixar—flexible (if long) hours, liberal office policies, room for personal growth. While there was excitement about the trailers he brought along for the upcoming *Ratatouille*, the audience was especially interested to know, "Do we have anyone from RIT there?" Although the answer was "I'm the only one right now," Krummhoefener was spirited away (after generously taking one-on-one questions for a while) with Jim Watters, RIT's Senior VP of Finance and Administration, to discuss his idea of establishing a co-op program with Pixar. Perhaps they had coffee and cookies. •

## Stay - Simply Red

by Evan McNamara



Last Friday, while loading my car for the long drive home, a most unfortunate thing happened: a stray bag of dirty laundry fell on the compact disc hanging halfway out of my car's CD player, severing it in half. The CD player, perhaps momentarily possessed by a demon spirit, sucked the remaining half of the compact disc into the player, and proceeded to spin it around in futility. Now at the mercy of the FM radio to hold my attention for three hours, I was no happy camper.

Amidst my quest to find a bearable radio station, I came across many channels labeled as "Adult Hit," featuring Michael Bolton, Elton John, Norah Jones, and other similarly mind-numbingly boring

artists. The album in question this week—*Stay* by Simply Red—would have fit like a glove on any of these "Adult Hit" radio stations.

The first cut of the record, "The World and You Tonight," provides a great overview of all the sounds featured on the album. Strong pop undercurrents drag Simply Red through a rip tide of soft island rock, swanky pseudo-porn riffs, middle-aged love ballads, and predictable hooks that are sure to make anyone over 40 nod in approval.

The front man of Simply Red doesn't have that bad of a voice. It's smooth and slightly smoky, gliding over mid-range notes and hitting higher notes with ease. When his powers are employed for the evil act of creating such awful music, however, one can't help but cringe.

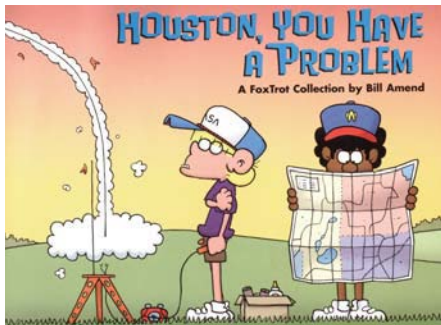
There is not one cliché that is not present on this record: tambourine, whistling, cowbell, synthesizer, harpsichord, children's choir, a fake strings section...you name it, and it's all here! As you listen to the record for the first time, you will be sure that you have heard it a thousand times before. Perhaps this familiar quality is a great selling point to an older generation, but it's harder than that to pull a fast one on smart-alecky college students.

We won't easily be fooled into recycled music that fits splendidly on the "Adult Hit" radio station. We will be the first ones to turn the dial. Hell, most of us would rather turn the radio off altogether and drive in silence. I know that's what I did. •

# Book Review

## Houston, You Have a Problem: A Foxtrot Collection by Bill Amend

by Alex Salsberg



**Paperback:** 128 pages

**Publisher:** Andrews McMeel Publishing

**Price:** \$8.95 at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)

As cartoonist/genius for this magazine, it is my duty to review any comic strip collections sent to the *Reporter* office. This is fine, because, like many of you, I spent my childhood reading the likes of "Garfield," "Calvin and Hobbes," and one of my old favorites, "Foxtrot." That's why

I was so disappointed with this book.

Foxtrot's art style has always been formulaic. Each of its characters is the same puppet with a different wig. The problem is that in *Houston*, the jokes and stories are as formulaic as the drawings. Foxtrot stars Jason, a nerdy kid who likes to annoy his family; Paige, a teenage girl; Peter, a teenage boy; Andy, their health-conscious mom; and Roger, their fat, bald dad who is bad at grilling burgers. If you read this whole collection, you wouldn't learn very much more than what I just told you.

Comic strips have a tough balance to achieve. On the one hand, they need to retain familiarity, but on the other hand, it doesn't take much for familiarity to become bland repetitiveness. Foxtrot has clearly gone in the latter direction. Foxtrot started back in 1988, and comic strips

can only go on so long before becoming stale. Even I'll run out of Sentinel jokes eventually.

There was only one cartoon in the entire book that made me laugh. As part of a series of strips where ten-year-old Jason is trying to find a Halloween costume, he dresses up as the "Great Pumpkin" that Linus always waited for in the comic strip "Peanuts." In the final square, his mom asks why there were pieces of a security blanket in his teeth, and Jason remarks that he wanted to add a touch of irony. Now, I may only find this funny as a comic strip nerd, but I felt it was the only strip in the collection that even came close to the cleverness that I used to love Foxtrot for.

All in all, if you like comic strips, this book will make you sad. Go for one of the classics instead. •

REGISTER AT  
THE CAB OFFICE! ★

*Seniors Only!*

FREE FOR GRADUATING  
SENIORS & 1 GUEST

*May 18th*

DINNER WILL  
START AT 5 PM

& DON'T  
FORGET  
THE SENIOR  
★ PICNIC!

*May 12th*  
ON LIBERTY  
HILL

12PM-3PM

SHUTTLES WILL BE AVAILABLE  
FROM THE ADMINISTRATION  
CIRCLE STARTING AT 11:45AM

*Enjoy*  
FREE FOOD,  
LOTS OF PRIZES  
ENTERTAINMENT  
& NOVELTIES!

HAVE  
FUN!

C.A.B

# *Senior Night*

ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY 2007

*A final farewell to our graduating seniors!*

REGISTER AT THE CAB OFFICE (SAU-A402)



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

## REPORTER RECOMMENDS

Enjoying the extra awesomeness of the At Your Leisure page. To make up for last week's sudoku mishap, we've given you double sudokus, haikus, jumbles, and recommendations. You only get one cartoon, but it's twice as good as usual. In this spirit, I *also* recommend a double scoop of Pistachio Pistachio ice cream at Ben and Jerry's. It sounds a little weird, but a couple scoops of this calorically irresponsible goodness will send you right to seventh heaven.

Chewing gum. According to Wrigleys, chewing gum improves people's ability to learn, retain, and retrieve information. It is also said to relieve stress and tension by releasing nervous energy and increase blood flow to the brain by 25%. If you want more exposure to shady facts from this *com-pletely* unbiased source, check out [www.wrigleysfinalsrelief.com](http://www.wrigleysfinalsrelief.com). It's a trivia contest, and if you participate, you have the chance to win a trip for two worth \$5000.

