

# REPORTER

DECEMBER 7, 2007 | WWW.REPORTERMAG.COM



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# EDITOR'S NOTE

## THE PRICE OF PRIVACY

This week's issue may give you the impression that the staff at *Reporter* has become extremely paranoid. This estimation is not entirely accurate—it's not an invasion of privacy that's causing me to look over my shoulder at night, but rather the various threats I've received in my inbox during the past couple of weeks. (By the way, to the lovely folks who have been composing those e-mails: Your life need not revolve around Word on the Street. Please seek some composure, and if necessary, some professional help.)

In a way, I think my WOTS-centric paranoia is characteristic of our post-9/11 society. I care more about my physical safety than my right to privacy. But unlike the scores of liberal educators and commentators who quote Thomas Jefferson on the matter—"He who trades liberty for security deserves neither and will lose both"—I believe that there is more to this problem than a Mortal Kombat-style brawl between these two seemingly opposite ideals.

Here's why: When I perform a search on Google, it saves all of my queries for a fairly substantial amount of time (page 20). Some people call this creepy. I call it convenient, because I want Google to track my online movements. In storing all of that data for me, that giant engine is performing the true function of a computer. It's remembering mundane facts for me (such as my past search history) and is using them to tailor future requests. In short, it's taking the bitch out of my work.

I think a large portion of our modern era's erosion of privacy can be attributed to computer networking. Given that cause, I think the alarmist knee-jerk reaction against the tide of technology is rather shortsighted. Yes, more people around the nation know about my personal tastes and weekend activities via Facebook. And of course they do! As your world shrinks, your community grows. By using my Facebook account, I'm trading some predetermined amount of my privacy for the convenience of staying in touch with distant friends. In the grand scheme of things, the stranger in Oklahoma who checks out my profile is not fundamentally different from the sitcom era across-the-street neighbor who peeks through my windows. In other words, I'm trading a trivial amount of security and privacy for a wealth of convenience. Good deal.

Of course, this discussion is not an overly simplistic triangle. There are more forces to balance here than privacy, security, and convenience. The question of power is infinitely important in this equation. And that's why this latest terror in a string of anti-terrorist policies is so frightening: Firefighters (who, incidentally, do not need warrants to enter your home) are now being trained to search for signs of discontent with America while they perform fire inspections. If you have a flight manual in your living room, you are considered suspect. That's a gross invasion of privacy that can have dangerous consequences. And what are we getting in exchange? A salt grain's worth of cosmetic security. Bad deal.

I don't view the erosion of privacy in the twenty-first century as an absolute problem, but rather a balancing act. We need to know the worth of what we're cashing in, and we need to be aware of what, if anything, we're getting out of it.



Jen Loomis

**EDITOR IN CHIEF**

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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**DEAR REPORTER,**

Recently, the Women's Center sent an e-mail to all female students and faculty, announcing their grand opening. I thought this was somewhat unnecessary, but I just discarded the e-mail and continued with my day.

Two days later, I received another giant e-mail from some other group, announcing their event. Apparently, somebody thought it was a good idea to use the "Reply All" function to send another spam mail. I was quite annoyed, but I just discarded it again and went about my business. But it didn't stop there.

Suddenly, I was barraged with spam e-mails from students, complaining about the spam e-mails. I've had five e-mails so far, about how upset and annoyed these students are. Well, now I'm upset and annoyed that you have to tell everyone about it through another spam e-mail.

I'll admit that I've sent my share of spam e-mails, but only within my organization and only when deemed necessary. But what I'm going through is just absurd. Thank you, Women's Center, for opening Pandora's Box.

DANIELLA HAND

Fourth year Film and Animation

**DEAR REPORTER,**

Reporter, am I the one software engineer sans published haiku?

PAUL FISHER

Second year Software Engineering

**DEAR REPORTER,**

Software engineers Writing all of the haikus. Here's one from IT!

STEVEN DIBELIUS

Fourth year Information Technology

**DEAR REPORTER,**

Chivalry is not dead on the RIT campus, as Susan Cook's letter to the Editor implies. I am truly surprised that no one helped her, because 19 times out of 20, students or faculty hold the doors for me when they see me struggling with my computer equipment between double-door entries and/or three-step landings in many of the buildings on campus. Maybe it is because I am older and not a student and they feel compelled to "respect their elders," but I like to think they are just being polite and, even in light of Women's Liberation, I am very grateful for these gestures.

Sincerely,

NICKI TIFFANY

Real Time Captionist

**DEAR REPORTER,**

"1992 also gave birth to Wolfenstein 3D [...] The same game engine was used a year later [...] in the infamous computer game Doom..."

Outrage, sir! Shock and outrage! If ever you find yourself beating your breast and screaming to the heavens, asking why there is a lack of trust in what it is you report, know that it is gross violations of historical facts such as these that are responsible!

The Wolfenstein 3D engine is completely and utterly a separate entity from the Doom engine. The Doom engine was developed from scratch after the success of Wolfenstein 3D. In fact, the two engines are based on entirely separate principles of rendering (the former using ray tracing, specifically based in ray casting, while the latter is entirely BSP based.)

Heed the lesson, Reporter, and become wiser. YOU FAIL IT! YOUR RESEARCH IS NOT ENOUGH! SEE YOU NEXT TIME! BYE-BYE!

JAMES LORD

Fourth year Computer Science

**DEAR REPORTER,**

I really enjoyed Joe McLaughlin's "No Joy In Denver" piece in the November 9 Reporter. Not only was it a welcome change from the techie articles that seem to dominate Reporter, it also brought back fond memories of my childhood. As a kindergartener, I missed a day of school to go with my grandma and aunt to the very same Mets-Rockies game alluded to in the article. I've been a huge Mets fan ever since.

My condolences to Joe and all Rockies fans. There's no shame in losing the World Series, especially after the miracle ROCKtober they had. Plenty of shame, however, in blowing a 7-game lead with 17 to play...

Waiting 'til next year,

DAN CASAZZA

Second year New Media Publishing

## TO SEND LETTERS

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**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 that are responding to a letter.

# RIT REMEMBERS

## SETH POLICZER & SYED ALI TURAB

by Neil Demoney | photograph by Beth Young



Early on Friday morning, November 9, RIT lost two of its students in a tragic house fire— Seth Policzer, a fourth year Computer Engineering student from Parkland, Florida, and Syed Ali Turab, known as ALi to those close to him, a fourth year Professional and Technical Communications major from Milford, New Jersey. The two were roommates and shared an apartment at 33 Upton Park with four other RIT students, who managed to escape.

Seth and ALi had been friends since coming to RIT. The two were roommates their freshman year and continued to live together every year since. “I can remember countless nights staying up in their room in Fish— playing video games, staying up to late, going to class,” said Nick Walker, a senior transfer student at George Washington University, who attended high school with ALi and had been friends with the pair while at RIT. “Seth and ALi were such good friends that it is almost fitting that they die together... I can’t even imagine it any other way. They were like a team. They were really as close as two friends, as two guys could get.”

“Seth was a late bloomer in many ways in life,” said Rabbi Paul Plotkin, of Temple Beth Am of Margate, Fla., where the Policzer family attends synagogue. “He was the youngest of three boys and was a little skinny guy. Then one day, he just shot up into this tall man. But it wasn’t just physically because during his years at RIT, he fully blossomed into an intelligent, socially active, independent, and mature man who had a brilliant career ahead of him,” Plotkin told the *Democrat and Chronicle*.

ALi is remembered by his friends as a joker and someone who was full of life. “He was such a great guy who liked to joke and have a good time,” said Yousuf Khan, a Professional and Technical Communications major. “Most of our friends are still in shock about what happened. I still can’t believe it.”

“ALi and Seth were the type of people that, they may have been worried about a test here and there, but they were never really depressed or overly anxious. They were always in a good mood... Whatever they were doing, they were always looking to have a good laugh,” noted Walker.

The accident happened on the same day as the inauguration of President Destler. Though the inauguration went on as planned, Provost Stan McKenzie asked for a moment of silence to reflect on the lives that were lost and noted that the tragic event reminds us of “the fragile nature that is the cycle of human life,” sending out his deepest condolences to the family and friends of Seth and ALi. President Destler gravely said that “we lost two of our family members to a very unfortunate and tragic fire downtown” and promised to parents that RIT would do all it could to keep its students safe.

In memory, tribute, and celebration of ALi and Seth’s lives, Student Government President Ed Wolf, Engineering Department Head Andreas Savakis, and Father Richard Hunt, Pastor of the RIT Newman Community (the Catholic parish on campus) helped to plan an evening of remembrance. Jeff Hering, Director of the Center for Religious Life, described the evening as an “informal gathering” that genuinely provided an opportunity for “family and friends to share painful and joyful stories about their memories of ALi and Seth.” According to Hering, the event was well attended, including some family members of the victims, President Destler, and Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Mary Beth Cooper. Hering said that those recent did their best to overcome their grief and share in their fondest and most unforgettable memories of Seth and ALi.

