

REPORTER

OCTOBER 26, 2007 | WWW.REPORTERMAG.COM

UNDER THE NEEDLE

A GLIMPSE AT RIT'S
TATTOOED COMMUNITY

BALLOON MANOR

SCARIGAMI HAUNTED HOUSE

3 STARS

THREE OF RIT'S
RISING ATHLETES



HALLOWEEN

funky costume dance party.

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Mask Making!
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EDITOR’S NOTE

PUTTING YOUR WORRIES IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND

I dread week nine. It’s not a beast so much as a ninety-nine toothed, slobbering nightmare that sustains itself by feasting on the souls of humans. Don’t even get me started on the week that follows nine. Free speech does not *begin* to cover the obscenities required to speak of the Week That Shall Not Be Named.

Whenever the Quarter System starts to wear on me, I think of my mother. She was an engineering student back in her college years, and also worked as Editor in Chief of her college newspaper. She knows something about stress, and my feet fit comfortably in her footsteps.

I remember one instance from my youth, a particularly poignant battle in my quest to perfect the science of worrying. In the midst of my stress, my mother taught me a trick that I would like to share with you, my kindred warrior against the week nine monstrosity. The story goes like this:

“Hold your palm out in front of you,” says my mother. The look on my face is one of pure angst, and my frown sends the clearest of messages: I am stressed and unhappy, and life is unfair. I quickly stick my arm out straight in front of me, my hand shaking slightly from the tension in my muscles. *Doesn’t she know how busy I am?*, I think to myself as a tear forms in the corner of my eye. *Doesn’t she know how much work I have to do?* I am frustrated, and don’t have time for one of mom’s little games.

“No, no Jen. Like this. Palm up.” She holds her own hand in front of her to show me. Her fingers arch upwards a little and are spread slightly apart from one another, as if she’s holding a grapefruit. Her arm bends gently at the elbow. “You have to relax your arm and your shoulders. Take a deep breath.” There is practice in her poise. She has clearly done this before.

“Now, I want you to focus. Imagine all of your worries in your palm. Picture them resting there, weighing down your hand.” Seeing that I’ve bought into her little exercise, she continues: “And now, you need to blow it all away. Like this.” She takes a deep breath, then sends a stream of air across her hand. I follow suit. My breath glides over the surface of my skin, following the curves of my fingers. I feel no instant change. My mother, seeing my disappointment, instructs me to repeat the process several times. Focus. Inhale. Exhale. Focus. Inhale. Exhale.

The next few moments are pure freedom. The weight on my shoulders is lessened, and the tightness in my chest begins to subside. The effects are slow, soothing, and warming, quite similar to the feeling of sipping hot chocolate while lounging next to a roaring fireplace on a cold winter’s day. My stack of work remains, but the mind-freezing stress is now one with the wind.



Jen Loomis
EDITOR IN CHIEF

TABLE OF CONTENTS

OCTOBER 26, 2007 | VOL. 57, ISSUE 09

LETTERS PG. 06

LETTERS

Comments, concerns, and
haiku from our readers.

NEWS PG. 07

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

A Catholic Fraternity forms on campus.

BRICK BEAT

Safe Zone training. Eric Massa speaks to the College Democrats. The Student Health Center steps up its anti-smoking efforts.

RIT FORECAST

Plan accordingly.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE

The Senators discuss campus
smoking regulations.

LEISURE PG. 10

BALLOON MANOR

A bad place to be on pins and needles.



ROCHESTER’S UNSOLVED MYSTERIES

Take a look at some of Rochester’s haunts.



Members of “Bad Fish Racing” push off the soap box derby that they built for the 2007 Annual CAB Soap Box Derby Race on Saturday, October 13th, 2007 between buildings 70 and 17 on campus. “Bad Fish Racing” ended up at second place in the loser’s bracket.

REVIEWS

Music—*In Rainbows*
Game—Facebook Scrabble

AT YOUR LEISURE

New design. Same Sudoku-y goodness.

FEATURES PG. 16

UNDER THE NEEDLE

A look at some of RIT’s tattooed and pierced.

TATTOO ARTIST

Adam Francey’s Ink.

AVOIDING FINANCIAL ARMAGEDDON

Planning for retirement.

SPORTS PG. 24

SPORTS DESK

Men’s Hockey takes to the ice.

3 STARS

Jared Burdick - Men’s Cross Country
Jessica Schaffer - Women’s Volleyball
Mark Friscano - Men’s Soccer

VIEWS PG. 30

RIT RINGS

Stop calling the old number. Please!

VIEWS

Karen Doktor’s unfortunate experience
with her Riverknoll apartment.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEAR REPORTER,
Hate RTS bus schedules? Deal with it. The schedules are set up based on feedback from riders, amount of riders at various times of day, how often buses stop, and how long the routes are. Hate buses being late? That depends on how many riders get off and on, how often buses stop, weather, and traffic. Confused by bus schedules? It takes time to learn how to read them. Still hate bus schedules? There are several other options. Take a cab. Ride a bike. Walk. Find someone who has a vehicle and ask for a ride. Join FlexCar, a car-sharing program recently set up by RIT.

Discriminated against by bus driver(s)? Report to RTS or whoever owns a bus. Protest is not an answer. You are protected by laws.

JAKE WILLIAMS
Second year Digital Imaging & Publishing Technology

DEAR REPORTER,
In response to the most recent Editor’s Note titled “Blowing Smoke,” I’d just like to point something out. Smoking and playing World of Warcraft are different in more than just execution. While a person who plays World of Warcraft may harm their own academic and social lives, their actions in no way affect the health of people around them, which is not the case with smoking in public areas. If you smoke outside the entrance to my building, however, I have to walk through your cloud of tar. I choose not to smoke in the first place, so I’d appreciate it if you didn’t decide that I should become a secondhand smoker.

BEN ISSERLIS
First year Computer Science

DEAR REPORTER,
I would like to thank Jen Loomis for her “Blowing Smoke” Editor’s Note in the Oct. 19 issue. I definitely agree that smokers are being discriminated against. I grew up a little north of NYC where the “Smoke Free NY” campaign started. The community college I went to had designated smoking areas, and it was ridiculous. They weren’t covered, so when it rained and snowed, the smokers got wet and cold.

Believe me, all smokers know that it’s a bad habit and that many people don’t like it. But it is like any other addiction: hard to give up! All I ask is that non-smokers do not think less of us, because we don’t think less of them! Personally, I am careful about not blowing smoke in others’ faces, and I don’t smoke in other people’s cars, etc. There’s etiquette to smoking, just like everything else.

Anyway, I don’t know if any of that makes sense, but I think it’s ridiculous to make RIT a smoke-free campus. There will be a VERY angry smoking population, and just making an extra rule like that will cause more people to break it rather than abide by it.

Thanks for your note,
EMILY KIEF
Third year Photojournalism

DEAR REPORTER,
I arrived in my UC apartment yesterday to find that someone had let in a contractor to install closet doors in my previously open closet. I just wanted to thank whoever’s in charge here, because as a college student in week seven of ten, I definitely have the time (and energy) to rearrange my entire room to accommodate this late addition. The doors are conveniently blocking any access to my dresser and it will probably be faster (and more cathartic) to remove the doors than to move the pile of crap that prevents their opening. Thanks, whoever’s in charge.

I was hoping you’d be more concerned with the fire extinguisher that’s past its prime (isn’t that illegal?) or the electrical outlets without covers (isn’t that a fire hazard?). So thanks once again, whoever’s in charge, and good luck at your conference on half-assed renovations.

DOUG BRANTNER
Fourth year Film and Animation

DEAR REPORTER,
This letter is in regards to the “Aspiring Aspies” article run in The Geek Issue. I have an issue with a sentence, yes, one sentence in this article. “Certainly, documenting every panty shot in the latest sin against cartooning from Japan does not a social butterfly make.” My issue, specifi-

cally is with the phrase “sin against cartooning from Japan”. This phrase says to me that Ben Dekle believes that all cartoons from Japan are black mark on the world of cartooning. This is a horrendous claim.

I’m sure most people can agree that live action movies are, themselves, an art form. In Japan, where producing a cartoon is cheaper than a live action movie, anime is about the equivalent in expression as movies are in the U.S. This being said, anime is an art form as well. The story telling alone can be as deep as any introspective novel. Consider works like Paprika or Monster. These anime make you think. They make you consider all of the ideas presented. There are many other anime like them.

But, just as the U.S. has simple movies for kids like Veggie Tales, so too does Japan have simple cartoons to entertain their children. Just as there are sexually gratuitous movies in America, there are the same kind of anime in Japan. However, this does not mean anime is a single genre of panty shots.