## JUMBLE

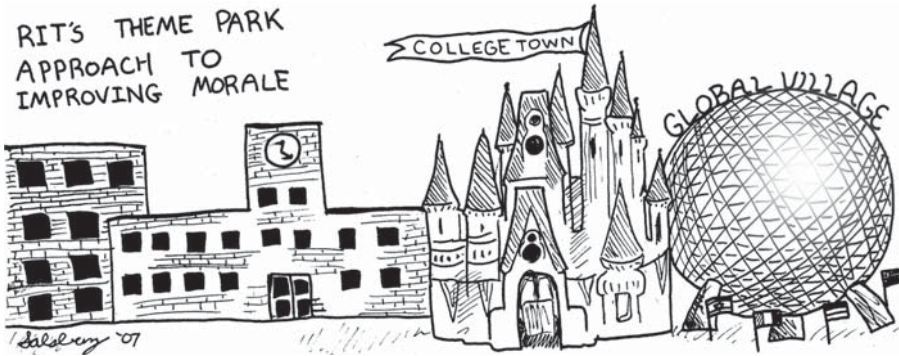
### Cocktails

heywisk uors  
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 xse no hte hebac  
 sruyt nali  
 mniotapcolos  
 oldeng clldaiac  
 mtjioo

### Pairs

eimcr & nmpjunhtes  
 abrcbroeime & itcfh  
 dbaer & ubtert  
 asct & gdos  
 sociynet & naniueg  
 rhont okatad & htsou adktoa  
 euogndsn & daognrs  
 hsif & iphcs  
 yja & lesnti obb  
 hucketp & tardusm  
 mlrdeu & clusyl  
 eirdp & repudjeci  
 omroe & ljutei  
 llkus & sbeosnsro

## CARTOON | by Alex Salsberg



Mojito  
 Slipper, Sex on the Beach, Rusty Nail, Cosmopolitan, Golden Cadillac,  
 Brandy Alexander, French Connection, White Russian, Japanese  
 Whiskey Sour, Harvey Wallbanger, Martini, Tequila Sunrise, Caipirinha,  
 Scully, Pride & Prejudice, Romeo & Juliet, Skull & Crossbones  
 Dragons, Fish & Chips, Jay & Silent Bob, Ketchup & Mustard, Milder &  
 Dogs, Cytosine & Guanine, North Dakota & South Dakota, Dungeons &  
 Crime & Punishment, Abercrombie & Fitch, Bread & Butter, Cats &

## SUPER AWESOME DOUBLE HAIKU

by Brian Garrison

cameras do laundry  
 churning moments back and forth  
 'til shrunken and dulled

if you don't forget  
 some of the things that you've done  
 there's less new to do

## SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

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

Difficulty: Medium

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

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!

# DO-STUFFERS STUFF THEIR FACES FOR THE DO STUFF FOR STUFF CHALLENGE



by Casey Dehlinger  
photography by Dave Londres

The first thing they do to you at the Ultimate Do Stuff For Stuff Challenge is take away all your stuff. Cell phones, pens, wallets, loose change, jewelry, and flash drives are all left on the tables in the Field House before the games begin. The second thing the College Activities Board does is make you sign a waiver; because, you know, sometimes stuff happens when you're doing stuff for stuff.

The third thing they do is give you a list of rules and a baggie of supplies that contains a bingo marker, a debit card with \$3.25 cents on it, five lenses, rubber bands, two AAA batteries, and a cheap digital camera that can hold 17 shots and has a terrible tendency to forget those shots if it gets bumped around. With only those items, and instructions to go to the SLC Basketball courts to receive their team t-shirts, 15 teams of five RIT students stampeded through the campus last Saturday, April 14, all 75 of them bent on winning their share of thousands of dollars worth of prizes.

The Ultimate Do Stuff For Stuff Challenge is the sort of nightmare you have after watching a thousand-hour old-school Nickelodeon Wild 'n Crazy Kids marathon, only instead of walking away with a \$30 pair of moon shoes for a prize, we're talking about Nintendo DS systems, GPS locators, bicycles, grills, and Roombas. If only it were as simple as assembling the Silver Monkey...

## BUT FIRST YOU HAVE TO PUT SOME CLOTHES ON

Barging into the SLC Basketball courts, the teams were greeted with magic number puzzles: eight by eight grids torn to puzzle pieces. Above their heads, wire-cabled to the backboards of the basketball nets, were the t-shirts. In order to remove them, the puzzle had to be solved to reveal the combination for the lock securing each cable. Each shirt had a unique color to help identify the team. Unfortunately, many of the colors were beyond the traditional box of crayons, with names like olive, leaf, forest green, and kelly green. Olive was the first team to correctly enter

the combination, but it took them another half hour to remove their t-shirts from the wire. The Pink team managed to pass them during this time, moving on to the pool challenge. Meanwhile, Forest Green was penalized two hours for hanging from the rim of their basketball net. All penalty times were later added to the finishing time of the teams.

## GETTING WET

Pink dove into the pool shortly after inflating the inner-tube provided for them. They had to complete a relay back and forth across the width of the pool picking up a single puzzle piece on the other side of the pool before a teammate would paddle along for the next one. When all 15 pieces were retrieved, a mad dash was made for the field house, where they assembled the pieces with Kelly Green and Forest Green hot on their trail. The next clue led them to University Commons, where they got a chance for a bit of a lunch break, dining on a massive garbage plate that they were forced to eat with their hands, all out of the same container. One Royal Green team member refused to participate. "I don't eat from slop buckets." If only he knew what they were in store for three hours later.



## PEEKING IN WINDOWS

This is where the tables turned: the contestants were led to Greek Lawn, where a paper was posted in the window of a high-up window. Using the five lenses in their kits, and a sixth one they discovered could be purchased at Sol's using the debit card, Cardinal Red, Sapphire, Kelly Green, Olive, Sports Grey, and Yellow all caught up to the front of the pack and stood out in the cold rearranging and twisting and moving the bits of glass in a futile attempt to distinguish the clue on the sign. Previous powerhouse Pink hadn't even arrived for lunch yet.

"Fuck this event!" shouted a frustrated Cardinal Red team player, peering up at the window from atop the shoulders of a teammate. Only Charcoal and Forest Green breezed through the lens challenge, reading the word "crescent" and arriving at the Edmund Lyons Crescent outside of the LBJ building, where they had to complete "matchstick" puzzles using two-foot lengths of two by fours.





## THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE MUDDY

Kelly Green was technically the first to go through the obstacle course set up behind that red barn, although they accidentally skipped the two by four challenge, so they had to backtrack, but not before completing the wildly cathartic task of smashing a large brick with a crowbar to get the clue inside. To earn that privilege they had to get personal with the mud, soaking up sponges with mud and squeezing them into a bucket by using anything but their hands. This is where teams had to wait in line for their shot at the course, waiting upwards of 45 minutes (their clocks were stopped for a team when they were waiting).

## THE LAST MEAL

"There are parts where I think I'm going to gag, and there are parts where I think it isn't too bad." "I'm going to kill all CAB members." "Tastes like almonds." "I feel like stuff is going down my nose." "Look at the eyes! It's looking at you!" "Dude, it's better than Gracie's," and "The squid's going to kill us." These were the contestants' responses to their offbeat dinner of chocolate-covered bugs and canned squid, which had to be consumed at the Infinity Quad before contestants made the final sprint to return to the Field House.

At this point, Charcoal was in the lead with a 20-minute penalty on their heads, but Cardinal Red was on their heels with no penalties. Behind Cardinal Red, Orange and Sapphire were duking it out. Although Sapphire finished 19 seconds before the penaltyless Orange, they had two hours and five minutes of penalties, dropping them to eleventh place.

In the end, Cardinal Red won with an adjusted time of 6:28:42, while Charcoal took second with 6:37:17. Orange clinched third in 6:49:19, despite being one of the last three teams to successfully put their shirts on in the first challenge. These three teams, collectively divided up the coveted "stuff" in question.

Finishing the race at 9:11:32, the White team entered the Field House to an eruption of applause. In a way, the last team earned just as much as the first: the right to brag about stepping up to the ultimate challenge. The right to call themselves Ultimate Do-Stuffers. •

1// Team Leaf approaches the obstacle course at the Red Barn.