RIT will also be holding a memorial service for the two students, which will be held on January 14, and is being planned by Hering. This event will allow the opportunity for “the biological families and the college families to meet” and share their memories of Seth and ALi, and how these two touched their lives and their hearts, he said. •

“the fragile nature that is the  
cycle of human life”



## DESTLER INAUGURATED AS PRESIDENT OF RIT

by Neil Demoney | photograph by Dave Londres/ETC Photo

**O**n November 9, 2007, Dr. William Destler was inaugurated as RIT's ninth president, following former President Al Simone's retirement. Destler has now been formally entrusted with the leadership of the entire Institute and the responsibility of increasing its international prestige and, more generally, taking RIT to "the next level." This next level, according to Dr. Destler, involves creating a strong research relationship with corporations and transforming RIT into a university that has innovation as its main focus. To accomplish this, Destler indicated that he and his staff need to concentrate on answering the following question: "How do we encourage development of [students'] minds, hearts, and skills?"

The event was attended by faculty, staff, students, and alumni from the RIT community. Over thirty presidents and ambassadors from universities and colleges across the country were also in attendance.

Beginning the inauguration on a sorrowful note, Provost Stan McKenzie requested a moment of silence in honor of the memory of two RIT students who had died in a house fire earlier that morning. During the ceremony, a somber President Destler addressed the tremendous loss that the university was experiencing, calling it a "bittersweet moment" for him and in RIT's history.

Dr. David J. Skorton, the President of Destler's alma mater, Cornell University, was chosen as keynote speaker. Skorton spoke highly of Destler's vision for RIT, noting that Destler's experience and talent give him all that is "necessary and essential" to carry out presidential duties and encouraging us all to embrace Destler's dreams for RIT's future.

The inaugural event held many surprises, including the unveiling of new college banners to replace those that had been designed when Dr. Albert Simone became President. The banners represent RIT's nine colleges, including the College of Management and Technology in Croatia. The event also featured the winning poems for RIT's Poetry Competition. Winners Steven Huff, of the Department of English, and fourth year Illustration major Whitney Gratton read their poems "Invocation" and "Infinite Beginnings," respectively.

Destler's inauguration was characterized by a wide variety of music. The most traditional of the entertainers was the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra's Brass Quartet, who performed the Prelude, Processional, and Recessional for the ceremony. The other acts were more eccentric. Professor Al Biles from the IT department performed with his digital jazz improvisation partner GenJam. Chance Glenn, an associate professor in CAST, sang the National Anthem and was accompanied by the NTID Sign Performers. Perhaps the biggest surprise, at least to Destler, occurred when Cornell Ph. D. Howie Bursen and his wife Sally Rodgers came out from behind the scenes with song, banjo, and guitar.

In his inaugural address, Destler painted a clear picture of the ambitious aspirations he has for RIT, and how he envisions RIT progressing under his leadership: "[I see] real promise in creating a cross-disciplinary effort to find real solutions... All of the important preparatory work has been done. RIT is now in a position to take its place among the world's pre-eminent institutions of higher education," President Destler and his wife Dr. Rebecca Johnson are, he said, "...Grateful for the opportunity to work with all... To move RIT forward." •

# BED BUG PROBLEMS SURFACE AT RIT

by Madeleine Villavicencio | illustration by Mike Norton

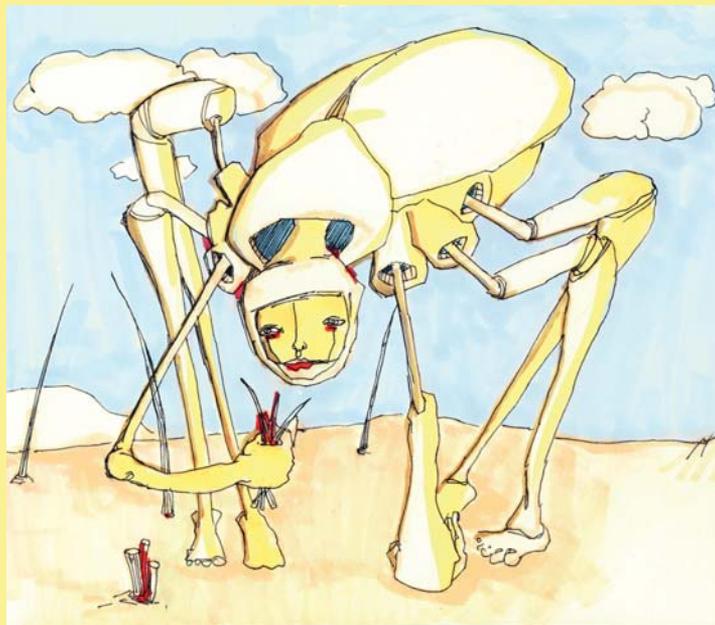
It's become a national problem. According to the National Pest Management Association, bed bug complaints have increased 50-fold over the last five years. The Orkin Pest Control Company, based in Atlanta, Georgia, says that after 50 years with relatively few cases, it has now treated bed bugs in all but three states. Unfortunately, college campuses aren't immune to this national trend. In the last five years, campuses across the country have seen an increase in bed bugs, claims Mary Neidermaier, Senior Associate Director for Housing. At RIT, there have been six reported cases this year. In a single academic year, RIT has yet to exceed 15 legitimate cases.

Neidermaier explains, "Bed bugs have been in the United States for [decades], but during World War II, they were eliminated because of a general use of DDT throughout the U.S." Adult bed bugs grow up to 4 to 5 mm in length. They are flat, oval-shaped and reddish-brown in color, while newly hatched nymphs are translucent. According to Neidermaier, "Bed bugs lay up to three to five eggs a day." A well-fed specimen survives anywhere from four to six months, and can lay up to 500 eggs in its lifetime.

Megan Ott, second year Mechanical Engineering student, discovered bed bugs in her Perkins apartment early in the fall. Although Ott and her roommates reported the case on the same day they found the infestation, the problem was not treated immediately. "When we first contacted [Housing], the exterminators came right away, and they weren't going to come back for another week to exterminate. We were just supposed

to deal with it," Ott said. "My roommate's dad ended up calling. Then, Housing changed their mind, to send the exterminators back the following day."

Neidermaier said, "Exodus, the external pesticide company that RIT contracts with, comes in every Wednesday to check in." The problem may be treated earlier. "If a student reports [a case] on Sunday or Monday, we can call [Exodus] in at other times. We are



not locked into Wednesdays, and that is a miscommunication," she said.

Still, Ott claims, "[Housing] could have definitely dealt with it better. They became annoyed with all of our calling... It got to the point where they actually started hanging up on us... We had to wash all of our laundry. We had everything there, because a lot of us are from out of town and we just couldn't pick up clothes [from

home]. We spent seven hours doing laundry," she said.

Housing performed follow up treatments every three weeks, but the situation started getting progressively worse. "[Housing] hired professional movers to come. They took all of our stuff and ripped out our carpets. They had professional cleaners come in and clean everything. Then the exterminators came. They put in new carpets and then they moved all of our stuff back in for us," explained Ott.

When asked where the bed bugs came from, Ott considered two possibilities: "The guys that lived in our room before us picked up a mattress off the side of the road. One of them also had blankets from India or from somewhere." Neidermaier and experts agree with this possibility, stating that international travel, particularly from Europe, Asia, and the Middle East, where bed bugs have always thrived, has contributed to the bed bug population in the U.S.

When asked what Housing does to prevent bed bugs infesting the campus, Neidermaier gave a few examples: "We are looking to purchase mattresses with inverted seams, so that there is no a place for [the bed bugs] to get nestled into...As of now, the mattresses in the residence halls have those blue coverings that aren't easy for bed bugs to get attached to." Housing also discourages picking up used mattresses and furniture off the roadside, and recommends checking used furniture thoroughly before purchase. •

# SURVIVAL OF THE RITTEST: A GUIDE TO ROCHESTER WINTERS

article & illustration by  
Alex Salsberg

**T**hrough most of the year, RIT is a warm and joyous place. But in the short time between October 3 and April 29, something else happens. Rochester becomes wrapped in a straight-jacket of clouds and snow, and RIT enters its infamous winter season. Suddenly, Seasonal Affective Disorder seems slightly less like a concocted pseudo-disease. A recent Google search has revealed that weather can really make someone sad, depressed, suicidal, homicidal, spermicidal, or even regicidal (after all, Julius Caesar was killed in the winter).

Hide your kings no longer, because I have some solutions to the winter blues. Grab a cup of hot cocoa, curl up in a warm place, and read on, because these are my tips for getting through an RIT winter.



## HOLIDAY PARTY

The first step in cheering up is realizing that the weather is not the only reason you're depressed. It may have been even worse where you come from (for instance, the surface of Jupiter has a freezing storm twice the size of Earth that has been visible for centuries). But there you spent this sunless season

with your friends and family, creating memories and exchanging gifts. While RIT does have the generosity to allot you a full two hours and forty-five minutes of winter break, that's no substitute for the warm feeling you once associated with the winter months.

So create some new memories! Throw a holiday party! Some of my best memories from my years at RIT are of holiday parties. Whether you're like me and you celebrate the glorious week-long festival of lights that is Hanukkah, or you celebrate that obscure Christian tree/baby holiday, you can certainly celebrate at school. What makes a college holiday party great is that everyone has a chance to bring their own weird traditions to the table. Put up mistletoe to make people feel awkward, bake some Christmas cookies, and whip up some latkes (a Jewish potato pancake that sits in your stomach for seven days and eight nights). You can also play some gift games like Yankee Swap or Secret Santa. (When I was a kid, this meant not telling my Christian friends that he wasn't real).

The holiday party may not get you through the whole winter, but it might at least rival some of your holiday memories from home. After all, your great aunt never let you play beer pong.



as though it would take some sort of miracle, or a mildly edgy but generally harmless acronym, to get enough people to Buy Our Orange and Brown Shirts. People just aren't that into it.