Now, let’s consider the drawings themselves. Super Dimension Fortress Macross, a revolutionary piece in the world of anime that helped define the mecha genre, debuted in 1982. Its artwork was clean, shiny, and detailed. As good as, and sometimes better than, other works of the time.

Having said this, I ask, how is anime a sin against cartooning?

SARA JACKSON
Second year Computer Science

TO SEND LETTERS E-mail: 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 responding to a letter.

RIT’S KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GAIN CHARTER

by Rachel Hart | photograph by Dave Londres

Months of service and devotion paid off for RIT’s chapter of the Knights of Columbus on Sunday, October 14 at the Newman Center. The Knights received their official charter in a ceremony that hosted many prominent members of the Catholic community, including State Deputy Edward Castellazi.

The Knights of Columbus is a national society that serves and aids various church parishes around the country. Describing the Knights, Nick Quaranto, Grand Knight of RIT and third year Software Engineering major, said, “[We are] a Catholic fraternity based around community service.”

Quaranto said that he felt something was missing from his college experience at RIT. He described his initial feelings of the campus: “I felt like a part of my life had gone away.” Four students, including Quaranto, Josh Dietrich, Rob Gladmon, and Tim Garvin shared these thoughts, and decided to take action. Dietrich, a second year Applied Networking and Systems Administration major who serves as Deputy Grand Knight, summed up: “It came about when a group of us wanted to get involved in serving the Rochester community.”

The Knights are a fraternity that usually appeals

to an older demographic and centers around community parishes, as opposed to that of a college campus. Art Harris, Secretary to the State Deputy and a pivotal part of the chapter’s recognition, describes a growing trend of Knights organizations spreading across campuses. Said Harris, “Currently, there are 213 college councils, the biggest being West Point and the second largest being Notre Dame.”

The RIT chapter still has room for growth. While they have the required 30 members, they continue to welcome new members.

Harris had only praise for RIT’s chapter, saying: “They are doing a great job so far with their events.” These events include work with a local soup kitchen and the Ronald McDonald House. Also, at the beginning of every quarter, the Knights hold a “surge week” during which various community and social events take place. Surge week can be compared to rush week for other college fraternities, a time to encourage and welcome new members.

For new member Michael Delles, a second year Computer Engineering major and second generation Knight, the organization is a family tradition. Delles looks to the Knights not only

because he feels “It’s nice do something with my faith in it,” but also because of the size of the organization. The Knights have chapters in communities all over the country, and in a growing number of campuses. “Wherever I go, it will be there,” said Delles.

As for the involvement of women, says Amanda Bliss, third year Manufacturing Engineering Technology major and Quaranto’s girlfriend: “Right now, we have a more supportive role.” Quaranto credited Bliss with being of great help in the process of building the chapter, as well as attending and aiding in many of the events held thus far. Bliss also plans to start an auxiliary club for women after her return from co-op, giving women at RIT an opportunity to be involved with the Knights.

Even though official recognition is a major milestone for RIT’s Knights, as Dietrich described, “We are just getting started up.” The Knights are proving to be, as Father Richard Hunt said, “...Yet another outlet for community service at RIT.” •

Nick Quaranto, Grand Knight of RIT and third year Software Engineering major.



BRICKBEAT

10.26.07

RIT HOSTS CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE

The College Democrats hosted a talk by U.S. Congressional candidate Eric Massa on Wednesday, October 17. Massa, a Democrat from the New York 29th district (which includes Henrietta), is the leading candidate on the Democratic ticket and is expected to face incumbent Republican Congressman Randy Kuhl on election day next November. Massa addressed students and faculty, opining on various issues as well as on the political system itself.

Taking questions from those in attendance on a wide range of issues, Massa steered most questions back toward three major issues: Health care, Iraq, and jobs. Massa favors “...A single payer health care system that’s not socialized medicine, Hillarycare, Canadacare, or anything else like that. It’s the same system of health care that members of Congress have themselves.” According to his website, Massa favors withdrawing from Iraq in less than 24 months. He also commented on economic issues, claiming: “We are in a greater danger of global economic crisis than ever before.” He attributes that crisis to free trade with China. Massa’s logic is that free trade with China creates a problem in the U.S. as well as in Mexico, and it is one of the root causes of illegal immigration.

Third year Photojournalism major Jenny Heath, the event’s organizer and Vice President of RIT’s College Democrats, responded when asked why the group invited Massa: “...Because we’ve been involved in his past and upcoming campaigns.”

Massa lost to incumbent Kuhl in 2006, finishing with 48% of the popular vote. Kuhl, first elected in 2004, finished with 52%. As of July 2007, Kuhl has \$105,000 cash on hand and \$9,000 in debt, while Massa has \$153,000 cash on hand and \$78,000 in debt.

STUDENT HEALTH CENTER TARGETS SMOKING

by Andy Rees
The Student Health Center has recently revitalized a campaign to help students quit smoking and prevent others from starting. Previously, the SHC has offered support services for those who are quitting smoking. Prevention is a recent addition to their agenda, and is primarily aimed at freshmen.

“Tobacco companies are targeting college students, because they know that the habits youths develop will stick with them into adult life,” said Karen Hibbard, a Nurse Practitioner with the SHC. Hibbard said that 11% of incoming RIT freshmen try tobacco products within the first seven weeks of the quarter. It is during this time, Hibbard says, that the SHC’s prevention program must be most active.

Kicking off the prevention campaign, the SHC handed out nearly 2,500 water bottles with “Top 10 Reasons to Not Start Smoking” printed on the side. Along with the bottles, pens and refrigerator magnets were also distributed.

In addition to quitting and prevention, the SHC is also trying to educate students about social smoking. “About 1,500 students consider themselves social smokers,” said Karen Pelc, Coordinator for IMPACT, the SHC’s

Alcohol and Drug Education and Prevention Program. “They bum cigarettes off other people at parties. We want them to realize that they’re also smokers.”

The SHC offers a lot of support for students who are interested in quitting, including free Nicotine Replacement Treatment, such as patches or gum, as well as on-site support and counseling. They even prescribe medication to fight addiction. During Winter Quarter, the Center for Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreation will be offering a Smoking Cessation course, which will count toward the wellness graduation requirement.

“We’ve had a lot of success so far,” said Hibbard. “There’s a steady stream of people every week who come in, looking to quit.” The SHC hopes that more people will hear about the programs and take advantage of them.

SAFE ZONE TRAINING HELD AT RIT

by Abhijit Bhelande
Last week was “Ally Week” at RIT— a national youth-led effort empowering students to be Allies against GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender) bullying, harassment, and name calling. A regular event at every Ally Week has been Safe Zone Training. This year, the two hour session was conducted by Lisa Niescierenko and Michael Shaver of the Center for Residence Life. Attendees included members of the GLBT and straight communities.

The training centered on activities such as discussing the pros and cons of being gay, reading first-person situational anecdotes of people from the GLBT community, and creating a “sketch” of what

an Ally should (metaphorically) be like. Participants shared their experiences and gained a better understanding of the various political, social, and everyday issues faced by the GLBT community and how these could be handled. They were also encouraged to be open about their identities without worrying about acceptance. Said Paul Solt, a fourth year Computer Science major and Senator for GCCIS who attended training with Student Government, “The best part of the training session was when as a group, we shared our own experiences with sexual orientation. We talked about when we first became aware of the idea of being gay and what kinds of connotations it had to our lives [as we were] growing up.”

Both Shaver and Niescierenko emphasized the need for Allies to send a consistent message of support. Said Niescierenko, “The training also provides a place where one can come out and be open about their gender identities without worrying about acceptance issues.”

Approximately 20 people attended the session for new training. Forty others who were previously certified retook the training course. Jennifer Kolling, a student worker at the RIT Stonewall Project, said, “We’re going to do more re-certifications later on in the year, because a lot of people were unable to make this session and requested another offering. This will happen sometime in December or January. We’ll also do another session for untrained people later in the school year.” •

RIT FORECAST

compiled by Sarai Oviedo

27 SATURDAY
LAN OF THE DEAD
NRH 1250, 3 p.m.–5 a.m. An overnight event! Bring your own computer and play video games. Tournaments include: Counter-Strike: Source & Unreal Tournament 2004. Sponsored by Electronic Gaming Society. Cost: Students–\$5, Faculty/Staff–\$10, Others–\$10.

DODGEBALL EXTRAVAGANZA
SLC: Gym Court 4 & 5, 2 p.m.–5 p.m. A dodgeball tournament. Cost: \$1.
HALLOWEEN DANCE PARTY
SAU: Clark A, B, and C, 6:30 p.m.–12 a.m. A Halloween dance party for those who like to dance and maybe cosplay. Sponsored by the Anime Club. Cost: \$2.
A CAPPELLAWEEEN
Webb Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m. An a cappella concert featuring the Syracuse Mandarins. Cost: Free.