2// Under supervision of CAB's Brandon Lane, third year computer science major Paul Solt transfers water to third year industrial engineering major Jimmy Ichihana. The team needed to fill a bucket with one liter of water before continuing.

3// Early in the challenge, fourth year biology major Stefanie Owczarczak paddles her way across the Judson pool to retrieve puzzle pieces.

4// Fourth year film major Sean Dekkers eats a frisbee full of squid. Teams had to lick the discs clean before moving on to the next challenge.



04

## THE GUYS (AND GIRL) THAT GOT ALL THE STUFF

### FIRST PLACE: CARDINAL RED

Brian Conway second year civil engineering technology  
Patrick Curran fourth year mathematics  
Mike Kassis first year microelectric engineering  
Casey Meixell third year electrical engineering technology  
Luis Piedrahita fifth year industrial and systems engineering

### SECOND PLACE: CHARCOAL

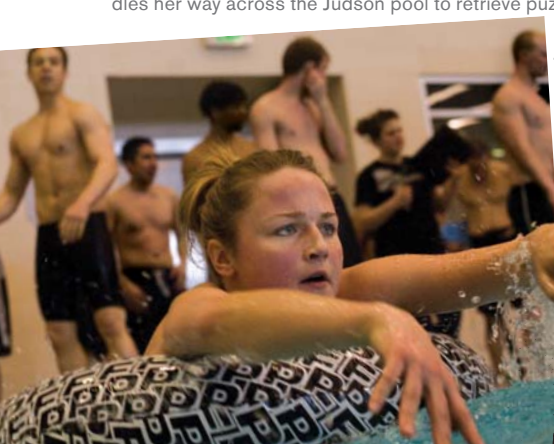
Chris Fuerdein fourth year electrical engineer  
Mike Klein fourth year biotechnology  
Ted Morassi fourth year marketing  
Stephanie Owczarczak fourth year biology  
Andrew Yee fourth year biotechnology

### THIRD PLACE: ORANGE

Ben Conroy fifth year marketing  
Sean Dekkers fifth year film and animation  
Evan Fell graduate student, business  
Chris Rowles third year mechanical engineering  
Joel Weel fifth year marketing

The full results will be posted on the CAB website, [cab.rit.edu](http://cab.rit.edu).

02



03



# Poison Shouldn't Taste So Good

THE MANY FACES  
OF ALCOHOL

® BY CASEY DEHLINGER  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY TOM SCHIRMACHER

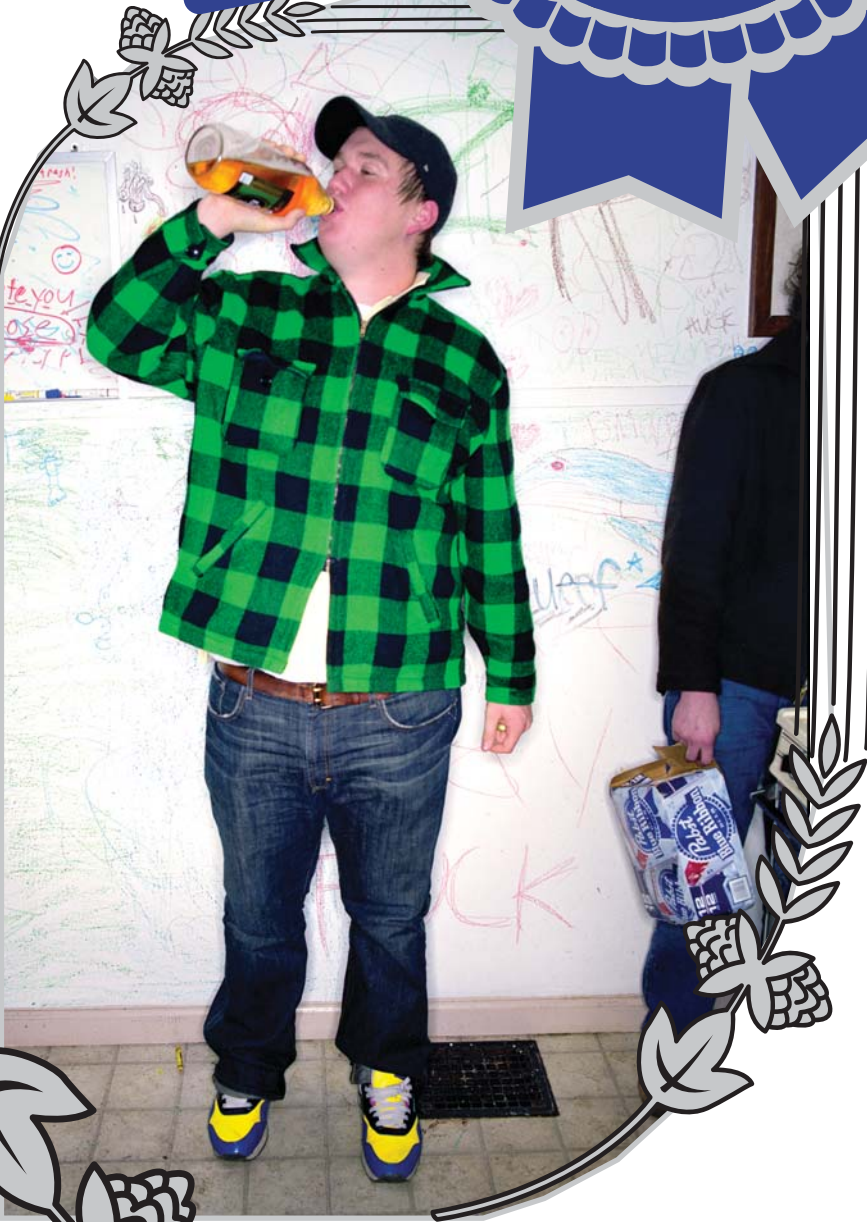
AS WELL AS ANYONE CAN RECOLLECT, MY PARENTS WERE HAVING A PARTY. TO MAKE A LONG STORY SHORT, A SHOT GLASS OF TEQUILA WAS MISTAKEN FOR A SHOT GLASS OF APPLE JUICE. WITH A FURLED NOSE AND EMPTY SHOT GLASS IN HAND, MY ONLY COMMENT AT THE TIME WAS, "THIS APPLE JUICE TASTES FUNNY." THIS, MY FIRST SIP OF ALCOHOL, WAS CONSUMED AT THE TENDER AGE OF FIVE.

Needless to say, I slept well that night. I wouldn't have grabbed a single wink, though, if I were old enough to grasp the significance of alcohol or the implications that it has around the world. I only knew it as bitter, burning, and "funny-tasting." I had yet to meet alcohol, the taboo; alcohol, the vomit-inducer; alcohol, the crusher of cars and lubricator of society. How would I have known that, with a single sip, I had raised my earning potential by approximately \$5,000 a year?

Now, 15 years later, alcohol tastes funnier than ever. With contradicting views on how Public Safety enforces RIT's alcohol policy, public transit systems at other local campuses shuttling students to the bar districts, students working for companies that "test" the ability of local businesses to enforce alcohol laws, and groups like Greeks Advocating the Mature Management of Alcohol (GAMMA), it is becoming harder and harder to get to the bottom of the bottle.