Like me, you may wish there were more. Perhaps you visited your friend at that Midwestern state school and saw how you can get an entire room excited by spelling the name of their state in a loud voice (not recommended in Alabama, where locals find spelling frustrating). There is one place at RIT where you can get the school spirit experience: Hockey games. Go to the game, loosen up, cheer loud. Wear that RIT sweatshirt that you usually only wear on Thanksgiving. At the hockey game, no one will ask you if RIT stands for RPI. And yes, it's okay to have school spirit and still hate the Corner Crew. We all do.



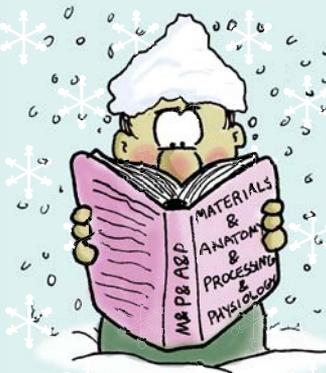
in the winter. But unlike bears, who use this winter period to rejuvenate themselves for a long year of foraging for berries and documentary film-

#### GO TO THE HOCKEY GAMES

One reason that RIT is such a depressing place in the winter is that with the lack of sun comes a lack of school spirit. Sure, there are a lot of sports here, and we attract great performers like Carlos Mencia, Sum 41, and Eiffel 65 (coming April 2008). But it seems

makers, we have things to do, and getting fat and sleeping only makes us more depressed.

Contrary to popular whining, not all of our tuition money funds awkward statues and unnecessary security guard transportation. Some of it is funneled into our athletic facilities, which are actually pretty cool. My favorite part, the gym, consists of two floors. The bottom floor is for overcompensating engineers who lift free weights and listen to music inspired by the sound a manatee makes when being maimed by a jet ski. But upstairs there are fun machines with cup holders, televisions (you can choose between ESPN, planes shooting each other on the History Channel, and Flavor Flav dating shows), and cute girls with non-sequiturs written across their butts. Going to the gym a few times a week keeps you from hibernating during the RIT winter.



#### GRAM CLASSES IN

There's no question that the ideas I've just given you are brilliant. But I'm aware that a party, hockey games, working out, and that amazing new position I taught you (unless my editors cut that part) are not enough to completely counteract RIT's winter blunderland. So here's a final piece of advice: Make things even worse.

Let me explain. You're going to be indoors feeling like crap for a lot of the next few months. So overload on classes now. Take on that extra homework. Make some extra money with an on campus job (like Telefund, if you're a bad person). Because the only thing worse than having lots of work to do when it's horrible weather outside is having lots of work to do when the sun is shining and RIT's quads are full of happy people tossing a frisbee around because it makes them feel "college." Get your stuff over with now. You'll thank me in the spring (you can send me some latkes). •



# ART FOR ONLOOKERS

by Ilsa Shaw | photograph by Ryan Randolph

Our arrival at the Rochester Contemporary Art Center (RoCo) interrupted a man in an army jacket seated behind the front desk, who seemed to be surprised that someone would be waltzing through the doors when Thanksgiving was clearly in the neighborhood. Quickly putting away the book he had been reading, he warmly introduced the main exhibit we were about to see: *The Apostacy* by contemporary artist Michael Bosworth.

We made our way past winding slats of wood that towered over us and seemed to resemble opaque shoji screens, all with peculiar columns of circles cut out in each slat. Stepping into the darkness of the exhibit, I realized that the other sides of these slats were large, transparent inflatable tubes with interesting circles of projected light spreading over their curves. Given the tubes' shape, the circle projections were distorted and turned into bizarre ovals that vaguely resembled melted film reels.

To my right, I could hear a projector casting something on to the white wall nearby. Looking over, I saw a silhouetted scene of about 20 people (one at the very forefront) hanging from a noose with their hands tied behind their backs. The entire scene was flipped upside down, so that the noosed person seemed to be sprouting from the ground. The other people appeared to be floating around as ghostly onlookers. At this point in time, I could already begin to see the goal behind *The Apostacy*, which, as the RoCo puts it, is "To engage the viewer in a questioning of current and past notions of the imaged experience."

Moving on, we saw a large, egg-shaped globe made of wire and stretched white screens dangling from the ceiling with a long rope. Projected upon it were many almost indiscernible faces, most seeming wide-eyed and frantic. Directly behind this globe was peculiar footage of an apparently content man, swimming around a lake while fully clothed. However, this image was also flipped upside down as well, making for a bizarre image of a man contentedly gliding above the water, never quite dipping in.

We thought there would be more to the exhibit as we made our way on to a small, well-lit room, but it turned out to be an entirely different exhibit, this time displaying works by artist Tony Hess. In his artistic statement pinned to one of the room's walls, Hess described himself thus: "Self-taught 'outsider artist,'" also mentioning that this was his first show.

About six of his works were hanging from the wall, all painted canvases with various objects protruding from them in an intriguing arrangement. One work, for instance, consisted of messy tendrils of tire shreds that clung around the center to wire and an unidentifiable piece of glass with two holes in it. "By the time I get to actually working seriously on a piece of art, I have several strands of debate on different issues going, which kind of merge as I play with the items I have gathered," Hess said in his statement. As for the interpretation of these issues, however, Hess insists, "I leave it up to you, veteran artist and wise patron, to find your own meaning." •

The Rochester Contemporary Art Center is located at 137 East Avenue between Scio and Gibbs Street from 1 to 5 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. Not your thing? Try giving some other art centers around Rochester a shot.

## A|V

8 Public Market

Rochester, NY 14609

Open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## Artisan Works

565 Blossom Road

Suite L

Rochester, NY 14610

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## George Eastman House

900 East Avenue

Rochester, NY 14607

Open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

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Rochester, NY 14607

Open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from noon to 5 p.m., Thursdays from noon to 9 p.m., and on weekends from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Oxford Gallery

267 Oxford Street

Rochester, NY 14607

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// The latest exhibit at the Rochester Contemporary art gallery is called *The Apostacy* by Michael Bosworth.

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# REVIEWS



**SKELETONBREATH**  
- LOUISE  
by Evan McNamara

It's not always lyrics that paint a visual image in the mind of a reader. Using lush soundscapes and interesting rhythms, Skeletonbreath removes vocals completely from the equation and, in doing so, cuts the fat to provide a lean and vivid musical picture.

Coming at the listener with a furious combination of drums, bass, and violin, Skeletonbreath is truly a most original band. Imagine if the Devil himself were a breakdancer. Possessing their self-proclaimed "halloween dance" vibe, Skeletonbreath would be the righteous jams spewing out of his hellish boombox.

Skeletonbreath play a dirty trick on the opening track of *Louise*. The tune "Surf Music" starts out as an ambient interplay between the bass and some sort of glockenspiel-sounding instrument. Then, out of nowhere, the trio comes out with guns blazing, putting the proverbial pedal to the metal and accelerates into a groove on acid.

The group are all obviously accomplished musicians, as evidenced by their tight performance on disc. They flawlessly shift time signatures and tempos on a dime. The drummer knows the art of the groove, and has a style of playing which holds it together like Gorilla Glue. After all, the most important notes can be the ones you *don't* play. The bass playing on *Louise* is stellar, and a favorite moment of mine sees the bass playing a riff using entirely harmonics, while the violin and drums tone it down.

One of the best things about *Louise* is that, despite only three instruments being involved, Skeletonbreath touches upon innumerable

styles. From polka to samba to prog and even some free jazz, the group goes the extra mile in making an album which has no two parts that sound remotely the same. That said, they miraculously manage to create songs that, while being different, share common threads.

Skeletonbreath is quite possibly the most apt band name I have ever encountered. The band harkens ghoulish imagery, as if a skeleton were to come up behind you, tap you on the shoulder, and breathe softly on your neck. As the chills run down your spine and your hair stands on end, the skeleton then proceeds to whip out a piece of cardboard and start poppin' and lockin' in front of your very eyes.

The only words the skeleton uttered were: "You got served!" And that is precisely what Skeletonbreath do on their fabulous album *Louise*: Serve you. And you like it! •

## EVERY GOOD THING TO RUST

by Casey Dehlinger



Forget the hail of fire and flame, rising waters, and falling bombs. Some apocalypses reveal and conceal with the drone of an emergency broadcast signal and a TV showing color bars in a lonely living room. What else would you see from the confines of up, up, upstate New York? What else can you get out of a film with a \$4,000 budget?

*Every Good Thing to Rust* is an 80-minute film by RIT School of Film and Animation graduate John Yost, who has posted it on that good old Internet, free of charge. Those looking for a blockbuster film featuring Bruce Willis fighting a jet with nothing but his fists should look elsewhere. This slow, gloomy portrait is by no means a blockbuster. As Yost boasts on the film's website, it is truly independent. Yost

muses, "Films proclaimed 'Indie' like *Little Miss Sunshine* somehow afford \$8 million budgets and all-star casts—poised perfectly for the Oscars." This is the real Indie deal.

The 80 minutes are a test of patience and endurance. Despite being shot in high definition, the "large download" is compressed to less than a gigabyte, causing some visual problems that don't do justice to what are otherwise strong images. Regardless, the film successfully creates a tone that will test your patience as it tests the patience of its three main characters. Even at this task, the film could be halved and still manage to get its ideas across. It's difficult to watch on a computer monitor and not be distracted by the rest of cyberspace.