28 SUNDAY
Actress Julia Roberts is born in 1967. Wish her a happy 40th and celebrate with her by watching favorites including *Pretty Woman*, *Runaway Bride*, and *Erin Brockovich*.

29 MONDAY
RACE: THE GREAT DIVIDER SAU: Clark C, 6 p.m.–8:30 p.m. Come for a panel discussion about race and its relevance today. Sponsored by Omega Psi Phi. Cost: free.

30 TUESDAY
MEMORY AND VISUALIZATION Building 01-2358, 12 p.m.–1 p.m. A Lunch ‘n’ Learning workshop focusing on memory techniques and graphic organizers for studying. Cost: Free. Bring your own lunch.

31 WEDNESDAY
ASME TRICK OR TREATING Kate Gleason College of Engineering Atrium, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Mechanical Engineering students have the right to be kids again. The professors will vote on the better costume and a chance to win the raffle. Cost: Free.

01 THURSDAY
MACBETH Panara Theatre. 7:30 p.m.–10 p.m. A performance directed by Bonnie Meath-Lang. The play will be performed in Sign Language and spoken English. Cost: Students–\$5, Faculty/Staff \$7, Others–\$7.
THURSDAY NIGHT CINEMA: BEERFEST Ingle Auditorium, 10 p.m.–12 a.m. A story about two brothers, their life story, and getting drunk. Free pizza will be served after the movie and movie poster raffle. Cost: Free.

02 FRIDAY
LEGENDS OF JAZZ
Ingle Auditorium, 8 p.m.–10 p.m. Rod Blumenau and Eastman Pianist Darlusz Terfenko will play over 15 jazz styles. Special guest Al Simone! Cost: Students–\$6, Faculty/Staff–\$14, Others–\$20.
THE PASSAGE PROJECT
Ritz, 10 p.m.–12 a.m. Says CAB, “The Passage Project will fascinate you with robust beats, and will flood your head with a mixture of funk, jazz, rock, and electronica.” Free pizza for the first 50 people. Cost: \$1.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT WEEKLY UPDATE

SMOKING DEBATE

Carlos Cornejo, the College of Business Senator, reported that the Senate should form an anti-smoking initiative, stating that the 25-foot rule for smoking near buildings needs to be extended to the academic side. GCCIS Senator Paul Solt stated his support for such a restriction, remarking that he does not smoke, and hates walking through smoke. He also commented that all current regulations need to be more strictly enforced. Cory Gregory, the GLBT Senator, suggested ticketing smokers for enforcement. Kayla Himelein, Secretary of Programming, elaborated that New York State law mandates a 30-foot rule, which should apply to RIT’s campus.

Mia Sanchez, the NSC President, suggested that benches and ashtrays should be moved further away from buildings to encourage smokers to migrate away from the doors. Elizabeth Kovach, Secretary of Finance, mentioned that a smoking pagoda might also encourage students to take their cigarettes away from buildings. Global Union President Aditya Manjrekar indicated that people smoked in doorways because of the cold and rainy weather in Rochester— if they are to be forced away from the doors, then some alternative shelter should be provided.

Sasha Malinchoc, Vice President of Student Government, asked Cornejo to form a committee to further examine the problem. Cornejo agreed, and was encouraged by Student Government Advisor Colette Shaw to include smokers on the committee.

ALTERNATIVES TO STYROFOAM

Malinchoc reported that she has been observing the use of Styrofoam, a non-biodegradable material, in campus eateries. She has been exploring some alternatives, including plastics and increased dishwashing. She has asked SEAL (Student Environmental Action League) to be a part of the non-Styrofoam movement. Women’s Senator Denise Herrera added that at some of the eateries, only disposable plates and utensils are available— why not offer a reusable, washable plate?

ZOMBIES VERSUS HUMANS

Dr. Heath Boice-Pardee, Student Government Advisor, reported that ReLife is reaching out to the coordinators of the Zombies vs. Humans game. The dialogue between the parties may end with revoking the ban on that game. The game was previously banned due to its somewhat violent nature.

BALLOON MANOR:

A BAD PLACE TO BE ON PINS AND NEEDLES

by Casey Dehlinger | photographs by Megan Rossman



A day before opening night, Larry Moss is taking a well-deserved break in the playground across from his latest creation. He is dressed in jeans and a black t-shirt emblazoned with flaming skulls. His wheelchair-bound wife has brought his daughter to visit him. He has been spending 12 to 14 hours per day in the Medley Center Mall, creating the third iteration of Balloon Manor.



In 2004, Moss promised his wife as she slipped in and out of a coma that he would build her a haunted house entirely out of balloons. The couple, who were married on Halloween, have always had a passion for the creepy and crawly. Upon reawakening, his wife was partially convinced that she had imagined his vow to make her an inflatable Taj Mahal, but Moss turned it into a reality. He is now bringing together over 65 airigami artists from around the globe to create the third iteration: Elastic Park.

"I work on the designs and stories year round," says Moss, as his daughter tugs at his jeans for attention. "The first year was a haunted castle, and you would have to find clues and free the spirits." For the second year, the story progressed, with a museum of the freed spirits that had trouble determining what to do with their newfound freedom. In light of the popularity and success of the second season, the spirits have finally sold out and opened a theme park to accommodate the onslaught of fans (and an excess of corny jokes conceived by Moss and the rest of the artists and designers.) "I know what the theme will be next year, too, but I'm not telling," says Moss.

Leaving Moss to his daughter and the mall's playground, I'm handed off to Suzanne Haring for a behind-the-scenes tour. "Sucker," she says to me. After she receives my questioning look, she holds out a miniature tootsie roll pop. "What did you think I meant?" she asks, before pointing out that she is unclear what her exact title is, beyond the Miss America-style sash she proudly wears, which was given to her by her co-workers. It reads "Balloon Bitch".

After Suzanne makes sure I'm not from the fire department, coming to check if they're up to fire code, my journey begins. My ears are filled with the incessant screeching of dozens of balloon artists weaving and tying balloons, working frantically to meet deadlines so that the park can open the next day. I'm taken past the nearly completed entrance: a massive alligator whose mouth visitors must walk through to reach the anteroom. Bonehenge, a group of massive skulls, each at least seven feet tall, is still under construction near the entrance.

Suzanne makes a point to introduce me to several artists and ask where they are from. Ireland, Puerto Rico, Equador, Israel, England, and every corner of the U.S. When Suzanne asks one woman weaving an elaborate monster head, a balloon in her masterpiece pops loudly. The artist wails out "Illinois!" before finding the motivation to fix her broken work.

The highlight of this year's show is the use of animatronics. Many of the balloon monsters and mechanisms can move, from a scary-go-round to a shooting gallery. Also worth a look are three "spokes-monsters" in the park—people wearing costumes made out of balloons, playing roles for the elaborately scripted guided tour.

Many rooms subtly allude to classic horror films. With so much time on their hands, the artists and designers have woven many details into Balloon Manor. A bartender (if you peek behind



I know what the theme will be next year, too, but I'm not telling."

the bar) has a rifle for a leg. A bumper car in the amusement rides section has a skull with crossed lightning bolts on the hood. The garden is home to the hokiest of the gags, with flowers sprouting lips (tulips) and eyeballs (irises).

Granted, Balloon Manor is an attraction for all ages. Don't expect to be mortified by anything other than gag reflex-inducing puns, and sheer awe at the amount of dedication and craftsmanship required to create such a behemoth of balloons. As an aside, walking around the premises taking notes with an uncapped pen made me perpetually paranoid that my writing utensil may ruin hours upon hours of work with one uncontrolled spasm, causing a sleep-deprived balloon artist to strangle me (and justifiably so).

For a sheer change of pace, the manor is worthy of your time. After years of typical and predictable haunted houses, most college students know every blood-and-gore, masked-talent scare tactic in the book. The artists involved in Balloon Manor often take pay cuts and lose money by participating in the project, just to have the opportunity to study their art with the best of the best, and be a part of one of the most impressive balloon-based displays the world has to offer. •

For more information, visit www.balloonmanor.com. The Manor closes on October 28 at 6 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 each.

ROCHESTER HAUNTS

Ever see anything strange in Rochester? Things rolling up the hills instead of down? Ghosts walking dogs? The northern shore of Lake Ontario from the southern shore? Take a look at some of Rochester's haunts.

ROCHESTER MIRAGE

by Evan McNamara

Over 100 years ago, atop the hill of Mt. Hope Cemetery, there stood a stone observation tower known as the Fandango. The structure was built to serve as an observation point from which to bask in the splendor of the then booming Rochester, New York, the Genesee River, and nearby Lake Ontario. However on April 16, 1871, visitors to the Fandango observed something peculiar.