## FROM ZERO TO NEVER: DRINKING AGES AROUND THE WORLD

Don't let the charts lie to you. Some of them categorize the U.S. as the only country where the legal drinking age is 21. This disregards African countries like Egypt, whose drinking age is also 21; Muslim countries like Saudi Arabia, where



alcohol is prohibited at any age; and countries that leave the decision up to the states, such as India, where the drinking age ranges from 18 to 25. In Cuba, it is illegal to sell to anyone under 16, but legal for anyone to drink, regardless of age. Feel free to buy and consume beer and wine in Norway at 18, but if liquor's your poison, you'll wait until you hit the two-decade mark.

As far as first-world countries are concerned, though, there are only four and a half nations that exceed the magic number of 18. The legal drinking age in South Korea and Canada is 19, and Japan and Iceland hold out until their citizens turn 20. However, just like 19-year-old Americans jump the border to Ontario to get their drink on, 18-year-old Ontario citizens cross over to neighboring provinces of Manitoba and Quebec to quench their thirst (hence the "half" in four and a half). The United Kingdom's laws are about as complicated as they get. A child can consume alcohol at the age of five (at home, under the consent of their parent) and the possibilities keep opening up until the individual turns 18. Factors include whether or not a teenager is having a meal with their drink, the type of drink they are having, and the type of establishment they are at.

Most of the debates worldwide focus on the ability to enforce alcohol laws. For example, it is easier to put pressure on sellers than consumers, so many countries follow Cuba's model, including China, Chile, Denmark, Hungary, New Zealand, Romania, and Switzerland. In many of these places, it's simply futile to tell someone that they aren't allowed to drink alcohol, and preventing them from doing so is viewed as an infringement of their rights. The U.S.—and RIT—clearly feel otherwise, even though alcohol may have an unexpected positive impact on your pocketbook.

## SUCCESSFUL DRINKERS:

Most alcohol-related studies test the sensory-motor skills of intoxicated individuals, but it wasn't until a 2006 study by Dr. Bethany L. Peters and Dr. Edward P. Stringham that anyone thought to study the potential difference in annual wages among drinkers and abstainers. The average annual earnings of alcohol-consuming, full-time working males surpasses that of abstainers by approximately \$4,700, or 18.5%. Full-time working women who enjoy it earn, on average, 23% more than abstainers, though only \$3,200 more.

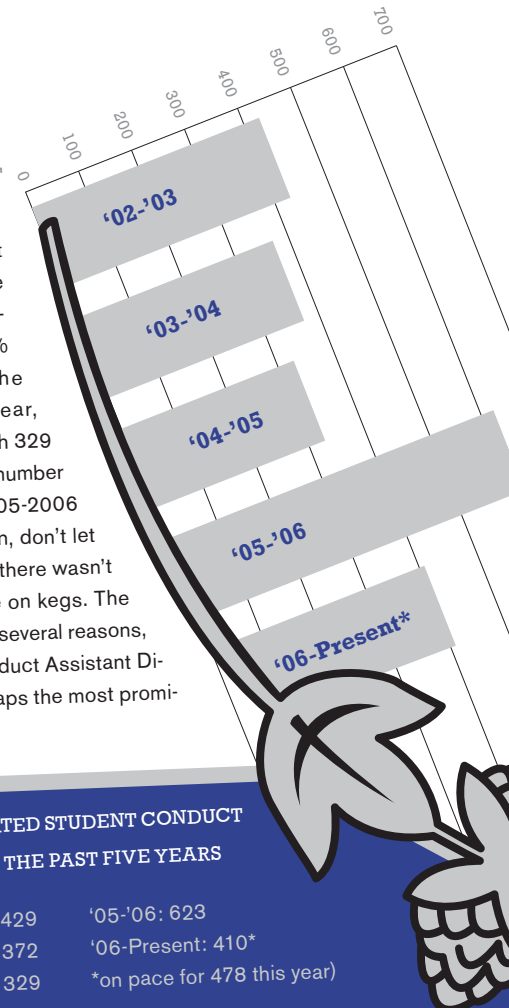
All hypotheses point to the same reasoning for this phenomenon: social networking. Particularly in business, individuals who take the time to talk business over a couple drinks or seal a deal with the clink of a glass have an advantage over those who refuse to partake. The ability to responsibly exist in a social setting where inhibitions are being lowered helps share a wealth of knowledge among professionals, hence bigger paychecks. (Whether or not the extra \$3,000-\$5,000 gets blown on booze used to earn that additional money is another story).

College of Business students should refrain from testing the study by Peters and Stringham, however, given RIT's current stance on alcohol.

## ALCOHOL & RIT:

### THE NUMBERS, & WHAT THEY REALLY MEAN

Alcohol keeps Student Conduct busy. Over the past five years, they handled 7,171 cases, 30.1% involving alcohol. In the 2004-2005 academic year, Student Conduct dealt with 329 alcohol-related cases; the number rose to 623 during the 2005-2006 academic year. Once again, don't let the numbers deceive you; there wasn't a year-long clearance sale on kegs. The number rose by 89.4% for several reasons, according to Student Conduct Assistant Director Rob Eckhardt, perhaps the most prominent being Facebook.



ALCOHOL-RELATED STUDENT CONDUCT CASES OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS

'02-'03: 429  
'03-'04: 372  
'04-'05: 329  
'05-'06: 623  
'06-Present: 410\*  
\*on pace for 478 this year

Public Safety Investigator Rod Lezette states that, "We utilize Facebook more as a reference [than anything]...We're not the Facebook police." Lezette further commented that most of the time, parties are often called in as noise complaints by fellow students.

Either way, according to Eckhardt, "Students don't really [advertise parties on Facebook] anymore." Fully aware of the dangers of posting too much information, students have stopped publicizing their parties, and the number of alcohol-related cases this year is expected to drop by 34.2% based on the number of instances cited so far this year (see chart). Another reason Eckhardt cited for the spike was the implementation of regular health and safety checks of dorm rooms, where paraphernalia such as beer funnels could turn students into statistics. Former Greek Council president and Phi Delta Theta member Dan Arscott, a senior majoring in management information systems, came to *Reporter* to express concerns about increased enforcement of the RIT alcohol policy, "[Public] Safety will come in and say, 'Well, it looks like you might have been playing beer pong, therefore you were playing beer pong.' Assumption is reality on campus."

Lezette rebuts, "I can tell you that a lot of it's going to depend on the circumstances...if we get called there, and there's a beer pong table,



and there's 40 empty beer cans...we're going to investigate." And, of course, that's where the magic number 21 comes into play.

Vice President of Student Affairs Mary-Beth Cooper offers her sentiments, "The key to all our policies is that they are set up for [the] safety of our students and [are] in line with legal parameters. If students engage in behaviors responsibly, and without violating community standards (loud parties, vandalism, etcetera) more than likely they will not find themselves charged with violating the Student Code of Conduct or New York State Law."

## GREEKS AND DRINKS:

### A DRY SUBJECT

The third reason cited by Eckhardt for the increased amount of alcohol-related incidents was a concentration of activity in Colony Manor, particularly among Greek and athletes. "Those are two words that [Student Conduct] uses very often," stated Arscott, who feels that this is because these groups are under an increased amount of pressure. "[Alcohol is not allowed] at any Greek event. There are many qualifications for a Greek event in the Student Handbook, [such as] 25% of a large house. A large house is 30 or more [people]. So, you've got...seven or eight of our guys at a bar, it's considered a Greek event—an RIT Greek event...If something goes out of control there, and it gets back to campus, we could still get in trouble; our chapter could still get in trouble."