The film is about subtle gestures and human reaction. Three friends watch their small upstate New York town go to hell when all broadcasts stop. Nothing is clear. People have become dangerous and violent. They must jump into life as hermits, avoiding human contact. Unfortunately, watching a couple of

guys hike through the snow in silence while the minutes pass by is less than interesting. It's actually quite boring. You start wondering what's ahead... which turns out to be more snow and hiking.

The film finds suspense in small things like walking through dark tunnels. Yost and crew found enough decrepit holes in walls to create the film's ghost town environment—the settings made me consider the possibility that the apocalypse did happen to our northeastern neighbors, and we just never heard.

In the end, the film feels like purgatory, and I'm forced to rate it as such. Not half bad, but not half good, either. I'm more impressed with the statement Yost has made than the film he constructed to tell it. It's still worth checking out a few select scenes on the website, if for no better reason than to see what our recent alumni are up to. •

Yost's film can be found at :  
[www.everygoodthingtorust.com](http://www.everygoodthingtorust.com)

## QUIZ:

### Trivia

1. Which of the following countries does not contain a school operated by RIT?

- a. Albania
- b. Czech Republic
- c. Croatia
- d. Kosovo

2. Which invention was recently inducted to the Toy Hall of Fame in Rochester's Strong National Museum of Play?

- a. Rubik's Cube
- b. Silly Putty
- c. Hot Wheels
- d. Atari 2600

3. Which area in Rochester opens for winter sports shortly after Thanksgiving?

- a. Cobbs Hill Reservoir Park
- b. Bristol Mountain
- c. The Hi Tor
- d. Genesee Valley Greenway

4. Which comedy, first screened at Rochester's Eastman Theatre in 1923, will be the subject of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra's Silent Movie Night this Friday and Saturday ?

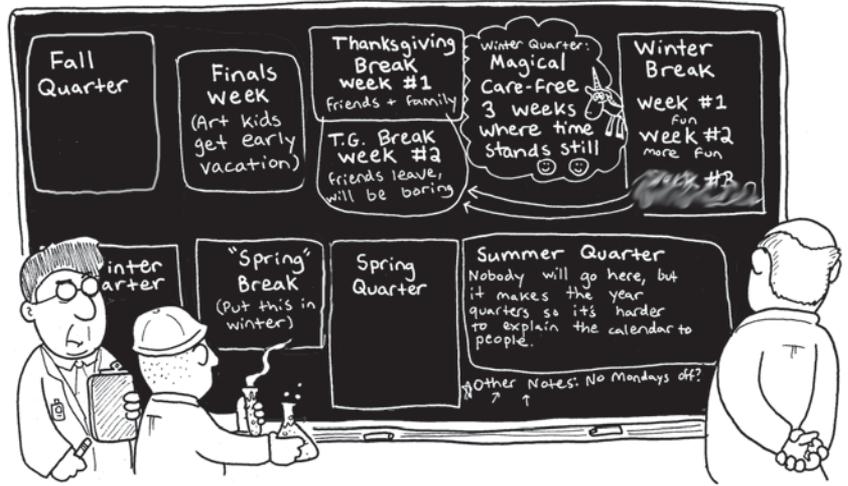
- a. *Dr. Jack*
- b. *The Black Widow*
- c. *Safety Last!*
- d. *Girl Shy*

5. True or False? In 1886, tuition to attend RIT was \$8 per term for drawing courses and free for any evening course.

- a. True
- b. False

BEHIND THE SCENES:

SCIENTISTS HARD AT WORK ON THE RIT CALENDAR...



## REPORTER RECOMMENDS:

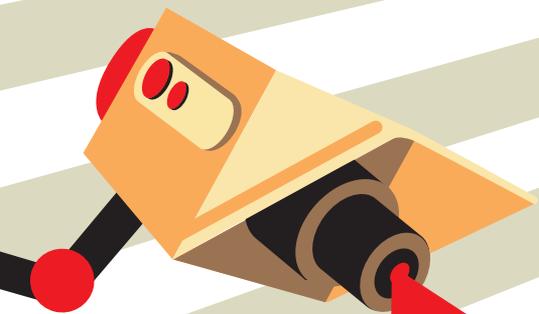
Blank postcards. The idea is to mail it to a friend with the simple request of adding something to its blank side and passing it to another person. In the end, once the card has been completely filled, you'll ask whoever has the card at the time to kindly route it back to you. You'll probably wind up with a mix of interesting imagery so bizarre that you may regret having given out your address. On a related note, *Reporter* also recommends a post office box.

## DIFFICULTY RATING: VERY HARD

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## SIGN OF THE WEEK: MY TEACHER IS HOT





# RIT IS WATCHING

by Laura Mandanas  
illustration by Erin Wengrovius

You're being watched.

On campus, Public Safety has uniformed officers on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year. They conduct foot, mobile, and bike patrols of parking lots and pedestrian walkways, as well as the interiors and exteriors of all campus residence halls, apartments, and academic buildings.

What if one of the 29 full-time officers currently employed by Public Safety happens to be looking the other way? If you're in a public area, there's a fairly good chance your actions are being recorded for potential future viewing; there are a total of 150 security cameras across campus, 13 of which were installed within the past fiscal year.

Yet all of this pales in comparison to what's going on in the digital world. Each and every e-mail you send, blog post you write, and Facebook photo album you create is recorded. Haven't gotten around to uploading those pictures of last weekend's party? Not to worry; one of your friends has probably already done it, leaving an indelible trail of 1s and 0s in their wake. Forget ubiquitous computing—this is the era of ubiquitous surveillance. Now, the question is: Are you feeling safe yet?

On the one hand, surveillance can be very useful. Every security camera is an unbiased witness with a perfect memory, leading to increased accountability for people's actions—hardly a bad thing. On the other hand, such surveillance can easily be abused. From the moment you wake up until the moment your head hits the pillow again, data is being collected. When exploited, it can be an invasion of privacy; if this is left unchecked, some fear that there is little to stop it from becoming a full-blown Orwellian dystopia. Obviously, we've got a long way to go before that, but where does one draw the line?

## 5:35 PM

"So are you coming tonight?" she asks. "I only turn 21 once." "Yeah, count me in," you say. You race back to your dorm and swipe into the building. "Send me your notes after class," you text your lab partner, "I'm skipping class tonight."

"People have a right to privacy, and we don't want to infringe on that," stresses Chris Denninger, head of Public Safety. "We focus on public areas, especially cash handling areas." He adds that if there is any reasonable expectation of privacy, a camera will not be placed in that area. The hallway right outside your dorm room, for example, is not considered a public area. A camera would not be installed there. The visitor lobby on the ground floor, however, is considered a public area; a camera could be installed there (and if you live in one of the bigger residence halls, it probably has been already).

As for the rumored fake rocks with hidden cameras, they do not exist. Says Matthew Mazaika, a fourth year Software Engineer, "After careful inspection, operation 'rocks with eyes' is nothing more than 'rocks with moles' (or something similar). The rocks being installed were 'landscape defenders,' which appear to be fake plastic rocks with traps in them. The 'wire' that would have been the camera/power connection was nothing more than a tether to keep the rocks anchored."

Denninger explains, "We think cameras deter crime." If people know that they are being watched, they are less likely to misbehave. If cameras are hidden in rocks, there's very little chance that they will help prevent crime.



## 7:00 PM

*You haven't eaten all day, and your stomach is starting to growl. On the way to the party, you make a quick pit stop at Sol's to buy some Doritos. "Debit," you tell the cashier with a smile.*

Usually, cameras are installed by request. After being contacted, Public Safety will review the request and then write a proposal. In making this decision, Public Safety considers the amount of criminal activity that has been seen at the location, and how much of a difference a camera could make at the location. "Data drives the decision. Some say, 'In God we trust, all others bring data.' That is how we operate," says Denninger. He adds, "We are mindful of the University's budget. Is it a bottomless well? No, Public Safety still has to be a good steward of the university."

Along the same lines, Denninger notes that they do not watch every minute of footage that is recorded, nor do they intend to. "We can't possibly view them all. I don't think that's a good use of staff." The amount of time that the footage is retained fluctuates based on a number of factors (how much total footage is being taken, whether there is a dispute over something that was captured, etc.). Presently, it is stored for an average of 25 days.