They claimed to have been able to see to the opposite shore of Lake Ontario in stunning detail. Vast landscapes and specific landmarks on the opposite shore appeared to the naked eye as though they were magnified through some giant, cosmic magnifying glass.

Were these Rochestarians of old witnessing a supernatural phenomenon, or had the wind simply blown hallucinogenic smog across the population?

In an effort to crack this case, I would instruct you to refer to your University Physics II unit on light, lenses, and refraction. *Fata Morgana*, more commonly known as a mirage, can occur on a clear day when the interface between warm air and colder air near the surface of the earth (in this case, Lake Ontario) acts as a refracting lens, resulting in an upside-down reflection, and a superior image. The superior image would appear larger than the original object on the other side of the lens. In this case, that image was the opposite coast of Lake Ontario.

No instances of "The Rochester Mirage" have been reported since, but if fate will have it and the conditions of *Fata Morgana* are met again, we may have a chance to bear witness to this spectacle in our lifetime.

SPOOK HILL

by Ben Dekle

The trip to Spook Hill is probably more than half of its charm. As you leave the highway to make your way towards this elusive landmark, you start off in downtown Canandaigua. The strip malls and businesses start to give way to suburbs and grasses, which in turn slip away to a mixture of forests and fields. Almost as if responding to the vanishing population, the landscape begins to undulate in long, rolling hills that slide into each other at every possible angle. Add the glowing orange and gray of an

LADY IN WHITE: NOT YOUR FRIENDLY GHOST

by Lacey Senese

As the local White Lady legend goes, Durand Eastman Park in Irondequoit (15 minutes north of RIT) once housed a woman and her daughter. One evening, the daughter went off for a walk near Lake Ontario and never returned. The "White Lady" searched for her beloved daughter with the help of her two German shepherds, but of no avail. She came to the conclusion that her daughter had been raped and murdered by a local farmer.

In despair over her loss, the White Lady jumped off a cliff near the lake. It is said that she still roams the area in search of her daughter. She is seeking revenge, and since she believes that a

man was the culprit, she only attacks men.

The remains of the White Lady's castle are located directly off the road that runs along the shore of the lake. It is a typical hangout place for many local teenagers, who deface the walls with graffiti. Some claim to have seen a figure in white floating down winding paths.

So before you and your girlfriend go for a stroll through Durand Eastman Park on a nice fall evening, keep in mind that she might be the only one to return home!

THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER AND THE 150-FOOT FALL

by Reid Muntz

Some colleges have all the luck. The University of Rochester, for example, gets a haunted library.

Pete Nicosia, a Sicilian construction worker, fell to his death while working on the University's Rush Rhees Library. Just a few years later, however, several students claimed to have met Nicosia's ghost. Nicosia, like any worker, wanted his salary. After asking where he could find his former foreman, the ghost was directed by the bemused students to the service building. Two

of the same students would later be visited once again, at the top of the library tower. One of the students noted that the building was 150 feet tall. In response, Nicosia quietly commented, "It didn't hurt a bit." Sometime later, a co-worker of Nicosia's ran from the library, claiming to have seen the ghostly construction worker.

Sightings occur to this day, and the ghost seems to have no interest in leaving. Most recently, Nicosia has been scheduled to appear at the library's Rush Rhees Scare Fair as a tour guide.

"It didn't hurt a bit."

is that near the very crest of the hill, your car will actually *roll uphill* the rest of the way to the top. Spooky, right? In practice, it's just that the surrounding hills give the appearance that you haven't reached the top yet, when in fact you've already passed it. My verdict: The trip is better spent admiring the rural surroundings than finding this hill. •

Spook Hill is located in Middlesex, New York on Newell Road. More info can be found at http://rocwiki.org/Spook_Hill.

MUSIC REVIEW



RADIOHEAD – IN RAINBOWS

by Evan McNamara

For those of you who sit on the fence of the pirate vs. purchase debate, Radiohead may have an answer for you. On December 3rd, the critically acclaimed band is releasing its next album, *In Rainbows*, on CD. However, what makes this release unique is that, starting October 10, anyone can download the album at a price that is determined by you, the buyer and the listener. You can pay as little as \$0.00, or as much as... well, I don't know how deep your pockets are.

GAME REVIEW



SCRABULOUS

by Laura Mandanas

Since Facebook opened the floodgates last May, allowing developers access to the Facebook Platform, third party applications have been pouring in. Facebook users can now choose from more than 6,200 applications—approximately 6,198 of which are absolute garbage (“Pass the Soccer Ball Game,” anyone? How about “Which Vegetable Are You?”). Occasionally, however, you'll find a real gem. Enter Scrabulous.

And what do you get for (potentially) zero dollars?

In a nutshell, you get one of the most coherent records of the year. *In Rainbows* hides common musical threads within all of its songs that make the album an easy straight-through listen. Each track maintains its own character, while staying within the boundaries of the album.

In Rainbows starts off with the energetic tracks “15 Step” and “Bodysnatchers.” Driving up-tempo drum beats and a soaring flurry of clean guitar are propelled by deliciously fuzzy bass lines. Thom Yorke provides his signature croon, lending great dimension to the tunes, and adding to the momentum of the album right out of the gate. His voice soars flawlessly over every song on the album, and is a real treat to hear.

In Rainbows then shifts toward a slower theme, centered around arpeggiated and finger-picked guitar lines. “All I Need” grooves on down-tempo drums, electronic bass, and guitar swells to produce something that could be found easily

on a Boards Of Canada album. “Faust Arp” combines acoustic guitar and a string section to produce a charming cinematic folk song. “Reckoner” keeps the arpeggiated guitar theme going, disguised as it is under reverberated drums, tambourine, and piano.

“Jigsaw Falling Into Place” quickens the pace as the album nears its end. This song possibly rocks the hardest out of any on the album, despite the guitars being acoustic. The album closes with “Videotape,” a delicate and engaging dirge that leaves the listener craving more.

To download or not to download, the answer is not important in this situation. Radiohead has decided that you should pay whatever you think they deserve for their newest album. There is no guilt in dropping a whopping sum of zero dollars and zero cents on some new music.

And hey, if you hate it, at least you got your money's worth. •

Get the album at any price at www.inrainbows.com

ing, I've steadily become addicted to this game.

Scrabulous is not without its problems, though. There's no automatic refreshing, for one thing; if you're trying to play a game in anything close to real time, you'll probably have to sit there pressing F5 repeatedly. And when someone has not played their turn for seven days, the opponent can claim a forced win—not a good feature if you don't plan on logging into Facebook every single day to check up on your games. Additionally, hosting a “fast” game yields results that are anything but fast. These minor imperfections aren't bad enough to prevent you from having a fantastic game. Or twenty. If you're ever looking for a new opponent, I'm always up for a game. •

10.25.07

TRIVIA

1. Which major do you need to be in to build machines that hurl pumpkins as far as possible for an annual Brick City competition?
a. Industrial Engineering
b. Mechanical Engineering
c. Physics
d. Packaging Sciences

2. Where can you find an entrance to the abandoned Rochester subway system that *Reporter* in no way recommends that you enter?
a. Behind the Rundell Memorial Library.
b. The “Do Not Enter” door in the basement of downtown Java's.
c. Behind a door in the northernmost point of the tunnels under RIT.
d. There was never a Rochester subway system.

3. A human skull was found in a Rochester building when police busted suspects for participating in what illegal activity?
a. Human sacrifices performed by a religious cult.
b. Dissemination of child pornography.
c. Possession of animals without a permit, including a rare venomous African spider, a young crocodile, and an 80-pound boa constrictor.
d. Illegal file sharing and DVD/CD pirating.