That's also where Greeks Advocating the Mature Management of Alcohol (GAMMA) steps in. "Our mission is to educate the Greek community along with the entire RIT community about the effects of alcohol and how to maturely manage and be responsible with it," says GAMMA president Stephen DeVay, a second year software engineering major. "Laws are set up by the federal government. The drinking age is 21, and they set that up for a reason...if you're under 21, you have to follow the law." GAMMA is a national organization that falls under the BACCHUS (Boost Alcohol Consciousness Concerning the Health of University Students) network. DeVay comments on the removal of GAMMA's former president earlier this year, "The situation surrounding that is personal to our old president, but GAMMA has done everything in their power to move on. We have a very strong e-board and we've continued to move forward doing what we do best, which is to educate and give knowledge."

## HALLOWEEN 2006:

### TRICK OR TREATING AT COLONY MANOR AND THE PHANTOM BUS

"Halloween," recounts Arscott, "It was just another weekend for me. It wasn't a party weekend or anything, but I was sitting out on my stoop [at Colony Manor], just observing everybody walking around. And what would happen is you'd see a handful [of] people walk along and stop and go into an apartment. Or try to go into an apartment, rather. [Securitas (rented security)] would run, catch them before they got in the doors and say, 'You look like you're underage. You should not go in there. You should go back to the dorms. Turn around.'" Without ID-ing, without questioning, and the students—in my opinion—should have had it in them to ask, "What are you doing? Why are you even thinking about this? These are my rights!"...Most of them turned back."

"We base everything on laws," responds Lezette, who suspects that there was a misunderstanding, "If we go to a location where they are violating the fire laws for the county; such as occupancy levels, we're going to tell people that they can't go in." That's probably what happened, explained Lezette.

That same night, a bus arrived on campus, sent by a downtown nightclub to shuttle students to their establishment. That same night the shuttle was stopped. "We reached out to them and asked them to stop, and, as far as I know, they did," said Heath Boice-Pardee, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and known to students and friends as Dr. Heath. "My immediate concern was accountability," stated Dr. Heath, "This establishment was taking responsibility for coming onto campus and picking up students, but I worried about their accountability in terms of returning those students."

Arscott commented, "From a student's perspective, a shuttle would be amazing but, logistically speaking, getting every single student there and every single student back on the same shuttle is nearly impossible, and that's why I can see where Dr. Heath is coming from."

Other campuses across the nation, including U of R, provide weekend shuttles downtown, mostly as a preventative measure for drunk driving. Dr. Heath comments, "I have heard the argument from students saying, 'Well, you're forcing us to drive intoxicated. You're forcing us to get in a car and drive.' I have to say that I disagree with that statement. I *strongly* disagree with that. No one is forcing anyone to get in a car and drive intoxicated simply because there are rules on campus about drinking. I find that argument to be a cop-out."

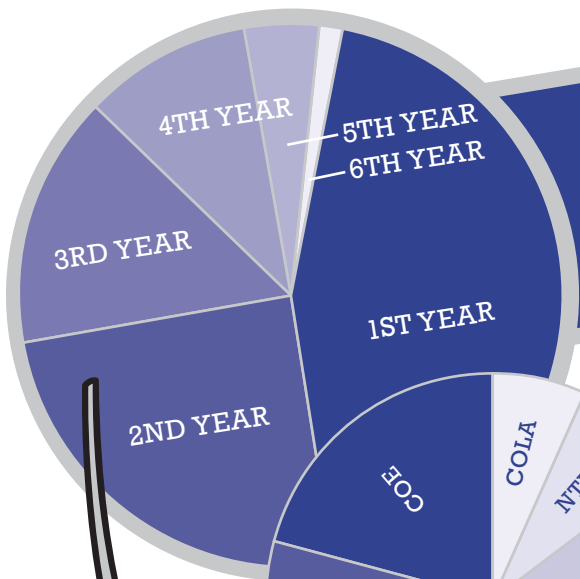
Dr. Heath is, however, receptive to the idea of an RIT-sanctioned shuttle downtown, having said, "If students were interested in arranging some sort of shuttle to downtown, to do a variety of things downtown—you know, the public market, galleries, museums, whatever it is—sure, I would certainly be willing to work with a student to do that." He also feels that looking to designated driver incentives and programs could be an integral part of getting students to local bars in a safe and responsible way.

ALCOHOL HAS ENOUGH FLAVORS WITHOUT ADDING A TWIST OF POLITICS. IT CANNOT BE SEPARATED INTO A DICHOTOMY OF RED OR WHITE, DRY OR SWEET; NOT IN THIS WORLD, AND NOT ON THIS CAMPUS. RATHER, IT LIES SOMEWHERE BETWEEN POISON OR POISON, AND NO MATTER HOW GOOD IT MAY TASTE OR RAVAGING IT MAY BURN, HALF THE WORLD WILL CONDONE IT WHILE THE OTHER HALF CONDEMNES IT. AND, WITH POLICY CHANGES CONSTANTLY BEING TABLED AND DECANTED, I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK THAT ALCOHOL WILL ALWAYS TASTE JUST A LITTLE BIT FUNNY.