## 9:35 AM

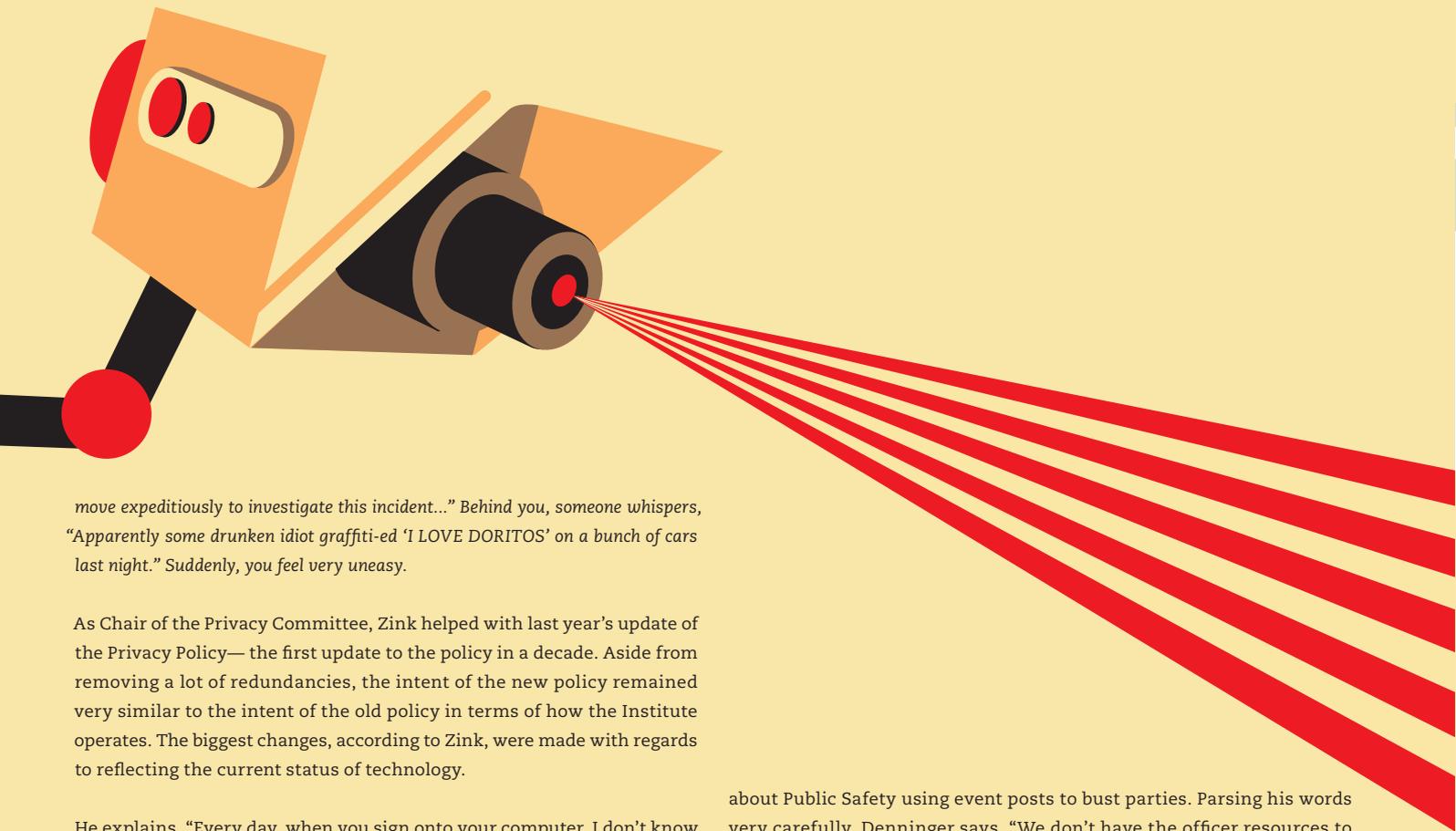
*The alarm goes off. Your head is pounding, and your mouth feels like dry cotton; you can't remember a thing from last night. Logging onto Facebook, you realize that last night's misadventures have been posted in living color. Curiously, in the photos you also appear to have splotches of paint in every color of the rainbow on your hoodie. Thinking nothing of it, you quickly untag yourself from the photos and e-mail the poster to take them down.*

Conversely, your actions in the digital world can come back to haunt you long after Public Safety's parking lot footage is gone. In RIT's Code Of Conduct For Computer and Network Use, section VI, RIT Rights, it is stated: "While RIT does not routinely monitor individual usage... When necessary to ensure network availability and performance, or to respond to an alleged violation of law or policy, system and network administrators may monitor the activities and inspect the files of specific users on their computers and networks."

John Zink, Chair of this year's Privacy Committee at RIT, elaborates, "We do not have people who sit and watch individual students, their Internet activities. That would be a huge job, and just a waste of resources, quite frankly. What they will look for is traffic. Unusual traffic—if there are threats from the outside, or spam coming from RIT going out, that would be a violation of RIT policy, and ITS would take the appropriate steps to make sure we come back into compliance with policy. That's to protect our students and everyone here, and also it talks about efficient use of our resources. Our bandwidth is not unlimited, and we need to manage that effectively."

## 11:45 PM

*You're just about to leave when an e-mail from Student Affairs arrives in your inbox: "You may be aware of an incident of vandalism that took place last night. We are currently working closely with Public Safety and other campus partners to*



*move expeditiously to investigate this incident..." Behind you, someone whispers, "Apparently some drunken idiot graffiti-ed 'I LOVE DORITOS' on a bunch of cars last night." Suddenly, you feel very uneasy.*

As Chair of the Privacy Committee, Zink helped with last year's update of the Privacy Policy— the first update to the policy in a decade. Aside from removing a lot of redundancies, the intent of the new policy remained very similar to the intent of the old policy in terms of how the Institute operates. The biggest changes, according to Zink, were made with regards to reflecting the current status of technology.

He explains, "Every day, when you sign onto your computer, I don't know if you get a spam report, but I do. Every day, someone is trying to sell me a fake Rolex or whatever. If you look at the Privacy Policy, that's a way that we can maximize the efficiency of our network. That spam filter is only put in there to filter out spam, because that uses a whole lot of bandwidth. And then the spam report is generated, and sends me an e-mail, or you, or everyone else on campus, to show what it was. If you look at the Privacy Policy, it says we will do that." After reading the spam report, you then have the ability to go back and say, 'No, I want to buy that fake Rolex,' and have the e-mail sent to your inbox.

## 2:15 PM

*You swipe your card and take the elevator up to your dorm. Opening your door, you are unpleasantly surprised to see two Public Safety officers standing by your computer, conversing with your roommate. They abruptly stop talking as you enter the room. "Good afternoon," says the first officer. "We'd like to have a word with you."*

Of the greatest concern to most students, however, are not intercepted e-mails about fake watches, but the idea that Public Safety may be monitoring social networking sites such as Facebook. We've all heard stories

about Public Safety using event posts to bust parties. Parsing his words very carefully, Denninger says, "We don't have the officer resources to have someone constantly mine Facebook or MySpace. It's just impractical." According to Denninger, what Public Safety will do is to do a follow up investigation if someone (ResLife, for example, or Student Activities) gives them a tip. They will use Facebook to verify it before an event happens. "Now we can get a hold of the person and say, 'Hey, we heard a rumor, we verified it, and here are our university's standards... That's the best time to actually reach out to a student— before the event happens."

Says Zink, "Facebook is an open domain, and if I wanted to share information with someone, I wouldn't take out a full page ad in the Democrat and Chronicle. That's really what you're kind of doing by using Facebook. You're putting it out there for the whole world to see. We do not have Public Safety officers who sit there all day long looking at Facebook, but it can be an investigative tool." He continues, "If a student, for example, claimed they were being harassed, or there was information that we learned that could be used to identify a violation of the law or a violation of policy, we could follow up with an investigation. Absolutely. I do not see that as an invasion of privacy, because the student in this case willingly put that out in the public domain... My advice to students would be: If you don't want the whole world to know it, don't put it on Facebook."

**FROM THE MOMENT YOU  
WAKE UP UNTIL THE  
MOMENT YOUR HEAD HITS  
THAT PILLOW AGAIN,  
DATA IS BEING COLLECTED.**



He emphasizes that students should take responsibility for safeguarding their own privacy. “Nobody’s better suited to do that than themselves, especially with things like Facebook... [Staying protected is] about the choices that people make.”

## **2:40 PM**

*It’s all over. Printed out in front of you is the trail you’ve been leaving all day long: the text message (courtesy of your goody-two-shoes lab partner), the attendance sheet of your 6 p.m. class with you marked absent (handed over by your professor), the e-mail you sent about taking down certain photos from last night (sent from your RIT webmail). And not only that, they’ve also got the 4:13 a.m. cardswipe back into your dorm after the party, a record of the bag of Doritos you bought on debit last night, the paint-splotched hoodie from under your bed, and the parking lot video footage of you and your art project— the very footage that tipped them off to start investigating you.*

Zink reflects, “You know, over all, I think we do a very good job with respect to privacy. It goes back to that balance. Information security, network use, privacy... I think we do a good job. In our Privacy Policy, we spell out what kind of responsibilities we have. We also spell out how we implement privacy. There are a lot of times when we have to act because a law may have been broken or a subpoena may have arisen. But we spell out very clearly what we do, and the process that we follow. I think we do that very well. I think the fact that we even have a committee on

the issue of privacy is very good... I know some people will question releasing names, for example, for the RIAA. [For] those types of responses, when ordered by a subpoena, we’re compelled to follow the law, but I really have not received any complaints that I can think of, of that type. So I would say we’re doing a good job. ”

## **3:00 PM**

*As you sit and talk to a Public Safety Officer, you feel very foolish, now that you know what you’ve done. If not for that trail you had left, you might never have even realized what exactly went on last night. Luckily for you (or unluckily, in this case), someone was hot on the trail: RIT was watching. •*

You can view the full Privacy Policy, Code Of Conduct For Computer and Network Use, and RIT Information Security Policy, in the RIT Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook, located on the web at [http://www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/studentconduct/documents/R\\_R2007-2008.pdf](http://www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/studentconduct/documents/R_R2007-2008.pdf).



# google knows all

by Joe McLaughlin

illustration by Greg Caggiano

Google found out that I was going to write this article before I did. I was assigned this story via an e-mail that got forwarded (along with all of the rest of my RIT e-mail) to a Gmail account. From there, Google's monitoring picked up some key words in the e-mail, leading them to flag my account. When I later did research for the story on the Internet, searching for "Google" and "privacy," my account was flagged again. By the time I had used their Google Maps application to find the directions from RIT to my New Jersey home, the agents were already lying in wait. I was dead before I reached my doorstep.