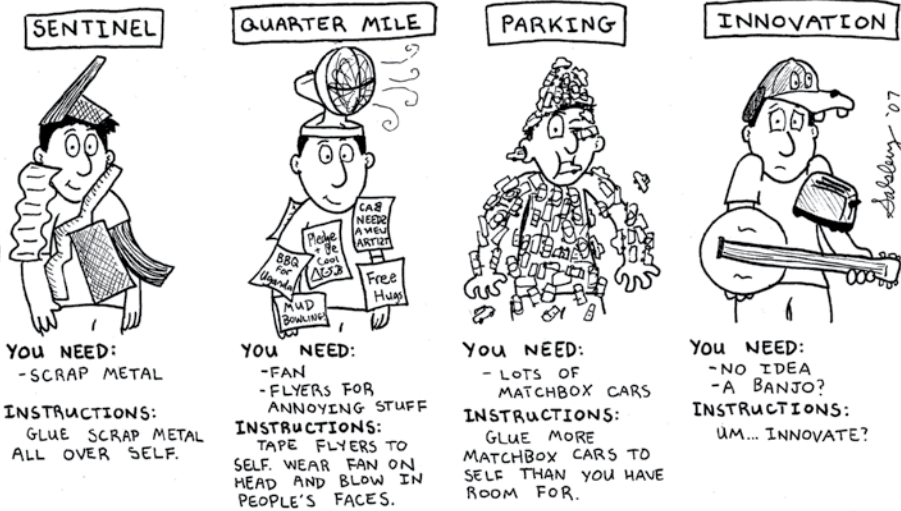
4. Last year, what building did *Reporter* mention would be a death trap for humans trying to fend off a zombie invasion?
a. The Student Alumni Union
b. Kate Gleason College of Engineering
c. Frank E. Gannett Building
d. Sol Heumann Hall

5. According to data from 2004, crimes in Rochester are above the national average across the board. Which of the following crime rates in Rochester did not manage to double the national average?
a. Murder
b. Rape
c. Robbery
d. Theft of motor vehicles

Answers: 1.b 2.a. 3.d 4.c 5.b

AT YOUR LEISURE

RIT-INSPIRED HALLOWEEN COSTUME IDEAS:



QUOTE:

“There are three things I have learned never to discuss with people: Religion, politics, and the Great Pumpkin.”

– Linus van Pelt

REPORTER RECOMMENDS:

Scaring someone. Don't think that grabbing someone's shoulders from behind and shouting “Boo!” will do the trick. It's good for a jolt, but if you want your victim to get some serious altitude, sneak up behind them, place your arm up over their head, and carefully curve your fingers along their forehead. Be careful not to touch the victim yet. Now, tap them about a centimeter below the hairline. The beauty of this technique is that they won't know where to jump, because they cannot see your hand, and won't immediately realize that you are behind them. Victims will often recoil several times in multiple directions while they try to determine what the hell just happened.

DIFFICULTY RATING: HARD

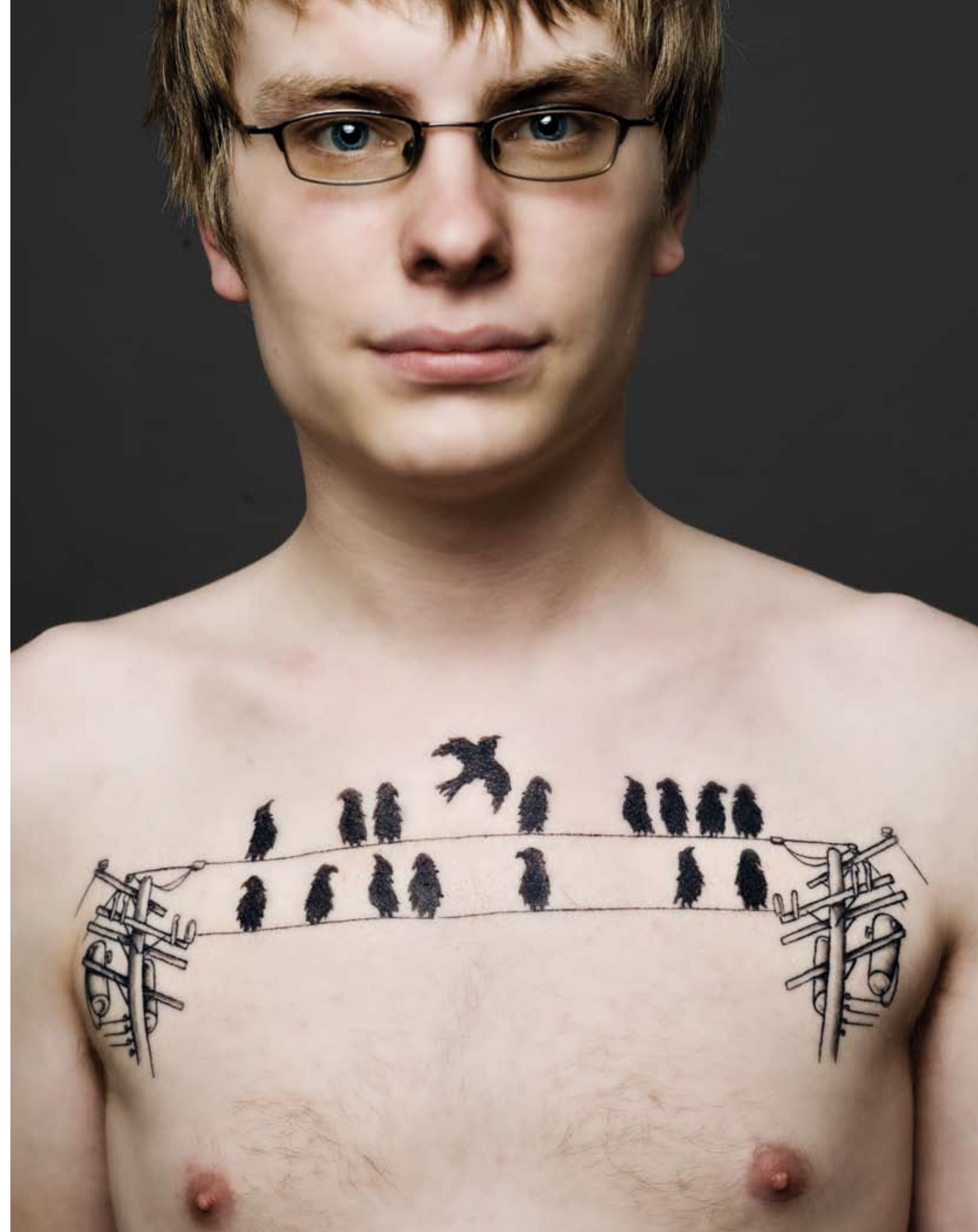
7				9			
	9		1	6		7	
	6		3	8			1
	1			7			6
	2	4			7	8	
8			4				5
3			6		1	9	
	4		7		2	1	
				3			5

UNDER THE NEEDLE

They're not just for sailors and prostitutes anymore. Gone are the days when only bikers and convicts would accept you into their social circle if you had one.

by Laura Mandanas | photographs by Ross Thompson

This is the year 2007, after all. Many of us ran to the nearest shop to get one on the very first day we could, without a note from Mom and Dad. As members of a generation seemingly obsessed with personalization, this is perhaps the final word on individualistic expression. Ultimately, is there anything more personal than your own body? »



Even if you do not have a tattoo or piercing, you almost certainly know someone who does. According to a fall 2006 survey by the Pew Research Center, 36% of Americans ages 18-25 and 40% of those between 26-40 have at least one tattoo. Additionally, 30% of the 18-25 group has a piercing somewhere other than their earlobe, as compared to 22% of those 26-40.

We took a look at the lives of some of the tattooed and pierced at RIT. As you will soon see, these students do not easily fall under any category. They are as unique as the patterns of holes and carefully inked designs they display.

DANIELLE CUNNINGHAM

“The only way I will be tattooed is if it has special significance to me,” says Danielle Cunningham, a Biotech major. Sporting a total of 5 tattoos and 20 piercings, she has certainly invested a lot of thought, time and money into her body modifications. Of special significance to her is the tattoo on her lower abdomen, featuring her own design of Celtic symbols for the holy trinity and the nautical stars. They symbolize guidance.

Cunningham typically finds images that she likes (all Celtic symbols so far, mostly symbolizing womanhood and interconnectedness). Then, she makes up a design from the images and chooses where she would like it on her body. She then brings it in to the tattoo artist

HOW DO TATTOOS WORK, ANYWAY?

A hollow pen like tube is used, with many tiny pins lined up inside of it. The tattooing machine oscillates the pin bar at an average rate of 1,500 times per minute. The pins are dipped in pigment, and then penetrate the customer's skin, leaving a trail of ink at the dermis layer, just under the surface. The embedded ink particles are large enough that they will not leave the body through ordinary excretory mechanisms; instead, they are encapsulated by the body. It is now a permanent addition, trapped just under the skin... unless it is removed.

Laser treatments work through a photo acoustic effect, using a particular wavelength to explode ink particles of a certain color. The fragments are then excreted through the lymph system. Typically, multiple laser sessions are required to fully get rid of tattoos. The body can only handle so much waste at a time.

“There is always some collaboration with the artist,” notes Cunningham. “There has to be, because they’re the ones drawing it. I’d say it’s 90% me, 10%— well, I’ll give them more credit than that... I’d say it’s 70% me, 30% the artist.” Preferring the way that it looks on African American skin, all of her tattoos are done in black ink only. Her next tattoo is a poem that she wrote and had translated into Celtic, which she plans to have tattooed wrapping around her body. “It’s about being bipolar, so of course it has special significance to me,” she says.