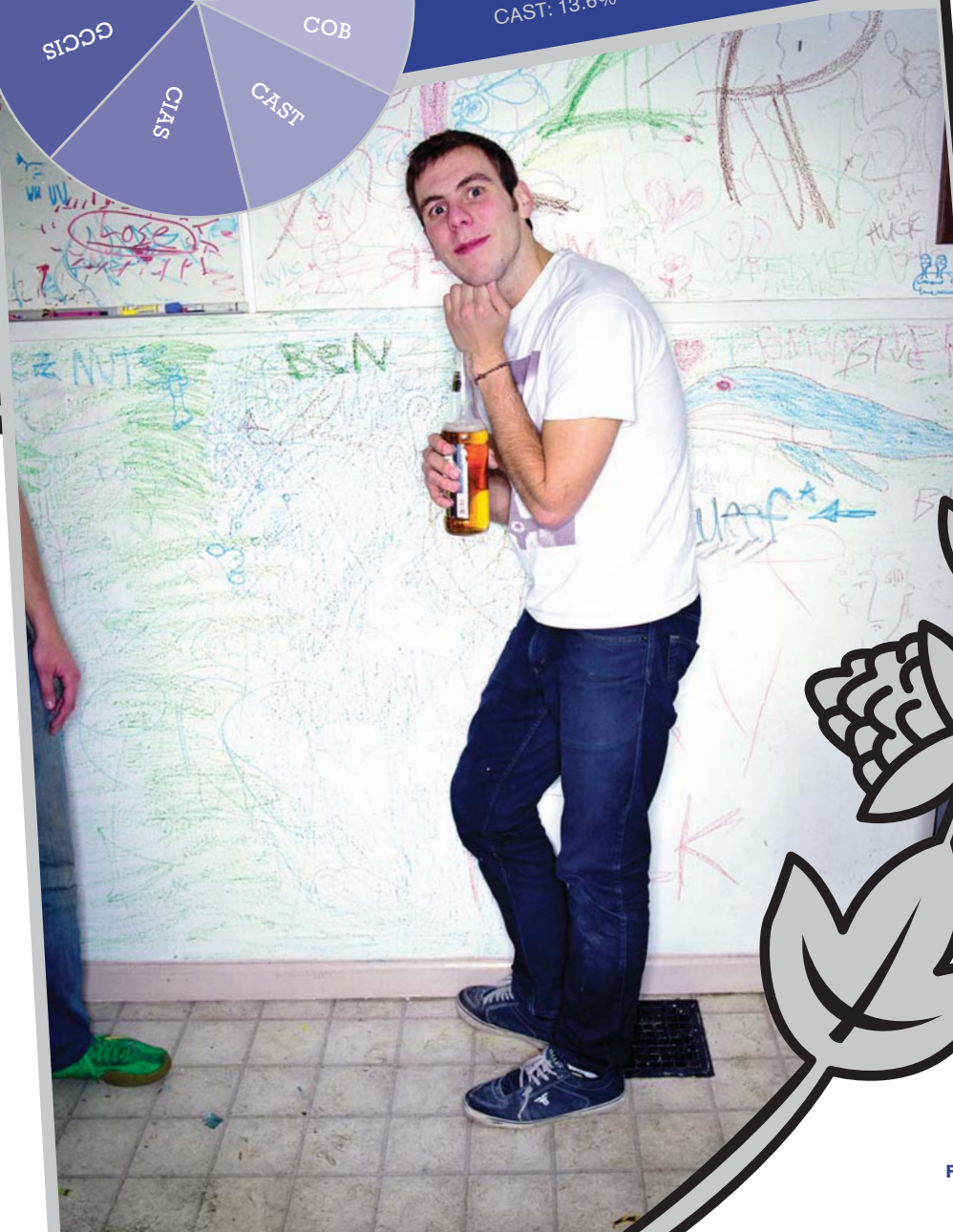
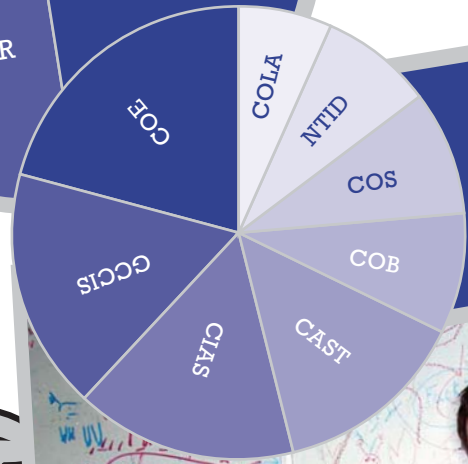
**ALCOHOL-RELATED STUDENT CONDUCT CASES BY YEAR LEVEL:**

1st year: 951 (44%)  
 2nd year: 521 (24%)  
 3rd year: 319 (14.8%)  
 4th year: 215 (9.9%)  
 5th year: 92 (4.3%)  
 6th year (Grad): 29 (1.3%)



**ALCOHOL-RELATED STUDENT CONDUCT CASES BY COLLEGE: ('02-Present)**

COE: 20.4%  
 GCCIS: 16.9%  
 CIAS: 15.4%  
 CAST: 13.6%  
 COB: 8.5%  
 COS: 8.7%  
 NTID: 8%  
 COLA: 6.7%  
**TOTAL: 2163 Students**







# A Narc's Guide To Buying Alcohol

BY CASEY DEHLINGER  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY TOM SCHIRMACHER

It's a common scene, and a role you may know all too well: the 20-year-old in the back of the gas station reaching into the beer cooler while a middle-aged woman eyes his distorted reflection in the fish-eye mirrors. This may be your typical Friday night. For fourth year economics major Jonathan Mervine, this was his job for nearly a year.

According to Mervine, "It's more about trying to read the person. It's like a game of poker. It's not so much what your cards are, it's who you're playing against. And if a person looks more relaxed or calm [they're more likely to sell to you], as opposed to someone who's uptight and watching you from the moment you come in; you know those ones are going to be a tough sale, but other people just didn't care, sitting there talking on the phone, so you think, 'Aww, this is gonna be a breeze.'"

He further advises, "You say, 'How's it going?' to a nice older lady and be proper and formal to them, as opposed to a guy down in the city; 'Yo, what's up?' [Sometimes] you just walk in and loosen up to them. You hear a sports game on in the back and say, 'Yo, how are the Yankees doing now?' 'Oh, it's top of the fifth, two down.' I guess it's just how familiar you can make a person feel with you. That's probably the biggest thing."

## NO ID, NO ALCOHOL

"I made sure that the drinking age was enforced by going to local area shop and stops and gas stations—Wegmans was a big part of it, too. I would leave my ID in the car and go grab a six-pack or a forty depending on the location and then see if I could check out, and most of the time it didn't work. It acted as a sort of check, per say, for when the state comes in to see if people are adhering to the 'no sales to minors' policies and all that. It's cheaper [for businesses] to hire the company that I was working for as opposed to having the state come in, get a fine, and have your liquor license revoked for six to 12 months," says Mervine.

Mervine looks older than 21, tall and with a full beard and mustache. Compared to others who worked for his company (which he prefers to leave unnamed) he had a high success rate for obtaining alcohol. "I worked for them every other month, just so that I didn't become a regular face on the routes that we did," explains Mervine, "I think there was probably a 20% success rate. Out of every ten, we definitely had two. And that depended whether I was in a rural setting or an inner city setting."

Mervine cites Lyell Avenue and rural areas as being relatively lax. "I tried to dress appropriately for what we were doing, just so I blended in. In the country, if you looked like a country folk; they would let you go a lot. But some of the older people, say, parents' age—35, 40, and above—they definitely were more stringent about checking ID," he recalls.

Eventually, the job turned into a game. "It was fun. Some days I'd just go out and say, 'Alright, I'm gonna have three sales today, who would be the prime targets?'" Mervine was a door-to-door salesman in reverse, using all the same principles of pacing and basic psychology, only instead of selling, he's buying. His job, however, has its downsides.

## WORD GETS AROUND

"I've been called snitch. I've been called 'narc'... I didn't take it to heart; it's just a job. A lot of people became rather animated over the subject, especially after they realized what happened. I had two instances of a guy coming out and just swearing, because he knew he was going to be fired, which was bittersweet for me, because I get paid, and he's out of a job," he laments. "In the beginning, when this first started up...the [cashier] actually pulled [the woman I worked with] by her lapel and brought her over the counter. It was scary."

There is one particular store in Rochester where Mervine used to frequent, but after showing up one night as part of his job, he'll no longer show his face there. "It was probably the only time that I felt like an asshole. It was bad. Didn't go in there again; I just knew it wasn't going to be good. That sucked. But, you know, hey, these things happen."

That was how Mervine paid the bills when he was 20, but now that he's 21 he's a bouncer at a Rochester bar. "The tables have turned on me. [Now] people are trying to sweet talk me and schmooze me. C'mon. My sole job is to sit at a door and check your ID; that's the only thing I do."

## MY TEACHER, THE BAR

"All I'm going to say is debauchery, man. It's bad," says Mervine of the bar scene, shaking his head, "You really get to see the nitty gritty; the raw essentials of what human nature has to give you. But, like I said. It pays the bills."