Obviously, the above scenario didn't *actually* happen.

To my knowledge, I am not under Google's surveillance. But I easily could be. That Internet search giant, as well as a couple other major Internet companies, has a somewhat shocking ability to gather and store data about its users.

Google stores information tying your computer to your account, and through that, it archives your searches for two years from the last time you used a Google site. However, the amount of time that data is stored varies for their other services. For example, the Gmail Privacy Policy states, "Residual copies of deleted messages and accounts may take up to 60 days to be deleted from our active servers and may remain in our offline backup systems." GoogleTalk's Privacy Policy, on the other hand, does not specify a time limit for deletion other than to warn that deleted messages may still be stored on back up media.

Additionally, Google recently announced a service to sell online storage for any kind of files, including Google Documents. According to a *Wall Street Journal* report, the service could launch "as early as a few months from now." Google has not yet revealed whether "content extraction" and targeted advertising will be performed with this data.

While it might not seem like a big deal, stored search results (like many other forms of stored digital data) present the possibility of misuse. Consider this: In 2006, AOL mistakenly released three months' worth of search data from one percent of its subscribers, a total of over 650,000 users. Several such users searched for child pornography. Others were looking for "violent Muslim extremist web forums," or "how to kill your wife." Ironically, at least one person was looking for how to delete his AOL search history. In many cases, this search data could be traced back to a specific user, based on searches for several people with the same name and specific locations searched for. Combined with a phone book, it was possible to find a name, address, and phone number for some of the users.

In an even more drastic case just one year prior to that, search company Yahoo! turned over information to Chinese authorities on journalists Shi Tao and Wang Xiaoning. Shi was sentenced to 10 years in prison for forwarding an e-mail from the Chinese communist party to foreigners. The e-mail concerned media restrictions connected to the anniversary of the Tiananmen Square protests. Wang was sentenced to 10 years in connection with anonymous e-mails and posts on a pro-democracy blog. Yahoo! settled a lawsuit brought by the men's families in the U.S. for an undisclosed amount, although they remain jailed.

In a similar case, Google turned over the IP address of a user of its Blogger service in Israel. In this case, three government officials were suing the user for posting libel about them on his blog. Google turned over the address before a court order was granted. The case is still being litigated.

Although Google has never released search results to the public, Google's Privacy Policy states that they will reveal its information to "satisfy any applicable law, regulation, legal process, or enforceable governmental request" including a subpoena. An additional concern is that Gmail scans e-mails to target relevant ads to users. While users of Gmail have agreed to the "content extraction" when registering for the service, people who send to Gmail accounts have not. In the case of forwarded accounts (such as the aforementioned e-mail sent by my editor), it can become quite difficult for people to know for sure that they have kept their information out of Google's hands.

David Hostetter, Associate Chief Information Officer and ITS representative on the RIT Privacy Committee, said regarding protecting your information online: "First and foremost is security awareness. There are a number of resources available at RIT to educate yourself on protecting your personal information. Information resources and programs are offered by the Information Security Office and ITS."

While it is true that the Institute's privacy policy states, "RIT has the right to access all RIT property including electronic resources, and all communications, records, data and information created or stored thereon," RIT is also subject to the New York State Information Security Breach and Notification Act. According to the RIT information security website, the Institute is required by law to "Notify affected [students] following discovery of the breach in the security of computerized private information." There are additional reporting requirements if the breach includes more than 5,000 people. The definition of a breach, however, may not be as straightforward as you think.

Last month, an e-mail was sent by the Women's Center to every female on campus with the recipients accidentally included under a CC rather than a BCC. Not having gone unnoticed, there were a string of e-mails following that first e-mail, targeting every female on campus. When asked if he considered this a breach of privacy, John Zink, head of the current Privacy Committee at RIT, responded, "You know, private information is actually a defined term in New York State. And if you look at how that is defined, an e-mail address by itself would not be considered a breach of privacy. Do I consider that to be an invasion of privacy or a breach of privacy? No, I really don't. That was a mistake, and they have taken steps to correct that, and it shouldn't happen again. Normally, the e-mail addresses are under a blind copy [BCC], but this one went out [as a CC]."

So what can you do to keep yourself protected? There's really no easy solution. For the most part, you should just use common sense. Steer clear of shady websites, keep your virus protection up to date, and clear out your cookies once in a while. And *always* be sure to take the time to read the fine print. •

.....  
The Information Security Office's website is located at <http://security.rit.edu>. It includes alerts and advisories, as well as educational material about information security and digital defense.

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# THAT GIRL

ELIZABETH PARK

by Ilsa Shaw | photograph by Tom Schirmacher

## NAME, MAJOR, YEAR?

I'm Elizabeth Park, a first year Computer Science major.

## HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF?

I'd say I'm extremely opinionated, at least with matters concerning myself. I don't like letting what other people think control how I act. Other than that, I'm pretty much carefree.

## TELL ME ABOUT YOUR STYLE.

I'm always in jeans— doesn't matter where I go, you'll never find me in anything but jeans. I like the whole layered look a lot. Tanks with a cute shirt over them are the way to go.

## DREAM JOB AFTER GRADUATION?

After graduation, I would ideally be breaking into the game development industry. Working with Sony or Square Enix's game development team would be a dream come true.

## WHAT'S ON YOUR IPOD?

Boo to iPods! I love my Creative Zen better! In any case, my music varies. When I'm walking down the Quarter Mile, I like metal (In Flames, Killswitch Engage, Trivium) or more fast-paced music. When I'm doing a CS lab or something that requires thinking, I like something calmer like Incubus or Jack Johnson. I really like all types of music, though.

## WHAT IS YOUR IDEAL DATE?

In all honesty, I'd like something fun and a little romantic where I can just get to know this guy. A coffee or a nice walk, perhaps. I love being outdoors, so anything involving a little bit of nature is always a plus. Then you have the classic dinner and a movie, which is a great choice as well, depending on how well I know the guy. Hey guys— I'm single and a cheap date!

## IF YOU COULD MEET SOMEONE FAMOUS, WHO WOULD IT BE?

Otep Shamaya from the band Otep is really one of my heroines, and I would love to meet her. Everything she's done with her life is so inspirational, and her lyrics are really moving (for me, at least). My favorite quote is,

"My pain, my pride, these scars are mine."

Her music makes coping with the everyday stresses of life that much easier.

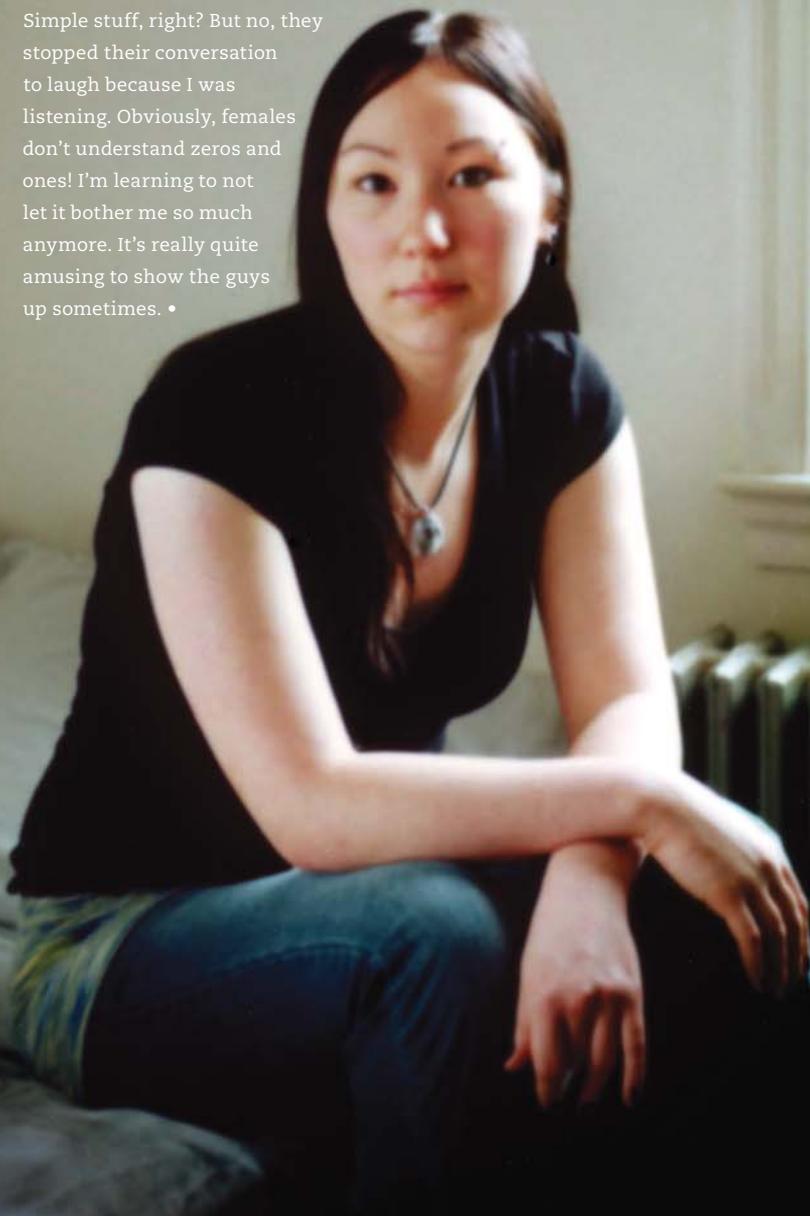
## WHAT WEBSITES DO YOU FREQUENT?