As for her piercings, she relates, “I was actually banned from the piercing shop for six weeks, because I got way too many piercings in one month...” She counts, “Six... Seven... Eight. Pretty much, I would wake up and go: ‘I want to get something pierced’ and then I’d go [and] get something pierced.” With the knowledge that they are not as permanent, she doesn’t refrain from getting pierced on a whim. She has already allowed both of her lip rings and her nose ring to close up in the past, and had no problems with it. And in case you’re wondering, she has never set off the metal detectors in airport security. “That’s a huge myth,” says Cunningham with a laugh.

Will she regret any of it in the future? “I hope not, ‘cause that’s one of my rules,” adds Cunningham. “You can’t regret it. There’s never anything you should regret.”

STEVE LOSH

“Yeah, it hurt. You’re sticking a needle into your skin, so it does hurt. My chest hurt more, especially the part around my sternum,” says Steve Losh, a senior in the Computer Science program, when asked about the pain involved. He has two tattoos. “It was kind of, like you’d expect, a repeated prick.”

Both of his tattoos have special meaning to him. The first, drawn across his chest, is a row of evenly spaced birds on a telephone wire. With the birds representing 1s and the spaces representing 0s, the arrangement is 01001101 01001111, spelling out MOVE in binary. If the bird with the outstretched wings were to fly away, it would change to 01010110 01000101, translating to LOVE.

The second tattoo he got is something he had been wanting for a long time. He explains, “The traditional symbol for peace is the dove with the olive branch, but people aren’t like doves— peo-

ple are flawed, mean, and selfish. I still think that doesn’t mean that we have to kill each other. I think the crow is more appropriate—a more realistic symbol of peace.” The tattoo was put on his left arm at the beginning of September, and will be filled in the next time he goes back to the tattoo parlor.

Does he think this will make it harder for him to get a job? “I can wear long sleeves. It’s not a big deal,” he shrugs. “If a company’s going to fire me once they find out I have tattoos, it’s not somewhere I’d want to work anyway.” Says Losh, “Honestly, I can’t see myself ever thinking differently about those, and the things they mean right now. And even if I did start thinking differently, at least it would remind me of the way I used to think, where I came from.”

SAMANTHA BULEWICH

“I’ve met some guys who are not interested in girls with tattoos, but they hadn’t really seen it. When they see what they actually are, then they find out that they’re interesting. Some people say, ‘Ooh they’re really gross,’ but that’s their opinion,” says Samantha Bulewich, speaking through a sign language interpreter.

A Fine Art Photo major, she does not anticipate that her 12 tattoos and 3 piercings will obstruct her career. “I got each of them in a specific area for a reason. I don’t have any on my arms or my legs, I use my shoulders because I know a shirt will cover it, and shoes will cover my feet, and if I use a bracelet or something, I can cover each of my wrists. I can cover them easily. That’s why I picked the specific spots.”

On her wrists, Bulewich has tattooed flowers and the word “live.” She explains, “I got the one on my right wrist first, and the second on my left wrist. It’s a word. I got them because I love living. And lotuses, I found out, mean freedom. I’m very independent, so that’s why I got that.” On her chest, she has water lilies, “...Which mean beauty, and I believe in the beauty of everything.” Elsewhere, she has a blue rose, hummingbirds, a Japanese style flower, the Red Sox Logo, and “Twenty Seven,” her birthday.

Happy with all of her tattoos, Bulewich explains, “I live with it. I only live once, and I’m going to get all the experiences I can while I’m living.”

PETER ZANDVLIET

Peter Zandvliet, a student dual majoring in International Business and Management Informa-

tion Systems, is less tattooed and pierced, but is just as proud of them. The tattoo is in color, and of a rising phoenix below a negative image of an infinity symbol. Zandvliet explains, “It has a lot of symbolic meaning for me, because I got it after my brother passed away. He— on the same arm, pretty much the same spot—had a tribal that looked a little bit like what could have been a phoenix or some other bird like that, so it sort of inspired me to create this one which was originally supposed to be a tribal, but the creative process worked in a different way, and I was fine with that.”

Before getting the tattoo, Zandvliet put a lot of thought into making sure it was not something he would ever want to have removed. He says, “I was careful as to where I put it, so that even in a short sleeved shirt, you don’t know it’s there. It’d have to be a very short sleeved shirt for it to show. But even more visible tattoos are becoming less negative, as more people get them. It’s not really a sign of a drug addict or something. There was an association in the past that slowly, thankfully, has subsided.”

Zandvliet has an industrial piercing in one ear, and plans to get more. He says, “Piercings are easy, just ‘cause you can always get rid of them and there’s not much evidence that you had them in the first place. So it’s a lot easier to do a spur of the moment piercing. You can always take it out later on.” In the future, Zandvliet might get surface piercings and possibly nipple piercings.

AMANDA SOUZA

Amanda Souza, a third year Biology major, has three tattoos, nine holes in her ears, and an eyebrow piercing. She explains, “Some of it was spur of the moment, and some of it was kind of like, ‘I really want to get this pierced, I’m going to do it.’” Her tattoos were definitely not spur of the moment: “I took time. The piercings can close up and leave a little mark, but the tattoos are forever...[I waited] at least two months ahead of time. And then I went and talked to the artist three or four times before I got each one done.”

The first tattoo Souza got was on her lower back, of a moon and stars. “I’ve always been obsessed with [the] moon and stars...I guess it comes from when my dad used to take me outside and show me all the constellations. I have most of them memorized,” she says. She also has a sentence in Portuguese (due to her Portuguese heritage) on her back with tiger lilies, which translates



to “What the eyes do not see, the heart does not feel,” and Chinese symbols on her waist, which translate to ‘female homosexuality.’

Notes Souza, “There’s a lot of things you could do to destroy your body. This is just my choice. I mean you could drink, you could smoke pot, you could, you know, drive racecars, but I choose to tattoo my body.” She considers it art.

To anyone considering it, Souza advises, “Think about it, especially if it’s a tattoo. They are permanent, despite laser removal. I wouldn’t get anyone’s name. Ever. It’s just a horrible idea. And I would talk to someone. Talk to your friends. Ask their opinion to make sure you’re not doing something stupid for the rest of your life.”

DANIEL MAFFIA

“I don’t see it as destroying my body. I never thought of it that way,” says Daniel Maffia, an Interpreting major with two tattoos and four piercings. “Sometimes, you know, you’ll get the people who say, ‘Well, when you’re 60 years old, will you still have it?’ And I don’t know, I mean, it’s hard [to say]. Obviously, the 60 year olds nowadays don’t have them, so I don’t know. You kind of go with the flow.”

When deciding on the designs of his tattoos, Maffia waited a long time before getting them, to make sure they were something he would want to last— even if, he admits, the original meaning was perhaps not as ‘deep’ as those associated with some other peoples’ tattoos. The heart with a crown around it tattooed on his upper back, for example, was a symbol he had first seen in the videogame, Kingdom Hearts. He had wanted the Celtic band on his arm for almost six years. “It’s

kind of funny. It’s from an artist, actually, who has it, and I wanted it ever since I was younger,” says Maffia.

Who was the artist? “It’s going to sound really dorky, so if anybody reads this...” he says with a sheepish smile. “It was actually one of the Spice Girls that has it.” He laughs good naturedly. “Yeah, it was her. It was actually Sporty Spice. I wanted it for years.”

Aside from a little concern over the appearance of the shading of the chain on his arm, Maffia is satisfied with both tattoos and all of his piercings. He was so happy with the industrial, in fact, that he took his boyfriend back to the same shop in New York City to get exactly the same thing. Unfortunately, Maffia does have to take out that particular piercing when he’s interpreting. He says, “I know a lot of students in my major have nose rings, and they still interpret fine and the teachers don’t say anything. I guess it’s because mine’s a little bit larger [so it could be distracting].” Even if that ia something that will be a problem, he is sure he can accept it and put a plug in, or look for other solutions.

Since turning 18 two Decembers ago, he has been getting a tattoo for each birthday. He’s not sure if he will get one this year, but would definitely like more piercings. He says he would love to get a piercing just below his lower lip, exclaiming, “I want my labret so badly!” •

Steve Losh is pictured on page 17.



adam francey

ink

by Ilsa Shaw
photograph by Dylan Knapp

Rolling up the ends of his cargo shorts, Adam Francey reveals a jagged maze of black designs inked into his skin. Francey, who will receive his Master's in Fine Arts Painting from RIT this year, is showing me his first tattoo, the very one he gave himself. At the age of 17, Francey caught his first whiff of tattooing when he decided to tattoo his own thigh. His parents, who shunned the thought of tattoos, jokingly told him he might as well do it himself. "So I did," says Francey.