It isn't until late at night that Mervine has to do more than peek at driver's licenses, "People on the phone are crying to their boyfriends, their girlfriends. They get off and then they're just standing there. Then they just burst out crying and spilling their entire life's story to you. It's a pain. It's not a glorious job at all." Mervine remains charismatic and personable. I'd sell him a beer any day.

"I can now see why and how [alcohol] can tear families apart. It can make people do different things by lowering inhibitions... [the bar has] opened my eyes moreso than the other job. I don't have a message for the youths or anything like that, but, I don't know. Maybe I should," says Mervine contemplatively, grasping for an epiphany. •



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Art & Lit issue are due  
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300 dpi PDFs and TIFFS (CMYK, please)  
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(Adapted from Goethe's Faust, I)

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April 22  
**2pm**

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RIT College of Liberal Arts and RIT Players

# WORD ON THE STREET

COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY BELVEDUDE

## Q: If you were an alcoholic beverage, what would you be?



"Sex on the beach."  
**Heather Plude**  
Third year Film



"Guerilla Fart."  
**Neil Bonsteel**  
Third year Film



"Flaming Sambuca."  
**Sarah Kropiewnicki**  
Third year Film



"A well-aged red wine."  
**Gunther Cartwright**  
Professor



"Kiddy cocktail."  
**Carter Stritch**  
Fourth year Graphic media marketing



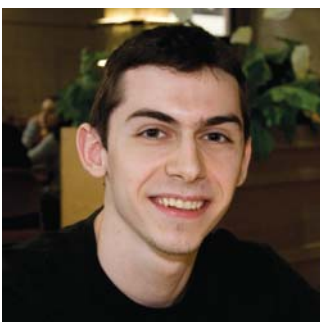
"Tequila."  
**Giuseppe Pettinari**  
Third year marketing



"A margarita on the rocks."  
**Domingo Cheek**  
Fifth year Mechanical engineering



"Strawberry margarita."  
**Sade Fridy**  
First year Computer science



"Jager bombs."  
**Jason Rogers**  
Third year Biotechnology



"Long Island iced tea."  
**Ashley Lewis**  
Third year Biotechnology



"Hypnotiq."  
**Dave Robinson**  
Third year Accounting



"Kahlua."  
**Mwenya Mwimanzi**  
First year Biology





**MEN'S LACROSSE**  
RIT vs. Nazareth College  
04.15.07

*photography by Coco Walters*

01// An RIT forward begins to tumble after the ball during a heated match between RIT and Nazareth College Saturday April 14, 2007.

02// Near the end of their bout against Nazareth college, RIT fans, team members, and Head Coach Gene Peluso cheer as the Tigers put another point on the board.

03// A pile of RIT and Nazareth lacrosse players fall after the ball led by RIT number 24, Nicholas Dalton.

04// Team members look on during the intense third quarter of their Saturday afternoon game which went all the way into sudden death overtime. Tigers lose, 13-12.









RIT's Jenna Kilroy takes a practice swing in between games of a doubleheader on Saturday, April 14.

# RIT SOFTBALL

by Geoff Shearer

photography by Matt Bagwell

**R**IT softball is now well into their '07 season. With a 6-12 record, the team got off to a slow start, losing seven of their first 10 games—though turning around most recently with wins over University of Rochester and SUNY Morrisville. Unfortunately, this winning streak didn't last long, since the Tigers lost both games of their double-header against Buffalo State in a weekend plagued by poor weather and playing conditions.

This spring's back-and-forth weather has posed problems for many of the outdoor sports teams at RIT and, more generally, upstate New York. It seems that 40-degree weather with a mild shower and breeze is enough to cancel or postpone games this season. Most certainly, as with all outdoor sports, this trend is more dependent on field conditions than anything else. Head Coach Krissy Mamon said, "we haven't been able to get out on our field much and have been going from gym to field when we do get the chance to play.

Last season, the softball team finished 16-24, ending the season with a 0-2 double-header against SUNY Geneseo, who finished 21-15. The ECAC Upstate and Empire 8 Pitcher of the Week, senior accounting major Mary Keegan, reflected in depth on their progress so far: "Although we had a rocky start during spring training, we learned from our mistakes and have been playing to the competitive level which we all know we can."

The Tigers have an away record of 4-5 but a neutral field record of 2-6, which is quite deceiving when looking at their stats. The Tigers currently have three players batting over 0.330 with outfielder Nikki Taylor, a senior marketing major, leading the list at a staggering 0.413 batting average over 18 games.

Keegan, with a 2.06 ERA through 68 innings pitched, commented, "During the off-season, we worked harder than we ever did before through

continuous training and practicing. All of the girls on the team have put forth a tremendous effort and it has showed so far during our regular season."

The Tigers are under new leadership with Coach Mamon "stepping up to the plate" this year (I couldn't resist). Keegan said, "I believe that our new coach...has played a big part in our turnaround from last year because of her knowledge of the game and endless dedication. She has influenced us greatly."

Although it seems that this season isn't going to lead to a title in Empire 8 or ECAC this year, the team was able to tweak their game in the hopes of a better season next spring. Even though a winning record can often be the best confidence booster and add to a team's success, the Tigers still seem focused on having a good time with the rest of this season. Keegan added, "Our team is a big believer in the fact that when you have fun, you perform better. We have taken this belief into our games and it has proven to be effective."

Coach Mamon chimed in, "Even though our record doesn't reflect it, I think that once these [players] get a couple more games under their belt, things are going to start to fall into place."

Talking with this team, one immediately gets the sense of camaraderie, independent of the number of wins on the record. The conviction of these women to persevere and improve their game as a team, a unit—regardless of wins or losses—illustrates quite clearly that it's about more than the outcome of a game; it's about being part of a team who sticks together through thick and thin. •



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# RIT RINGS

## 585.475.5633

compiled by Chad Carbone

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.

### Wednesday 9:20 p.m.

So, RIT Rings, today—yesterday actually—I informed my mother that I am taking only 13 credits. Apparently informing her of that was a bad idea. So, the day after and the day and another conversation gone by, I want to say that I am drunk and I want to say that to the world.

### Wednesday 11:54 p.m.

You can tell them anything and they'll put it in the newspaper. [Garbled speech]. I'm not gonna put that in the newspaper.

### Thursday 9:03 p.m.

Hey RIT Rings, I was walking through Grace Watson Hall and I saw our good old Public Safety man showing off his new Segway. I just wanted to know, not that you can answer it, but someone at RIT can: what is the purpose of RIT spending \$5,000 on something that promotes the laziness of our Public Safety? Apparently, they can't walk around the dorms and instead have to glide around the campus instead of walking their fat [s]asses around.

### Thursday 10:52 p.m.

We had glass shards all over everything in our kitchen, so we called facilities to bring a shop-vac over so we can clean it up. It was late at night, so it got routed to Campus Safety and we unfortunately got sent a jerkface officer that told us two things: A) Campus Safety doesn't

clean up things and I won't and B) all I can say is that you should invest in a dustpan and broom. It doesn't matter if they change their name to Public Safety because they'll always be douche bags.

### Friday 12:04 a.m.

You know, I wanted to call you and complain about something because I [fck]ing hate yogurt. I hate yogurt. I hate yogurt a lot and I'm going to tell you why. It's one of those things that doesn't know what it wants to be. It's right in between two states. There's milk and then there's cheese. Yogurt can't decide what it wants to be, it's half milk and half cheese. It's like I [fck]ing want to be milky cheese or some [siht]. It's bull[siht]. I eat it and I can't tell if I'm eating cheese or [fck]ing milk and it [fck]ing pisses me off. I hate [fck]ing yogurt.