Facebook and MySpace, unfortunately.

What can I say? I'm addicted. But other than those, I Newegg a lot, as well as YouTube.

## ARE YOU PERCEIVED WRONGLY?

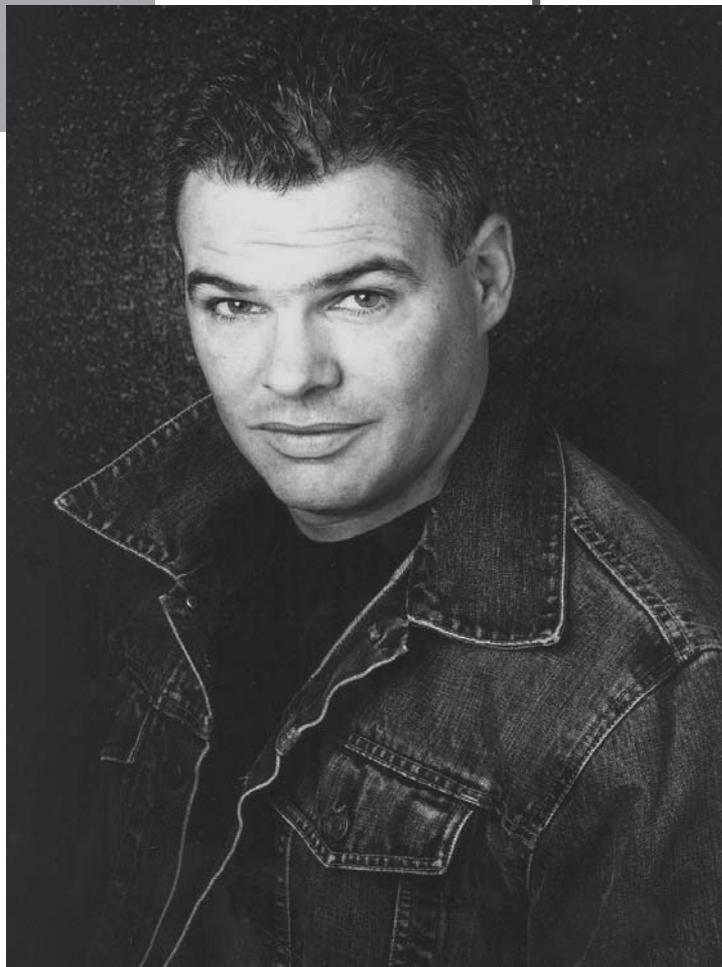
I'd say so. At least, by males. As a female in computing, I often get stereotyped, as there are so few of us in that field. I was once hanging out with two guys in computing, and they were talking about binary and hex. Simple stuff, right? But no, they stopped their conversation to laugh because I was listening. Obviously, females don't understand zeros and ones! I'm learning to not let it bother me so much anymore. It's really quite amusing to show the guys up sometimes. •



*Comedian*

# Mike DeStefano

*in the Ritz*



**December 7<sup>th</sup>  
10 o'clock pm**

*Doors open at 9:30*

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# FIVE TIPS FOR: MANAGING YOUR STUDENT LOANS

by Michael Percia | President  
RIT Financial Management Association

In an earlier installment, I briefly mentioned that the average college student has around \$20,000 in student loans. Such student loans are often labeled “good debt.” Don’t let this label make you complacent. Poor management of this long-term debt can kill you financially. Remember, you are paying interest on your loans. It’s not free money! The following tips should help you stop that “good debt” from turning bad.

## 1. MAKE PAYMENTS WHEN YOU ARE STILL A STUDENT

In many cases, you will not be forced to pay interest on your loans while you are still in school. However, this doesn’t mean that you shouldn’t make any payments. If you work part-time or have a generous relative, try to direct as much as you can to making payments. This will decrease your principal once you are out of school, which allows slower interest payments.

## 2. DON’T SKIP PAYMENTS

This is common sense. Once you are required to start making payments, do it! If you skip a payment, your interest rate will most likely go up. This will show up on your credit report and will negatively impact your credit score. The result: Higher interest rates and lower credit limits on any kind of debt you obtain in the future.

## 3. COMPARE FIXED RATE AND VARIABLE RATE LOANS

In some cases, you can choose between a variable interest rate and a fixed interest rate loan. If the two interest rates are about even, consider choosing the fixed rate loan, because you will know exactly how much will need to be paid every month. With a variable rate, you will face uncertainty, as the interest rate can vary. This can make it more difficult to plan future payments. Especially for larger loans, a small increase in interest can substantially affect your financial situation.

## 4. FORGET ABOUT BUILDING UP YOUR SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Say what? Think about this scenario: If you had the choice of putting money in an online savings account that pays 4.5% interest or making an additional payment on a student loan with an interest rate of 6%, which would you choose? In

most cases, the most prudent choice is selecting the option with the highest interest rate. In this example, it clearly makes more sense to pay off your loans first.

## 5. SEEK LOAN FORGIVENESS

Once you graduate and enter the work force, you could have an opportunity to get rid of some of your student loan debt. For example, if you serve in the armed forces or other government agencies, there is a good chance that Uncle Sam might pick up part of the tab. Even some employers in the private sector have policies regarding loan forgiveness. It doesn’t hurt to ask, especially when applying for a job. This is another factor besides salary that you should consider when choosing an employer.

In addition to these tips, the web is a great resource for information about student loans. Two websites worth visiting are [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov) and [www.salliemae.com](http://www.salliemae.com).

# Who said homework has to be done at home?



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# SPORTSDESK

photographs by Megan Rossman

Javier Anton and Mike Rooney navigate through a choppy Lake Ontario on Friday, November 9, 2007.

// Mike Rooney prepares his boat to sail during one of the last sailing club practices for the season.



// Members of the Sailing Club head out onto Lake Ontario.



# WINTER WELLNESS

by Geoff Shearer



Whether you like it or not, winter's here. Despite what the subzero temperatures may tell you, you should, in fact, stay active and healthy during these absolutely bone-chilling months. Here's a short breakdown of some of the more intriguing courses you can take through the school. Better hurry, though. The Add/Drop period ends on Monday, December 10.

## SMOKING CESSATION

No, this course won't get you off the couch this winter. In fact, it might even keep you on the couch instead of freezing outside as you clutch the butt this winter; ergo, sitting on the couch (in this instance) might just be saving your life. The Smoking Cessation course may be the best thing you can do for yourself this winter. If nothing else, you'll be ready for ultimate frisbee, flag football, or whatever activity strikes your fancy when spring rolls around. If you aren't able to get into this class and are still trying to quit, the Student Health Center does offer smoking cessation kits.

*Currently offered on Mondays from 12-1:20 p.m.*

## MASSAGE

One of the more available courses being offered this winter, Massage: Holistic Therapy is offering exactly that. With four classes still open as of press time, these two one-hour sessions every week will help you learn the relaxing art of massage and let you catch some free massages in class as well. If nothing else, it might just come in handy when you're convincing your hunny to see you for that second or third date, and maybe even if you're in the doghouse.

*Currently offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays 3-3:50 p.m., 4-4:50 p.m., 6-6:50 p.m., & 7-7:50 p.m.*

## BOWLING

With five courses currently open, bowling is definitely one to consider. No, you won't drop all that extra girth you gained over Thanksgiving, but it is an excellent way to get away from the drudgery of the Rochester Winter. Unlike the billiards class, for example, this course allows students to learn through practice rather than particular technique instruction. This course is located at Olympic lanes on Scottsville Road. You might even receive some free or discounted bowling passes for outside of class as well.

*Currently offered on Mondays 4-5:50 p.m., Tuesdays 4-5:50 p.m., Wednesdays 4-5:50 p.m., Thursdays 4-5:50 p.m. & 9-10:50 p.m.*

## SPINNING

If you're looking to actually lose weight this winter and stay warm at the same time, spinning is definitely an option to consider. Essentially, you come in and ride bikes with the goal of burning around 400 calories during each 50-minute class. Teachers in the past have preferred that you pick a resistance level that you can stick to for the duration of the class. Additionally, the teacher will pick out music that coordinates to your rate of speed on the bike, meaning that you're actually spinning to the beat.

*Currently offered on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9-9:50 a.m., 12-12:50 p.m., 4-4:50 p.m., & Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11-11:50 a.m., 12-12:50 p.m.*

## ICE CLIMBING

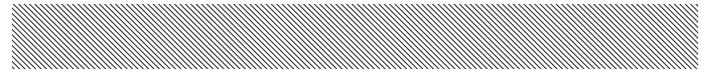
Thinking of taking the next step in climbing past the Red Barn's constantly evolving bouldering paths? Try Ice Climbing this winter. It's not necessary to have taken a climbing course before to sign up for ice climbing, but it certainly helps. They'll cover the differences in rock and ice climbing and prepare you for an adventure still TBA, where you'll get away from the RIT campus at least for a day and test your vertical ascending prowess on sheer ice faces in one of two offered sections

*Currently offered: 1) Thursdays from 5-6:50 p.m. at the Red barn and Saturdays & Sundays 8-3:50 p.m. off site, 2) Thursdays 5-6:50 p.m. at the Red Barn, Fridays TBA & Sundays 8-8:50 a.m.*

## BRAZILIAN CAPOEIRA

The art of Brazilian dance fighting, Capoeira is very much an aerobic workout and will also help you hone self-defense maneuvers. Currently offering two courses this winter, Brazilian Capoeira is an off campus class that operates in much the same fashion as a typical martial arts class with a sensei and pupils. The course will also build your balance. And who knows? Maybe you'll be able to do that ever-so-difficult cartwheel that's been plaguing you since second grade recess.