According to Francey, self-tattooing is how many artists start out in the business, as much as they may avoid 'fessing-up to the fact. Case in point: soon afterwards, Francey received an apprenticeship at Xtreme Graphix, a tattoo parlor in downtown Rochester. Within a month, he had started tattooing for the parlor, while also juggling his courses as an Illustration major at RIT. Now, as a graduate, Francey is still kept on his toes as an artist for the more consultation-based White Tiger Tattoo Studio, located off West Ridge Road in downtown Rochester.

As an artist, Francey prefers to consult his clients to get a better idea of their vision for a tattoo. This avoids the ill-fated and commonly dreaded impulse to simply have a tattoo. "That's good in a business sense, but I have to sleep at night," says Francey. Indeed, Francey seems to have his head on straight. Everything— from the supply tray to the chair one sits upon— is carefully sterilized with each passing client, a process Francey says was an "easy habit" to get into, once he understood the importance of hygiene. Aesthetics play second fiddle to health concerns by a long shot.

As for the ideas of his clients, Francey says, "I'm not the fashion police. I'm not here to tell somebody that their tattoo is stupid." A major reason he prefers consulting with clients, however, is to be able to lend an artistic helping hand. "As a tattoo artist, you're the mediator. People come to you with an idea, and are opening up to you, in a way, and telling you what they want... It's there forever, and they're going to remember the whole experience forever."

When Francey first started tattooing himself, he put a great deal of effort into designing them all, each with a certain personal significance. Over the years, however, his focus has shifted. He has become more interested in the art and history of tattooing. "When people get tattoos, they always want this super

R

meaningful thing, and sometimes it kills their tattoo, because they try to pack too much information in too small an area. If you're going to get something meaningful, simplify your idea a little bit, and let it be more of a natural thing. Sometimes, it's just nice to get something for art's sake," advises Francey.

True to his own advice, Francey has recently taken to sifting through the galleries of other admirable tattoo artists and getting tattooed by them, simply out of appreciation for their art. "They are starting to realize that tattooing is an art form. People should start realizing that there are some really nice artists out there who do phenomenal work, and just because they're far away, it shouldn't stop you from being tattooed by them," remarks Francey, who has traveled to Boston, New York City, Syracuse, and many other cities with individual tattoo artists in mind.

Even so, the more tattoos he gathers, the more Francey seems to be faced with the incorrect assumption that he is a deviant, tattooed troublemaker. As one who has a great respect for the tradition behind different kinds of tattoo art, it is often quite disappointing for Francey to be met with such narrow-minded cynicism. "There's a richness there that is often overlooked by the general public," says Francey. "I was at Staples one time, waiting in line with my friend (who's heavily tattooed, too). This old guy says, 'If you had to do it all over again, would you get a tattoo?' I was like, 'Yeah, I would.' I even had this bum yell, 'You're going to burn in hell!' at me." Francey has learned to deal with such reactions and face them positively: "They already look at you like you're some [monstrous] person, so why not prove them wrong?"

After all these years, however, Francey is still as intrigued by tattooing as he was initially. "Even on the days when it feels like a job, it's better than any other job I could ever probably have. You get to work with great people and do fun things all day long," says Francey. It's also a way for Francey to practice the type of art he's always been interested in, illustration. This is arguably dying out now, that digital stock art has been made so readily available on the Internet. As for his own future, Francey remarks, "I want to tattoo for the rest of my life, but it would be nice to try to do other things, such as in the fine art world. I'll eventually probably try to do fine art illustration, or try to get into galleries... For the most part, I pretty much picture myself tattooing forever." Does Francey have reason to regret any moment of his career? Not at all. Not since that first maze of designs made its way to his skin, not since all he had was 17 years and a beginner's tattoo kit to his name. •

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PLANNING FOR RETIREMENT

by Michael Percia
President, Financial Management Association

Retirement is a long way off. Too true. That being said, prudent retirement planning need not require much extra effort. The decisions made here and now could hugely impact your retirement. Consider it as you analyze job offers you receive after graduation.

Consider this scenario— as you near graduation, you have a job offer from both Google and Apple, each paying the same starting salary of \$60,000 and located in sunny California. How do you decide between the two? Look at the benefits that each company provides. These include healthcare, vacation time, and most importantly, retirement benefits.

Let's say that Google credits 4% of your annual salary to your retirement account, and Apple pays 4.5%. You might feel the urge to disregard the seemingly small difference (if you even noticed it). But assuming you start working at age 22, the difference will be huge by the time you retire at age 65. If your retirement investments earn a 9% rate of return, and your salary stays at \$60,000 throughout your career, you would have \$132,253.70 less in your retirement account at age 65 if you chose to work for Google.

You should also read up on the type of retirement account your employer is providing. The Internal Revenue Service has different regulations and guidelines for each type. Knowing a little bit about what you're getting into will definitely benefit you in the long run.

As with almost all for-profit companies, Apple will most probably offer you a 401K retirement account. Basically, a 401K is a defined contribution retirement plan, which means that contributions are usually made by both the employee and the employer for as long as the job is held. As of this year, an employee can contribute as much as \$15,500 per year into this account. Based on our previous example, the employer (Apple) would also be contributing \$2,700 a year (4.5% of your salary). Between the accumulation of contributions into this account and your investment gains (see last week's column for tips on how to get that started), this would ideally provide enough money for your "golden years."

One of the main benefits for employees under the 401K is that they can make their contributions from their gross pay instead of their take home pay, which has Federal, State, Medicare, and Social Security taxes taken out. The other obvious benefit is that your employer is contributing to your retirement. A word of caution: Some employers will only contribute to your retirement account if you contribute first. So, always ask a prospective employer for all the details, and contribute as much as you can.

In your 401K, you will have many investment options that will most likely include Mutual Funds and/or Exchange Traded Funds. This puts you in the driver's seat of your financial destiny, with full control over which types of investments to choose from. A couple of things you will want to analyze: fees and performance. If you need some extra tutoring, talking to a financial planner might be appropriate. Your employer might also provide additional resources to assist you. Start planning now! •

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SPORTSDESK

photography by Jeff Conner

Matt Smith (17) brings the puck down the ice during a game against Bowling Green on October 19, 2007. RIT lost 5-3.

- 1 Paul Schoeneck plays a hockey game before the Bowling Green vs. RIT Mens hockey game at the RITZ Tail Gate Party on October 19.
- 2 Brennan Sarazin (20) battles for the puck against Bowling Green's Jacob Cepis (13).
- 3 Matt Smith (17) handles the puck.



1



2



3

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Rochester Institute of Technology

RIT  *Performing Artists Concert Series*
Presented by The Center for Campus Life

THREE STARS

JESSICA SCHAFER

by Carolyn Dunne

photograph by Alex Gagne

RIT is having great success on the Volleyball court this season, with Jessica Schaffer leading the way as co-captain. Schaffer, a third year Engineering major from Wellington, Ohio, is compiling an impressive list of accomplishments as an Outside Hitter on the Women's Volleyball team, which she has been a part of since her freshman year.

Last season, she was named co-captain, played in a total of 141 games, and earned All-Empire 8 Team honors, RIT Athlete of the Week of September 18, and MVP of the SUNY Oneonta Red Dragon Invitational. She also racked up some impressive stats, with 464 kills and 474 digs, the second highest on the team.

This year, she has continued her outstanding career, earning more accolades while being instrumental to the team's success. She was

named MVP of the New York University Invitational, then the Empire 8 Player of the Week for the first week of October. She recorded 61 kills and 59 digs in the Tigers' second-place finish at NYU, with a record of three wins and a single loss. Schaffer was also selected as the RIT Tournament MVP at the Colorado and the Ithaca Invitational tournaments and to the All-Tournament Team at the Nazareth Invitational.

She played a key role in the Tigers' most recent win against SUNY Brockport, leading the way with 19 kills and 16 digs, only 19 digs short of reaching 500 and 500 respectively in a season— something only three other players have accomplished in all of RIT's history. With a record of 24-8 at the time this article was written, the Tigers were back in action last weekend at Alfred University, where Schaffer had yet another chance to make her 500 and 500 season, adding yet another record to her impressive résumé. »



Performing Artists Concert Series fund-raiser: \$50 for special seating and a private after-concert reception.

MARK FRISICANO

by Carolyn Dunne

photograph by Dave Londres

Another RIT team that is working to continue their winning record of 8-6-1 is the Men's Soccer team. The team's Senior Forward, Mark Frisicano, a Rochester native majoring in Mechanical Engineering, recently scored his seventh goal of the season and his 25th career goal at RIT. This puts him in 10th place for highest all-time career goals at RIT.