### Friday 12:08 a.m.

Commenting on the article on Turnitin, the thing is not that students lose their copyright, as the author of the article states. The point is that companies profit from the intellectual property of students which is inherently illegal.

### Saturday 2:07 p.m.

Hey *Reporter*, it's 2 a.m. and we have plenty of beer but we still need a CO<sub>2</sub> tank.

### Tuesday 1:47 a.m.

Hello *Reporter*, I'd like to inform all of the RIT campus that McDonalds on Monroe Ave. is a 24-hour drive-thru. But at 2 o'clock they stop serving dinner, but they don't serve breakfast until 3 o'clock. So, what are they serving between that time? I hope this helps out someone leaving a bar at some point at this time.

### Tuesday 2:28 p.m.

I was just curious why the cops are so lazy that they have Segways. What's wrong with a bicycle? What's wrong with walking? They have a car parked outside. I just saw one just roll on in the elevator. I just think it's a waste of \$30,000 on [fck]ing Segways.

### Thursday 11:32 p.m.

Condoms [repeated 14 times].

### Thursday 11:33 p.m.

Whose job is it to listen to these stupid messages because, seriously, you guys suck at the whole picking process. Lame, alright...or not, whatever. I just wanted to say 'Hi,' whoever has to read, has to listen to this. I'm sorry, I don't even know why. It would be pretty cool to read. Why do I keep saying read? Listen to these messages, whatever, just wanted to say 'Hi.' You should go eat some fruit or something. It's good for you and I'm sure you don't eat enough of it. I'm gonna go now. Have a nice day.

# Deconstructing Democracy: Why Your Vote Doesn't Count (Yet)

by Casey Dehlinger

illustration by Caitlin Yarsky

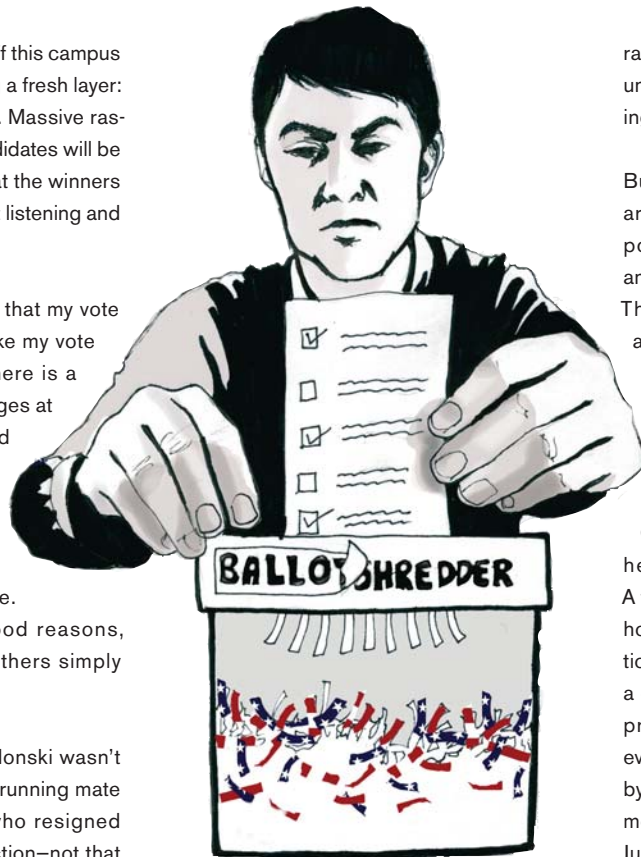
Finally, the flyers will start to peel off this campus like an old shedding skin, exposing a fresh layer: A new Student Government (SG). Massive rasterized visages of prospective candidates will be done away with. This is the day that the winners of the elections step forth and start listening and learning.

I've voted, I assure you, but I fear that my vote means absolutely nothing—just like my vote last year. On the SG Senate, there is a senator for each of the eight colleges at RIT. Of the eight senators elected last April, only three remain: Jonathan Berman (COS), Damian Kumor (GCCIS), and Kevin Yang (COB). The other five fell between the cracks somewhere.

Granted, many of them had good reasons, particularly leaving on co-op. Others simply decided that SG wasn't for them.

Even SG Vice-President David Blonski wasn't elected. President Lizzie Sorkin's running mate last April was Daniel Arscott, who resigned immediately after winning the election—not that voters had a real decision to begin with; Sorkin and Arscott ran unopposed. This is not to discredit any of the current senators that weren't actually voted into their current positions; most of them do a splendid job, and deserve commemoration for having the *cajones* to jump into a position mid-term. It's disenchanting, however, to realize that our current Student Government is only a mirage of democracy.

The procedure goes something like this: At the Friday afternoon SG meeting, a senator resigns. Within the next couple weeks, Blonski finds a candidate or two, usually looking to the runner-up candidate from the previous year's election. Two college senators, however, won as write-in candidates last year, so there's no clear runner-up (by the way, the write-in senators represented CIAS and COLA. Neither of them still serve). The candidate or two that Blonski finds say a few words, are asked a few



questions, and the current Senate makes a motion to appoint one.

This is tantamount to letting the other 49 states select a U.S. Senator for New York if anything happens to the citizen-elected senator. Appointed senators don't have the mandate of the students that they represent. So much for democracy.

Despite all this, I don't blame SG. Holding a fair election is hard, and holding a new one every time someone jumps ship would prevent them from getting anything accomplished. Rather, I think the problem is intrinsic to the idea of campus politics. Last year, I complained that there was a sheer lack of candidates, preventing students from having any real decisions to make—I'm ecstatic this has been rectified. The SG presidential candidates this year actually

ran against other candidates, instead of being unopposed. This is the first step towards a working election process.

But now the decision falls upon students who are offered donuts and barbecues, besides pokes and prods by facebook group invites and fast-talking candidates to log on and vote. The result? Voters stare at two names for approximately fifteen seconds, and the strongest name wins. They say JFK beat Nixon out in what ended up being a beauty contest. Without a picture at the polls, college students use names.

George Eastman had the right idea when he decided to name his company Kodak. A twenty-minute speed trip through the Eastman house will reveal that he researched the implications of phonemes across various languages in a desperate search to find the "perfect word," pronounceable by any tongue and strong to every ear—a brief, two-syllable word book-ended by that strong consonant "k." It wouldn't shock me one bit if Carlos Cornejo won COB Senator. Just look at that name! It's two-word poetry with alliteration, consonance, and assonance.

The only solution is to inform voters. Once they *know* their candidates, they will select the most dedicated ones; the ones that can do more than design snazzy flyers. This is the only way to find candidates that will stay in their positions for a full term. But, to do this, voters need convincing that their votes count. It's a vicious cycle. When a voter takes the time to go to the SG debates and research the candidates and then sees the winner resign early, they're bound to go back to being a passive voter. A passively-voted-in senator is bound to give up if they don't have the mandate of an active constituency.

To the newly elected SG President, Vice-President, and senators (no matter how marketable your names are): stick around. The next step to bringing democracy back to the students is to prove to them—and to me—that our votes, uninformed or not, were not cast in vain. •





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