*Currently offered on Tuesdays 8-9:20 p.m. and Thursdays 8-9:20 p.m.*

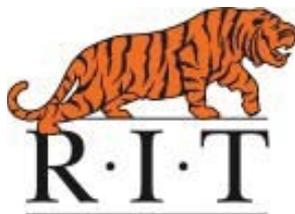


You can always use SIS to find out the full list of available wellness courses. Don't be discouraged if the class is full. Sometimes, a little face time with the teacher can make a world of a difference. No matter what you course you choose to stay active, you should have an advisor from your department approve your choice if you plan to take it for credit.



Choose **Service Over Sunshine** this Spring and join the RIT Alternative Spring Break volunteering team to **West Virginia!**

## Alternative Spring Break Informational Meeting



ALTERNATIVE  
SPRING  
BREAK  
APPALACHIA  
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RLI www.rit.edu/rii  
CSC  
THE RIT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE  
& COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER



Tuesday, Dec 11th  
Clark Bin SAU  
2:00pm—4:00pm

For more information contact the RLI & CSC at: [svoccl@rit.edu](mailto:svoccl@rit.edu)  
Or call at: 475-5723

# RIT RINGS

## 585.672.4840

compiled by Geoff Shearer

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

### SATURDAY, 12:01 A.M.

My friend and me were having a debate about whether human meat is red meat or white meat. We determined that it's red meat, so eat up!

### SATURDAY, 1:10 A.M.

Yo! I read this [letter to the Editor from] this chick who was talking about how guys at RIT don't know how to talk to girls, and I was wondering if she knew that guys at RIT do know how to talk to girls, but that we just gave up. There's so few here that we don't really care anymore. We just don't give a [hoot]. I mean, if the girl is cute, sure, I'd [love] her, sure. But we don't care anymore. That's how it goes.

### SATURDAY, 1:13 A.M.

Hey! I need to [love] a girl. Go find one. Thanks.

### SATURDAY, 8:29 P.M.

Hey Reporter. I'm looking over your magazine and reading your reverse discrimination article. OK, there's some valid points there, but then I see this section called "That Girl" and I don't give a [\_\_\_\_\_] about it. Seriously, first you're talking about reverse discrimination and then you're using girls as pin-ups. What the [bloody hell]? Really, Reporter? Real mature.

### SUNDAY, 5:34 P.M.

This is IP relay operator [number withheld] with a message: "I think I am the first Deaf person to call you. I'm calling you through IP-relay.com, which is an awesome relay service for deafies where they can talk to hearing people on the phone. So, yeah. You are great. Keep up the good work. Laughing out loud." End of message, IP relay operator [number]. Goodbye.

### SUNDAY, 7:43 P.M.

So I'm sitting here reading the Reporter and I see that someone left a message on RIT Rings on the 9th on Sunday 2:33 a.m., saying that they are pissed off because someone below them is calling Public Safety on them. Well, if they're talking about my apartment, I am pissed because we don't call them for nothing. They blast chick music all the time and we can't deal with it anymore. So if they have beef, they can come and take it up with us. Thanks.

### SUNDAY, 11:57 P.M.

Hey Rings! Here I am with my friend in the Commons because I was just at Ellingson writing a paper that's due tomorrow and the fire alarm went off. I'm just wondering who was putting CDs in the microwave and where they got that idea. Thanks, Reporter. Thanks a lot.

### WEDNESDAY, 1:44 A.M.

[Incessant buzzing in the background] Yeah... That's the fire alarm going off at almost two o'clock in the morning. It's the third time this week. It's Finals Week. Someone's going to die.

### WEDNESDAY, 2:16 A.M.

Dude, my friend got attacked by a seagull today. It was ridiculous. She was in her car and they came swooping down for her. We had to rescue her. There was a Nutter Butter and we threw it and they ate the Nutter Butter instead.

### SATURDAY, 1:32 A.M.

Hey RIT Rings, I'm at a party and there's a kid in his room, reading a book. *How RIT is that?*

### SUNDAY, 6:11 A.M.

Yo! I'm over here in Perkins and there's a dumpster on fire, but I don't know the number for Public Safety so maybe you can give them a call. Peace.

### FRIDAY, 1:06 A.M.

You've gone flat, little sister! And you're all gooey! I shan't play with you again until you've had a wash. Your body is so much fun. My name is Salad Fingers. I like to play with rusty spoons. Happy Thanksgiving.

### FRIDAY, 5:06 A.M.

Do you realize? Do you realize that there are entire fields of marijuana in countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, [two other countries that don't exist but apparently end in "stan"], Uzbekistan, U-get-it-stan. Do you think it's possible to hotbox an entire country?

### FRIDAY, 5:11 A.M.

One romantic night, two little fireflies meet and start making out. Things start to progress and the girl firefly says, "Hey, I can't have sex, but I'll give you a glowjob."

### MONDAY, 6:46 P.M.

Yea, do I yearn for thee, RIT Rings. I incredulously fear that a Rings by any other name would listen as sweetly. Yearn! I yearn for you, but alas, you seem to rue me. Your silence leaves me wondering yet aspiring for your taste. Am I not human? Do I not bleed if you don't answer? And still... Silence. Though I fear your quiet nobility doth betray the most intimate of secrets I've shared. Have you been listening to other people? Do they hear your voice? Maybe I should listen closer... Come closer, Rings. Can you hear me?

# RIT PROBLEM SOLVING

by Karl Voelker | illustration by Robert Modzelewski



Death is one of the most effective cures for cancer. This is well understood by the RIT administration. It is a fact they consider as they see (or imagine) cancer around our Institute's every corner. The problem is that like death, RIT's mode of problem solving leads to unfortunate side effects.

Let's start with a recent event: The "zombies versus humans" game. RIT has a real problem, in that there may be a slight chance that a crazed gunman might shoot a bunch of people on campus. The game bears no resemblance to that scenario, but that's exactly what the Center for Residence Life said to justify banning the game. Crazed gunmen aren't crazed because of a harmless Nerf-weapon game. They're crazed because of psychological illnesses or past traumas. I doubt the ability of this game to produce killers. It seems much more likely that they would arise from the generally oppressive atmosphere choking our campus.

RIT banned the game because they found it a little scary, and didn't know what to do. Banning the game didn't accomplish anything positive, but there were plenty of negative side effects. A bunch of students are having less fun. They're probably less happy to be at RIT. They're also getting less exercise, which is more likely to be a problem for RIT than lunatics with weapons. ResLife is thinking about reinstating this game, but the sour taste left by such a harsh reaction cannot be entirely removed by backtracking on policy at a later date.

At a recent intramural hockey game, a few spectators got into a fight. RIT's options: It could put the students involved through the judicial process, or ban the teams involved from having spectators present. Instead, RIT took their favorite solution, by banning all spectators from all intramural hockey games. A lot of teams play as much for their fans as for themselves, and most teams' fans haven't been involved in any violent incidents. Punishing everyone, whether or not the perpetrators of the incident have been identified, is ludicrous and despotic.

Another deadly RIT policy is one that affects some very valuable student organizations: The Special Interest Houses (SIHs). At one time, SIHs conducted interviews of potential members for the upcoming school year. These were done at open houses and by phone. Unfortunately, RIT saw a problem. If a student is denied SIH membership too early, that student could go (money and all) to another university. The "obvious" solution? Ban interviews.

I'm a member of Computer Science House, and I've observed the effects of the interview ban. SIHs need talented, energetic members to be great. Otherwise, we're only a bunch of students in a dorm. Since the interview ban, the quality of our incoming members has dropped. We have good members, but they are dwindling in numbers with every new batch. The fact that the SIH body was healthy didn't stop RIT from seeing a cancer, nor did it stop them from choosing decapitation as the treatment.

If it were truly RIT's first priority to prepare us for the "real world," they would not avoid exposing us to risk. The actual first priority seems to be soothing the fears of the neurotic administration. If we (as students who behave riskily) were not such excellent sources of money, we might actually find ourselves an extinct species on this campus.

I understand that the administration's mindset is great for them, but their thought process is reprehensibly short-term. Most fun activities carry some risk. To ban every risky activity is to ban fun. Students know that a lack of fun is quite likely to lead to greater dissatisfaction, leading to lower retention rates and fewer alumni dollars. That's right, banning fun will have a monetary cost. Perhaps that's something the administration might consider. •

As promised, **Student Government** worked hard this quarter to remove many restrictions that were holding clubs and organizations from reaching their true potential. **New Club Guidelines!** Some highlights of these changes are:

~~No two clubs on the same topic or interest can exist~~

~~Member requirements~~

~~No exclusive clubs may exist~~

~~Clubs may not be restrictive~~

New, clearer club categories

Better outline of Tier System

Better description of the funding process

“Open Market” for clubs that better the community

# RED TAPE: GONE!

Visit [sg.rit.edu](http://sg.rit.edu) to see all changes on Club Guidelines or email Matt Danna, SG Representative-At-Large, at [sgrep@rit.edu](mailto:sgrep@rit.edu) if you have any questions.