As a freshman, Frisicano earned second-team All-Empire 8 honors with seven goals in the season, leading his team that year. In his sophomore year, he played in all 19 games and continued to be successful, receiving an All-Empire 8 honorable mention. Starting all 17 games in his junior year, 2006 was also a good year for Mark, as he led RIT in scoring with seven goals, scoring three games in a row against Ithaca, SUNY Potsdam, and Elmira. Frisicano was also honored in 2006, earning All-Empire 8 first team honors for his efforts. He was named Empire 8 Player of the Week in the first week of October and RIT Male Athlete of the Week for the first two weeks of October.

Frisicano's teammates stress his sense of teamwork on the field, noting his commitment to the team and his teammates. Despite that commitment, it is not unusual to see Frisicano streaking towards the opponent's goal with defenders in hot pursuit, like his 35-yard breakaway in last week's game against Ithaca, a game that ultimately resulted in a loss. Although this is Frisicano's last season as a Tiger, the impression he has made is unforgettable.

Check out Frisicano and the Tigers at 12 p.m. on October 27th at RIT against Nazareth, which will be the Tigers' last scheduled home game of the year before the Empire 8 Tournament begins on November 3rd (time and location TBA). »

JARED BURDICK

by Geoff Shearer

photograph by Tom Schirmacher

Junior Jared Burdick has contributed to the success of the Tigers, in no small part, over the past few cross country seasons. In fact, Burdick was named Empire 8 Runner of the Week for the week of October 7th this year. This is the third time in six weeks that Burdick has been given this honor.

Most recently, at the Albany Invitational (a Division I meet), Burdick helped to lead RIT's Division III team to a 2nd place finish out of 26 teams. He finished 8th overall out of a total of 228 runners, helping RIT defeat a dozen Division I teams with a time of 25:14. To put that in perspective, that 25:14 is on the typical 8k (5 mile) run—an average of just over 5 minutes a mile. Burdick finished at the Houghton Invitational with a time of 24:51.

Head Coach Dave Warth stated, "Jared is a very smooth and strong runner, but I have had better physical athletes. The reason he is one of the most successful Cross Country runners I have ever had is his great work ethic and willingness to put in the time and effort in practice to be great." Coach Warth also noted that Jared's keys to success are his will power and concentration, adding that Jared contributes through "leadership by example" on and off the track.

The team will be beginning their qualifying meets to make Nationals on November 10th, and Coach Warth speculates, "As a team, we are ranked 6th in our District and only 5 teams make Nationals. Jared is the type of runner who has taken it upon himself to lead this team to at least the top five in the district, so we can go to Nationals. In addition, Jared is likely to qualify as an individual, even if the team does not make it."

Burdick's contributions will doubtlessly be integral in making Nationals this year, and if the cards are not in our favor, at least we know the Tigers will have Burdick's continued commitment and dedication to depend upon for another season in the next year. •

FYI

All calls subject to editing and truncation. Not all calls will be run. Reporter reserves the right to publish all calls in any format.

MONDAY, 8:39 A.M.

I would like to apologize to all RIT females. A couple of weeks ago, I complained about getting shot down while I was hitting on chicks, and this week-end, I see that the two that I got shot down by are dating each other! What a small world! I am sorry that I complained.

MONDAY, 8:44 P.M.

Hey, RIT Rings. I'm just calling to remind you to vote for Ron Paul. So, do it. Bye-bye.

THURSDAY, 10:42 A.M.

So, we're sitting in these desks, with our laptops, in an elevator, doing our labs. It's the most kick-ass thing ever. Best way to do your M and P labs. I highly recommend it.

THURSDAY, 10:25 P.M.

Hi Rings, I think it's total bull[blank] that outside Nathaniel Rochester, half the 20-minute parking spots are gone for those FlexCars. I thought we were supposed to have a say in this.

FRIDAY, 12:33 A.M.

Hey Rings, I just wanted to say that it's pretty cool that we have security guards in some of the academic buildings now, especially after what happened at Virginia Tech. It makes me feel a lot better that if something bad does happen, there's somebody there to protect me, because I don't have the right to protect myself.

FRIDAY, 1:18 P.M.

Hey, this is in response to that girl who's pregnant in the recent Rings, in the most recent issue. You need to tell the guy: "Don't be a fool: Wrap your tool."

FRIDAY, 6:40 P.M.

Once upon a time, there was a magical kitty, but the owner named him "Puppy," so kitty had to grow up with a horrible complex, because of his contradictory name. So, one day, the kitty Puppy took a knife and killed everyone, and then everyone died. The end.

FRIDAY, 9:27 P.M.

Hey, Rings. I've got a little bit of a problem. I woke up this morning with a sore spot on my back, and I noticed it was a tattoo of a penis. And that's really bad, 'cause I'm Christian, and I don't believe in premarital sex, or any of that kind of stuff, so my mom's gonna [f-wording] kill me when she finds out. So, yeah, pray for me.

FRIDAY, 9:44 P.M.

Hey Rings, I realize no one at RIT actually cares about sports, but I just wanted to let you know that the Red Sox are tearing the Indians a new [body part losers often get a new one torn of]. It's like the [historical events Indians were victims in] all over again.

SATURDAY, 1:03 A.M.

That haiku was the way worst, but there's a way better haiku. It's the RIT

guy cleanliness haiku: I am very clean / I shower quite frequently / Took one just last week.

SUNDAY, 1:35 A.M.

Hey RIT Rings... yeah, the building is shaking. I don't know who to call, so I'm calling you. Just so you know, the building's kinda shaking.

SUNDAY, 1:59 P.M.

Hi, I was just reading *Reporter*, and I saw someone in a previous issue had written about Tour de Franzia parties, and I think what this person's actually referring to is called Franzia Falls. This is a little bit more dainty than just drinking as fast as you can and passing out on the floor. It's kinda like a waterfall in your mouth, and me and my friends are actually in the process of getting this patented, so there you go.

MONDAY, 8:21 P.M.

Hi, this is Bob at the ITS Help Desk. I was just calling to let you know that my boss issued a directive. Umm... yeah, this is the last week of school, for the quarter... five weeks off, actually. Okay, bye.

TUESDAY, 6:33 P.M.

Expedition, October 13th. We are currently in front of Lake Ontario, going to search for the Lady in White, also known as "The White Lady."



A VERY SNUG SITUATION

by Karen Doktor | illustration by Bryan Williams

If you really think about it, RIT's Housing Operations has the ultimate advantage over students, especially those who come here from out of town. They can do what they want, charge what they want, and say what they want, because they know that students will always need housing. Fair? I don't think so.

Last year, as a transfer student from out of town, I was immediately assigned to Riverknoll. When I first moved in, I brought only the necessities for my bedroom: A bed, desk, and dresser. However, upon moving in, my bed (only a twin size) took up most of the room. My dresser (again, regular size) prevented my bedroom door from opening all the way, and my desk stood on the opposite side of the room in front of my closet. This was a very snug situation, but I dealt with it. My roommate brought the same items, but had the slightly bigger room, so she had a fraction more comfort than I did. The living situation was still quite small for her, too.

Although my roommate and I were aware of the occupancy requirement, Housing told us that a third person wouldn't be assigned to the apartment because of the size of our particular unit. Then, two weeks before the 2007 Fall Quarter started, they changed their minds and assigned a third person to the apartment, even though there was barely room for two.

First of all, where does Housing get off, assigning three students to an apartment with 9' x 11' and 11' x 11' bedrooms? For comparison's sake, if you look at the dimensions of dorm rooms, the double rooms are 17' long by 10' wide, or 12' by 14'. How could they honestly think that

two people were going to fit in one of those bedrooms?

Secondly, after I found out that a third person was assigned, I contacted Housing to remind them of the size of the apartment and even requested somebody to come and see for themselves how small the bedrooms were in this particular unit. I also reminded them that in the biggest bedroom, there was no way we were going to be able to fit two dressers, two desks, and two beds.

First of all, where does Housing get off, assigning three students to an apartment with 9' x 11' and 11' x 11' bedrooms?

Even the *dorms* provide the necessary space for each student to have a dresser, desk, and bed. Furniture is already provided by RIT, too. Since the apartments are supposed to be an upgrade from the dorms, I thought I was standing on very reasonable ground. Instead of being empathetic and concerned for our tight living conditions,

Housing hid behind their "occupancy requirement" and told me they weren't going to do anything about it.

The question is this: How were we supposed to deal with living in a small apartment that was slowly becoming overcrowded? Did Housing expect us to convert our kitchen into a bedroom, too? Why does it even have to come to that point where students have to *demand* appropriate living conditions at one of the better universities in the country?

I surely hope that any future plans to improve Riverknoll also include a re-evaluation of how many people are assigned to the apartments.

In conclusion, I suggest to all Riverknoll assignees: Before you decide to move in to these apartments, consider living in a box behind Gracie's until Housing changes their occupancy requirements. This way, not only will you have just about the same amount of living space, you'll be right on campus, and won't have to pay atrocious rent. •



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